

CURRENTLY - FROM NEWS TO NOTES

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**The Hindu & The Indian express**

-----

Headline	Source
Who decides nominations to UT Assemblies?	The Hindu Page: 10
The path to ending global hunger runs through India	The Hindu (Editorial) Page: 8



Headline	Source
How should toll collection practices be reformed?	The Hindu Page: 10
Unemployment rate declines to 5.2% in July: govt. survey	The Hindu Page: 6
Indian astronaut to land on moon in 2040: Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha	The Hindu Page: 5



## Who decides nominations to UT Assemblies?

How should members be recommended to the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly? What does the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 state with respect to nominations to the Puducherry Assembly? What was the 'triple chain of command' opined by the Supreme Court in 2023?

### EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

The Union Home Ministry, in its affidavit before the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, has submitted that the power of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly of J&K can be exercised by him without the aid and advice of its Council of Ministers.

What does the Constitution state?

The Indian Constitution provides for nominated members in the houses of Parliament and State legislature. The provision for nominating two Anglo-Indian members to the Lok Sabha and one Anglo-Indian member to State Legislative Assemblies was discontinued in 2020. The Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members. These members are nominated by the President on the aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers. In the six States with Legislative Councils, nearly one-sixth of the members are nominated. These members are nominated by the Governors on the advice of the States' Council of Ministers.

What about Union Territories?

The composition of the Legislative Assemblies of three Union Territories (UT) are governed by acts of Parliament. Section 3 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 provides for 70 elected members in the Delhi Assembly. There are no nominated MLAs in the Delhi Assembly. Section 3 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 provides for 30 elected members in the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry. It also provides that the Union government may nominate up to three members to the Puducherry Assembly.

Section 14 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 (as amended in 2023) provides for a total of 90 elected seats in the



**Different metrics:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during the Budget session of the J&K Assembly, in Jammu on March 7. ANI

Legislative Assembly of J&K.

In addition, Sections 15, 15A and 15B provide that the LG may nominate a total of up to five members – two women, two Kashmiri migrants and one displaced person from Pakistan occupied Kashmir – to the J&K Assembly.

What have courts ruled?

The procedure for nomination of members to the Puducherry Assembly came up before the Madras High Court in the *K. Lakshminarayanan versus Union of India* (2018) case. The court upheld the power of the Union government to nominate three members to the Assembly and that it need not be based on the advice of the UT's Council of Ministers.

ensures democratic accountability. In this 'triple chain of command' opined by the court, civil servants are accountable to ministers; ministers are accountable to the legislature; and the legislature is accountable to the electorate. It therefore held that the LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in all matters except where the Delhi Assembly does not have legislative powers. While this case was related to the appointment of officers to services in the Delhi government, the rationale in this judgment may hold good for nomination of members to the Assembly as well.

What should be done?

A UT does not enjoy the same status of a full-fledged State in our federal set up. However, UTs with Assemblies have their own elected governments that is accountable to its population. The nomination of MLAs does not create any issue when the same party is in power at the Centre and the Union Territory. However, political differences between the Union government and a UT government should not derail the democratic process in the UTs. In smaller assemblies like that of J&K and Puducherry, these nominated MLAs can have the potential of converting a majority government into a minority one and vice versa, thereby rupturing popular mandates.

J&K is a case *sui generis* for it was a State till 2019 with even more autonomy than other States. While the conversion of J&K into a UT has been upheld by the Supreme Court, the Union government has informed the court that it would restore statehood to J&K at the earliest. Considering these factors, it is appropriate that the nomination of five members to the J&K Assembly is made by the LG based on the advice of its Council of Ministers. This would uphold the democratic principle.

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

### THE GIST

The Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members. These members are nominated by the President on the aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers.

The composition of the Legislative Assemblies of three Union Territories (UT) are governed by acts of Parliament.

In the *Government of NCT of Delhi versus Union of India* (2023) case, the Supreme Court had delved into the concept of 'triple chain of command' that ensures democratic accountability.

Who decides nominations to UT Assemblies?

Subject: GS2 – Polity

### Context

The Union Home Ministry, in its affidavit before the J&K and Ladakh High Court, argued that the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir can nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly without aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

### Indian Constitution – Nominated Members

- Lok Sabha: Earlier, 2 Anglo-Indians could be nominated (Article 331) → Discontinued in 2020.
- Rajya Sabha: 12 members nominated by President (Article 80) on aid & advice of Union Council of Ministers.
- State Legislative Councils: 1/6th nominated by Governor (Article 171), on advice of State's Council of Ministers.



Call For More Info

8377072252



2nd Floor, 32-B, Pusa Road Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122 Block 11 Old Rajinder Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110005



understand.upsc



UnderStandUPSC.com



UnderStand UPSC



UnderStand UPSC



## **Statutory Provisions for Nominated Members in UTs**

### **1. Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991**

- Provides for the legislative setup of Delhi.
- No provision for nominated MLAs.

### **2. Government of Union Territories Act, 1963**

- **Section 3:** Provides for elected+ nominated members in UT Assemblies.

### **3. J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**

- **Section 14:** Provides for 90 elected members in J&K Legislative Assembly.
- **Sections 15, 15A & 15B:** LG empowered to nominate 5 members, including 2 women, 2 from Kashmiri migrant community, and 1 from displaced persons of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- **Current dispute:** Whether LG can act independently or only on aid & advice of Council of Ministers.



## The path to ending global hunger runs through India

**W**ith global chronic undernourishment now on a downward trend, the world is beginning to turn a corner in its fight against hunger. The United Nations' newly released The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 reports that 673 million people (8.2% of the world's population) were undernourished in 2024. This is down from 688 million in 2023. Although we have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels (7.3% in 2018), this reversal marks a welcome shift from the sharp rise experienced during COVID-19.

India has played a decisive role in this global progress. The gains are the result of policy investments in food security and nutrition, increasingly driven by digital technology, smarter governance, and improved service delivery.

Revised estimates using the latest National Sample Survey data on household consumption show that the prevalence of undernourishment in India declined from 14.3% in 2020-22 to 12% in 2022-24. In absolute terms, this means 30 million fewer people living with hunger – an impressive achievement considering the scale of the population and the depth of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### The transformation of the PDS

At the centre of this progress is India's Public Distribution System, which has undergone a profound transformation. The system has been revitalised through digitalisation, Aadhaar-enabled targeting, real-time inventory tracking, and biometric authentication. The rollout of electronic point-of-sale systems and the One Nation One Ration Card platform have made entitlements portable across the country, which is particularly crucial for internal migrants and vulnerable households.



**Maximo Torero Cullen**

is Chief Economist, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

India's decisive role in the the world's fight against hunger is a result of its policy investments in food security and nutrition

These innovations allowed India to rapidly scale up food support during the pandemic and to continue to ensure access to subsidised staples for more than 800 million people.

Now, progress on calories must give way to progress on nutrition. The cost of a healthy diet in India remains unaffordable for over 60% of the population, driven by high prices of nutrient-dense foods, inadequate cold chains, and inefficient market linkages. That said, India has begun investing in improving the quality of calories. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) school-feeding scheme, launched in 2021, and the Integrated Child Development Services are now focusing on dietary diversity and nutrition sensitivity, laying the foundation for long-term improvements in child development and public health.

New data in the UN report also shows progress the country has made in making healthy diets more affordable despite food inflation.

What is happening underscores a larger structural challenge: even as hunger falls, malnutrition, obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies are rising. This is especially so among poor urban and rural populations.

### The agrifood system needs transformation

India can meet this challenge by transforming its agrifood system. This means boosting the production and the affordability of nutrient-rich foods such as pulses, fruits, vegetables, and animal-source products, which are often out of reach for low-income families. It also means investing in post-harvest infrastructure such as cold storage and digital logistics systems, to reduce the estimated 13% of food lost between farm and market. These losses directly affect food

availability and affordability.

In addition, India should further strengthen support for women-led food enterprises and local cooperatives, including Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), especially those cultivating climate-resilient crops, as these can enhance both nutrition and livelihoods.

India must continue to invest in its digital advantage to drive the transformation of its agrifood systems. Platforms such as AgriStack, e-NAM, and geospatial data tools can strengthen market access, improve agricultural planning, and enhance the delivery of nutrition-sensitive interventions.

### A symbol of hope

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) notes that the progress of India in agrifood system transformation is not just national imperatives; they are global contributions. As a leader among developing countries, India is well-positioned to share its innovations in digital governance, social protection, and data-driven agriculture with others across the Global South. India's experience shows that reducing hunger is not only possible but that it can be scaled when backed by political will, smart investment, and inclusion.

With just five years left to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) on ending hunger, India's recent performance gives this writer hope. But sustaining this momentum will require a shift from delivering sustenance to delivering nutrition, resilience, and opportunity.

The hunger clock is ticking. India is no longer just feeding itself. The path to ending global hunger runs through India, and its continued leadership is essential to getting us there.

The path to ending global hunger runs through India

Source: The Hindu (Editorial) | Page 8

Subject: GS2 – Social Issues

### Context

The UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 report shows global undernourishment declining, with India playing a decisive role through food security reforms, PDS transformation, and nutrition programmes, though challenges of affordability and malnutrition persist.

### Data

#### Global Undernourishment:

- 2024 – 673 million people (8.2% of world's population).
- 2023 – 688 million people.
- Pre-pandemic (2018) – 7.3% (not yet achieved).



Call For More Info  
**8377072252**



2nd Floor, 32-B, Pusa Road Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122 Block 11 Old Rajinder Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110005



understand.upsc



UnderStandUPSC.com



UnderStand UPSC



UnderStand UPSC



### India's Undernourishment:

- Declined from 14.3% (2020–22) to 12% (2022–24).
- 30 million fewer people hungry.

### Public Distribution System (PDS):

- Benefiting 800+ million people.
- Revamped via digitisation, Aadhaar-targeting, real-time inventory, biometric authentication.
- One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) ensures portability across states.

### Nutrition Challenges:

- 60% of population cannot afford healthy diet.
- Causes: high nutrient-dense food prices, weak cold chains, poor market linkages.

### Government Schemes:

- PM POSHAN (2021) – school feeding scheme.
- ICDS – focus on dietary diversity & nutrition sensitivity.

### Food System Gaps:

- 13% food lost between farm and market.
- Need for investment in cold storage, logistics, digital solutions.

### Future Path:

- Strengthen FPOs, women-led enterprises.
- Invest in AgriStack, e-NAM, geospatial tools.

### Global Role:

- FAO: India's leadership vital to achieve SDG-2 (Zero Hunger).



UN specialized agency (1945, HQ Rome) with 194 members + EU, works on eradicating hunger, food security, sustainable agriculture; publishes SOFI report.



Foodgrain subsidy system under NFSA 2013, covering ~800M; digitised with Aadhaar, ePOS; roots in 1940s rationing, TPDS launched 1997.



Started 2019, ensures ration portability nationwide; fully implemented by 2022; major boost for migrants' food security.



Launched 2021 replacing Mid-Day Meal; provides cooked meals to schoolchildren (I–VIII); emphasises nutrition diversity, fortified foods, local produce, women SHGs.

**“India's recent progress in reducing undernourishment has global significance, yet structural challenges in nutrition and food systems persist.” Discuss. (150 words, 10 Marks)**



# How should toll collection practices be reformed?

What has the **Public Accounts Committee of Parliament** recommended? What was said about **FASTags**?

**Jagriti Chandra**

**The story so far:**

**T**he Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has recommended significant reforms to toll collection practices on national highways, such as calling for an end to the perpetual tolling system. The report was submitted before Parliament on August 12.

**What are the key recommendations?**

The PAC headed by Congress MP K.C.Venugopal has advocated for **discontinuing or significantly reducing toll charges on national highways once the capital expenditure and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered.** The Committee expressed concern that **current toll practices allow for indefinite collection regardless of road quality, traffic volume, or user affordability, creating what it termed a “regime of**

**perpetual tolling”.** The panel emphasised that any continuation of toll collection beyond cost recovery should only be permitted with clear justification and approval from a proposed independent oversight authority. It proposed **establishing a specialised regulatory authority to ensure transparency and fairness in toll determination, collection, and regulation.** The PAC noted that while toll rates currently increase annually by a fixed 3% increment plus partial indexation to the Wholesale Price Index, there exists no institutional mechanism to independently evaluate whether these charges are justified relative to actual operational and maintenance costs or future service requirements. The panel has also insisted that highway users should receive toll reimbursements when construction is in progress and commuters cannot properly utilise the roadways. Regarding FASTags, the panel observed that despite their extensive

**implementation, traffic bottlenecks persist on NHs due to malfunctioning scanner readings at collection points, and suggested establishing on-location services for motorists to top up, buy, or exchange FASTags.**

**How is toll determined?**

Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 empowers the Government to levy fees for services or benefits rendered on national highways while Section 9 empowers the Union government to make rules in this regard. Accordingly, the policy for the collection of user fee is formulated and governed by the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. The levy of user fee is based on the base rates fixed under the NH Fee Rules across the country and is not related to the cost of construction or its recovery.

**The rates of fees have been increasing by 3% each year from April 1, 2008. In**

**order to cover the impact of variable cost of operation and maintenance, 40% of annual increase of WPI is provided.** The fee is to be collected by the Union government if a highway is publicly funded or by the concessionaire if it follows any of these models – Build Operate Transfer (BoT), Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) or developed under Infrastructure Investment Trust.

An amendment in 2008 allowed user fees to be collected in perpetuity. So, if the concession period is over, the highway is handed over to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the toll collected will go directly to the Consolidated Fund of India. The toll collection has gone up from ₹1,046 crore in 2005-06 to ₹55,000 crore in the financial year 2023-24. Of this ₹25,000 crore will go to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the remaining to the concessionaire toll plaza.

**How has the Ministry responded?**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledged the Committee's concerns and informed the PAC that it has initiated a comprehensive study with NITI Aayog to revise the user fee determination framework. Ministry representatives indicated that the study's scope has been finalised and will cover parameters such as vehicle operating cost, damage to the highway due to vehicle use as well as user's willingness to pay.

## THE GIST

The PAC headed by Congress MP K. C. Venugopal has advocated for discontinuing or significantly reducing toll charges on national highways once the capital expenditure and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered.

The rates of fees have been increasing by 3% each year from April 1, 2008.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledged the Committee's concerns and informed the PAC that it has initiated a comprehensive study with NITI Aayog to revise the user fee determination framework.



Call For More Info  
**8377072252**



2nd Floor, 32-B, Pusa Road Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122 Block 11 Old Rajinder Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110005



understand.upsc



UnderStandUPSC.com



UnderStand UPSC



UnderStand UPSC



## How should toll collection practices be reformed?

**Subject: GS3 – Economy**

### Context

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has recommended ending perpetual tolling on highways, stressing that toll charges should stop once capital and maintenance costs are recovered. It highlighted fairness, transparency, and reforms in toll collection under the National Highways Act.

### Key Information

#### PAC Recommendations:

- Discontinue or reduce toll charges once project costs (capital + maintenance) are recovered.

- Perpetual tolling should be allowed only with justification and regulatory oversight.
- Called for independent regulatory authority to ensure fairness in toll collection.

**Concern:** current toll system allows indefinite collection regardless of road quality, traffic volume, or affordability → termed “regime of perpetual tolling.”

#### FASTag Issues:

- Malfunctioning scanners cause traffic bottlenecks.
- Recommended on-location services to top up, buy, or exchange FASTags.

#### Law Governing Tolling:

Section 7, National Highways Act, 1956 → Empowers Government to levy fees for services/benefits on national highways.

**19th AUG, 2025**

Section 9 → Union Government to make rules on toll collection.

- Toll policy governed by National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

**Fee hike mechanism:** 3% annual increase + WPI-based partial indexation (since April 1, 2008).

#### Toll Collection Trends:

- Collection rose from ₹1,046 crore (2005–06) → ₹55,000 crore (2023–24).
- Out of this, ₹25,000 crore goes to Consolidated Fund of India; balance goes to concessionaire/operator.

#### Ministry's Response:

- MoRTH accepted PAC's concerns.
- Commissioned study with NITI Aayog to revise user fee framework.



## Related Concepts

### 1. Related Concepts

- Established 1921 (under Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms).
- Composition: 22 members (15 Lok Sabha, 7 Rajya Sabha).
- Chairperson: From Opposition (by convention).
- Function: Examines CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) reports, scrutinises govt expenditure, checks if money is spent as approved by Parliament.
- Acts as Parliament's financial watchdog.

### 2. FASTag

- Launched by NHAI (National Highways Authority of India).
- Uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology → a small tag affixed on vehicle's windscreen.

### • How it works:

- RFID scanners at toll plazas automatically detect tag.
- Linked to prepaid wallet/bank account → toll deducted automatically.
- Enables Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) → reduces congestion, ensures transparency.
- Made mandatory from Feb 2021 across India.

### 3. BOT Model (Build–Operate–Transfer)

- A PPP (Public–Private Partnership) model.
- Private entity builds infrastructure → operates for a fixed concession period → collects toll revenue → transfers asset to government after period ends.

### 4. TOT Model (Toll–Operate–Transfer)

- Govt builds highway, then auctions rights to collect tolls to private players for upfront lump–sum payment.
- Private firm operates and collects tolls for concession period.
- Helps govt monetise brownfield assets.

### 5. Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)

- Regulated by SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India).
- Acts like a mutual fund for infrastructure.
- Pools money from investors → invests in completed infrastructure projects (e.g., highways, power transmission).
- Investors earn returns from project revenues (like tolls).
- Used by NHAI to fund highway projects, reduce fiscal burden.



## Unemployment rate declines to 5.2% in July: govt. survey

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The rate of unemployment in the country declined to 5.2% in July from 5.6% in June, shows the Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women showed a marginal increase to 25.5% in July from 24.5% in June. The LFPR for men stood at 57.4%, while for all persons, it was 41.4%.

The LFPR for men aged 15 and above in rural areas was 78.1% and for women, it was 36.9%. "In urban areas, the LFPR among females of age 15 years and above during July was 25.8% compared with 75.1% observed for males of the same age group," the survey noted.



The number of persons covered by the survey was 3,79,222 (2,16,832 in rural areas and 1,62,390 in urban areas). FILE PHOTO

The unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged 15 and above stood at 5.2%. In rural areas, it was 4.4% and 7.2% in urban areas. For women in rural areas, the UR was 3.9%. For men, it was 4.6%. For women in urban areas, the UR was 8.7% compared with 6.6% among men.

The Worker Population Ratio (WPR), which defines the proportion of those who are employed among the total population, in ru-

ral areas for persons aged 15 and above was 54.4%. In June it was 53.3%. The WPR in urban areas was 47% and at the national level, it was 52%, 0.8 percentage points higher than June.

The Labour Bureau surveyed 89,505 (49,355 in rural areas and 40,150 in urban areas) households and the number of persons surveyed was 3,79,222 (2,16,832 in rural areas and 1,62,390 in urban areas).

Unemployment rate declines to 5.2% in July: govt. survey

GS Paper 3 – Economy

Context

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's unemployment rate declined to 5.2% in July from 5.6% in June. The survey also highlights labour force participation and worker population ratios, with specific gender-based trends.

Key Terms

**Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):**

- Conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Provides reliable estimates of key labour market indicators:
  - Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
  - Worker Population Ratio (WPR)
  - Unemployment Rate (UR)

**Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):**

- The percentage of the population (aged 15 years and above) that is either working (employed) or actively looking for work (unemployed but seeking jobs).
- Reflects the extent of people's participation in the labour market.



Call For More Info  
**8377072252**



2nd Floor, 32-B, Pusa Road Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122 Block 11 Old Rajinder Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110005



understand.upsc



UnderStandUPSC.com



UnderStand UPSC



UnderStand UPSC



**Worker Population Ratio (WPR):**

- The percentage of the population (aged 15 years and above) that is either working (employed) or actively looking for work (unemployed but seeking jobs).
- Reflects the extent of people's participation in the labour market.

**Unemployment Rate (UR):**

- The percentage of people in the labour force who are willing to work, actively seeking employment, but unable to find jobs.





# Indian astronaut to land on moon in 2040: Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

An Indian astronaut will herald “Viksit Bharat” by landing on the moon in 2040, Union Minister Jitendra Singh informed the Lok Sabha on Monday as the House took up the discussion on astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla being the first Indian to visit the International Space Station.

Initiating the discussion on the critical role of the space programme for Viksit Bharat by 2047, Mr. Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook space sector reforms after assuming office in 2014.

### Future initiatives

Mr. Singh said that after opening up the space sector for private players in 2020, India's space economy had already reached \$8



**In chaos:** Opposition members protesting in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of the Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

billion and would touch \$45 billion in the next decade.

Mr. Singh said India would undertake an uncrewed space mission involving a robot, Vyommitra, in 2026, followed by its maiden human spaceflight – Gaganyaan – in 2027.

“India will set up its own Bharat Antariksh Station in 2035 and in 2040, an Indian astronaut will set foot on the moon,” he added.

### Inconclusive discussion

The discussion remained inconclusive as the House had to be adjourned be-

cause of persistent sloganeering by the Opposition members over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

As soon as the proceedings of the Lower House started at 11 a.m., the Opposition members were on their feet, raising slogans and showing placards with their demand for a discussion on the SIR.

Initially, Speaker Om Birla tried to continue the business of the House – Question Hour – by allowing members to ask six questions related to several Union Ministries and departments amid the din. After 15 minutes, he adjourned the House till 12 p.m. When the House reassembled, the Opposition members trooped into the well with slogans like “Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod” (vote thief, vacate the seat).

Indian astronaut to land on moon in 2040: Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha

GS Paper 3 – Science & Technology

### Context:

Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced in Lok Sabha that India plans a manned lunar mission by 2040, marking a milestone in the “Viksit Bharat” vision. He also highlighted India's growing space economy, astronaut achievements, and upcoming missions including human spaceflight and indigenous space station.

### India's Upcoming Missions

1. An uncrewed space mission involving a humanoid robot involving a robot Vyomitra in 2026.
2. Gaganyaan (2027) – India's first human spaceflight mission.
3. Bharat Antariksh Station (2035) – India's own space station.
4. Manned Moon Mission (2040) – Indian astronaut to land on the moon.

### Space Economy Data

- India's space economy had already reached USD 8 billion.
- Projected to touch USD 45 billion in the next decade.



Call For More Info

**8377072252**



2nd Floor, 32-B, Pusa Road Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122 Block 11 Old Rajinder Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi, 110005



understand.upsc



UnderStandUPSC.com



UnderStand UPSC



UnderStand UPSC



# DAILY MCQs FOR PRACTICE

**Q1. With reference to the nomination of members in legislatures, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 80 empowers the President to nominate members to the Rajya Sabha.
2. Under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Central Government can nominate up to 3 members to the Puducherry Assembly.
3. Delhi Legislative Assembly has a provision for nominated members under the Government of NCT Act, 1991.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

**Q2. India's role in reducing global hunger has been highlighted in recent reports. Which of the following initiatives directly contribute to ensuring food security and nutrition in India?**

1. Public Distribution System (PDS)
2. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)
3. PM-POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal Scheme)
4. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Q3. In India's road sector reforms, which of the following is/are correctly matched with its description?**

1. BOT Model – Private player builds, operates, and transfers the project back after concession period.
2. TOT Model – Existing highways are given to private concessionaires for upfront payment and maintenance.
3. Infrastructure Investment Fund – A government-managed pool to channel investments into infra projects.

Choose the correct option:

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



## DAILY MCQs FOR PRACTICE

**Q4. Which of the following correctly defines Worker Population Ratio (WPR)?**

- (a) Percentage of workers in the labour force.
- (b) Percentage of employed persons in the total working-age population.
- (c) Ratio of unemployed persons to the total labour force.
- (d) Percentage of population engaged in non-agricultural employment only.

**Q5. With reference to India's space economy and upcoming missions, consider the following statements:**

1. India's space economy is currently estimated at around USD 8 billion and is projected to grow to USD 45 billion by the next decade.
2. The Gaganyaan mission will be India's first human spaceflight programme, scheduled for launch in 2027.
3. Vyommitra is a humanoid being developed for an unmanned mission before the crewed Gaganyaan flight.

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

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

**Answers**

- 1 – (a)
- 2 – (d)
- 3 – (d)
- 4 – (b)
- 5 – (d)