

Topic of discussion:

1. EC announces Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in 12 states, UTs
2. Energy trade principles applied selectively: Jaishankar's swipe at US after meeting Rubio
3. CJI recommends Justice Surya Kant as successor
4. Row over PM-SHRI in Kerala: What is the school education scheme, why some states have opposed it
5. Seven electronics projects worth Rs 5,532 crore cleared under component scheme
6. Vande mataram
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EC announces Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in 12 states, UTs

What's the ongoing story: The Election Commission (EC) on Monday announced the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in **12 states and Union Territories**, where all of the registered **51 crore electors** would have to submit enumeration forms by **December 4** to remain on the draft roll.

Key Points to Ponder:

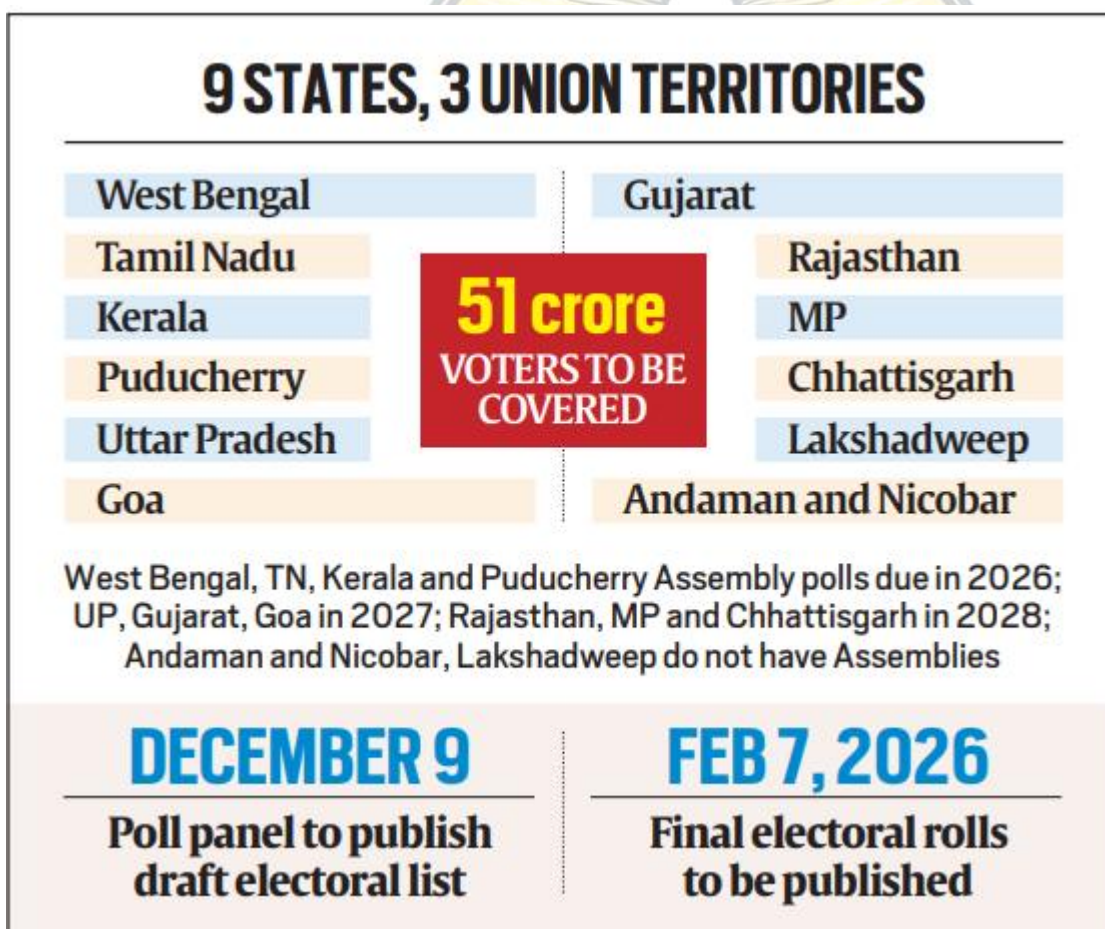
- Read about the Election Commission of India, its powers and functions.
- What is the Special Intensive Revision?
- What is the purpose of conducting the SIR?
- What is the legal backing for conducting SIR?
- How is SIR different from the [National Register of Citizens \(NRC\)](#)?
- What are the concerns related to SIR?
- What key reforms are implemented by the Election Commission to strengthen the electoral process?

Key Takeaways:

— All those who cannot be traced back to the last intensive revision of rolls in 2002-2005 would be required to submit documents to establish their eligibility to remain on the final list.

— According to the EC, the exercise will be carried out in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal**. Assembly elections are due in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal early next year.

— In the second phase, **the EC has expanded its indicative list of 11 documents that electors can submit to 13**, adding Aadhaar and an extract of the Bihar SIR roll. All those born after July 1, 1987, would be required to submit eligibility documents for themselves as well as their parents. — The Bihar SIR roll can be submitted as a proof of electors' parents. **Aadhaar can be submitted as a proof of identity, and not citizenship, the EC said.**



— Monday's announcement follows the EC's order on June 24 for an SIR of electoral rolls for the entire country, starting with Bihar as Assembly elections were due in the state.

— For the second phase of SIR, the enumeration period will start on **November 4, with 5.33 lakh booth level officers (BLOs) conducting house-to-house visits to have enumeration**

forms filled. The draft roll, which will be published on **December 9**, will include all those whose forms have been received, the EC said.

— When asked why **Assam**, where Assembly **elections are due in 2026**, had been **left out for now**, **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar** said the **Citizenship Act had separate provisions for Assam and the Supreme Court-monitored National Register of Citizens process in the state** was about to be completed. He said the electoral roll revision for Assam would be ordered separately.

— EC officials said the states were chosen based on the level of preparation, which was assessed during a two-day conference of Chief Electoral Officers last week — apart from the three states and Puducherry where polls are slated next year.

— Explaining the need for an SIR now, the CEC said: **“For the past few decades, almost all political parties have continuously complained about the impurity of the electoral roll.”**

He said an SIR had been conducted **eight times from 1951 to 2004**. In the time since the last intensive revision, he said, there had been many changes to the electoral roll due to **frequent migration, voters being registered at more than one place, dead electors not being removed and wrongful inclusion of foreigners.**

— The June 24 order of the EC has been challenged in the Supreme Court through a batch of petitions questioning the EC’s power to check citizenship of all registered electors as well as the process adopted in Bihar.

Do You Know:

— Article **324(1)** of the Constitution gives the **ECI the power of “superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of”** elections to Parliament and state legislatures.

— Under Section **21(3)** of The **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, the ECI “may at any time... direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit”.

— The Registration of Electors’ Rules, 1960, says the revision of rolls can be carried out “either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily, as the [ECI] may direct”. In an intensive revision, the electoral roll is prepared afresh; in a summary revision, the roll is amended.

(1) Consider the following statements: (UPSC CSE 2017)

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

Energy trade principles applied selectively: Jaishankar's swipe at US after meeting Rubio

What's the ongoing story: Hours after he met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in **Kuala Lumpur** Monday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar took a swipe at the Trump administration, saying energy trade is becoming "increasingly constricted", "principles are applied selectively and what is preached is not necessarily practised".

Key Points to Ponder:

- What is the East Asia Summit?
- Where is the 20th East Asia Summit held?
- What is the significance of ASEAN for India?
- Know about the countries which are the members of these groupings.
- What are the concerns related to reliability of supply chains?
- In energy security principles are applied selectively and what is preached is not necessarily practised. Support this statement with valid arguments.
- What is India's stand on Gaza Peace plan?

— What are the steps taken by India in maritime cooperation in the wake of Chinese assertion in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific?

Key Takeaways:

— His remarks at the East Asia Summit stem from the US imposition of a 25 per cent tariff penalty on India over its purchase of Russian oil in addition to the 25 per cent tariff on goods.

The US has not imposed penalty tariffs on Europe and China which have also been buying energy from Russia.

— On the conflicts in **Europe and the Middle East**, he said, “We are also witnessing conflicts that have significant repercussions, near and far. Deep human suffering apart, **they undermine food security, they threaten energy flows and they disrupt trade. India, therefore, welcomes the Gaza peace plan. We also seek an early end to the conflict in Ukraine.**”

— India has already supported the Gaza peace plan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to President Donald Trump on October 9, lending his support to the peace plan.

— Representing India on behalf of Prime Minister Modi at the East Asia Summit, he said, “**India fully supports the activities of the EAS and its future directions. We recently hosted the EAS knowledge exchange workshop on energy efficiency policies and a conclave of higher educational institutions.**”

— He also flagged maritime cooperation in the wake of **Chinese assertion in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific**: “**Our commitment to furthering maritime cooperation remains strong, in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and our shared commitment to the 1982 UNCLOS. 2026 will be observed as the ASEAN-India year of maritime cooperation.** Notably, more nations have joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.”

— He said India has proposed an **EAS Maritime Heritage Festival in the ancient port of Lothal in Gujarat.**

— On **Myanmar**, he said India was a ‘**First Responder**’ during the earthquake in March, and the “**project on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, in which all of us have stakes, continues to progress**”.

Do You Know:

— On August 8, 1967, **five Southeast Asian leaders – the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand – came together in Bangkok.**

Thailand was brokering some disputes among Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and the event eventually led to the signing of a document — known as the ASEAN Declaration.

— The ASEAN Declaration conveyed the aspiration to further **regional cooperation in economic, social, cultural, technical, educational and other fields.**

— Over the next few decades, five others joined – **Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam. East Timor as its newest member on Sunday (October 26).**

— ASEAN is central to India's '**Act East**' policy, which **focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region. It was formulated as the next step to the 'Look East' Policy which originated in the 1990s.**

— The **East Asia Summit (EAS)** process was **initiated in 2005 with 16 participating countries**, namely the ASEAN Member States, **Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea. The United States and the Russian Federation joined later on.**

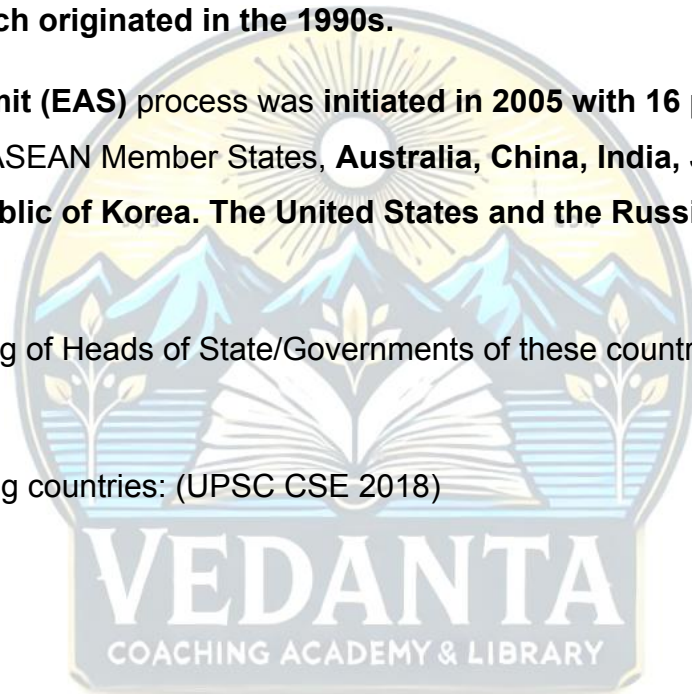
— It refers to the Meeting of Heads of State/Governments of these countries and is convened annually.

(2) Consider the following countries: (UPSC CSE 2018)

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. USA

Which of the above are among the free-trade partners' of ASEAN?

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- (b) 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5



(d) 2, 3, 4 and 6

CJI recommends Justice Surya Kant as successor

What's the ongoing story: Chief Justice of India **B R Gavai** Monday wrote to the Union government recommending **Justice Surya Kant** as his successor.

Key Points to Ponder:

- What is the process of appointing the Chief Justice of India (CJI)?
- Which constitutional article provides for the appointment of the CJI?
- What is the qualification required for being the CJI?
- What is the collegium system?
- What is the role of the collegium system in the appointment process?
- What are the concerns related to the collegium system?

Key Takeaways:

- Once notified by the government, **Justice Kant will take over as the 53rd Chief Justice** when CJI Gavai demits office on November 23. Justice Kant will remain in office till February 9, 2027. Sources said CJI Gavai handed over a copy of the letter to Justice Surya Kant.
- On October 23, the government wrote to CJI Gavai, urging him to send the recommendation letter. It is an established convention that the outgoing Chief Justice of India writes to the government recommending his successor.
- Justice Kant was nominated as a member of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority on February 23, 2007, for two consecutive terms, ending on February 22, 2011. **He assumed office as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018, and was elevated to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019.**

Do You Know:

- The **Chief Justice of India and the other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.** It is mentioned in Article 124 that appointment by the President is to be done “after consultation” with judges of the Supreme Court, as the President may “deem necessary”.
- **Article 217, which deals with the appointment of High Court judges,** says the President should consult the CJI, Governor, and Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.

Further, the tenure of a CJI is until they attain the age of 65 years, while High Court judges retire at 62 years.

— Usually, the seniormost judge of the court after the chief justice (in terms of the years served) is recommended as the successor. This convention was memorably discarded by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who appointed Justice AN Ray as CJI in 1973 over his seniors for a CJI more favourable to her regime.

— According to the government's Memorandum of procedure for the appointment of Supreme Court Judges, seniority is to be the norm. It says the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of the next CJI.

— After the collegium's recommendations are finalised and received from the CJI, the Law Minister will put up the recommendation to the Prime Minister who will advise the President on the matter of appointment.

(3) Consider the following statements: (UPSC CSE 2019)

1. The motion to impeach a Judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
2. The Constitution of India defines and gives details of what constitutes incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
3. The details of the process of impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
4. If the motion for the impeachment of a Judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each House of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that House and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Row over PM-SHRI in Kerala: What is the school education scheme, why some states have opposed it

What's the ongoing story: The Centre's PM-SHRI schools scheme is back in the limelight, this time, for political wrangling in Kerala. The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the state has agreed to implement the scheme, retreating from what was its vehement refusal so far to allow state schools to be labelled as 'PM-SHRI' schools.

Key Points to Ponder:

- What is the PM-SHRI scheme?
- What are the constitutional provisions related to education?
- Read about the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- What are the benefits of the PM-SHRI scheme?
- Know about the Samagra Shiksha scheme.
- What are the issues and concerns associated with the PM-SHRI scheme?
- How the PM-SHRI scheme controversy highlights the challenges of cooperative federalism in India's education sector?
- What are the challenges of the education system in India?
- What initiative has been taken by the government with regard to improving the education system in India?
- What is the difference between a central sector scheme and a centrally sponsored scheme?

Key Takeaways:

- The Centre's **PM Schools for Rising India** (PM-SHRI) scheme was approved in **2022**. It seeks to develop **14,500 schools to "showcase" aspects of the NEP 2020**. These schools are to be "exemplars" for other schools in their region. The scheme is for existing elementary, secondary, and senior secondary schools run by the central government and state and local governments across the country.

— So far, 13,070 schools have been selected as PM-SHRI schools. Of them, 1,533 schools are Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, which are managed by the Centre.

— A 'PM-SHRI' school needs to implement NEP recommendations. The Education Ministry has laid down a set of guidelines — **teaching and learning will have to involve innovative methods, like art-based and toy-based learning; vocational education is to be imparted and skill labs to be set up; schools are to ensure that children in younger classes achieve basic literacy and numeracy skills; they are to provide adequate infrastructure and facilities, including labs and computers; testing and assessments will focus on measuring the student's competencies and not rote learning. These schools are to ensure zero dropouts, and will have to ensure improvement in learning outcomes.**

— For curriculum, PM-SHRI schools are to follow either the National Curriculum Framework or the State Curriculum Framework developed by the state on the basis of the NEP.

— The Ministry has developed a School Quality Assessment Framework, a checklist of sorts that can help schools track their "transformation" under the scheme. The funds that a school receives depends on its score on this assessment framework. **The scheme is funded by the Centre and states in a 60:40 ratio.**

— **With Kerala agreeing to implement it, only Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are currently holding out.**

— West Bengal has opposed the scheme on the grounds that **'PM-SHRI' will have to be pre-fixed to the name of the school, despite the state having to bear part of the cost.**

— The Centre has linked the release of funds under the **Samagra Shiksha scheme** to the implementation of PM-SHRI. **Samagra Shiksha is also funded by the Centre and States in a 60:40 ratio.**

— **Samagra Shiksha funds support implementation of the Right to Education Act, provides uniforms and textbooks to students in government schools, supports differently abled children, and covers reimbursement provided to private schools for admissions under the economically weaker section category. States that refused to implement PM-SHRI have not received funds under Samagra Shiksha.**

Do You Know:

— A centrally sponsored scheme is one in which the cost of implementation is mostly split in a 60:40 ratio between the Union government and the states/UTs. The mid-day meal scheme (now PM Poshan) or the PM Awas Yojana are examples of centrally sponsored schemes.

— In the case of the Northeastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and UTs without legislatures, the Centre's contribution can go up to 90 per cent.

Seven electronics projects worth Rs 5,532 crore cleared under component scheme

What's the ongoing story: The electronics components manufacturing scheme (ECMS) on Monday received another push as seven projects worth Rs 5,532 crore were cleared, marking a strong industry-led response to the government's drive to localise the production of critical inputs.

Key Points to Ponder:

- Why is the ECMS needed?
- How is it different from the Production Linked Incentives (PLI)?
- What are the steps taken by the government to make the electronics sector a crucial growth driver for the Indian economy?
- What are the challenges faced by the electronics industry?
- What is the status of India's electronics industry in global trade?

Key Takeaways:

— **The approved projects are expected to collectively generate employment for 5,195 people and help reduce the electronics import bill by around Rs 20,000 crore, Electronics and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw said.**

— Vaishnaw said that the approved projects will cater to a significant share of domestic demand — **27% for PCBs, 15% for camera modules, and full self-reliance for copper laminates and polypropylene films.**

— The ECMS, announced in March with an **outlay of Rs 22,919 crore**, aims to catalyse domestic production of critical components such as PCBs, semiconductor packaging, camera and display sub-assemblies, and lithium-ion battery cells over a six-year horizon. **The scheme has received investment proposals worth Rs 1.15 lakh crore.**

— “Against an initial investment target of Rs 59,350 crore, we received commitments worth nearly double that,” Electronics and IT Secretary, S Krishnan said.

Do You Know:

— **This incentive scheme differs from the government’s earlier production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for electronics manufacturing in how participating companies can avail subsidies. Incentives have been linked to three key parameters: annual employment generation, capital expenditure needs and annual production.**

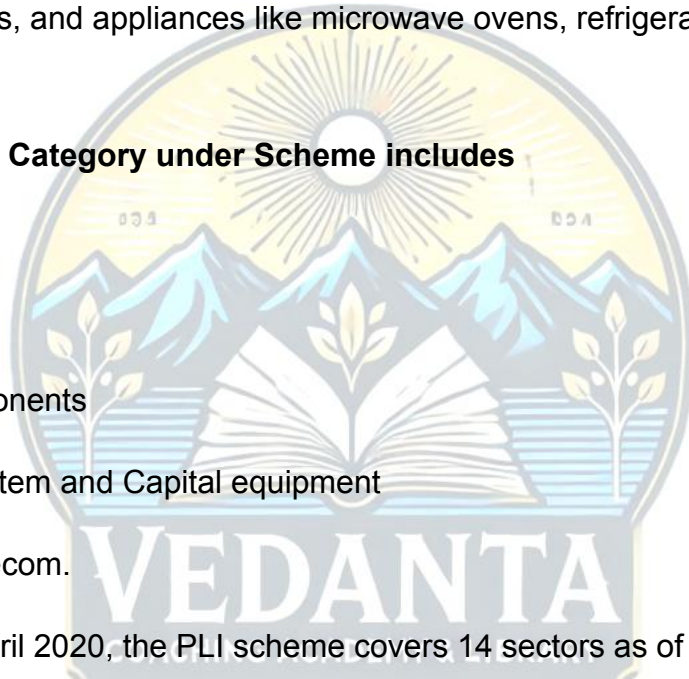
— The components that the government is looking to target through the scheme include display modules, sub assembly camera modules, printed circuit board assemblies, lithium cell enclosures, resistors, capacitors, and ferrites, among others. These are used in gadgets like smartphones and laptops, and appliances like microwave ovens, refrigerators and toasters, among others.

— **The Target Segment Category under Scheme includes**

- (A) Sub-assemblies
- (B) Bare components
- (C) Selected bare components
- (D) Supply chain ecosystem and Capital equipment
- (E) Sub-assembly – Telecom.

— Since its launch in April 2020, the PLI scheme covers 14 sectors as of now. It has helped India achieve scale in manufacturing by attracting OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) as well as contract manufacturers in designated sectors.

— It has also contributed to limited value addition in segments such as surface mounting and PCB (printed circuit board) assembly, product testing, and packaging



cloud seeding

Context

- On **October 28, 2025**, a **Cessna 206H aircraft** conducted a **cloud seeding trial** over Delhi amid high air pollution.
- Aircraft took off from **IIT-Kanpur**, covered **Burari, Mayur Vihar, North Karol Bagh**, and landed in **Meerut**.
- Delhi Environment Minister **Manjinder Singh Sirsa** called it India's **first major scientific attempt to reduce pollution via cloud seeding**.
- Objective: To induce **light rainfall** to reduce air pollution; similar trials planned till **February 2026** if successful.

What is Cloud Seeding?

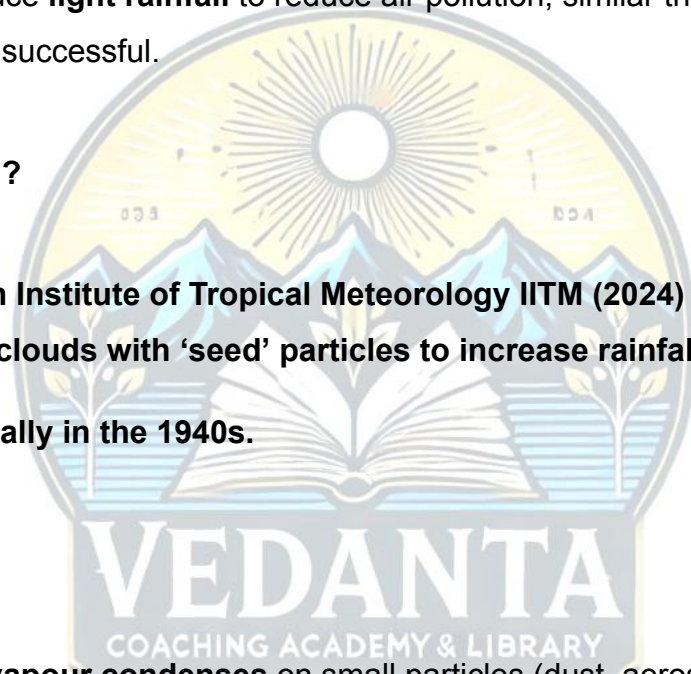
- Defined by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology IITM (2024)** as a **technique to modify suitable clouds with 'seed' particles to increase rainfall**.
- **First tested globally in the 1940s**.

Scientific Basis

- Normally, **water vapour condenses** on small particles (dust, aerosols) → forms droplets → droplets coalesce → rain.
- Cloud seeding introduces **artificial nuclei** to **enhance condensation** and **accelerate rainfall**.

Types of Seed Particles

- **Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN)**: Particles on which water vapour condenses.
- **Ice Nuclei (IN)**: Particles on which water freezes.
- Common materials: **Silver iodide, potassium iodide, sodium chloride**.



Vande mataram

—Composed in Sanskritised Bengali by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in the **1870s**, it was first published in his novel **Anandamath** (1882).

—The song's first public rendition was by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **1896** Congress Session.

—It became the anthem of India's freedom struggle, sung in protests and revolutionary gatherings despite being banned by the British.

—The **Indian National Congress (1937)** adopted its first two stanzas as the National Song, balancing inclusivity and secular appeal.

—On **January 24, 1950**, the Constituent Assembly accorded Vande Mataram equal honour to the National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana."

