KERALA STATE CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY

Established under Centre for Continuing Education Kerala (CCEK)

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

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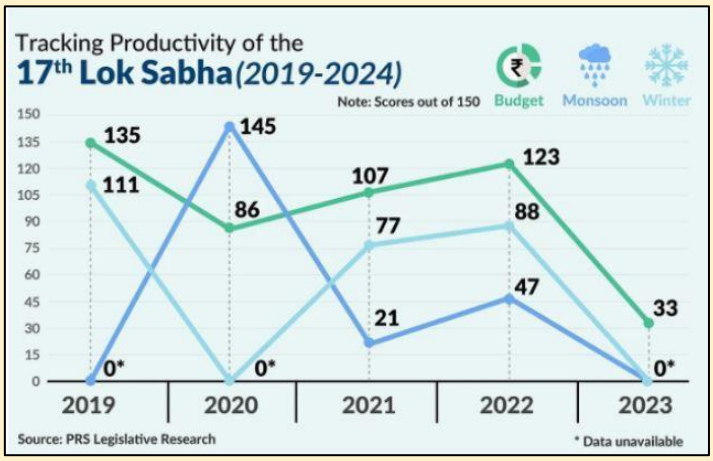
Monthly Current Affairs Magazine

DECLINING PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS

As Parliament reconvenes, concerns deepen about its shrinking sittings, weakened oversight, rigid party whips, and executive dominance — raising fundamental questions about legislative independence, democratic deliberation, and constitutional morality.



Main Arguments

Declining Parliamentary Sittings: Lok Sabha sittings have fallen from 135 days (1952–57) to just 55 days recently, indicating a shrinking space for deliberation and accountability.

Anti-Defection Distortion: The Tenth Schedule, meant to prevent opportunistic floor-crossing, now curtails conscience and constituency-based voting, reducing MPs to numbers bound by party diktat.

Eroded Oversight Functions: When members cannot vote independently, core constitutional duties — financial scrutiny, impeachment, legislative review — lose credibility and meaning.

Executive Dominance: Systematic dismissal of Opposition notices, rushed legislation, and disregard for committee processes tilt the balance heavily in favour of the executive.

Weakening of Neutral Offices: Constitutional authorities meant to be impartial guardians of parliamentary privilege have increasingly acted as instruments of discipline rather than neutrality.

Challenges / Criticisms

Majoritarian Monologue: Parliament risks becoming an approval chamber where debate is stifled and accountability sidelined.

Committee System Dilution: Parliamentary committees, crucial for cross-party, evidence-based legislative scrutiny, are bypassed or weakened.

Opposition Marginalisation: When discussions are blocked, disruption becomes the only tool left — a symptom, not the cause, of parliamentary dysfunction.

Loss of Westminster Spirit: India's model is diverging from mature democracies like the UK, Canada, and Australia, where executive accountability mechanisms remain robust.

Democratic Erosion: Reduced legislative independence undermines constitutional morality, weakening checks on concentrated power.

Way Forward

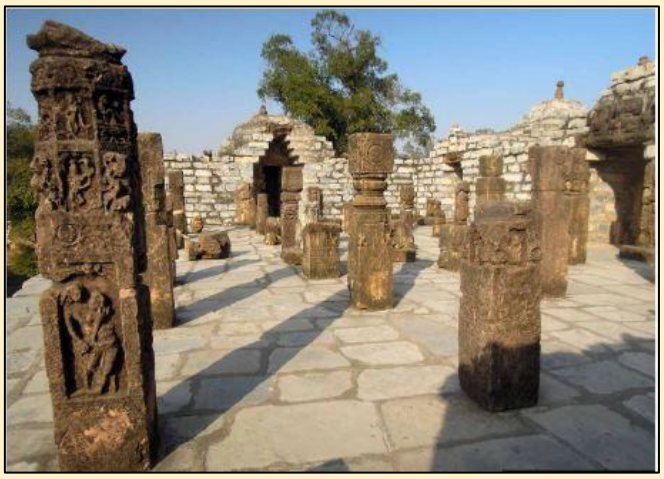
Limit the Anti-Defection Law (UK/Canada Model): In the UK and Canada, party discipline is applied only to budget and confidence motions, allowing MPs to vote independently on policy matters; India should similarly confine whips to core confidence issues to restore legislators' autonomy.

Mandated Parliamentary Sitting Days (UK/Australia Model): The UK Parliament meets 120–150 days annually, and the Australian Parliament follows a pre-announced, mandatory session calendar; India needs a statutory minimum sitting requirement to prevent executive control over when Parliament meets.

Strengthened Committee System (U.S./UK Model): U.S. Congressional committees have the power to summon senior officials, demand documents, and hold public hearings, while UK Select Committees routinely question ministers; India must empower its committees with compulsory referrals and ministerial accountability.
Prime Ministerial Question Time (UK Model): The British PM must answer questions directly every Wednesday in a televised session; India should institutionalise a weekly Prime Minister's Questions segment to enhance direct executive accountability.
Neutral Presiding Officers (New Zealand/Australia Model): The Speakers of New Zealand and Australia resign from their party positions upon election and operate under strict neutrality norms; India should adopt similar safeguards to ensure impartial handling of parliamentary business.
Independent Parliamentary Budget Office (U.S./Canada Model): The U.S. Congressional Budget Office and Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer scrutinise government finances independently; India should create an autonomous fiscal watchdog reporting directly to Parliament.
Stronger Opposition Rights (Germany Model): Germany reserves committee chairs and agenda-setting rights for the opposition, ensuring checks on majority power; India must secure guaranteed discussion time and procedural tools for the Opposition.
Mandatory Public Consultation for Bills (Nordic Model): Sweden, Norway, and Finland require open public consultations before major laws are passed; India should adopt compulsory pre-legislative scrutiny for all significant bills.
Legislatures decline when dissent is penalised, debate is curtailed, and executive power overwhelms constitutional checks. Reviving Parliament's role requires structural reforms, political restraint, and a renewed commitment to the original spirit of India's democratic architecture.

SIRPUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Sirpur is set for a facelift as Chhattisgarh pushes for a UNESCO World Heritage tag for the 5th Century archaeological site.



Location: It is located in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh. It is a 5th–12th Century archaeological site located on the banks of the Mahanadi.
Other names: It is also known as Shripur and Sripura.
Discovery: It was first discovered in 1882 by Alexander Cunningham, a British army engineer who became the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1871.
Later excavations: Excavations stalled in subsequent years, resuming only in the early 1950s, and later in the 1990s and 2003.
Historical significance: It was the flourishing capital of Dakshina Kosala under the Panduvanshi and later Somavamshi kings. Its rulers patronised art, architecture, and religious scholarship, making it a flourishing urban centre of its time.
Major Buddhist centre: It was a major Buddhist centre with large viharas, meditation halls and excavated stupas.

Visted by Chinese travellers: Excavations have revealed significant Buddhist remains, including the Anand Prabhu Kuti Vihara, visited by Chinese traveller Xuanzang in the 7th century CE.
Religious and commercial hub: It also has a 6th Century market complex, showing Sirpur was both a religious and commercial hub.
Notable Structures at the site:
Lakshmana Temple (dedicated to Vishnu): It is one of India's finest brick temples which was built around the 7th Century.
Surang Tila complex: It is built on a high terrace and has multiple shrines in the panchayatana style (one main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary ones).
Tivaradeva Mahavihara: It houses a significant Buddha statue.
Suitability for UNESCO's tag: Sirpur's location along the Mahanadi creates a sacred riverine cultural landscape with ghats and temple clusters, aligning with UNESCO's concept of a combined work of nature and humankind, enhancing the site's value.

G20 SUMMIT

The absence of the U.S., China, and Russia from the 2025 Johannesburg G20 summit signals a deeper erosion of the platform's authority, highlighting how geopolitical realignments, unilateralism, and shifting power balances are undermining multilateral economic governance.

Main Arguments
Great-Power Absence: The absence of Trump, Xi, and Putin reduces the G20 to a "middle-power gathering," diminishing its capacity to influence global economic outcomes.
Origins of the Platform: The G20's elevation in 2008 addressed a trans-Atlantic financial crisis, driven by the need to include rising powers like China, India, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia in crisis response.
Post-Crisis Drift: After the initial three summits (2008–09), the G20 failed to make meaningful progress on global challenges such as climate change, trade reform, and sustainable development.
Geopolitical Shocks: Trump's tariff wars, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and worsening U.S.–China ties fractured consensus, making joint communiqués impossible since 2022.
Unilateral U.S. Turn: Trump's push for a G2 with China and call to readmit Russia to the G8 has relegated the G20 to the sidelines, making plurilateral platforms less attractive.

Challenges / Criticisms

Erosion of Collective Legitimacy: Without great-power participation, G20 decisions lack weight and global acceptance.
Middle-Power Limitations: With only middle powers attending Johannesburg, the forum loses its unique ability to bridge major economies and emerging powers.
Failure to Address Core Issues: Persistent inaction on climate finance, mercantilist trade disruptions, and migration challenges diminishes credibility.
Fragmented Global Order: Competing blocs (G2, G8, BRICS+) challenge the G20's role as the premier economic coordination platform.
India's Dilemma: India's enthusiasm for the G20 as a "UN economic security council" substitute weakens as the grouping drifts, complicating India's multilateral strategy.

Way Forward

Great-Power Re-engagement: Revive strategic dialogue among the U.S., China, and Russia to restore G20's centrality in global governance.
Substantive Agenda Setting: Refocus the G20 on actionable issues — climate finance, supply-chain resilience, global tax reform, and digital trade.
Institutional Credibility: Strengthen follow-up mechanisms, task forces, and peer review to ensure implementation of commitments.
Alternative Platforms: Bolster India's engagement with dynamic forums like the East Asia Summit, which retain major-power participation.
Reform Multilateral Architecture: Advocate expansion of global governance structures like the UNSC and IMF to reflect contemporary power realities.

The G20 risks becoming a ceremonial forum unless it reclaims its role as the world's premier economic steering committee through great-power participation and coherent agenda-setting. Without such renewal, middle-power diplomacy alone cannot prevent strategic drift or restore global confidence.

SANCHAR SAATHI

Development: Sanchar Saathi is a is a security and awareness platform developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Availability: It is available both as an app and a web portal.
Objective: It primarily aims to help mobile users manage their digital identity, report suspicious activity, and safeguard their devices.
Focus on awareness: The platform also provides educational material on telecom safety and cyber risks, making it a combined service-and-awareness system.
Chakshu Feature: It lets users report suspicious calls, SMS, and WhatsApp messages, such as fake KYC alerts, impersonation scams, or phishing links. It helps authorities spot fraud patterns.
Addresses spam calls and links: Users can report spam calls and messages that break TRAI rules. Complaints made within seven days can lead to action against the sender. It also allows reporting of phishing links, unsafe APKs, and fraudulent websites.

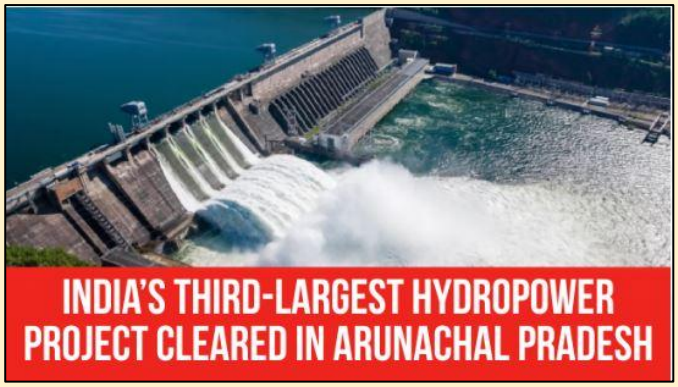
Checks linked mobile connections: It shows how many mobile numbers are registered using one's identity. It also helps identify SIM cards taken without one's knowledge.
Blocks lost or stolen phones: It allows users to block the IMEI of a lost or stolen device so it can't be used. Phones can be unblocked if recovered.
Verifies authenticity of a device: It allows users to check if a phone is genuine by validating its IMEI. It is useful when buying second-hand phones.
Reports fraud international calls: Some scammers use illegal telecom setups to make international calls appear as regular +91 calls. Sanchar Saathi enables users to report such cases.
Verifies trusted contacts: It provides a directory to confirm genuine customer-care numbers, emails, and websites of banks and other major institutions.

Main Arguments:
Cybercrime Escalation: Scams involving government impersonation, digital arrests, and cross-border networks have intensified, exploiting gaps in SIM-based verification systems.
Account Exploitation: User accounts remain active even after SIM removal, enabling criminals to operate anonymously on encrypted messaging platforms.
IMEI Spoofing: Counterfeit devices and tampered IMEI numbers have made tracking cybercriminals extremely difficult for law enforcement.
Security Patch Intent: SIM binding aims to disable messaging app access when the associated SIM is removed, reducing impersonation risk.
Device Verification Goal: Sanchar Saathi is intended to authenticate devices and weed out cloned or illegal handsets, strengthening the digital identification ecosystem.

Challenges / Criticisms
Privacy Intrusion: The directive mandates that the app be pre-installed, visible, and undeletable, requiring higher security privileges, risking intrusive access.
Surveillance Concerns: Elevated permissions could create a Panopticon-like tool, enabling continuous monitoring or exploitation—especially worrying given past use of Pegasus.
Legality & Proportionality Issues: Under K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), state actions must satisfy legality, necessity, and proportionality. Existing alternatives make the measure disproportionate.
Security Vulnerability: A privileged government app could become a high-value target for hackers, exposing millions of users to systemic risks.
Industry Pushback: Privacy-focused companies like Apple have resisted compliance, signalling global discomfort with mandatory surveillance-linked applications.

Way Forward
Privacy-by-Design Tools: Strengthen USSD codes, SMS checks, and web-based verification instead of forcing device-level intrusive apps.
Targeted IMEI Regulation: Improve CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) functioning, coupled with telecom audits and stricter KYC enforcement.
Risk-Graded Measures: Apply intrusive tools only for high-risk cases after judicial authorisation, not for every smartphone buyer.
Independent Oversight: Create a privacy and cybersecurity review board, ensuring safeguards before deploying government apps on private devices.
Transparent Standards: Publish data handling policies, permissions, and audit logs, ensuring that no invisible surveillance architecture is embedded into devices.
Cybercrime demands strong action, but compulsory government apps with privileged access raise grave concerns for privacy and constitutionalism. A sustainable cybersecurity strategy must rely on least-intrusive tools, transparent safeguards, and adherence to the proportionality doctrine laid down in Puttaswamy.

ETALIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



The Project Affected Peoples Forum (PAPF) of Arunachal Pradesh has urged NHPC Ltd to reinstate every local worker previously engaged in the Etalin Hydroelectric Project.

Location: It is a 3,097 MW hydropower project planned in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley.

Rivers associated: The project involves two gravity dams, one on the Dri River and another on the Talo (Tangon) River, both tributaries of the Dibang River, with an underground powerhouse near their confluence close to Etalin village.

Construction: The project is being executed by NHPC Limited (formerly known as the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation).

Nature: It is a type of hydroelectric power generation project that utilizes the natural flow and elevation drop of a river to produce electricity.

Uniqueness: It is one of the largest hydropower projects proposed in the country in terms of installed capacity. EHEP is proposed to be developed as a combination of two run-of-the-river schemes.

Environmental impact: The project will require the felling of over 270,000 trees and the diversion of over 1,100 hectares of unclassified forest land.

Concern: The project area falls under the "richest bio-geographical province of the Himalayan zone" and "one of the mega biodiversity hotspots of the world".

Indigenous tribes: The project area is dominated by indigenous populations belonging to Idu-Mishmi tribes.

VIKRAM-I

PM Modi inaugurated Skyroot-built India's first private rocket Vikram-I in Hyderabad.

About Vikram-I Rocket:

Development: It is developed by Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based private space start-up.

Nomenclature: It is India's new private orbital-class launch vehicle named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.

Uniqueness: It is India's first privately-built orbital-class rocket capable of launching satellites into Earth orbit.

Thrust: It produces 1,200 kN of thrust using an all-carbon composite structure for enhanced lightweight strength and efficiency.

Design: The design emphasises simplicity, reliability, and the ability to launch within 24 hours from any location.

Stages: It has four stages and the first three stages are solid-fuelled, providing robust initial thrust, topped by a hypergolic liquid upper stage for precise orbital adjustments. Stage 4 uses a cluster of four Raman engines.Targets small satellite segment: It is built to target the small-satellite segment and is capable of placing multiple satellites into orbit in a single mission.

Payload Capacity: It can deploy up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit (LEO) and 260 kg into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO).

Union Minister of State for Science & Technology recently said that the EIR initiative is successfully cultivating a new generation of scientist-entrepreneurs.

About Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Programme:
Nature: It is one of the programs introduced under National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI).
Objective: It aims to encourage graduate students to take to entrepreneurship as a prospective career option by providing financial and non-financial support in the form of a fellowship.
Implementation: It is implemented by the Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India in association with NCL Venture Centre, Pune.
Financial Support: The recipient is eligible to get financial support of up to INR 30,000/- monthly. It is offered to graduate students for a maximum period of 12 months.
Mentorship: The Programme includes mentoring support and guidance, technical and financial advice, industry connections etc.
Connects lab to market: It helps innovators convert scientific discoveries into market-ready solutions through mentoring, incubation and industry linkages.
Promotes scientist-entrepreneurs: It cultivates a new generation of scientist-entrepreneurs, where researchers are encouraged to innovate, patent and commercialise their ideas.
Mitigates risk: A primary goal is to minimize the risk involved in pursuing technology-based startups, thereby creating a stronger pipeline of entrepreneurs for incubators.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION (IAU)

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved the name of a 3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars, after M.S. Krishnan, the pioneering Indian geologist.

About International Astronomical Union (IAU):
Nature: It is a global organization of professional astronomers, at the PhD level and beyond who are active in professional education and research in astronomy.

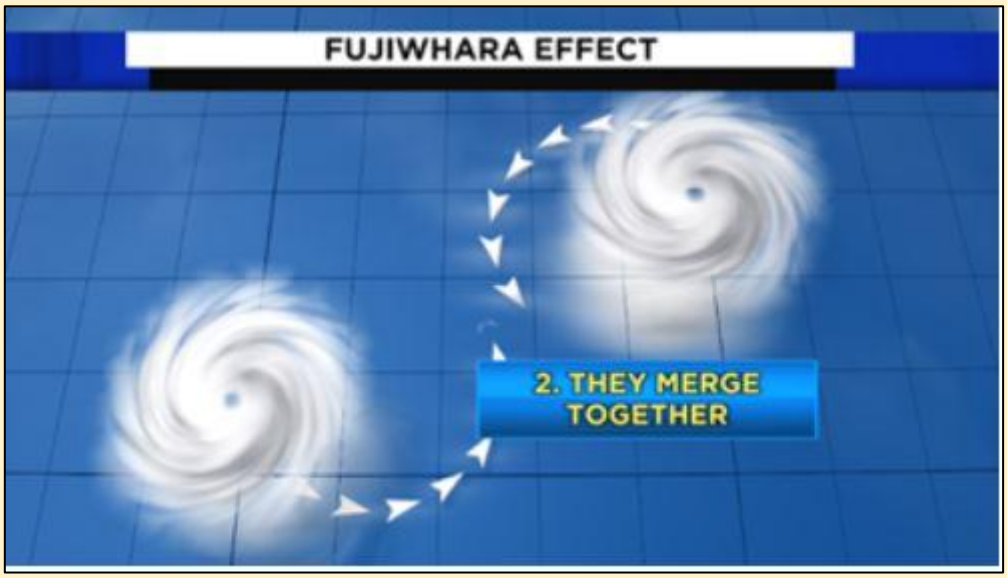
Establishment: It was founded in 1919 as a senior body governing international professional astronomical activities worldwide.

Objective: Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education, and development, through international cooperation.

Activities undertaken:
Defining fundamental astronomical and dynamical constants and unambiguous astronomical nomenclature
Rapid dissemination of new discoveries and organization of international observing campaigns
Promotion of educational activities in astronomy to early informal discussions of possible future international large-scale facilities.
Uniqueness: It is the only organization recognized professionally for the naming of astronomical bodies, which it does solely on the basis of merit, history, or discoverer's privilege.
Headquarters: Its headquarters is located in Paris, France.
Membership: IAU membership spans 92 countries. Out of those countries, 85 are National Members.
Governance: The IAU holds a general assembly every three years in varying parts of the world. The long-term policy of the IAU is defined by the General Assembly.

FUJIWHARA EFFECT

Multiple cyclonic storms with rare Fujiwhara interaction is likely in Bay of Bengal in the following week.
About Fujiwhara Effect:



Definition: The Fujiwhara Effect occurs when two cyclones form near each other or approach each other close enough to allow the Fujiwhara interaction to take place.
Outcome of binary interaction: Extratropical cyclones can exhibit binary interaction when within a distance of 2,000 km of each other. Tropical cyclones exhibit this type of effect when separated by a distance of less than 1,400 km.
Direction: During the Fujiwhara interaction, the centers of the two cyclones involved in the phenomenon begin to mutually orbit in a counterclockwise direction about a point between the two cyclones.
Dependent on relative mass: The position of the point is dependent on the intensity and relative mass of the cyclonic vortices. The smaller cyclone involved in the Fujiwhara Effect moves at a faster rate than the bigger one about the central point.
Can lead to larger cyclones: The Fujiwhara Effect might lead the two cyclones to spiral into the central point and merge with each other, or it might trigger the development of a larger cyclone. It might also divert the original path of one or both the cyclones.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (APDIM)

Recently, the 10th Session of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) took place at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

About APDIM:

Nomenclature: APDIM stands for Asian and Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management.
Nature: It is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
Vision: Its vision is to ensure effective disaster risk information is produced and used for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Mandate: It aims to reduce human and material losses due to natural hazards and contribute to the effective design, investment and implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience policies.

Administration: It is governed by a Governing Council consisting of eight ESCAP member countries elected for a period of three years (India is one of the members for a period from 2022 to 2025).

Headquarter: Its headquarters is located in Tehran, Iran.

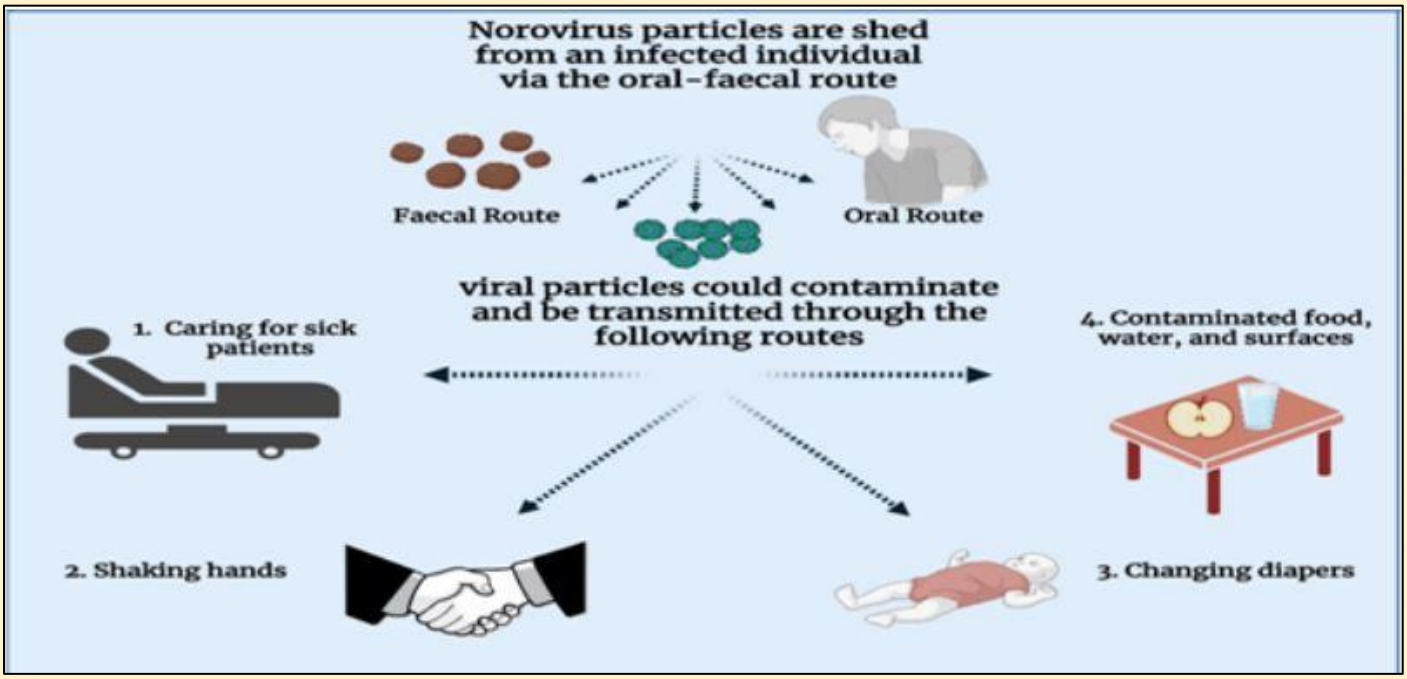
Functions: It functions as a regional facility to strengthen the science-policy interface. It also promotes effective regional cooperation, facilitates dialogue.

Facilitates disaster management between countries: It facilitates the exchange of expertise, experiences, and knowledge in disaster information management between and within the countries of the region.

Acts as a knowledge hub: It acts as a regional knowledge hub, consolidating and sharing disaster-related data, strengthening information systems, and supporting cooperation on transboundary hazards.

NOROVIRUS DISEASE

Cases of norovirus, commonly known as the "winter vomiting disease," have been rising in the United States in recent weeks.



About Norovirus Disease:

Nature: It is a common and highly contagious virus that causes inflammation in the stomach and intestines, a condition known as gastroenteritis.

Other names: It is also sometimes referred to as the 'stomach flu' or the 'winter vomiting bug' as norovirus outbreaks usually happen seasonally in colder months.
Vulnerable people: People of all ages can get infected and sick with norovirus, which spreads very easily and quickly.

Frequency: One can get norovirus illness many times in your life because there are many different types of noroviruses. These viruses are responsible for about 90% of viral gastroenteritis outbreaks and close to 50% of cases across the world.

Transmission: One can get norovirus from an infected person, contaminated food or water, or by touching contaminated surfaces. Norovirus infection occurs most frequently in closed and crowded environments.

Symptoms: These include vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, nausea, fever, and tiredness. In extreme cases, loss of fluids could lead to dehydration.
Treatment: Most people recover completely without treatment. No vaccines are currently available to prevent norovirus. Treatment for the infection focuses on relieving the symptoms.

Prevention: Hands should be washed frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Further, contaminated surfaces should be disinfected with a bleach-based solution, especially in outbreak situations.

RUPEE DEPRECIATION

A 7% rupee depreciation since late 2024, amid widening current-account pressures, global dollar strength, and higher oil import costs, has exposed India's structural vulnerability arising from heavy crude dependence, limiting RBI's stabilisation capacity and demanding long-term energy reforms.

Main Arguments

External Vulnerability: Persistent crude dependence—over one-fifth of total imports in FY25—amplifies currency depreciation during global shocks, widening the current account deficit.

RBI's Limited Mandate: Under a managed-float regime, the RBI can only smooth currency volatility, not arrest depreciation, despite selling nearly $50 billion in forex since November 2024.

Imported Inflation Risk: Transition from cheaper Russian oil to costlier U.S. crude combined with a weaker rupee increases inflationary pressure even as CPI temporarily eased to 0.25% in October 2025.

Liquidity Management: Large-dollar swaps, including the $10 billion buy-sell swap in February 2025, provide systemic liquidity but cannot offset structural import dependence.

Trade Shocks: High global tariffs and rising bullion imports as a hedge further strain the CAD, underscoring the need to reduce oil-linked vulnerabilities.

Challenges / Criticisms

Structural Oil Dependence: India remains exposed to global crude cycles, making macroeconomic stability hostage to oil price swings.

Inadequate Energy Transition: Electrification of transport and renewable integration remain slow relative to the scale needed for external-sector resilience.

Trade Policy Weaknesses: Recent bilateral FTAs with Japan, UAE, and ASEAN have worsened India's trade balance instead of diversifying risk.

CAD Pressures: Rising bullion imports and weaker exports under hostile global conditions strain the external account despite record FDI and reserves.

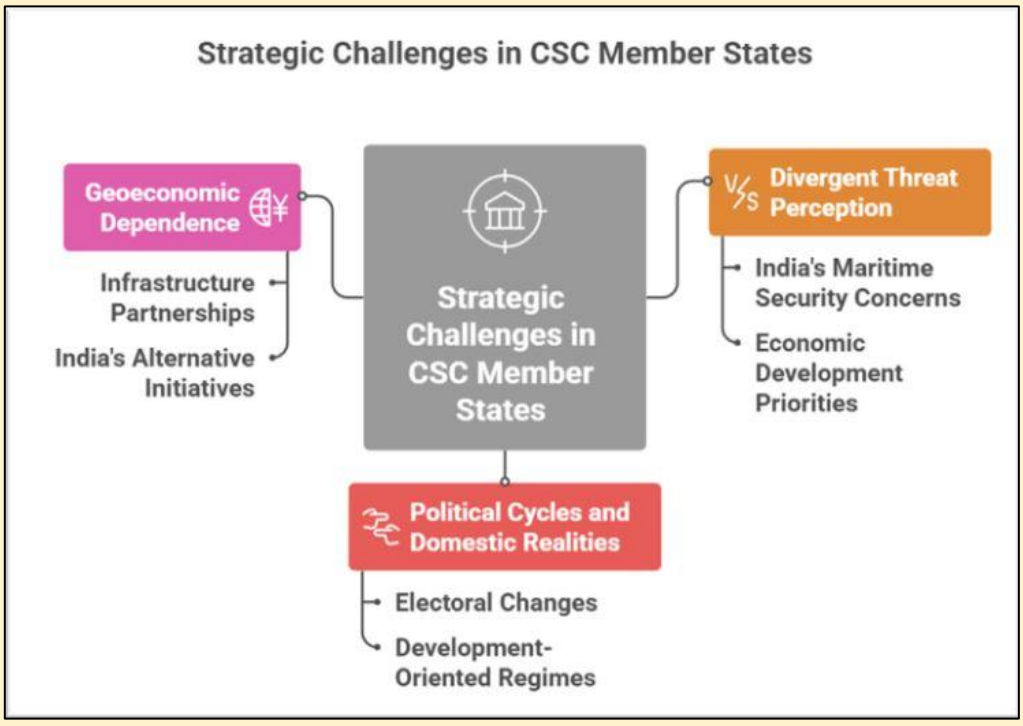
Limited Monetary Scope: The RBI cannot indefinitely defend the rupee without compromising reserves or triggering domestic liquidity distortions.

Accelerated Electrification: Treat EV adoption and public transport electrification as strategic economic reforms, not sectoral initiatives.
Diversified Energy Mix: Expand domestic renewables, green hydrogen, and biofuels to structurally reduce crude import intensity.
Coherent Trade Strategy: Shift from bilateral FTAs to a calibrated trade policy that safeguards domestic industry and aligns with energy-security goals.
Boost Domestic Exploration: Strengthen ONGC and private-sector exploration to modestly raise domestic production and reduce import dependency.
Demand-Side Efficiency: Promote energy-efficient fuels, mobility alternatives, and urban planning tools to curb long-term oil demand.

Rupee stability cannot rest on RBI interventions alone when structural oil dependence drives repeated external shocks. True currency resilience demands a decisive energy transition that reduces crude imports, strengthens the current account, and enhances India's long-term macroeconomic autonomy.

COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE (CSC)

The 7th NSA-level Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) summit in 2025 reflects India's efforts to build a cooperative security framework in the Indian Ocean, as regional geopolitics, China's growing footprint, and non-traditional maritime threats reshape strategic priorities.



Main Arguments
Regional Security Platform: CSC provides a dedicated Indian Ocean security forum, unique in a region lacking a unified architecture despite high maritime vulnerabilities.
Evolution of the Group: Originally a trilateral (India–Sri Lanka–Maldives), CSC expanded to include Mauritius (2022), Bangladesh (2024), and Seychelles (2025), signalling widening trust and strategic convergence.
Addressing Non-Traditional Threats: The platform prioritises maritime security, counter-terrorism, trafficking, organised crime, and cyber threats, central to the economic and livelihood needs of littoral states.

Development–Security Link: For CSC members, maritime security is inseparable from blue economy prospects, fisheries protection, disaster resilience, and sea-borne trade.
India's Strategic Moment: The summit strengthens India's leadership at a time when the Indo-Pacific security environment is shifting due to China's expanding influence and geopolitical volatility.

Challenges / Criticisms

China Divergence: India views China's presence in the Indian Ocean as a strategic risk, but many CSC members depend on China economically and do not share New Delhi's threat assessment.
Institutional Weakness: CSC still functions primarily through NSA-level meetings, lacking a deeper, standing institutional mechanism for sustained cooperation.
Domestic Uncertainties: Political instability in key states, especially Bangladesh, may affect continuity of engagement and weaken long-term group cohesion.
Fragmented Regional Architecture: The Indian Ocean remains divided among multiple, overlapping but weak security groupings, diluting collective action.
Uneven Capacity: Smaller island states lack resources for maritime domain awareness, search-and-rescue, and cyber defence, limiting CSC's effectiveness.

Way Forward

Institutionalisation: Create permanent secretariat, working groups, and annual joint exercises, similar to ASEAN-led mechanisms, ensuring policy continuity.
Capacity Building: India can expand IT, maritime domain awareness (MDA), and coast guard training through IORA, SAGAR, and I4F initiatives.
Balanced China Strategy: CSC should frame cooperation around non-traditional security, avoiding overt anti-China signalling to maintain consensus among smaller states.
Economic-Security Integration: Promote blue economy partnerships, port security, anti-piracy collaboration, and disaster preparedness, reflecting member priorities.
Incremental Expansion: Gradually include Malaysia (guest in 2025) and other Indian Ocean states, ensuring the group grows without overstretching.
The CSC has emerged as a promising mini-lateral model for Indian Ocean security governance, overcoming historical fragmentation. Its future strength will depend on institutional resilience, balanced strategic messaging, and sustained cooperation that aligns security priorities with the developmental needs of littoral states.

KERALA STATE CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY

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NURTURING YOUNG MINDS TOWARDS TOMORROW'S CIVIL SERVICE

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38 Test papers including 3 exclusive current affairs tests and 5 CSAT papers

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17 Tests including compulsory papers

REKINDLE- PCM REPEATERS BATCH

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REPHRASE- Mains Answer Writing Programme

This answer writing exercise will cover Essay, General Studies - I, General Studies - II, General Studies -III & General Studies -IV papers

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Instalment facility for fee payment available to BPL category students.

Optional Subjects

Geography, History, Malayalam, Political Science & International Relations, Public Administration and Sociology

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