

Why is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Manipur controversial?

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

1. What is the issue?

- **Manipur** is included in **Phase III** of the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls by the ECI.
- The exercise aims to verify **voter eligibility** and update **electoral rolls**.
- Concerns have been raised over its implementation amid ethnic conflict, large-scale displacement, and documentation challenges.
- Critics fear that eligible voters may face **exclusion** from electoral rolls.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a comprehensive verification and updating of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission of India

2. Why is SIR more challenging in Manipur?

- **Ethnic conflict** since 2023 has displaced thousands, making voter verification difficult.
- Many displaced persons have lost **identity** and **residence documents**.
- **Customary naming practices** among tribal communities may lead to document mismatches.
- Several affected people are living in relief camps within and outside Manipur.
- Tribal communities in Manipur do not enjoy **Sixth Schedule status**, limiting institutional safeguards.

Sixth Schedule is the constitutional provision granting autonomous governance to certain tribal areas in Northeast India.

3. What are the constitutional and governance concerns?

- Electoral roll revision must balance **electoral integrity** with **inclusive democratic participation**.
- Exclusion from electoral rolls may affect the **Right to Vote** and political representation.
- The issue highlights challenges in **verifying citizenship** and identity during humanitarian crises.
- It also raises concerns about fairness, transparency, and administrative sensitivity in conflict-affected regions.

4. What is the way forward?

- Ensure **special verification mechanisms** for **internally displaced persons (IDPs)**.
- Accept **alternative documentary evidence** where official records are unavailable.
- Conduct the revision with transparency, independent oversight, and community participation.
- Strengthen safeguards to prevent wrongful exclusion while maintaining credible electoral rolls.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are people forced to leave their homes due to conflict or disasters without crossing an international border.

How can the India–Australia partnership become more durable?

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

1. What is the current status of India–Australia relations?

- India and Australia share a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)**.
- Cooperation has expanded in **trade, defence, critical minerals, clean energy, technology, and education**.
- Both countries seek to strengthen a **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific**.
- Recent agreements focus on **maritime security, cyber cooperation, and resilient supply chains**.

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) is the highest level of **bilateral cooperation** between India and Australia, covering strategic, economic, and security ties.

2. What are the key areas of cooperation?

- **Defence: Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap and Indian Coast Guard–Maritime Border Command MoU.**
- **Trade & Investment:** Growth under the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (**ECTA**).
- **Energy:** Operationalisation of **Australian uranium exports** and cooperation in critical minerals.
- **Technology:** Launch of **PACTS** for cyber, critical technologies, and supply chains.
- **People-to-People:** Growing Indian diaspora, education, and skilled workforce mobility.

ECTA is the **India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**, which reduces **trade barriers** and improves **market access**.

PACTS or the **Australia–India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains**, aims at strengthening cooperation in emerging technologies.

Maritime Border Command is **Australia's** agency responsible for **maritime security, border protection, and surveillance**.

3. What are the major challenges?

- **Strategic convergence** has not fully translated into **institutional alignment**.
- Limited awareness among SMEs about opportunities under ECTA.

- Different **strategic priorities** in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.
- Migration debates and limited public awareness constrain deeper cooperation.

Strategic Convergence is a mechanism where countries share similar interests and objectives without necessarily coordinating policies.

4. What is the way forward?

- Deepen **institutional defence** and **maritime cooperation**.
- Expand trade, investment, and critical mineral partnerships.
- Leverage the **Indian diaspora** to strengthen business and innovation links.
- Enhance technology collaboration and resilient supply chains for long-term strategic alignment.

Study to contain antimicrobial resistant neonatal sepsis begins in India

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

1. Why is the NeoSep1 Trial Significant?

- NeoSep1 is an **international trial evaluating life-saving antibiotic combinations for newborns with sepsis**.
- **India joined the trial with the first enrolment at JIPMER, Puducherry.**
- The **trial aims to enroll 3,000 newborns across Asia and Africa by 2028.**
- It is **sponsored by Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership** in collaboration with international partners.

Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership is a not-for-profit organization established by the World Health Organization and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative in 2016 to develop and ensure access to new treatments for drug-resistant bacterial infections, with a focus on public health needs.

- The trial seeks effective treatments against antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) neonatal sepsis

2. What is Neonatal Sepsis and Why is it a Concern?

- Neonatal sepsis is a **life-threatening bloodstream infection affecting infants below 90 days of age**.
- It is **classified into early-onset (within 72 hours) and late-onset (28–90 days) sepsis**.
- It is the **second leading cause of neonatal deaths globally**, causing over 1 million deaths annually.
- In **India, neonatal sepsis contributes to 30-40% of neonatal deaths**.
- Premature and low-birth-weight babies are at the highest risk due to their underdeveloped immune systems.

3. How Does Neonatal Sepsis in India Differ from Global Trends?

- Gram-negative bacteria predominate in India, unlike high-income countries.
- Major pathogens include **Klebsiella pneumoniae, Escherichia coli, Acinetobacter spp., and Pseudomonas aeruginosa**.
- These pathogens frequently exhibit multidrug resistance (MDR).
- Group B Streptococcus (GBS)** (a bacterium commonly found in the gastrointestinal and genital tract that is the leading cause of neonatal sepsis in developed countries) **accounts for only 2–5% of cases in India**.
- India's distinct microbial profile **necessitates India-specific antibiotic treatment strategies**.

4. What are the Key Features of the NeoSep1 Trial?

- The trial uses a **PRACTical (Personalised Randomised Controlled Trial)**, a design that evaluates multiple treatment options simultaneously and identifies the most effective therapy for different patient settings.
- It **compares and ranks multiple antibiotic regimens** for newborn sepsis.
- The **primary outcome is death within 28 days of enrolment**.
- Secondary outcomes include 90-day mortality**, need for additional antibiotics, length of hospital stay, and hospital readmission.

5. What is the Way Forward?

- Develop India-specific treatment guidelines** based on **NeoSep1 findings**.
- Strengthen antimicrobial stewardship** to combat antibiotic resistance.
- Improve early diagnosis and microbiological testing** in neonatal intensive care units.
- Expand surveillance of drug-resistant neonatal pathogens** across India.
- Ensure access to safe, effective, and affordable antibiotics**, particularly in low- and middle-income settings.

Why is the Centre revising the NFSA?

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System

1. Why has the Union Government proposed an amendment to the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana?

- The **amendment seeks to revise foodgrain entitlement under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)**.
- It **proposes 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household**.
- The **current provision grants 35 kg per household, irrespective of family size**.
- The **objective is to ensure equitable per capita allocation** among AAY beneficiaries.
- The **proposal does not address the issue of ineligible beneficiaries** under the NFSA.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) launched in December 2000, AAY provides highly subsidised foodgrains to the poorest of the poor households under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

2. Why are Tamil Nadu and Kerala opposing the amendment?

- Both States argue **the amendment will reduce foodgrain allocation for small (nuclear) families.**
- **Kerala fears lower Central allocations** due to its predominance of smaller households.
- **Tamil Nadu estimates** its allocation would **fall from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes per month.**
- Rice is a staple food for AAY households and reduced allocation would increase household expenses.
- They **seek retention of the existing 35 kg per household entitlement.**

- **One suggestion is to provide 30 kg of foodgrains per household,** regardless of family size.
- This could protect vulnerable households while reducing the Centre's subsidy burden.
- Any reform **should balance equity, nutritional security, and fiscal sustainability.**

KEYWORDS

Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)

- Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) is a **newly proposed terminology and framework intended to better reflect the endocrine, metabolic, reproductive and psychological manifestations traditionally associated with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).**
- The condition is **characterised by ovulatory dysfunction, insulin resistance, and metabolic abnormalities.**
- The term **"polycystic"** is considered a **misnomer, as the ovaries usually contain multiple immature (arrested) follicles rather than true cysts.**
- **Individuals with PMOS/PCOS are at increased risk of Type 2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), infertility, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.**
- **Management focuses on lifestyle modification, weight management, and individualised treatment targeting reproductive, metabolic, and endocrine abnormalities.**

March and March Movement

- The March and March Movement is a **South African civic organisation founded in 2025 by Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma, a South African activist.**
- The **movement campaigns for the deportation of undocumented immigrants, arguing that illegal migration affects jobs, public services, and security.**

3. What is the historical significance of food security in Tamil Nadu and Kerala?

- **Kerala introduced a formal Public Distribution System (PDS) in 1962,** before the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- **Food shortages significantly influenced Tamil Nadu's electoral politics** in 1952 and 1967.
- Both States opposed certain provisions of the NFSA, 2013, during its formulation.
- **Tamil Nadu secured legal protection for its existing foodgrain allocations** before implementing the Act.
- Both States implemented the NFSA in November 2016.

4. What concerns have been raised about the proposed amendment?

- The **amendment may create a North-South divide** in foodgrain allocation.
- **Northern States with larger families** may receive higher allocations.
- **Smaller households in southern States could lose** part of their existing entitlement.
- **Critics argue AAY beneficiaries deserve special protection** due to their vulnerability.
- The **proposal has prompted demands for wider public consultation.**

5. What is the way forward?

- **Experts recommend broader public scrutiny** before finalising the amendment.
- A **consensus-based approach is considered preferable.**

- It has expanded into a nationwide movement, organising demonstrations in cities such as Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town.
- Although organisers describe the protests as peaceful demonstrations, several events have resulted in clashes with police and mass arrests.
- The movement has triggered a national debate over immigration policy, while also raising concerns about xenophobia and violence against foreign nationals.

PLACES IN NEWS

Negombo Prison

- **Negombo Prison** is located in **Negombo**, on the western coast of **Sri Lanka**, near **Colombo**.
- It is one of **Sri Lanka's major prisons**, housing both **convicted prisoners** and **undertrial detainees**.
- The prison functions under the **Department of Prisons, Sri Lanka**, which manages the country's correctional institutions.
- It has been in the news after **Indian fishermen detained by Sri Lankan authorities** were lodged there following alleged violations of Sri Lankan waters.
- The prison is frequently associated with cases involving **cross-border fishing disputes** between **India and Sri Lanka**.



SPECIES IN NEWS

NEELA KURINJI (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*)

- **Strobilanthes kunthiana**, commonly known as **Neelakurinji**, is a **flowering shrub** endemic to the **Western Ghats** of India.
- It is famous for its **gregarious flowering once every 12 years**, covering hill slopes with bluish-purple blooms.
- It grows mainly in the **shola-grassland ecosystem** at elevations of about **1,300–2,400 metres**.
- The species is found in protected areas such as **Eravikulam National Park, Mukurthi National Park**, and other parts of the **Nilgiri and Anamalai Hills**.
- It was recently in the news due to **conservation efforts and monitoring of its flowering habitats** in the **Western Ghats**.

