

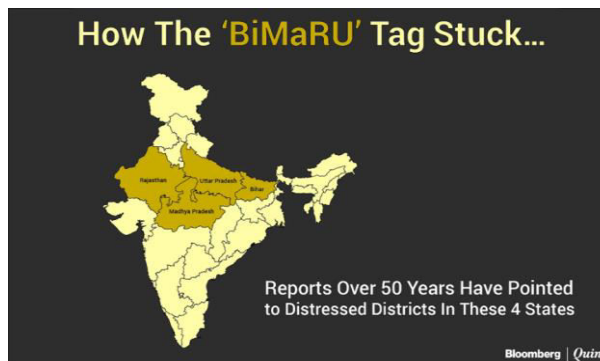
**GOVERNANCE**

**BIMARU tag**

**In Context:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said the State has risen from its BIMARU tag and is now contributing positively to the process of India's development.

**About BIMARU states:**

- ✓ The 'BIMARU' acronym has been used to refer to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, to imply they have lagged in terms of economic growth, healthcare, and education.
- ✓ BIMARU means "sickly" in Hindi. The term was used to highlight the backwardness, especially with regard to poor performance in demographic indicators and contribution to population explosion.
- ✓ These states had exceptionally high levels of mortality, morbidity, illiteracy, fertility, undernutrition, and social inequality and lagged behind in per capita income.
- ✓ It was coined by Ashish Bose in 1980 to pinpoint India's demographic malady.
- ✓ Bose mainly argued that from a family planning and population control perspective, these four states, with their high population growth rates were likely to offset the gains made elsewhere in the country.



**BIMARU States and Population Growth:**

- ✓ **Population Growth:** A report by the **Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** revealed that **BIMARU States** (excluding the three newly carved out States) will contribute to 49.1% of the population increase in India between 2011 and 2036.
- ✓ **Implication:** Population in Indian States also dictates the delimitation process or the number of seats allotted to them in Parliament.
  - Currently, the seats are proportional to the Indian population as of the 1971 census. It was frozen until 2001 (and has now further been extended to 2026) to give States time to meet family planning goals.
- ✓ **The Problem:** The Southern States of India have repeatedly stressed that the division of seats and devolution of funds to States based on population are unfair to them, as they have better performed in family planning.

**Reasons behind backwardness of BIMARU states:**

- ✓ **Low per capita income:** These have traditionally had low per capita income levels compared to other states in India, with Bihar having the lowest per capita income among Indian states.
- ✓ **High poverty rates:** They have a high percentage of people living in poverty, with Bihar and Uttar Pradesh having some of the highest poverty rates in the country.
- ✓ **Low literacy rates:** They have lower literacy rates than the national average, with Bihar having the lowest literacy rate among Indian states.
- ✓ **Poor healthcare indicators:** They have traditionally had poor healthcare indicators, with high infant and maternal mortality rates.
- ✓ **Agriculture-based economy:** These states are primarily agricultural states, with a significant percentage of the population engaged in agriculture and related activities.
- ✓ **Significant population:** They are among the most populous states in India, with Uttar Pradesh being the most populous state in the country.

Overall, the BIMARU states have traditionally lagged behind other states in India in terms of economic and social development, although in recent years, there has been progress in improving development indicators.

**Positive developments:**

- ✓ In recent years, some of these states, such as Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, have shown significant improvement.
- ✓ In terms of economic growth, several of these states have experienced high growth rates in recent years, with Madhya Pradesh and Bihar recording growth rates of over 10% in 2019-20.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have also recorded growth rates of over 7% in recent years.
- ✓ There has also been progress in improving social indicators such as literacy rates and healthcare infrastructure.
- ✓ For example, Bihar has seen a significant increase in literacy rates, with the state's literacy rate increasing from 47% in 2001 to 63% in 2011.

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (MP): Madhya Pradesh ranks first in distributing Ayushman cards and other States are now adapting MP's Janbhagidari model.
  - MP was the first to start a Public Service Guarantee Act (Lok Sewa Guarantee) to ensure that citizens get the benefit of better facilities.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (UP): UP has revised its position in view of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) estimates that indicate UP is now the third largest economy after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Rajasthan: The Rajasthan Government recently signed 4192 Memoranda of Understanding involving investment commitment worth Rs 10.44 lakh crore ahead of the Investment Rajasthan Summit 2022.
- ✓ Bihar: Improvement in road connectivity, better maintenance of law and order and efforts to raise the literacy levels have boosted the Bihar's economy.

**Way forward:**

- ✓ Human Resource Development: The two states share poor literacy levels and health status of its residents. Governments at center and state must work in close cooperation with local governments and administration to implement schemes in spheres of education, health and skill development.
- ✓ Tourism: Bihar has a lot of potential for spiritual tourism whereas UP can be developed as a site of eco-tourism.
  - Tourism brings in employment for the local people and additionally forex for nation.
- ✓ Investment: As has the case been in Gujarat, Tripura, and Andhra Pradesh, investment summits on similar lines to encourage private investment in these areas can help generate income, employment and infrastructure.
- ✓ Infrastructure: Public investment is much needed for infrastructural development.
  - There is a lot of untapped potential for roadways, railways and inland waterways. NW-1 on Ganga River has not been used to the optimum.
- ✓ Overall, while the BIMARU states have made progress in recent years, there is still a long way to go in terms of achieving more equitable development across the cou

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP**

**Vilnius Summit of NATO**

**In context:** The NATO summit in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius has been conclude .

**The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

- ✓ It was founded in 1949 and is a group of 31 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members.
- ✓ The inclusion of Finland and approval of Sweden as NATO members signals that the Alliance continues to practise Article 10 of the Washington Treaty signed in April 1949 which states that member countries can invite other European countries to become members of NATO.
- ✓ It is founded on the principle of collective defence, meaning that if one NATO Ally is attacked, then all NATO Allies are attacked.
- ✓ For example, when terrorists attacked the United States on 9/11 2001, all NATO Allies stood with America as though they had also been attacked.
- ✓ The Open Door Policy is a founding principle of NATO: This means that any country in Europe is free to join NATO if it is prepared to meet the standards and obligations of membership, contributes to the security of the Alliance, and shares NATO's values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law

**Key Takeaways of recent summit**

- ✓ The goals were to reach an agreement that Sweden could join the alliance – which Turkey had blocked – and to strengthen support for Ukraine.
- ✓ Both of those goals were achieved.
- ✓ Yet, the one issue that overshadowed the Vilnius summit was Ukraine's promised membership in the alliance on which there was no clarity or time frame.
- ✓ NATO's new plans involve maintaining a force of 300,000 troops, with air and naval capabilities, while emphasising the importance of a strong industrial base, leading to the endorsement of a Defence Production Action Plan.
- ✓ The NATO summit emphasised that the developments in the Indo-Pacific have become increasingly consequential for Euro-Atlantic security with expanding space for Quad countries, along with other regional countries like New Zealand and South Korea.
- ✓ The U.S.'s stance: U.S. President Joe Biden's speech at the summit extended unwavering support to the alliance as well as Ukraine.

**Threat actors to NATO**

- ✓ NATO faces threats from China's malicious hybrid cyber operations, as well as confrontational rhetoric and disinformation, which specifically aim at NATO allies and pose a threat to the security of the Alliance.

- ✓ But even as the summit was on, Russia launched a drone attack on Kyiv depicting an undeterred approach to NATO's potential expansion.
- ✓ It is this contestation that is likely to define the future of Eurasian security.

**Implications for India**

- ✓ In recent years, India has had limited engagement with NATO, mostly as political dialogues.
- ✓ India has maintained a strategic silence on NATO's recent expansion. But it needs to closely watch for scenarios that could emerge.

**Way Ahead**

- ✓ NATO appears fortified and ready to face the strategic gauntlet thrown down by Russia.
- ✓ There's unending economic pain and the leaders have pledged to meet the burgeoning demand for weapons and other military support required by Ukraine to hold on to its territories in the east.
- ✓ India's global actor role will be tested in view of the new European security architecture led by NATO, and contested by Russia.

“NATO plus”: It refers to a security arrangement of NATO and the five treaty allies of the U.S. — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea as members — to enhance “global defence cooperation” and win the “strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party”. Interestingly, the term ‘NATO Plus’ is not an officially recognised or established concept within NATO itself, but has been used in discussions and debates regarding the potential expansion of the alliance.

**PRELIM FACTS**

**1. Henley Passport Index 2023**

**IN CONTEXT:** India has climbed seven places on Henley Passport Index 2023 to 80th rank from 87 last year.

**Henley Passport Index**

- The Henley Passport Index is the ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.
- The Index is brought out by Henley and Partners.

**India's performance**

- In 2014, India ranked 76 with 52 countries allowing Indian passport holders visa free access but its performance has not been linear.
- It ranked 88 in 2015 (visa free access to 51 countries), 85 in 2016, 87 in 2017, 81 in 2018, 82 in 2019 and 2020, and 81 in 2021.

**Global performers**

- Singapore is now officially the most powerful passport in the world.
- Japan, which occupied the top position on the Henley Passport Index for five years, dropped to the third place.
- Germany, Italy, and Spain occupy the second place.
- Alongside Japan at the third position are Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea, and Sweden.
- The U.K. climbed two places to occupy the fourth place, while the U.S. continued its decade-long slide down the index, dropping two places to the eighth spot.
- Both the U.K. and the U.S. jointly held the first place on the index nearly 10 years ago in 2014.

**2. C-295 Aircraft**

**In Context:** Indian Air Force (IAF) is about to receive the first C-295 transport aircraft.

**About C-295**

- The Airbus C295 is a new-generation tactical airlifter.
- It conducts multi-role operations worldwide under all weather conditions.
- It is equipped with winglets and is capable of transporting more payload over larger distances in the hot and high conditions.
- C295 aircraft manufacturing plant is set up in Vadodara, Gujarat, which is India's giant leap towards becoming self-reliant in the aviation sector.



**About C-295 India programme**

- In September 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹22,000-crore deal with Airbus and Space S.A., Spain, for procurement of 56 C-295 MW transport aircraft to replace the Avro aircraft in service with the IAF.
- As per contract, 16 aircraft would come in fly away condition, manufactured at the Airbus facility in Seville, Spain and 40 would be manufactured in India by Airbus jointly with TASL.

### 3. **SC urges Centre to transfer cheetahs to another location**

**In Context:** Recently, the Supreme Court told the Union Government that the deaths of 40% of the 20 cheetahs brought from South Africa and Namibia to the Kuno National Park (KNP) in under a year do not present a good picture.

#### **About the Cheetah:**

- ✓ The fastest land animal in the world.
- ✓ Social animals, cheetahs are usually found in groups, consisting of either a mother and her young, siblings or a coalition of males who live and hunt together.
- ✓ Adult females, however, tend to be solitary and only meet with males to mate.
- ✓ Females usually give birth to between two to eight cubs at a time.
- ✓ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species: IUCN Status:
- ✓ Asiatic Cheetah - Critically Endangered
- ✓ African Cheetah – Vulnerable

#### **Project Cheetah:**

- ✓ The Government of India has launched an ambitious project on bringing back Cheetah to India.
- ✓ The Project Cheetah is being implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Cheetah experts from Namibia and South Africa.
- ✓ The project implementation is being done as per the 'Action Plan for Introduction in India' and a Steering Committee comprising eminent experts/ officials involved in the first-ever successful tiger reintroduction in Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserve, to oversee the project has also been constituted.
- ✓ Under Project Cheetah, a total of 20 radio-collared Cheetahs were brought from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, in a first-ever transcontinental wild-to-wild translocation.
- ✓ After the mandatory quarantine period, all Cheetahs were shifted to larger acclimatization enclosures.
- ✓ Currently, 11 Cheetahs are under free-ranging conditions, and 5 animals, including a cub born on Indian soil, are within quarantine enclosures.
- ✓ Each of the free-ranging Cheetahs is being monitored around the clock by a dedicated monitoring team.

#### **The major objectives of the introduction project are:**

- ✓ To establish breeding cheetah populations in safe habitats across its historic range and manage them as a metapopulation.
- ✓ To use the cheetah as a charismatic flagship and umbrella species to garner resources for restoring open forest and savanna systems that will benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services from these ecosystems.
- ✓ To use the ensuing opportunity for eco-development and eco-tourism to enhance local community livelihoods and
- ✓ To manage any conflict by cheetahs or other wildlife with local communities within cheetah conservation areas expediently through compensation, awareness, and management action.

### **ANSWER WRITING**

#### **Q. Explain the various features of the Quit India Movement that distinguishes it from the previous anti-imperial struggle in colonial India.**

**Introduction:** The Quit India Movement came at a time when the British supremacy was crumbling with the approach of Japanese forces towards the Indian sub-continent and the British's apparent inability to defend Indian territory. At the backdrop of the Second World War, the British found themselves losing grip over the Indian affairs but holding on to it as firmly as they can inspite of adverse situations. The failure of Cripps' proposals, the Indian public unrest and Gandhi's own skepticism about the ability of the British to defend India, have all led towards the calling of the Quit India Movement. It is termed as the last great movement that awakened the Indian masses against the colonial rule.

Mahatma Gandhi initiated a new phase of movement against British imperialism by adopting the Quit India resolution in the middle of the Second World War in August 1942. He told the British to quit India immediately. To the people, he said, "do or die" in your effort to fight the British – but you must fight non-violently.

#### **The features of the Quit India movement were:**

- Lack of organized leadership: The British government was militarily prepared to crush any new mass movement thus within hours of the launch of the 'Quit India' movement on 8 August 1942 at the All India Congress Committee session in Bombay by Mahatma Gandhi, the entire CWC leadership was arrested and

taken to different prisons. Thus the movement was not led in an institutionalised manner as it became leaderless. It was completely decentralised and became a true Peoples Movement.

- Emergence of underground networks: In the absence of central leadership the movement went into the hands of young leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Usha Mehta and Aruna Asaf Ali who organized underground activities like Underground Radio network by Usha Mehta and spreading of news through pamphlets, posters, etc. and such other underground activities kept up popular morale.
- Parallel governments were set up in Satara, Ballia, Talcher, Midnapore, etc. It was a quintessential feature of this movement.
- Attack on British symbols: In the absence of Congress leadership people reacted in any manner they could. All over the country, there were hartals/strikes in factories, schools, and colleges. People took to violent actions as they were angered by repeated firings and repression. They attacked the symbols of British authority-the police stations, post offices, railway stations, etc. They cut telegraph and telephone wires and railwaylines, and burnt government buildings. People totally deviated from the Gandhian principle of non-violence.
- Woman participation: Quit India movement was unique in the sense that it saw women participation where they not only participated as equals but also led the movement. Most of the movement was effectively organized and handled mainly by women leaders like Aruna Asaf Ali, Nellie Gupta, Usha Sharma, etc. In the absence of leadership, Aruna Asaf Ali presided over the AICC session on August 9 and hoisted the flag.
- Fierce repression: The British government of India was determined to neutralize the movement right from its inception. It deployed police, military firings and also machine gun fire by low flying aircraft on Crowds. The British government survived the Quit India movement because it had vast both legal and military resources which it used to suppress the movement. The Quit India movement was different from the other two movements associated with the Gandhian leadership of Congress.
- The Quit India movement did not have a strong agrarian dimension because the duration of the struggle was cut short by the massive repression that was unleashed by the colonial state. While the Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience movements had involved the peasantry, both because of Congress's initiative and that of the peasants themselves, this did not happen in 1942.
- The Quit India movement differed radically from the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement as they were conceived as campaigns of peaceful resistance to British rule in India. Their social base had expanded gradually to accommodate wider popular participation. However, the 1942 movement from the very beginning was a massive uprising to compel the British to withdraw entirely from India.
- The emphasis in the struggle was not on traditional Satyagraha to change the heart of the enemy but on 'fight to the finish'. It, therefore, represented the most authoritative challenge to the state machinery.
- In 1942, Gandhi was now also prepared for riots and violence. He accepted the role of individual freedom and civil liberties in the face of state's organized violence, as he affirmed that "every individual was to consider himself free and act for himself".
- The 1942 movement was less ambiguous in its declared objectives. It was launched to ensure the complete withdrawal of British power from India.
- The nature of the movement has been generally described as spontaneous against the institutionalized and organized character of the earlier mass movements.

**Conclusion:** The Quit India Movement stands apart from the earlier movements in terms of the spirit and enthusiasm that it infused, ordinary people, to support indigenous institutions and structures of power. Features like lack of organized leadership, formation of parallel governments, emergence of underground networks, etc. indicate the basic difference between the 1942 movement and the earlier movements. Symbolically, Quit India Movement brought an end to the British rule in India as this was one movement that demonstrated the will and reserve of diverse communities of Indians to withstand both the highhandedness of imperial authorities and elitism of the Indian political class

#### MCQ

1. Recently, Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
    1. The Indian Coast Guard with jurisdiction over its territorial waters including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.
    2. It is Established in 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
    3. Comes under the Ministry of Defence
- Which of the following statement is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) 2 and 3 only
  - d) 1,2 and 3 only
2. Considered the following statement:  
**Statement-I:**The Strait of the Dardanelles connects the Sea of Marmara to the Black Sea.  
**Statement-II:**Kerch Strait connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
  - b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I**
  - c) Statement-I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
  - d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
3. With reference to the Picolinic acid, consider the following statements:
1. It is an intermediate in the metabolism of tryptophan.
  2. It has the ability to disrupt the entry of enveloped viruses into the host's cell and prevent infection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. With reference to the sovereign green bond, consider the following statements:
1. It is only issued by the Central and State Governments.
  2. The proceeds of the bonds are utilised for projects classified as environmentally sustainable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only**
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), consider the following statements:
1. Its members are typically democratic countries that support free-market economies.
  2. The organization seeks to eliminate bribery and other financial crime worldwide.
  3. India is a founding member of the OECD.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only 1
  - b) Only 2**
  - c) Only 3
  - d) None
6. Consider the following statements regarding Henley Passport Index 2023:
1. It ranks all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.

2. United States has topped the 2023 passport rankings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) **1 only**
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Consider the following statements regarding C295 Transport Aircraft:
1. It is a new-generation tactical airlifter in the light and medium segment.
  2. It was designed and built indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) **1 only**
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Recently, Rajasthan introduced Minimum Guaranteed income Bill-2023, considered the following statement:

1. It covers entire population of the state with guaranteed wages and pension.
2. It helps to reduction poverty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only**
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Recently the term 'BIMARU' has been in news, which of the following states are included in it?

1. Bihar
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Rajasthan
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Odisha

Code:

- a) 1 and 3
  - b) 1,2,3 and 4**
  - c) 3, 4, and 5
  - d) All of the above
10. Consider the following statements with reference to The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):
1. NATO is a military alliance of countries from Europe and North America.
  2. Sweden became NATO's newest member in April 2023.
  3. Every NATO country contributes to the costs of running the Alliance based on a cost-share formula derived from Gross National Income.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2only
- c) 2and 3 only
- d) 1and 3 only**