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India made 'remarkable progress' in reducing poverty, says World Bank

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India has over the last decade made "remarkable progress" in reducing poverty across both monetary and non-monetary dimensions, the World Bank said in a new report, adding that the country saw one of the fastest reductions in poverty in the world.

"Between 2011 and 2023, the share of the population living below the Lower Middle-Income Country line (\$4.2/day) fell from 57.7% to 16.1%, lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty, while extreme poverty (\$3.00/day) declined from 27.1% to 2.6%," the World Bank said in its October 2026 Poverty and



Extreme poverty declined from 27.1% to 2.6%, the report said.

Equity Brief for India released on Friday.

Further, it stated that it projected poverty to continue declining, "albeit more gradually". "On the non-monetary dimensions, as measured by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), poverty fell sharply from 53.8% in

2005-06 to 16.4% in 2019-21, with the World Bank MPI measure at 15.5% in 2022-23," it stated.

"Wage disparities, however, remain pronounced, as median earnings among the top 10% of workers were about 13 times those of the bottom 10% in 2023," the report said. "Poverty has also become increasingly concentrated geographically," it added. "While living standards improved across most States, households in a contiguous belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal account for 57% of India's poor population."

It also noted that, between 2017 and 2023, employment increased by about 134 million people,

nearly twice the growth of the working-age population, with much of the gain driven by rural women entering paid work and raising the number of earners per household. "However, youth unemployment rose from 14.6% to 15.9% between the two quarters [Q1 FY2026 and Q1 FY2027], particularly among rural young women," the World Bank report highlighted.

FM hails findings

"The World Bank identifies strong consumption growth, rising employment – especially among women – and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies, as major drivers," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

1. India Makes Remarkable Progress in Reducing Poverty: World Bank

GS Paper II: Poverty, Inclusive Growth and Social Justice

GS Paper III: Indian Economy

Context

The World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief highlights India's significant progress in reducing monetary and multidimensional poverty between 2011 and 2023. Approximately 496 million people moved out of poverty, reflecting improvements in employment, household earnings, consumption and access to essential services.

1. India's Progress in Poverty Reduction

1. **Lower-Middle-Income Poverty:** Population living below the \$4.20 per day poverty line declined from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023.
2. **Extreme Poverty:** Population living below \$3 per day declined from 27.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2023.
3. **Multidimensional Poverty:** India's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) declined from 53.8% in 2005–06 to 15.5% in 2022–23.
4. **Overall Achievement:** Approximately 496 million people moved out of monetary poverty between 2011 and 2023.

2. Factors Responsible for Poverty Reduction

1. **Employment Generation:** Expansion of employment opportunities increased household earnings and reduced income poverty.
2. **Women's Workforce Participation:** Greater participation of rural women in paid employment improved household income and financial independence.
3. **Social Protection:** Food subsidies, the Public Distribution System (PDS) and social transfers helped vulnerable households meet their basic needs.
4. **Improved Access to Basic Services:** Expansion of education, healthcare, sanitation, housing and drinking water reduced multidimensional deprivation.
5. **Economic Growth and Consumption:** Rising household incomes, purchasing power and consumption improved overall living standards.

3. Major Challenges and Concerns

1. **Income Inequality:** Median earnings of the top 10% of workers were approximately 13 times those of the bottom 10% in 2023.
2. **Regional Concentration of Poverty:** The geographical belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal accounts for 57% of India's poor population.

3. **Youth Unemployment:** Increased from 14.6% to 15.9% between Q1 FY2026 and Q1 FY2027, particularly among rural young women.
4. **Wage Disparities:** Employment growth has not eliminated differences in earnings, job security and working conditions.
5. **Unequal Development:** Improvements in living standards remain uneven across geographical regions and social groups.

4. Way Forward

1. **Employment-led Growth:** Promote labour-intensive manufacturing, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and rural non-farm employment.
2. **Human Capital Development:** Improve access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition and skill development.
3. **Women's Economic Empowerment:** Expand women's access to formal employment, financial resources and skill training.
4. **Regional Development:** Focus on poverty-concentrated regions through targeted infrastructure and social-sector investment.
5. **Inclusive Social Protection:** Strengthen food security, social security and effective delivery of welfare schemes.

5. Relevant UPSC Mains PYQs – Poverty

1. UPSC CSE 2025 | GS II | 15 Marks

“Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of ‘paradox of poverty’.”

2. UPSC CSE 2024 | GS II | 10 Marks

“Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?”

3. UPSC CSE 2021 | GS II | 10 Marks

“Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through micro financing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.”

4. UPSC CSE 2020 | GS II | 15 Marks

“The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone. In this context, analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.”

6. UPSC Prelims 2026 PYQ – Multidimensional Poverty Index

Consider the following statements about the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

1. MPI is calculated using the Alkire-Foster methodology.
2. MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.
3. Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

1. Correct – MPI uses the Alkire-Foster methodology.
2. Correct – India’s National MPI has 12 indicators across three dimensions.
3. Incorrect – Maternal Health and Bank Account are additional indicators introduced in India’s National MPI; they are not common indicators in the Global MPI.

Important Prelims Facts:

- Global MPI: 10 indicators.

- India's National MPI: 12 indicators.
- Three dimensions: Health, Education and Standard of Living.
- Methodology: Alkire-Foster.

Centre clears project worth Rs 40,000 cr for 8 next-gen stealth warships

Amrita Nayak Dutta

New Delhi, October 30

THE CABINET Committee on Security (CCS) has approved a project worth over Rs 40,000 crore to build eight next-generation corvettes (NGC) for the Indian Navy, marking a significant addition to its surface combatant fleet.

The project would give the Navy a new generation of compact, fast, multirole stealth warships capable of operating across the Indian Ocean Region.

The government expects to sign a contract soon with Kolkata-based Garden Reach Ship-

builders & Engineers and Goa Shipyard Limited for their construction.

The delivery of the corvettes are expected to begin by 2030.

A corvette is a relatively small surface combatant, typically smaller than a frigate or destroyer.

The NGC programme is intended to create a versatile combat platform that can perform a variety of roles, including anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, search-and-attack missions, coastal and littoral defence, aside from other deterrence and maritime security operations.

2. Centre Approves ₹40,000 Crore Project for Eight Next-Generation Stealth Warships

Source: The Indian Express | 30 October 2026

GS Paper III: Defence Technology, Indigenisation and Maritime Security

Context

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved a project worth over ₹40,000 crore to build eight Next-Generation Corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy.

1. Key Features of the Project

1. Eight next-generation stealth corvettes will be constructed.
2. The project is worth over ₹40,000 crore.
3. Construction is expected to involve Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
4. Deliveries are expected to begin by 2030.
5. These warships will be compact, fast and capable of performing multiple naval operations.

2. What Is a Corvette?

A corvette is a relatively small, fast surface combatant used by navies for coastal defence and maritime security. It is generally smaller than a frigate or destroyer.

3. Major Operational Capabilities

1. **Anti-Submarine Warfare:** Detecting and countering enemy submarines.
2. **Maritime Surveillance:** Monitoring activities across India's maritime zones.
3. **Reconnaissance:** Collecting information about potential threats.

4. **Search-and-Attack Missions:** Locating and engaging hostile targets.
5. **Coastal and Littoral Defence:** Protecting coastal areas and nearby waters.
6. **Deterrence:** Discouraging hostile activities through credible naval capability.

4. Stealth Technology

Stealth technology reduces the probability of a military platform being detected by enemy surveillance systems.

1. **Radar Cross-Section (RCS):** A smaller radar cross-section makes an object less visible to radar.
2. **Radar Absorbing Materials (RAM):** Materials that absorb some incoming radar energy and reduce reflected signals.
3. **Special Design:** Angled and carefully shaped surfaces help deflect radar waves away from the radar receiver.
4. **Limitations:** Stealth does not mean invisibility. Detection may still be possible using suitable radar frequencies and other surveillance systems.

5. Strategic Significance for India

1. **Indian Ocean Region:** Strengthens India's ability to monitor and secure strategically important sea routes.
2. **Anti-Submarine Capability:** Improves the Navy's ability to detect and respond to underwater threats.
3. **Coastal Security:** Enhances protection of India's coastline and maritime interests.
4. **Defence Indigenisation:** Provides opportunities for domestic shipyards and the Indian defence industry.
5. **Maritime Deterrence:** Strengthens India's naval presence and operational readiness.

6. UPSC Prelims 2026 PYQ – Stealth Technology

Question: Which of the following statements with regard to stealth technology is/are correct?

1. Stealth objects have a very small radar cross-section and are coated with Radar Absorbing Material.
2. Stealth objects can be detected using specific frequencies.
3. Stealth objects are coated with metamaterials to increase the scattering of electromagnetic radiation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Stealth technology reduces radar detection through specialised design and radar-absorbing materials. Stealth platforms are not completely invisible and may be detected using specific radar frequencies. The third statement is incorrect because stealth materials aim to reduce or control radar reflection, not increase scattering.

Canada, EU seek closer ties beyond US as leaders push for associate membership

Associated Press

Montreal, October 30

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Mark Carney and European Union leaders are set to conclude a two-day summit Friday as the EU's top official presses to make Canada the bloc's first "associate member" and both sides seek to reduce their dependence on the United States.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa joined Carney in Montreal to pursue an unprecedented alliance that could bring Canada closer to the EU than any previous arrangement with a country outside the bloc. But some European governments have resisted proposed membership designation.

Carney said Thursday that the proposed alliance would help Canada withstand economic shocks and prevent foreign

 **We're in the process of forging a new alliance for the future, with Canada as an associate member"**

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governments and technology companies from dictating its choices. He later explicitly used the term "associate member".

"We're in the process of forging a new alliance for the future, with Canada as an associate member," Carney said.

Von der Leyen also championed associate membership but said the proposed "Alliance for the Future" would be a broader partnership open to other countries, with Canada and the EU at its core.

3. The Intricate System to Elect Members of Legislative Councils (MLCs)

Context

Elections to State Legislative Councils follow a system of proportional representation through the single transferable vote (STV). Unlike the Legislative Assembly, the Council represents different categories of voters, including MLAs, local authorities, graduates and teachers.

1. Composition of the Legislative Council

Under Article 171, the composition is broadly divided into five categories:

1. **One-third:** Elected by members of local authorities, such as municipalities and district boards.
2. **One-twelfth:** Elected by graduates of at least three years' standing.
3. **One-twelfth:** Elected by teachers with at least three years' teaching experience in institutions not lower than secondary schools.
4. **One-third:** Elected by members of the State Legislative Assembly.
5. **One-sixth:** Nominated by the Governor from persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

Important facts:

- A Legislative Council cannot have more than one-third of the total membership of the State Legislative Assembly.
- It must have at least 40 members.
- It is a permanent House; one-third of its members retire every two years.

2. How Are MLCs Elected?

Elections are conducted through **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote (STV)**.

1. Voters rank candidates according to their preferences.

2. A candidate must secure the prescribed quota of votes to be elected.
3. If a candidate receives surplus votes, these are transferred according to the next preferences.
4. If no candidate reaches the required quota, the candidate with the lowest votes is eliminated and their votes are transferred to other candidates according to the next available preferences.

The electorate differs by constituency: MLAs elect one-third of the members, while local authority, graduate and teacher constituencies elect their respective representatives.

3. Difference Between Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council

Basis	Rajya Sabha	Legislative Council
Level	Union	State
Electorate	Elected MLAs	MLAs, local authorities, graduates and teachers
Voting method	Proportional representation through STV	Proportional representation through STV
Nominated members	12 nominated by the President	One-sixth nominated by the Governor

Constitutional provision	Article 80	Article 171
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4. Why Are Ballot Papers Still Used?

1. Several local-body elections continue to use ballot papers.
2. The choice between ballot papers and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) depends on applicable State election laws and rules.
3. State Election Commissions conduct local-body elections and determine the applicable procedures.
4. Preference-based voting and administrative requirements may influence the choice of voting method.

5. Significance of the Legislative Council

1. **Legislative scrutiny:** Provides an additional forum to examine and review Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly.
2. **Specialised representation:** Brings the perspectives of graduates, teachers and experts from different fields into the legislative process.
3. **Representation of local bodies:** Gives local self-government institutions a voice in State-level policymaking.
4. **Checks hasty legislation:** Allows reconsideration and debate on Bills, potentially improving the quality of legislation.
5. **Continuity in legislative work:** As a permanent House, it provides institutional continuity even when the Legislative Assembly is dissolved.
6. **Wider democratic deliberation:** Creates space for discussion of diverse social, educational, cultural and regional concerns.

6. Major Concerns

1. **Limited legislative powers:** The Council cannot permanently block a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly.

2. **Political accommodation:** It may be used to provide legislative positions to political leaders who have not secured election to the Assembly.
3. **Limited popular representation:** Members are not directly elected by the entire electorate of the State.
4. **Financial burden:** Maintaining a second chamber involves additional expenditure on salaries, allowances and administration.
5. **Unequal representation:** Graduate and teacher constituencies represent only specific sections of society.
6. **Possibility of legislative delays:** Reconsideration of Bills may sometimes slow down the legislative process without necessarily improving its quality.

7. Way Forward

1. Strengthen the Council's role in legislative scrutiny and policy discussion.
2. Ensure transparency and merit in Governor-nominated appointments.
3. Improve the quality of representation from local authorities, graduates and teachers.
4. Prevent the use of Councils merely for political accommodation.
5. Promote informed and constructive legislative debate.

8. UPSC Previous-Year Questions (PYQs)

A. UPSC Mains 2021 – GS Paper II

Question: Discuss the composition and functions of the State Legislative Councils. Do you think that the State Legislative Councils are relevant in the present scenario?

Relevance: Tests understanding of bicameralism, legislative scrutiny, representation and the relevance of the second chamber in State legislatures.

B. UPSC Prelims 2015

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. The Legislative Council of a State in India can be larger in size than half of the Legislative Assembly of that particular State.
2. The Governor of a State nominates the Chairman of the Legislative Council of that particular State.

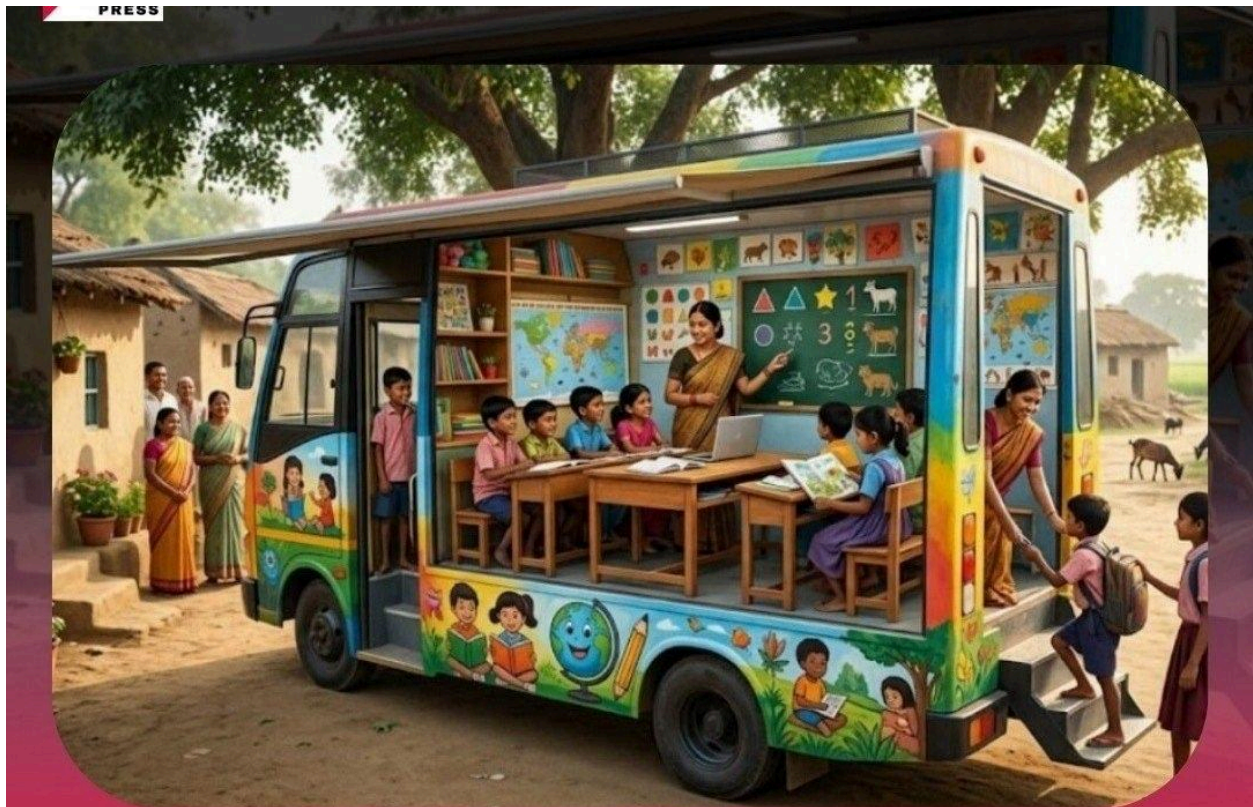
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation:

- A Legislative Council cannot exceed one-third of the strength of the Legislative Assembly.
- The Chairman of the Legislative Council is elected by the members of the Council, not nominated by the Governor.



Bihar Government to Launch 'School on Wheels' in 5 Districts, Bringing Classrooms to Children's Doorsteps

4. Bihar's School on Wheels Initiative

GS Paper II – Education

Context

SCHOOL ON WHEELS: Bihar plans to convert buses into mobile classrooms to educate street children and other out-of-school children.

Key Features

1. **Target Group:** Street children and vulnerable children aged 6–14 years.
2. **Delivery:** Mobile classrooms equipped with teachers and digital learning facilities.
3. **Objective:** Improve access to education and foundational literacy.

Significance

1. Promotes inclusive education and last-mile delivery.
2. Reduces barriers to schooling for street children.
3. Supports foundational literacy and educational equity.

Constitutional Linkages

- **Article 21A:** Right to free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
- **Article 15(3):** Special provisions for children.
- **Article 46:** Educational interests of weaker sections.

Mains Value Addition: An example of taking education to excluded children through child-centric, last-mile delivery.

Union Labour Ministry sets up social security Boards for unorganised, gig, platform workers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Labour Ministry on Friday notified the constitution of the National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers with 40 members, and the National Social Security Board for Gig & Platform Workers with 22 members.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya is the chairman of both Boards, which have representatives from the Central and State governments, prominent aggregator companies, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions, and associations representing gig

and platform workers. Union Labour Secretary is the vice-chairman of the Boards.

The mandate of the Boards is to design, monitor and recommend targeted welfare schemes for gig and platform workers and traditional unorganised workers.

The Boards will meet at least thrice a year, and the Union government will prescribe rules of procedure for them.

The functions of the Boards include recommending suitable schemes for different sections of unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers; advising the Union government on the ad-



The Boards will design and monitor schemes for workers.

ministration of the Social Security Code; monitoring social welfare schemes for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers; reviewing the record-keeping functions

performed at the State level; reviewing the expenditure from the fund and account; and undertaking other functions assigned to it by the Union government from time to time.

The Labour Department officers of NDA-ruled Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat are members of the Boards.

Representatives of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh, Laghu Udyog Bharati, aggregator companies such as Eternal Group (formerly known as Zomato Ltd.), Swiggy Ltd., Zepto Ltd., Urban Company and Rapido, Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers, V.V. Giri National Labour

Institute and Dattopant Thengadi Board for Workers Education and Development are also members.

"Established under the statutory framework of the Code on Social Security, these Boards mark a historic shift by integrating digital gig and platform professionals into India's formal welfare architecture," the Labour Ministry said in a statement.

However, All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said the constitution of the boards is heavily tilted towards the Union Government, and it is filled with pro-BJP unions and employers' organisations.

5. Social Security Boards for Gig and Unorganised Workers

GS Paper II – Social Justice | GS Paper III – Indian Economy

Context

The Union Labour Ministry has constituted two national-level boards to recommend and monitor welfare measures for unorganised, gig and platform workers under the Code on Social Security, 2020.

1. Key Features

- 1. National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers:** 40 members.
- 2. National Social Security Board for Gig and Platform Workers:** 22 members.
- 3. Chairperson:** Union Labour and Employment Minister.
- 4. Vice-Chairperson:** Union Labour Secretary.

5. **Meetings:** At least three times a year.

2. Functions

1. Recommend targeted welfare schemes for different categories of workers.
2. Advise the Union Government on social security measures.
3. Monitor implementation and expenditure of welfare schemes.
4. Review records and accounts and assess scheme performance.

3. Significance

1. **Social Security:** Promotes access to welfare benefits for workers outside traditional employment arrangements.
2. **Gig Economy:** Recognises the growing importance of platform-based employment.
3. **Worker Welfare:** Supports the development of health, insurance and other social protection measures.
4. **Institutional Coordination:** Brings together governments, aggregators, employers and workers.

4. Major Concerns

1. Lack of job security and regular income.
2. Inadequate health insurance, pension and accident protection.
3. Limited representation of workers in decision-making.
4. Unclear accountability of digital platforms and aggregators.
5. Implementation and funding challenges.

5. UPSC Previous-Year Questions (PYQs)

A. UPSC CSE Mains 2021 – GS Paper I

“Examine the role of ‘Gig Economy’ in the process of empowerment of women in India.”

B. UPSC CSE Prelims 2021 – Related Labour and Social Security Topic

With reference to casual workers employed in India, consider the following statements:

1. All casual workers are entitled for Employees Provident Fund coverage.
2. All casual workers are entitled for regular working hours and overtime payment.
3. The government can by a notification specify that an establishment or industry shall pay wages only through its bank account.

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Canada, EU seek closer ties beyond US as leaders push for associate membership

Associated Press

Montreal, October 30

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Mark Carney and European Union leaders are set to conclude a two-day summit Friday as the EU's top official presses to make Canada the bloc's first "associate member" and both sides seek to reduce their dependence on the United States.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa joined Carney in Montreal to pursue an unprecedented alliance that could bring Canada closer to the EU than any previous arrangement with a country outside the bloc. But some European governments have resisted proposed membership designation.

Carney said Thursday that the proposed alliance would help Canada withstand economic shocks and prevent foreign

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governments and technology companies from dictating its choices. He later explicitly used the term "associate member".

"We're in the process of forging a new alliance for the future, with Canada as an associate member," Carney said.

Von der Leyen also championed associate membership but said the proposed "Alliance for the Future" would be a broader partnership open to other countries, with Canada and the EU at its core.



6. Canada–European Union: Proposed Associate Membership

GS Paper II – International Relations

Context

Canada and the European Union (EU) are pursuing an “**Alliance for the Future**” to deepen economic and strategic cooperation and diversify their partnerships beyond the United States.

1. What Is Associate Membership?

Associate membership is a proposed arrangement allowing a non-EU country to establish deeper cooperation with the EU without becoming a full member.

It may involve:

1. Participation in selected EU programmes and initiatives.
2. Cooperation in trade, technology, research and innovation.
3. Collaboration in defence, energy and security.
4. Institutional consultations without automatic voting rights in EU institutions.

2. Legal Basis Under EU Treaties

Associate membership is not expressly established as a separate membership category under EU treaties.

1. **Article 217, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU):** Allows the EU to conclude association agreements with non-EU countries involving reciprocal rights and obligations and common action.
2. **Article 49, Treaty on European Union (TEU):** Provides the procedure for full EU membership, applicable to European States.

3. European Union: Basic Facts

1. **Established:** Maastricht Treaty, 1992; came into force in 1993.
2. **Members:** 27 countries.
3. **Nature:** Political and economic union.
4. **Single Market:** Provides free movement of goods, services, capital and people.
5. **Currency:** Euro is used by 21 EU members as of October 2026.
6. **Last country to join:** Croatia in 2013.
7. **Brexit:** United Kingdom withdrew in 2020.

Major Institutions:

- European Commission – Executive and policy implementation.
- European Parliament – Directly elected legislative body.
- European Council – Provides overall political direction.
- Council of the European Union – Represents member-state governments.
- Court of Justice of the European Union – Interprets EU law.
- European Central Bank – Manages monetary policy for the euro area.

4. Significance of Canada–EU Cooperation

1. **Economic Diversification:** Reduces dependence on the US market.

2. **Strategic Autonomy:** Expands independent economic and foreign-policy choices.
3. **Critical Minerals:** Strengthens secure supply chains.
4. **Technology Cooperation:** Promotes collaboration in artificial intelligence, semiconductors and research.
5. **Defence and Security:** Expands cooperation in defence industries and strategic security.

5. UPSC Prelims PYQ – 2023

Question: The 'Stability and Growth Pact' of the European Union is a treaty that:

1. Limits the levels of the budgetary deficit of the countries of the European Union.
2. Makes the countries of the European Union share their infrastructure facilities.
3. Enables the countries of the European Union to share their technologies.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation: The Stability and Growth Pact promotes fiscal discipline by monitoring government budget deficits and public debt in EU member countries.

Population Census from Jan 25-Feb 28, revisional round from March 1

Express News Service

New Delhi, October 30

POPULATION CENSUS will be conducted from January 25 to February 28, followed by a revisional round from March 1 to 5, the RGI and Census Commissioner of India, Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, said in a gazette notification Friday.

In all states and UTs, except Manipur (till further declaration), Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Ladakh and the snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Himachal Pradesh and J&K, census shall be undertaken, the notification said.

The reference date for the

census will be 00:00 hours of March 1, 2027, it said. "There will be an option for self-enumeration from January 10, 2027, to January 24, 2027, just before the start of house-to-house population enumeration," it said.

Elections are due in UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur early next year.

In June last year, the government had announced the Census reference date for the country, except for Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the UT of J&K and the snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, to be 00.00 hours of March 1, 2027.

7. Census of India 2027

GS Paper II – Governance | GS Paper I – Population and Demography

Context

India's 16th Census and 8th Census after Independence will be conducted in two phases. The 2021 Census was postponed due to COVID-19.

1. Two Phases of Census

Phase I – House Listing and Housing Census (April–September 2026)

1. Collects information on housing conditions, household amenities and assets.
2. Conducted over a 30-day period in each State/UT.
3. Includes a self-enumeration facility before house-to-house visits.

Phase II – Population Enumeration (2027)

1. **Self-enumeration:** 10–24 January 2027.
2. **House-to-house enumeration:** 25 January–28 February 2027.
3. **Revision round:** 1–5 March 2027.
4. **Reference Date:** 00:00 hours, 1 March 2027.
5. Collects individual-level demographic, social and economic information, including age, education, occupation, migration and caste.

2. Important Features

1. **Digital Census:** Use of mobile applications and digital data collection.
2. **Caste Enumeration:** Caste-related information will be collected during Phase II.
3. **Self-Enumeration:** Households can submit information online before the enumerator's visit.

3. Significance

1. **Policy Planning:** Provides updated data for education, healthcare, housing and infrastructure.
2. **Welfare Delivery:** Helps identify demographic and socio-economic needs.
3. **Social Justice:** Supports evidence-based policies for disadvantaged communities.
4. **Resource Allocation:** Improves planning and distribution of public resources.
5. **Demographic Analysis:** Provides information on migration, urbanisation, population growth and workforce trends.

4. Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Union List, Entry 69:** Census is a Union subject.
- **Census Act, 1948:** Provides the legal framework for conducting the Census.