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Mains Manthan

- PM calls for self-reliance, flags 'demographic plot' (Page No – 01)
- India to build indigenous air defence system by 2035: PM (Page No – 09)
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Prelims Saarthi

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- AMMA led by women

1. PM calls for self-reliance, flags 'demographic plot'

Why in News?

- Focus on Self-Reliance on Independence Day

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice

PM calls for self-reliance, flags 'demographic plot'

Independence Day address peppered with announcements of economic and other reforms; Modi highlights the success of using Indian-made arms and weapon systems during Operation Sindoor

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for self-reliance in his Independence Day address, with policy prescriptions for economic- and security-related reforms.

For any nation, even today, the yardstick of *aatma samman* (self-respect) remains *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance), he said, also using the speech to warn of a conspiracy to change the country's demographic make-up.

The speech was peppered with substantive announcements on reforms, which Mr. Modi presaged by stating that "self-reliance is not limited to import-export, rupees,

Key announcements

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address, announced economic- and security-related reforms, and emphasised self-reliance. Highlights from the speech:

Mission Sudarshan Chakra

India will be building an air defence system by 2035 to not only shield military and civilian areas but also to strike back in a precise, targeted manner



PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

The scheme would give a one-time grant of ₹15,000 to first-time employees in the private sector and incentives to the private sector to create employment

Made-in-India semiconductors

India will launch 'Made-in-India' semiconductor chips by the end of 2025

Nuclear energy capacity

India will aim at increasing its nuclear energy capacity 10-fold via its 10 nuclear energy plants by 2047

pounds or dollars, but [is] linked to our strengths and capabilities".

The speech gains significance in the context of the 50% tariff on Indian goods announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, and included an oblique reference to the consequent

challenges faced by India.

Mr. Modi said India needed to be bigger by its own strength, not by trying to reduce the footprint of another country, adding that the "economic greed of some countries is evident", without naming names. Starting with the

deployment of Indian arms and weapons systems during Operation Sindoor, he said self-reliance in defence and economic spheres is the cornerstone of a developed India.

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Key Highlights

Core Theme

Aatma samman (self-respect) = Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance).

Emphasis on **self-reliance** in defence, economy, and technology, rather than depending on other countries.

Warning about **demographic challenges**, especially in border areas.

Economic Reforms

Second-generation GST reforms:

- High-powered task force announced.
- Aimed at reducing prices of essential goods.

Employment initiatives:

- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana:** ₹1 lakh crore corpus.
- ₹15,000 one-time grant to first-time private sector employees.
- Incentives to private sector for job creation.

MSME support:

- Reduce compliance costs.
- Ease fear of arbitrary legal actions.

Technology and Innovation

Semiconductors:

Innovation focus: AI, cybersecurity, deep-tech, and operating systems to boost global competitiveness.

“Made-in-India” chips to be launched by end of 2025.

Six units already operational; four new units approved.

Defence and Security

Operation Sindoor:

- Deployment of Indian arms and weapons systems.
- Emphasis on self-reliance in defence.

Anti-Naxal operations:

- Terror corridors in Chhattisgarh converted to green corridors.

High Powered Demographic Mission:

- Address challenges to demographic composition, particularly in border areas.

Strategic and Global Context

Subtle reference to **U.S. tariffs (50% on Indian goods)** and global trade challenges.

Highlighted need to **reduce dependency on foreign fertilizers** and other critical inputs.

Advocated for **strength through India's own capabilities**, not by undermining others.





Prelims PYQ (2011)

Q. What is the difference between a CFL and an LED lamp? (2011)

1. To produce light, a CFL uses mercury vapour and phosphor while an LED lamp uses semiconductor material.
2. The average lifespan of a CFL is much longer than that of an LED lamp.
3. A CFL is less energy-efficient as compared to an LED lamp.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. India to build indigenous air defence system by 2035: PM

Why in News?

- Air Defence System by 2035

Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Science & Technology

India to build indigenous air defence system by 2035: PM

'Sudarshan Chakra' aims at providing complete security for strategic and civilian areas, such as hospitals and railway stations; national security cannot rest on foreign dependence, says Modi

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

India will develop an indigenous air defence system by 2035 not just to neutralise enemy attacks, but also to hit back strongly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day address on Friday. The mission, announced on the eve of Krishna Jayanti, will be called 'Sudarshan Chakra' in honour of Lord Krishna's mythological shield.

"By 2035, all the important places of the nation, which include strategic as well as civilian areas, like hospitals, railways, any centre of faith, will be given complete security cover through new platforms of technology. This security shield should keep expanding, every citizen of the country should feel safe," Mr. Modi said.

"Whatever technology comes to attack us, our technology should prove to be better than that and hence, in the coming 10



Military asset: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with NCC cadets at Red Fort in New Delhi on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

years, I want to expand this national security shield, strengthen it, modernise it," the Prime Minister said.

Missile systems

India currently has three S-400 missile systems developed by Russia, which played a crucial role in taking down Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards more than 15 Indian cities in retaliation for Operation Sindoor in May. India's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) played a pivotal role in maintaining air superiority over Pakistan.

Mr. Modi hailed Operation Sindoor as a landmark demonstration of India's strategic autonomy and self-reliance in defence. The armed forces had used 'Made-in-India' weapons during the operation to dismantle terror networks and Pakistan-based infrastructure, he said, signalling an era where India rejects nuclear blackmail and foreign-imposed terms.

"Indigenous capabilities allow India to act decisively and independently. National security cannot rest on foreign dependence," he declared, calling self-reliance the bedrock of

strength, dignity, and the journey to a developed India by 2047.

On the Indus Waters Treaty, the Prime Minister was unequivocal: "Blood and water will not flow together. The Treaty was unjust – our farmers suffered while enemy lands were irrigated. India will no longer compromise on national interests."

He underlined self-reliant India as a core pillar of Viksit Bharat, warning against the "dangerous habit" of dependence. "Self-reliance is not just about exports, imports, the rupee, or the dollar – it is about our ability to stand on our own," he said.

Calling on innovators and youth to develop indigenous jet engines, he drew parallels with India's COVID-19 vaccine success and the UPI revolution. "Our scientists and youth must take it up as a direct challenge," he urged.

Mr. Modi also celebrated Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's achievements in space.





Key Highlights

Key Announcement: Sudarshan Chakra

Goal: Build a fully indigenous air defence system by 2035.

Scope: Protect both **strategic assets** (military installations, critical infrastructure) and **civilian areas** (hospitals, railway stations, places of faith).

Functionality: Not only neutralise attacks, but also **retaliate decisively** against aggressors.

Significance: Aims to reduce India's reliance on foreign missile systems and ensure **autonomous defence capabilities**.

Current Context

India currently relies on **three S-400 missile systems** from Russia.

Operation Sindoor highlighted India's growing strategic autonomy:

- Made use of **indigenous weapons**
- Countered threats from Pakistan across **15+ cities**
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of **Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS)**.

Strategic Vision

Modi frames **self-reliance in defence** as critical to national dignity and security.

Comparison made to India's **vaccine development** and **UPI system**: the message is that Indian innovation can rival global standards.

Youth and innovators are called upon to focus on **jet engines, weapons systems, and advanced technologies**.

Broader Implications

Sudarshan Chakra reflects a **long-term, tech-driven defence strategy**:

- Counter emerging threats (missiles, drones, cyber attacks)
- Build scalable systems protecting **every citizen and infrastructure**
- Foster **domestic defence industry**, reducing imports

Aligns with India's **Vision 2047**: self-reliance, strong defence, and strategic autonomy.





Prelims PYQ (2025)

Q Consider the following space missions:

- I. Axiom-4
- II. SpaDeX
- III. Gaganyaan

How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

3. Govt proposal in 2024 on 'demographic challenges'

Why in News?

- Demographic Challenges

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice

Govt. proposal in 2024 for a panel on 'demographic challenges' never took off

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a High-Powered Demography Mission on Friday. However, a similar committee announced before the 2024 Lok Sabha Election was never formed.

In her Interim Budget speech on February 1, 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the committee will be constituted to consider the challenges arising from "fast population growth and demographic changes." The terms of reference and composition of the panel were never notified.

On Friday, in his Independence Day speech, Mr. Modi said the "demography of the country is being changed as part of a conspiracy and a well-planned plot" and the mission will do its work in a well thought-out and definite manner in the stipulated time to deal with "this grave crisis that is looming over India".

The Census, which gives

There is no accurate data on population shifts but the police have flagged the issue at many forums

a clear picture of migration and demographic changes, was last done in the year 2011 and the next population count is expected in 2027.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – the average number of children per woman – in the country has remained constant at 2.0 in 2021, the same as in 2020, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report for 2021 released by the Registrar General of India on May 7. Bihar has reported the highest TFR at 3.0, while Delhi and West Bengal reported the lowest TFR of 1.4.

Though there is no accurate data on demographic changes, police and security agencies have been regularly flagging the issue at various forums.

During the annual Director General of Police

conference in 2021, which was presided over by the Prime Minister, police officers from Uttar Pradesh and Assam submitted a research paper flagging demographic changes in districts along the international border with Nepal and Bangladesh.

The compendium of reports compiled by the Intelligence Bureau, which was later pulled down from its website in 2022, said the police had submitted essays highlighting the ongoing demographic changes in the bordering States.

"These have been prepared with the help of data collected through Census exercises, National Family and Health Surveys, local surveys, data enumerated by going through voters' list, etc. However, the thrust remains on the overall demographic changes. These changes in the bordering belt is presenting a big challenge to national security, particularly at the level of border villages and bordering sub-divisions," the report said.





Key Highlights



Announcement vs. Previous Proposal



Current Announcement (2025): PM Modi launched a **High-Powered Demography Mission** citing a “grave crisis” due to demographic changes, alleging a **conspiracy to alter India’s population structure**.



Earlier Proposal (2024): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the **Interim Budget speech**, mentioned forming a **committee on fast population growth and demographic changes**, but it was never constituted.

Data Limitations

Last Census: 2011; next expected in 2027.

Fertility Trends: Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stable at 2.0 nationally (2021 data):

- **Bihar:** Highest TFR at 3.0
- **Delhi & West Bengal:** Lowest TFR at 1.4

Implication: There is **no up-to-date, precise data** on population or demographic shifts.





Security and Local Reports

Border Concerns: Police and security agencies have raised alarms about demographic changes in **bordering districts of UP, Assam, Bihar, and West Bengal.**

Reports:

- Compiled by **Intelligence Bureau**, later removed in 2022.
- Highlighted changes in populations near **Nepal and Bangladesh borders**, noting potential **national security implications.**
- Data sources included **Census, National Family Health Surveys, voter lists, and local surveys.**

4. Alaska Summit Prelims PYQ (2024)

Trump, Putin shake hands ahead of Ukraine talks at Alaska summit

Previously planned one-on-one meet is now a three-on-three meeting that will include Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff; Putin to be joined by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Foreign Affairs Adviser Yuri Ushakov

Associated Press
ALASKA

U.S. President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin shook hands warmly at the start of their Alaska summit on Friday before heading into hours of discussions that could reshape the war in Ukraine and relations between Moscow and Washington.

The leaders greeted each other on the tarmac at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where officials erected a special stage, with a large "Alaska 2025" sign flanked by parked fighter jets and red carpets. Uniformed military members stood at attention nearby. B-2s and F-22s – military aircraft designed to oppose Russia during the Cold War – were flying over to mark the moment.



Reaching out: Donald Trump, right, greets Vladimir Putin at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska on Friday. AP

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the previously planned one-on-one meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin is now a three-on-three meeting that will include Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff. Mr. Putin will be joined by Foreign Minister

Sergey Lavrov and Foreign Affairs Adviser Yuri Ushakov. The change indicates that the White House is taking a more guarded approach than it did during a 2018 meeting in Helsinki, when Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin first met privately just with their interpreters for two hours.

Mr. Putin and Mr.

Trump are expected to hold a joint press conference at the end of the summit.

The sit-down gives Mr. Trump a chance to prove to the world that he is both a master dealmaker and a global peacemaker. He and his allies have cast him as a heavyweight negotiator who can find a way to bring the slaughter to a close – something he used to boast he could do quickly.

For Mr. Putin, a summit with Mr. Trump offers a long-sought opportunity to try to negotiate a deal that would cement Russia's gains, block Kyiv's bid to join the NATO military alliance and eventually pull Ukraine back into Moscow's orbit. Despite having so much at stake, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European

leaders are not invited.

There are significant risks for Trump. By Mr. bringing Putin onto U.S. soil the President is giving him the validation he desires after his ostracisation following his invasion of Ukraine three-and-a-half-years ago.

Ahead of the summit, Mr. Trump spoke with Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko, a close ally of Mr. Putin, by telephone on Friday.

Belarus has backed Mr. Putin's invasion of Ukraine and allowed Russia's Army to use its territory as a launchpad for its first wave of attacks in early 2022.

Mr. Trump said he had thanked Mr. Lukashenko for freeing political prisoners and said that the two sides were "discussing the release of 1,300 additional prisoners".





Q. The longest border between any two countries in the world is between:

- (a) Canada and the United States of America
- (b) Chile and Argentina
- (c) China and India
- (d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

In a first, women to take over reins of movie artistes' panel

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

For the first time since its inception, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) will be led by women.

In a keen contest held here on Friday, actors Shwetha Menon and Kukku Parameswaran were elected president and general secretary after they defeated actors Devan and Raveendran respectively. Shwetha polled 159 votes against 132 votes secured by Devan. Ms. Parameswaran bagged 172 votes while Raveendran got 115.

Jayan Cherthala and Lakshmi Priya were elected to the two posts of vice-president. Unni Shivapal is the new treasurer.



Actors Shwetha Menon and Kuku Parameswaran share a moment of joy after the AMMA results were announced. R.K.NITHIN

surer.

The members of the executive committee (general) are Sarayu Mohan, Anjali Nair, Asha Aravind, Neena Kurup, Joy Mathew, Kailash, Santhosh Keehattoor, Vinu Mohan, Rony David Raj, Tini Tom, and Si-

joy Varghese. Ansiba Hassan was elected unopposed as joint secretary.

Nearly 298 of the 506 members cast votes to elect the executive committee for the next three years. Mr. Mohanlal was among those who came early

to vote while Mammootty did not turn up.

The actors' body never had a woman as its president or general secretary since its three-decade-old existence.

The election was necessitated after the previous committee, led by actor Mohanlal, resigned in August 2024 following allegations of sexual harassment against some of its members after the release of the K. Hema Committee report that probed the problems faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.

Backing from actors

The candidature of Ms. Menon had received a boost after senior actors, including Mr. Mohanlal and Mr. Mammootty,

agreed to the growing clamour for having women in lead roles. Senior actor Jagadeesh, who had initially filed the nomination for the post of president, backed out after extending support for a woman president.

Actor Baburaj, who had filed his nomination for the post of general secretary, withdrew from the race amid criticism that those facing allegations of sexual misconduct must stay away from the election.

Congratulating the actors, State Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cherian said that "it is necessary to create more opportunities for women in the film industry".

(With inputs from PTI)

