



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

7th July 2025



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services



9560300770



www.tathastuics.com



support@tathastuics.com

HEAD OFFICE: 53/1, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BADA BAZAR ROAD,
OLD RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110060



Topics Covered

- **2 Pressurised heavy water reactors in Gujarat built indigenously granted license to operate.**
- **Common Goals**
- **Why are Bihar's electoral rolls being revised?**
- **Environment impact study for the Nicobar project downplays earthquake risks**

2 Pressurised heavy water reactors in Gujarat built indigenously granted license to operate.

Syllabus:

GS 3: Science & Technology

2 pressurised heavy water reactors in Gujarat built indigenously granted licence to operate

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) licence to operate two indigenously developed 700 MWe pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat.

"The AERB has concluded

the design and commissioning safety reviews and issued the Licence for Operation of Units 3 and 4 of KAPS," a statement from the regulator said.

The licence for a period of five years was handed over to the NPCIL on July 3, the statement added.

The KAPS-3 reactor had received permission to operate at full power in August 2023, while the KAPS-4 unit received it in

August 2024, as part of Phase-C commissioning of the project.

Rigorous reviews

Since the 700 MWe reactor was the first of its kind, the licensing process involved rigorous multi-tiered safety reviews and assessment of the reactor design, covering the entire life cycle in multiple stages from siting and construction to commissioning at full power.

Besides the AERB, several reactor safety experts from technical support organisations made significant contributions towards review of the design and commissioning results, which spanned almost 15 years.

The issuance of the licence is a shot in the arm for the NPCIL, which is spearheading efforts to build 10 PHWRs of 700 MWe each in fleet mode.

Key points from article

- India's civil nuclear capability gets a major boost as the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** licenses two indigenous **700 MWe PHWRs (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors)** at **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)**, marking a key milestone in energy self-reliance.
 - ◆ AERB grants a **5-year operational licence** for **KAPS Units 3 & 4**.
 - ◆ Both are **indigenously designed 700 MWe PHWRs**.
 - ◆ **KAPS-3** began full power operations in **August 2023**, and **KAPS-4** in **August 2024**.
 - ◆ The approval followed a 15-year-long safety assessment, covering: Site selection Reactor design, Construction and commissioning
 - ◆ Inputs were taken from **expert technical organisations** for design validation and safety assurance.
 - ◆ NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.) plans to build **10 more reactors** of this type in **fleet mode**.





PHWR (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor):

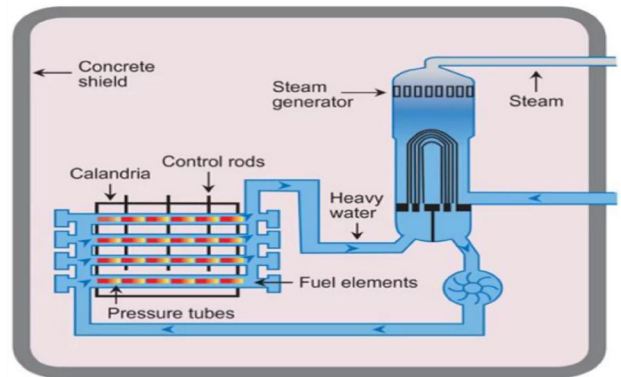
- ◆ Uses **heavy water (D₂O)** as moderator and coolant
- ◆ Operates on **natural uranium fuel**
- ◆ Suited for India's uranium resources

Fleet Mode Construction:

- ◆ Simultaneous construction of standardised units
- ◆ Enhances **time, cost, and resource efficiency**

AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board):

- ◆ India's **independent nuclear regulator**.
- ◆ Ensures **safety, licensing, and compliance** of nuclear facilities



Common Goals

Syllabus:

GS Paper 2: International Relations

Common goals

Modi's visits reflect India's efforts to engage with others of the Global South

In his way to Brazil to attend the ongoing BRICS summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made back-to-back bilateral visits to Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina. Each stop was with a view to enhancing bilateral cooperation in fields which included some common themes on pharmaceuticals and vaccines, digital technology, food security and critical minerals. In Accra, India-Ghana ties were upgraded to a comprehensive partnership, with discussions on helping Ghana become a "vaccine hub" for West Africa. In the Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, there was a major MoU on "Indian pharmacopeia", to improve access to quality and affordable generic medicines from India. In Buenos Aires, President Javier Milei agreed to enhance cooperation on critical minerals as well as Argentina's vast reserves of shale gas and oil, while India pitched its pharma to Argentina. The three stops were in countries of the "developing world" or the Global South, and the onward journey to Brazil, and then to Namibia, also highlight India's commitment to building alternative economic mechanisms to the "developed world" or Global North. India's offer of cooperation for low-cost solutions to global challenges includes the promotion of India-led international organisations such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to these countries. Mr. Modi also made his signature pitch to the Indian diaspora – his speech in the Port of Spain, where Indian labour was brought by British colonial ventures since 1845, is one to note. Referring to the Indian ancestry of President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Mr. Modi said that the 35 million Indian diaspora worldwide were India's "pride".

It is also impossible to escape the deep connections between India and the five nations in terms of political history. Each country shares a bond – colonies that suffered under British, Spanish, Portuguese and German forces – and why some of them joined the Non-Aligned Movement. They have all, at various points, committed to building South-South cooperation, and India and Brazil's role in founding the BRIC mechanism, along with Russia and China, and IBSA with South Africa, was an outcome, strongly pitching the interests of the Global South. None of the countries on the tour can be called "anti-West", and New Delhi has had some differences with them over specific conflicts (Ukraine and Gaza). The motivating force behind the ties, however, and consequently Mr. Modi's nine-day itinerary, is more about a common desire to look beyond the present global order to one that is more equal, representative, and sensitive to the needs of developing and under-developed nations.





Key points from article

As part of a **nine-day international tour**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Brazil (for BRICS summit)** — followed by a planned visit to Namibia.

The visit highlights India's proactive efforts to strengthen ties with **Global South nations**, enhance **South-South cooperation**, and build a more **equitable global order**.

Country	Key Agreements/Cooperation Areas
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ties upgraded to Comprehensive Partnership Support to make Ghana a vaccine hub
Trinidad & Tobago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU on Indian pharmacopeia to boost affordable generic medicine access
Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation on critical minerals, shale gas, and oil Pharma and tech collaboration

India's Vision for the Global South:

- **Low-Cost Global Solutions:**
 - ◆ Promoting affordable **digital technology, pharmaceuticals, and food security mechanisms**.
 - ◆ Highlighting India's successes, like the **CoWIN platform, generic medicines, and telemedicine**.
- **Institution Building:**
 - ◆ Showcasing **India-led global platforms** like: **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) International Solar Alliance (ISA), Vaccine Maitri** initiative as a global goodwill tool.
- **Cultural and Diaspora Diplomacy:**
 - ◆ In Port of Spain, Modi's address recalled the legacy of Indian indentured labour (since 1845).
 - ◆ Honoured Indo-Trinidadian leaders like President Christine Carla Kangaloo and former PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

Described the 35 million-strong Indian diaspora as India's "pride and ambassadors".

India's Strategic Framework

Strengthening Economic Footprint
Expanding trade in key sectors to boost economic growth



Counterbalance to Global North Dominance
India's role as a moral leader and development partner



Geopolitical Influence through BRICS & IBSA
India's role as a bridge between North and South



Energy & Critical Mineral Security
Securing energy transition through strategic partnerships





Why are Bihar's electoral rolls being revised?

Syllabus:

GS Paper 2: Polity

Why are Bihar's electoral rolls being revised?

Why has the Election Commission of India decided to conduct a Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls of the entire country? Why is Bihar first? What are some of the major contentions with the present SIR process? What about migrant workers within India?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Election Commission of India (EC) has initiated a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar before the general elections for its Legislative Assembly.

What is an electoral roll?

Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for the conduct of elections to Parliament and State legislature shall vest with the EC. Article 326 provides that every citizen who is not less than 18 years of age shall be entitled to be registered as a voter (elector).

The electoral rolls are prepared by the EC as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act). Section 16 of the RP Act disqualifies a non-citizen from being enrolled in the electoral roll. Section 19 requires that the person is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is ordinarily resident in the constituency.

Section 20 of the RP Act provides the meaning of the term 'ordinarily resident'. It specifies that a person shall not be deemed to be 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency simply because he/she owns or possesses a dwelling house in such constituency. However, at the same time, a person 'temporarily absent' from his/her place of residence shall continue to be 'ordinarily resident' therein.

Why has an SIR been initiated?

Section 21 of the RP Act deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. It authorises the EC to carry out a special revision of the electoral roll at any time for reasons to be recorded.

The Election Commission has noted that there have been large scale additions and deletions to the electoral rolls over the last 20 years due to rapid urbanisation and migration. This has increased the possibility of duplicate entries in the roll. The Commission is constitutionally obligated to ensure that only citizens are enrolled in the electoral rolls. Accordingly, the EC has decided to carry out an SIR for the entire country, starting with Bihar.

The last such SIR was carried out for Bihar in the year 2003. Since the Bihar Assembly elections are due in November, the EC has presently laid down the guidelines for an SIR of the Bihar electoral roll with the qualifying date as July 1, 2025.

During the last SIR, enumerators were sent for house-to-house verification with a copy of the details of the existing voters. However, in the present SIR, every elector will have to submit an enumeration form to their respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs). For electors registered in the electoral roll as of January 2003 (on the basis of the last SIR), no further documents are required to be submitted except the extract of the 2003 electoral roll. However, electors registered after January 2003, have to additionally submit documents for establishing the date and place of birth for themselves and their parent(s) as required. The schedule for the current SIR is provided in Table I.

What are the pros and cons?

There have been arguments for and against the SIR made by various stakeholders. The key issues of contention are summarised below.



Fresh list: The District Election Officer and his team hand over enumeration forms to voters, ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections in Nawada on June 29. PTI

The process and time required for the entire exercise: Proponents in support of the SIR in its present form argue that the SIR in 2003 was carried out in 31 days without technological support. This time also the same amount of time will be taken for the exercise with technology. Moreover, there are more than one lakh BLOs, nearly 4 lakh volunteers and more than 1.5 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs), appointed by political parties, to ensure the smooth implementation of this exercise.

Counter arguments against the SIR in its present form state that it is a humongous task which involves the submission of forms by all eight crore voters that has never been done before. Furthermore, close to three crore voters would be required to submit documents establishing their date and place of birth for themselves and their parents. Migrant labourers and students may not be able to submit their enumeration forms within the deadline. Despite the presence of so many field level workers, there can be potential errors in inclusion and exclusion.

The exclusion of Aadhaar as a document for registration: Proponents of the SIR in its present form say that the Aadhaar is neither a proof of date of birth nor of citizenship. The Aadhaar card itself carries a disclaimer stating that it can't be used as proof of citizenship. Hence, in line with constitutional and legal requirements, the Aadhaar has been excluded as a valid document. The list of valid documents include caste certificates, family registers and land allotment certificates.

Proponents against the SIR in its

present form argue that the Aadhaar has become an omnibus identity card for all sections of society, especially the under privileged who may not possess any other document. Form 6 for the inclusion of new voters as per the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER) requires that Aadhaar be provided compulsorily unless the person doesn't have one. It is mentioned as a proof of date of birth and place of residence as per Form 6. These rules were made by the Central government as per the RP Act. It is only in the SIR guidelines that the EC has added a declaration form to be submitted along with Form 6, with additional documents other than Aadhaar for the purposes of establishing date and place of birth.

Exclusion of migrants from the electoral roll: Arguments for the SIR in its present form state that the RP Act provides that only citizens who are 'ordinarily resident' should be included in the electoral roll of a constituency. Migrants who have moved away for long periods of time on account of education or employment would be included in the electoral roll of the constituency of their current residence as per provisions of the RP Act and the RER.

However, counter arguments posit that the RP Act provides that 'persons temporarily absent' do not cease to be 'ordinarily resident'. Many migrant workers shift to other places within the State or outside the State but return at regular intervals to their place of birth/upbringing. The families and properties of such migrants may continue in the same location where they would want to retain their right to vote. The EC, as recently as January 2023, had indicated its

intention of providing a remote voting facility for such migrant workers subject to technical feasibility and acceptance by all stakeholders.

What can be the way forward?

To provide an analogy, the inclusion of an ineligible name in the electoral roll is like a guilty person going scot-free, while the exclusion of an eligible voter is akin to one innocent person suffering. Both these prospects would be a blight on democracy. Therefore, electoral rolls should be thoroughly checked and verified.

First, the proposed timelines for the completion of such a mammoth exercise are stretched. The EC should ensure that adequate safeguards are put in place for the completion of the exercise without errors. The BLAs should actively participate to prevent errors of omission or addition.

Secondly, the exclusion of Aadhaar from the list of valid documents can create issues for many, especially the underprivileged. After considering the ground realities during the first phase of the enumeration, the EC should adequately tailor the process, during the claims and objections phase, to ensure that no eligible citizen is excluded due to their inability to produce any document from the list of valid documents.

Finally, migrant workers should not be removed from the rolls as that can result in significant deletions. Many such migrants have exercised their right to vote in the place of their birth/upbringing as per their choice and should continue to do so. It is pertinent to note that as per the amendment of the RP Act in 2010, non-resident Indians who have shifted out of India, even for the long term on account of employment, education or otherwise, are entitled to register and vote in the constituency in which their address as per passport is located. The issue of duplicate voter IDs for the same person in different constituencies should be addressed through Aadhaar seeding for which the EC had begun its consultative process in March 2025.

Rangarajan, R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for the conduct of elections to Parliament and State legislature shall vest with the EC.

The Election Commission has noted that there have been large scale additions and deletions to the electoral rolls over the last 20 years due to rapid urbanisation and migration. This has increased the possibility of duplicate entries in the roll.

During the last SIR, enumerators were sent for house-to-house verification with a copy of the details of the existing voters. However, in the present SIR, every elector will have to submit an enumeration form to their respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

Election revision

Table 1: Schedule for the SIR being undertaken in Bihar

S.No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Distribution and submission of pre-printed enumeration forms and scrutiny by BLOs with recommendation	25.06.2025 to 26.07.2025
2	Publication of draft electoral roll with names of electors who have submitted the enumeration forms	01.08.2025
3	Period of filing claims and objections	01.08.2025 to 01.09.2025
4	Decisions on enumeration forms and disposal of claims and objections by Electoral Registration Officers	By 25.09.2025
5	Publication of final electoral roll	30.09.2025





Key points from article

Context: The Election Commission (EC) has launched a *Special Intensive Revision (SIR)* of electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of the 2025 Assembly Elections.

What is an Electoral Roll?

- Prepared under **Article 324** and governed by the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- Lists all **citizens aged 18 and above** eligible to vote.
- Only **ordinarily resident** citizens can be enrolled.
- Owning property \neq ordinary residence; temporary absence \neq disqualification.

Why a Special Intensive Revision (SIR)?

- EC is empowered under **Section 21 of RP Act** to conduct SIRs.

Reasons for SIR:

- **Massive migration and urbanisation** in the last 20 years. Increased risk of **duplicate and ineligible entries**.
- Need to ensure **only eligible citizens** are on the rolls.
- Bihar is the first state due to the upcoming **Assembly elections in Nov 2025**.
- Last SIR in Bihar was conducted in **2003**.

How is the Current SIR Being Conducted?

- Every voter must submit an enumeration form to their **Booth Level Officer (BLO)**.
- Voters registered **before 2003** need only an extract of the 2003 roll.
- Voters registered **after 2003** must submit: Documents proving **date and place of birth** for self and parent(s).
- Massive manpower involved:

1 lakh+ BLOs, 4 lakh volunteers, 1.5 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs).

Concerns and Criticisms In Favour:

Technology enables faster, more accurate verification.

Similar SIR was done in 31 days in 2003 without tech.

Large ground workforce deployed for implementation.

Against:

8 crore voters need to submit forms — never done before.

3 crore voters may struggle to provide required documents.

Risk of **exclusion of migrants, students, underprivileged**.

Errors in deletion/inclusion despite manpower.

Aadhaar Exclusion Debate

EC excludes Aadhaar as proof of citizenship/date of birth.

Aadhaar disclaimer: Not proof of citizenship.

Critics argue:

Aadhaar is **widely used**, especially by the **underprivileged**.

As per **Form 6 (RER Rules, 1960)**, Aadhaar is acceptable for DOB and residence.

EC has added extra **declaration and document requirements** in SIR.





Migrant Voter Concerns

EC: Migrants should vote from **current place of residence**.

Critics: RP Act allows those **temporarily absent** to remain enrolled in native rolls.

Migrants often return home and maintain ties — **deletion could disenfranchise millions**.

EC had proposed **remote voting** for migrants in **Jan 2023**, not yet implemented.

Way Forward

- Ensure **no wrongful exclusion** of genuine voters.
- **Extend timelines** if needed for error-free implementation.
- Involve **BLAs effectively** to monitor field-level accuracy.
- Reconsider the **use of Aadhaar** for voters with no alternate documents.
- Protect **migrant voting rights** based on residence choice and regular return.
- Address **duplicate entries via Aadhaar seeding** (EC began consultations in March 2025).

Environment impact study for the Nicobar project downplays earthquake risks

Syllabus:

GS PAPER 3: Environment & Ecology, Disaster Management

Environment impact study for Nicobar project downplays earthquake risks

The report says probability of a mega earthquake, such as the one that led to the 2004 tsunami, is 'low'; however, an IIT-Kanpur report had pointed to uncertainty in 'prediction of future earthquakes'; professor who led IIT study urges infrastructure planners to conduct 'site-specific' analysis

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study carried out for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Infrastructure Project (GNIP) downplays the risk of future earthquakes that could trigger tsunamis on the scale that was seen in 2004, despite several scientists suggesting that few on-ground scientific assessments have been done in the region.

According to the nearly 900-page EIA report commissioned by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation and executed by a private consultant, Vimta Labs, the probability of a mega earthquake, such as the earthquake of 9.2 magnitude that led to the 2004 tragedy, was "low".

The EIA study, while acknowledging the region's proximity and susceptibility to massive earthquakes, primarily draws on a 2019 study by scientists of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur stating that the "return period", a term for the likelihood of a similar-



Ground zero: Aerial view of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

sized earthquake reoccurring, is 420-750 years for mega-earthquakes (magnitude of 9 or more). The return period is a shorter 80-120 years for large-magnitude earthquakes (>7.5).

Missing detail

The IIT-Kanpur report had analysed sediments from the Badabalu beach in South Andaman and revealed evidence of at least seven large tsunami events in the last 8,000 years in the region. The report states: "Andaman Segment has enough accumulated strain to trigger a mega tsu-

namigenic subduction zone earthquake in near future and that there was a 2,000-year gap in the region's sediment history added uncertainty to the prediction of future earthquakes." This bit doesn't appear in the EIA study.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Professor Javed Malik, the scientist who led the IIT-Kanpur study, said while their study did trace the history of major tsunamis, planners of any major infrastructure project in the Nicobar Islands should ideally conduct a "site-specific study". This was

because an earthquake, such as the one in 2004 that was centred in Indonesia's Banda Aceh, could play out differently if the origin point was the Nicobar Islands. The Andaman-Sumatra fault line was known to be vulnerable to massive earthquakes and there was still insufficient knowledge regarding what stretches along this line were likely to rupture.

C.P. Rajendran, geo-scientist and Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, said that his own studies over the years and



Earthquake recurrence is a non-linear process. You could go centuries without any major mega quake and then witness a massive one. The GNI is highly geo-dynamic.

C.P. RAJENDRAN
Geo-scientist and Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

emerging studies have shown that while the Banda Aceh event may have released a certain amount of pent-up energy, there were several other "parallel rupture lines south of the Andamans [and towards Nicobar] whose pent-up energy and history were unknown".

"To add to that, earthquake recurrence is a non-linear process. You could have centuries without any mega-quake and then suddenly a massive one. There are local fault lines in the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) as well as changes in land levels prior to a massive earthquake. This is an extremely geo-dynamic area and major infrastructure projects here are particularly vulnerable," he told

The Hindu. "It is better to avoid such an area for a port or a container terminal."

'Calculated risk'

A senior scientist in the Ministry of Earth Sciences acknowledged that while no specific site studies in the Nicobar Islands were commissioned for the project, it would be impossible to forecast when a massive earthquake was likely and a "calculated risk" had to be taken in executing the project. "Depending on the nature of buildings and infrastructure, design codes will be incorporated but we can never say when the next major quake or tsunami will occur. There is much that is unknown," the scientist said.

The GNIP envisages a transshipment port, an international airport, township development, and a 450 megawatt-Amperes (MVA) gas and solar-based power plant in the GNI. Though accorded an environment and preliminary forest clearance by the Centre, concerns about the potential loss of biodiversity, tree-felling, and impact on resident tribes prompted the National Green Tribunal to order a review.





Key points from article

The ₹72,000-crore **Great Nicobar Infrastructure Project (GNIP)** is facing criticism for **underplaying seismic and tsunami risks**, despite expert warnings and past studies pointing to the region's vulnerability.

- The **EIA report** minimizes the chance of a 2004- like earthquake-triggered tsunami.
- Based on a **2019 IIT-Kanpur** study which cites:
 - ♦ **420–750 years return period** for magnitude 9+ quakes.
 - ♦ But **key uncertainties and data gaps** noted in the study were omitted from the EIA.
- Scientists highlight:
 - ♦ **Unmapped rupture lines, non-linear recurrence** of quakes.
- Call for **site-specific seismic assessments**

Major Concerns:

- GNIP includes:
 - ♦ **Port, international airport, township, and 450 MVA power plant.**
- Located in the **Andaman-Sumatra subduction zone**, prone to mega quakes and tsunamis.
- **IIT-Kanpur study** found evidence of **7 major tsunamis in 8,000 years** and a **2,000-year data gap**, increasing uncertainty.
- **No site-specific seismic hazard study** was done, increasing risk exposure.
- **Expert Opinions:**
- Earthquake recurrence is **unpredictable and non-linear.**
- Infrastructure in such zones must consider **local fault ruptures** and **land-level changes.**
- Experts suggest **avoiding large-scale construction** in geodynamically unstable regions.
- **Environmental and Social Sensitivity:**
- The project has received initial clearances but faces opposition due to:
 - ♦ **Biodiversity loss, tribal displacement, and forest destruction.**
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has called for a review.

NOTE:

- **Return Period:** Average interval between similar seismic events.
- **Tsunamigenic Earthquake:** Undersea quake capable of generating a tsunami.
- **Subduction Zone:** A tectonic plate boundary prone to intense seismic activity.
- **Seismic Hazard Assessment:** Evaluation of potential earthquake impacts at a site.

