
Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs)-- 7th November 2024

- **PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme**
- **RNA Technologies and Their Impact**
- **What explains the deadly Spain floods?**
- **Why did SC uphold U.P. Madrasa Act?**
- **Palm oil import**
- **Mains**



By saurabh Pandey



THE HINDU

Target Mains -2025/26 -

Q What is sustainable palm oil ? Can india afford to replace palm oil with sustainable one ?

**Connect with sir
9057921649**

**send your answer - Saurabh pandey
upsc telegram channel**

**Download saurabh pandey cse app
visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com and click all courses**

**Comprehensive course on ADVANCE CURRENT
AFFAIRS BOTH FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS 2025**

Includes

- **The Hindu Newspaper
subjectwise coverage**
- **Yojana magazine**
- **Down to earth**
- **PIB**
- **Physics.org**
- **Mains qs**
- **Prelims Practice set**

**2 yrs
coverage**



**BY SAURABH
PANDEY SIR**

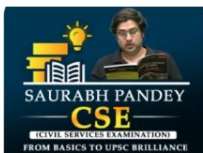
**FOR UPSC
2025/26**

**NEW BATCH
LAUNCHED**

**Connect with sir
9057921649**

LIVE

We're fine-tuning our website in beta mode for the best experience. We're working tirelessly to ensure it's top-notch... Also please join us on [Telegram](#)



Categories ▾

🔍 Search for anything...

Login

Visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com

Home Courses ▾ Pages ▾ More ▾ About UPSC Exam ▾ Current-Affairs Pointers ▾

YouTube Channel

All Courses

⚡ Impo All Courses Current Affairs 22nd & 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024 Current Affairs 21st SEPTEMBER 2024 Curren

Popular Courses

Connect with sir
9057921649 (ONLY MSG)

See More →

Mains Module and Integrity
FOR UPSC 2025/26
GS PAPER 4
250 Marks
Also include ARC report on ethics in Governance
By saurabh pandey sir
Notes with Maps
LIVE

Best Course On Ethics And Integrity For UPSC...

Admin

Mains Module Writing
ESSAY
Total 50 ESSAY
Model essay
VIDEO lectures
Evaluation of Essay
Starting 9th September 2024
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Master The Art Of Essay Writing With This...

Admin

GS PAPER 1
Mains Module
Mains special
Complete course on Society, globalisation, Regionalism, communalism (FOR UPSC 2025/26)
starting 10th Sep 2024
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Course On Society , Globalisation...

Admin

GS PAPER 3
Mains Module
Mains special
Complete course on Cybersecurity, Disaster Management and Border management (FOR UPSC 2025/26)
starting 10th Sep 2024
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Complete Course On Cyber Security ,Disaste...

Admin



PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme for higher education gets nod



The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved a new Central Sector scheme, PM Vidyalaxmi, which seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students in their pursuit of higher education.


Under the scheme, a student who secures admission in any of the top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs), both government and private, will be eligible to get collateral-free, guarantor-


free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course. The scheme will potentially cover 22 lakh students, a Ministry of Education spokesperson said.


Under the scheme, for loans up to ₹7.5 lakh, the student will receive a credit guarantee of 75%, enabling banks to extend education loans to students.


“An outlay of ₹3,600 crore has been made during 2024-25 to 2030-31, and 7 lakh fresh students are expected to get the benefit,” the Ministry added.


Key Features of the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme


 **New Initiative:** The Union Cabinet has approved the PM Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support for meritorious students pursuing higher education.


 **Loan Accessibility:** Students admitted to quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) can access collateral-free and guarantor-free loans to cover tuition and related expenses.

 **Eligibility Criteria:** The scheme targets top 100 institutions as per NIRF rankings, including government and private HEIs, with an initial list of 860 qualifying institutions.

 Interest Subvention: Students with a family income of up to ₹ 8 lakhs can receive a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹ 10 lakhs, benefiting one lakh students annually.

 Digital Process: A unified digital portal, “PM-Vidyalaxmi,” will streamline loan applications and interest subvention processes for students.

 Financial Outlay: An allocation of ₹ 3,600 Crore is set for the scheme from 2024-25 to 2030-31, aiming to support 7 lakh fresh students.

 Complementary Schemes: PM Vidyalaxmi will enhance existing initiatives like the Central Sector Interest Subsidy and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans.

DNA editing is promising to go where RNA editing can't

DNA editing makes permanent changes to a person's genome, and this can lead to irreversible errors. On the other hand, RNA editing makes temporary changes, allowing the effects to fade. In a clinic, this means a doctor can stop the therapy if a problem arises and mitigate long-term risk.

Manjera Gowravaram

In October 16, a biotechnology company in Massachusetts in the U.S. named Wave Life Sciences made headlines for becoming the first company to treat a genetic condition by editing RNA at the clinical level. But for all that this is a breakthrough, scientists had anticipated it.

The role of RNA in a function called RNA interference – where small RNA molecules keep a gene from being expressed – has been essential for the success of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing. The rapid development of mRNA vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic exemplified the complex as well as vital role RNAs play beyond gene expression and regulation. Now, at the dawn of a new era in precision medicine, RNA editing has made a pitch to be at the forefront.

What is RNA editing?

Cells synthesise messenger RNA (mRNA) using instructions in DNA and then “read” instructions from the mRNA to make functional proteins. During this process of transcription, the cell may make mistakes in the mRNA's sequence and, based on them produce faulty proteins. Many of these proteins have been known to cause debilitating disorders. RNA editing allows scientists to fix mistakes in the mRNA after the cell has synthesised it but before the cell reads it to make the proteins.

One technique involves a group of enzymes called adenosine deaminase acting on RNA (ADAR). Adenosine is one of the building blocks of RNA. ADAR works by converting some of the adenosine blocks in mRNA to another molecule called inosine. This is useful because inosine mimics the function of a different RNA building block called guanosine. Because guanosine-like function is found where adenosine is supposed to be, the cell detects a mistake and proceeds to correct it, in the process restoring the mRNA's original function. And then the cell makes normal proteins.

Scientists took advantage of ADAR's effects to pair it with a guide RNA (or gRNA): the gRNA guides ADAR to a specific part of the mRNA, where the ADAR works its magic. They expect a variety of serious genetic conditions can be treated using such site-specific RNA editing.

RNA editing in development

Wave Life Sciences used RNA editing to treat μ 1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD), an inherited disorder. In patients suffering from AATD, levels of the protein μ 1 antitrypsin build up and affect the liver and the lungs. People with AATD affecting the lungs currently go through weekly intravenous therapy for relief, among people where AATD has affected the liver, a liver transplant is the sole treatment option.

In its therapy, dubbed WVE-006, the company used a gRNA to lead ADAR enzymes to specific single-point mutations in the mRNA sequence of the SERPINA1 gene, which contains the instructions for cells to make μ 1 antitrypsin. A single-point mutation occurs when a single building block of the mRNA is wrong. Once at the target, the ADAR enzymes fix the mRNA, and the cell produces a single-point mutation during when a single building block of the



Cells synthesise messenger RNA, or mRNA, using instructions in DNA and then read instructions from the latter to make functional proteins. VCHALGETTY IMAGES

cells produce μ 1 antitrypsin at normal levels.

Wave Life Sciences is planning to extend its RNA editing technology to treat Huntington's disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and obesity. The first two and some forms of obesity are associated with single-point mutations.

Some other companies using ADAR enzymes to perform RNA editing are Korro Bio for AATD and Parkinson's disease; ProQR Therapeutics for heart disease and bile acid buildup in the liver; and Shape Therapeutics for neurological conditions. They use different guides, RNA types, and delivery mechanisms, however.

Researchers are also extending RNA editing to make changes in the exon. mRNA is made up of portions called introns and exons; exons eventually code for a protein, whereas the introns are non-coding parts and are removed from the RNA before it's used to make a protein.

A company called Ascidian Therapeutic is testing its candidate to treat ABCA4 retinopathy. Several mutations in the ABCA4 gene lead to different levels of protein expression and disease severity. The ABCA4 gene is large, so standard gene replacement therapy is not feasible; instead, RNA editing is expected to be able to offer a way out. The candidate started clinical trials in January 2024 with a fast-track designation granted by the U.S. drug regulator.

The same regulator permitted South Korean company Rionomics to conduct trials in the U.S. for its candidate to treat forms of liver cancer. In South Korea, this candidate has already proceeded to phase I and II trials. It works by regulating the

RNA editing is in its nascent stage, yet there are already at least 11 companies developing RNA editing methods for a range of diseases. Their efforts have elicited interest from large pharmaceutical firms, including Eli Lilly, Roche, and Novo Nordisk.

production of human telomerase reverse transcriptase, a protein that affects tumour formation.

RNA vs. DNA editing

RNA editing has some advantages over DNA editing, especially on safety and flexibility. DNA editing makes permanent changes to a person's genome, and sometimes this can lead to irreversible errors. On the other hand, RNA editing makes temporary changes, allowing the effects of the edits to fade over time. In a clinic, this means a doctor can stop the therapy if a problem arises and mitigate long-term risk.

Second, CRISPR-Cas9 and other DNA editing tools require proteins acquired from certain bacteria to perform the cutting function, but these proteins can elicit undesirable immune reactions in some cases. RNA editing relies on ADAR enzymes, which already occur in the human body and thus present a lower risk of allergic reactions. This is useful for people who require repeated treatment and/or who have immune sensitivities.

Challenges in RNA editing

A big challenge in RNA editing is its

specificity. ADARs can perform adenosine-inosine changes in both targeted and non-targeted parts of mRNA, or skip the targeted parts altogether.

When ADARs don't align with the adenosine of interest, potentially serious side-effects could arise.

Scientists are currently trying to improve the accuracy of gRNA by incorporating mechanisms that shield non-targeted parts of the mRNA.

Another challenge is the transient nature of RNA editing; this is also its strength, but individuals will need to be treated repeatedly to sustain the therapy's effects.

Third, current methods to deliver the gRNA-ADAR complex use lipid nanoparticles.


Researchers used them to great success to make mRNA vaccines to treat COVID-19 and the adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors used in gene editing. But both of these methods have a limited carrying capacity, meaning they can't transport large molecules very well.


Market value and future outlook


RNA editing is in its nascent stage, yet there are already at least 11 biotechnology companies worldwide developing RNA editing methods for a range of diseases. Their efforts have elicited interest from large pharmaceutical firms, including Eli Lilly, Roche, and Novo Nordisk.


As research and clinical trials advance in the field of RNA editing, it seems like only a matter of time before RNA editing becomes a fixture of the gene-editing toolkit in clinical practice.

(Manjera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and works as a freelance science writer. manjera@gmail.com)

 RNA Interference: Small RNA molecules are crucial in preventing gene expression, which is essential for the success of CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing.

 mRNA Vaccines: The rapid development of mRNA vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic underscores RNA's vital role beyond gene regulation.

 RNA Editing: This process allows scientists to correct mistakes in mRNA sequences post-synthesis, preventing the production of faulty proteins linked to disorders.


 ADAR Enzymes: Adenosine deaminase acting on RNA (ADAR) converts adenosine in mRNA to inosine, mimicking guanosine and facilitating error correction.


- Cells synthesise messenger RNA (mRNA) using instructions in DNA and then “read” instructions from the mRNA to make functional proteins.
 - During this process of transcription, the cell may make mistakes in the mRNA’s sequence and, based on them produce faulty proteins.
 - Many of these proteins have been known to cause debilitating disorders. RNA editing allows scientists to fix mistakes in the mRNA after the cell has synthesised it but before the cell reads it to make the proteins.
 - One technique involves a group of enzymes called adenosine deaminase acting on RNA (ADAR). Adenosine is one of the building blocks of RNA.
-

ADAR works by converting some of the adenosine blocks in mRNA to another molecule called inosine.

This is useful because inosine mimics the function of a different RNA building block called guanosine.

Because guanosine-like function is found where adenosine is supposed to be, the cell detects a mistake and proceeds to correct it, in the process restoring the mRNA's original function. And then the cell makes normal proteins

 Guide RNA (gRNA): gRNA directs ADAR to specific mRNA locations, enhancing RNA editing precision for potential genetic condition treatments.

 Precision Medicine: RNA editing is poised to play a leading role in precision medicine, targeting serious genetic disorders.

☀ Future Potential: The combination of ADAR and gRNA opens avenues for treating various serious genetic conditions through site-specific RNA editing.

Summary: RNA editing, particularly through ADAR enzymes and guide RNA, offers promising solutions for correcting mRNA errors and advancing precision medicine.

RNA vs. DNA Editing

RNA editing offers temporary changes, reducing long-term risks compared to permanent DNA editing.

First Clinical Application

Wave Life Sciences pioneered the treatment of genetic conditions through RNA editing, specifically targeting α -1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD).

Mechanism of RNA Editing

RNA editing corrects mistakes in mRNA using enzymes like ADAR, which convert adenosine to inosine, mimicking guanosine to restore mRNA function.



Targeted Treatment



The therapy WVE-006 uses guide RNA to direct ADAR enzymes to specific mutations in the SERPINA1 gene, enabling normal production of α -1 antitrypsin.



Future Applications

Wave Life Sciences aims to expand RNA editing technology to treat conditions like Huntington's disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and obesity.



Other Companies in RNA Editing

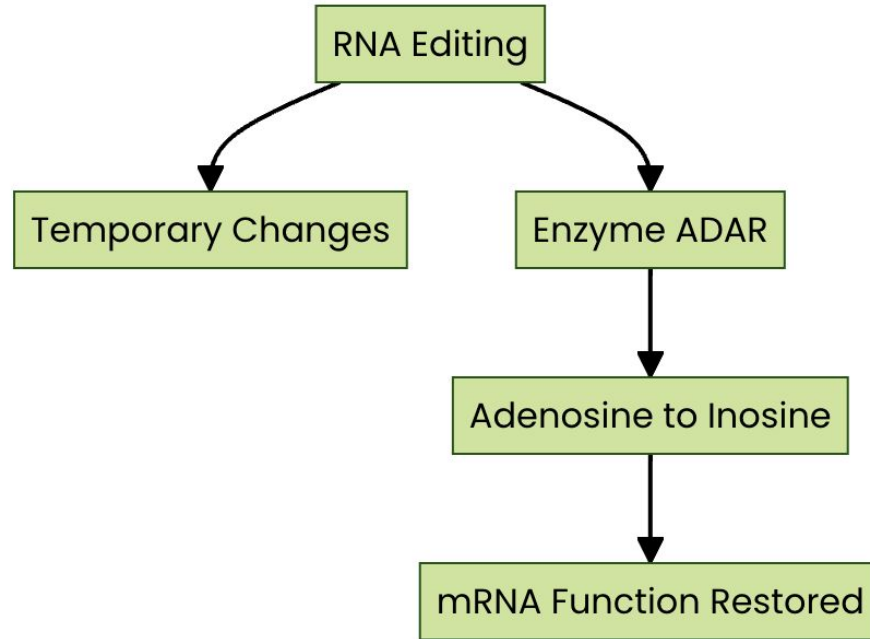
Companies like Korro Bio, ProQr Therapeutics, and Shape Therapeutics are exploring RNA editing for various genetic conditions using different methods.



Significance in Precision Medicine

RNA editing is emerging as a key player in precision medicine, especially after the success of mRNA vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RNA Editing Process:



Summary: RNA editing provides a promising alternative to DNA editing by allowing temporary corrections in mRNA, with significant clinical applications already underway.

RNA Editing: vs DNA editing



RNA Editing vs. DNA Editing

RNA editing offers temporary changes in gene expression, minimizing long-term risks compared to permanent DNA edits.

First Clinical Application

Wave Life Sciences pioneered the treatment of a genetic condition using RNA editing, specifically targeting -1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD).

Mechanism of Action

The process involves ADAR enzymes converting adenosine to inosine in mRNA, correcting errors before proteins are synthesized.

Future Applications

Wave Life Sciences aims to expand RNA editing to treat conditions like Huntington's disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and obesity.

Companies like Korro Bio and ProQr Therapeutics are exploring RNA editing for various diseases, utilizing different techniques.

Challenges

Key challenges include ensuring specificity of ADAR enzymes, the need for repeated treatments, and limitations in current delivery methods for the gRNA-ADAR complex.

Regulatory Progress

Companies such as Ascidian Therapeutics and Rznomics are advancing RNA editing therapies through clinical trials, with some receiving fast-track designations from regulators.

Summary: RNA editing presents a promising alternative to DNA editing, offering temporary solutions for genetic disorders with ongoing clinical advancements and challenges in specificity and delivery.

RNA Technologies and Their Impact

mRNA Vaccines

- Rapid development during COVID-19 1
- Role beyond gene regulation 1

RNA Editing

- Corrects mRNA errors 1
- Uses ADAR enzymes 1
- Converts adenosine to inosine 1
- Temporary changes vs. DNA editing 5

Clinical Applications

- Wave Life Sciences' AATD treatment 5
- WVE-006 therapy for SERPINA1 gene 6
- Future targets: Huntington's, Duchenne, obesity 6

Companies in RNA Editing

- Korro Bio, ProQr Therapeutics, Shape Therapeutics 6
- Exploring various genetic conditions 6

Precision Medicine

- Key player after mRNA vaccine success 6
- Temporary solutions for genetic disorders 7

Challenges and Progress

- Specificity of ADAR enzymes 7
- Need for repeated treatments 7
- Delivery method limitations 7
- Regulatory advancements 7



The aftermath of the floods in Spain. AFP

What explains the deadly Spain floods?

Reuters

In a matter of minutes, flash floods caused by heavy downpours in eastern Spain swept away almost everything in their path. With no time to react, people were trapped in vehicles, homes, and businesses. Many died, and thousands of livelihoods were shattered.

A week later, authorities have recovered 217 bodies – with 211 of them in the eastern Valencia region – and are searching for at least 49 people confirmed to be unaccounted for. Police, firefighters, and soldiers continued to search Tuesday for an unknown number of missing people.

The ground floors of thousands of homes have been ruined, inside some of the vehicles that the water washed away or trapped in underground garages, there are still bodies waiting to be identified.

The storms concentrated over the Mayo and Turia river basins and, in the Pego canal, produced walls of water that overflowed riverbanks, catching people unaware as they went on with their daily lives on Tuesday evening and early Wednesday.

In the blink of an eye, the muddy water covered roads and railways and entered houses and businesses in towns and villages on the southern outskirts of Valencia. Drivers had to take shelter on car roofs, while residents took refuge on higher ground.

Spain's national weather service said that in the Chiva locality, it rained more in eight hours than it had in the preceding 20 months. Other areas on the southern outskirts of Valencia city didn't get rain

In the blink of an eye, the water covered roads and railways and entered homes and businesses. Drivers had to take shelter on car roofs, while residents took refuge on higher ground

before they were wiped out by the wall of water that overflowed the drainage canals.

When authorities sent alerts to mobile phones warning of the seriousness of the flooding and asking people to stay at home, many were already on the road, working or covered in water in low-lying areas or underground garages, which became death traps.

Scientists trying to explain what happened see two likely connectors to human-caused climate change. One is that warmer air holds and then dumps more rain. The other is possible changes in the jet stream – the river of air above land that moves weather systems across the globe – that spawn extreme weather.

Climate scientists and meteorologists said the immediate cause of the flooding is called a cut-off low-pressure storm system that migrated from an unusually waxy and stalled jet stream. This system simply parked over the region and poured rain.


And then there is the unusually high temperature of the Mediterranean sea. It had its warmest surface temperature on record in mid-August, at 28.47 degrees C, said Gerd Kohler of the Centre for Flood Risk and Resilience at Brunel University of London.


The extreme weather event came after Spain basked with prolonged droughts in 2022 and 2023. Experts say that drought and flood cycles are increasing with climate change.

Spain's Mediterranean coast is used to autumn storms that can cause flooding.

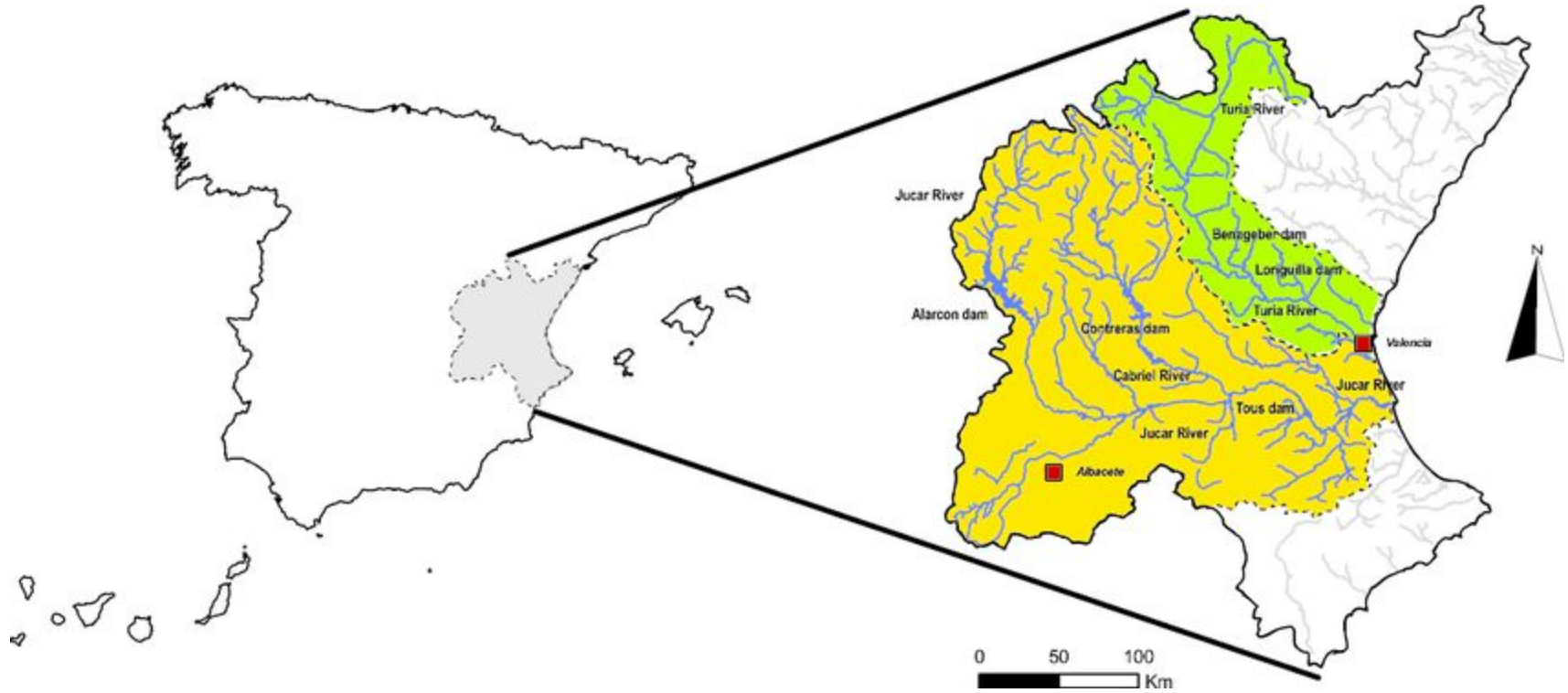
Topic → What explains the deadly Spain floods?


 Severe Storms: Storms over the Magro and Turia river basins caused sudden flooding, overwhelming riverbanks and affecting daily life in Valencia.


 Emergency Situations: Residents and drivers sought refuge on car roofs and higher ground as muddy waters inundated roads, railways, and homes.


 Record Rainfall: In Chiva, rainfall in eight hours exceeded the total for the previous 20 months, highlighting the storm's intensity.

 Delayed Alerts: Authorities issued mobile alerts about the flooding, but many were already caught in dangerous situations due to the rapid onset of water.

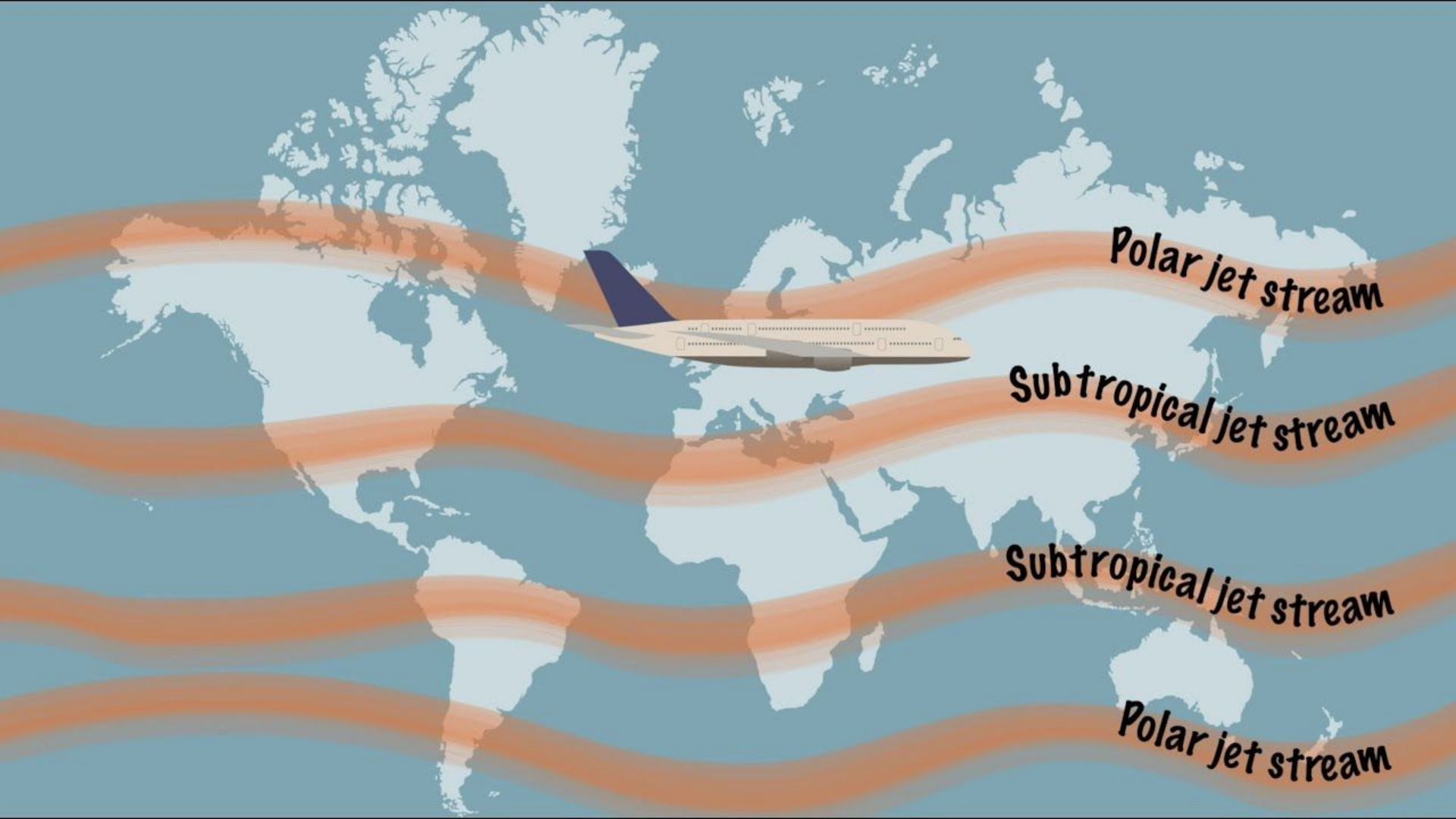


 Climate Change Links: Scientists attribute the flooding to climate change, noting warmer air holds more moisture and changes in the jet stream may lead to extreme weather.

 Warm Mediterranean Sea: The Mediterranean Sea recorded its highest surface temperature in mid-August, contributing to the storm's severity.

 Drought-Flood Cycles: The flooding followed prolonged droughts in 2022 and 2023, indicating an increasing pattern of drought and flood cycles due to climate change.

Summary: A powerful storm caused unprecedented flooding in Valencia, linked to climate change and exacerbated by record rainfall and high sea temperatures



Polar jet stream

Subtropical jet stream

Subtropical jet stream

Polar jet stream

Why did SC uphold the U.P. Madrasa Act?

How do madrasas operate? Why did the Allahabad High Court strike down the law? What were the top court's findings? What are the potential consequences of the ruling on the Centre's funding for madrasas?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Supreme Court on November 5, 2024, upheld the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004, with exceptions. The top court set aside the Allahabad High Court's decision, which had deemed the 2004 Act to be in breach of the principles of secularism. However, in its ruling, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud, contended that provisions allowing the madrasa board to award higher degrees such as Kamil (undergraduate studies) and Faizil (postgraduate studies) contravened the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, rendering it unconstitutional.

How do madrasas operate?

The Arabic word "madrasah" denotes an educational institution. The madrasa system has been in existence since the era of the Delhi Sultanate, receiving patronage from the Khilji and Tughlaq dynasties. Over time, it evolved into a distinct education system providing religious and secular learning. Notable figures such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Rajaendra Prasad, and Premchand are believed to have gained their foundational knowledge from madrasas and their teachers, known as maulvis.

The bulk of the funding for madrasas comes from the respective State governments. In 1993, the PV Narsimha Rao government recognised the necessity of integrating modern education into madrasas, resulting in the 2009 Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM).

According to data presented by the Union government in Parliament on February 3, 2020, India has 24,000 madrasas, with around 60%—approximately 14,400—located in Uttar Pradesh. These include 1,021 recognised and 2,907 unrecognised madrasas. The 2004 Act was enacted to regulate these madrasas with respect to curriculum, standard of education, conduct of examinations, and qualifications for teaching. It also established the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education, predominantly comprising members from the Muslim community. Under Section 9 of the Act, the Board is responsible for preparing course material, granting degrees, and conducting examinations.

What was the case?

A single judge of the Allahabad High Court on October 23, 2019, while hearing a petition filed by Mohammed Javed, expressed doubt regarding the validity of the 2004 Act.

Mr. Javed was appointed as a part-time assistant teacher in 2011 for the primary section of Madarsa Nisaraal Uloom Shahzadpur, Akbarpur Post Office, District Ambedkar Nagar on a fixed salary of ₹4,000 per month, subject to an 8% annual increment. He approached the High Court, arguing that he should receive a salary equivalent to that of regular teachers.

He also contended that appointments to madrasas should be regulated by the State government, the Madrasa Shiksha Parishad, and the district minority welfare officer.

While referring the matter to a larger Bench, the judge observed, "With a secular Constitution in India, can persons of a particular religion be appointed or nominated in a board for education purposes or should it be persons



Shaping future: Students at a madrasa in Azad Nagar dera village of Uttar Pradesh's Unnao District. R.V. KOOTHEER

belonging to any religion, who are exponent in the fields for the purposes of which the board is constituted...". Meanwhile, lawyer Anshuman Singh Rathore filed a public interest Litigation (PIL) petition in the High Court challenging the validity of the 2004 Act on the ground that it violated secularism as well as Articles 14 (equality before law), 15 (which forbids discrimination) and 21A (right to education) of the Constitution. The larger Bench accordingly framed the question of law for adjudication as— "Whether the provisions of the Madrasa Act stand the test of secularism, which forms a part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India?" The impugned verdict was jointly pronounced on all such pleas.

Why did the High Court strike down the law?

After examining the curriculum taught in the madrasas, a Bench comprising Justices Subhash Vidyarathi and Vivek Chandrayudh observed that the education imparted in these institutions is "neither quality nor universal in nature" and that "the State has no power to create a Board for religious education or to establish a Board for school education only for a particular religion and philosophy associated with it."

It thus concluded that the 2004 Act violated secularism and that the government could not "discriminate" by imparting education based on religious affiliation.

The judges further noted that while "Islamic studies" is mandatory in all madrasas, essential modern subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science are either excluded or made optional. This, they reasoned, undermines the State's constitutional obligation under Article 21A to ensure "quality" education for all children aged six to fourteen.

Highlighting that "higher education" is a field reserved under Entry 66 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the High Court further asserted that if State government lacks the competence to legislate on such matters, it accordingly ordered that students enrolled in madrasas be promptly accommodated in regular schools recognised by the State government.

What was NCPCE's response?

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCE), the top child rights protection body in the country, told the top court that madrasas are "unsuitable or unfit" places for children to receive "proper education". It also flagged concerns related to the curriculum, teachers' eligibility, opaque funding, and violation of land laws to assert that such institutions fail to provide a "holistic environment" to children.

In June, the child rights body issued a series of directives urging the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories to withdraw recognition of government-aided madrasas that do not comply with the Right to Education Act, 2009. Subsequently, the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh directed District Collectors to examine madrasas that had enrolled non-Muslim students and ensure their immediate transfer to recognised schools. On August 28, the Tripura government issued a similar directive.

The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, an organisation of Muslim clerics, consequently challenged these directives in the Supreme Court contending that such measures encroached upon the rights of religious minorities to establish and manage their educational institutions under Article 30 of the Constitution. Accordingly, the court directed the concerned authorities to refrain from implementing these directives until the matter was conclusively adjudicated.

What did the Supreme Court finally decide?

Dismissing the High Court's finding that the 2004 Act violated secularism, the Chief Justice underscored that any such purported infraction should be traced to an express provision of the Constitution and cannot simply be invalidated by making a blanket statement that it contravened the Basic Structure. "The reason is that concepts such as democracy, federalism, and secularism are undefined concepts. Allowing courts to strike down legislation for the violation of such concepts will introduce an element of uncertainty in our constitutional adjudication," he reasoned. The court further opined that the State must strike a delicate balance between maintaining quality education and respecting the autonomy of minority

educational institutions. It underscored that the 2004 Act ought to be construed to be in consonance with Article 21A "to ensure that religious minority institutions impart secular education of a requisite standard without destroying the minority character". However, the Chief Justice cautioned that in accordance with Article 28(3) of the Constitution, a student compelled to take part in religious instruction or forced to attend religious worship.

The unanimous verdict further noted that while madrasas offer religious instruction, their primary objective is to impart education, thereby bringing them within the fold of Entry 25 of the Concurrent List.

"The mere fact that the education sought to be regulated includes some religious teaching or instruction does not push a legislation outside the legislative competence of a State," the judges asserted.

However, the court invalidated provisions of the 2004 Act that allowed the issuance of higher educational degrees, emphasising that such degrees are exclusively regulated by the UGC Act and thus lie beyond the legislative competence of the State Legislature. Nonetheless, it clarified that this does not necessitate the annulment of the entire statute, as doing so would be akin to "throwing the baby out with the bathwater."

What are the implications?

The verdict sets an important precedent for balancing essential state oversight with the protection of minority rights. By affirming the 2004 Act's primary aim of improving quality education, the court reinforces a nuanced approach to secularism that embraces diversity within India's education system. Ifkhar Ahmed Javed, Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education, earlier told Reuters that dismissing madrasas would adversely impact 27 million students and 10,000 teachers in Uttar Pradesh alone. Additionally, the ruling may prompt the Centre to consider its substantial budget cuts for madrasa funding, which dropped from ₹10 crore in 2023-24 to ₹2 crore in 2024-25.

THE GIST

▼ The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004, except for its provisions allowing the Board to award higher degrees.

▼ The court emphasised the need for the State to balance quality education with the autonomy of minority institutions, advocating for madrasas to provide a standard secular education while respecting their religious character.

▼ The court asserted that State regulation of madrasas, even with religious instruction, is valid as long as it does not breach legislative competence or overstep minority rights.

— Topic → Why did SC uphold U.P. Madrasa Act?

Overview

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004.

Overtured the Allahabad High Court's decision against the Act.

Central issues include Secularism, Higher Education, and State Funding.

Key Points

Madrasas offer a blend of religious and secular education.


The Act governs curriculum, examinations, and teacher qualifications.


Funding is primarily provided by State Governments


Supreme Court Ruling on Education and Minority Rights





Key Highlights


 Supreme Court Ruling: The Supreme Court overturned the High Court's decision, emphasizing that claims of secularism violations must be grounded in explicit constitutional provisions.


 Balance in Education: The court stressed the importance of balancing quality education with the autonomy of minority educational institutions, in line with Article 21A of the Constitution.

 Religious Instruction: It was ruled that students in minority institutions should not be forced to participate in religious instruction or worship, as per Article 28(3).

 Madrasas' Role: Madrasas were recognized as educational institutions with a primary focus on education, despite offering religious instruction, thus falling under the State's legislative competence.

 **Invalidation of 2024 Act Provisions:** Certain provisions of the 2024 Act, which allowed the issuance of higher educational degrees, were invalidated due to regulation by the UGC Act.

 **Precedent for Minority Rights:** The verdict sets a precedent for balancing state oversight with minority rights, reinforcing a nuanced approach to secularism in education.

 **Impact on Madrasa Funding:** The ruling may prompt a reevaluation of budget cuts for madrasa funding, which had significantly decreased from ₹10 crore to ₹2 crore.

Summary

The Supreme Court's decision underscores the balance between quality education and minority rights, while invalidating specific provisions of the 2024 Act concerning higher education degrees

Supreme Court Ruling on Madarsa Education Act

Overview

Constitutional Validity 1

Overturned Allahabad High Court 1

Central Issues 1

Secularism

Higher Education

State Funding

Madrasas Education

Religious and Secular Blend 1

Curriculum and Examinations 1

Teacher Qualifications 1

State Government Funding 1

Supreme Court Ruling

Minority Rights Precedent 2

State Oversight Balance 2

Nuanced Secularism Approach 2

Summary

Quality Education vs. Minority Rights 3

Invalidated 2024 Act Provisions 3

Higher Education Degrees 3



India's palm oil imports soar



Festive spirit: Edible oil demand was robust in festival season, prompting refiners to replenish inventories. AFP

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's palm oil imports surged 59% in October to a three-month high compared to the previous month, as refiners boosted purchases to replenish stocks depleted by lower-than-usual imports in recent months and strong festive demand, five dealers said.

Higher purchases by the world's biggest vegetable oils importer could lead to lower palm oil stocks in key producers Indonesia and Malaysia, supporting benchmark futures.

Palm oil imports jumped 59% in October from the previous month to 840,000 metric tons, according to estimates from dealers.

Demand for edible oils was robust during the festival season, prompting refiners to replenish their inventories, said Rajesh Patel, managing partner at GGN Research, an edible oil trader.

Indians celebrated the Dussehra and Diwali festivals in the last few weeks, increasing the consumption of sweets and fried food.

Palm oil prices were competitive in August when many Indian buyers placed orders, said Sandeep Bajoria, CEO of Sunvin Group, a vegetable oil brokerage.


Soyoil imports in October fell 10% from a month ago to 344,000 metric tons, while sunflower oil imports jumped 57% to 240,000 metric tons, dealers said.


Delayed sunflower oil shipments in September arrived in October, which is reflected in the import numbers, a Mumbai-based dealer said.


The rise in imports of palm oil and sunflower oil lifted the country's total edible oil imports in October by 34% to 1.42 million tons, as per dealers' estimates. India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.


Topic → Palm oil import




 India's palm oil imports surged by 59% in October, reaching 840,000 metric tons, marking a three-month high.

 The increase in imports is attributed to refiners replenishing stocks due to lower previous imports and strong festive demand.

 The festive season, including Dussehra and Diwali, led to higher consumption of sweets and fried foods, boosting edible oil demand.

 India, the world's largest vegetable oils importer, primarily sources palm oil from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

 Soyoil imports decreased by 10% to 344,000 metric tons, while sunflower oil imports increased by 57% to 240,000 metric tons.



— Delayed shipments of sunflower oil from September contributed to the rise in October's import figures.



Overall, India's total edible oil imports rose by 34% in October to 1.42 million tons.

Need for sustainable palm oil



Palm Oil Demand: The increasing demand for palm oil leads to significant deforestation in producer countries like Indonesia and Malaysia.



Forest Loss Statistics: Between 2005 and 2010, approximately 28% of forest loss in Indonesia and Malaysia was linked to palm oil production.



Endangered Species: The expansion of oil palm plantations threatens the habitats of critically endangered species, including the Sumatran tiger, elephants, and orangutans.



Ecosystem Services Loss: Deforestation results in the loss of vital ecosystem services, such as clean water and soil erosion control.



Carbon Emissions: Clearing forests and draining peatlands for palm oil plantations significantly contributes to carbon dioxide emissions, exacerbating global warming.




Health and Economic Impact: Burning forests creates haze that affects public health and disrupts economic activities in surrounding areas.





Community Displacement: Land acquisition for palm oil plantations leads to the displacement of communities, resulting in loss of land, livelihoods, and _____ homes.


Meaning Sustainable palm oil





 Definition: Sustainable palm oil is produced and sourced in a way that is environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable.


 Standards: Various voluntary and mandatory standards have emerged, including the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO), and Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO).

 Certification: RSPO is recognized as the only credible, independent, and multistakeholder certification scheme for sustainable palm oil.

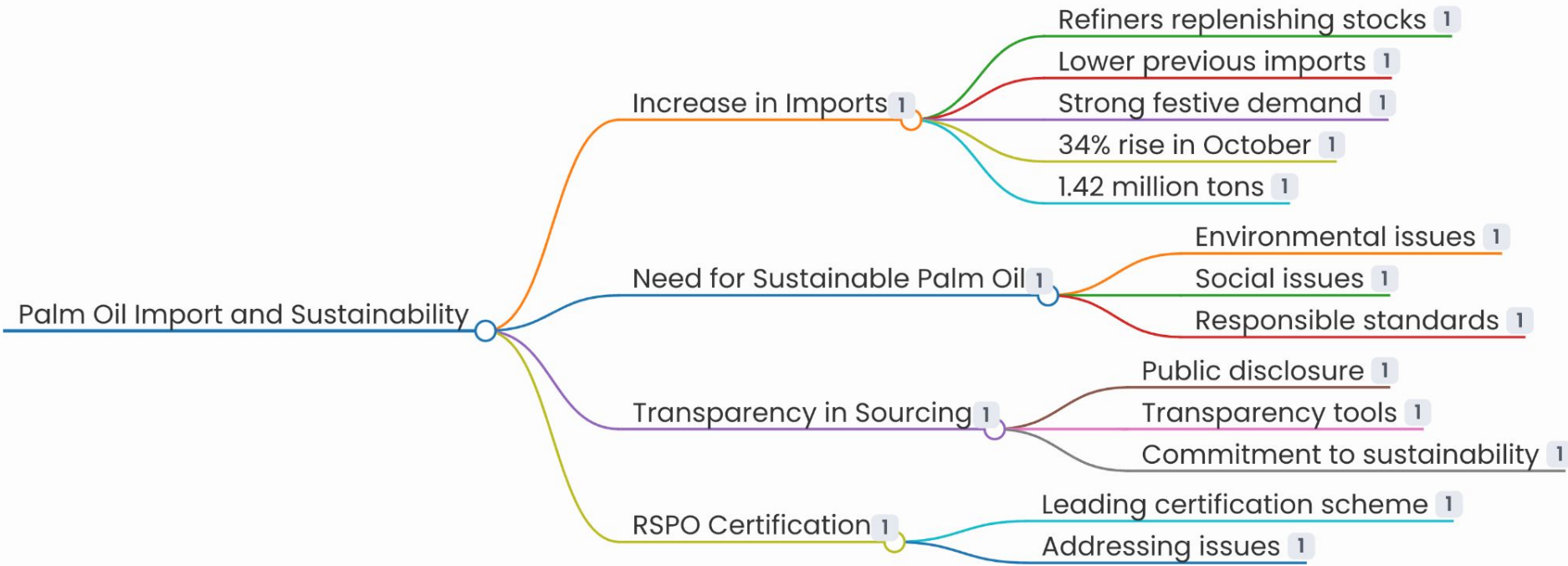
 Company Actions: Companies can adopt responsible sourcing goals, disclose commitments, and join platforms like I-SPOC to promote sustainable palm oil in India.

 Implementation: Developing responsible sourcing policies and voluntarily adopting certifications are key steps for companies transitioning to sustainable practices.

 Global Market: The aim is to ensure a continuous supply of certified sustainable palm oil to the global market.

 Transparency: Public disclosure and transparency tools are essential for companies to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable sourcing.

Summary: Sustainable palm oil is produced under responsible standards to address environmental and social issues, with RSPO being the leading certification scheme



Download saurabh pandey cse app
visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com and click all courses

Comprehensive course on **ADVANCE CURRENT AFFAIRS BOTH FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS 2025**

Includes

2 yrs coverage

- The Hindu Newspaper subjectwise coverage
- Yojana magazine
- Down to earth
- PIB
- Physics.org
- Mains qs
- Prelims Practice set



BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

FOR UPSC
2025/26

NEW BATCH
LAUNCHED

Connect with sir
9057921649

LIVE

AGRICULTURE OPTIONAL

NEW BATCH LAUNCHED

For UPSC IAS
/IFoS 2025/26

For any Question message-
9057921649

SCORE 300+

BY Saurabh pandey sir



UPSC CSE PRELIMS TEST
SERIES FOR 2025

NEXT TEST
ON
MONDAY
9:30 AM

- Total 30 tests
- Includes advance current affairs and static
- Revision PDF



BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Msg-9057921649

Course on Complete Ethics
and Integrity

GS PAPER 4

250 Marks

Also include ARC
Report on ethics
in Governance

By saurabh
pandey sir

FOR UPSC
2025/26

Notes with mind
Maps

LIVE

Master Essay Writing

Connect with sir 90579 21649

ESSAY

- Total 50 ESSAY
- Model essay
- VIDEO lectures
- Evaluation of Essay

Download -saurabh
pandey cse APP



BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

TARGET 140+

We're fine-tuning our website in beta mode for the best experience. We're working tirelessly to ensure it's top-notch... Also please join us on [Telegram](#)



Categories ▾

🔍 Search for anything...

Login

Visit - saurabhpandeyupsc.com

Home Courses ▾ Pages ▾ More ▾ About UPSC Exam ▾ Current-Affairs Pointers ▾

YouTube Channel

All Courses

⚡ Impo All Courses Current Affairs 22nd & 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024 Current Affairs 21st SEPTEMBER 2024 Curren

Popular Courses

Connect with sir
9057921649 (ONLY MSG)

See More →

Mains Module and Integrity
FOR UPSC 2025/26
GS PAPER 4
250 Marks
Also include ARC report on ethics in Governance
By saurabh pandey sir
Notes with Maps
LIVE

Best Course On Ethics And Integrity For UPSC...

Admin

Mains Module Writing
ESSAY
Connect with sir 90579 21649
Starting 9th September 2024
• Total 50 ESSAY
• Model essay
• VIDEO lectures
• Evaluation of Essay
TARGET 140+
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Master The Art Of Essay Writing With This...

Admin

GS PAPER 1
Mains Module
Mains special
Connect with sir 90579 21649
starting 10th Sep 2024
Complete course on Society, globalisation, Regionalism, communalism (FOR UPSC 2025/26)
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Course On Society , Globalisation...

Admin

GS PAPER 3
Mains Module
Mains special
Connect with sir 90579 21649
starting 10th Sep 2024
Complete course on Cybersecurity, Disaster Management and Border management (FOR UPSC 2025/26)
BY SAURABH PANDEY SIR

Complete Course On Cyber Security ,Disaste...

Admin





Google Play

Games

Apps

Movies

Books

Kids



Saurabh Pandey CSE

Saurabh Pandey CSE

4.8★

77 reviews

1K+

Downloads

3+

Rated for 3+

Install



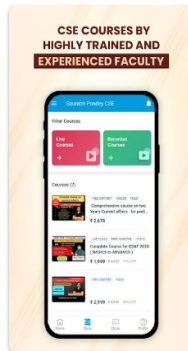
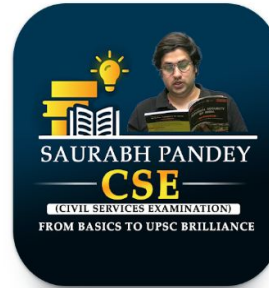
Share



Add to wishlist



This app is available for your device



App support

PDF Download → <https://t.me/gesreporter>



THE HINDU Analysis By saurabh sir for upsc
1 882 subscribers

Pinned Message
The hindu session is live 🔥🔥🔥

<https://youtu.be/JQC9g4tXVI?si=8L4HsagHQ2TVDEIQ>

YouTube
30th & 29th September 2024 | The Hindu Editorial & News Analysis | Daily current affairs | S pandey
#thehinduanalysisbysaurabhpandey #dailycurrentaffairs #thehinduanalysis #thehinduanalysisbysaurabhpandey #Saurabhpandeyupsc
Session covers the hind...

162 👁 11:37 AM

Saurabh pandey UPSC
<https://youtu.be/JQC9g4tXVI?si=8L4HsagHQ2...>
The hindu session is live 🔥🔥🔥 176 👁 11:37 AM

THE HINDU Analysis By saurabh sir for upsc pinned "The hindu session is live 🔥🔥🔥"

sp sir 29th and...24 the hindu.pdf
5.8 MB · 164 👁 12:20 PM

Broadcast

Target Mains -2025/26 -

Q What is sustainable palm oil ? Can india afford to replace palm oil with sustainable one ?

**Connect with sir
9057921649**

**send your answer - Saurabh pandey
upsc telegram channel**
