

## The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

**Saturday, 05 July, 2025**

### Edition: International Table of Contents

<b>Page 01</b> <b>Syllabus : GS 2 : International Relations</b>	<b>Modi hails 35 million diaspora as India's pride</b>
<b>Page 02</b> <b>Syllabus : GS 2 : Indian Polity</b>	<b>Naga tribes to resume protest against Nagaland's job reservation policy</b>
<b>Page 03</b> <b>Syllabus : GS 2 : International Relations</b>	<b>India tells WTO it may levy retaliatory tariffs worth \$724 mn on U.S. imports</b>
<b>Page 03</b> <b>Syllabus : GS 2 : International Relations</b>	<b>Govt. has 'no position' on Dalai Lama succession, insists MEA; China warns against interference</b>
<b>In News</b>	<b>Roll Cloud</b>
<b>Page 08 : Editorial Analysis:</b> <b>Syllabus :GS 2 : Indian Polity</b>	<b>Two democracies and the echoes of tyranny</b>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent address to the Indian diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago during his international visit underlines India's deepening engagement with its global Indian community. His speech focused on cultural revival, historical acknowledgment of the Girmitya community, financial integration through UPI, and the extension of OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) benefits to sixth-generation Indian-origin citizens. This outreach holds strategic, cultural, and diplomatic significance.

# Modi hails 35 million diaspora as India's pride

Sixth generation Indian-origin citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will receive the OCI card soon, says PM

PM refers to close cultural link between Girmitya community in the Caribbean nation and India

He hails the country for being the first to adopt India's UPI system in the Caribbean

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**T**hirty-five million members of the Indian diaspora spread across the world are India's "pride", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event of the people of Indian origin in Trinidad and Tobago on Friday. Addressing the event, Mr. Modi outlined various cultural, educational and financial measures that India is undertaking to strengthen links between the homeland and the diasporic Indians and announced that sixth generation Indian-origin citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will receive the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card soon.

"We deeply value the strength and support of our diaspora. With over 35 million people spread across the world, the In-

dian diaspora is our pride. As I have often said, each one of you is a *Rashtradoot* – an ambassador of India's values, culture and heritage," said Mr. Modi, highlighting the religious connection of the community with India and the Maha Kumbh that took place in Prayagraj earlier this year.

Mr. Modi said the Government of India was working to strengthen ties with the Girmityas – the former indentured labourers who were taken from India during the colonial period to Indo-Pacific islands such as Mauritius, Fiji, southern Africa and the Caribbeans.

## 'Mapping the past'

The Prime Minister referred to the close cultural connection between the strong Girmitya community of Trinidad and Tobago and India, especially with Bihar, which is recognised



**Warm welcome:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is welcomed by the Indian diaspora at the airport in Port of Spain on Thursday. Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar is also seen. DPR PMO

– along with eastern Uttar Pradesh – as the homeland of much of the Bhojpuri-speaking members of the

Indian diaspora in the Caribbeans, southern Africa and in the Pacific islands of Fiji and Indian Ocean is-

lands like Mauritius. Mr. Modi announced that the Government of India was "mapping the past" and

reiterated that a number of initiatives were launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to "honour and connect with the Girmitya community across the world".

"We are actively working on creating a comprehensive database of the Girmitya community. Documenting the villages and cities in India from which their ancestors migrated, identifying the places where they have settled, studying and preserving the legacy of the Girmitya ancestors, and working to organise World Girmitya Conferences regularly," said Mr. Modi, documenting the various works being undertaken to connect India with the diaspora. He congratulated Trinidad and Tobago for being the first country in the Caribbean to adopt India's UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system that would

help in transfer of finance between the two sides.

Sixth generation Indian-origin citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will receive the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card, the Prime Minister said at the public event in capital Port of Spain. The announcement is the first such outreach by India to the Caribbean nation which is marking the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Girmityas – in 2025.

"Today, I am happy to announce that OCI cards will now be given to the sixth generation of the Indian diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago. You are not just connected by blood or surname. You are connected by belonging," said Mr. Modi. "India embraces" the people of Trinidad and Tobago whose ancestors were brought from India during the colonial era, he said.

## Key Highlights of the Visit and Announcements

### 1. Diaspora as 'Rashtradoots' (Ambassadors):

- PM Modi described the 35 million-strong Indian diaspora as India's "pride" and cultural ambassadors.
- Emphasized their role in preserving and promoting Indian heritage abroad.

### 2. OCI Cards for 6th Generation Diaspora:

- Historic announcement: Sixth-generation Indian-origin citizens in Trinidad & Tobago to receive OCI cards.
- Marks a significant outreach beyond immediate descendants, deepening long-term cultural ties.

### 3. UPI in the Caribbean:

## Daily News Analysis

- Trinidad and Tobago became the first Caribbean nation to adopt India's UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system.
- Signals India's fintech diplomacy and push for internationalization of digital public infrastructure.

#### 4. Strengthening Girmitya Legacy:

- Focus on mapping ancestral roots of the Girmitya community (descendants of indentured Indian laborers sent during colonial rule).
- Commitment to organizing World Girmitya Conferences, documenting legacy, and preserving cultural identity.

#### 5. Cultural Linkages with Bihar and Eastern UP:

- Emphasis on Bhojpuri culture as a bridge between India and Indian-origin communities in the Caribbean, Fiji, Mauritius, etc.
- Recognition of the cultural, linguistic, and emotional legacy of regions contributing to diaspora migration.

### Significance for India's Foreign Policy and Global Strategy

#### 1. Diaspora Diplomacy as a Strategic Tool:

- India's engagement with its diaspora is becoming a key pillar of foreign policy.
- Promotes soft power, people-to-people ties, and expands India's global influence, especially in Global South countries.

#### 2. Cultural Reconnection and Identity Politics:

- Reaffirming historical bonds with descendants of indentured laborers enhances India's image as a civilizational state.
- Addresses diasporic identity concerns and fosters a sense of belonging with the motherland.

#### 3. Economic Diplomacy via UPI Expansion:

- Exporting India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like UPI builds financial bridges and expands India's tech footprint.
- Could potentially influence bilateral trade, remittances, and financial connectivity.

#### 4. Political and Symbolic Timing:

- The announcement comes ahead of the 180th anniversary (2025) of Girmitya arrival in Trinidad.
- It projects India's acknowledgment of colonial injustices and support for reparative cultural diplomacy.

## Challenges and Criticism

- **Implementation of OCI Benefits:** Administering benefits to sixth-generation diaspora may face documentation and eligibility verification challenges.
- **Symbolic vs Substantive Engagement:** Critics argue that while symbolic outreach is valuable, more structural engagement in terms of economic and consular support is needed.
- **Selective Engagement:** India's diaspora policy is sometimes seen as selectively focused on countries with strategic value, potentially sidelining others.

## Way Forward

- Institutionalize diaspora outreach via platforms like the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Girmitiya-specific summits, and cultural exchanges.
- Ensure digital and financial inclusion of diaspora through DPI like UPI, DigiLocker, and e-visa systems.
- Promote ancestral mapping and documentation using technology and bilateral cooperation with diaspora-hosting nations.
- Expand OCI benefits consistently and improve the consular grievance redressal mechanism.

## Conclusion

PM Modi's address in Trinidad and Tobago marks a milestone in India's diaspora diplomacy. By extending OCI privileges to sixth-generation Girmitiyas and celebrating their contributions, India is not just recognizing the past but strategically investing in a global community that can amplify its soft power and geopolitical aspirations. The integration of cultural, financial, and emotional diplomacy highlights India's evolving approach to global engagement through its people.

## UPSCMainsPractice Question

**Ques:** Indian diaspora has emerged as a significant factor in India's soft power strategy. Evaluate this statement with reference to India's engagement with diaspora in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. **(250 Words)**



The Committee on Review Reservation Policy (CRRP), comprising five major Naga tribes — Angami, Ao, Lotha, Rengma, and Sumi — has announced a renewed protest against the existing job reservation policy in Nagaland from July 9, 2025. The protest demands a review of the reservation framework, in place since 1977, which currently benefits 11 “backward” Naga tribes, including those in Eastern Nagaland.

# Naga tribes to resume protest against Nagaland’s job reservation policy

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

A committee representing five major Naga tribes — Angami, Ao, Lotha, Rengma, and Sumi — on Thursday announced the resumption of its agitation against Nagaland’s reservation policy in government employment from July 9.

The Committee on Review Reservation Policy has argued that the quota system for 11 “backward” Naga tribes, in place since 1977, no longer reflects the prevailing socio-economic and educational landscape of the region. The list includes seven tribes inhabiting eastern Nagaland.

“The protest will be for a day. We will take further steps depending on how the government responds,”



Unhappy with the Neiphiu Rio govt.’s position, the Committee on Review Reservation Policy decided to relaunch its stir. FILE PHOTO

said G.K. Zhimomi, member-secretary of the committee. He clarified that the committee was “not against any tribe benefiting from the reservation policy” but maintained that “a review of this 48-year-old policy is long overdue.”

Mr. Zhimomi said the government had failed to initiate a review in 1987 and

instead issued an order in 1989 stating that the reservation would continue until further notice.

The committee had earlier served a 30-day ultimatum to the government on April 26. The group launched an initial phase of protest, which was suspended after Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton

convened a meeting on June 3 and assured that a commission would be set up by June 17 to examine the matter.

## ‘Very detailed task’

However, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, speaking on July 2, said that the proposed commission could not be expected to deliver immediate results, describing the task as “very detailed.” He also remarked that any significant administrative reforms, including those related to reservations or delimitation, should be undertaken only after the national Census exercise scheduled for 2027.

Unhappy with the government’s position, the committee decided to relaunch its agitation.

## Background: Nagaland’s Reservation Policy

## Daily News Analysis

- In 1977, Nagaland introduced a reservation policy providing job quotas in government services for 11 Naga tribes deemed "backward."
- In 1989, the State government issued an order continuing the reservation indefinitely, without periodic review.
- Despite calls for reassessment, the policy has remained unchanged for nearly five decades.

### **Demands of the Protesting Tribes**

- Review the policy to reflect current socio-economic and educational conditions.
- Emphasize equity and fairness among tribes, especially those who believe their development status has been underrepresented or misrepresented.
- The Committee clarifies that it is not against reservation itself, but demands rationalisation based on updated data.

### **Government Response**

- Deputy CM Yanthungo Patton initially assured a review commission would be constituted by June 17, 2025.
- However, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio later stated on July 2 that:
  - The issue is "very detailed" and requires time.
  - Any administrative change, including reservation reform or delimitation, should ideally follow the 2027 Census.

### **Why This Matters: Key Issues at Stake**

#### **1. Equity Among Tribes:**

- Some tribes feel left out of benefits despite similar or worse socio-economic conditions.
- Others argue that those categorized as "backward" have advanced significantly, making the current classification outdated.

#### **2. Lack of Periodic Review:**

- Reservation systems are generally meant to be dynamic, with regular reviews to assess their continuing relevance.
- Failure to reassess creates inequities and perceptions of permanent entitlements.

#### **3. Political Sensitivity in Tribal Regions:**

## Daily News Analysis

- Any reclassification can trigger inter-tribal tensions and identity-based grievances, especially in ethnically diverse states like Nagaland.

### Wider Implications

#### A. For Reservation Policy Nationally:

- Highlights the need for periodic data-based review of reservation policies across India.
- Raises a broader question: Should caste/tribal-based reservations expire or evolve as socio-economic conditions improve?

#### B. For Governance in the Northeast:

- Shows how tribal autonomy, ethnic politics, and affirmative action intersect in complex ways.
- Delays in administrative action can risk social unrest and loss of trust in democratic processes.

### Challenges Ahead

- Balancing tribal sensitivities while ensuring fair distribution of state resources.
- Collecting reliable data in a region with logistical and infrastructural challenges.
- Managing political fallout if the review leads to withdrawal or reallocation of quotas.

### Way Forward

- Constitute a Statutory Commission:** An independent body with tribal representation should be formed to assess socio-economic indicators and make recommendations.
- Conduct a Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC):** A state-specific SECC could inform policy better than the decadal Census.
- Ensure Transparent Deliberation:** Make the commission's findings public and involve all stakeholders in decision-making to avoid unrest.
- Short-Term Confidence-Building Measures:** Continue dialogue, and possibly freeze new quota decisions until 2027, but start the review process now.

### Conclusion

The agitation by the major Naga tribes reflects a long-standing demand for rationalisation of affirmative action policies in Nagaland. It illustrates the broader challenges India faces in balancing social justice with dynamic realities. A timely, data-driven, and consultative approach is the only viable path forward to maintain both equity and harmony in a complex tribal society.

## Daily News Analysis

### UPSC Mains Practice Question

**Ques:** The prolonged application of the reservation policy in Nagaland without periodic review has led to inter-tribal discontent and calls for reform. Critically examine the challenges and implications of maintaining static affirmative action policies in dynamic socio-economic contexts. Suggest a way forward for inclusive and equitable governance in tribal-dominated states. **(250 Words)**





India has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its intent to impose retaliatory tariffs worth \$724 million on U.S. imports. This step comes in response to the U.S. increasing tariffs by 25% ad valorem on passenger vehicles, light trucks, and certain auto parts imported from India. The move highlights ongoing trade tensions even as both countries negotiate a mini trade deal.

## India tells WTO it may levy retaliatory tariffs worth \$724 mn on U.S. imports

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**  
NEW DELHI

The Indian government has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its proposal to levy retaliatory tariffs amounting to nearly \$724 million on the U.S. in response to that country's increased tariffs on the import of particular automobiles and parts from India.

The move comes at a time when India and the U.S. are in advanced stages of finalising an initial mini-trade deal. India's negotiation team is led by Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rajesh Agarwal.

The U.S. on March 26, imposed a tariff increase of 25% ad valorem on passen-

ger vehicles, light trucks, and certain automobile parts originating in India.

In a communication to the WTO dated July 3, India said that even though the U.S.' measures had not been notified to the WTO, they were in essence safeguard measures. It added that India's position on the matter was that the U.S. tariffs were not in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, the agreement at the core of the WTO, and the Agreement on Safeguards (AoS).

### **Suspend concessions**

"As consultations provided for under Article 12.3, AoS have not taken place, India reserves the right to suspend concessions or other

obligations under Article 8, AoS that are substantially equivalent to the adverse effects of the measure to India's trade," India said.

In other words, as the U.S. had not conducted consultations with India over the issue, India reserves the right to suspend concessions provided to the U.S. equalling the amount that the U.S. tariffs would impact India's exports to the U.S.

"The proposed suspension of concessions or other obligations would take the form of an increase in tariffs on selected products from the U.S.," India said.

This isn't the first time this year India has informed the WTO of its proposal to retaliate against U.S. tariffs.

### **Background of the Dispute**

- On March 26, the U.S. imposed higher tariffs (25%) on certain auto products from India.
- India views these tariffs as safeguard measures, which are typically used to protect domestic industries from sudden import surges.
- India asserts that the U.S. has not followed due process under WTO rules — such as prior consultation and notification.

### **India's Stand at the WTO**

## 1. Violation of WTO Agreements:

- India claims the U.S. tariffs violate two key WTO agreements:
  - GATT 1994 (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)
  - Agreement on Safeguards (AoS)
- The U.S. did not notify WTO nor held consultations with India, violating Article 12.3 of AoS.

## 2. Invocation of Retaliatory Rights:

- As per Article 8 of AoS, if a member's trade is adversely affected by another member's safeguard measure without consultations, the affected country can suspend equivalent concessions.
- India has exercised this right and proposed raising tariffs on selected U.S. imports equivalent to the trade loss (\$724 million).

## Significance of the Move

### 1. Assertion of Trade Sovereignty:

- India's response signals that it will assert its rights within multilateral frameworks and not allow trade aggression to go unchallenged.

### 2. Timing Amidst Trade Negotiations:

- The move is delicate, coming amidst ongoing U.S.-India mini trade deal talks.
- While defending its WTO rights, India also keeps diplomatic and negotiation channels open, showing a dual strategy.

### 3. Use of WTO Mechanisms:

- India continues to place faith in the multilateral trading system, opting for legal redress instead of unilateral retaliation.
- It also serves as a precedent for other developing countries facing similar issues.

## Challenges and Implications

### 1. Strained Bilateral Trade Relations:

- Imposing retaliatory tariffs could harden U.S. stance in trade negotiations.
- May impact prospects of larger trade agreements or sectoral deals.

## 2. WTO's Dispute Resolution Crisis:

- WTO's Appellate Body remains dysfunctional due to U.S. opposition.
- This limits India's ability to get a binding ruling quickly, making retaliation a temporary and political tool.

## 3. Sectoral Impact:

- If India proceeds with tariffs, U.S. exporters in agriculture, medical equipment, or consumer goods could be targeted — affecting bilateral commerce.

## Wider Context: U.S.-India Trade Relations

- Trade relations have seen ups and downs in recent years:
  - Termination of India's GSP status by U.S. (2019)
  - Tariff hikes on steel and aluminum
  - Disputes on e-commerce norms, IPR, and agricultural access
- Despite tensions, both sides are trying to enhance strategic convergence and rebuild trust in trade.

## Way Forward

### 1. Strengthening WTO Legal Preparedness:

- India should build legal capabilities to challenge unilateral trade measures more systematically.

### 2. Advance Mini Trade Deal with Safeguards:

- Push for a deal that includes mutual safeguards and dispute resolution mechanisms.

### 3. Enhancing Domestic Competitiveness:

- Retaliatory tariffs are temporary. India must improve export competitiveness, especially in sensitive sectors.

### 4. Coalition Building in WTO:

- Coordinate with other affected countries to push for Appellate Body reform and restore trust in WTO's neutrality.

## Conclusion

India's notification to the WTO about retaliatory tariffs underscores a calibrated trade diplomacy approach — balancing national interest, WTO rules, and ongoing bilateral trade talks. It reflects India's willingness to defend its trade interests multilaterally, while keeping room open for negotiation. In the broader geopolitical context, how India navigates this trade friction with the U.S. will shape the contours of its emerging trade strategy in a fragmented global order.

## Daily News Analysis

### UPSC Mains Practice Question

*Ques: In light of India's recent notification to the WTO about retaliatory tariffs on the U.S., examine the relevance and challenges of the multilateral trading system in addressing trade disputes.*





The recent announcement by the 14th Dalai Lama on his succession, and India's carefully crafted response through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has once again brought the Tibet issue into the spotlight. India has taken a non-committal position, maintaining that it does not involve itself in matters of faith and religious succession, even as China issued a stern warning against any Indian support for the Tibetan cause.

## Govt. has 'no position' on Dalai Lama succession, insists MEA; China warns against interference

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

In its first official statement over the Dalai Lama's succession plan announcement, the External Affairs Ministry on Friday said the government "does not take any position" on such religious issues.

The statement appeared to distance the government from the comments made on Thursday by Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who had openly backed the Tibetan spiritual leader's right to decide his successor.

On Friday, Mr. Rijiju clarified that he had spoken as a "follower and a devotee", as he is a practising Buddhist himself, even as the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) sent out a strong statement, warning India about "interfe-



**Contentious issue:** China says appointment must be made by the Beijing government via process dating back to the Qing dynasty. AFP

rence" in China's "domestic affairs".

"We have seen reports relating to the statement made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama about the continuation of the Dalai Lama institution," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, while adding: "Government of India does not take

any position or speak on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion."

He said the government has "always upheld freedom of religion for all in India and will continue to do so", indicating its support for the Tibetan community living in India led by the Dalai Lama to practise

their faith.

The External Affairs Ministry statement followed an announcement by the Dalai Lama, who turns 90 on July 6, asserting that the line of Tibetan Buddhism's most senior pontiff would continue after him.

In his announcement, the Dalai Lama told Buddhist leaders gathered for the birthday celebrations in Dharamshala that his successor, or reincarnation, would be identified by the Gaden Phodrang Trust set up by him, in consultation with other leaders, as the "sole authority".

The Chinese government insists any appointment must be approved by the government in Beijing, citing a traditional "golden urn" process dating back to the Qing dynasty.

On Thursday, Mr. Rijiju,

one of the Ministers who will attend the Dalai Lama's birthday celebrations, had said that "nobody else has the right to decide" on the succession issue except the Dalai Lama "and the conventions in place".

In a sharp response to the statement as reported by *Reuters*, the Chinese MFA on Friday said that China hopes India "will stop using Tibet issues to interfere in domestic affairs and avoid affecting the development of ties".

Speaking to journalists on Friday, Mr. Rijiju repeated his support for the Dalai Lama's statement, but added that "those who believe in His Holiness the Dalai Lama, all want that he should decide matters according to his wishes". "I speak as a follower (*anuyayi*), I am a devotee," Mr. Rijiju said.

### Background: The Dalai Lama Succession Issue

- Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) turns 90 in July 2025 and recently declared that his reincarnation (successor) will be decided by the Gaden Phodrang Trust, established by him.
- China, however, insists that the next Dalai Lama must be approved by Beijing through a process dating back to the Qing dynasty involving the golden urn system.

## Daily News Analysis

- This is part of China's long-standing effort to assert control over Tibetan Buddhism and prevent any separatist sentiments within Tibet.

### India's Official Response

- MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the Government of India takes no position on the religious succession of the Dalai Lama.
- Emphasized India's commitment to freedom of religion and the rights of Tibetans residing in India to practise their faith freely.
- The statement appears to distance itself from the earlier remarks of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, who publicly backed the Dalai Lama's right to choose his successor.

### China's Reaction

- China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned India not to interfere in its internal affairs, claiming the Dalai Lama succession is a domestic issue.
- China has consistently portrayed the Tibet issue as a core sovereignty matter, and any perceived support for the Dalai Lama is seen as anti-China interference.

### Why This Issue Matters: Strategic Implications

#### 1. Tibet as a Geopolitical Flashpoint:

- Tibet has long been a contentious issue in Sino-Indian relations.
- India hosts the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, leading to persistent diplomatic friction with China.

#### 2. Religious vs. Political Positioning:

- India's careful statement reflects a desire to balance religious freedom with geopolitical caution.
- While allowing the Dalai Lama and his followers to practise their faith, India avoids taking a stand that could provoke China.

#### 3. Soft Power and Moral Diplomacy:

- The Dalai Lama is globally regarded as a symbol of peace and non-violence.
- Any Indian support for his autonomy in deciding succession is also seen as soft power projection, aligning with India's democratic values.

### Challenges for India

## Daily News Analysis

- **Navigating China's Sensitivities:** India must manage border tensions, trade issues, and diplomatic relations with China, making Tibet a high-stakes issue.
- **Domestic vs. International Messaging:** Ministers like Rijiju, a Buddhist and MP from Arunachal Pradesh (another sensitive region vis-à-vis China), may express personal support that differs from the official diplomatic line, creating mixed signals.
- **Security Concerns in the Himalayan Region:** China may respond with military posturing or diplomatic pressure, especially in regions like Arunachal Pradesh (which China claims as South Tibet).

### Way Forward

1. **Maintain Diplomatic Ambiguity:** India should continue its strategic non-alignment on the issue of succession, focusing instead on freedom of religion and human rights.
2. **Engage in Backchannel Diplomacy:** Use quiet diplomatic channels to avoid escalation with China, especially in the lead-up to sensitive events like the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday.
3. **Support Cultural Autonomy, Not Political Separatism:** India should reaffirm that its support to Tibetan refugees is humanitarian and cultural, not political.
4. **Strengthen Border and Strategic Posture:** In parallel, India must remain vigilant along the LAC and improve infrastructure, readiness, and diplomacy with key allies like the U.S., Japan, and Australia.

### Conclusion

India's calibrated response to the Dalai Lama succession issue demonstrates a nuanced understanding of religious freedom, diplomatic prudence, and geopolitical reality. While reaffirming its democratic values and humanitarian legacy, India must continue to tread carefully to avoid unnecessary provocation with China, even as it upholds the rights of Tibetan communities within its borders.

### UPSC Mains Practice Question

**Ques:** The issue of the Dalai Lama's succession highlights the complex interplay between religious freedom, domestic politics, and international diplomacy. Critically examine India's position on the Dalai Lama succession in the context of India-China relations. **(250 Words)**



## Daily News Analysis

### In News: Roll Cloud

A roll cloud is a rare, low, horizontal, tube-shaped arcus cloud that forms along the leading edge of thunderstorm outflows or cold fronts. Read more about Roll Cloud, Altitude Range, Regions, Weather Conditions.



#### About Roll Cloud

- A roll cloud is a low, horizontal, tube-shaped, and relatively rare type of arcus cloud.
- Roll clouds usually appear to be “rolling” about a horizontal axis.
- They usually appear at an altitude of 2,000 to 7,000 meters, and continue to curl visibly.
- They are more often seen in areas with complex terrain and changeable weather—both in the mountains and on the coasts of the oceans. For example, in the Alps, around Japan, Scotland, and northern Australia.
- During severe weather, roll clouds can be confused with funnel clouds, as the roll cloud will show clear signs of rotation along the horizontal and vertical axes, like a tornado.
- Roll clouds are helpful to meteorologists because their appearance sometimes heralds bad weather—strong winds, thunderstorms, storms, or even tornadoes.
- A sharp, rapid roll of clouds can indicate a storm is about to intensify, while a smooth movement can mean calmer weather.
- Along the edge of a thunderstorm, they can serve as a precursor to more active and serious weather in the immediate future.



### What is an Arcus Cloud?

- An arcus cloud is a low, horizontal cloud formation that typically forms along the leading edge of a thunderstorm outflow or cold front.
- There are two main types of arcus clouds: Shelf Cloud and Roll Cloud.
- Roll clouds and shelf clouds are found near the leading edge of thunderstorms and form when relatively cool air, from the storm's downdraft, forges ahead into the warm, moist air that's feeding the storm.
- The main difference between roll clouds and shelf clouds (both are called arcus clouds) is that a roll cloud is detached from the parent thunderstorm, whereas a shelf cloud is affixed to the base of a cumulonimbus cloud.



# Two democracies and the echoes of tyranny

**Y**esterday, on July 4, the United States observed its Independence Day. A quarter of a millennium ago, the American people declared their resolve to live not under kings but under laws. They fought to build a government accountable to the people, not one that claimed to rule in their name. In their Declaration of Independence, the Founders wrote that "when a long train of abuses and usurpations" reveals a design to reduce the people "under absolute Despotism," it is not only their right but also their duty to resist. In that tradition, a conservative Federal judge, Judge J. Michael Luttig marks the occasion with a solemn warning: the ideals of 1776 are not self-perpetuating. Judge Luttig's modern "27 truths" remind Americans that self-government is not guaranteed by parchment or precedent. It must be defended daily, especially against those who seek to crown themselves in defiance of the Constitution. Tyranny, once foreign, now threatens from within.

## India's democratic backsliding

Luttig's warning is not hyperbole. It is a reflection of global experience, including India's democratic backsliding 50 years ago. India's Emergency under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, on June 25, 1975, suspended civil liberties, censored the press, imprisoned over 1,00,000 citizens, and reduced Parliament and the courts to shadows of themselves. It did not come through violence or revolution. It came through law. Indira Gandhi claimed she was saving democracy. In fact, she was suffocating it.

In his book, *Emergency Chronicles: Indira Gandhi and Democracy's Turning Point*, historian Gyan Prakash exposed how democratic institutions can die not with a bang, but with a nod. There was no coup. No tanks.

The Army Chief, General T.N. Raina, a fellow Kashmiri, was asked for his support, but he refused to get into the politics of the day – rightly so. Indira Gandhi did not openly defy the Constitution but exploited its weaknesses. After a court found her guilty of electoral fraud and barred her from office, she declared an "internal disturbance" and triggered Article 352 of the Indian Constitution. Overnight, dissent became treason. Rights became privileges. And power became personal.

The real tragedy was not just what Indira Gandhi did. It was how effortlessly she did it. Judges, Ministers, civil servants, even journalists – people entrusted with guarding democracy – chose loyalty over law. The Supreme Court ruled that during the Emergency, even the right to life could be suspended. Only one judge, Justice H.R. Khanna, dissented. He was never appointed Chief Justice, punishment for his integrity.

H.V. Kamath saw it coming. The former civil



**Sanjay Hegde**

is a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India

The same dynamics that enabled the Emergency in India now threaten the U.S.; the lesson is that tyranny thrives when institutions become hollow

servant-turned-freedom fighter and member of India's Constituent Assembly, he had almost pleaded that the Emergency's provisions being embedded in the Constitution were too dangerous. In 1949, he compared India's draft provisions to Germany's Weimar Constitution, which Hitler had exploited to build his dictatorship. H.V. Kamath said, "First, the grand affirmation... and surmounting that edifice is the arch of the great negation." He begged for checks and balances. He begged for the Constitution to protect future generations, but was ignored.

When Indira Gandhi declared internal Emergency 26 years later, the mechanism H.V. Kamath had feared came to life. Dissenters were detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), a preventive detention law. Police abducted students in broad daylight. Sanjay Gandhi, who was unelected and unaccountable, operated a parallel state, pushing brutal sterilisation campaigns and slum demolitions. Entire neighbourhoods in Delhi were razed. Protesters were shot. Families were displaced. Inmates were tortured. All of it was "legal". None of it was democratic.

When the Emergency ended in 1977, India voted Indira Gandhi out in a landslide. The Janata government passed the 44th Amendment to prevent such abuses from recurring. But the deeper damage to political culture, to institutions, to the idea that constitutionalism alone can protect democracy remains. India moved on, but never fully reckoned with how close it came to authoritarian collapse.

## Similar dynamics in the U.S.

Which brings us back to the United States. The parallels are unmistakable. U.S. President Donald Trump has not declared an Emergency. He does not need to. He has a majority in both Houses of Congress and a 6-3 conservative majority in the Supreme Court, which legalises all his actions. He can weaponise the Justice Department to prosecute his opponents, threaten to strip immigrants of their citizenship and residency status, and even threaten to "terminate" parts of the Constitution. He seeks not to hold power, but to own it. As Judge Luttig notes, this is not reform. It is monarchy by another name.

And just like in India, the institutions meant to stop him have mostly failed. Congress hesitated. Republicans enabled. Courts delayed. Media rationalised. Many shrugged, waited, and hoped someone else would act. In this way, guardrails do not just erode under outside pressure. They rot from within.

Americans must confront a hard truth: the same dynamics that enabled the Emergency in India now threaten the American republic. As H.V. Kamath warned, Constitutions do not protect liberty on their own. They must be

guarded by people with the courage to say no. If Congress (Parliament) refuses to assert its role; if courts bend under partisan pressure; if the press becomes passive; if law enforcement serves power instead of the public – then the law ceases to be king. And we begin the slow coronation of another.

There is a historical irony here too deep to ignore. Years after Indira Gandhi imprisoned her opponents and suffocated the Constitution, her grandson, Rahul Gandhi, now brandishes that very Constitution as a talisman against rising authoritarianism in India. At protest rallies, he holds up Ambedkar's book, invoking the very document Indira Gandhi once bent to her will. Where once the Constitution was used to silence dissent, it is now Rahul Gandhi's weapon to preserve it.

## A call to be vigilant

There is a lesson here that transcends families and nations: every generation must reclaim democracy for itself. The battles our forebears fought – against monarchy, against colonialism, against Emergency – are not relics. They are warnings. They are calls to vigilance. The Constitution is not an heirloom. It is a mandate. It must be re-defended, reinterpreted, and reaffirmed by each generation.

It is easy to celebrate Independence Day with fireworks and fanfare. But the revolution was not a party. It was an act of resistance against arbitrary rule. Thomas Paine wrote, "Let the law be king". Not presidents. Not parties. Not mobs. But the law. And only when the people demand it. We must resist the normalisation of revenge politics, the erosion of checks and balances, and the authoritarian cult of personality. Democracy is not just a system of rules. It is a culture of restraint. Of limits. Of humility before power. The Emergency in India failed because the people ultimately remembered what had been stolen from them. History never repeats exactly as it happened. But it does echo. The Emergency's lesson is not that tyranny is foreign. It is that tyranny is familiar, legal and welcomed when institutions go hollow.

Today, both India and America are democracies by form. But their futures depend on substance. On how citizens, courts, journalists, legislators and civil servants act when faced with leaders who believe they are above the law. The difference between a republic and a monarchy is not just procedure. It is accountability. When a king breaks the law, it becomes policy. When a President or Prime Minister does, it becomes a test.

India failed that test in 1975. We cannot afford to fail it again. We must defend the law as if it were our crown. Because if we do not, someone else will wear it. And they will not take it off.

**Paper 02 Indian Polity**

**UPSC Mains Practice Question:** Constitutions do not protect liberty on their own; they require institutions and individuals to uphold them." In the context of India's Emergency (1975–77) and recent global trends, critically examine the role of democratic institutions in safeguarding constitutional values. (250 words)

**Context :**

Sanjay Hegde's article draws historical parallels between India's Emergency (1975–77) and contemporary threats to democracy in the U.S., particularly under the leadership of Donald Trump. By invoking legal history, constitutional design, and institutional responses, the article is a powerful commentary on how democracies die — not with a coup, but with compliance.

It acts as both a reflection and a warning: that the architecture of democracy is fragile, and its survival depends not merely on constitutional provisions but on the ethical courage of institutions and individuals.

**Key Themes and Arguments****1. The Illusion of Legal Tyranny**

- The Emergency was imposed "legally" through Article 352 of the Constitution, following a declaration of "internal disturbance" by Indira Gandhi.
- The judiciary, bureaucracy, and press enabled tyranny, not because they were dismantled, but because they chose silence or complicity.

"Democratic institutions can die not with a bang, but with a nod."

**2. The American Parallel**

- In the U.S., former President Donald Trump, without declaring any formal emergency, exploited institutional weaknesses.
- Courts delayed, Congress hesitated, the media rationalized, and democracy eroded — echoing India's 1975 moment.

"Tyranny, once foreign, now threatens from within."

**3. Institutions Are Only as Good as the People Running Them**

## Daily News Analysis

- The Indian judiciary suspended even the right to life during the Emergency (ADM Jabalpur case), with only Justice H.R. Khanna dissenting — and he was punished for it.
- U.S. courts, with a 6-3 conservative majority, risk enabling similar legal overreach.
- Constitutions do not protect democracy automatically; they are tools that require active protection.

### 4. Lessons from History

- H.V. Kamath had warned about the Emergency clauses during the Constituent Assembly debates, comparing them to Weimar Germany, which allowed Hitler's legal rise to power.
- Indira Gandhi's misuse of constitutional provisions mirrored that fear.
- The 44th Amendment was introduced post-Emergency to curb future misuse, but political culture and institutional norms have not fully recovered.

### 5. Role of Civil Society and Citizens

- Democracies are sustained by culture, not just structures.
- The article argues that the public, judiciary, media, and civil servants must resist authoritarian tendencies.
- Rahul Gandhi's invocation of the Constitution at protests is contrasted with his grandmother's subversion of the same document — a symbolic reversal.

### Implications for India

#### A. Governance and Rule of Law

- The article is a case study in how governance can legally undermine constitutionalism.
- Raises questions around checks and balances, judicial independence, and executive accountability.

#### B. Ethics in Public Administration

- Highlights the ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants and judges during authoritarian rule.
- Upholding constitutional morality over political loyalty is critical.

#### C. Indian Polity – Emergency Provisions

- Direct relevance to Article 352, 44th Amendment, and role of judiciary during crises.
- Reflects on the ADM Jabalpur case, and the later recognition of it as a "constitutional wrong".

#### D. Comparative Politics



## Daily News Analysis

- Offers a framework for comparing institutional erosion in India and the United States.
- Useful for questions on democracy, populism, and rule of law in global context.

### Way Forward

#### 1. Institutional Strengthening:

- Regular review of Emergency provisions, stronger judicial safeguards, and parliamentary oversight.

#### 2. Constitutional Literacy:

- Promote awareness among citizens and bureaucrats about constitutional values and civil liberties.

#### 3. Independent Media and Judiciary:

- Uphold press freedom and judicial independence as bulwarks against executive overreach.

#### 4. Civil Service Reform:

- Encourage ethical training and constitutional accountability in bureaucratic institutions.

#### 5. Civic Vigilance:

- Citizens must remain vigilant and resist normalization of authoritarian rhetoric, regardless of political affiliation.

### Conclusion

The article serves as a sobering reminder that democracies are vulnerable not only to external threats, but more dangerously to internal erosion masked as legality. It calls for institutional integrity, civil courage, and active citizenship to defend democracy — not just in form, but in spirit.

**The Emergency is not just history — it is a warning. Democracy must be claimed and reclaimed by each generation.**