IAS WITH DR RAVI · APPSC GROUP 1

Day 31
English Revision Notes

1,000 Topics in 100 Days

Topics 301–310

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Topics

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Moderates: methods, demands and achievements

Concept in one line

NCERT says the Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, was "moderate" in its objectives and methods in its first twenty years: its leaders, the Moderates, asked for reforms within British rule through speeches, the press, resolutions and memorandums, and built an economic critique of that rule. The examination asks for their methods and demands, the leaders with their works and bodies, and what they achieved.

Revision notes

2.1 Recall and the phase

- **Topic 271:** the Congress was founded when 72 delegates met at Bombay on 28 December 1885, with W.C. Bonnerjee presiding; A.O. Hume, a retired British official, helped to bring them together.
- **The phase:** NCERT: "It has often been said that the Congress in the first twenty years was "moderate" in its objectives and methods." GKToday dates the Moderate phase from 1885 to 1905. NCERT gives no closing year; it moves on to the partition of Bengal by Curzon in 1905.
- **Why "Moderate":** GKToday says the leaders were so called because they believed in gradual administrative reform. Britannica says Gokhale, who led the moderate nationalists, "advocated moderate and constitutional methods of agitation and gradual reform."
- **Their belief:** NCERT says the Moderates felt that the British respected the ideals of freedom and justice and so would accept Indian demands. What was needed was to express the demands and "make the government aware of the feelings of Indians."
- **Early leaders named by NCERT:** Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta, Badruddin Tyabji, W.C. Bonnerji, Surendranath Banerji, Romesh Chandra Dutt and S. Subramania Iyer, "largely from Bombay and Calcutta." These are

NCERT's spellings: Bonnerji is W.C. Bonnerjee and Banerji is Surendranath Banerjea, as written elsewhere in this topic. NCERT also calls Dinshaw Wacha a Moderate leader.

2.2 Methods

Method	What it involved	Source
Building public awareness	"The Moderate leaders wanted to develop public awareness about the unjust nature of British rule."	NCERT
The press	They published newspapers and wrote articles showing how British rule was leading to the economic ruin of the country	NCERT
Speeches and touring	They criticised British rule in their speeches and sent representatives to different parts of the country to mobilise public opinion	NCERT
Resolutions and memorandums	Resolutions passed at the annual sessions and memorandums submitted to the authorities, working within colonial law	GKToday
Work in Britain	William Wedderburn and Naoroji set up the British Committee of the Congress in London in 1889; it started a monthly journal, *India*, in 1890	GKToday
Constitutional agitation	Surendranath Banerjea believed in "constitutional progress by constitutional means", yet urged Indians to "agitate, agitate, agitate"	Britannica

- **"Prayer, petition and protest":** GKToday sums up the Moderates' strategy in these words. The phrase is a guidebook summary; it is not in the NCERT chapter. NCERT's own phrase comes from the critics: the radicals attacked the Moderates' "politics of prayers" (2.6).

2.3 Demands

Area	Demand	Source
Councils	Legislative Councils "made more representative, given more power", and councils in provinces that had none	NCERT
Councils	Greater Indian representation in the central and provincial councils through direct elections	GKToday
Services	Indians to be "placed in high positions in the government"; civil service examinations to be "held in India as well, not just in London"	NCERT
Services	Simultaneous examinations in India and England, and a higher maximum age for candidates	GKToday
The drain	Indianisation, it was hoped, "would also reduce the drain of wealth to England"	NCERT
Revenue and spending	Reduction of revenue, a cut in military expenditure and more funds for irrigation	NCERT
Industry and salt	State protection for indigenous industries; abolition of the salt duties	GKToday
Courts	Separation of the judiciary from the executive	NCERT
Civil rights	Repeal of the Arms Act; freedom of speech and expression	NCERT
Wider causes	Many resolutions on the salt tax, the treatment of Indian labourers abroad and the sufferings of forest dwellers	NCERT

- NCERT's conclusion: "despite being a body of the educated elite", the Congress did not speak only for professional groups, zamindars or industrialists.
- The first session of 1885 had already asked for simultaneous examinations, elected members in the councils and no rise in military spending (Topic 271).

2.4 The economic critique

- **NCERT:** the Congress declared that British rule had led to poverty and famines. The increase in land revenue had impoverished peasants and zamindars, and the export of grain to Europe had caused food shortages.
- **Dadabhai Naoroji and the drain:** Britannica says he argued that India was too highly taxed and that its wealth was being drained away to England. His book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* was published in 1901 (Britannica). NCERT calls it "a scathing criticism of the economic impact of British rule." Wikipedia (citing Visana, 2022) says he is particularly known for formulating the "drain theory". GKToday lists exports, pensions, home charges and interest payments among the channels of the drain.
- **R.C. Dutt:** Romesh Chunder Dutt (NCERT writes Romesh Chandra Dutt) wrote *The Economic History of India* in two volumes: *Under Early British Rule* (1902), covering 1757 to 1837, and *In the Victorian Age* (1904) (Wikipedia). Library copies of later London editions (Internet Archive, HathiTrust) carry both titles under his name. He wrote that early British policy "discouraged Indian manufactures" (Wikipedia, quoting the book). GKToday says the work analysed land revenue and heavy taxation. In 1900 he published *Open Letters to Lord Curzon on Famines and Land Assessments in India*.
- **M.G. Ranade:** Britannica says he pressed the British government, without success, to pursue industrialisation and state welfare programmes, and calls him "the father of Indian economics". GKToday calls him "an authority on Indian economics."

2.5 The leaders

Leader	Life	Known for
Dadabhai Naoroji	1825 to 1917	Congress president in 1886, 1893 and 1906; elected Liberal member of Parliament for Central Finsbury, London, in 1892, and sat till 1895; member of a royal commission on Indian expenditure (Britannica)

Leader	Life	Known for
Surendranath Banerjea	1848 to 1925	Dismissed from the Indian Civil Service (ICS) in 1874; helped to found the Indian Association in 1876; three years later bought *The Bengalee*, which he edited for 40 years (Britannica)
M.G. Ranade	1842 to 1901	Judge of the High Court of Bombay; an early member of the Prarthana Samaj; founded the Indian National Social Conference in 1887 (Britannica)
R.C. Dutt	1848 to 1909	Qualified for the ICS in the open examination of 1869; Congress president in 1899; economic historian (Wikipedia)
G.K. Gokhale	1866 to 1915	Professor of history and political economy at Fergusson College, Pune, till he resigned in 1902; Congress president three years later; founded the Servants of India Society in 1905 (Britannica)

- **Servants of India Society:** formed in Pune on 12 June 1905; Gokhale left the Deccan Education Society to form it (Wikipedia, citing the *Indian Express*, 2005). Britannica says its members took vows of poverty and lifelong service to the underprivileged.
- **Ranade and Gokhale:** Britannica says Ranade inspired Gokhale, who carried on Ranade's reform work after his death. So do not give Ranade's Social Conference to Gokhale, or Gokhale's Society to Ranade, who died in 1901.
- **Poona Sarvajanik Sabha:** GKToday calls Ranade "a founder of" it. Topic 271 gives G.V. Joshi, with Ranade named by some sources. For Ranade's own body, give the Indian National Social Conference.
- **Others:** Badruddin Tyabji presided at Madras in 1887 (Topic 271). GKToday calls Wacha an expert on public finance who presided over the Calcutta session of 1901.

2.6 Achievements and limits

- **Indian Councils Act, 1892 (Topic 12):** ten to sixteen additional members, all nominated, some on the recommendation of bodies, at least half of them non-officials. Members could discuss the annual financial statement and ask questions, but could not vote, move resolutions or ask supplementary questions. GKToday counts the Act both as a gain and as a shortfall.
- **Simultaneous examinations:** on 2 June 1893 the House of Commons resolved that the open examinations for the civil services of India "shall henceforth be held simultaneously both in India and England" (Hansard). GKToday calls the resolution non-binding and says the government delayed it. The Public Service Commission that Dufferin set up in 1886 had rejected the demand.
- **Royal commission on Indian expenditure:** the royal commission on the administration of the expenditure of India was appointed on 30 May 1895, with Lord Welby first among its members and Naoroji among them (*The London Gazette*); hence its usual name, the Welby Commission. Its meetings ran till March 1900 (British Library). Britannica also dates Naoroji's appointment to 1895. Wikipedia (citing Chishti, 2001) says his work on the drain was the main reason for the commission.
- **National consciousness:** the Moderates spread awareness of the unjust nature of British rule and of its economic cost (NCERT). Tyabji, presiding in 1887, said "this Congress is composed of the representatives, not of any one class or community of India" (NCERT).
- **Limits (GKToday):** a narrow social base, since peasants, factory workers and the lower middle class were largely left out; proceedings almost entirely in English; official hostility, from Dufferin's "microscopic minority" (1888) to Curzon's hope of the Congress's "peaceful demise" (1900).
- **The critics:** NCERT says that by the 1890s many Indians questioned the political style of the Congress. Bepin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai criticised the Moderates for their "politics of prayers" and urged self-reliance and the fight for swaraj. GKToday says Extremist leaders called the petition method "political mendicancy", that is, begging for rights instead of demanding them; it names no single person.

- **Later events:** the partition of 1905, the Swadeshi movement and the split of 1907 are Topics 341 and 652. NCERT notes that the Moderates and the Radicals both opposed the partition, and that after the split the Moderates dominated the Congress.

Extra section: chronology of the Moderate phase, 1885 to 1907

Year	Event
1885	First session at Bombay (28 December), 72 delegates, Bonnerjee presiding
1886	Naoroji presides at Calcutta; Dufferin sets up the Public Service Commission
1887	Tyabji presides at Madras; Ranade founds the Indian National Social Conference
1888	Dufferin calls the Congress a "microscopic minority"
1889	British Committee of the Congress set up in London
1890	The journal *India* begins
1892	Indian Councils Act; Naoroji elected to the House of Commons
1893	House of Commons resolution on simultaneous examinations; Naoroji presides again
1895	Royal commission on Indian expenditure (Welby Commission) appointed (30 May), with Naoroji a member
1899	R.C. Dutt Congress president

Year	Event
1900	Dutt's *Open Letters to Lord Curzon*; Curzon's "peaceful demise" remark
1901	Naoroji's *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*; Ranade dies
1902	First volume of Dutt's *The Economic History of India*; Gokhale resigns from Fergusson College
1904	Second volume of Dutt's work
1905	Servants of India Society (12 June); Gokhale Congress president; partition of Bengal
1907	Split in the Congress (Topic 652)

Three common exam traps

1. **"Prayer, petition and protest" and "political mendicancy" are not NCERT's words.** The first is a guidebook summary of the Moderates' methods; the second is the Extremists' jibe, as GKToday gives it, with no single author named. NCERT says only that Pal, Tilak and Lajpat Rai criticised the Moderates for their "politics of prayers".
2. **"Naoroji was the first Indian in the House of Commons" is not safe as a bare claim.** Wikipedia calls him the first British Indian MP but also the second person of Asian descent in the House, after David Ochterlony Dyce Sombre, an Anglo-Indian; English Heritage calls him "the first Indian to win a popular election to Parliament in the UK"; GKToday calls him the first Indian elected. Britannica makes no "first" claim. Safe facts: 1892, Liberal Party, Central Finsbury, member till 1895.
3. **The resolution of 1893 did not bring simultaneous examinations.** It was non-binding, and the commission of 1886 had already rejected the demand.

Vedic literature: Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads

Concept in one line

Vedic literature is the body of texts of the four Vedas, which fall into four layers (Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads) that Britannica counts together as shruti; the examination asks what each Veda and each layer holds, and which texts belong to which Veda.

Revision notes

2.1 Recall, shruti and smriti, and dates

- **Recall.** Topic 261: the Rigvedic age, which R.S. Sharma (old NCERT *Ancient India*) dates to about 1500 to 1000 BCE; the Rigveda has 1,028 hymns in 10 mandalas. Topic 281: the later Vedic phase, which Sharma places in about 1000 to 500 BCE, when the Brahmanas were composed (about 800 to 600 BCE in Britannica's "Vedic religion") and the Upanishads were compiled, around 600 BCE in Sharma's account.
- **Left to other days.** The Puranas and the epics.
- **Shruti.** Britannica: the entire Vedic corpus, the Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads, is considered Shruti ("What Is Heard"), the product of divine revelation. So all four Vedas, with every layer attached to them, are shruti.
- **Smriti** means "what is remembered". Smriti works are generally attributed to a named author and were handed down in manuscripts; they include the six Vedangas, the epics, the Puranas and the Dharmashastras, and are considered less authoritative than shruti (Wikipedia, citing Bilimoria, Lochtefeld and Doniger).

- **Dates.** Britannica's "Veda" says no definite date can be given for the composition of the Vedas, and that about 1500 to 1200 BCE is acceptable to most scholars. Sharma assigns the Rig Veda to about 1500 to 1000 BCE and the later Vedic texts to about 1000 to 500 BCE. In an NCERT-based question, follow Sharma.
- **What the texts hold (Sharma).** The Rig Veda mainly contains prayers; the later Vedic texts contain not only prayers but also rituals, magic and mythological stories; the Upanishads contain philosophical speculations.

2.2 The four Vedas

Veda	Meaning of the name (Britannica)	What its Samhita holds	Points to remember
Rigveda	"Knowledge of the Verses"	Hymns (poems) addressed to the gods	The foremost Samhita; the hotri (reciter) drew his recitations from it. Britannica: 1,028 hymns in 10 mandalas; NCERT: "more than a thousand hymns"
Samaveda	"Knowledge of the Chants"	Melodic chants set to verses	Britannica: its verses are drawn almost entirely from the Rigveda; it was an aid to the singing of sacred songs
Yajurveda	"Knowledge of the Sacrifice"	Sacred formulas (mantras) for the rites	Recited by the adhvaryu, the priest who tended the sacrificial fire (Britannica). Two branches: Shukla (White) and Krishna (Black)
Atharvaveda	"Knowledge of the Fire Priest"	Hymns, magic spells and incantations	Britannica: it also holds local traditions and remains partly outside the Vedic sacrifice; "Vedic religion" calls it a later compilation

- **Trayi-vidya.** Britannica calls the Rig, Yajur and Sama Vedas together the "threefold knowledge".
- **Shukla and Krishna Yajurveda (Wikipedia, citing Deussen, Gonda and Witzel).** In the Krishna (Black) Yajurveda, explanatory prose of the kind that would usually belong to the Brahmanas is mixed into the Samhita itself; "black"

implies an unarranged, motley collection and "white" a well-arranged one. The Shukla (White) Yajurveda survives as the Vajasaneyi Samhita in two nearly identical recensions, the Madhyandina and the Kanva. The Krishna Yajurveda has four surviving recensions: the Taittiriya, Maitrayani, Katha and Kapishthala.

- **Language and transmission.** NCERT Class VI: the Rigveda is in old or Vedic Sanskrit, and it was "recited and heard rather than read"; priests taught students to recite and memorise each syllable, word and sentence. Britannica too says the literature seems to have been preserved orally, and the three oldest Vedas are still recited with the intonation and rhythm handed down orally.

2.3 The four layers of each Veda

Britannica calls the Upanishad "one of four genres of texts that together constitute each of the Vedas".

Layer	What it is, as Britannica describes it	Date as Britannica gives it
Samhita	The collection of hymns, chants or formulas; the four Samhitas are what is called the Veda	Vedas as a whole: about 1500 to 1200 BCE ("Veda")
Brahmana	Prose commentaries attached to the Vedas, explaining their significance as used in ritual sacrifice and the symbolic meaning of the priests' actions; they contain many myths	About 900 BCE ("Veda"); about 800 to 600 BCE ("Vedic religion")
Aranyaka	A later development of the Brahmanas, meant for the initiated, perhaps hermits or pupils taught "in the seclusion of the forest"; it stresses the inward, meditative meaning of the ritual rather than its outward performance	About 700 BCE ("Aranyaka"); about 600 BCE ("Vedic religion")

Layer	What it is, as Britannica describes it	Date as Britannica gives it
Upanishad	The concluding portion of the Vedas, which speculates about the connection between humanity and the cosmos	About 700 to 500 BCE ("Vedic religion"); the earliest surviving Upanishads date roughly from the middle of the 1st millennium BCE ("Upanishad")

- **"Forest Books" and Vedanta.** Britannica's "Veda" calls the Aranyakas the "Forest Books"; its "Upanishad" says that, as the concluding portions of the Vedas, the Upanishads are called vedanta, "the conclusion of the Vedas".
- **No sharp line.** The philosophical portions of the Aranyakas are sometimes called Upanishads (Britannica). Several Upanishads sit inside an Aranyaka: the Aitareya Upanishad in the Aitareya Aranyaka, and the Taittiriya Upanishad in chapters 7 to 9 of the Taittiriya Aranyaka (Wikipedia, citing Keith).
- **Why Britannica's dates differ.** Its articles were written separately; read each date with its article, and remember that all of them fall inside Sharma's later Vedic range.

2.4 The Upanishads: main ideas and the national motto

- **Brahman.** Britannica: "a single, unifying principle behind the apparent diversity in the cosmos".
- **Atman.** The Upanishads teach that brahman resides in the atman, the unchanging core of the human individual; many later Indian theologies took the equation of brahman with atman as the Upanishads' core teaching (Britannica, "Upanishad"). "Vedic religion" puts it as the atman being a part of brahman.
- **Karma, rebirth and release.** Britannica's "Veda" says the Upanishads invoked monism and moksha (release) from samsara, the cycle of death and rebirth; "Vedic religion" links reincarnation, karma and moksha. The doctrine of karma appears in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, which Wikipedia calls the oldest.

- **How many.** Britannica names 13 early Upanishads, in three groups: Brihadaranyaka, Chandogya, Taittiriya, Aitareya and Kaushitaki (prose with verse); Kena, Katha, Isha, Shvetashvatara and Mundaka (mainly verse); Prashna, Mandukya and Maitri (prose). The Muktika Upanishad lists 108 (Wikipedia).
- **"Satyameva Jayate".** A government note of 1949, printed in the *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru*, says "the motto has been taken from a famous verse in the Mundakopanishad", that is, the Mundaka Upanishad. A Government of India page on the national emblem (presentations.gov.in) also says the words are a quote from the Mundaka Upanishad. The Government of India's Know India portal: the motto, which means "Truth Alone Triumphs", is written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital and is part of the State Emblem, adopted on 26 January 1950.

2.5 The six Vedangas

The Vedangas, "limbs of the Veda", are six auxiliary disciplines of Vedic study: shiksha (phonetics and pronunciation), chhandas (metre), vyakarana (grammar), nirukta (etymology, the explanation of words), kalpa (ritual instructions) and jyotisha (astronomy, used to time the rituals) (Wikipedia, citing Lochtefeld). They are smriti, not shruti.

2.6 How we know the texts

- **Oral first.** NCERT Class VI: the Rigveda was written down several centuries after it was first composed, and printed less than 200 years ago. Britannica: the Rigveda was preserved orally before it was written down about 300 BCE.
- **Manuscripts.** UNESCO's Memory of the World Register lists the "Rigveda" with 2007 as its year of registration, and says the text has been preserved in manuscripts in India.

Extra section: which Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads belong to which Veda

Veda	Brahmanas	Aranyakas	Principal Upanishads
Rigveda	Aitareya; Kaushitaki, also called Shankhayana (Britannica, "Brahmana"; Wikipedia, "Brahmanas", citing Keith and Haug)	Aitareya; Kaushitaki (Wikipedia, "Aranyaka")	Aitareya (Wikipedia, "Upanishads"); Kaushitaki, which forms part of the Kaushitaki Aranyaka (Wikipedia, "Aranyaka")
Samaveda	Panchavimsha (Tandya), with the Shadvimsha as its appendix; Jaiminiya or Talavakara (Britannica, "Brahmana"; Wikipedia, "Brahmanas", citing Caland)	Talavakara Aranyaka, also called the Jaiminiya Upanishad Brahmana (Wikipedia, "Aranyaka") *	Chandogya; Kena (Wikipedia, "Upanishads")
Krishna (Black) Yajurveda	Taittiriya (Rajendralala Mitra's edition, *The Taittiriya Brahmana of the Black Yajurveda*, Bibliotheca Indica, 1859; Wikipedia, "Brahmanas" and "Yajurveda")	Taittiriya; Maitrayaniya; Katha (Wikipedia, "Aranyaka")	Taittiriya; Katha; Shvetashvatara; Maitri (Wikipedia, "Upanishads" and "Yajurveda")
Shukla (White) Yajurveda	Shatapatha, in the Madhyandina and Kanva recensions (Britannica, "Brahmana"; Wikipedia, "Brahmanas" and "Yajurveda")	Brihad Aranyaka, which forms part of the Shatapatha (Wikipedia, "Aranyaka" and "Yajurveda")	Brihadaranyaka; Isha (Wikipedia, "Upanishads" and "Yajurveda")

Veda	Brahmanas	Aranyakas	Principal Upanishads
Atharvaveda	Gopatha (Britannica, "Brahmana"), its only surviving Brahmana (Wikipedia, "Brahmanas", citing Bloomfield)	None survives (Wikipedia, "Aranyaka") *	Mundaka (Max Muller, *Sacred Books of the East*, vol. 15); Mandukya; Prashna (Wikipedia, "Upanishads")

* Sources differ on these entries. The Talavakara text is classed by some as an Aranyaka and by others as a Brahmana. For the Atharvaveda, Wikipedia says no Aranyaka survives but that the Gopatha Brahmana is regarded as its Aranyaka. R.C. Majumdar (as cited by Wikipedia) calls the Gopatha a very late work. Some scholars treat the Kaushitaki and Shankhayana Brahmanas as one work, others as two similar works; both belong to the Rigveda.

How to use the table: learn it Veda by Veda, and keep the two branches of the Yajurveda apart. The Brihadaranyaka is both an Aranyaka and an Upanishad, and it forms the last book of the Shatapatha.

Three common exam traps

1. **"Brahmana" the text and "brahmana" the priest.** In this topic a Brahmana is a prose commentary on ritual attached to a Veda; the brahmana varna of Topic 281 is a social group. A statement about what the Brahmanas "explain" or "contain" is about the texts.
2. **"The Vedas were written down when they were composed."** They were handed down by recitation and memory for centuries. NCERT says the Rigveda was written down several centuries after it was composed and printed less than 200 years ago; Britannica puts the writing down of the Rigveda at about 300 BCE, against its composition from about 1500 BCE.
3. **"The Vedangas are part of the Veda itself."** They are six auxiliary disciplines, the "limbs" of the Veda, and are counted as smriti. Shruti covers only the Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads.

BRICS, SCO and the Quad: institutional nature, structure and purpose

Concept in one line

BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Quad are three groupings of which India is a member, and they differ in kind: the SCO rests on a Charter signed in 2002 and has permanent bodies, BRICS works through a chair that rotates every year, and the Quad is described in official texts as a diplomatic partnership of four countries. The examination asks about their origins, their members as on a given date, how each is run, its main purpose and India's role in it.

Revision notes

2.1 Where this topic stands

- **Topic 150** taught BRICS and India's chairship of 2026 in full: members, partner countries, the New Development Bank (NDB) and the 18th Summit at New Delhi. Only what has changed is given below.
- **Topic 173** taught India's foreign policy, from Panchsheel and non-alignment to strategic autonomy, and named the Quad and the SCO among India's groupings.
- Later days: the UN specialised agencies (Topic 333), the G20 and G7 (Topic 483), and SAARC, BIMSTEC and ASEAN (Topic 532).

2.2 BRICS: what has changed since Topic 150

- **Members and partners:** no change. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) explainer, last updated on 1 November 2026, still lists 11 full members (Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia as PIB lists it, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)) and 10 partner countries.

- **The 2026 summit:** the 18th BRICS Summit was held at New Delhi on 12 and 13 September 2026, under India's fourth chairship, with the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"; it adopted the New Delhi Declaration (Topic 150). No new member or partner country was added after it, as on 1 November 2026.

2.3 SCO: origin and the Charter

- **Shanghai Five (1996):** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan began regular meetings of their leaders in April 1996 (Ministry of External Affairs, MEA). In 1996 and 1997 they signed agreements on confidence-building in the military sphere and on the mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area (SCO).
- **Founding:** the SCO was established at Shanghai on 15 June 2001 by six heads of state: those of Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (SCO). Uzbekistan's entry turned the Shanghai Five into six (MEA).
- **The SCO Charter:** signed by the SCO leaders at St Petersburg on 7 June 2002. The SCO's general information page says it entered into force on 19 September 2003. The SCO lists the Charter as an international treaty.
- **Purpose, in the SCO's words:** to "strengthen mutual trust, friendship and good-neighbourliness" and to promote multilateral interaction to maintain peace, security and stability in the region. The SCO adds: "The SCO does not have the attributes of a defence alliance."

2.4 SCO: members, observers and dialogue partners (as on 1 November 2026)

Group	Countries	When they joined
Founding members (6)	China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	15 June 2001
India and Pakistan (2)	India, Pakistan	Full members at the Astana Summit, June 2017

Group	Countries	When they joined
Iran (1)	Iran	Granted member status at the summit India hosted virtually on 4 July 2023
Belarus (1)	Belarus	Admitted at the Astana Summit on 4 July 2024
Total members	10, as the SCO lists them	As on 1 November 2026

- **Observers and dialogue partners, in a line:** 2 observer states (Afghanistan and Mongolia) and 15 dialogue partners (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, Laos, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Sri Lanka), as the SCO lists them. The MEA's brief of August 2025 counted 14 dialogue partners; Laos was added by a decision of 1 September 2025.
- **A status in transition:** on 1 September 2025 the Council of Heads of State decided to introduce a single status of "SCO Partner" in place of the observer and dialogue partner statuses. Until the amendments enter into force, the present observers and dialogue partners keep their statuses (SCO).

2.5 SCO: structure, languages and the latest summit

- **Council of Heads of State:** "the supreme governing body of the SCO" (SCO). It meets once a year. The head of state of the host country chairs it, and the venue is generally set by the Russian alphabetical order of the member states.
- **Two permanent bodies (MEA):** the SCO Secretariat at Beijing, which began work on 15 January 2004 (SCO), and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) at Tashkent.
- **Official languages:** "The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese" (SCO). The MEA brief adds that, as per the Charter, they are the only two.

- **India's chairship:** India took over the chair on 17 September 2022 at the Samarkand Summit, summed up its priorities as a "SECURE" SCO, and hosted the 23rd summit virtually on 4 July 2023 (MEA). India had been an observer since the Astana Summit of July 2005.
- **The latest summit (26th):** held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 31 August to 1 September 2026. The Council met on 1 September at the Yrys-Ordo Congress Hall under President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan, and approved 28 documents, among them the Bishkek Declaration and a Protocol on Amendments and Additions to the SCO Charter (SCO).
- **The chair, as on 1 November 2026:** Pakistan, for 2026 to 2027, after Kyrgyzstan's chairship of 2025 to 2026 (SCO).

2.6 The Quad: origin and growth

- **2004:** Australia, India, Japan and the United States came together during the December 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean region to coordinate response and assistance (MEA; the Australian government gives the month). The Quad foreign ministers later recalled that their countries contributed over 40,000 emergency responders.
- **May 2007:** the first meeting of Quad officials, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in the Philippines (MEA).
- **November 2017:** after a gap of ten years, officials met again at Manila, on the margins of the East Asia Summit (MEA). This is the revival that Topic 173 notes.
- **September 2019:** the foreign ministers met for the first time, at New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly (MEA).
- **2021:** the Quad rose to the level of leaders. The first Leaders' Summit, on 12 March 2021, was virtual; its joint statement was titled "The Spirit of the Quad". The first in-person summit was held at Washington DC on 24 September 2021 (MEA).
- **Later summits (MEA):** 3 March 2022, virtual (the Australian government dates it 4 March); 24 May 2022, Tokyo; 20 May 2023, Hiroshima; 21 September 2024, Wilmington, United States. The Wilmington Declaration calls Wilmington the fourth in-person summit; it was the sixth in all.

2.7 The Quad: how it works

- **What it calls itself:** the MEA brief says the grouping is formally known as the Quad, not the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. The Australian government calls it "a diplomatic partnership between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States"; the Quad foreign ministers called it "a diplomatic network of four countries" (joint statement on the 20th anniversary of Quad cooperation).
- **No founding treaty, no secretariat:** none of these official texts, nor the MEA brief, names a founding treaty or a permanent secretariat. The work is carried by meetings of leaders, foreign ministers, Sherpas, senior officials and experts (MEA brief, July 2026). In 2021 the leaders agreed that their foreign ministers would "meet at least once a year".
- **Working groups:** the first summit (March 2021) set up three: a vaccine expert working group, a critical and emerging technology working group and a climate working group. The second (September 2021) added infrastructure, space and cyber (MEA). The MEA brief of February 2025 lists the present areas: climate, critical and emerging technologies, cybersecurity, health security, infrastructure, space, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), counter-terrorism, maritime security, and a Policy Planners' Dialogue.

Initiative	Official statement	What it does
Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)	Announced in 2022 (Wilmington Declaration)	Maritime domain awareness; in May 2026 the foreign ministers welcomed India's operationalisation of the Indian Ocean Region programme
Quad Cancer Moonshot	Wilmington Declaration, 2024	A partnership to save lives in the Indo-Pacific; it focuses initially on cervical cancer
Quad Fellowship	Wilmington Declaration, 2024	Builds "a network of the next generation of science, technology, and policy leaders"

Initiative	Official statement	What it does
Quad Infrastructure Fellowships	MEA brief, February 2025 (announced in 2023)	For infrastructure practitioners
Quad Critical Minerals Framework and Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security	Foreign ministers' joint statement, New Delhi, 26 May 2026	Supply chains of critical minerals; energy security in the Indo-Pacific

2.8 The Quad: latest meetings and India's turn to host

- **Foreign ministers at New Delhi, 26 May 2026:** the eleventh meeting in the MEA's list, hosted by India; All India Radio reported that India hosted it "in its capacity as the current chair". The joint statement looks forward to "the convening of the Quad Leaders' Summit", with no date or place.
- **Latest foreign ministers' meeting:** the Australian and Japanese governments record that the Quad foreign ministers met at Manila on 22 July 2026.
- **India's turn to host the leaders:** the Wilmington Declaration looked forward to "the next Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by India in 2025". As on 1 November 2026, the official pages consulted (the MEA brief of July 2026, and the Australian and Japanese governments' Quad pages) list no Leaders' Summit after Wilmington: India's turn to host has not yet come about.

2.9 The three compared (as on 1 November 2026)

Point	BRICS	SCO	Quad
Founded	Formalised at the first BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, New York, 2006 (MEA)	15 June 2001, at Shanghai (SCO)	Came together in the 2004 tsunami; officials first met in May 2007; leaders' level from 2021 (MEA)

Point	BRICS	SCO	Quad
Members	11 full members and 10 partner countries (PIB)	10 members, 2 observers, 15 dialogue partners (SCO)	4: Australia, India, Japan, the United States (MEA)
Nature	A grouping whose chair rotates every year by the letters of the acronym (PIB)	An organisation under the SCO Charter of 2002, which the SCO lists as an international treaty	"A diplomatic partnership" (Australian government); no founding treaty is named in the official texts
Permanent body or secretariat	None named in the PIB explainer; its bank, the NDB, has its headquarters at Shanghai (NDB)	Secretariat at Beijing; RATS Executive Committee at Tashkent (MEA)	None named; it works through meetings of leaders, ministers and officials (MEA)
Main purpose	Cooperation in three pillars: political and security, economic and financial, cultural and people-to-people (PIB)	Mutual trust and good-neighbourliness; peace, security and stability in the region; not a defence alliance (SCO)	"A force for global good" (MEA); outcomes for the Indo-Pacific (Australian government)
India's role	Founding member; fourth chairship in 2026; host of the 18th Summit (PIB)	Observer from 2005, member from 2017; chair in 2022 to 2023, with the virtual summit of 4 July 2023 (MEA)	Member; host of the foreign ministers at New Delhi on 26 May 2026; host of the next Leaders' Summit, not yet held (MEA, Wilmington Declaration)

Extra section: chronology of the three groupings

Date	Event
April 1996	Shanghai Five: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan
15 June 2001	SCO established at Shanghai by six states, with Uzbekistan
7 June 2002	SCO Charter signed at St Petersburg
15 January 2004	SCO Secretariat begins work at Beijing
December 2004	Indian Ocean tsunami: the four Quad countries coordinate relief
July 2005	India an SCO observer (Astana Summit)
2006	First BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, New York
May 2007	First meeting of Quad officials, Philippines
June 2017	India and Pakistan full members of the SCO (Astana)
November 2017	Quad officials meet again at Manila
September 2019	First meeting of Quad foreign ministers, New York
12 March 2021	First Quad Leaders' Summit, virtual
24 September 2021	First in-person Quad Leaders' Summit, Washington DC
4 July 2023	SCO summit hosted virtually by India; Iran a member
4 July 2024	Belarus a member of the SCO (Astana)
21 September 2024	Sixth Quad Leaders' Summit, Wilmington
1 September 2025	SCO decides to introduce the "SCO Partner" status
26 May 2026	Quad foreign ministers at New Delhi, hosted by India

Date	Event
22 July 2026	Quad foreign ministers at Manila
31 August to 1 September 2026	26th SCO summit, Bishkek; Pakistan takes the chair for 2026 to 2027
12 and 13 September 2026	18th BRICS Summit, New Delhi

Three common exam traps

1. **Member in one, partner in another.** Belarus is an SCO member (2024) but only a partner country of BRICS; so are Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia are BRICS members (Saudi Arabia as PIB lists it) but only dialogue partners of the SCO. Iran is a full member of both. Afghanistan and Mongolia are SCO observers, not members.
2. **Three starting points for the SCO.** 1996 is the Shanghai Five, of five states without Uzbekistan; 15 June 2001 is the founding at Shanghai, by six; 7 June 2002 is the Charter, signed at St Petersburg, not at Shanghai. And the single "SCO Partner" status decided in 2025 has not yet replaced the old statuses: the amendments must first enter into force.
3. **The Quad is not a treaty body, and India's 2026 summit was not a Quad summit.** The official texts call the Quad a diplomatic partnership and name no founding treaty or secretariat; the MEA says its formal name is the Quad, not the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. India hosted the Quad foreign ministers in May 2026 and the BRICS Summit in September 2026, but the Quad Leaders' Summit it was to host in 2025 had not been held as on 1 November 2026.

Evolution of Panchayati Raj: Balwantrai Mehta to L.M. Singhvi committees

Concept in one line

Panchayati Raj grew through a series of official reviews, from the Balwantrai Mehta Committee of 1957 to the committees of the 1980s, before the 73rd Amendment gave Panchayats constitutional status. The examination asks which committee recommended what, and when each step came.

Revision notes

2.1 Before Panchayati Raj: two programmes of the 1950s

- NCERT traces the background: self-governing village communities are believed to have existed from the earliest times; elected local bodies were created after 1882 on the initiative of the Viceroy, Lord Ripon; village panchayats were set up in a number of provinces after the Government of India Act 1919. When the Constitution was prepared, local government was assigned to the States and also placed among the Directive Principles (Article 40, Topic 33).
- **Community Development Programme:** launched in 1952. NCERT calls it "first in the line" of the efforts after independence, aimed at people's participation in local development.
- **National Extension Service:** introduced in 1953, the year after.
- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (Second ARC) adds that the Community Development Programme was run by government functionaries, with only ad hoc, semi-popular bodies such as the Vikas Mandal and the Prakhand Samiti.
- The Second ARC's Sixth Report, "Local Governance", was presented to the Prime Minister on 27 November 2007. Its first chapter, on the evolution and growth of local self-government, is the official summary of the committees that these notes follow, along with NCERT.

2.2 The Balwantrai Mehta Committee (1957)

- **Name and dates:** its report is titled the Report of the Team for the Study of Community Projects and National Extension Service. The Government of India appointed it in January 1957 (accounts differ on the exact day in January), and it submitted its report on 24 November 1957. So both the appointment and the report fall in 1957.
- **Task:** to study the working of the two programmes of 2.1. In the words of New India Samachar, the Government's magazine published by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), it recommended that public participation in community development be channelled through statutory representative bodies.
- **Three tiers:** village panchayat, Panchayat Samiti at the block, Zila Parishad at the district (Andhra Pradesh State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj; Wikipedia, citing the committee's report).
- **The block as the centre:** an elected Panchayat Samiti at the block level was to be the fulcrum of developmental activity (Second ARC).
- **The district tier:** the Second ARC says the committee conceived it "just as an advisory body". It was to be made up of the presidents of the Panchayat Samitis, MLAs, MPs and district officers, with the Collector as chairman.
- **Elections:** the village panchayat directly elected; the Panchayat Samiti and the Zila Parishad indirectly elected (Wikipedia, citing the report).
- **Reservation:** for the Scheduled Castes (SC), the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and women, through co-option, that is, by members chosen by the elected members rather than by the voters (Second ARC).
- **What it was called:** the Second ARC describes the aim as administrative decentralisation for effective implementation of development programmes. The scheme became known as "democratic decentralisation", and Britannica uses the same words for Rajasthan's law.
- **Acceptance:** the National Development Council (NDC) approved the report in 1958. Accounts differ on the month: January 1958 (Wikipedia) or 1 April 1958 (the Andhra Pradesh Institute).

2.3 Panchayati Raj begins, and the First ARC

- **Rajasthan first:** PIB's New India Samachar says Panchayati Raj was first implemented in independent India on 2 October 1959, in Rajasthan, at Nagaur. Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated it there.
- **Andhra Pradesh next:** the Second ARC writes "Beginning with Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh in 1959". The Andhra Pradesh State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj gives 1 November 1959 for the combined State.
- NCERT: some States, like Gujarat and Maharashtra, adopted elected local bodies around 1960.
- **Weaknesses that NCERT lists:** in many States the local bodies did not have enough powers and functions; they depended on the State and central governments for money; many were dissolved and handed over to government officers; many States used indirect elections, postponed local elections or did not set up elected bodies at all.
- **First Administrative Reforms Commission (1969):** it recommended that the main executive organ of Panchayati Raj be the Zila Parishad at the district level, not the Panchayat Samiti at the block level (Second ARC). This reversed the Balwantrai Mehta view of the district tier.

2.4 The Ashok Mehta Committee (1977 to 1978)

- **Dates:** formed in 1977 (the Janata Government appointed it in December 1977, according to Wikipedia); report submitted in 1978 (Wikipedia: August 1978, with 132 recommendations). The Second ARC spells the name Asoka Mehta.
- **The district first:** the committee chose the district as the first point of decentralisation below the State level, and the Zila Parishad was to take up planning for the district as a whole (Second ARC).
- **Mandal Panchayat:** the next level below the Zila Parishad. The Government's statement of the committee's recommendations, laid before the Lok Sabha in 1980, gives a population of 15,000 to 20,000, and Wikipedia (citing Debroy and Kaushik, 2005) agrees; this is the figure to learn. The Second ARC gives around 10,000 to 15,000.

- **Two tiers:** the Andhra Pradesh Institute's summary is "Three-tier system replaced in two-tier system": the Zila Parishad and the Mandal Panchayat. The Second ARC adds that the Panchayat Samiti stayed only as a nominated body, the executing arm of the Zila Parishad, and that the village level was to have a nominated committee. So there were two elected tiers.
- **Other points:** official participation of political parties at all levels of Panchayat elections; separate Nyaya Panchayats presided over by a qualified judge; compulsory powers of taxation (Wikipedia, citing Debroy and Kaushik, 2005); reservation of seats for weaker sections and for women, and adequate financial resources (the Andhra Pradesh Institute).
- **Constitutional standing:** the Second ARC records the committee's view that empowering Panchayats was of little use unless they received constitutional standing; New India Samachar says the 1978 report recommended constitutional status.
- **Who followed it:** Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat adopted its arrangement; Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab and Haryana held back (Second ARC).

2.5 The committees of the 1980s

- The Second ARC names the committees formed between 1978 and 1986 under C.H. Hanumantha Rao, G.V.K. Rao and L.M. Singhvi, and says they made only minor suggestions for change in the ideas and structures of the Ashok Mehta Committee.
- **G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985):** constituted in 1985 to review the existing administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes; its report was issued by the Department of Rural Development. A summary of its recommendations laid before the Lok Sabha in 1990 includes: "The district should be the basic unit for policy planning and programme implementation"; the Zila Parishad to become the principal body for managing all development programmes; Panchayati Raj institutions "have to be activised and given all the support needed"; regular elections to them; and a new post of District Development Commissioner. The Government told the Lok Sabha in 1990 that none of its recommendations had been implemented.

- **L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986):** chaired by L.M. (Laxmi Mall) Singhvi, it produced in 1986 a draft concept paper on revitalising Panchayati Raj institutions for democracy and development, issued by the Department of Rural Development. The Indian Audit and Accounts Department's training institute at Kolkata records that it recommended that Panchayati Raj institutions be "constitutionally recognized and protected", with a new chapter in the Constitution to define their powers and functions, and the appointment of a finance commission. A study for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj gives the core point in the same way: panchayats "should be enshrined in the Constitution".
- **Thungon Committee:** NCERT says a thorough review of local government was begun after 1987, and that "In 1989 the P.K.Thungon Committee recommended constitutional recognition for the local government bodies". It also recommended a constitutional amendment for periodic elections to local bodies, and the assignment of functions and funds to them.
- **Who asked for constitutional status?** PIB credits the Ashok Mehta report (1978); the accounts above credit the Singhvi Committee (1986); NCERT credits the Thungon Committee (1989). All three are true: the demand grew over the decade. What marks Singhvi out is the new chapter in the Constitution; what marks G.V.K. Rao out is the district as the basic unit of planning.

2.6 From the Bills of 1989 to the 73rd Amendment

- **The Bills of 1989:** the 64th Constitution Amendment Bill, concerning Panchayats, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15 May 1989; the 65th Bill, concerning municipalities, on 7 August 1989. All seats, except those meant for representatives of other institutions, were to be filled by direct election. Both Bills passed the Lok Sabha but failed to secure the required majority in the Rajya Sabha.
- **1990:** a combined Constitution Amendment Bill covering both Panchayats and urban local bodies was tabled in Parliament (Second ARC).
- **The outcome:** the 73rd Amendment, passed in 1992 and in force from 24 April 1993, added Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule (Topic 33). The Second ARC report writes that the 73rd and 74th Amendment Bills "were passed in 1993"; follow NCERT and Topic 33, which give 1992 for the passing and 1993 for the coming into force. The urban counterpart, the 74th Amendment, is Topic 273.

- Later days: State Election Commission (Topic 562), Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh (Topic 683), landmark amendments (Topic 803), reservation in local bodies (Topic 853) and devolution (Topic 953).

2.7 The committees at a glance

Committee or commission	Appointed, and report	Set up by	Main recommendations
Balwantrai Mehta Committee	Appointed in January 1957; report on 24 November 1957	The Government of India	Three tiers; an elected Panchayat Samiti at the block as the fulcrum of development; the Zila Parishad only advisory, with the Collector as chairman; direct election at the village level and indirect above; reservation for SC, ST and women through co-option
First Administrative Reforms Commission	Recommendation of 1969	The Government of India	The Zila Parishad, not the Panchayat Samiti, as the main executive organ of Panchayati Raj
Ashok Mehta Committee	Formed in December 1977; report in August 1978	The Janata Government	The district as the first point of decentralisation below the State; two elected tiers, the Zila Parishad and the Mandal Panchayat; the Zila Parishad to plan for the district; political parties in Panchayat elections; constitutional standing
C.H. Hanumantha Rao, G.V.K. Rao and L.M. Singhvi committees together	Formed between 1978 and 1986 (Second ARC)	Not stated for all three in the sources these notes follow	Only minor changes to the Ashok Mehta ideas, in the Second ARC's view

Committee or commission	Appointed, and report	Set up by	Main recommendations
G.V.K. Rao Committee	Constituted in 1985	Report issued by the Department of Rural Development	The district as the basic unit of planning; the Zila Parishad as the principal body; regular elections; a District Development Commissioner
L.M. Singhvi Committee	Draft concept paper of 1986	Issued by the Department of Rural Development	Constitutional recognition and protection; a new chapter in the Constitution; a finance commission
P.K. Thungon Committee	Recommendation of 1989 (NCERT)	Part of a review of local government begun after 1987 (NCERT)	Constitutional recognition for local government bodies; a constitutional amendment for periodic elections; functions and funds for local bodies

Extra section: chronology from 1952 to 1993

Year or date	Event
1952	Community Development Programme launched
1953	National Extension Service introduced
January 1957	Balwantrai Mehta Committee appointed by the Government of India
24 November 1957	Balwantrai Mehta Committee report submitted

Year or date	Event
1958	Report approved by the National Development Council
2 October 1959	Panchayati Raj inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru at Nagaur, Rajasthan
1 November 1959	Panchayati Raj in the combined State of Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Pradesh State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj)
Around 1960	Gujarat and Maharashtra adopt elected local bodies (NCERT)
1969	First Administrative Reforms Commission: the Zila Parishad as the main executive organ
December 1977	Ashok Mehta Committee appointed
August 1978	Ashok Mehta Committee report
1978 to 1986	C.H. Hanumantha Rao, G.V.K. Rao and L.M. Singhvi committees (Second ARC)
1985	G.V.K. Rao Committee constituted
1986	L.M. Singhvi Committee's draft concept paper
1989	P.K. Thungon Committee recommends constitutional recognition (NCERT)
15 May 1989; 7 August 1989	The 64th Bill (Panchayats) and the 65th Bill (municipalities), respectively, introduced in the Lok Sabha; both later failed in the Rajya Sabha
1990	Combined Bill for Panchayats and urban local bodies tabled
1992	73rd Amendment passed by Parliament (NCERT; Topic 33)
24 April 1993	73rd Amendment in force (Topic 33)

How to read it:

- Three steps change the shape of the system: the block at the centre (1957), the district at the centre (1969 and 1978), and constitutional status (asked for from 1978, achieved in 1992 to 1993).
- The gap between a committee's appointment and its report can cross a year. For Balwantrai Mehta both fall in 1957; for Ashok Mehta the appointment is 1977 and the report 1978.

Three common exam traps

1. **Appointed, reported or accepted?** The Balwantrai Mehta Committee was appointed in January 1957 and reported on 24 November 1957; the year 1958 belongs to its approval by the National Development Council, not to the report. The Ashok Mehta Committee was formed in December 1977 and reported in August 1978, so "1977" and "1978" are each right for a different event.
2. **Direct or indirect election?** Under the Balwantrai Mehta scheme only the village panchayat was directly elected; the Panchayat Samiti and the Zila Parishad were indirectly elected, and the places for the SC, the ST and women were filled by co-option. Under the 73rd Amendment, by contrast, all seats at all three levels are filled by direct election (Topic 33). This is about seats: the chairpersons at the intermediate and district levels are elected by, and from amongst, the elected members, that is, indirectly (Article 243C).
3. **"All States adopted it at once."** They did not. NCERT notes that only some States, like Gujarat and Maharashtra, adopted elected local bodies around 1960, and that many States postponed elections, used indirect elections or dissolved the bodies. After the Ashok Mehta report, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat took up its arrangement, while Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab and Haryana held back (Second ARC).

Krishna water dispute: tribunals and current position

Concept in one line

The Krishna water dispute is the question of how the river's water is shared among Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (and, since 2014, between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), which has gone to two tribunals under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The examination asks for each tribunal's dates, chairman, dependability basis and allocations, and for what has happened since bifurcation.

Revision notes

2.1 The river, and what earlier topics said

- **Topic 45 (recall):** the Krishna rises near Jor village, Satara district, Maharashtra, just north of Mahabaleshwar, in the Western Ghats. It is 1,400 km long (India-WRIS; NCERT prints 1,401 km). The main river flows through four States: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Its left-bank tributaries are the Bhima, the Musi and the Munneru; its right-bank tributaries the Ghataprabha, the Malaprabha and the Tungabhadra. Its projects in Andhra Pradesh are the Srisailam Dam, the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, the Pulichintala Project and the Prakasam Barrage.
- **Topic 143 (recall):** the Polavaram Project is to send 80 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of Godavari water a year to the Krishna basin, and under the agreement of 4 August 1978 Karnataka and Maharashtra together may use 35 TMC of it.
- **Left to other days:** Article 262 and the 1956 Act as a whole come in Topic 742. The Godavari waters and the interlinking projects come in Topic 805.
- **The 1956 Act in one line, as this topic needs it:** a tribunal is constituted under section 4 when a State asks under section 3; it reports under section 5(2), gives a further report under section 5(3) when asked for clarification, and its decision is published in the Official Gazette under section 6(1).

2.2 The first Tribunal (KWDT-I)

- **Constituted:** April 1969, for Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Chairman:** Justice R.S. Bachawat, so it is called the Bachawat Tribunal.
- **Reports:** its report in three volumes came in 1973 and its further report in 1976. The award was given in May 1976.
- **Water assessed:** a yearly yield of 2,060 TMC at 75 per cent dependability, plus 70 TMC of return flows, that is, 2,130 TMC in all.
- **Shares (with return flows):** Maharashtra 585 TMC, Karnataka 734 TMC, Andhra Pradesh 811 TMC.
- **Review clause:** the award could be reviewed after 31 May 2000. Any review was, as far as possible, not to disturb the use a State had already made within its allocation.
- **Guidebook figures:** the Tribunal's further report writes the shares as 560 + 25, 700 + 34 and 800 + 11 TMC. Many books print only 560, 700 and 800 TMC: the shares without the return flows of 25, 34 and 11 TMC.

2.3 The second Tribunal (KWDT-II)

- **Constituted:** 2 April 2004, by a notification (S.O. 451(E)) under section 4 of the 1956 Act, at the request of the party States: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- **Chairman:** Justice Brijesh Kumar, so it is called the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal. In February 2025 its members were Justice Ram Mohan Reddy and Justice S. Talapatra.
- **Report and decision:** 30 December 2010, under section 5(2).
- **Further report:** 29 November 2013, under section 5(3), after the States and the Centre sought clarification. It recommended allocations among the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **How it allocated:** it kept the first Tribunal's 2,130 TMC as it was. It took the average yield as 2,578 TMC and distributed the 448 TMC above 2,130 TMC. Each State's extra share has three parts: water at 65 per cent dependability, water from average flows, and minimum flows.

State	Extra at 65 per cent dependability	Extra from average flows	Minimum flows	Total extra	Total in the 2010 report	Total after the 2013 further report
Maharashtra	43 TMC	35 TMC	3 TMC	81 TMC	666 TMC	666 TMC
Karnataka	65 TMC	105 TMC	7 TMC	177 TMC	911 TMC	907 TMC
Andhra Pradesh (undivided)	39 TMC	145 TMC	6 TMC	190 TMC	1,001 TMC	1,005 TMC
All three	147 TMC	285 TMC	16 TMC	448 TMC	2,578 TMC	2,578 TMC

- Check: 585 + 81 = 666; 734 + 177 = 911; 811 + 190 = 1,001. In 2013, 4 TMC moved from Karnataka (911 to 907) to Andhra Pradesh (1,001 to 1,005); the total stayed at 2,578 TMC.

2.4 The two Tribunals compared

Point	KWDT-I	KWDT-II
Constituted	April 1969	2 April 2004
Chairman	Justice R.S. Bachawat	Justice Brijesh Kumar
Reports	Report 1973; further report 1976	Report 30 December 2010; further report 29 November 2013
Basis	Yearly yield of 2,060 TMC at 75 per cent dependability, plus 70 TMC of return flows	The 2,130 TMC kept; 448 TMC more, up to the average yield of 2,578 TMC, partly at 65 per cent dependability

Point	KWDT-I	KWDT-II
Andhra Pradesh's share	811 TMC (undivided State)	1,001 TMC, then 1,005 TMC (undivided State)
In the Gazette	Yes, as the award of May 1976	No: publication stopped by the Supreme Court

2.5 Why the second award has not been notified

- The undivided State of Andhra Pradesh challenged the decision of 30 December 2010 in the Supreme Court: a special leave petition, SLP (Civil) No. 10498 of 2011, filed in March 2011.
- By an order of 16 September 2011 the Court directed that, till further orders, the Tribunal's decision should not be published in the Official Gazette under section 6(1).
- So the further report of 29 November 2013 could not be notified either. The Ministry of Jal Shakti says the matter is still sub judice before the Supreme Court.

2.6 After bifurcation: the 2014 Act

- **Section 89:** "The term of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal shall be extended with the following terms of reference". Clause (a): it "shall make project-wise specific allocation, if such allocation have not been made by a Tribunal" under the 1956 Act. Clause (b): it "shall determine an operational protocol for project-wise release of water in the event of deficit flows." The Explanation makes the project-specific awards already made by the Tribunal on or before the appointed day (2 June 2014) "binding on the successor States."
- **Term:** a notification of 15 May 2014 extended the term by two years from 1 August 2014. It has since been extended year by year.
- **Apex Council (section 84):** the Union Minister of Water Resources as Chairperson and the two Chief Ministers as members. One of its functions, in section 84(3)(iii), is the "resolution of any dispute amicably arising out of the sharing of river waters" through negotiation and mutual agreement between the successor States.

- **Krishna River Management Board (KRMB):** constituted on 28 May 2014 under section 85(1). Section 85(2) places its headquarters in Andhra Pradesh (the Godavari Board's in Telangana). Under section 85(8) it regulates the supply of water and power from the notified projects, having regard to the awards and inter-State agreements, and appraises new projects. Under section 87(1) it "shall ordinarily exercise jurisdiction" over the projects the Central Government notifies. On 15 July 2021 the Centre notified the jurisdiction of the Krishna and Godavari Boards in the Gazette.

2.7 The interim sharing between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

The first Tribunal gave undivided Andhra Pradesh 811 TMC (Lok Sabha answer of 8 February 2024). Pending a tribunal decision, the two States have shared it as follows.

Water year	Arrangement	Decided by
2015-16 and 2016-17	Andhra Pradesh 512.04 TMC, Telangana 298.96 TMC (811 TMC in all)	Meetings convened by the Union Ministry in June 2015 and June 2016
2017-18 to 2022-23	Ratio of 66 (Andhra Pradesh) to 34 (Telangana)	The KRMB, in its 7th to 16th meetings
2023-24	No consensus. A three-member committee makes working arrangements as needed; on 6 October 2023 it split 80 TMC of usable water in the Srisailam and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs 45 TMC (Andhra Pradesh) to 35 TMC (Telangana)	The three-member committee

- The 512.04 : 298.96 split works out to about 63 : 37. Some press reports call the 2015 arrangement 66 : 34; in the official record, 66 : 34 is the ratio decided in KRMB meetings from 2017-18.

2.8 The further reference of 2023 and the position as on 1 November 2026

- **Telangana's request:** on 14 July 2014 Telangana sent a complaint under section 3 of the 1956 Act. It later asked that the matter go to the existing KWDT-II and be limited to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with an en bloc allocation between the two States. It filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court in 2015 and withdrew it in 2021; the matter was also taken up at the second Apex Council meeting in 2020.
- **The decision:** on 4 October 2023 the Union Cabinet approved further terms of reference to KWDT-II under section 5(1) of the 1956 Act, after a legal opinion of the Ministry of Law and Justice. They were notified on 6 October 2023.
- **Andhra Pradesh's challenge (as reported):** on 17 October 2023 Andhra Pradesh filed a writ petition (No. 1230 of 2023) in the Supreme Court against the notification. In April 2025 the Court declined a stay and asked Andhra Pradesh to take part in the Tribunal's hearings, subject to the outcome.
- **Hearings:** final arguments before KWDT-II began on 19 February 2025 (press report). A Rajya Sabha answer of 1 December 2025 said the Tribunal had not yet submitted its decision on the further terms of reference, and that its term had been extended from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026 (notification S.O. 3221(E) of 10 July 2025). A press report of 28 August 2026 said Telangana was preparing its rejoinder arguments before the Tribunal. **Later extension:** S.O. 3039(E), dated 12 June 2026 and published on 13 June 2026, extended the period for submission of the report and decision from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027. The Gazette transcription identifies the proviso to section 5(3) of the 1956 Act as the authority. This is an extension of time, not a fresh water allocation.

2.9 The issues

Issue	What the record says
Share of the 811 TMC between the two States	The 2014 Act asks for project-wise allocation where none exists; Telangana sought an en bloc allocation (Lok Sabha answer, 2024); Andhra Pradesh has challenged the 2023 terms of reference in the Supreme Court (as reported)

Issue	What the record says
Water above the first Tribunal's 2,130 TMC	KWDT-II distributed 448 TMC more, up to 2,578 TMC, but its decision cannot be published while the Supreme Court's order of 2011 stands
Srisailam and Nagarjuna Sagar, the common reservoirs	In 2023-24 there was no consensus; a three-member committee shares their usable water as needed (45 : 35 of 80 TMC in October 2023)
Control of projects	The KRMB regulates supply only from the projects the Centre notifies (sections 85 and 87); the Centre notified the Boards' jurisdiction on 15 July 2021
Release in years of low flow	Clause (b) of section 89 asks the Tribunal for an operational protocol for project-wise release in deficit flows

Extra section: the dispute in dates

Date	Event
April 1969	KWDT-I constituted, chaired by Justice R.S. Bachawat
1973	Report of KWDT-I
May 1976	Further report and award of KWDT-I: 2,060 TMC at 75 per cent dependability, plus 70 TMC of return flows
31 May 2000	Review of the KWDT-I award possible after this date
2 April 2004	KWDT-II constituted (S.O. 451(E))
30 December 2010	KWDT-II report and decision under section 5(2)
March 2011	Andhra Pradesh files SLP (Civil) No. 10498 of 2011
16 September 2011	Supreme Court: the decision not to be published in the Gazette till further orders

Date	Event
29 November 2013	KWDT-II further report under section 5(3)
1 March 2014	Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 (Act No. 6 of 2014)
15 May 2014	Notification: KWDT-II term extended by two years from 1 August 2014
28 May 2014	KRMB constituted under section 85(1)
2 June 2014	Appointed day: Telangana formed
14 July 2014	Telangana's complaint under section 3 of the 1956 Act
June 2015	Ad hoc sharing for 2015-16: 512.04 TMC and 298.96 TMC
2017-18 to 2022-23	Sharing at 66 : 34, decided in KRMB meetings
2021	Telangana withdraws its writ petition; gazette notification of 15 July 2021 on the jurisdiction of the Boards
4 October 2023	Union Cabinet approves further terms of reference under section 5(1)
6 October 2023	Further terms of reference notified; three-member committee splits 80 TMC 45 : 35
17 October 2023	Andhra Pradesh's writ petition against the notification (as reported)
19 February 2025	Final arguments begin before KWDT-II (as reported)
10 July 2025	S.O. 3221(E): term extended from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026
1 December 2025	Rajya Sabha told the Tribunal has not yet given its decision on the further terms of reference
12 June 2026	S.O. 3039(E), published 13 June: report-and-decision period extended from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027

Date	Event
28 August 2026	Telangana preparing rejoinder arguments (as reported)

How to hold it in memory:

- **Two tribunals, two chairmen, two dependabilities:** Bachawat with 75 per cent; Brijesh Kumar with 65 per cent for part of the extra water.
- **Three Andhra Pradesh figures:** 811 TMC (first Tribunal, in force), 1,001 TMC (second Tribunal, 2010) and 1,005 TMC (after 2013). Only the first is in the Gazette.
- **Two references after 2014:** the one written into the 2014 Act (project-wise allocation and a deficit protocol) and the further one of 2023 under the 1956 Act (the dispute between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh).

Three common exam traps

1. **Reading 811 TMC as a second-Tribunal figure, or swapping it with 800.** 811 TMC is undivided Andhra Pradesh's share under the first Tribunal, counting its return flows. Books that leave out the return flows print 800 TMC for Andhra Pradesh, 560 for Maharashtra and 700 for Karnataka. The second Tribunal's report gave Andhra Pradesh a much larger figure, 1,001 TMC.
2. **Mixing up the roles of the bodies.** The Tribunal adjudicates the allocation. The Apex Council, chaired by the Union Minister of Water Resources with the two Chief Ministers as members, supervises the Boards and tries to settle disputes by agreement. The Krishna River Management Board regulates supply from the projects the Centre notifies, according to the awards and agreements; it does not itself fix the States' shares.
3. **Project-wise against en bloc, and two States against four.** The reference written into the 2014 Act asks for project-wise allocation where none has been made, and keeps the project awards already made binding on both successor States. Telangana asked instead for an en bloc allocation between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and the later further reference concerns those two States only. The earlier proceedings of both Tribunals involved Maharashtra and Karnataka as well.

Iron and steel industry

Concept in one line

The iron and steel industry turns iron ore, coking coal and limestone into steel, and NCERT calls it both a basic industry and a heavy industry. The exam asks about its raw materials, the major plants with their States, owners and partner countries, and India's place in world steel.

Revision notes

2.1 What the industry is and why it matters

- NCERT Class X calls iron and steel the basic industry, because all other industries depend on it for their machinery.
- It is a heavy industry because "all the raw materials as well as finished goods are heavy and bulky", which makes transport costly (NCERT Class X).
- NCERT Class X: "Production and consumption of steel is often regarded as the index of a country's development."
- Recall Topic 294: NCERT Class XII says that industries based on cheap, bulky and weight-losing material are located close to its source, and it names steel, sugar and cement as examples. The earlier edition of NCERT Class XII *India: People and Economy* says the same of steel: all its raw materials are weight-losing, so the best location is near the sources of raw material.
- In NCERT's classification by ownership (Topic 294), SAIL is in the public sector and TISCO in the private sector.
- Books used: NCERT Class X *Contemporary India II*, chapter 6, and, for the plants, chapter 8 of the earlier (pre-rationalised) NCERT Class XII *India: People and Economy*.

2.2 Raw materials

Raw material	Share or role, as NCERT gives it
Iron ore	4 parts: "Iron ore, coking coal and lime stone are required in the ratio of approximately 4: 2: 1" (Class X)
Coking coal	2 parts in the same ratio
Limestone	1 part in the same ratio
Manganese	"Some quantities of manganese, are also required to harden the steel" (Class X)
Dolomite	Listed with fire clay among the raw materials in the earlier Class XII edition; no share is given

- The earlier Class XII edition: a crescent-shaped region covering parts of Chhattisgarh, northern Odisha, Jharkhand and western West Bengal is rich in iron ore and coking coal.
- NCERT Class X: "Chhotanagpur plateau region has the maximum concentration of iron and steel industries." It gives four reasons: low cost of iron ore, high-grade raw materials close by, cheap labour, and a large growth potential in the home market.
- Where iron ore and manganese are mined comes in Topic 394. In a line: India produced 282.4 million tonnes of iron ore in 2024 (World Steel Association).

2.3 Integrated plants and mini steel plants

Point	Integrated steel plants	Mini steel plants
Size in the earlier Class XII edition	Large; the book says the industry "consists of large integrated steel plants as well as mini steel mills"	Smaller; the book names "mini steel mills" but does not define them

Point	Integrated steel plants	Mini steel plants
Main inputs	Iron ore, coking coal, limestone, dolomite, manganese and fire clay	Not stated for mini mills. The book says separately that more than 206 units in different parts of the country mostly use scrap iron
Furnace named in the sources	Not named in the NCERT passage	Not stated for mini mills. The same more than 206 units process scrap in electric furnaces
Ministry of Steel's term	Major Integrated Steel Producers (ISPs)	Secondary producers; the National Steel Policy, 2017 expects small (MSME) steel plants to be key drivers of new capacity
Examples	Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur, Bokaro, Visakhapatnam, TISCO	No plant is named

The Ministry of Steel's Annual Report 2025-26 gives the share of each steelmaking route in India's crude steel:

Route	2020-21	2024-25
Basic oxygen furnace (BOF)	43.5 per cent	41.1 per cent
Electric arc furnace (EAF)	28.4 per cent	20.8 per cent
Induction furnace (IF)	28.1 per cent	38.2 per cent

- India has been the world's largest producer of sponge iron every year since 2003 (Ministry of Steel). The coal-based route gave 85 per cent of India's sponge iron production in April to December 2025.

2.4 The major plants

Plant	Place and State	Owner	Year	Collaborating country
TISCO	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	Tata Steel (private sector)	Company registered on 26 August 1907; first steel ingot rolled in February 1912	None named
IISCO, Burnpur	Burnpur, West Bengal	SAIL	Burnpur unit set up in 1937	None named
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL)	Bhadravati, Karnataka	SAIL (special and alloy steel)	First called the Mysore Iron and Steel Works (NCERT gives no year)	None named
Bhilai	Chhattisgarh	SAIL	Production from 1959	Russia (NCERT); that is, the former USSR
Rourkela	Odisha	SAIL	Set up in 1959	Germany
Durgapur	West Bengal	SAIL	Production from 1962	United Kingdom
Bokaro	Jharkhand	SAIL	Set up in 1964	Russia (NCERT); Soviet technology
Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	RINL	Started operating in 1992	USSR (Soviet credit for the first stage)

Plant	Place and State	Owner	Year	Collaborating country
Salem	Tamil Nadu	SAIL (special steel)	Commissioned in 1982	None named

- Sources for the table: the earlier NCERT Class XII edition for most States, years and partners; the Ministry of Steel for owners; Tata Steel for TISCO's dates; a Lok Sabha answer of 28 November 1980 for Soviet help to Bokaro and Visakhapatnam's first stage.
- The Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) set up Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur in the public sector under Hindustan Steel Limited; the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was formed in 1973 to manage them (earlier Class XII edition). Topic 285 gives the same partners as the Soviet Union, Britain and West Germany.
- The SAIL list in the Annual Report: integrated plants at Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur, Bokaro and Burnpur; special and alloy steel plants at Durgapur (Alloy Steels Plant), Salem and Bhadravati.
- The earlier Class XII edition also names Vijaynagar at Hosapete (Karnataka), developed with indigenous technology on local iron ore and limestone.

2.5 India's position (official figures, dated)

Measure	Figure	Source and date
World rank in crude steel	2nd, after China	World Steel Association, *World Steel in Figures 2026*, for 2025
Crude steel, calendar year 2025	India 164.9 million tonnes; China 960.8; world 1,848.9	World Steel Association; Ministry of Steel, July 2026

Measure	Figure	Source and date
Crude steel, financial year	152.18 million tonnes in 2024-25; 170.15 million tonnes in 2025-26	Ministry of Steel, July 2026
Crude steel capacity	220.4 million tonnes in 2025-26; the Annual Report gives 218.445 million tonnes up to December 2025	Ministry of Steel
Finished steel consumption	152.13 million tonnes in 2024-25; 164.36 million tonnes in 2025-26	Ministry of Steel, July 2026
Consumption per head	115.7 kg in 2025-26, against a world figure of 209 kg (2025). World Steel Association: 109.2 kg for India and 209.0 kg for the world in 2025	Ministry of Steel, July 2026; World Steel Association
Coking coal imports	57.07 million tonnes in 2024-25; the major part from Australia; 7.746 million tonnes from Russia	Ministry of Steel, Annual Report 2025-26
Trade in finished steel	Net importer in 2023-24 and 2024-25; net exporter in 2025-26 (exports 6,601 thousand tonnes, imports 6,524 thousand tonnes)	Ministry of Steel, March and July 2026

- The two per head figures for India differ because they cover different periods (financial year 2025-26 against calendar year 2025) and come from different bodies. Both put India at about half the world figure.
- **Update checked on 7 November 2026:** India was a net importer of finished steel in April–October 2026: imports 4.90 million tonnes and exports 3.98 million tonnes (PIB). This partial financial-year result does not contradict the net-exporter position for the full financial year 2025-26.
- Topic 226 gave the Ministry of Coal's figure for coking coal imports in 2024-25: 57.58 million tonnes. The two ministries' figures differ slightly.

2.6 Policy: the National Steel Policy, PLI and green steel

- **National Steel Policy, 2017** (Ministry of Steel): targets for 2030-31 are a crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes, crude steel production of 255 million tonnes, finished steel production of 230 million tonnes, sponge iron of 80 million tonnes, pig iron of 17 million tonnes, and consumption of 158 kg of finished steel per head.
- **PLI scheme for specialty steel:** approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2021 and notified on 29 July 2021, with an outlay of Rs 6,322 crore (as in Topic 293); its third round, PLI 1.2, opened on 4 November 2025.
- **Green Steel Taxonomy:** released by the Ministry of Steel on 12 December 2024, as a step towards a more sustainable, low-carbon steel industry. As on 31 December 2025, 58 steel units had received green steel certificates with a star rating, covering 9.1 million tonnes of production.

2.7 Andhra Pradesh: the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), a Navratna public sector enterprise, is the corporate entity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The Ministry of Steel calls it "the country's first shore-based integrated steel plant", with a capacity of 7.3 million tonnes a year of liquid steel (Annual Report 2025-26). The earlier NCERT Class XII edition calls it the first port-based plant and says it benefits from its port location.
- RINL is wholly owned by the Government of India. Its net worth was minus Rs 4,538 crore on 31 March 2024, and it defaulted on loan repayments in June 2024 (PIB, 17 January 2025).
- **Revival plan (PIB, 17 January 2025):** the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved a revival plan for RINL costing Rs 11,440 crore in all:
  - Rs 10,300 crore as equity capital;
  - Rs 1,140 crore of working capital loan converted into 7 per cent non-cumulative preference share capital, redeemable after 10 years.
- The plan aimed at full production with two blast furnaces from January 2025 and with three blast furnaces from August 2025. The Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on 21 March 2025 that this infusion involves no private sector partnership.

- **Kadapa:** recall Topic 14. The Thirteenth Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 lists an integrated steel plant in YSR District, which SAIL was to examine. The Kadapa plant comes in Topic 334.

2.8 Issues

Issue	What the official sources say
Coking coal	Indian coking coal has a very high ash content, so it is imported: 51.20 million tonnes in 2020-21 and 57.07 million tonnes in 2024-25. The Ministries of Steel and Coal plan to cut the import bill under Mission Coking Coal by raising output from existing mines (Ministry of Steel, Annual Report 2025-26)
Emissions and green steel	The coal-based route gave 85 per cent of India's sponge iron production in April to December 2025. The Green Steel Taxonomy (12 December 2024) certifies low-carbon steel with star ratings. Research priorities include low-emission steel, hydrogen-based production and carbon capture (CCUS) (Ministry of Steel)

Extra section: why each plant stands where it does

The factors are those of Topic 294. The details are from the earlier NCERT Class XII edition.

Plant	Raw material	Water and power	Transport and other pulls	Main factor
TISCO, Jamshedpur	Iron ore from Noamundi and Badam Pahar; coking coal from the Jharia and West Bokaro coalfields (the old NCERT text also names Joda in Odisha, which Tata Steel lists as an iron ore mine)	Water from the Subarnarekha and Kharkai rivers	Close to the Mumbai-Kolkata railway line, about 240 km from the Kolkata port	Raw material, helped by transport

Plant	Raw material	Water and power	Transport and other pulls	Main factor
IISCO, Burnpur	Close to the Damodar valley coalfields; iron ore from Singhbhum	Water from the Barakar river	Along the Kolkata-Asansol railway line	Raw material
VISL, Bhadravati	Iron ore from Kemangundi; local limestone and manganese; no coal	Hydroelectricity from Jog Falls; water from the Bhadra river (NCERT writes "Bhadravati river")	Charcoal was used until 1951, then electric furnaces; makes specialised steels and alloys	Energy (hydel power in place of coal)
Bhilai	Iron ore from Dalli-Rajhara; coal from Korba and Kargali	Water from the Tandula dam; power from the Korba thermal power station	On the Kolkata-Mumbai railway route	Raw material and energy
Rourkela	Coal from Jharia; iron ore from Sundargarh and Kendujhar	Power from Hirakud; water from the Koel and Sankh rivers	NCERT: "The plant was located on the basis of proximity to raw materials"	Raw material
Durgapur	In the Raniganj-Jharia coal belt; iron ore from Noamundi	Hydel power and water from the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	On the Kolkata-Delhi railway route	Raw material and transport

Plant	Raw material	Water and power	Transport and other pulls	Main factor
Bokaro	Iron ore from the Rourkela region; coal sent back in the same wagons	Water and hydel power from the DVC	NCERT: "This plant was set up on the principle of transportation cost minimisation"; it forms a Bokaro-Rourkela combine	Transport cost
Visakhapatnam	Not described in the NCERT passage	Not described	The first port-based plant; benefits from its port location	Port location (transport)

What the table shows:

- Most plants stand on or near the coal and iron ore of the Chhotanagpur region, as weight-losing raw materials pull the industry to their source (Topic 294).
- Bokaro and Rourkela work as a pair: wagons carry iron ore from the Rourkela region to Bokaro and coal back to Rourkela, so neither trip runs empty.
- VISL shows energy deciding the site: with no coal near, hydel power from Jog Falls ran its electric furnaces.
- Visakhapatnam shows the newer pull of a port.

Three common exam traps

1. **"Chhotanagpur leads only because it has coal."** NCERT Class X gives four reasons for the maximum concentration of iron and steel industries in the Chhotanagpur plateau region: low cost of iron ore, high-grade raw materials close by, cheap labour, and a large growth potential in the home market.

2. **"TISCO is a public sector plant."** In NCERT's classification by ownership, TISCO is the example of the private sector and SAIL of the public sector. Tata Steel, as TISCO is now called, is a private-sector company; the Second Plan plants came under Hindustan Steel Limited and then SAIL.
3. **"Every plant was sited at its raw material."** NCERT says Rourkela was located on the basis of proximity to raw materials, but Bokaro was set up on the principle of transportation cost minimisation, with wagons carrying ore one way and coal the other. VISL at Bhadravati was drawn by hydel power, and Visakhapatnam by its port.

India's NDCs, net zero target and Mission LiFE

Concept in one line

India's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are its climate targets under the Paris Agreement: the first NDC of 2015, its update of August 2022 and a new NDC for 2031 to 2035 submitted in April 2026, set beside a long-term goal of net zero by 2070 and with a mass movement for LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) written into them. The examination asks for each target with its base year, target year and exact wording, the dates, and the progress that official reports state.

Revision notes

Earlier topics in one line each: the Paris Agreement (adopted in 2015, in force on 4 November 2016) asks each Party to communicate a new NDC every five years and holds a global stocktake, first in 2023 and then every five years (Topic 107); the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), originally organised around eight missions, is Topic 207. India’s April 2026 NDC describes nine missions, including human health, through which climate action is advanced. Later topics: evidence and causes of climate change (Topic 586), UN climate conferences (Topic 667) and impacts of climate change (Topic 776).

2.1 India's three NDCs

- **First NDC (2015):** India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) on 2 October 2015. India's updated NDC document says that this INDC "is now its first NDC under the Paris Agreement". It had eight goals, three of them with numbers for 2030 (PIB, 3 August 2022).
- **Updated NDC (2022):** the Union Cabinet approved it on 3 August 2022, and it was submitted to the UNFCCC in August 2022. Its title is "India's Updated First Nationally Determined Contribution Under Paris Agreement (2021-2030)". So it updates the first NDC; it is not a second NDC. It marks three goals "[UPDATED]": the LIFE goal, the emissions intensity target and the capacity

target. It says no other change in the first NDC is proposed, so the carbon sink target stays as it was. PIB says the update translates the "Panchamrit" of COP26 into enhanced targets.

- **NDC for 2031 to 2035:** the Union Cabinet's approval was announced on 25 March 2026 (PIB). The document is dated April 2026, and the UNFCCC NDC registry shows it as submitted on 24 April 2026. It has eight targets: three with numbers and five qualitative (the NDC text; PIB).

Target	First NDC (2 October 2015), for 2030	Updated NDC (August 2022), for 2030	NDC for 2031 to 2035 (April 2026), for 2035
Cut in the emissions intensity of GDP from the 2005 level	33 to 35 per cent	45 per cent	47 per cent
Share of non-fossil fuel-based energy resources in cumulative electric power installed capacity	"about 40 per cent"	"about 50 percent"	"about 60 percent"
Carbon sink through forest and tree cover	An additional sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent	Unchanged from 2015	3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent, compared with the baseline year of 2005
LiFE	Not there: the goal on "a healthy and sustainable way of living" had no mass movement for LIFE (LIFE was first proposed in 2021)	A mass movement for "LIFE", "Lifestyle for Environment" , added	The mass movement for "LIFE" kept; the text names "Mission LiFE"

Read the targets with their exact words:

- **Intensity, not absolute:** "emissions intensity" means emissions per unit of GDP. The target can be met while total emissions still grow.
- **Capacity, not generation:** the second target is a share of installed capacity, not of electricity generated. The NDC texts say "about" 40, "about" 50 and "about" 60 per cent, and PIB's release of 2022 also says "about 50 percent"; PIB's release of 2026 writes 60 per cent, and MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) writes of reaching 50 per cent. All three NDC texts tie this target to "transfer of technology and low-cost international finance".
- **Two ways of stating the sink:** the 2015 target is an "additional" sink "through additional forest and tree cover by 2030"; the 2035 target is measured against the baseline year of 2005.
- **Net zero is not an NDC target:** PIB calls the 2022 update a step towards India's "long term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070", and the 2035 NDC says India will "ultimately reach net-zero by 2070".

2.2 Panchamrit and net zero by 2070

At the COP26 summit in Glasgow, on 1 November 2021, the Prime Minister's National Statement made five commitments, which PIB calls the "Panchamrit":

1. Non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030.
2. 50 per cent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
3. Total projected carbon emissions reduced by one billion tonnes from then till 2030.
4. A cut in the carbon intensity of the economy by 2030. The updated NDC of 2022 fixed it as a 45 per cent cut in the emissions intensity of GDP from the 2005 level. PIB's English text of the speech reads "by less than 45 percent"; the target to remember is the NDC's 45 per cent cut, not "less than 45 per cent".
5. Net zero by the year 2070.

- The wording differs from the NDC. Item 2 is a share of energy requirements met from renewable energy; the NDC's share is of installed electric power capacity from all non-fossil sources. Item 3 is a cut in tonnes, counted against projected emissions; the NDC targets are intensities.

- In the same speech the Prime Minister proposed "LIFE", Lifestyle for Environment, which PIB calls a "One-Word Movement".

2.3 The long-term strategy

- Article 4.19 of the Paris Agreement: all Parties "should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies" (UNFCCC).
- India submitted "India's Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy" to the UNFCCC on 14 November 2022, during COP27 (Topic 107). The document itself uses the short form LT-LEDS; books expand it as the Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy.
- It says that India "will strive towards net-zero by 2070 through low carbon development in accordance with national circumstances". It rests on seven key transitions: electricity systems; transport; urban design and buildings; industry; carbon dioxide removal; forest and vegetative cover; and the economic and financial side. It has a section on Mission LiFE.

2.4 Progress, as official reports state it

- **Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR-4):** submitted to the UNFCCC on 30 December 2024, it says the emissions intensity of GDP fell by 36 per cent between 2005 and 2020. The 2035 NDC and PIB (25 March 2026) repeat this figure. PIB says the first NDC's intensity target was met 11 years ahead of schedule, and its capacity target of about 40 per cent 9 years ahead.
- **First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1):** India submitted it to the UNFCCC on 30 April 2026, under the title "2024 Biennial Transparency Report". It reports that "the emissions intensity of GDP reduced by 37.38% by 2022 compared to the base year of 2005". It gives the non-fossil share of installed capacity as 38.3 per cent in 2020, 40.2 per cent in 2021 and 42.5 per cent in 2022, and an additional carbon sink of 2.44 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent from 2005 to 2022.
- **The two intensity figures do not clash:** both are measured from 2005; 36 per cent runs to 2020 (BUR-4) and 37.38 per cent to 2022 (BTR1).

- **Capacity:** MNRE reported 242.78 GW of non-fossil capacity out of 484.82 GW, or 50.08 per cent, as on 30 June 2025, "five years ahead" of the NDC target (PIB, 14 July 2025). The 2035 NDC gives 52.57 per cent as on 28 February 2026.
- **Carbon sink:** PIB (25 March 2026) gives 2.29 billion tonnes created by 2021; BTR1 gives 2.44 billion tonnes for 2005 to 2022.

2.5 Mission LiFE and the Green Credit Programme

- **Launch:** the Prime Minister launched Mission LiFE on 20 October 2022 at the Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat, with UN Secretary-General António Guterres present (PIB).
- **The idea,** in the Prime Minister's words as the official LiFE portal quotes them: "What is needed today is Mindful and Deliberate Utilisation, instead of Mindless and Destructive Consumption."
- **Pro-planet people:** the portal says LiFE "seeks to transform persons into 'pro-planet people', who would adopt sustainable lifestyles". PIB calls this the "P3 model i.e. Pro Planet People".
- **Three prongs (PIB, launch day):** changing individuals' daily habits (demand), making industry and markets respond (supply), and shaping government and industrial policy (policy).
- **Seven themes** of LiFE actions (MoEFCC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the LiFE portal): save energy; save water; say no to single-use plastic; adopt sustainable food systems; reduce waste; adopt healthy lifestyles; reduce e-waste. MoEFCC lists 75 individual LiFE actions under these themes and calls the list non-exhaustive. One heading on the portal reads "Adapt Sustainable Life Styles" where its banner and MoEFCC read "Adopt Sustainable Food Systems".
- **Green Credit Programme:** the Green Credit Rules, 2023 were notified on 12 October 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to "incentivise environmental positive actions through market-based mechanism" (ICFRE Green Credit Cell). Carbon markets are Topic 457.

Extra section: India's targets and where they stand on 1 November 2026

Target	Set in	Target year	Status as on 1 November 2026	Source
Emissions intensity of GDP cut by 33 to 35 per cent from 2005	First NDC, 2 October 2015	2030	Met: a 36 per cent cut from 2005 to 2020, 11 years ahead of schedule	BUR-4, 30 December 2024; PIB, 25 March 2026
About 40 per cent non-fossil share of installed capacity	First NDC, 2015	2030	Met, 9 years ahead of schedule; 40.2 per cent in 2021	PIB, 25 March 2026; BTR1
Additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent	First NDC, 2015; kept in August 2022	2030	Below the range so far: 2.29 billion tonnes by 2021; 2.44 billion tonnes from 2005 to 2022	PIB, 25 March 2026; BTR1
Emissions intensity cut by 45 per cent from 2005	Updated NDC, August 2022	2030	In progress: 37.38 per cent by 2022	BTR1, 30 April 2026
About 50 per cent non-fossil share of installed capacity	Updated NDC, August 2022	2030	Reached: 50.08 per cent on 30 June 2025; 52.57 per cent on 28 February 2026	MNRE (PIB, 14 July 2025); NDC for 2031 to 2035
Emissions intensity cut by 47 per cent from 2005	NDC for 2031 to 2035, submitted 24 April 2026	2035	Newly set; the latest reported cut is 37.38 per cent by 2022	NDC for 2031 to 2035; BTR1

Target	Set in	Target year	Status as on 1 November 2026	Source
About 60 per cent non-fossil share of installed capacity	NDC for 2031 to 2035	2035	Newly set; 52.57 per cent on 28 February 2026	NDC for 2031 to 2035
Carbon sink of 3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent, compared with 2005	NDC for 2031 to 2035	2035	Newly set; 2.44 billion tonnes from 2005 to 2022	NDC for 2031 to 2035; BTR1
Net zero	Panchamrit, COP26, 1 November 2021; long-term strategy, 14 November 2022	2070	Long-term goal; restated in the NDC for 2031 to 2035	PIB, 1 November 2021; long-term strategy; NDC for 2031 to 2035
A mass movement for LIFE	Updated NDC, August 2022	No year set	Mission LiFE launched on 20 October 2022; named again in the NDC for 2031 to 2035	PIB, 20 October 2022; NDC for 2031 to 2035

How to read the table:

- Every intensity target and every progress figure is measured from 2005.
- Of the 2030 targets, the two of the first NDC on intensity and capacity, and the capacity target of 2022, are reported as met; the 45 per cent intensity target and the 2030 carbon sink are still being worked towards in the latest official figures.

Three common exam traps

1. **Treating an intensity target as a cut in total emissions.** India's NDC targets cut emissions per unit of GDP; total emissions may still rise while the targets are met. The only Panchamrit item stated in tonnes of emissions is a cut against projected emissions, not against a past year's level.
2. **Taking a share of capacity for a share of energy or generation.** The NDC's non-fossil target counts installed electric power capacity from all non-fossil sources, large hydro and nuclear included. Panchamrit's "50 per cent" counts energy requirements met from renewable energy. Passing the capacity mark does not mean that half of India's electricity is generated from non-fossil sources.
3. **Calling the 2022 document India's second NDC.** Its official title is the "Updated First Nationally Determined Contribution", for 2021 to 2030; it changed only the goals it marks as updated. The next NDC is the one for 2031 to 2035.

Direction sense test

Concept in one line

A direction sense question describes walks and turns, or a shadow, and asks which way a person faces at the end, or how far and in which direction the end point lies from the start. It is solved by the standard aptitude method: fix the directions and turns, trace the path on axes, find the distance by Pythagoras and read the direction from start to end.

Revision notes

2.1 What this topic is about

- Topics 129 and 139 dealt with speed, time and distance. Here there is no speed or time: only lengths walked and turns made.
- Every question asks one or more of three things: the direction a person faces after some turns; the straight-line distance between the start and the end; the direction of one point from another.
- The method below is the standard aptitude method, as set out in guidebooks and study pages. Questions that combine directions with blood relations and seating come in Topic 698.

2.2 The eight directions

- The four **cardinal directions** are North (N), East (E), South (S) and West (W).
- The four **intercardinal directions** lie halfway between them: North-East (NE), South-East (SE), South-West (SW) and North-West (NW).
- Each direction can be given as an angle measured **clockwise from North**. Going round, the eight directions are 45° apart. Each cardinal direction is 90° from the next one.

Direction	Short form	Kind	Angle clockwise from North
North	N	Cardinal	0° (or 360°)

Direction	Short form	Kind	Angle clockwise from North
North-East	NE	Intercardinal	45°
East	E	Cardinal	90°
South-East	SE	Intercardinal	135°
South	S	Cardinal	180°
South-West	SW	Intercardinal	225°
West	W	Cardinal	270°
North-West	NW	Intercardinal	315°

- **Opposite pairs** are 180° apart: N and S, E and W, NE and SW, NW and SE.
- On paper, draw North at the top, East on the right, South at the bottom and West on the left.

2.3 Left and right turns

- A **right turn** is a turn of 90° **clockwise** from the direction one faces. A **left turn** is a turn of 90° **anticlockwise**.
- Turning right again and again from North gives N, E, S, W, N. Turning left again and again from North gives N, W, S, E, N.
- An **about turn** (U-turn) is 180°. Two right turns, or two left turns, make an about turn.
- Left and right belong to the person who turns, not to the reader. When two people face each other, the left of one is on the right of the other.

Facing	Turn	New direction
North	Right	East
North	Left	West
East	Right	South

Facing	Turn	New direction
East	Left	North
South	Right	West
South	Left	East
West	Right	North
West	Left	South

- **Why South-then-left is East.** A person facing South has West on the right hand and East on the left hand. Do not turn the page in your head; use the table, or count clockwise on the angles in 2.2.
- **A string of turns.** Count right turns as +1 and left turns as -1, and add them. Four turns one way make 360°, which changes nothing, so add or take away 4 until the total is -1, 0, +1 or +2. Then +1 is one right turn from the starting direction, -1 is one left turn, 0 is the start direction again, and +2 is an about turn. So three right turns (+3) equal one left turn, and three left turns (-3) equal one right turn.

2.4 Turns given in degrees

- Use the angles of 2.2. **New angle = old angle + clockwise turns - anticlockwise turns.** If the result is 360° or more, take away 360°; if it is below 0°, add 360°.
- Example: a person facing East (90°) turns 45° anticlockwise. 90 - 45 = 45°, so he faces North-East.
- A turn of 270° anticlockwise ends where a turn of 90° clockwise ends, because 270 + 90 = 360. A turn of 360° changes nothing.
- A turn of 45° is half of a right angle. From a cardinal direction it leads to an intercardinal one, never to the next cardinal direction. Counting a 45° turn as a 90° turn is a common slip.
- **Steps of 45°.** For turns that are multiples of 45°, use the eight-direction wheel. Count steps round the eight directions: 135° is three steps, 180° is four, 225° is five.

2.5 Tracing a path on axes, and the distance by Pythagoras

- **Axes.** Put the start at the origin (0, 0). Take East as +x and North as +y, so West is -x and South is -y.
- **Walk leg by leg.** For each leg, fix the direction first (2.3 or 2.4), then add the length to x or to y. A leg to the East adds to x; a leg to the West takes away from x; North and South do the same to y.
- **Net movement.** At the end, x is the net movement East (East minus West) and y is the net movement North (North minus South). Legs in opposite directions cancel.
- **Distance.** The two net movements are at right angles, so the start, the end and the corner between them make a right-angled triangle. By Pythagoras, the straight-line distance = $\sqrt{(x^2 + y^2)}$.
- **Common Pythagorean triples:** (3, 4, 5); (5, 12, 13); (6, 8, 10), which is (3, 4, 5) doubled; (8, 15, 17).
- **Equal net movements.** If the magnitudes of x and y are equal, the distance is $|x| \times \sqrt{2}$. For example, 5 km North and 5 km East put the end point $5\sqrt{2}$ km (about 7.07 km) from the start.
- **The distance is not the path.** The distance asked is the straight line from start to end, not the total length walked. If the path comes back to the start, the distance is zero.

2.6 The direction of the end point, and "A from B" against "B from A"

- **From the start to the end.** The signs of x and y give the direction of the end point from the start:

Net East (x)	Net North (y)	End point from the start
Positive	0	East
0	Positive	North
Positive, equal to y	Positive	North-East (exactly 45°)
Positive	Negative, same size as x	South-East (exactly 135°)

Net East (x)	Net North (y)	End point from the start
Negative, same size as y	Negative	South-West (exactly 225°)
Negative	Positive, same size as x	North-West (exactly 315°)

- If x and y have different sizes, the end point lies in a quarter between two cardinal directions but not exactly on the intercardinal line. With x = 3 and y = 4 it is in the North-East quarter, nearer North. If the options give only the eight directions, take the one that names this quarter (here North-East).
- **"The direction of A from B"** means: stand at B and look at A. Find it as A's position minus B's position.
- **"The direction of B from A"** is always the opposite direction. If A is North-East of B, then B is South-West of A. The distance is the same both ways.
- So a question that asks "where is the man now from his starting point" wants the direction from the start to the end. Giving the direction from the end back to the start is the commonest wrong answer.

2.7 Shadow questions

- **The convention.** The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Shadow questions assume that the sun is in the **east in the morning** and in the **west in the evening**.
- A shadow falls on the side away from the sun, 180° from it. So in the **morning the shadow falls to the west**, and in the **evening it falls to the east**.
- **Noon.** At noon the sun is at its highest and the shadow is the shortest of the day. North of the Tropic of Cancer the noon sun is due south, so the noon shadow points north. But the sun can stand directly overhead at places within the tropics, and the overhead point moves north and south between the two tropics over the year. An object directly below the sun casts no shadow. So, within the tropics, a noon shadow can point north, point south or vanish, depending on the season. Do not fix a direction from a noon shadow unless the question gives the place and the season. (The sun's highest moment need not fall at exactly 12 o'clock on the clock either.)

- **From the shadow to the facing direction.** First fix where the shadow falls (west in the morning, east in the evening). Then ask: which way must the person face so that this side is in front, behind, on the left or on the right?

Time	Shadow falls	Shadow in front: facing	Shadow behind: facing	Shadow to the left: facing	Shadow to the right: facing
Morning	West	West	East	North	South
Evening	East	East	West	South	North

- Check one cell. In the morning, a person facing South has West on the right hand, so the shadow is to the right. Some summaries print the left and right columns the other way round; check any such rule with a quick turn of your own before you trust it.
- A shadow behind a person means the person faces the sun.

2.8 Slips at a glance

Slip	Wrong working	Right working
A right turn taken anticlockwise	Facing East, turns right: North	Facing East, turns right: South
A 45° turn counted as 90°	Facing North, turns 45° clockwise: East	Facing North, turns 45° clockwise: North-East
Legs added instead of Pythagoras	5 km North and 12 km East: 17 km	Distance √(25 + 144) = 13 km
Path length given as the distance	15 m S, 12 m W, 15 m N, 4 m E: 46 m	Net 8 m West; distance 8 m
Direction read from the end to the start	End 4 km East, 4 km South of start: North-West	End point is South-East of the start

Slip	Wrong working	Right working
North-East mixed with North-West	x = -3, y = 3: North-East	x negative, y positive: North-West
Shadow on the same side as the sun	Morning shadow falls east	Morning shadow falls west

Other days cover ranking and order (Topic 348), linear and circular seating (Topics 488 and 538) and blood relations combined with direction and seating (Topic 698).

Extra section: a drill of eight questions with full working

Every answer below was traced on axes (East +x, North +y, start at (0, 0)).

1. **A man faces North. He turns right, then right again, then left. Which way does he face?** North, right: East; East, right: South; South, left: East. He faces **East**. Check by counting: +1 +1 -1 = +1, one right turn from North, which is East.
2. **A woman faces South and turns 270° anticlockwise. Which way does she face?** South is 180°. 180 - 270 = -90; add 360 to get 270°, which is **West**. Check: 270° anticlockwise ends where 90° clockwise ends, and South turned 90° clockwise is West.
3. **Ravi walks 6 km East, turns left and walks 8 km. How far is he from the start?** East, left: North. End point (6, 8). Distance = √(36 + 64) = √100 = **10 km**, a (6, 8, 10) triple. Both x and y are positive but unequal, so he is in the North-East quarter, nearer North.
4. **A girl walks 15 m South, turns right and walks 12 m, turns right and walks 15 m, then turns right and walks 4 m. Where is she from the start?** South, right: West; West, right: North; North, right: East. Positions: (0, -15), (-12, -15), (-12, 0), (-8, 0). The North and South legs cancel. She is **8 m West** of the start. She walked 46 m, but that is the path, not the distance.
5. **Sita walks 2 km North, turns right and walks 12 km, then turns left and walks 3 km. How far is she from the start?** North, right: East; East, left: North. End point (12, 5). Distance = √(144 + 25) = √169 = **13 km**, a (5, 12, 13) triple. She is in the North-East quarter, nearer East.

6. **P is 5 km North of Q, and R is 5 km East of Q. In which direction is P from R, and R from P?** Take Q as (0, 0); then P is (0, 5) and R is (5, 0). P from R: P - R = (-5, 5), so P is **North-West** of R. R from P: (5, -5), so R is **South-East** of P. The two answers are opposite, and the distance is 5√2 km both ways.
7. **In the evening, a man's shadow falls to his left. Which way does he face?** In the evening the shadow falls to the east. East is on the left hand of a person facing **South**.
8. **One morning, A and B stand facing each other. A's shadow falls exactly to A's left. Which way does B face?** In the morning the shadow falls to the west. West is on the left hand of a person facing North, so A faces North. B faces A, so B faces **South**.

Three common exam traps

1. **Answering from the end point instead of the start.** "Where is he now from the starting point" asks for the direction of the end point as seen from the start. If the end point is 4 km South and 4 km West of the start, he is South-West of the start; the start is North-East of him. The option with the reverse direction is almost always offered.
2. **Adding the legs, or the whole path, instead of using Pythagoras.** Net movements of 9 m East and 12 m North give a distance of √(81 + 144) = 15 m, not 9 + 12 = 21 m. Cancel opposite legs first, then use Pythagoras on what is left.
3. **Putting the morning shadow on the wrong side.** The morning sun is in the east, so the shadow falls to the west; in the evening it falls to the east. A person whose morning shadow falls to his right faces South, not North.

Parallel lines and a transversal

Concept in one line

When a transversal cuts two parallel lines, the corresponding, alternate interior and alternate exterior angles are equal and the co-interior angles add up to 180°, and each of these facts, read the other way round, is a test that two lines are parallel. The exam asks for an unknown angle or for x, often in a figure with a bend between the parallel lines, or asks which angle fact proves that two lines are parallel.

Revision notes

2.1 Where this topic fits

- Topic 219 (Day 22) taught the types of angles and the pairs: complementary (sum 90°), supplementary (sum 180°), a linear pair (adjacent angles whose outer arms form a line; sum 180°) and vertically opposite angles (always equal). The same terms, and the same names for the eight angles, are used here.
- This topic follows two NCERT chapters, both called "Lines and Angles": the Class VII textbook used before *Ganita Prakash*, and the Class IX textbook.

2.2 The transversal and the eight angles

NCERT Class VII: "A line that intersects two or more lines at distinct points is called a transversal."

Take two lines l (above) and m (below), and a transversal t that cuts l at P and m at Q. At P: a is above l and left of t, b is above l and right of t, c is below l and left of t, d is below l and right of t. At Q, in the same way: e and f above m (left, right), g and h below m (left, right).

Term	What it means	In the figure
Transversal	A line that cuts two or more lines at distinct points	t, cutting l at P and m at Q

Term	What it means	In the figure
The eight angles	Four angles at each point; interior angles lie between l and m, exterior angles lie outside them	Interior: c, d, e, f. Exterior: a, b, g, h
Corresponding angles	Different points, same side of t, same position with respect to their own line	a and e; b and f; c and g; d and h
Alternate interior angles	Different points, opposite sides of t, both between the lines	c and f; d and e
Alternate exterior angles	Different points, opposite sides of t, both outside the lines	a and h; b and g
Interior angles on the same side of t (co-interior angles)	Different points, same side of t, both between the lines; also called consecutive interior or allied angles	c and e; d and f
Vertically opposite angles	The same point, facing each other across it	a and d; b and c; e and h; f and g
Linear pair	The same point, adjacent, outer arms forming a line	a and b; c and d; a and c; b and d (and the same four pairs at Q)

- The first four kinds of pair join an angle at P to an angle at Q. Vertically opposite angles and linear pairs lie at one point.
- Vertically opposite angles are equal, and a linear pair adds up to 180°, at every crossing of two lines, whether or not l and m are parallel.

2.3 When the lines are parallel

Pair	If l and m are parallel	NCERT Class VII statement
Corresponding angles	Equal	"If two parallel lines are cut by a transversal, each pair of corresponding angles are equal in measure."

Pair	If l and m are parallel	NCERT Class VII statement
Alternate interior angles	Equal	"If two parallel lines are cut by a transversal, each pair of alternate interior angles are equal."
Alternate exterior angles	Equal	Named, but no separate rule is stated; it follows from the two rows above
Co-interior angles	Add up to 180° (supplementary)	For two parallel lines cut by a transversal, "each pair of interior angles on the same side of the transversal are supplementary."

- In Class IX the corresponding angles fact is taken as an axiom (accepted without proof), the corresponding angles axiom. The older Class IX edition numbers it Axiom 6.3 and states the alternate interior and co-interior results as Theorems 6.2 and 6.4. The others follow from it in one line each, using Topic 219:
  - Alternate interior: d = a (vertically opposite) and a = e (corresponding), so d = e.
  - Co-interior: d + b = 180° (linear pair) and b = f (corresponding), so d + f = 180°.
  - Alternate exterior: a = d and h = e (vertically opposite), and d = e, so a = h.
- So with parallel lines the eight angles take only two values: x at b, c, f, g and 180° - x at a, d, e, h. Know one angle and you know all eight.

2.4 The converses: how to prove two lines parallel

NCERT Class VII ("Checking for parallel lines") gives three tests. If a transversal cuts two lines so that a pair of corresponding angles are equal, or a pair of alternate interior angles are equal, or a pair of interior angles on the same side are supplementary, then "the lines have to be parallel." Class IX calls the first test the converse of the corresponding angles axiom. In the older Class IX edition the three tests are Axiom 6.4 and Theorems 6.3 and 6.5.

Given about one pair	Conclusion
Corresponding angles equal	l and m are parallel
Alternate interior angles equal	l and m are parallel
Alternate exterior angles equal	l and m are parallel: a = d and h = e (vertically opposite), so a = h gives d = e, an equal pair of alternate interior angles
Co-interior angles add up to 180°	l and m are parallel
Co-interior angles equal	Nothing, unless each is 90°
A vertically opposite pair equal, or a linear pair adding up to 180°	Nothing: this is true at every crossing
Two angles of a linear pair equal	Only that t is perpendicular to that one line; nothing about the other line

- One pair is enough. A useful test always compares an angle at P with an angle at Q.
- If the pair fails the test (corresponding angles unequal, or co-interior angles not adding up to 180°), the lines are not parallel.

2.5 Lines parallel to the same line

- NCERT Class IX, Theorem 6.6: "Lines which are parallel to the same line are parallel to each other."
- The reason, as Class IX gives it: let l and m both be parallel to n, and draw a transversal t across all three. By the corresponding angles axiom, the angle t makes with l equals the angle it makes with n, and the angle it makes with m equals the angle it makes with n. So the angles at l and m are equal corresponding angles, and by the converse of the axiom, l is parallel to m.
- This is what allows a third parallel line to be drawn through a bend (2.6): it is parallel to both given lines.

2.6 The bend (zigzag) rule

AB and CD are parallel, AB above, with A and C on the left and B and D on the right. X is on AB and Y is on CD. A point E lies between the lines, and the segments XE and EY make a bent path from AB to CD with its bend at E. Let the angle XEY (less than 180°) open towards the left, the side of A and C.

- **Method.** Through E draw GF parallel to AB, with G on the left. GF is parallel to CD too (2.5). Then ∠XEY = ∠XEG + ∠GEY.
  - ∠XEG and ∠BXE are alternate interior angles (transversal XE, lines AB and GF), so they are equal.
  - ∠GEY and ∠DYE are alternate interior angles (transversal EY, lines GF and CD), so they are equal.
- **Rule.** ∠XEY = ∠BXE + ∠DYE. The angle at the bend equals the sum of the two alternate angles, the angles the arms make with the parallel lines on the side away from the opening of the bend. Add them; do not subtract.
- **The other pair of angles (hook form).** If the angles given are on the same side as the opening (∠AXE and ∠CYE), each is 180° minus the angle in the rule, because each forms a linear pair with it. Then ∠AXE + ∠XEY + ∠CYE = 360°. Through the third line this is the co-interior rule: ∠AXE + ∠XEG = 180° and ∠CYE + ∠GEY = 180°.
- **E between X and Y.** The rule also holds when E is to the right of X but to the left of Y: XE runs down to the right, EY runs down to the right more steeply, and the wide angle XEY still opens to the left. Example: ∠AXE = 130° and ∠DYE = 100°. ∠BXE = 180 - 130 = 50° (linear pair), so ∠XEY = 50 + 100 = 150°. Check: ∠CYE = 80°, and 130 + 150 + 80 = 360.
- NCERT Class IX works a figure of this kind by the same method: it draws a line through the bend parallel to the given lines and adds the two parts.

2.7 The angle sum of a triangle, in a line

In triangle ABC, extend BC to D and draw CE through C parallel to BA: then ∠ACE = ∠A (alternate angles) and ∠ECD = ∠B (corresponding angles), and the three angles at C along the line BD give ∠A + ∠B + ∠C = 180°; Topic 429 (Day 43) teaches this property.

2.8 Common traps at a glance

Trap	Wrong	Right
Co-interior angles taken as equal	c = e	c + e = 180°
Corresponding or alternate angles taken as supplementary	b + f = 180°	b = f
Subtracting at a bend	Bend = difference of the two angles	Bend = sum of the two alternate angles
The wrong pair of angles used at a bend	Adding the angles on the side of the opening	Use their supplements, or the 360° hook form
An always-true pair taken as proof	"Vertically opposite angles are equal, so l and m are parallel"	Such a pair holds at every crossing and proves nothing
A linear pair taken as alternate angles	Two angles on opposite sides of t at the same point called alternate	Alternate angles lie at different points
Parallel-line facts used without parallel lines	Lines look parallel, so corresponding angles are equal	Use the facts only when the lines are given or proved parallel

Other days cover the angle sum and exterior angle of a triangle (Topic 429) and the angles of polygons (Topic 979).

Extra section: a drill of eight questions with full working

1. **One angle gives all eight.** l and m are parallel, and t cuts l at P and m at Q. At P, the angle above l on the right of t (angle b) is 115°. Then a = 180 - 115 = 65° (linear pair), c = 115° and d = 65° (vertically opposite), and by corresponding angles e = 65°, f = 115°, g = 115°, h = 65°.

2. **Corresponding angles as expressions.** l and m are parallel. At P, the angle above l on the left of t is (3x - 15)°; at Q, the angle above m on the left of t is (2x + 25)°. They are corresponding angles, so 3x - 15 = 2x + 25, x = 40, and each angle is 105°.
3. **Co-interior angles with a difference.** l and m are parallel. The two interior angles on the right of t, d at P and f at Q, differ by 36°, and d is the larger. Co-interior angles add up to 180°: d = (180 + 36)/2 = 108° and f = 72°. Check: e, the alternate interior angle of d, is 108°, and 108 + 72 = 180.
4. **Alternate exterior angles.** l and m are parallel. At P, the angle above l on the right of t is (4y + 12)°; at Q, the angle below m on the left of t is (6y - 28)°. They are alternate exterior angles, so 4y + 12 = 6y - 28, y = 20, and each angle is 92°.
5. **A line parallel to the same line.** l and m are both parallel to a third line n, and a transversal t cuts all three. At l, the angle above l on the right of t is 58°. Find the angle below m on the left of t. l and m are parallel, being parallel to n. The angle below m on the left of t corresponds to the angle below l on the left of t, which is vertically opposite the 58° angle. Answer: 58°.
6. **The bend rule.** AB and CD are parallel, AB above, A and C on the left. X is on AB, Y is on CD, and E lies between the lines to the right of both X and Y. ∠BXE = 35° and ∠DYE = 48°. Find ∠XEY (the angle less than 180°, opening to the left). Through E draw GF parallel to AB, G on the left. ∠XEG = 35° and ∠GEY = 48° (alternate interior angles), so ∠XEY = 35 + 48 = 83°.
7. **The hook form.** The same kind of figure, with E to the right of X and Y, but now ∠AXE = 140° and ∠CYE = 125° are given. ∠BXE = 180 - 140 = 40° and ∠DYE = 180 - 125 = 55° (linear pairs), so ∠XEY = 40 + 55 = 95°. Check: 140 + 125 + 95 = 360.
8. **The converse test.** A transversal t cuts two lines l and m at P and Q. (a) At P, the angle above l on the right of t is 108°; at Q, the angle below m on the left of t is 108°. These are alternate exterior angles and they are equal, so l and m are parallel. (b) At P, the angle above l on the left of t is 75°; at Q, the angle below m on the right of t is 105°. These are alternate exterior angles, and they are not equal, so l and m are not parallel.

Three common exam traps

1. **Equal or supplementary?** With parallel lines, corresponding, alternate interior and alternate exterior angles are equal, but the two interior angles on the same side of the transversal add up to 180°. Writing "equal" for a co-interior pair, or "180°" for an alternate or corresponding pair, gives a wrong value that usually stands among the options.
2. **At a bend, add.** The angle at a bend between two parallel lines is the sum of the two alternate angles, not their difference. Before adding, check that the two angles you add are on the side away from the opening of the bend.
3. **Parallel must be given or proved.** A figure that looks parallel is not enough. Unless the question says the lines are parallel, the equal-angle facts cannot be used; they become the tests, and the question is then whether the given pair really is one of the test pairs.

Current affairs: the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

Concept in one line

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 25 March 2026 and in force as Act No. 9 of 2026 since 8 October 2026, lets the Ministry of Home Affairs make rules on the recruitment, promotion, deputation and service conditions of officers in five Central Armed Police Forces, notwithstanding any court judgment, and requires those rules to fill fixed shares of posts at Inspector General and above by deputation of Indian Police Service officers. The exam asks about the forces covered, the deputation shares, the dates, and how the law bears on the Supreme Court's judgment of 23 May 2025 in Sanjay Prakash v. Union of India.

Revision notes

2.1 The news and its status (as on 1 November 2026)

Stage	Detail
Introduction	Bill No. XLI of 2026, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 25 March 2026 by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is signed by Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs, and dated 16 March 2026
Rajya Sabha	Passed on 1 April 2026, by voice vote
Lok Sabha	Passed on 2 April 2026, by voice vote

Stage	Detail
Committee	The PRS status page shows no reference to a parliamentary committee; the Bill passed both Houses eight days after its introduction
Assent	The President's assent on 9 April 2026; published the same day in the Gazette of India as the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, Act No. 9 of 2026
Commencement	Section 1(2) leaves the date to a notification. By notification G.S.R. 870(E) of 8 October 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs appointed 8 October 2026 as the date on which the Act comes into force
In court	Writ petitions by officers of these forces challenge the Act's validity. On 4 August 2026 the Supreme Court (Justices Manoj Misra and Vijay Bishnoi) issued notice to the Union. The petitions were pending when the Act came into force in October 2026, and, as reported on 28 October 2026, they were still pending

- **Recall, Topic 292:** a petition that moves the Supreme Court directly for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights is filed under Article 32.
- **Financial Memorandum:** the Bill involves no expenditure, recurring or non-recurring, from the Consolidated Fund of India.

2.2 What the Act does

Provision	What it says
Forces covered (First Schedule)	Forces constituted under five Acts: the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949; the Border Security Force Act, 1968; the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968; the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Act, 1992; the Sashastra Seema Bal Act, 2007. A "Central Armed Police Force" means "an armed force of the Union constituted under any of the Acts specified in the First Schedule"

Provision	What it says
Adding forces (section 4)	The Central Government may, by notification, add the Act of a new or an existing armed force of the Union to the First Schedule. Such notifications are laid before Parliament
"Central Government" (section 2)	"the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Government of India"
Group A General Duty Officer (section 2)	A Group A (general duty or executive) officer of the rank of Assistant Commandant and above
"Officer" (section 2)	A Group A General Duty Officer, and includes an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer on deputation, an Indian Army officer on deputation or re-employment, and other officers recruited under the rules in the Second Schedule
Rule-making (section 3(1))	"Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law", or in "any judgment, decree or order of any court", or in any Order of the Government, the Central Government may by notification make rules on recruitment, "including promotion and deputation", and the conditions of service of officers
Existing rules (first proviso)	The recruitment rules of Group A General Duty Officers listed in the Second Schedule continue until they are modified, amended, rescinded or superseded

Provision	What it says
IPS deputation (provisos)	For appointing IPS officers in the ranks of Inspector General and above, the rules shall provide for 50 per cent of the posts in the rank of Inspector General, and a minimum of 67 per cent of the posts in the rank of Additional Director General, to be filled by deputation. The posts of Special Director General and Director General "shall be filled by deputation only"
Rules prevail (section 3(3))	If a rule made under the Act is inconsistent with any other rule or Order, the rule under the Act prevails. An "Order" means any instruction of a department of the Government of India, whether called an Office Memorandum or by any other name
Savings (section 5)	Financial benefits already given to Group A General Duty Officers under earlier Orders continue until new Orders are issued
Laying (section 6)	Every rule is laid before each House of Parliament for a total period of 30 days while it is in session; the Houses may modify or annul it
Overriding effect (section 7)	The Act has effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent in any other law or in any instrument having effect under such a law
Removing difficulties (section 8)	No order under this section can be made after three years from the commencement of the Act

2.3 Background: the forces

The Act's definition makes the Ministry of Home Affairs the Central Government for all five forces; inside the Ministry, the Police-II Division deals with their personnel, financial and administrative matters.

Force (Act)	Main role, as the Ministry of Home Affairs describes it	In the Act?
Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF (1949)	Main force for counter-insurgency duty; it began as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939 at Neemuch	Yes
Border Security Force, BSF (1968)	Guarding the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders	Yes
Central Industrial Security Force, CISF (1968)	Physical security of critical infrastructure units, public and private	Yes
Indo-Tibetan Border Police, ITBP (1992)	Guarding the entire India-China border	Yes
Sashastra Seema Bal, SSB (2007)	Guarding the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders; it began in 1963 as the Special Service Bureau under the Ministry of External Affairs	Yes
Assam Rifles	Border guarding force and lead intelligence agency for the Indo-Myanmar border, under the operational control of the Army	No: its Act is not in the First Schedule

The National Security Guard, a counter-terrorist force under the Ministry, is also outside the First Schedule.

2.4 The judgment: Sanjay Prakash v. Union of India (2025)

Point	Detail
Case	Sanjay Prakash and Others v. Union of India and Others, Civil Appeal No. 13104 of 2024, filed by Group A officers of the CISF, heard with five connected appeals by officers of the SSB, BSF, ITBP and CRPF

Point	Detail
Date and Bench	23 May 2025; Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan; the judgment was written by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan
From	A common judgment of the Delhi High Court dated 27 July 2020
Status of the forces	Relying on an Office Memorandum of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of 12 July 2019, the Court held: "CAPFs are OGAS for all purposes", that is, an Organised Group A Service (OGAS) not only for non-functional financial upgradation (NFFU), a financial upgradation, but also for cadre review and related matters
Directions	Complete the cadre review due in 2021 within six months; review the service and recruitment rules of each force within six months, hearing the cadre officers; DoPT to decide within three months of the Ministry's reports
Deputation	The number of posts earmarked for deputation, up to the Senior Administrative Grade (SAG), "should be progressively reduced over a period of time, say within an outer limit of two years". The judgment places the Inspector General in the SAG
Review	The Union's review petition was dismissed on 28 October 2025 (Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan): no case for review was made out

Topic 112 recall: under Article 141 the law declared by the Supreme Court binds all courts in India.

2.5 How the Act bears on the judgment

Question	The judgment (23 May 2025)	The Act (in force from 8 October 2026)
Deputation posts at the Inspector General level (SAG)	To be progressively reduced, say within two years	Rules to provide for 50 per cent of Inspector General posts by deputation of IPS officers

Question	The judgment (23 May 2025)	The Act (in force from 8 October 2026)
Posts above the Inspector General	The reduction direction covers posts up to SAG	At least 67 per cent of Additional Director General posts, and all Special Director General and Director General posts, by deputation
Effect of court orders	The law declared by the Supreme Court binds all courts under Article 141	Rules apply notwithstanding any judgment, decree or order of any court

The Act does not name the judgment. The Statement of Objects and Reasons speaks of "harmonising judicial directions with administrative and federal requirements"; the petitioners call the Act an override of the judgment. The Court has yet to decide.

2.6 The views

Side	View, with its source
The Government (Statement of Objects and Reasons)	The forces secure the borders, undertake anti-insurgency operations and maintain internal security. "Under article 312 of the Constitution, the Indian Police Service is an All India Service", posted in the Union and the States. In the "absence of an umbrella law", rules evolved in a fragmented manner, "resulting in several litigations"
The Government (reply in the Rajya Sabha, 1 April 2026, as All India Radio reported it)	Nityanand Rai said the Bill addresses "long-standing structural imbalances in the service conditions of officers", that Parliament has "full constitutional authority" to legislate on such matters, and that the rules would be laid before Parliament. He rejected the charges that the Bill undermines federalism or violates the separation of powers
A member of the Rajya Sabha (same report)	Saket Gokhale expressed concern about placing IPS officers in the top leadership of forces that serve in deserts, high altitudes and other hostile terrain

Side	View, with its source
Cadre officers (writ petitions, as reported on 4 August 2026)	The Act is an "impermissible legislative override" of the judgment; it breaches the separation of powers; the quotas are arbitrary and block cadre officers' promotion, against Articles 14, 16 and 21

Extra section: chronology of the item

Date	Event
12 July 2019	DoPT Office Memorandum treats these forces as Organised Group A Services for cadre review and related matters
27 July 2020	Delhi High Court decides the writ petitions of the cadre officers
23 May 2025	Supreme Court judgment in Sanjay Prakash v. Union of India
28 October 2025	Review petition of the Union dismissed
16 March 2026	Statement of Objects and Reasons signed
25 March 2026	Bill No. XLI of 2026 introduced in the Rajya Sabha
1 April 2026	Rajya Sabha passes the Bill by voice vote
2 April 2026	Lok Sabha passes the Bill by voice vote
9 April 2026	President's assent; Act No. 9 of 2026
4 August 2026	Supreme Court issues notice on the petitions challenging the Act

Date	Event
8 October 2026	G.S.R. 870(E): the Act comes into force

Three common exam traps

1. **Assent is not commencement.** The President assented on 9 April 2026, but the Act came into force only on 8 October 2026, the date appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs under section 1(2). An answer that dates the law's effect to April is wrong.
2. **Introduced by one Minister, signed by another.** The Statement of Objects and Reasons carries the name of Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs, with the date 16 March 2026. The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 25 March 2026 by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, who also replied to the debate there. The date of the Statement is not the date of introduction.
3. **Two different proceedings.** The Union's review petition against the judgment was dismissed on 28 October 2025. The petitions of cadre officers against the Act are separate writ petitions; the Court issued notice on them on 4 August 2026, and they had not been decided when the Act came into force.