

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Topic : National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : The Hindu

Context :

RS Chairman reminds MPs of NJAC Bill, judicial accountability

After Opposition raises issue regarding a Delhi HC judge, Dhankhar says the historic law dealt with the malaise severely; he adds that he will speak to Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and find a mechanism for a structured discussion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Before the Supreme Court clarified on Friday that the proposed transfer of a Delhi High Court judge was not related to a fire incident at his official residence, Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha raised the issue on the floor of the House.

Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh referred to a news report that claimed that fire brigade personnel had allegedly recovered "huge cash" from the official residence of the judge during the fire fighting operation.

Without naming the judge, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said if the "malaise" had been dealt with, perhaps the country would not have countenanced such kind of issues.

He referred to the National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill and said the historic legislation "endorsed by this Parliament with unprecedented consensual support unknown to parliamentary history of this



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Union Ministers Kiren Rijju and Aajam Ram Meghwal and Congress MPs Jairam Ramesh and Pramod Tiwari at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

country dealt with the malaise very severely".

"What bothers me is that the incident happened and did not immediately surface," he added.

The Supreme Court struck down the NJAC Act in 2015.

Earlier, Mr. Ramesh, citing Mr. Dhankhar's stand on judicial accountability, sought his statement on the issue. He also reminded the Chairman that 50 MPs had submitted a notice for removing a judge of the Allahabad High Court for making unacceptable remarks.

Mr. Dhankhar, responding to Mr. Ramesh on the

notice by MPs, said he was seized of a representation by 55 members of the House and had taken all necessary steps to get their verification.

"First mail was sent to all of them and the good thing is most of the members have responded positively, helping me perform my duty. Some members are yet to do. A mail reiterating the same has been sent to them. I have taken all procedural steps but I must share with you one concern that is engaging my attention. Of the 55 members who signed the representation, a member's signature appears on

two occasions and the member concerned has denied his signature. Now I do not wish to get into this act which may graduate to culpability to a higher level. If the number is above 50, I will proceed accordingly. Therefore, most of the members have cooperated. Those members who have not done so far, may please do it in response to the second mail sent to them. Then the process will not be delayed at my level even for a moment," he said.

On the issue of the Delhi High Court judge, Mr. Dhankhar said he had pleaded with the Leader of

the House, J.P. Nadda, that the House needed to know the status of the collective exercise of Parliament on judicial accountability.

"You all will recollect if the mechanism which was passed by this House with near unanimity, with no dissension, only one abstention in Rajya Sabha, all political parties converging, going in for the initiative of the government. I wish to find out the status of that which emanated from Indian Parliament, made sacrosanct by endorsement under Article III of the Constitution," he said.

"If it happens with a politician, he becomes a target, a bureaucrat, an industrialist immediately and therefore systemic response which is transparent, accountable, effective, I am sure will be on the way. I will get in touch with Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and find a mechanism for a structured discussion during course of the session subject to their agreement. I will discuss this with them," he added.

NJAC law been in force, the judicial system might have addressed such issues more effectively.

The debate over the NJAC is essentially about balancing judicial independence with accountability and transparency. On one hand, judicial independence is fundamental to the Constitution's **Basic Structure**. On the other hand, unchecked judicial power without accountability raises concerns about potential misuse and lack of public confidence.

Background of NJAC

The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was established to reform the existing system of appointing judges to the higher judiciary in India. Before the NJAC, the **Collegium System**, which was established through a series of Supreme Court judgments, was responsible for appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The Collegium System, led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, had been widely criticized for being opaque and lacking accountability. There was no formal procedure or transparency in the selection process, leading to concerns about favoritism and lack of meritocracy. To address these issues, the NJAC was proposed as a more transparent and accountable mechanism for judicial appointments.

Constitutional Amendment and the Establishment of NJAC

To establish the NJAC, the government introduced two major legislative measures in 2014:

The recent remarks by **Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar**, also the **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**, have reignited the debate on judicial accountability and the relevance of NJAC. Addressing the controversy surrounding a Delhi High Court judge, Dhankhar pointed out that if the NJAC had been operational, the judiciary might have been more accountable and transparent in dealing with such issues.

The controversy arose after opposition members raised concerns in the Rajya Sabha about allegations of "**huge cash recovery**" from the judge's residence. The Vice-President stressed that had the **historic**

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1. 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014:

This amendment modified Articles 124 and 217 and introduced Articles 124A, 124B, and 124C to constitute the NJAC.

2. National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014:

This Act defined the procedure for the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary.


These legislative measures were passed with overwhelming support in both Houses of Parliament and received assent from **16 State Legislatures**. Subsequently, the Acts were signed by the President of India, making them part of the Constitution.

- Union Minister of Law and Justice as a member.
- Two eminent persons nominated by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, CJI, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The inclusion of eminent persons and executive members aimed to introduce diversity and external oversight while retaining judicial representation.

Functions and Powers of NJAC

The primary function of the NJAC was to recommend appointments and transfers of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. It was also responsible for ensuring transparency and fairness in the selection process. The inclusion of non-judicial members aimed to bring greater accountability and reduce the "**judges appointing judges**" phenomenon prevalent in the Collegium System.


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY	WHAT THE TWO BODIES ARE	CRITICISMS
<p>Oct 16, 2015</p> <p>Supreme Court on Friday quashed two acts. It declared unconstitutional a law to replace the collegium system in higher judiciary.</p> <p>It also quashed the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, that laid down how the NJAC would function.</p> <p>Versus delivered by 5-judge Constitution bench comprising justices J S Khehar, J Chelameswar, MB Lokur, Kurian Joseph and AK Goel.</p> <p>It also rejected Centre's plea to refer matter to a larger bench.</p> <p>Bench said it was willing to take suggestions to improve existing system; posted hearing for Nov 3.</p>	<p>COLLEGIUM SYSTEM CJI and four senior-most SC judges recommend appointments and transfers of judges. In effect since 1993, this system referred to as "judges-selecting-judges", is not in the Constitution but was created by two SC judgments in 1990s.</p> <p>NJAC Body to replace Collegium system of appointing judges. To consist of 6 people: 1) CJI, 2) two senior-most SC judges, 3) law minister and 4) 2 'eminent persons'. Eminent persons nominated for three-year term by Chief Justice, PM & Leader of Opposition (LS).</p>	<p>OF THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM</p> <p>Centre said the system created an "imperium in imperio" ('empire within an empire') within Supreme Court.</p> <p>It was criticised on grounds that it created a "give-and-take" culture.</p> <p>It was said that politicians/actors would get easy relief from courts while commoners would struggle.</p>
<p>Friday's apex court judgment strikes down a 15-year quest spearheaded by the Law Commission, Parliament, 20 states, successive govts and different public forums to change the process of appointing judges.</p>	<p>OF THE NJAC</p> <p>Court on Friday held executive involvement in appointment of judges impinges upon independence of judiciary.</p> <p>It violates principle of separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary, that is a basic feature of the Constitution.</p>	<p>SOME SHARP TAKES EITHER SIDE</p> <p>April 30, 2015</p> <p>How does an eminent person determine the ability and integrity of an advocate practising in J&K or TN and his suitability for appointment as a judge? Tell us some names whom the government considers eminent" —sc.</p> <p>Take for example M S Swaminathan. Why can't he be chosen as an eminent person? Government wants every section of society to have a say" — A-S ROHATGI</p> <p>June 11, 2015</p> <p>The collegium did not follow the principle of meritocracy in appointing judges and hence, many undeserving persons got appointed as judges" — A-S ROHATGI</p> <p>Mistakes will be there, whether this system or that system... Question is how serious are they" —sc.</p>
<p>HOW THE NJAC CAME ABOUT</p> <p>2002 Justice Venkatiah Committee set up by NDA-1 in its report for the first time suggested a National Judicial Commission for the appointment of judges.</p> <p>Aug 2014 Govt passes NJAC Act through a constitutional amendment.</p> <p>Dec 31, 2014 Act gets Pranab Mukherjee's assent.</p> <p>April 13, 2015 The NJAC Act is notified.</p> <p>SC Advocates on Record Association and others filed batch of petitions in Supreme Court challenging NJAC, claiming NJAC infringed on judiciary's independence.</p> <p>Oct 16 Apex court scraps NJAC Act. Back to collegium system.</p>		

Composition of NJAC

The NJAC was designed as a **six-member body** comprising:

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) as the Chairperson (ex officio).
- Two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court as members.

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Collegium system	NJAC provisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A forum that decides on appointments and transfers of judges Comprises Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court The system was put in place in 1993 by an SC verdict Collegium has final say in appointments or transfers; the President merely approves its choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was built as a statutory body to replace the present collegium system It was established following the Constitution (99th Amendment) Bill passed by the Lok Sabha on August 13, 2014 and by the Rajya Sabha on August 14, 2014 Parliament cleared the NJAC Act, 2014, to set up NJAC
The contention	What the SC ruled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objection was to inclusion of Law Minister and two 'eminent persons' in the NJAC panel One of the eminent persons nominated should be from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities or women According to Section 5 of the NJAC Act, any recommendation opposed by two members would be dropped Petitioners say nominated members can veto decision and thus govt will control NJAC's decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 99th amendment and NJAC Act will affect the independence of the judiciary All five judges delivered separate judgments: running into 1,030 pages Justice Chelameswar disagreed with other judges' ruling that the amendment and the NJAC Act would affect judiciary's independence The Bench also acknowledged that all was not well with the 22-year-old collegium system

Criticisms of the Supreme Court Verdict

The Supreme Court's decision sparked widespread debate and criticism for several reasons:

- **Lack of Transparency:** The Collegium System, criticized for being opaque, was reinstated without addressing its flaws.
- **Judicial Supremacy:** The verdict was seen as judicial overreach, undermining the will of Parliament and the states.
- **Absence of Accountability:** With no external oversight, the Collegium remained a self-regulating body without public scrutiny.
- **Public Discontent:** The decision to overturn a law passed with unprecedented consensus among political parties was seen as disregarding democratic will.

Supreme Court Verdict on NJAC (2015)

Despite the legislative and popular support, the Supreme Court struck down the NJAC Act and the 99th Constitutional Amendment in the **Fourth Judges Case (2015)**. The Court ruled that the NJAC violated the **"Basic Structure"** of the Constitution, specifically the principle of **judicial independence**.

The inclusion of executive members in the NJAC was deemed to compromise judicial independence, which the Court considered integral to the Constitution's core framework. As a result, the Collegium System was restored, and judicial appointments continued to be made solely by the judiciary without executive interference.

JUDICIARY VS EXECUTIVE		COURT'S ARGUMENTS
THE SC ORDER 5-judge bench votes 4-1 to strike down NJAC and revive collegium system, in which judges pick judges. Bench asks govt and petitioners to give suggestions on Nov 3 to improve the system	COLLEGIUM VS NJAC Collegium CJI and a forum of four senior-most judges select judges for SC. System around 20 years old NJAC CJI, 2 senior-most SC judges, law minister and two 'eminent persons' will pick judges. Eminent persons to be nominated for 3-year term by a panel comprising CJI, PM and leader of oppn in Lok Sabha. Any two members can veto a proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of minister & 2 eminent persons in NJAC with veto powers "devastating blow" to primacy of judiciary in appointments Inclusion of law minister when govt is biggest litigant, will result in conflict of interest <p>When SC examines the constitutional validity of a law, it is inconsequential whether it was passed...with a water-thin or brute majority, or unanimity</p>
POLITICAL REACTIONS While holding very dearly the principle of independence of judiciary, I regret to say that parliamentary sovereignty has received a setback today - RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD BJP		We are surprised... 100% of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha have supported the bill -SABANANDA GOWDA LAW MINISTER
		The judgment implicitly reflects lack of confidence in this govt which has eroded institutional autonomy and constitutional safeguards -RANDEEP SURJEWALA CONG

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), consider the following statements:

1. The NJAC was established through the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014.

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2. The NJAC included members from both the judiciary and the executive.
3. The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the NJAC Act in the Fourth Judges Case (2015).
4. The NJAC aimed to replace the Collegium System of judicial appointments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer:

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is Correct:** The NJAC was established through the **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**, to replace the Collegium System.
2. **Statement 2 is Correct:** The NJAC included **members from both the judiciary and the executive**, as well as two eminent persons.
3. **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The Supreme Court **struck down the NJAC Act** in the **Fourth Judges Case (2015)**, declaring it unconstitutional as it violated the **Basic Structure** of the Constitution.
4. **Statement 4 is Correct:** The primary objective of the NJAC was to **replace the Collegium System** with a more transparent and accountable mechanism for judicial appointments.

Mains Model Question:

Q. The Supreme Court's decision to strike down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act has reignited the debate on judicial independence versus accountability. Critically analyze the significance of the NJAC and the challenges posed by the reinstatement of the Collegium System. (250 words)

The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was established through the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014, to bring transparency and accountability to the process of appointing judges to the higher judiciary. The NJAC aimed to replace the Collegium System, which was often criticized for being opaque, unaccountable, and dominated solely by the judiciary. The NJAC consisted of the Chief Justice of India, two senior Supreme Court judges, the Union Minister of Law and Justice, and two eminent persons, thereby incorporating both judicial and executive inputs.

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COLLEGIUM WILL BE HISTORY SOON

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

A six-member panel for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court & high courts	Eminent persons will be selected by CJI, PM & Oppn leader/leader of largest Oppn party in Lok Sabha	
CJI will head the panel which will have 2 SC judges, 2 eminent persons and law minister	One of eminent persons will be nominated from persons belonging to SC/STs, OBCs, minorities or women	If two members of panel do not agree, appointment will not happen. President can return recommendation for reconsideration once
Constitutional amendment status to stop easy change in current legislation by future govts	Term of eminent persons will not exceed 3 yrs, will not be re-nominated	

ADVANTAGES

Judges no more will choose themselves. Armed with expertise of legal luminaries, Parliament to have a significant say	Government vested with more powers, no more to remain a post office, can flag objections at elementary stage of selection and shoot down a candidature	More transparency, consistency and accountability in judicial appointments
With the clearance of bill, government to lay down a set procedure for appointment of judges to higher judiciary		

CRITICISMS

More political interference likely in recommendation of 'suitable' candidates for elevation to the bench	Procedural delay for appointment of Judges	Intelligence reports can be cited by political parties to scuttle chances of a candidate who may not find favour with political parties
Given the composition of the Commission, executive can have its way by attaining majority in the committee	Threat to judicial independence as political parties may strike a deal over a candidate	

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

Putting an end to interference of political parties and the executive, the Collegium system was introduced in 1993 under which no "outsider" had any role to play in selection and appointment of judges to HCs and SC. Under the current system, a collegium of three senior-most judges of a high court, headed by the CJ of the said court, recommends name of lawyers/lower court judges to the Supreme Court for elevation to the bench. The law ministry or the government has little say in the entire selection process. Even if the executive objects to a candidature it has little chance but to accept the same after the SC reiterates its decision.

ADVANTAGES

Aware of performance of lawyers and lower judiciary, HC/SC Judges better placed to recommend names	Total judicial independence without any interference of political party or executive
Performance as a lawyer/lower court judge sole consideration for recommending or selecting	Minimal delay in the selection process as all main decisions to be taken by HCs & SC

PITFALLS

Executive can object but only to a limited extent. Final word lies with the Supreme Court	Abject lack of transparency in selection as grounds for clearing or rejecting remains unknown
Larger room for arbitrary and whimsical decisions	


NJAC VS COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

WHAT'S COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

- Collegium system based on Three Judges Cases
- Under it, appointment of judges are made by Chief Justice of India and four most senior Supreme Court judges.
- Has no constitutional backing.
- Constitution of India's Article 124 says appointments to be made by President in consultation with judges as President may deem necessary.
- Critics say it is a closed-door system which lacks transparency

WHAT'S NJAC

- NJAC was a body created to end the two-decade-old Supreme Court Collegium system of judges appointing judges.
- Was passed by Lok Sabha on August 13, 2014. Was passed by Rajya Sabha a day later.
- Will consist of six people – CJI, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, Law Minister and two 'eminent' persons.
- Critics say judges in NJAC will need support of others to push a name through. They fear judicial independence being compromised.



While the verdict upheld judicial independence, it failed to address the inherent flaws of the Collegium System, including the lack of transparency, accountability, and standard procedures. Critics argue that the NJAC represented a balanced approach by involving multiple stakeholders and that striking it down disregarded parliamentary consensus. Furthermore, recent controversies surrounding judicial misconduct have brought the debate back into focus, emphasizing the need for a transparent appointment process.

Balancing judicial independence with accountability remains a complex challenge. The NJAC attempted to achieve this balance, but its nullification has left unresolved questions about the legitimacy and openness of the appointment process. Revisiting the structure and functions of the Collegium System with reforms aimed at transparency and accountability is essential to restore public confidence in the judiciary.

However, the Supreme Court struck down the NJAC Act and the associated Constitutional Amendment in the Fourth Judges Case (2015), holding that judicial independence is part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. The Court reasoned that allowing the executive a significant role in judicial appointments would undermine judicial autonomy. Consequently, the Collegium System was restored, which meant that judges would continue to be appointed by a panel of senior judges without executive interference.

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Topic : Demand for Grants

Relevance : GS Paper 2 Polity and Governance

Source : The Hindu

Context :

LS approves Demands for Grants of ₹50 lakh crore for various Ministries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Demands for Grants for various Ministries for 2025-26, approving expenditure of more than ₹50 lakh crore.

The House passed the Demands for Grants by applying the guillotine, which means the funds for the Ministries it [guillotine] is applied on are considered approved without a discussion.

The Lower House also passed the Appropriation Bill (3), 2025, moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

'Fully committed'

Earlier in the day, the Lok Sabha debated the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for about four hours. Replying to a debate, Agriculture Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan said the Narendra Modi government had spent ₹22.38 lakh crore on procurement of farm produce at minimum support price (MSP) and the procurement formula ensured that farmers earned 50% profits over their cost of production.

Asserting that a 5% growth in agriculture was a "miraculous achievement", Mr. Chouhan said, "Our government is fully committed to farmers' welfare... The BJP's vision is to serve farmers and we consider it akin to worshipping God".

Former Punjab Chief Minister and Congress MP, Charanjit Singh Channi also raised concern over the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and others in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session on Friday. ANI

government's position on slashing import duties on grains.

"America's President has openly stated they would impose reciprocal taxes and that India agreed to lower import duties on grains. If that is the case, what will happen to our country's agricultural produce?" Mr Channi asked.

'Betraying the farmers'
The Congress MP also deplored the police action on farmers on the Punjab border and accused the BJP of betraying the farmers by failing to fulfil its promise on MSP and suppressing the ongoing farmers' agitation.

"The government asked the protesting farmer leaders to withdraw their hunger strike, promising negotiations. But while they held meetings, the police were being prepared to dismantle the agitation. How can there be trust when

the farmers are called for talks but then forcibly removed at night?" Mr. Channi asked, referring to the action by the Punjab Police.

Hitting back, Mr. Chouhan asked, "Have we been friends with Aam Admi Party? You were walking arm-in-arm till the Lok Sabha election. You were together and you are accusing us".

Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav also condemned the government's handling of the protests, citing distress among farmers under the BJP-led government. "In the past 10 years, over a lakh farmers have committed suicide. Three farm laws were introduced and, despite the Opposition labelling them as 'black laws', the government refused to listen. Farmers endured extreme weather and staged month-long protests, during which 750

of them were martyred. Till today, not a single family of those farmers has received compensation," he said.

Drawing a parallel between colonial rule and the treatment of farmers, Congress MP Jai Prakash said the government using force to suppress protests was unacceptable.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP T.M. Selvaganapathi said, "Even U.S. President Donald Trump has said India agreed to the U.S. conditions. Mexico, China and even European countries are resisting but we have become spineless. This will be a death knell for our farmers".

He also said the Centre was seeking to reverse India's long-standing policy of reducing dependence on the U.S. wheat imports.

"Thanks to the Green Revolution led by our forefathers, especially M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. C. Subramaniam, India overcame its dependence on PL-480 wheat imports from the US. But now, the government is reversing that trend," he charged.

NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Amol Ramsing Kolhe pointed to the disparity between the U.S. and the Indian farmers, particularly in soyabean production. "After the change of power in the U.S., they are demanding that India open its agriculture market. This poses a major crisis for our farmers but the government has not given any clarity on this matter," Mr. Kolhe said.

funds for ministries to which the guillotine is applied are considered approved without any detailed discussion. This decision marks a significant moment in the budgetary process, highlighting the importance and relevance of Demands for Grants in India.

Understanding Demand for Grants

In India, the **Demand for Grants** is an essential component of the Union Budget. It represents the estimated expenditure presented to Parliament for approval. Article 113 of the Constitution mandates that no money shall be withdrawn from the **Consolidated Fund of India** without legislative authorization. Therefore, the government must obtain the approval of the Lok Sabha for these expenditures.

Every ministry and department submits its **Demand for Grants** to the Parliament, outlining the funds required for various schemes, salaries, administrative expenses, and other expenditures for the upcoming financial year. These demands are presented in the form of separate documents, and each demand typically includes:

1. **Revenue Expenditure:** Regular functioning expenses of the government.
2. **Capital Expenditure:** Expenses for creating assets and infrastructure.
3. **Grants-in-Aid:** Assistance to states, institutions, or individuals.

Procedure for Approval

The Demands for Grants are presented to the **Lok Sabha** after the **Budget Speech**. They are thoroughly scrutinized by **Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)**, which submit their

The Lok Sabha recently approved the **Demands for Grants for the financial year 2025-26**, authorizing an expenditure of over **₹50 lakh crore** for various ministries. This approval came after a process called the "**guillotine**", which essentially means that the

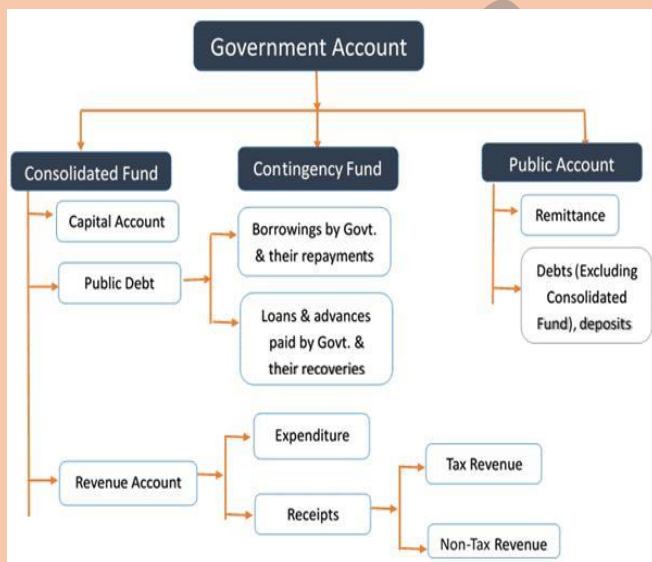
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reports to Parliament. Following the scrutiny, these demands are discussed in the Lok Sabha. Members can raise questions, suggest amendments, or oppose certain grants. After thorough discussions, the **Demands for Grants are put to vote.**

In situations where discussions are not completed within the stipulated time, the government applies the “**guillotine**”. This means all remaining demands are put to vote without any further discussion. This procedural mechanism ensures that the budgetary process is not delayed.

Significance of Demand for Grants

Demand for Grants is crucial because it provides the government with **financial authorization** to carry out its programs and policies. It ensures legislative oversight over public expenditure, thereby maintaining **financial discipline and transparency**. Additionally, it holds the **executive accountable to the Parliament**, as ministries are required to justify their expenditure.



During the recent debate, Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** emphasized the government’s commitment to farmers' welfare, citing expenditures on **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** and growth achievements. However, opposition parties raised concerns over issues like **lower import duties on grains**, farmer protests, and the alleged failure to fulfill MSP promises. This highlights how the **Demand for Grants serves as a platform for both financial approval and political debate.**

Political and Economic Implications

The approval of ₹50 lakh crore worth of grants reflects the government’s economic priorities and policy directions. It indicates substantial allocations for crucial sectors like agriculture, defense, and social welfare. However, it also draws political criticism when opposition parties feel that the allocations do not adequately address ground realities or when there is insufficient debate on critical issues.

In this context, **Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi** and other opposition leaders criticized the government’s handling of agricultural issues, expressing concerns over reduced import duties and their potential impact on domestic farmers. Such debates demonstrate how the **Demand for Grants acts as a bridge between financial planning and political accountability.**

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Types of demand for grants

> Mentioned under - Article 115 of the Indian Constitution

> **Supplementary grants** - If the amount authorized under Article 114 (Appropriation Bills) is found to be insufficient for the purposes.

> **Additional grants** - When a need has arisen for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the Budget



> **Excess grants** - If any money has been spent on any service in excess of the amount granted for that service.

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, 3, and 4 only

Answer:

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

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Demand for Grants is presented only in the Lok Sabha because it holds the **power of the purse** as per the Indian Constitution.
2. **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Demand for Grants includes both **revenue and capital expenditures**.
3. **Statement 3 is Correct:** The Demand for Grants can be approved without discussion through a process called the "**guillotine**", which speeds up the budgetary approval process.
4. **Statement 4 is Incorrect:** The **Rajya Sabha does not vote on the Demand for Grants**; only the Lok Sabha has the authority to grant or deny the funds.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. With reference to the "Demand for Grants" in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The Demand for Grants is presented only in the Lok Sabha as it holds the power of the purse.
2. It includes provisions for both revenue and capital expenditures.
3. The Demand for Grants can be approved without discussion through a process called the "guillotine."
4. The Rajya Sabha also votes on the Demand for Grants after approval by the Lok Sabha.

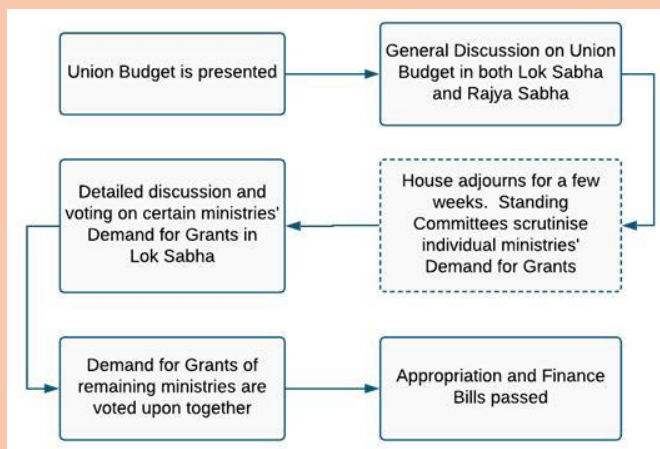
Mains Model Question:

Q. The process of Demand for Grants in the Indian Parliament ensures financial accountability and legislative oversight. However, the use of the guillotine mechanism often undermines detailed scrutiny. Critically examine the significance of Demand for Grants and the

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challenges associated with the guillotine procedure. (250 words)

The Demand for Grants is an essential part of India's budgetary process, representing the financial requirements of various ministries and departments. It is presented in the Lok Sabha after the Budget Speech, outlining the revenue and capital expenditures for the upcoming financial year. As mandated by Article 113 of the Constitution, no money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without the approval of Parliament, making the Demand for Grants crucial for maintaining financial accountability.



The process begins with the scrutiny of demands by Departmentally Related Standing Committees, followed by debates and voting in the Lok Sabha. This process ensures that every ministry justifies its expenditure and aligns it with policy objectives. However, the guillotine mechanism, which allows for passing demands without discussion, poses significant challenges. It is often applied when the allocated time for debate runs out, leading to automatic approval of pending grants. While it helps

maintain procedural efficiency and prevents budget delays, it also undermines legislative scrutiny and accountability.

The frequent use of the guillotine reflects a lack of sufficient parliamentary debate on critical financial allocations. This practice becomes especially problematic when contentious issues or large expenditures are approved without adequate discussion. Consequently, the guillotine mechanism dilutes the fundamental principle of parliamentary control over public finance.

To strike a balance between efficiency and accountability, there is a need to allocate more time for debates on significant demands and reduce the routine application of the guillotine. Strengthening the role of parliamentary committees and ensuring robust discussions can help address the gap between legislative intent and executive action. Ensuring financial prudence while maintaining transparency should be the guiding principle of the budgetary process.

Topic : IORA : Charting a New Path for Regional Prosperity

Relevance : GS Paper 2 International Relations

Source : The Hindu

Context :

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

Charting a route for IORA under India's chairship

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an apex regional organization that promotes open regionalism between the countries of Asia, Africa and Australia, connected via Indian Ocean waters. As the Indian leadership prepares to step up to chair IORA from November 2025 – it is now Vice-Chair – it can bring impetus to increased resilience in its governance structure. As IORA chair for the next two years, India will have three priorities: creating funding opportunities to enlarge IORA's budget; integrating technology for data management and policy analysis; and creating maritime-ready courses with academic and research institutions using collaborations.



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The Indian Ocean Region and IORA
Geographically, the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a subset of the Indo-Pacific, yet unique. The Indian Ocean, home to two-thirds of humanity, has a rich and diverse marine life. It also transports 75% of global trade and 50% of daily oil consumption. It produces \$1 trillion in goods and services, and its intra-IOA trade was \$800 billion in 2023. However, this region is also marred by poor development, troubled political systems, climate change-induced disasters, and environmental degradation. It also faces security challenges such as piracy, terrorism, and human and drug trafficking. These supranational issues compel the regional countries to cooperate and find workable solutions.

Therefore, as one of the oldest regional inter-governmental organisations, IORA has been working to further cooperation among its members by facilitating dialogue on cultural and academic exchanges and crucial issues such as disaster risk management. While the United

New Delhi must strengthen the foundation for meaningful and ground-level governance

States, China and the European Union are IORA's dialogue partners, it is mainly driven by only middle and small powers and, therefore, requires a hour de force to become more relevant.

Issues faced by IORA
The Indian Ocean region is relatively free of the great power competition yet has its own set of challenges, including funding. IORA's annual budget is member-dependent. Barring Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and France, the member states are developing Asian and African economies. The budget is indicated to be just a few million. Incidentally, the Indian Ocean Commission, which has only five IO countries, has a \$1.3 billion budget for the 2020-25 time frame. Thus, the funds generated fall short of achieving IORA's growing areas of engagement such as maritime safety and security, fisheries management, disaster risk management, and technology and innovation, and the blue economy.

Notably, each of these pillars is resource-intensive and requires constant engagement. One way to generate more funds would be to include private players as consultative partners as they are some of the biggest players in the maritime domain. From shipping companies to marine-related industries such as oil and gas, and marine tourism, these industries are relevant to the blue economy. These industries can be involved in maritime policy-making and also contribute to the IORA fund. The IORA has a small Secretariat with limited staff based at Mauritius. Since government-based structures and institutions have limited bandwidth for data processing, technology can be a big help in improving

governance. Accounting for data is laborious with a large margin of error, and quick and efficient policy analysis would be made easier with digitized record keeping.

Other suggestions for India
India's Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) vision complements IORA's objectives and must leverage its excellent relations with IORA member states to develop workable solutions. IORA members, such as Australia, have made significant contributions to research in marine science and technology. France and Singapore, have their strength in marine-related technologies, and the UAE and Oman can contribute through investments in sectors where IORA seeks help. Traditional knowledge that exists in coastal and small island nations (Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Mauritius) should be maintained for developing sustainable methods of marine governance. To further productive outcomes, IORA needs sustained and improved collaborative avenues.

Lastly, as marine and maritime-related employment opportunities will only multiply, industrial leaders should collaborate with educational and research institutions to provide problem statements and seek solutions, and to create newer, industry-related courses. Marine accounting is an interdisciplinary course that could help create a base for a blue economy. With the available talent in the region, scholars and practitioners are most likely to work out solutions.

IORA holds immense promise for regional prosperity and India must use its leadership to overcome the existing issues at the institutional level.

Intra-IOA trade itself was valued at \$800 billion in 2023. Moreover, the region is rich in marine resources and biodiversity. However, it also faces a plethora of challenges, including piracy, terrorism, human trafficking, climate change, environmental degradation, and socio-economic disparities. To address these issues effectively, cooperative mechanisms like IORA are essential.

India's Role and Priorities as IORA Chair

India is set to assume the chairship of IORA from November 2025, following its current position as Vice-Chair. As chair, India will focus on three key priorities:



The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an intergovernmental organization that brings together countries from Asia, Africa, and Australia that are geographically linked by the Indian Ocean.

Established in 1997, IORA aims to promote sustainable growth, balanced development, and cooperation among its member states. It functions as an apex regional organization promoting open regionalism, fostering dialogue, and facilitating collaboration on key issues such as maritime safety, security, disaster risk management, and the blue economy.

Strategic Importance of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) holds immense geostrategic and economic significance. It serves as a vital link between the world's major trading hubs, with around 75% of global trade and 50% of daily oil consumption passing through its waters. The region contributes significantly to the global economy, generating goods and services worth approximately \$1 trillion annually.

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- IORA is an inter-governmental organisation which was established in March 1997.
- It was formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).
- The IORA Secretariat is based in Mauritius. It became an observer to the UN General Assembly and the African Union in 2015.
- Members – It has 23 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners.
- China is a dialogue partner in the IORA.

Objectives

- To promote sustainable growth and balanced development of the region;
- To focus on those areas of economic cooperation which provide maximum opportunities for development, shared interest and mutual benefits;
- To promote liberalisation, remove impediments and lower barriers towards a freer and enhanced flow of goods, services, investment, and technology within the Indian Ocean rim.

1. **Creating Funding Opportunities:** One of the significant challenges IORA faces is its limited budget, which is dependent on member contributions. Except for a few countries like Singapore, the UAE, and France, most member states are developing economies with constrained resources. India's goal will be to enlarge IORA's budget by involving private sector stakeholders such as shipping companies, oil and gas industries, and marine tourism enterprises. These industries are pivotal to the blue economy and can be encouraged to contribute financially and participate in policymaking.
2. **Technology Integration:** Effective data management and policy analysis are essential for IORA's governance. India plans to enhance technological adoption within IORA to ensure efficient record-keeping and data

analysis. This would reduce human errors and make decision-making more streamlined.

3. **Building Maritime-Ready Courses:** To develop human resources and build regional capacities, India aims to establish interdisciplinary maritime education programs. By collaborating with IORA member states and research institutions, India will facilitate marine accounting and other blue economy-related courses, creating skilled professionals capable of addressing regional challenges.

Challenges Faced by IORA

Despite its potential, IORA grapples with several institutional and operational challenges. First and foremost is its budgetary constraint, as the annual budget is just a few million dollars, significantly less compared to other regional organizations like the Indian Ocean Commission. This financial shortfall hampers IORA's capacity to implement initiatives related to maritime safety, disaster management, and innovation.

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SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) Vision

Launched in 2015 for regional security, sustainable growth, and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region

Core Principles

- Trust, respect for maritime norms, regional sensitivity, peaceful dispute resolution, & cooperation
- Aligns with India's Act East Policy & Neighbourhood First policy

Significance of IOR for India

- Economic Vitality:** 95% of India's trade by volume & 68% of trade by value
- Strategic Leverage:** Controls key maritime chokepoints (e.g. Strait of Malacca), boosting trade security
- Defense Shield:** Enhances naval security against piracy & threats
- Regional Influence:** Strengthens India's role in South Asia and Indo-Pacific

Major Initiatives of India Aligning with the SAGAR Vision

India's Vision: SAGAR and IORA Synergy

India's "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR) vision aligns well with IORA's mandate, emphasizing collective growth, maritime security, and regional cooperation. India's bilateral relations with IORA members are robust, and it can leverage these connections to promote a more resilient and responsive IORA.

Countries like Australia have made significant strides in marine science and technology, while France and Singapore are pioneers in marine technologies. The UAE and Oman, being economically stable, can invest in IORA's targeted projects. Additionally, India can bring traditional knowledge from coastal and island nations like Sri Lanka, Seychelles, and Mauritius into mainstream marine governance practices.



Another challenge lies in the limited human resources within its Secretariat, located in Mauritius. Additionally, the lack of digital transformation within IORA's operational framework results in inefficient data management and slow policy implementation. The absence of active involvement from major powers also limits its geopolitical leverage, as most member states are small and middle powers.

The Path Ahead for India's Leadership

As India prepares to chair IORA, it must prioritize not just policy formulation but also practical,

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ground-level governance. Building partnerships with industry leaders to integrate academic institutions into the maritime sector will foster sustainable development. Through collaborative efforts, India can help transform IORA into a proactive and efficient organization.

The Indian Ocean's vast potential and challenges require a coordinated approach that only a robust IORA can provide. As chair, India has the opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance maritime safety, and secure the economic interests of the member states. Through innovative funding mechanisms, technological integration, and capacity building, India can set a benchmark for effective regional leadership and ensure that IORA remains relevant in an ever-evolving geopolitical landscape.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

1. IORA was established in 1997 to promote regional cooperation among countries linked by the Indian Ocean.
2. The headquarters of IORA is located in New Delhi, India.
3. India will assume the chairship of IORA in 2025.
4. The primary focus areas of IORA include maritime safety, disaster risk management, and the blue economy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 4 only

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

Answer:

b) 1, 3, and 4 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct** - IORA was established in 1997 to foster regional cooperation among Indian Ocean littoral states.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect** - The headquarters of IORA is located in Mauritius, not New Delhi.
3. **Statement 3 is correct** - India will assume the chairship of IORA in November 2025.
4. **Statement 4 is correct** - IORA's primary focus areas include maritime safety, disaster risk management, and promoting the blue economy.

Mains Model Question:

Discuss the significance of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in promoting regional cooperation and India's strategic role as the upcoming chair.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a pivotal regional organization that seeks to enhance cooperation among countries connected by the Indian Ocean. Established in 1997, it comprises 23 member states and 10 dialogue partners, fostering open regionalism to address shared challenges and opportunities. The Indian Ocean region is a crucial

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global trade route, handling 75% of global trade and 50% of daily oil consumption. Despite its economic importance, the region faces several challenges, including maritime security threats, climate change impacts, and socio-economic disparities.

issues such as maritime safety, disaster management, and the promotion of the blue economy.

India's focus areas as chair include enhancing IORA's financial resources, integrating technology for better governance, and fostering academic collaborations to develop maritime-ready courses. Mobilizing private sector participation can significantly boost IORA's budget, allowing it to expand its initiatives. Additionally, India's emphasis on digitization can strengthen data management and policy analysis, improving decision-making processes.

By fostering collaboration between educational institutions, industries, and research bodies, India can shape IORA's future as a robust platform for maritime governance and sustainable development. As global powers vie for influence in the Indo-Pacific, India's leadership in IORA will reinforce its strategic presence and enhance collective resilience in the Indian Ocean region.

THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION
"IORA"

ABOUT:

- AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION
- LOCATED IN EBENE CITY, MAURITIUS
- ESTABLISHED ON 7 MARCH 1997
- OBSERVER TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE AFRICAN UNION
- AIMED AT STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONSIST OF:

- 22 MEMBER STATES
- 10 DIALOGUE PARTNERS

PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS:

- MARITIME SAFETY & SECURITY
- TRADE & INVESTMENT FACILITATION
- DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
- FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
- TOURISM & CULTURAL EXCHANGES
- ACADEMIC, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
- BLUE ECONOMY

India, as a prominent littoral state and one of the founding members of IORA, is set to assume the chairship in November 2025. This presents a strategic opportunity for India to steer the organization towards achieving greater regional stability and cooperation. India's chairship aligns with its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, which emphasizes collaborative regional security and sustainable economic growth. India can leverage its diplomatic and strategic relations with IORA members to address common

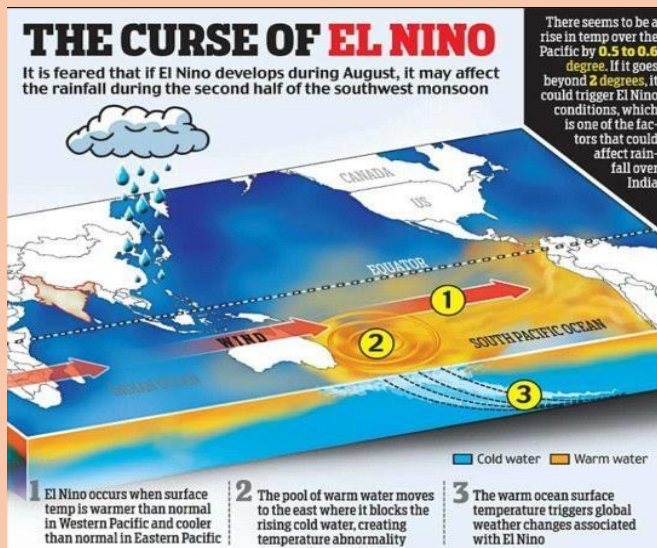
Topic : ENSO and Its Impact on India

Relevance : GS paper 1 Geography

Source : Indian Express

Context :

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coast is inhibited, disrupting marine ecosystems and negatively affecting fisheries.

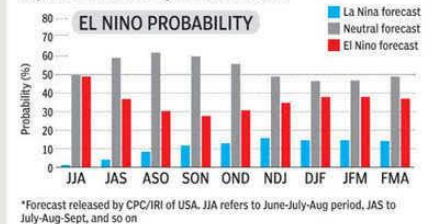
EL NINO: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**What is El Niño?**

Every 2 to 6 years, surface waters in east and central equatorial Pacific heat up beyond normal range. Changes in air currents follow, impacting weather in many parts of the globe

How does it affect monsoon? Atmospheric changes linked to El Niño often disrupt flow of monsoon winds from ocean to Indian mainland

What is the latest forecast?

El Niño, which formed in Feb, has weakened in past month. It's expected to fade away in next 2 months

**Global Impacts of El Niño:**

- **Droughts** in Australia, Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and parts of India.
- **Heavy rainfall and flooding** in South America and parts of the United States.
- **Mild winters** in North America and **reduced hurricane activity** in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Contribution to **global warming** due to decreased heat absorption by the ocean.

Impact on India:

- El Niño is often associated with **weak monsoon rains**, as the **monsoon winds weaken or get disrupted**.
- Results in **below-average rainfall**, leading to **drought conditions**, especially in **rainfed agricultural regions**.
- Adversely affects **Kharif crops** like rice, pulses, and oilseeds due to **deficient rainfall and prolonged dry spells**.
- Leads to **food inflation, water shortages**, and a negative impact on **hydropower generation** due to low reservoir levels.

The **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** is a complex and irregular climate phenomenon originating in the **tropical Pacific Ocean**, significantly impacting weather patterns across the globe, including **India's monsoon system**. ENSO consists of three distinct phases: **El Niño** (warm phase), **La Niña** (cool phase), and a **Neutral Phase**. Understanding ENSO is crucial because it plays a pivotal role in influencing **rainfall distribution, temperature anomalies, and extreme weather events** worldwide.

El Niño (Warm Phase)

El Niño is characterized by **anomalous warming of sea surface temperatures (SSTs)** in the **central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean**. This warming results from the **weakening or reversal of trade winds**, allowing **warm water from the western Pacific** to shift eastward toward the coast of **South America**. Consequently, **upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water** along the South American

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La Niña (Cool Phase)

La Niña, the counterpart of El Niño, is marked by **cooler-than-normal SSTs** in the **central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean**. This phase is typically characterized by the **strengthening of trade winds**, which push **warm surface waters westward** toward **Australia and Indonesia**. At the same time, **cold, nutrient-rich waters upwell along the South American coast**, benefiting **marine life and fisheries**.

Global Impacts of La Niña:

- **Heavy rains and floods** in Australia and Southeast Asia.
- **Dryer conditions** in South America.
- **Cooling effect on global temperatures**, partially counteracting **climate change warming effects**.

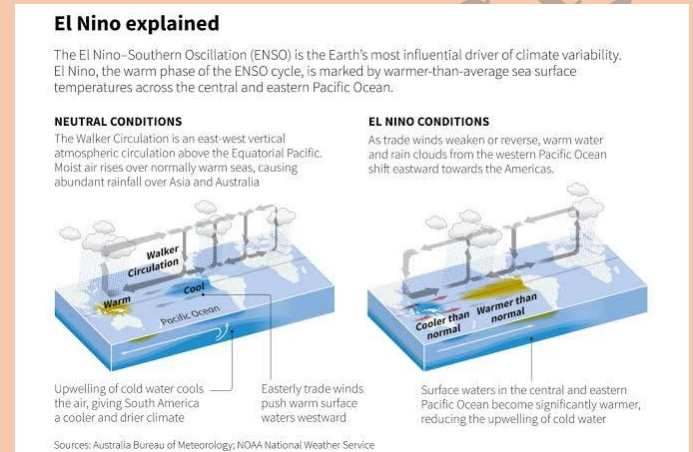
Impact on India:

- Generally brings **above-average monsoon rainfall**, benefiting **agricultural production and rural economies**.
- However, excessive rainfall can lead to **flooding**, posing challenges to **disaster management and infrastructure**.
- **Colder-than-usual winters** in northern India, affecting **agriculture and health**.

The Neutral Phase

The **Neutral Phase** of ENSO represents a state where SSTs remain **close to average**, and neither **El Niño nor La Niña conditions dominate**. During this period, **weather patterns are generally stable**,

and the **Indian monsoon behaves closer to normal**. However, **localized variations in rainfall and temperature** can still occur due to other influencing factors like the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** and **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**.



Recent Anomalies and Unpredictable Patterns

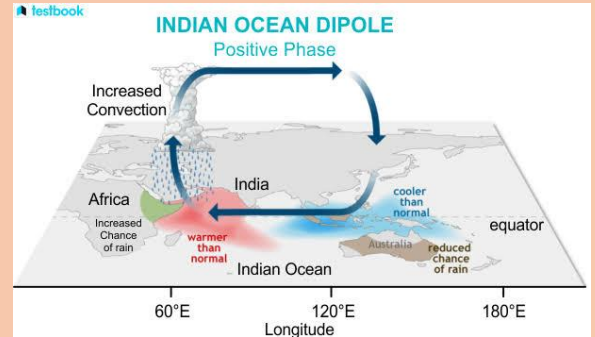
Recent years have witnessed **anomalous ENSO patterns** that challenge established climatological norms. For example:

- The **2023 El Niño** was predicted to bring **severe drought to India**, but the monsoon remained **near normal** due to the **positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**.
- In 2024, the expected **strong La Niña** failed to emerge, giving rise to a **confused ENSO state** with **warm SST anomalies in the far eastern tropical Pacific** and **cold SST anomalies in the central-western tropical Pacific**.

Key Observations:

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- Anomalous SST patterns have been termed **Dateline El Niño or Central Pacific El Niño**.
- Unusual **wind patterns** included **strong easterly anomalies in the central-western Pacific** coexisting with **westerly anomalies in the far eastern Pacific**.
- The phenomenon might be linked to the **ENSO Transition Mode (ETM)**, a climate variability mode in the **Southern Hemisphere** that influences **wind anomalies in the tropical Pacific**.
- Record **warm temperatures since 2023** have posed challenges to **climate models**, reducing forecasting accuracy.



Consequences of La Niña:

- **Excessive rainfall**, which can result in **flooding and crop damage**.
- Positive effects on **agricultural output**, boosting **economic stability**.
- **Colder winters**, impacting **health and crop cycles**.

Significance for India

The ENSO cycle significantly influences India's **climate**, primarily affecting the **summer monsoon**, which is the **lifeline of Indian agriculture** and a **key determinant of the country's GDP**.

Consequences of El Niño:

- **Reduced monsoon rainfall**, leading to **drought conditions**.
- Adverse impacts on **food production**, especially **rainfed crops**.
- Potential for **food inflation**, **water scarcity**, and **hydropower disruptions**.

Challenges and Policy Responses

The **ENSO-monsoon relationship** has evolved due to **climate change**, altering the **global belt of temperature anomalies** and influencing **jet stream patterns**. This shift has also impacted **pre-monsoon cyclones**, which, in turn, affect **monsoon onset and progression**.

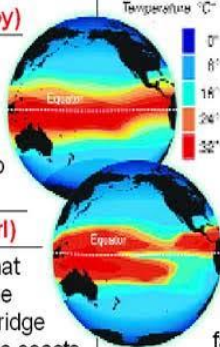
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EL NINO AND LA NINA

Forecasters say EL Nino weather pattern may develop later this year

EL NINO (the boy)

An irregular event of warming of Pacific waters. Occurs at intervals of two to seven years

**Effects on climate**

The warm currents flowing towards the east displace the cooler currents to Oceania. Rainfall occurs over Central and eastern Pacific, and drought in Indonesia and Australia

Currents contribute to form a warm pool in Oceania, increase rainfall in Asia and Australia, lower the temperature on the American coasts and increase aridity

LA NINA (the girl)

A cold episode that usually follows the warm equatorial ridge cools between the coasts of South America and Oceania

Key Policy Recommendations:

- Strengthening **early warning systems** to better predict ENSO-related impacts.
- Investing in **drought-resistant crop varieties** and **water conservation** practices.
- Enhancing **disaster management systems** to deal with both **droughts and floods**.
- Collaborating with **international climate research institutes** for advanced **forecasting techniques**.
- Promoting **agricultural resilience** through **improved irrigation infrastructure** and **crop insurance schemes**.

Prelims Practice Question:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding El Niño and La Niña:

1. El Niño is associated with unusually warm sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, while La

Niña is associated with unusually cool SSTs in the same region.

2. During El Niño years, India generally experiences above-average monsoon rainfall, whereas during La Niña years, drought conditions are more likely.
3. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) can influence the impact of El Niño on the Indian monsoon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **(b) 1 and 3 only**

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:**
 - El Niño is characterized by **warmer-than-normal SSTs** in the **central and eastern tropical Pacific**, while **La Niña** is marked by **cooler-than-normal SSTs** in the same region.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:**
 - **El Niño** generally leads to **reduced monsoon rainfall** and can cause **drought conditions** in India.
 - **La Niña** is usually associated with **above-average monsoon rainfall** and sometimes **flooding**.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:**
 - The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** can **influence the impact of El Niño** on the **Indian monsoon**. A **positive IOD**

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can sometimes **counteract the adverse effects of El Niño**, leading to normal or even surplus rainfall.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(b) 1 and 3 only**.

Mains Model Question:

Discuss the phenomena of El Niño and La Niña and their impact on the Indian monsoon. How do these climatic patterns influence agriculture and the economy in India?

El Niño and La Niña are climatic phenomena associated with variations in sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific Ocean, collectively termed the **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**. El Niño refers to **warming of SSTs in the central and eastern tropical Pacific**, while **La Niña** signifies **cooling of SSTs** in the same region. These phenomena significantly influence global weather patterns, including the **Indian monsoon**.

During **El Niño years**, the warm waters in the Pacific Ocean weaken the **trade winds**, causing reduced convection over the Indian subcontinent. This often results in **deficient rainfall** during the monsoon season, leading to **droughts and agricultural distress**. For a country like India, where agriculture is a major contributor to GDP and employment, **monsoon failure due to El Niño** can cause severe **economic setbacks**. Crop yields, especially of **rain-fed crops** like rice, maize, and pulses, are adversely affected, increasing the dependence on **irrigation** and leading to **food inflation**.

In contrast, **La Niña** generally enhances the **Indian monsoon** by strengthening the trade winds, leading to **above-average rainfall**. This can result in **bumper harvests** but also pose challenges like **floods** and **waterlogging**, which can damage standing crops and infrastructure. The Indian economy, being **monsoon-dependent**, benefits from La Niña in terms of **increased agricultural output**, but excessive rains can also disrupt **transportation and logistics**.

Moreover, **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**, another ocean-atmosphere phenomenon, can influence the impact of El Niño and La Niña on the Indian monsoon. A **positive IOD** may **counteract El Niño's negative effects**, while a **negative IOD** can worsen drought conditions.

In conclusion, understanding ENSO phenomena is crucial for **agricultural planning and economic stability** in India. Accurate **climate forecasting and mitigation strategies** are essential to manage the impacts of these climatic events on the Indian subcontinent.

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FACTOR	EL NIÑO	LA NIÑA
Definition	Warming of central-east Pacific waters; trade winds weaken and change direction.	Cooling of Pacific waters; stronger than usual trade winds.
Effect on Indian Monsoon	Weakens Indian monsoon; reduced rainfall and potential droughts.	Strengthens Indian monsoon; increased rainfall, potential for flooding.
Frequency	Occurs every 2-7 years, usually late in the year.	Occurs every 3-5 years, usually late in the year.
Impact on Indian Agriculture	Potential for crop failure and food shortages due to drought conditions.	Enhanced crop growth due to increased rainfall, but potential for flood damage.
Global Weather Impact	Dry, warm winter in Northern U.S. and Canada; drought in Indonesia and Australia.	Drier conditions in Southern U.S.; heavy floods in Australia.
Marine Resource Impact	Reduced upwelling decreases phytoplankton; disrupts marine food chain along S. American coast	Increased upwelling brings nutrient-rich water to the surface along S. American coast
Airflow Impact	Alters airflows above the ocean due to heat redistribution.	Pushes jet streams northwards due to Pacific cold waters.

Chandrayaan-3 data says water ice easier to find on moon than believed

An instrument onboard the Vikram lander has found that the temperature at its location was 82° C and just a metre away, dipped to 59° C. If the surface temperature can vary so much at metre scales, scientists have concluded there must be more areas where conditions are suitable for water ice to stabilise beneath the surface.

Shreerika Karamba

As countries like the US, China, Russia, and India develop plans for long-term stations on the moon, water available on the moon itself is emerging as a vital resource. Aside from meeting the drinking and sanitary needs of astronauts, scientists are also working on using moon water as fuel for rockets launched from the natural satellite.

In a new study, researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad have found that the area of the moon where water ice can be easily accessed is greater than expected. Their study aims to provide a more detailed understanding of the moon's thermal environment and its distribution, laying the groundwork for future exploration and habitation strategies.

Data from Vikram
The first step to understanding how much water there could be on the moon is to know the temperature on the surface. Scientists also need this detail if astronauts are to withstand the moon's natural environment: moon-days are intensely hot while nights are frigidly cold. It lacks an atmosphere, and it is more threatened by deadly solar flares from the sun than the earth.

The new study marks a significant advance on this front. It is based on ground-level observations made by Chandrayaan-3, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission whose Vikram lander touched down on the moon in August 2023.

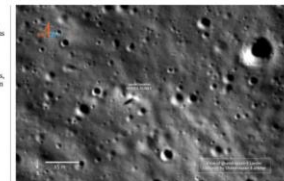
A team of researchers led by PRL scientist K. Veega Prasad has uncovered insights into temperature variations on the moon's surface and at depths of up to 10 cm.

The findings were published in a March 4 paper in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*.

Use of RTD sensors
Using the Chandrayaan-3 Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) onboard the Vikram lander, the researchers conducted an in-situ directly at the site experiment to measure the temperature of the top 10 cm of lunar regolith at 63.37° south and 32.33° east. This spot is Shikhar point, where Vikram landed. It is located in the moon's south pole region.

The ChaSTE instrument is equipped with a thermal probe, which the lander deployed and penetrated into the lunar soil, Prasad added.

The ground truth
The team found the peak surface



This image captured by the Chandrayaan-3 orbiter shows the location of Shikhar point, where the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission descended, and the surrounding terrain. The position of the sun is revealed by the orientation of the shadows. (ISRO)



This image collage shows the location of the ChaSTE instrument onboard the Vikram lander. The lander was photographed by the Pragyan rover on-site.

temperature at the site to be 82° C, Prasad said. "The in-situ temperature profile itself was surprising because it revealed higher temperatures than those predicted by the Orbiter instrument onboard NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO).

The temperature was also found to drop drastically to roughly 100° C at night. "It was exciting to know that actual surface temperatures at high latitude locations can go to both high and low extremes," Prasad said.

Higher latitude regions are those located further from the equator. He added that a large temperature difference observed between day and night means the lunar surface could harbour unique thermophysical properties.

Significant change
The team attributed the higher-than-expected diurnal temperature to the sun-facing slope of the location. But it was still intriguing enough to investigate the temperature at points that were sloped in other directions. Due to their higher exposure to the

sun, water is not likely to be found in the sun-facing slopes.

To investigate lunar temperatures at different locations with different orientations, the team built a model based on the ChaSTE measurements. They found that the surface temperature at a flat site around a metre away from the ChaSTE instrument's position was 58-60° C. This value agreed with orbiter-based remote-sensing observations.

That the temperature at Shikhar point was 82° C and just a metre away dipped to 59° C implied lunar surface temperatures vary significantly at metre scales. Further investigations by the team showed that larger slopes that faced away from the sun and had a tilt of more than 1° could maintain lower temperatures, creating conditions suitable for water ice to migrate and stabilise beneath the surface.

In other words, since water ice can exist within the shallow subsurface at certain high latitudes as well, the team's findings indicate the resource can be accessed from more places on the moon than previously believed.

First of its kind
The study presents the first in-situ measurements of temperature at a high latitude region on the moon, offering accurate data on surface and near-surface temperatures close to the polar regions, according to Prasad.

Scientists previously thought water ice existed in sizable quantities only at the moon's poles. The study has shown that certain higher latitude locations may provide a similar environment to meet the poles for water ice to accumulate at shallow depths.

"This becomes an interesting finding as exploration of high latitude regions is less technically challenging than that of lunar poles, an important aspect for future in-situ exploration and human activities on the moon," Prasad said.

Based on the temperature profiles obtained from ChaSTE measurements, the team is currently studying the thermophysical properties of the lunar surface, including how it affects lunar temperatures. Through this, Prasad said, they can "model the migration and stability of the water ice for other different representative locations on the moon."

This can lead to a comprehensive understanding of the moon's thermophysical and near-surface and sub-surface water ice distribution. (Shreerika Karamba is a freelance science writer and a content writer and researcher at Pragna IAS. The Twitter: shreerika01@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Water on the moon is emerging as a vital resource. Aside from drinking and sanitary needs of astronauts, scientists are also working on using moon water as fuel for rockets launched from the natural satellite.

Understanding how much water there is on the moon requires knowledge of the temperature. Scientists also need this information to help astronauts withstand the moon's extreme environment, which is extremely hot while nights are frigidly cold.

Temperature was found to drop to roughly 100° C at night. A large temperature difference observed between day and night means the lunar surface could harbour unique thermophysical properties.

Scientists thought water ice existed in sizable quantities only at the poles. The study has shown that certain higher latitude locations may provide a similar environment to meet the poles for water ice to accumulate at shallow depths.

Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), represents a significant leap in India's space exploration journey. Launched on **July 14, 2023**, Chandrayaan-3 successfully soft-landed on the moon's south pole on **August 23, 2023**. This historic mission follows the legacy of **Chandrayaan-1** (2008) and **Chandrayaan-2** (2019), aimed at furthering India's lunar exploration capabilities and providing crucial scientific data.

It is a **landmark achievement for ISRO and India**, demonstrating the country's capabilities in **space technology and scientific research**. The mission's successful soft landing on the lunar south pole and its pioneering discoveries regarding **water ice and temperature variations** have profound implications for **future lunar exploration and human settlement**. As India continues to explore new frontiers in space, Chandrayaan-3 will be

Topic : Chandrayaan-3 Mission: Unveiling the Moon's Mysteries

Relevance : GS Paper 3 Science and Technology

Source : Indian Express

Context :

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remembered as a milestone that propelled the nation into a new era of **space exploration and technological innovation**.

Mission Objectives and Components

The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 was to demonstrate **soft landing and rover mobility** on the lunar surface. Unlike its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2, which faced a setback during the soft landing phase, Chandrayaan-3 achieved a flawless descent and landing. The mission consists of two modules:

1. **Vikram Lander:** Designed to perform a soft landing and deploy scientific instruments.
2. **Pragyan Rover:** A six-wheeled robotic vehicle to explore the lunar terrain and conduct experiments.

Both the lander and rover are equipped with state-of-the-art instruments for conducting scientific experiments related to the **lunar surface, temperature variations, and seismic activities**.

Key Discoveries and Scientific Significance

One of the most remarkable findings of the Chandrayaan-3 mission was related to **lunar temperature variations**. The ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) instrument onboard the Vikram lander recorded surface temperatures as high as **82°C**, while temperatures just a meter away dropped to **58°C**. During lunar nights, the temperature plummeted to approximately **-181°C**. These drastic variations indicated that the **lunar surface exhibits unique thermophysical properties** that can influence the presence and stability of **water ice**.



Water Ice Discovery

Water on the moon has emerged as a crucial resource for **future lunar missions and human colonization**. The Chandrayaan-3 mission revealed that **water ice might be present not only at the lunar poles but also at higher latitude regions**. This discovery challenges the previous understanding that **stable water ice could only exist at the poles**. With slopes facing away from the sun maintaining lower temperatures, **water ice can potentially accumulate at shallow depths**, making it more accessible.

Scientific and Strategic Importance

1. **Resource Utilization:** The discovery of accessible water ice is vital for long-term

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human presence on the moon. Lunar water can be used for **drinking, sanitation, and as rocket fuel** through electrolysis to produce hydrogen and oxygen.

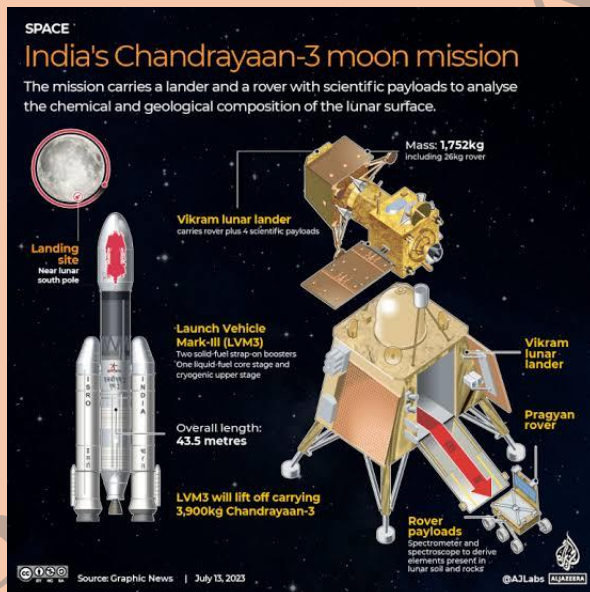
2. **Thermophysical Insights:** Understanding temperature variations aids in planning **habitable lunar bases** and mitigating challenges posed by extreme lunar environments.
3. **Technological Milestone:** Successfully demonstrating **soft landing capabilities** solidifies India's position among global space powers, alongside the **US, Russia, and China**.
4. **Geopolitical Significance:** With many countries planning **permanent lunar stations**, India's successful landing on the moon's south pole enhances its **strategic and scientific standing**.

Socio-Economic Impact

The Chandrayaan-3 mission has not only showcased India's prowess in space technology but also ignited **public enthusiasm and scientific curiosity**. The success of this mission reflects the **growing competence of India's space program** and boosts the morale of scientists and engineers across the nation. It is a testament to **India's commitment to affordable and innovative space exploration**.

Future Prospects

With the success of Chandrayaan-3, India is poised to expand its **interplanetary missions**. Plans for a **manned mission (Gaganyaan)** and the **Aditya-L1 mission to study the sun** are in the pipeline. Moreover, the data obtained from Chandrayaan-3 will significantly contribute to **international lunar exploration programs**, fostering collaborations with other space-faring nations.



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SHOOTING FOR THE MOON: 2019, 2023

CHANDRAYAAN-2

COMPONENTS
Orbiter, Lander, Rover

EXPERIMENTS ON BOARD
■ 8 on Orbiter, 4 on Lander, 2 on Rover

WEIGHT

Orbiter	2,379 kg
Lander	1,471 kg
Rover	27 kg (travels 500 m)
Payload total	3,850 kg

MISSION LIFE
ORBITER: Planned 1 year, estimated 7 years
LANDER, ROVER: 1 lunar day

LANDING SITE
70.9 degree S 22.7 degree E; high plain between two craters, Manzinus C and Simpelius N

DAYS TO MOON

Around Earth	23 days
Towards Moon	7 days
Around Moon	13 days

Lander separation, de-boosting, powered descent: 5 days
TOTAL: 48 DAYS

LANDER
5 thrusters; was to land in a 500 m X 500 m space; was using pictures taken then and there to assess landing site.

CHANDRAYAAN-3

COMPONENTS
Propulsion module, Lander, Rover

EXPERIMENTS ON BOARD
■ Same experiments on Lander and Rover as Chandrayaan-2
■ New experimental payload added to propulsion module

WEIGHT


Propulsion module	2,145 kg
Lander	1749.86 kg (including rover)
Rover	26 kg
Payload total	3,900 kg

MISSION LIFE
PROPULSION MODULE: 3 to 6 months
LANDER, ROVER: 1 lunar day

LANDING SITE
69.36 degree S, 32.34 degree E; slightly off the site for Chandrayaan-2

DAYS TO MOON
42 DAYS, SOONER THAN CHANDRAYAAN-2

LANDER
4 thrusters; stronger legs; built with redundancies for more scenarios, using data already generated by the C2 orbiter, Additional solar panels.



Isro's LV/M3 carrying Chandrayaan-3 being moved to the launch pad ahead of its launch, at the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota. PPT

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 4 only
- 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer:

Correct Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 was to demonstrate **soft landing and rover mobility** on the lunar surface, not to study the lunar atmosphere.
- Statement 2 is correct:** The Vikram lander successfully soft-landed on the **lunar south pole** on August 23, 2023.
- Statement 3 is correct:** The Pragyan rover was deployed to **explore the lunar terrain and conduct scientific experiments**, including temperature measurement and surface analysis.
- Statement 4 is incorrect:** Chandrayaan-3 discovered that **water ice can exist not only at the lunar poles but also at higher latitude regions**, where the conditions allow its stability.

Hence, the correct answer is **b) 2 and 3 only**.

Mains Model Question:

Discuss the significance of the Chandrayaan-3 mission for India's space exploration and scientific advancements. How do its findings contribute to future lunar missions and human space exploration?

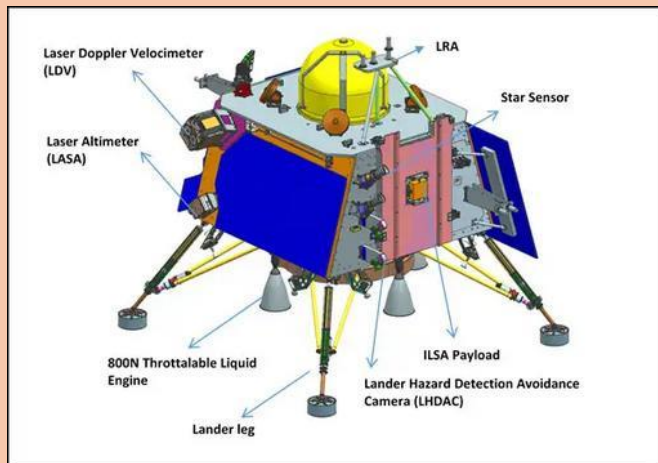
Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to the Chandrayaan-3 mission, consider the following statements:

- Chandrayaan-3 was launched with the primary objective of studying the lunar atmosphere.
- The Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the lunar south pole.
- The Pragyan rover is designed to explore the lunar surface and conduct scientific experiments.
- Chandrayaan-3 discovered that water ice exists only at the lunar poles.

PRAGNYA BHARATHI: Detailed News Analysis (DNA)

The Chandrayaan-3 mission marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey, showcasing the country's growing prowess in lunar exploration. Launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2023, it aimed to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface and deploy a rover for surface exploration. The successful landing of the Vikram lander at the lunar south pole made India the first nation to accomplish this feat, reinforcing its status as a key player in space technology.



Chandrayaan-3's success has not only demonstrated India's technical capabilities in soft landing and rover mobility but also significantly contributed to global lunar research. It has provided valuable insights into the Moon's thermal environment and the distribution of water ice, which are essential for long-duration human missions and establishing lunar bases. The mission aligns with India's vision to participate actively in international space exploration and establishes a foundation for future interplanetary missions.

By advancing scientific knowledge and fostering technological innovation, Chandrayaan-3 has paved the way for ambitious future endeavors, including manned lunar missions and deeper space exploration, marking India's emergence as a space exploration leader.

One of the most remarkable achievements of Chandrayaan-3 is its discovery of temperature variations on the lunar surface, with measurements showing drastic changes from 82° C during the day to -181° C at night. This finding is crucial for designing habitats and technologies to sustain human presence on the Moon. The mission also revealed that water ice is more prevalent than previously believed, not limited to the poles but also at higher latitudes where the conditions favor its stability. This discovery has far-reaching implications for future lunar missions, as water ice can be utilized for drinking, fuel production, and other essential purposes.