



Quick Glance

- Indian Ports Bill, 2025 Passed by Rajya Sabha
- State of Food Security & Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2025)
- Resistance to universal treaty on eliminating plastic pollution



Economy

Indian Ports Bill, 2025 Passed by Rajya Sabha

Context

The Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025 today, replacing the outdated Indian Ports Act of 1908. The bill had already received approval in the Lok Sabha. Proceedings were marked by an Opposition walkout over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue.



Key Details

- ♦ **Modernisation Drive:** The bill establishes modern port governance mechanisms, including a 'Maritime State Development Council (MSDC)' for integrated planning, and 'State Maritime Boards' for uniform oversight across both major and non-major ports.
- ♦ **Sustainability & Safety:** It mandates compliance with international environmental norms (e.g., MARPOL, ballast water management), disaster readiness, pollution control, digitalisation (Maritime Single Window), and transparent tariff frameworks.
- ♦ **Federalism & Efficiency:** Aims to enhance coordination between the Centre and coastal States, offer swift dispute resolution, and improve investor confidence.



Significance

- ♦ **Strategic Reform:** Replaces a colonial-era legislative framework with one aligned to global maritime standards, positioning India on course to become a maritime leader by 2047.
- ♦ **Economic & Trade Boost:** Enhances port efficiency, sustainability, and governance, strengthening India's maritime-transport infrastructure and trade competitiveness.

Challenges

- ♦ **Operational Readiness:** Ensuring effective collaboration between Centre and States, and establishing new institutional bodies (MSDC, State Boards, etc.) across diverse regions.
- ♦ **Implementation:** Rolling out digital systems, environmental compliance, and dispute mechanisms requires administrative and infrastructural capacity.

Way Forward

- ♦ **Capacity Building:** Develop institutional frameworks, train stakeholders, and build technical infrastructure across port locations.
- ♦ **Panel Oversight:** Establish oversight groups to monitor progress, evaluate impacts, and ensure transparency.



SYLLABUS

Syllabus Mapping:

- GS Paper II – Governance - GS II – Governance & IR
- GS Paper III – Economy & Infrastructure - Maritime infrastructure, trade logistics, port-led economic growth
- GS Paper III – Environment - Environmental regulation, disaster preparedness, sustainable development



Social Issues

State of Food Security & Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2025)

Context

Released in July 2025 by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, the SOFI 2025 report assesses global progress toward 'SDG-2: Zero Hunger', highlighting how surging food price inflation has strained access to nutritious diets.



Key Details

- ◆ **Hunger Levels:** In 2024, around 673 million people (8.2% of the global population) experienced hunger, down from 8.5% in 2023, but still above pre-COVID levels. Projections indicate 512 million people may remain chronically undernourished by 2030, with nearly 60% of them in Africa.
- ◆ **Regional Trends:**
 - Declines in hunger: South America, Southeast and Southern Asia (notably India).
 - Rising crisis: Africa and Western Asia continue to face escalating food insecurity.
- ◆ **Food Insecurity & Diet Affordability:**
 - Approximately 2.3 billion people faced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2024—335 million more than in 2019.
 - Around 2.6 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2024; disparity grew in low-income countries.
 - Food price inflation has consistently surpassed general inflation, peaking at 13.6% globally (30% in low-income countries), significantly reducing dietary access.
- ◆ **Nutrition Outcomes:**
 - Stunting in children under five declined from 26.4% (2012) to 23.2% (2024).



DAILY NEWS PULSE



- Wasting (6.6%), overweight children (5.5%), and adult obesity (15.8%) remain largely unchanged.
- Anaemia among women aged 15–49 increased to 30.7%.
- Exclusive breastfeeding rose from 37% (2012) to 47.8% (2023).
- Only 34% of young children and 65% of women meet minimum dietary diversity.

Significance

- ◆ Signals modest global recovery in food security, but progress is uneven and fragile.
- ◆ Africa's growing burden raises concerns for global equilibrium in hunger mitigation.
- ◆ Rising food prices threaten nutrition outcomes by pushing vulnerable populations toward low-quality diets, deepening the hidden hunger crisis.

Key Criticism

- ◆ Persistent inflation is eroding purchasing power, especially for the poor.
- ◆ Deepening inequalities across regions, with Africa and Western Asia falling further behind.
- ◆ Dual burden of malnutrition: undernutrition alongside obesity and anaemia demands multifaceted policy responses.

Way Forward

- ◆ Targeted fiscal measures: Time-bound subsidies or tax relief for nutritious food for low-income groups.
- ◆ Social protection expansion: Cash transfers, vouchers, and fortified school meals, adjusted for inflation.
- ◆ Invest in food systems: Strengthen agri-food R&D, logistics, and market infrastructure to improve availability and affordability.
- ◆ Monetary-fiscal synergy: Coordinate policies to stabilize food prices and manage inflation expectations.
- ◆ Avoid distortionary tools: Favor strategic reserves and transparent markets over blunt price controls.



SYLLABUS

Syllabus Mapping:

- GS Paper II – Governance - Social protection, fiscal support for nutrition
- GS Paper III – Economy - Price inflation, subsidy targeting, food system investment
- GS Paper I – Social Issues - Child nutrition outcomes, maternal health, hidden hunger



Environment

Resistance to universal treaty on eliminating plastic pollution

Context

The ongoing negotiations for a UN Global Treaty to End Plastic Pollution, scheduled for finalisation at INC-5 in Busan (November 2025). The goal is to legally bind countries to eliminate plastic leakage into the environment by 2040. However, negotiations remain deadlocked due to differences between developed, developing and petrochemical-exporting countries.



Key Details

- ◆ Global plastic production : around 460 million tonnes/year; only 9% recycled.
- ◆ Marine pollution: Plastics form about 80% of ocean litter.
- ◆ Treaty debate: Calls to cap virgin plastic production vs. voluntary national action plans.



- ♦ India's stance: Supports waste reduction—but prefers nationally determined commitments over global caps to protect its petrochemical and MSME sector.
- ♦ INC Meetings : 4 rounds since 2022; sharp divide over finance, technology transfer and trade penalties.

Significance

- ♦ First global legally-binding agreement targeting entire plastic lifecycle.
- ♦ Addresses rising environmental, health and socioeconomic impact of plastic waste.
- ♦ Opportunity for India to align global leadership with domestic efforts under LiFE Mission and G-20 Plastics Agenda.

Challenges

- ♦ Concerns over production caps affecting India's growing plastic packaging industry.
- ♦ Resistance from oil-rich nations and industrial lobbies.
- ♦ Enforcement gaps in India's plastic ban (e.g., single-use plastics banned since July 2022).
- ♦ High cost of waste segregation, recycling infrastructure and technology.

Global plastics pollution by the numbers	
FIGURE	DESCRIPTION
462 million tonnes/year	Annual plastic production worldwide
90%	Share of plastics that pollute the planet
9–14 million tonnes/year	Plastic waste entering oceans annually
36.6 million tonnes	Plastic waste already in oceans (and counting)
50%	Increase in global plastic pollution in the past 5 years
60%	Increase in national/voluntary measures in the past 5 years
3 times	Projected growth of global plastic pollution by 2040 without drastic action



SYLLABUS

Syllabus Mapping:

- GS Paper II – International institutions, agreements & India's role in global groupings
- GS Paper III - Environmental pollution and degradation, conservation, Waste management and environmental governance



Hamis accept new Gaza Ceasefire plan

- ♦ Mediators Egypt and Qatar backed by USA have proposed a plan
- ♦ Plan – A 60-day ceasefire during which 10 Israeli hostages would be released alive along with a number of bodies.
- ♦ Israel is yet to respond to the plan.



Rooftop Solar Installation

- ♦ Government expects rooftop solar installations



to more than double to 4 million by March 2026.

- ♦ So far, around 1.7 million households have installed rooftop solar system.
- ♦ The broader aim is to install 10 million units by March 2027.
- ♦ **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** – To provide up to 300 units of free electricity per month to households through rooftop solar panels. It targets installation of rooftop solar on 1 crore homes, reducing power bills and promoting green energy. Provides central financial assistance, low-interest loans, and online single-window clearance to ease adoption.



Practice Corner

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. India's ban on single-use plastic includes multilayered plastic sachets.

2. India has committed to a 100% recycled content target in plastic packaging by 2030.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only



- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. The proposed UN Global Plastic Treaty aims at:
(a) Ban on plastic production
(b) Lifecycle approach to plastic pollution
(c) Regulation of trade in plastic commodities
(d) Elimination of ocean plastics only
3. **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report 2025** is jointly released by:
(a) FAO, IMF, World Bank, WHO
(b) FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO
(c) FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO
(d) FAO, WTO, IFAD, UNCTAD, WHO
4. The SOFI 2025 report highlights a “dual burden of malnutrition”, which refers to:
(a) Rising hunger alongside food price inflation
(b) Coexistence of undernutrition with obesity and micronutrient deficiencies
(c) Simultaneous food insecurity in Africa and Western Asia
(d) Malnutrition among both adults and children in equal measure

5. Consider the following statements with reference to nutrition indicators:
1. Stunting refers to low height for age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
 2. Wasting refers to low weight for height, indicating acute undernutrition.
 3. Undernourishment is defined as insufficient caloric intake to meet minimum dietary energy requirements.
 4. Overweight in children is assessed using weight-for-age as the main indicator.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. With reference to the **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**, consider the following statements:
1. It provides up to 300 units of free electricity per month through rooftop solar panels.
 2. It targets installation of rooftop solar on 1 crore homes.
 3. The scheme includes is exclusively meant for government buildings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

7. Consider the following statements about the LiFE Mission:

1. It was introduced by the Prime Minister of India at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021.
2. It aims to nudge individuals and communities toward environment-friendly behaviours.
3. The mission promotes a “pro-planet lifestyle” through simple actions such as waste segregation, energy saving, and sustainable consumption.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to the LiFE Mission, which of the following is NOT in line with its principles?

- (a) Promotion of circular economy and waste reduction
- (b) Encouraging single-use plastics for convenience
- (c) Adoption of energy-efficient appliances and renewable energy
- (d) Water conservation practices in daily life

9. Consider the following statements about the G20 Plastics Agenda:

1. It emphasizes reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastics to combat marine litter and pollution.
2. The agenda is aligned with the “zero plastics to nature by 2040” target.
3. India has supported the agenda under its G20 Presidency, linking it with the LiFE Mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer Key (18th August 2025)

1	A	5	C
2	A	6	D
3	B	7	D
4	B	8	B