

The Hindu UPSC Notes

12 September 2025

India-Mauritius Partnership: Health & Science Cooperation

Strategic Health Infrastructure Development

India and Mauritius have signed comprehensive Memorandums of Understanding focusing on health infrastructure development through the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The agreements encompass medical education enhancement and cutting-edge Science & Technology collaboration, particularly in Artificial Intelligence and biotechnology sectors.

Health Infrastructure

Ministry-backed development programmes

Medical Education

Capacity building initiatives

AI & Biotech

Technology collaboration framework



⚠ **UPSC Trap Alert:** Bilateral MoUs are not treaties requiring parliamentary ratification. Health infrastructure and workforce skilling are frequent Previous Year Question themes.

Maritime Cooperation: Hydrography & EEZ Mapping

India and Mauritius have established a robust framework for hydrographic cooperation, emphasising Exclusive Economic Zone mapping and maritime domain awareness enhancement.

Hydrographic Cooperation

Scientific measurement and description of seas for safe navigation and optimal resource utilisation

EEZ Mapping Focus

Comprehensive mapping of the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone for resource management

Maritime Domain Awareness

Enhanced security and monitoring capabilities across territorial waters

⊗ Critical Distinction: EEZ extends 200 nautical miles, not 12 nm (which defines territorial waters). This is a common UPSC trap question.

AYUSH Wellness Diplomacy & Affordable Healthcare

Global AYUSH Expansion

India is establishing an AYUSH Wellness Centre in Mauritius, promoting traditional medicine systems including Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy as part of its soft power diplomacy.

- Ayurveda traditional healing systems
- Yoga and Naturopathy practices
- Unani and Siddha medicine
- Homoeopathic treatments



Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras

Discussions are underway for opening government-backed generic medicine outlets overseas, making affordable drugs accessible to Indian diaspora communities.

❗ **Key Insight:** AYUSH operates as a Union ministry, and wellness diplomacy represents a crucial component of India's soft power strategy globally.

Samudra Pradakshina: All-Women Naval Expedition

Historic Maritime Achievement

The **Indian Navy** has flagged off preparations for an ambitious **all-women sailing expedition** to **circumnavigate the globe**, building upon the successful legacy of **Navika Sagar Parikrama**.

1 — Preparation Phase

Comprehensive training and equipment readiness for the challenging **maritime journey**.

2 — Global Circumnavigation

Sailing around the earth via major oceans, showcasing **Indian naval capabilities**.

3 — Women Empowerment

Continuing the tradition of **women officers** leading **maritime expeditions**.



Airport Modernisation: FTI & TTP Pilot Programmes



Streamlining International Travel

India has launched pilot programmes for Fast Track Immigration (FTI) and Trusted Traveller Programme (TTP) to enhance international travel efficiency whilst maintaining security protocols.

01

Fast Track Immigration

Expedited border control

processing for eligible travellers without compromising security.

02

Trusted Traveller Programme

Risk-based facilitation system requiring thorough vetting and background verification

03

Risk-Based Screening

Security checks calibrated according to individual traveller risk profiles

⚠ **Important Clarification:** FTI does not constitute a visa waiver programme. TTP involves risk-based facilitation but still requires comprehensive vetting - it's not "free entry".

Supreme Court & Sports Policy: India-Pakistan Cricket PIL

Judicial Restraint in Sports Administration

The Supreme Court declined urgent listing of a Public Interest Litigation seeking to prevent the India-Pakistan cricket match, directing the registry to process the petition according to established norms.

Administrative Powers

Listing and roster management falls under the Chief Justice of India's administrative jurisdiction

Judicial Philosophy

Courts typically avoid micromanaging sports policy decisions, maintaining separation of powers

PIL Framework

Public Interest Litigation allows petitions for broader public interest with relaxed locus standi requirements



AI Misuse & Celebrity Rights: Delhi High Court Intervention

Deepfake Technology Concerns

Delhi High Court directed Google and X (formerly Twitter) to block AI-generated content falsely depicting actor Aishwarya Rai, addressing growing concerns about deepfake technology and celebrity impersonation.

- Synthetic media manipulation
- Identity forgery and swapping
- Privacy rights violations
- Platform accountability measures



i Legal Framework: Personality and privacy rights are actionable through Tort law and IT rules, even without specific "image rights" legislation.

Deepfake Definition

Synthetic media technology that convincingly swaps or forges identities, creating realistic but fabricated audio-visual content.

Global Climate Action: China vs USA Power Sector Emissions

Contrasting Emission Trends (January-July
2025)

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China CO₂
Reduction

Million tonnes
decrease in power
sector emissions

Clean Power
Growth

Year-on-year increase
in China's renewable
energy.

USA CO₂ Increase

Million tonnes added
from 16% coal use rise

The data reveals divergent climate trajectories: China's power sector achieved significant emission reductions through clean energy expansion, whilst the United States experienced increased coal consumption and corresponding emission growth.

⊗ UPSC Alert: Climate questions often test comparative data interpretation. Distinguish between annual statistics and period-specific data carefully.



Electoral Reforms: NRI Postal Ballot Proposal

Kerala's Progressive Electoral Initiative

Kerala's Chief Electoral Officer has urged the Election Commission of India to permit postal ballots for overseas electors in upcoming Assembly polls, potentially revolutionising NRI voting participation.

1

Current System

Limited proxy voting provisions for Non-Resident Indians

2

Proposed Reform

Postal ballot expansion under active consideration

3

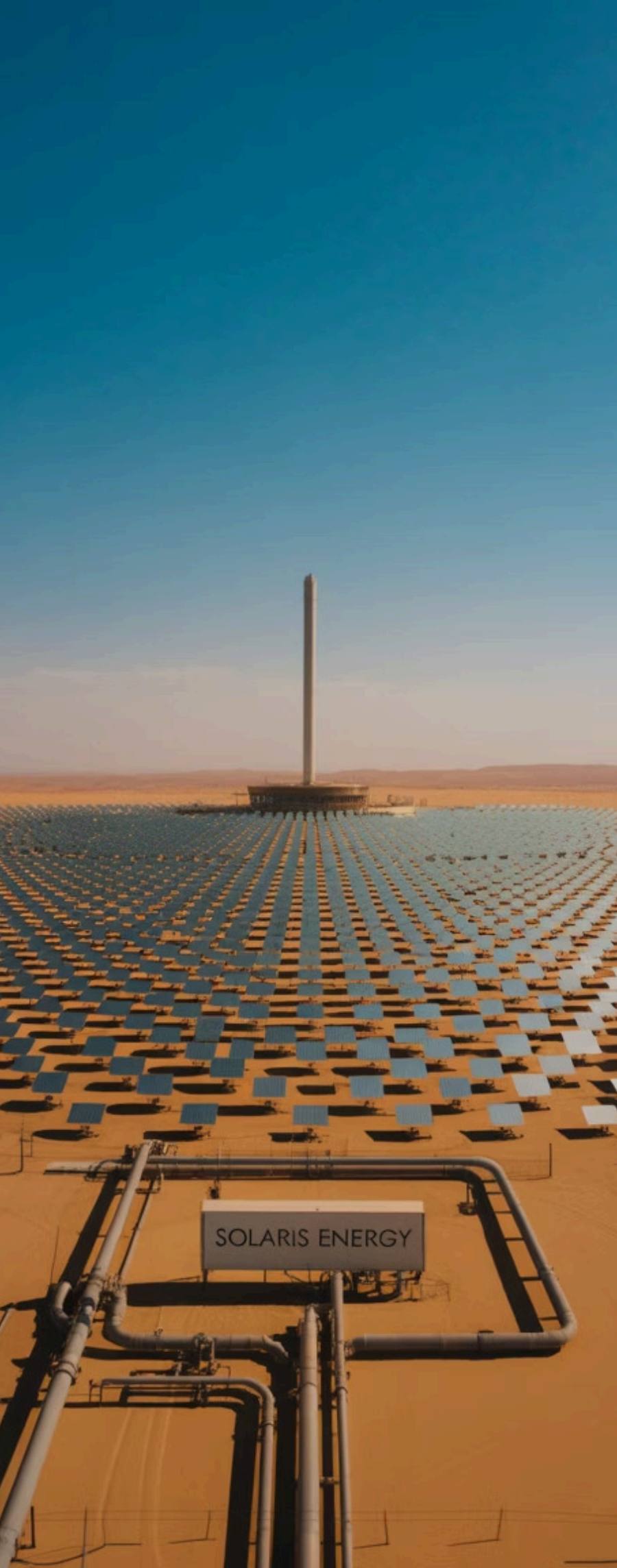
Enhanced Participation

Greater democratic inclusion for overseas citizens



Overseas Elector Definition

An Indian citizen registered at an Indian address but currently residing abroad, eligible for voting rights in Indian elections.



Andhra Pradesh: Solar Integration at Thermal Plants

Innovative Energy Transition Strategy

Andhra Pradesh has developed a Detailed Project Report for installing solar capacity at Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station, with similar plans for Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant to meet auxiliary consumption requirements.



SDSTPS Solar Project

Primary installation at Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station



Rayalaseema TPP

Secondary installation planned for auxiliary power consumption



Auxiliary Operations

In-house plant operations including pumps and coal handling systems



Technical Note: DPR (Detailed Project Report) serves as a comprehensive techno-economic feasibility document for infrastructure projects.

Tele-MANAS: National Mental Health Helpline



24×7 Mental Health Support System

Case studies demonstrate **Tele-MANAS** improving **mental health outcomes** across **India**, though challenges remain in **workforce availability** and **system integration**.



Availability


Round-the-clock mental health support



Launch Year

National service implementation

Helpline Number: 1800-89-14416



Service Scope: **Tele-MANAS** complements **State and NGO helplines** but does not substitute for **clinical mental health care**. **Workforce shortage** and **system linkages** remain **key challenges**.



Immigration & Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025

Comprehensive Exemption Framework

The 2025 Order provides exemptions from regular passport and visa requirements for specified groups, including Nepal and Bhutan nationals, Tibetan refugees, certain minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, plus Sri Lankan Tamils under specific conditions.

1

Nepal & Bhutan Nationals

Traditional exemptions maintained for neighbouring country citizens

2

Tibetan Refugees

Special provisions for displaced Tibetan community members

3

Religious Minorities

Specific minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan

4

Sri Lankan Tamils

Protection from forcible repatriation with conditional safeguards

⚠️ Critical Limitation: The Order does not automatically confer citizenship. "Illegal migrant" classification remains a significant hurdle for naturalisation and Long-Term Visa eligibility.

Bihar Electoral Reforms: SIR & Aadhaar Integration

Supreme Court-Mandated Changes

Following **Supreme Court** directions, the **Election Commission** instructed **Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer** to include **Aadhaar** as the **12th indicative document** for **Special Intensive Revision**, addressing **voter roll discrepancies**.

- **SIR Implementation**

Targeted **voter roll cleanup** and inclusion drive

- **Aadhaar Integration**

Additional **verification document** for **electoral processes**

- **Missing Names Resolution**

Addressing **voter registration gaps** systematically



Ground-Level Challenges

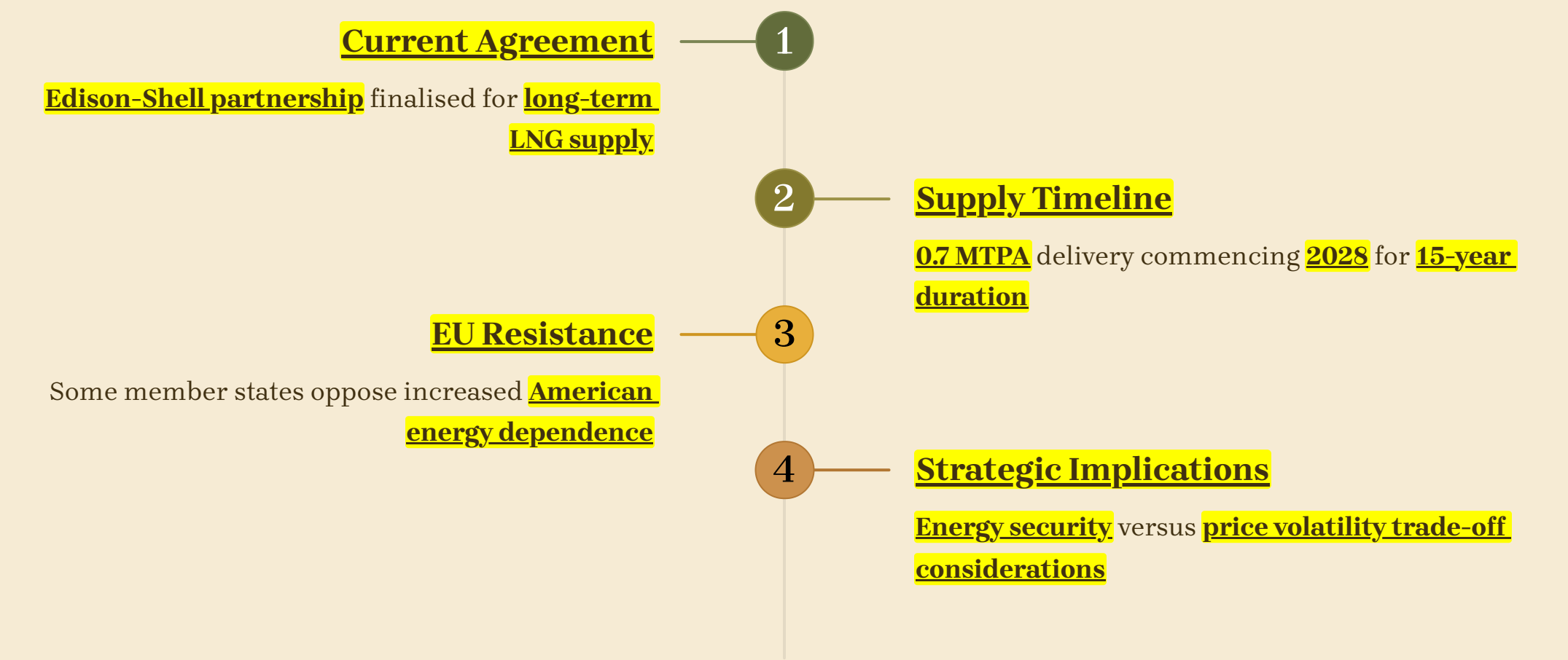
Limited **Booth Level Agent** and **Booth Level Officer** capacity, combined with **objection limits**, creates practical difficulties in implementing corrections. Anxiety persists over "**vote chori**" messaging impacts.

⊗ **UPSC Trap:** **Aadhaar** serves as **indicative verification**, not **sole proof of citizenship**. The **Election Commission caps objections** per **BLA per day/booth** - a **process design detail** frequently examined.

Europe's Energy Transition: LNG Pivot to USA

Strategic Energy Partnership Developments

Italy has strengthened energy cooperation with the United States through the Edison-Shell LNG agreement, securing approximately 0.7 million tonnes per annum from 2028 for up to 15 years, though some European Union states express resistance to this pivot.



LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas): Natural gas cooled to liquid state for efficient transport and storage, enabling global energy trade flexibility.

✔ **Key Insight:** LNG contracts typically involve long-term commitments, balancing energy security benefits against potential price volatility risks in global markets.