

**INTERNAL SECURITY [GS-III]**

**India's Indigenous Defence Production**

India's indigenous defence production reached a record Rs.1.27 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, growing 16.7% from the previous year, per the Defence Ministry.

**What is Indigenous Defence Production?**

Indigenous defence production refers to the development and manufacturing of defence equipment and technology within a country's own borders, using its own resources, skills, and industries. This approach aims to achieve self-reliance and reduce dependence on foreign imports for defence needs.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India was the world's largest importer of major arms between 2019 and 2023, accounting for 9.8% of global arms sales

**Need for defence indigenisation:**

- For self-reliance
- To reduce dependency on the foreign player and ensure the security of the nation
- To reduce the Balance of Payment deficit
- To promote employment and also exports
- To reduce the cost of production to India and thereby reduce fiscal deficit.

**Key Highlights of India's Defence Production:**

- Over 79% of defence production was contributed by DPSUs/PSUs, and nearly 21% by the private sector.
- Since 2019-20, the value of defence production has increased by over 60%.
- By 2028-29, annual defence production is expected to reach Rs.3 lakh crore, with defence exports hitting Rs.50,000 crore.

**Potential of Defence Indigenisation in India:**

1. **Rising Demand:** The Indian defence manufacturing industry is growing due to national security concerns and ongoing territorial disputes with Pakistan and China.
2. **Growth Opportunities:** India's proactive foreign trade policies and joint defence manufacturing agreements with countries like the UAE, Kazakhstan, and the US offer significant growth potential.
3. **Experienced Industry:** India has the necessary manpower and industries, such as the Ordnance Factory and HAL, actively contributing to defence indigenisation. Three Indian companies (HAL, Ordnance Factory Board, BEL) are among the top 100 defence companies globally.
4. **Future Contracts:** The defence ministry estimates potential contracts worth ~Rs.4 lakh crore (US\$ 57.2 billion) for the domestic industry in the next 5-7 years (2025-2027).

**Success Achieved:**

**Key Achievements**

INS Vikrant Development

Indigenous Nuclear Submarine

Missile Development

Helicopter and Aircraft Development

IRST System Development

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Development

Growth in Exports

Export Deals with Countries

Reasons for Increase in Exports

**Details**

Millennium Aero Dynamics and Cochin Shipyard jointly developed and produced INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier.

BARC and DRDO jointly developed India's first indigenous nuclear submarine, Arihant.

Under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), India developed 5 missiles: Akash, Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, and Nag.

HAL and Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL) are developing Dhruv multirole helicopters, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Rudra armed helicopter, and manufacturing Tejas Light Combat Aircraft.

HAL and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a contract for the co-development and co-production of the Long Range Dual Band Infra-Red Search and Track System (IRST) for the Su-30 MKI under the MAKE-II procedure of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

DRDO is currently developing an indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle named Nishant.

Defence exports surged from Rs.1,940 crore (US\$ 255 million) in 2014-15 to over Rs.15,000 crore in 2022-23 (at 21000 cr currently)

Indian defence companies are exporting to over 85 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) in Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia.

The surge in exports attributed to policy initiatives and private sector

involvement, contributed 70% to total defence exports in FY 2021-22.

Policy Initiatives: Liberalising FDI policies, issuing Positive Indigenisation Lists, and simplifying export procedures have contributed to growth in defence exports.

Future of Indian Exports: The Draft Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020 aims to export Rs.35,000 crore worth of aerospace and defence equipment annually by 2025, aligning with the goal of achieving a Rs.1.75 lakh crore (US\$ 25 billion) turnover in defence manufacturing.

### **Government's Initiative towards Defence Indigenisation:**

#### **Challenges in Defence Indigenisation**

1. Lack of a defence manufacturing base in India.
2. Low private participation due to the absence of a permanent arbitration committee for dispute resolution.
3. Conflict between manufacturers and defence forces on equipment design and capacity.
4. High costs and lack of an assured market, lead to delays and credibility issues.
5. Poor technological transfer by foreign companies.
6. Bureaucratic delays and licensing issues hinder the ease of doing business.

#### **Way Forward for Defence Indigenisation**

- Ensure a level playing field for private industry, DRDO, DPSUs, and OFB.
- Utilize software industry and technologies like AI and cyber security.
- Provide financial and administrative autonomy to DRDO.
- Improve in-house design capabilities, as seen with the Navy's success.
- Develop a robust supply chain, with Indian SMEs playing a key role in the global OEM supply chain.

#### **Conclusion**

Going ahead, the requirement for higher indigenous content is expected to help defence product manufacturers in India as well as encourage foreign companies to set up operations in India. France and Russia have already agreed to manufacture in India.

## **PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES—STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONING, CONDUCT OF BUSINESS, POWERS & PRIVILEGES AND ISSUES ARISING OUT OF THESE [GS-II]**

### **Expunction powers in Parliament**

The inaugural special session of the 18th Lok Sabha witnessed heated debates between the Opposition and the government on multiple issues. The session concluded amid controversies surrounding the deletion of remarks made by Opposition leaders. Article 105 of the Constitution grants MPs certain privileges and freedom of speech in Parliament, though it is bound by other constitutional provisions and parliamentary rules.

The practice of expunging remarks has been questioned recently in the digital age. This is because expunged content remains accessible due to live broadcasts of proceedings and widespread sharing of screenshots and videos on social media.

#### **When are remarks expunged?**

- 1) **Verbatim Recording and Removal of Unparliamentary Remarks** -Parliament records all speeches and proceedings verbatim. The Chairman (Upper House) and Speaker (Lower House) can order the removal of "defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary, or undignified" words.
- 2) **List of Unparliamentary Words**-The Lok Sabha Secretariat maintains a list of 'unparliamentary' words. In the Rajya Sabha, rules require immediate withdrawal of unparliamentary words without debate when deemed so by the Chair.
- 3) **Discretion of Speakers**-Speakers have discretion to expunge words detrimental to national interest, offensive to dignitaries, or likely to cause offense. For ex -Prime Minister Nehru objected when a member mentioned the President of Pakistan in a certain context, resulting in the removal of those remarks from the record.
- 4) **Withdrawal of Irrelevant Remarks** -Members must withdraw irrelevant remarks upon the Chair's request, or face expunction.
- 5) **Unreferenced Document**-Quoting from an unreferenced document or speaking against the Chair's instruction can also lead to expunction.

#### **What rules govern the statements made by MPs against other MPs or individuals outside Parliament?**

- 1) **Procedure for Accusations in Lok Sabha** -Rule 353 of the Lok Sabha provides the procedure for MPs accusing another MP or an outsider. Allegations must be notified beforehand, prompting the concerned Minister to investigate and present facts in Parliament. However, if the allegation is not defamatory or incriminating, this rule does not apply.

2) **Exclusion of Ministerial Allegations**-The rule does not cover allegations against government Ministers because they are accountable to Parliament. MPs have the right to question Ministers and criticize their actions as part of their parliamentary duties.

**What is the procedure to expunge the remarks?**

1) **Authority to Expunge Remarks**- The Chairman and Speaker have the authority to order the removal of remarks under Rule 261 of the Rajya Sabha and Rules 380 and 381 of the Lok Sabha's Rules of Procedure.

2) **Recording and Expunging Remarks**-Expunged parts are marked with asterisks and noted as 'expunged as ordered by the Chair.' If the Chair decides that nothing said during a member's speech or interruption should be recorded, it is noted as 'not recorded.'

3) **Sharing with Media**-A comprehensive list of unacceptable words and phrases is shared with media at the end of each day's proceedings. Once expunged, these words or phrases are deleted from the official record.

### **GS PAPER3-ISSUES OF BUFFER STOCKS AND FOOD SECURITY**

#### **Idea of creating a government-controlled buffer stock of essential food**

The article discusses the idea of creating a government-controlled buffer stock of essential food items like pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables. This would help stabilize food prices by reducing extreme fluctuations caused by supply shocks from events like climate change or pandemics.

**Why Should the Government Consider a Buffer Stock for Food?**

1. **Stabilize Prices:** Buffer stocks of essential foods like pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables help control price volatility, crucial for both consumers and producers. This stability aids in economic planning and reduces the impact of inflation spikes.
2. **Manage Supply Shocks:** Climate-induced disruptions, such as irregular rainfall and heatwaves, have adversely affected crop yields. For example, poor harvests of rabi pulses and vegetables have led to price spikes.
3. **Support Farmers:** Creating buffer stocks allows for the purchase of surplus during good harvests, protecting farmers from drastic price drops. For instance, fluctuations in milk prices from Rs 37-38 to Rs 26-27 per liter have shown how volatile the market can be without such mechanisms.
4. **Reduce Policy Burden:** With buffer stocks, there is less need for restrictive measures like export bans or trader stock limits, promoting a freer market environment conducive to growth.

**How Do Food Prices Affect Inflation and RBI's Decisions?**

1. **Impact on Inflation Rates:** Elevated food prices directly affect overall inflation. For instance, despite core inflation being low at 3.1%, retail food inflation remained high at 8.7%.
2. **RBI's Monetary Policy Dilemma:** High food inflation complicates the Reserve Bank of India's decisions regarding interest rates. The volatility in food prices makes it challenging to decide whether to cut, raise, or maintain rates.
3. **Influence on Economic Stability:** Stable food prices are essential for economic predictability, influencing consumer spending and business investments. Volatility in essential items like food disrupts this stability.

**What are the Benefits of a Buffer Stock Policy?**

1. **Reduces Price Volatility:** Buffer stocks help stabilize prices of essential food items, mitigating extreme fluctuations caused by supply shocks due to climate change or other disruptions.
2. **Eliminates Restrictive Measures:** Buffer stocks reduce the need for anti-farmer policies like export bans or imposing stock limits on traders, promoting a freer market.
3. **Economic Efficiency:** Selling stored food during shortages prevents inflation spikes and supports economic stability.

### **GS PAPER-3-CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

#### **Crafting a Climate Law for India**

The Supreme Court's decision in M.K. Ranjitsinh vs Union of India is a big step for legal and governance reforms in India's approach to climate change. Sixty-seven countries use 'framework climate laws' to improve governance. Yet, in developing nations, focusing only on emissions targets may not fully address climate change's complex challenges. Thus, India requires a detailed climate law designed for its specific needs. This law should guide development towards a future that is low in carbon emissions and resilient to climate impacts, all while promoting fairness and social justice. key features of climate legislation suited for India's specific needs

1) **Balancing Development and Carbon Emissions** -India has per capita emissions that are less than half the global average, but they are increasing. Therefore, the law should focus on maximizing development while minimizing carbon emissions to prevent high carbon futures.

2) **Climate Resilience**-India is highly vulnerable to climate impacts, making climate resilience essential in the new law.

3) **Social Equity**-Social equity must be a central consideration in achieving development in a low-carbon direction.

4) **Sustainable Cities**-The law should guide decision-making towards developing cities that are both low-carbon and resilient to climate change.  
way forward

1) **Low-Carbon Development Commission**: This is an independent body staffed with experts and technical staff, offering practical solutions for low-carbon growth and resilience. This can also serve as a platform for deliberative decision-making, including for vulnerable communities

2) **Climate Cabinet**: It is a high-level strategic body comprising Ministers and Chief Ministers. This should be tasked with driving strategy through government and addressing siloed decision-making.

3) **Coordination Mechanisms**: -There is a need to reinvigorate the Executive Committee on Climate Change so that it can complement the role of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

4) **Addressing India's Federal Structure-**

A) Engaging subnational governments in crucial areas (electricity, agriculture, water, health, soil).

B) Providing access to national scientific capacity for subnational governments.

C) Aligning centrally sponsored schemes with climate goals and climate-tagging expenditure.

D) Requiring periodically updated medium-term climate plans from Centre and States.

E) States should be encouraged to establish supporting institutions and develop sector-specific laws and amendments aligned with the framework law.

5) **Tailoring the law to India's developmental context-**

A) The law should focus on low-carbon development and climate resilience.

B) There is a need to incorporate social justice and equity concerns while also meeting the needs of vulnerable communities and individuals impacted by technological shifts.

C) There should be a focus on creating knowledge bodies capable of rigorously analyzing policy options.

D) Platforms for deliberative decision-making should be established.

### PRELIM FACT

#### 1. Project PARI

Recently, Ministry of Culture initiates Project PARI for the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting.

1. Project PARI (Public Art of India) is an initiative by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

2. It is executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art.

3. Objectives: Project PARI aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.

4. Project PARI includes a wide array of artwork inspired by traditional Indian art forms.

5. The proposed sculptures for Project PARI explore a wide range of themes, including tributes to nature, ideas inspired by the Natyashastra, Gandhi ji, traditional Indian toys, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad or Primeval Sound, Harmony of Life, and Kalpataru (the divine tree).

6. Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testament to Bharat's NARI SHAKTI.

#### 2. World Zoonoses Day

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying recently organized an interactive session to commemorate World Zoonoses Day.

About World Zoonoses Day

i) It is celebrated in honour of Louis Pasteur who administered the first successful rabies vaccine which is a zoonotic disease on July 6, 1885.

ii) This day is dedicated to raising awareness about zoonoses diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans and promoting preventive and control measures.

About Zoonoses:

i) About: These are infectious diseases that can transfer between animals and humans, such as rabies, anthrax, influenza (H1N1 and H5N1), Nipah, COVID-19, brucellosis, and tuberculosis.

ii) Caused by: These diseases are caused by various pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi. However, not all animal diseases are zoonotic. Many diseases affect livestock without posing a risk to human health.

iii) Infectious: These non-zoonotic diseases are species-specific and cannot infect humans. Examples include Foot & Mouth Disease, PPR, Lumpy Skin Disease, Classical Swine Fever, and Ranikhet Disease.

Prevention and control

i) Prevention and control of zoonotic diseases rely on vaccination, good hygiene, animal husbandry practices, and vector control.

ii) Collaborative efforts through the One Health approach, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, are crucial.

- iii) Collaboration among veterinarians, medical professionals, and environmental scientists is essential for addressing zoonotic diseases comprehensively.
- iv) To mitigate the risk of zoonotic diseases, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has launched a nationwide campaign for Brucella vaccination of bovine calves under NADCP and undertaken Rabies Vaccination under ASCAD.
- v) Educating the public about the distinction between zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases helps reduce unwarranted fear and promotes a more informed approach to animal health and safety.

### **3. Digital Bharat Nidhi**

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft rules for the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) on July 4, 2024. The purpose of DBN is to increase telecom connectivity in rural areas. Digital Bharat Nidhi will replace the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

#### **About Digital Bharat Nidhi**

1. About: Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) is an initiative by Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
2. Aim: DBN aims to:
  - i) improve internet connectivity, particularly in rural, remote, and economically disadvantaged areas.
  - ii) foster technology innovation, create regulatory sandboxes, and enhance the global presence of India's telecom sector.
  - iii) promote innovation, indigenous technology development, and standardisation.
  - iv) support startups in the telecom sector and the manufacturing of telecom equipment.
4. It replaces the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to ensure better allocation of resources.
5. Focus: DBN will focus on research, development, and overall connectivity improvement. It encourages telecom services for underserved groups, including women and people with disabilities.
6. Funding: Telecom companies' contributions to the Digital Bharat Nidhi will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) and then later deposited into the DBN.
7. Utilisation of funds: The funds will be used to promote access to telecommunication services, support research and development, fund pilot projects, and introduce new telecom technologies in underserved areas.
8. Management and Implementation: An administrator will manage the fund, and projects will be executed by implementers selected through bidding or direct applications, ensuring transparency. The administrator will tailor payment methods (full, partial, co-funding) based on specific connectivity needs.

### **4. Samayapurathu Mariamman Temple**

In recognition of the temple's cultural and spiritual significance, The Hindu Group of Publications has released a coffee-table book titled "Samayapuram — The Sacred Seat of Shakti."

1. The Samayapuram Mariamman Temple is located near Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu.
2. It is one of the most revered and ancient temples dedicated to Goddess Mariamman. She is considered an incarnation of Goddess Durga, Mahakali, Adi Shakti, or Nishumbha Sudhini.
3. **Historical Background:** The current structure of the temple was built by King Vijayaraya Chakkaravarthi in the early 18th century. However, the Goddess was worshipped by locals for centuries before this structure was constructed.
4. **Significance:** The temple is rich in history and mythology, with many legends surrounding Goddess Mariamman. It is believed that she appeared in this area to protect her devotees and heal their ailments. The temple's ancient origins add to its mystique and spiritual significance.

#### **5. Architecture:**

- i) The temple complex features intricately carved pillars, towering gopurams (gateway towers), and spacious halls that resonate with the chants and prayers of devotees.
- ii) The sanctum sanctorum houses the idol of Goddess Mariamman, adorned with vibrant flowers, intricate jewelry, and colorful garments, exuding a divine and majestic presence.
- iii) The Raja Gopuram or the main tower of the temple is adorned with gold plates that glow brightly during the daytime.
- iv) A unique feature of this temple is that the presiding deity can be seen from the main entrance, which is not common in most temples

#### **6. Festivals and Rituals**

- i) The temple is renowned for its vibrant and elaborate festivals which attract thousands of devotees.
- ii) Among the most significant is the annual 'Poochoriyal' festival, where devotees offer flowers to the Goddess, seeking her blessings for health, prosperity, and protection.
- iii) Other notable festivals include the 'Panguni Uthiram' and the 'Thai Pooam,' which are marked by grand processions, music, dance, and religious fervor.
- iv) Daily rituals at the temple include various forms of 'pujas' (prayers) and 'abhishekam' (ritual bathing) of the deity.
- v) The temple's sacred 'theerthams' (holy water sources) are also believed to have curative properties.

**5. SEHER program**

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL launched the SEHER program.

WEP is a public-private partnership platform incubated at NITI Aayog aiming at empowering women entrepreneurs

**What is the SEHER program?**

- The SEHER program aims to empower women entrepreneurs in India with financial literacy and business skills. It focuses on improving awareness about accessing and managing credit, helping women entrepreneurs grow their businesses and contributing to economic development.
- India has 63 million micro, small, and medium enterprises, with 20% owned by women, employing 27 million people. Accelerating women's entrepreneurship could create over 30 million new women-owned enterprises and 150 to 170 million more jobs.
- SEHER Program is part of WEP's Financing Women Collaborative (FWC), a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at accelerating access to finance for women entrepreneurs

**ANSWER WRITING**

**Q. Critically examine the geopolitical implications of the recent expansion of BRICS. How will this impact the existing global order and India's strategic interests?**

BRICS, currently comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, was originally known as BRIC before South Africa's inclusion in 2010. BRICS represents a group of fastest-growing economies poised to dominate the world by 2050. United by shared economic potential and challenges like poverty, inequality, and climate change, BRICS aims to highlight issues of the global South and challenge Western hegemony. Recently, BRICS expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, potentially forming "BRICS+," significantly poised to impact the global order and India's strategic interests.

**Geopolitical Implications of BRICS Expansion:**

- **Diversification of Global Influence:** The inclusion of new members broadens the **representation of emerging economies**, challenging the dominance of **Western-led institutions**.  
**For example:** The addition of **Saudi Arabia**, a major **oil producer**, shifts **energy dynamics** and reduces Western influence over **global energy markets**.
- **Strengthening of Multilateralism:** Expansion promotes a **multipolar world order**, encouraging a shift from **bilateralism to multilateralism** in global governance.  
**For example:** With countries like **Iran** and **UAE**, BRICS can foster **dialogue** and **cooperation** in volatile regions like the **Middle East**.
- **Economic Collaboration:** Enhanced economic collaboration among a larger group can lead to increased **trade** and **investment flows** within BRICS, fostering **economic growth**.  
**For instance:** Trade agreements within an expanded BRICS could **reduce tariffs** and **barriers**, boosting **intra-BRICS commerce**.
- **Political Cohesion:** The expansion can foster greater political cohesion among member states, enabling them to present a **united front** on international issues.  
**For instance:** Coordinated positions in international forums such as the **United Nations** can enhance the **collective bargaining power** of BRICS.
- **Balance of Power:** With the addition of new members, BRICS can act as a **counterbalance** to the influence of **G7** and other **Western alliances**.  
**For example:** By including countries like **Egypt** and **Ethiopia**, BRICS can strengthen its influence in **Africa**, reducing **Western dominance**.

**Drawbacks of Expansion of BRICS on Geopolitical Landscape**

- **Increased Geopolitical Tensions:** The inclusion of countries with **historical conflicts** can heighten **geopolitical tensions** within the group.  
**For example:** The longstanding rivalry between **Iran** and **Saudi Arabia** over **regional dominance** and **religious differences** could create friction within BRICS.
- **Economic Disparities:** The varying **economic strengths** of **new and existing BRICS** members could exacerbate economic disparities and lead to **unequal benefits** from the alliance.  
**For example:** While **China** and **India** are major global economies, countries like **Ethiopia** and **Egypt** may struggle to compete economically within the bloc.
- **Consensus Challenges:** A larger and more diverse BRICS can face difficulties in reaching consensus on key issues, given the differing **national interests** and **priorities** of member countries.  
**For example:** Divergent views on **trade policies** and **global governance reforms** could hinder **unified decision-making** within BRICS.

- **Dilution of Influence:** The expansion might dilute the influence of original BRICS members as **more voices and interests** are added to the group.  
**For example:** India and Brazil might find their **strategic interests** overshadowed by the entry of new, assertive members like Saudi Arabia and Iran.
- **Risk of Fragmentation:** The inclusion of countries with vastly **different political systems and governance models** could increase the risk of fragmentation within BRICS.  
**For example:** Democratic nations like India may find it challenging to align with **authoritarian regimes** like Iran and Saudi Arabia on **governance and human rights** issues.

**Impact on the Existing Global Order:**

- **Reconfiguration of Alliances:** The expansion could prompt a reconfiguration of **global alliances**, with countries seeking **new partnerships** in response to the shifting **power dynamics**.  
**For example:** Nations traditionally aligned with the West might **pivot** towards BRICS for **economic and political support**.
- **Influence on Global Institutions:** A stronger BRICS can exert more influence on global financial institutions like the **IMF and World Bank**, advocating for reforms to better reflect the interests of **developing countries**.  
**For instance:** BRICS can push for reforms in **voting rights** within these institutions to better represent emerging economies.
- **Trade and Investment Patterns:** The changing composition of BRICS may lead to new trade and investment patterns, potentially reducing the dominance of **traditional economic powers**.  
**For instance:** Increased **South-South trade** could emerge, lessening reliance on **Western markets**.
- **Security Dynamics:** The expansion can alter global security dynamics, with BRICS playing a more prominent role in **peacekeeping and conflict resolution**.  
**For instance:** BRICS can lead initiatives in **conflict resolution** in regions like **Africa** and the **Middle East**.
- **Technological Collaboration:** Enhanced technological collaboration among BRICS countries can drive **innovation** and reduce **technological dependencies** on the West.  
**For instance:** **Joint research projects and technological exchanges** in sectors like **renewable energy and digital infrastructure**.

**Impact on India's Strategic Interests:**

- **Economic Opportunities:** Expansion presents India with new economic opportunities, including access to **larger markets** and increased **investment prospects**.  
**For instance:** India's **pharmaceutical and IT** sectors can benefit from new markets in the expanded BRICS.
- **Enhanced Strategic Influence:** As a prominent member, India can leverage BRICS to enhance its strategic influence in **global affairs** and advocate for the **interests of developing nations**.  
**For instance:** India's leadership in initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance** can gain wider support.
- **Balancing China:** The inclusion of more members in BRICS can help India balance **China's dominance** and ensure a more **balanced agenda**. However, this expansion also presents challenges, as new members may lean towards China, potentially increasing its influence within the bloc.  
**For example:** Both **Malaysia and Thailand, potential new members**, have significant trade ties with China, which could enhance their relationship with China and sway the bloc's decisions in **China's favour**.
- **Regional Stability:** Enhanced cooperation within BRICS can contribute to regional stability, supporting India's **strategic interests** in its neighbourhood.  
**For instance:** Increased joint efforts in **counter-terrorism and regional infrastructure** projects such as the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**.

The recent expansion of BRICS holds significant geopolitical implications, with the potential to reshape the existing global order and impact India's strategic interests. While the expansion offers opportunities for greater economic collaboration and strategic influence, it also presents challenges in achieving consensus among a more diverse group of member states. India, as a key player in BRICS, stands to benefit from the expanded alliance, but must navigate the complexities of a changing geopolitical landscape to safeguard its national interests.

**MCQS**

1. Consider the following statements;  
1. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the authority to delete or expunge words, phrases, and expressions from the records if they are considered defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary, or undignified.
2. Rules of the Lok Sabha ensures that MPs should give advance notice before making defamatory allegations against other MPs.
3. The defamatory words are expunged only in the Lok Sabha while MPs of the Rajya Sabha are handed a list of the words that are not allowed in the Rajya Sabha.

- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
  - Only two**
  - All three
  - None
2. Consider the following statements:
- The Constitution of India has a quasi-federal framework.
  - The primary task of recommending grants to States in need of assistance is of the Parliamentary Committees.
  - Special financial packages given to states are additional grant under Article 282 of the Indian Constitution.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only**
3. With reference to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023, consider the following statements:
- The board and the executive council created under the Act do not have any members from Central or State universities or colleges.
  - Its Governing Board is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
  - 30% of the ANRF budget is estimated to come from non-government sources.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
  - Only two**
  - All three
  - None
4. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I: A majority of gold and silver are imported to India from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Statement-II: Under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), India has agreed to reduce silver import duties to 0% over ten years.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I**
  - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
  - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
  - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
5. Consider the following statements about project PARI
- Project PARI (Public Art of India) is an initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India
  - It is executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art.
  - Project PARI aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.
- Which of the above statements are correct ?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only**
  - 1,2 and 3
  - None
6. Samayapuram Mariamman Temple is located in which state ?
- Odisha
  - Tamil Nadu**
  - Karnataka
  - Telangana
7. Consider the following statements about SEHER program
- SEHER program is launched by Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL.
  - The SEHER program aims to empower women entrepreneurs in India with financial literacy and business skills.
- Which of the above statements are incorrect ?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - None**
8. World Zoonoses day is celebrated on which of the following date ?
- 6<sup>th</sup> july**
  - 16<sup>th</sup> july
  - 6<sup>th</sup> june
  - 16<sup>th</sup> june
9. An indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle named Nishant is currently developed by
- DRDO**
  - ISRO
  - HAL
  - Border Road Organisation
10. Which one of the following countries are involved in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)?
- India, Myanmar, Japan
  - India, Iran, Russia**
  - India, Indonesia, Singapore
  - India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka