

India's Parliament must not stage its Cadaver Synod

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

Mains: General Studies - 2
Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

1. What was the Cadaver Synod and what lesson does it offer?

- The **Cadaver Synod (897 CE)** was a shocking trial in Rome where Pope Stephen VI ordered the **dead body** of Pope Formosus to be dug up and tried.
- The body, dead for **nine months**, was dressed in church clothes, placed on a throne, and a deacon spoke for it.
- Formosus was declared guilty, his papacy cancelled, his fingers cut, and his body thrown into the Tiber River.
- This led to **public anger**, and Stephen VI was later killed, while Formosus was restored.
- The lesson is that **trying someone who no longer holds office becomes meaningless drama and harms institutions.**

2. What is the present constitutional issue regarding Justice Yashwant Varma?

- An inquiry under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** was conducted against Justice Yashwant Varma (former judge of the Allahabad High Court), and its report is planned to be presented in Parliament.
- However, Justice Varma **resigned on April 9, 2026 with immediate effect**, gave up all official benefits, and is **no longer a judge in any legal sense.**
- The report was submitted later on **May 18, 2026**, so Parliament is now looking at taking action against someone who has **already left the post.**

- The main issue is whether **impeachment (removal process)** can continue when there is **no position left to remove the person from.**
- This situation is compared to a **"Cadaver Synod"**, meaning **taking action against someone who is no longer in office**, making the process seem pointless.

3. What are the constitutional provisions and precedents involved?

- **Article 121** allows discussion on judges only during **removal proceedings**, protecting judicial independence.
- **Articles 124(4) and 217** show impeachment is only for **removal from office**, so the judge must still be in office.
- The **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** provides only for removal, not smaller punishments.
- In **Union of India vs Gopal Chandra Misra (1978)**, the Supreme Court said that a judge's resignation is a **personal and final decision** that takes effect **immediately without needing approval.**
- Cases of **Justice P.D. Dinakaran** and **Justice Soumitra Sen** show that **impeachment stops after resignation.**
- Hence, **resignation ends Parliament's power to proceed**

4. What are the implications and the suggested course of action?

- Continuing proceedings may set a **bad precedent**, allowing action even against **retired or dead judges**, weakening independence.
- **Impeachment is only for removal**, and that purpose is already achieved after resignation.
- Responsibility can still be fixed through **criminal law**, because former judges can be **investigated and tried like any other citizen**, and their benefits can also be legally reviewed.

- Parliament should **table the report, avoid debate, and close the matter.**
- The lesson is that **symbolic trials reduce institutional credibility.**

A trade deal that tests India's competitive confidence

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 are the key features and export benefits of India-U.K. CETA?

- India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) **came into force in July 2026 after being signed in 2025.**
- Provides duty-free access for nearly 99% of India's exports** to the U.K.
- Benefits labour-intensive sectors** such as textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, engineering goods, and auto components.
- Expands opportunities** for India's generic pharmaceutical exports.
- Supports employment generation** by improving export competitiveness.

2. What are the key provisions of the Double Contribution Convention (DCC)?

Double Contribution Convention (DCC): It is a reciprocal social security agreement between India and the United Kingdom that exempts employees on temporary assignments (up to 5 years) from making mandatory social security contributions in the host country, thereby avoiding double contributions.

- Exempts eligible Indian professionals from dual social security contributions** for up to five years.
- Reduces financial burden on Indian employees and employers** working temporarily in the U.K.
- Benefits over 75,000 workers** and around 900 companies.
- Generates estimated annual savings of nearly US\$600 million** annually.

- Resolves a longstanding issue in India-U.K. labour mobility.

3. How does the agreement promote competition through import liberalisation?

- Gradually reduces tariffs on British cars** and Scotch whisky.
- Tariff cuts are phased over time** and subject to quotas.
- Gives Indian industries **time to enhance competitiveness.**
- Encourages domestic firms to improve quality** and productivity.
- Promotes consumer welfare through greater choice and competition.

4. What factors will determine the long-term success of India-U.K. CETA?

- Effective implementation of the agreement** by both governments and businesses.
- Greater utilisation of FTA provisions** by Indian exporters.
- Simplification of export procedures** and compliance processes.
- Awareness and capacity-building among MSMEs** and industry associations.
- Sustained competitiveness to achieve the goal of doubling bilateral trade** by the end of the decade.

Promise of chips: On the India Semiconductor Mission phase II

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

Mains: General Studies - 3
Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

1. What is the significance of Semicon 2.0?

- The second phase of the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** has an outlay of around **₹1.27 lakh crore**, significantly higher than the first phase.

- It aims to make India a **strategic destination in the global electronics and semiconductor value chain**.
- The government plans to support projects through **capital subsidies and manufacturing-linked incentives**, with additional incentives for products using **domestic components and capabilities**.

2. Why is semiconductor development strategically important?

- Semiconductors are essential for modern technologies, including **electronics and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- Building domestic capabilities in **manufacturing, human capital, and intellectual property (IP)** can reduce dependence on foreign countries.
- Advanced semiconductor capabilities can provide significant **strategic leverage** and strengthen India's resilience against **supply-chain disruptions**.

3. What are the major challenges for India?

- Most semiconductor projects approved under the **first phase** have **not yet started commercial production**, so their results are still unclear.
- Cutting-edge technologies such as **Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) lithography** are controlled by a very small number of advanced economies and companies, making technological access difficult.
- India faces intense **global competition for advanced technology and skilled talent**, as leading economies invest heavily to protect their technological dominance.
- India also faces the risk of **brain drain** if its semiconductor engineers and designers do not receive **adequate opportunities** for advanced research and high-skilled work at home.

Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography (EUVL or EUV) is an advanced technology used in the **semiconductor industry to manufacture computer chips**.

4. What should be the way forward?

- India should invest in **domestic semiconductor manufacturing, research, intellectual property, and advanced technological capabilities**.

- It should create strong **academic and professional opportunities** to retain and utilise its pool of semiconductor engineers and chip designers.
- Developing capabilities across the semiconductor value chain can strengthen **supply-chain security** and help India emerge as an important player in **global chipmaking**.

KEYWORDS

Wegovy

- Wegovy contains **semaglutide**, a **medication that mimics the natural hormone GLP-1**.
- **GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1)** is a natural hormone produced in the intestine that helps regulate blood sugar and appetite.
- It **mimics the GLP-1 hormone, reducing appetite** and slowing stomach emptying.
- It is administered as a once-weekly subcutaneous injection.
- In India, **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has approved Wegovy for **chronic weight management and Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)** in eligible adults.
- Besides weight loss, Wegovy also helps improve blood sugar control and reduces the risk of major cardiovascular events in eligible patients.

World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO)

- World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) is an **intergovernmental organization for global AI cooperation and governance**.
- China **proposed the establishment of WAICO at the 2025 APEC Leaders' Meeting in Busan, South Korea**.
- WAICO **was formally established in July 2026 by 29 founding member countries**.
- Its headquarters is in **Shanghai, China**.
- WAICO aims to promote global AI governance, strengthen international cooperation, and build AI capacity in developing countries.

National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** was established by the **Union Government** under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.
- Initially, five religious communities **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis)** were notified as minority communities. **Jains** were added to the list in **2014**.
- The **NCM** works to **safeguard and protect the interests of minority communities** in accordance with the **Constitution and laws**.
- The **Union Government** constitutes the **National Commission for Minorities**, while State governments may constitute **State Minorities Commissions**.
- Recently, the Union Government appointed **Harjit Singh Grewal** as the **Chairperson of the NCM**, filling a post that had been vacant since **April 2025**.
- Following the appointment, the Commission has **four members** against its **sanctioned strength of seven**.

Places in news

Chabahar Port

- Recently in the news after reports of **US air strikes targeting Chabahar city in Iran**.
- **Chabahar Port** is located on the **southeastern coast of Iran** in **Sistan and Baluchestan Province**, on the **Gulf of Oman**, which gives it **direct access to the Indian Ocean** outside the Persian Gulf.
- It is a **strategically important port jointly developed by India and Iran**, allowing India to **bypass Pakistan** and build **trade routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia**.
- The port is an important part of the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**, a **multi-modal transport network** connecting **India, Iran, Central Asia, and Russia** for faster and cheaper trade.
- India's role is managed by **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)**, which operates the **Shahid Beheshti terminal** under a **long-term agreement** to develop **modern cargo-handling facilities**.

