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ANALYSIS

Topics 7 + PIB

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Conventional Military Power



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1.) Money

2.) Technology → Hi-end

Smaller States
↓
Non-State Actors

Unconventional
Hybrid
Asymmetric

End of Conventional Superiority

2022 - 2024

Miniles
Tanks
Artillery

2024 - 2026

Ukraine

Russia

Cost Asymmetry

Cheap
Commercial
Drones

Innovation

Scale

Adaptation

Drones

Industrial
Scale

Precision

Scalability

Ukraine - Russia

Drones

→

2 Decades

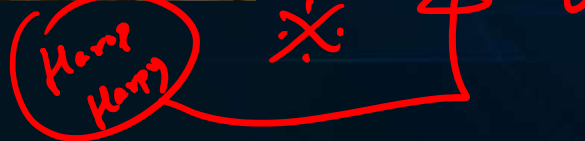
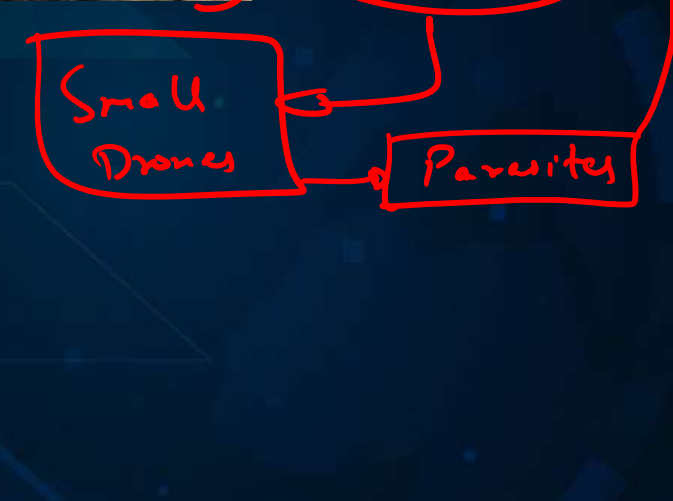
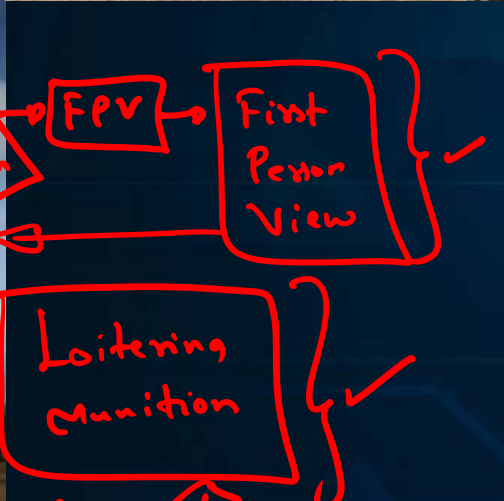
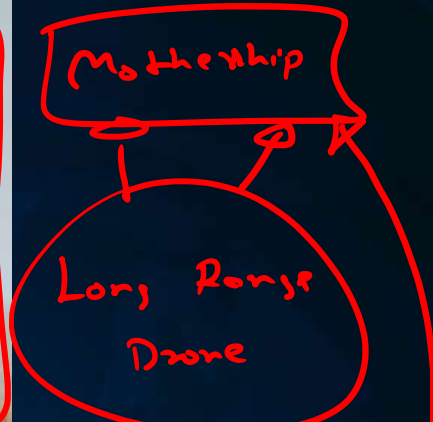
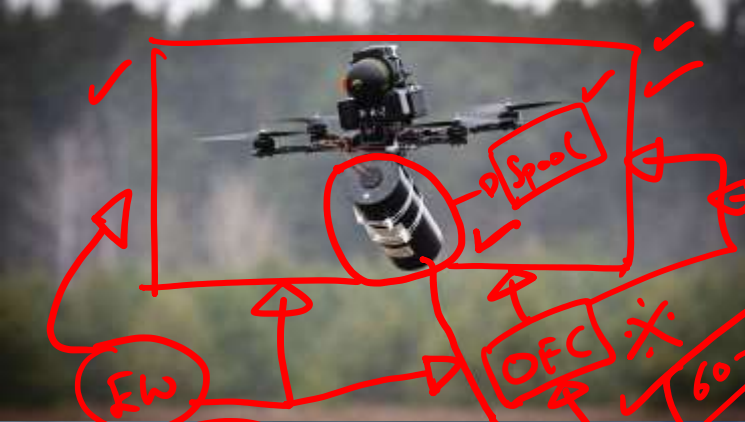
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Predator
Reaper

ISR

Armed





Hezbollah & Houthis

Iranian Proxies



Sammed



UAVs

Shahed

Northern Israel

Regional drone networks

Meanwhile, unlike Ukraine, Hezbollah's offensive UAS capability is primarily built around Iranian-supplied platforms with limited local modification, relying heavily on systems like Ababil, Mohajer, and Shahed series. These platforms provide a layered operational architecture spanning ISR and strike functions. Within this framework, the Mohajer-4 and Shahed-129 provide tiered-ISR coverage across medium- to long-ranges, while the Shahed-136 loitering munition fulfils a 'dedicated' one-way strike role across a wider regional theatre.

More recently, Hezbollah has also adopted jamming-resistant fibre-optic FPV drones, enabling operations in heavily contested electromagnetic environments and enhancing close-range reconnaissance and precision strike effectiveness despite extensive Israeli EW measures.



Israel

Drone

Fleet

ISR
Offensive

Drone
Gun

Net

Catch

High Calibre
Guns

In response, the **Israel Defence Forces (IDF)** in Lebanon have developed a layered counter-drone architecture, integrating EW systems, specialised radar arrays and experimental platforms like the AI-enabled **Iron Drone Raider** designed to neutralise low-altitude UAVs through **kinetic, non-explosive interception methods such as net capture** — by which a physical net is deployed to entangle and disable an incoming drone mid-air — or direct collision, rather than costly missile engagements. Alongside this, the IDF operates a multi-tiered UAV force structure combining long-endurance **Heron systems for persistent ISR with armed drones and loitering munitions** integrated into reconnaissance-strike complexes for rapid engagement.

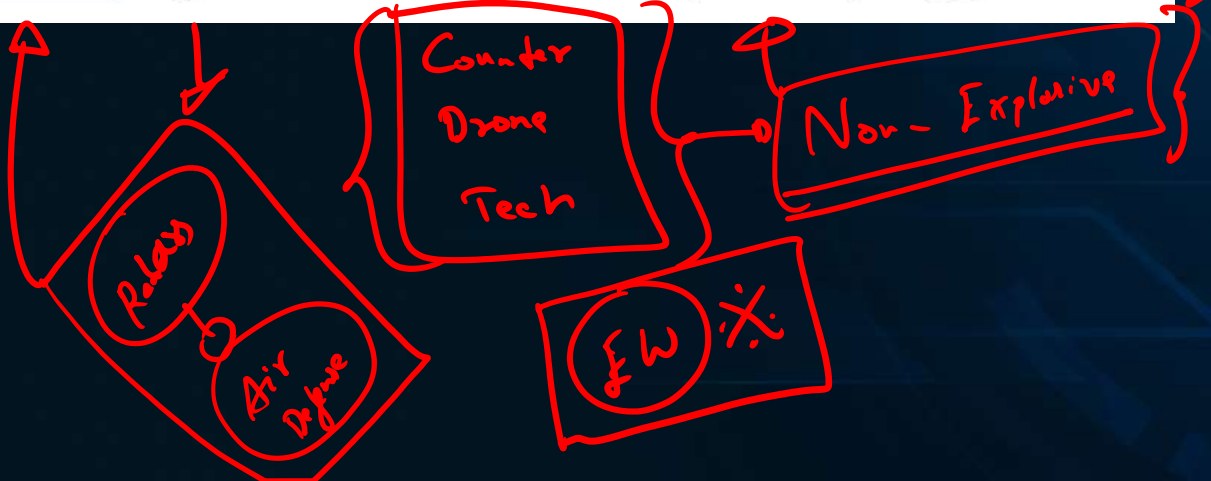
Counter
Drone
Tech

Non-Explosive

Relays

Air
Defence

EW



Iran

West Asia

Drones
missiles

Iran, for its part, constitutes a third and structurally distinct model of drone warfare.

Rather than employing drones solely as tactical assets, the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** integrates them into a broader strategy of **deterrence, coercion, and power projection** against the U.S.-Israel combine and their regional partners across West Asia.

Through indigenous systems such as **Shahed drone variants**, alongside platforms supplied to proxy forces across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, the IRGC has demonstrated an ability to **threaten military bases, critical infrastructure, and naval assets** across West Asia at relatively low cost.

Russia

Shahed

USA

Ukraine

Iran

Mains Practice Question

Q. The wars in Ukraine, Lebanon and West Asia have shown how drones have become central to modern warfare. Illustrate with key learnings for India's defence preparedness.

(250 words; 15 marks)

2. Pg 8 – GS II (Polity)

Peace with peace

Preventive detentions are misused by the state in the name of order

In *Chander Pal Singh*, a matter involving preventive proceedings, the Allahabad High Court has simultaneously addressed a part of the criminal justice system that often receives less attention than ordinary criminal proceedings and the more overbearing reality of mechanisms designed to avert disturbances having gradually become instruments to deprive people of liberty. The state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to public order. However, it has acquired a habit of exercising that power routinely, resulting in detentions without any substantive criminal charge. The High Court's order was based, the Bench said, on a "highly irresponsible" deprivation of personal liberties in Uttar Pradesh, where police officers and executive magistrates were using preventive powers to incarcerate individuals on the basis of arguably minor apprehensions. In *Chander Pal Singh* as well, the petitioner, a physically challenged Dalit advocate, had been arrested over a petty dispute with a neighbour. The Bench said that between May 2025 and April 2026, around 2,500 people were reportedly subjected to preventive detention proceedings in Ghazibud, despite a 2021 State policy to guide the exercise of such powers.

The guidelines in response are commendable; if implemented appropriately, they could reduce the use of preventive incarceration in neighbourhood and property disputes; require executive magistrates to justify their decisions; encourage constitutional challenges to unlawful preventive detention; and generate appellate scrutiny of the compensation framework. They may also snap at the heels of magistrates who cite unspecified "communal tensions" to jail protesters and who impose prohibitively unaffordable bonds for release. Further, even if the ruling does not directly impinge on the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under the NSA, it critiques the idea of using the excuse of maintaining peace to silence dissent and reminds the state that it still has a responsibility to maintain peace with peace. The ruling may also apply to workers and activists recently detained in New Delhi if held under Sections 126 or 170 of the BNS without valid grounds. That said, implementing the ruling will be difficult. The Bench said that compensation for unlawful detention can be recovered from the salary of the magistrate concerned and/or police officer following a disciplinary hearing. However, the executive has been historically reluctant to penalise its personnel. Second, executive magistrates are part of the State administration and their careers may depend on maintaining 'peace' as the State defines it. Addressing these barriers could reform preventive proceedings in India.

Preventive Detention

In **Chander Pal Singh**, a matter involving preventive proceedings, the **Allahabad High Court** has simultaneously addressed a part of the criminal justice system that often **UP** receives less attention than ordinary criminal proceedings and the more overbearing reality of mechanisms designed to avert disturbances having gradually become instruments to **deprive people of liberty**. The **state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to public order.**

Specially-Abled Advocate Illegally Detained For 3 Days: Allahabad High Court Issues Strict Preventive Detention Guidelines, Orders ₹75K Compensation **Guidelines**

The Court held **continued detention beyond 24 hours without justification as unconstitutional**, directs mandatory recording of refusal to execute bond, and fixes personal liability of erring police and Magistrates.

What is preventive detention?

Suspect → Threat

Preventive detention is when a person is held in police custody only on the basis of a suspicion that they would conduct a criminal act or cause harm to society. The police have the authority to hold anyone they suspect of committing a criminal offence. The police have the ability to make arrests without a warrant or a magistrate's authorization in certain cases. Preventive detention was undoubtedly an important part of the colonial legal system in India. Surprisingly, the framers of the Indian Constitution, who had been the most oppressed by the preventive detention legislation, did not fail to provide the statutory validity to the same in independent India. The recent article provides a detailed outline of preventive detention with respect to India and the present picture it has painted of itself in the democratic nation.

'Preventive detention' is also referred to as 'administrative detention', since this detention is directed by the executive and the decision-making authority lies exclusively upon the administrative or managerial authority.

British

World War

1915 → Defence of India Act

World War II

Article 22

Art 21

Right to Life

Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.

It has two parts—the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law and the second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law.

The article makes it mandatory for preventive detention laws to form advisory boards consisting of persons qualified to be High Court judges.

Under different laws, review boards must assess detention orders every three months to determine if there's enough reason for preventive detention.

They examine evidence, request more information if needed, listen to the person detained, and then report if the detention was justified or not.

Safeguards Available to the Detained Person: A person may be taken to preventive custody only for 3 months. The period of detention may be extended beyond 3 months, only after approval by the Advisory Board. The detainee has the right to know the grounds of his/her detention. However, the state may refuse to tell the grounds if it is necessary to do so in the public interest. The detainee is provided an opportunity to challenge his/her detention.

Preventive

Before Crime

Punitive

After Crime

3 months

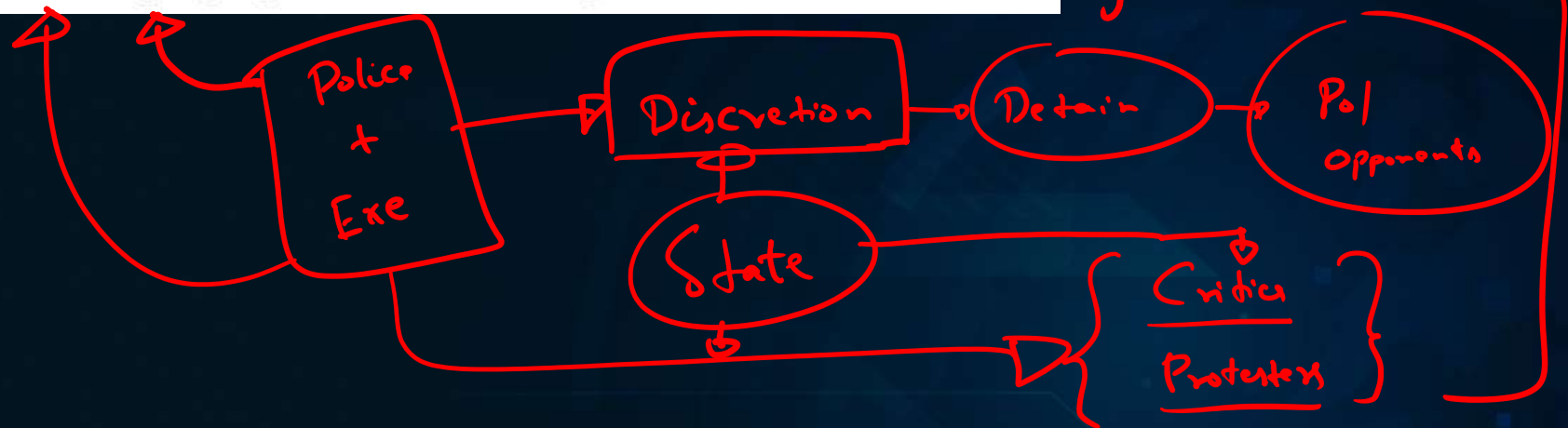
Arrest Without Warrant Without Prior

Exec Mag

NSA
UAPA

BNSS

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Mains Practice Question



Q. Preventive detentions are often misused by the state in the name of public order. Critically examine.

(250 words; 15 marks)

MOU

Digitally Signed

End War

U.S. and Iran reach agreement to end war, re-open Hormuz Strait

Preliminary deal signed digitally on Sunday, says U.S. V-P; in-person signing in Geneva on June 19, say Iran and Pak.; release of frozen assets, reparations 'essential' part of deal, will collect navigation services fee in the Strait of Hormuz, says Tehran

Stanly Johny

The U.S. and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement to end the war, lift blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, and launch substantive negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme and the Western sanctions, the two countries announced on Monday.

The agreement was signed digitally on Sunday, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance said, while Iran and Pakistan said an in-person signing ceremony would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 19.

U.S. President Donald Trump said during a media interaction in France, where he arrived on Monday for the G7 meeting,



A commuter flashes a victory sign in front of a banner that reads 'Thank you Iran' near Beirut, Lebanon, on Monday. REUTERS

that Mr. Vance will lead the country's delegation for the signing ceremony.

"The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete... I hereby fully authorise the toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and... authorise the immediate removal of the United States Naval

blockade," Mr. Trump earlier wrote in a social media post. "Ships of the world, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" he added.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirming that Tehran and Washington had finalised the text of the 'memorandum of understanding' on

Vessels cautious despite Trump's announcement

CHENNAI While U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he had authorised the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the U.S. blockade while announcing the deal with Iran, data suggested that traffic through the Strait remained limited. » PAGE 12

ending the war, while its Foreign Ministry said releasing frozen assets and paying war reparations were "essential" parts of the deal. "The American side has committed to taking measures in both areas," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said at a press briefing

Modi welcomes deal, expresses hope for stability

LONDON Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the agreement between Iran and the U.S. to end the conflict in West Asia and expressed hope that the deal would restore peace and stability in the region while ensuring freedom of navigation. » PAGE 12

on Monday. Tehran would not collect tolls from ships but fees for navigation services and environmental upkeep would be charged, the Ministry added.

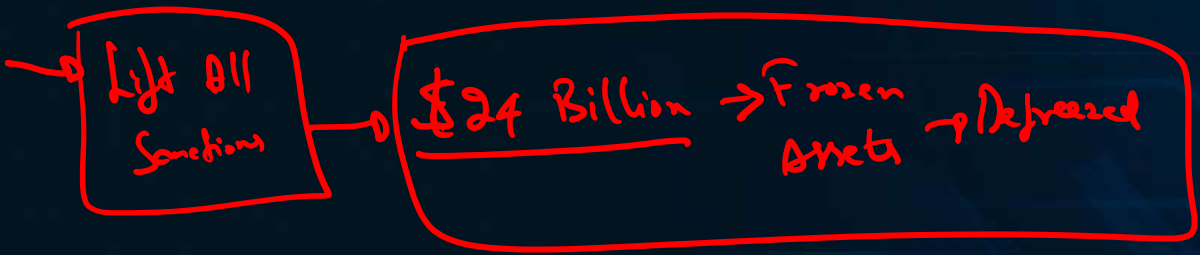
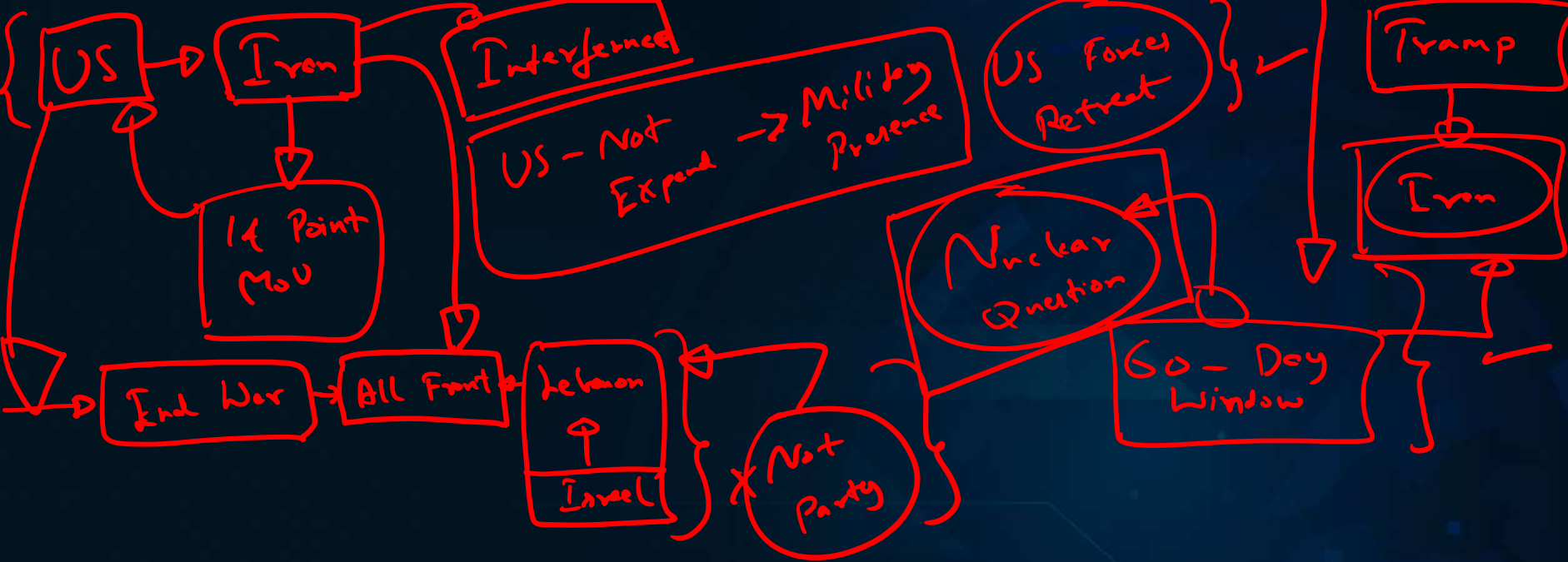
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12 'WON'T WITHDRAW TROOPS' » PAGE 16

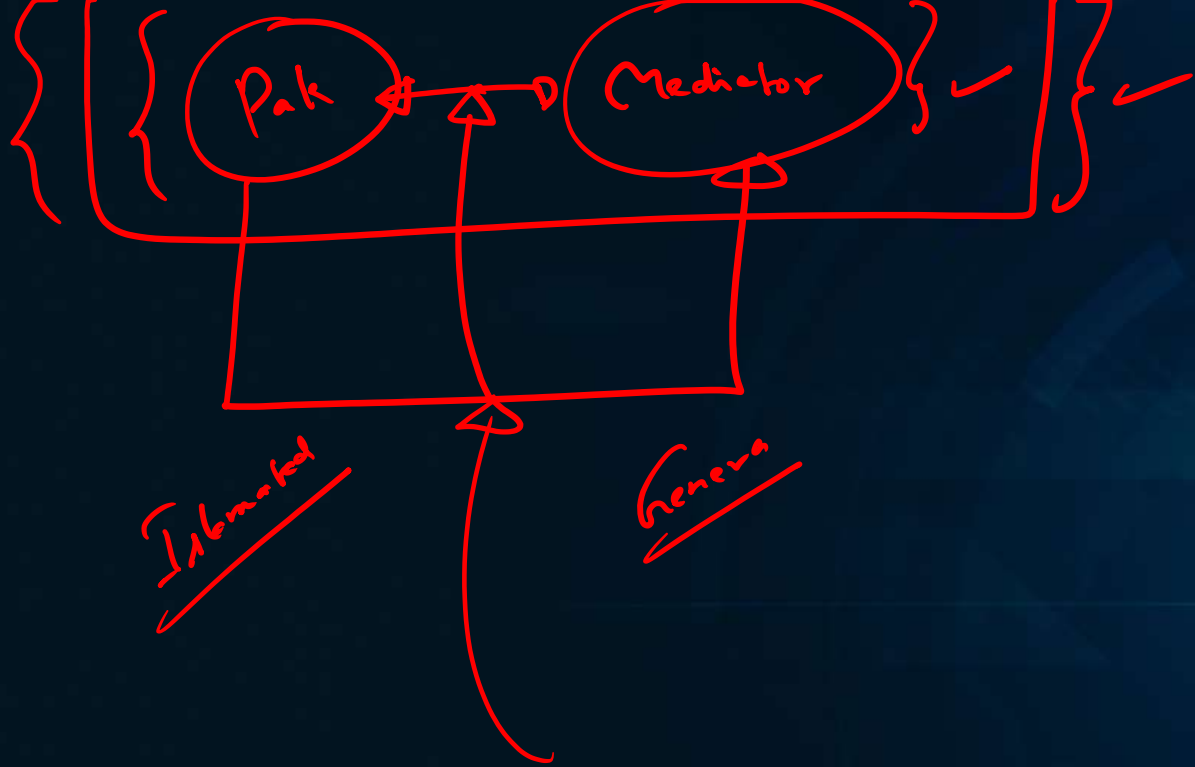
US - Iran

End → Conflict

US → Lift Naval Blockade of Hormuz

Hormuz - 30 Days





24th Indian PM

Slovakia

France



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico at the Bratislava Castle in Slovakia on Monday. REUTERS

India and Slovakia expand bilateral ties with a slew of MoUs



See Video

G7 Summit → France

IMEEC

China → BRJ
Ind-EU FTA

India and Slovakia on Monday expanded their bilateral relationship with memoranda of understanding (MoUs) across defence, labour mobility, education, digital tech, and other sectors, officially branding their relationship a "Comprehensive Partnership".

"Held an excellent meeting with Prime Minister [Robert] Fico. This is indeed a very special moment for the India-Slovakia friendship," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said following bilateral talks in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. The Prime Minister is here for a little over 24 hours - the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since the founding of Slovakia in 1993.

"Our talks covered cooperation in sectors like automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technology. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement will also add momentum to our partnership," the Prime Minister said. The countries committed to significantly boost two-way trade and investment across areas such as the automotive, electronic, and advanced manufacturing industries.

The labour migration MoU signed seeks to facilitate mobility and the exchange of information between the authorities in

both countries, as per the joint statement. The two sides also agreed to conclude a social security agreement in this regard. An MoU between the Higher Education Ministries of the two countries to facilitate academic and institutional linkages was also signed. Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico agreed to promote the mobility of students and researchers - especially in STEM fields and humanities.

Action against terrorists

The formation of a Joint Working Group on Terrorism was agreed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico, with the two leaders "strongly condemning the April 2025 terror attacks in Pahalgam. They agreed to work towards the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework. The two leaders called for action against terrorists, including those in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee list and the sponsors of terrorism.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for multilateralism and called for UN reform, including the UNSC, with an expansion of the permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council.



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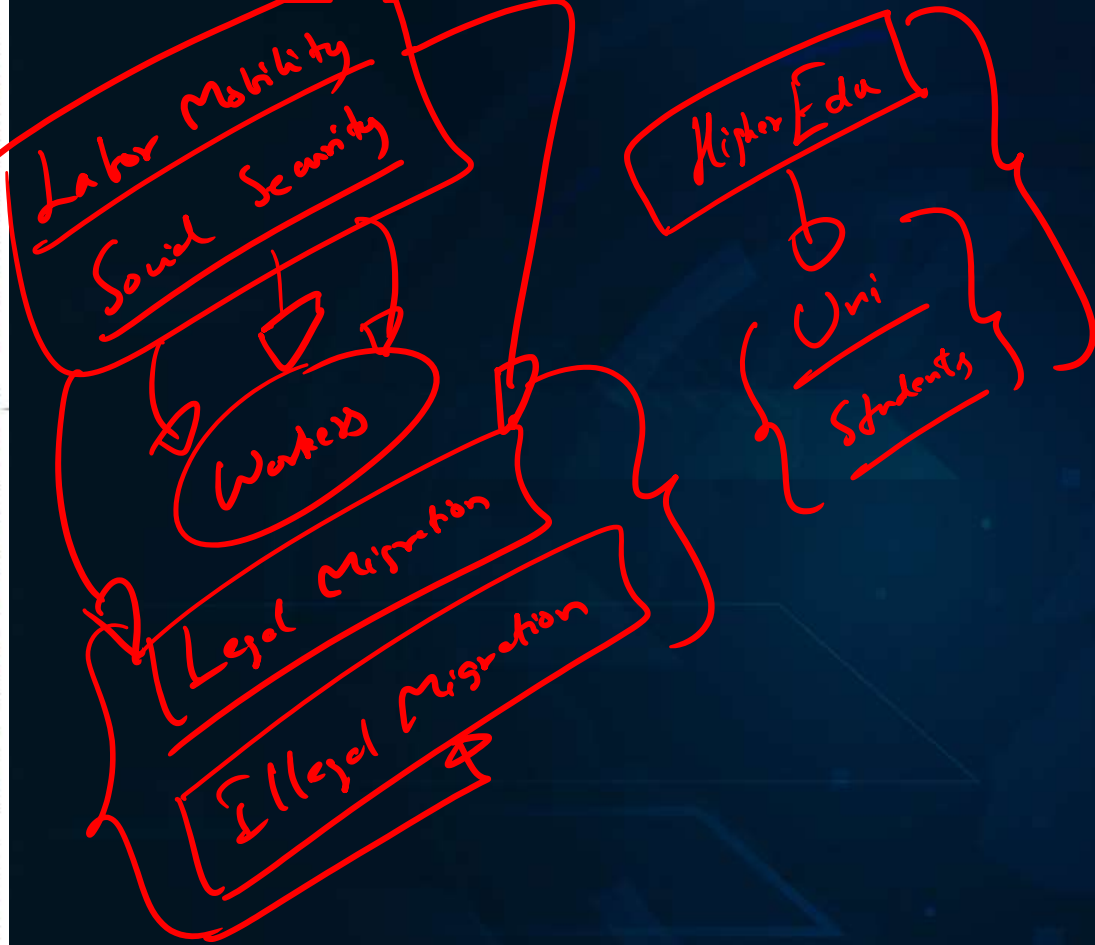
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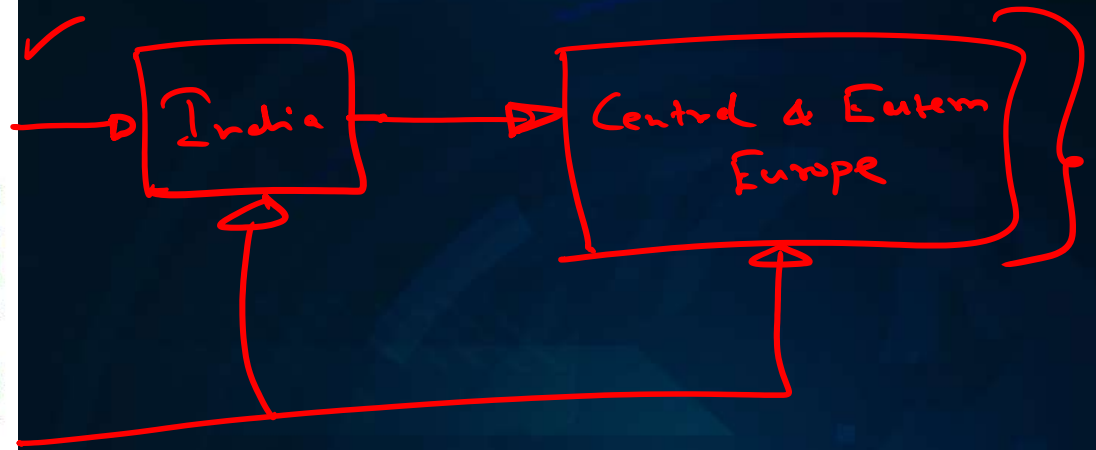
India, Slovakia expand ties with a slew of MoUs

Slovakia has continued to support India's quest for a permanent seat on the UNSC and "reaffirmed its constructive approach" to **India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group**, as per the joint statement.

Defence and security cooperation would be "one of the key pillars" of the India-Slovakia relationship, as per the joint statement.

The two sides signed a Letter of Intent to promote defence cooperation – a move welcomed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico in their press statements. Through this framework, the governments would seek to collaborate more in **defence technologies, defence industrial cooperation, capacity building, and research and development**.

The two governments signed an MoU on digital technologies to provide structure to their digital cooperation, as they committed to deepening collaboration in **AI, semiconductors and start-ups**. They also agreed to explore cooperation in emerging fields, including the **Internet of Things and 6G standardisation**.



Displaced Pandits seek 'genocide' recognition in official public policy

Several Kashmiri Pandit organisations pass joint resolution in Srinagar, call for 'property recovery, township in UT; two community outfits decry 'attempt to undermine separate homeland demand'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Displaced Kashmiri Pandits, who toured Kashmir to gauge normlacy for the community's return, on Monday called for "a structured phase of engagement" and demanded a Commission of Inquiry after "formal recognition of the Kashmiri Pandit genocide in public policy". They also demanded a township in Srinagar's Rainawari and urged the community "to start greater investment in Kashmir".

"A week-long heritage tour and the two-day international conference, 'Praagash' (first light of dawn) in Srinagar voiced a deep yearning to return to their homeland. Praagash is not a celebration - it is a declaration. We walked on our own soil, visited our own temples, and told the world: we are here, we shall return, and we will not be erased. This is a first victory, but only a first



Dignitaries, including J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha (left), at the launch of the two-day conclave in Srinagar on Saturday.

one," said Surinder Koul, head of the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora.

A number of Pandit organisations on Monday passed a joint resolution after the two-day conclave in Srinagar, where Pandit leaders and professionals expressed their views. The groups that participated include the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora, Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch, the U.S.-based Kashmiri Overseas Association, Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj, Sanjeevani Shardha Kendra Kashmiri Pandits' Association, Mumbai, and

All Minority Employees Association Kashmir.

The joint resolution called upon both the Centre and the Government of the Union Territory of J&K "to formalize community engagement through official mechanisms at the highest levels, with broad, representative, and accountable participation of Kashmiri Pandits worldwide".

It also pressed for the formal recognition of the "Kashmiri Pandit genocide" in public policy and urged the establishment of an appropriate commis-

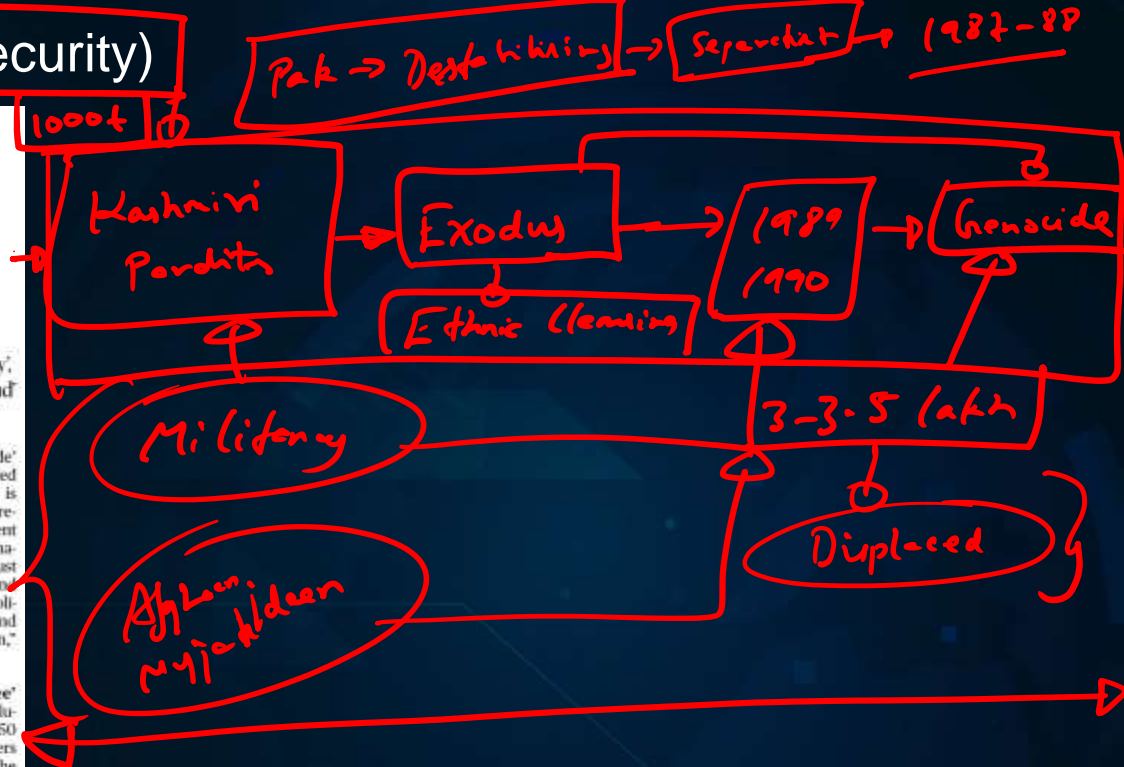
sion of inquiry.

"The term 'genocide' has increasingly entered public discourse and is now used by public representatives and government officials, delegates emphasized that recognition must move beyond rhetoric and be reflected in official policy, institutional action, and historical documentation," it added.

'3.50 lakh forced to flee'

According to the resolution, approximately 3.50 lakh community members were "forced to flee the Kashmir Valley amid violence and persecution, scattering across Jammu, Delhi, and countries around the world" in 1989-1990.

Meanwhile, two organisations, Roots in Kashmir and Youth for Parum Kashmir, distanced themselves from the conclave and termed it "an attempt to undermine the long-standing demands of the community to create a separate homeland".



The Key Differences

Feature	Genocide	v/s	Ethnic Cleansing
Primary Goal	Eradicate or eliminate a group (national, ethnic, racial, or religious)		Displace a group from a specific area or territory.
Legal Status	Officially recognized as a standalone crime under international law (codified in 1948).		Not a freestanding, legally defined crime, but prosecuted as a "crime against humanity" or "war crime".
Methods	Mass killings, causing severe bodily or mental harm, <u>preventing births</u> , and forcibly transferring children.		Forced deportation, terrorization, systemic destruction of homes, and violence intended to force flight.

Killings

Prelims Bytes

Geopolitical Risks

India's goods exports hit record high of \$45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens

India's Exports ↑



T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports have jumped to a record high of \$45.2 billion in May 2026, 18% higher than \$38.3 billion in May last year, according to official data. Services exports rose 13.2% during the same period, to \$36.8 billion in May 2026.

However, despite this, India's overall trade deficit widened to \$10.5 billion, from \$6.8 billion in May last year, due to a sharper growth in imports of both goods and services.

Broad-based increase

The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that India's merchandise exports rose in May, due to higher ship-

Outbound expansion

Merchandise exports rose to an all-time high in May 2026 (In \$ billion)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ments to Singapore, China, the U.K., Tanzania, Bangladesh, Germany, and South Africa, among others. This increase was also relatively broad-based in terms of sectors, with both petroleum and several non-petroleum sectors seeing strong growth in exports.

Within merchandise exports, the electronic goods sector saw exports growing 11.6% to \$5.1 billion in May 2026.

The organic and inorganic chemicals sector similarly saw exports grow by 12.7% to \$2.7 billion during the same period.

Notably, the engineering goods category saw exports jumping 24.5% in May 2026 to \$12.3 billion. The gems and jewellery sector, too, saw a growth in exports of 6.7% to \$2.5 billion in May 2026.

Overall, the data show India's non-petroleum exports grew 10.5% to \$70.7 billion in the first two months of this financial year.

Imports grow faster

India's merchandise imports jumped 22.1% to \$73.4 billion in May 2026. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit stood at \$28.2 billion in May this year, 25% higher than in May 2025.

Services imports, too, grew 14.1% in May 2026 to \$19.1 billion.

Imports → Merchandise

Trade Deficit

\$10.5 Bn

BOP → CAD

Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports

The government on Monday hiked windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while retaining the levy on petrol for the fortnight beginning June 16. The rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on export of diesel will be ₹14 a litre, up from ₹13.5 a litre at present. The SAED on export of ATF will be ₹12.5 a litre, up from ₹9.5 a litre. There is no change in the rate of duty on exports of petrol and it continues to be at ₹1.5 a litre. The Finance Ministry, in a notification, said the duty hikes would be effective from June 16. Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption. PTI

What is Windfall Tax?

Windfall Profits

A windfall tax is a higher tax levied by the government on specific industries when the industry experiences unexpected and above-average profits due to various global and geopolitical events outside the control of the industry. As the name suggests, "windfall" refers to a dramatic and unanticipated increase in profits. On the other hand, "tax" implies an imposition levied on this dramatic income growth.

The government imposes this tax when it notices a sudden rise in an industry's revenue. For instance, the recent Russia-Ukraine war benefitted oil and gas industries with a sudden rise in their profits. So, the government imposed a windfall tax on the industries whose profits were positively affected by the said event.

DRDO conducts successful flight-test of Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile

Posted On: 15 JUN 2026 6:31PM by PIB Delhi

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 15, 2026. All the test objectives were fully met, as per the data captured by various tracking instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.



All about LRLACM

The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) is a subsonic, surface-launched cruise missile designed to strike land targets at long distances with high precision.

It integrates a turbofan or turbojet propulsion unit for sustained flight, an advanced inertial navigation system augmented by satellite navigation for midcourse guidance, and a terminal seeker or terrain-contour matching capability for accurate target engagement.

Designed for low-altitude, terrain-hugging flight, the LRLACM minimises detection and interception risk while delivering a conventional warhead on designated high-value targets.

The indigenous program focuses on modular subsystems, export potential under policy constraints, and compatibility with diverse launcher platforms to maximise operational flexibility.

Medium
300 - 900km

ADE

The LRLACM is an indigenously developed missile with all sub-systems developed by various DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry partners. Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru is the Nodal Laboratory. The launch was witnessed by senior officials from DRDO and user representatives from the Indian Navy & the Indian Air Force.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO team and the Industry Partners on the successful flight-test of LRLACM. Defence Secretary & Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh monitored all activities during the launch. He congratulated all the team members involved in the successful flight-test.

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS) MONTHLY BULLETIN - May, 2026

Posted On: 15 JUN 2026 4:00PM by PiB Delhi

LFPR for urban female maintains stability Urban WPR broadly stable Urban UR falls to one-year low

Snapshot:

- Overall LFPR (15+ years) recorded as **54.4%** in May, 2026, compared to 55.0% in April, 2026 and 54.6% in May, 2025.
- Female LFPR in urban areas largely stable compared to the previous month.
- Overall WPR (15+ years) stood at **51.4%** in May, 2026, compared to 52.3% in April, 2026 and 51.7% in May, 2025.
- Urban WPR (15+ years) broadly stable at **46.6%** compared to the previous month.
- Overall UR (15+ years) in urban areas declined to **6.4%** in May, 2026, while Female UR (15+ years) in urban areas declined to **8.2%** in May, 2026.
- UR for urban male (15+ years) stood at **5.9%**, maintaining the same level of April, 2026.

NSO

A. Introduction

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by NSO, MoSPI is the primary source of data on activity participation and employment and unemployment conditions of the population. The PLFS survey methodology has been modified from January, 2025 to provide monthly and quarterly estimates of labour force indicators for the country.

Monthly results of PLFS are released in the form of Monthly Bulletins. It presents estimates of key labour market indicators viz. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) at the all-India level following the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.

The Monthly Bulletins for April, 2025 to April, 2026 have already been released. The present Monthly Bulletin for May, 2026 is the fourteenth in the series.



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ANALYSIS