The new world disorder, from rules to might

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. Background

- The **post-1945 international orde**r was built on the belief that **law could restrain power and sovereignty was equal for all states.**

- At the founding of the **United Nations (UN**) in June 1945, the aim was **peaceful dispute resolution** and rejection of spheres of influence.

- Today, this **rule-based vision is weakening**, with power increasingly overriding rules.

2. Erosion of Rules and Sovereignty

- International law is **treated as optional,** especially by major powers.

- A shift is visible from **hypocrisy about norms** to open indifference towards them.

- When **sovereignty is violated without consequences**, states decide on **aggression based on cost, not law.**

- This **risks multiple small wars**, which collectively erode global peace.

3. Decline of Multilateralism

- Withdrawal from international organisations and agreements signals **rejection of shared governance.**

- Global challenges (**"problems without passports"** -Kofi Annan), like **pandemics, climate change, cyber threats**, and **financial crises** cannot be solved unilaterally.

- Retreat by powerful states creates **vacuum and fragmentation**, allowing others to shape global norms.

- **Multilateral institutions** suffer from **legitimacy and resource deficits.**

4. Present Danger and the Way Ahead

- The **liberal international order is hollowed** out but not dead.

- **Middle powers continue to support multilateralism** as protection against unchecked power.

- The **real risk is slow decay,** not sudden collapse, leading to coercion and opportunism.

- The central challenge is to **prevent a future where power dominates law**, even if the past order cannot be fully restored

India's aviation is in need of data-driven oversight

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 3
Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc

1. Background

- In **December 2025**, IndiGo faced an operational crisis that caused **a nationwide fare surge.**

- India is becoming the **world's third-largest aviation marke**t, but l**acks robust data systems** for effective oversight.

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation imposed temporary fare caps on domestic flights.

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, at the **Competition Commission's request**, sought **average fare data** from IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet, and Akasa for December 1-15, 2025.

2. Challenges

- **Regulation is reactive,** focused on crisis control rather than continuous monitoring.

- The **DGCA tracks volumes, not ticket-level prices**, limiting visibility into pricing behaviour.

- Without long-term fare data, it is hard to separate **demand-driven increases from abuse of market dominance.**

- **Ad hoc interventions** like fare caps do not address structural market power.

3. Way Forward.

- **Adopt the U.S. model**:

  ➡ The **U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics** collects ticket-level fare data through the DB1B database.

  ➡ It has used a **10% random sample of all domestic airline tickets each quarter since 1995**, enabling long-term market oversight.

- Use this data to monitor **market power, route dominance, entry-exit effects, and fare behaviour during demand spikes**.

- Greater transparency encourages self-regulation of pricing algorithms and reduces opportunistic fare spikes.

- A **10% random sample, released with delay,** balances commercial confidentiality and public oversight.

- The DGCA should move from **ad hoc fare caps to a data-driven regulatory framework** that ensures fair pricing and market discipline.

Taxes prove futile to burn out cigarette use in India

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 2
Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

1. Health Impact of Tobacco

- Nicotine from cigarettes quickly enters the bloodstream and **stimulates the brain's pleasure centre**, causing addiction.

- Cigarettes contain **additives like menthol**, which make nicotine stay longer in the body.

- **Tobacco use kills about 1.35 million people annually in India**, causing:

  ➡ **Cancer**

  ➡ **Lung disease**

  ➡ **Cardiovascular disease**

  ➡ **Stroke**

- India is the **second-largest producer and consumer of tobacco** in the world.

2. Tobacco Taxation and Consumption

- The **recent excise duty increase raised cigarette prices by 15-30%**.

- Currently, **tobacco taxes form about 53% of the retail price**, which is **below the WHO-recommended 75% benchmark**.

- **Higher taxes reduce tobacco consumption**, especially among **youth and low-income groups**.

- Past tax increases **did not keep pace with inflation**, making tobacco **more affordable**.

- **GST on cigarettes and smokeless tobacco is 40%**, but **GST on beedis is only 18%**, which may **increase inequality in tobacco use**.

3. Tobacco Industry Interference

- The **tobacco industry uses lobbying and policy influence** to weaken tobacco control measures.

- According to the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)**, such interference is a **major barrier to public health policies**.

- In India, **cigarette, beedi, and smokeless tobacco industries have influenced tobacco-control policies**.

- India's **Tobacco Industry Interference Index shows only marginal improvement**.

4. Global Tobacco Control and Environmental Concerns

- The **11th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO FCTC (2025, Geneva)** discussed:
  - ➲ **Nicotine addiction prevention**
  - ➲ **Environmental damage from tobacco**
  - ➲ **Industry liability**
  - ➲ **Funding for tobacco control**
- **Cigarette butts with plastic filters pollute the environment** and release **harmful chemicals**.
- Lessons from **tobacco regulation should be applied to other harmful industries**, such as:
  - ➲ **Alcohol industry**
  - ➲ **Processed food industry**

The 1946 Royal Navy revolt: solidarity amid sharpening polarisation

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
History of India and Indian National Movement.

Mains: General Studies - 1
The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

1. Background of the RIN Revolt (1946)

- **February 18, 1946** marked the beginning of the **Royal Indian Navy (RIN) revolt** in **Bombay**.
- It began as a **hunger strike by naval ratings at HMIS Talwar**.
- Key grievances included:
  - ➲ **Poor food quality**
  - ➲ **Low wages**
  - ➲ **Racial discrimination by British officers**
- The protest quickly spread across **naval ships and establishments across India**.
- At its peak, the revolt involved:
  - ➲ **78 ships**
  - ➲ **20 shore establishments**
  - ➲ Nearly **20,000 naval ratings**.

2. From Protest to Armed Uprising

- The movement escalated into an **armed uprising (February 18–22, 1946)**.
- Naval ratings formed a **Central Strike Committee** and raised:
  - ➲ **Congress flag**
  - ➲ **Muslim League flag**
  - ➲ **Communist Party flag**
- They also demanded the **release of Indian national army soldiers**.
- **British forces opened fire**, leading to **violent clashes** in Bombay.
- The revolt spread to **Karachi, Madras, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, and the Andaman Islands**.

3. Popular Support and Communal Unity

- The revolt saw **rare Hindu–Muslim unity** despite rising **communal tensions in India**.
- **Workers, students, and the urban poor** joined protests in Bombay.
- There were:
  - ➲ **Hartals**
  - ➲ **Processions**
  - ➲ **Barricades and street battles**
- The **Bombay mill district became the centre of the uprising**.
- British repression led to:
  - ➲ Around **200 deaths**
  - ➲ **Hundreds injured**.

4. Legacy and Historical Significance

- The revolt was a **major episode in India's decolonisation movement**, though often **overshadowed by Partition violence**.
- The event symbolised **anti-colonial radicalisation in the final years of British rule**.
- The **RIN revolt remains a reminder of solidarity and resistance against colonial authority**.

KEYWORDS

Machattu Mamangam

- Machattu Mamangam is a **traditional temple festival of Kerala** held at the Machattu Thiruvanikavu Temple in **Thrissur district.**

- It is a five-day festival celebrated in the **Malayalam month of Kumbham** (February) and is dedicated to **Goddess Bhagavathi.**

- The festival is famous for **Kuthirakolams,** which are **decorated wooden horse effigies** taken out in a grand procession on the final day.

- It is organized **competitively by five desams** and reflects strong community participation and local identity.

- The tradition of using horse effigies originated due to the **absence of live horses in Kerala**, making it a unique cultural feature of the festival.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)

- The **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)** is the **first international treaty negotiated under the World Health Organization (WHO)**.

- It was **adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003** and **came into force on 27 February 2005**.

- Since then, it has become **one of the most widely accepted treaties in United Nations history**.

- The **WHO FCTC** was created to address the **globalization of the tobacco epidemic**.

- It is an **evidence-based public health treaty** that **reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health**.

- The Convention is considered a **major milestone in global public health** and has introduced a new **legal dimension for international health cooperation**.