

25th June DSC

Women Maoists: Rising Casualties in Security Operations

GS 3 – Internal Security

Recent Trends (2024–2025):

- There's been a sharp increase in Maoist fatalities:
 - **2024:** 217 killed (74 women)
 - **Till June 2025:** 195 killed (82 women)
- Women now comprise over one-third of casualties — a notable jump compared to 2019–23, where both total deaths and the proportion of women were lower (e.g., 2023: 5 of 20).

Why More Women in Maoist Ranks?

- **Tribal Coercion:** Under duress, tribal families surrender daughters to Maoists.
- **Bal Dasta Recruitment:** Young girls are indoctrinated and militarized early.
- **Roles:** Women are often used as frontline fighters or even human shields, though leadership remains male-dominated.

Ideological Contradictions:

- Despite opposing patriarchy, Maoist cadres rarely promote women to top positions.
- Their attacks on educational institutions hinder tribal empowerment, revealing ideological hypocrisy.

State Response:

- Increased action post-MHA's 2026 deadline to end Left-Wing Extremism.
- Emphasis on gender-aware rehabilitation and encouraging surrenders.
- Officials acknowledge the specific vulnerabilities faced by women recruits.

Underlying Challenges:

- State neglect, lack of education, and poverty in tribal areas fuel Maoist recruitment.
- A balanced mix of development outreach and security operations is essential.

Inflation Falls, Unemployment Rises: A Paradox in India's Economy

GS 3 – Indian Economy

Current Trends:

- **Inflation down:** 3.2% (April) → 2.8% (May 2025) – within RBI's comfort zone.
- **Unemployment up:** 5.1% → 5.8% (PLFS data).

- Critics argue that celebrating low inflation amid rising joblessness reflects flawed priorities.

Growth-Slowdown Link:

- GDP growth decelerated from **9.2% (2023–24)** to **6.5% (2024–25)**.
- Except for agriculture and public services, most sectors showed sluggishness.
- Job losses mirror this broad-based slowdown.

Agriculture's Role in Cooling Inflation:

- Agricultural growth helped bridge food supply gaps, reducing food inflation (Oct 2024: ~11% → May 2025: <1%).
- Supply-side improvements, more than monetary tightening, drove this decline.

Monetary Policy's Limited Effect:

- Services slowdown isn't due to high interest rates — this sector is less credit-dependent.
- Data suggests RBI followed inflation trends rather than influencing them.

Expectation Management Questioned:

- Despite RBI efforts, household inflation expectations stayed above 4% (Mar 2024–May 2025).
- Suggests inflation drop wasn't driven by psychology or central bank credibility.

Conclusion:

India needs a macroeconomic lens that weighs both inflation control and employment generation. Growth without jobs will deepen economic distress.

Evaporative Demand and India's Climate Blind Spot

GS 3 – Environment & Ecology

What is Evaporative Demand?

- It reflects how much water the atmosphere tries to draw from land and vegetation — influenced by heat, humidity, wind, and sunlight.
- With global warming, this “atmospheric thirst” is rising.

Concept of ‘Thirstwaves’:

- Coined in 2025 (Kukal & Hobbins), these are multi-day events of extreme evaporative demand.
- More frequent and intense than traditional heatwaves — they affect moisture balance, not just temperature.

Impact on Agriculture:

- Even well-irrigated crops suffer if evaporative demand is too high.
- Leads to soil drying, water stress, and challenges for food security.

Measurement Tool:

- Uses **Standardised Short-Crop Evapotranspiration** — a simplified model based on grass under ideal conditions.

India's Mixed Signals:

- Earlier (pre-1997) studies showed reduced evaporation due to humidity.
- However, newer trends suggest warming now outweighs this dampening effect.

Recent Findings & Gaps:

- Studies (e.g., IIT Roorkee) confirm increased evapotranspiration in northern and Himalayan regions.
- But there's a lack of real-time data on thirstwave extremes in India.

Policy Challenges:

- India lacks frameworks to integrate thirstwaves into agricultural policy.
- Urgent need for farmer education, climate-resilient strategies, and better research funding — especially for vulnerable regions in the Global South.

SC Flags Abuse of Bail Undertakings in Fraud Cases

GS 2 – Judiciary, Social Justice

Issue at Hand:

- The Supreme Court condemned a growing misuse of bail promises — accused individuals offer to pay large sums to get bail but later default.

Tactical Abuse:

- Such promises, often made in financial fraud or tax cases, are strategic — meant to mislead courts.
- Accused later claim they never authorized such promises or that lawyers acted without consent.

Judicial Observations:

- Justice Viswanathan warned against treating courts casually: “Can’t play ducks and drakes with the court.”
- Voluntary undertakings must be genuine, not tactical ploys.

Case Example:

- A person in a ₹13 crore tax evasion case failed to honor a ₹2.5 crore payment promise.

- High Court revoked bail; SC initially ordered surrender but later reconsidered due to personal circumstances — balancing liberty with legal integrity.

Legal and Ethical Concerns:

- Raises questions about counsel responsibility, ethical litigation, and enforceability of bail terms.
- May prompt stricter norms and accountability for false undertakings.

SC's Three-Year Bar Rule for Judicial Exam Sparks Debate

GS 2 – Judiciary, Education Policy

What the SC Ruled:

- Reinstated a 3-year minimum litigation experience for appearing in entry-level judicial service exams.
- Purpose: Judges should have courtroom exposure before adjudicating cases on liberty and property.

Support for the Rule:

- Real courtroom experience teaches what textbooks can't — case flow, senior advocacy, legal processes.

Concerns Raised:

- Law graduates from 2023–25 are disproportionately affected.
- Critics argue this rule:
 - Violates Article 14 (equality),
 - Disrupts legitimate expectations,
 - Adds bureaucratic hurdles (e.g., getting certified by a 10-year experienced lawyer).

Mixed Legacy of Shetty Commission:

- While the commission recommended the rule, it also suggested that modern legal training may suffice if robust post-selection training exists.

Suggestions for Reform:

- Implement rule prospectively (e.g., from 2027).
- Focus on stronger post-selection training rather than restricting entry.

Larger Questions:

- Should aptitude outweigh experience?
- Does this rule shrink the talent pool, especially for rural or marginalized youth?

- How to ensure judicial quality without compromising inclusiveness?

India-ASEAN Trade Review Hits a Wall

GS 2 – International Relations | GS 3 – Economy

Background:

- **AITIGA (2009):** India allowed tariff-free access to 71% of its goods — far more than Indonesia (41%), Vietnam (66.5%), and Thailand (67%).

Imbalance over Time:

- While exports to ASEAN doubled, imports **tripled**, deepening India's trade deficit.
- India has been demanding a review, but talks have stalled despite **nine meetings** since Feb 2024.

Concerns Raised:

- ASEAN reluctance to revise terms.
- China's indirect access via ASEAN — where cheap Chinese goods are minimally processed and sent to India — undermines fair trade.

Strategic Risks:

- Review deadlock hurts Indian industries and challenges India's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** goals.
- Weak enforcement of Rules of Origin dilutes benefits of free trade.

Way Ahead:

- India must push for:
 - Stricter origin rules
 - Safeguard mechanisms
 - Bilateral deals with key ASEAN countries
 - WTO-aligned tools to counter indirect Chinese imports

25th June Daily MCQS

1. Question

Which country is not part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?

1. Nepal
2. Maldives

3. Myanmar
4. Bangladesh
5. Afghanistan
6. Pakistan

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 2 and 3
- b) 3 only
- c) 3 and 5
- d) 2 only

Correct Answer: b) 3 only

Explanation:

Myanmar is not a SAARC member. The association comprises eight countries: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**. Myanmar, in contrast, is part of **ASEAN**, not SAARC.

2. Question

Regarding recent trends in Maoist casualties in India, consider the following statements:

1. In 2024, women accounted for less than 25% of Maoist deaths.
2. Maoists often deploy women as combatants and human shields, but leadership remains male-dominated.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced a goal to eliminate Maoism by March 2026.
4. Maoists elevate women to leadership roles in alignment with their anti-patriarchal stance.

Select the correct option:

- a) 1, 2, and 3
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 2, 3, and 4
- d) 1 and 4

Correct Answer: b) 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Women made up **more than one-third** of Maoist casualties in 2024, not less than one-fourth.
- **Statement 2 is accurate:** Maoists utilize women heavily in field roles while keeping command positions male-dominated.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The MHA aims to end Maoist insurgency by March 2026.

- **Statement 4 is false:** Despite anti-patriarchy rhetoric, women rarely ascend to leadership positions in Maoist groups.

3. Question

Who authored the nationalist novel *Anandamath*, which features the song “Vande Mataram”?

- a) Rabindranath Tagore
- b) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- d) Surendranath Banerjee

Correct Answer: b) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Explanation:

Anandamath was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in 1882. Set during the **Sannyasi Rebellion**, it includes the patriotic song “**Vande Mataram**”, which later became a powerful symbol during India’s freedom movement.

4. Question

Assertion (A): Inflation control through monetary tools is less effective when inflation arises from supply-side pressures.

Reason (R): The drop in inflation in May 2025 was mainly due to strong agricultural output, which curbed food prices.

Choose the correct answer:

- a) Both A and R are true, and R explains A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A.
- c) A is true, R is false.
- d) A is false, R is true.

Correct Answer: a) Both A and R are true, and R explains A.

Explanation:

The decline in inflation was **primarily driven by better agricultural performance**, not by tighter monetary policy. This supports the assertion that **supply-driven inflation cannot be effectively tackled through demand-side tools like interest rate adjustments**.

5. Question

Concerning Article 200 of the Constitution, which deals with the Governor's powers over state legislation:

1. The Governor can reserve any bill passed by the State Legislature for the President’s consideration.
2. Once a bill is returned and re-passed by the Legislature, the Governor cannot send it to the President again.

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: a) 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under **Article 200**, the Governor is empowered to reserve a bill for **Presidential assent**, especially if it contradicts national laws or concerns national interest.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Constitution **does not prevent** the Governor from reserving a re-passed bill for the President's decision.

