

FINDER

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Securing India against the threat of a 'Mythocalypse'

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3
Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

1. What is Claude Mythos and Why is it a Concern?

- Claude Mythos is a **frontier AI model by Anthropic (a U.S.-based Artificial Intelligence company) with advanced cybersecurity capabilities** that can outperform human experts in some vulnerability-discovery tasks.
- It can **identify zero-day vulnerabilities that are often missed by human experts** and automated tools.

Zero-day vulnerability: A software flaw unknown to developers and defenders.

- Mythos discovered a 16-year-old software flaw that had survived over 5 million automated tests.
- Its **ability for advanced reasoning and autonomous execution raises concerns about cyberattacks** on critical infrastructure.

2. Why is Mythos Different from Earlier AI Models?

- It can **combine multiple small flaws into a major cyberattack**.
- Its **cyber capabilities emerged from advanced reasoning**, not deliberate programming.
- **Even non-experts could create exploits using such models**, according to the U.K. AI Security Institute (AISi).
- In tests, it appeared to modify its behaviour to avoid detection.
- It makes powerful cyber capabilities accessible to hackers and non-state actors.

3. What are India's Vulnerabilities in the "Mythos Era"?

- While UPI (Unified Payments Interface), Aadhaar, and AA (Account Aggregator) **are advanced, many backend systems use legacy technology**.
- **Public sector banks still rely on COBOL-based systems** and older Windows Server 2008/2012 platforms.

COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language) is a programming language developed in 1959 and widely used for banking, insurance, and government record-keeping systems.

- India **lacks a dedicated AI Safety Institute (AISi) for testing frontier AI models**.
- India **faces a cybersecurity workforce shortage** of over 6 lakh professionals.
- **System updates often take months**, while AI-driven attacks can occur within hours.

4. What Measures Should India Adopt?

- **Establish an India AI Safety Institute (IAISI) for frontier AI testing**, evaluation, and threat assessment specific to Indian systems.
- **Create a "Defensive AI Quad" involving India, the U.S., U.K., and Japan for secure access** to advanced defensive AI capabilities.
- **Develop an AI accountability framework inspired by the EU AI Act** and mandating capability disclosures by frontier AI developers.
- **Launch a ₹15,000–20,000 crore Critical Sector Cybersecurity Upgradation Fund for legacy modernization**, especially in public sector banks and government systems.
- **Lead discussions in forums like the G20 to create global rules for releasing powerful AI models** that could be used for cyberattacks.

India's road through Myanmar is one of engagement

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
India and its neighborhood- relations.

1. Why was Min Aung Hlaing's 2026 India Visit Significant?

- First visit to India (May 30–June 3, 2026) by **Min Aung Hlaing as Myanmar's President**, marking a significant diplomatic engagement.
- **Began with a visit to the Mahabodhi Temple**, showcasing shared Buddhist heritage.
- **Highlights the growing strategic importance** of India–Myanmar ties.
- **Reflects India's policy of engagement** despite Western isolation of Myanmar.
- Signals Myanmar's attempt to reduce dependence on China.

2. Why is Myanmar Important for India's Strategic Interests?

- **Acts as India's land bridge to Southeast Asia** under the Act East Policy.
- It **shares a 1,643-km border with four Northeastern states** (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram), making stability crucial for India's security.
- **Helps curb cross-border insurgency, cybercrime networks**, and illegal activities.
- **Prevents China from gaining overwhelming strategic influence** in India's immediate neighbourhood.
- **Supports India's Neighbourhood First policy** and regional connectivity ambitions.

3. What are the Key Connectivity Projects Between India and Myanmar?

- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** connects Kolkata–Sittwe–Paletwa–Mizoram through sea, river, and road networks.

- Sea and river components are operational; **the crucial Paletwa–Zorinpui road segment remains incomplete.**
- Full operationalisation of the Kaladan project is targeted for 2027.
- **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway aims to connect Moreh (Manipur) with Mae Sot (Thailand)** and eventually Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
- **Internal conflict and armed groups in Myanmar continue to delay both projects** despite high strategic importance.

4. What Were the Major Outcomes of the India–Myanmar Summit?

- Both **sides agreed to boost bilateral trade**, which stood at about \$1.95 billion in 2025–26.
- **Discussions included a rupee–kyat settlement mechanism** and cooperation in critical minerals and rare earths.
- Myanmar assured that **its territory would not be used against India's security interests.**
- **Bilateral cooperation helped rescue over 2,400 Indians** from cyber-scams in Myanmar.
- India increased **Mekong-Ganga Indian Council for Cultural Relations scholarships** for Myanmar students from 36 to 100 annually from 2026.

A new phase in India–Nepal relations

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

1. What is the nature of the India–Nepal boundary dispute and recent developments?

- **Disputed regions** include **Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura**, claimed by both India and Nepal
- **Nepal PM Balen Shah (May 31)** stated the dispute is **not one-sided**, and Nepal may also occupy areas claimed by India
- His remarks triggered **protests in Nepal**, reflecting strong **nationalist sensitivities**

- Both countries reaffirmed commitment to **diplomatic dialogue** for resolution
- Nepal objected to **India-China trade via Lipulekh Pass**, but both sides agreed to discuss
- India termed Nepal's claims "**unjustified**" and based on **artificial enlargement**
- Nepal printed its **revised political map on currency notes**, hardening its stance

2. How is Nepal's political shift influencing relations?

- Emergence of a **young, reform-oriented leadership** focusing on development and governance
- Shift from "**special relationship**" to treating India **on par with other countries**
- **Diplomatic signals** include postponement of **Indian Foreign Secretary's visit**
- PM showed reluctance to **break protocol**, indicating a more formal engagement
- Nepal asserting **strategic autonomy** in foreign policy
- India responding **calmly without escalation**
- Internal concerns in Nepal about ignoring **India's economic importance**

3. Why is dispute resolution difficult?

- **Contradictory British-era maps** create ambiguity in boundary claims
- India follows **1947 boundary alignment**, while Nepal uses **revised interpretations**
- Region has **strategic importance** due to **India-China dynamics**
- Proposal to involve **China and the UK** may **delay resolution**
- China supports **bilateral resolution** between India and Nepal
- Prolonged talks risk making it a **permanent bilateral irritant**
- **Nationalism and symbolic actions** like map printing harden positions

4. What is the way forward?

- Recognise **mutual nature of perceived encroachments**, not deliberate aggression
- Avoid turning the issue into a **long-term diplomatic conflict**
- Leverage **civilisational ties** and the **1,700 km open border**
- Use **strong India-Nepal army relations** for confidence building
- Focus on **economic cooperation alongside dispute resolution**
- Encourage **continued high-level diplomatic engagement**
- Shift mindset beyond **nationalism and protocol sensitivities**
- Aim for a **stable, equal, and forward-looking partnership**
- The evolving political tone in Nepal and India's measured response offer a chance to **resolve disputes pragmatically** and build a relationship based on **trust, equality, and shared interests**

Inclusion without abolition in China's hukou system

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1. What is the hukou system and how has it evolved?

- **Hukou system** introduced in the **1950s in China** as a tool of **social control and migration regulation**
- Classified citizens into **rural and urban residents**, restricting access to welfare based on registration
- Functioned as an **internal passport system** linking benefits to place of origin
- Post-**1978 economic reforms** allowed **labour mobility**, but retained hukou restrictions
- Since **2014**, gradual reforms aimed at **equalising benefits**, starting with **smaller cities**
- Efforts to replace hukou terminology with "**permanent resident population**" and "**place of actual residence**" to promote inclusivity

2. What are the recent reforms in China's hukou system?

- On **May 22**, China's **State Council** issued guidelines to promote **basic public services at the place of residence**, irrespective of **hukou status**
- Focus areas include **education, public rental housing, social and medical insurance, and social assistance**
- Targeted especially at **megacities**, which were earlier excluded from major reforms
- Linked to the **2024-2029 people-centred urbanisation plan**, aiming to increase **urban population from 66.16% (932.67 million in 2023) to about 70% (987 million)**
- Reflects a shift toward **inclusion of long-term residents** in urban welfare systems

3. What are the drivers behind these reforms?

- **Large migrant population** of about **358 million (25% of population) in 2025**, termed **"floating population"**
- Need to boost **domestic consumption** and create a **unified national market**
- Policy goal of **"investing in people"** under the **15th Five-Year Plan**
- Transition from **demographic dividend to talent dividend** through skill development
- Push for **people-centred urbanisation** by integrating migrants into cities
- Rise of **gig and platform economy workers** exceeding **200 million out of 740 million workforce**
- Post-COVID efforts to ensure **labour protection and political incorporation** of gig workers
- Strategic aim to **promote talent mobility to frontier regions**.

4. What are the limitations and challenges of the reforms?

- **Hukou system remains largely intact**, with only incremental adjustments
- **Local governments** bear responsibility for welfare but face **fiscal constraints**
- **Real estate slowdown** affecting municipal finances
- No clear commitment to **additional central funding** despite reform expansion

- **Regional disparities in social insurance** lead to higher contributions but lower benefits for migrants
- Migrants accessing healthcare in cities receive **lower reimbursements** if enrolled in poorer regions
- No strict mandate for **gig economy employers** to enroll workers in welfare schemes
- Significant **discretion left to local administrations**, leading to uneven implementation
- Structural inequalities continue, limiting **true social integration of migrant labour**
- The reforms signal a **shift toward inclusivity and economic pragmatism**, but the persistence of structural constraints shows that the **hukou system continues to shape inequality in China's urbanisation model**

KEYWORDS

French Open

- The French Open 2026 concluded with Alexander Zverev winning his maiden Grand Slam title after defeating Flavio Cobolli in the men's singles final.
- The **French Open (Roland-Garros)** is one of the **four Grand Slam tennis tournaments** and is held annually in Paris, France.
- It is the **only Grand Slam played on clay courts, a surface** that slows the ball and demands greater stamina, tactical play, and endurance from players.
- The **tournament became the first Grand Slam of the Open Era in 1968**, allowing professional and amateur players to compete together.
- It is **played at Stade Roland-Garros, named after Roland Garros**, a French aviator and World War I hero.
- **Along with the Australian Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open, it forms the four Grand Slam tournaments** that constitute the highest level of professional tennis.
- Unlike the other Grand Slam tournaments, **Roland-Garros continues to use human line judges rather than fully automated electronic line-calling systems**, making it unique among major tennis events

Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)

- The Union Government has announced an interim allocation of ₹95,962 crore for the implementation of VB-G RAM G.
- VB-G RAM G is a new rural employment and livelihood programme that seeks to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- The **scheme guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year to eligible rural households**, compared to 100 days under MGNREGA.
- It **focuses on employment generation, livelihood enhancement, rural infrastructure creation, and climate-resilient asset development.**
- The programme is aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and emphasizes Gram Panchayat-led planning, convergence of schemes, and inclusive rural development.
- It focuses on **four pillars: Empowerment, Growth, Convergence, and Saturation**, aiming to strengthen rural livelihoods and create durable community assets

Liquid Biopsy

- Recent research in **Cell** shows that combining **machine learning with liquid biopsy** (using a **14-protein blood signature**) can **predict lung cancer risk up to five years in advance.**
- A **liquid biopsy** is a **non-invasive diagnostic method** that involves sampling and analyzing **non-solid biological fluids (mainly blood plasma)** to detect, analyze, and monitor diseases like **cancer.**
- It works by isolating and studying **biomarkers shed into the bloodstream** by tissues or tumors, such as **circulating tumor cells (CTCs), cell-free DNA (cfDNA), and the plasma proteome (complete set of proteins in blood plasma).**
- Unlike **conventional tissue biopsies** that require **invasive surgical procedures**, liquid biopsies provide a **real-time, easily repeatable snapshot** of disease status with **minimal discomfort and risk.**

- Beyond **early cancer detection**, it plays a key role in **precision medicine**, including **monitoring treatment response, detecting early recurrence, and identifying genetic or inflammatory changes at the cellular level.**

Places in News

Mahabodhi Temple



- **Myanmar's President Min Aung Hlaing visited the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya on 30 May 2026** before his official meetings in New Delhi
- **The Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site** and marks the place where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.
- The **temple is one of the earliest surviving brick structures in India** and represents a significant stage in the evolution of Indian temple architecture.
- Its temple complex **includes a towering shikhara rising over 55 metres and sculpted stone balustrades (rows of small pillars)** dating to the late Gupta period.
- The **site has direct associations with Buddha's life, while Emperor Ashoka is believed to have established the earliest shrine here** after his pilgrimage around 260 BCE.

- The **architectural style of the Mahabodhi Temple** influenced later **Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist religious structures** across South and Southeast Asia, making it a landmark of cultural and architectural heritage

Scarborough Shoal



- The shoal is a **major geopolitical flashpoint** with **overlapping sovereignty claims** by the **Philippines (Bajo de Masinloc/Panatag Shoal)**, **China (Huangyan Dao, claimed under the "Nine-Dash Line")**, and **Taiwan**
- **Scarborough Shoal** is a **triangular chain of reefs and rocks in the eastern South China Sea**, located about **120 nautical miles west of Luzon**, placing it within the **Philippines' 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
- China has exercised **de facto control since the 2012 standoff**, regularly deploying the **China Coast Guard and maritime militia to restrict Filipino fishermen's access** to the lagoon
- In the **2016 UNCLOS arbitration**, the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague** invalidated China's **Nine-Dash Line**, ruled the shoal is a **"rock" (generating only a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea, not an EEZ)**, and upheld **traditional fishing rights of multiple nations**

- The shoal is **strategically significant** due to its proximity to **major shipping lanes, rich fisheries**, and potential for **militarisation**; any Chinese construction could complete a **strategic "iron triangle" with the Parcel and Spratly Islands**