

## DAM REHABILITATION AND SAFETY IN INDIA (COMPETITIVE EXAMS ANALYSIS)

Dam rehabilitation is a critical aspect of infrastructure strengthening, water security, and disaster management in India. Below is the concise, structured information aligned with the syllabus of competitive exams (Geography, Disaster Management, Current Affairs).

### 1. CURRENT STATUS OF DAMS IN INDIA

- **Global Rank:** India ranks **3rd globally** in terms of the number of large dams.
- **Total Dams:** The country has **6,628 Specified Dams** (6,545 are operational, 83 are under construction).
- **Age Profile:**
  - More than **26% (1,681 dams)** are over 50 years old.
  - 291 dams are more than 100 years old.
  - **Oldest Dam in India:** The **Kallanai Dam (Grand Anicut)** in Tamil Nadu, which has been functional for nearly 2,000 years.
- **Ownership:** Approximately **98.5% (6,448 dams)** are owned by **State Governments**. Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) own 0.7%, private entities own 0.6%, and the Central Government directly owns 0.2%.
- **State with Highest Number of Dams:** Maharashtra (followed by Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat).
- **Key Challenge:** Siltation/Sedimentation has led to an average **19% loss in the gross storage capacity** of reservoirs.

### 2. DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP)

This flagship initiative was launched with World Bank assistance to improve the structural safety, modernization, and monitoring of dams in India.

- **DRIP Phase-I (2012-2021):** Completed rehabilitation of 223 dams across 7 states with World Bank funding. The 'DHARMA' application was introduced during this phase.
- **DRIP Phase-II & III (Operationalized in October 2021):**
  - **Co-financing:** Jointly funded by the **World Bank** and the **AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank)**.
  - **Total Budget:** ₹10,211 crore (Phase-II: ₹5,107 crore; Phase-III: ₹5,104 crore).
  - **Tenure:** 10 years in total (each phase spans 6 years with a 2-year overlap).
  - **Coverage:** It covers **736 dams** across 19 states and 3 central agencies (CWC, BBMB, DVC).
  - **Core Objectives:** Structural rehabilitation, institutional strengthening, and generating revenue measures for sustainable Operation & Maintenance (O&M).

### 3. DAM SAFETY ACT, 2021

To prevent dam failure-related disasters and ensure robust surveillance, this Act came into force on December 30, 2021.

- **Definition of a 'Specified Dam':** Dams with a height of more than 15 meters, or between 10 to 15 meters satisfying specific technical criteria, fall under the purview of this Act.
  - **Four-Tier Institutional Mechanism:**
    1. **NCDS (National Committee on Dam Safety):** The apex policy-making body at the central level to evolve safety standards.
    2. **NDSA (National Dam Safety Authority):** The central regulatory and implementing arm to ensure compliance.
    3. **SCDS (State Committee on Dam Safety):** Formulates state-level safety policies.
    4. **SDSO (State Dam Safety Organisation):** Responsible for the actual perpetual surveillance, inspection, and monitoring of dams within the state (established by all 31 dam-owning States/UTs).
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#### 4. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS

- **DHARMA (Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application):** A web and mobile-based platform. All 6,628 specified dams are registered on it to digitize health records and monitoring data.
  - **Rapid Risk Screening:** A web-based tool used to evaluate the hazard potential of dams; implemented for 5,553 specified dams so far.
  - **Earthquake Safety Center:** The 'National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams' has been established at MNIT Jaipur.
  - **Centres of Excellence (CoEs):** Established at IIT Roorkee (focusing on Seismic Hazard Mapping) and IISc Bangalore (focusing on Advanced Risk Assessment).
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#### 5. EXAM-CRITICAL REGULATIONS (O&M AND PENALTIES)

- **Mandatory Inspections:** Dam owners must conduct mandatory **Pre-Monsoon** and **Post-Monsoon** inspections every year.
  - **Category Classification:** Based on deficiencies, dams are classified into three categories: (Category-I: Critical deficiencies; Category-II: Major deficiencies needing prompt action; Category-III: Minor or no deficiencies). As per 2025 reports, **3 dams fall under Category-I** and **188 dams under Category-II** in India.
  - **Offences & Penalties:** Non-compliance with directions or obstructing officials attracts **imprisonment up to 1 year, a fine, or both**. If the negligence results in the loss of lives, the punishment extends **up to 2 years**.
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#### QUICK POINTERS FOR PRELIMS / MAINS ELIMINATION:

- **Statement 1:** The DRIP project is funded by the World Bank and the ADB. (*False - It is funded by the World Bank and the AIIB*).
- **Statement 2:** The majority of large dams in India are owned and maintained by the Central Government. (*False - 98.5% are under State Governments*).
- **Mains Question Prompt (UPSC/State PSC):** "In light of increasing climate variability and ageing infrastructure, evaluate the role of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, in ensuring India's water security and disaster resilience."

## INDIA-UAE BILATERAL RELATIONS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (COMPETITIVE EXAMS ANALYSIS)

The Indian Prime Minister's visit to the UAE in May 2026 and the subsequent strategic pacts signed between the two nations are analyzed below based on the syllabus of competitive exams (International Relations, Economy, Current Affairs).

### 1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT & TRADE DATA

- **Diplomatic Ties:** Formal diplomatic relations between India and the UAE were established in 1972. Following PM Modi's visit in 2015, the relationship was elevated to a '**Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**'.
- **Bilateral Trade:** In Financial Year (FY) 2025-26, bilateral merchandise trade crossed the **US\$100 billion mark for the first time**, reaching US\$101.25 billion. Both nations have targeted doubling this to **US\$200 billion by 2032**.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** The UAE is the **7th largest overseas investor** in India, contributing a cumulative FDI of US\$25.19 billion (April 2000 – March 2025). The Bilateral Investment Treaty signed in February 2024 officially entered into force on August 31, 2024.
- **Local Currency Settlement (LCS):** To reduce dependence on the US Dollar and lower transaction costs, both nations have operationalized the LCS system, enabling trade and remittances to be settled directly in **Indian Rupee (INR) and UAE Dirham (AED)**.
- **Energy Security:** The UAE is an indispensable energy partner for India:
  - **4th largest** source of Crude Oil.
  - **3rd largest** source of LNG and **1st largest** supplier of LPG.
  - The UAE is the **only foreign country** currently participating in India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** programme.
- **Defence Cooperation:** Guided by the Joint Defence Co-operation Committee (JDCC) established under a June 2003 MoU. Service Staff Talks (Army, Navy, Air Force) are held annually.

### 2. MAY 2026 VISIT – KEY MOUS AND OUTCOMES

During the Prime Minister's visit on May 15, 2026, seven significant agreements (MoUs) were signed across critical sectors:

Sector	Agreement / Outcome	Strategic Importance
Energy Security	MoU between ISPRL (India) and ADNOC (UAE)	Insulates India against global oil market volatility; creates opportunities in LNG and LPG storage infrastructure.

Sector	Agreement / Outcome	Strategic Importance
LPG Supplies	Strategic Collaboration Agreement between IOCL and ADNOC	Ensures long-term, stable LPG supply to meet India's domestic and household demands.
Defence Sector	Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership	Promotes co-development, innovation, technology transfer, and advanced defence manufacturing.
Maritime Infrastructure	MoU between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Drydocks World (DDW)	Establishes a <b>Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar, Gujarat</b> ; driving the 'Make in India' initiative in maritime logistics.
Skill Development	Tripartite MoU between CSL, DDW, and CEMS	Provides specialized technical upskilling for the Indian maritime workforce, aligning with the ' <b>Skill India Mission</b> '.
Technology (AI & IT)	Term Sheet between CDAC (India) and G-42 (UAE)	Setting up an <b>8 Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster</b> ; directly boosting the ' <b>IndiaAI Mission</b> '.
Investment	Commitment of capital flows from the UAE to India	Boosts foreign institutional investments in India's core infrastructure and banking sectors.

### 3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA

- Expatriate Indians constitute the **largest demographic group** of foreigners in the UAE.
- They form the economic backbone of the host nation and act as a resilient, consistent source of inward foreign remittances, significantly augmenting India's **Foreign Exchange (Forex) Reserves**.

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## QUICK POINTERS FOR PRELIMS / MAINS ELIMINATION:

- **Technology Linkage:** Which country did India partner with to set up an 8 Exaflop supercomputing cluster?  
**Answer: UAE (Agreement between CDAC and G-42).**
- **Maritime Hub:** Where is the new CSL-DDW Ship Repair Cluster being established? **Answer: Vadinar, Gujarat.**
- **Statement Elimination (Prelims):**
  - *Statement 1:* The United States of America is the only foreign nation participating in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) programme. (*False – The UAE is the only participating foreign nation.*)
  - *Statement 2:* Under the recently established LCS system, trade invoices between India and the UAE must be cleared strictly in US Dollars. (*False – It enables settlements in INR and AED.*)
- **Mains Question Prompt (UPSC/State PSC):** "Examine how the India-UAE strategic matrix is transitioning from traditional hydrocarbon trade relations toward frontier technology domains like Artificial Intelligence and supercomputing."

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## COMMONWEALTH GAMES (CWG) 2026 & 2030: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (EXAM-ORIENTED ANALYSIS)

Based on the recent high-level review meeting chaired by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the following core points have been structured from the perspective of Current Affairs and Sports Governance syllabi for competitive exams (UPSC, APPSC, TSPSC, SSC, Banking).

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### 1. KEY POINTERS (PRELIMS / OBJECTIVE EXAMS FACT FILE)

- **CWG 2026 Venue:** Glasgow, Scotland.
- **CWG 2030 Venue:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.
- **Union Sports Minister:** Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.
- **Strategic Linkage:** During the closing ceremony of the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, the official baton handover ceremony (**Baton Handover**) will take place, formally passing the hosting rights of **CWG 2030 to India (Gujarat).**
- **Participating Bodies:** The preparatory roadmap is being jointly executed by the Ministry of Sports, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and the Government of Gujarat.

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### 2. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK & CORE TERMINOLOGY

Competitive exams frequently test foundational concepts related to national and international sports bodies:

- **Indian Olympic Association (IOA):** The apex body responsible for selecting, training, and managing the Indian contingent for international multi-sport events like the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games.

- **Chef de Mission:** A critical administrative title denoting the official spokesperson and head of a nation's entire sports contingent during international games. This person directly oversees operational planning, logistics, and athlete welfare on-site.
- **Sports Authority of India (SAI):** An autonomous apex sports body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, established to provide sports infrastructure, international competition exposure, and high-performance training schedules to athletes.

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### 3. SPORTS POLICY & GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES

The Government of India is heavily prioritizing an '**Athlete-Centric**' mechanism to optimize performance parameters ahead of the games.

- **Core Roadmap Elements:** The current strategy is built on enhanced international competition exposure, rigorous training schedules, optimal support staff deployment, and robust contingency planning.
- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** To facilitate smooth logistical execution – ranging from customized travel arrangements to international clearances – the Secretary (Sports) is leading a cross-departmental alignment across various central ministries.

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### PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS (MODEL MCQS):

**Question 1: Which Indian city has been officially designated to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG)?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
- D) Bengaluru

**Answer: C) Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**

**Question 2: In international multi-sport events, what is the official title of the person appointed to lead a country's entire contingent and manage its on-site logistics?**

- A) Chief Coach
- B) Chef de Mission
- C) Sports Administrator
- D) Director General

**Answer: B) Chef de Mission**

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MAINS ANALYTICAL PROMPT (UPSC / STATE PSC MAINS):

"Hosting mega international sporting events serves as a reflection of a nation's soft power and infrastructural capabilities on the global stage. In light of this statement, critically analyze the socio-economic benefits and long-term sports governance opportunities India can derive from hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games."

INDIA-UGANDA RELATIONS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (EXAM-ORIENTED ANALYSIS)

The core outcomes and strategic updates from the official visit of Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, and Education, to Uganda have been structured below according to the International Relations (IR) and Current Affairs syllabi for competitive exams (UPSC, APPSC, TSPSC, SSC, Banking).

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### 1. KEY DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

- **Official Representative:** Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary officially represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who assumed his **7th term** as the President of the Republic of Uganda.
  - **Strategic Message:** Through this diplomatic outreach, India reinforced the critical role of political continuity and stability in driving national growth and sustainable development within Uganda and the broader African continent.
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### 2. EDUCATIONAL & TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Education and institutional capability transfer have emerged as a cornerstone of modern India-Africa strategic relations, anchored by a pathbreaking institutional milestone:

- **NFSU International Campus:** The **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU - Uganda Campus)** has been established in **Jinja, Uganda**.
  - **Global Significance:** This institution holds the distinction of being **India's first overseas public academic campus**.
  - **Timeline:** The premier international campus successfully enrolled its inaugural batch of students in **October 2025**.
  - **Core Mandate:** The institution is designed to evolve into a premier **Centre of Excellence** for multidisciplinary forensic sciences, academic Research & Development (R&D), and regional capacity building across the African continent.
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### 3. DIASPORA & PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES

- The Union Minister held high-level interactions with members of the Indian diaspora in the Ugandan capital of **Kampala**.
- The vibrant Indian expatriate community in Uganda serves as a vital organic bridge, reinforcing historical, cultural, and economic people-to-people ties between the two nations.

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#### QUICK POINTERS FOR PRELIMINARY & OBJECTIVE EXAMS (MODEL MCQS):

**Question 1: Where is India's first overseas public academic campus, the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), located?**

- A) Nairobi, Kenya
- B) Jinja, Uganda
- C) Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- D) Johannesburg, South Africa

**Answer: B) Jinja, Uganda**

**Question 2: H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni recently assumed office for his 7th term as the President of which African nation?**

- A) Egypt
- B) Ethiopia
- C) Uganda
- D) Ghana

**Answer: C) Uganda**

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#### MAINS ANALYTICAL PROMPT (UPSC / STATE PSC MAINS):

"The establishment of India's first overseas public academic campus in Uganda marks a paradigm shift from traditional trade matrices to educational and institutional capacity building. In light of this, critically evaluate the role of Educational Diplomacy in strengthening India's footprint within the Global South."

**RAJASTHAN'S FIRST SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (EXAM-ORIENTED ANALYSIS)**

The Union Ministry of Electronics & IT recently inaugurated India's first SME-led semiconductor facility in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. The core components of this development have been structured below from the perspective of the Indian Economy, Industrial Sector, and Science & Technology syllabi for competitive examinations (UPSC, State PSCs, SSC, Banking).

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### 1. KEY MILESTONES & FACTS (PRELIMS FACT FILE)

- **Venue of the First Plant:** Salarpur, Khushkhera, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan.
- **Core Distinction:** This is India's **first Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)** facility to commence the commercial production of semiconductor chips.
- **Operating Enterprise:** Sahasra Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd.
- **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC):** Developed by ELCINA (Electronic Industries Association of India) over an area of 50.3 acres.
- **Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy:** The Government of Rajasthan introduced its dedicated semiconductor policy in **March 2026** with a primary objective to develop the region close to Delhi-NCR into a premier manufacturing hub.

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### 2. POLICIES & GOVERNMENT SCHEMES (POLICY FRAMEWORK)

This facility was established with the methodical support of central government schemes, which are high-yield areas for competitive examinations:

- **SPECS Scheme:** (*Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors*). The Sahasra facility was set up under this MeitY scheme with an initial investment of over ₹150 crore.
- **EMC Scheme:** Under the Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) scheme, the Government of India extended direct financial support of ₹20.24 crore.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** A specialized nodal division launched by the government to drive the long-term ecosystem development and transform India into a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing.

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### 3. TECHNICAL PARAMETERS & CAPABILITIES

- **Industrial Mandate:** This unit functions as an **ATMP / OSAT** facility.
  - (*Note: ATMP stands for Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging; OSAT stands for Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test. This means the facility specializes in chip packaging, testing, and formatting rather than fabrication from raw silicon wafers.*)
- **Core Product Line:** Memory chips (Micro SD and flash storage), LED driver ICs, eSIMs, and RFID products.
- **Global Export Footprint:** The plant is highly export-intensive, routing **more than 60%** of its production to global markets including the United States, Germany, France, Eastern Europe, China, and Nepal.

#### 4. MACRO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT (INDIAN ELECTRONICS SECTOR GROWTH)

- Over the past 12 years, India's electronics manufacturing production has scaled **6-fold**, reaching nearly ₹13 lakh crore.
- Sectoral exports have risen to approximately ₹4.24 lakh crore, with **mobile phones** emerging as India's top export commodity.

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#### PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR OBJECTIVE EXAMS (MODEL MCQS):

**Question 1: Where has India's first SME-led semiconductor facility commenced its commercial production?**

- A) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- B) Bhiwadi, Rajasthan
- C) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- D) Pune, Maharashtra

**Answer: B) Bhiwadi, Rajasthan**

**Question 2: In the context of the semiconductor and electronics supply chain, what does the acronym 'OSAT' stand for?**

- A) Operational Semiconductor Assembly and Testing
- B) Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test
- C) Overseas Semiconductor Association of Technology
- D) Optical Semiconductor Advanced Tools

**Answer: B) Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test**

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#### MAINS ANALYTICAL PROMPT (UPSC / STATE PSC MAINS):

"From a geopolitical perspective, the semiconductor industry has transformed into an arena of intense strategic competition. In light of this, critically evaluate how the 'India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)' along with decentralizing cluster-based manufacturing models can help India mitigate supply-chain vulnerabilities and achieve 'Atmanirbharata' (self-reliance)."

#### STRATEGIC DEFENCE PROJECTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (EXAM-ORIENTED ANALYSIS)

The Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, recently laid foundation stones and held grounding ceremonies for several prestigious aerospace and defence projects. The core components of this development have been structured below from the perspective of International Relations, Defence Technology, and the Indian Economy syllabi for competitive examinations (UPSC, APPSC, TSPSC, SSC, Banking).

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### 1. KEY MILESTONES & PROJECT VENUES (PRELIMS FACT FILE)

- **AMCA Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre:** Being established at **Puttaparthi** (Sri Satya Sai District).
  - **Significance:** This center is vital to fast-track the development of India's fifth-generation stealth fighter jet, the **AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft)**. The facility is being set up at an estimated cost of ₹2,000 crore (the total outlay for the AMCA program is approximately ₹15,000 crore).
- **Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility:** Being established at **T. Sirasapalli** village (Anakapalli District).
  - **Significance:** Undertaken by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) with an investment of ₹480 crore, this plant will focus on autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), underwater counter-measure systems, and next-generation torpedoes. This is a crucial asset for India's **Blue Economy** and maritime security.
- **Defence Energetics Facility:** Being set up at **Madakasira** (Sri Satya Sai District) by Agneyastra Energetics Limited (a subsidiary of Bharat Forge Limited) with an investment of ₹1,500 crore for manufacturing weapons, propellants, and fuses.
- **Ammunition & Electric Fuses Plant:** Being established at **Madakasira** by HFCL Limited with an investment of ₹1,200 crore to manufacture state-of-the-art fuses, a critical component of military ammunition.
- **Drone City:** A consortium of eight private drone companies has joined forces to establish a dedicated Drone City in **Kurnool**. This region is envisioned to become the nation's premier "**Drone Hub**."

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### 2. ATMANIRBHARTA IN DEFENCE & PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP)

- **Whole-of-People Approach:** To reduce perpetual dependence on foreign imports, the government is utilizing the 'Public-Private Partnership' (PPP) model to successfully integrate individual innovators, startups, MSMEs, and large corporations into national security manufacturing.
- **Growth Poles:** These industrial units are designed to act as regional economic drivers. By linking local academic institutions, engineering colleges, and ITIs to high-end technology supply chains, they build a localized industrial ecosystem.

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### 3. DEFENCE SECTOR MACRO DATA (ECONOMIC INDICATORS)

The following statistics are highly significant for economy and current affairs sections in objective tests:

- **Defence Production:** Value of defence production scaled from ₹46,000 crore in 2014 to nearly ₹1.54 lakh crore. It is projected to touch an all-time high of **₹1.75 lakh crore** within the next 1-2 months.
- **Defence Exports:** From a modest ₹600 crore a decade ago, India's defence exports have hit a record high of approximately **₹40,000 crore**.

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## MODEL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE (EXAM PATTERN)

**Question 1: Where is the 'Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre' for India's Fifth-Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) being established?**

- A) Kurnool
- B) Puttaparthi
- C) Anakapalli
- D) Visakhapatnam

**Answer: B) Puttaparthi**

**Question 2: The recently highlighted 'T. Sirasapalli' in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh is associated with which defence infrastructure?**

- A) National Drone Hub
- B) Defence Energetics Facility
- C) Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility
- D) Advanced Ammunition Plant

**Answer: C) Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility**

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## MAINS ANALYTICAL PROMPT (UPSC / STATE PSC MAINS):

"Achieving 'Atmanirbharata' (self-reliance) in defence production is a critical imperative for safeguarding national interests during periods of global geopolitical turbulence. In light of this statement, critically analyze the strategic and economic implications of shifting India's defence manufacturing framework from a traditional public-sector monopoly toward a public-private partnership (PPP) model."

## INS SAGARDHWANI'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (EXAM-ORIENTED ANALYSIS)

The Indian Navy's oceanographic research vessel, **INS Sagardhwani**, arrived at Port Klang, Malaysia, as part of her South East Asia deployment. The core components of this development have been structured below from the perspective of International Relations, Defence Technology, and Science & Technology (Oceanography) syllabi for competitive examinations (UPSC, APPSC, TSPSC, SSC, Banking).

## 1. KEY MILESTONES & FACTS (PRELIMS FACT FILE)

- **Type of Vessel:** INS Sagardhwani is a specialized **Oceanographic Research Vessel** belonging to the Indian Navy.
- **Design & Maintenance:** The ship was designed by the Naval Physical and Electronic Laboratory (NPOL), an affiliate laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and is operated by the Indian Navy.
- **Venue of Visit:** **Port Klang**, Malaysia.
- **Historical Background:** The vessel previously visited Port Klang in 2019 for a scientific deployment. The current visit (May 2026) highlights the growing bilateral defence and scientific collaboration between India and Malaysia.
- **Core Objectives:** To strengthen mutual understanding, regional maritime security, scientific collaboration, and to participate in **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE)** between the two navies.

## 2. STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

- **SAGAR Vision:** This deployment aligns with the Government of India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** policy, which aims to deepen economic and security cooperation with maritime neighbors in the Indian Ocean Region and extending into South East Asia.
- **Act East Policy:** Such naval engagements reinforce India's 'Act East Policy,' which emphasizes strengthening strategic and defence ties with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members.

## MODEL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE (EXAM PATTERN)

**Question 1: Which Indian Navy research vessel recently arrived at Port Klang, Malaysia, as part of its South East Asia deployment?**

- A) INS Vikramaditya
- B) INS Sagardhwani
- C) INS Anvesh
- D) INS Makar

**Answer: B) INS Sagardhwani**

**Question 2: INS Sagardhwani is primarily designed to undertake which of the following responsibilities?**

- A) Nuclear Submarine Operations
- B) Guided Missile Interception

C) Oceanographic Research

D) Aircraft Carrier Operations

**Answer: C) Oceanographic Research**

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MAINS ANALYTICAL PROMPT (UPSC / STATE PSC MAINS):

"Evaluate how naval diplomacy combined with joint scientific research can act as an effective tool in advancing India's 'Act East Policy' and the 'SAGAR' vision across the Indian Ocean and South East Asian maritime corridors."

