

NEXT IAS

DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS



1st July

Explained

1. Disaster Warning System
2. PM on 5-nation Tour
3. Significance of GI tag
4. Hul Diwas

Decoded

5. The Thali Index

Playlist Link:



What to Read: <https://bit.ly/3FYdutC>

Daily News Analysis: <https://bit.ly/4ge9BgF>

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Disaster Warning System

Ministry of Communications



Nationwide testing of indigenous Cell Broadcasting system underway to ensure swift dissemination of warnings during natural and man-made disasters

Test messages in English and Hindi may be received on mobile phones; no action required from recipients during system validation phase

C-DOT-developed system now operational across all 36 States and UTs; alerts issued in 19+ Indian languages for disasters and weather events

Posted On: 30 JUN 2025 5:46PM by PIB Delhi

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India, has been actively enhancing mobile-enabled disaster communication systems across the country to provide timely information to citizens.

NDMA has successfully operationalized Integrated Alert System (SACHET), developed by Centre of Development of Telematics (C-DOT), which is based on Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) recommended by International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This system is already operational in all 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) of India and sends various disaster or emergency related alerts through SMS to mobiles of citizens affected in a particular geo-targeted area. This system has been extensively used by disaster management authorities to issue over 6,899 crore SMS alerts in more than 19 Indian languages during various natural disasters, weather warnings, and cyclonic events.

To further strengthen alert dissemination in time-critical disaster situations such as tsunamis, earthquakes, lightning strikes, and man-made emergencies like gas leaks or chemical hazards, Cell Broadcast (CB) technology is being implemented in addition to SMS. In Cell Broadcast System, the alerts are sent to mobile phones in the affected area in a broadcast mode and hence the dissemination of alerts happen in near real time. The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier R&D center of the Department of Telecom, has been entrusted with the indigenous development and implementation of the Cell Broadcast-based public emergency alerting system.

Backdrop: Nationwide testing of the Indigenous Cell Broadcasting system for the dissemination of warnings during disasters.

Relevance: GS 3/Disaster Management


About the news

As part of the Pan-India rollout, testing of the **Cell Broadcasting system** (being implemented as part of the **SACHET initiative**) is being conducted to ascertain the efficacy and proper functioning of the system before it is rolled out.




- This testing will last for 2-4 weeks, covering the entire country.
- During this period, test messages in **English and Hindi** may be received by the public on their mobile handsets.
- Once successfully tested and operationalized, the **Cell Broadcasting system** will be used to disseminate alerts in **multiple Indian languages** across all mobile handsets.

SACHET (System for Advance Communication of Hazard Events & Threats)








NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



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Heavy Rain
Balodabazar, Bijapur,
Bilaspur, Dantewada,
Janjgir

Very Heavy Rain
Balrampur, Bastar, Gaurella
Pendra Marwahi, Jashpu

Heavy Rain
Bhadradi Kothagudem,
Jayashankar, Mulugu district

**Lightning, Surface Wind,
and Thunderstorm**
Adilabad, Bhadradi
Kothagudem,

Heavy Rain
Banswara, Dungarpur
districts of Rajasthan

**Lightning, Heavy Rain,
and Thunderstorm**
Fatehpur Sahib, Patiala

11:00 PM



28.1°

01 Jul 2025



26.5°

01:00



26.8°

Daily Forecast

Today		29.0°	22.0°
		High	Low
Tomorrow		31.0°	23.0°
		High	Low
Wednesday		33.0°	24.0°
		High	Low

Precipitation

0.03 in

ESE Wind

11.2 kph

Pressure

998 mb

UV

0

SACHET (System for Advance Communication of Hazard Events & Threats)



SACHET is a portal and mobile app to provide **timely and geo-targeted** alerts to citizens about potential disasters and emergencies.

- **Developed by:**

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

- It is based on the **Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)** recommended by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
- Operational across all **36 States and UTs**.
- **Multi-channel Dissemination**
- **Integration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).**
- **Multilingual Capability:** Alerts issued in 19+ Indian languages for disasters and weather events

Alerting Methods



SMS

Short Message Service for mobile phones.



Cell broadcast

Sends messages to all devices in an area.



Radio

Alerts via radio broadcasts.



TV

Alerts through television channels.



Social Media

Dissemination through social media platforms.



Public announcements

Announcements in public places.

Cell Broadcast System

- **Cell Broadcast** is a one-way Broadcast: **Cell Broadcast** messages are sent out from cell towers to all compatible devices within the cell's coverage area.
- **Cell Broadcast vs SMS:** While SMS is designed for **point-to-point communication**, sending messages to individual recipients,
- **Cell Broadcasting** is designed for **broadcasting messages to all mobile devices** within a specific geographic area.

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

It is the standard for disseminating emergency alerts and is promoted by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

- It allows for consistent and effective communication of warnings across different media platforms (radio, television, internet, mobile phones, etc.).
- The ITU recommends CAP as a key component of Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS).

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- Established under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- **Apex statutory body** for disaster management in India.
- **Chaired by the Prime Minister**.
- **State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs)** are headed by respective **Chief Ministers**.

NDMA's Disaster Management Cycle



C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics)

- **Established:** 1984
- **Type:** Autonomous **Telecom R&D centre** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, Government of India.
- **Purpose:** Development and promotion of **indigenous telecommunication technologies**.
- **Recognition:** Registered as a **Public Funded Research Institution** under **DSIR**, Ministry of Science & Technology.

Governance Structure:

- **Chairman:** Union Minister of Communications & IT
- **Vice Chairman:** Union Minister of State for Communications & IT
- **Members:** 10 members from various ministries and telecom sectors



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q1. With reference to the SACHET initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the NDMA in collaboration with C-DOT.
2. It uses both SMS and Cell Broadcast technologies to disseminate time-critical alerts.
3. It is currently operational across all 36 States and UTs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above**

India's outreach to the Global South

India's outreach to the Global South

Why PM Modi's 9-day, 5-nation trip — one of his longest visits overseas — beginning tomorrow matters



GHANA, July 2-3

THIS WILL be Narendra Modi's first bilateral visit to Ghana, and the first Indian Prime Ministerial visit to the country in three decades. John Mahama, who was elected President in January, visited India in 2015 for the India-Africa Forum Summit.

Ghana is one of West Africa's fastest-growing economies; its relationship with India is marked by robust and expanding trade and investment. India is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports; gold accounts for more than 70% of India's imports from Ghana.

PM will hold talks with President Mahama to review the bilateral partnership and discuss ways to enhance it through economic, energy, defence, and development cooperation.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, July 3-4

40-45% OF the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean lives in Trinidad and Tobago; both Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and President Christine Carla Kangaloo are of Indian origin. This will be Modi's first visit to T&T as Prime Minister and the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM after 1999.

The PM visited Guyana in November 2024; his second visit to the Caribbean in eight months indicates the importance India accords to the region. The visit will mark 180 years of the arrival of Indian immigrants in T&T.

The bilateral economic relationship has witnessed steady growth, with total trade reaching \$341.61 million in FY 2024-25.

ARGENTINA, July 4-5

MODI will meet Javier Milei — US President Donald Trump's "favourite President" — during the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM in 57 years. They will review ongoing cooperation and discuss ways to enhance defence, agriculture, mining, oil and gas, energy, etc. partnerships. The two leaders met earlier on the margins of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in November 2024.

India and Argentina have significantly advanced bilateral cooperation in the mineral resources sector, particularly in lithium, a critical input for India's green energy transition. Argentina is a major supplier of soybean and sunflower oil to India. In 2024, India was Argentina's fifth-largest trading partner and export destination.

BRAZIL, July 5-8

MODI will meet President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during the BRICS Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which will be followed by a State Visit. At BRICS, the PM will discuss the reform of global governance, peace and security, strengthening multilateralism, responsible use of AI, climate action, global health, etc. He will likely have several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit.

For the State Visit, the PM will travel to Brasília where he will hold bilateral discussions with President Lula on broadening the Strategic Partnership in areas of mutual interest, including trade, defence, energy, space, technology, agriculture, and health. Brazil is India's largest trading partner in South America.

NAMIBIA, July 9

DURING his first visit to Namibia (the third Indian Prime Ministerial visit to the country), Modi will meet President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, pay homage to the Founding Father of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma, and address the country's Parliament.

Bilateral trade has grown from less than \$3 million in 2000 to almost \$600 million now. Indian companies have invested in mining, manufacturing, diamond processing and services in Namibia.

Eight cheetahs from Namibia were released by the PM at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in September 2022, the world's first intercontinental translocation of a major carnivore species.

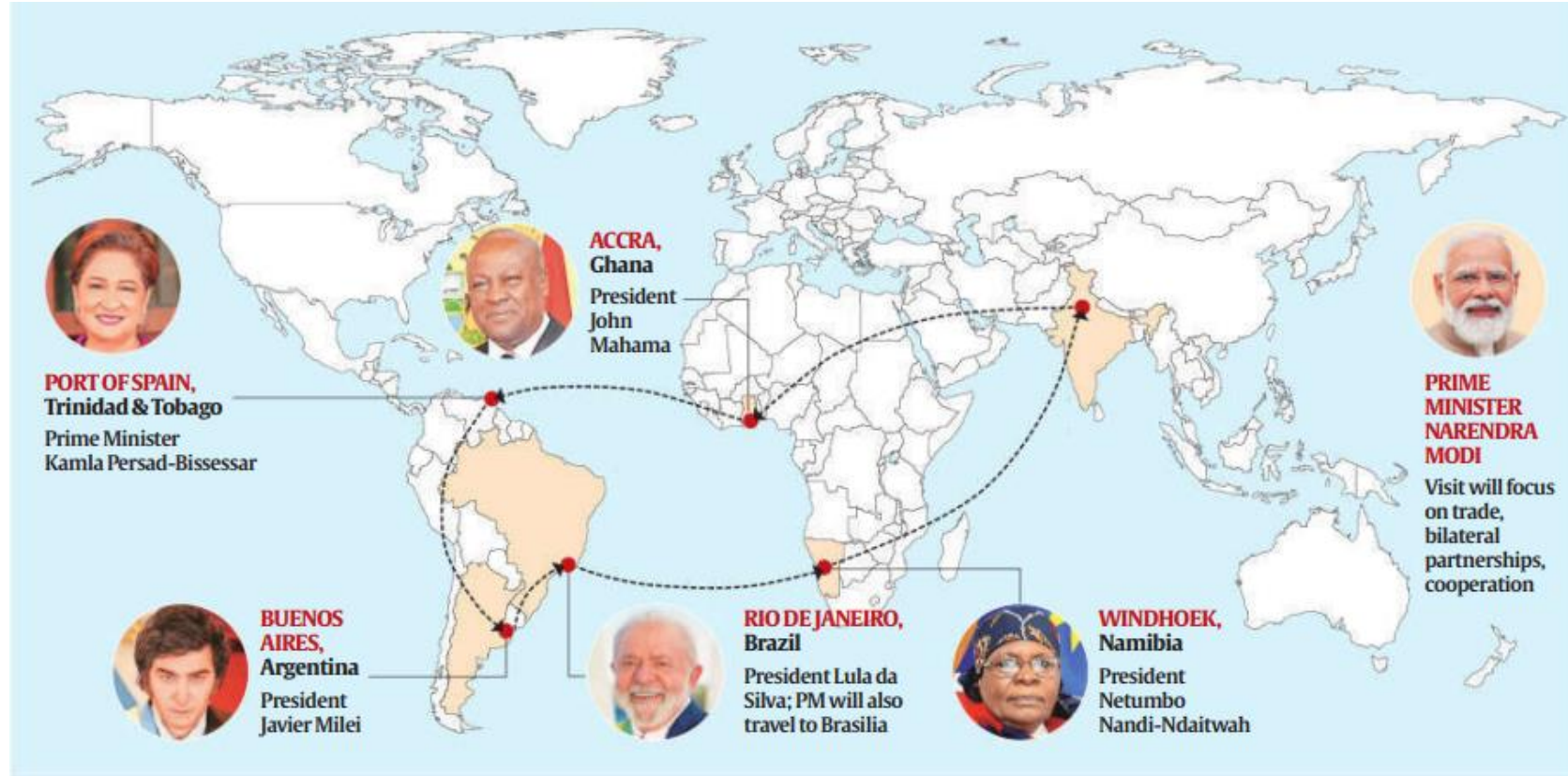
SHUBHAJIT ROY

Backdrop: PM Sh. Narendra Modi will be on a 5 nation visit starting from 2 July 2025.

Relevance: GS 2 - Bilateral and global groupings and agreements involving India and affecting India's interests.

About the news:

Overview of the Visit



- 1 July 2–3, 2025 – Ghana
- 2 July 3–4, 2025 – Trinidad & Tobago
- 3 July 4–5, 2025 – Argentina
- 4 July 5–8, 2025 – Brazil
- 5 July 9, 2025 – Namibia

About the news:

Overview of the Visit

Duration: July 2–9, 2025

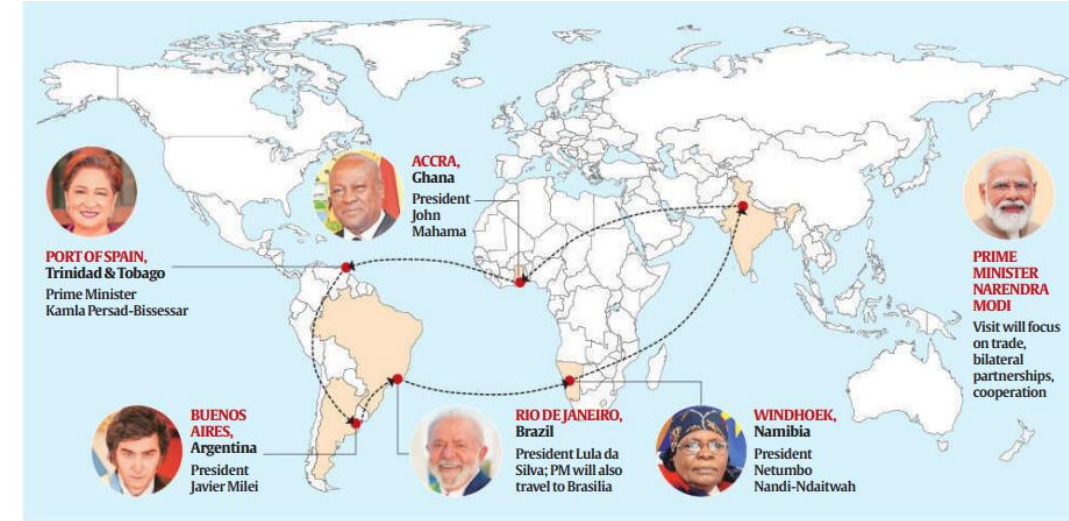
Focus Areas:

- Trade, defence, energy, rare earth minerals
- Technology, agriculture, health, AI
- Counter-terrorism, multilateralism, Global South outreach

Occasions:

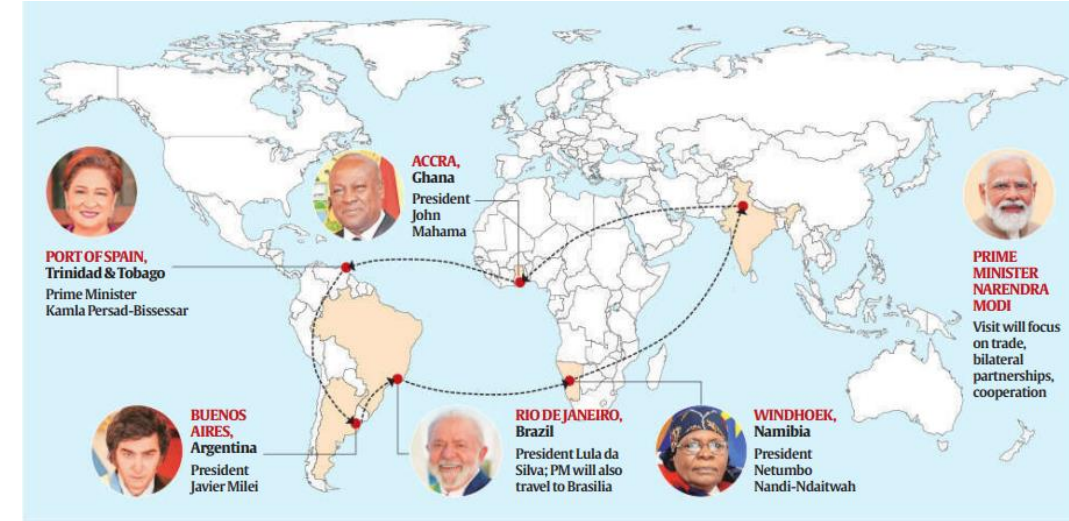
- Attending 17th **BRICS Summit** in Brazil
- Marking 180 years of Indian migration to Trinidad & Tobago

Diplomatic Theme: Balancing relations with **both West and non-West groupings**



Ghana Visit (July 2–3)

- **Significance:**
 - First-ever **bilateral visit** by PM Modi
 - First visit by an Indian PM in **three decades**
- **Key Areas of Cooperation:**
 - Economic, energy, defence, development
 - Vaccine development hub in West Africa
 - Critical minerals, agriculture, digital infrastructure
 - Cultural exchange programs
- **Geopolitical Significance:** Strengthening ties with **ECOWAS(Economic Community of West African States)** and **African Union**



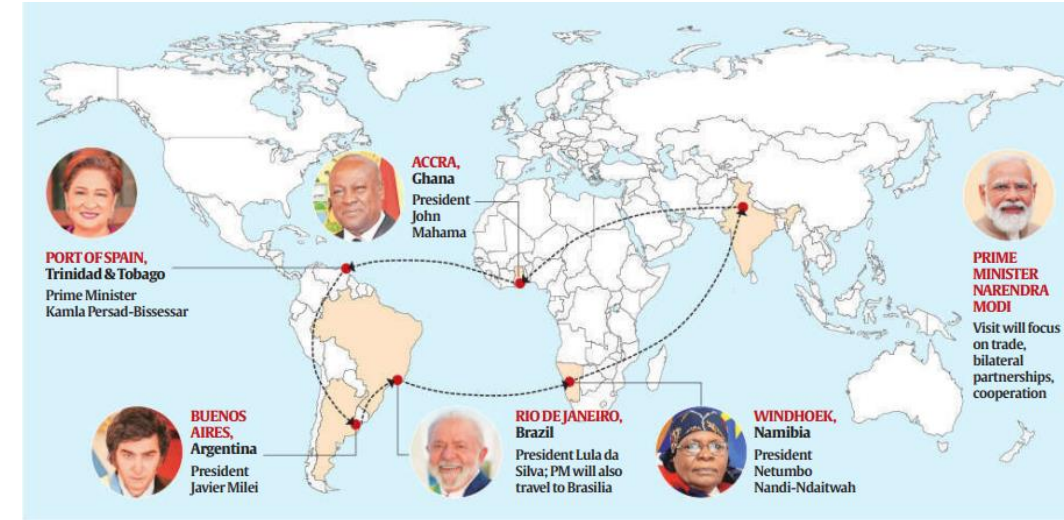
India–Ghana Relations

Diplomatic & Historical Ties

- Diplomatic relations established in **1957**, the year Ghana gained independence.
- Strong ties rooted in shared colonial history, **Non-Aligned Movement**, and **South-South cooperation**.

Trade & Economic Relations

- India is **largest destination** for Ghanaian exports
- **Gold = 70%+** of India's imports from Ghana
- India is **the largest destination for Ghanaian exports**.
- Indian investment in:
 - **Mining, energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and SMEs**
- Bilateral trade steadily expanding; scope for collaboration in **renewable energy, infrastructure, and digital public infrastructure**.

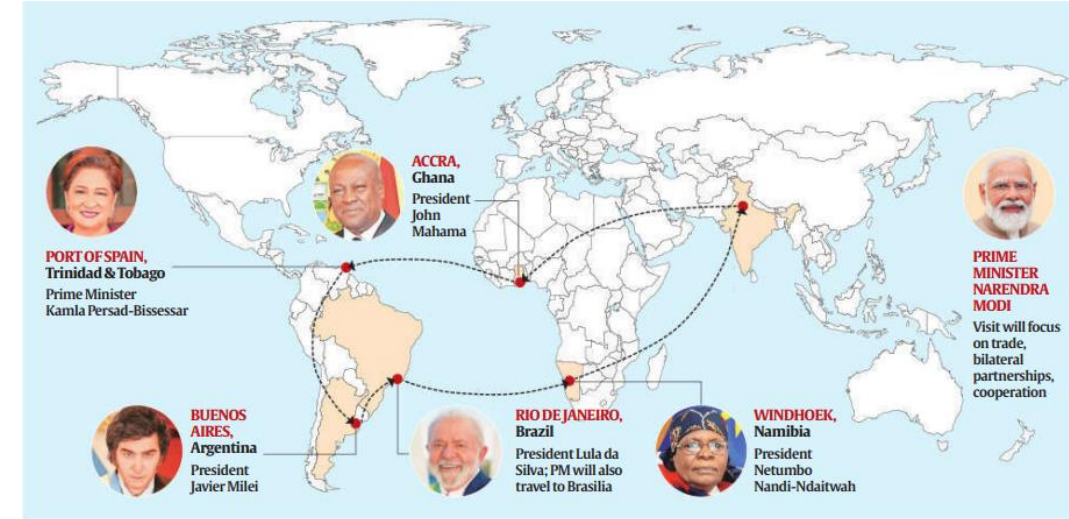


Multilateral Engagement

- Cooperation in forums like:
 - **India-Africa Forum Summit, African Union, UN, and Commonwealth**
- Ghana supports **India's bid for UNSC reform** and greater role in global governance.

Trinidad & Tobago Visit (July 3–4)

- **Significance:**
 - First Indian PM-level visit since **1999**
 - PM Modi's **first visit** to the country
 - **180 years** of Indian immigration being marked
 - **40–45%** of Indian diaspora in the Caribbean lives in **Trinidad & Tobago**
- **Key Focus:**
 - Diversifying cooperation in **pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, digital infra**



India–Trinidad & Tobago Relations

Diplomatic & Historical Ties

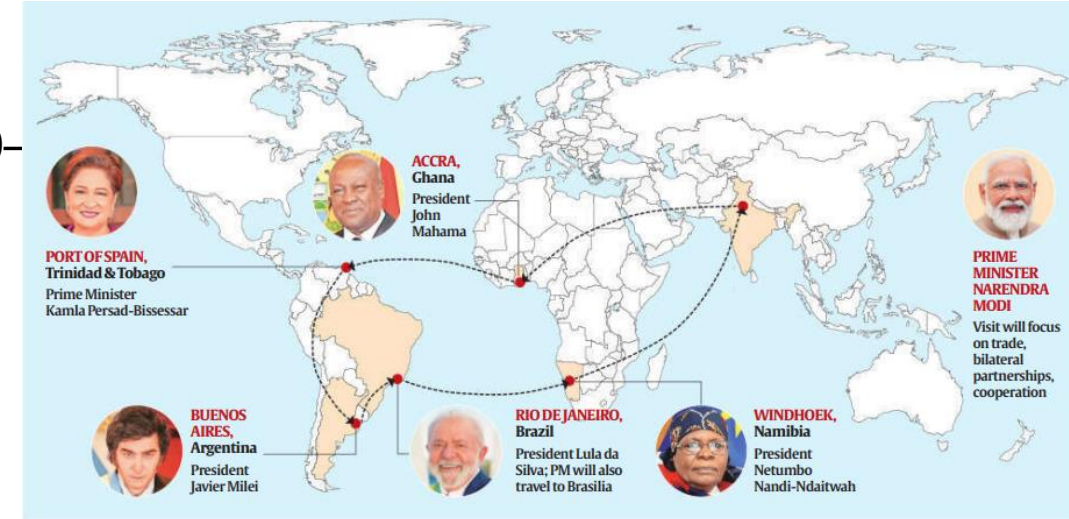
- Diplomatic relations since **1962** (T&T independence).
- Strong historical link due to a **large Indian diaspora** (40–45% of T&T population).

Trade & Economic Relations

- Bilateral trade reached **\$341.61 million** in FY 2024–25.
- Key focus areas:
 - **Pharmaceuticals, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, and education**
 - Potential in **energy cooperation** and **IT services**

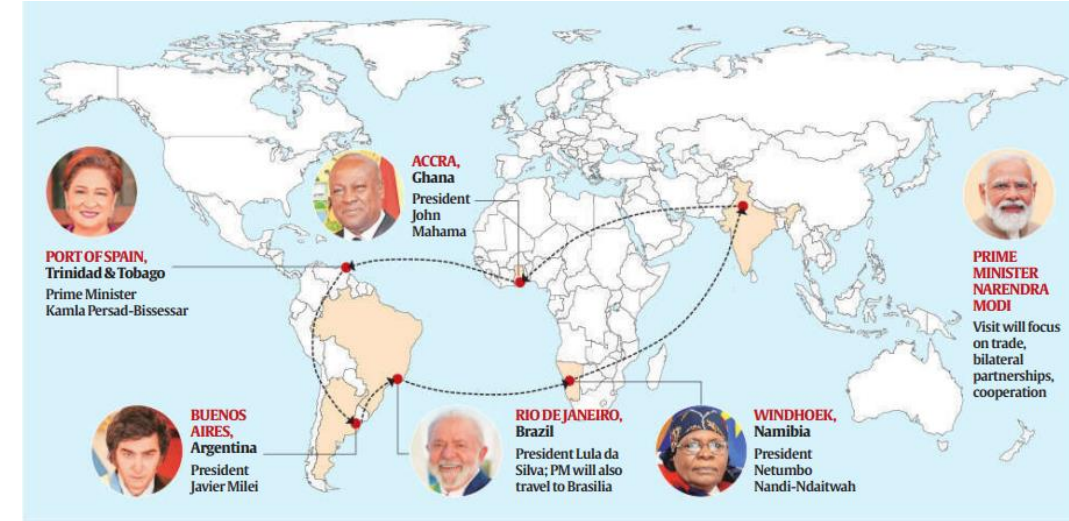
Multilateral Cooperation

- Regular coordination at **Commonwealth, UN** etc
- Shared commitment to **South-South cooperation** and **climate action**.



Argentina Visit (July 4–5)

- **Significance:**
 - First bilateral Indian PM visit in **57 years**
 - First full-fledged meeting between PM Modi & President **Javier Milei**
- **Key Areas of Cooperation:**
 - **Defence**, agriculture, rare earth minerals, oil & gas
 - Traditional and renewable energy
 - Trade, investment, and people-to-people ties
 - **Lithium** cooperation for India's green energy push
 - **Trade**
 - India was Argentina's **5th-largest trading partner** in 2024
 - Major imports from Argentina: **Soybean, sunflower oil**



India–Argentina Relations

Diplomatic Ties

- Diplomatic relations established in **1949**.
- Upgraded to a **Strategic Partnership** in **2019**.

Trade & Economy

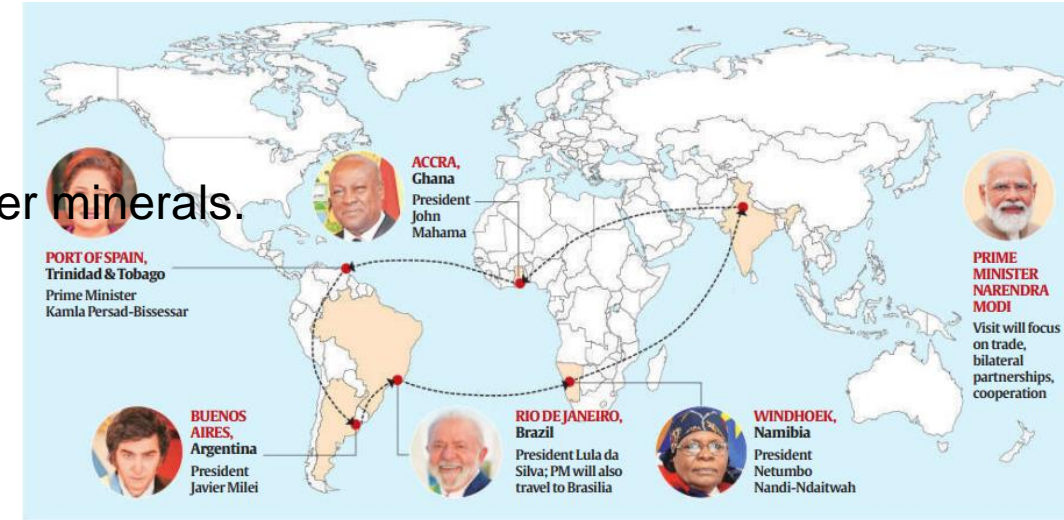
- Major imports: **Soybean oil, sunflower oil, lithium**, and other minerals.
- Key areas of cooperation:
 - **Agriculture, mining, oil & gas, renewable energy**
 - **Manufacturing, healthcare, pharmaceuticals**

Strategic Sectors

- **Lithium cooperation:** Key for India's electric mobility & green energy goals.
- Joint efforts to boost **rare earth mineral** trade and processing.
- Expanding **defence cooperation:** Discussions on joint production, tech-sharing.

Multilateral & Global Cooperation

- Regular engagement through **G20, BRICS**, and **South-South forums**.
- Shared views on:
 - **Multilateral reforms, climate action**, and **counter-terrorism**
 - Strengthening **global south** voice in global governance



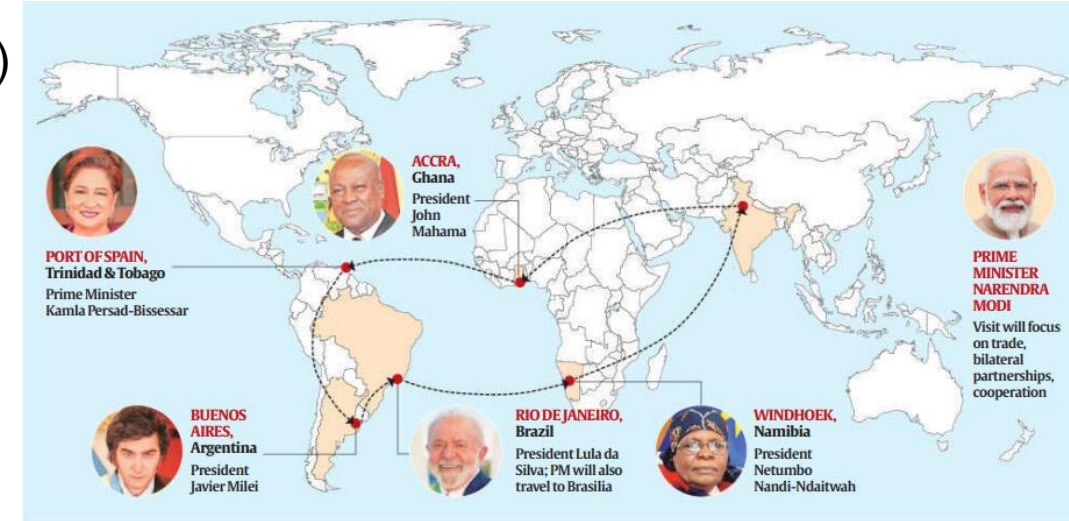
Brazil Visit (July 5–8)

- **Events:**

- Attend **17th BRICS Summit** in Rio de Janeiro (July 5–7)
- Followed by **State Visit** to Brasilia (July 8)

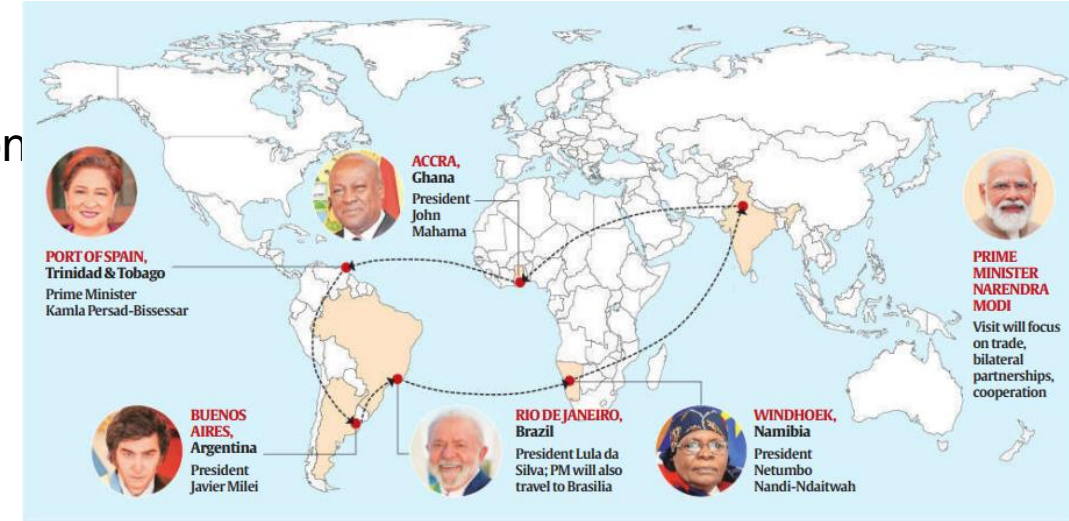
- **BRICS Discussion Themes:**

- **Global governance reform**, peace and security
- Strengthening **multilateralism**
- Climate action, AI, economic and financial cooperation
- Declaration to reflect **India's stance on Pahalgam terror attack**
- Brazil's interest in:
 - Secure battlefield communication systems
 - Offshore patrol vessels, Akash air defence system
 - Scorpene submarine maintenance
 - Garuda artillery guns, coastal surveillance systems



Namibia Visit (July 9)

- **Significance:**
 - Modi's **first visit** to Namibia; third by any Indian PM
 - Tribute to **Dr Sam Nujoma**, Namibian independence icon
 - Address to **Namibian Parliament**
- **Bilateral Trade:**
 - Grown from **\$3 million (2000)** to **~\$600 million (2024)**
- **Investment Sectors:**
 - Mining, diamond processing, manufacturing, services
- **Key Cooperation:**
 - **Unified payment interoperability** agreement expected
 - Emphasis on **value-added manufacturing** in Africa



India–Namibia Relations

Diplomatic Ties

- Established in **1990** after Namibia's independence.
- India supported Namibia's freedom struggle.

Trade & Economy

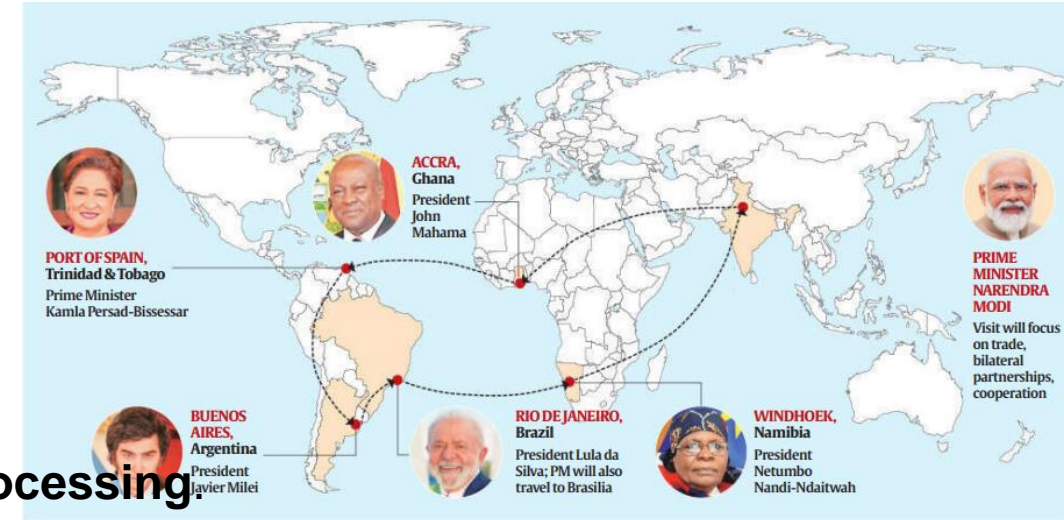
- India imports: **Diamonds, uranium, minerals**
- India exports: **Pharmaceuticals, machinery, services**
- Indian investments in **mining, manufacturing, diamond processing**

Wildlife Cooperation

- 2022:** India translocated **8 cheetahs** from Namibia to Kuno National Park – world's first intercontinental carnivore transfer.

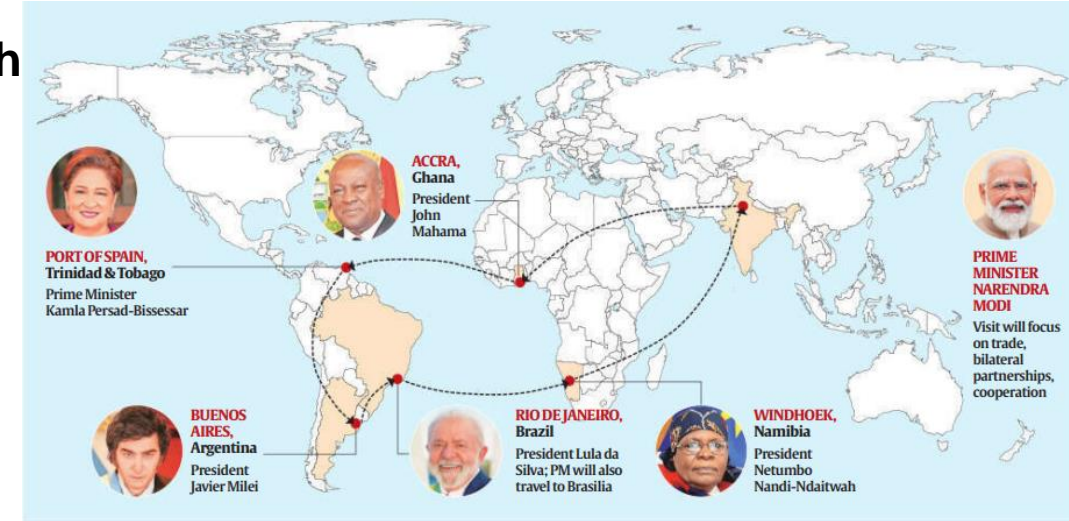
New Areas of Cooperation

- Digital Public Infrastructure:** Unified payment system interoperability planned.
- Health, education, agriculture, and capacity building** (ITEC scholarships, training).
- Focus on **value addition and local manufacturing** in Namibia.



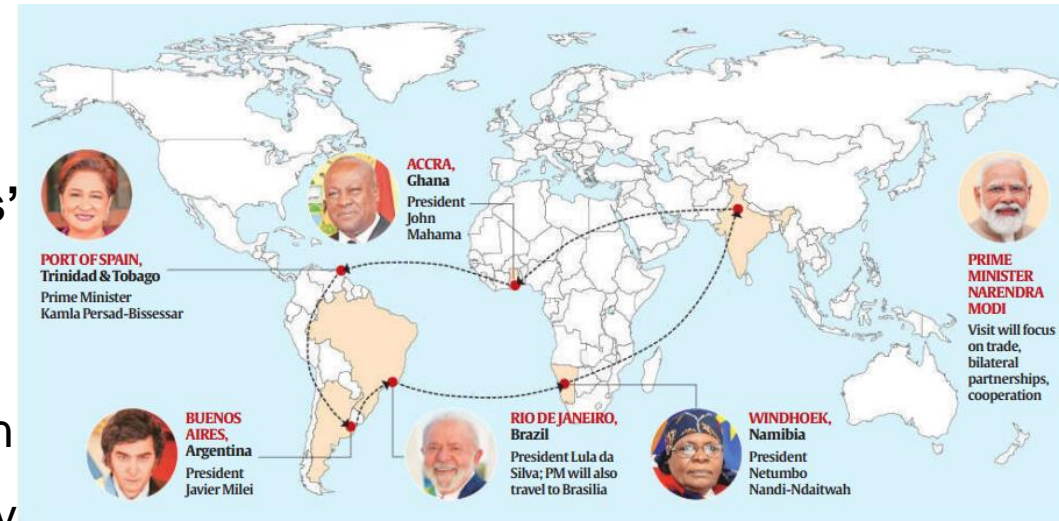
Strategic & Multilateral Cooperation

- Collaboration in **UN, NAM, India-Africa Forum Summit.**
- Shared views on **counter-terrorism, South-South cooperation, and global governance reform.**



Geopolitical & Diplomatic Context of the 5 Nation Visit

- India's simultaneous **Global South** engagement and **Western alignment**:
 - PM Modi in Africa & Latin America
 - EAM Jaishankar in US for **Quad Foreign Ministers' meet (July 1)**
- Strong push for **anti-terror narrative** at UN and BRICS:
 - Condemnation of **Pahalgam attack** in BRICS declaration
 - UN exhibition on **Human Cost of Terrorism** by Jaishankar
- Reiterating India's stance:
 - **Zero tolerance for terrorism**, expose state sponsors (ref. Pakistan)





PRACTICE QUESTION



Q2. With reference to India's outreach to the Global South through PM Modi's 2025 five-nation visit, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest importer of gold from Ghana, accounting for over 70% of its imports from the country.
2. A unified payment interoperability agreement was discussed between India and Namibia.
3. The BRICS Summit held in Argentina focused on global governance reforms and climate action.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Can a G.I. tag prevent cultural misappropriation?

How many Indian products are registered as GI-tagged goods? Do 'international' GI rights exist?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

 On June 25, at its Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan, Italian luxury brand Prada unveiled footwear inspired by India's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Kolhapuri chappals, sparking accusations of 'cultural misappropriation'.

What is a geographical indication?

It is a form of 'intellectual property' that identifies goods as originating from a specific country, region or locality, where their distinctive qualities, characteristics, or reputation are essentially linked to that 'place of origin'. In India, there are currently 658 registered GI-tagged goods, including Chanderi sarees (Madhya Pradesh), Madhubani painting (Bihar), Pashmina shawls (J&K), Kancheepuram silk (Tamil Nadu), and Darjeeling tea

(West Bengal). Importantly, GIs serve as a powerful marketing tool, driving rural development, boosting exports, enhancing consumer confidence, and preserving 'cultural knowledge' of local communities, farmers and indigenous groups. Unlike trademarks, which are owned by enterprises, GIs are public property belonging to the producers of the concerned goods and cannot be assigned, transmitted or licenced.

The legal protection of GIs stem from international instruments like the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883), and later gained a clearer definition under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, 1995. India, as a TRIPS signatory, enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003. The Act provides for GI registration, enforcement of rights, prohibition of unauthorised use

and penalties for infringement.

How can infringement be tackled?

The registered proprietor or authorised users may initiate infringement action when an unauthorised user misleads the public about the origin of goods, causes unfair competition or passing off, or falsely represents goods as originating from a GI-registered region. However, it is important to note that GI rights are primarily 'territorial' and consequently limited to the country (or region) where protection is granted. At present, no automatic 'world' or 'international' GI right exists. Nevertheless, several mechanisms exist for cross-border protection. GIs can be protected internationally by first securing recognition in the country of origin, as many jurisdictions require this as a precondition and then obtaining protection directly in the jurisdiction concerned.

Backdrop: Cases of cultural misappropriation by foreign brands
Relevance: GS 3/Indian Economy

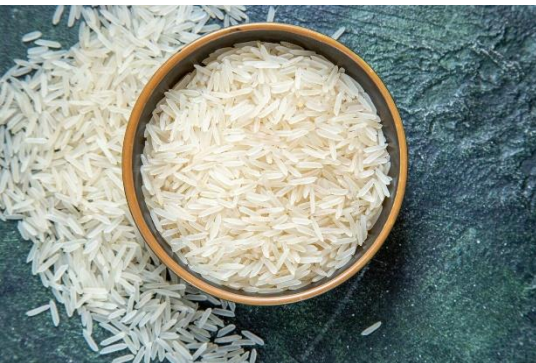
About the news:

Recently, at its Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan, Italian luxury brand Prada unveiled footwear inspired by India's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Kolhapuri chappals, sparking accusations of 'cultural misappropriation'.



Cases in the Past:

- **Basmati Rice (1997):** U.S. company Ricetec was granted a patent on Basmati rice varieties. India challenged it successfully, restricting the use of the name "Basmati".
- **Turmeric (1995):** A U.S. patent was granted for turmeric's wound-healing properties. Revoked after India's **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** proved it was **traditional knowledge**.
- **Neem (2000):** A European patent on neem-based antifungal use was **revoked**, as it was already known in Indian practices.



What is a geographical indication?

It is a form of ‘**intellectual property**’ that identifies goods as originating from a **specific country, region, or locality**, where their distinctive qualities, characteristics, or reputation are essentially linked to that ‘place of origin’.

Unlike trademarks, which are owned by enterprises, GIs are **public property** belonging to the producers of the concerned goods and cannot be assigned, transmitted, or licensed.

GI-tagged goods in India –

In India, there are currently **658** registered GI-tagged goods, including

- Chanderi sarees (Madhya Pradesh),
- Madhubani painting (Bihar),
- Pashmina shawls (J&K),
- Kancheepuram silk (Tamil Nadu), and
- Darjeeling tea (West Bengal).

Recent Additions

- Majuli Masks (Assam, Handicraft)
- Kodaikanal Garlic (Tamil Nadu, Agricultural)
- Moirang Phee Fabric (Manipur, Textile)
- Bhoramdeo Metal Art (Chhattisgarh, Handicraft)
- Sitamarhi Paintings (Bihar, Handicraft)

Benefits of Geographical Indication

Cultural Heritage

Preserves and promotes unique cultural traditions.



Legal Protection

Ensures exclusive rights for registered users.



Consumer Trust

Builds confidence in product authenticity and quality.



Marketing Tool

Enhances product visibility and market presence.



Export Growth

Boosts international trade and economic opportunities.



Rural Development

Fosters economic growth in rural communities.



Types of Products Covered:

- Applicable to a wide range of goods, including:
 - **Agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, spirits**
 - **Handicrafts** and certain **industrial products**
- The product must have **distinct qualities or characteristics** linked to its **geographical origin**.
- Geographical Indication (GI) tags in India are not available for services.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Trader groups, associations, or organizations** can apply.
- Applicants must prove the product's **uniqueness**, supported by **historical evidence** and a **detailed production process**.

GI tag Protection in India

The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** is India's primary legislation for **GI registration and protection**.

- **Key Provisions:**

- Establishes the **Geographical Indications Registry** to handle GI applications.
- **Protects for 10 years**, with **unlimited renewals**.
- Includes **civil and criminal penalties** for GI infringement.
- Allows for the **registration of authorised users** and **producer associations**.

International Conventions on GI Tags

- **Paris Convention (1883):** Provides a **multilateral framework** for protecting industrial property, including **geographical indications (GIs)**.
- **Lisbon System (1958):** Focuses on the **international registration of appellations of origin**, a specific category of GIs.
 - Offers a **centralized filing process** and ensures **protection across all member countries**.
- **Madrid System:** Primarily for **international trademark registration**, but also allows GI protection via **collective or certification marks**.
- **TRIPS Agreement (1995)**, under the WTO: It provides international legal recognition and protection for Geographical Indications (GIs). It provides legal measures to prevent misuse or misleading use of GIs.
- India, as a TRIPS signatory, enacted the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, which came into force in 2003.

How can infringement be tackled?

- **GI rights are territorial**, meaning protection is **limited to the country** where the GI is registered. There is **no automatic global GI protection**.
- For **international protection**, a GI must first be:
 - **Recognised in the country of origin**, and then
 - **Registered separately in other jurisdictions** as required
- **Infringement action** can be taken by registered proprietors or authorised users if:
 - The GI is used **without permission**,
 - It **misleads consumers** about product origin,
 - Leads to **unfair competition** or **passing off**.



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q3. With reference to Geographical Indications (GIs), consider the following statements:

1. GI tags apply to Agricultural products, Handicrafts, and certain services in India.
2. GI protection is territorial and must be registered in each jurisdiction for enforcement.
3. In India, GI tag protection is provided for 10 years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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



Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister pays tributes to tribal heroes on the occasion of Hul Diwas

Posted On: 30 JUN 2024 2:32PM by PIB Delhi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to tribal heroes like Sidhu-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav and Phoolo-Jhano for their self-respect and valour against the atrocities of the British Empire. Shri Modi said that Hul Diwas is a great occasion dedicated to the unmatched courage, struggle and sacrifice of our tribal society.

The Prime Minister posted on X;

“हूल दिवस हमारे आदिवासी समाज के अप्रतिम साहस, संघर्ष और बलिदान को समर्पित एक महान अवसर है। इस पावन दिवस पर सिद्धो-कान्हू, चांद-भैरव और फूलो-झानो जैसे जनजातीय वीर-वीरांगनाओं को मेरी आदरपूर्ण श्रद्धांजलि। ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य के अत्याचार के खिलाफ उनके स्वाभिमान और पराक्रम की कहानियां देशवासियों के लिए सदैव प्रेरणास्रोत बनी रहेंगी।”



Backdrop: Prime Minister pays tribute to tribal heroes on Hul Diwas
Relevance: GS 1/Modern Indian History

Acti

About the news:

Hul Diwas

Hul Diwas is observed every year on **June 30** to commemorate the **Santhal Rebellion of 1855–56**, also known as the **Santhal Hul**.

- **Mass tribal uprising** against **British colonial rule, exploitative landlords, and moneylenders** in what is now **Jharkhand**.
- Mobilised over **50,000 Santhals** from nearly **400 villages**.
- Began in **Bhognadih village**, revered as the birthplace of Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu.
- **It** Lasted for about **nine months**.
- Met with brutal **British repression**, including the **execution of rebel leaders**.
- **Key leaders:**
 - **Sidhu Murmu** and **Kanhu Murmu**
 - **Chand, Bhairav, and sisters Phoolo and Jhano, etc..**

Historians consider it one of **India's earliest organized tribal uprisings**.

Impact

- The rebellion resulted in key legislative measures:
 - **The Sonthal Parganas Act, 1855**
 - **The Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1876**

These laws resulted in the creation of the **Santhal Pargana district** and helped in safeguarding **tribal land rights**.



PRACTICE QUESTION

Q4. After the Santhal Uprising subsided, what were the measures taken by the colonial government? (CSE 2018)

1. The territories called 'Santhal Parganas' were created.
2. It became illegal for a Santhal to transfer land to a non-Santhal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2**
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

The Thali Index

The thali index

Food subsidy needs more to be rationalised rather than eliminated



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN
AND AMAN RAJ

THE PUBLICATION OF the survey of household consumption expenditure for 2023-24 by the National Statistics Office in January 2025 has been followed by a flurry of estimates of poverty in India. Of these, two have received the most attention. The first off the block was a report from SBI in January, which was followed by one from the World Bank. They report more or less similar findings. The former flags "a remarkable decline in rural poverty, estimated at 4.86 per cent in FY24, urban poverty estimated at 4.09 per cent". The World Bank's report is far more optimistic, pegging "extreme poverty" at 2.8 per cent for rural India and 1.1 per cent for urban India in 2022-23. If poverty in India is what these estimates show, it would be a matter for rejoicing, as it would have been virtually eradicated.

These estimates of poverty have brought forth many responses. The Narendra Modi government's votaries have been quick to claim that the outcome reflects the success of its policies. Critics have focused on the non-comparability of the latest consumption data with those for 2011-12 as the survey methods have undergone change since. Both neglect the issue of the standard of living in India, and whether the extant methodology of poverty measurement underlying these estimates can lead to anything at all being said on the matter. Finally, more detached observers have brought up the question of what the "historic low" in poverty implies for the subsidy regime.

Officially approved poverty measurement in India has involved estimating the level of consumption expenditure sufficient to enable the minimum calorie intake necessary for living and working. As calories measure the energy ingested through food and drink, the methodology represents a physiological approach. Arguably, though, there can be another approach. This is to recognise that humans view food in terms of the energy, nutritional value and satisfaction that it provides. Societies have over time arrived at a geographically and culturally mediated norm for food consumption. In India, arguably, this would be represented by a thali, a serving of food comprising carbohydrates, protein and vitamins. Though it may be referred to differently across the country, a thali would be understood to include rice/roti, lentils and vegetables, with dairy/meat/fish extra according to diet and affordability. Indians recognise the thali as a fairly complete and nutritionally balanced unit of food consumption, a meal.

Given the centrality of the thali in Indian life, it would be appropriate to treat it as the metric by which to measure the standard of living. This implies measuring the standard of living in terms of food, but then we believe that the level of food consumption should be treated as its most important constituent. Now, a meaningful question to ask would be, "How many thalis does the



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daily consumption expenditure on food translate into?" We use the price of a vegetarian thali to measure the level of food consumption across the population as it is the most basic meal. The price of a thali at Rs 30 was taken from the rating agency Crisil, which calculates the cost of a home-cooked thali using data on the cost of its ingredients sourced from the east, west, north and south of India. The value of food consumption per capita given in the consumption survey for 2023-24 was expanded to include items purchased from the public distribution system and items received free as part of social welfare programmes.

We found that in 2023-24, up to 40 per cent of the rural population could not afford two thalis a day. In urban India, up to 10 per cent of the population could not afford two thalis a day. These findings indicate that levels of food deprivation are much higher than what are implied by the poverty estimates using the same data, which we recounted at the outset. A possible reason for the difference between our estimate of the standard of living and the poverty estimates from the SBI and the World Bank is that we take the expenditure on food as opposed to total consumption expenditure as the relevant measure of consumption. The reasoning was as follows. There are five items of essential expenditure – housing, conveyance, telephony, health and education – that a household cannot forgo if it is to ensure its livelihood.

Officially approved poverty measurement in India has involved estimating the level of consumption expenditure sufficient to enable the minimum calorie intake necessary for living and working. As calories measure the energy ingested through food and drink, the methodology represents a physiological approach. Arguably, though, there can be another approach. This is to recognise that humans view food in terms of the energy, nutritional value and satisfaction that it provides.

Now, expenditure on food ends up as the residual. Therefore, when appraising the standard of living in terms of food consumption, basing it on the actual expenditure on food would be realistic. Poverty estimation needs a food standard that is based on goods. The thali index serves this purpose while being compatible with accounting for the caloric value of food intake.

We may now address the issue of subsidies. Basing their argument on the much-publicised recent estimates of poverty, some observers have queried whether subsidies in general should be persisted with in economic policy. We believe that this is a discussion that needs to take place, as for too long the discourse on subsidies has been hijacked by political parties to justify competitive welfareism. However, our findings using a thali index of consumption implies that the food subsidy needs more to be rationalised rather than eliminated. For instance, in rural India, the per capita subsidy at the 70th percentile is not much lower than it is at the fifth, even though those in the former class can afford more than twice the number of thalis even without subsidisation. Eliminating the food subsidy at the upper reaches of the distribution while enhancing it at the lower levels would now be optimal.

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Backdrop: Thali Index as an alternative to Current poverty estimates

Relevance: GS2/ Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger

About the news

The 2023–24 Household Consumption Survey has led to new poverty estimates by SBI and the World Bank:

- SBI: Rural poverty at 4.86%, urban at 4.09%.
- World Bank: “Extreme poverty” at 2.8% (rural) and 1.1% (urban) for 2022–23.

However, the criticism to the above estimates -

Limitations of the current Poverty Estimation

- **Data Comparability Issue:** The 2023–24 consumption data is **not comparable** to the 2011–12 data due to **changes in survey methodology**.
- **Neglect of Standard of Living:** Current poverty estimates **ignore the broader standard of living**, focusing only on minimal consumption thresholds.
 - Poverty estimates based on **consumption sufficient for minimum calorie intake** are a **physiological approach**.
- **Subsidy Policy Implications:** Independent observers question how the **reported low poverty levels** affect the **justification for existing subsidies**.

Thali Approach- A better alternative

The Thali Approach is a **food-based metric** to assess the standard of living and poverty, based on what people can realistically consume.

- A **thali** (typical Indian meal) includes **carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins**, and varies across regions but is widely accepted as nutritionally adequate.
- Measuring **how many thalis a person can afford daily** offers a **realistic food-based standard of living**.
- The **cost of one vegetarian thali (~₹30)** was estimated using **Crisil's regional ingredient data**.

Findings based on Thali Index (2023-24)

- **Rural India:** Up to **40%** couldn't afford **2 thalis a day**.
- **Urban India:** Up to **10%** lacked the same.
- These figures suggest **higher food deprivation** than poverty rates from SBI/World Bank imply.

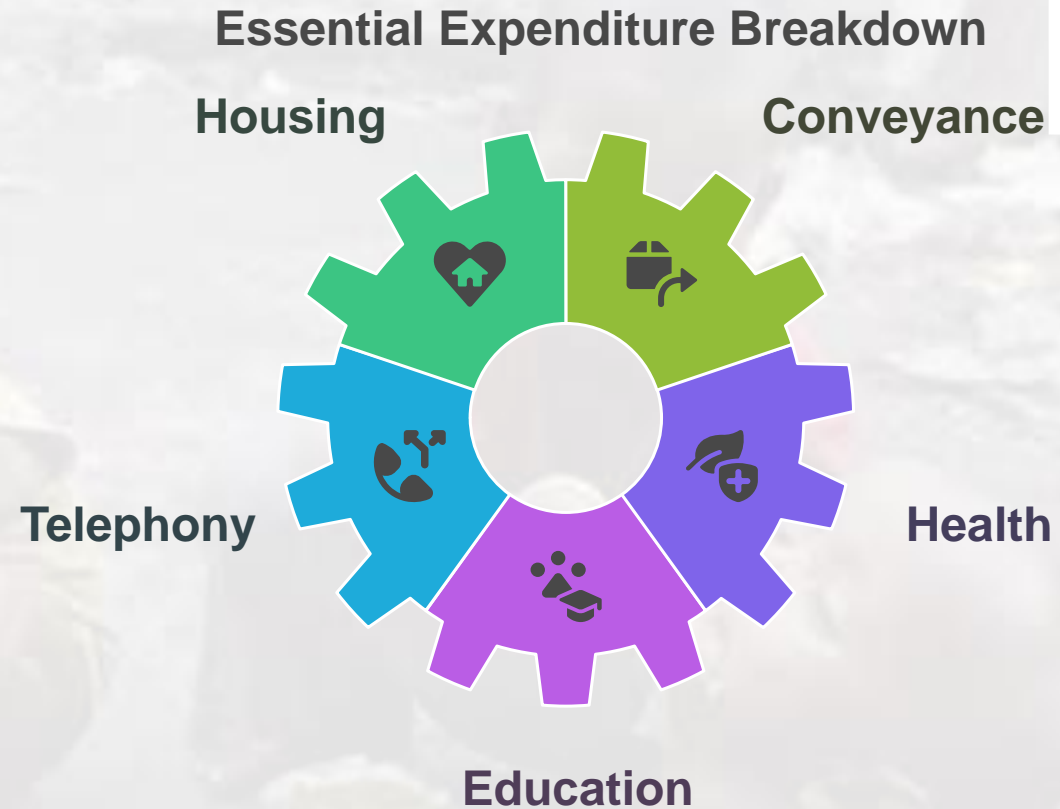
Reason for the difference in measurement:

- **Thali Index** takes the expenditure on food as opposed to total consumption expenditure as the relevant measure of consumption.
 - There are five items of essential expenditure that a household cannot forgo if it is to ensure its livelihood.

Food becomes the residual expense, hence measuring standard of living via **actual food expenditure** is more **practical**.

Now, expenditure on food ends up as the residual.

Therefore, when appraising the standard of living in terms of food consumption, basing it on the actual expenditure on food would be realistic.



Significance of the Thali Approach

- **Culturally Rooted & Nutritionally Complete:** The thali is a **recognized cultural unit** of food in India and reflects a **balanced diet**.
- **Realistic Standard of Living Indicator:** It provides a **practical and relatable measure** of whether people can afford enough nutritious meals daily.
- **Highlights Food Deprivation:** The comparison with estimates by WB and SBI indicates **greater deprivation**.

An alternative poverty metric to measure subsidy:

Findings based on the **Thali Index** suggest that **food subsidies should be rationalised**, not eliminated.

- In **rural India**, individuals at the **70th percentile** receive nearly the same per capita subsidy as those at the **5th percentile**, despite being able to afford **twice as many thalis** without assistance.
- Hence, **removing subsidies for the better-off** and **increasing support for the poorer sections** would be a more effective and equitable approach.

Conclusion

The Thali Index offers a grounded, culturally relevant lens to assess poverty and food insecurity in India, moving beyond abstract calorie counts or aggregate consumption figures. Its findings reveal a stark contrast between official poverty estimates and actual food deprivation, particularly in rural areas. These insights underscore the need to rethink how poverty is measured and how welfare policies are designed.



PRACTICE QUESTION

- Q. “Measuring poverty shouldn’t be about calories. India needs a Thali Index.” In light of this statement, critically examine the limitations of current poverty measurement methods in India and evaluate the merits of adopting a consumption-based approach like the Thali Index.

(250 words)

