

# FINDER

28<sup>th</sup>

May

2026



## FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

### Global crises demand more than 'citizen sacrifice'

**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.

#### 1. PM Modi's Seven Appeals and Reactions

- **Narendra Modi urged citizens to adopt restraint, self-reliance, and responsible consumption** amid global uncertainty and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.
- It included **buying local products, conserving energy, promoting domestic tourism, and supporting indigenous innovation.**
- Supporters viewed the measures as practical nationalism and economically resilient.

#### 2. Shift of Responsibility to Citizens

- **Behavioural changes were prioritised** over structural reforms.
- Citizens are **increasingly asked to adapt during economic and geopolitical crises.**
- **Democratic governance requires states to provide stability** and public welfare.
- **Excessive reliance on public sacrifice may weaken** the social contract.

#### 3. Limits of Behavioural Nationalism

**Behavioural nationalism** refers to a form of nationalism expressed through the everyday behaviour and choices of citizens rather than only through political slogans, ideology, or state policy. It involves people consciously adopting practices that are seen as benefiting or strengthening the nation.

- Global challenges such as **energy security and climate change are interconnected.**
- **Patriotism alone cannot solve** structural economic vulnerabilities.
- **Long-term resilience depends on strong institutions** and policy coherence.
- **Governments worldwide increasingly use behavioural messaging** during crises.
- **Structural accountability of states and corporations** remains essential.

#### 4. Key Governance Priorities

- **Greater investment is needed in healthcare, education, and social protection.**
- Economic inequality and informal labour **vulnerabilities require policy attention.**
- **Scientific research, innovation, and universities are crucial** for genuine self-reliance.
- **Climate resilience requires better urban planning** and infrastructure.
- Stable and predictable regulatory systems are essential for economic resilience.

#### 5. Importance of Democratic Institutions

- Open debate and **institutional criticism strengthen democracies.**
- **Transparency and public trust** are critical during crises.
- **Responsible citizenship cannot substitute** for effective governance.
- Behavioural politics **may normalise institutional underperformance.**
- National resilience depends on accountable institutions and evidence-based policymaking.

## Tariffs to carbon, the new rules shaping India's trade

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

**Mains:** General Studies - 3  
Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

### 1. Introduction to CBAM

- The **European Union proposed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in 2021**, and it entered its definitive phase on January 1, 2026.
- CBAM is a **climate policy tool aimed at preventing carbon leakage**, where industries shift production to countries with weaker climate regulations.
- It **imposes a carbon-linked charge on imports based on the embedded carbon emissions** in products.
- It **covers carbon-intensive sectors** such as steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen.

### 2. Impact on India's Trade and Industries

- **India's steel and aluminium sectors will face the biggest impact** due to dependence on European Union (EU) markets.
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) **charges will apply even if India signs a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU.**
- **Exporters may indirectly bear the carbon levy** through stricter contracts and lower pricing power.
- Indian firms **may need to invest in cleaner and low-carbon technologies.**
- Higher compliance costs could reduce profits and export competitiveness.

### 3. Indirect Economic and Agricultural Effects

- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) **may affect global commodity prices beyond direct trade impacts.**
- **Egypt, Russia, Morocco, and China are major fertilizer exporters to the European Union (EU)** and key suppliers to India.

- Higher carbon-compliance costs **may increase global fertilizer prices.**
- **India's fertilizer import bill could rise**, affecting farm profitability and agriculture.
- Higher fertilizer prices **may increase food prices and inflation in India.**

### 4. Nature of the CBAM System

- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) **differs from traditional Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs).**
- CBAM is a **price-based system linked to carbon emissions.**
- **Products meeting quality standards may still lose competitiveness** due to high carbon emissions.
- Shifting to cleaner production systems is costly in the short term.
- Global trade competitiveness now depends on carbon efficiency along with price and production efficiency.

### 5. Measures India Should Adopt

- India **should invest more in clean energy and low-carbon industries.**
- **Stronger carbon policies are needed** to prepare industries for carbon-linked trade.
- India **should seek equitable treatment and phased transition periods** in global negotiations.
- The **country should demand technology transfer and financial support** from developed nations.
- India **should boost domestic fertilizer production and improve the Soil Health Cards Scheme.**

The **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme** is a centrally sponsored initiative launched in 2015 to assist state governments in issuing soil test-based cards to all farmers. It provides nutrient status and custom fertilizer recommendations to combat land degradation, optimize input costs, and promote sustainable agriculture

## Whole body scans: why investors love them but doctors hate them

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

**Mains:** General Studies - 2  
Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

### 1. Rise of Whole-Body Scanning Industry

- **Whole-body scans** are increasingly marketed directly to healthy people without medical referrals.
- Packages include:
  - ➔ **Full-body MRI**
  - ➔ **CT scans**
  - ➔ **DEXA scans**
  - ➔ **Blood tests and AI health scores**
- Companies focus on detecting **abnormalities**, not proven diseases or improved survival outcomes.
- **Ambiguous findings often lead to more tests**, biopsies, surgeries, and increased medical costs.

### 2. Risks and Problems of Whole-Body Scanning

- Major medical societies do **not recommend** whole-body MRI screening for healthy people.
- Risks include:
  - ➔ **Overdiagnosis**
  - ➔ **Unnecessary procedures**
  - ➔ **Psychological stress and anxiety**
- Around **30%** of people undergoing scans **require follow-up tests, most of which reveal no serious disease.**
- Scans may **create fear by identifying harmless abnormalities.**

### 3. Limits of Whole-Body Scans

- Whole-body scans prioritise **broad coverage** rather than detailed precision.
- Important conditions may still be **missed**, despite a “normal” scan report.

- In healthy people, scans **can often wrongly show signs of disease** even when no disease is actually present.
- Some detected diseases may never become harmful, yet treatment can still cause damage.

### 4. What Evidence Supports

- Certain targeted screenings are useful when applied to **high-risk groups**:
  - ➔ **Low-dose CT scans** for heavy smokers
  - ➔ **Cardiac calcium scoring** for cardiovascular risk assessment
- Effective screening requires:
  - ➔ **A clearly defined disease**
  - ➔ **A specific high-risk population**
  - ➔ **A targeted medical purpose**
- Experts argue that medical tests should be supported by evidence showing they actually improve health outcomes.

## The Ebola species with no vaccine

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

**Mains:** General Studies - 2  
Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

### 1. Bundibugyo Ebola Outbreak and Vaccine Challenges

- The **WHO** declared the **Bundibugyo ebolavirus (BDBV)** outbreak in **DR Congo** and **Uganda** a public health emergency.
- There is **no licensed vaccine** for the Bundibugyo species **because of limited funding and poor commercial incentives.**
- **Vaccine development requires:**
  - ➔ Access to the virus or its **genetic sequence**
  - ➔ Highly secure **Biosafety Level (BSL) 4 laboratories**
  - ➔ Animal testing, especially on **non-human primates**

- Human clinical trials would be more effective, but **conducting them during an ongoing outbreak is extremely difficult.**

## 2. Importance of BSL-4 Facilities

- BSL-4 facilities** are the highest-level biosecurity labs used for dangerous viruses like **Ebola** and **Nipah**.
- Features include:
  - ➔ **Negative air pressure**
  - ➔ **Multiple sealed rooms** and airlocks
  - ➔ **High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration systems**
  - ➔ **Sterilisation** of all waste
- Scientists must wear **positive-pressure suits** and undergo strict decontamination procedures.
- There are only about **100 BSL-4 labs worldwide**, including **two in India**.

## 3. Why Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Remain Neglected

- NTDs** mainly affect **poor, rural, and politically marginalised populations** in tropical regions.
- Pharmaceutical **companies invest less** because:
  - ➔ Markets are small
  - ➔ Affected populations have low purchasing power
  - ➔ Vaccine **development costs** exceed **\$1 billion**
- Different Ebola species may require **species-specific vaccines and research** because **immunity to one species may not protect against another.**
- NTDs caused by **parasites and protozoa** are harder to vaccinate against due to **complex life cycles and weak long-term immunity.**
- Global funding historically focused more on **HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.**

## 4. Global Efforts and Causes for Hope

- The **London Declaration (2012)** and **Kigali Declaration (2022)** increased funding and commitments for combating NTDs.

- The **WHO Road Map 2021-2030** promotes:
  - ➔ **Mass drug administration**
  - ➔ **Vector control**
  - ➔ **Better sanitation and surveillance**
- The **African Union's ACHIEVE Africa programme** aims to strengthen indigenous vaccine R&D and manufacture **60% of Africa's vaccine needs by 2040.**
- India has begun **Phase I trials** for an indigenous vaccine against **Kyasanur Forest Disease.**
- Existing Ebola vaccines like **Ervebo, Zabdeno, and Mvabea** only target the **Zaire species**, not Bundibugyo.

## KEYWORDS

### Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is **the national nodal agency responsible for responding to cybersecurity incidents in India.**
- It **functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and has been operational since January 2004** with the objective of securing Indian cyberspace.
- CERT-In has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to collect, analyse, and disseminate information related to cyber incidents** and issue cybersecurity alerts and advisories.
- The organisation **coordinates emergency response measures, handles cybersecurity incidents, and publishes guidelines, vulnerability notes on information security practices.**
- A **Review Committee comprising representatives from ministries such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, and the Department of Telecommunications regularly assesses CERT-In's functioning** and provides strategic direction.

### Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is an **independent verification system attached to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) that enables voters to confirm their votes.**
- It was **first introduced in India during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections to enhance transparency** and trust in the electoral process.
- The **VVPAT system consists of a VVPAT Printer and a VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU) connected to the EVM.**
- **When a voter casts a vote, a paper slip displaying the serial number, name, and symbol of the chosen candidate becomes visible** through a transparent window for about 7 seconds.
- Later, **the printed slip is automatically cut and securely stored in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT machine for audit purposes.**

### High-Level Committee on Demographic Change (LCDC)

- The Government of India constituted the High-Level Committee on Demographic Change (LCDC) on 26 May 2026 under the **Ministry of Home Affairs to study demographic changes caused by illegal immigration and other abnormal factors.**
- The committee is **chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar and includes experts from administration, policing, economics, and census management.**
- Its main objective is to **examine unnatural population changes and assess their impact on national security, sovereignty, law and order, and tribal communities.**
- The panel will also recommend measures for border management, population stabilization, and better Centre–State coordination.

### Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)/Monkey Fever

- **Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)** is a serious viral disease first identified in the **Kyasanur Forest** region of India.
- It is caused by the **KFD virus** and spreads through the bite of infected **hard ticks (Haemaphysalis spinigera).**
- The disease is reported mainly in the Indian states of **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Maharashtra.**
- People usually get infected through: **Tick bites, contact with infected animals**
  - **Monkeys and rodents** act as important animal hosts.
  - Although ticks may live on livestock, **livestock rarely transmit the disease to humans.**
- **KFD does not spread from person to person.**
- **With timely medical treatment,** many patients recover without major complications.

### Places in News

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the **largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).**
- It possesses **abundant natural resources,** including cobalt, copper, vast hydroelectric potential, fertile agricultural land, rich biodiversity, and the world's second-largest rainforest.
- Despite this resource wealth, much of the **population has not benefited** due to decades of conflict, political instability, and humanitarian crises.
- The **DRC shares borders** with: Central African Republic and South Sudan to the north, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania to the east.

- **Zambia** to the southeast, **Angola** to the southwest
- It also has a **short coastline along the Atlantic Ocean to the west.**

