

## FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

### Trump's hubris and the cost to the world order

**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. Context

- The idea of **hubris** (arrogance leading to downfall) is applied to Donald Trump in his **second term**.
- His actions in Venezuela and West Asia reflect **assertive, unilateral behaviour**, linked to the rise of an **"illiberal international."**
- Global opinion views his leadership as **unpredictable and personality-driven**, though supporters justify it using **historical precedents**.

#### 2. Misreading of War and Illusion of Victory

- The Iran-Israel conflict reflects a **"no-win fragile peace,"** despite **claims of victory**.
- **Iran remains resilient**, while **Israel failed to fully achieve objectives** even with U.S. backing.
- Talks in Islamabad enabled a **truce without clear winners**.
- Trump's **quick-war expectations** and repeated victory claims show a **disconnect from ground realities**.
- Israel's inability to fully dismantle Iran's military capabilities-even with U.S. support-has weakened its strategic image.
- The conflict caused **casualties, displacement**, and weakened **U.S. credibility** as a security guarantor.

#### 3. Modern War Lessons and Strategic Shifts

- **Smaller forces can challenge major powers** using **low-cost, effective tactics**.

- **Iran's proxy network persists**, while **Israel faces credibility concerns**.
- Ceasefire remains fragile, with tensions in the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Focus has shifted to **control of global trade routes and oil flows**.
- Trump's **policy inconsistency** and stance that Iran must not go nuclear suggest **temporary peace**.

#### 4. Pakistan's Role and India's Concerns

- Pakistan has emerged as an **"indispensable broker."**
- The role of Asim Munir has strengthened Pakistan's **geopolitical influence**.
- For India, this is a **strategic setback**.
- India should adopt **strategic patience** and avoid **counterproductive criticism**.

### Summer as a source of income shock for gig workers

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

**Mains:** General Studies - 3  
Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment

#### 1. Context

- **Heatwaves are now a recurring feature** of Indian summers, with forecasts pointing to **intense heat ahead**.
- **Frequency and duration of heatwaves** have increased over the past decade, with **2022 recording significant heat-related deaths**.
- The key concern is **lack of preparedness for economic impacts**, especially on gig workers.
- NITI Aayog estimates **7.7 million gig workers (2020-21)**, projected to rise to **23 million by 2029-30**, making them highly **vulnerable to climate risks**.

## 2. Heatwaves as an Income Shock

- Gig workers' earnings depend on **deliveries, trips, and active hours**, all of which decline during extreme heat.
- **Fatigue, slower movement, and health risks** increase, but **incentives remain unchanged**.
- They **lack work-from-home or paid leave options**, forcing a **choice between income and health**.
- Heatwaves thus act as a **direct income shock**.

## 3. Gaps in Preparedness

- Policies focus on **health impacts**, not **economic losses**.
- Advisories like **staying indoors** are **not feasible** for mobile workers.
- Facilities such as **cooling centres and water kiosks** are **not tailored to gig workers**.
- **Fragmented governance** (health, labour, disaster agencies, platforms) leads to **poor coordination**.
- **Women gig workers face additional burdens**, worsening vulnerability.

## 4. Way Forward

- Treat heat as a **labour and productivity issue**.
- Provide **rest breaks, shade, and water access**.
- Address **income volatility** through protections or welfare support.
- Encourage **platform-level changes** (flexible targets, reduced peak-hour pressure).
- Improve **institutional coordination**.
- **Resilience must ensure safe working conditions and stable incomes**, as gig workers are essential to urban economies.

## How AI helped community-led development in Rajasthan

**Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1

Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

**Mains:** General Studies - 2

Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

## 1. AI Expansion in India

- India is experiencing rapid growth in **Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption** across sectors like **agriculture, health, finance, and governance**.
- AI tools such as **chatbots, agentic systems, and advisory platforms** are being used to improve **last-mile service delivery**.
- These systems aim to provide the **right information to the right person at the right time**.

## 2. Limits of Current AI Approach

- Many AI systems assume an **"information deficit"** in communities.
- However, the real gap is often between **people and local institutions**, not just information.
- Social realities like **caste, class, gender, and land ownership** shape outcomes.
- Key ground realities are often **not communicated back to decision-makers and programme designers**, such as:
  - ➔ **Volunteers dropping out of programmes**
  - ➔ **Women hesitating to speak in Gram Sabha**
  - ➔ **Delays in implementing approved plans**

## 3. AI4WaterPolicy: A New Approach (AI for Listening)

- A pilot project called **AI4WaterPolicy** was launched in **water-stressed districts of Sirohi and Pali (Rajasthan)**.
- Instead of using AI to **give information**, the project used AI to **listen to people's experiences and feedback**.
- Conducted **352 interviews across 50 villages** via **WhatsApp chatbot** (voice + text).
- Engaged **Pani Mitras (community volunteer water champions), Panchayat leaders, frontline workers**.

- AI analysed and organised responses into themes for **quick insights and validation**.

#### 4. Key Findings and Impact of the Project

##### Three major insights emerged:

- Pride in outcomes:** Improvement in **water levels** increased community satisfaction.
- Double burden on women:** Women manage **both household work and community responsibilities**.
- Administrative delays:** **Slow approvals and funding delays** affected implementation of projects.

##### Community feedback and validation:

- The project used **'Pani Mitras'** to address issues.
- In **"Pause and Reflect" workshops**, structured sessions were held to **share and discuss findings with respondents**, where participants **agreed with some points and questioned others**.
- Participants highlighted **lack of awareness about Panchayat procedures and schemes**.

##### Policy response and changes:

- The **training programme was redesigned mid-cycle**, adding **Panchayati Raj orientation** and workshops with **block-level officials**.
- This change was **not planned initially**, but was possible because **AI gave quick insights**, allowing action within the same programme cycle.

##### Outcomes after intervention:

- Three months after the workshops**, follow-up interviews showed that **more than half the community members** started **directly engaging with government officials**.
- They reported **greater confidence in applying for schemes**.
- Feedback also led to **faster response from Panchayats and departments**.

#### 5. Broader Lessons: Role of AI in Governance

- Difference between:
  - ➔ **Responsive systems** simply **take input and give answers**.
  - ➔ **Listening systems** **adapt based on feedback**, making communities **active participants (co-designers)** rather than passive beneficiaries.

- AI enabled:
  - ➔ **Safe, private communication** (reducing hesitation)
  - ➔ **Rapid pattern identification**
  - ➔ **Changing programmes quickly based on feedback**
- Key principle: **AI should empower human intermediaries**, not replace them.
- Success depends on **human relationships, trust, and institutional support**.
- Applicable to programmes like **Jal Jeevan Mission and other last-mile governance systems**.

#### SIR pause on way to a billion electorate

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

**Mains:** General Studies - 2  
Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

#### 1. Record Voter Turnout & Shrinking Electorate

- States like **Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala** saw **record voter turnout (85%-92%)**.
- High turnout partly due to **"cleaned" electoral rolls**.
- Removal of **"ghost voters"** reduced total electorate size.

#### 2. Growth of India's Electorate (Before SIR)

- India's electorate grew from **17 crore (1951) to 96 crore (2021)**.
  - ➔ Growth was **faster than population increase**.
- Around **75% of the population** typically forms an electorate.
- Increasing focus on **youth voters and gender balance**.

#### 3. Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Impact

- SIR 2025** covered **13 States/UTs** and disrupted the usual trend of **increasing voter numbers**.

- Major States like **Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh** saw **over 10% decline in voters**.
- Major cause: removal of **ASDD voters (Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate)**.
- **Other factors contributing to the reduction in voters:**
  - ➔ **Non-submission of forms**
  - ➔ **Verification failures**
  - ➔ **Eligibility issues**
- Citizens now required to **prove eligibility** → **“re-earning voting rights”**.

#### 4. Issues, Outcomes & Way Forward

- Around **60 crore voters** have already been covered under SIR.
- The total electorate has **reduced by nearly 6 crore**, even after new additions.
- The remaining **40 crore voters** will undergo verification in other States/UTs.
- After completion, India's total electorate may **decline to around 90 crore**.
- SIR improved **accuracy of electoral rolls** but raised concerns.
- Key priority now:
  - ➔ Ensure **no eligible voter is excluded**
  - ➔ Maintain **inclusivity (women, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG), disabled, the third gender community)**
- Electoral roll remains the **foundation of credible democracy**.

#### KEYWORDS

##### Baluchari saree



- **Baluchari saree** is named after **Baluchar village** (now **Jiaganj**) on the **Bhagirathi River** in **Murshidabad, West Bengal**.
- The craft **flourished under Murshid Quli Khan**, the **Diwan of Bengal**.
- It is known for its **richly designed ‘anchal’ (pallu)** with **detailed motifs**.
- Traditionally made using **mulberry silk yarn**, including **Murshidabad silk** and sometimes **matka silk**.
- Today, it uses **organzine silk for warp** and **mulberry silk (Malda variety) for weft**.
- **Heavier and more compact fabric** than **Banarasi sarees**

### Snake bite

- Snakes are **ectothermic (cold-blooded)**, forcing them to seek **cool shelters in human dwellings during extreme heat**; their activity also **peaks during the pre-monsoon breeding season (April-May)**, increasing human-snake conflict.
- In 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) formally classified snakebite envenoming as a **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**.
- The WHO Global Strategy aims to halve the number of deaths and disabilities from snakebites by 2030.
- **India** is often called the **“snakebite capital” of the world** and **it accounts for nearly 50% of global snakebite deaths**.
- The government of India has classified **snakebite as a notifiable disease in 2024**, requiring **mandatory reporting by all health facilities** to improve surveillance and clinical outcomes.
- Most snakebite deaths in India are attributed to the **“Big Four”** species: the **Spectacled Cobra, Common Krait, Russell’s Viper, and Saw-scaled Viper**.
- **Anti-Snake Venom (ASV) is the only available cure**, but it carries the risk of **fatal anaphylaxis**; with nearly **70% of bites being non-venomous or dry bites**, doctors face **high-risk decisions without objective diagnostic tools**.

### Places In News

#### Mali

- **Mali** is a **landlocked country in West Africa**, located mainly in the **Saharan and Sahelian regions**.
- The country is largely **flat and arid**, with the **Niger River** acting as a key **trade and transport lifeline**.
- Despite being one of the **largest countries in Africa**, Mali has a **relatively small population**, mostly concentrated along the **Niger River**.
- The **Bambara (Bamana)** ethnic group and language are dominant, alongside others such as the **Fulani (Fulbe), Dogon, and Tuareg**.
- Mali shares borders with **Algeria (north), Niger and Burkina Faso (east), Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea (south), and Senegal and Mauritania (west)**.



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