

**10th June DSC**

**Current Affairs 10th June 2025.**

**India and Mongolia Conduct Joint Military Drills to Boost Operational Synergy**

**Main Details**

- **Exercise Title:** Nomadic Elephant – 17th Iteration
- **Timeline:** May 31 – June 13, 2025
- **Venue:** Special Forces Training Centre, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- **Involved Parties:** Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 2 (International Relations)

**Goals and Core Emphasis**

- **Interoperability Enhancement:**  
Strengthen joint capabilities and operational cooperation between Indian and Mongolian troops.
- **Operational Areas of Interest:**  
Focused drills on counter-terrorism, precision sniping, and unconventional combat in challenging terrains such as semi-urban and mountainous regions.
- **UN Peacekeeping Preparation:**  
Includes mock peacekeeping operations modeled on real multinational missions under United Nations mandates.

**Strategic Importance**

- **Defence Collaboration:**  
Reinforces India-Mongolia military ties.
- **Geopolitical Value:**  
Mongolia's location between Russia and China underscores the strategic relevance of India's "Act East" and "Extended Neighbourhood" initiatives.
- **Rotational Arrangement:**  
Exercise alternates annually between both countries. The last edition was hosted in Umroi, Meghalaya in July 2024.

**Operational and Tactical Benefits**

- **Topographic Training:**  
Aids in familiarizing with complex terrain, enhancing readiness for high-altitude warfare.
- **Knowledge Exchange:**  
Promotes mutual sharing of expertise on sniping and counter-insurgency.
- **UN Missions Preparedness:**  
Improves coordination skills for high-stress, multinational environments.

### Cultural and Human Relations Aspect

- **Bonding Opportunities:**  
Focus on fostering cross-cultural understanding and camaraderie.
- **Confidence-Building Measure (CBM):**  
Deepens bilateral trust and paves the way for long-term cooperation beyond defence.

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### MASLD: Diet as Both a Trigger and Treatment, Say Experts

#### Understanding MASLD

- **Full Name:** Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (previously NAFLD)
- **Characteristics:** A metabolic and lifestyle-related liver disorder not caused by alcohol.
- **Silent Progression:** Often remains unnoticed until significant liver impairment occurs.
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 2 (Social Issues, Health)

#### Spread and Vulnerability

- **Global Prevalence:** Around 30%
- **India-Specific Data:** About 40% affected, with 53% cases undiagnosed
- **High-Risk Groups:**  
Includes those with obesity, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, and family history of liver or heart ailments.

#### Symptoms and Disease Course

- **Initial Signs:** Tiredness and minor abdominal discomfort often overlooked.
- **If Untreated:**
  - 15% may develop liver inflammation within 7 years
  - 5% could progress to cirrhosis in 25 years
  - Some might eventually face liver cancer

#### Screening Methods

- **Tests Advised:**
  - Blood work and enzyme levels
  - Ultrasound every 6 months
  - FibroScan every 1–3 years to measure liver stiffness
- **Why Early Screening is Vital:** Prevents long-term damage and reduces the overall health burden.

### Diet: Dual Role

- **Contributing Elements:** Sedentary lifestyle, overeating, processed foods
- **Reversal Approach:**
  - Maintain calorie deficit and control portions
  - Opt for high-protein, low-carb meals
  - Cut down sugary and ultra-processed foods
  - Ensure hydration and sufficient rest

### Lifestyle Strategies

- **Exercise Recommendations:** Brisk walking, jogging, swimming, cycling for at least 12 weeks
- **Habits to Avoid:** Alcohol, tobacco
- **Fasting:** Intermittent fasting may be helpful but should be done with medical guidance if comorbidities exist.

### Expert Guidance

- **Primary Advice:** Sustainable weight loss is central.
- **Personalisation:** Tailor lifestyle modifications to individual needs rather than one-size-fits-all solutions.

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## Geoengineering: A Feasible but Controversial Climate Intervention

### Backdrop

- **Climate Emergency:** Emissions remain high while global climate responses remain fragmented.
- **SAI as a Technological Response:** Stratospheric Aerosol Injection proposed to artificially reduce solar radiation.
- **Controversy:** Ethical and political concerns persist over its usage and global impact.
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 3 (Technology, Disaster Management)

### SAI Explained

- **Mechanism:** Spraying fine reflective particles like sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere (~20 km altitude) to reflect sunlight.
- **Natural Parallel:** Based on cooling effects observed post-volcanic eruptions (e.g., Mount Pinatubo, 1991).
- **Objective:** Artificially lower Earth's surface temperature to counter global warming.

### Innovative Breakthrough in New Study

- **Revised Method:**  
Utilises existing commercial aircraft (e.g., modified Boeing 777F) to inject aerosols at 13 km, particularly in polar and temperate zones.
- **Benefits:**
  - Reduces cost and complexity
  - Removes dependence on purpose-built aircraft

#### Model-Based Insights

- **Simulation Tool:** UK Earth System Model 1 (UKESM1)
- **Outcomes:**
  - 12 million tonnes of SO<sub>2</sub> annually at 13 km = ~0.6°C cooling
  - For 1°C reduction, 21 million tonnes needed
  - Efficiency increases when deployed at higher altitudes in subtropics

#### Potential Hazards and Issues

- **Scientific:**
  - Risk of ozone layer depletion
  - Potential for acid rain
  - Uneven cooling patterns
- **Social/Political:**
  - Risk of unilateral action
  - Could reduce urgency to cut emissions
- **Governance Gap:**
  - No current international laws to regulate geoengineering
  - In 2022, experts suggested a pause in such research due to fairness concerns

#### Conclusion

- **Short-Term Measure Only:** Doesn't address core climate causes
- **Moral Hazard:** Could foster complacency in emission cuts
- **Call for Dialogue:** Emphasis on global transparency, accountability, and legal frameworks.

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#### India's Defence Production Sees Significant Momentum

##### Context

- Historically import-reliant, India is now advancing towards defence self-reliance.
- Events like Operation Sindoor have boosted domestic defence manufacturing confidence.
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 3 (Defence)

### Emerging Patterns and Growth

#### Stock Market Movement

- Defence sector stocks surged 21% during Operation Sindoor week in May 2024, while Nifty50 rose just 3.1%.
- The following week, defence stocks rose an additional 5.4% even as Nifty50 fell by 0.5%.
- Reflects growing market faith in domestic defence firms.

#### Production Milestones

- FY24 output: ₹1.3 lakh crore — a 17% year-on-year increase
- Consistent double-digit rise since FY22, barring FY20's 2.5% dip
- FY25 target: ₹1.6 lakh crore (₹90,000 crore achieved by December)

#### Export Boom

- FY23 and FY24 exports crossed ₹20,000 crore, doubling pre-FY20 benchmarks
- Exports include firearms, safety equipment, and artillery
- FY25 target: ₹30,000 crore

#### Private Sector & MSME Involvement

##### Private Players

- Between FY17–FY24, private sector held 20% share in defence production
- FY25 share likely to reach 24%
- Private companies are leading exporters due to faster licensing

##### MSME Contribution

- Crucial suppliers to large OEMs
- FY25 procurement: ₹13,000 crore, up from ₹3,000 crore in FY18–FY20
- Government enforces mandatory MSME participation

#### Budget Allocation Insights

- While absolute defence spending is up, its share in total government expenditure is reducing
- Yet, India's defence-GDP ratio remains higher than many emerging economies



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## Census 2027: Why It Matters More Than Ever

### Historical Background

- India's Census is a 10-yearly constitutional exercise since 1881, backed by the 1948 Census Act.
- Managed centrally under the Union List.
- The 2021 Census was deferred due to COVID-19.
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 2 (Governance, Social Issues)

### Census Methodology

- **Two-Part Process Since 1971:**
  - House-listing Phase (5–6 months): Infrastructure and amenities data
  - Population Enumeration (February): Personal details like caste, age, gender, occupation
- Teachers and local officials help with ground-level execution

### Why Census 2027 Is Crucial

- **Caste Data Collection:**  
First time since 1931 to comprehensively record Hindu caste data, enabling better-targeted welfare programs
- **Delimitation Prep:**  
Sets stage for redrawing constituencies post-2026 freeze
- **Women's Quota Rollout:**  
Mandatory before the 33% reservation for women in legislatures takes effect in 2029

### Regional Concerns

- **Southern and Northeastern States:**  
Fear losing political influence due to low population growth  
Demand either freezing seat allocations or compensatory mechanisms

### Way Forward

- Ensure transparency and credibility in caste data collection
- Broad national consensus required for delimitation
- Census should serve as a base for gender justice and federal balance
- Avoid rushed execution — consider all legal and political dimensions

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## India's Plan to Localise EV Manufacturing: Prospects and Pitfalls

### Policy Focus: Electric Car Manufacturing Incentives

- Reduced import duty (from 70–100% to 15%) for imported EVs priced above \$35,000
- Valid for five years with a cap of 8,000 units annually
- Conditions:
  - Minimum ₹4,150 crore investment within 3 years
  - Domestic manufacturing: 25% in 3 years, 50% in 5 years
  - Total duty foregone capped at ₹6,484 crore
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 2 (Governance), GS Paper 3 (Technology)

### Concerns Over Implementation

- Critics say it may benefit foreign firms without aiding local innovation
- Experts warn against becoming a low-value assembly hub
- Successful EV ecosystems abroad were state-driven, focused on R&D and talent-building

### EV Market Snapshot (FY25)

- EVs make up 7.8% of total vehicle sales
- 3-wheelers dominate with 57% share
- 2-wheelers: 6.1%; 4-wheelers: only 2.6%
- Commercial EVs: Just 0.9%
- India leads in 3-wheeler EV market globally

### Indian Industry Pushback

- Tata Motors opposed Tesla-style duty relaxation, citing harm to local players
- Local firms (Tata, Mahindra) made over 80% of EVs in 2024
- Imports remain low due to high duties and viable domestic alternatives

### Conclusion

- Policy should ensure technology sharing, support local firms, and encourage mass-market EVs
- Need a holistic approach covering infrastructure, innovation, and affordability

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### Mental Healthcare: Bridging Gaps in Coverage and Culture

#### Global and National Mental Health Landscape

- 20% of adults face mental health issues

- WHO estimates >\$1 trillion lost yearly to untreated cases
- Post-COVID awareness has improved recognition
- **Relevant For:** GS Paper 2 (Health, Mental Health)

#### Indian Framework

- **Legal Backing:** Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 gives parity with physical ailments
- **Insurance Directive:** IRDAI mandates mental illness coverage in all policies
- Result: Gradual integration into mainstream healthcare

#### Trends in Insurance Sector

- OPD coverage now includes therapy, psychiatric visits
- Claims have risen 30–50% in recent years, indicating increased willingness to seek help early

#### Demographics and Usage Patterns

- Young adults (25–35):
  - Most engaged users of mental health services
  - Comfortable with digital consultations
- Women buy more policies covering mental wellness, driven by life transitions like pregnancy and caregiving

#### Urban-Rural Divide

- Tier 1 cities lead in adoption
- Tier 2 uptake is growing, showing national trend expansion

#### Workplace Role

- Companies now offer therapy access, wellness workshops
- Mental health now part of broader employee well-being policies

#### Challenges and Future Path

- Awareness of insurance features still lacking
- Rural and underserved areas need better access
- Goal: Normalise mental health like physical health — make it inclusive, routine, and stigma-free

#### 10th June 2025: Static MCQS

##### 1. Consider the following statements:



**Statement I:**

Some rare earth elements are used in the manufacture of flat television screens and computer monitors.

**Statement II**

Some rare earth elements have phosphorescent properties.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements:

- a. Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II explains statement I
- b. Both statement I and Statement II are correct but statement II does not explain statement I
- c. Statement I is correct but statement II is not correct
- d. Statement I is not correct but statement II is correct.

**Correct Option: (a)**

**2. Consider the following statements:**

- I. Indian railways have prepared a national rail plan (NRP) to create a future ready' railway system by 2028.
- II. 'Kavach' is an automatic train protection system developed in collaboration with Germany.
- III. 'Kavach' system consists of RFID tags fitted on track in station section.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

**Correct Option: (a)**

**3. Consider the following space missions:**

- 1. Axiom-4
- 2. SpaDex
- 3. Gaganyaan

How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two

- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (c)

4. With reference to india's defence, consider the following pairs:

Aircraft type	Description
1. Dornier-228	: Maritime patrol aircraft
2. IL-76	: Supersonic combat aircraft
3. C-17 Globe-master III	: Military transport aircraft

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (b)

5. Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of

- a. Silver iodide and potassium iodide
- b. Silver nitrate and potassium iodide
- c. Silver iodide and potassium nitrate
- d. Silver nitrated and potassium chloride

Correct Option: (a)