

Headlines

India-U.S. energy future - Page No.8 , GS 3

Human Development Index - Page No.8 , GS 2

United Nations Security Council - Page No.12 , GS 2

Prevention of Money Laundering Act - Page No.14 , GS 2

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**Be so good they
can't ignore you.**

— Steve Martin

India briefs envoys of 13 Security Council members

Foreign Secretary conveys details of military strikes to them as part of a larger strategy to counter Pakistan at the UNSC 1267 terror listing and FATF; Misri denies that India has escalated tensions

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India's strikes on Pakistan were not an escalation, but a "response" to the Pahalgam terror attack, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told envoys of 13 of 15 countries in the United Nations Security Council.

Pakistan's envoy was not invited to the briefing held at South Block hours after India's action, but included China's envoy Xu Feihong. Sierra Leone was not present at the meeting as it does not have an envoy here.

In New York, the Indian Permanent Mission is reaching out to the UNSC members, government sources said.

During the meeting, Mr. Misri reiterated that India's response to the "barbaric" Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 were killed were "targeted, measured and non-escalatory", and aimed at deterring and pre-empting more attacks being planned against India. He said that by "shielding" The Resistance Front (TRF), by insisting on its omission from the UNSC resolution released last week, Pakistan had itself escalated the situation. In-



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri says India will respond to any military escalation by Pakistan after Operation Sindoor. FILE PHOTO

dia would respond to any military escalation by Pakistan at this point, he added.

According to sources, the Foreign Secretary was asked a number of questions about the operations in the early hours of Wednesday, from the envoys of countries such as China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S. and non-permanent members Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Panama, South Korea, Slovenia and Somalia.

He denied suggestions that India had "escalated tensions" as the strikes were a response, and said India's objectives of targeting nine sites had been met.

In particular, when asked by U.K. High Com-

missioner Lindy Cameron about whether Indians had targeted civilians in mosques that were damaged, Indian officials said that the targets were terror camps that were inside larger complexes.

According to diplomatic sources, Mr. Misri was also asked about damage to Indian military and civilian infrastructure, to which he replied that it was "too early to tell".

The special briefing is believed to be a part of a larger strategy to reach out at the UN's top body, to thwart moves by Pakistan, a non-permanent elected member for 2025-26, that has permanent member China's support, from holding any meetings or issuing statements that hurt

India's interests, and to hold the TRF and other groups in Pakistan to account on UN forums, including the 1267 committee for terrorist designation, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that looks into terror-financing and money laundering among member States.

Earlier, briefing the media at Delhi's National Media Centre, Mr. Misri had recounted in detail how India had raised the issue of Pakistan's support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the TRF, its front outfit, at various UN-linked forums.

As *The Hindu* had reported, Pakistan, with support from China, had ensured the UNSC statement draft on the Pahalgam attack issued on April 25 was watered down, and insisted on omitting reference to the TRF, and changed a sentence that asked members to cooperate with the "Government of India" to "all relevant authorities" for the investigation into the attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan's pressure to remove references to TRF in the April 25 UN Security Council Press Statement is notable in this regard," Mr. Misri said.

Content.

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Fact

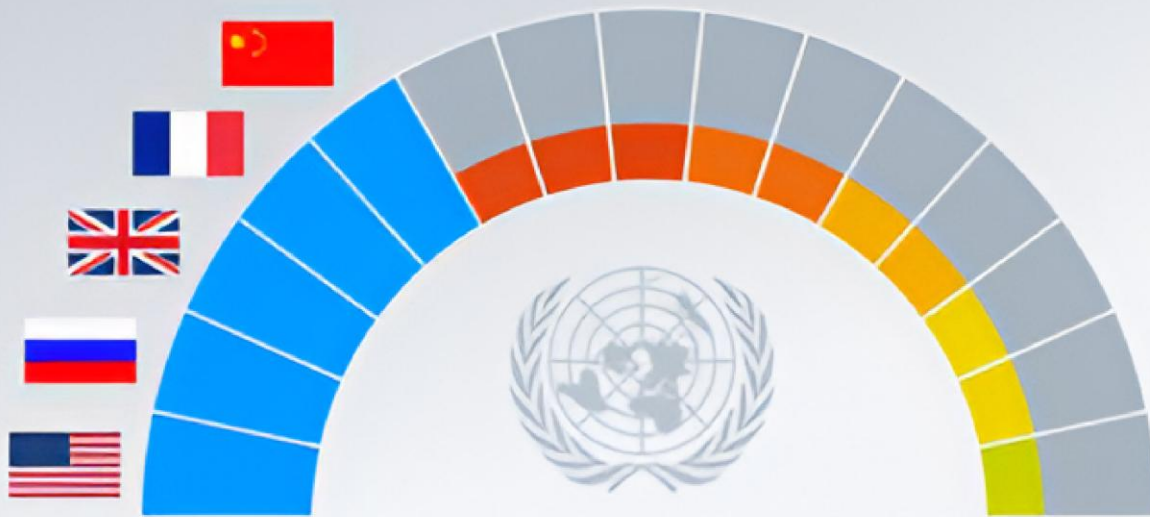
- **The special briefing is believed to be a part of a larger strategy to reach out at the UN's top body, to thwart moves by Pakistan, a non-permanent elected member for 2025-26, that has permanent member China's support, from holding any meetings or issuing statements that hurt India's interests, and to hold the TRF and other groups in Pakistan to account on UN forums, including the 1267 committee for terrorist designation, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that looks into terror-financing and money laundering among member States.**
- **The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.**
- **The other 5 organs of the United Nations are—the General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.**

- Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security.
- The council is headquartered at New York.

Members:

- The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- The five permanent members are the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
- India, for the eighth time, has entered the UNSC as a non-permanent member last year (2021) and will stay on the council for two years i.e 2021-22.
- Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term. The ten non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis.
- The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

United Nations Security Council



Permanent members, veto rights (5)

■ China, France, Russia, UK, USA

Non-permanent members, two-year terms (10)

■ Africa (3)

■ Asia (2)

■ Latin America (2)

■ Western Europe and others (2)

■ Eastern Europe (1)

Content.

- **FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog set up in 1989 out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris.**
- **Objective:**
- **Initially, its objective was to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.**
- **After the 9/11 attacks on the US, the FATF in 2001 expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.**
- **As of today, it is a 39-member body representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.**
- **Out of 39 members, there are two regional organisations: the European Commission, and the Gulf Cooperation Council**
- **India and FATF: India joined with 'observer' status in 2006 and became a full member of FATF in 2010.**

Content.

- **Grey List:** The Grey List includes countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering.
- It serves as a warning that the country may enter the blacklist.
- **Black List:** The Black List includes Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) that support terror funding and money laundering activities.
- As of now, Iran, North Korea and Myanmar are the three black listed countries.
- Myanmar has been recently added to the list due to actions by the military leadership after the 2021 coup.

Consequences of Being Enlisted in FATF Lists: The enlisted countries are subjected to:

- Economic sanctions from financial institutions affiliated with FATF (IMF, World Bank, ADB etc.)
- Problem in getting loans from such financial institutions and countries
- Reductions in international trade
- International boycott

PMLA ruling review: SC seeks issues for consideration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave petitioners seeking a review of its July 27, 2022 judgment that upheld amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the liberty to propose issues in consultation with the Centre's top law officers, who raised objections.

The 2022 verdict gave the Enforcement Directorate (ED) broad powers of arrest, summons, and search. It also placed the burden of proving innocence on the accused, rather than the prosecution.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N. Kotiswar Singh, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said the review must be limited to two issues – the right of the accused to a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and the reversal of the burden of proof. The court had earlier restricted the review to these points, and the Centre filed an affidavit confirming this, which the petitioners did not oppose.

However, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners including Karti

**The 2022 verdict
gave the agency
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and search**

Chidambaram, pointed out a conflicting judgment by a coordinate Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka, which ruled ECIR copies must be shared with the accused.

Conflicting judgment
Mr. Sibal said the review, in the light of Justice Oka's conflicting judgment, must go to a Constitution Bench for an authoritative pronouncement.

Justice Kant remarked that Mr. Sibal's submissions suggested a complete recall of the 2022 judgment. The Bench asked him to instead broadly suggest issues in consultation with Mr. Mehta and Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju and place it before the court first for its consideration. The court fixed the case for firming up the issues on July 16. It then scheduled the case for final hearing of arguments on August 6, and if necessary, on August 7.

The petitioners argue the 2022 judgment violates basic rights of the accused.

Page No. 14, GS 2

Content.

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- **The court had earlier restricted the review to these points, and the Centre filed an affidavit confirming this, which the petitioners did not oppose.**

Fact

- **The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent money laundering and provide for the confiscation of property derived from money laundering.**
- **It aims to combat money laundering related to illegal activities such as drug trafficking, smuggling, and terrorism financing.**
- **The twin conditions of bail under Section 45 of the PMLA pose stringent thresholds for an accused.**
- **For one, the person has to prove in court that he or she is prima facie innocent of the offence.**
- **Secondly, the accused should be able to convince the judge he would not commit any offence while on bail.**

A step up

As India climbs up HDI rankings, rising inequality poses challenges

Amid a disturbing rate of deceleration in global development and a growing divide between the rich and the poor, India has inched up on the Human Development Index. In the 2025 Human Development Report, 'A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI', released on Tuesday, India ranks 130 out of 193 countries, from 133 in 2022. It registered an HDI value increase to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022. Coming on the back of two debilitating pandemic years, it can be said that India's recovery has been strong in the three fields HDI measures: "a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living". India's life expectancy, at 72 years in 2023, is the highest level it has reached since the inception of the index in 1990 (58.6 years). Children, the report noted, are expected to stay in school for 13 years on average, up from 8.2 years in 1990; and Gross National Income per capita has risen from \$2,167.22 in 1990 to \$9046.76 in 2023. It gave a shout out to programmes such as MGNREGA, the Right to Education Act, the National Rural Health Mission and other initiatives for the improved status, but also sounded a word of caution about rising inequality, particularly significant income and gender disparities.

The female labour participation rate may have risen to 41.7% in 2023-24, as the Economic Survey of 2024-25 pointed out, but a stronger ecosystem needs to be built to ensure women join the workforce and are able to retain their jobs. There is a lag in political representation of women as well with no indication yet when the constitutional amendments reserving one-third of legislative seats for women will come into force. Underprivileged girls and boys still struggle to get an education, and until this anomaly is corrected, India's HDI value will not rise. Though the report highlights that 13.5 crore (of India's population of 144 crore) "escaped multidimensional poverty" between 2015-16 and 2019-21, income and gender inequalities have pulled down India's HDI by 30.7%, "one of the highest losses in the region." The thrust of the HDR this year was on AI and how human beings may benefit from it on development parameters. India, it said, has been able to retain 20% of AI researchers, up from nearly zero in 2019. Going forward, India must leverage AI to deliver on many fronts from agriculture to health care, education to public service delivery. But it is imperative that proper policy and safeguards are in place to thwart the risk that AI may deepen existing inequalities.

Page No. 8, GS 2

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LEADERBOARD

HDI ranking and value (2023)

Rank	Country	HDI value
1	Iceland	0.972
2	Norway	0.970
2	Switzerland	0.970
4	Denmark	0.962
5	Germany	0.959
5	Sweden	0.959
7	Australia	0.958
8	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.955
8	Netherlands	0.955
17	United States	0.938
130	India	0.685

HDI: Human Development Index

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2025

Fact

- **Top and Bottom Ranks:** Iceland ranked first with an HDI of 0.972, while South Sudan ranked last with an HDI of 0.388.
- **Regional Comparison:** Among India's neighbors, China (78th), Sri Lanka (89th), and Bhutan (125th) rank above India, while Bangladesh (130th) is on par. Nepal (145th), Myanmar (150th), and Pakistan (168th) are ranked below India.
- **Life Expectancy:** India's life expectancy rose from 58.6 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2023, the highest ever, reflecting a strong post-pandemic recovery.
- **This progress is attributed to national health programs like National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Janani Suraksha Yojana, and Poshan Abhiyaan.**

Fact

- **Education:** India's mean years of schooling have increased, with children now expected to stay in school for 13 years, up from 8.2 years in 1990.
- Initiatives like the Right to Education Act 2009, National Education Policy 2020, and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan have improved access, though quality and learning outcomes still require attention.
- **National Income:** India's Gross National Income per capita rose over fourfold, from USD 2,167 in 1990 to USD 9,046 in 2023 based on 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).
- Additionally, 135 million Indians escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21, contributing to HDI improvement.
- **AI Skills Growth:** India is emerging as a global AI leader with the highest self-reported AI skills penetration.
- 20% of Indian AI researchers now remain in the country, a significant rise from nearly zero in 2019.

Human Development Index (HDI)

DIMENSIONS

Long and healthy life

Knowledge

A decent standard of living

INDICATORS

DIMENSION INDEX



- Life expectancy at birth

- Life expectancy index



- Expected years of schooling
- Mean years of schooling

- Education index



- GNI per capita (PPP\$)

- GNI index

HDI
Human Development Index



Low Human Development
(Less than 0.550)



Medium Human Development
(0.550–0.699)



High Human Development
(0.700–0.799)



Very High Human Development
(More than 0.800)

The building blocks of an India-U.S. energy future

Page No. 8, GS 3

United States Vice-President J.D. Vance recently highlighted the U.S.'s willingness to cooperate with India more closely on energy and defence. India's foreign policy establishment outlined the need for cooperation on energy, defence, technology and the mobility of people. The developments may have been news, but the issues are not new. These topics have increasingly defined India-U.S. relations over the years despite changes in administration, but with some change in emphasis. There is an opportunity now for renewed investment in them.

India's energy security will be guided by three imperatives: having sufficient energy resources at predictable prices, minimal disruptions in supply chains, and progress towards an increasingly sustainable energy mix. Nuclear energy and critical minerals will matter in these respects and can be the bedrock of further deepening energy and technology partnership between Washington and New Delhi.

A critical minerals compact

The energy transition will unfold not only via electrons but also with elements. China's restrictions in April on exports of rare earths were just the latest move in periodic disruptions for more than a decade. On the one hand, China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. On the other, it leverages this market power to serve its strategic purposes. The result: the minerals needed for new energy technologies, advanced electronics or defence equipment are contingent on fragile global supply chains.

In 2024, India and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to diversify these supply chains. Three principles must now guide India-US cooperation on critical minerals.

First, critical minerals must be viewed as the pillar of multiple sectors, and not just as a mining silo. They are needed across the economy – and in the strategic sectors on which India and the U.S. wish to collaborate. This broad framing prioritises long-term strategy and enables cross-sectoral skills and technology exchange.

Second, policies for critical minerals must play out at bilateral and plurilateral levels. They must establish guarantees of supply and frameworks for cooperation. Demand creation, not supply coercion, must drive this relationship. An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration and processing. India, with its emerging mineral exploration base, and the U.S., with its deep capital and technology, should co-invest in third-country projects across Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.

Beyond the bilateral relationship, the Quad (including Japan and Australia) can be a capability multiplier. This includes collaboration on minerals processing technology. Further, data



Arunabha Ghosh

is the CEO of Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Nuclear energy and critical minerals can be the bedrock of a deepening energy and technology partnership

transparency and traceability of these minerals are crucial. For this, establish a dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange – a secure digital platform for real-time trade, investment, and collaboration on critical minerals. This can especially help vulnerable industries such as electric vehicles, aerospace, and semiconductors. India and the U.S. should also co-develop a blockchain-based traceability standard for critical minerals, inspired by the EU's Battery Passport.

Moreover, India and the U.S. should build joint strategic stockpiles of key minerals to safeguard supply chains against geopolitical or trade disruptions, leveraging existing storage infrastructure in both countries (such as India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves or the US National Defense Stockpile) for cost-effective deployment.

India has made early moves – becoming the first non-G-7 member of the Mineral Security Partnership – and it will host the Quad summit later this year. It is an opportunity to formalise these specific approaches. The Quad countries are also exploring joint engagement with mineral-rich nations.

Third, patience will be key. While a battery plant may take two years to build, exploration of mines and building processing facilities take between 12 to 16 years. A durable India-U.S. critical minerals partnership must be structured with a 20-year horizon and interim targets, consistent with the initial goals of India's own Critical Minerals Mission. To realise these ambitions, India and the U.S. must also invest in the 'plumbing' of the energy partnership: data-sharing protocols, investment tracking, workforce development, and innovation corridors under platforms such as the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET).

Nuclear energy as next frontier of linkages

As India's electricity demand surges, we need a reliable source that complements the intermittency of solar and wind to build a stable, secure grid. Even as battery costs have fallen dramatically, nuclear power offers another firm, low-carbon source essential to achieving India's net-zero goals.

India has an ambitious goal of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. Converting this into action will need a shift in momentum. Currently, nuclear energy contributes just over 8 GW, or about 2% of India's installed capacity. To meet the 2047 target, India must commission approximately 5GW-6 GW annually from the early 2030s. Studies by institutions, including the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), suggest that achieving net zero by 2070 could require nuclear capacity exceeding 200 GW under certain scenarios.

To realise this vision, India must implement

three pivotal reforms. First, shorten deployment timelines to ensure scale. Reducing the build time of nuclear projects from, say, nine to six years could cut the levelised cost of electricity by 8%. This calls for standardised designs, faster approvals, and skilled project delivery.

Second, enable private sector participation. That means having credible offtakers to reduce risks, structure competitive bids, and offer long-term purchase commitments. Small Modular Reactors, with their lower capex and flexibility and lower land requirement, become bankable only when private capital has clear incentives and predictable returns. Applications include the use of nuclear energy for green steel or to service rapidly rising demand for Artificial Intelligence. The overall capital requirement for 100 GW of nuclear power is enormous: up to \$180 billion by 2047. The exposure of domestic banks and non-banking financial companies to the power sector is approximately \$200 billion. We must rewire our financial system to support this transition. The growth of nuclear as a viable source of energy and international cooperation rests on assurances of clear policies and offtake and payment guarantees, collaboration with global firms for tech transfer and co-creation, and rules and standards for waste management.

Issue of safety

Third, amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 to enable private investments in nuclear power plants. India's indigenous reactor designs can be modularised. The recent approval for Holtec International to transfer SMR technology to Indian companies, including Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consulting Engineers, is an example of the potential of India-U.S. collaboration in this direction. However, India should always prioritise nuclear safety by adopting advanced waste handling and decommissioning technologies, especially as it could lead the manufacturing of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). With smaller emergency zones and air-cooling capability, SMRs suit water-scarce regions but demand robust, centralised waste management and repurposing strategies from the start.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook report (April 2025) shows concerning levels of global uncertainty amid trade and tariff tensions. For India's energy security and sustainable economic development, bilateral relations between India and the U.S. must offer greater assurance in strategic and shared interests. India's continued growth story and the U.S.'s technological prowess and capital are mutually complementary. A resilient energy future needs a long-term vision, not just the pursuit of short-term wins, a road map, and a resilient architecture of cooperation.

The views expressed are personal

Content.

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- **India's energy security will be guided by three imperatives: having sufficient energy resources at predictable prices, minimal disruptions in supply chains, and progress towards an increasingly sustainable energy mix.**
- **Nuclear energy and critical minerals will matter in these respects and can be the bedrock of further deepening energy and technology partnership between Washington and New Delhi.**
- **China's restrictions in April on exports of rare earths were just the latest move in periodic disruptions for more than a decade.**

Fact

- **On the one hand, China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. On the other, it leverages this market power to serve its strategic purposes.**
- **The result: the minerals needed for new energy technologies, advanced electronics or defence equipment are contingent on fragile global supply chains.**
- **In 2024, India and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to diversify these supply chains.**
- **First, critical minerals must be viewed as the pillar of multiple sectors, and not just as a mining silo. They are needed across the economy — and in the strategic sectors on which India and the U.S. wish to collaborate. This broad framing prioritises long-term strategy and enables cross-sectoral skills and technology exchange.**

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- **An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration and processing. India, with its emerging mineral exploration base, and the U.S., with its deep capital and technology, should co-invest in third-country projects across Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.**
- **India has made early moves — becoming the first non-G-7 member of the Mineral Security Partnership — and it will host the Quad summit later this year.**
- **Third, patience will be key. While a battery plant may take two years to build, exploration of mines and building processing facilities take between 12 to 16 years. A durable India-U.S. critical minerals partnership must be structured with a 20-year horizon and interim targets, consistent with the initial goals of India's own Critical Minerals Mission.**

Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)

- **MSP is a collaboration of 14 countries and European Union to catalyze public and private investment in responsible critical minerals supply chains globally.**
- **India joined MSP in 2023.**
- **MSP focuses on the minerals and metals supply chains most relevant for clean energy technologies.**
- **These include – but are not limited to – lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, graphite, rare earth elements, and copper.**
- **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL):**
- **It is a Joint Venture Company formed with the participation of National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL)in August, 2019.**
- **Mandate: Target of this company is to identify, acquire, develop, process and make commercial use of strategic minerals in overseas locations for supply in India.**
- **It is focusing on identifying and sourcing battery minerals like Lithium and Cobalt.**
- **The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.**





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Link

1. The Hindu Playlist -

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2. NCERT Playlist:-

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3. PIB Weekly:- [https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR59OtRNhFu)

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Burning Issues



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