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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

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Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President of India

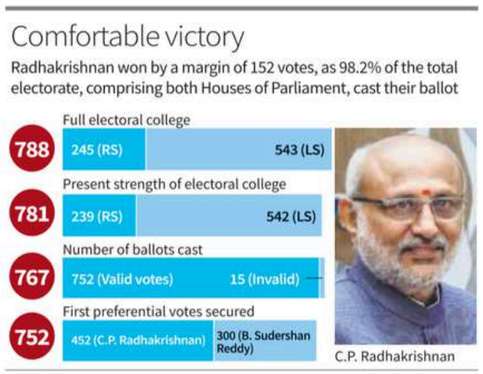
The NDA candidate got 452 first preferential votes against the Opposition's joint candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy who got 300 votes; while 14 MPs abstained, 15 votes were found to be invalid

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected the 17th Vice-President of India on Tuesday by a margin of 152 votes. The Opposition fell short of its own expected tally, even as 98.2% of the total electorate cast their ballot.

Mr. Radhakrishnan – the ruling National Democratic Alliance's nominee – got 452 first preferential votes against the joint Opposition candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, who got 300 votes. Fifteen votes were found to be invalid and 14 MPs abstained.

Including the strength of both Houses, the full electoral college comprises 788 electors. With six vacancies in the Rajya Sabha and one in the Lok Sabha, this tally was reduced to 781 for the election.



C.P. Radhakrishnan

Cross-voting

Out of this, 767 electors cast their vote before the polling closed at 5 p.m. Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P.C. Mody, the Returning Officer for the election, announced the results.

Though the Opposition declared the final count a "moral victory", it still fell short of its own estimated strength of 324, despite having managed to get nearly all of its members to vote. On the other hand, the NDA and others aligned with the government, which had an presumed strength of 439, seem to have managed an additional 13 votes, indicating cross-voting from the Opposition's ranks.

"Congratulations to Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji on winning the 2025 Vice Presidential election. His life has always been devoted to serving society and empowering the poor and marginalised. I am confident that he will be an outstanding VP, who will strengthen our Constitutional values and enhance Parliamentary discourse," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

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Radhakrishnan elected Vice-President of India

The Hindu, Page No. 1, GS2 (Polity)

Context

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected as the 17th Vice-President of India with 452 first preferential votes against the Opposition's candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, who secured 300 votes. The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College comprising both Houses of Parliament and also serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Articles of the Indian Constitution related to the Vice-President of India

- **Article 63 – The Vice-President of India.**
- **Article 64 – Vice-President to be the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.**
- **Article 65 – Vice-President to act as President or discharge functions during casual vacancies or absence of the President.**
- **Article 66 – Election of the Vice-President.**

- **Article 67 – Term of office of Vice-President.**
- **Article 68 – Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of Vice-President and the term of office of the person elected.**
- **Article 69 – Oath or affirmation by the Vice-President.**
- **Article 70 – Discharge of President's functions in other contingencies.**
- **Article 71 – Matters relating to or connected with the election of a President or Vice-President.**

1

Consider the following statements :

1. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha are not the members of that House.

2. While the nominated members of the two Houses of the Parliament have no voting right in the presidential election, they have the right to vote in the election of the Vice President.

PYQ 2013

Ethiopia inaugurates Africa's biggest dam despite protest from downstream Egypt

Agence France-Presse
GUBA

Ethiopia inaugurated the continent's largest hydroelectric project on Tuesday in what Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called a "great achievement for all black people", but it drew a protest to the United Nations from downstream nation Egypt. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), straddling a tributary of the River Nile, is a rare unifying symbol in a country torn apart by internal conflicts.

Towering 170 m and stretching nearly 2 km across the Blue Nile near the Sudanese border, construction on the dam began in 2011. The $4-billion megastructure is designed to hold 74 billion cubic metres of water and generate 5,150 megawatts of electricity. That makes it the largest dam by power capacity in Africa.

Africa's pride: Abiy Ahmed at the inauguration ceremony of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in Guba on Tuesday. AFP

"GERD will be remembered as a great achievement not only for Ethiopia, but for all black people," Mr. Abiy said at the opening ceremony, attended by regional leaders including Kenyan President William Ruto and Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

But Egypt, dependent on the Nile for 97% of its water, has long decried the project, with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi calling it an "existential threat" to its water security. In a letter to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, Egypt described the inauguration as a "unilateral measure that violates international law" .

Ethiopia inaugurates Africa's biggest dam despite protest from downstream Egypt

The Hindu, Page no. 14, Places in News

Context

Ethiopia inaugurated the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile, hailing it as Africa's largest hydroelectric project. However, Egypt, which depends on the Nile for 97% of its water, termed the dam an existential threat and raised the issue at the UN.

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

Location: On the Blue Nile, near Sudan border.
Started: 2011.
Height & span: 170 m tall, ~2 km wide.
Capacity: Reservoir holds 74 billion cubic metres.
Power generation: 5,150 MW → largest in Africa by installed capacity.

10th SEPT, 2025

Nile River

Length: ~6,650 km → world's longest river (disputed with Amazon).

Main tributaries:

- **White Nile – from Lake Victoria (Uganda).**
- **Blue Nile – from Lake Tana (Ethiopia), contributes ~80% of Nile's waters.**

Countries in basin: 11 (Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, DR Congo, Eritrea – by basin).

Importance

- **Egypt relies on Nile for 97% of freshwater.**
- **Crucial for irrigation, drinking water, navigation, and power.**

Conflict:

- **Egypt cites "historic rights" under colonial-era treaties.**
- **Ethiopia rejects those treaties as unfair and asserts right to development.**

2

Which one of the following is a part of the Congo Basin?

(a) Cameroon

(b) Nigeria

(c) South Sudan

(d) Uganda

PYQ 2023

China digs in on 'rare earth', commands global market

China is world's largest producer of rare earths, contributing over 60% of global production

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Last month, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology introduced interim measures to tighten controls on 'rare earth' mining and processing. The rules are the latest in Beijing's efforts to centralise oversight of extraction, exports, and refining.

While China's trading partners such as India and the U.S. are seeking alternative sources to reduce dependency, data shows that China's dominance in rare earths stems not only from resource availability but more so from its long-standing strength in mining and research capacity.

Rare earth elements (REEs), despite the name, are not particularly scarce. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), they comprise 17 metals, typically grouped into light rare earths (LREEs) – including lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, samarium and europium – and heavy rare earths (HREEs) such as gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium, scandium and yttrium. Promethium is not included in the list as it is radioactive and does not occur in mineable quantities.

They are critical components in clean energy technologies such as electric vehicles and wind turbines, as well as in defence applications. Rare earths are also essential for high-tech devices including smartphones and hard drives.

Although rare earth deposits exist in countries such as Brazil, Australia, and India, China holds nearly half of global reserves **(Chart 1)**. It is also the world's largest producer, contributing over 60% of global production in the last five years **(Chart 2)**. Beyond extraction, China dominates the value chain with around 92% of global refining capacity, according to the IEA. Moreover, in the last five years, China has been the largest exporter, supplying close to 30% of global demand **(Chart 3)**.

Charts 1, 2 and **3** establish China's dominance across reserves, production, and exports.

In April, amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions, Beijing imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements. The move targeted elements used in neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets – essential for clean energy technologies – as well as those critical to ceramics, phosphors, steel, optical glass, fibres, and aerospace applications **(Chart 4)**.

China's decision to curb rare earth exports, amid tit-for-tat tariffs, dealt a significant blow to the U.S., which remains heavily dependent on Chinese supply. The U.S. is the second-largest importer of Chinese rare earths, after Japan **(Chart 5)**. India, too, is heavily dependent on China for its rare earth imports. Since 2021, more than 75% have come from China.

Under China's interim measures announced last month, Chinese companies must now operate within government-set quotas for various minerals and obtain approval to trade in rare earths. This is not the first time China has tightened its rare earth trade. It has already prohibited export of tools and methods used to extract and separate rare earths, and in December 2023, it banned the export of processing technology.

China's monopoly over rare earths is also reinforced by its strong research base. A study found that China leads the field of rare-earth research, contributing nearly 30% of all published papers. The U.S. and Japan followed with shares of 10% or less, while India accounted for about 6%.

In parallel, China has increased funding for mineral exploration, allocating about $14 billion annually since 2022, according to the IEA. The agency notes that this marks the highest three-year stretch of investment in the past decade.

Tightening its grip

The data for the charts were sourced from the U.S. Geological Survey, UN COMTRADE, the International Energy Agency, AP and Reuters

Chart 1: Country-wise share (in %) of global reserves of rare earths (as per U.S. Geological Survey 2025)

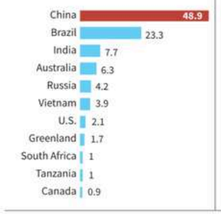


Chart 2: Country-wise share of estimated global mine production of rare earths in the last five years

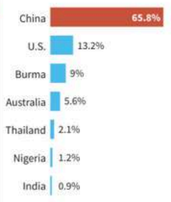


Chart 4: Sector-wise demand for rare earth elements under export controls announced by China in April

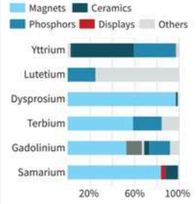


Chart 3: Major exporters of rare earth. Figures in % shows their share in global exports

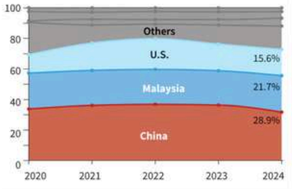
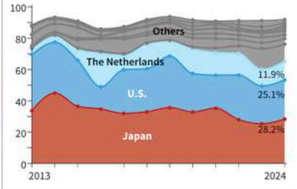


Chart 5: Major importers of China's rare earth. Figures in % shows their share in China's exports



China digs in on 'rare earth', commands global market

Source: The Hindu, Page 7

GS Paper: GS3 – Economy, Resources, Science & Technology

Context

China, the world's largest producer of rare earth elements (REEs), has tightened rules on mining and processing of rare earths. These minerals are vital for clean energy technologies, defense, electronics, and strategic industries. The move shows China's effort to strengthen its grip on global supply chains and highlights other countries' dependence on China for these critical minerals.

Data for Prelims

- **Global Reserves (%) – China (48.9%), Brazil (23.3%), India (7.7%) dominate.**
- **Mine Production (%) – China (65.8%), U.S. (13.2%), Myanmar (9%).**
- **. Major Exporters (%) – China (28.9%), Malaysia (21.7%), U.S. (15.6%).**
- **Sector-wise Demand (%) – Magnets, Ceramics, Phosphors, Displays.**
- **Major Importers of China's Exports (%) – Japan (28.2%), U.S. (25.1%), Netherlands (11.9%).**

3

Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of a group of elements called 'rare earth metals'. Why?

1. China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.
2. Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile, these elements are not found in any country.
3. Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

PYQ 2012

4

Consider the following statements :

1. The Global Ocean Commission grants licences for seabed exploration and mining in international waters.
2. India has received licences for seabed mineral exploration in international waters.
3. 'Rare earth minerals' are present on seafloor in international waters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

PYQ 2021

Centre grants licences to five firms to manufacture its first indigenous malaria vaccine

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has given licences to five firms for manufacturing and commercialisation of its first indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and its partners.

Indian Immunologicals Ltd., Techinvention Lifecare Private Ltd., Panacea Biotec Ltd., Biological E Ltd., and Zydus Lifesciences will make the vaccine targeting the parasite before it enters the bloodstream to prevent transmission.

The council said it was an affordable, stable, and scalable solution. It remains effective for more than nine months at room temperature, it said.

The ICMR-developed vaccine targets the parasite before it enters the bloodstream.

The ICMR had invited expression of interest from eligible organisations, companies, and manufacturers for transfer of technology for commercialisation of "a recombinant chimeric multi-stage malaria vaccine (AdFalciVax) against *Plasmodium falciparum* useful in preventing infection in humans and minimising community transmission".

The goal is to facilitate the commercialisation of the vaccine to prevent and minimise malaria transmission.

"The pre-clinical validation of this technology was conducted in collaboration with ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, another constituent institute of ICMR, and National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, an autonomous research institute of the Department of Biotechnology," the council said.

Malaria remains one of the major public health problems in India. The country carries 1.4% of the global malaria case burden, and accounted for 66% of cases in the Southeast Asia region.

Centre grants licences to five firms to manufacture its first indigenous malaria vaccine

Source – The Hindu Page No. – 12

GS Paper – GS3 (Science and Technology)

Context

- **Union government has licensed five firms to manufacture and commercialise India's first indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine developed by ICMR and partners.**
- **The vaccine aims to target the malaria parasite before it enters the bloodstream, thus preventing transmission.**
- **India accounts for 1.4% of the global malaria case burden and 66% of cases in Southeast Asia, making this step crucial.**

About Malaria

- **Cause: Malaria is a vector-borne disease caused by Plasmodium parasites (mainly Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax).**
- **Transmission: Spread through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.**
- **Symptoms: High fever, chills, sweating, headaches, anemia.**
- **Reason for spread: Warm and humid climate, stagnant water (mosquito breeding), poor sanitation, inadequate preventive measures.**

Vaccine Type Mentioned

- AdFalciVax – a recombinant chimeric multi-stage malaria vaccine.
- It works against Plasmodium falciparum, remains effective for over 9 months at room temperature, and is affordable, stable, and scalable.

Recombinant Chimeric Multi-stage Malaria Vaccine

1. Recombinant → Made using genetic engineering. Scientists take useful genes from the malaria parasite and put them into another safe system (like bacteria or yeast) to produce proteins that can trigger our immune system.

2. Chimeric → Means it combines different parts (proteins/antigens) from more than one stage of the malaria parasite's life cycle. So it's like a "hybrid" vaccine with multiple protective elements.

3. Multi-stage → Malaria parasite has different stages (sporozoite, liver stage, blood stage). This vaccine works against more than one stage, so it can:

- Stop parasite before entering blood
- Reduce parasite survival if it reaches blood

4. Overall Purpose → To give broader and stronger protection by targeting malaria parasite at different points in its life cycle, reducing both infection and transmission.

5

With reference to recent developments regarding 'Recombinant Vector Vaccines', consider the following statements :

1. Genetic engineering is applied in the development of these vaccines.
2. Bacteria and viruses are used as vectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

PYQ 2021

Poor NARI ranking exposes women safety gaps in Delhi

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Thirteen years after the 2012 bus gang rape and murder shocked the nation, women in Delhi continue to face glaring safety gaps in everyday public life.

From poorly lit streets and unsafe transport to the lack of secure public spaces and limited emergency services, the concerns remain stark, according to the National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025.

The survey, launched by the National Commission for Women (NCW) last month, covered 12,770 women across 31 cities.

Delhi ranked 28th on the women's safety index, placing it among the worst-performing cities, ahead only of Kolkata, Srinagar, and Ranchi.

Over 30% of women in Delhi said women-friendly infrastructure was either minimal or non-existent. FILE PHOTO

According to the report, 31% of women in Delhi said women-friendly infrastructure was either "minimal" or "non-existent".

'Serious concern'

Nationally, the figure stood at 23%. "This ranking is a serious cause for concern, particularly because Delhi, as the national capital, should ideally set the benchmark for women's safety across Bharat," the report said.

In Delhi, 41% of women said deserted spaces made them feel unsafe, while unlit areas, high crime rates, and public behaviour were also cited as reasons for fear.

The contrast between daytime and night-time safety was sharp: while 8% felt unsafe during the day, the number jumped to 35% after dark.

The report noted that there is a "concerning disparity" between Delhi and the national average regarding experiences of harassment in public spaces.

The national capital recorded a higher incidence of harassment in public spaces compared with the national average. While 7% of women across the country reported experiencing harassment, in Delhi the figure was 12%.

Repeated harassment

Alarmingly, 61% of Delhi women who reported harassment said they had faced it more than twice, pointing to systemic lapses in deterring repeat offenders. Neighbourhood areas were most frequently cited as sites of harassment (34%), indicating that proximity to home does not guarantee safety. This was followed by transport facilities (32%).

When asked for solutions, 51% of women demanded more policing, while 17% specifically called for timely and proper police action, underscoring frustration with law enforcement.

Cities that ranked higher than the national average included Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Aizawl, Bhubaneswar, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai. Faridabad ranked 27th, just above Delhi. The NARI report, ideated and funded by Pvalue Analytics, was released on August 28 and marks the first such national safety index.

Mains Enrichment

Context

- Despite the 2012 Delhi gang rape case, women's safety in Delhi continues to be a major concern.
- The National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025, launched by the National Commission for Women (NCW), exposes glaring safety gaps in Delhi.
- Delhi ranks among the worst-performing cities in women's safety, raising concerns since the national capital should set benchmarks for the rest of the country.