



**NAMAN SHARMA**  
IAS ACADEMY

# Daily

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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# 1. Central authorities working with ‘full sensitivity’ for all communities, says Murmu

## Why in the News?

President Droupadi Murmu, while addressing a joint sitting of Parliament, stated that Central authorities are working with “full sensitivity” towards all communities, including Dalits, OBCs, marginalised groups, and tribal communities. The statement comes amid debate over equity-related provisions in UGC regulations, along with broader discussions on social justice, national security, and India’s development trajectory (Viksit Bharat 2047).



## Background

- The President’s Address marks the formal beginning of a new parliamentary session and outlines the government’s policy priorities.
- India’s constitutional vision of social justice is rooted in the ideals of B. R. Ambedkar, focusing on equality, dignity, and non-discrimination.
- Since 2014, the Union government has expanded social security coverage from about 25 crore to nearly 95 crore citizens, through schemes targeting health, insurance, pensions, and financial inclusion.
- Concerns have been raised recently about whether higher education reforms, including UGC regulations, adequately balance merit, autonomy, and social inclusion.

## Features

### Social Justice and Inclusion

- Emphasis on “full sensitivity” towards historically disadvantaged communities.
- Reiteration that social justice means effective enjoyment of rights, not merely formal equality.

### National Unity and Constitutional Values

- Invocation of leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Stress on national interest overriding ideological differences.

### National Security

- Reference to Operation Sindoor, showcasing India’s decisive yet responsible use of force against terrorism.
- Clear message of zero tolerance for terrorism.

### Cultural Reclamation

- Critique of colonial-era narratives associated with Thomas Macaulay.
- Mention of 75 years of reconstruction of the Somnath Temple, symbolising civilisational resilience and cultural confidence.

### Economic and Global Engagement

- Reference to the proposed India–European Union Free Trade Agreement, expected to:
- Boost manufacturing and services
- Generate employment
- Strengthen India’s global trade integration

## Challenges

### Equity vs Autonomy in Higher Education

- Apprehensions that regulatory overreach may affect institutional independence.
- Risk of policy backlash if stakeholder consultation is inadequate.

### Substantive vs Symbolic Social Justice

- Expansion of welfare coverage does not automatically translate into quality access or outcomes.
- Persistent gaps in education, health, and employment for marginalised groups.

### Balancing Cultural Assertion and Pluralism

- Civilisational narratives must avoid exclusionary interpretations in a diverse society.

## Security–Democracy Balance

- Strong counter-terror responses must coexist with constitutional safeguards and civil liberties.

## Way Forward

- **Inclusive Policymaking:** Institutionalise consultations with students, faculty, and States before implementing education reforms.
- **Outcome-based Social Justice:** Shift focus from coverage numbers to quality, accessibility, and dignity of service delivery.
- **Constitutional Morality:** Reinforce Ambedkar’s vision of equality through administrative sensitivity and judicial oversight.
- **Responsible Nationalism:** Combine firm security responses with democratic accountability.
- **Trade Readiness:** Prepare MSMEs and labour for competition arising from FTAs through skilling and safeguards.

## Conclusion

The President’s address presents a composite vision of governance, anchored in social justice, national security, cultural confidence, and economic ambition. For India’s journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, the real test lies not in declarations alone, but in translating constitutional ideals into lived realities for all communities, while preserving unity amid diversity.

## 2. If Aadhaar can be forged, same goes for passport: SC

### Why in the News?

The Supreme Court of India ruled that the risk of forgery cannot be a valid ground to exclude Aadhaar from voter identity verification during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Court observed that even passports can be forged, yet they are accepted as valid identity documents, drawing parity between Aadhaar and other officially recognised documents.

### Background

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) had initially notified 11 documents for voter verification during the SIR exercise.
- Aadhaar was later included as the 12th ‘indicative document’ following judicial directions.
- Concerns were raised that Aadhaar enrolment and updates are carried out through privately run Common Service Centres (CSCs), making it vulnerable to misuse.

### The case revisits long-standing debates on:

- Aadhaar’s legal nature

- Its permissible uses
- The distinction between identity verification and citizenship determination

## Features

### Forgery Argument Rejected

- The Court held that forgery is a universal risk.
- Justice Joymalya Bagchi noted that:  
“Any document can be forged. Even a passport can be forged.
- Hence, forgability alone cannot disqualify Aadhaar.

### Aadhaar as a Public Document

- Though enrolments are done via private centres, they:
  - Operate under statutory authority
  - Perform a public duty
- Aadhaar was affirmed as a public document, similar to passports.



### Clear Line Between Identity and Citizenship

The Court reiterated:

- Aadhaar is proof of identity, not proof of citizenship.

### **This aligns with:**

- Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which bars Aadhaar from being used as evidence of citizenship or domicile.

### **Statutory Backing for Electoral Use**

- Reference to Section 23 (amended) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950:
- Allows electors to furnish Aadhaar solely for identity verification to Electoral Registration Officers.

## **Challenges**

### **Misinterpretation of Aadhaar's Legal Scope**

- Public confusion between identity authentication and citizenship verification.

### **Data Security and Privacy Risks**

- A large number of enrolment centres (~5.72 lakh) raises concerns over data misuse.

### **Trust Deficit in Electoral Processes**

- Allegations of exclusion or deletion of genuine voters can undermine electoral legitimacy.

### **Operational Oversight**

- Ensuring accountability of private enrolment agencies remains a governance challenge.

## **Way Forward**

- **Functional Clarity:** Reinforce that Aadhaar's use in elections is voluntary and limited to identity verification.
- **Robust Oversight:** Strengthen audits and biometric safeguards at enrolment centres.
- **Multiple Documents Approach:** Retain Aadhaar as one of several options, not a mandatory document.
- **Voter Awareness:** Educate citizens on their rights regarding Aadhaar-based verification.
- **Data Protection Framework:** Align Aadhaar usage with evolving privacy jurisprudence under Article 21.

## **Conclusion**











The Supreme Court's remarks strike a pragmatic constitutional balance, acknowledging technological vulnerabilities while preventing their misuse as excuses for exclusion. By clarifying that Aadhaar verifies identity, not citizenship, the Court reinforces electoral integrity without diluting constitutional safeguards. For a democracy of India's scale, inclusive verification mechanisms, not document absolutism, remain the key to free and fair elections.

### 3. Aircraft crashed during second landing bid in poor visibility

#### Why in the News?

A Learjet 45 aircraft crashed while attempting a second landing in poor visibility at the Baramati airstrip in Maharashtra. The crash has raised serious concerns about flight safety at non-standard airstrips, as the airfield lacked essential infrastructure, including instrument landing systems, professional ATC, meteorological services, and firefighting facilities. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has launched a formal investigation.

**Air tragedies** A list of politicians and prominent figures who were killed in air crashes

 <p><b>Homi Bhabha</b> The pioneering nuclear physicist died in a crash on January 24, 1966</p>	 <p><b>Mohan Kumaramangalam</b> Union Minister died near the Palam airport on May 31, 1973</p>	 <p><b>Sanjay Gandhi</b> Congress leader died near the Safdarjung airport on June 23, 1980</p>	 <p><b>N.V.N. Somu</b> Union Minister passed away in Arunchal Pradesh on November 14, 1997</p>	 <p><b>Madhavrao Scindia</b> Congress leader died en route to a rally in Kanpur on Sept. 30, 2001</p>
 <p><b>G.M.C. Balayogi</b> Lok Sabha Speaker died in a chopper crash in Andhra Pradesh on March 3, 2002</p>	 <p><b>Y.S. Rajashekara Reddy</b> A.P. Chief Minister died on Sept. 2, 2009 in a chopper crash</p>	 <p><b>General Bipin Rawat</b> CDS was killed in a crash near Coonoor on December 8, 2021</p>	 <p><b>Vijay Rupani</b> Former Gujarat CM was among the 241 people who died on June 12, 2025</p>	 <p><b>Ajit Pawar</b> Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister died in a plane crash on January 28, 2026</p>

#### Background

- The Baramati airstrip is owned by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation and leased to private flying schools.
- It is categorised as an “uncontrolled aerodrome”, primarily meant for flight training, not for regular charter or VIP operations.
- Despite frequent VIP movement, the facility:
  - Falls outside the ATC coverage of the Airports Authority of India
  - Operates with rudimentary ATC services provided by flying school staff.
- The aircraft was owned by a Delhi-based charter operator and had passed its last DGCA audit in February 2025.

#### Features

##### Poor Visibility & Landing Attempt

- Visibility was reported at 3 km, below the required 5 km for visual landing.

- Pilots aborted the first landing attempt and then attempted a second despite ongoing visibility challenges.

## **Infrastructure Deficit**

- **The airstrip lacked:**
  - Instrument Landing System (ILS)
  - Dedicated meteorologist
  - Professional ATC
  - Firefighting and security arrangements

## **Visual Approach Dependency**

- Pilots relied solely on visual cues (bare-eye landing).
- No cockpit-generated navigational guidance was available.

## **Experienced Crew**

- The pilot-in-command had 15,000+ flying hours, ruling out inexperience as a primary cause.
- Highlights systemic rather than individual failure.

## **Challenges**

### **Safety at Uncontrolled Aerodromes**

- Increasing use of training airstrips for charter/VIP flights without infrastructure upgrades.

### **Regulatory Oversight Gaps**

- DGCA audits focus on operators, not always on ground infrastructure suitability.

### **Human–System Interface Risk**

- High pilot skill cannot compensate for absence of navigational and meteorological support.

### **Delayed Accident Learning**

- The previous Learjet crash (Mumbai, 2023) probe report is still unpublished, limiting institutional learning.

### **Urban–Regional Aviation Expansion Risks**

- Push for regional connectivity without proportionate safety investments.

## **Way Forward**

- **Minimum Infrastructure Norms:** Mandate ILS, firefighting, and certified ATC for any airstrip used beyond training.

- Operational Restrictions: Prohibit charter and VIP operations at uncontrolled aerodromes in marginal weather.
- Independent ATC Staffing: Replace flying-school-operated ATC with trained aviation professionals.
- Transparent Investigations: Ensure timely publication of AAIB reports for safety learning.
- Risk-Based Regulation: Align DGCA oversight with operational risk profile, not ownership or category alone.

## Conclusion

The Baramati crash underscores a critical truth of aviation governance: pilot competence cannot substitute systemic safety. As India expands regional aviation and charter operations, regulatory vigilance, infrastructure adequacy, and institutional accountability must evolve together. Without this alignment, uncontrolled aerodromes risk becoming structural weak links in India's aviation safety architecture.

## 4. 66% sanitation workers in Central govt. from SC, ST, OBC groups: DoPT report

### Why in the News?

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), in its Annual Report 2024–25, revealed that over 66% of Group C sanitation workers (safai karmacharis) in the Central government belong to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backwards Classes (OBC). The data has reignited debates around occupational segregation, social justice, and the effectiveness of reservation policies in public employment.

### Background

**The Central government follows reservation norms in direct recruitment:**

- SCs – 15%
- STs – 7.5%
- OBCs – 27%
- EWS – 10%

**Government posts are classified into:**

- Group A (senior/managerial)
- Group B (middle-level)
- Group C (clerical, technical, and support staff, including sanitation workers)
- The Department of Personnel and Training is responsible for personnel policies, recruitment rules, and maintaining representation data.

### Features

#### Disproportionate Representation in Sanitation Work

- 66%+ of safai karmacharis belong to SC, ST, and OBC groups
- Indicates persistence of caste-linked occupational roles

## Representation Across Services

### Group A

- SC – 14.2%
  - ST – 6.54%
  - OBC – 19.14%
- (All below prescribed reservation norms, especially OBCs)

### Group B:

- SC – 16.2%
- ST – 7.63%
- OBC – 21.95%

### Group C (excluding sanitation):


- SC – 16.75%
- ST – 8.94%
- OBC – 27.29%

## Overall Central Government Workforce

- Total employees covered: 32.52 lakh
- SC – 16.84%
- ST – 8.7%
- OBC – 26.32%
- No data on EWS representation

**Taking count**

The Personnel Ministry, in its latest report, has published the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the posts and services of the Union government, as per data received from 80 Ministries and departments



Group	Total no. of employees	SC	ST	OBC
A	1,19,178	16,920 (14.2%)	7,793 (6.54%)	22,807 (19.14%)
B	3,64,307	59,006 (16.20%)	27,789 (7.63%)	79,952 (21.95%)
C (excluding sanitation workers)	27,27,930	4,56,925 (16.75%)	2,43,872 (8.94%)	7,44,527 (27.29%)
C (sanitation workers)	40,737	14,971 (36.75%)	3,331 (8.18%)	8,614 (21.15%)
Total	32,52,152	5,47,822 (16.84%)	2,82,785 (8.7%)	8,55,900 (26.32%)

## **Data Transparency Improvement**

- First comprehensive dataset since 2018–19
- Earlier reports (2019–2023) covered only 19–20 lakh employees due to delayed submissions by Ministries.

## **Challenges**

### **Occupational Segregation**

- Over-representation of marginalised communities in sanitation reflects historical caste hierarchies.
- Raises concerns of “reservation without mobility”

### **Under-representation in Decision-Making Roles**

- SC/ST/OBC presence remains below mandated levels in Group A posts
- Limits inclusive governance and policy sensitivity

### **Absence of EWS Data**

- Despite 10% EWS reservation, no official data published
- Weakens transparency and parliamentary oversight

### **Inconsistent Data Reporting**

- Recurrent delays and partial datasets undermine:
  - Evidence-based policymaking
  - Judicial and legislative scrutiny

## **Way Forward**

### **Ensure Vertical Mobility**

- Introduce career progression pathways for Group C workers
- Mandatory departmental exams, skill certification, and promotions

### **Address Caste-Based Occupational Clustering**

- Encourage diversified recruitment across roles.
- Targeted training for SC/ST/OBC employees for technical and supervisory posts

### **Mandatory Disclosure of EWS Data**

- Annual reporting of EWS representation across all services
- Align with principles of equal opportunity and transparency

### **Strengthen Monitoring Mechanisms**

- Penal provisions for Ministries failing to submit data
- Digitised, real-time dashboards for workforce diversity

## **Link Social Justice with Dignity of Labour**

- Implement recommendations of:
  - National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
  - Supreme Court rulings on manual scavenging and dignity at work

## **Conclusion**

The DoPT data exposes a structural paradox: while reservation has enabled the entry of marginalised communities into public employment, deep-rooted caste-based occupational stratification persists, especially in sanitation work. True social justice requires moving beyond numerical representation towards dignity, mobility, and leadership inclusion, ensuring that constitutional equality translates into lived equality within the State's own workforce.

## **5. Can international patent law handle a permanent presence in space?**

### **Why in the News?**

With permanent human presence in outer space moving closer to reality through lunar bases, space stations, and Mars missions, the question of who owns innovations created in space has gained urgency. Recent debates highlight whether international patent law, which is built on territorial jurisdiction, can cope with innovation occurring in non-sovereign, shared environments like the Moon or orbit, as envisioned under programmes such as NASA's Artemis.

### **Background**

- Patent law is grounded in territoriality: exclusive rights are enforced within a state's jurisdiction.
- Outer space, however, is governed by international law that prohibits national sovereignty over celestial bodies.
- The governing framework is the Outer Space Treaty, which:
  - Declares outer space the province of all humankind (Article I)
  - Prohibits national appropriation of celestial bodies (Article II)
  - Allows states to retain jurisdiction over space objects they register (Article VIII)
- This creates a jurisdiction-by-registration model rather than jurisdiction-by-territory.

### **Features**

#### **Territoriality vs. Non-Sovereign Space**

- On Earth, innovation occurs within clearly bounded sovereign territories
- In space: activities occur in unbounded environments with no territorial authority
- Patent enforcement depends not on the location of innovation but on the state of registry of the space object

## The ISS Precedent - A Limited Model

- The International Space Station operates under a unique legal regime
- Article 21 of the ISS Intergovernmental Agreement assigns jurisdiction module-by-module

## Works because the ISS is:

- Static
- Structurally segmented
- Nationally identifiable
- This model may not scale to dynamic, shared lunar or Martian settlements.



## Collaborative Innovation in Space

Future space habitats will involve:

- Multinational crews
- Shared infrastructure
- Continuous real-time technological adaptation

## Innovation may involve:

- Hardware built on Earth
  - Software updated remotely
  - Robots operating across platforms
- This blurs where and when an “invention” legally occurs

## Challenges

Weakening of Patent Territorial Anchors

- Registration-based jurisdiction may not reflect:
  - Actual contribution
  - Operational control
  - Location of inventive activity

- Identical innovations could face different legal outcomes based solely on registration choice.s

### **Tension with the Non-Appropriation Principle**

- While patents do not claim territory, they confer exclusive control
- In permanent space habitats, patented technologies may be:
  - Essential for survival (water, energy, life-support)
  - Functionally exclusionary
- This raises the question of de facto appropriation in a legally non-appropriable domain.

### **Absence of Clear Rules on Temporary Presence**

- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Article 5) limits patent enforcement for goods in transit
- Unclear applicability to:
  - Spacecraft passing through jurisdictions
  - Docking at multinational stations
  - Operations on foreign-registered platforms

### **Risk of Regulatory Arbitrage**

- **States may:**
  - Develop technology under strong patent regimes
  - Deploy it on space objects registered in weak-enforcement jurisdictions
- Comparable to flags of convenience in maritime law
- Undermines both innovation incentives and legal certainty

### **Unequal Rule-Making Power**

- Though over 110 states are party to the Outer Space Treaty:
  - Only a few spacefaring nations shape IP practices
- Frameworks like the Artemis Accords promote coordination but do not resolve ownership or enforcement

## **Way Forward**

### **Develop a Space-Specific IP Regime**

- Create an international framework for space-related intellectual property
- Move beyond strict territoriality toward functional or activity-based jurisdiction

### **Introduce Access-Oriented Patent Limitations**

- Mandatory licensing or use-exceptions for technologies essential to:
  - Life-support
  - Safety
  - Mission continuity
- Align patent protection with Article I of the Outer Space Treaty.

### **Clarify Temporary Presence in Space Law**

- Extend or reinterpret Paris Convention principles to:
  - Docking

- Transit
- Multinational operations in space

### **Strengthen Multilateral Rule-Making**

- Use forums such as:
- UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS)
- Ensure greater participation of non-spacefaring states in norm-setting

### **Link Innovation Governance with Sustainability**

- Treat space innovation as a global public good
- Balance incentives for private innovation with equitable access

### **Conclusion**

International patent law, rooted in territorial sovereignty, is increasingly misaligned with the realities of permanent human presence in space. As innovation becomes collaborative, continuous, and survival-critical beyond Earth, registration-based jurisdiction alone is insufficient. Without reform, patent exclusivity risks undermining the very principles of shared access and non-appropriation that underpin international space law.

## **6. India, the beautiful — but first, India the functional**

### **Why in the News?**

In a recent opinion piece, Shashi Tharoor highlighted India's underperformance in global tourism despite its civilisational depth, natural diversity, and cultural richness.

He argued that India must become “functional” before it can be celebrated as “beautiful”, drawing attention to gaps in image, infrastructure, and visitor experience, at a time when tourism is increasingly seen as a jobs-intensive growth engine.

### **Background**

India received only 5.6 million foreign tourist arrivals till August 2025, far below:

- Singapore (11.6 million)
- Thailand (earning over USD 60 billion from tourism)

### **Tourism contributes:**

- Foreign exchange earnings
- Employment for unskilled and semi-skilled workers
- Soft power and global image-building

Despite campaigns like “Incredible India”, India lags behind Southeast Asian peers in:

- Ease of travel
- Visitor satisfaction
- Repeat tourism

## Features

### The Three “I” Problem

Tharoor diagnoses India’s tourism deficit through three structural constraints:

#### (a) Image

- Global perception shaped by:
  - Safety concerns (especially for women)
  - Sanitation issues
  - Scams and bureaucratic harassment
- Branding alone cannot offset negative lived experiences

#### Need for segmented branding:

- Spiritual India
- Adventure India
- Luxury India
- Heritage and sports circuits (Buddhist, Ramayana, cricket tourism)

#### (b) Infrastructure

Tourism experience begins at:

- Airports
- Immigration counters
- Roads, signage, Wi-Fi

#### Gaps include:

- Poor last-mile connectivity
- Inadequate public toilets
- Under-maintained heritage sites

#### Paradox:

- Budget travel is cheap
- Mid-range and luxury travel often costlier than in other regions

#### (c) “India Itself” (Experience Deficit)

- Overcrowding, noise, lack of tourist-friendly service culture
- Presence of:
  - Touts
  - Scammers
  - Harassment
- 40% shortfall in trained hospitality staff
- Tourism is still viewed as a fallback career, not a profession

## Challenges

### Safety and Trust Deficit

- Real and perceived insecurity deters solo travellers and families
- Incidents disproportionately damage India’s global reputation

## **Skill and Service Gap**

- **Shortage of:**
  - Trained guides
  - Multilingual staff
  - Professional service workers
- Weak vocational orientation in tourism education

## **Visa and Immigration Bottlenecks**

- E-visa improvements insufficient
- Reports of arbitrary entry denials harm India's image
- Immigration processes lack a welcoming orientation

## **Policy and Taxation Issues**

- GST structure:
  - 5% rate without full input tax credit
  - Hurts hotel profitability and reinvestment
- Hospitality sector excluded from broader reform benefits

## **Sustainability Risks**

- Over-tourism at fragile sites
- Risk of environmental and cultural degradation if growth is unmanaged

## **Way Forward**

### **Rebrand with Precision**

- Move from a single narrative to "Incredible Indias"
- Market distinct circuits globally with targeted messaging

### **Leverage:**

- Digital storytelling
- Influencers
- Virtual and immersive tourism tools

### **Build World-Class Tourism Infrastructure**

- Strengthen public-private partnerships
- Expand the Adopt a Heritage scheme

### **Improve:**

- Roads, railways, sustainable transport
- Museums through digitisation and interactivity
- Nationwide Clean Tourism Mission

### **Prioritise Safety and Professionalism**

- Expand tourist police, especially women personnel
- Centralised apps for:

- Verified guides
- Safe transport
- Zero tolerance for scams and harassment

### **Visa and Immigration Regime**

- Faster, simpler e-visa systems
- Long-term multi-entry visas for frequent travellers
- Explore selective Visa on Arrival
- Train immigration staff in hospitality and cultural sensitivity

### **Promote Sustainable and Community-Based Tourism**

- Regulate footfalls at ecologically fragile sites
- Support homestays, eco-lodges, and local artisans
- Balance growth with preservation

### **Recognise Tourism as a Strategic Sector**

- Tax rationalisation and incentives
- Policy support similar to manufacturing and exports
- Integrate tourism into employment and skilling missions

### **Conclusion**

India possesses unmatched historical depth, natural beauty, and cultural plurality, but these alone do not make a successful tourist destination. As Shashi Tharoor argues, tourism is not about monuments alone, but about seamless, safe, and humane experiences. Unless India fixes the fundamentals- image, infrastructure, and experience - it will remain an idea admired from afar rather than a destination embraced up close.

## **7. India holds security dialogue with Saudi Arabia**

### **Why in the News?**

India recently held the 3rd India–Saudi Arabia Security Working Group meeting in Riyadh, days after signing a Strategic Defence Partnership Letter of Intent with the UAE. The dialogue drew attention as it highlighted India’s deepening security engagement with Gulf powers amid emerging regional tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, especially over Yemen.

### **Background**

- India and Saudi Arabia elevated their ties to a Strategic Partnership in 2019.
- Security cooperation operates under the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council, covering:

- Political
- Defence
- Security
- Economic cooperation
- The Security Working Group (SWG) functions as a continuing institutional mechanism under the SPC.
- India's Gulf engagement has expanded in recent years to include:
  - Counter-terrorism
  - Intelligence sharing
  - Defence-industrial cooperation



## Features

### Comprehensive Security Review

- Co-chaired by:
  - Vinod Bahade, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs
  - Ahmed Al-Eissa, Director-General, Saudi Ministry of Interior

### Reviewed:

- Ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation
- Regional and global terrorist threats

### Focus Areas of Cooperation

Both sides agreed to strengthen collaboration on:

- Countering extremism and radicalisation
- Combating terror financing
- Preventing misuse of technology by terrorist groups
- Addressing the nexus between:
  - Transnational organised crime
  - Terrorism

## Condemnation of Terror Attacks

### Joint condemnation of:

- Pahalgam terror attack (April 22, 2025)
  - Red Fort area terror incident (November 10, 2025)
- Reinforced commitment to zero tolerance towards terrorism

## Legal and Law Enforcement Cooperation

- Discussions on:
- Mutual legal assistance
- Judicial cooperation
- Enhanced law enforcement coordination

## Strategic Context

### India–UAE–Saudi Triangle

- The dialogue followed India's defence partnership with the United Arab Emirates
- Comes amid Saudi–UAE tensions over:
  - Yemen conflict
  - Libya and Sudan
- India has avoided taking sides, maintaining balanced ties with both

### Gulf's Importance to India

- Saudi Arabia and the UAE are critical for:
- Energy security
- Foreign direct investment
- Remittances
- Both host large Indian expatriate populations, making stability a core Indian interest

## Challenges

### Regional Geopolitical Fragmentation

- Diverging Saudi–UAE interests risk:
- Complicating India's strategic partnerships
- Affecting regional security architectures

### Expanding Terror-Tech Nexus

- Use of:
- Encrypted platforms
- Drones
- Financial technologies
- Demands constant intelligence and legal coordination

### Balancing Strategic Autonomy

- India must:
- Deepen defence cooperation
- Without being drawn into regional rivalries

## Way Forward

### Institutionalise Security Cooperation

- Regularise SWG meetings
- Expand cooperation into:
  - Cyber-terrorism
  - Artificial intelligence misuse
  - Maritime security in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea

### Strengthen Legal Frameworks

- Improve:
  - Extradition mechanisms
  - Financial intelligence sharing
- Align counter-terror laws and procedures

### Maintain Strategic Equidistance

- Continue issue-based partnerships with both Saudi Arabia and the UAE
- Avoid alignment in intra-Gulf disputes

### Leverage Diaspora and Economic Ties

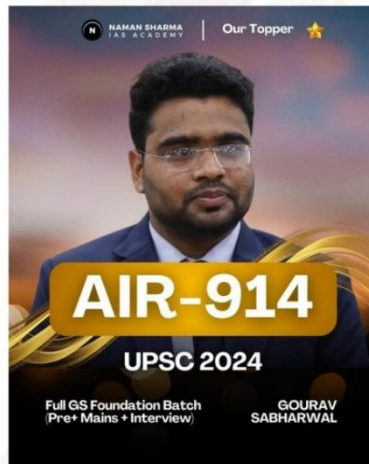
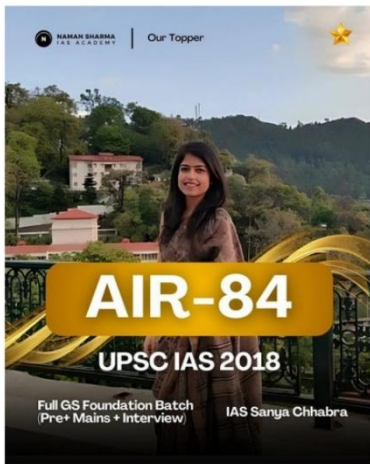
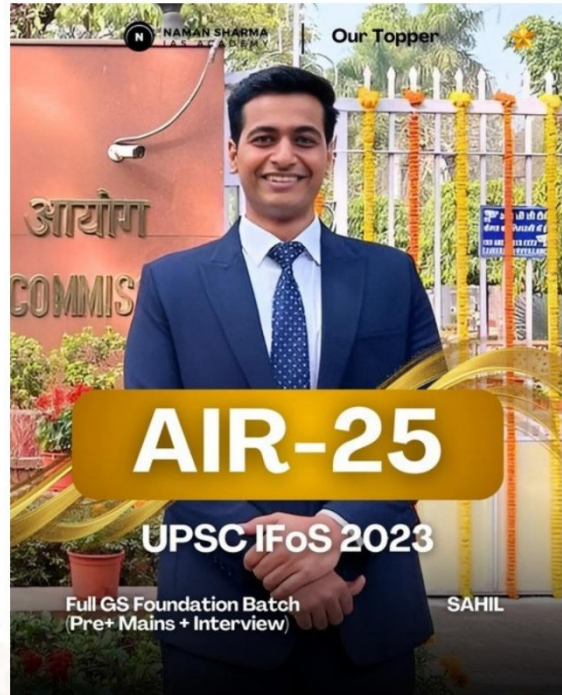
- Use security cooperation to:
- Protect Indian expatriates
- Secure energy and investment flows

## Conclusion

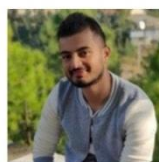
The India–Saudi Arabia security dialogue underscores India's evolving West Asia strategy, centred on counter-terrorism, strategic autonomy, and pragmatic engagement.

By strengthening institutional security frameworks while carefully navigating regional rivalries, India is positioning itself as a reliable and balanced security partner in the Gulf, essential for its energy security, diaspora welfare, and broader geopolitical interests.

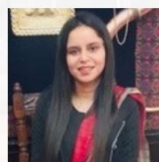
# Our Recent Toppers



Vipan Kumar  
AIR-4, HPAS 2022



Anshul Shandil  
AIR-7, HPPCS 2019



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