NAMAN SHARMA
IAS ACADEMY

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Index

India's Air Defence Systems

- Air defence systems are crucial in modern warfare for protecting against enemy air strikes, and disabling them exposes a nation to aerial attacks, as seen in Pakistan's inability to inflict damage on India.
- The Indian Army stated that its response matched Pakistan's domain and intensity.

- The main goal of an air defence system is to eliminate aerial threats such as enemy fighter aircraft, drones, and missiles.
- An effective system integrates radars, control centres, defensive fighter aircraft, ground-based missile and artillery units, and electronic warfare tools.

Operations of Air Defence

Detection: Radars (and sometimes satellites) identify incoming threats by emitting electromagnetic waves.

- These waves bounce off objects like aircraft and return to receivers, helping determine their distance, speed, and type.
- **Tracking:** After detection, threats are continuously tracked using radar and other sensors (infrared cameras, laser rangefinders). This process helps manage multiple threats in real-time and avoids friendly fire.
- **Interception**: Based on the threat's nature (type, range, speed), air defence systems launch appropriate countermeasures to neutralise it.

Air Defence Systems

Fighter Aircraft (Interceptors)

- Purpose: Engage and neutralise enemy aircraft, especially bombers, before they can strike.
- **Features:** Equipped with cannons, rockets, visual- and beyond-visual-range missiles, and electronic warfare (EW) systems.

Capabilities: Fast scramble, rapid climb, agile combat.

- **Indian Examples: MiG-21 Bison, MiG-29, Su-30MKI, HAL Tejas, Dassault Rafale.**
- **Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs)**
- Role: Primary weapon in most modern air defence systems, safer and more versatile than aircraft.

Types (Unofficial Classification):

- **Heavy Long-Range SAMs: Fixed/semi-mobile; e.g., S-400 (targets hundreds of km away).**

- Medium-Range SAMs: Mobile, quick-launch; e.g., Akash, Barak.
- Short-Range (MANPADS): Man-portable; effective against drones, helicopters, low-flying jets.
- **Guidance Systems: Radar, infrared, or laser-guided.**
- Deployment: Land-based or ship-launched.

Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA)

- Role: Once dominant, now a secondary but still valuable defence against low-altitude threats.
- Capabilities: Fires over 1,000 rounds per minute; shells explode at preset altitudes, creating shrapnel fields.
- Use Cases: Last-ditch defence, anti-drone roles, and in environments where SAMs are less practical.
- Electronic Warfare (EW)
- Purpose: Neutralise threats without physical destruction by manipulating the electromagnetic spectrum.

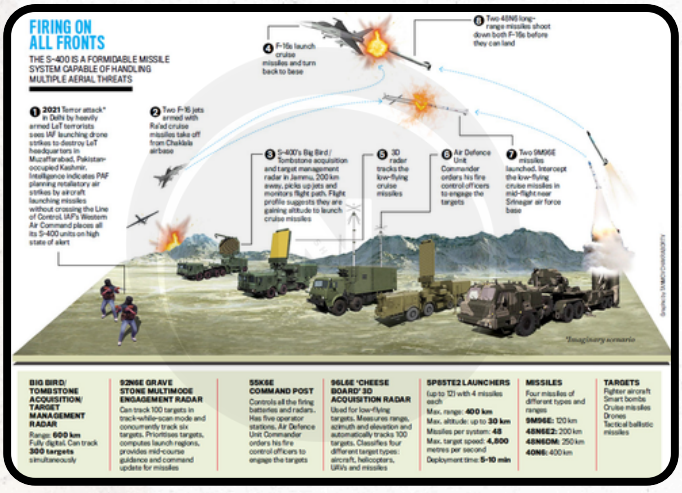
Methods:

- Jamming enemy radars and targeting systems.
- Disrupting the guidance of missiles and drones.
- **Platforms: Land-based units and specialised aircraft like the Boeing EA-18G Growler.**
- Effects: Confuses and misguides incoming threats, reducing their effectiveness.
- India's Air Defence Response to Pakistani Attacks.

- **On May 8, Pakistan launched a coordinated attack with drones and missiles targeting 15 Indian military bases and cities.**
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) swiftly activated its Integrated Counter-UAS Grid and air defence systems, successfully intercepting and neutralising the threats.

Defence Systems Deployed

- S-400 Triumf: Deployed on the northern border; three squadrons received from Russia.
- Barak 8 MRSAM: Medium-range system developed jointly with Israel.
- Akash: An Indigenous Indian missile system.



S-400 Missile System

- Air defence forms a critical component of a nation's military posture, providing security against aerial threats and preserving the integrity of airspace. With rapid advances in military aviation, air defence systems require regular modernisation to counter emerging threats.

- India's acquisition of the Russian-made S-400 Triumf in 2018 has significantly boosted its defensive capabilities through this advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system
- The S-400 Triumf is a surface-to-air missile system (SAM) and one of the most advanced anti-aircraft systems developed by Russia.
- It is designed to defend against a wide range of air threats which include aircrafts, ballistic, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- The missile defence system includes- multifunctional radars, automated command centres, four types of missiles, and mobile launchers.

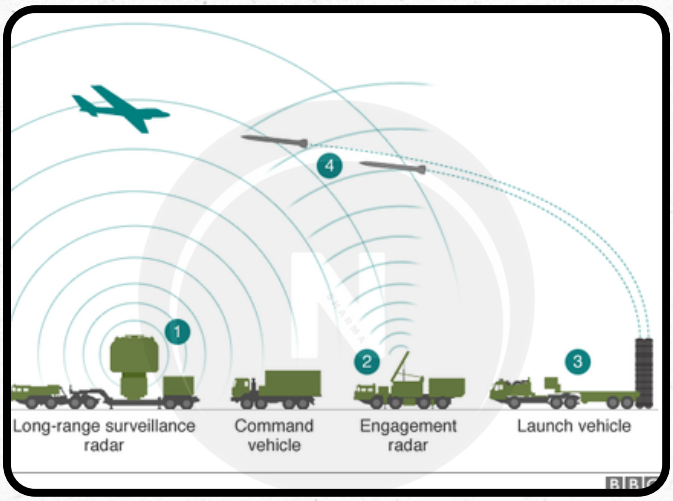
Capability:

- S-400 has a maximum range of up to 400 km. It can destroy targets at a height of 10 m to 30 km.
- It can track up to 80 targets simultaneously, engaging up to 36 of them at once.
- It can intercept targets moving at speeds of up to 4.8 kilometres per second, offering high precision in neutralising fast-moving threats.

Missiles:

- 40n6: Long-range missile (400 km)
- 48n6: Medium-range missile (250 km)
- 9m96e2: Short to Medium-range missile (120 km)
- 9m96e: Short-range missile (40 km)

- The S-400's radar system includes several different sensors for the detection of short-range, medium-range and long-range targets.



- The main one is the 91n6e Big Bird, a three-dimensional phased-array radar capable of detecting targets at long ranges.
- The 92n6e Grave Stone radars are used to guide the missiles and more accurately detect medium and short-range targets.
- The system relies on integrated command control with a 55k6e module that coordinates actions between launchers and radars, ensuring a quick response when a threat is detected.

Mobility: The S-400 system is mobile, can be mounted on trucks, and thus allows for easy repositioning and deployment in different terrains.

Superiority:

- S-400 can be deployed in 5 minutes as opposed to Patriot's 25 minutes (Patriot is one of the United States' most advanced missile defence systems).

- Patriot's top speed of 1.38 km/sec is surpassed by the S-400's top speed of 4.8 km/sec, making it one of the fastest surface-to-air missiles in the world. This high speed allows the system to intercept ballistic missiles and other fast-moving targets.
- The S-400 system contains four different types of missiles with maximum ranges of 40 km, 120 km, 250 km, and 400 km, as well as a maximum height of 30 km. By using different ranges and heights, an air defence net with numerous levels is produced.

- The American THAAD is a one-dimensional missile system that can only fire one type of missile up to a range of 150–200 km. Patriot has a maximum range of 180 km.

Utility:

- India plans to use the S-400 systems as a key element of its air defence strategy focused on defending against air and missile threats, particularly from China and Pakistan.
- The systems are set to be deployed at strategic locations, including on the northeastern border.
- The systems will provide a significant advantage by enabling early warning and precision targeting of enemy targets, which is critical to India's defence strategy in the context of rising tensions in the region.

What are the different classes of SAMs used by India?

- Long-Range SAMs: These systems are designed to engage high-altitude and long-range targets, including ballistic missiles and aircraft. Eg: The S-400 Triumf system, which has a range of up to 400 km, is a long-range SAM used by India to intercept aircraft and missiles.
- Medium-Range SAMs: These systems are mobile and effective in engaging threats at intermediate ranges, typically between 50-100 km. Eg: The Akash missile system, developed by DRDO, is a medium-range SAM designed to protect tactical areas.

- Short-Range SAMs (MANPADS): These are portable, man-carried systems used to defend against low-flying targets such as helicopters or drones. Eg: The Igla MANPAD, which is used by Indian forces for short-range air defence, can target low-flying aircraft and drones.

Conclusion:

- India's air defence system integrates advanced radar, tracking, and interception capabilities through various SAMs, including long-range, medium-range, and short-range systems, ensuring comprehensive protection against aerial threats across diverse platforms.

Question 1: India's multi-layered air defence architecture is built upon integration between missile systems, fighter interceptors, electronic warfare, and radar networks. Consider the following statements in the context of India's air defence capability:

1. The Akash and Barak-8 systems provide a combined defence envelope capable of engaging aerial threats from short to medium range, with both systems using active radar homing guidance.
2. The S-400 Triumf's integration with indigenous systems like Akash and Israeli-origin radars enables seamless tracking and interception of multiple threats across varied altitudes and distances through a networked command-and-control structure.
3. India's air defence superiority over Pakistan in the 2019 Balakot aftermath was primarily due to the rapid deployment of man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) like Igla-S and tactical use of anti-aircraft artillery.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct: Akash (indigenous) and Barak-8 (India-Israel) are short-to-medium range SAMs, both employing active radar homing for precision guidance. Their layered deployment strengthens India's defensive grid.

Statement 2 – Correct:India is actively integrating various systems through its Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS), enabling real-time data sharing and threat tracking among platforms like S-400, Akash, Barak-8, and indigenous radar systems.

Statement 3 – Incorrect: During the 2019 Balakot aftermath, India's dominance was due to advanced radar, interception by fighter jets like MiG-21 and Su-30mki, and SAMs, not primarily MANPADS or AAA. MANPADS are tactical and short-range and were not the deciding factor.

Statement 4 – Correct: The S-400's superiority over systems like THAAD and Patriot is acknowledged due to its multi-tiered missile loadout, higher intercept speed (up to 4.8 km/s), faster deployment (~5 min), and 360-degree radar coverage, unlike the more linear architecture of THAAD.

Question [UPSC 2021] How is the S-400 air defence missile system different from any other system presently available in the world?

Persian Gulf to be renamed as 'Arabian Gulf'

- Recently, Donald Trump plans to announce that the US will officially refer to the Persian Gulf as the "Arabian Gulf" or "Gulf of Arabia", aligning with the preferences of Arab nations.

About the Persian Gulf

- The Persian Gulf is a marginal sea of the Indian Ocean, located in Western Asia.
- It is connected to the Arabian Sea through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint for global oil shipments.
- The gulf spans an area of approximately 251,000 km².
- Its average depth is around 50 meters, with a maximum depth of about 90 meters.
- The total coastline is roughly 5,117 km, with Iran possessing the longest share (~1,536 km).

The Gulf is bordered by:

- North: Iran
- Southwest: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE

- Northwest: Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain
- **Islands: Qeshm Island (Iran) — the largest island in the Persian Gulf (~1,491 km²), nearly 2.5 times the size of Bahrain.**
- Bahrain — a sovereign archipelago state with over 50 islands and is home to a major US naval base.
- It is recognised officially by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) as the "Persian Gulf".

Qestion 2 :[UPSC 2024] Consider the following statements:
Statement I: Sumed pipeline is a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe.
Statement-II: The Sumed pipeline connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

Which one of the following is correct concerning the above statements?
Options:
(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Explanation:

- Statement I: This statement is correct. The Sumed pipeline is a key route for transporting oil from the Persian Gulf region to Europe.
- Statement II: This statement is also correct. The Sumed pipeline specifically connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

CCI Issues 'Cost of Production' Regulations to Tackle Unfair Pricing in E-Commerce

- The Competition Commission of India recently notified the Competition Commission of India (Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2025, aimed at effectively assessing alleged predatory pricing and deep discounting practices in the quick commerce and e-commerce sectors

Difference between 2009 and draft 2025 regulation

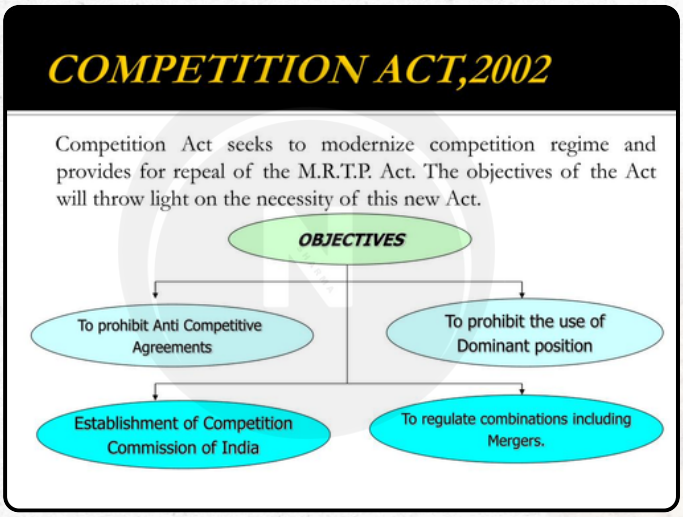
CCI (Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2009	CCI (Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2025
The regulation relied on market value, that was defined as consideration which the customer pays or agrees to pay for a product that is/can be sold or provided.	The regulation relies on average total cost, i.e., defined as total cost divided by total output during the referred period.
The determination of cost included cost concepts such as avoidable cost, long-run average incremental cost, market value.	The determination of cost proposed to include cost concepts such as average total cost, average avoidable cost, or long-run average incremental cost.
The proposed draft is a shift from market value to average total cost as a factor for the determination of cost.	

About Competition Commission of India (Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2025:

- It was notified by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI).**
- It is aimed at effectively assessing alleged predatory pricing and deep discounting practices in the quick commerce and e-commerce sectors.
- Predatory pricing refers to a strategy where a dominant company deliberately lowers its prices below the cost of production to drive competitors out of the market.
- Once rival firms are weakened or eliminated, the company typically raises prices to recoup its losses and consolidate market control.
- This practice is specifically **prohibited under Section 4(2)(a)(ii) of the Competition Act, 2002**, when used to unfairly gain or maintain dominance.
- To strengthen oversight of such behaviour, the CCI **(Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2025,** implement updated cost assessment standards.
- These revised benchmarks are designed to reflect modern economic thinking, judicial rulings, and international best practices in competition law.
- According to the latest regulations, the **"cost of a good or service would be assumed to be its average variable cost",** which is the total variable cost divided by total output during a particular period.
- Here, the total variable cost refers to the total cost **(including everything that goes into the production of that good or service)** minus the fixed cost and fixed overheads attributable to the product.
- One of the key changes in the new regulations is the shift from sector-specific benchmarks to a case-by-case assessment model that is flexible and adaptable to various industries, including the digital economy.

About the Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory and quasi-judicial body** operating under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- Established in **March 2009 under the Competition Act, 2002,** the CCI aims to prevent anti-competitive practices, promote and sustain market competition, protect consumer interests, and ensure the freedom of trade in India's markets.



Objectives of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- Eliminating Anti-Competitive Practices: To eradicate monopolistic practices and cartels that adversely affect market competition.
- **Promoting Competition:** To foster fair and healthy competition to ensure efficient market functioning.

Consumer Protection: To safeguard consumers' rights by enabling access to a variety of goods and services at competitive prices.

- **Freedom of Trade:** To create a level playing field to ensure free trade across Indian markets.
- **Establishing a Competitive Environment: To achieve this, by:**
- Actively engaging with consumers, industries, governments, and international counterparts. Building a knowledge-driven organisation with high professional competence.Enforcing the Competition Act with transparency and diligence

Functions of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- To fulfil its mandate, the CCI performs the following functions:
- Market Regulation for Consumer Welfare: Ensure that markets operate for the benefit and welfare of consumers by preventing monopolistic or restrictive trade practices.
- Encouraging Economic Growth: Promote fair competition in economic activities to foster inclusive and faster economic development.
- Implementation of Competition Policies: Work towards the efficient utilisation of resources by curbing anti-competitive practices.
- Interaction with Sectoral Regulators: Collaborate with sectoral regulatory authorities to align regulatory laws with competition law for cohesive market governance.
- Awareness Generation: Conduct programs and campaigns to educate stakeholders, including consumers and businesses, to cultivate a culture of competition in India's economy.

Conclusion

- The Competition Commission of India plays a pivotal role in creating a competitive, fair, and consumer-friendly market ecosystem in India

Regarding the Competition Commission of India (Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The regulations mandate the use of total cost (fixed + variable) as the primary basis for determining predatory pricing.
2. These regulations have transitioned from a rigid sector-specific benchmark model to a flexible case-by-case evaluation system.
3. Under the regulations, "average variable cost" is calculated by dividing total cost by the total output over a given period.
4. The new cost assessment standards are influenced by global competition norms, evolving judicial interpretations, and contemporary economic frameworks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B. 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The regulations emphasise average variable cost (not total cost) as the primary metric for identifying predatory pricing.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The shift from sector-specific benchmarks to a case-by-case model is a key change.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Average variable cost is calculated as total variable cost divided by total output, not total cost.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The new benchmarks align with international best practices, court rulings, and modern economic principles.

INS Arnala

- Recently, GRSE delivered the new Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft INS Arnala to the Indian Navy. This milestone enhances the Indian Navy's capabilities in coastal defence against potential submarine threats.
- The vessel was launched as part of a contract signed in April 2019, which includes the construction of eight such crafts.

About Arnala

- INS Arnala measures 77.6 metres in length and 10.5 metres in width. It is designed for full-scale sub-surface surveillance and anti-submarine operations. The craft can operate in coordination with aircraft for enhanced maritime security. The vessel is built under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, collaborating with L&T Kattupalli in Tamil Nadu.

Strategic Importance

- Named after the historic Arnala island, the craft signifies India's commitment to maritime security.

The island has historical relevance, associated with the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

- The ASW crafts will replace the older Abhay-class ships, boosting India's coastal defence capabilities.

Technical Specifications

- The ASW shallow water crafts have a displacement of 900 tons and a maximum speed of 25 knots.
- They possess an operational endurance of 1,800 nautical miles. These specifications enable effective patrolling and surveillance in littoral waters, ensuring robust maritime security.

Indigenous

- Over 80% of the ASW craft's content is indigenous. This focus on local manufacturing aims to enhance self-reliance in defence production.
- It is expected to create job opportunities and develop technical expertise within the country.

Question 5:Regarding 'Arnala', recently delivered to the Indian Navy, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first Indian Naval warship to be entirely constructed using components sourced exclusively from foreign defence partners.
2. The ship adheres to the classification rules laid down by an international maritime body based in London.

3. ‘Arnala’ is powered by a Diesel Engine-Waterjet propulsion system and is the largest Indian Naval warship using this configuration.
4. It is constructed under a Public-Private Partnership between GRSE and M/s L&T Shipyard, demonstrating a model for collaborative naval shipbuilding in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B. 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Over 80% of components are indigenously sourced, not foreign.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The ship follows the rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), not an international body based in London.
- Statement 3 is correct: It is the largest Indian Naval warship with Diesel Engine-Waterjet propulsion.
- Statement 4 is correct: It was built under a PPP model between GRSE and L&T Shipyard.

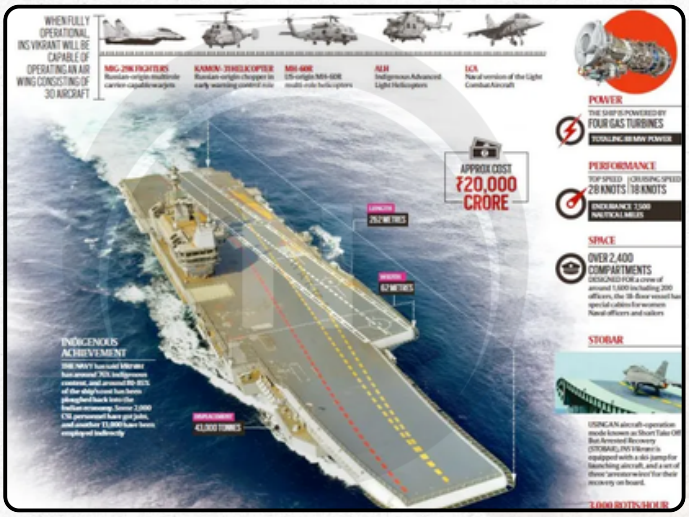
INS Vikrant

- INS Vikrant (IAC-I) is the first aircraft carrier built in India and the first Vikrant-class aircraft carrier built by Cochin Shipyard (CSL) in Kochi, Kerala, for the Indian Navy.

- The motto of the ship is Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah, which is taken from the Rig Veda and is translated as “I defeat those who fight against me”.
- The carrier is 262 m long, 62 m at the widest part and with a depth of 30 m minus the superstructure. There are 14 decks in all, including five in the superstructure.
- It features a Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery(STOBAR) configuration with a ski-jump. The deck is designed to enable aircraft such as the MiG-29K to operate from the carrier. It is expected to carry an air group of up to thirty aircraft, which will include up to 24–26 fixed-wing combat aircraft, primarily the Mikoyan Mig-29k.
- The naval variant of the HAL Tejas was rejected by the navy on Dec 2, 2016 for being overweight. Besides carrying 10 Kamov Ka-31 or Westland Sea King The Ka-31 will fulfill the airborne early warning (AEW) role and the Sea King will provide anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability.
- Vikrant is powered by four General Electric LM2500+gas turbines on two shafts, generating over 80 megawatts (110,000 hp) of power. The gearboxes for the carriers were designed and supplied by Elecon Engineering.
- Once operational, Vikrant is going to sport a gender-sensitive living environment and infrastructure, with provision to accommodate eight women officers. The ship will then accommodate 1,645 personnel in all, including 196 officers.
- For now, the Navy has only one carrier, INS Vikramaditya, contracted from Russia under a $2.3-billion deal and inducted into service in November 2013.INS Viraat was recently retired from service after cumulatively serving the British and Indian Navies for over 50 years. In that line, when the new INS Vikrant joins the Navy sometime after 2020, it would be the fourth aircraft carrier to defend India’s shores. Each of these carriers has grown in size, capability and sophistication, adding more teeth to the Navy’s power projection.

- The first Vikrant displaced 20,000 tonnes and operated a mix of Westland Sea Kings, HAL Chetak and Sea Harrier jets. Viraat displaced 28,500 tonnes and Vikramaditya displaces 45,400 tonnes. The new Vikrant will displace 40,000 tonnes.

Significance for India



- An aircraft carrier is a command platform epitomising 'dominance' over a large area, 'control' over vast expanses of the ocean and all aspects of maritime strength.
- It makes India only the fifth country after the US, Russia, Britain and France to have such capabilities of developing indigenous aircraft carriers.

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Press Freedom Report 2024–25: Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

- It is an annual report released by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The press freedom questionnaire **covers five categories**: **political context**, **legal** framework, **economic** context, **sociocultural** context, and **security**.

- The 23rd Annual South Asia Press Freedom Report 2024–25, titled "Frontline Democracy: Media and Political Churn", has flagged India as part of a wider trend of shrinking press freedom.
- The Annual South Asia Press Freedom Report 2024-25, titled "Frontline Democracy: Media and Political Churn," paints a troubling picture of increasing restrictions, state-sponsored suppression, and growing dangers faced by journalists.

India's Declining Press Freedom

- The report devotes a specific section to India, titled "India: Propaganda and the Press," highlighting the systematic efforts to control media narratives. Key factors include:

Legal Suppression of Media Freedom:

- Increasing use of sedition laws, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against media organizations and journalists.
- Frequent defamation lawsuits and state-sponsored raids on media houses using the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate.

Rise in Self-Censorship:

- A “chilling effect” has led many media outlets to avoid reporting critically on the government.
- Government advertisements are routinely withheld from critical media outlets as a method of financial coercion.

Manipulation of Information:

- Political IT cells actively spread misinformation and hate speech, making it difficult for independent journalism to thrive.
- According to the Global Risks Report 2024, India is identified as the country with the highest global risk of misinformation and disinformation.

Press Freedom in Neighbouring Countries

- **Pakistan:** Marked as “the most violent year for journalists in two decades,” with eight journalists killed.
- The government continues to operate under an authoritarian framework, severely curbing media rights.
- **Bangladesh:** Transitioned from the ICT Act to the Cyber Security Act, but concerns remain over its transparency and misuse.
- The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists reported nearly 300 attacks on journalists during political protests.
- **Afghanistan:** At least 172 media rights violations were recorded, highlighting the continued assault on press freedom under Taliban rule.
- **Bhutan and Maldives:** Bhutan fell from the 33rd position in press freedom rankings in 2021 to 152nd in 2025.
- The Maldives faces regulatory challenges with its Information Commissioner’s Office, undermining press freedom.

Economic and Structural Challenges for Media

- Shrinking Job Market and Rising Precarity:
- Across South Asia, media organisations are grappling with layoffs, job insecurity, and a decline in advertisement revenue.
- Gig and freelance journalists face worsening working conditions and limited legal protections.

Impact of AI and Digital Media:

- Increased reliance on AI for content creation has led to a decline in professional journalism standards.
- Digital platforms such as YouTube and podcasts are rising but lack adequate regulation to maintain journalistic ethics.

Conclusion:

- Press freedom in South Asia is under acute strain due to state control, legal harassment, and disinformation.
- India must act now to safeguard journalistic integrity, ensure citizens' right to know, and protect democratic institutions. A free and fair press is the bedrock of participatory governance.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Press Freedom landscape in South Asia as per the 23rd Annual Report (2024–25):

1. The section titled "India: Propaganda and the Press" notes that India faces the highest risk globally of misinformation and disinformation, as flagged by the Global Risks Report 2024.
2. Pakistan and Afghanistan were both flagged for the same reason—excessive use of financial coercion through advertisement bans on critical media.
3. Bangladesh's transition from the ICT Act to the Cyber Security Act is viewed as a positive reform, enhancing transparency and press protections.
4. The report draws a link between economic precarity and the rise of AI-generated content, contributing to a structural decline in professional journalism.
2.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct : The report explicitly states that India is identified in the Global Risks Report 2024 as having the highest global risk of misinformation and disinformation.
- Statement 2: Incorrect: While both Pakistan and Afghanistan face severe press repression, their primary concerns are violence and authoritarian suppression, not financial coercion via advertisement cuts, which is specific to India.
- Statement 3: Incorrect: The transition from the ICT Act to the Cyber Security Act in Bangladesh still raises concerns over transparency and misuse, making it not a clearly positive reform.
- Statement 4: Correct The report links the economic and structural decline in journalism to both increasing reliance on AI and the precarity of freelance media work, undermining traditional press standards.

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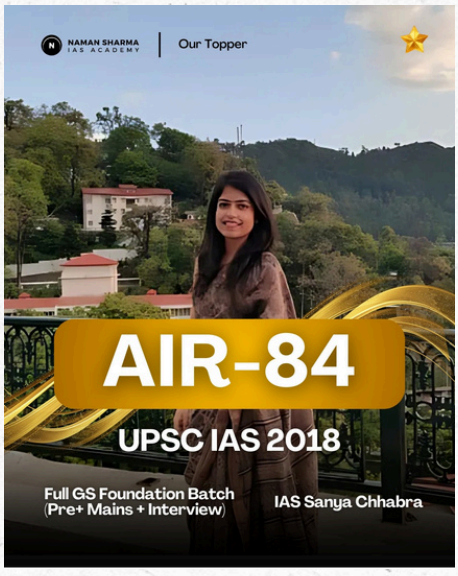
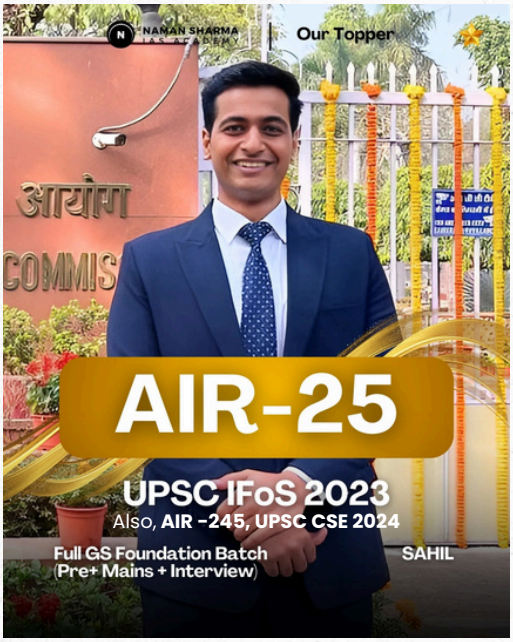
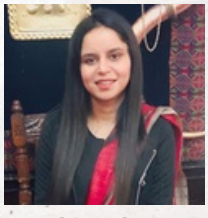
Our Recent Toppers:





IRS Rudraksh Ravi
AIR-617, CSE 2021

Anshul Shandil
AIR-7, HPPCS 2019



Arshiya Sharma
AIR-3, HPPCS 2019

Kirti Sharma
AIR-35, PCS 2021

IPS Vineet Ahlawat
AIR-231, CSE 2020

SDM Himani Sharma
AIR-2, HPAS 2024

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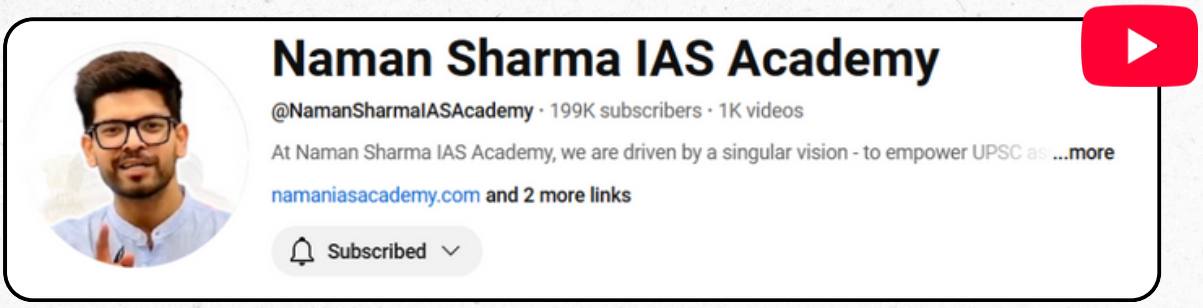

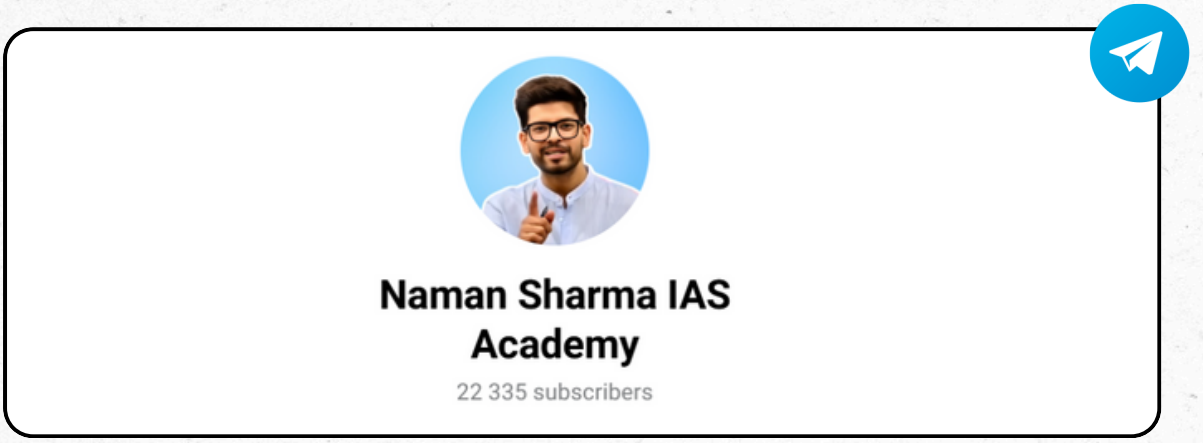

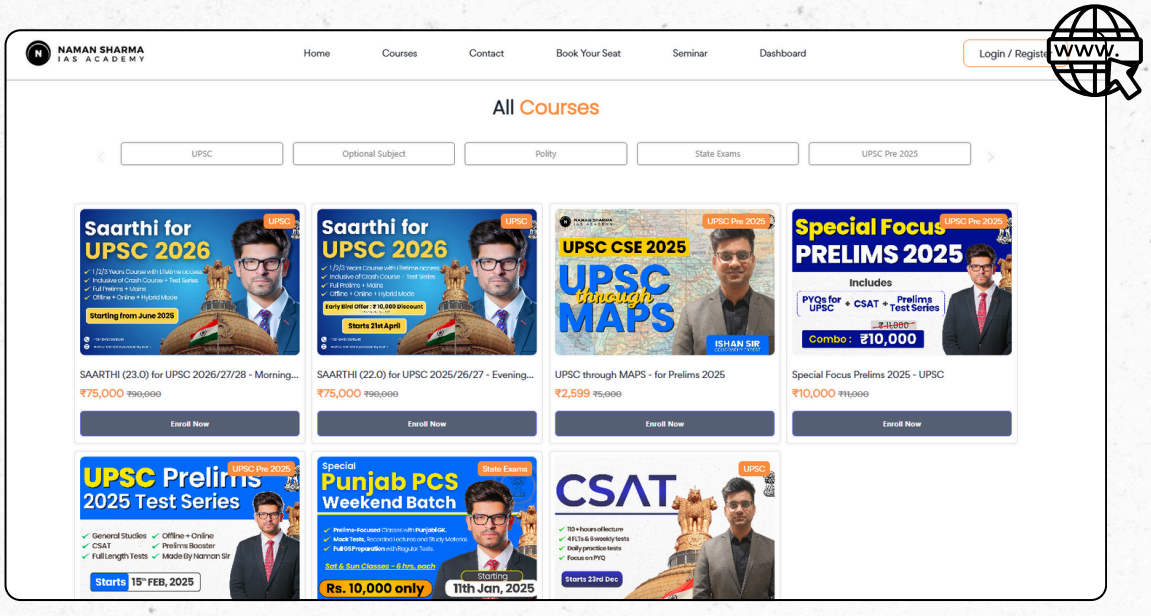

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