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MCQs

THE HINDU

Do not surrender to China, do not depend on the U.S

Prelims : General Studies Paper I

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

Mains: General Studies 2

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Why in Focus?

- A debate has emerged over whether **India should reset its China policy** amid **uncertainties in U.S. foreign policy** and changing geopolitical dynamics.

Key Highlights

- Some business groups favour **improving economic ties with China**, citing India's dependence on **Chinese technology, industrial inputs, machinery, APIs, and supply chains**.
- Critics argue that **China's repeated border incursions, economic coercion, and support to Pakistan** make an unconditional reset strategically risky.
- China has followed **salami-slicing tactics** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** through incidents such as **Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014), Doklam (2017), and Galwan (2020)**.

◆ **Salami-slicing tactics** refer to the strategy of achieving a major objective through a series of small, gradual actions

- China has also **blocked India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)** and opposed **India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC)**.
- After the **Galwan clash**, India imposed restrictions on **Chinese apps, investments, and telecom infrastructure** to reduce strategic dependence.
- Greater economic dependence on China** could weaken India's strategic leverage and encourage China to continue its multi-domain pressure.

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of **48 participating governments** that seeks to **contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons** through guidelines for **nuclear exports**.
The **NSG** was established in **1974** after **India's nuclear test**, and its **export guidelines** were first issued in **1978**.

Implications

- Excessive economic dependence on China** could weaken India's bargaining power and allow China to dictate terms in future border negotiations.
- China's annual trade surplus with India exceeds **\$100 billion**, resulting in a large **trade deficit** for India



- U.S. measures including **higher tariffs, tighter H-1B visa rules**, and renewed engagement with Pakistan, have triggered a debate on India's foreign policy choices.
- Continuing **border disputes** and military tensions along the **Line of Actual Control**.
- China's use of **economic coercion** and strategic support to **Pakistan**.
- Uncertainty in **U.S. foreign policy**, making overdependence on any one partner risky.

Way Forward

- India should **strengthen domestic manufacturing and build resilient supply chains** to reduce strategic dependence on any one country.
- India should **diversify its trade partnerships with Europe, East Asia, and the Global South** instead of relying heavily on a single country.
- The **uncertainty of U.S. foreign policy should not push India** into greater dependence on **China**; instead, India should pursue strategic autonomy.
- Continue engagement with China while safeguarding **national security** and **economic interests**.

Mains Question

In the context of evolving global geopolitics, discuss why India should balance economic engagement with China while safeguarding its strategic and national security interests. (250 Words)

The youth have risen against authoritarianism

Prelims : General Studies Paper I

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

Mains: General Studies 2

Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Why in Focus?

- The **NEET controversy** has reignited debates on **government accountability, transparency in public examinations**, and the importance of **democratic dissent**.

Key Highlights

- **Public protests** compelled the government to respond to the **NEET controversy** and initiate corrective measures.
- **Governments are accountable to the people**, and citizens have the right to question public authorities.
- **Students and youth** played a key role in demanding **transparency, fairness, and accountability** in public examinations.
- **Unchecked concentration of power and authoritarian tendencies** can weaken democratic institutions.
- **Peaceful protest and democratic dissent** are essential to ensure **government accountability** and protect democratic values.

Implication

- Alleged **irregularities** in the conduct of **NEET**.
- Concerns over the **transparency and credibility** of public examinations.
- Perceived **authoritarian governance** and fear of reprisals against dissent.
- Declining standards of **ministerial accountability** in public life.

Way Forward

- Ensure **transparent, fair, and credible** conduct of competitive examinations.
- Strengthen **institutional accountability** and ensure timely corrective action.
- Protect the **right to peaceful protest** and democratic participation.
- Uphold **constitutional values, transparency, and the rule of law**.



Mains Question

Public accountability and peaceful democratic dissent are essential for strengthening democratic governance. Discuss in the context of the recent NEET controversy. (250 Words)

Why India must modernise the way govt. publishes laws and regulations

Prelims: General Studies Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies 2

Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Why in Focus?

- The editorial **highlights the difficulty citizens, lawyers and judges face in accessing the latest and historically accurate versions** of Indian laws.
- It argues that **India should move from fragmented, PDF-based legal publishing towards open, structured and machine-readable legal standards.**

Key Highlights

- In **1906, Mahatma Gandhi translated and published the Transvaal government's "Black Act" in Indian Opinion**, recognising that citizens cannot defend their rights against laws they cannot read or understand.

Transvaal: A historical region in South Africa, then a self-governing British colony, where discriminatory laws were imposed on the Indian community.

Black Act (1906): A discriminatory law in the Transvaal requiring Indians to compulsorily register, provide fingerprints and carry registration certificates. Gandhi opposed it through Satyagraha.

Indian Opinion: A newspaper founded by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa in 1903 to voice the concerns and rights of the Indian community.

- India's legal framework remains scattered across multiple websites, with no single authoritative platform** showing the law in force at a particular point in time.
- The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 illustrates the problem.
- Government gazettes are primarily published as PDFs.** While PDFs preserve visual formatting, they poorly capture the hierarchical structure of laws, such as chapters, parts, sections and subsections.
- Some regional-language gazettes use proprietary fonts** (fonts owned or controlled by a particular company/developer), making their contents difficult to search, extract or reproduce on websites.
- Several countries have adopted structured standards that capture the hierarchy, meaning and amendment history of legislation.
- Many African countries use Akoma Ntoso along with the open-source Indigo platform, which enables users to track amendments and determine what the law was at a particular point in time.**

Akoma Ntoso: An open, XML-based international standard for structuring and publishing legal, legislative and parliamentary documents in machine-readable form. XML (Extensible Markup Language) is a way of organising and storing information in a structured format that computers can easily read and process.

- The **United States uses USLM** (United States Legislative Markup), a variant of Akoma Ntoso.
- The **United Kingdom uses Crown Legislation Markup Language (CLML)** and has indicated movement towards Akoma Ntoso as an emerging international standard.

Implications

- Fragmented publication undermines the rule of law** because citizens, lawyers and even courts may struggle to determine which provisions are currently operative.
- PDF-dependent publishing makes it difficult to incorporate successive amendments** and reconstruct the law.
- The **absence of machine-readable and multilingual standards restricts accessibility,**



technological innovation and reuse of public legal information.

- **India lacks an integrated framework connecting principal Acts with their amendments**, rules, regulations and other subordinate legislation.
- **Greater accessibility to laws can strengthen transparency**, citizen participation and government accountability.

Way Forward

- **Shift from PDF-based publication to structured, machine-readable formats** such as Akoma Ntoso to capture the hierarchy, content and amendment history of laws.
- **Develop a single authoritative platform** integrating Acts, amendments, rules, regulations, notifications and subordinate legislation, including historical versions.
- **Publish laws in searchable, Unicode-compatible formats** across Indian languages to improve accessibility and digital usability.
- **Ensure timely publication of Bills, amendments and commencement notifications** and involve citizens, legal experts and other stakeholders in developing standardised legal-publishing systems.

Mains Question

“Accessible and transparent publication of laws is an essential component of the rule of law and participatory democracy.” Discuss the need for modernising India’s digital legal-publishing framework in light of global best practices. (250 Words)

Why is China’s AI push gaining ground?

Prelims: General Paper 1

Current events of national and international importance.

Mains: General studies 3

Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Why in Focus?

- China’s rapid advancement in **Artificial**

Intelligence (AI) through **open-source/open-weight models** like **Kimi K3** is emerging as a major challenge to **U.S.-led AI dominance**.

Key Highlights:

- Chinese firm **Moonshot AI** launched **Kimi K3**, a **2.8 trillion parameter (internal adjustable values) AI model**, comparable to leading models like **Claude (by Anthropic)**.
- A key feature of China’s AI strategy is the promotion of **open-weight/open-source models**, enabling **local deployment** without dependence on external providers.
- Despite restrictions on advanced **GPUs (specialised chips used for fast calculations)**, China compensates through **abundant electricity** and **large-scale use of less advanced chips**.
- Major firms such as **Alibaba, Tencent, and Baidu** are developing both **high-end** and **lightweight AI models** for varied applications.
- Startups like **DeepSeek** have emerged as strong competitors by offering **accessible open-source AI models** globally.
- The Chinese government supports the ecosystem through **funding, policy backing, and restrictions on foreign influence**.

Implications:

- A significant **trust deficit** exists regarding Chinese AI models due to concerns over **data security and state influence**.
- The **high cost of training AI models** raises questions about the **long-term sustainability** of open-source approaches.
- The global AI ecosystem risks **fragmentation** into **U.S.-led closed models vs China-led open models**.

Open-source AI: AI systems whose **source code, model weights, or architecture are publicly available**, allowing anyone to use, modify, and run them locally.

Closed (proprietary) AI: AI systems whose **code and models are privately controlled by companies**, accessible only through restricted platforms or paid services.

- Countries like India face the challenge of avoiding **technological dependence** while leveraging affordable AI solutions.



- AI is increasingly a domain of **geopolitical competition and techno-nationalism**, influencing global power structures.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen India's **domestic AI ecosystem** by supporting firms like **Sarvam AI** through **funding and policy incentives**.
- Adopt a **balanced strategy** combining **open-source adoption** with **indigenous innovation**.
- Establish robust frameworks for **data protection, cybersecurity, and ethical AI governance**.
- Enhance investment in **semiconductor manufacturing and GPU infrastructure** under initiatives like the **India Semiconductor Mission**.
- Actively participate in **global AI governance frameworks** to ensure **secure, inclusive, and responsible AI development**.

Mains Question:

"The rise of open-source AI models, particularly from China, is reshaping the global artificial intelligence landscape." Discuss its implications for technological sovereignty, economic competition, and data security. (15 mark, 250 words)

KEYWORDS

Commonwealth Games

- The **Commonwealth Games** began in **1930, with the inaugural edition held in Hamilton, Canada**, under the name British Empire Games.
- **Glasgow, Scotland, is hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games from 23 July to 2 August 2026**, with athletes from Commonwealth nations and territories competing across multiple sports.
- **India first participated in the Commonwealth Games in 1934**, at the second edition held in London. **Wrestler Rashid Anwar** won India's first-ever Commonwealth Games medal, a bronze.
- **Finnie, inspired by Scotland's national animal, the unicorn**, is the official mascot of Glasgow 2026.
- The Games are **organised under the supervision of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)**.
- At Glasgow 2026, **Mirabai Chanu won gold in the women's 48 kg weightlifting event**, while **Chanambam Rishikanta Singh** won silver in the men's 60 kg weightlifting event with a total lift of 264 kg.

PRAXIS MISSION

- **It is in news because** NASA selected the **PRAXIS (Planetary Rings Autonomous Exploration with In-situ Sampling)** mission concept for Phase I funding under its **Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) 2026** program.
- It is an **AI-driven, bio-inspired robotic craft** designed to autonomously capture and analyze the size, porosity, and composition of planetary ring particles.
- To prevent destructive collisions, the spacecraft will **graze the outer ring plane** and extend a long deployable boom to perform **touch-and-go sampling** from a safe distance.
- The mission aims to address key questions raised in NASA's Planetary Science Decadal Survey regarding how **planetary ring systems form, evolve, and sustain themselves**.
- The sampling architecture developed under PRAXIS serves as an **adaptable prototype platform** that can be integrated into future exploration missions to various **ringed planets**.



Places in News

Jantar Mantar, Delhi

- **Jantar Mantar** (**Yantra** - instruments; **Mantra** - formulae) was built in **1724** by **Maharaja Jai Singh II** of Jaipur.
- **Maharaja Jai Singh II** also built observatories at **Ujjain, Varanasi, and Mathura**.
- He constructed **large astronomical instruments** because the existing instruments were **too small** to provide **accurate astronomical measurements**.
- Today, **accurate observations** cannot be made at **Jantar Mantar** due to the presence of **tall buildings** around the observatory.

