



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 27-05-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Karni Mata Temple

### **GS-2**

2. Supreme Court Collegium
3. India Shuts Land Ports with Bangladesh

### **GS-3**

4. Oil Spill Near Kerala
5. Naxalism in India

## **Karni Mata Temple**

**Syllabus: GS-1: Art and Architecture – Temples.**

### **Context:**

- The Karni Mata Temple, located in Deshnok near Bikaner, Rajasthan, is a unique pilgrimage site dedicated to **Karni Mata**, revered as an incarnation of **Goddess Durga**. It is popularly known as the “**Rat Temple**” due to the presence of thousands of sacred rats, or *kabas*, which freely roam the premises.

### **Historical Background**

- **Karni Mata**, also known as **Ridhi Kanwar**, was born in **1387 CE** into a **Charan** family—traditionally bards and genealogists.
- She is believed to have been foretold to her mother by Goddess Durga herself.
- Renowned for her **miraculous powers** and saintly life, her deeds are chronicled in oral traditions and in texts like **Karni Mata Charitra**.
- She is deeply venerated across Rajasthan and considered a **kuldevi** (family deity) by several communities.

### **Architectural Significance**

- The present temple was built in the **early 20th century** by **Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner**.
- It features **traditional Rajasthani temple architecture**, including intricately carved marble panels, silver doors, and a serene sanctum.
- The temple is managed and maintained by the **Charan community**, its traditional custodians.

### **Cultural Importance**

- Karni Mata is not only worshipped by the **Charans**, but also by **Rathore Rajputs** and other Rajasthani clans.
- She is seen as a **symbol of protection, spiritual strength, and legitimacy** for Rajput rulers.
- Her worship reflects the blending of **folk sainthood with royal patronage**.

### Worship of Rats

- The temple houses **over 25,000 rats**, called *kabas*, which are revered as **reincarnated devotees or descendants** of Karni Mata.
- Legend: When Karni Mata's stepson died, she pleaded with Yama (god of death) to revive him. When refused, she declared her lineage would no longer pass into Yama's realm but be reborn as rats.
- Rats are fed, protected, and allowed to move freely. **Prasad nibbled by them is considered sacred.**
- **Sightings of a white rat** are considered especially auspicious and a sign of divine presence.

### Significance for the Armed Forces

- The temple holds emotional and historical importance for **military personnel**, especially those from Rajasthan.
- It is associated with regiments like the **Karni Battalion**, and **soldiers often seek blessings** before deployment.
- It serves as a **symbol of courage, protection, and divine favour.**

### Pilgrimage and Practices

- The temple draws thousands of pilgrims daily, especially during the **Navratri festivals**.
- **Devotees walk barefoot**, avoiding harm to the sacred rats.
- Offerings include **milk, grains, and sweets**, which the rats consume.
- **Faith and reverence** define the temple atmosphere, attracting visitors from across India and the world.

### Conclusion

The Karni Mata Temple is a **unique blend of faith, folklore, and cultural identity**. Its sanctity is enhanced not only by its association with miraculous legends but also by its living traditions that link the divine to everyday life—through devotion, lineage, and even the tiniest beings, like rats.

## **Supreme Court Collegium**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Structure and Functioning of Judiciary.**

### **Context:**

The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday (May 26, 2025) recommended the names of two Chief Justices of High Courts and a judge of the Bombay High Court for appointment as judges of the Supreme Court.

### **What is the Collegium System?**

- **Definition:** The **Collegium System** is a mechanism evolved by the **Supreme Court of India** for the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary (High Courts and Supreme Court).
- It is **not mentioned in the Constitution**; rather, it is a **judicial innovation**.

### **Constitutional Provisions Involved**

- **Article 124(2)** – Appointment of Supreme Court judges by the President after consultation.
- **Article 217(1)** – Appointment of High Court judges.
- **Article 222** – Transfer of High Court judges.

### **Evolution of the Collegium System (Three Judges Cases)**

- **First Judges Case (1981):**
  - SC ruled that "**consultation**" with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) does not mean **concurrence**.
  - Gave primacy to the **executive** in judicial appointments.
- **Second Judges Case (1993):**
  - Overruled the First Judges Case.
  - Held that **CJI's opinion**, formed in **consultation with two senior-most judges**, would have **primacy**.
  - Gave rise to the **Collegium System**.
- **Third Judges Case (1998):**
  - Clarified that the Collegium would consist of:

- **CJI + 4 senior-most judges** of the Supreme Court for appointments to the SC.
- **CJI + 2 senior-most judges** for appointments to High Courts.
  - Executive's role limited to **formally approving** the recommendations.

### Composition of the Collegium

Level	Collegium Members
Supreme Court	CJI + 4 senior-most judges of the SC
High Court	Chief Justice of the HC + 2 senior-most judges of that HC

### Functions of the Collegium

- Recommending names for:
  - Appointment of **judges to SC & HCs**.
  - **Transfer** of High Court judges.
  - **Elevation** of HC judges to SC.
- Recommending the **Chief Justice of India** and Chief Justices of High Courts.

### Procedure of Appointment

- **Collegium initiates** recommendation.
- **Law Ministry** examines the names.
- **Prime Minister** advises the **President** for final appointment.
- If the executive **returns** a name for reconsideration and the Collegium **reiterates**, the **President is bound** to appoint.

### Criticism of the Collegium System

- **Lack of transparency** and no formal criteria.
- **No public accountability**.
- **Opaque selection** process.
- **Nepotism** and favoritism allegations.
- **No role for legislature or civil society**.

### NJAC and the Supreme Court Verdict

- **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act** (99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014):
  - Sought to replace the Collegium with NJAC.
  - Members: CJI, 2 senior-most SC judges, Law Minister, 2 eminent persons.
- **SC struck it down in 2015** (4:1 majority) in the **Fourth Judges Case**, declaring it **unconstitutional** as it violated **judicial independence** (basic structure doctrine).

### Reforms Suggested

- **Maintain transparency** by recording reasons.
- **Involve civil society** or eminent persons.
- **Establish a permanent secretariat** for the Collegium.
- **Legislate a Judicial Appointments Commission** that is consistent with the independence of the judiciary.

### Practice Qs:

Q. The Collegium system for judicial appointments lacks transparency and accountability. Critically evaluate in the context of recent controversies and judicial reforms. (10 marks, 150 words)

## **India Shuts Land Ports with Bangladesh**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Bilateral Relations – India – Bangladesh.**

### Context:

- On **May 17, 2025**, the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** issued an order halting imports of **readymade garments and other goods from Bangladesh via land ports**.
- **Sea ports (Kolkata and Nhava Sheva)** remain operational for such imports.
- The ban includes items such as **fruits, processed foods, cotton, and plastic goods**.
- Justified by India as a measure to ensure **reciprocity in bilateral trade**.

## Reasons Behind India's Trade Restriction

### ➤ Retaliatory Action:

- On **April 13, 2025**, Bangladesh imposed a ban on **cotton yarn imports from India**.
- Bangladesh also **suspended rice imports** from India via the **Hili land port**.
- Reports of **aggressive inspections** of Indian trucks at Bangladeshi checkpoints.

### ➤ Protection of Northeastern States:

- Indian authorities cited the need to **protect local industries** in the **Northeast**, aligning with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- Trade through land ports particularly affects northeastern commerce.

## Impact on Trade Dynamics

- **24 land ports** exist between the two nations — now blocked from bilateral trade.
- The restriction affects **cross-border supply chains**, including **small and medium-sized enterprises**.
- Could increase **costs** and **delays** due to diversion of trade to sea routes.

## Broader Implications for Regional Trade

- India clarified that the order **will not hinder Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan**.
- However, **logistical difficulties** may arise due to overland transit being affected.
- The move has led to **caution among investors** eyeing the **Bangladeshi market**.

## Political Context

- Seen as a **strong political message** to Bangladesh's **interim government**.
- Triggered by **comments by Bangladeshi leaders** regarding India's **Northeast**.
- Interpreted as a warning over **growing Bangladesh-Pakistan ties**, especially regarding **cross-border terrorism** concerns.

## Conclusion

India's closure of land ports with Bangladesh marks a significant **diplomatic and economic shift** in bilateral relations. While intended to protect strategic interests and

ensure trade parity, the move may have **long-term regional implications**, affecting both economic integration and geopolitical alliances in South Asia.

## **Oil Spill Near Kerala**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Environmental Pollution – Marine Pollution.**

### **Context:**

- On May 25, 2025, a Liberian-flagged cargo ship named MSC ELSA 3 capsized off the coast of Kerala.

### **MSC ELSA 3 Incident (May 25, 2025) – Kerala Coast**

- **Vessel:** *MSC ELSA 3*, a Liberian-flagged cargo ship.
- **Incident:** Capsized off the coast of Kerala.
- **Cargo:** 640 containers, including *hazardous materials*.
- **Response:** All crew rescued by the *Indian Coast Guard* and *Indian Navy*.
- **Concern:** Possible *oil spill* threat prompting emergency ecological response.

### **About Oil Spills**

- **Definition:** Leakage of petroleum or its products into marine or freshwater bodies.
- **Causes:**
  - Human error or negligence.
  - Natural disasters (e.g., storms).
  - Equipment or structural failure.
  - Ship collisions or groundings.

### **Environmental Impact of Oil Spills**

- **Immediate Effects:**
  - **Oil film** blocks sunlight → disrupts *photosynthesis* in phytoplankton.
  - Reduces *dissolved oxygen* affecting aquatic life.
- **Impact on Marine Fauna:**
  - **Birds:** Oil-soaked feathers lose insulation → hypothermia.



- **Fish & Invertebrates:** Toxicity affects reproduction, growth, and survival.
- **Long-term Impact:**
  - Persistent contamination in food chains and habitats.
  - Example: *Deepwater Horizon oil spill (2010)* – massive damage lasting over a decade.

### Oil Spill Regulations

- **International:**
  - **MARPOL (Marine Pollution Convention):**
    - India is a *signatory*.
    - Contains **6 Annexes**, including:
      - Annex I: *Prevention of oil pollution*.
      - Others cover chemicals, sewage, garbage, air pollution, etc.
- **National:**
  - **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:**
    - Regulates pollution control in Indian waters.
    - Empowers enforcement and penalties for non-compliance.

### Oil Spill Response Techniques

Technique	Description
<b>Skimming</b>	Collecting oil from surface using mechanical devices.
<b>In-situ Burning</b>	Controlled burning of oil on water.
<b>Dispersants</b>	Chemicals that break oil into small droplets to enhance biodegradation.
<b>Bioremediation</b>	Use of microbes to degrade oil naturally (not mentioned above but relevant).

- **Challenges:**
  - Rapid spread of oil.
  - Weather and sea conditions.

- Type and quantity of oil involved.

### Public Safety Measures (Kerala Response)

#### ➤ KSDMA Advisory:

- Public must **not touch** any cargo or oil residues that may wash ashore.
- Prompt reporting of oil or containers encouraged.

#### ➤ INCOIS Warning:

- Oil could reach **sensitive coastal areas within 36–48 hours**.
- Urgent mitigation measures underway.

### MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)

#### Overview:

- **Full Form:** Marine Pollution
- **Adopted by:** International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- **Adopted on:** 1973 (MARPOL 73), modified by Protocol in 1978 (MARPOL 73/78)
- **Came into force:** 1983
- **Objective:** To prevent pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

#### Key Features:

- Applies to **all ships** flying the flag of a party state or operating under its authority.
- Covers **pollution by oil, chemicals, sewage, garbage, and air pollution from ships**.

#### Annexes of MARPOL:

Annex	Pollution Type	Status
I	Oil	Mandatory
II	Noxious liquid substances in bulk	Mandatory
III	Harmful substances in packaged form	Mandatory
IV	Sewage from ships	Optional

Annex	Pollution Type	Status
V	Garbage from ships	Optional
VI	Air pollution from ships	Optional (2005)

**Significance:**

- Establishes **regulations to minimize pollution** from ships.
- Encourages use of **cleaner fuels, ballast water management, and eco-friendly technologies.**
- Important for protecting **marine biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal communities.**

**India and MARPOL:**

- **India is a party to MARPOL** and has implemented its provisions through:
  - **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**
  - Various rules and regulations for pollution control in ports and coastal areas.

## **Naxalism in India**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Naxalism.**

**Context:**

In the ongoing fight against Maoists, Jharkhand police on Tuesday (May 27, 2025) gunned down Maoist commander Tulsi Bhuinya in Palamu district during a joint operation by Jharkhand Jaguar and Palamu Police.

### **NAXALISM IN INDIA**

**Introduction**

- **Naxalism** refers to the far-left radical communist movement in India that believes in the ideology of **Maoism** and seeks to overthrow the Indian state through **armed revolution.**
- The term is derived from **Naxalbari**, a village in **West Bengal**, where the movement began in **1967** under the leadership of **Charu Majumdar** and **Kanu Sanyal.**

## Ideological Basis

- Inspired by **Mao Zedong's theory of Protracted People's War**.
- Believes in:
  - **Class struggle**
  - **Seizure of power through armed rebellion**
  - Establishment of a **dictatorship of the proletariat**

## Historical Evolution

Phase	Period	Key Features
<b>1. Origin (1967–1972)</b>	Began in <b>Naxalbari</b> , spread to <b>West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh</b>	Led by <b>Charu Majumdar</b> , Naxalites believed in annihilation of class enemies
<b>2. Suppression &amp; Decline (1972–1980s)</b>	Many leaders arrested or killed	Disorganized movement
<b>3. Revival (1980s–2004)</b>	Rise in <b>Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha</b>	Emergence of <b>People's War Group (PWG)</b> and <b>MCC (Maoist Communist Centre)</b>
<b>4. Consolidation (2004–2009)</b>	Merger of <b>PWG and MCC</b> to form <b>CPI (Maoist)</b> in 2004	Peak influence in 180 districts
<b>5. Decline (Post-2009)</b>	<b>Operation Green Hunt</b> and development-led interventions	Area of influence shrinking

## Reasons for Rise

- **Socio-Economic Deprivation:**
  - Landlessness, poverty, and exploitation of tribal populations
  - Displacement due to mining and infrastructure projects
- **Failure of Land Reforms:**
  - Inequitable land distribution and illegal land grabs
- **Administrative Apathy:**

- Poor governance and lack of public services in remote areas
- **Alienation of Tribals:**
  - Loss of **Jal-Jungle-Jameen** (water-forest-land)
- **Human Rights Violations:**
  - Atrocities by security forces and forest officials
- **Ineffective Policing:**
  - Poor training and lack of coordination among state police forces

### **Tactics Used by Naxals**

- Guerrilla warfare
- Landmine blasts
- Targeting of police stations and government infrastructure
- Parallel judicial systems (Jan Adalats)
- Recruitment of local youth, even children (Bal Dasta)

### **Government Response**

#### **Security Measures:**

- **Operation Green Hunt (2009):** Coordinated offensive against Maoists
- **Unified Command Structure** in affected states
- **Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** like CRPF, CoBRA

#### **Development Initiatives:**

- **Aspirational Districts Programme**
- **Integrated Action Plan (IAP)** for tribal and backward districts
- **Road Connectivity Projects** in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas

#### **Rehabilitation Measures:**

- **Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy** with financial incentives and skill training

#### **Recent Initiatives**

- **National Policy and Action Plan (2015):** Holistic strategy focusing on security, development, and perception management

➤ **SAMADHAN Doctrine** by MHA:

- Smart Leadership
- Aggressive Strategy
- Motivation and Training
- Actionable Intelligence
- Dashboard-based KPIs
- Harnessing Technology
- Awareness and Media
- Neutralisation of support base

### Issues & Challenges

- Difficult terrain and lack of infrastructure in affected areas
- Civilian casualties during anti-Naxal operations
- Coordination gap between Centre and States
- Misuse of development funds
- Propaganda by Naxals using social media

### Supreme Court Observations

- In **Salwa Judum Case (2011)**, the Supreme Court declared the use of tribal militias unconstitutional and emphasized a rights-based development approach.

### Way Forward

- **Balanced Approach:** "Development with Security"
- **Empowering Local Governance:** Strengthening **Panchayati Raj Institutions**
- **Land and Forest Rights:** Implementing **Forest Rights Act, 2006**
- **Community Participation:** Tribal inclusion in planning and implementation
- **Police Reforms:** Modernisation and community policing
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Real-time dashboards and transparency in implementation

### Conclusion

"Naxalism is not just a law and order problem, but a socio-economic one." – Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

- Addressing the **root causes** such as poverty, exploitation, and governance vacuum is essential.
- A **people-centric approach** coupled with **strong political will**, coordinated action, and **inclusive development** is key to ending Naxalism.

**Practice Qs:**

Q. Left Wing Extremism is both a threat to internal security and a result of governance failure. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words).