

**MINORITY GOVERNANCE GS PAPER II**
**The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025**

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was tabled in the Lok Sabha amid opposition protests, introducing sweeping changes to the Waqf Act, 1995 based on JPC recommendations.

- It seeks to overhaul the governance, registration, dispute resolution, and transparency of Waqf properties across India

**Key Features of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025**

1. **Retention of 'Waqf by User':** Protects religious properties established through **customary usage** before the enactment of the new law, unless disputed.

E.g., Mosques established through long-term communal use remain protected.

1. **Inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf Institutions:** Non-Muslims can be members of **Central and State Waqf Boards and tribunals** to promote transparency and administrative expertise.

E.g., 2 out of 22 members in Central Waqf Council may be non-Muslims.

1. **Digital Registration Portal:** Mandates all waqf properties to be registered via a **centralised online portal** within 6 months, extendable by waqf tribunals.

E.g., Automates property updates and ensures public accessibility.

1. **New Tribunal Composition:** Each waqf tribunal will include a **district judge, a Joint Secretary-level officer, and a Muslim law expert**, replacing the older two-member body.

E.g. Ensures better legal, administrative, and religious balance.

1. **Application of Limitation Act:** Repeals Section 107 to apply the **Limitation Act, 1963**, enabling **adverse possession claims** after 12 years of unlawful occupancy.

E.g., Long-term encroachments can now claim ownership, risking waqf loss.

**Major Issues Surrounding the Waqf Bill**

1. **Alleged Religious Targeting:** Critics claim the bill **targets Muslim-managed properties** by applying rules exclusive to one religion.

E.g., PIL in Delhi HC challenges constitutional validity of Waqf Act.

1. **Exclusion of New Converts:** Only Muslims with **five years of practice** can dedicate property to waqf, excluding recent converts unfairly.

E.g., May contradict Article 25 (freedom of religion).

1. **Encroachment Legitimation:** Applying the **Limitation Act** could enable **illegal occupants** to claim waqf lands legally.

E.g., Properties encroached for over 12 years may now be lost.

1. **Reduction in Judicial Oversight:** Replacing waqf tribunals with **state officers** as arbiters may compromise **fairness and community rights**.

E.g., Officers may favour state claims over waqf protection.

1. **Removal of Section 40:** While preventing misuse, this also restricts Waqf Boards from identifying **undocumented waqf properties**, risking loss of heritage assets.

**Need for the Waqf Bill**

1. **Improving Transparency:** Digitised records and audit reforms ensure **accountability and reduction in property misuse**.

E.g., 515 waqf properties declared under misused Section 40.

1. **Regulating Property Management:** Addresses irregularities in **property registration, survey, and ownership disputes**.

E.g., Survey pending in several states like Gujarat, Uttarakhand.

1. **Preventing Misuse of Waqf Law:** Ensures state-level checks on arbitrary waqf claims that create **communal and legal tensions**.

E.g., Delhi's 123 properties transferred under UPA scrutinised.

1. **Benefit for the Poor:** More efficient waqf governance will enhance funding for **education, healthcare, and housing** for the underprivileged.

E.g., Reduced board fees (from 7% to 5%) will aid welfare.

1. **Clarifying Legal Disputes:** Tribunals with legal and religious experts, plus judicial appeal rights to High Courts, restore **checks and balances**.

### Conclusion:

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 aims to streamline waqf property governance through digitisation, transparency, and legal clarity. While it promises reforms and safeguards, concerns remain about religious autonomy and property rights. Balanced implementation and stakeholder engagement are essential to ensure inclusive and just outcomes.

## GS PAPER3-INDIAN DIASPORA

### India should consider granting dual citizenship to diaspora

**In the last 50 years, global migration has surged, and India has played a central role.** As the world's top recipient of remittances and the country with the largest diaspora, India must reassess its relationship with its overseas citizens. The upcoming 25th anniversary of the High-Level Committee's report has renewed discussions on **granting dual citizenship** to Indians abroad.

### **Importance of Indian Diaspora for the Indian Economy**

1. The **Indian diaspora is vital for the economy**, mainly through the flow of remittances.
2. **India receives around \$130 billion annually** in remittances, far more than the **\$42 billion from foreign direct investment (FDI)**.
3. These funds help cover **India's trade and current account deficits** and strengthen **foreign exchange reserves**.
4. The source of remittances has **shifted from the Gulf to advanced economies**, showing a change in the diaspora's economic profile.
5. This financial contribution is substantial and **greater than other inflows**, proving the **economic value of Indians abroad**.

### **India's Policy Response So Far**

1. In **2005**, India launched the **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)** scheme, based on the **2001 High-Level Committee's** recommendation.
2. The committee had found that **dual citizenship was legally and constitutionally feasible**, and could strengthen the diaspora's connection with India.
3. However, **OCI does not provide full rights** — it excludes **voting, public office, and ownership of agricultural land**.
4. It can also be **revoked**, which makes it feel like a **privilege rather than a right**.
5. As a result, many Indians abroad see **OCI as "second-class" citizenship**.

### **Reasons for the Demand for True Dual Citizenship**

1. **Global migration has tripled** in the last five decades. India has the **largest diaspora** — over **3.5 crore Indians live abroad**.
2. Their **\$130 billion annual remittances** play a major role in supporting **India's economy**.
3. Many migrants are **forced to renounce Indian citizenship** due to legal and practical needs in their host countries. Dual citizenship would offer them **legal stability and emotional assurance**.
4. The **OCI scheme does not meet these needs**, as it lacks political rights and can be withdrawn arbitrarily.
5. Many countries offer **dual citizenship with restrictions**, balancing national security with diaspora inclusion.

### **Benefits of Granting Dual Citizenship**

1. **Stronger Economic Ties:** Dual citizenship would **encourage remittances** and maintain a **positive economic link** with India.
2. **Legal Security:** Indians abroad would enjoy **greater protection for their property and personal rights**.
3. **Emotional Connection:** It would reduce the **emotional difficulty** of giving up Indian citizenship and **strengthen loyalty** to India.
4. **Skill and Knowledge Transfer:** Dual citizens could bring their **expertise and experience** to benefit India's growth.

5. **Identity Recognition:** It would acknowledge the **dual identities** of global Indians, helping them feel **respected and connected**.

### GS PAPER3- INFRASTRUCTURES- ENERGY

#### **India Can Lead Global Clean Energy by 2047**

As **India approaches 2047**, its 100th year of independence, it aspires to become a global superpower. One key obstacle is its dependence on imported fossil fuels. The article argues that India must secure its energy future and also become a global exporter of clean electricity.

#### **Importance of Energy Independence for India's Future**

1. **Economic Drain:** India spends over **\$130 billion every year** on oil and gas imports. This weakens the rupee and fuels inflation.
2. **Strategic Imperative:** Reducing reliance on foreign energy is crucial for long-term stability and economic growth.
3. **Global Electrification Trend:** The world is moving towards clean electricity. India can shift from being an energy importer to an energy exporter.
4. **Technological Advancements:** **HVDC transmission** and related technologies now make global electricity trade possible.
5. **Financial Benefit:** By 2047, India could become a **\$100 billion clean electricity exporter**, improving its economic and global standing.

#### **India Benefits from the Changing Global Energy System**

1. **Shift to Renewables:** The global transition to solar and wind power opens new opportunities for India.
2. **Technological Advances:** Innovations like **HVDC transmission, battery storage, and submarine cables** now support international electricity trade.
3. **India's Strategic Initiatives:** Projects like **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)** and **\$100 billion in planned grid investments** aim to connect India with regions like Saudi Arabia and Japan.
4. **Economic Opportunity:** Cutting energy imports and exporting clean electricity could reverse India's energy trade deficit.
5. **Cost Competitiveness:** India's solar power may drop to **1.5 cents per unit**, making it highly competitive globally.

#### **India's Capability to Export Clean Electricity**

1. **Robust Infrastructure:** India has a strong national grid already linked with Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
2. **Tech Readiness:** Advanced **HVDC lines and deep-sea cables** allow long-distance power transfer.
3. **Geographical Advantage:** India's location between the Middle East and Southeast Asia gives access to key energy markets.
4. **Strategic Vision:** Government-led efforts like **OSOWOG** show a long-term commitment to renewable energy leadership.
5. **Economic Potential:** Investment in solar and wind energy aims to further lower costs and increase global competitiveness.

#### **Challenges in Clean Energy Transition**

1. **Storage Bottleneck:** Storage is essential to use surplus renewable power when demand is high.
2. **Global Requirement:** Bloomberg estimates **4,000 GW of storage** is needed globally by 2050, requiring **\$177 billion annually**.
3. **India's Task:** India must deploy **50 GWh of battery and pumped hydro storage every year** for the next decade.
4. **Cost Advantage:** Battery prices have dropped by **30%**, and India can use its hydropower for pumped storage.

#### **Way Forward**

1. **Build Domestic Capacity:** Manufacture **HVDC tech, submarine cables, storage systems, and cable-laying vessels**.
2. **Expand Global Links:** Award **10 GW of HVDC corridor projects every 3 years** to build connectivity.

3. **Integrate Neighbours:** Provide **General Network Access (GNA)** to nearby countries, like Indian states today.
4. **Connect Global Grids:** Link with **Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific**, and by 2035, **Russia and the US**.
5. **Enable Trade:** Create a global **electricity trading system like UPI**, with India at the center.
6. **Ultimate Goal:** Transition from a **\$130 billion importer** to a **\$100 billion exporter** of clean power by 2047.

### Conclusion

India has the **technology, vision, and natural resources** to lead the global energy transition. With **bold and timely action**, it can become **energy dominant by 2047**, powering not just its own growth but also the world.

## PRELIM FACTS

### 1. Arctic Council

The tensions have risen in the Arctic region, following the comments made by the US President about annexing Greenland and Canada (including their dispute on the status of the Northwest Passage) added with impacts of climate change and resource competition in the region.

#### About Arctic Council

- It is an **intergovernmental forum** promoting **cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic inhabitants** on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- **Established in:** It was formally established in **1996 (Ottawa Declaration)**.
- **Member countries:** **8** (Denmark, Canada, Norway, the United States, Russia, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland). Their national jurisdictions and international law govern the lands surrounding the Arctic Ocean and its waters.
- **Six Permanent Participants:** It is a **unique feature** of the Arctic Council. Six organizations representing **Arctic Indigenous Peoples** have status as Permanent Participants. This category was created to provide a **means for active participation** of the Arctic Indigenous Peoples within the Council.
- **Observers:** It is **open to non-Arctic states**, along with inter-governmental, inter-parliamentary, global, regional and non-governmental organizations. **India holds observer status** in the Arctic Council since 2013.
- **Secretariat:** in **Tromsø, Norway**
- **Decision making:** All Arctic Council decisions and statements require **consensus of the eight Arctic States**.

#### About Northwest Passage (NWP)

- It is a sea route connecting the **Atlantic and Pacific Oceans** through the **Arctic Archipelago of Canada**.
- **Significance:** When traveling from London to Tokyo, the Northwest Passage is 7,000 kilometres shorter than the current shipping route through the **Panama Canal** (about 23,000 kilometres). The route through the passage is just 16,000 kilometres.

#### About Northeast Passage (NEP)

- The eastern route **along the Arctic coasts of Norway and Siberia** is accordingly called the Northeast Passage (NEP).
- **Significance:** This route could **reduce** the maritime distance between **East Asia and Europe** by approximately **8,000 km** compared to the traditional route through the **Suez Canal**.

### 2. Antibiotic Usage in Livestock

A new FAO study published in Nature Communications projects that global antibiotic use in livestock could rise by 30% by 2040 under a business-as-usual scenario.

#### About Antibiotic Usage in Livestock:

- **What is it?**
  - Antibiotic usage in livestock refers to the **administration of antimicrobial drugs** to farm animals for **disease prevention, treatment, and growth promotion**.

- **Why are Antibiotics Used?**
  - **Preventative care:** To stop disease outbreaks in intensive farming.
  - **Therapeutic treatment:** To cure infections.
  - **Growth promotion:** In some countries, sub-therapeutic doses are used to enhance weight gain and feed efficiency.
- **Concerns and Impacts:**
  - **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** Overuse leads to the emergence of drug-resistant pathogens, affecting **human and animal health**.
  - **Environmental impact:** Antibiotics excreted by animals pollute **soil and water ecosystems**.
  - **Food safety risk:** Residues may enter the human food chain if withdrawal periods aren't observed.
- **Global and National Initiatives to Counter Overuse**
  - **FAO's RENO FARM Initiative (2024)**
    - Aims to **reduce antibiotic dependence on farms**.
    - Provides **policy support, technical training, and sustainable livestock strategies**.
- **UN AMR Declaration (2024):** Global commitment to cut antimicrobial use in agrifood systems by **2030**.
- **India's National Action Plan on AMR (2017–2021, extended):** Promotes surveillance, regulation, and awareness around antimicrobial use in livestock.

### 3. Cape Town Convention

The Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, giving legislative force to the Cape Town Convention to promote aircraft leasing in India.

#### **About Cape Town Convention:**

- **What is it?**
  - An **international treaty adopted in 2001**, the **Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment** and its **Aircraft Protocol** establish uniform legal rules for asset-based financing and leasing of aircraft, helicopters, and engines.
- **Objective:**
  - Protect **lessors and creditors** by ensuring legal remedies in cases of default.
  - **Streamline international aviation leasing** by reducing cross-border legal complexities.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Standardized Legal Framework:** Covers leasing, security interests, and conditional sales of aircraft equipment.
  - **Creditor Protection:** Grants creditors rights to repossess and deregister aircraft swiftly if lessees' default.
  - **Global Registry System:** Establishes a centralized international registry of ownership and interests.
  - **Enforceability Across Jurisdictions:** Makes cross-border aircraft leasing legally safer and more predictable.

#### **About Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025:**

- **What is it?**
  - A bill passed by the Indian Parliament to **implement the Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol** into domestic law and strengthen India's aircraft leasing framework.
- **Objective:**
  - Provide legal clarity to **aircraft leasing transactions**.
  - Reduce **aircraft leasing costs** by aligning with international norms.

- Position India as a **global hub for aviation leasing and financing**.
- **Key Provisions of the Bill:**
  - **Legal Enforceability:** Grants full legal force to the **Cape Town Convention and Protocol** in India.
  - **Creditor Remedies in Defaults:** Enables **creditors/lessors to repossess aircraft within 2 months** of default or as per agreed terms.
  - **DGCA as Domestic Registry:** Makes DGCA responsible for maintaining a registry of aircraft interests and dues.
  - **Mandatory Reporting:** Airlines and lessors must periodically update DGCA on dues and leasing activities to ensure transparency.
  - **Boost to Leasing Sector:** The Bill may cut leasing costs by 8–10%, attracting global investors and making airfares more affordable.

### ANSWER WRITING

**Q. Discuss the challenges posed by the demographic divide between India's northern and southern states in the context of political representation and resource allocation. Suggest measures to address potential disparities arising from these demographic variations.**

Demographic divide in India reflects stark differences in population growth rates between the northern and southern states. As per the 2011 Census, Uttar Pradesh alone (200 million) exceeds the combined population of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala. This population imbalance influences political representation in Parliament and complicates resource allocation, sparking debates on federal equity and economic sustainability.

#### Demographic Divide Between India's Northern and Southern States

- **Population Growth Disparity:** Northern states like **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** have high fertility rates, whereas southern states like **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** have achieved **population stabilization**.  
**For example:** The **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** of Bihar (2.98) is much higher than Kerala (1.79), leading to uneven demographic weight in political representation.
- **Political Representation Imbalance:** With the upcoming **delimitation exercise**, northern states may gain **more Lok Sabha seats**, while southern states may lose representation despite better governance.  
**For example:** If seat allocation is based purely on population, **Uttar Pradesh may gain multiple seats**, reducing the influence of states like **Karnataka**.
- **Economic Contribution vs. Allocation:** Southern states contribute more to **India's GDP and tax revenues** but receive less in **central financial devolution** compared to northern states.  
**For example:** Tamil Nadu and Karnataka **contribute significantly to tax revenues**, but Bihar and UP receive **higher per capita central funds** due to their larger populations.
- **Human Development Disparity:** Southern states have better **literacy, healthcare, and life expectancy**, yet financial allocations favor states with weaker development indices.  
**For example:** Kerala's **Human Development Index (HDI)** is **very high**, far ahead of **Uttar Pradesh**, but UP receives more funds based on population.
- **Urbanization and Migration Impact:** Southern states experience **higher urbanization and in-migration**, increasing infrastructure burdens without proportional resource allocation.  
**For example:** **Bengaluru and Hyderabad** attract large migrant populations, yet infrastructure funding doesn't match their growing urban demands.

#### Challenges Posed by the Demographic Divide

- **Federal Tensions and Political Discontent:** Southern states feel **penalized for successful population control**, raising concerns over **federal fairness** in representation.  
**For example:** Tamil Nadu and Kerala have opposed the delimitation exercise, fearing diminished parliamentary influence.
- **Economic Disparities in Fund Allocation:** Higher tax contributions from southern states do not translate into **equitable financial returns**, affecting infrastructure and welfare programs.

**For example:** Karnataka's GST contribution is among the highest, yet Bihar receives more central grants per capita.

- **Governance Incentives and Disincentives:** Rewarding high population growth disincentivizes demographic management, potentially worsening development gaps in high-growth northern states.  
**For example:** States with lower fertility rates, like Kerala, see **no financial rewards**, whereas high-growth states benefit from central fund allocations.

- **Representation vs. Development Performance:** Population-based seat allocation does not consider **governance efficiency**, meaning well-managed states get fewer MPs despite better policies.

**For example:** Kerala, with **high literacy and healthcare**, may lose **parliamentary influence** compared to UP, despite superior governance.

- **Strain on Public Services in Southern Cities:** Rising migration due to economic opportunities burdens urban infrastructure, creating disparities in service quality.

**For example:** Chennai and Bengaluru **struggle with housing and transport issues** due to heavy migration from less-developed northern states.

### Measures to Address Demographic Disparities

- **Balanced Representation Formula:** Consider **population density** instead of absolute numbers to ensure fair parliamentary representation for states with stable populations.

**For example:** Northeast states like **Sikkim (density ~86/km<sup>2</sup>)** already have **special provisions**, which can be extended to southern states with controlled populations.

- **Demographic Performance Weightage:** Allocate Lok Sabha seats and financial devolution based on **demographic progress**, rewarding states with **lower fertility and better governance**.

**For example:** The **15th Finance Commission** introduced a weightage for demographic performance, partially addressing this issue.

- **Economic Contribution-Based Allocation:** Increase **fiscal incentives** for high tax-paying states to ensure **equitable returns** for their contributions.

**For example:** States like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu could get **higher infrastructure funding** in proportion to their GST contributions

- **Regional Development Equalization Fund:** Establish a special fund to support lagging regions without penalizing better-performing states.

**For example:** The **Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)** can be expanded with a **balanced approach** to help northern states without harming the south.

- **Urban Infrastructure Support for Migrant Hubs:** Introduce a **migration impact fund** for cities facing high in-migration, ensuring sustainable urban growth.

**For example:** Cities like **Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai** could get **additional central assistance** based on rising urban demands.

Addressing India's demographic divide requires fiscal federalism, equitable resource distribution, and delinking political representation from population growth. A multi-stakeholder approach, promoting investment in human capital, and strengthening regional economies will ensure that demographic shifts fuel national progress rather than discord.

### MCQ

1. Which of the following international conventions is most relevant for India's efforts supported by the proposed Heritage Repatriation Fund?

a) **Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970**

b) Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961

c) Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992  
d) Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954

2. Consider the following statements about Silvanguard, the wildfire detection and suppression system that was unveiled recently.

1. It uses underwater drones to monitor temperature and moisture levels in lakes near forests.

2. It operates autonomously and can detect fires before they are visible to satellites.  
 3. It is integrated with an IoT-based forest monitoring system for early alerts.  
 How many of the above statements are correct?  
 a) Only one                      **b) Only two**  
 c) All three                      d) None
3. Consider the following statements regarding Vikramashila University:  
 1. Vikramashila was located in present-day Nepal.  
 2. It declined under the patronage of the Mughal Empire.  
 3. The primary medium of instruction was Pali.  
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
 a) 1 only                      b) 2 and 3 only  
**c) None**                      d) 1 and 3 only
4. Which one of the following rights is granted to an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder?  
 a. Right to own agricultural land in India  
 b. Right to hold constitutional positions like President or Prime Minister  
 c. Right to work in private sector jobs in India  
 d. Right to contest elections in India
5. The Cape Town Convention primarily deals with:  
 a. Intellectual property rights  
**b. International interest in mobile equipment**  
 c. Maritime navigation  
 d. Cultural heritage
6. With reference to the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill 2025, consider the following statements:  
 1. It aims to implement international agreements related to aircraft leasing and financing.  
 2. It aims to align India's laws with the Hague Convention.  
 3. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is designated as the registry authority under Bill.  
 Which of the statements given above are correct?  
 a.1 and 2 only                      b.2 and 3 only  
**c.1 and 3 only**                      d.1, 2 and 3
7. Consider the following statements regarding the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:  
 1. It is the only permanent intergovernmental body that addresses the components of biological diversity for food and agriculture.  
 2. It operates under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.  
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?  
 a.1 only                      b.2 only  
**c. Both 1 and 2**                      d. Neither 1 nor 2
8. Which one of the following correctly describes the "Dark Ages" of the Universe?  
 a. A period after the Big Bang when the universe was filled with neutral hydrogen and lacked light-emitting objects like stars and galaxies.  
 b. A time when the universe was dominated by dark energy and its expansion accelerated.  
 c. The era in which black holes dominated the universe, absorbing all light and radiation.  
 d. A phase before the Big Bang when all matter and energy were in a singularity.
9. Consider the following statements regarding the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) System:  
 1. It collects real-time data on crops sown in different fields using a mobile-based interface, helping in accurate production estimates.  
 2. National e-Governance Plan for Agriculture ensures the privacy and security of farmers' data under the DCS System.  
 3. Agricultural Census is being replaced by the Digital Crop Survey (DCS).  
 How many of the statements given above are correct?  
**a. Only one**                      b. Only two  
 c. All three                      d. None
10. With reference to the country Tonga, which of the following statements are correct?  
 1. It is located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.  
 2. It is situated within the Pacific Ring of Fire.  
 3. It is a constitutional monarchy.  
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
 a.1 and 2 only                      b.2 and 3 only  
 c.1 and 3 only                      **d.1, 2 and 3**