



**CHROME IAS**

*Giving Wings To Your Dreams !!!*

**GIST OF**

# **EDITORIALS**

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# CHROME IAS ACADEMY

## INDEX

1. Selling the Family Silver	Category: GS 3 (Economy)	02
2. Water Planning Failures	Category: GS 3 (Environment)	03
3. Meals that can educate	Category: GS 2 (Social Sector)	03
4. Bearing the brunt	Category: GS 2 (Social Sector)	04
5. Structural Reforms	Category: GS 3 (Economy)	05
6. Capital Punishment	Category: GS 2 (Social issues)	05
7. Exiting Navratna Companies	Category: GS 3 (Economy)	06
8. Instant Punishment	Category: GS 2 (Governance)	07
9. Beyond the Diaspora	Category: GS 2 (IR)	08
10. An Asian Engine	Category: GS 2 (IR)	09
11. Mind the Gap	Category: GS 1 (Society)	10
12. Restructuring isn't Reform	Category: GS 3 (Economy)	10
13. Testing Judicial Reforms.	Category: GS 2 (Governance)	11
14. Autonomous Police	Category: GS 2 (Governance)	12
15. A Group of Theocracies	Category: GS 2 (IR)	13
16. Reservations for Anglo-Indians	Category: GS 2 (Polity)	13
17. Challenge lies within	Category: GS 2 (IR)	14
18. Politics Hurts Diplomacy	Category: GS 2 (IR)	15
19. Towards Jointness	Category: GS 3 (Defence)	16
20. National Nutrition Strategy	Category: GS 2 (Social sector)	17

## THE NOT-SO BRIGHT IDEA OF SELLING THE FAMILY SILVER

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-not-so-bright-idea-of-selling-the-family-silver/article30279719.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (ECONOMY)**

**950 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 250**

### **Introduction**

The Government is selling its stakes in profit making public sector undertakings such as the BPCL.

### **Strategic Issues**

In sale of profit-making PSUs, a few strategic issues of national importance need to be considered.

- ❖ Need to bring the fiscal deficit down.
- ❖ Whether public- or privately-owned is better for the Government treasury?
- ❖ National security and self-reliance

### **Is stake-sell of PSUs such as BPCL justified?**

- ❖ Govt. has earned a lot of revenue from such PSUs.
- ❖ Govt. will have to forego future income from such PSUs.
- ❖ Loss in tax revenue for the Government after any privatisation due to lower tax rates.
- ❖ Thus, instead of selling such high performing PSUs, we should be selling the loss-making ones?

### **Issue of Fiscal Deficit Target**

- ❖ Govt. is selling well-running PSUs to meet the fiscal deficit target.
- ❖ If the Govt. meets its fiscal deficit target by the stake sale of PSUs this year, how would it meet that target next year?
- ❖ These strategic sales cannot be repeated every year as we will be back to the same levels of fiscal deficit.
- ❖ The real way of meeting this target is to cut out wasteful Government expenditure and ensuring that the bureaucracy delivers.

### **Issue of National Security**

- ❖ Natural resources, especially oil, are a strategic national resource.
- ❖ Other nations such as US, China, and South Korea maintain much larger crude oil reserves but India is moving in the opposite direction.
- ❖ India plans to build the world's largest refinery in India, with the help of Saudi Arabia, but ownership and control will be in foreign hands.

### **Conclusion**

Developed nations are now trying to embrace protectionism. India too needs to re-think its strategy.

### NOT MANY LESSONS LEARNT FROM WATER PLANNING FAILURES

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/not-many-lessons-learnt-from-water-planning-failures/article30289651.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (ENVIRONMENT)**

**800 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

#### Introduction

Govt. has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a water conservation campaign.

#### Aim of the JSA

It only aims to make water conservation a 'people's movement' through ongoing schemes.

#### Issues with JSA

- ❖ Water planning should be based on hydrological units, however, JSA was planned based on the boundary of the districts.
- ❖ JSA ignored the fact that most of India's water-stressed basins are facing closure, with the demand exceeding supply.
- ❖ The assumptions of JSA are distorted. For example, it assumes that common people in rural areas are ignorant and prone to wasting water.
- ❖ JSA cannot provide long-term solutions. Most of the farm bunds built with soil can collapse within one monsoon season.
- ❖ There have hardly been any effort undertaken to dissuade farmers from growing water-intensive crops.

#### Conclusion

The summer water crisis has not led to our policymakers learning many lessons.

### MEALS THAT CAN EDUCATE THE YOUNG

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/meals-that-can-educate-the-young/article30219206.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (SOCIAL SECTOR)**

**1200 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

#### Introduction

Two decades since the mid-day meal scheme, accidents and malpractices continue to occur.

#### Recent Examples

- ❖ A video revealed recently show how one litre of milk was mixed in a bucketful of water in a school in rural Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Six years ago, 23 children had died in Bihar after eating a mid-day meal.

## Major kinds of issues with the Mid-day Meal

- ❖ Bad food, leading to food poisoning.
- ❖ Cheating.
- ❖ Caste bias and discrimination.

## Not considered a Civic responsibility

- ❖ The scheme is perceived as charity, not a civic responsibility.
- ❖ Government schools are viewed as places for the poor. Therefore, the mid-day meal is associated with poverty.
- ❖ This scheme is covered by norms that insist on the cheapest - menu, cook's remuneration, infrastructure.

## Conclusion

Children receiving a litre of milk mixed in a bucketful of water will surely understand the concept of cheating better than that of fair play.

## BEARING THE BRUNT OF SLACK LAWS

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/bearing-the-brunt-of-slack-laws/article30332651.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (SOCIAL SECTOR)**

**750 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

## Context

The huge fire in Delhi killing over 40 people raises the question of labour rights violation.

## Growth of Industrial Clusters in Residential Localities

- ❖ Numerous industrial clusters have mushroomed in the residential localities and slums in our big cities.
- ❖ In these establishments, the workers are mostly migrants, and tend to work long hours for meagre wages.

## Factors Detrimental to Labourers' Rights

- ❖ Out of reach laws: Key labour laws in India consistently elude a large section of workers who are denied rights and benefits.
- ❖ A new attack on labour: Employers' lobbies have projected India's labour laws as hindrance to ease of doing business
- ❖ Deregulation: The phenomenal growth of India's informal sector has led to deregulation of work such as labour inspection, self-certification by employers, etc.
- ❖ Retreat of the state: Employers unilaterally fixing wages, extract overtime, etc. has substantially increased with the withdrawal of the state from regulation of labour.

## Conclusion

Workers contribute their sweat and blood in the making of this economy, and in return the economy gives them a pittance.

## IN PURSUIT OF STRUCTURAL REFORMS

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/in-pursuit-of-structural-reforms/article30332128.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (ECONOMY)**

**600 Words Summarized To 200**

### **Introduction**

The economic slowdown has led to demand of more structural reforms from the government.

### **What does a Structural Reform Mean?**

They mean reforms that free the economy from the control of the government and allow markets to allocate resources.

### **The present circumstances in India**

In the last five years, the role of the government in the economy has only increased significantly with measures such as demonetisation and GST.

### **A Minimalist Government**

- ❖ A minimalist or limited government would allow private individuals to own and exploit all economic resources.
- ❖ It would allow individuals to freely buy and sell anything they wish at whatever price they deem fit through voluntary trade.
- ❖ Such genuine free market competition would ensure that the standard of living of the masses increases many-fold as a result.
- ❖ It was through such a drastic cut-down in the role of the government in the economy that countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and China managed to achieve great economic prosperity.

### **Ease of Doing Business Ranking**

- ❖ India has improved its performance in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking.
- ❖ But India's performance in the 'Index of Economic Freedom' ranking (129 out of 180 countries), should be of concern.

### **Conclusion**

If genuine structural reforms are to be expected, economic freedom should become the guiding principle of policymaking.

## THE RHETORIC AND REALITY OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-rhetoric-and-reality-of-capital-punishment/article30341861.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (POLITY)**

**600 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 200**

## Introduction

With the repeated demands to punish all rape convicts with the death penalty, it becomes important to examine the issue of capital punishment.

## Has Death Penalty Succeeded?

- ❖ Death penalty as a measure to end sexual violence has completely failed.
- ❖ Over two-thirds of countries have given up on capital punishment.

## IS DEATH PENALTY JUSTIFIED?

- ❖ Capital punishment goes against the spirit of the 'Theory of Punishment'.
- First, 'protection of society,' is not served as inmates have spent decades on death row, harming no one.
- Second, capital punishment deters murder to a marginally greater extent than the threat of life imprisonment.
- Third, the facet of 'reform and rehabilitation of the criminal' is immediately nullified by the prospect of capital punishment.
- Killing should never be carried out based on the desire for revenge. Revenge is a form of retribution, which often loses sight of proportionality.
- ❖ Death penalty in its actual operation is discriminatory for it strikes mostly against the poor and deprived.

## Conclusion

Public angst and emotions cannot be an alternative to reason and logic. There needs to be better enforcement of law in response to valid questions on justice but death penalty holds no answers.

## SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT EXIT NAVRATNA COMPANIES?

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/should-the-government-exit-navratna-companies/article30351524.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (ECONOMY)**

**1800 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 300**

## Context of the Article

Last month, the Cabinet approved sale of the government's stake in BPCL.

## Reason for Stake Sale

It is expected to raise about ₹60,000 crore this year which will ease the fiscal pressure.

## History of Disinvestment

- ❖ UPA government: offloading minority stakes and listing them on the stock exchange.
- ❖ Vajpayee government: bold moves on strategic sales with many large, loss-making PSUs being sold off.
- ❖ Last six years: For the first time, sale of a profitable PSU like BPCL

## Significance of Privatization

It is argued that the private sector does a far better job of taking savings in the economy and making sure that they are ploughed back productively.

## Is Private Sector more Efficient?

- ❖ It is not borne out empirically that the private sector is more efficient.
- ❖ Even in post-liberalisation India, a number of studies show a trend towards convergence in performance between PSUs and private enterprises.
- ❖ Even in banking, until about 2011 when the NPA crisis started, we saw a similar trend.

## Analysing Sale of Stake in BPCL

- ❖ If the government sells it now when it is doing well, then it stands to realise a very good price.
- ❖ However, that is just pessimistic thinking because it is presumed that every public enterprise is doomed to fail.
- ❖ How should privatization be done?
- ❖ When we sell a 100% or majority stake in one go, then the chances of getting the right price is lower as there is no price discovery process. Later on, we realise the price was perhaps not right.
- ❖ Whereas with disinvestment, where we unload in tranches, there's a better chance of price discovery over time.
- ❖ Recommendation of disinvestment commission
- ❖ The Disinvestment Commission under G.V. Ramakrishna ruled out privatisation of core industries and highly profitable PSUs.
- ❖ They also said the proceeds should be used for restructuring other PSUs or spending on rural infrastructure.
- ❖ The receipts should not be used for the government's revenue expenditure.

## CRIME AND INSTANT PUNISHMENT

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/crime-and-instant-punishment-6177499/>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (GOVERNANCE)**

**900 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 200**

## Context

The encounter killings of four alleged rapists by the Hyderabad police has received a mixed response.

## Views against the Encounter

- ❖ Encounter was fake.
- ❖ It violated principles of the rule of law.
- ❖ Reasons for public support to the encounter
- ❖ Public has become hugely dissatisfied with the criminal justice system.
- ❖ This discontent is due to:
  - Poor rate of conviction, and
  - Delay in the disposal of cases.

## **“Lynch Justice”**

- ❖ There is an increasing tendency of the public to deliver instant “lynch justice” due to perception of the incompetence of the justice system.
- ❖ Such public perception sometimes provides a license to the police to deal with criminals by using illegal methods.
- ❖ Impact of public outrage
- ❖ Public outrage at injustice on some occasions has beneficial outcomes, for example, Jessica Lal case, December 12 Delhi rape and murder case.
- ❖ Public outcry over ghastly crimes is thus welcome if it results in improving the working of the criminal justice system.
- ❖ It must, however, be ensured that public outrage results in strengthening the rule of law, and not in subverting it.
- ❖ Conclusion
- ❖ It is time the government devoted greater attention to reforming the criminal justice system. The capability of the system to control crime and deliver justice in time must be enhanced.

## **LOOKING BEYOND THE DIASPORA**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-uk-relationship-britain-brexite-jammu-and-kashmir-boris-johnson-narendra-modi-6170522/>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (DIASPORA)**

**950 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

### **Context**

India is relieved that Labour Party did not win the recent general elections in the United Kingdom.

### **Role played by the Indian Diaspora in UK Elections**

Indian community organisations in Britain made protests to the Labour Party due to its anti-India stand on Kashmir.

### **Significance of Indian Diaspora in UK**

At nearly 1.4 million, the Indian diaspora in Britain is emerging as an assertive force.

### **Hurdles in way of India in UK**

- ❖ India is an unfortunate competition with Pakistan in diaspora mobilisation in the United Kingdom and beyond.
- ❖ Pakistani diaspora is making larger alliances with Muslim organisations and human rights groups.

### **Way Forward**

- ❖ India must manage the tactical shifts in the British attitude to bilateral issues between Delhi and Islamabad.
- ❖ India should avoid preoccupation with Pakistan in dealing with the West.

- ❖ Apart from mobilising the diaspora, India should pursue other ways to persuade the British establishment to rethink its stance on India.

## Conclusion

India must now focus on the new possibilities with Britain presented by Boris Johnson's victory. It should take full advantage of the historic shift in Britain's international orientation that is about to unfold.

## AN ASIAN ENGINE DRIVEN BY INDIA AND CHINA

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/an-asian-engine-driven-by-india-and-china/article30239199.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (ECONOMY)**

**1000 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 250**

## Introduction

The world today is undergoing a fundamental transformation and there are several facets to the emerging uncertainty.

## The Transformation

- ❖ Traditional and non-traditional security threats have grown in magnitude.
- ❖ Trade and technology are at the heart of a new round of competition.
- ❖ Nationalism and regionalism are on the rise.
- ❖ There is less multilateralism but greater multi-polarity.
- ❖ The obstacles
- ❖ inadequacies of the post-World War II international institutions are showing up
- ❖ liberal trading order has encountered protectionism
- ❖ Cheaper imports from China threaten domestic manufacturing in India.
- ❖ Geopolitical considerations are driving trade and investment decisions
- ❖ global economy is likely to grow at its slowest pace in a decade
- ❖ momentum in manufacturing activity has weakened
- ❖ Most countries appear to be financially vulnerable
- ❖ Asian dynamics
- ❖ Asia is witnessing the simultaneous rise of several powers.
- ❖ Global engines of economic growth have shifted to Asia.
- ❖ Asia is witnessing one of the highest military expenditures in the world.
- ❖ Countries are undertaking structural reforms and emphasising skills-training to raise productivity.
- ❖ Development and adoption of green technology is also a priority.
- ❖ India and China
- ❖ A liberal FDI regime combined with a youthful demographic profile makes India an attractive destination.
- ❖ China can play a constructive role to help the world return to higher growth rates.
- ❖ India faces a huge and rising trade imbalance with China.
- ❖ India and China should work together to strengthen the WTO.
- ❖ China should pro-actively work to ensure India's membership in RCEP.

- ❖ China and India could explore the potential to work together on Asian infrastructure and connectivity development.
- ❖ Greater transparency in China's actions and closer consultations with India are also necessary to help allay concerns.

### Conclusion

The Asia of rivalry will hold us all back. It is the Asia of cooperation that will shape this century.

## MIND THE GAP

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/mind-the-gap/article30397529.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 1 (SOCIETY)**

**600 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

### Context

World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020 was released last recently.

### Global Gender Gap Index 2020

- ❖ India has dropped four points from 2018, to take the 112th rank.
- ❖ Despite a small score improvement, India has lost four positions as some countries ranked lower than India have shown better improvement.
- ❖ Of significant concern is the economic gender gap, at the 149th place.
- ❖ The participation of women in the labour force is among the lowest in the world.
- ❖ India's ranks at the very bottom (150<sup>th</sup> rank) of the Health and Survival subindex.
- ❖ It is on the and political empowerment (18th rank) fronts that Indian has done well.

### Way Forward

- ❖ The government needs to engage intimately with all aspects indicated by the Index to improve the score.
- ❖ It needs to set targets to reduce the gender gap in the foreseeable future.
- ❖ It will have to drastically scale up efforts to encourage women's participation, and increase opportunities for them.

### Conclusion

A commitment to ameliorate the conditions for women is a non-negotiable duty of any state.

## RESTRUCTURING ISN'T ALWAYS REFORM

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/railways-piyush-goyal-restructuring-isnt-always-reform-6186442/>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (ECONOMY)**

**800 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

## Context of the Article

The Railway Ministry has recently announced the “restructuring” of the organisation.

## Restructuring effort in the past

Committees — Prakash Tandon 1994, Rakesh Mohan 2001, Sam Pitroda 2012 and Bibek Debroy 2015 — have done this exercise in past.

## The Proposed Restructuring

- ❖ End to departmentalism
- ❖ Reduction in size of railway board
- ❖ Raising the posts of general managers at par with secretary level.
- ❖ Questions that arise
- ❖ Will the IAS lobby agree to create so many secretary-level posts for Railway officers?
- ❖ How would the Railway Board control the GMs of equal rank?
- ❖ Every large organisation is bound to have many departments.
- ❖ Way forward
- ❖ Departments will continue to exist and quarrel, it is the ministry’s task to resolve the disputes.
- ❖ The issue should be seen from the perspective of the national economy rather than as an issue pertaining to the Railways in isolation.
- ❖ Conclusion
- ❖ If the restructuring is done with national priorities in mind it can be a game changer.

## TESTING JUDICIAL REFORMS

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/testing-judicial-reforms/article30279727.ece>

### GS 2 (GOVERNANCE)

### 900 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 200

#### Introduction

Experimental research is necessary for the Indian judiciary to deal with issues such as high pendency rate.

#### Randomised controlled Trials (RCTs)

Nobel Winner Abhijit Banerjee’s work is premised on randomised controlled trials (RCTs) which prevent the state from pursuing ineffective courses of action.

#### RCTs in legal field

- ❖ There is a lack of experimental work in the field of legal research in India.
- ❖ There is a great opportunity to incorporate RCTs legal policymaking.

#### Issues with Indian Judicial System

- ❖ delay and backlog
- ❖ high pendency leads to erosion of faith in judiciary
- ❖ delays and the cost of litigation have caused people to approach khap panchayats, politicians, etc. for dispute resolution

## Increasing the number of judges

There has been no empirical study on the effect of increasing the number of judges on judicial pendency. So, this is not the main solution.

## Way forward

- ❖ **USING EXPERIMENTAL METHOD IN JUDICIARY:** SUCH EXPERIMENTS WILL GIVE POLICYMAKERS INSIGHTS INTO HOW CERTAIN INTERVENTIONS WORK AT A SMALLER SCALE BEFORE DECIDING ON LARGE-SCALE IMPLEMENTATION.
- ❖ **UNDERSTAND NUANCES OF THE PROBLEMS:** ZERO PENDENCY COURTS' PROJECT OF DELHI HIGH COURT TO CAN BE EMULATED by other courts as well.

## Conclusion

Experimental research in the Indian legal system is an idea whose time has come. Judicial reforms are far too important to be implemented without the rigorous backing of such research.

## FOR A HUMANE AND AUTONOMOUS POLICE

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/for-a-humane-and-autonomous-police/article30427539.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (GOVERNANCE)**

**800 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 200**

## Context

These are tumultuous times for the Indian police as people are taking issues out to the streets.

## Shadow of Politics

- ❖ Gone are the days when police just received orders from above (politicians) to be executed faithfully.
- ❖ Police now have to be proactive and react spontaneously to an incendiary situation. While doing so they are bound to overstep the contours of law.

## Entering the Campus

- ❖ It is fallacy to argue that the police cannot enter campuses unless they are invited to do so by heads of institutions.
- ❖ The police are obligated under law to intervene wherever and whenever they apprehend danger to lives.

## On the measure of Force

- ❖ Another bone of contention relates to the quantum of force that the police can use in quelling disorder.
- ❖ "How much is too much?" is a question that is impossible to answer. The amount of force used depends on the situation.
- ❖ Ultimately, it is the decision of the police commander in the field.

## Way Forward

- ❖ In the wake of violence across the country, the police should be trained in mob control techniques.
- ❖ In a democracy such as ours we certainly need a civilised and humane police. This should not, however, dilute the need to have a potent force.
- ❖ There is a crucial need for senior police officers to devote time to improving the quality of policing in the field.

## A GROUP OF THEOCRACIES

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-group-of-theocracies-on-why-india-should-rebuff-oic-on-kashmir/article30446185.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)**

**400 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 140**

## Introduction

India has improved its ties with the Gulf countries.

## Recent initiatives to improve the Relations

- ❖ Prime Minister's visits to UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Recently, External Affairs Minister addressed OIC in Abu Dhabi.

## India and the OIC

- ❖ India's outreach to OIC was a way of strengthening ties with the "Muslim world".
- ❖ It was therefore disappointing that OIC appointed a "special envoy" on Jammu and Kashmir, and issued statements 370 and the Ayodhya verdict.

## Way forward

- ❖ Attempts by OIC to make statements and arrogate to itself the well-being of India's Muslims must be rebuffed as gross interference.
- ❖ India must note that the OIC's recent statements also stem from a broader tussle within the grouping.
- ❖ India must strengthen ties with its strategic partners in the region on both sides of the divide without taking sides.
- ❖ India must be wary of groupings with nothing in common other than a religious world view.

## RESERVATIONS NEED TO CONTINUE FOR ANGLO-INDIANS

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reservations-need-to-continue-for-anglo-indians/article30323462.ece>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (POLITY)**

**700 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 200**

## Context

Govt. recently approved a proposal to the reservation of two seats for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and in State Assemblies.

## Should Anglo-Indian reservation be done away with?

- ❖ Many in the Anglo-Indian community have poor economic and social conditions.
- ❖ They face identity crisis, lack of employment, educational backwardness, lack of proper facilities and cultural erosion.
- ❖ The Anglo-Indians also need the assistance they receive from their nominated MPs and MLAs.

## History of Anglo-Indian Reservation

- ❖ Frank Anthony made the case for special representation on behalf of the community.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the person most directly responsible for the granting of these special concessions to this community.
- ❖ Even when supporting their own community's causes, Anglo Indian representatives advanced the national and States' interest.

## Way Forward

- ❖ Scrapping of reservations should be based on a thorough examination of the position of the community as a whole.
- ❖ Government needs to continue giving reservation to demonstrate its ability to respond to the needs of those among the most vulnerable people.
- ❖ In the near future, the community can also possibly find representation in the National Commission for Minorities.

## Conclusion

A stronger, less socioeconomically marginalised Anglo-Indian community would benefit the nation as a whole. And the community needs all the support it can get.

## CHALLENGE LIES WITHIN

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/economy-slowdown-foreign-policy-caa-protests-nrc-raja-mandala-challenge-lies-within-6192100/>

**CATEGORY: GS 2 (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)**

**1000 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 50**

## Introduction

Domestic political climate affects external relations. India must recognise this urgently.

Factors boosting international relations

- ❖ One is India's rapid economic growth stemming from the reforms of the 1990s which also strengthened its military power.
- ❖ The rise of India's hard power capabilities was complemented by its soft power —values, culture and diaspora.
- ❖ Significance of soft power
- ❖ Shared political values with the West helped end the technology blockade against India.

- ❖ India's democratic values during the Cold War helped cement India's strategic partnerships with the US, Europe, Japan.
- ❖ India's ability to live with religious, linguistic and ethnic differences highlighted its political exceptionalism.
- ❖ Factors affecting external relations
- ❖ Hindu majoritarianism has begun to generate concern.
- ❖ India's internal divisions are transmitted to the diaspora that feeds into the emerging negative sentiment towards Delhi.
- ❖ The sharpening religious divide within the country is generating problems for India's external relations.
- ❖ Internal policies vs external relations
- ❖ Domestic economic policy and, increasingly, technology policy are shaped by a dynamic interaction between the internal and external.
- ❖ Absolute economic sovereignty is unsustainable in a globalised world.
- ❖ Political sovereignty has never been absolute and is always constrained by size, economy, geography, demography and history.
- ❖ It is not just strong countries that can take advantage of the internal conflicts of others. Tiny Qatar in the Gulf is charged by many in the Middle East of destabilising larger societies in the region.
- ❖ Trans-national groups and non-governmental organisations highlight internal conflicts and then shape the international narratives on them.

### WHEN POLITICS HURTS DIPLOMACY

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/islamic-summit-kuala-lumpur-malaysia-turkey-qatar-6181755/>

**CATEGORY: GS 1 (WORLD HISTORY), GS 2 (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)**

**1000 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 300**

#### Theme of the Article

India needs to remove growing negative perceptions of its domestic policies in the Muslim world.

#### Introduction

The Islamic summit in Kuala Lumpur raised many questions about the role of religion in promoting solidarity between nations.

#### Leading the Islamic World

- ❖ Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates remained absent.
- ❖ Indonesia, the world's largest Islamic nation, kept a low profile.
- ❖ For Malaysia, the summit means to win a leadership role in the Muslim world.
- ❖ Religion as unifying factor
- ❖ Religion has not been enough to sustain unity within and among nations.
- ❖ Many countries in the Islamic world struggle with the problems of religious sectarianism.
- ❖ The origins of pan Islamism date back to the late 19th century, but its record in binding nations has not been impressive.

## Other Unifying Factors

- ❖ The communist solidarity that seemed so powerful in the middle of the 20th century crashed quickly.
- ❖ Shared values — political and economic liberalism — have been far more successful in holding together the so-called political and economic “West”.

## Split in the Islamic World

- ❖ The splits in the Islamic world is exposed by the Malaysian summit.
- ❖ Turkey and Qatar seek to overthrow the current political order in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, as well as in Egypt.
- ❖ Iran has its own variant of political Islam for export.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE seek to protect their own societies.
- ❖ There growing competition among the major Middle Eastern states for strategic influence in the region and beyond.

## India and Muslim World

- ❖ Malaysia and Turkey have become increasingly critical of India’s policies,
- ❖ UAE and the Saudis have given India the benefit of doubt, until now.
- ❖ The Qatar-owned Al Jazeera channel has run a far more damaging campaign against Delhi.

## Conclusion

India has an urgent need to remove the growing negative perceptions of its domestic policies in the Middle East and more broadly the Muslim world.

## TOWARDS JOINTNESS

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/chief-of-defence-staff-army-navy-air-force-towards-jointness-6184809/>

**CATEGORY: GS 3 (DEFENCE & SECURITY)**

**500 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 150**

## Context

The Government has approved the post of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

## The Origin and Evolution of the Idea of a CDS

- ❖ The idea of a CDS was first proposed by the Kargil Review Committee, in 2001.
- ❖ But it was not accepted because of interservice rivalry between the Air Force, the Navy and the Army.
- ❖ Next, Naresh Chandra Committee recommended a Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee — but it, too, did not see the light of day.

## Role of the CDS

- ❖ Ensure coordination between the three services.
- ❖ The CDS will reduce responsibility of the Defence ministry.
- ❖ Optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations
- ❖ CDS will not be the commander of all the armed forces in the country.

- ❖ CDS will be functioning as the secretary of a department within the ministry.

## Conclusion

It will require the navigation of entrenched institutional interests to lay the foundations for a strong and functional CDS.

## REVISIT THE NATIONAL NUTRITION STRATEGY

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/why-we-need-need-to-revisit-the-national-nutrition-strategy-malnutrition-obesity-undernutrition-india-6187824/>

### CATEGORY: GS 2 (HEALTH)

### 1200 WORDS SUMMARIZED TO 300

#### New Nutrition Reality

- ❖ Undernutrition and overweight and obesity co-exist.
- ❖ Unsafe food affects nutrition outcomes.
- ❖ Poor eating habits adversely impact digestion and hence nutrition.

#### Double Burden of Nutrition (DBM)

- ❖ Both undernutrition and obesity co-exist. It has been called 'double burden of nutrition (DBM)'.
- ❖ Both build on each other throughout life and across generations. .

#### State of Nutrition in India

- ❖ In India, 196 million suffer from chronic hunger.
- ❖ At the same time, over 180 million are overweight or obese.

#### The overweight Problem

- ❖ Overweightness is often a result of more access to cheaper less nutritious, as well as due to decrease in physical activity.
- ❖ Risk of overweight and obesity is greater among the higher-wealth households and urban areas.
- ❖ For the first time, 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition focussed on overweightness and obesity.

#### Food Safety Problem

- ❖ Food safety impacts nutrition. Unsafe food causes more than 200 diseases.
- ❖ Unsafe food also causes child stunting and even obesity.
- ❖ Infection by food-borne pathogens can result in poor absorption of nutrients from food.

#### Poor Eating Habits

Many people have benefitted and prevented dreadful diseases and death merely by adopting proper eating habits.

## **India's Nutrition Policy**

- ❖ India's national nutrition policy (NNP) of 1993 focussed on undernutrition through supplementary nutrition and deficiencies of iron and Vitamin A.
- ❖ The 2018 national nutrition strategy continued the same. To implement the 2018 strategy, the national nutrition mission was launched.
- ❖ With these interventions, there has been some progress. However, this is not good enough. India is still placed at a rank of 102 out of 117 countries in the global hunger index.

## **Way Forward**

- ❖ Issues of undernutrition and overweight / obesity must be taken up simultaneously.
- ❖ Integrated actions to improve food safety and nutrition is required.
- ❖ Changes in the food system have to be made so that it should provide people with diets that are sustainable.
- ❖ There is an urgent need to revisit the 2018 national nutrition strategy.

## **Conclusion**

Addressing malnutrition requires an integrated policy, coherent action, and total transformation of the country's food system.