
Today's Prelims Topics

RBI Cuts Holdings in US Treasury Securities

Context

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced its holdings of US Treasury Bills from \$242 billion in June 2024 to around \$227 billion in June 2025.

What are Treasury Bills (T-bills)?

- Treasury Bills are **short-term debt instruments** issued by the government to raise funds for meeting short-term obligations.
- **Maturity** is always **less than 1 year**.
 - Types of T-Bills issued in India: 91-days, 182-days, and 364-days.
- T-Bills are issued at a **discount** on face value & Redeemed at **par/face value** on maturity.
 - The difference = **investor's return (implied interest)**.
 - They do **not carry coupon/interest payments**.

Why do Central banks and Sovereign Wealth Funds invest in US Treasuries?

- **Safety** → negligible default risk; backed by the US government.
- **Liquidity** → largest and deepest bond market in the world (~\$26 trillion market).
- **Reserve Currency Role** → ~60% of global reserves are held in USD (IMF, 2024).
- **Crisis buffer** → Can be liquidated instantly to meet balance of payments or currency stabilisation needs.
- **Benchmark role** → US Treasuries act as the “risk-free rate” for global finance.
- **Key Investors in US Treasuries: (1) Japan:** \$1,147 billion (largest holder), (2) UK (3) China.
 - **India:** \$227 billion (10th largest).

Can USA freeze or restrict access to the Treasury securities that RBI is holding ?

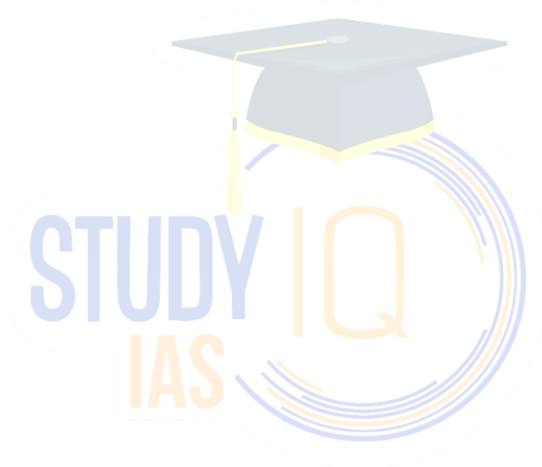
- **U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)** has the power to **block, freeze, or restrict transactions** involving U.S. financial assets if sanctions are imposed.
- If the U.S. government decides, it can restrict the Reserve Bank of India's access to these securities (e.g., prohibiting sale, blocking coupon payments, or freezing transactions).
- **Precedents: Russia (2022)** - After Ukraine invasion, the U.S. and allies froze Russia's ~\$300 bn in forex reserves held abroad (including U.S. Treasuries).

India's Forex Reserves

- **Total Reserve:** US\$ 694.23 billion.
- **Major Components of India's Forex Reserves:**

- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA):** The **largest component** of India's forex reserves. Includes currencies like the **US Dollar, Euro, and British Pound**.
- **Gold Reserves:** Serve as a **hedge against inflation** and provide security during crises.
- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** An international reserve asset created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1969.
 - They are not a currency, but a potential claim on freely usable currencies of IMF member countries.
- **Reserve Tranche Position (RTP):** it is the portion of a country's quota with the IMF that it can access without conditions or borrowing arrangements.

Source: [Indian Express](#)



Democratic Republic of Congo

Context

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has witnessed renewed violence despite two recent peace efforts.

What are the recent Peace Efforts?

- **June 27:** U.S.-brokered agreement in Washington between Rwanda and the DRC.
- **July 19:** Ceasefire deal between the Congolese government and M23 rebels in Doha, mediated by Qatar.

Why the U.S. is Interested

- Access to DRC's vast mineral wealth, valued at \$24 trillion, including:
 - 70% of global cobalt reserves,
 - Rich deposits of coltan, copper, diamonds, and gold.
- Reducing China's dominance in the DRC's mineral sector.
- Ensuring stability for security, political, and economic reasons.

About Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- **Bordering Countries:** Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Republic of Congo.
- It is the **2nd** largest country in Africa. (**Largest - Algeria**).
- **Important River:** The Congo River - Africa's second-longest river.
- Its capital, **Kinshasa**, is located on the Congo River.



Source: [The Hindu](#)

Offshore Aquifers

Context

Nearly 50 years after a US government ship accidentally discovered freshwater under the sea floor off the country's northeast coast, international scientists have confirmed the presence of a massive offshore aquifer beneath the Atlantic Ocean.

What are Offshore Aquifers?

- They are bodies of **porous rock or sediment** located **beneath the seafloor** that store freshwater.
- Studies estimate **1 million cubic km** of freshwater lies beneath global coasts — about **10% of all terrestrial freshwater**.
- **Distribution:** Identified off **Australia, China, North America, South Africa**, and now systematically drilled off the **US Northeast coast**.
- **Formation Theories:**
 - **Ice Age Entrapment** → Freshwater seeped underground when sea levels were lower.
 - **Onshore Linkage** → Connected to land aquifers, recharged through rainfall.
- **Protection Mechanism:** A **cap rock layer** of compacted clay prevents mixing with saltwater.

Why are Offshore Aquifers Significant?

- **Water Security:** Could serve as **new untapped reserves** at a time when 2023 United Nations report predicts a **40% gap in water demand vs. supply by 2030**.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Provide a buffer against droughts, changing rainfall patterns, and glacial melt disruptions.
- **Strategic Resource:** Countries with access may reduce dependence on over-exploited land aquifers and desalination plants.
- **Sustainable Potential:** If renewable (fed by land aquifers), could provide a long-term freshwater source.
- **Global Equity:** May benefit coastal and island nations with limited freshwater.
- **Research Value:** Enhances understanding of **Earth's hydrological cycle** and climate history (e.g., Ice Age water storage).

Source: [Indian express](#)

Isobutanol

Context

The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) is exploring the blending of 10% isobutanol with diesel.

What is Isobutanol (C₄H₁₀O)?

- **Chemical Nature:** It is an **alcoholic compound** with flammable properties.
- **Production:** Can be produced from **biomass (like sugarcane, corn, agricultural waste)** or petroleum-based processes.
- **Properties:**
 - Clear colorless liquid with a sweet odor.
 - Less dense than water.
 - Vapors heavier than air.
 - Higher **energy density** than ethanol.
 - Less **hygroscopic** (readily absorbs moisture from the air), making it easier to transport and store.
 - Compatible with existing fuel infrastructure.
- **Uses:**
 - As a **biofuel**, blended with petrol or diesel.
 - As a **solvent** in paints, coatings, and chemical industries.
 - Potential to be used in **aviation fuel**.
- **Advantages over Ethanol:**
 - Higher blending tolerance with diesel and petrol.
 - Provides **better mileage** due to higher energy content.
 - Less corrosive to engines and pipelines.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Role of vultures in preventing pandemics

Context

With India's National Action Plan for Vulture Conservation (2016–25) nearing completion, experts argue the next phase must link vulture conservation to pandemic preparedness under a One Health framework.

Role of Vultures in Preventing Pandemics

- **Natural Waste Managers:** Vultures feed on animal carcasses, rapidly clearing them before pathogens (anthrax, rabies, botulism) can spread.
 - Without vultures, carcasses linger, attracting feral dogs and rats that transmit diseases to humans.
- **Barrier to Zoonotic Spillover:** By disposing of carcasses, vultures **block disease transmission** between animals and humans.
 - This reduces the risk of **zoonotic outbreaks** (diseases jumping from animals to people).
- **Surveillance Role:** As **first responders to carcasses**, vultures could be integrated into **disease monitoring systems**, offering early warnings of outbreaks.
- **Regional Public Health Security:** Migrating vultures along the **Central Asian Flyway** connect ecosystems across 30+ countries.
 - Protecting them reduces transboundary disease risks, strengthening **regional pandemic preparedness**.
- **Cost-effective Prevention:** Investing in vulture conservation (safe veterinary drugs, telemetry, community stewardship) is **far cheaper** than responding to a pandemic.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Child Nutrition Global Report-2025

Context

Child nutrition report 2025 released by UNICEF.

Key Findings of the Report

- **Rising childhood obesity:**
 - 5% of children under 5 years are overweight.
 - 20% of children and adolescents (5–19 years) are overweight — **double the rate since 2000.**
- **Obesity vs. undernutrition (2025):**
 - Obesity prevalence: 9.4%.
 - Underweight prevalence: 9.2% among school-age children and adolescents.
- **Regional hotspots:**
 - Over 50% of affected children live in **East Asia & Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean, and South Asia.**
 - In **South Asia**, overweight prevalence in ages 5–19 has increased **fivefold since 2000.**

Key Drivers of the Trend

- **Cheap ultra-processed foods (UPFs):** Subsidies for ingredients like **corn, soy, wheat** make UPFs cheaper than fresh food.
 - Long shelf-life → wider availability, especially for low-income families.
- **Aggressive marketing:** Digital and influencer-driven advertising blurs lines between content and ads.
 - Weak regulations allow **children-targeted marketing.**
- **Policy gaps:** Only 7% of countries mandate **front-of-pack nutrition labels.**
 - Just 8% offer subsidies to promote healthy foods.

Key Recommendations

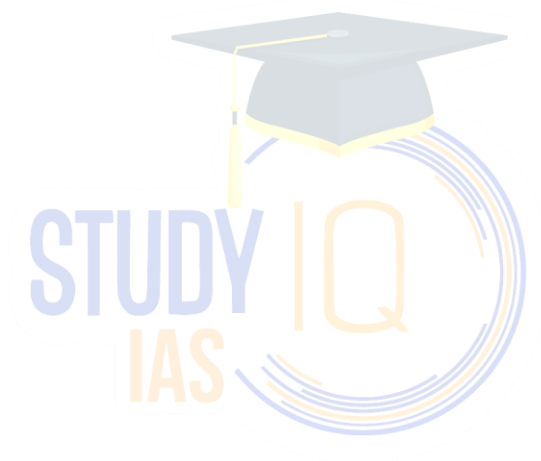
- **Support breastfeeding:** Enforce the **International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes**, including digital restrictions.
- **Healthier food environments:** Restrict availability and marketing of junk food.
 - Introduce **taxes on unhealthy products** and **mandatory front-of-pack labelling.**
- **Promote nutritious foods:** Redirect subsidies to healthy foods.
 - Strengthen **local food systems** to improve access.
- **Social protection & awareness:** Expand schemes for low-income families to access nutritious diets.
 - Run **behaviour change campaigns** to boost demand for healthy food.

Source: [Hindu Businessline](https://www.hindu-businessline.com)

News In Short

<p>Samudra Pradakshina</p>	<p>News? Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually flagged off “Samudra Pradakshina”.</p> <p>What is the Samudra Pradakshina?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a global circumnavigation sailing expedition by an all-women Tri-service crew, the first of its kind in the world. ● Key Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duration: 9 months (Sept 2025 – May 2026). ○ Route: Easterly circumnavigation, crossing the Equator twice and rounding the three Great Capes — Leeuwin (Australia), Horn (Chile), Good Hope (South Africa). ○ Distance: ~26,000 nautical miles under sail power only. ○ Compliance: Meets World Sailing Speed Record Council rules (no canals or powered transit). <p>Background on Circumnavigation in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Pioneers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1969: Sir Robin Knox-Johnston (UK) – First solo non-stop circumnavigation. ● Indian Milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2009–10: Captain Dilip Donde (Retd) – First solo circumnavigation by an Indian. ○ 2012–13: Commander Abhilash Tomy (Retd) – First Indian non-stop solo circumnavigation. ○ 2017–18: Navika Sagar Parikrama (INSV Tarini) – First Indian Navy all-women crew circumnavigation. ○ 2024–25: Navika Sagar Parikrama-II (INSV Tarini) – Two Indian women naval officers completed a double-handed circumnavigation. <p>Source: PIB</p>
<p>Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)</p>	<p>News? The Union Home Minister inaugurated FTI-TTP at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Kozhikode, and</p>

	<p>Amritsar airports.</p> <p>What is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● An initiative to provide seamless, faster, and more secure immigration clearance for Indian citizens and OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cardholders at international airports.● Functioning:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Registered travellers use automated e-Gates at airports.○ Process: Scan boarding pass + passport → biometric verification → gate opens → immigration clearance in ~30 seconds.○ Eliminates long queues and manual checking. <p>Source: PIB</p>
--	---



Places in News

Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan)



News? In the recent 25th SCO summit in Tianjin the city of Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan was designated the “Tourist and Cultural Capital of the SCO” for 2025–2026.

About the Practice

- This practice began in **2012** after SCO member states decided to strengthen **people-to-people ties, cultural exchanges, and tourism cooperation**.
- The idea is similar to the EU’s “**European Capital of Culture**”, where each year a city hosts a series of events to showcase its cultural heritage.
- **Examples of Past:**
 - **2022** → Varanasi, India (first Indian city to get the title).
 - **2023** → Chelyabinsk, Russia.
 - **2024** → Almaty, Kazakhstan.

About Kyrgyzstan

- **Capital:** Bishkek
- **Location:** Landlocked country in Central Asia
- **Borders:** Kazakhstan (north), Uzbekistan (west), Tajikistan (south), China (east).
- **Terrain:** Mountainous (over 90% of land is mountains) → part of the **Tian Shan range**.
- **Major Lake:** Issyk-Kul Lake (one of the largest alpine lakes in the world, never freezes).
- Formerly under Russian Empire (1876) → Soviet Union (1936 as Kyrgyz SSR).
 - **Independence:** 31 August 1991 (after USSR collapse).

Source: [SECTSCO](#)

Doha

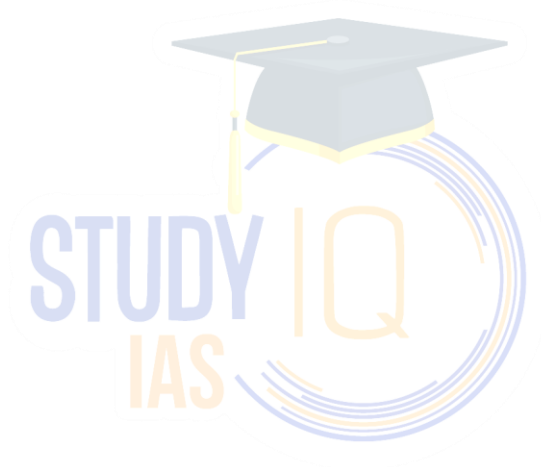


News? The Prime Minister voiced serious concern over the attacks in Doha and strongly condemned the breach of sovereignty.

About it

- Capital and largest city of Qatar.
- Located on the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula, along the Persian Gulf.
- Hosted FIFA World Cup 2022, Asian Games 2006, and will host again in 2030.

Source: [PIB](#)



Mains Topics

India–EAEU Relations: Opportunities and Challenges of the Eurasian Gamble

Context

India and the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** — led by Russia — have finalised a framework to launch negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

About the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

- **Established:** 2015.
- **Members:** Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Largest Economy:** Russia — accounts for over **92% of the bloc's trade**.
- **Existing FTAs:** China, Iran, Vietnam, Serbia.
- **Objectives:** Free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour; coordinated economic policies.

Current Status of India–EAEU Trade

- **Bilateral Trade (India–Russia):**
 - 2024–25: **\$68.7 billion** (5.5 times higher than pre-pandemic).
 - Exports: **\$4.88 billion**.
 - Imports: **\$63.84 billion** (mainly discounted crude oil).
 - India's oil imports from Russia: **~20% of total crude imports**.
- **India–EAEU Overall (FY25):**
 - Exports: \$5.5 billion (mainly Russia-focused).
 - Imports: \$64 billion (dominated by oil).
 - **Major trade partners within the bloc:** Armenia (\$264m exports), Kazakhstan (\$263m), Kyrgyzstan (\$46m), Belarus (\$53m).
- **Trade Structure:** Heavy on **oil imports**, light on **diversified exports**.

Opportunities for India in the EAEU

- **Diversification of Export Markets:** With the US and EU markets tightening (higher tariffs, sanctions pressure), the EAEU offers new destinations.
 - **Sectors with export potential:**
 - Pharmaceuticals & medical equipment (India has a strong cost advantage).
 - Agriculture & marine products (fish, spices, rice).
 - Engineering goods, plastics, rubber, auto components.
 - Textiles & garments.
- **Energy Security and Price Stability:** Russia already supplies **~20% of**

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA

ENERGY SECURITY
Protects India from volatility in Middle East supply chains.

STRATEGIC DEPTH
Expands India's footprint in Eurasia, a region otherwise dominated by China.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
Provides insurance against Western sanctions and tariff barriers.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST EXTENSION
Strengthens India's outreach to Central Asia and reinforces ties with Iran (via INSTC).

GLOBAL SOUTH LEADERSHIP
Positions India as a power that can engage both Western and non-Western blocs.

India's crude oil imports at discounted prices.

- An FTA could **institutionalise long-term energy cooperation**, reducing vulnerability to Middle East instability.
- Potential to expand into **gas, coal, and nuclear energy cooperation**.
- **Access to Central Asia:** EAEU members (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia) provide India a gateway to Central Asia.
- **Connectivity and Trade Corridors:** The **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**, once operational, will cut costs by **30-40%** and time by **20 days** between India and Russia.
 - **Also Vladivostok–Chennai maritime route** opens up Indo-Pacific–Arctic linkages.
- **Strengthening Strategic Autonomy:** Deepening trade with EAEU diversifies India's partnerships beyond the West.
 - It reinforces India's **multipolar foreign policy**, allowing it to balance ties with US, EU, and Russia simultaneously.
 - It will also enhance India's **leadership role in the Global South** by showing capacity to operate across competing blocs.
- **Industrial and Technology Cooperation:** Potential joint ventures in:
 - **Defence manufacturing** (e.g., submarines, helicopters, spare parts).
 - **Space cooperation** (India's ISRO + Russia's Roscosmos).
 - **AI, digital trade, and fintech collaboration** (building on SCO's AI roadmap).
- **Boost to Indian SMEs and Farmers:** SMEs in apparel, leather, handicrafts, agriculture, and processed food can find new markets due to reduced tariffs.

Challenges

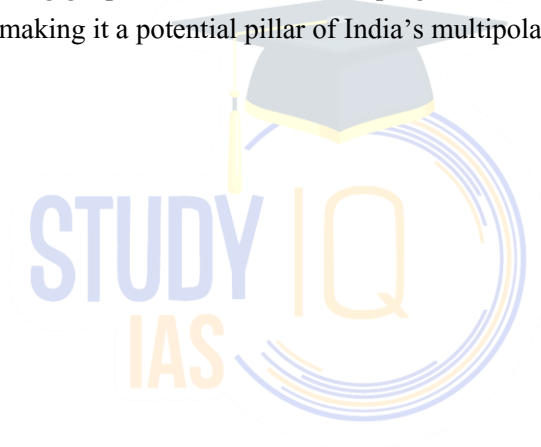
- **Geopolitical Risks:** Western sanctions on Russia complicate banking, logistics, and payments. Deepening trade with Russia risks straining India's strategic partnership with US and EU.
- **Trade Imbalance:** India's exports remain small compared to huge oil imports.
 - 2024–25 trade balance with Russia: **–\$58.9 billion**. Without diversification, FTA may deepen asymmetry.
- **Logistical & Payment Barriers:** INSTC implementation is slow, plagued by geopolitical bottlenecks. Payment mechanisms (rupee–rouble via **Vostro accounts**) face hurdles due to sanctions.
- **Fragile Political Context:** EAEU economies (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia) are politically volatile, prone to external influence.
- **Overlap with China's Influence:** Russia and Central Asia are deeply tied to China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. India risks being a **junior partner** if China dominates trade corridors.

Way Forward

- **Balanced Diplomacy:** Maintain **equidistance** between Russia and the West. Use FTA as an economic lever without undermining India–US–EU ties.
- **Diversify Trade Basket:** Push Indian exports in **pharma, IT, textiles, agriculture, and auto components** to reduce oil-dependency.
- **Connectivity Investments:** Accelerate work on **INSTC, Chabahar Port, and Vladivostok–Chennai route** for reliable logistics.
- **Strengthen Payment Systems:** Expand **rupee-based settlements** and digital trade platforms to bypass sanctions-linked hurdles.
- **Regional Outreach:** Engage with Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus more actively to reduce Russia-centric dependency.

The proposed India–EAEU FTA is a bold gamble. It offers India a chance to diversify exports, secure energy supplies, and expand its Eurasian presence, but risks trade imbalances and Western pushback. Its success depends on balancing geopolitics with economic pragmatism, boosting exports, and strengthening connectivity, making it a potential pillar of India’s multipolar trade and energy strategy.

Source: [Magzter](#)



Tackling India's Mental Health Crisis

Context

Despite the rise of mental health helplines like Tele-MANAS, India's suicide crisis highlights deeper systemic gaps that require a holistic, long-term approach beyond immediate crisis care.

Current Status of Mental Health in India

- **Prevalence:** WHO estimates that nearly **56 million Indians suffer from depression** and **38 million from anxiety disorders**.
- **Suicide Rates:** India's suicide rate stood at **12.4 per lakh in 2022**; Karnataka reported **20.2 per lakh**, far above the national average.
- **Workforce Shortage:** Only **0.75 psychiatrists per 1,00,000 population**, compared to WHO's recommended **3 per 1,00,000**.
 - Severe shortfall of clinical psychologists, psychiatric nurses, and counsellors.
- According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB 2022)**, the country recorded **1.7 lakh suicides**.

Reasons Behind Rising Suicides

- **Psychological Factors:**
 - Depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, substance abuse.
 - Past suicide attempts or family history.
- **Social Determinants:**
 - Poverty, unemployment, debt.
 - Gender inequities and domestic violence.
 - Social isolation, discrimination, caste and identity-based stress.
- **Educational & Professional Stress:**
 - Exam failures, competitive tests (NEET, UPSC, JEE).
 - Workplace burnout and job insecurity.
- **Lack of Awareness and Stigma:**
 - Mental illness still carries **stigma**.
 - Many avoid psychiatrists due to fear of being judged.

Challenges in Tackling Mental Health in India

- **Human Resource Deficit:**
 - **Too few professionals:** Only 0.75 psychiatrists per 1 lakh people (WHO recommends 3).
 - **Unequal spread:** Most experts are in big cities, rural areas remain neglected.
 - **Limited training:** Few institutes offer advanced courses in clinical psychology or psychiatric social work.

- **Infrastructure & Institutional Gaps:**

- **Weak primary care link:** Mental health rarely integrated into basic healthcare.
- **Too few rehab centres:** Especially for severe, long-term illnesses.
- **Digital divide:** Helplines like Tele-MANAS don't reach those without phones/internet.
- **Overcrowded hospitals:** Government psychiatric wards lack enough beds.

- **Financial Constraints:**

- **Tiny budget:** Mental health gets less than 1% of India's health budget.
- **Costly treatment:** Private therapy costs ₹500–2000 per session, unaffordable for many.
- **Poor insurance:** Even after the Mental Healthcare Act (2017), many policies exclude or limit mental health coverage.

- **Social & Cultural Barriers:**

- **Stigma:** Mental illness seen as weakness or "madness."
- **Fear of judgment:** Families often hide problems.
- **Gender bias:** Women's issues dismissed as "emotional" or "hormonal."
- **Preference for informal help:** People rely on family or religious advice instead of professionals.

- **Policy & Governance Challenges:**

- **Poor implementation:** National and District Mental Health Programmes are underfunded.
- **Fragmentation:** Weak coordination between Centre, States, NGOs, and helplines.
- **Weak monitoring:** No strong system to track mental illness, suicide trends, or outcomes.

Government Initiatives

- **National Tele-MANAS Helpline (2022):** 24x7 support helpline in **20+ languages**, linked with State and District-level mental health centres. It provides immediate support and referral services.
- **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP):** Started under National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). Expands mental health services to community level.
- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:**
 - Recognises right to access mental healthcare.
 - Decriminalises attempted suicide.
 - Mandates insurance coverage for mental illness.
- **State Specific Initiatives:**
 - **Karnataka's SURAKSHA Project:** Community-based suicide prevention.
 - **Kerala's Jeevanraksha:** Gatekeepers trained to identify suicidal signs.
 - **Tamil Nadu Tele-MANAS integration** with school/social welfare helplines for students under exam stress.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Mental Health Workforce:** Increase seats in psychiatry, clinical psychology, and psychiatric nursing.
 - Incentivise rural postings with fellowships and scholarships.
- **Expand Infrastructure & Funding:** Allocate **at least 5% of the health budget** to mental health. Strengthen district hospitals with psychiatric wards and rehabilitation centres.
- **Community Engagement:** Train **gatekeepers** (teachers, ASHAs, local leaders) to identify early warning signs. Expand peer support groups and self-help networks.
- **School & College Mental Health Programmes:** Regular counselling, stress management workshops, and awareness drives. Integration of mental health education into curricula.
- **Integration of Services:** Link helplines with hospitals, NGOs, and rehabilitation centres for **continuum of care**.
- **Address Social Determinants:** Poverty alleviation, social inclusion policies, and gender justice measures. Focus on vulnerable groups: farmers, students, women, LGBTQ+, and the elderly.
- **Combat Stigma:** Nationwide awareness campaigns to normalise seeking help. Media guidelines to report suicide responsibly without sensationalism.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Comparison between India & France's Democratic Setup

Context

Recently, French Prime Minister François Bayrou resigned after losing a vote of confidence, plunging the country into a fresh political crisis.

Feature	India	France
Head of State (President)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointment: Indirectly elected by an Electoral College (Parliament + elected members of State Assemblies). ● Powers: Mostly ceremonial; real executive power rests with the Council of Ministers led by the PM. ● Term: 5 years. ● Removal: By impeachment (requires special majority of both Houses). ● Nature: Nominal Executive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointment: Directly elected by universal adult suffrage (two-round system). ● Powers: Very powerful – Commander-in-Chief, can dissolve the National Assembly, call referendums, appoint PM, preside over Council of Ministers. ● Term: 5 years (originally 7 years, reduced in 2000). ● Removal: Can be impeached by Parliament sitting as High Court in case of failure of duties (rare and difficult). ● Nature: Real Executive
Head of Government (Prime Minister)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointment: Leader of majority party/coalition in Lok Sabha, appointed formally by President. ● Powers: Real executive authority; chairs Cabinet, responsible to Lok Sabha, controls administration and policy. ● Term: 5 years, but depends on majority in Lok Sabha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appointment: Appointed by President. Must command a majority in National Assembly (else “cohabitation” occurs). ● Powers: Runs day-to-day government, introduces legislation, but overshadowed by President if both share political alignment. ● Term: Not fixed; depends on support of National Assembly + President.
Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lok Sabha: Directly elected, 5 years (unless dissolved earlier). ● Rajya Sabha: Indirectly elected, permanent body with 1/3rd retiring every 2 years. ● Powers: Makes laws, controls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Assembly (Lower House): Directly elected, 5 years, can be dissolved by President. Holds greater power. ● Senate (Upper House): Indirectly elected by local representatives, 6

	finances, holds govt accountable. Lok Sabha is more powerful in money matters.	years (1/2 renewed every 3 years). More consultative, weaker than Assembly.
Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Structure: Unified system: Supreme Court (apex), High Courts, Subordinate courts. ● Appointment: Judges of SC/HC appointed by President after collegium recommendation. ● Powers: Independent judiciary with power of judicial review (can strike down unconstitutional laws). ● Term: SC judges retire at 65, HC judges at 62. ● Removal: By impeachment (difficult; requires special majority in Parliament). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Structure: Dual system: Cour de cassation (highest civil/criminal court), Conseil d'État (highest administrative court). Separate Constitutional Council for constitutional review. ● Appointment: Constitutional Council members partly appointed by President, Speaker of Assembly, Speaker of Senate; judges of ordinary courts appointed by executive. ● Powers: Constitutional Council reviews constitutionality of laws (ex-ante review), but ordinary courts cannot strike down laws (<u>no broad judicial review powers</u>). ● Term: Constitutional Council members serve 9 years (1/3 renewed every 3 years). ● Removal: Normally fixed tenure, not removable easily.
Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducting Authority: Election Commission of India supervises all elections. ● FPTP (First Past the Post) for Lok Sabha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducting Authority: Ministry of Interior conducts elections; Constitutional Council supervises presidential/legislative elections & referendums. ● Two-round system for President & National Assembly elections

Source: [Indian Express](#)