





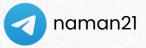
# Daily **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

🛗 May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025



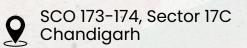
**Offline Centre Location:** SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh





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## The fragmentation in the global fight against terror

- The Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 has highlighted the division in the global response to terrorism, particularly concerning Pakistan's actions against India.
- While international condemnation was widespread, calls for restraint were equally prevalent, underscoring the fragmented nature of the global fight against terror.



#### International Reactions and Concerns

- U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President J.D.
   Vance, emphasised the need for a peaceful resolution and warned against regional conflict.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov advocated for political and diplomatic solutions between India and Pakistan.
- The European Union showed reluctance to label the Pahalgam incident as a "terror attack," reflecting a shift away from zero tolerance towards terrorism.
- Some countries demanded proof of Pakistan's involvement in terror activities, ignoring past events like the Pulwama and 26/11 attacks.
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#### **Unified Anti-Terror Front**

 In the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, global powers issued statements that were, at best, diplomatically cautious and, at worst, morally ambiguous.

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- Calls from the United States, the European Union, and Russia for restraint from both sides effectively equated the victim (India) with the perpetrator (Pakistan), diluting the moral clarity necessary for a resolute stand against terrorism.
- This marks a stark departure from the early 2000s, when the global community, galvanised by the 9/11 attacks, stood united in a 'zero tolerance' approach to terrorism.
- The erosion of this collective will is partly due to shifting global priorities.
- With ongoing wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and broader West Asia, the appetite for new conflicts, particularly in Asia, is limited.
- In this climate, India's security concerns are often subordinated to broader fears of regional escalation, especially given Pakistan's use of its nuclear status as a deterrent against decisive international action.

#### Return of My Terrorist vs. Your Terrorist

• The global fight against terrorism has reverted to a selective, interestbased approach.

Western nations focus on right-wing extremism or REMVE (racially and ethnically motivated violent

**extremism),** while the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) often turns a blind eye to Islamist terrorism, citing Islamophobia.

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- Canada's refusal to act against anti-India elements operating from its soil, under the guise of free expression, is emblematic of this hypocrisy.
- Similarly, China's consistent use of its veto power in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to shield Pakistan-backed terrorists underlines how geopolitics trumps principle.
- Africa, too, is facing a surge in terrorist activity, especially in the Sahel region. However, the international response remains muted, with terrorism in Africa and Asia increasingly regarded as someone else's problem.



#### **Religious Implications**

- The Pahalgam attack itself, in which Hindus were allegedly targeted based on religion, reveals another dimension of global apathy.
- While Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and Christianophobia are widely and rightly condemned, acts of Hinduphobia, such as this attack, receive little to no acknowledgement.

- This silence is compounded by incidents such as U.S. presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy being vilified for his Hindu faith, highlighting the marginalisation of non-Abrahamic religions in global discourses on religious freedom.
- One notable exception came from the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, who explicitly recognised the religious nature of the Pahalgam attack,
- describing it as a horrific Islamist terrorist attack. Her stance stands in contrast to the broader diplomatic hedging seen elsewhere.

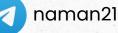
# Challenges at the United Nations

- Pakistan, now a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC), has used its position to influence discussions and block actions against terrorists operating from its soil.
- Efforts by India to bring attention to these issues have been met with mixed responses due to geopolitical interests.

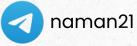
#### India's Strategic Response

- India remains steadfast in its attempt to hold Pakistan accountable, while facing diplomatic challenges at international forums like the UNSC.
- India aims to leverage its geopolitical strategies through strategic autonomy and multialignment policies.
- Continued efforts to address religiophobia against non-Abrahamic faiths on international platforms are crucial.

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#### Conclusion

- The **Pahalgam terror attack** is not just an **isolated act of violence;** it is a stark reminder of the international community's selective moralism and India's growing isolation in the global fight against terrorism.
- As collective resolve against terror diminishes, India must prepare to go it alone, diplomatically, strategically, and ideologically.
- By asserting its geopolitical autonomy and refusing to be constrained by international double standards, India can shape a more secure future for itself, while also highlighting the urgent need for a renewed, truly global consensus on combating terrorism in all its forms.

Q. Regarding the emerging patterns in the global response to terrorism, as exemplified by reactions to the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, which of the following statements accurately reflects the shifting dynamics in international counterterror frameworks?

- 1. The reluctance of the European Union to categorically label the Pahalgam incident as a terror attack indicates a drift away from the post-9/11 'zero tolerance' doctrine.
- 2. The invocation of 'restraint from both sides' by major powers reflects a trend of moral equivalence between aggressor and victim in state-sponsored terrorism.

- 1. Strategic autonomy and multialignment are increasingly being adopted by India as alternatives to relying on multilateral forums like the UNSC for counter-terror diplomacy.
- 2. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has taken a strong, consistent stance against all forms of terrorism, irrespective of ideological or religious motivations.

#### 3.

## Select the correct answer using the code below:

A. 1, 2 and 3 only B. 1 and 4 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

#### Answer: A

#### **Explanation:**

Statement 1 is correct: The EU's reluctance reflects a weakening of the post-9/11 global consensus. Statement 2 is correct: Equating both sides shows a disturbing moral ambiguity.

Statement 3 is correct: India is emphasising strategic autonomy due to the UNSC inaction.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The OIC has been selective in condemning terrorism, often ignoring Islamist motivations.

Question: Critically examine this fragmentation in the global fight against terror. How should India recalibrate its diplomatic and strategic posture in light of this Emerging reality?





## UK-India Free Trade Agreement

 India and the UK signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after nearly three years of negotiations. The agreement reduces tariffs on 90% of goods.



• The deal aims to **boost trade**, **investment**, **job creation**, **and innovation**. It comes at a time of global trade uncertainty and marks a major economic collaboration between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies.

#### About the UK-India Trade Deal

- Trade Expansion: The deal is projected to increase annual bilateral trade by £25.5 billion from 2040 onward.
- In 2024, UK-India trade stood at £42.6 billion, with UK exports at £17.1 billion and imports from India at £25.5 billion.

## India ranked as the UK's 11th-largest trading partner in 2024.

 Tariff Reductions and Market Access

#### India's Gains:

• 99% of Indian exports to the UK will enjoy zero-duty access.

SCO 173-174, Sector 17C Chandigarh • Boost for labour-intensive sectors: textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, auto parts, and organic chemicals.

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- UK's Gains: India to slash duties on 90% of tariff lines, with 85% becoming fully tariff-free within 10 years.
- Lower Indian tariffs on whisky, medical devices, advanced machinery, and lamb to make UK exports more competitive.

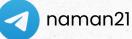
#### **Major Sectors Benefitting:**

- Alcohol: Tariffs on whisky and gin will drop from 150% to 75% initially, reaching 40% by the tenth year, boosting the UK's Scotch whisky exports.
- Automobiles: India will cut auto import tariffs to 10% under a quota system (down from over 100%).
- Other Goods: Reduced tariffs for British exports such as cosmetics, aerospace components, lamb, medical devices, salmon, electrical machinery, soft drinks, chocolate, and biscuits.

#### Services and Workforce Mobility:

- The deal includes increased quotas for Indian workers to take up employment in specific sectors in the UK, enhancing labour mobility and service trade cooperation.
- Indian workers in the UK will receive a three-year exemption from social security payments, reducing financial burden and improving mobility opportunities.







#### Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

[ˈfrē ˈtrād ə-ˈgrē-mənt]

A pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them.

# Reasons Behind the Push for the Deal

- Supply Chain Disruptions & China Diversification:
- The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of global supply chains overly reliant on China.

#### Western countries, including the UK, sought to implement a 'China-plus one' strategy—diversifying supply chains by partnering with countries like India.

#### Post-Brexit Market Realignment

- After Brexit, the UK lost access to the EU's Single Market.
- India, with its large and growing consumer base, emerged as a critical alternative to offset this economic gap.

#### **Economic Pressures in the UK**

- The UK has been grappling with a cost-of-living crisis.
- The FTA is viewed as a timely economic boost and a political win for PM Keir Starmer, who assumed office in July 2024.

#### Key Issues During Negotiations

#### Limited Trade Gains for India

 According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), many Indian exports already benefit from low or zero tariffs in the UK, so the FTA's impact on trade volume may be limited.

### Services and Work Visas

- India prioritised better access for its service professionals, particularly in IT and healthcare.
- However, immigration remains a sensitive issue for the UK post-Brexit.
- Eventually, only about 100 new work visas per year for Indian professionals were agreed upon.

### **Carbon** Tax Dispute

- The UK's proposal to impose a carbon tax on metal imports (based on emissions) raised concerns for Indian exporters, particularly in steel and aluminium.
- Negotiations were needed to address the potential impact on India's competitiveness.

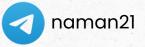
#### **Beyond Trade**

- The FTA is seen as a foundation for deeper cooperation in sectors such as: Defence and security; Critical technologies; Education; Tourism and Indian diaspora engagement.
- An Indian official aptly remarked:
  "The FTA is the floor, not the ceiling."

Question 2: Which of the following statements regarding the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in 2024 is/are correct?

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- 1. The FTA grants zero-duty access to 99% of Indian exports to the UK, significantly benefitting labourintensive sectors such as textiles and gems & jewellery.
- 2. Under the agreement, the UK will immediately provide 100,000 work visas annually to Indian IT and healthcare professionals.
- 3. The FTA includes a phased reduction in India's tariffs on Scotch whisky from 150% to 40% over a period of ten years.
- 4. The UK's proposed carbon tax on high-emission imports like steel was fully accepted by India as part of the FTA.

## Select the correct answer using the code below:

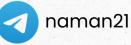
A. 1 and 3 only B. 1, 2 and 4 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 3 and 4 only

#### Answer: A. 1 and 3 only

#### **Explanation:**

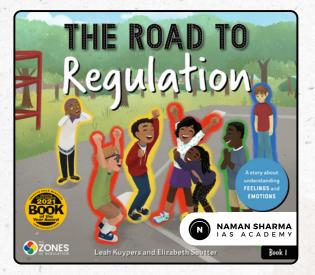
- Statement 1 is correct: 99% of Indian exports to the UK get zeroduty access, aiding labourintensive sectors.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Only ~100 new work visas per year were agreed upon, not 100,000.
- Statement 3 is correct: Tariffs on Scotch whisky will reduce from 150% to 40% over ten years.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: India raised concerns about the carbon tax; it wasn't fully accepted.





# The road to regulatory reform

 India stands out among emerging economies for an unusual characteristic: its economic growth has been led not by manufacturing, as is typically the case, but by services.



 This distinct trajectory reflects not only the dynamism of India's services sector but also deeprooted structural and regulatory challenges within its industrial base. Since 1980, the share of manufacturing in India's gross value added has barely risen, from 16% to 17.5%, while services have surged from 33% to 55%.

#### **De-Regulation**

 Recognising these challenges, the announcement of a high-level committee for regulatory reform in the 2025 Budget is a promising step.

- The committee aims to address what the authors term **regulatory cholesterol, the bloated and tangled web of inspections, permits, and no-objection certificates** (NOCs) that strangle business activity, especially in lowrisk domains.
- A more effective model would be to **shift from inspector-led approvals** to self-certification for low-risk sectors.
- Lessons can be drawn from best practices within India and Southeast Asia, where third-party certifications and digital processes streamline business compliance.
- For instance, automated systems could be used to grant construction
   NOCs based on geotagged data, especially for buildings not obstructing flight paths or critical infrastructure.



#### Reforms Required for Sustainable Economic Growth

 Sustainable economic growth also requires reforms in factor markets, particularly land and labour. Land acquisition processes remain complex, with overlapping restrictions and zoning regulations.

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- Simplifying land-use conversion and building bylaws can make industrial land more accessible.
- Labour laws present a similar challenge. India's rigid and outdated labour framework is misaligned with the evolving nature of work.
- In particular, the rise of gig work, a flexible, technology-driven employment model, needs to be acknowledged in law.
- Current efforts in some states to treat gig workers as full-time employees risk imposing unsustainable compliance burdens on platforms and employers.

#### **Cultural Change in** Bureaucracy

- Reforms must not be confined to procedures; they must extend to mindset.
- The prevailing attitude among regulators is one of distrust towards entrepreneurs, treating business growth as something to control rather than enable. Changing this approach requires a cultural shift.
- One transformative proposal is to include metrics such as investment facilitation and economic development in the performance evaluation of government departments.
- Such institutional alignment could create a bureaucracy that supports, rather than hinders, business development.

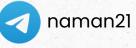
#### Conclusion

India's service-led growth model is a testament to its entrepreneurial spirit and adaptability.

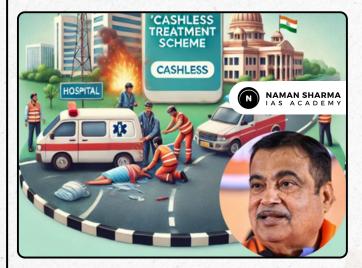


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- However, realising its long-term economic ambitions will require balanced growth driven by both services and manufacturing..
- India must rise to this 1991-like moment, not out of crisis, but out of opportunity, to shape a truly developed economy by 2047.



## Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme



- Recently, the Government of India launched a groundbreaking cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims across the country, ensuring swift and hassle-free medical care for those affected.
- Under the scheme, any individual injured in a road accident involving a motor vehicle on any public road in India will be eligible for cashless medical treatment at designated hospitals.
- The maximum benefit under the scheme is capped at Rs 1.5 lakh and is valid for up to seven days from the date of the accident.
- Treatment at hospitals that are not designated under the scheme will be limited to stabilisation measures, as further detailed in the scheme's guidelines.
- To ensure seamless execution, the National Health Authority (NHA) will serve as the coordinating agency.

- It will work in collaboration with the police, hospitals, and respective State Health Agencies to operationalise the scheme effectively.
- The State Road Safety Council in each state and Union Territory will act as the nodal agency responsible for the scheme's implementation within their jurisdiction.
- This includes coordinating with the National Health Authority for the onboarding of designated hospitals, the treatment of victims, payment processes to hospitals, and other related matters through a dedicated portal.
- A 17-member steering committee headed by the road transport secretary will monitor the implementation of the scheme.

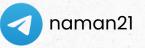
#### About the Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, which of the following statements is correct?

- 1. The scheme provides cashless treatment only for accidents involving insured vehicles.
- 2. Treatment under the scheme is limited to a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh and is valid for up to seven days from the date of the accident.
- 3.Only government hospitals are eligible to be designated under this scheme.
- 4. The National Health Authority (NHA) serves as the coordinating agency for the scheme.
- 5. The State Road Safety Council in each state/UT is the nodal agency for implementation.

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## Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 2, 4 and 5 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 3 and 5 only

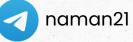
(d) 2 and 4 only

#### Answer: (a) 2, 4 and 5 only

#### **Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The scheme applies to any individual injured in a road accident involving a motor vehicle, regardless of insurance status.
- Statement 2 is correct: The benefit is capped at Rs 1.5 lakh and valid up to seven days.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The scheme applies to designated hospitals, not necessarily only government hospitals.
- Statement 4 is correct: NHA is the coordinating agency.
- •
- Statement 5 is correct: State Road Safety Councils are the nodal agencies for implementation at the state level.





## **Palaeofires**

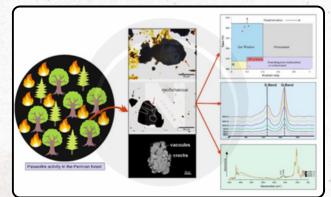
 Recently, Scientists have traced evidence of palaeofires (ancient wildfires) from the Permian Period (~250 million years ago) in the Godavari Basin.



#### **About Palaeofires**

- Palaeofires refer to wildfire events preserved in geological records, which play a crucial role in understanding Earth's past vegetation, climate evolution, and coal formation.
- The study spanned geological periods from the Late Silurian (443.8-419.2 million years ago) to the Quaternary (from 2.58 million years ago to present), highlighting how wildfires have historically shaped landscapes, vegetation patterns, and coal formation.
- The research combined advanced techniques like Palynofacies analysis, Raman Spectroscopy, Rock-Eval Pyrolysis, and FTIR Spectroscopy to examine microscopic organic matter and fossil charcoal in ancient sedimentary rocks.

- Palynofacies analysis revealed three main types of organic particles:
- Translucent Organic Matter (TrOM) includes pollen and plant debris.
- Palaeofire Charcoal (PAL-CH) direct evidence of vegetation burning.
- Oxidised Charcoal (OX-CH) possibly reworked or transported postburning.



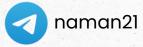
#### **Key discovery:**

- The team successfully distinguished between in situ (onsite) and ex situ (transported) charcoal, helping resolve a longstanding debate in geology regarding the origin of charcoal found in coal-bearing formations.
- Stratigraphic patterns (rock layering) revealed that:
- During regressive phases (sea-level) drop), well-preserved, concentrated fire residues were found.
- During transgressive phases (sealevel rise), charcoal was more oxidised and dispersed, indicating environmental mixing and transport.
- High atmospheric oxygen levels in the Permian Period likely made the Earth more fire-prone, intensifying wildfire frequency and scale.



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- The Raniganj Coalfield was one of the earliest Indian sites where macroscopic charcoal in coal seams suggested the presence of palaeofires in ancient peatforming environments (palaeomires).
- These findings help understand how wildfires influence carbon cycling and long-term carbon sequestration—important for modern climate change mitigation strategies.

#### Q. About recent research on Palaeofires in the Godavari Basin, consider the following statements:

- 1. The presence of Oxidised Charcoal (OX-CH) in sedimentary layers exclusively indicates in situ wildfire events.
- 2. High atmospheric oxygen levels during the Permian Period contributed to increased wildfire activity and more extensive charcoal deposits.
- 3. Palynofacies analysis helps distinguish between different types of organic matter, including fossil charcoal and pollen.
- 4. During sea-level transgressive phases, fire residues are typically well-preserved and highly concentrated.

# Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 4 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1, 2, and 4 only D. 2, 3, and 4 only

5.

#### Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

#### **Explanation:**

- 1. Statement 1 is incorrect: Oxidised Charcoal may indicate transported (ex-situ) material, not exclusively in situ events.
- 2. Statement 2 is correct: High oxygen levels in the Permian did increase fire-proneness.
- 3. Statement 3 is correct: Palynofacies analysis differentiates organic particles like pollen and fossil charcoal.
- 4. Statement 4 is incorrect: Wellpreserved charcoal is associated with regressive phases (sea-level drop), not transgressive.

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## Global Space Exploration Summit GLEX 2025



 India will host the 12th edition of the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) from 7th to 9th May 2025 in New Delhi.

#### About Global Space Exploration Summit (GLEX) 2025

• GLEX 2025's theme is "Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance," emphasising innovation, inclusivity, and international cooperation in space science.

#### GLEX 2025 is jointly organised by:

- International Astronautical Federation (IAF) – the world's leading space advocacy body.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – as the primary host.
- Astronautical Society of India (ASI) – as the co-host.
- The conference represents a milestone in India's expanding global space leadership, highlighting its transition from a regional space power to a key international player.

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#### About the IAF (International Astronautical Federation)

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- Founded in 1951, the IAF has over 500 members from 78
- **countries,** including major space agencies, private firms, research institutes, and universities.
- Its motto, "Connecting @Il Space People," and vision, "A space-faring world cooperating for the benefit of humanity", guide its efforts to promote global space cooperation.
- The GLEX series, organised by IAF, serves as a platform to share programmatic, technical, and policy insights and facilitate collaborative space missions across nations.

Which of the following best encapsulates the strategic implications of India hosting GLEX 2025 in the context of evolving global space governance and its impact on multilateral space diplomacy?



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A. India's hosting of GLEX 2025 primarily signifies its interest in commercialising space activities and joining space resource extraction consortia led by private entities in the Global North.

B. India's role in GLEX 2025 reflects a recalibration of global space leadership, with ISRO emerging as a diplomatic and technological bridge between established space powers and emerging space nations in the Global South.

C.GLEX 2025, organised under the theme of "Reaching New Worlds," indicates a decoupling of national space priorities from international cooperation, focusing instead on autonomous innovation in space missions.

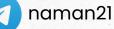
D. The collaboration between ISRO, IAF, and ASI for GLEX 2025 demonstrates a strategic alignment of India's defence space program with multilateral military coalitions focused on countering space-based threats.

#### Answer: B Explanation:

- Option A is incorrect because India's role at GLEX is not driven primarily by commercial motives or alignment with Global Northled resource extraction. Its emphasis is on inclusive cooperation.
- Option B is correct as it captures India's emerging role as a normshaper in global space diplomacy, acting as a bridge between technologically advanced space agencies and nations from the developing world, consistent with the IAF's vision.

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- Option C is misleading because the theme and framework of GLEX 2025 emphasise international cooperation, not autonomy or isolation.
- Option D is factually inaccurate. GLEX 2025 is a civilian scientific and policy platform, not linked with military coalitions or defence strategy.





Cabinet De

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## **SHAKTI Policy**

 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a proposal under the Revised SHAKTI (Scheme to Harness and Allocate Koyla Transparently in India) Policy to enhance coal availability for Central/State Sector Thermal Power Plants and Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

#### Revised SHAKTI Policy for Coal Allocation to Power Sector • Cobinet approves Revised SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala transparently in India) Policy for Coal Allocation to Power Sector • Cobinet approves Revised SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala transparently in India) Policy for Coal Allocation to Power Sector • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Sollowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Sollowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. • Collowing two windows have been proposed funct the Revised SHAKTI policy. <

Thermal Power Plants, Railways, Coal India Limited / Singareni Collieries Company Limited, End Consumers and State Governments would be benefitted

Revised SHAKTI Policy would not involve any additional cost to the coal companies

#### **About the SHAKTI Policy:**

 The SHAKTI Policy, launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Power, created a transparent mechanism to allocate coal linkages to thermal power plants lacking Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs). It replaced the earlier nominationbased system with auction-based and tariff-based bidding, enhancing fairness and transparency.

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- While government-owned plants continue receiving coal through nominations, private power producers must obtain coal via competitive bidding.
- The policy aimed to reduce coal imports, promote the domestic coal industry, and improve energy self-sufficiency.
- It is also intended to revive stressed assets in the power sector, indirectly supporting public sector banks and infrastructure growth

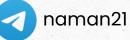


Key Features of the Revised SHAKTI Policy (2024):

• The revised 2024 policy simplifies the system by merging eight criteria into just two windows, enhancing the ease of doing business.

Window-I allocates coal at notified prices to central and state government utilities, their joint ventures, and subsidiaries, including those with PPAs under Section 62 of the Electricity Act. Window-II permits coal and imported coal-based producers to acquire coal through premiumbased auctions for 12 to 25 years, without requiring a PPA.

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- The policy encourages pithead plants, supports new capacity planning, and allows Imported Coal-Based (ICB) plants to transition to domestic coal, reducing import reliance.
- Existing FSA holders can now purchase coal beyond 100% of their Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) during periods of peak demand.
- Unrequisitioned surplus electricity can be sold on power exchanges, boosting plant utilisation.
- The policy imposes no additional financial burden on coal companies.
- Beneficiaries include thermal power plants, Coal India, SCCL, railways, state governments, and end consumers

#### [UPSC 2023] Regarding coal-based thermal power plants in India, consider the following statements:

 None of them uses seawater.
 None of them is set up in a waterstressed district.

3. None of them is privately owned.

## How many of the above statements are correct?

Options: (a) Only one

- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

The correct answer is (d) None.

#### **Explanation:**

All three statements are incorrect regarding coal-based thermal power plants in India.

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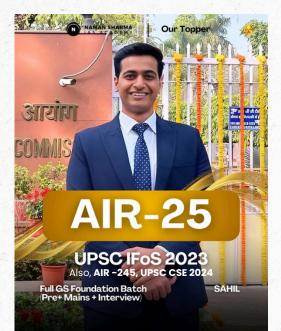
Some coal-based thermal power plants in India do use seawater for cooling (particularly those near the coast). Some are located in waterstressed districts. And some are privately owned.



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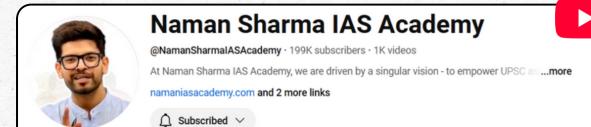


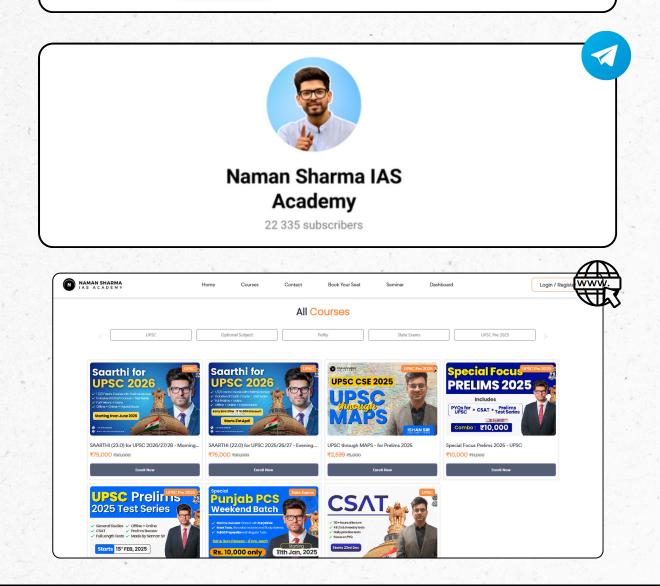
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