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Daily Current Affairs Analysis

Current Affairs & Editorial · The Hindu

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22 JULY 2026
WEDNESDAY EDITION

Compiled by **Sapna Chauhan**

GS 1 · GS 2 · GS 3 | PRELIMS + MAINS INTEGRATED

In This Issue

DAILY EDITION 22 July 2026 · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

How to use this booklet: Read each news analysis first, then the gold "Static Linkage" boxes for Prelims facts, and finish with the Mains and MCQ sections for active revision. Every topic is tagged to its GS paper for targeted study.

Focus of the Day

Hydro-project safety in the Himalayas, FCRA & philanthropy reform, SIR & welfare rights, India's demographic aspirations.

Exam Relevance

UPSC CSE & State PCS — Prelims factual pointers, Mains analytical dimensions, and essay fodder on the demographic dividend.

Toxic Gas Kills 20 in Sikkim Tunnel; Rescue On for 5 Workers

GS 3 PAGE 1 · THE HINDU 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

WHY IN NEWS?

A sudden release of suspected **methane gas** killed at least **20 workers** inside an under-construction tunnel of the **NHPC's Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project** in **Namchi district, Sikkim**. Rescue efforts are under way for five workers still trapped inside the structure.

Key Developments

- The incident occurred inside the **head race tunnel** under construction at **Samardung** on Monday afternoon, due to a "sudden explosive release of suspected methane gas trapped/embedded in the rocks", generating **dense smoke and toxic gases** (NHPC statement).
- **25 personnel** were inside the tunnel at the time of the incident; **seven of the dead** workers have been identified so far.
- Identified victims: **three from West Bengal**, one each from **Sikkim** and **Uttarakhand**, and the rest from **Assam** — highlighting the inter-State migrant workforce in Himalayan infrastructure projects.
- Bouts of **rainfall since Monday** have hampered rescue operations, per Namchi's Superintendent of Police.

Analytical Dimensions (Mains Angle)

- **Occupational safety deficit:** gas detection, ventilation and evacuation protocols in tunnelling through gas-bearing Himalayan rock strata need statutory audit — a recurring gap after Silkyara (2023).
- **Fragile Himalayan geology:** the Teesta basin has seen repeated disasters (2023 South Lhonak glacial lake outburst flood destroyed Teesta-III dam), raising questions on cumulative impact assessment of cascade hydro projects.
- **Migrant labour vulnerability:** hazardous project work is done largely by inter-State migrants — compensation, insurance and registration under BOCW Act become critical.

Prelims Pointer — Key Terms

- **Head Race Tunnel (HRT):** the tunnel that carries water from the reservoir/intake to the power house turbines in a hydro project.
- **NHPC Ltd:** a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Power; India's premier hydropower developer.

Teesta River System — Map Work for Prelims

GS 1 GS 3 GEOGRAPHY 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

Teesta River — Complete Static Profile

- Teesta is a **tributary of the Brahmaputra** (known as **Jamuna** in Bangladesh), flowing through India and Bangladesh.
- It **originates in the Himalayas near Chunthang (Tso Lhamo region), Sikkim**, and flows south through **West Bengal** before entering Bangladesh.
- Originally the river continued southward to empty directly into the **Padma River** (main channel of the Ganga in Bangladesh), but around **1787** it changed course to flow eastward and join the **Jamuna**.
- The **Teesta water-sharing conflict** is one of the most contentious bilateral issues between **India and Bangladesh**.
- **Tributaries:** Zemu Chhu, Rangyong Chhu, Rangit River, Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu.

Ganges–Brahmaputra Basin — Quick Revision

- The Brahmaputra rises in Tibet as the **Yarlung Tsangpo**, enters India in Arunachal Pradesh (as Siang/Dihang), and receives the **Subansiri, Lohit** and other tributaries before entering Bangladesh.
- In Bangladesh, the **Ganga (Padma) + Brahmaputra (Jamuna) + Meghna** together form the world's largest delta, emptying into the **Bay of Bengal** through the Mouths of the Ganges.
- The **Farakka Barrage** (West Bengal) diverts Ganga water to the Hooghly — itself a long-standing India–Bangladesh issue settled by the **Ganga Water Treaty, 1996**.

Teesta Hydropower Cascade (Sikkim)

- Major projects: Teesta-III (Chungthang, 1,200 MW — destroyed in the Oct 2023 GLOF), **Teesta-V (510 MW, NHPC)**, and the under-construction **Teesta-VI (500 MW, NHPC)** at Sirwani/Samardung.
- Recurring hazards: **GLOFs, landslides, seismicity (Zone IV)** and gas-bearing rock strata — arguments for basin-level carrying-capacity studies.

Probable Prelims Question Areas

- Order of Teesta's course: Sikkim → West Bengal → Bangladesh (joins Jamuna, **not** directly the Padma today).
- Matching tributaries (Rangit, Lachung Chhu) with the Teesta; Teesta vs Torsa vs Manas discrimination.

The Hindu, Page 1 — Original Report & Basin Map

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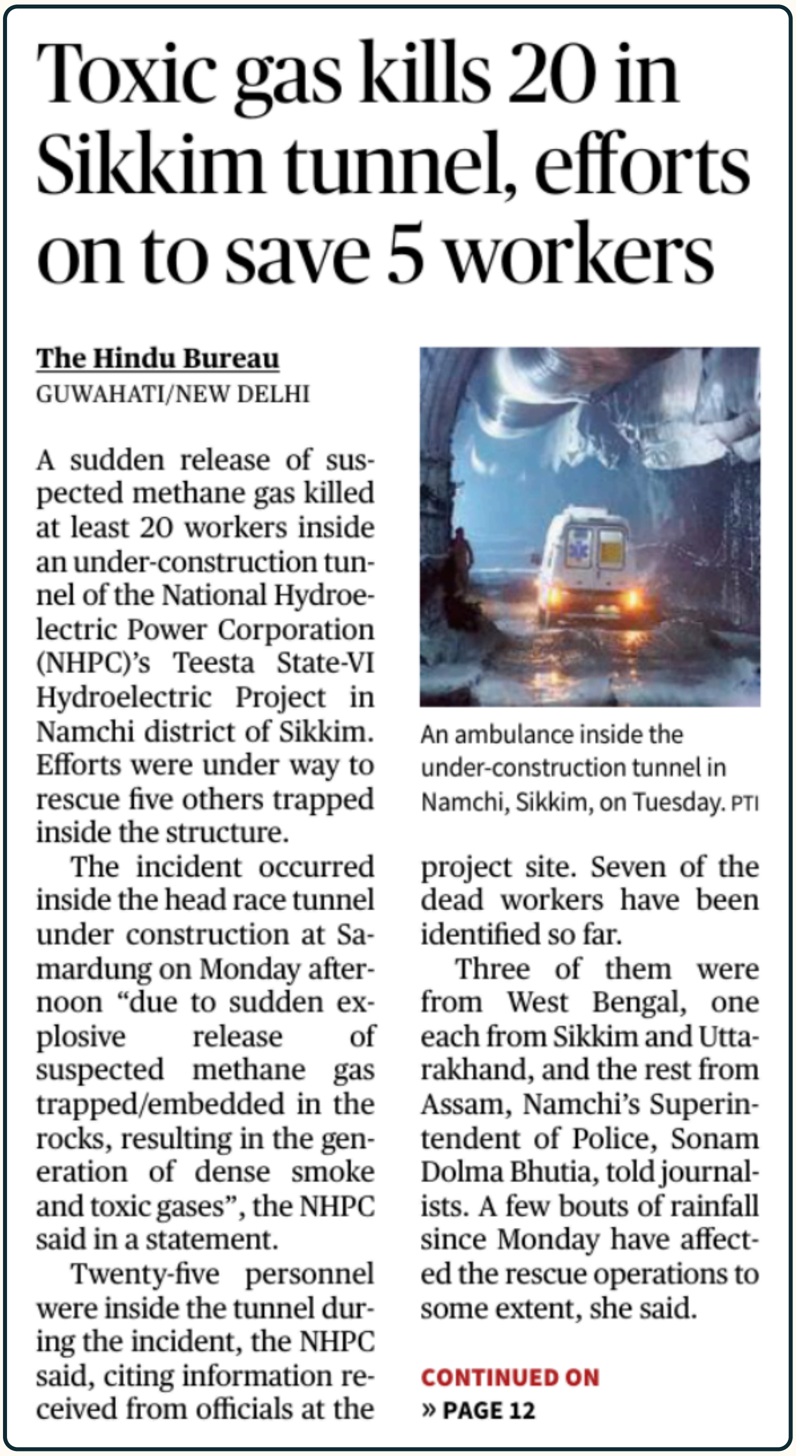


Toxic gas kills 20 in Sikkim tunnel, efforts on to save 5 workers

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

A sudden release of suspected methane gas killed at least 20 workers inside an under-construction tunnel of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)'s Teesta State-VI Hydroelectric Project in Namchi district of Sikkim. Efforts were under way to rescue five others trapped inside the structure.

The incident occurred inside the head race tunnel under construction at Samardung on Monday afternoon "due to sudden explosive release of suspected methane gas trapped/embedded in the rocks, resulting in the generation of dense smoke and toxic gases", the NHPC said in a statement.

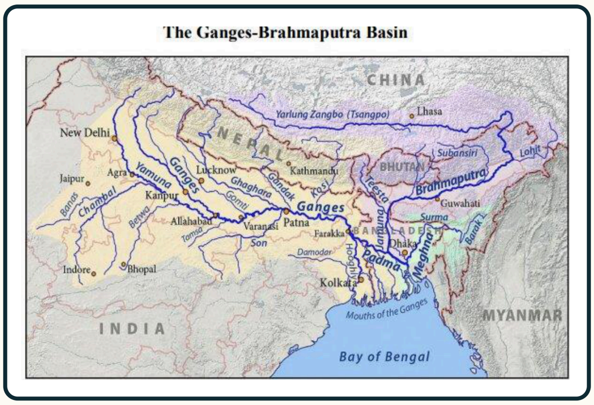
Twenty-five personnel were inside the tunnel during the incident, the NHPC said, citing information received from officials at the project site. Seven of the dead workers have been identified so far.

Three of them were from West Bengal, one each from Sikkim and Uttarakhand, and the rest from Assam, Namchi's Superintendent of Police, Sonam Dolma Bhutia, told journalists. A few bouts of rainfall since Monday have affected the rescue operations to some extent, she said.

An ambulance inside the under-construction tunnel in Namchi, Sikkim, on Tuesday. PTI

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Original report — The Hindu, 22 July 2026, Page 1



The Ganges–Brahmaputra Basin

Syllabus Linkage

- **GS 1:** Drainage systems of India — Himalayan rivers, Teesta's course change (1787).
- **GS 2:** India–Bangladesh relations — Teesta water-sharing dispute.
- **GS 3:** Disaster management — tunnelling hazards, hydro-project safety in seismic Zone IV.
- **Prelims:** Locate Teesta, Farakka, Subansiri, Lohit & Meghna on the basin map alongside.

Quick Recall

- **HRT blast site:** Samardung, Namchi (South Sikkim); developer — **NHPC (Navratna, Ministry of Power)**.
- **2023 GLOF:** South Lhonak lake burst destroyed the Teesta-III dam — same basin, recurring risk.

Building an Atmanirbhar Philanthropy Ecosystem

GS 3 GS 2 PAGE 8 · EDITORIAL 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

WHY IN NEWS?

An editorial by **Ashish Dhawan** (Convergence Foundation) and **Amit Chandra** (A.T.E. Chandra Foundation) argues that India's philanthropic centre of gravity has shifted home — and that the **FCRA debate** should now be about building a **self-reliant ('Atmanirbhar') philanthropy ecosystem**, not merely regulating foreign funds.

The Changed Landscape

- **Domestic private giving** — family philanthropy, CSR and individual donors — has grown rapidly and now **far outstrips annual foreign philanthropic inflows**.
- Domestic private philanthropy now exceeds **₹1.18 lakh crore a year — more than five times foreign inflows** (Bain–Dasra India Philanthropy Report 2026).
- **Family philanthropy is growing at double-digit rates** as a new generation of wealth creators sees giving as part of wealth stewardship.
- Foreign contributions themselves **doubled over the decade** — from about **₹10,000 crore to ₹22,000 crore**; the sector has not been starved of foreign money.
- NITI Aayog's **NGO Darpan** portal lists roughly **six lakh** voluntary organisations, of which only about **14,500 hold active FCRA registration**.

The Case for Regulating Foreign Capital

- Every sovereign nation has both the **right and the responsibility** to regulate foreign capital flowing into organisations that shape public life.
- This is neither unique to India nor illiberal — the **US requires disclosure under its Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)**, and Australia and several European democracies run comparable regimes.
- The real question is not *whether* foreign funding should be regulated, but whether that regulation is **proportionate, predictable and efficiently run**.
- The transition's hardship is real: some organisations faced **delayed renewals, long processing times or cancelled registrations**, disrupting work in education, health, livelihoods and rural development — it deserves acknowledgement, not dismissal.

Better Regulation, Not Tighter Regulation — The Reform Agenda

GS 3 GS 2 EDITORIAL 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

What Should Change

- The goal should be **better regulation, not just tighter regulation** — an administrative slip should not carry the same penalty as fraud.
- A structured path: **deficiency notices, defined windows to correct errors, opportunities for clarification, and an independent appellate body** — protecting the law's integrity while sparing genuine organisations avoidable disruption.
- The newly launched **FCRA 2.0 platform** offers a real opportunity to simplify compliance and move towards **risk-based supervision**.

Unlocking Domestic Capital

- The most immediate opportunity: India's fast-growing **high-net-worth individuals (HNIs)**, whose giving has lagged well behind wealth growth — the largest pool of new domestic capital for the coming decade.
- **Tax reform:** Section 80G deductions are usually limited to half the donation and capped at 10% of adjusted gross total income. Raising the **80G deduction from 50% to 100%** for some categories and lifting the ceiling to 25% would cost the exchequer little while improving long-term social capital.
- **Donating appreciated listed shares** to eligible charities (with safeguards and a 1–3 year disposal window) could become one of the most powerful ways to unlock domestic philanthropic capital — most first-generation entrepreneurs hold wealth in equity, not cash.
- **Widening the base:** India has 220 million+ demat accounts, widespread SIP investing and UPI — if even a fraction of households gave ₹100–₹1,000 a month via trusted digital platforms, millions become partners in solving social problems.
- The **Social Stock Exchange** could do for social capital what India's markets did for financial capital — a trusted national platform linking credible organisations to ordinary citizens through disclosure and measurable impact.

The Three Phases of Indian Giving

- **Phase 1:** reliance on foreign philanthropy → **Phase 2:** CSR-driven transformation (now channels **₹40,000+ crore a year**) → **Phase 3:** must be powered by **Indian families, entrepreneurs and citizens**.
- Domestic philanthropy creates **ownership, not just money** — citizens funding India's challenges bring governance, ideas and accountability, strengthening the wider social contract.

NGO Darpan Portal & CSR Framework — Prelims Facts

GS 2 GS 3 STATIC 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

NPO DARPAN Portal

- A platform where **Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs)** register to obtain a **Unique Identity Number**; maintained under **NITI Aayog**.
- The ID is **mandatory for all NPOs seeking grants** from Union Ministries/Departments and all States/UTs.
- Under the **Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Amendment Rules, 2023**, all financial institutions must ensure the NPO Darpan Unique ID for opening and operating bank accounts of NPOs.
- The Darpan ID is also required for **FCRA registration/renewal** and for tax exemption under **Section 80G** of the Income Tax Act.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) — Legal Framework

- CSR is a business model integrating social and environmental concerns into operations; globally mostly voluntary, but **India became the first country to make CSR a legal mandate** — through the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- Governed by **Section 135** of the Companies Act, 2013 and the **Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014**.
- **Eligibility (any one, in the immediately preceding financial year):** Net worth **₹500 crore+**, OR Turnover **₹1,000 crore+**, OR Net profit **₹5 crore+**.
- **The 2% mandate:** eligible companies must spend at least **2% of average net profits of the three immediately preceding financial years** on CSR activities.

FCRA — Quick Recall

- **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010** (amended 2020) — administered by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**; regulates acceptance and use of foreign contributions by individuals, associations and companies.
- 2020 amendment: FCRA account mandatorily in **SBI, New Delhi Main Branch**; administrative expense cap cut from 50% to **20%**; bar on transfer of foreign contribution to other entities.

The Hindu Editorial, Page 8 — As Published

GS 3 REFERENCE 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

Building an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem

Ashish Dhawan
Founder and Chairperson, The Convergence Foundation

Amit Chandra
Co-Founder, A.T.E. Chandra Foundation

India's philanthropic landscape has changed more in the past decade than many realise. Domestic private giving – through family philanthropy, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and individual donors – has grown rapidly and now far outstrips annual foreign philanthropic inflows. A new generation of entrepreneurs is rethinking differently about giving, while millions of Indians are entering the markets through mutual funds, systematic investment plans (SIP), and Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Against this backdrop, the debate around the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) takes on a different meaning: less a dispute about foreign funding than a chapter in India's move toward a more self-reliant philanthropic future.

The first principle should not be controversial. Every sovereign nation has both the right and the responsibility to regulate foreign capital flowing into organisations that shape public life. This is neither unique to India nor illiberal: the United States requires disclosure under its Foreign Agents Registration Act, and Australia and several European democracies run comparable regimes. The question worth debating is not whether foreign funding should be regulated, but whether that regulation is proportionate, predictable and efficiently run.

There is also a gap between perception and reality. The impression is that tighter FCRA rules have hollowed out Indian development work; the numbers say otherwise. NITI Aayog's portal NGO Darpan portal lists roughly six lakh voluntary organisations, of which only about 14,500 hold active FCRA registration. Foreign contributions have themselves doubled over the decade, from about ₹10,000 crore to around ₹22,000 crore. The sector has not been starved of money from abroad.

The rise of domestic giving

The bigger change lies at home. Domestic private philanthropy now exceeds ₹1.18 lakh crore a year – more than five times foreign inflows – according to the Bain-Dasra India Philanthropy Report 2026.

Family philanthropy is growing at double-digit rates as a new generation of wealth creators comes to see giving as part of wealth stewardship. The centre of gravity of Indian philanthropy has quietly shifted home.

None of this erases the hardship of the transition. A small number of organisations faced delayed renewals, long processing times, or cancelled registrations, disrupting work in education, health, livelihoods, and rural development. This was not true of the sector as a whole, but for those affected, the disruption was real and deserves acknowledgement rather than dismissal.

The transition also exposed how unevenly the sector had prepared. Many organisations operate with exemplary governance; others had gone dormant or were well-meaning groups whose documentation had not kept pace with rising expectations.

India's companies went through a similar reckoning over the past three decades: stronger governance initially felt like a burden, but it ultimately became the very thing that won investor confidence and drew in capital. The social sector can follow the same path. If money is the fuel of philanthropy, trust is its currency.

Better, not tighter regulation

The goal should be better regulation, not just tighter regulation. An administrative slip should not carry the same penalty as fraud. A structured path comprising deficiency notices, defined windows to correct errors, opportunities to provide clarification, and an independent appellate body would protect the integrity of the law while sparing genuine organisations avoidable disruption. The newly launched FCRA 2.0 platform offers a real opportunity to simplify compliance and move towards risk-based supervision.

Fixing FCRA's administration, though, is only half the task; the larger prize is to build what we would call an Atmanirbhar ('self-reliant') philanthropy ecosystem. India's giving has moved through three phases: first, a reliance on foreign philanthropy, and second, the transformation wrought by CSR, which now channels over ₹40,000 crore a year into development. The third phase must be powered by Indian families, entrepreneurs and citizens.

The most immediate opportunity sits with India's fast-growing community of high-net-worth individuals, whose giving has lagged well behind the growth in their wealth. This is where the largest pool of new domestic capital can be unlocked over the coming decade, and where policy can help most.

India's tax framework does not yet signal that philanthropy is a national priority. Deductions under Section 80G are usually limited to half the donation and capped at 10% of adjusted gross total income. Few large donors hit those limits, but tax policy is also about signalling intent – and other countries have been emphatic, from Singapore's 250% deduction to Britain's Gift Aid top-up and America's carry-forward provisions. India need not copy them wholesale. But raising the 80G deduction from 50% to 100%, as is already allowed for some categories, and lifting the ceiling to 25%, would cost the exchequer little while meaningfully improving the flow of long-term social capital.

> Domestic giving, not foreign funding, is what will define India's philanthropic future

Expanding the donor base

One mechanism deserves particular mention. Most first-generation entrepreneurs hold their wealth in equity, not cash. A framework allowing donations of appreciated listed shares to eligible charities – with appropriate safeguards and a reasonable disposal window of, say, one to three years so that recipients can sell in orderly fashion – could become one of the most powerful ways to unlock domestic philanthropic capital.

The next frontier, over a longer horizon, is to widen the base. India now has over 220 million demat accounts, widespread SIP investing and UPI in every pocket; the infrastructure for mass participation already exists. If even a fraction of households gave ₹100, ₹500 or ₹1,000 a month through trusted digital platforms, millions of citizens would become active partners in solving the country's social problems. The Social Stock Exchange could do for social capital what India's markets did for financial capital – a trusted national platform linking credible organisations to ordinary citizens through clear disclosure and measurable impact.

The argument runs deeper than the sums involved. Domestic philanthropy creates more than money; it creates ownership. When Indian citizens and businesses fund India's own social challenges, they bring governance, ideas, volunteering and accountability along with their capital, strengthening not just the non-profit sector but also the wider social contract. That is the real case for an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem.

Foreign philanthropy will still matter, particularly in research, innovation and the exchange of ideas. But as India approaches developed-nation status, it should complement India's social development, not shape it. The aspiration, in the end, is not merely to regulate foreign philanthropy well. It is to build a country where the overwhelming share of social transformation is financed, led and owned by Indians themselves.

That is the promise of an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem – and, we believe, the next chapter of India's development story.

"Building an Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem" — Ashish Dhawan & Amit Chandra, The Hindu, 22 July 2026

How to Use This Editorial in the Exam

- **GS 3 (Economy):** quote the ₹1.18 lakh crore vs ₹22,000 crore contrast to argue that Indian giving has turned domestic.
- **GS 2 (Governance):** use "better regulation, not tighter regulation" as a framing line for regulatory-reform answers (FCRA 2.0, appellate body, risk-based supervision).
- **Essay:** "If money is the fuel of philanthropy, trust is its currency" — a usable one-liner on social capital.

TOPIC 03 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Lists of Folly — A Flawed SIR Cannot Decide Welfare Benefits

GS 2 | PAGE 8 · EDITORIAL | 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

WHY IN NEWS?

The **Supreme Court has reiterated** that exclusion from the electoral rolls **cannot have consequences unrelated to voting** — responding to **West Bengal government orders** (May–June) that linked welfare benefits and caste certificates to the outcomes of the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls.

What the State Orders Did

- **May 19 notification:** persons removed from the electoral roll would cease to be beneficiaries of the **Annapurna Yojana** (a cash transfer scheme for women) unless they had appealed before the SIR tribunal.
- **June 4 order:** directed **deletion of beneficiaries from the Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
- **May 14 decision:** re-verify and **cancel caste certificates** of persons whose names were deleted from the rolls.
- These decisions run contrary to the Court's clear instructions in the **Bihar SIR case**, which barred authorities from using SIR outcomes for **any purpose other than determining voting rights**. Notices have now been issued to the **ECI, the West Bengal government and the State's CEO**.
- Approximately **34 lakh appeals** have been filed against SIR outcomes in West Bengal; only a tiny fraction disposed of — leaving millions in precarious uncertainty. Their exclusion from welfare benefits, including **food support, is unconscionable**.

The Legal Paradox & Larger Issues

- The roll is meant to include only citizens, but **enrolment on the roll is not, by itself, proof of citizenship** — all voters must be citizens, but not all citizens are necessarily enrolled as voters.
- Linking absence from the electoral roll to **subsistence benefits** is both **illogical and cruel**; the Bihar SIR judgment held that exclusion from a roll cannot by itself determine citizenship status.
- Larger stakes: **universal human rights apply to all persons** — citizens and non-citizens alike (Article 21 protections). Clean rolls and targeted welfare can aid governance, "but the state must not take leave of logic and common sense."

Prelims Pointer

- **SIR** is conducted by the **Election Commission of India** under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 & Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Right to vote = **statutory right**; food security under NFSA = **legal entitlement** linked to Article 21.

The Hindu Editorial, Page 8 — As Published

GS 2 REFERENCE 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

Page No.8 , GS 2

Lists of folly

A flawed SIR should not be the basis for distribution of benefits

The Supreme Court has reiterated its position that exclusion from the electoral rolls cannot have consequences unrelated to voting. The Court was responding to West Bengal government orders, issued in May-June, that linked welfare benefits and official caste certifications to the outcomes of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Those removed would become ineligible for certain welfare benefits and certifications under these orders. A May 19 notification directed that persons removed from the electoral roll should not continue as beneficiaries of the Annapurna Yojana, a cash transfer scheme for women, unless they had filed appeals before the SIR tribunal. A June 4 order directed the deletion of beneficiaries from the Public Distribution System. On May 14, the government decided to re-verify and cancel caste certificates of those persons whose names had been deleted from the rolls. These decisions run contrary to the clear instructions of the Court in the Bihar SIR case, which specifically barred authorities from using SIR outcomes for any purpose other than determining voting rights. The Court has now issued notices to the Election Commission of India, the West Bengal government and the State's Chief Electoral Officer. Approximately 34 lakh appeals have been filed against SIR outcomes in West Bengal, and only a tiny fraction of them has been disposed of,

Election Commission of India, the West Bengal government and the State's Chief Electoral Officer. Approximately 34 lakh appeals have been filed against SIR outcomes in West Bengal, and only a tiny fraction of them has been disposed of, leaving millions in a precarious state of uncertainty. Their exclusion from welfare benefits, including food support, is unconscionable.

There is a legal paradox in the relationship between citizenship and the electoral roll. The roll is meant to include only citizens, but enrolment on the roll is not, by itself, proof of citizenship. This paradox apart, it is a sound and commonsensical assumption that many citizens are not enrolled as voters. In other words, all those enlisted as voters must be citizens, but not all citizens are necessarily enrolled as voters. While this may be a simple and straightforward proposition, for the State to link the absence of a person's name from the electoral roll to other aspects of civic life – especially subsistence benefits – is both illogical and cruel. In its Bihar SIR judgment, the Court clearly stated that exclusion from an electoral roll cannot by itself determine citizenship status and that SIR outcomes are linked only to electoral purposes. The specific facts and legal principles relating to the SIR notwithstanding, larger issues are also at stake. These include universal human rights that must apply to all persons, citizens and non-citizens alike. Clean electoral rolls and targeted welfare delivery can contribute to better governance. But the state must not take leave of logic and common sense.

"Lists of folly — a flawed SIR should not be the basis for distribution of benefits" — The Hindu, 22 July 2026

How to Use This Editorial in the Exam

- **GS 2 (Polity):** the citizenship–electoral roll paradox is a ready-made analytical point: all voters must be citizens, but the roll is not proof of citizenship.
- **GS 2 (Governance):** cite the 34-lakh pending appeals to argue for due process before benefit withdrawal.
- **Ethics/Essay:** "the state must not take leave of logic and common sense" — on reasoned administration.
- **Prelims:** SIR is conducted under the RP Act, 1950 & Registration of Electors Rules, 1960; the editorial's timeline — May 14, May 19 and June 4 orders — is a likely match-the-following set.
- **Answer-writing tip:** open with the constitutional purpose of each list (electoral roll vs beneficiary list), then show why conflating them fails both — structure marks come from this separation.

TOPIC 04 · SOCIETY & POPULATION

What India's Young People Are Saying About Families

GS 1 GS 2 PAGE 8 · UNFPA 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

WHY IN NEWS?

On **World Population Day (July 11)**, UNFPA released the **Demographic Futures Survey** — the largest study of its kind, surveying **1,08,000+ young adults across 73 countries** — asking not whether young people want family, but **what stands between them and it**.

Key Findings — India

- India's **fertility rate has settled at 2.0**, below the replacement level of **2.1** — not a "baby bust" but the outcome of sustained investment in **girls' education, the National Health Mission, contraceptive choice and maternal health**.
- Share of young women married before 18 has fallen from **23.3% to 20.1%** in just the last few years — a policy achievement of India's institutions.
- **Four in 10 women and a third of men** say two children is their ideal family size; young people are **not turning away from family life** — they ask whether conditions exist to build it.
- Practical barriers in order: **money first (cited by nearly 4 in 10), then housing, then job security**, then the worry — "how well can we care for our children?"
- **Unequal burden:** young women spend **5+ hours/day** on unpaid housework and caregiving; young men about **half an hour**. Only **15 of every 100 young women** are in paid work vs **55 of every 100 young men** — why capable women feel forced to choose between career and family.
- **Climate anxiety:** nearly all young people say climate change is disrupting their lives; about half say it affects their peace of mind. Nearly half report being very worried about conflict, economic insecurity and environmental risk all at once.

Inter-State Disparity & the Dividend

- Bihar's fertility rate stands at **2.7**, Sikkim's at just **1.0**; Kerala, Delhi and Tamil Nadu are long below replacement while Bihar, UP and Jharkhand are catching up — **no single national policy can fit every State**.
- India is home to **255 million young people aged 15–24** — the largest generation ever raised; this **demographic dividend window will not remain open indefinitely**. Young Indians are not walking away from family — they await conditions to say yes to it fully.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) — Complete Profile

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UNFPA — About & Mandate

- A **subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly**; the UN's key agency for **sexual and reproductive health**, operating in **150+ countries** covering ~80% of the global population.
- Established **1969** as the UN Fund for Population Activities; renamed **United Nations Population Fund in 1987** (acronym UNFPA retained).
- Guided by the **ICPD Programme of Action (Cairo, 1994)** and the **2019 Nairobi Statement** — women's empowerment and reproductive rights.
- **Objective:** every pregnancy wanted, every childbirth safe, every young person's potential fulfilled. Supports **SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**.
- **Three transformative goals by 2030:** zero unmet need for family planning; zero preventable maternal deaths; zero gender-based violence and harmful practices (child marriage, FGM).
- **Structure:** guided by ECOSOC; reports to the **UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board (36 members)**; partners with WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS.
- **Funding:** NOT funded from the UN regular budget — entirely **voluntary contributions** from governments, private sector and civil society.

Policy Response to Youth Aspirations

- UNFPA–India partnership aims at: **high-quality affordable childcare; equal caregiving; stable dignified work for youth; youth mental health** (incl. climate anxiety) in family conversations.
- Private sector role: **parental leave, flexible work, family-friendly workplaces** that let young people balance work and caregiving.
- This year's theme set by India's Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: **"Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancies" (HTSP)** — every demographic number is ultimately a question of **choice**.

Essay / Mains Fodder

- "Demographic dividend" → "demographic burden" without investment in education, health, employment; TFR decline as a **development success**, not crisis; gendered time-use as the hidden constraint on female LFPR.

The Hindu, Page 8 — As Published

GS 1 GS 2 REFERENCE 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

Page No.8 , GS 1,2

What India's young people are saying about families

Andrea M. Wojnar

UNFPA Representative in India and part of Team UN in India

Ask a grandmother in India what has changed since her time, and she will not talk to you about fertility rates. She will talk about her granddaughter, who finished college, has a city job, and is in no hurry to start a family. She will say it with pride and concern in the same breath, a blend the data reflects too.

The UNFPA survey

On World Population Day this year (July 11), UNFPA released the Demographic Futures Survey, the largest study of its kind, with over 1,08,000 young adults surveyed across 73 countries. It asked a simple question: not whether young people still wanted partnership and family, but what stood between them and it. (This year, India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare set the theme, "Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancies" or HTSP, a reminder that at the heart of every demographic number is a question of choice: whether young people can decide, freely and on their own timeline, when and how to build their families.)

India's fertility rate has settled at two children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1. Some will hear that and reach for words like "baby bust" or "population crisis". At UNFPA, we see something else entirely. This is not a warning sign but the outcome of sustained government investment across decades, in girls' education, the National Health Mission, and expanding contraceptive choice and maternal health services. The share of young women married before 18 years has fallen from 23.3% to 20.1% in just the last few years. That is a policy achievement India's institutions can rightly take credit for.

But numbers tell more than one story at once, and if we stop at the good news, we miss what young India is trying to say.

Ask young people directly, and most want what generations before them wanted. Across the country, four in 10 women and a third of men say that two children is their ideal family size. The Demographic Futures Survey found the same pattern across countries: young people are not turning away from family life; they are asking whether the conditions exist to build it. So why the hesitation here? When we ask young couples what stands between them and the life they picture, the answers are almost always practical. Money comes first, cited by nearly four in 10. Then housing. Then job security. Then a very simple, human worry: how well can we care for our children?

> Young Indians still want families, but the conditions they seek reveal their aspirations, anxieties, and changing realities

That last question falls on one set of shoulders far more than another. Young women in India spend over five hours a day on unpaid housework and caregiving; young men spend about half an hour. Only 15 in every 100 young women are in paid work, compared to 55 in every 100 young men. These are not merely statistics. They help explain why so many capable young women feel that they must choose between a career and a family, when no one should have to choose at all.

The climate change issue

There is a newer worry layered on top of the old ones. The survey found that nearly all young people say climate change is disrupting their lives, and about half say it affects their peace of mind. Nearly half of young Indians also report being very worried about conflict, economic insecurity and environmental risk all at once, among the higher rates recorded anywhere. Add high youth unemployment and a mental health conversation that is only beginning in many Indian households, and a fuller picture emerges. This is not a generation rejecting parenthood. It is a generation asking, quite reasonably, whether the ground beneath it is steady enough to build on.

India is also marked by inter-State disparity. Bihar's fertility rate stands at 2.7, while Sikkim's is just 1.0. Kerala, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have long settled below the replacement level, while Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are still catching up. These differences show that India's demographic transition is unfolding at different speeds across States, and that no single national policy can fully address every State's realities.

Responding to youth aspiration

The UNFPA's partnership with the Indian government and communities is aimed at translating what young people are telling us into practical support: high-quality, affordable and accessible childcare; families that share caregiving more equally; continued investment in stable, dignified work for young people entering the labour force; and greater attention to youth mental health, including climate anxiety, in conversations about family and the future. The private sector also has a vital role to play through parental leave, flexible work arrangements and family-friendly workplaces that enable young people to balance work and caregiving. The UNFPA has a unique role in the United Nations development system as a leader in data collection, population dynamics and evidence-based policymaking. The Demographic Futures Survey shows how population data can and must be deployed to help countries understand, plan for and adapt to demographic shifts.

India is home to 255 million young people aged 15 to 24 years, the largest generation this country, or perhaps any country, has ever raised. This is India's demographic dividend, a window of opportunity that will not remain open indefinitely. The choices we make today will determine whether this generation can fully realise its potential before that window begins to close. Young Indians are not walking away from the idea of family. They are waiting for the conditions that would let them say yes to it fully.

"What India's young people are saying about families" — Andrea M. Wojnar (UNFPA Representative in India), The Hindu, 22 July 2026

How to Use This Article in the Exam

- **GS 1 (Society):** the 5-hours vs half-hour unpaid-care gap is the single strongest statistic for questions on gender roles and female labour-force participation.
- **GS 2 (Social Justice):** policy asks — affordable childcare, parental leave, family-friendly workplaces, youth mental health.
- **Essay/Interview:** young Indians are "waiting for the conditions to say yes" to family — aspiration, not rejection.

Key Numbers at a Glance

- **1.08 lakh** young adults · **73** countries · TFR **2.0** vs replacement **2.1** · child marriage **23.3% → 20.1%**.
- Paid work: **15/100** young women vs **55/100** young men · ideal family size of two: **4 in 10** women, **1 in 3** men.
- Fertility spread: Bihar **2.7** ↔ Sikkim **1.0** · youth (15–24): **255 million**.

TOPIC 05 · EDUCATION & GOVERNANCE

For the First Time, Undergraduate Enrolments Decline in India

GS 2 **PAGE 9 · DATA POINT** 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

WHY IN NEWS?

AISHE reports for 2022-23 and 2023-24, released together after a prolonged delay by the Union Ministry of Education, reveal the **first-ever decline in undergraduate enrolments** since AISHE publication began in **2011** — a trend that has largely gone unnoticed.

Key Data Points

- **Total higher-education enrolment** (UG, PG, diploma, Ph.D etc.) rose by just **3.7 lakh (0.8%)** in 2023-24 over 2022-23 — the **lowest-ever increase**.
- **UG enrolments** — over **75% of all enrolments** — **declined by 93,000 (0.27%)** in the same period, despite an increase in the eligible youth population and in participating HEIs (**56,180 → 59,533**).
- The decline is seen **only among male students**: male enrolment dropped **2.2%** between 2022-23 and 2023-24 while female enrolment rose **1.8%** — though women remain fewer in absolute numbers (1.71 crore vs 1.75 crore).
- Two States accounted for the highest drops: **Maharashtra (–6%) and Uttar Pradesh (–3%)**; J&K and West Bengal saw steep falls of **13% and 8%**; Delhi, a major education hub, declined **6%**.
- **Tamil Nadu** recorded the highest increase (**+1.6 lakh**), more than offsetting UP’s 1.53-lakh decline; UP’s UG fall was offset almost completely by a **sudden spike in Diploma enrolments**.
- Programme-wise, the decline concentrated in **Arts, Sciences and Commerce**; neither the report’s marginal **GER rise (29.5 → 30)** nor official statements have explained the UG drop.

Why It Matters (Mains Angle)

- **Data governance:** AISHE is “the primary source of official statistics on higher education” — yet the 2021-22 report came late in Jan 2024 and the next two arrived together only now; delayed data cripples policy planning (NEP 2020 targets GER of 50% by 2035).
- **Male disengagement from UG:** possible pull of skill/diploma routes, employment pressure, or cost — needs disaggregated study; gendered convergence in enrolment is otherwise a positive story.

Prelims Pointer

- **AISHE** — annual survey by the **Ministry of Education** (since 2011); covers all HEIs. **GER (18–23 yrs)** now ~30. NEP 2020 target: **50% GER by 2035**.

The Hindu Data Point, Page 9 — As Published

GS 2 **REFERENCE** 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

For the first time, undergraduate enrolments decline in India

AISHE reports released after a prolonged delay show a drop in students enrolled in undergrad courses, particularly in States such as Maharashtra and U.P.

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Pon Vasanth B.A.

Even as issues around education have momentarily taken centre-stage amid the protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party and activist Sonam Wangchuk, the reports of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for two years released together after a prolonged delay by the Union Ministry of Education (MoE) has largely gone unnoticed.

Importantly, the strange trend that has gone unreported is the inexplicable decline in the total number of students enrolled in undergraduate courses across the country. Such a decline has happened for the first time ever since the Union government started publishing AISHE reports from 2011.

In the government's own words, AISHE "serves as the primary source of official statistics on higher education in India and provides critical insights for policy formulation, planning, and monitoring of the sector". Yet, the MoE inordinately delayed the release of these reports. The AISHE report for 2021-22 had a delayed release in January 2024. More than two years later, the Ministry released the reports for 2022-23 and 2023-24 together earlier this month without much fanfare.

The total enrolment in higher education, which include undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, Ph.D and other types of courses, increased by 3.7 lakh (0.8%) in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23, which is the lowest-ever increase. However, the number of students enrolled in undergraduate courses, who account for over 75% of all enrolments, declined by 93,000 (0.27%) in the same period **(Chart 1)**. This is despite the fact that the youth population in the eligible age group saw an increase, along with an increase in the number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that participated in AISHE, which went up from 56,180 in 2022-23 to 59,533 in 2023-24.

Neither the 2023-24 report, which played up the marginal increase in Gross Enrolment Ratio from 29.5 to 30, nor the Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan, who cited the report to highlight the increased enrolment of female students in STEM courses, have offered an explanation for this decline. Interestingly, the decline is seen only among male students since the number of female students enrolled in undergraduate courses saw an increase although they were fewer in numbers than the males. The enrolment of male students dropped by 2.2% between 2022-23 and 2023-24 while that of female students increased by 1.8% **(Chart 2)**.

In absolute numbers, two States – Maharashtra (-6%) and Uttar Pradesh (-3%) – accounted for the highest drop in undergraduate enrolments **(Chart 3)**. While the chart shows only 10 States with the highest number of enrolments, several other States such as Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal saw steep falls in undergraduate enrolments by 13% and 8% respectively. Delhi, a major hub for education, registered a decline of 6%.

The States that saw declines accounted for a drop of over six lakh enrolments. The overall decline in the country would have been far higher, if not for the increase reported in few other States such as Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Karnataka and Odisha. Tamil Nadu in particular recorded the highest increase of 1.6 lakh, which is more than the 1.53 lakh decline reported in Uttar Pradesh. The latter in particular saw a sharp decline in undergraduate enrolments, accompanied by an almost similar increase in enrolments in Diploma courses – a trend not noticed in other major States **(Chart 5)**.

Programme type-wise analysis showed that the decline was in Arts, Sciences, and Commerce **(Chart 4)**.

Unexplained drop

Data for the charts were sourced from All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reports released by the Ministy of Education. With inputs from Gauri Singavarapu, Gandla Sneha and Sachin Swaraj, who are interning with The Hindu's Data team

CHART 1: This chart shows the overall enrolment and enrolment in undergraduate (UG) courses. UG enrolments declined for the first time in 2023-24. *Value within brackets is GER*

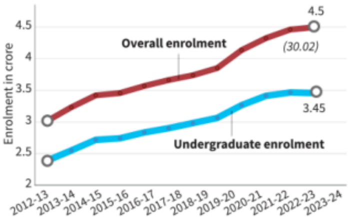


CHART 2: The gender-wise number of students enrolled in UG courses show that the decline in 2023-24 was noticed only among male students

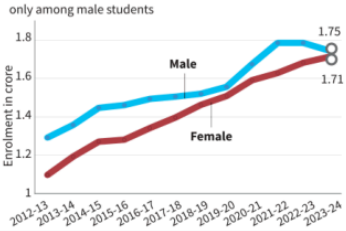


CHART 3: This chart shows the changes in student enrolments in UG courses in the 10 States with highest number of enrolments. Tamil Nadu's sharp increase offset the overall decline in UG enrolments

% Fall -8 -3 0 +3 +8 % Rise

State	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
U.P.	-0.66	+1.47	+2.31	+1.27	-1.53
Maharashtra	+0.41	+1.01	+0.05	+1.90	-1.85
T.N.	+0.96	-1.28	+0.29	+1.01	+1.60
Bihar	+1.22	+5.20	+2.80	-0.12	+0.89
Karnataka	+1.57	+1.54	+0.37	+1.34	+0.59
Rajasthan	+0.32	+1.78	+1.64	-1.08	+0.38
M.P.	+1.90	+3.03	+0.82	-1.38	+0.07
W.B.	+0.64	+0.03	+3.94	-0.52	-1.84
Andhra	+1.26	+1.13	-0.37	-0.94	-0.42
Telangana	-0.23	+1.73	+0.20	+0.75	+0.84

CHART 4: Among the top five types of programmes with highest number of enrollments, Arts, Science and Commerce saw declines

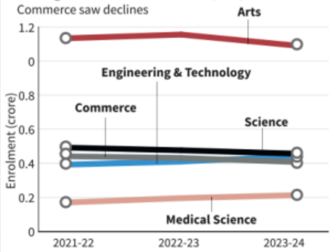
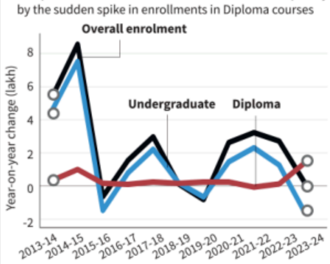


CHART 5: Uttar Pradesh was a standout case, where the sharp decline in UG courses was offset almost completely by the sudden spike in enrollments in Diploma courses



"For the first time, undergraduate enrolments decline in India" — The Hindu Data Point, 22 July 2026 (with the 'Unexplained drop' charts)

Reading the Charts

- **Chart 1:** overall enrolment rises to 4.5 crore while the UG line flattens at 3.45 crore — the first divergence in the series.
- **Chart 2:** male line dips in 2023-24; female line keeps rising — the decline is male-only.
- **Chart 3/5:** State table shows U.P. (–1.53 lakh) and Maharashtra (–1.85 lakh) in deep red for 2023-24; U.P.'s fall offset by a diploma spike.

Mains Practice Questions — Bilingual with Approach Notes

GS 1 GS 2 GS 3 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

QUESTION 1 · GS 1/2 · SOCIETY & POPULATION — 15 MARKS · 250 WORDS

"India's demographic dividend can become a demographic burden if not supported by investments in education, healthcare, and employment." Critically examine.

"यदि शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य एवं रोजगार में पर्याप्त निवेश न किया जाए, तो भारत का जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश जनसांख्यिकीय बोझ में परिवर्तित हो सकता है।" समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

> **Approach:** Define dividend (255 mn youth, 15–24). **For:** AISHE stagnation, 15/100 women in paid work, youth unemployment, climate anxiety. **Against:** TFR success, falling child marriage, rising female enrolment. Conclude: window is time-bound — invest in childcare, skills, mental health, jobs.

QUESTION 2 · GS 2 · POLITY (ORIGINAL — REFRAMED) — 10 MARKS · 150 WORDS

Linking welfare entitlements to the outcomes of electoral-roll revision conflates two distinct constitutional purposes. In the light of recent Supreme Court observations on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), discuss.

कल्याणकारी अधिकारों को मतदाता-सूची पुनरीक्षण के परिणामों से जोड़ना दो भिन्न संवैधानिक उद्देश्यों का घालमेल है। SIR पर उच्चतम न्यायालय की हालिया टिप्पणियों के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

> **Approach:** Roll ≠ citizenship proof; SIR outcomes only for voting rights (Bihar SIR ruling). WB orders (Annapurna, PDS, caste certificates) → Art. 21 food security, 34 lakh pending appeals. Conclude: clean rolls and targeted welfare are both valid — but must run on separate tracks.

QUESTION 3 · GS 3 · ECONOMY (ORIGINAL — REFRAMED) — 10 MARKS · 150 WORDS

"The future of Indian philanthropy is domestic." Examine the policy changes needed to unlock domestic philanthropic capital while keeping foreign-contribution regulation proportionate.

"भारतीय परोपकार का भविष्य घरेलू है।" विदेशी अंशदान विनियमन को आनुपातिक रखते हुए घरेलू परोपकारी पूंजी को उन्मुक्त करने हेतु आवश्यक नीतिगत परिवर्तनों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

> **Approach:** Data: ₹1.18 lakh crore vs ₹22,000 crore foreign; CSR ₹40,000 crore. Reforms: 80G to 100%, appreciated-share donations, Social Stock Exchange, FCRA 2.0 risk-based supervision, appellate body. Balance: sovereign right to regulate (FARA parallel) vs predictability.

10 MCQs from Today's Edition — Part I

PRELIMS 2027 | MCQ 1-5 | 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

Q1. With reference to the Teesta river, consider the following statements:

1. It originates near Chunthang in Sikkim and is a tributary of the Brahmaputra.
2. In Bangladesh, it presently joins the Padma river directly.
3. Rangit river is one of its tributaries.

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

Q2. The recent tunnel tragedy in Namchi district, Sikkim, occurred in a project developed by:

(a) NTPC — Teesta Stage-III Project
(b) NHPC — Teesta Stage-VI Hydroelectric Project
(c) SJVN — Teesta Stage-IV Project
(d) THDC — Rangit Stage-II Project

Q3. A "head race tunnel" in a hydroelectric project is best described as:

(a) A tunnel that discharges water from the turbines back into the river
(b) A tunnel carrying water from the intake/reservoir to the power house
(c) An emergency evacuation passage for project workers
(d) A diversion tunnel used only during dam construction

Q4. With reference to the NPO DARPAN portal, consider the following statements:

1. It is maintained under NITI Aayog.
2. Its Unique ID is mandatory for NPOs seeking grants from Government of India Ministries.
3. Under PMLA Rules 2023, banks must ensure the Darpan ID for NPO accounts.
4. The ID is required for FCRA registration and Section 80G exemption.

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

Q5. Under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013, a company must comply with CSR provisions if, in the immediately preceding financial year, it had:

1. Net worth of ₹500 crore or more 2. Turnover of ₹1,000 crore or more 3. Net profit of ₹5 crore or more

(a) All three conditions must be met together
(b) Any one of the three conditions
(c) Only conditions 1 and 2, jointly
(d) Only condition 3

10 MCQs from Today's Edition — Part II

PRELIMS 2027 MCQ 6–10 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

Q6. The "2% CSR mandate" requires eligible companies to spend 2% of:

(a) Net profit of the current financial year
(b) Turnover of the preceding financial year
(c) Average net profits of the three immediately preceding financial years
(d) Net worth as on the last balance-sheet date

Q7. With reference to UNFPA, consider the following statements:

1. It is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly.
2. It is funded from the assessed regular budget of the United Nations.
3. It was renamed the United Nations Population Fund in 1987.

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

Q8. UNFPA's "three transformative goals" by 2030 include which of the following?

1. Zero unmet need for family planning 2. Zero preventable maternal deaths
3. Zero gender-based violence and harmful practices 4. Zero population growth

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

Q9. As per the latest AISHE reports (2022-23 & 2023-24), consider the following statements:

1. Undergraduate enrolments declined for the first time since AISHE began in 2011.
2. The decline was observed among both male and female students.
3. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest increase in UG enrolments among States.

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

Q10. The Supreme Court, in the context of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, has held that:

(a) Deletion from the electoral roll is conclusive proof of non-citizenship
(b) SIR outcomes may be used to re-verify caste certificates
(c) SIR outcomes are linked only to electoral purposes and cannot decide welfare benefits
(d) States may withdraw PDS benefits of persons deleted from rolls after 90 days

Answer Key & Explanations

PRELIMS 2027 REVISION 22 July 2026 · The Hindu Analysis · Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

ANSWER KEY — 22 JULY 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	B	B	D	B	C	B	B	B	C

Explanations

- **Q1 (b):** The Teesta originally flowed into the Padma but changed course around **1787** and now joins the **Jamuna (Brahmaputra)** — statement 2 is wrong. Rangit is a tributary.
- **Q2 (b):** The methane blast occurred in the head race tunnel of **NHPC's Teesta Stage-VI project** at Samardung, Namchi district.
- **Q3 (b):** The HRT conveys water from the intake to the turbines; the discharge tunnel is the tail race tunnel.
- **Q4 (d):** All four are correct — NITI Aayog platform; ID mandatory for government grants, bank accounts (PMLA Rules 2023), FCRA and 80G.
- **Q5 (b):** The thresholds are alternative, not cumulative — **any one** of net worth ₹500 cr / turnover ₹1,000 cr / net profit ₹5 cr triggers Section 135.
- **Q6 (c):** The spend is 2% of the **average net profits of the three immediately preceding financial years**.
- **Q7 (b):** UNFPA is **not** funded from the UN regular budget — it runs entirely on voluntary contributions; statements 1 and 3 are correct.
- **Q8 (b):** The three zeros: unmet family-planning need, preventable maternal deaths, gender-based violence/harmful practices. "Zero population growth" is not a UNFPA goal.
- **Q9 (b):** The decline was **only among male students** (–2.2%); female enrolment rose 1.8%. Tamil Nadu added ~1.6 lakh, the highest increase.
- **Q10 (c):** The Bihar SIR judgment barred use of SIR outcomes for any purpose other than determining voting rights; welfare and caste-certificate linkage is impermissible.

One-Line Revision Snapshot

- Teesta-VI (NHPC, Namchi) methane blast · Teesta → Jamuna since 1787 · ₹1.18 lakh crore domestic giving = 5× foreign · CSR: Sec 135, any-one threshold, 2% of 3-yr avg profit · SIR outcomes = voting only · TFR 2.0, 255 mn youth · First-ever UG enrolment decline (male-only, –2.2%).