CURRENTLY - FROM NEWS TO NOTES
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

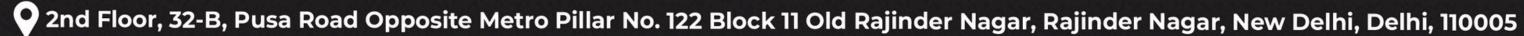| Headline	Source	Theme (GS Paper Linkage)
Why stampedes happen	The Indian Express, Page No.23 (Explained)	GS-3 → Disaster Management
Analysing Indian States' macro-fiscal health	The Hindu, Page No.8	GS-3 → Economy (Public Finance) / GS-2 Federalism

Headline	Source	Theme (GS Paper Linkage)
No ceasefire, Maoists must give up arms, says Shah	The Hindu, Page 10	GS-3 → Internal Security (Left Wing Extremism)
At UNGA week, India signals realignment with the Global Sout	The Hindu, Page 10	GS-2 → International Relations (Global South)
Astrosat, India's first space observatory, completes a decade among the stars	The Hindu, Page 12	GS-3 → Science & Technology / Prelims

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

EXPLAINED | KARUR TRAGEDY

Why stampedes happen

There is a pattern in several of the stampedes that India has seen recently. Delays in rescue efforts because of the crowd size and the inability of first responders to wade in often worsen the death toll

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor Vijay at the gathering before the stampede in Karur on Saturday. TVK/ANI

Why stampedes happen

Source: The Indian Express
Page No.: 23 (Explained)
GS Paper: GS-3 (Disaster Management)

Context:

In Karur, Tamil Nadu, a rally organized by actor and politician Vijay's party (TVK) turned into a tragedy when uncontrolled crowd movement led to a stampede. This is not an isolated case - in the past year, India has witnessed similar deadly incidents at religious gatherings, political rallies, railway stations, and sporting celebrations. These stampedes highlight poor planning, overcrowding, and delayed rescue as common reasons behind such disasters.

Answer Writing Enrichment:

- Use data points: NCRB (3,074 deaths btw 2000- 2022), nearly 4,000 in 3 decades.
- Recent incidents (Karur, Bengaluru, Delhi, Goa) as examples.
- Global cases (Germany 2010, South Korea 2022) for comparative perspective.
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) - preparedness, mitigation, resilience.

Reasons for Stampedes:

1. **Sudden Triggers: A fall, push, or rush leading to panic and crushing.**
2. **Overcrowding: Rallies, religious congregations, railway stations, and sporting events.**
3. **Inadequate Planning: Poor design of entry/exit routes, absence of regulated movement.**
4. **Delayed Rescue Response: Dense crowds hinder access for first responders.**
5. **High-Emotion Gatherings: Celebrity rallies and religious devotion intensify disorder.**
6. **Lack of Enforcement: Weak crowd-cap policies, inadequate policing, and coordination failure.**

Possible Solutions:

1. **Capacity Regulation: Enforce strict limits on crowd numbers based on venue size.**
2. **Design & Flow: Separate entry and exit routes, one-way pedestrian flow, barricades to prevent bottlenecks.**
3. **Technology Use: Real-time monitoring with CCTV, drones, and AI-based density mapping.**
4. **Communication Systems: Public announcements and signage to guide and calm crowds.**
5. **Trained Personnel: Deployment of marshals, volunteers, and police for crowd direction.**
6. **Emergency Preparedness: Quick-access paths, medical stations, ambulances, and mock drills for readiness.**
7. **Regulatory Enforcement: Event organizers made accountable for safety audits and compliance.**

Global best practices

- **Germany (post-2010 Love Parade): Strict crowd-density norms.**
- **South Korea (post-2022 Halloween): Real-time density monitoring, police deployment.**
- **Saudi Arabia (Hajj management): Staggered entry, timed movement.**
- **UK (sports events): All-seater stadiums, emergency exits mandated.**

Analysing Indian States' macro-fiscal health

In the 2010s, States were able to prosper economically through reforms, better tax collection, and booming growth. Some States even reported surpluses. But the pandemic was a turning point — tax revenues shrank while emergency spending soared, pushing almost every State back

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan

When India's national auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), released a decadal analysis on States' macro-fiscal health, one headline somehow travelled faster than anything else highlighted in the study – Uttar Pradesh, long labelled as a backward State lagging in fiscal performance, was said to have recorded a revenue surplus of ₹37,000 crore.

This number, which is more than double of Gujarat's surplus, was hailed as proof that India's most populous State had turned a corner. However, by merely focussing on the number, one missed the bigger picture. Narrowing down on just arithmetic surpluses may be limiting analytical interpretation if not studied more holistically with the form, operational mechanics and choices made for a State's governance.

Economists often urge higher capital spending for growth, while keeping routine costs in check. These numbers decide whether one's neighbourhood hospital has new ventilators; whether a school gets enough teachers; and whether village roads will be repaired this year. India's States run some of the largest budgets in the world – bigger in real terms than many countries. Cumulatively, owing to the constitutional separation of powers, they spend more than the Union government on health and welfare. One must ask though: do States earn enough to pay their bills? Or are they borrowing?

Uneven revenue

In the early 2000s, States were often deep in deficit, spending much more than they earned. Reforms, better tax collection, and booming growth helped many turn the corner by the late 2010s, with a few even reporting surpluses. But the pandemic was a turning point – tax revenues shrank while emergency spending soared, pushing almost every State back. Today, the picture is mixed. While some States appear comfortable, much of their stability rests on volatile sources such as lotteries, mining royalties or land sales.

India's States inhabit starkly different fiscal worlds, much like its diverse ethno-linguistic identities. Maharashtra raised nearly 70% of its receipts internally in 2022-23, while Arunachal Pradesh managed only 9%. Uttar Pradesh, despite a surplus, generated just 42% on its own, relying on Union transfers. In economic terms, this is referred to as a vertical imbalance – rich States fund themselves, while poorer ones lean on Delhi.

Kerala's lottery industry earned nearly ₹12,000 crore in 2022-23; Odisha drew 90% of its non-tax income from mining royalties; and Telangana sold land worth ₹9,800 crore. However, lotteries hinge on sales, royalties on global prices, and land can't be sold twice.

Gross debt borrowings

Let's analyse the numbers from the CAG's decadal analysis report. When States spend more than they earn, they tend to borrow more. They finance that deficit mainly through loans or bonds that must be repaid with interest. The CAG, through its audited State Finances reports, brings us a consolidated national picture, while the RBI's State Finances: A Study of Budgets report provides a consistent framework for comparison. Taken together, these sources show that borrowing patterns between 2016-17 and 2022-23 have diverged sharply in India.

Table 1 deals with States such as Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Goa. Andhra Pradesh tripled its borrowings to ₹1.86 lakh crore, while Bihar doubled it, making debt a routine tool even for poorer States. By contrast, Goa kept a tight lid on borrowings, standing out as a rare conservative. Yet the liabilities data shows the weight of these choices: Andhra Pradesh's debt load swelled to 35% of its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 2023, and Bihar's hovered around 39%, among the highest in India. Assam's rapid borrowing was cushioned by growth, with liabilities easing slightly to 22% of GSDP, while Goa stayed at 27%, still high for a small State.

Table 2 deals with Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh. Here, borrowings rose in a measured but persistent way. Haryana jumped from ₹28,170 crore in 2016-17 to ₹80,649 crore in 2022-23, nearly tripling its borrowings despite being one of the richer States; its liabilities also climbed to about 31% of GSDP. Gujarat moved gradually upward, from ₹27,668 crore to ₹52,333 crore, while keeping its debt burden steady near 19-20% of GSDP. Madhya Pradesh also almost doubled its borrowings, from ₹29,847 crore to ₹58,867 crore, with liabilities rising to around 29%.

The pandemic brought volatility. Karnataka's borrowings spiked to ₹84,828 crore in 2020-21, before being cut back to ₹44,549 crore; even after retrenchment, its liabilities stood close to 28% of GSDP. Kerala peaked at ₹69,735 crore and later eased to ₹54,007 crore, though its debt burden stayed stubbornly high, at roughly 37% of GSDP. Smaller States remained modest – Himachal Pradesh's liabilities reached almost 48% of its GSDP, while Jharkhand's borrowings hovered between ₹7,000-₹13,500 crore with a steadier load of 27% of GSDP.

Table 3 deals with Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, and Punjab. This cluster highlights extremes. Maharashtra borrowings bulged from a low of ₹26,025 crore in 2018-19 to a surge of ₹1,18,516 crore in 2020-21, before moderating to ₹94,702 crore in 2022-23. However, its large economy kept the debt burden contained at around 20% of GSDP. Punjab remained persistently high, with borrowings ranging between ₹83,627 crore in 2016-17 and ₹89,544 crore in 2022-23; its liabilities climbed to about 45% of GSDP, showing chronic stress. Odisha bucked the trend, cutting borrowings from ₹11,223 crore to just ₹5,347 crore thanks to mining windfalls, and its liabilities fell to nearly 15% of GSDP, the lowest in India.

Manipur's borrowings grew from ₹1,551 crore to ₹11,116 crore; Meghalaya from ₹1,210 crore to ₹6,221 crore; Mizoram from ₹756 crore to ₹4,019 crore; and Nagaland from ₹5,444 crore to ₹7,159 crore. Though small in absolute numbers, these States carry some of the heaviest burdens, with liabilities ranging from about 40-60% of GSDP, marking rising fiscal dependence.

Table 4 showcases Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu emerged as heavy borrowers. Rajasthan quadrupled its borrowings, from ₹43,889 crore in 2016-17 to ₹1,60,565 crore in 2022-23, one of the steepest climbs nationwide, and its liabilities climbed to about 40% of GSDP. Tamil Nadu moved steadily upward from ₹66,143 crore to ₹1,01,062 crore, while its debt ratio rose to around 33%. Telangana surged from ₹44,819 crore to ₹1,26,884 crore, though strong growth kept its liabilities moderate at about 28%.

West Bengal showed moderate growth, from ₹37,524 crore to ₹70,243 crore, with liabilities remaining high at 37% of GSDP. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh slightly reduced borrowings, from ₹67,685 crore in 2016-17 to ₹66,847 crore in 2022-23, holding its liabilities steady at about 31%. Uttarakhand's borrowings also dipped from ₹10,592 crore to ₹9,431 crore, but liabilities were still over 32% of GSDP, while Tripura shrank from ₹1,140 crore to just ₹877 crore but carried a debt load above 30%. Sikkim remained marginal throughout, under ₹2,100 crore, though its debt stood at about 24% of GSDP.

Borrowings spiked everywhere during the pandemic. But what happened afterwards differed: some States like Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana kept increasing their borrowings; Karnataka, Kerala, and Maharashtra cut back; and a few like Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Tripura reduced their borrowings even further, revealing very different fiscal strategies.

The welfare paradox

While some States show surpluses, in reality, they lean heavily on central transfers, off-budget loans, and delayed GST compensation. A lot of these States aren't sufficiently spending on welfare priorities and so any reported surplus may have accounting gains without developmental gains. Also, States like Punjab wrestle with chronic debt; Kerala relies on volatile revenues from lotteries; while Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, through free power and farm waivers, see their costs deferred into the opaque machinery of guarantees and special purpose vehicles.

Corporate tax cuts, GST cesses, and rebranded social spending mask the true burden, leaving fiscal prudence a mirage. With the recent GST rejig and a higher fiscal revenue loss expected, one can hardly know its broader impact on fiscal spending by States on their already frugal welfare budgets. Yet, within this fragility, welfare schemes in some centralised funding schemes have proliferated: PM-KISAN deposits, Ujjwala cylinders, and Ayushman Bharat cards circulate like tokens of political theatre in projecting the ruling dispensation and its leader as the face of India's welfare populist base.

It is precisely this tension, of a State that spends lavishly while its revenues strain, that frames India's current welfare paradox. The nation has constructed one of the largest welfare states in the world while sustaining one of the thinnest fiscal bases among middle-income economies while being excessively dependent on borrowings. The paradox reflects a nation-state projecting extraordinary promise, with constrained and inhibitive fiscal capacity, where, a spectacle of care is built on the brink of fiscal scarcity.

Deepanshu Mohan is Professor and Dean, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) and Visiting Professor, LSE and Research Fellow, University of Oxford. Geetaali Malhotra and Aditi Lazarus, research analysts with CNES, JGU respectively, contributed to this article.

How much are States borrowing?

The CAG's decadal analysis report shows us that the pandemic spiked the borrowing

TABLE 1: State-wise gross borrowing trends (Public Debt Receipts), 2016-17 to 2022-23

State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Andhra Pradesh	59,923	74,063	97,980	1,12,428	1,61,975	1,59,610	1,86,024
Arunachal Pradesh	1,015	1,767	1,205	1,791	1,516	1,483	2,480
Assam	3,902	8,447	11,755	14,250	17,940	16,670	28,270
Bihar	21,577	13,169	18,668	29,145	35,915	40,445	48,284
Chhattisgarh	5,480	9,652	14,370	19,588	21,582	15,098	10,639
Goa	3,304	3,161	4,989	3,812	7,655	5,160	2,628

TABLE 2

State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Gujarat	27,668	26,953	43,146	43,491	58,857	46,968	52,333
Haryana	28,170	21,490	34,265	44,432	53,817	55,106	80,649
Himachal Pradesh	8,603	5,600	6,427	10,847	16,749	9,335	22,372
Jharkhand	7,081	8,137	7,803	9,593	13,547	9,840	9,142
Karnataka	31,156	25,122	41,914	50,459	84,528	80,641	44,549
Kerala	23,858	30,234	33,446	60,407	69,735	64,932	54,007
Madhya Pradesh	29,847	21,892	32,497	34,364	65,171	46,285	58,867

TABLE 3

State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Maharashtra	48,336	49,670	26,025	57,153	1,18,516	90,587	94,702
Manipur	1,551	1,296	3,927	6,314	9,334	12,652	11,116
Meghalaya	1,210	1,225	1,325	1,496	2,442	4,020	6,221
Mizoram	756	894	134	1,148	2,611	4,560	4,019
Nagaland	5,444	5,141	2,907	7,870	11,435	8,709	7,159
Odisha	11,223	12,862	10,003	14,679	20,318	12,780	5,347
Punjab	83,627	45,999	52,098	54,776	63,695	41,175	89,544

TABLE 4

State	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Rajasthan	43,889	28,557	37,847	46,174	89,964	1,01,363	1,60,565
Sikkim	783	1,053	1,145	833	1,565	1,883	2,037
Tamil Nadu	66,143	45,722	47,936	66,774	1,02,867	1,04,485	1,01,062
Telangana	44,819	49,153	50,962	75,533	1,16,586	1,19,053	1,26,884
Tripura	1,140	1,333	1,708	3,258	2,848	1,047	877
Uttar Pradesh	67,685	47,417	51,595	73,809	86,859	75,751	66,847
Uttarakhand	10,592	13,457	15,448	13,113	15,135	7,918	9,431
West Bengal	37,524	45,744	70,197	75,699	75,429	77,581	70,243

* Gross Public Debt Receipts (₹ crore)

Source: CAG, (2025), State finances 2022-23. RBI, (2025), State finances: A study of budgets, 2025

THE GIST

- India's States inhabit starkly different fiscal worlds, much like its diverse ethno-linguistic identities. Maharashtra raised nearly 70% of its receipts internally in 2022-23, while Arunachal Pradesh managed only 9%. Uttar Pradesh, despite a surplus, generated just 42% on its own, relying on Union transfers.
- While some States show surpluses, in reality, they lean heavily on central transfers, off-budget loans, and delayed GST compensation. A lot of these States aren't sufficiently spending on welfare priorities.
- Manipur's borrowings grew from ₹1,551 crore to ₹11,116 crore; Meghalaya from ₹1,210 crore to ₹6,221 crore; Mizoram from ₹756 crore to ₹4,019 crore; and Nagaland from ₹5,444 crore to ₹7,159 crore. Though small in absolute numbers, these States carry some of the heaviest burdens.

Analysing Indian States' macro-fiscal health

Source: The Hindu | Page 8

GS Paper: GS-3 (Economy), GS-2 (Federalism)

Context (Simple):

The CAG report shows that while States' tax revenues have improved after the pandemic, emergency spending and rising borrowings have put fiscal health under pressure. Some States report surpluses, but in reality, many are running heavily on debt.

Charts Summary:

- **Gross Borrowings: Sharp rise across all States; Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka among the highest.**
  - **Liabilities as % of GSDP: Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar remain at the top (~40%); Uttar Pradesh shows some improvement.**
- **Borrowings as % of GSDP: Rising fast in Haryana and Rajasthan; Kerala remains consistently high.**
  - **Overall: All major States have borrowed far more in 2022-23 compared to 2016-17.**

Insight:

- A few States (like UP) improved debt ratios, but overall borrowings remain high.
- Post-COVID welfare spending and weak revenue buoyancy increased dependence on debt.
- Fiscal discipline and debt sustainability are urgent priorities.

No ceasefire, Maoists must give up arms, says Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday ruled out a ceasefire with the Maoists, while stating that a "red carpet" awaited those who gave up arms. Reiterating that "violent Naxalism" would be eradicated by March 31, 2026, he stressed that confronting the ideology behind the movement was essential for complete success.

Referring to a purported letter by the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), which surfaced earlier this month, Mr. Shah said, "They recently attempted to create confusion by issuing a letter, claiming that they want to surrender. There will be no ceasefire. Give up your arms if you want to surrender. You will be rehabilitated."

He was addressing a summit on "Naxal-Mukt Bharat: ending red terror under PM Narendra Modi's leadership", organised by the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation.

Mr. Shah said that when the government had launched Operation Black Forest against the outfit, Left parties demanded it be stopped. "Why don't they and NGOs show the same sympathy and sensitivity towards the victims of Naxal violence," he asked. He added that those spreading the "falsehood" that lack of development was the primary reason behind the spread of left-wing extremism were "misleading" the country.

"We all know that when our country got Independence, resources were limited, and not all regions could develop simultaneously. However, the situation today is starkly different. I ask the leftist intellectuals who support this movement: who is responsible for preventing development in places like Bijapur and Sukma in Chhattisgarh?" he said.

Mr. Shah said arms supply to the banned outfit had been reduced by 90% since 2019, with agencies such as the ED and the NIA cracking down on financial resources. Loopholes in security were addressed by setting up fortified camps, strengthening intelligence-sharing, enhancing capacity, and improving coordination between Central and State forces.

No ceasefire, Maoists must give up arms, says Shah

Source: The Hindu Page No: 10
GS Paper: GS-3 (Internal Security, Left Wing Extremism)

Context:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah ruled out any ceasefire with Maoists and reiterated that "violent Naxalism will be eradicated by March 31, 2026." He said those who surrender will be rehabilitated, but the government will continue strong action against the banned CPI (Maoist) and its supporters.

Government Measures to End Naxalism (Point-wise):

1. Arms Supply Cut:
- Arms supply to banned outfit reduced by 90% since 2019.
- Agencies like ED (Enforcement Directorate) and NIA cracking down on financial networks.

2. Security Strengthening:
- Fortified camps set up in vulnerable areas.
- Enhanced intelligence-sharing across agencies.
- Improved coordination between Central and State forces.

3. Military & Policing Operations:
- Launch of Operation Black Forest to root out Maoist presence.
- Continuous offensives instead of ceasefire.

4. Counter-Ideology Efforts:
- Focus on defeating the ideological narrative of Maoism.
- Highlighting how development has reached most regions, countering the claim of neglect.

5. Rehabilitation Approach:
- Maoists who surrender will be given a "red carpet" welcome and rehabilitated into society.

At UNGA week, India signals realignment with the Global South

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India stepped up its engagement with the Global South quite visibly during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's hectic consultations at the United Nation's 80th high-level week, with strong criticism of Israel's war on Gaza, U.S.-led trade turmoil, and the lack of UN reform in focus in statements.

More than half of his approximately 30 one-on-one bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers were with countries of the developing nations, while nearly all the multilateral meetings India hosted or Mr. Jaishankar hosted focused on the Global South's issues, and non-western groupings.

The multilateral meetings included the BRICS, IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa), India-CELAC (South American countries), India-SICA (Central American Integration System), FIPIC (Pacific Island countries), L-69 (developing countries from the Global South) and C-10 (African Union representatives) and the "High-Level Like-Minded countries of the Global South".

Pharma tariffs
Some of the focus on the Global South may have come, suggested analysts, from disappointment with the U.S.'s actions this week. Mr. Jaishankar held a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the beginning of the week, but there was no let-up in the U.S.'s rhetoric and actions against India.

A day after the meeting, President Donald Trump called India and China the "primary funders of the war" in Ukraine, and repeated his claim that he ended the India-Pakistan conflict. In addition to 50% tariffs on Indian goods, and visa and immigration cuts that affect Indian professionals, the U.S. administration also slapped new tariffs on pharma industries this week. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the U.S. would "fix India" to ensure it opens its markets and cuts trade actions against the U.S., indicating Indian and U.S. negotiators still have a hard road ahead in FTA talks.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jaishankar also met with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and his Japanese counterpart on the sidelines of other groupings, but there was no Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting, raising questions about whether a date can still be agreed on for the Quad Summit India is due to host this year.

Washington also ruffled feathers in Delhi with its intense engagement with the South Asian neighbourhood. Mr. Trump held 80-minute talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief Field Marshall Asim Munir, even as U.S. Ambassador-designate and Special Envoy for the region Sergio Gor met leaders from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan in New York.

In contrast, Mr. Jaishankar met only counterparts from Sri Lanka and Maldives during the week, even as India and Pakistan sparred at the General Debate.

Gaza situation
A significant shift at the UNGA week was indicated by India's position on the Israel war on Gaza. New Delhi, which has been an outlier from other Global South countries thus far and abstained on resolutions calling for a ceasefire, was instead seen backing a number of statements sharply critical of Israel during the UNGA. These included statements by the BRICS Foreign Ministers and the IBSA Trilateral Commission, which said the "Ministers expressed grave concern about the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and strongly condemned the Israeli attacks against Gaza, which, after almost two years, continue to cause unprecedented suffering to the civilian population of the territory, ravaged by deaths, destruction, forced displacement, and famine".

The statements are much tougher than previous statements that India has agreed to being a part of, indicating a greater alignment with Global South priorities on the issue.

Referring to India's commitment to dealing with the "especially acute" "predicament of the Global South" during India's statement at the General Debate, Mr. Jaishankar listed a number of issues they faced: from the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, to energy and food security, "non-market trade practices", tariff volatility and uncertain market access.

"The resource-stressed ones scrambled to survive, only to hear sanctimonious lectures thereafter," he said, in a sharp dig at global superpowers for not doing more for the Global South.

In its 48-point "priority paper", the Permanent Mission of India expressed its disappointment over the lack of movement on UN Security Council reform in the previous session.

It also stressed maintaining "India's active engagement as a leading voice of the Global South", emphasising different areas such as climate finance, development financing, etc, and strengthening coordination with important groups like the Landlocked Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States as well.

Strong stand: S. Jaishankar addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on Saturday. AFP

At UNGA week, India signals realignment with the Global South

Source: The Hindu | Page 10

GS Paper: GS-2 (International Relations) | Prelims

Context (1-2 Sentences):

At the 80th UNGA high-level week, India intensified engagement with the Global South, strongly criticising Israel's actions in Gaza, U.S. trade policies, and the lack of UNSC reform. Most of India's bilateral and multilateral meetings focused on non-Western groupings and South-South cooperation.
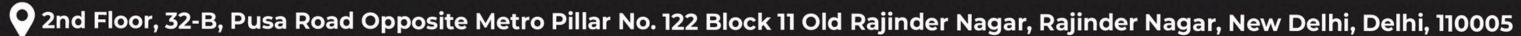
Multilateral Institutions Discussed in the Article:

1. BRICS

- Founded: 2009 (BRIC), South Africa joined 2010.
- Current Members (10): Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, indonesia, UAE.
- Objective: Multipolar world order, economic cooperation, reform of global governance (UNSC, IMF, WB).

2. IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum)

- Founded: 2003, Brasília Declaration.
- Members: India, Brazil, South Africa.
- Objective: South-South cooperation, poverty reduction, sustainable development, UN reform.

3. India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States)

- Founded: 2010
- Members: 33 Latin American & Caribbean countries
- Objective: Regional integration, cooperation with India in trade, energy, technology, and multilateral reform.

4. SICA (Central American Integration System)

- Founded: 1991, Tegucigalpa Protocol.
- Members: 8 - Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic.
- Objective: Political, economic, cultural integration of Central America.

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

5. FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation)

- **Launched: 2014 by India.**
- **Members: 14 Pacific Island countries + India.**
- **Objective: Climate change, sustainable development, capacity building, strengthening India's outreach in Pacific.**

6. L-69 Group

- **Founded: Mid-2000s (named after UN draft resolution L.69).**
- **Members: "42 developing countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific.**
- **Objective: Push for UNSC reform and better representation of Global South.**

7. C-10 (Committee of Ten African Union States on UNSC Reform)

- **Founded: 2005.**
- **Members: 10 African Union states - Algeria, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, Senegal.**
- **Objective: Represent Africa's "Ezulwini Consensus" on UNSC reform.**

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**

Q1. AstroSat, India's first dedicated space observatory, was launched in which year?

(a) 2012
(b) 2014
(c) 2015
(d) 2016

Q2. Which State currently has liabilities exceeding 40% of its GSDP?

(a) Kerala
(b) Punjab
(c) Gujarat
(d) Karnataka

Q3. The G-10 group represents the demand of which continent for UN Security Council reform?

(a) Asia
(b) Africa
(c) South America
(d) Europe

Q4. Operation "Black Forest" is associated with tackling which challenge?

(a) Illegal mining
(b) Terrorism
(c) Naxalism
(d) Drug trafficking

Q5. The recent Karur tragedy in Tamil Nadu was caused by which type of disaster?

(a) Fire
(b) Flood
(c) Stampede
(d) Earthquake

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

Astrosat, India's first space observatory, completes a decade among the stars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's first dedicated space astronomy observatory, AstroSat, completed a decade of operations on Sunday.

Ten years ago, on September 28, 2015, the PSLV-C30 (XL) rocket carrying AstroSat lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Though the designed mission life of AstroSat was five years, it continues to provide valuable data.

In the last decade, the multi-wavelength space observatory with five payloads aboard has made major interesting discoveries.

Commemorating the milestone in a post on X, the Indian Space Research Organisation said, "On this day 10 years ago, AstroSat, India's first multi wave-

Keen explorer: Though the designed mission life of AstroSat was five years, it continues to provide valuable data.

length astronomy observatory was launched by ISRO. From black holes to neutron stars, from the nearest star Proxima Centauri to first time detection of FUV photons from galaxies 9.3 billion light years away, AstroSat enabled ground-breaking insights across the electromagnetic spectrum from UV/Visible to

high energy X-rays. Congratulating AstroSat for a successful decade and wishing many more years of exciting results and discoveries."

Five payloads

AstroSat was designed to observe the universe in the visible, ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions

of the electromagnetic spectrum simultaneously with the help of its five payloads.

The five payloads are the Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT), Large Area X-ray Proportional Counter (LAXPC), Cadmium-Zinc-Telluride Imager (CZTI), Soft X-ray Telescope (SXT), and the Scanning Sky Monitor (SSM).

Collaborative effort

Astrosat was realised by the ISRO with the participation of all major astronomy institutions, including the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, and the Raman Research Institute (RRI), some universities of India and two institutions from Canada and the U.K.

AstroSat, India's first space observatory, completes a decade among the stars

Source: The Hindu | Page No. 12
GS Paper: GS-3 (Science & Tech) | Prelims

Context:

India's first dedicated space-based astronomy observatory, AstroSat, launched on September 28, 2015, has completed 10 years of operation. Though designed for 5 years, it continues to provide valuable data and has enabled groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy.

About AstroSat:

- **Launched:** September 28, 2015 by PSLV-C30 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota).
- **Agencies Involved:** ISRO, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics (IUCAA), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Raman Research Institute (RRI), plus institutions from Canada & UK.

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

Objective:

- India's first multi-wavelength space observatory to observe the universe in UV, visible, low & high energy X-ray regions.

- Provide simultaneous data from different bands of the electromagnetic spectrum.

- Enable Indian astronomers to collaborate globally in frontier space science research.

Key Findings / Achievements:

- Black holes to neutron stars: Provided valuable data on high-energy astrophysical phenomena.

- Exoplanets & Stars: Observed the nearest star Proxima Centauri.

- Galaxies: Detected far-ultraviolet (FUV) photons from galaxies 9.3 billion light years away.

- Enabled first-time observations across UV to X-ray spectrum simultaneously.

- Helped in understanding star formation, supermassive black holes, and galaxy evolution.

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