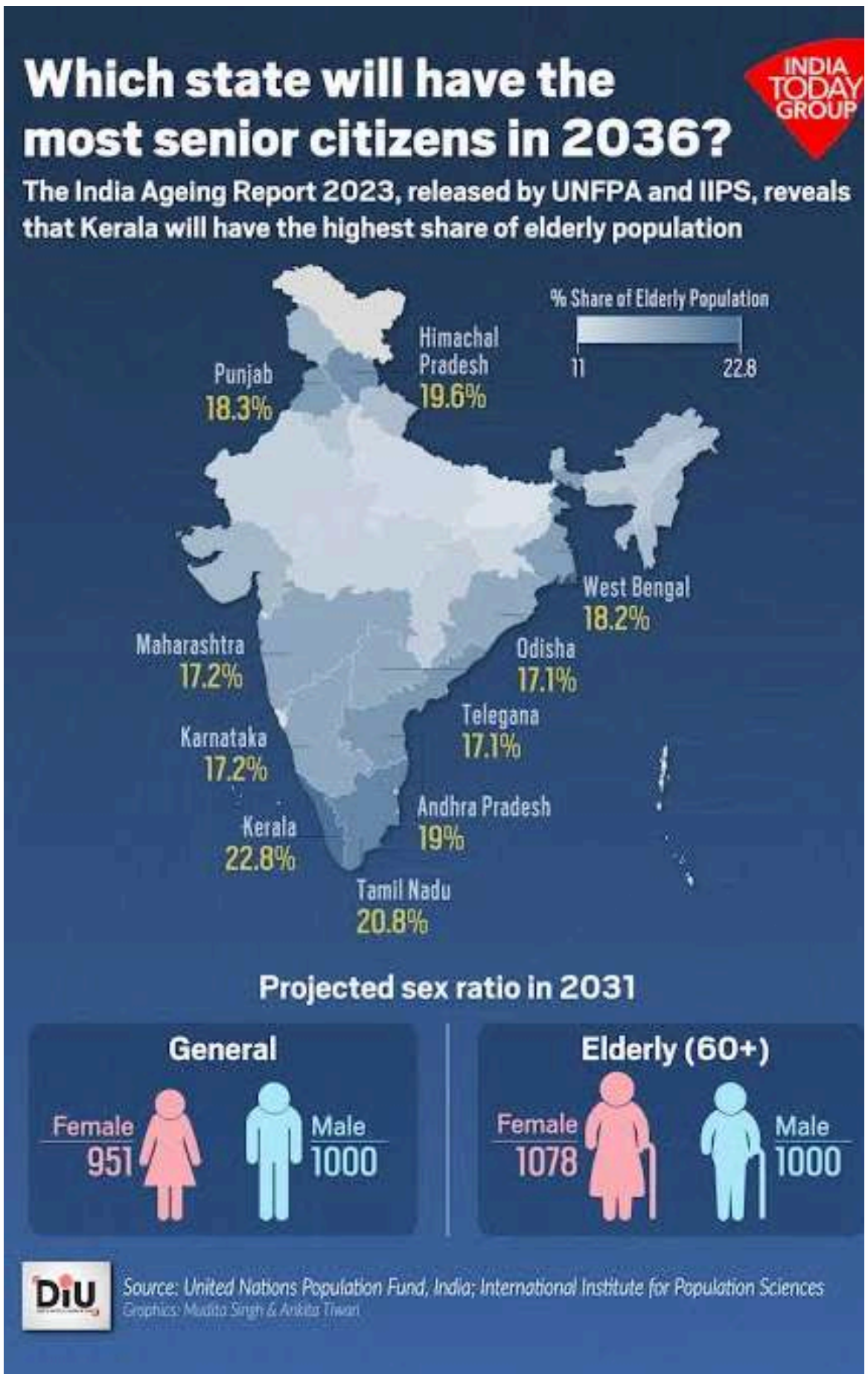
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Editor's Note

Today's edition of the Pala Civil Times brings together a set of thought-provoking topics, each offering a different perspective on the issues shaping our world. Our National section examines the proposed Kamala hydropower project on the Subansiri River, focusing on its hydropower potential and the environmental concerns surrounding the project. The Economics section explores how the newly inaugurated Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Odisha is expected to strengthen the resilience and security of India's financial infrastructure.

Our trusted Editorial Decoder explores two important developments. The first is India's growing strategic and economic engagement with Poland, viewed in the broader context of the recently concluded India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The second examines the proposed informal alliance among the five southern States of India, highlighting their economic strengths and the challenges posed by declining fertility, population ageing and fiscal pressures.

In the Science section, we turn to whale strandings along Gujarat's coast.

Together, these topics offer a multifaceted overview of the issues shaping India and the wider world. We hope this edition helps readers explore each subject with clarity.

Happy reading!

P8. ECOLOGY



Whale Strandings along Gujarat's Coast: Significance of Monitoring

Highlights how gaps in scientific monitoring and documentation can obscure our understanding of whale populations and weaken marine conservation efforts.

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU

The Indian EXPRESS



Old values, new avenues: On India-Poland ties

Examines the growing strategic and economic partnership between India and Poland and its significance in the broader context of India–EU economic ties.

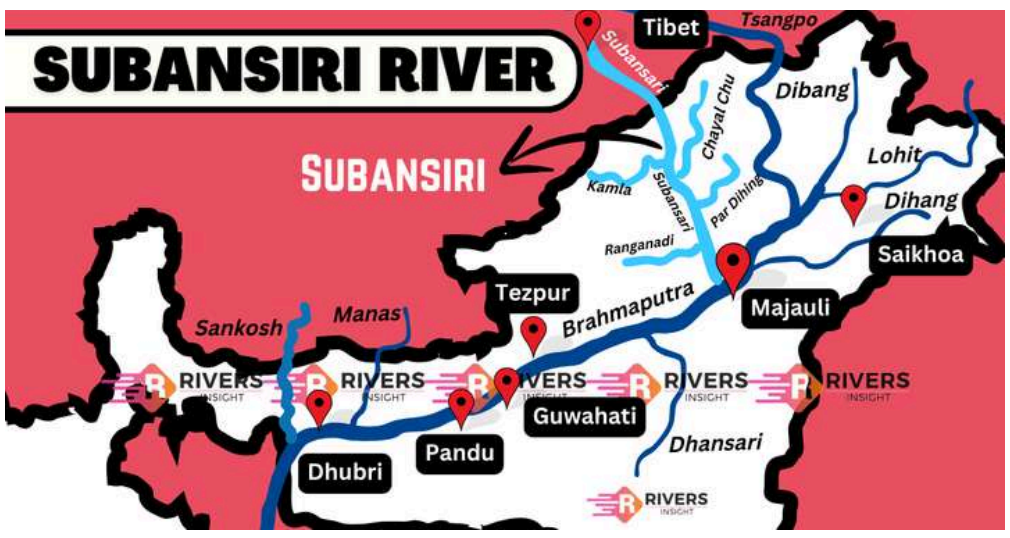


A southern alliance and an elephant in the room

Explores the economic strengths of India's five southern States and their shared challenges of population ageing, declining fertility, fiscal pressures and delimitation.

Kamala Hydroelectric Project: Hydropower Potential and Forest Conservation

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has sought approval from the Union Environment Ministry to divert 3,278 hectares of forest land in Arunachal Pradesh for its proposed 1,720-megawatt (MW) Kamala hydroelectric project on the Kamala River, a right-bank tributary of the Subansiri River. The proposal raises concerns about forest loss, wildlife habitats and the social impact of hydropower development in the ecologically sensitive Eastern Himalayas.



What Are the Key Features of the Kamala Hydroelectric Project?

Location and capacity: The project is planned across Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey and Kamle districts of Arunachal Pradesh, with a proposed capacity of 1,720 MW.

Project design: Conceived as a run-of-the-river cum storage project, it involves a 216-metre-high concrete gravity dam with flood-moderation features. The project is estimated to cost ₹2,400 crore.

Forest diversion: The proposal involves diverting 3,278 hectares of forest land.

Environmental clearance: The project received a recommendation for environmental clearance in January, subject to obtaining in-principle forest clearance. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) was scheduled to appraise the forest-diversion proposal on 23 October 2026.

Why Is the Subansiri River Important?

A major Brahmaputra tributary: The Subansiri originates in the Tibetan Plateau, flows through Arunachal Pradesh and joins the Brahmaputra system. It is the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra.

Hydropower potential: The river basin has substantial elevation differences, ranging from a maximum elevation of 5,340 metres near the origin to 99 metres at Gerukamukh near the Assam plains. This steep terrain creates significant potential for hydropower generation.

What Are the Major Environmental and Social Concerns?

Loss of forest cover: The proposed diversion would affect a largely hilly river valley covered predominantly by dense forests. Field surveys recorded 155 plant species belonging to 69 families.

Wildlife habitat and movement: Although the site inspection report found that the project site does not fall within a national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve or elephant corridor, it noted that the project would affect wildlife habitats. The wider submerged area could also obstruct the movement of wild animals between riverbanks.

Compensatory afforestation: The proposal provides for afforestation over 7,018 hectares across several districts of Madhya Pradesh. Under the Forest Conservation Act framework, compensatory afforestation may be undertaken outside the project state when suitable non-forest land is unavailable locally because of high existing forest cover. Where equivalent non-forest land is unavailable, plantations twice the diverted area must be raised on degraded land.

Impact on communities: The Social Impact Assessment estimates that 5,440 families across 126 villages will be affected by the project.

Need for mitigation: The Environment Ministry's regional office in Shillong called for a wildlife mitigation plan or biodiversity conservation plan to address the project's ecological effects.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following rivers: (2014)
1. Barak 2. Lohit 3. Subansiri
Which of the above flows/flows through Arunachal Pradesh?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

RBI's New Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute: Strengthening India's Digital Financial Infrastructure

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a ₹169-crore Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the facility aims to strengthen the reliability of India's financial system, protect critical digital services and build expertise in cybersecurity and emerging technologies. It represents an important investment in the infrastructure supporting India's growing digital economy.

What is the significance of the new RBI Data Centre?

Reliable digital payment systems: The RBI operates key payment systems, including the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS). NEFT facilitates electronic fund transfers between bank accounts, while RTGS settles transactions individually in real time. These services depend on secure and reliable information technology infrastructure.

Support for Unified Payments Interface (UPI): The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operates UPI, which enables instant digital payments. The RBI's infrastructure and applications support the final settlement of funds between participating banks. Reliable infrastructure is therefore essential to maintaining the smooth functioning of India's digital payment ecosystem.

Government financial operations: The facility will host the ***e-Kuber platform***, which supports banking operations for the Central Government, State governments and banks. It will also support the ***RBI's Integrated Ombudsman System***, which handles complaints against regulated financial entities, and applications used for regulatory licences and approvals.

Greater technological control: The facility will operate independently of third-party cloud service providers, giving the RBI greater direct control over the infrastructure hosting its critical applications.

Key takeaway: *The RBI's data centre will strengthen the infrastructure supporting NEFT and RTGS and the final settlement of UPI transactions between banks, helping ensure reliable and uninterrupted digital payments.*

How does the facility strengthen financial security and resilience?

High reliability standards: The facility has received Tier IV accreditation from the Uptime Institute, the highest tier in its data centre classification system. Tier IV infrastructure is designed with extensive redundancy and fault tolerance, enabling critical systems to continue operating despite certain equipment failures or maintenance requirements.

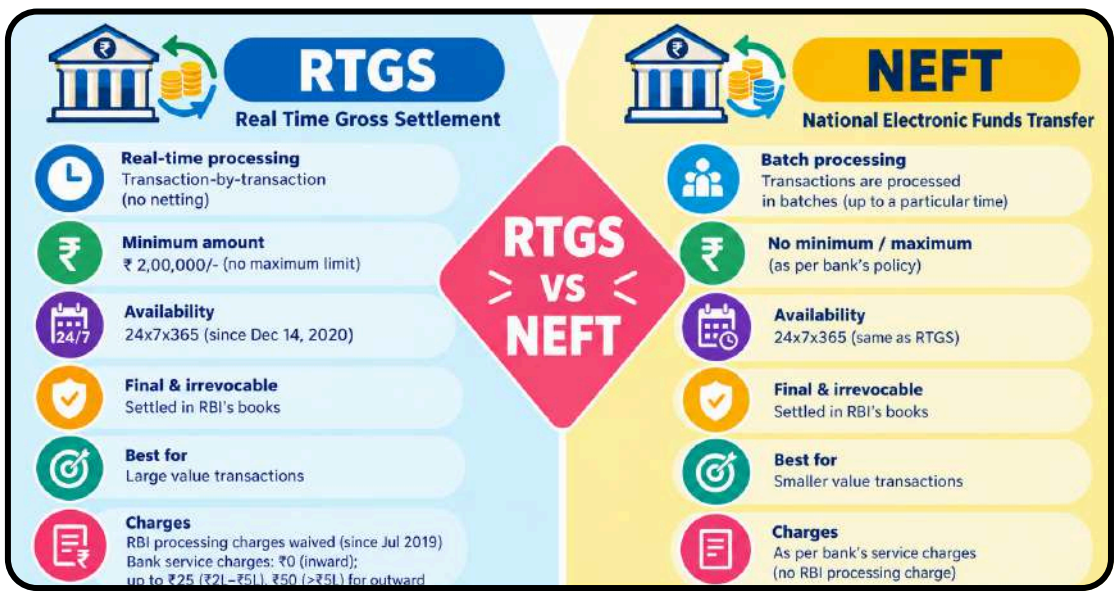
Geographical diversification: The RBI's three existing data centres were located in Maharashtra. Establishing a new facility in Odisha provides geographical separation and places critical infrastructure in a different seismic zone. This reduces the risk of a localised disaster affecting all facilities simultaneously.

Four independent data centres: The Bhubaneswar complex will comprise four independent data centres, strengthening infrastructure capacity and resilience. Independent facilities can help reduce the impact of localised technical disruptions, depending on how systems and backup arrangements are configured.

Protection against cyber threats: As banking services become increasingly digital, cyberattacks can disrupt payment systems, compromise sensitive information and undermine public confidence. Secure infrastructure, continuous monitoring and effective incident-response mechanisms are essential to protecting critical financial services.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements. (GS III - 2023)



What is the role of the Cybersecurity Training Institute?

Building specialised expertise: The institute will train RBI personnel, bank employees and staff of other financial sector organisations in cybersecurity and emerging technologies. This will help develop the technical skills required to protect increasingly complex financial systems.

Training in emerging technologies: Its focus areas will include artificial intelligence (AI), big data analytics, quantum technology and blockchain. Understanding these technologies can help financial institutions identify emerging vulnerabilities and improve their security practices.

Research and innovation: The institute will undertake research to strengthen the security and efficiency of financial systems. Training and research can improve institutional preparedness, support better risk management and help financial organisations respond to evolving cyber threats.

Strengthening technological self-reliance: Developing domestic expertise and research capabilities can improve India's capacity to manage and secure its critical financial infrastructure.

Key takeaway: The RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute represent an investment in the reliability, security and technological resilience of India's financial system. By supporting critical payment and government banking applications, diversifying infrastructure geographically and developing cybersecurity expertise, the facility strengthens the digital foundation on which India's expanding economy depends.

What are the broader economic implications?

Greater public confidence: Reliable banking and payment systems encourage individuals and businesses to use digital financial services.

Continuity of economic activity: Secure payment services support trade, business transactions, and government payments.

Environmental sustainability: *The RBI has applied for a Platinum rating from the Indian Green Building Council, which recognises energy and water efficiency standards.* This indicates an effort to incorporate environmental considerations into the development of financial infrastructure.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is NOT correct?
(a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
(b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in the case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
(c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
(d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT (2025) :
I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous while in case of NEFT, is takes some time to settle payments.
II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions while that is not the case for NEFT.
III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days while this is not true for NEFT.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I only
(b) I and II
(c) I and III
(d) III only

A southern alliance and an elephant in the room

The Indian EXPRESS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has proposed closer cooperation among the five southern States to build a $10 trillion-plus economic bloc by 2047. Together, these States contribute over 31% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 35% of its factories and foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows, and 26% of its Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections. However, ageing populations, dependence on migrant labour and mounting public debt could constrain their long-term growth.

What are the strengths and challenges of the southern States?

Strong economic contribution: The five States have significant industrial capacity, technology hubs and investment inflows. Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai are major centres for global capability centres (GCCs), which provide specialised business, technology and professional services to multinational companies.

Ageing populations and low fertility: The southern States have older populations than the national average. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are particularly affected, with a growing share of people aged 60 and above. *Their total fertility rates are also well below the replacement level of approximately 2.1 children per woman.*

Continued dependence on migrant labour: Despite low fertility, the southern States still have substantial working-age populations. However, industries, construction, hospitality and other sectors increasingly depend on workers migrating from northern and eastern India.

Pressure on public finances: Tamil Nadu has the largest outstanding state liabilities in absolute terms, while Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have debt-to-GDP ratios above the average for all States. The southern States also account for around 45% of the accumulated losses of State-owned electricity utilities. High debt and persistent losses can limit the resources available for infrastructure and social services.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Critically examine the challenges of demographic transition in contemporary India (GS II - 2026)

Why is the demographic transition a growing concern?

Fertility below replacement level: The total fertility rate in 2024 was 1.3 in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, 1.4 in Andhra Pradesh, and 1.5 in Karnataka and Telangana. A rate below the replacement level of approximately 2.1 means that the populations are shrinking over time.

Population momentum delays workforce decline: Low fertility does not immediately lead to a shrinking population or workforce. The immediate challenge is therefore to make productive use of the existing workforce while preparing for future ageing.

Ageing will increase care requirements: The proportion of older people is projected to rise significantly across the southern States by 2036. This will increase demand for geriatric healthcare, long-term care, social pensions and support for older people living alone.

Cash incentives may not reverse low fertility: Andhra Pradesh's Pillale Sampada initiative, announced in July 2026, reflects concern about declining births. However, one-time payments for additional children may have only a modest or temporary effect on fertility. Affordable childcare, parental support, job security and reproductive healthcare are important for helping families have the number of children they want.

Key takeaway: The five southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala contribute over 31% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 35% of its factories and foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows, and 26% of its Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections. However, ageing populations, dependence on migrant labour and mounting public debt could constrain their long-term growth.

Old values, new avenues: On India-Poland ties

India and Poland are strengthening their strategic partnership amid geopolitical uncertainty, supply-chain vulnerabilities and changing global power dynamics. During Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's visit to India on October 22, 2026, both countries identified opportunities to expand cooperation in trade, defence, space, clean energy and emerging technologies. Their engagement reflects growing economic complementarities and a shared interest in a more stable and diversified international order.



How have India–Poland relations evolved?

Strategic partnership: Relations were elevated to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland in 2024, the year marking 70 years of diplomatic relations.

Historical goodwill: During the Second World War, the Maharaja of Jamnagar provided refuge to Polish women and children. *Shared historical experiences and people-to-people links continue to support bilateral relations.*

Complementary strategic positions: India is an important Indo-Pacific power, while Poland plays a major role in European security, particularly on NATO's eastern flank. Both seek greater economic resilience and reduced dependence on concentrated sources of critical resources.

Shared diplomatic interests: Poland supports India's candidature for a non-permanent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat for 2028–29 and its demand for permanent membership in a reformed UNSC. India, in turn, may support Poland's aspiration to join the Group of Twenty (G20).

What are the major areas of cooperation?

Trade and investment: Bilateral trade reached approximately $6.36 billion in 2025, compared with $1.95 billion in 2013. Both countries aim to double trade by 2030. The proposed India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), could expand market access and investment.

Defence and security: Both sides agreed to establish a defence industry dialogue. Polish expertise in drones, loitering munitions and satellite imagery offers opportunities for cooperation, ***building on the use of Polish systems by India during Operation Sindoor.***

Space and emerging technologies: Cooperation in satellites, space technology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital innovation could be strengthened through an India–Poland start-up bridge and technology hackathons.

Energy and critical minerals: Polish expertise in mining and coal gasification could complement India's requirements. Both countries also see opportunities in renewable energy, nuclear energy and technologies that support more resilient supply chains.

Key takeaway: India–Poland relations are evolving from traditional economic and cultural engagement towards a broader strategic partnership encompassing defence, technology, energy and global governance. Sustained implementation, mutual sensitivity to geopolitical concerns and deeper business cooperation will determine whether this growing convergence translates into a durable partnership.



What are the key geopolitical and security dimensions?

Russia–Ukraine conflict: India maintains close relations with both Russia and Ukraine and has proposed a four-point initiative aimed at stopping attacks on civilians, facilitating grain and energy exports through the Black Sea, and protecting ships and seafarers. India describes its approach as supporting peace rather than formal mediation.

Counter-terrorism: Both countries condemned terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and the Pahalgam attack of April 2025. They agreed to establish a counter-terrorism dialogue.

Defence cooperation and strategic sensitivities: A proposed Agreement on Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information remains under negotiation. It is intended to address concerns about the security of sensitive information, including Poland's concerns about India's defence relationship with Russia and India's sensitivities regarding Poland's defence ties with Pakistan.

Trusted supply chains: Both countries want to reduce vulnerabilities linked to concentrated supplies of critical minerals and strategic resources. Cooperation could diversify supply chains and strengthen economic security.

What challenges constrain the partnership?

Limited trade relative to potential: Despite significant growth, bilateral trade remains modest relative to the size and ambitions of both economies.

Geopolitical differences: Poland's security concerns regarding Russia and India's long-standing defence relationship with Moscow may complicate strategic coordination.

Sensitive defence cooperation: The absence of a completed classified-information protection agreement limits progress towards specific defence deals.

Implementation gap: Announcements on trade, technology and defence will need to translate into concrete agreements, investment and joint projects to deliver lasting results.

Way forward

India and Poland should prioritise the timely conclusion of the classified-information protection agreement, regularise defence and counter-terrorism dialogues, and facilitate joint research and production in drones, satellites and advanced technologies. Both countries should also support start-ups, improve business connectivity, diversify critical-mineral supplies and pursue practical cooperation in clean energy, transport and manufacturing. The India–EU FTA could provide a wider framework for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

PYQ COMPASS

PYQ

Q. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union?
1. Belarus
2. Poland
3. Germany
4. Switzerland
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 4 only

Whale Strandings along Gujarat's Coast: Significance of Monitoring

Gujarat's coastline has recorded several blue whale strandings, particularly during the twentieth century. However, the apparent decline in recorded cases after 2000 may reflect gaps in scientific monitoring rather than the disappearance of whales. These records highlight the importance of systematic marine mammal observation and conservation along India's coast.

What do the records reveal about Gujarat's whales?

Historical records: Gujarat has 15 recorded blue whale strandings, 14 of them from the twentieth century, particularly around the Gulf of Khambhat and river mouths near Surat.

Gaps in documentation: Several later incidents, including blue whale and Bryde's whale strandings reported in 2016 and 2017, are absent from the global database.

Recent stranding: In August 2023, a Bryde's whale calf stranded near Mor village in Surat district.

Local knowledge: Fishers around Mandvi and Porbandar report seeing whales throughout the year, particularly between October and April. They refer to baleen whales as Maccha Raja, or "king of all fish".

Why are whale sightings and stranding records significant?

Understanding distribution: Records help identify where whales occur, their seasonal movements and possible changes in population distribution.

Scientific research: Stranded animals provide valuable information about species identification, physical characteristics and population structure.

Identifying conservation concerns: An increase in recorded strandings may reflect improved monitoring rather than an actual increase in whale deaths. Reliable, long-term data are necessary to distinguish between these possibilities.

Broader marine biodiversity: Indian waters support several cetaceans, including blue whales, Bryde's whales, dolphins, porpoises and the dugong. Monitoring strandings can improve understanding of this wider marine ecosystem.



Whale Population: Importance and Conservation

Largest Mammals: Blue whales can exceed 100 feet in length and weigh up to 200 tons.

Mammalian Features: Whales breathe air, are warm-blooded and nurse their young. Blubber insulates them from cold ocean waters.

Types: Baleen whales, such as blue, right and gray whales, filter food using baleen plates, while toothed whales, such as sperm and beluga whales, have teeth.

Marine Ecosystem: Whales play an important role in maintaining the health of marine ecosystems and food chains.

Carbon Sequestration: A great whale captures an estimated average of 33 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2), contributing to climate regulation.

Conservation Status: Six of the 13 great whale species are classified as endangered or vulnerable.

Major Threats: Fisheries bycatch, ship strikes and habitat loss threaten whale populations.

Annual Mortality: At least 300,000 whales and dolphins are killed annually due to fisheries bycatch.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Assess the significance of coastal regions in the economic development in India. (GS I - 2009)

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following rivers: (2014)
1. Barak
2. Lohit
3. Subansiri
Which of the above flows/flows through Arunachal Pradesh?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans : b
1) Barak: Incorrect.
The Barak River flows mainly through Manipur and Assam, but it does not flow through Arunachal Pradesh.
2) Lohit: Correct. The Lohit River originates in Tibet and flows through Arunachal Pradesh before merging with the Brahmaputra River.
3) Subansiri: Correct. The Subansiri River also originates in Tibet and flows through Arunachal Pradesh, eventually joining the Brahmaputra River.

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT (2025) :
I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous while in case of NEFT, is takes some time to settle payments.
II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions while that is not the case for NEFT.
III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days while this is not true for NEFT.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I only
(b) I and II
(c) I and III
(d) III only

Ans : A
Statement I is correct: NEFT is an electronic fund transfer system in which the transactions received up to a particular time are processed in batches. Contrary to this, in RTGS, the transactions are processed continuously on a transaction-by-transaction basis throughout the day.
Statement II is not correct: With a view to rationalise the service charges levied by banks for offering funds transfer through RTGS system, a broad framework of charges has been mandated.
Statement III is not correct: RTGS is available 24x7x365 with effect from December 14, 2020.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is **NOT** correct?
(a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
(b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in the case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
(c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
(d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

Ans : d
Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a digital payment platform that enables real-time interbank transactions between individuals as well as between customers and merchants. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee is a digital form of legal tender issued directly by the central bank.
For UPI transactions, the liability rests with the commercial banks that maintain the deposits. However, the Digital Rupee is a direct liability of the Reserve Bank of India rather than commercial banks.

Q. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union? (2026)
1. Belarus 2. Poland 3. Germany 4. Switzerland
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 4 only

Ans : C
The European Union currently has 27 member states following Brexit in 2020.
Belarus is not a member of the EU. It maintains close political and strategic ties with Russia. **Hence option 1 is incorrect.**
Poland joined the EU in 2004 as part of the major eastern enlargement. Germany is a founding member of the EU (originally the European Economic Community formed in 1957). **Hence option 2 is correct.**
Germany is one of the founding members of the EU/EEC. **Hence option 3 is correct.**
Switzerland is not a member of the EU. Although it cooperates with the EU through bilateral agreements, it has chosen not to join the Union. **Hence option 4 is incorrect.**

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. Consider the following statements about the Kamala hydroelectric project:

1. It is proposed on the Kamala River, a right-bank tributary of the Subansiri River.
2. The project is designed as a run-of-the-river cum storage project.
3. The forest-diversion proposal involves compensatory afforestation in Madhya Pradesh.
4. The project site falls within a national park, according to the Environment Ministry's site inspection report.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only.

Statement 4 is incorrect because the site inspection report stated that the project site does not fall within a national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve or elephant corridor. It nevertheless noted potential impacts on wildlife habitats and animal movement.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Odisha:

1. The data centre has received Tier IV accreditation from the Uptime Institute.
2. The facility is intended to operate independently of third-party cloud providers.
3. The cybersecurity training institute is intended to build expertise in areas such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics, blockchain and quantum technology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct: The facility has Tier IV accreditation, a classification associated with a high level of data-centre infrastructure resilience.

Statement 2 is correct: The centre is intended to operate independently of third-party cloud providers, supporting the RBI's control over its critical systems.

Statement 3 is correct: The training institute is designed to develop specialised skills among RBI personnel and financial-sector professionals in emerging technologies and cybersecurity.