

Headlines

Waqf (Amendment) Bill - Page No.1 , GS 2

Bulldozer action - Page No.4 , GS 2

China-India ties - Page No.6 , GS 2

Greenland - Page No.6 , GS 2

India's educational transformation - Page No.6 , GS 2

Disinformation threat in India - Page No.7 , GS 2,3

India's air pollution – Text and Context

Join me on Telegram :- Prashant Tiwari

Username:- UPSCwithPrashant



The comfort zone is a region
where great dreams go to get
murdered, buried and forgotten.

Michael Bassey Johnson

Bill may have clause for not altering Waqf land status

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, set to be tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, is likely to have a provision mandating that the ownership of existing Waqf properties will remain as is unless they are “disputed” or are “government property”.

This key provision was not there in the Bill that was tabled in Parliament in August 2024. The previous Bill drew widespread protests from the Muslim community and minority organisations across the country. While most of the provisions are likely to remain the same in the new Bill, some key changes may be inserted following concerns raised by NDA allies Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal (United).

Page No. 1, GS 2

Content.

- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, set to be tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, is likely to have a provision mandating that the ownership of existing Waqf properties will remain as is unless they are “disputed” or are “government property”.
- This key provision was not there in the Bill that was tabled in Parliament in August 2024. The previous Bill drew widespread protests from the Muslim community and minority organisations across the country.

Waqf Act, 1995

- The Waqf act was first passed by Parliament in 1954.
- It was later repealed, and a new Waqf Act was passed in 1995, which gave more powers to Waqf Boards.
- In 2013, the Act was further amended to grant the Waqf Board extensive powers to designate property as 'Waqf Property.'

Waqf:

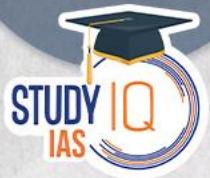
- It is the permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognised by Muslim law.
- It implies the endowment of property, whether movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, to God by a Muslim, under the premise that the transfer will benefit the needy.
- The proceeds from a Waqf typically fund educational institutions, graveyards, mosques and shelter homes.
- Waqfs in India are regulated by the Waqf act, 1995.

Waqf Board:

- A Waqf board is a legal entity capable of acquiring, holding and transferring property. It can sue and be sued in court.
- It administers Waqf properties, recovers lost properties and sanctions the transfer of immovable Waqf properties through sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease, with at least two-thirds of the board members voting in favour of the transaction.
- The Central Waqf Council (CWC), established in 1964, oversees and advises state level Waqf Boards across India.

Waqf Properties:

- **The Waqf board is said to be the third-largest landholder in India after the Railways and the Defence department.**
- **Currently, there are 8,72,292 registered Waqf properties spread across 8 lakh acres. These properties generate Rs 200 crore in revenue.**
- **Once a property is designated as a Waqf, it becomes non-transferable and is detained perpetually as a charitable act toward God, essentially transferring ownership to God.**



UPSC IAS

PRELIMS TO INTERVIEW (P2I)

FOUNDATION

APRIL EVENING BATCH



Prelims and
Mains Residential
Program



Interview
Guidance
Program



₹11,000 reward
to monthly top
performer



Full Refund
on Clearing
Prelims

PRICE

₹34,999

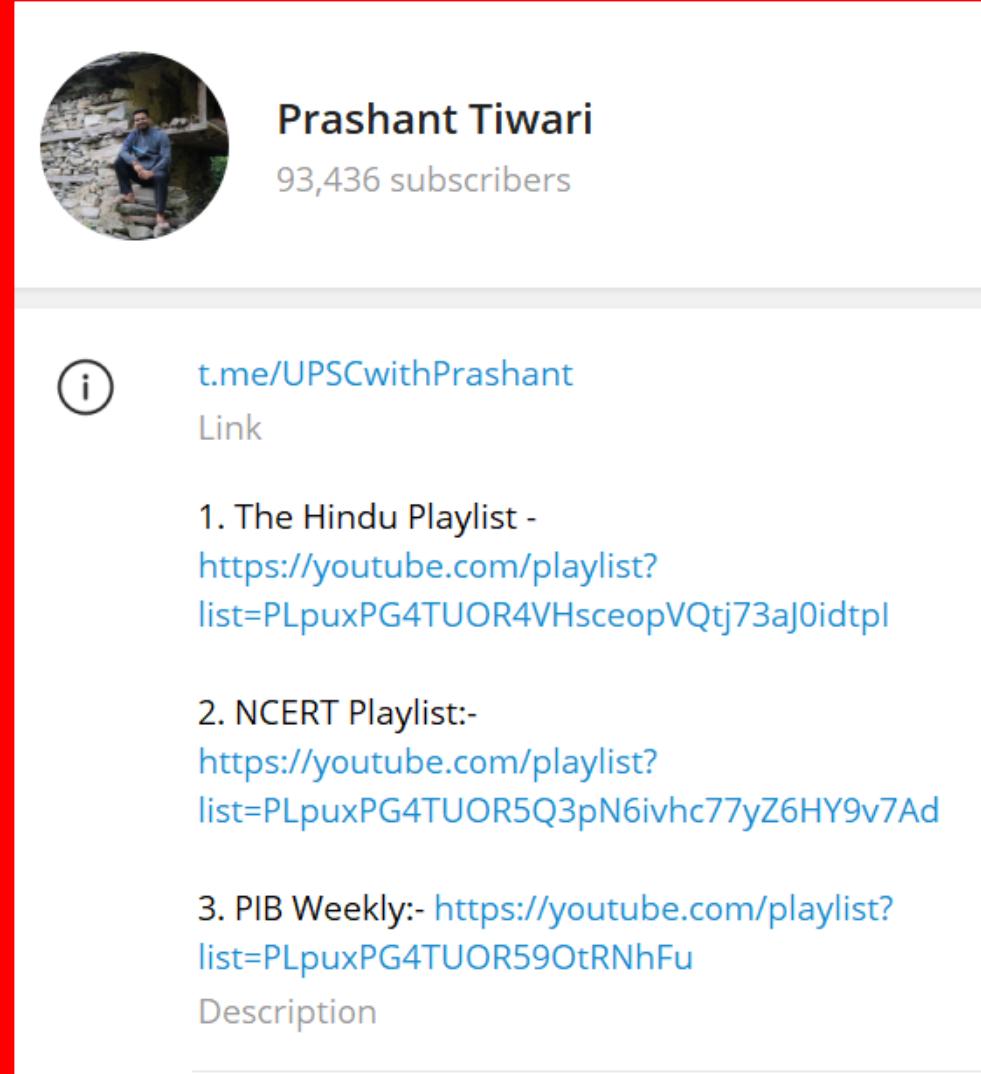
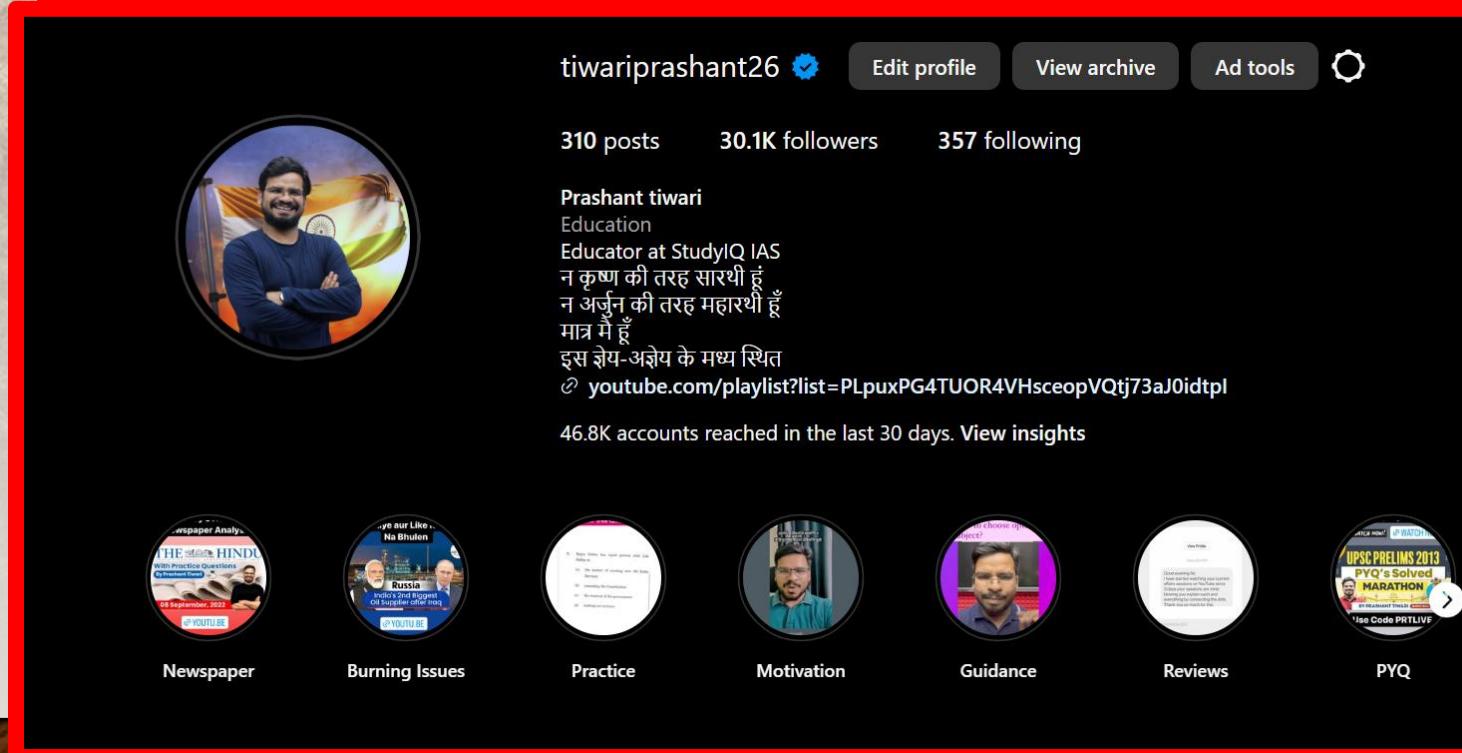
Use Code

PRTLIVE



Batch Starting on 11th April 2025 | 6:00 PM

Join Me:
Instagram:- tiwariprashant26
Twitter:- Prashantt26
**Telegram:- UPSCwithPrashant
(Prashant Tiwari)**



SC terms bulldozing of 6 houses in U.P. unlawful

Bench orders compensation, tells Prayagraj Development Authority that rule of law still existed in the country and the fundamental right to shelter is a basic feature of Constitution; Oppn. slams BJP govt.

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The Supreme Court on Tuesday found action taken by the Prayagraj Development Authority to bulldoze the homes of six private citizens into rubble “inhumane and illegal”.

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka ordered the authorities to pay ₹10 lakh each to the house owners as compensation for depriving them of their fundamental right to shelter without following due process.

Speaking for the Bench, Justice Oka said the illegal demolition conducted by the development authority in 2021 had shocked the conscience of the top court. The court reminded the authorities that rule of law still existed in the country and the fundamental right to shelter was a basic feature of the Constitution.

The court's order came after it realised that show-cause notices were not served on the house owners in person or by registered post but only affixed on their properties.



Razed hopes: A videograb of a girl clutching her books and running away as a bulldozer razes her shanty during an anti-encroachment drive in Uttar Pradesh. The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the recent video had “shocked everybody”. X

“This affixing business must be stopped. They have lost their houses because of this,” Justice Oka remarked.

“These cases shock our conscience. Residential premises of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished... There is something called the right to shelter, something called due process... The authorities, and especially the development authority, must remember that the right to shelter is also an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution,” the court

observed.

The appellants in the case were Zulfiqar Haider, Shahnaz Parvin, Ali Ahmed Fatmi, Naila Fatmi, Baby Maimuna and Ahmad Ali. The court found that a show-cause notice was issued to them on December 18, 2020 and affixed the same day with a remark that two attempts were made to serve them in person. A subsequent order of demolition on January 8, 2021 was also affixed. The first registered post communication was sent on March 1, 2021 and received

on March 6, 2021. The demolitions were carried out the very next day, leaving the appellants with no opportunity to appeal under the law. During the hearing, the court said the law mandated the authorities to give affected parties a reasonable opportunity to show cause before demolition.

‘Emotional damage’

Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh took on the BJP government over its bulldozer drives. “For every family, home is the name of a sentiment. And when a home is demolished, the damage to sentiments cannot be undone through money,” Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said in a post in Hindi on X.

SP spokesperson Ram Pratap Singh said they have always opposed “hasty bulldozer action”.

Congress national secretary Shahnawaz Alam said, “The apex court should bring about strict, time-bound remedies against any such actions and initiate the framing of regulations to prevent excesses by the government.”

Page No. 4, GS 2



Content.

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday found action taken by the Prayagraj Development Authority to bulldoze the homes of six private citizens into rubble “inhumane and illegal”.
- A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka ordered the authorities to pay ₹10 lakh each to the house owners as compensation for depriving them of their fundamental right to shelter without following due process.
- Speaking for the Bench, Justice Oka said the illegal demolition conducted by the development authority in 2021 had shocked the conscience of the top court. The court reminded the authorities that rule of law still existed in the country and the fundamental right to shelter was a basic feature of the Constitution.
- The court’s order came after it realised that show-cause notices were not served on the house owners in person or by registered post but only affixed on their properties.

Content.

- The authorities, and especially the development authority, must remember that the right to shelter is also an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution," the court observed.
- ‘Emotional damage’
- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) laid down pan-India guidelines under Article 142 of the Constitution to ensure that due process is followed for demolishing the properties of citizens.
- SC ruled that demolishing the properties of an accused or convicted without following due process is “unconstitutional”.
- The case challenged the "extra-legal" demolition of homes of individuals accused of crimes, recently seen in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Content.

- **Providing Notice:** A minimum of 15 days' notice must be given to the property owner or occupier before any demolition can proceed.
- The notice must clearly outline the details of the structure to be demolished and reasons for demolition.
- **Fair Hearing:** A scheduled date for a personal hearing to provide an opportunity for the affected party to contest the demolition or clarify the situation.
- **Transparency:** Authorities must notify the local Collector or District Magistrate via email upon serving the notice, with an auto-reply acknowledgment to avoid claims of backdating or tampering.

Content.

- **Separation of Powers:** The verdict emphasises that the judiciary holds the power to decide guilt and determine if any state organs have overstepped their limits.
- **The executive cannot replace the judiciary in performing its core functions.**
- **Rule of Law:** The Court stated that it is impermissible for the executive to impose demolition as punishment without a proper trial. This upholds the rule of law by ensuring that state actions do not overstep constitutional boundaries.
- **Demolitions that disproportionately affect certain communities (like slum dwellers) can be challenged as discriminatory under Article 14.**
- **Accountability of Officials:** By requiring that demolition actions be publicly scrutinised and accompanied by detailed records (such as video recordings and inspection reports), the guidelines aim to prevent abuses of power and foster greater accountability.

Content.

- **Right to Shelter:** Demolition affecting the entire property, including those who are not accused, would be unconstitutional as it infringes on the fundamental right to shelter.
- **Right to life with dignity under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution** includes the right to shelter.
- Article 300A guarantees that no person shall be deprived of their property except by law. This provision emphasises that property can only be taken away following due process and under valid laws.
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):** Article 17 of the ICCPR states that everyone has the right to own property individually or with others, and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Content.

- **Collective Punishment:** SC acknowledged that demolition drives not only target the alleged perpetrators of an offence but also impose a form of “collective punishment” on their families by destroying their place of dwelling.
- **Instant Justice:** Demolitions have been justified as actions against encroachment or unauthorised construction. Such state-sanctioned acts of punitive violence have been hailed as a form of “instant justice.”

Why India needs to clean its air

India's clean air future will be shaped not by dashboards but by people, partnerships, and purpose. Lasting solutions depend on those working on the ground: municipal officers, planners, engineers, and community leaders

FULL CONTEXT

Ajay Singh Nagpure

India's air pollution crisis is not just a seasonal inconvenience. It's a persistent, silent pandemic that chokes our lungs every winter and quietly lingers throughout the year. Hospitals overflow with respiratory cases, schools shut down, cities disappear under layers of smog, and Indian metros regularly top global pollution rankings.

Given the scale of this crisis, it's worth asking what is India actually doing to clean its air? While initiatives like the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Bharat VI, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, and the proposed effort to phase out coal-burning industries in the National Capital Region mark important progress, the national response remains fragmented and slow-moving. Without stronger alignment and faster implementation, transformative change may remain out of reach.

Tuning in to ground realities

The challenge begins with how India understands air pollution. It's often seen as a technical problem when really it's a complex structural issue shaped by governance capacity, demographic pressure, socio-economic disparity, behavioural norms, and entrenched economic systems. Scientists play a vital role in diagnosing air quality – like physicians identifying symptoms – but lasting solutions depend on those working on the ground: municipal officers, planners, engineers, and community leaders. These actors operate within tight budgets, outdated infrastructure, and competing local demands. Strengthening their capacity and aligning mandates with air quality goals is essential for sustained change.

This complexity becomes especially relevant when considering India's goal to reduce PM_{2.5} levels by 2026 to 40% of what it was in 2017. While ambitious and necessary, the target risks falling short if it isn't mindful of on-ground realities. Consider transportation, for instance. It's not enough to simply "clean up" air pollution; we need to ask: what types of vehicles are on the road? What fuel do they use? How old are they? How far do they travel? How bad is traffic? Without this level of detail, it's difficult to craft realistic, actionable plans for local governments. To turn national goals into real progress, we must connect them to the everyday activities that actually drive emissions.

Proactive programs

While China is often called a success story, it came at a steep price – ₹22 lakh crore over five years for urban centres. India's NCAP budget is less than 1% of that. However, if we include allied programs like PMUY (₹18,128 crore), the program for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India or FAME II (₹10,795 crore), Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (₹1.4 lakh crore), and NCAP itself (₹11,542 crore), a broader ecosystem of air quality financing becomes clear. They target emission sources and deserve recognition as part of India's clean air strategy.

The NCAP continues to struggle with how its funds are allocated and how progress is measured. It relies heavily on ambient air quality data, which is often affected by weather and geography, making short-term improvements hard to detect. For example, initiatives like PMUY and waste-burning controls have reduced



For a clear future: An anti-smog gun spraying water to fight air pollution and dust at Kartavya Path, New Delhi on March 31. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPIKAR

emissions in several areas, but these gains may not reflect in pollution readings, creating a misleading sense of stagnation. Shifting to activity-based metrics – such as the number of stoves replaced or diesel buses retired – would offer a clearer picture of impact and strengthen accountability.

Realigning metrics alone isn't enough. Local governments also need access to high-resolution open-source data on emissions-generating activities, where waste is burned, which households use solid fuels, where construction is active, and which roads face the heaviest traffic. Without such data, air pollution remains an abstract issue, disconnected from daily governance. This data gap directly affects how NCAP funds are used. Between 2019 and 2023, only 60% of the funds released were utilised, reflecting not a lack of intent but institutional misalignment. Air quality must be treated as a core municipal function.

To shift from intent to impact, India needs a phased, data-driven approach. Phase I: build local emissions profiles to identify the biggest pollution sources; Phase II: link funding directly to targeted actions based on that data; and Phase III: track reductions in emissions, not just pollution concentrations, to measure real

progress. This shift from passive monitoring to proactive management mirrors how meaningful change happens on the ground.

Guarding against optics
However, as India adopts more digital tools, it must avoid falling into the "Western trap" – overreliance on high-tech, urban-centric data and solutions, which often ignore basic pollution sources. Smog towers, real-time apportionment, and AI dashboards may appear innovative but offer little value if burning biomass and the use of old industrial processes and polluting vehicles go unchecked. Cities like London and Los Angeles rolled out advanced sophisticated technologies only after decades of systemic reform. India must sequence its strategies correctly.

This misalignment also risks elite capture, where data gets out-of-date while rural and informal sectors – responsible for a large share of emissions – are neglected. Worse, these tools may distract from structural reforms, shifting attention to optics over outcomes. More data does not equal more action if local agencies lack authority or the resources to use it.

A key fix is distinguishing between academic research and solution-focused

implementation. While long-term innovation is important, policymakers need short-term, scalable models they can act on. India must create separate funding streams: one for research and another for immediate, on-ground interventions. Otherwise, we risk producing more papers than progress.

What are other countries doing?
Global examples offer guidance without imitation. China closed coal plants. Brazil used community-led waste systems. California reinvested pollution revenue in poor communities. London banned coal-use before launching sensors. Each succeeded by following a path grounded in its context. India must do the same – innovate programmes which are federalism-friendly, subsidy-driven, and tailored to its informal economy.

Ultimately, India's clean air future will be determined by who gets the edge – people, partnerships, and purpose. We must fix the plumbing before painting the walls. Clean air must be a right for all, not a privilege for a few. Securing that right will take more than promises. It will take coordination, courage, and a commitment to act.

Ajay S. Nagpure is urban systems scientist at the Urban Nexus Lab at Princeton University.

THE GIST

▼ The challenge begins with how India understands air pollution. It's often seen as a technical problem when really it's a complex structural issue shaped by governance capacity, demographic pressure, socio-economic disparity, behavioural norms, and entrenched economic systems.

▼ Local governments need access to high-resolution, open-source data on emissions-generating activities: where waste is burned, which households use solid fuels, where construction is active, and which roads face the heaviest traffic.

▼ As India adopts more digital tools, it must avoid falling into the "Western trap" – overreliance on high-tech, urban-centric data and solutions without addressing basic pollution sources.

Content.

- India's air pollution crisis is not just a seasonal inconvenience. It's a persistent, silent pandemic that chokes our lungs every winter and quietly lingers throughout the year. Hospitals overflow with respiratory cases, schools shut down, cities disappear under layers of smog, and Indian metros regularly top global pollution rankings.
- Given the scale of this crisis, it's worth asking: what is India actually doing to clean its air?
- While initiatives like the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Bharat VI, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), and targeted efforts to phase out coal-burning industries in the National Capital Region mark important progress, the national response remains fragmented and slow-moving.
- Without stronger alignment and faster implementation, transformative change may remain out of reach.

- The challenge begins with how India understands air pollution. It's often seen as a technical problem when in reality it's a complex structural issue shaped by governance capacity, demographic pressure, socio-economic disparity, behavioural norms, and entrenched economic systems.
- The challenge begins with how India understands air pollution. It's often seen as a technical problem when in reality it's a complex structural issue shaped by governance capacity, demographic pressure, socio-economic disparity, behavioural norms, and entrenched economic systems.
- While China is often called a success story, it came at a steep price — ₹22 lakh crore over five years for urban centres.
- India's NCAP budget is less than 1% of that. However, if we include allied programs like PMUY (₹18,128 crore), the program for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India or FAME II (₹10,795 crore), Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (₹1.4 lakh crore), and NCAP itself (₹11,542 crore), a broader ecosystem of air quality financing becomes apparent. They target emission sources and deserve recognition as part of India's clean air strategy.

Content.

- The NCAP continues to struggle with how its funds are allocated and how progress is measured.
- Local governments also need access to high-resolution, open-source data on emissions-generating activities: where waste is burned, which households use solid fuels, where construction is active, and which roads face the heaviest traffic. Without such data, air pollution remains an abstract issue, disconnected from daily governance.
- Between 2019 and 2023, only 60% of the funds released were utilised, reflecting not a lack of intent but institutional misalignment. Air quality continues to be treated as a parallel concern rather than a core municipal function.

Content.

- **Global examples offer guidance without imitation. China closed coal plants. Brazil used community-led waste systems. California reinvested pollution revenue in poor communities.**
- **London banned coal-use before launching sensors. Each succeeded by following a path grounded in its context. India must do the same—innovate programmes which are federalism-friendly, subsidy-driven, and tailored to its informal economy.**
- **Ultimately, India's clean air future will be shaped not by dashboards but by people, partnerships, and purpose.**
- **We must fix the plumbing before painting the walls. Clean air must be a right for all, not a privilege for a few. Securing that right will take more than promises. It will take coordination, courage, and a commitment to act.**

Tackling the disinformation threat in India

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report 2025 underscores misinformation and disinformation as the highest ranked short-term global threat. The WEF defines "global risk" as an event that can adversely affect a sizeable portion of the population, the global GDP, and natural resources. The rapid rise of AI-generated content, algorithmic biases, and deep societal divides are making it harder than ever to separate facts from deception.

Information disorder

India, poised to surpass 900 million Internet users, would find itself vulnerable without proper policy implementation to combat disinformation, with its diverse political and social landscape creating fertile ground for manipulated narratives, voter influence, and economic disruption. The crisis isn't just political; it fuels consumer boycotts, economic conflicts, and international tensions. Adding to the chaos, public trust in legacy media is dwindling, and both political actors and non-state entities are exploiting this gap to push propaganda. With trust in mainstream media declining, citizens are relying more on social media for news. This shift has resulted in a significant number of users forwarding unverified information, often believing it to be accurate simply because it comes from friends or family. With former U.S. President Joe Biden's warning of an emerging "tech oligarchy", the world's largest democracy shouldn't wait any further to come up with important policy changes such as the European Union's Digital Services Act to combat Disinformation and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI).

With prominent politicians and national parties' social media accounts actively sharing deep fakes and unverified information, India is grappling with an



**Abhishek Roy
Choudhury**

Former Consultant at KPMG India and at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

escalating information disorder. As a rising global power, India has faced persistent Chinese disinformation threats since the 2017 Doklam standoff, prompting the ban of over 300 Chinese apps, including TikTok, to curb foreign interference. A study by the Indian School of Business and the CyberPeace Foundation reveals that political disinformation accounts for 46%, followed by general issues (33.6%) and religious content (16.8%). Platforms such as Weibo, operating within China, have been actively trying to propagate a distorted image of India. The risks could escalate if Meta ends fact-checking partnerships, as seen in the U.S. The youth dividend of India is facing a growing threat from false information, as a survey report revealed. The Global Risks Report 2025 perceives that people in high-income countries are more concerned about disinformation risks in the coming years than those in lower-income nations with some exceptions. If Indian citizens fail to recognise how disinformation deepens political and societal divides, the consequences could be severe for the democratic and social fabric.

Recommended measures

The Global Risks Report 2025 recommends measures such as upskilling developers working with algorithms, improving public awareness and digital literacy, and ensuring accountability through supervisory boards and AI councils to oversee Generative AI practices. Initiatives like Shakti - India Election Fact-Checking Collective, and the Deepfake Analysis Unit, played a role in tackling disinformation during the 2024 general elections. With almost 400 million Facebook and over 500 million WhatsApp users, India stands as the largest market for social media platforms. By capitalising on this market power, regulatory bodies can push big tech towards positive policy changes to tackle disinformation,

This challenge goes beyond technology; it is a test of shared democratic values and threatens our collective ability to uphold truth, unity, and equality. As the world's largest democracy, India must set an example of diversity and resilience in a growingly polarised global digital world. The real question isn't just about fighting falsehoods, but also about ensuring that we safeguard our unity in diversity.

Page No. 7, GS 2,3

Content.

- The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report 2025 underscores misinformation and disinformation as the highest ranked short-term global threat.
- The WEF defines “global risk” as an event that can adversely affect a sizeable portion of the population, the global GDP, and natural resources.
- The rapid rise of AI-generated content, algorithmic biases, and deep societal divides are making it harder than ever to separate facts from deception.
- India, poised to surpass 900 million Internet users, would find itself vulnerable without proper policy implementation to combat disinformation, with its diverse political and social landscape creating fertile ground for manipulated narratives, voter influence, and economic disruption.

- As a rising global power, India has faced persistent Chinese disinformation threats since the 2017 Doklam standoff, prompting the ban of over 300 Chinese apps, including TikTok, to curb foreign interference.
- A study by the Indian School of Business and the CyberPeace Foundation reveals that political disinformation accounts for 46%, followed by general issues (33.6%) and religious content (16.8%).
- Platforms such as Weibo, operating within China, have been actively trying to propagate a distorted image of India. The risks could escalate if Meta ends fact-checking partnerships, as seen in the U.S. The youth dividend of India is facing a growing threat from false information, as a survey report revealed.
- The Global Risks Report 2025 perceives that people in high-income countries are more concerned about disinformation risks in the coming years than those in lower-income nations with some exceptions.
- If Indian citizens fail to recognise how disinformation deepens political and societal divides, the consequences could be severe for the democratic and social fabric.

Content.

- The Global Risks Report 2025 recommends measures such as upskilling developers working with algorithms, improving public awareness and digital literacy, and ensuring accountability through supervisory boards and AI councils to oversee Generative AI practices.
- Initiatives like Shakti – India Election Fact-Checking Collective, and the Deepfake Analysis Unit, played a role in tackling disinformation during the 2024 general elections.
- With almost 400 million Facebook and over 500 million WhatsApp users, India stands as the largest market for social media platforms.
- Transparent content moderation policies must be implemented to address misleading content that threatens public health, safety, or democracy, with strict enforcement of non-discrimination rules. Online ads must disclose funding sources and target audiences to prevent malicious actors from spreading false narratives.

China-India ties across the past and into the future

Yesterday, April 1, was the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. Despite the ups and downs, China-India relations have always surged forward like the Yangtze and the Ganges. Looking back at this extraordinary journey, there are four inspirational factors embedded therein that are worth drawing upon.

Leaders and their guidance

First, the strategic guidance of our leaders as the 'anchor'. Over the past 75 years, the leaders of the two countries have consistently steered the relationship at critical historical junctures. In 1950, Chairman Mao Zedong and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made the historic decision of establishing diplomatic ties – India was the first non-socialist country to have diplomatic relations with China. In 1988, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited China, and the two sides agreed to "look forward", initiating the normalisation process of bilateral relations. Since 2013, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi carried out "hometown diplomacy" and two informal meetings, which propelled relations into a period of rapid development. Last October, the leaders met in Kazan, and opened a new chapter in relations.

Second, friendly exchanges and cooperation form the 'foundational fabric' of China-India relations. Looking back through history, our two civilisations have flourished like twin lotuses, interconnected and mutually illuminating. Our two peoples have empathised with and supported each other in the struggle for national independence and liberation. Rabindranath Tagore and Dr. K. N. Singh have become timeless emblems of the China-India friendship. Since the turn of the century, China and India have forged a strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity. Under these important frameworks, nearly 50 dialogue mechanisms have been established at all levels and in various fields. Bilateral trade volume has risen from less than \$3 billion (2000) to \$138.5 (2024). Cooperation in culture, education, tourism and other fields has expanded continuously.

Third, bridging differences through dialogue stands as the 'one and only key' of China-India relations. As Prime Minister Modi has said, when two neighbouring countries exist, occasional disagreements are bound to happen. Even within a family, not everything is always perfect. But our focus is to ensure that these differences do not turn into disputes. As two ancient civilisations, China and India both have the wisdom and the capacity to resolve differences through dialogue. Faced with the boundary question left over from



Xu Feihong

is the Chinese Ambassador to India

history, they have established communication channels such as the Special Representative Mechanism on the China-India Boundary Question, and strive to seek a proper solution. At the end of last year, the two sides pushed the border situation back to one of tranquillity through intensive dialogue.

Fourth, working for the future of the world is the "important mission" of relations. President Xi Jinping once said, if China and India speak with one voice, the whole world will listen; and if we join hands, the whole world will pay attention. Historically, the total economic volume of the two countries has long accounted for half of global GDP, making momentous contributions to human progress. After the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and India jointly advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and promoted the independence and the unity of Asian and African countries. As vital members of multilateral mechanisms such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the G-20, China and India should take the common responsibilities of safeguarding the rights and the interests of developing countries, and upholding multilateralism.

On the ground

As the only two major developing countries and representatives of emerging economies, China-India relations have become one of the world's most crucial bilateral relations. The sound and stable development of bilateral relations serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples, meets the common aspiration of regional countries, and is conducive to world peace, development and prosperity.

Recently, China and India have implemented the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. The two Foreign Ministers have met several times on multilateral occasions. The 23rd Special Representatives' meeting on the China-India Boundary Question and the Vice Minister-Foreign Secretary Dialogue have been held successively, reaching many points of consensus. The two sides maintain communications on issues of mutual concern. There is a good momentum to bilateral economic and trade cooperation. People-to-people exchanges are increasing. In the first quarter of this year, the Chinese Embassy and Consulate-Generals in India have issued over 70,000 visas to Indian citizens. These figures fully demonstrate the strong motivation for exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

It is the common will of the two peoples and the unstoppable tide of history to advance China-India friendship and cooperation. The

"dragon-elephant tango" is the only right choice for both sides. We should adhere to the important consensus reached by the two leaders, and forge a right path for the two neighbouring major countries to coexist in harmony and develop hand in hand.

Steps for Beijing and New Delhi to take

First, we should build a healthy and stable relationship. Both sides should adhere to the strategic judgment made by the two leaders that "China and India are partners rather than rivals, and [pursue] development opportunities rather than [be] threats to each other". We should uphold the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual trust, mutual accommodation and mutual accomplishment. We should handle differences through dialogue, and never allow relations to be defined by the boundary question, or let specific differences affect the overall picture of bilateral ties, so as to ensure that China-India relations always move along the track of sound development.

Second, we should develop a mutually beneficial relationship. Both China and India are at a critical stage of national development and revitalisation. It is our common goal to develop the economy and improve people's livelihood. China is actively promoting high-quality development and India is committed to realising the vision of a "Viksit Bharat 2047". We should strengthen the alignment of our development strategies, resume and promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and push forward the modernisation of the two countries.

Third, we should forge an internationally cooperative China-India relationship. As important members of the Global South, China and India have the responsibility to jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and the interests of developing countries. They should also promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation. As the rotating president of the SCO, China is willing to work with all parties including India to jointly hold a SCO summit, featuring friendship, solidarity and fruitful outcomes, and lead the SCO into a new stage of high-quality development featuring stronger solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productiveness.

I believe that under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries and with the joint efforts of people from all walks of life, China and India will move forward steadily along the path of jointly achieving national development and rejuvenation and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.



Content.

- Yesterday, April 1, was the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. Despite the ups and downs, China-India relations have always surged forward like the Yangtze and the Ganges.
- In 1950, Chairman Mao Zedong and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made the historic decision of establishing diplomatic ties — India was the first non-socialist country to have diplomatic relations with China.
- Second, friendly exchanges and cooperation form the ‘foundational fabric’ of China-India relations. Looking back through history, our two civilizations have flourished like twin lotuses, interconnected and mutually illuminating.

Content.

- Bilateral trade volume has risen from less than \$3 billion (2000) to \$138.5 (2024). Cooperation in culture, education, tourism and other fields has expanded continuously.
- Third, bridging differences through dialogue stands as the ‘one and only key’ of China-India relations.
- Fourth, working for the future of the world is the “important mission” of relations. President Xi Jinping once said, if China and India speak with one voice, the whole world will listen; and if we join hands, the whole world will pay attention.

India's educational transformation – the true picture

It has been argued that the education system in India has veered off its course in the last 11 years of the Narendra Modi government. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The country that witnessed the monumental neglect of the education system by previous governments is deeply aware of the unpleasant truth. While nations across the world reimagined education for a rapidly evolving world, India's educational framework remained trapped in a time capsule, with the last major policy update in 1986, which was marginally amended in 1992. This was a deliberate perpetuation of colonial mindsets accompanied by a move to insulate the country from rapid technological changes taking place in the world.

What past policy was like

Corruption and a governance deficit were the defining features of the country's educational past. Public universities were systematically starved of funds. Unregulated private institutions mushroomed into degree mills. Those who suffer from selective amnesia need to be reminded of the infamous Deemed University scandal of 2009 – university status was granted to 44 private institutions without proper evaluation, with many found guilty of financial irregularities. Political interference in education was rampant.

The University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education became instruments of control rather than enablers of excellence. Appointments to leadership in universities were based on political loyalty. Textbooks deliberately downplayed the contributions of revolutionaries such as Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Veer Savarkar and others while portraying uncomfortable historical truths about foreign invasions. Historical narratives were carefully curated to serve partisan interests. India's diverse cultural and intellectual traditions were systematically marginalised. All of these contributed toward creating an education system that remained disconnected from India's glorious past and devoid of civilisational ethos.

The National Education Policy of 2020 represents a decisive break from this inglorious past. It is a product of the most extensive democratic consultations in India's policy history. Based on the five pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability, the NEP 2020 is



Dharmendra Pradhan

is Union Minister of Education

a policy of the people, by the people and for the future of the people.

The focus is empowerment and change

One of its primary objectives is to correct structural inequities inherited from centralised, rigid and elitist frameworks. With this transformative approach, the enrolment of Scheduled Castes (SC) in higher education has increased by 50%, Scheduled Tribes (ST) by 75%, and Other Backward Classes by 54% since 2014-15.

Women's empowerment is at the heart of these reforms. Female enrolment across all categories has grown by an impressive 38.8%, crossing 2.18 crore in 2022-23. Among Muslim minority students, female enrolment rose by 57.5%. In the board examinations, the performance of girls has shown steady improvement. In higher education, PhD enrolment among women has increased by a whopping 135%. Today, women in the field of higher education STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) constitute 43%, thus shattering the glass ceiling in domains that were dominated by men. Female teachers now constitute 44.23% of the teaching workforce, up from 38.6% in 2014, thus transforming academic leadership landscapes. The data represent a fundamental shift in India's academic ecosystem, with women reclaiming their rightful place in India's intellectual journey.

These gains reflect a fundamental shift in priorities. Per-child government expenditure has increased by 130%, from ₹10,780 in 2013-14 to ₹25,043 in 2021-22. The Government is prioritising early childhood education and foundational learning and numeracy for a child's overall development, cognitive growth, and future learning. Government schools are being upgraded with modern infrastructure, holistic pedagogy and other support systems. With concerted efforts, the number of out-of-school children and also drop-out rates have decreased. The pupil-teacher ratio has improved, and, most importantly, learning outcomes have been steadily improving.

The NEP 2020 has introduced futuristic elements such as coding from middle school, multidisciplinary approaches to problem-solving, and innovation hubs in rural areas. Over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) are nurturing grassroots-level innovation. The Government has plans to add 50,000 more ATLs with broadband Internet connectivity in schools in the five years

ahead. These initiatives represent a fundamental reimaging of education for India's future.

In higher education, sustainable revenue models have freed universities from resource dependency. India now has 11 universities in the QS World Rankings top 500, a remarkable improvement from the past. Research publications have increased by 88% since 2015, propelling India to 39 in the Global Innovation Index, up from 76 in 2014. The Anusandhan-National Research Foundation is nurturing research and innovation in collaboration with industry and academia.

Language primacy

Most significantly, the NEP has restored primacy to all Indian languages and knowledge traditions, overcoming the decades of 'English-first' policies. Through the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) initiative, over 8,000 higher education institutions have adopted IKS curricula. Through the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Yojana, 15,000 original and translated textbooks in 22 Indian languages will be published, which will benefit millions of young minds to express themselves in their mother tongues.

The Government's commitment to social justice was reflected in the enactment of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019, for reservation of teaching positions in central educational institutions for SCs, STs, and others by treating the 'Institution as one Unit' rather than a grossly flawed system of treating 'each Department as one Unit'. Similarly, the Government dispensed with the mischievous practice of declaring "None Found Suitable" in university recruitments to reject candidates from SC/ST/OBC categories and converting these into non-reserved posts, in the interest of making reservation truly meaningful.

The government remains focused on building a Viksit Bharat wherein education truly liberates and empowers. The decade ahead will witness an educational renaissance that honours India's past while fearlessly embracing the future. India's education system has finally broken free from colonial shadows and ideological captivity. It stands poised to fulfil the dreams of millions of Indians.

This is not merely education reform. It is the intellectual decolonisation that India has awaited for a long time, which will catapult India into the comity of developed nations.

Content.

- While nations across the world reimagined education for a rapidly evolving world, India's educational framework remained trapped in a time capsule, with the last major policy update in 1986, which was marginally amended in 1992.
- Corruption and a governance deficit were the defining features of the country's educational past.
- Unregulated private institutions mushroomed into degree mills.
- One of its primary objectives is to correct structural inequities inherited from centralised, rigid and elitist frameworks. With this transformative approach, the enrolment of Scheduled Castes (SC) in higher education has increased by 50%, Scheduled Tribes (ST) by 75%, and Other Backward Classes by 54% since 2014-15.

Fact

- Women's empowerment is at the heart of these reforms. Female enrolment across all categories has grown by an impressive 38.8%, crossing 2.18 crore in 2022-23. Among Muslim minority students, female enrolment rose by 57.5%.
- Today, women in the field of higher education STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) constitute 43%, thus shattering the glass ceiling in domains that were dominated by men.
- Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)

Leave it alone

Any change in Greenland's status must come from the choices of its residents

Vice President J.D. Vance's recent visit to Greenland, where he reaffirmed United States President Donald Trump's plan to assert control over the Arctic island, was a blunt demonstration of American power over a strategically vital territory inhabited by around 56,000 people. The visit drew sharp disapproval from Greenland's local leaders and the Danish government, which retains sovereignty over the island. It marked a new low in U.S.-Greenland relations, which have soured in recent weeks. While Mr. Vance was inspecting the Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base), Mr. Trump declared that the U.S. would "go as far as we have to" to take control of Greenland. This is not the first time that an American administration has attempted to acquire the island. In 1867, following the purchase of Alaska from Russia, the U.S. held unsuccessful talks with Denmark to buy Greenland. During the Second World War, after Nazi Germany occupied Denmark, the U.S. established military and radio stations on the island. In 1946, Washington offered Denmark \$100 million for Greenland, which it rejected. More recently, during his first term, Mr. Trump made a similar offer, which was again declined by Denmark and Greenland. Now, in his second term, he is aggressively pursuing the idea, undeterred by the strong opposition from both sides of the Atlantic.

But the Greenland of today is different from the Greenland of the 19th or even the mid-20th century. Once a Danish colony, it was formally incorporated into the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953. After a 1979 referendum, it gained autonomy, with foreign affairs and defence under Danish control. Since then, nationalist sentiment has grown, with polls indicating over 80% of Greenlanders in support of full independence. In another survey, 85% of the population opposed becoming a part of the U.S. The American push for Greenland is rooted in geopolitical calculations. As climate change accelerates Arctic ice melt, the region is becoming more accessible for navigation and resource extraction. Only five countries have direct access to the Arctic seabed: Canada, Russia, Norway, Denmark (via Greenland), and the U.S. (via Alaska). Russia already maintains a strong military presence in the region. Washington sees control of Greenland as a way to expand its Arctic claims and access to untapped natural resources. But attempting to seize territory for strategic or economic gain echoes the behaviour of bygone empires. Mr. Trump's expansionist ambitions risk further undermining the fragile post-war international order, which is grounded in principles of territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The U.S. should respect the will of the people of Greenland. Any change in the island's status must come through the democratic choices of its residents, and not through external pressure or geopolitical gamesmanship.

Page No. 6, GS 2





Content.

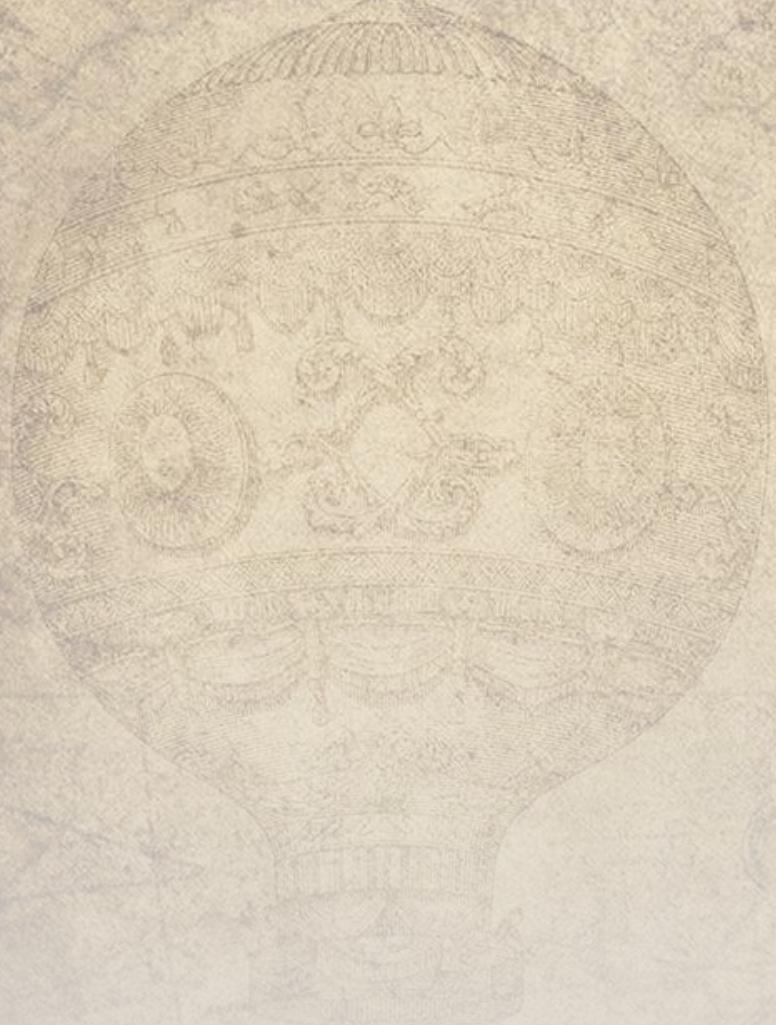
- Vice President J.D. Vance's recent visit to Greenland, where he reaffirmed United States President Donald Trump's plan to assert control over the Arctic island, was a blunt demonstration of American power over a strategically vital territory inhabited by around 56,000 people.
- The visit drew sharp disapproval from Greenland's local leaders and the Danish government, which retains sovereignty over the island.
- While Mr. Vance was inspecting the Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base), Mr. Trump declared that the U.S. would "go as far as we have to" to take control of Greenland. This is not the first time that an American administration has attempted to acquire the island.
- In 1867, following the purchase of Alaska from Russia, the U.S. held unsuccessful talks with Denmark to buy Greenland.

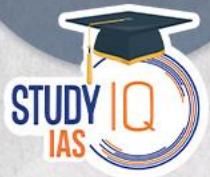
Fact

- During the Second World War, after Nazi Germany occupied Denmark, the U.S. established military and radio stations on the island.
- In 1946, Washington offered Denmark \$100 million for Greenland, which it rejected. More recently, during his first term, Mr. Trump made a similar offer, which was again declined by Denmark and Greenland.
- Now, in his second term, he is aggressively pursuing the idea, undeterred by the strong opposition from both sides of the Atlantic.
- Once a Danish colony, it was formally incorporated into the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953. After a 1979 referendum, it gained autonomy, with foreign affairs and defence under Danish control.

Fact

- In another survey, 85% of the population opposed becoming a part of the U.S. The American push for Greenland is rooted in geopolitical calculations.
- As climate change accelerates Arctic ice melt, the region is becoming more accessible for navigation and resource extraction.
- Only five countries have direct access to the Arctic seabed: Canada, Russia, Norway, Denmark (via Greenland), and the U.S. (via Alaska).
- Russia already maintains a strong military presence in the region. Washington sees control of Greenland as a way to expand its Arctic claims and access to untapped natural resources.





UPSC IAS

PRELIMS TO INTERVIEW (P2I)

FOUNDATION

APRIL EVENING BATCH



Prelims and
Mains Residential
Program



Interview
Guidance
Program



₹11,000 reward
to monthly top
performer



Full Refund
on Clearing
Prelims

PRICE

₹34,999

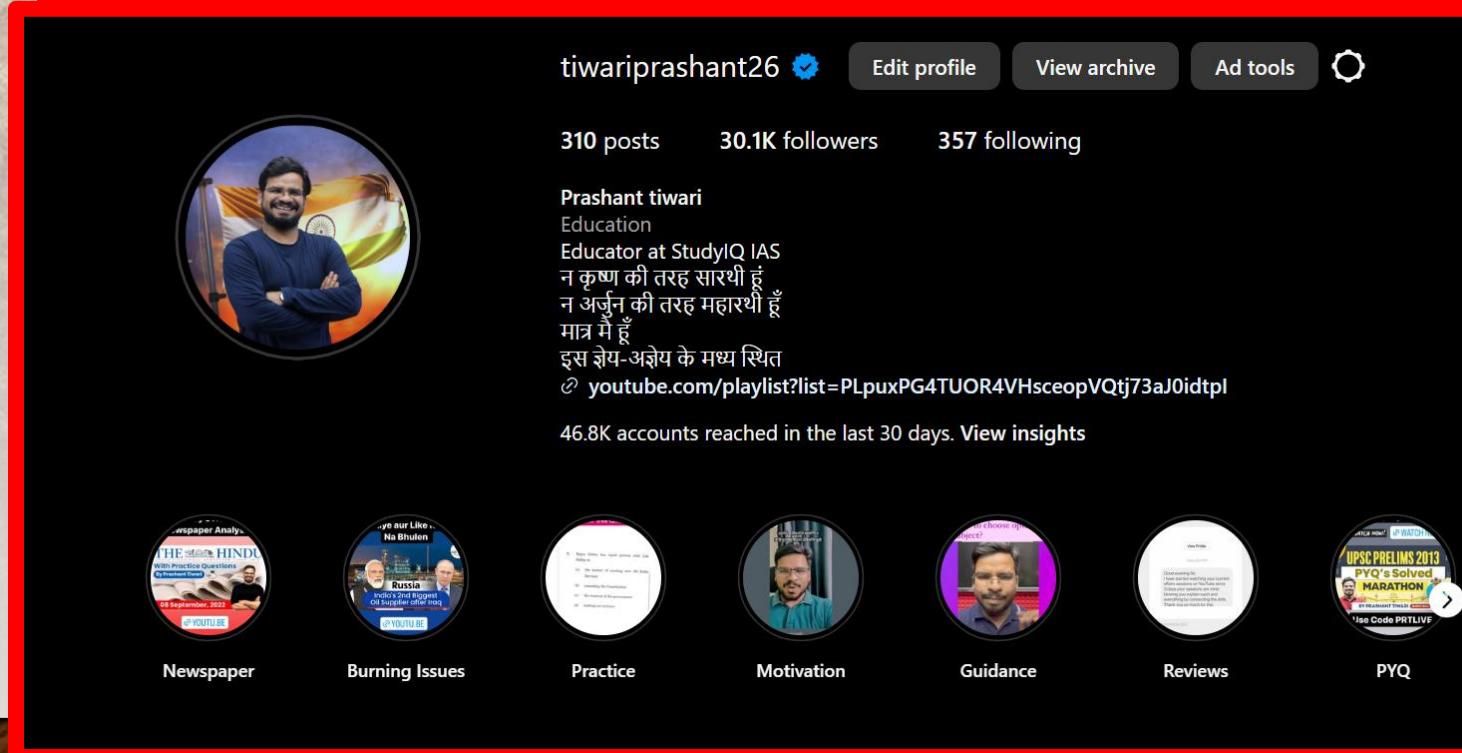
Use Code

PRTLIVE



Batch Starting on 11th April 2025 | 6:00 PM

Join Me:
Instagram:- tiwariprashant26
Twitter:- Prashantt26
**Telegram:- UPSCwithPrashant
(Prashant Tiwari)**



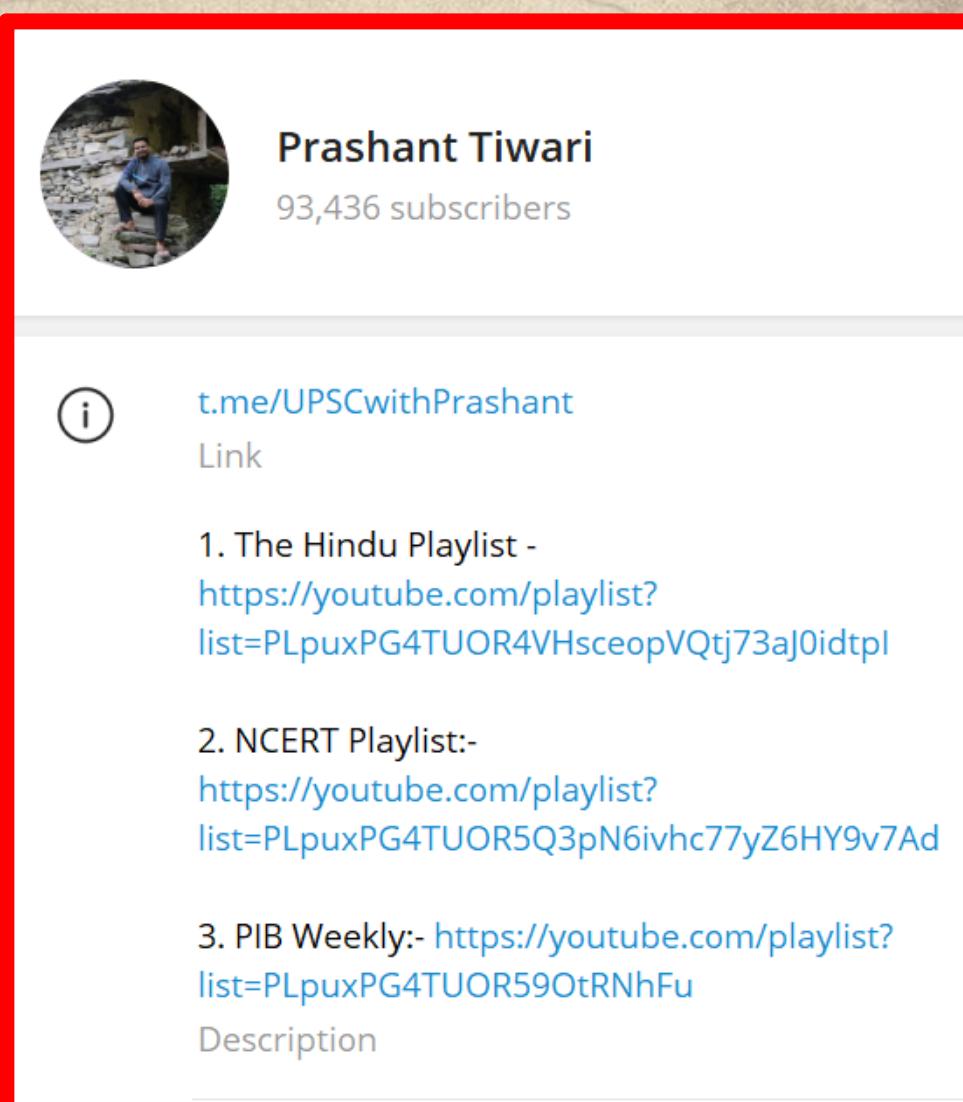
tiwariprashant26  Edit profile View archive Ad tools

310 posts 30.1K followers 357 following

Prashant tiwari
Educator at StudyIQ IAS
न कृष्ण की तरह सारथी हूँ
न अर्जुन की तरह महारथी हूँ
मात्र मैं हूँ
इस जेय-अज्ञेय के मध्य स्थित
youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aj0idtp1

46.8K accounts reached in the last 30 days. [View insights](#)

Newspaper Burning Issues Practice Motivation Guidance Reviews PYQ



Prashant Tiwari
93,436 subscribers

 t.me/UPSCwithPrashant
Link

1. The Hindu Playlist -
[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLpxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aj0idtp1](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aj0idtp1)
2. NCERT Playlist:-
[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLpxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad)
3. PIB Weekly:- [https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLpxPG4TUOR59OtRNhFu](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpxPG4TUOR59OtRNhFu)
Description



— Thank You! —