

Today's Prelims Topics

RBI's Liquidity Injection Measures

Context

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced liquidity injection measures worth ₹1.87 lakh crore to ease the expected liquidity tightness in the banking system during the second half of March 2025.

Key Measures Announced

- **Open Market Operation (OMO) Purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs)**
 - RBI will conduct **two tranches** of OMO purchases of ₹50,000 crore each.
- **USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap Auction:**
 - RBI will conduct a **USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap auction** worth \$10 billion
 - **Tenor: Three years**

Rationale Behind the Liquidity Injection

- **Upcoming outflows from the banking system:**
 - Due to **advance tax** and **Goods and Services Tax (GST) payments**, liquidity tightness of about ₹2.50 lakh crore is expected from **mid-March 2025**.
- **To stabilize forex reserves** and manage fluctuations in the rupee-dollar exchange rate.
- **Continuation of RBI's liquidity support measures**, following previous interventions in **January-February 2025**.

About Open Market Operations (OMO)

- OMO refers to the **buying and selling of government securities (G-Secs) in the open market by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to regulate liquidity in the banking system.
- **How does OMO Work?**
 - **OMO Purchase** → RBI **buys** government securities from banks → More liquidity in the banking system → **Interest rates fall** → Loans become cheaper → Boosts investment and economic activity.
 - **Stock market benefits** due to increased liquidity.
 - **OMO Sale** → RBI **sells** government securities to banks → Reduces liquidity → Banks have less money to lend → **Interest rates rise** → Loans become expensive → Controls inflation.
 - **Stock market may decline** due to reduced liquidity.

UPSC PYQ

Q. Which one of the following activities of the Reserve Bank of India is considered to be part of 'sterilization'? (2023)

- (a) Conducting 'Open Market Operations'
- (b) Oversight of settlement and payment systems
- (c) Debt and cash management for the Central and State Governments
- (d) Regulating the functions of Non-banking Financial Institutions

Answer: A

Source:

- [The Hindu - Reserve Bank to buy ₹1 lakh crore G-Secs](#)

World Sustainable Development Summit, 2025

Context

Recently the World Sustainable Development Summit, 2025 was organised by TERI. The theme for this year was "*Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions.*"

About World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

- WSDS is a premier international conference focusing on **sustainability, climate action, and environmental policies**.
- It is **organized annually** by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- The summit brings together **global leaders, policymakers, scientists, industry experts, and civil society** to discuss and develop solutions for pressing environmental challenges.
- **Key Objectives of WSDS:**
 - **Promoting Sustainable Development** – Encouraging policies and actions that balance economic growth with environmental responsibility.
 - **Climate Action & Policy Discussions** – Addressing global climate challenges through partnerships and policy recommendations.
 - **Bridging the North-South Divide** – Ensuring that developing nations (Global South) have a strong voice in climate negotiations.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

- TERI is a research and policy think tank in India that works to create a sustainable future.
- It was established in **1974 by the Tata Group**.
- **Focus Areas:** Sustainable development, climate change, energy efficiency, environmental conservation and green technologies.

Key Initiatives by TERI:

- **WSDS (World Sustainable Development Summit)** – Annual global event on sustainability.
- **TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS)** – Academic institution focused on environmental and sustainability studies.
- **Lighting a Billion Lives (LaBL)** – Initiative to promote **solar lighting** in rural India.
- **Griha (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)** – A **green building certification** system to promote sustainable architecture.

Source:

- [PIB - WSDS](#)

Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

Context

The Union Cabinet approved the revision of the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme with an outlay of ₹3,880 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

About Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)

- LHDCP is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at improving livestock health through vaccination, disease control, and veterinary infrastructure enhancement.
- **Diseases Covered:** Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Anthrax, Rabies, and other livestock diseases.

Key Components of the Programme

- **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP):**
 - **Target Diseases:** Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) & Brucellosis
 - **Goal:** 100% vaccination coverage for cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs.
 - **Eradication of FMD and Brucellosis by 2030.**
- **Critical Animal Disease Control Programme (CADCP):** Targets Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) through 100% vaccination coverage.
- **Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs):** Doorstep veterinary care through customized vehicles with diagnostic and treatment facilities.
- **Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD):** To target state-prioritized exotic, emergent, and zoonotic animal diseases, including Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)
- **Pashu Aushadhi:** It is a new component added to the scheme for improving availability of generic veterinary medicine through the network of **PM-Kisan Samridhi Kendra and Cooperative Societies.**

Source:

- [The Hindu - LHDCP](#)

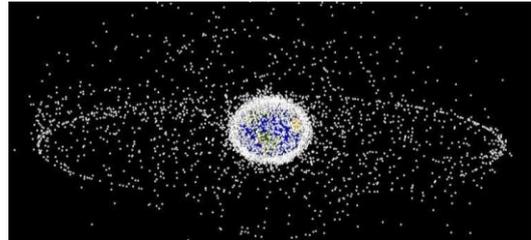
Space Debris & related issues

Context

With increasing space activity, the problem of space debris falling to Earth has become a critical concern. However, accountability for such debris remains unclear due to gaps in international space law.

About Space Debris

- Space debris, also known as **space junk**, refers to man-made objects that are **no longer operational and orbit Earth**.
- These objects include **defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, fragments from spacecraft collisions and other discarded hardware** from past space missions.



Legal Framework for Space Debris Accountability

- **Outer Space Treaty (1967):**
 - **Article VI:** States bear responsibility for all space activities conducted by their governments or private entities.
- **Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972):**
 - Establishes "absolute liability" for damages caused by space objects on Earth.
 - **Key Issue:** If debris is no longer under the state's jurisdiction, it becomes difficult to enforce accountability.
 - **E.g.**
 - 1978 Soviet Satellite Cosmos 954 crashed in Canada.
 - Canada negotiated with the USSR for years and secured only \$3 million of the \$6 million cleanup cost.

Key Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and debris mitigation initiatives

- **Project NETRA - ISRO:**
 - It is an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
 - Once operational, it will give India its own capability in SSA like the other space powers.
 - NETRA can spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.
- **ISRO's System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM):**
 - It is an initiative by ISRO focused on ensuring safe and sustainable operations in space.
 - **Functions:** Monitoring Orbital Decay, Space Debris Management & Collaboration with International Entities
- **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC):**
 - It is an inter-governmental forum established in 1993 aimed at coordinating efforts to address space debris issues.
 - **Members of IADC:** NASA (USA), ESA (European Space Agency), ISRO (India), CNSA (China National Space Administration), JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)

Active Debris Removal (ADR) Technologies

- **European Space Agency (ESA) – ClearSpace-1 Mission (2026)**
 - World's first space debris removal mission.
 - Aims to capture and deorbit a defunct Vespa payload adapter (~100 kg) using robotic arms.
- **NASA's OSAM-1 (On-Orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing):**
 - Working on robotic servicing of satellites to extend their lifespan and reduce debris.
- **Japan's Astroscale – ELSA-d Mission:**
 - To test magnetic docking technology to capture and remove defunct satellites.
 - It aims to develop commercial debris removal services.
- **China's Space Debris Removal Projects:**
 - Conducted tests with the Shijian-21 satellite, which successfully towed a defunct satellite to a graveyard orbit.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Space Debris](#)



Egyptian alternative to Trump's Gaza plan

Context

Recently an Emergency Summit was held in Cairo, Egypt by the Arab League to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza following Israeli military actions.

Cairo Declaration on Gaza - The \$53-Billion Reconstruction Plan

- The Cairo declaration adopted an **Egyptian-led \$53-billion reconstruction plan** for Gaza.
- It includes **political, financial, and material support** from Arab nations
- It is the **First major Arab proposal** for Gaza's reconstruction and governance post-war, contingent on a **full ceasefire**.

Key Elements of the Cairo Declaration

- **Governance & Political Structure for Gaza:**
 - The declaration calls for a "**Gaza administration committee**" comprising **qualified Gazans for a transitional period**.
 - This interim administration is meant to **prepare for the return of the Palestinian Authority (PA)** to govern Gaza and **hold elections**.
 - The declaration **does not explicitly mention Hamas** or its removal, which was criticized by **Israel and the US**.
- **UN Peacekeeping & Security in Gaza and the West Bank:**
 - It reiterates the **Bahrain Declaration (May 2024)** which called for: **Deployment of UN peacekeeping forces** in both Gaza and the West Bank.
- **Two-State Solution & Palestinian Sovereignty:**
 - It reaffirms commitment to the **Arab Peace Initiative of 2002** and the **two-state solution**.
 - Calls for a **sovereign Palestinian state within pre-1967 borders**, with **East Jerusalem as its capital**.
 - It stresses that **Arab recognition of Israeli sovereignty** is **contingent** on the establishment of a Palestinian state.
- **Trust Fund for Reconstruction:**
 - Establishment of a "**Trust Fund**" to finance Gaza's recovery and reconstruction projects.
- **Palestinian Political Unity:**
 - The declaration calls for **all Palestinian factions** to unite under the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** after essential reforms.
 - **PLO (which includes Fatah)** is recognized as the "**sole legitimate representative**" of the Palestinian people.
 - **Hamas is not part of the PLO.**

Source:

- [Indian Express - Egyptian alternative to Trump's Gaza plan](#)

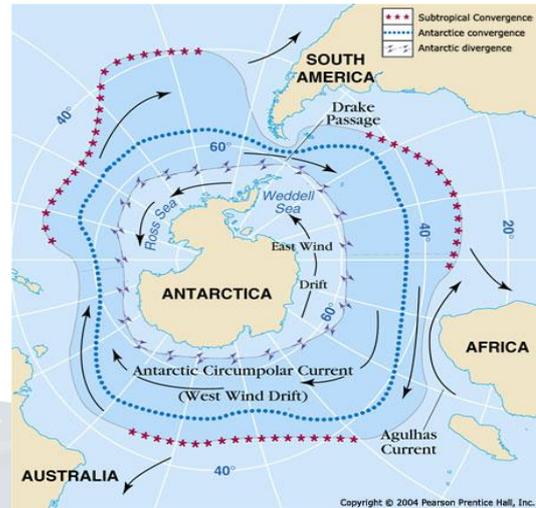
Antarctic Circumpolar Current

Context

A study by the University of Melbourne has predicted that the ACC may weaken by 20% by 2050 under a high carbon emissions scenario.

About Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC)

- It is the world's strongest ocean current, moving in a clockwise direction around Antarctica.
- It **connects the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans**.
- It is **four times stronger than the Gulf Stream**, transporting about **165 million cubic meters of water per second**.
- **Significance:**
 - Regulates **heat and carbon dioxide uptake** in the ocean.
 - Prevents warmer waters from reaching Antarctica, thus preserving ice sheets.
 - Blocks invasive species (e.g., bull kelp, shrimp, mollusks) from other continents reaching Antarctica.



Reasons for weakening of ACC

- **Changes in Ocean Salinity:** Due to accelerated melting of ice shelves (from global warming) around Antarctica has resulted in weakening of Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW).
 - AABW is a sinking process and a critical component of global ocean circulation tied to circulation of ACC.
- **Rising Global Temperatures:** Warmer temperatures **alter wind patterns** that drive the ACC.

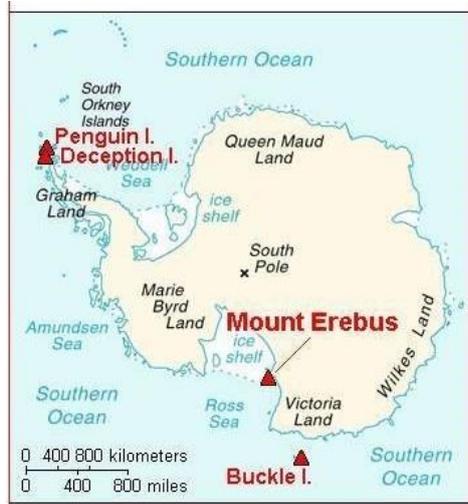
Potential Impacts of a Weaker ACC

- **More Extreme Weather & Climate Instability:**
 - ACC influences global wind and weather patterns.
 - A weaker ACC can lead to **stronger storms, heatwaves, and extreme climate events** worldwide.
- **Increased Global Warming:**
 - The ocean absorbs about **90% of excess heat** trapped by greenhouse gases.
 - If the ACC weakens, the ocean's ability to **absorb heat and carbon dioxide** declines, **accelerating global warming**.
- **Rising Sea Levels & Ice Sheet Melting:**
 - The ACC prevents warm waters from **reaching Antarctica**.
 - If it weakens, **warmer ocean currents will erode Antarctic ice shelves**, leading to **faster sea level rise**.
- **Disruption of Ocean Circulation:**
 - The ACC is connected to **global ocean currents**, including the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**.
 - A slowdown can **weaken major ocean currents**, disrupting **rainfall, monsoons, and agricultural patterns**.

Source: [NDTV - Earth's strongest ocean current](#)

Places in News

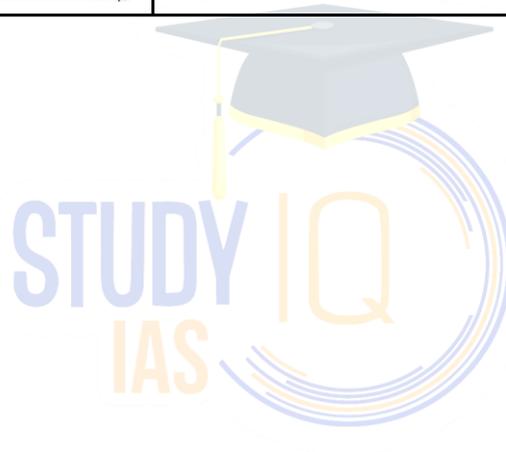
Mount Erebus



- **Location:** Ross Island, Antarctica.
- It is the **southernmost active volcano on Earth.**
- It was discovered in **1841** by British explorer Sir James Clark Ross, named after his ship HMS Erebus.
- It has an **active lava lake.**
- It is part of the **Ring of Fire** that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.
- It is one of only two volcanoes on the continent that are considered to be active; **Deception Island** is the other.

Source:

- [Mount Erebus](#)



News in short

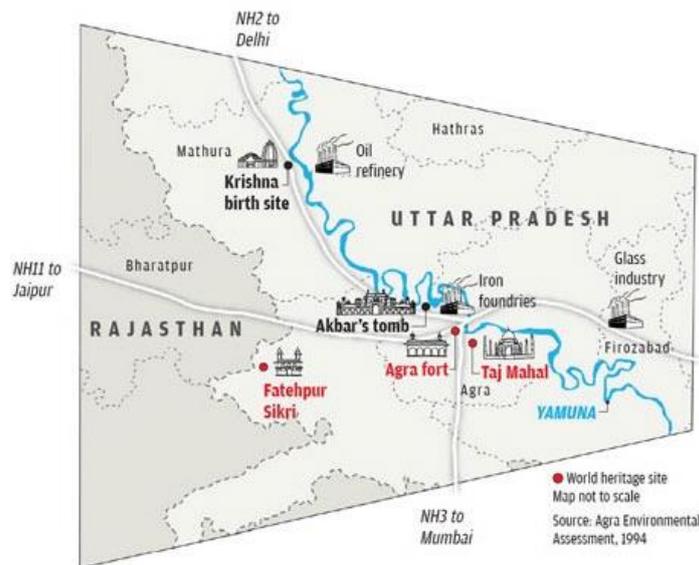
Taj Trapezium Zone

- The Supreme Court has directed the Forest Research Institute (FRI) to carry out a tree census in the Taj Trapezium Zone.

About Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)

- TTZ is a defined area of **10,400 sq km** around the **Taj Mahal** to protect the monument from pollution.
- It comprises monuments including three World Heritage Sites: **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri**.
- It spreads across **Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah** districts in Uttar Pradesh and **Bharatpur** district in Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** To **control pollution** and **preserve the Taj Mahal** from environmental degradation.
- The Union government has constituted "**Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority**" under **Environment Protection Act, 1986**.
- TTZ has four-zone which are named as **Red, Green, Orange, and White**.

The 10,400 sq km Taj Trapezium Zone, which was demarcated in 1983 to protect the Taj Mahal, has three Mughal-era World Heritage Sites



Source:

- [Indian Express - TTZ](#)

Swavalambini - Women Entrepreneurship Programme

- Recently the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with NITI Aayog has launched - Swavalambini programme.

About Swavalambini

- It is a structured entrepreneurship initiative for young women in **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**.
- It provides skill development, mentorship, funding support and incubation opportunities.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- **Implementing Agency:** National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and NITI Aayog.

Objectives of Swavalambini Programme

- **Empowering women entrepreneurs** through structured training and mentorship.
- **Providing financial support** to help establish sustainable businesses.
- **Enhancing entrepreneurship education** in HEIs through faculty training.
- **Encouraging women-led development initiatives** instead of just making them beneficiaries of government schemes.

Source:

- [PIB - Swavalambini](#)

Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats Initiative

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has launched the 'Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat' (MWFGP) initiative recently.

About the Initiative

- It is a **gender-inclusive governance initiative** designed to enhance women's participation, safety, and leadership at the grassroots level.

Key Highlights of the Initiative

- **Launch of Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats:**
 - **770 Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats** to be developed (one per district).
 - These panchayats will serve as **role models** for promoting **women's participation and leadership in rural governance**.
- **Real-Time Monitoring Dashboard Launched:**
 - A **digital platform** for tracking the progress of Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats.
 - It will provide **real-time insights, data analysis, and intervention strategies** to improve women's participation at the grassroots level.
- **Virtual Training Program for Gram Panchayats:**
 - Designed to equip panchayat representatives, particularly **women leaders**, with **skills and knowledge** required for effective governance and women-centric policymaking.

Source:

- [PIB - Model women friendly panchayats](#)

Editorial Summary

Who will Apologise to the Himalayans

Context

Recently, Norway's Parliament issued a formal apology for its assimilation policies (known as **Norwegianisation**) targeting the **Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn peoples**.

More in News

- Alongside the apology, the government proposed measures to address ongoing discrimination, such as protecting indigenous languages and monitoring inclusion efforts starting in 2027.
- Like the Nordics, Himalayan communities also faced suppression of indigenous culture and resources.

Suppression Faced by Himalayan Communities in India

- **Colonial Exploitation of Resources:** The British imposed trade and forest laws that disrupted traditional livelihoods.

- Large-scale deforestation for railway construction (e.g., sal forests of Garhwal and Kumaon were destroyed for railway sleepers).
- Trade blockades (e.g., 1874 blockade disrupted local economies and cultural practices).

- **Post-Independence Resource Exploitation"**

Despite Nehru's humanistic approach towards tribals, later Five-Year Plans (5th and 6th) prioritized resource extraction.

- Hydropower projects and deforestation led to large-scale displacement.

- **Erosion of Indigenous Culture & Identity"** Policies favored assimilation rather than preserving tribal identities.

- Indigenous languages and traditional governance systems weakened over time.

- **Hydropower Development & Land Grabs:**

Customary land rights of tribal communities were ignored in favor of large hydropower projects.

- Bureaucratic and corporate nexus facilitated land acquisition without proper consultation.

- **Example:** Arunachal Pradesh's push for hydropower projects despite community resistance.

- **Tourism-Led Economic Pressures:** The shift to tourism as a primary revenue source led to commodification of culture.

- Increased migration and land encroachments impacted local populations.

- **Political & Administrative Neglect:** Lack of adequate representation and consultation in policymaking.

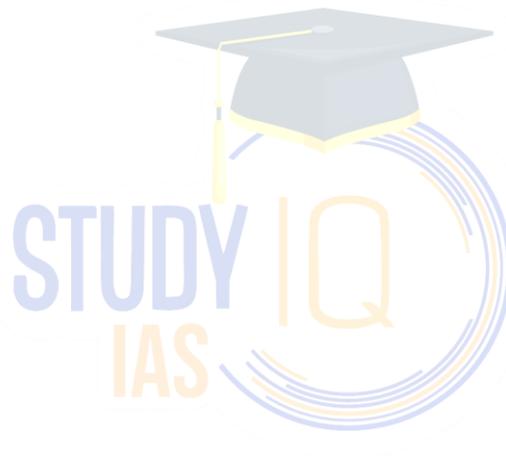
- Infrastructural gaps in healthcare, education, and connectivity worsened socio-economic disparities.

Location	Tribes
Himachal Pradesh	Gaddi
	Kinnaura
Sikkim	Lepcha
Sikkim and Ladakh	Bhutiya
	Mon
Arunachal Pradesh	Abor
	Aka
	Apatani
	Mishmi
Afghanistan, Nepal	Khas
Pakistan	Kalash

Lessons from Norway for India

- **Acknowledgment & Apology for Historical Injustices:** India should recognize and acknowledge the historical injustices faced by Himalayan tribes due to colonial exploitation, post-independence resource extraction, and forced assimilation.
- **Protection & Revival of Indigenous Languages and Culture:** India should implement stronger policies to preserve endangered tribal languages, traditions, and governance systems in the Himalayan region.
- **Legal Safeguards for Land & Natural Resources:** India must ensure the enforcement of tribal land rights and customary laws to prevent exploitative hydropower and tourism-driven land acquisitions.
- **Balancing Development with Sustainability:** India should shift from an extractive development model to one that prioritizes ecological conservation and community-led initiatives.
- **Ensuring Indigenous Political Representation:** India should ensure greater representation of Himalayan tribal communities in decision-making bodies at state and national levels.
 - E.g., Norway has a Sami Parliament to give indigenous communities a political voice.
- **Addressing Socioeconomic Inequalities:** India should invest in better healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities for Himalayan tribes to bridge existing disparities.

Source: [The Hindu: Who will apologise to the 'Himalayans'?](#)



DeepSeek's market disruption must awaken India

Context

DeepSeek, a Chinese company, has shaken up the global tech industry and stock markets with its low-cost artificial intelligence (AI) model.

About DeepSeek AI

- It was **founded by Liang Wenfeng in May 2023** and became widely popular in **early 2025** with the release of its **DeepSeek-R1 model**.
- **Features of DeepSeek AI:**
 - **Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) Architecture:** Unlike traditional AI models, MoE ensures that only a **small portion of the model's parameters are active at any time**.
 - This **reduces computing power requirements** while maintaining high efficiency.
 - It also enables **faster learning and improved performance** over time.
 - **Free to Use Without Limitations:**
 - Unlike ChatGPT's premium features, DeepSeek AI is **completely free** for regular users.
 - No restrictions on daily usage, making it accessible to everyone.
 - **Cost-Effective API Pricing:**
 - DeepSeek AI offers significantly **cheaper APIs compared to OpenAI's ChatGPT**, making it an attractive choice for developers.
 - **Real-Time Web Search Capability:** Users can search the web directly from DeepSeek AI to obtain real-time, updated information.

Impact of DeepSeek's Innovation on India's IT Dominance

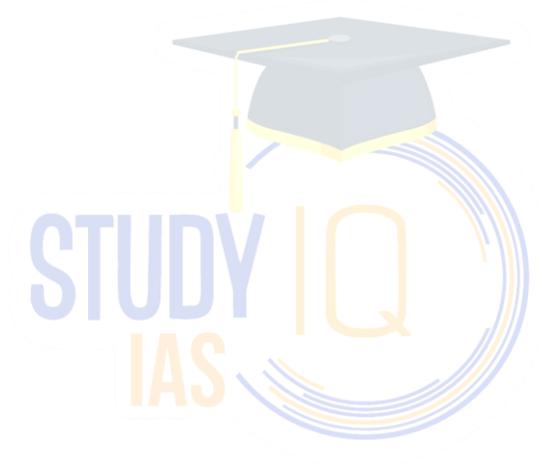
- **Disruption of the Low-Cost IT Model:** India's IT sector has historically thrived on an abundant supply of skilled, cost-effective labor.
 - DeepSeek's AI-driven automation reduces the need for human intervention, threatening India's advantage in IT services.
- **AI Eliminating Skill and Language Barriers:** Generative AI models like DeepSeek's can perform tasks traditionally outsourced to India, such as customer support, coding, and data analysis.
 - This diminishes India's edge in English proficiency and IT services.
- **India's Lag in AI and R&D Investments:** DeepSeek's breakthrough reflects China's strong investment in AI and computational capabilities.
 - India's R&D expenditure remains below 1% of GDP, far behind China's 2.43%, impacting its ability to innovate.
- **Need to Move Beyond Labor-Led Growth:** Indian IT firms must shift from labor-intensive models to AI-powered solutions.
 - Failing to adapt could lead to reduced global demand for India's IT services.

Key Learnings from DeepSeek

- **Prioritizing R&D as a Strategic Investment:** DeepSeek's success highlights the need for continuous AI research and innovation, even if it's not a company's core business. Indian IT firms must invest in long-term technological advancements.
- **Utilizing Idle Capital for Innovation:** Companies should channel surplus resources into AI and emerging tech research instead of solely focusing on workforce optimization.
- **Encouraging Risk-Taking & Experimentation:** DeepSeek treated AI as a secondary initiative yet achieved breakthrough success. Indian firms must foster a culture where experimentation and failure are seen as steps toward innovation.

- **Building a Workforce that Works with AI, Not Against It:** Instead of resisting AI, India must train its workforce to enhance productivity through AI tools and automation.
- **Developing AI & Quantum Capabilities:** India must aggressively invest in AI and quantum computing to stay competitive in the next wave of technological advancements.

Source: [The Hindu: DeepSeek's market disruption must awaken India](#)



A brief history of the Russia-Ukraine war

Context

U.S. President **Donald Trump** has made a **180-degree shift** in America's approach to the Ukraine war.

More in News

- A **public disagreement** between **Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Trump** occurred in the **Oval Office**, leading the U.S. to **pause all military aid** to Ukraine.
- Within a day, **Zelenskyy** announced Kyiv's willingness for a **partial truce** and cooperation with Trump to achieve lasting peace.

Origins of the War

- **February 24, 2022**: Russian President **Vladimir Putin** launched the invasion of Ukraine, expecting a **quick victory**.
- **Western countries, including the U.S.**, initially anticipated Ukraine's fall, evacuating their embassies from Kyiv.
- However, **Ukraine's resistance**, backed by **U.S.-supplied weapons**, prevented an early Russian victory.
- The **Biden administration** adopted a **two-pronged strategy**:
 - **Sanctions on Russia** to weaken its war economy.
 - **Massive military aid to Ukraine** to fight the Russians.
- **Russian setbacks**:
 - **September 2022**: Russia withdrew from **Kharkiv Oblast** in the northeast.
 - **November 2022**: Russian forces pulled back from **Kherson city** and parts of **Mykolaiv** in the south.
- **Russia's counterstrategy**:
 - **Annexed four Ukrainian oblasts** (Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson).
 - **Partial mobilization of troops** to prepare for a prolonged war.
 - **Economic pivot to Asia**, leveraging markets in **China and India** to bypass Western sanctions.



Current Status of the War (2023-2025)

- **2023:** Russia began **regaining lost ground**, securing key locations:
 - **Soledar (January 2023)**
 - **Bakhmut (May 2023)**
- **2024:** Russian forces captured:
 - **Avdiivka (February 2024)**
 - **Krasnohorivka (September 2024)**
 - **Vuhledar (October 2024)**
- **Ukrainian counteroffensive (June 2023):** Launched with **advanced Western weapons** but **failed** against Russia's strong defenses.
- **August 2024:** Ukraine **launched a surprise attack** in **Russia's Kursk region**, capturing **1,000 sq. km** to pressure Russian advances in the east.
- **Russia's counter-counteroffensive:**
 - **Ignored the Kursk attack** and focused on Ukraine's eastern weaknesses.
 - **By 2024**, Russia had captured **4,168 sq. km** in both Ukraine and Russia's Kursk region.
- **January 2025:** Russian troops seized:
 - **Velyka Novosilka**
 - **Parts of Toretsk**
 - Attempted **encirclement of Pokrovsk**
- **Ukraine's strategy:**
 - Intensified **drone and missile attacks** deep inside Russia and in the Black Sea.
 - **However, remained on the backfoot militarily for over two years.**



Aspect	European Perspective	U.S. Perspective
Initial Response to the War	Supported Ukraine but was hesitant about escalation; economic concerns over energy dependence on Russia.	Adopted a two-pronged approach: sanctions on Russia and military aid to Ukraine.
Military Support	European countries provided military aid but lacked the capacity for long-term independent support.	Supplied advanced weapons, intelligence, and financial assistance.
Economic Costs & Challenges	Faced economic hardships due to loss of Russian gas (Nord Stream pipeline sabotage), leading to a cost-of-living crisis and deindustrialization.	The U.S. economy remained largely unaffected by the war, allowing it to sustain military aid.

NATO Membership for Ukraine	Initially hesitant in 2008 (France & Germany opposed it). Now, seeks security guarantees but lacks consensus on how to provide them.	Initially supported NATO membership for Ukraine but under Trump, abandoned it and ruled out security guarantees.
Security Concerns	Fears Russia's expansionism but lacks a unified defense strategy without U.S. leadership in NATO.	Prioritizes a strategic shift, seeing China as a bigger threat rather than Russia.
Policy Shift Under Trump	Caught off guard by the sudden U.S. reversal, now scrambling to reassess its role in the conflict.	Under Trump, shifted towards realignment with Russia, focusing on great power politics over Ukraine's interests.
Long-Term Strategy	Wants continued deterrence against Russia but lacks independent military strength.	Aims to reconfigure global strategy by ending the war and preventing a China-Russia alliance.
Key Challenges	Economic downturn, rise of far-right movements, uncertainty over NATO's future.	Managing relations with both Russia and China while ensuring a controlled exit from the war.

Situation in Ukraine

- **Massive losses:**
 - Lost over 20% of its territory.
 - Tens of thousands of soldiers killed.
 - Millions of Ukrainians displaced.
- **Economic collapse:**
 - Infrastructure and energy sector severely damaged by Russian bombings.
 - Dependent on external military supplies (artillery, ammunition, weapons).
 - Facing a manpower shortage on the battlefield.
- **Bleak future:**
 - U.S. withdrawal of support makes a Ukrainian victory nearly impossible.
 - No NATO membership or security guarantees.
 - Continuing the war risks more territorial losses.
 - Stopping the war means accepting a deal shaped by Russia and the U.S.
- **Final analysis:**
 - Great powers use proxy wars for their strategic interests.
 - They reset ties when those interests align.
 - Ukraine is left with no good options, a stark reminder of how proxies suffer in global power struggles.

Source: [The Hindu: A brief history of the Russia-Ukraine war](#)