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Dr. GINDI'S I.A.S. ACADEMY
Civils & Competitive Careers
TRANSFORMING ASPIRANTS INTO ACHIEVERS

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1. Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Initiative – Samriddhi Kendra

A. Core Idea

Samriddhi Kendra is a **rural service centre that combines physical facilities with digital services** to deliver healthcare, education, agriculture and government services in villages.

B. Why in News

The **first pilot Samriddhi Kendra** was inaugurated in Umri village, Guna district, Madhya Pradesh.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Implemented under **BharatNet rural broadband network**.
- BharatNet** aims to connect **all Gram Panchayats in India** with high-speed internet.

- Health ATMs provide **basic health reports in about 30 minutes**.
- Uses **PM-WANI public Wi-Fi system** for internet access.

D. Important Terms

- **Phygital Model** – Combination of physical infrastructure and digital services.
- **BharatNet** – Government project to provide broadband connectivity to rural India.
- **Health ATM** – Digital kiosk that checks health parameters (BP, sugar etc.) and connects patients to doctors through video consultation.
- **Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE)** – Local operator who manages digital service centres in villages.



E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** – Nodal ministry.
- **Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)** – Implementation partner.
- **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)** – Local operators.
- **Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)** – Infrastructure provider for BharatNet.



F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Digital India Programme (2015)** – Expanding digital services across India.
- **PM-WANI (2020)** – Public Wi-Fi network to improve internet access.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000** – Legal framework for e-governance and electronic records.
- **Telecommunications Act, 2023** – Regulates telecom infrastructure expansion.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- First pilot Samridhi Kendra – **Umri village, Guna district (Madhya Pradesh)**.
- Built on **BharatNet rural broadband infrastructure**.
- Operates through **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs)**.
- Provides **telemedicine, soil testing, drone agriculture services and smart classrooms**.
- Supports **PM-WANI public Wi-Fi network**.
- Part of the **Digital India vision to increase digital inclusion in rural areas**.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Statement-based question:** Features of BharatNet or Samridhi Kendra.

- **Match the following:** Scheme – Ministry / Organisation.
- **One-liner:** Location of first Samriddhi Kendra.
- **Definition question:** Meaning of *Phygital model*.

2. Impact of West Asian Conflict on India's Gas Economy

A. Core Idea

India depends heavily on **imported liquefied natural gas (LNG)**, mainly from Qatar. Conflict in West Asia may disrupt supply routes.

B. Why in News

Rising **Iran–Israel tensions threaten shipping through the Strait of Hormuz**, affecting India's gas imports.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- **40–50% of India's LNG imports come from Qatar.**
- India aims to increase natural gas share in energy mix from **7% to 15% by 2030**.
- **Coal currently contributes around 60% of India's energy mix.**
- **More than 60% of India's LPG is imported.**

D. Important Terms

- **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** – Natural gas cooled to liquid form for easier transport.
- **Force Majeure** – Contract clause freeing parties from obligations during events like war or natural disasters.
- **Spot Market** – Market where commodities are purchased for **immediate delivery at current price**.
- **Strait of Hormuz** – Major global oil and gas shipping route between the **Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman**.



E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **Petronet LNG Ltd.** – Major LNG importer in India.
- **QatarEnergy** – State-owned energy company of Qatar.
- **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** – Responsible for India's energy policy.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Petroleum Act, 1934** – Regulates storage and transport of petroleum products.

- **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** – Promotes efficient use of energy.
- **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), 2017** – Allows companies to explore oil and gas blocks.
- **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** – Policy for boosting domestic exploration.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- **Strait of Hormuz** is the world's most important oil and gas chokepoint.
- **Qatar is India's largest LNG supplier.**
- Major LNG terminals in India: **Dahej (Gujarat), Kochi (Kerala), Hazira (Gujarat).**
- Gas used for **CNG transport, PNG households and fertilizer industry.**
- Fertilizer sector is **largest consumer of natural gas in India.**
- India plans **gas-based economy with 15% gas share by 2030.**

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Map question:** Location of Strait of Hormuz.
- **Statement-based question:** Features of OALP or HELP policy.
- **One-liner:** Largest LNG supplier to India.
- **Match-the-following:** LNG terminals with states.

3. Strategic Diversification of India's Fertilizer Imports

A. Core Idea

India is diversifying fertilizer imports from different countries to ensure **stable supply for agriculture and food security.**

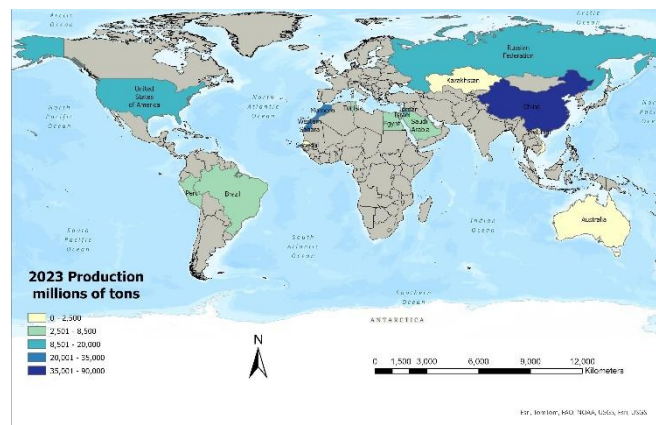
B. Why in News

West Asian tensions and possible **shipping disruption in the Strait of Hormuz** may affect fertilizer imports before the Kharif season.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- India is the **world's largest importer of urea and DAP.**

- About **70% of urea imports** pass through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Fertilizer sector consumes **about 30% of India's natural gas**.



D. Important Terms

- **Kharif Season** – Cropping season from **June to October**.
- **Urea** – Nitrogen-rich fertilizer widely used in India.
- **Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)** – Fertilizer rich in **phosphorus**, essential for plant root growth.
- **Potash** – Fertilizer nutrient containing potassium.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **Department of Fertilizers** – Policy making and import coordination.
- **Fertilizer Association of India (FAI)** – Industry body representing fertilizer companies.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** – Allows government to regulate fertilizer supply and price.
- **Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985** – Regulates quality and sale of fertilizers.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative** – Encourages domestic fertilizer production.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- India imports fertilizers mainly from **Russia, Morocco, Belarus, China, and Indonesia**.
- **DAP is the second most used fertilizer** after urea in India.
- Natural gas is **main feedstock** for urea production.
- Closed urea plants revived at **Sindri, Barauni, and Ramagundam**.
- Fertilizers are classified as **Essential Commodities in India**.
- Fertilizer shortages can affect **food production and subsidy expenditure**.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Statement-based question:** Nutrient content of Urea and DAP.
- **Match-the-following:** Fertilizer – Main nutrient.
- **One-liner:** Act regulating fertilizer distribution in India.
- **Map question:** Strait of Hormuz and fertilizer supplier countries.

4. Regulatory Changes for Plasma-Derived Medicinal Products (PDMPs)

A. Core Idea

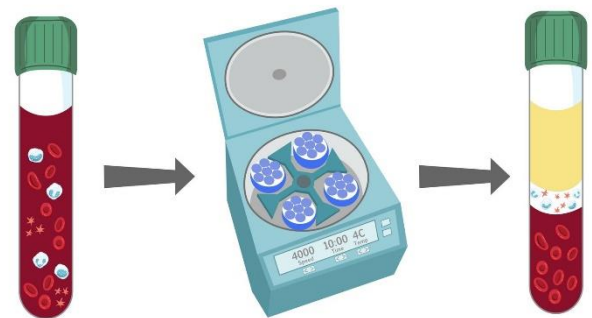
The government plans to **simplify testing rules for plasma-derived medicines** to reduce production cost and increase availability.

B. Why in News

The **Ministry of Health** proposed amendments to the **Drugs Rules, 1945 (March 2026)** regarding testing of plasma-derived medicines.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- India imports **over 60% of plasma-derived medicines**.
- Domestic PDMP market size – about **\$383.5 million (2024)**.
- Important medicines include **Albumin, Immunoglobulin and Clotting Factors**.



D. Important Terms

- **Plasma** – Liquid component of blood that carries **proteins** and nutrients.
- **Plasma-Derived Medicinal Products (PDMPs)** – Medicines made from human plasma to treat diseases.
- **Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)** – Advanced blood test that detects viruses like **HIV and Hepatitis** early.
- **Pharmacopoeia** – Official standard book specifying quality of medicines.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** – Policy and regulation.
- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** – Drug regulatory authority of India.
- **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission** – Maintains drug quality standards.



F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** – Regulates manufacture and sale of medicines.
- **Drugs Rules, 1945** – Procedures for drug testing and licensing.
- Proposed amendment aims to **remove duplicate viral testing at final stage**.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Plasma is the **liquid part of blood containing proteins**.
- PDMPs are used to treat **hemophilia, immune disorders, burns and trauma**.
- **NAT testing detects viral genetic material** in blood samples.
- CDSCO functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- India currently **imports most plasma-derived medicines**.
- Global standards used: **British, US and European Pharmacopoeia**.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **One-liner:** What is Plasma in blood?
- **Statement-based question:** Features of NAT testing.
- **Match-the-following:** Medicine – Disease treated (e.g., clotting factor – hemophilia).
- **Direct question:** Parent law regulating medicines in India.

5. Securing the Strait of Hormuz

A. Core Idea

The **Strait of Hormuz** is one of the world's most important oil transport routes. Any conflict or blockade in this strait can disrupt global energy supply.

B. Why in News

Tensions between **Iran and Israel** have raised fears that Iran may block or disrupt shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- About **20% of global oil trade** passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The strait is about **21 miles (34 km) wide** at its narrowest point.
- Around **100 ships normally pass daily** through this route.

D. Important Terms

- **Strait of Hormuz** – Narrow sea passage connecting **Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea**.
- **Chokepoint** – Narrow route that controls international trade movement.



- **Asymmetric Warfare** – Use of unconventional tactics (drones, missiles, small boats) by a weaker military force.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **US Navy** – Proposed escort operations for oil tankers.
- **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** – Military force of Iran involved in maritime security.
- **United Nations (UN)** – Promotes freedom of navigation under international law.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** – Governs international navigation rights.
- **Admiralty Act, 2017 (India)** – Regulates maritime legal claims in Indian courts.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Strait of Hormuz connects **Persian Gulf** → **Gulf of Oman** → **Arabian Sea**.
- Major oil exporting countries near it: **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar**.
- One of the **world's most important energy chokepoints**.
- Disruption here directly affects **global oil prices**.
- Important for **India's oil, LNG and fertilizer imports**.



H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Map question:** Locate Strait of Hormuz.
- **Statement-based question:** Countries bordering the Persian Gulf.
- **One-liner:** Meaning of “chokepoint” in global trade.

6. Government Blocks Subsidised LPG for PNG Consumers

A. Core Idea

Households with **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** connections are no longer allowed to keep **subsidised LPG cylinders**.

B. Why in News

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** issued a notification on **14 March 2026** enforcing this rule.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- PNG is supplied through **City Gas Distribution (CGD) pipeline networks**.
- India aims to increase **natural gas share to 15% of energy mix by 2030**.

D. Important Terms

- **PNG (Piped Natural Gas)** – Natural gas delivered through pipelines directly to homes.
- **LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)** – Propane–butane gas stored in cylinders for cooking.
- **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** – Urban pipeline network supplying gas to homes and industries.



E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

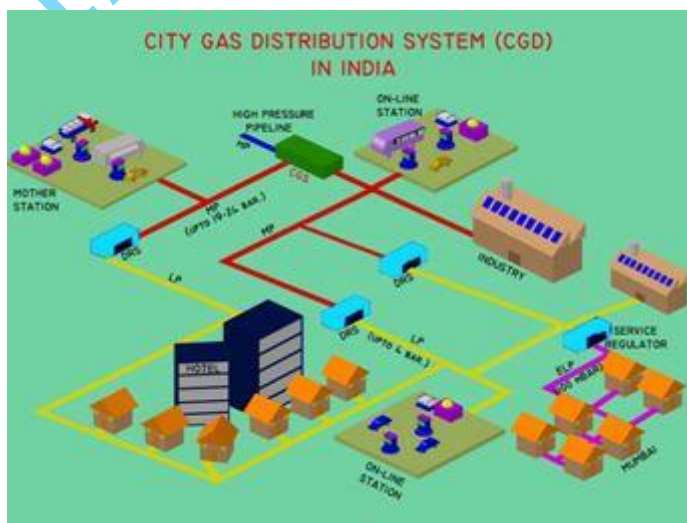
- **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** – Policy and regulation.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** – Regulates CGD networks.
- **Gas distribution companies** – Implement PNG connections.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** – Government regulates supply of petroleum products.
- **LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000** – Governs LPG distribution.
- **PNGRB Act, 2006** – Regulates natural gas pipeline networks.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- PNG supply is part of **City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks**.
- PNG is considered **cleaner and safer than LPG cylinders**.
- Policy aims to **reduce subsidy burden on LPG**.
- LPG cylinders freed from urban areas will support **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** beneficiaries.
- PNGRB regulates **gas pipeline infrastructure**.



H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Difference question:** PNG vs LPG.
- **Match-the-following:** Fuel – Supply method.
- **One-liner:** Regulatory body for city gas distribution.

7. Economic Stabilization Fund for Energy Security

A. Core Idea

The government created a **₹57,300 crore Economic Stabilization Fund** to reduce the impact of rising global energy prices on the economy.

B. Why in News

The fund was announced through **Supplementary Demands for Grants** on **13 March 2026**.

C. Key Facts & Figures

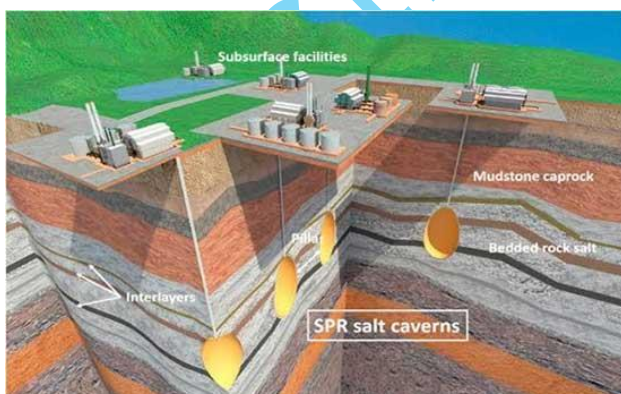
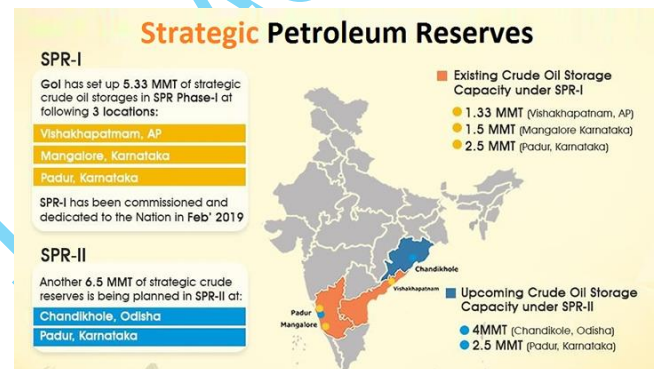
- Economic Stabilization Fund size: **₹57,300 crore**.
- India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserve capacity: 5.33 million tonnes**.
- Current reserves equal about **40 million barrels of oil**.

D. Important Terms

- Economic Stabilization Fund** – Government fund used to protect the economy from sudden price shocks.
- Supplementary Demand for Grants** – Additional funds requested by the government from Parliament when the approved budget is insufficient.
- Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** – Emergency oil storage maintained by a country.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- Ministry of Finance** – Budget approval and fund allocation.



- Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)** – Manages India's oil reserves.
- Parliament of India** – Approves supplementary grants.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- Article 115 (Indian Constitution)** – Allows supplementary grants.
- FRBM Act, 2003** – Controls fiscal deficit levels.

- Oilfields Regulation and Development Act, 1948** – Governs exploration of oil resources.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- India's strategic petroleum reserves are located at **Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur**.
- SPR managed by **ISPRL**.

- Supplementary grants require **Parliament approval under Article 115**.
- Oil reserves used during **energy supply disruptions**.
- India's oil demand projected around **6 million barrels per day**.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **One-liner:** Article related to supplementary grants.
- **Match-the-following:** SPR location – State.
- **Statement-based question:** Purpose of Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

8. Geopolitics and Global Oil Price Changes

A. Core Idea

Global oil prices are strongly influenced by **geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions**.

B. Why in News

The **West Asia conflict in 2026** pushed Brent crude prices above \$118 per barrel.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Brent crude crossed **\$118 per barrel in March 2026**.
- **20% of global oil trade passes through Strait of Hormuz.**
- Around **10% passes through Suez Canal and Bab-el-Mandeb.**

D. Important Terms

- **Brent Crude** – Global benchmark price used to trade crude oil internationally.
- **Risk Premium** – Extra cost added to prices due to uncertainty or conflict.
- **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** – Emergency stock of crude oil.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **International Energy Agency (IEA)** – Coordinates emergency oil stock releases.
- **G-7 Countries** – Major developed economies influencing global energy policy.

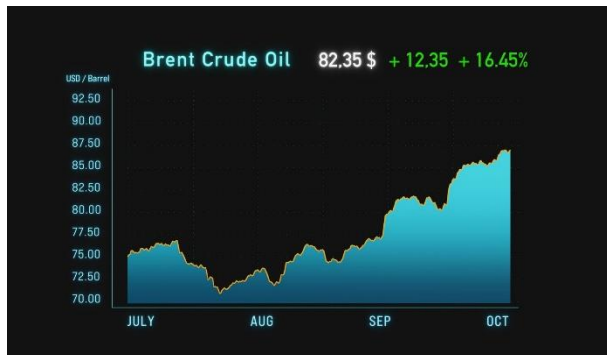
F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** – Promotes efficient energy use.
- **Maritime Zones Act, 1976 (India)** – Defines India's maritime boundaries and rights.



G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- **Brent crude** is one of the main global oil price benchmarks.
- Major global oil chokepoints:
 - **Strait of Hormuz**



- **Suez Canal**
- **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**
- **Strait of Malacca**
- Oil price increases can cause **inflation and higher import bills**.
- Strategic reserves are used to **stabilize markets during crises**.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Map question:** Locate Bab-el-Mandeb, Hormuz and Malacca.
- **One-liner:** Meaning of Brent crude.
- **Statement-based question:** Purpose of Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

9. COP-30 and the Belém Adaptation Indicators

A. Core Idea

COP-30 introduced **Belém Adaptation Indicators** to measure how countries prepare for climate change impacts, especially related to **water security**.

B. Why in News

The indicators were adopted at **COP-30 climate conference held in Belém, Brazil (2025)**.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- **59 global adaptation indicators** introduced.
- Target: **Universal multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027**.
- Global climate adaptation finance target: **\$1.3 trillion per year by 2035**.

D. Important Terms

- **WASH** – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services important for health and climate resilience.
- **NAQUIM** – National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme to map groundwater resources in India.
- **Adaptation** – Adjusting systems to reduce damage from climate change impacts.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)** – Organises COP climate conferences.
- **Ministry of Jal Shakti (India)** – Responsible for water resource management.
- **IMD (India Meteorological Department)** – Early warning for weather disasters.
- **Central Water Commission (CWC)** – Flood forecasting and water monitoring.



F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Environment Protection Act, 1986** – Framework for environmental protection in India.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (2019)** – Provides tap water to rural households.
- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** – River conservation program.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- **COP-30 held in Belém, Brazil.**
- Belém Indicators focus on **water security and climate resilience**.
- Target for **universal early warning systems by 2027**.
- NAQUIM program maps **India's groundwater resources**.
- Ministry responsible for water resources: **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **One-liner:** Location of COP-30.
- **Match-the-following:** Scheme – Objective (NAQUIM, Jal Jeevan Mission).
- **Statement-based:** Components of WASH.

10. U.S. Section 301 Investigation Against India

A. Core Idea

The United States started **Section 301 investigations** against India regarding manufacturing capacity and labour practices.

B. Why in News

The **U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)** launched probes under **Section 301 of the Trade Act, 1974**.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- **India's trade surplus with the US around \$58 billion (2025 estimate).**

- Investigation covers **16 countries for manufacturing capacity** and **60 countries for labour practices**.

D. Important Terms

- Section 301** – U.S. trade law allowing action against countries with unfair trade practices.
- Trade Surplus** – When exports exceed imports.
- Dumping** – Selling goods in foreign markets at very low prices to gain market share.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- USTR (United States Trade Representative)** – US agency handling trade disputes.
- World Trade Organization (WTO)** – Global body regulating international trade rules.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- Trade Act of 1974 (USA)** – Provides legal basis for Section 301 investigations.
- Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (India)** – Governs India's export-import policies.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Section 301** is part of the US Trade Act, 1974.
- Allows the US to impose **tariffs or trade restrictions**.
- Investigations target sectors such as **steel, solar modules, textiles and petrochemicals**.
- Trade disputes often occur under **WTO rules (GATT agreement)**.
- USTR handles **US trade negotiations and disputes**.



H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- One-liner:** What is Section 301?
- Match-the-following:** Organisation – Role (USTR, WTO).
- Concept question:** Difference between trade deficit and trade surplus.

11. Supreme Court Directive on Pulse Cultivation

A. Core Idea

The Supreme Court asked the government to encourage farmers to grow **pulses instead of water-intensive crops like paddy and wheat**.

B. Why in News

The directive came during a case related to **imports of yellow peas affecting domestic farmers.**

C. Key Facts & Figures

- Pulse production fell from **273 lakh tonnes (2021-22)** to **242 lakh tonnes (2023-24)**.
- MSP is recommended for **23 crops including 5 pulses.**

D. Important Terms

- **Agricultural Diversification** – Growing different crops instead of relying on a single crop.
- **MSP (Minimum Support Price)** – Government-declared price to protect farmers from low market prices.
- **Nitrogen Fixation** – Process where legumes improve soil fertility by adding nitrogen.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **Supreme Court of India** – Issued directive.
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** – Crop policy implementation.
- **CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices)** – Recommends MSP.



F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** – Regulates supply of essential goods like pulses.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013** – Ensures food security in India.

G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- Major pulses: **Gram, Tur, Moong, Urad, Lentil.**
- Pulses are **rich protein sources** in Indian diet.
- Pulses improve soil fertility through **nitrogen fixation.**
- Major pulse-producing states: **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan.**
- Over-cultivation of **paddy causes groundwater depletion** in Punjab and Haryana.

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Match-the-following:** Pulse crop – nutrient benefit.
- **One-liner:** What is MSP?
- **Statement-based:** Role of pulses in soil fertility.

12. Sangita Kalanidhi Award and the 100th Music Academy Conference

A. Core Idea

The **Music Academy, Chennai** will host its **100th annual conference**, and the **Sangita Kalanidhi** award will be given to veena artist **Jayanthi Kumaresh**.

B. Why in News

The award announcement coincides with the **centenary conference of the Music Academy (2026-27)**.

C. Key Facts & Figures

- The Music Academy conference is held every year during **December-January “Madras Music Season.”**
- Chennai was designated **UNESCO Creative City of Music in 2017**.

D. Important Terms

- **Sangita Kalanidhi** – One of the highest honours in Carnatic music.
- **Saraswati Veena** – Classical plucked string instrument used in Carnatic music.
- **Nritya Kalanidhi** – Award for excellence in Indian classical dance.

E. Institutions / Organisations Involved

- **Music Academy, Chennai** – Major institution promoting Carnatic music.
- **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** – Recognises cities for cultural creativity.

F. Government Acts / Policies / Schemes

- **Copyright Act, 1957** – Protects musical compositions and performances.
- **Article 29 (Indian Constitution)** – Protects cultural heritage.



G. Direct Exam Takeaways

- **Music Academy located in Chennai (Tamil Nadu).**
- **Sangita Kalanidhi is a top Carnatic music award.**
- **Saraswati Veena is a classical Carnatic instrument.**
- **Chennai recognised as UNESCO Creative City of Music (2017).**
- **Carnatic music is mainly practiced in South India.**

H. PYQ / Expected Question Angles

- **Match-the-following:** Instrument – Music tradition (Veena – Carnatic).
- **One-liner:** City known for the December Music Season.



- **Statement-based:** Features of Carnatic music and Bharatanatyam.

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