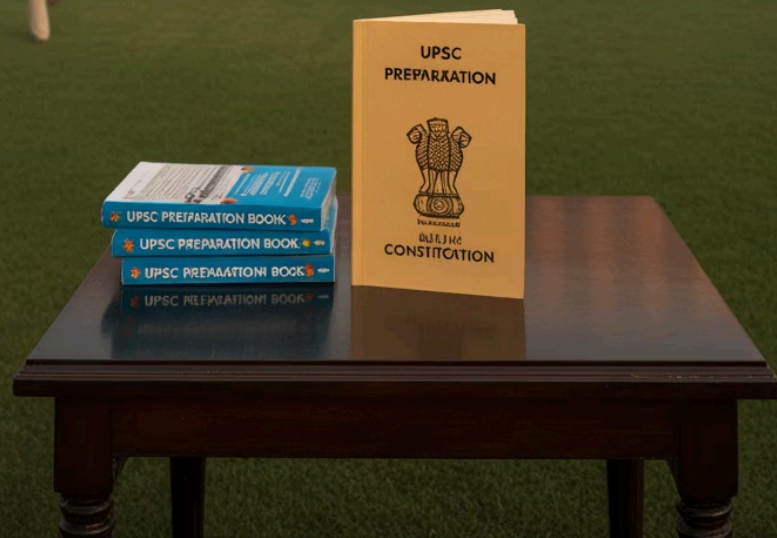


The Hindu UPSC Notes

The Legend IAS

Comprehensive analysis of current affairs from September 5th, 2025, featuring critical insights across Polity, Economy, International Relations, and Society with strategic exam preparation focus.



The Legend IAS

Supreme Court Flags Himalayan Infrastructure as Death Traps

Key Judicial Observations

The Supreme Court has raised serious concerns about tunnels becoming "death traps" in the Himalayan region, directly linking deforestation and unscientific infrastructure development to the devastating floods in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Disaster Management Framework

Falls under Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule, enabling both Centre and State action

NDRE Misconception

Created by Disaster Management Act 2005, not directly under MHA - common exam trap



i Cloudburst Definition: ≥100 mm rainfall per hour in localised areas - critical for Prelims

Mains Relevance: Judicial environmentalism, infrastructure vs ecology balance, Article 21 and right to safe environment

Anganwadi-School Integration Initiative

Government guidelines aim to co-locate approximately **11 lakh Anganwadi Centres** with schools, though only **2.9 lakh** have been mapped so far.

ICDS Framework

Launched in **1975** under **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, **not Ministry of Education**

- Nutrition support
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Health monitoring

NEP 2020 Structure

5+3+3+4 educational framework integration

- Foundational Stage (3-8 years)
- APAAR ID tracking system
- Seamless transition

SDG 4 Alignment

Quality education for all children

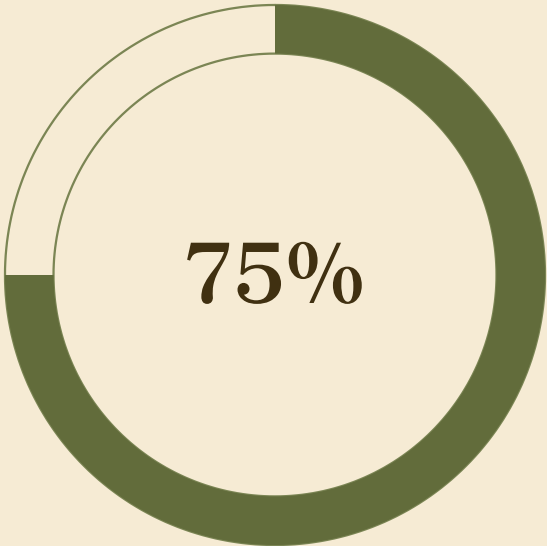
- Early childhood development
- Inclusive education
- Learning outcomes improvement



GST 2.0: Rationalisation Revolution

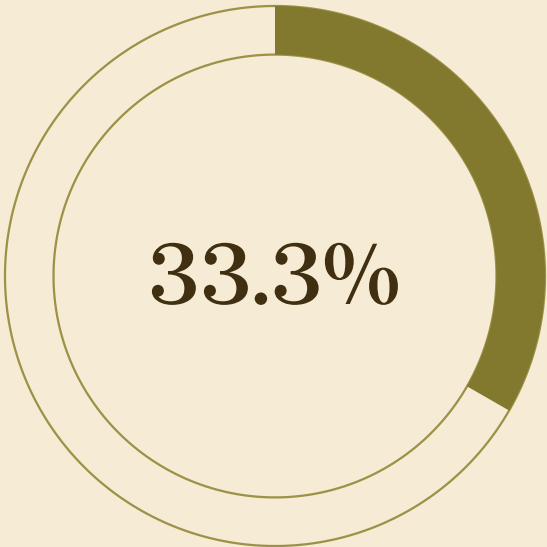
Simplified Tax Structure

The **GST Council** has streamlined tax slabs to **5%** and **18%**, plus **40%** for sin and luxury goods, effective from **September 22nd**.



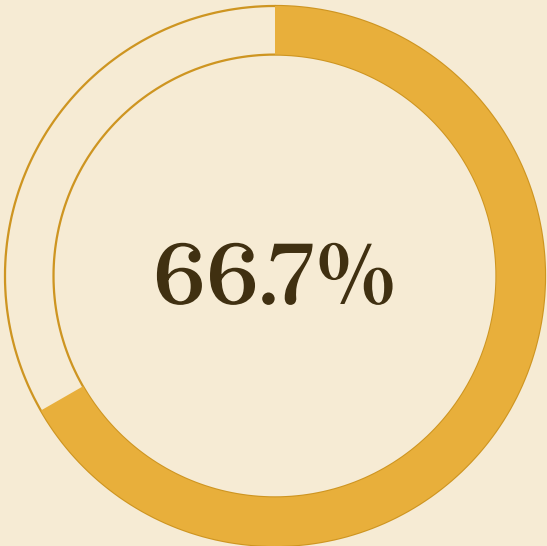
Voting Threshold

Required for **GST Council** decisions



Centre's Weight

In **GST Council** voting



States' Weight

Combined state representation



Exam Trap: Alcohol, petroleum, and electricity remain excluded from GST

Key Changes: Cement reduced from **28%** to **18%**, Indian breads now at **0%**. **Compensation cess** continues till **2026** for loan repayment despite ending in **2022**.

The Legend IAS

FDI Project Collapse: Economic Warning Signs

Alarming Statistics from CMIE Data

Foreign firms have scrapped ₹1.97 lakh crore worth of projects in Q1 2025-26, marking the highest cancellation rate since 2010.

8.8

Project Ratio

Scrapped to new
projects - highest
since 2010

₹1.97L

Crore Value

Total projects
cancelled in Q1

2010

Last Peak

Previous highest
cancellation year

Critical Exam Points

- CMIE is a private body, not government
- Official GDP data comes from MoSPI, not CMIE
- Trade data from DGCI&S
- India-US mini trade deal remains stalled



Reflects tariff
uncertainty and
rising
protectionism
impacting
investment
climate



India-Germany Strategic Partnership



Trade Diplomacy Push

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and German Foreign Minister have committed to doubling bilateral trade whilst navigating EU sanctions complexities.

01

BTIA Negotiations

Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement discussions ongoing since 2007

02

EU Headquarters

Brussels (Exam trap: Strasbourg only for Parliament sessions)

03

Strategic Autonomy

India balancing relationships whilst maintaining independent foreign policy.

04

Sanctions Navigation

Managing potential secondary sanctions similar to US approach

Mains Application: Trade diplomacy strategies, strategic autonomy in multipolar world order

The Legend IAS

India-Singapore Maritime Security Cooperation

Defence Technology and Maritime Partnerships

Both nations have agreed on enhanced defence technology cooperation, Malacca Strait patrols, and green hydrogen export initiatives.



SIMBEX Exercise

Singapore-India Maritime
Bilateral Exercise
strengthening naval
cooperation



Malacca Strait

World's busiest sea lane and
critical Indo-Pacific choke
point



Green Hydrogen

Sustainable energy export partnership for future cooperation



Key Exam Points: ASEAN HQ is Jakarta (not Singapore),
Singapore not in QUAD alliance

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India's Demographic Transition Challenge

SRS 2023 Findings

Sample Registration Survey reveals Total Fertility Rate has declined to 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1, signalling significant demographic shifts.

Current TFR

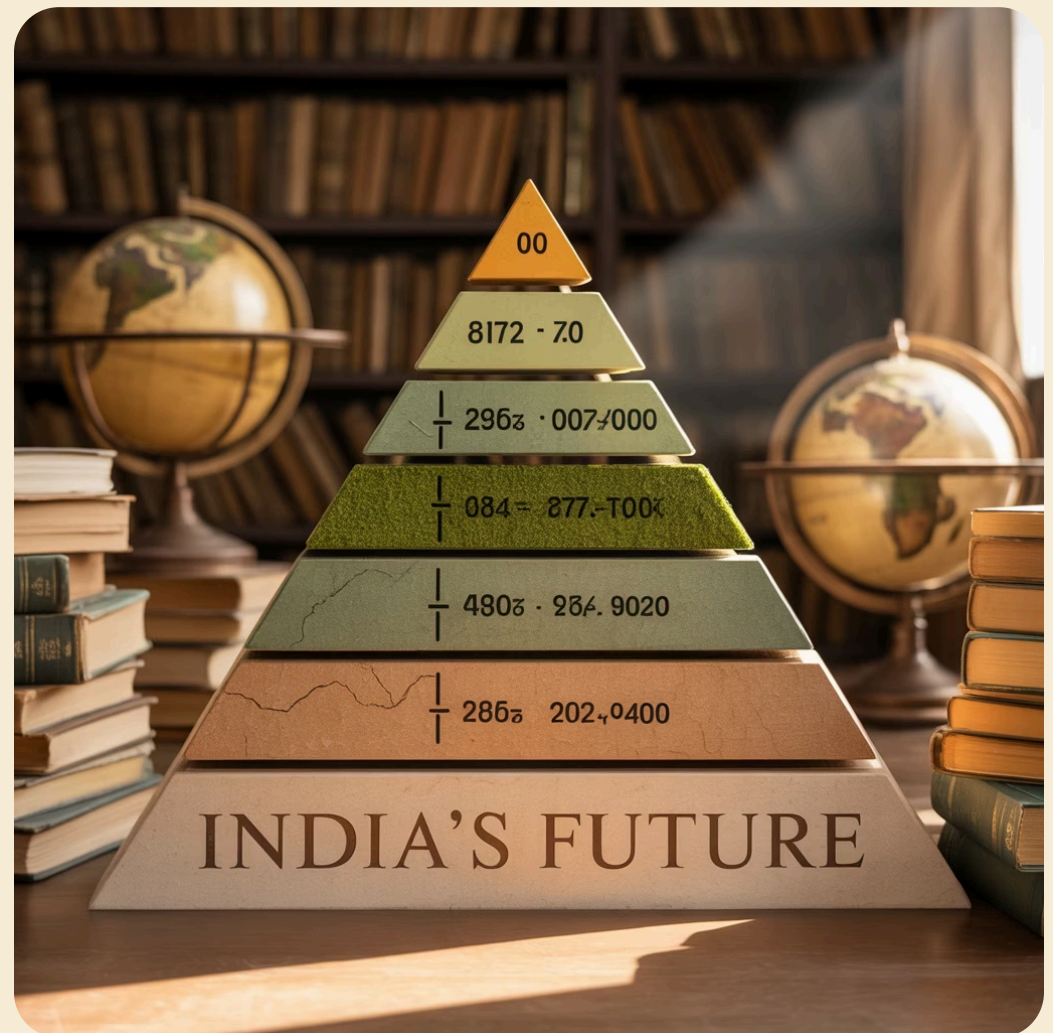
Below replacement level

Replacement TFR

Required for stability

Life Expectancy

Years approximately



States Below Replacement Level

- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu
- Punjab
- Delhi



Exam Alert: Data released by Registrar General of India under MoSPI, not NITI Aayog

Mains Implications: Demographic dividend versus ageing population challenges, urgent need for social security reforms

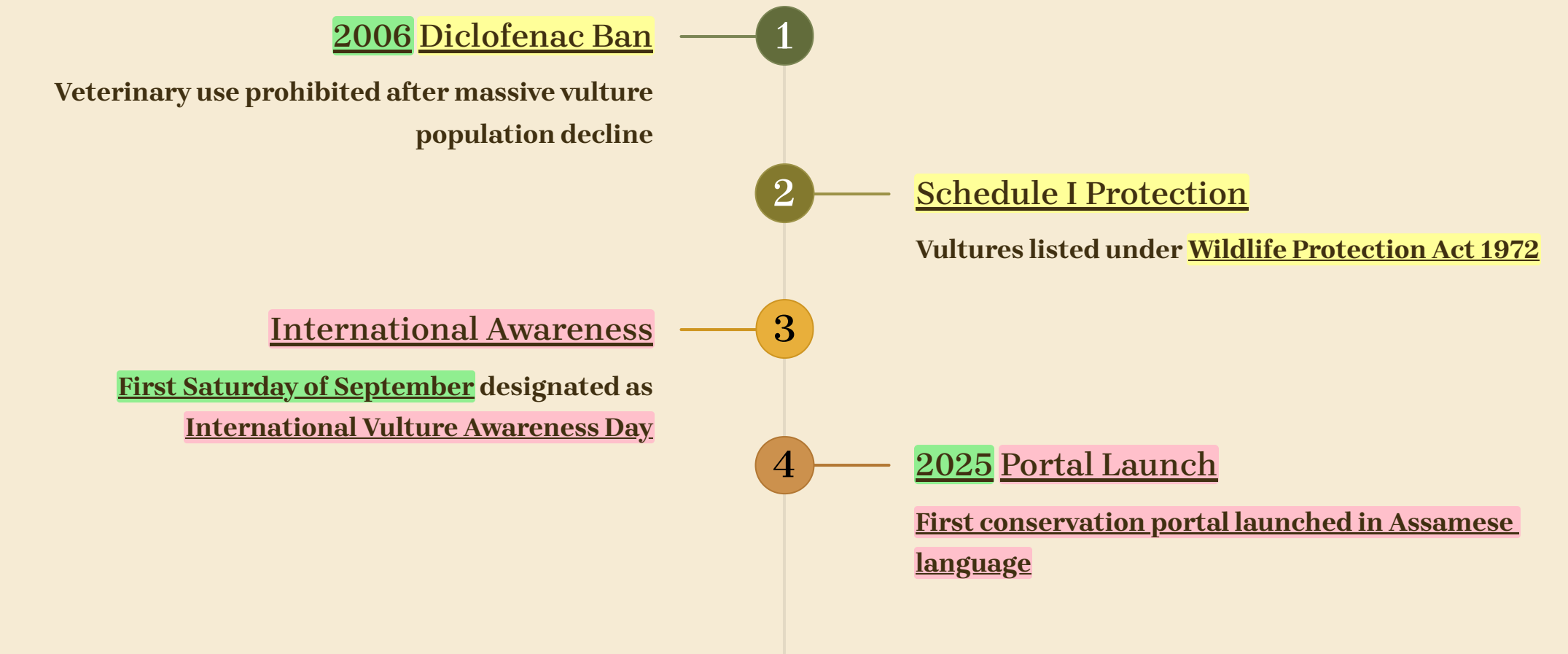


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Vulture Conservation: Community-Led Initiative

Assam's Digital Conservation Portal

An Assam NGO, in collaboration with Gauhati University, has launched India's first vulture conservation portal, marking a significant step in community-driven wildlife protection.



Significance: This initiative demonstrates the power of community-led conservation efforts and people's participation in wildlife protection, aligning with grassroots environmental movements.

✔ Portal launched in Assamese, emphasising local language accessibility

The Legend IAS

Legal System Reforms: Bail Jurisprudence Evolution

Arun Gawli Case: 18-Year Legal Journey

The Supreme Court granted bail to Arun Gawli after 18 years in connection with the 2007 Shiv Sena leader murder case, highlighting critical aspects of criminal justice system delays.

MCOCA Framework

Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 - not TADA as commonly confused

Post-Conviction Bail

Supreme Court discretionary power even after conviction

Political Background

Served as MLA from 2004-2009 despite criminal cases

Editorial Synthesis for Mains Preparation



Climate-Safe Infrastructure

SC floods judgment emphasises sustainable development planning (GS-III)



Fiscal Federalism

GST reforms balance simplification with federal cooperation (GS-III)



Demographic Dividend

Population transition from advantage to challenge (GS-I/Essay)



Strategic Balancing

EU FTA negotiations amid geopolitical complexities (GS-II)