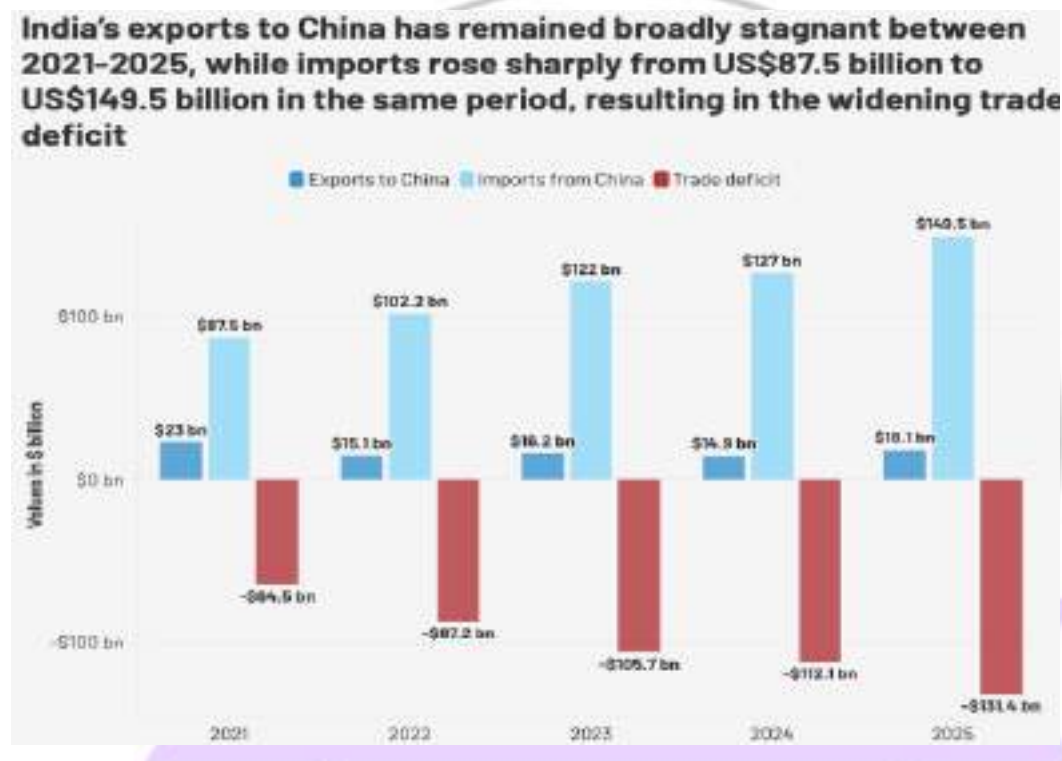


21st September 2026: Daily Current Affairs

1. The Paradox of Self-Reliance: India–China Trade Dynamics

Context: Following the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Delhi, India and China highlighted the need to address **structural trade imbalances and supply-chain issues**. The issue is significant as India's expanding manufacturing sector continues to rely heavily on Chinese intermediate and capital goods.



India–China Trade: The “Assembly Trap”

What is the “Assembly Trap”?

- India is rapidly expanding its manufacturing and export capabilities, particularly in electronics and mobile phones.
- However, a substantial share of the **components, intermediate goods, machinery and technological inputs** required for this production is imported from China.
- Thus, India's manufacturing growth can increase its dependence on Chinese supply chains rather than eliminate it.
- This creates a paradox: **India is becoming a manufacturing hub while remaining dependent on China for critical manufacturing inputs.**

Atmanirbhar Bharat must evolve from “assembly in India” to “capability creation in India”.

Key India–China Trade Trends

- **Bilateral trade:** Reached around **\$167.6 billion in 2025**.
- **Chinese imports into India:** Increased from **\$87.5 billion in 2021 to \$149.5 billion in 2025**, an increase of around **71%**.
- **India’s exports to China:** Remained broadly stagnant during 2021–25.
- The resulting imbalance reflects the persistent **India–China trade deficit**.
- Around **70% of India's imports from China comprise intermediate goods**, while around **22% constitute capital goods**.
- Therefore, the deficit is not merely due to imports of finished consumer products but reflects India's **structural dependence on Chinese manufacturing inputs**.

Why is Chinese Dependence Significant?

1. Electronics and Mobile Manufacturing

- India has emerged as a major centre for **mobile phone assembly**.
- However, the share of imported parts and components in India's import basket increased from **3.3% in 2022 to 10.1% in 2025**.
- This indicates that domestic assembly has expanded faster than the domestic component ecosystem.

2. Electronics Supply Chain

India remains dependent on Chinese imports for products and inputs such as:

- Telecom equipment
- Laptops and computers
- Integrated circuits
- Electronic components
- Machinery and industrial inputs

The combined value of India's **top five import categories from China** increased from **\$19 billion in 2021 to \$34.6 billion in 2025**.

3. Intermediate and Capital Goods

Chinese machinery and components can support Indian industrialisation, but prolonged dependence can create vulnerabilities in:

- Production

- Technology
- Supply chains
- Strategic sectors

Why Does the Trade Deficit Persist?

Structural Manufacturing Gap

India's domestic ecosystem for:

- Components
- Semiconductors
- Precision engineering
- Advanced machinery
- Industrial materials

remains comparatively underdeveloped.

Technology Dependence: Limited domestic technological capabilities force Indian firms to rely on imported high-value inputs.

Low Domestic Value Addition: Assembly-based production may generate employment and exports without proportionately increasing domestic value addition.

Supply-Chain Concentration: Heavy dependence on one country creates vulnerability to geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: From Assembly to Value Addition

The objective of self-reliance should not be interpreted as **complete import substitution or economic isolation**.

Required transition

Import-dependent Assembly

↓

Domestic Component Manufacturing

↓

Technology & R&D

↓

Supplier Ecosystems



High Domestic Value Addition



Globally Competitive Manufacturing

India needs to move from:

“Made in India” → “Designed, developed and manufactured in India.”

Are Chinese Imports Always Harmful?

Not necessarily.

Imports of advanced machinery and intermediate goods can facilitate **industrial upgrading** by providing:

- Access to technology
- Productivity gains
- Capital formation
- Modern production techniques
- Integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs)

The problem arises when:

- **Temporary import dependence → Permanent structural dependence**, and domestic firms fail to develop indigenous capabilities.
- Therefore, **self-reliance should mean resilience and competitiveness rather than isolation.**

Major Concerns

1. Strategic Vulnerability: Dependence on China for critical inputs can become a strategic vulnerability during geopolitical tensions or supply disruptions.

2. Weak Domestic Component Ecosystem: India's success in final assembly has not been matched by equivalent development of upstream suppliers.

3. Low Value Addition: Import-intensive manufacturing limits domestic technological and economic gains.

4. Persistent Trade Deficit: Rapid growth of imports without a comparable increase in exports widens the bilateral trade imbalance.

5. Technology Dependence: Dependence on imported semiconductors, electronics and machinery can constrain India's technological sovereignty.

6. Risk to Atmanirbhar Bharat: Manufacturing growth without domestic capability creation can produce an “**assembly trap**” rather than **genuine self-reliance**.

Way Ahead

1. Build Domestic Component Ecosystems

Promote manufacturing of:

- Semiconductors
- Electronic components
- Precision machinery
- Advanced materials
- Industrial equipment

2. Move Up the Value Chain

Shift policy focus from **final assembly to design, R&D and high-value component manufacturing**.

3. Promote Research & Innovation

Increase public and private investment in:

- Semiconductor technology
- Advanced manufacturing
- Product design
- Artificial intelligence
- Materials science

4. Calibrated Tariff Policy

Use carefully designed tariffs and incentives to nurture domestic manufacturing capabilities without making Indian products globally uncompetitive.

5. Diversify Supply Chains

Develop alternative sources through partnerships with:

- Japan

- South Korea
- ASEAN
- Taiwan
- European countries

6. Integrate with Global Value Chains

India should remain open to global production networks while reducing excessive dependence on a single country.

7. Improve Manufacturing Competitiveness

Focus on:

- Logistics
- Infrastructure
- Skill development
- Reliable power
- Ease of doing business
- Faster customs clearance

India's Strategic Policy Choice

Approach	Limitation
Complete import dependence	Strategic vulnerability
Blanket protectionism	Higher costs and inefficiency
Complete decoupling	Loss of global competitiveness
Strategic self-reliance	Preferred approach

Strategic Self-Reliance =

Domestic capability + Global integration + Supply-chain diversification

Key Data for Prelims

- **India–China bilateral trade (2025):** \$167.6 billion
- **Chinese imports into India:** \$87.5 billion (2021) → \$149.5 billion (2025)
- **Increase in imports:** ~71%

- **Intermediate goods:** ~70% of Chinese imports
- **Capital goods:** ~22%
- **Top five import categories:** \$19 billion (2021) → \$34.6 billion (2025)
- **Imported parts/components share:** 3.3% (2022) → 10.1% (2025)
- **Major policy initiatives:** Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)

Conclusion

- India's experience demonstrates that **manufacturing growth does not automatically translate into self-reliance**. The country has successfully expanded downstream assembly, particularly in electronics, but remains dependent on China for several critical components, intermediate goods and capital equipment.
- The objective of **Atmanirbhar Bharat should therefore be capability-based self-reliance rather than import isolation**. India must build domestic technological and supplier ecosystems while remaining integrated with global value chains. Such a strategy can convert India's manufacturing expansion from an “assembly trap” into **sustainable and globally competitive industrialisation**.

Answer Writing Practice Question: “India’s growing manufacturing capacity remains deeply embedded in China-centric supply chains, creating an ‘assembly trap’ rather than genuine self-reliance.” Examine the structural causes of India’s dependence on Chinese imports and suggest measures to build resilient and globally competitive manufacturing value chains.

2. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) & the 2026 Amendment Bill

Context: The proposed **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** seeks to further regulate foreign contributions received by NGOs and other organisations. The proposed provisions on **assets created from foreign contributions** after cancellation, surrender or cessation of FCRA registration have triggered concerns regarding civil society autonomy, property rights and continuity of welfare services.

About the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

What it is?

- The **FCRA** regulates how individuals, associations, and organisations, including NGOs, accept and use **foreign contributions and foreign hospitality**.
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- Its broad objective is to ensure that foreign funds do not adversely affect:
 - National sovereignty and integrity
 - National security
 - Public interest
 - Democratic institutions and processes.

Historical Evolution

- **FCRA, 1976:** Enacted during the Emergency to regulate foreign contributions amid concerns regarding external influence on Indian politics and public institutions.
- **FCRA, 2010:** Replaced the 1976 Act and consolidated the regulatory framework governing foreign contributions and hospitality.
- **2020 Amendments:**
 - Prohibited transfer/re-grant of foreign contributions to other organisations.
 - Reduced the administrative expense ceiling from **50% to 20%**.
 - Mandated receipt of foreign contributions through a designated **SBI account at the New Delhi Main Branch**.

Key Provisions of the Proposed FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026

1. Asset Vesting

- If an FCRA certificate is **cancelled, surrendered or lapses**, unutilised foreign contributions and assets created from foreign funds would provisionally vest in a **Designated Authority**.

2. Permanent Vesting

- If registration is not restored within the prescribed period:
 - Assets may permanently vest with the Authority.
 - Assets may be transferred to government departments or sold.
 - Sale proceeds may be credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India**.

3. Judicial Recourse

- Provides for revision of orders.
- An aggrieved organisation can appeal before a **District Judge within 90 days**.

4. Deemed Cessation

- FCRA registration may automatically cease where:
 - Renewal is not sought;
 - Renewal is denied; or
 - The renewal process remains unresolved before expiry.

5. Rationalisation of Penalties

- Proposes reduction of the maximum imprisonment for certain violations from **five years to one year**.

Key Data & Civil Society Realities

- **FCRA cancellations:** MHA has cancelled the registrations of **22,496 NGOs** since 2015.
- **Active registered associations:** Around **14,466** associations remained eligible to receive foreign contributions as of September 2026.
- **Historical foreign inflows:** Foreign contributions received by NGOs had reached **₹12,289.6 crore in FY 2006–07**, with current inflows remaining substantial.
- **Indian billionaires:** India had **229 billionaires** according to the Forbes 2026 list.
- **Domestic philanthropy:** Projected at around **₹1.43 lakh crore (\$16 billion)** in FY 2025.
- **Retail giving:** Approximately **₹37,000 crore annually**.
- **Projected funding gap:** The gap between civil-society demand and domestic philanthropic supply could reach **₹18 lakh crore (\$210 billion) by 2030**.
- **CSR expenditure:** Listed companies spent around **₹22,563 crore on CSR in FY 2025**, registering a **17.5% increase**.

Why is the FCRA Debate Important?

1. National Security vs Civil Society

Foreign funding can potentially be used for:

- Illicit political influence
- Money laundering
- Religious conversion
- Anti-national activities
- External interference

However, excessive restrictions may weaken legitimate civil-society organisations.

2. Developmental Role of NGOs

NGOs contribute significantly to:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Rural development
- Tribal welfare
- Women empowerment
- Disaster relief
- Environmental protection

In several remote and tribal regions, NGOs may provide services where state capacity remains limited.

3. Democratic Accountability

A vibrant civil society can act as a **Corrective force against excessive concentration and misuse of political power.**

NGOs facilitate:

- Public participation
- Social accountability
- Rights awareness
- Policy advocacy
- Community mobilisation.

Major Concerns

1. Impact on Grassroots Services

Restrictions on foreign funding may affect organisations running:

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Elderly-care institutions
- Rural development programmes
- Tribal welfare projects

2. Asset Forfeiture Concerns

The proposed vesting mechanism raises questions about the fate of infrastructure created using foreign contributions when an organisation loses its FCRA registration.

3. Executive Discretion

Vesting assets in a government-appointed authority may raise concerns regarding:

- Due process
- Natural justice
- Separation of powers
- Property rights.

4. Chilling Effect on Civil Society

Excessive regulatory uncertainty may discourage NGOs from undertaking:

- Human-rights advocacy
- Environmental campaigns
- Public-interest litigation support
- Government accountability initiatives.

5. Funding Concentration

Dependence on a limited number of funding sources can influence civil-society organisations' priorities and independence.

Changing Philanthropic Landscape

Emergence of Domestic Philanthropy

Indian philanthropy is expanding due to:

- Rising private wealth
- Corporate philanthropy
- CSR
- Digital giving
- Venture philanthropy.

Changing Donor Priorities

New-age philanthropists increasingly focus on:

- Scientific research
- Higher education
- Climate technology
- Institutional capacity
- Ecosystem development.

Funding Mismatch

Traditional NGOs working in:

- Primary healthcare
- Basic education
- Rural development
- Poverty alleviation

may receive comparatively less funding as donors increasingly prefer technology-intensive and high-impact interventions.

Way Ahead

1. Proportionate Regulation

- Maintain strict scrutiny of foreign contributions.
- Distinguish between **genuine violations and minor technical non-compliance**.
- Follow a risk-based regulatory approach.

2. Strengthen Judicial Oversight

- Ensure independent review before permanent vesting or liquidation of NGO assets.
- Strengthen appellate and tribunal mechanisms.

3. Promote Domestic Philanthropy

- Improve tax incentives for charitable donations.
- Encourage long-term domestic endowments and unrestricted funding.

4. Improve CSR Partnerships

Encourage companies to provide:

- Multi-year grants
- Institutional support
- Capacity-building assistance
- Funding for grassroots organisations.

5. Increase Transparency

NGOs should ensure:

- Financial disclosure
- Beneficial ownership transparency
- Annual reporting
- Independent audits
- Clear utilisation of foreign funds.

6. Encourage Digital Giving

Platforms such as **UPI and the Social Stock Exchange** can facilitate transparent retail and community-based philanthropy.

7. Institutionalised State–Civil Society Dialogue

Regular consultation among **Government + NGOs + Donors + Communities** can improve trust and regulatory effectiveness.

Balancing National Security & Civil Society

Foreign Funding

- **Transparency & Regulation**
- **Accountability**
- **Protection from Illicit Influence**

Alongside

- **Independent Civil Society**
- **Social Welfare**
- **Democratic Participation**
- **Public Accountability**

The objective should be **regulation without strangulation and accountability without compromising legitimate civil-society autonomy.**

Prelims Quick Revision

Parameter	Key Fact
FCRA, 1976	First FCRA legislation
FCRA, 2010	Current principal legislative framework
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs
2020 amendment	Administrative expense ceiling reduced to 20%
FCRA cancellations since 2015	22,496 NGOs
Active associations, Sept. 2026	14,466

Domestic philanthropy, FY25	₹1.43 lakh crore
Retail giving	~₹37,000 crore annually
CSR expenditure, FY25	₹22,563 crore
Proposed appeal period	90 days before District Judge

Conclusion

- The FCRA framework represents a legitimate attempt to protect **national security, transparency and public interest** from illicit foreign influence. However, regulation must remain **proportionate, transparent and subject to adequate judicial safeguards**. Excessive restrictions can unintentionally weaken NGOs that provide essential welfare services and perform important democratic functions.
- India therefore needs a **balanced civil-society framework** that combines rigorous financial accountability with institutional autonomy, while simultaneously strengthening domestic philanthropy, CSR and community giving. The long-term objective should be a **transparent, self-reliant and vibrant civil society capable of contributing to both development and democratic accountability**.

Answer Writing Practice Question: *“NGOs are essential instruments of participatory governance, but foreign funding can also create concerns relating to national security and external influence.” Examine the role of FCRA in regulating NGOs and suggest measures to balance accountability with civil-society autonomy.*

3. SLINEX-26

Context: The **13th edition of the India–Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise, SLINEX-26**, is being conducted at **Visakhapatnam** under the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. The exercise seeks to strengthen maritime interoperability, defence cooperation and joint responses to emerging security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.

About SLINEX-26

What is it?

- **SLINEX** is the flagship **bilateral maritime exercise** between the **Indian Navy** and the **Sri Lanka Navy**.

- The exercise was **instituted in 2005** and has evolved from basic naval drills into a multidimensional maritime exercise.
- The **13th edition, SLINEX-26**, is hosted by India at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is conducted under the operational command of the **Eastern Naval Command (ENC)** of the Indian Navy.

Members

- **Indian Navy**
- **Sri Lanka Navy**

Aim

- Enhance **maritime interoperability** and operational coordination.
- Strengthen mutual trust between the two navies.
- Exchange professional knowledge and best practices.
- Improve capabilities to address **traditional and non-traditional maritime threats**.
- Strengthen cooperation in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Key Features

1. Two-Phase Exercise

SLINEX follows a structured format comprising:

Harbour Phase



Sea Phase

- The Harbour Phase focuses on professional interactions, knowledge exchange and coordinated planning.
- The Sea Phase involves practical naval manoeuvres and operational drills.

2. Multi-Dimensional Maritime Training

The exercise involves activities related to:

- **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)**
- Maritime interdiction
- Tactical communications
- Search and rescue
- Replenishment and logistics
- Coordinated naval manoeuvres.

3. Operational Interoperability

- Enables both navies to operate together more effectively.
- Improves coordination during maritime security operations and humanitarian emergencies.

Significance of SLINEX-26

1. Strengthens Neighbourhood First

- Sri Lanka is a key maritime neighbour of India.
- Regular naval exercises deepen defence cooperation and strategic trust.
- Supports India's **Neighbourhood First** policy.

2. Indian Ocean Security

Sri Lanka occupies a strategically important position close to major **Indian Ocean sea lanes of communication (SLOCs)**.

Enhanced India–Sri Lanka naval cooperation contributes to:

- Maritime domain awareness
- Protection of sea lanes
- Counter-piracy operations
- Combating maritime trafficking
- Prevention of illegal fishing and other maritime crimes.

3. Non-Traditional Security

SLINEX helps strengthen cooperation against:

- Piracy
- Smuggling
- Human trafficking
- Irregular migration
- Maritime terrorism
- Natural disasters.

4. HADR Cooperation

Naval interoperability can facilitate coordinated responses during:

- Cyclones
- Tsunamis
- Floods
- Maritime accidents

- Other humanitarian emergencies.

SLINEX & India's Maritime Vision

- SLINEX contributes to India's broader maritime outreach through:

SAGAR

- **Security and Growth for All in the Region**

It emphasises:

- Mutual security
- Economic prosperity
- Respect for sovereignty
- Capacity building
- Maritime cooperation.

MAHASAGAR

Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

It seeks to strengthen India's engagement with maritime partners through:

- Security cooperation
- Development partnerships
- Capacity building
- Disaster resilience
- Regional connectivity.

Thus:

SLINEX → Bilateral Naval Cooperation → SAGAR/MAHASAGAR → Secure Indian Ocean

Strategic Importance for India

Maritime Geography

Sri Lanka's location near major Indian Ocean shipping routes gives it strategic importance for India's:

- Maritime security
- Energy security
- Trade routes
- Coastal security

- Regional connectivity.

Palk Strait & Gulf of Mannar

- Enhanced naval cooperation also contributes to security in India's immediate maritime neighbourhood, particularly around the **Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar**.

China Factor

- Sri Lanka's strategic location and growing external infrastructure engagements make deeper India–Sri Lanka maritime cooperation important for maintaining a **stable and secure Indian Ocean Region**.
- However, India's approach should focus on **cooperative regional security rather than bloc-based confrontation**.

Challenges in India–Sri Lanka Maritime Cooperation

- **Chinese strategic presence** in Sri Lankan ports and surrounding maritime spaces.
- **Fishermen dispute** involving Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen.
- Maritime boundary and resource-management issues.
- Illegal fishing and trafficking.
- Sri Lanka's need to balance relations among **India, China and other external partners**.
- Need for greater maritime domain awareness and information sharing.

Way Ahead

1. Expand Maritime Domain Awareness: Improve information-sharing mechanisms and coordinated surveillance.

2. Strengthen HADR Cooperation: Develop joint mechanisms for rapid disaster response in the Indian Ocean.

3. Address Fishermen Issues: Combine diplomatic dialogue, sustainable fisheries management and livelihood support.

4. Enhance Capacity Building

India can support Sri Lanka through:

- Training
- Equipment
- Technical assistance

- Hydrographic cooperation.

5. Expand Multilateral Maritime Cooperation

Strengthen cooperation through platforms such as:

- IORA
- Colombo Security Conclave
- Indian Ocean naval engagements.

6. Maintain an Inclusive Indian Ocean Architecture: India should promote a **rules-based, inclusive and cooperative maritime order** rather than exclusive strategic alignments.

Prelims Quick Revision

Parameter	Key Fact
Exercise	SLINEX-26
Edition	13th
Participants	Indian Navy & Sri Lanka Navy
Host	India
Venue	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Command	Eastern Naval Command
First instituted	2005
Phases	Harbour Phase + Sea Phase
Major focus	Maritime interoperability & security
Key drills	ASW, SAR, maritime interdiction, logistics
Regional framework	SAGAR & MAHASAGAR

Conclusion

- **SLINEX-26** reflects the deepening of India–Sri Lanka maritime cooperation and India's broader effort to build a **secure, resilient and cooperative Indian**

Ocean Region. Beyond conventional naval preparedness, the exercise strengthens capabilities against piracy, trafficking, disasters and other non-traditional threats. Regular exercises of this nature reinforce **Neighbourhood First**, enhance interoperability and contribute to India's vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.

Answer Writing Practice Question: “Maritime cooperation with Sri Lanka is central to India’s vision of a secure and inclusive Indian Ocean Region.” Discuss the strategic significance of exercises such as SLINEX in strengthening India’s neighbourhood and maritime security architecture.

4. Tulu Language & Demand for Official Language Status

Context: Tulu, a major Dravidian language spoken predominantly in the coastal Karnataka region, has a distinct linguistic and cultural identity. The demand for greater official recognition has gained significance because of its rich literary, oral and ritual traditions and its historical presence in **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**.

Our Language Our People Our Pride
From the Land of Tulu Nadu to a Brighter Tomorrow

What does Tulu's new official language status mean?

How will the new status change the use of Tulu in administration? Is the Cabinet's decision enough?

Respective Tuluvar Paravarnage Hambol
It is our duty towards the Tulu heritage

Tulu Bhaskar Tulu Nadu A Bhagya Mantram
Language Culture Identity Belonging

- ### 1 The Story So Far

 - The Karnataka government, in its Cabinet meeting held in Mangalore on September 18, decided to grant additional official administrative language status to Tulu.
 - Tulu is commonly spoken in Dakshina Kannada district, southern parts of Udupi district in Karnataka, and northern parts of Kasargod district in Kerala.
 - Chief Minister B.K. Thambudkar said the status will apply to administrative matters in the two districts.
 - The government will release ₹52 lakh annually for promotion, training and language usage purposes.
- ### 2 Where is Tulu Spoken?

 - Mainly in Dakshina Kannada district, southern parts of Udupi district (Kannada) and northern parts of Kasargod district (Kerala).
 - More broadly, Tulu is spoken across the coastal region of Tulu Nadu.

Tulu Nadu People Culture Coast
- ### 3 Who are the Tulu? (About Tulu)

 - Tulu is spoken by the Tuluvas.
 - Recognised as an independent language by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner.
 - Considered an important non-scheduled language of India.
 - Not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Tulu A Language A People A Distinct Identity
- ### 4 How will the decision help people?

 - Elected representatives can speak in Tulu at gram sabhas, taluk panchayats and zilla panchayats meetings.
 - Applicable to urban local body meetings, city corporations, city municipal council and town municipal councils.
 - Government structures and orders in the two districts should also contain Tulu.
 - People can submit applications to government departments in Tulu.
 - Officials who do not know Tulu will have to rely on translators, interpreters, or learn the basics of Tulu.
- ### 5 How did the move begin?

 - Jan 30, 2022: BJP government formed a committee headed by M. Mohan Awa to study and submit a report on deciding Tulu as the second official language of the state.
 - Mar 27, 2022: Initial note of intent for the 2023 Assembly elections was decided. BJP could not grant the status and later told counter.
 - Feb 1, 2023: Congress government appointed a committee led by K. M. Sagarini (former Union Minister) to study the procedures adopted by Andhra Pradesh to grant scheduled language status to Urdu.
 - Jan 19-20, 2023: The committee visited Andhra Pradesh to study how Urdu is used in administration.
 - Mar 4, 2023: The committee submitted its report to the Karnataka government.
- ### 6 Is the Cabinet's decision enough?

 - Article 345 of the Constitution allows a state legislature to choose one or more regional languages or Hindi for official purposes.
 - Section 2 of the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1983 states that Kannada is the official language.
 - To implement the decision, the Karnataka Official Language Act will have to be amended to include Tulu as an additional scheduled language in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.
 - Once the amendment is approved by the appropriate authority and the Governor, the government will issue a notification, after which the Cabinet's decision will come into force.
 - The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana followed a similar procedure to declare Urdu as the second official language.

Article 345
Karnataka Official Language Act, 1983

From Decision to Legal Implementation
- ### 7 How is Tulu introduced in academics?

 - Tulu is taught as the third optional language in schools, from Class 6 to Class 10 in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.
 - First introduced for Class 6 in the 2018-19 academic year.
 - Not taught as a subject in pre-university and degree classes.
 - Mangalore University introduced a two-year Tulu post-graduation programme in 2009-10 in its Arthur's University Housing College, now closed.
 - The programme was wound up from 2009-10 due to lack of students (fewer than 500 in 2011).

Tulu Education for Future Generations
- ### 8 Key Facts at a Glance

 - Largest tribal group in India (10% of total ST population in per 2011 Census).
 - Language family Indo-Aryan (with Dravidian influence).
 - Independent language, not recognised by Census.
 - In Eighth Schedule: No.
 - Official status: Additional administrative Only in two districts to be granted as scheduled in Karnataka Official Language Act.

Tulu Bhaskar Tulu Nadu A Bhagya Mantram

People | Culture | Language | A Springer Karnataka

About Tulu

What is Tulu?

- Tulu is a **Dravidian language** primarily spoken in the coastal regions of **Karnataka** and parts of northern Kerala.
- It possesses a rich tradition of **oral literature, folklore, rituals and performing arts**.
- Important cultural expressions include:
 - **Paddanas** – sung epics narrating stories of heroes, spirits and local traditions.
 - **Bhoota Kola** – traditional spirit-worship ritual of coastal Karnataka.
 - **Yakshagana** – traditional dance-drama combining music, dialogue, dance and mythology.

Key Features

- **Distinct Dravidian Language:** Tulu is recognised as a distinct Dravidian language rather than merely a dialect of Kannada.
- **Dual Script Heritage:** Historically associated with the **Tigalari script**, while the **Kannada script** is widely used for contemporary written communication.
- **Rich Oral Tradition:** Its cultural heritage includes folk epics, ballads, mythology, rituals and traditional agricultural expressions transmitted across generations.
- **Educational Presence:** Tulu has been offered as an optional/third language in schools in **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**.

Constitutional & Legal Framework

Article 345

- **Article 345** empowers the **State Legislature** to adopt one or more languages in use in the State, or Hindi, for all or any of the official purposes of the State.
- Therefore, recognition of a language for official purposes at the State level requires appropriate **legislative action**.

Karnataka Official Language

- The **Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963** provides for Kannada as the official language of the State.
- Granting Tulu comparable statutory official-language status would therefore require an **appropriate amendment or legislative measure**.

Constitutional Significance

The issue highlights the balance between:

Linguistic Diversity

- **Cultural Preservation**
- **State Official Language Policy**
- **Constitutional Recognition**

Cultural Significance of Tulu

- Preserves the unique cultural identity of **coastal Karnataka**.
- Provides an important medium for transmission of:
 - Local history
 - Folk traditions
 - Indigenous knowledge
 - Religious and ritual practices.
- **Paddanas** provide valuable insights into local social memory and oral history.
- **Bhoota Kola and Yakshagana** demonstrate the close relationship between language, folklore and performing arts.

Challenges

- Limited representation in formal administrative and higher educational domains.
- Need for greater **digitisation and documentation** of oral literature.
- Risk of decline in intergenerational transmission amid linguistic homogenisation.
- Limited availability of extensive modern technical and academic literature.
- Need for preservation of traditional scripts such as **Tigalari**.

Way Ahead

- **Document and digitise** Tulu's oral literature, folk traditions and manuscripts.
- Promote research on the **Tigalari script** and traditional textual heritage.
- Expand Tulu teaching and educational resources.
- Develop digital content, dictionaries and language technologies.
- Support translation of important works into Tulu and from Tulu.
- Strengthen preservation of **Paddanas, Bhoota Kola and Yakshagana traditions**.
- Any demand for enhanced official status should be considered through **constitutional and legislative processes** while ensuring administrative feasibility.

Prelims Quick Revision

Parameter	Key Fact
Language family	Dravidian
Major region	Coastal Karnataka
Important districts	Dakshina Kannada & Udupi
Historical script	Tigalari
Contemporary script	Kannada
Famous oral epics	Paddanas
Ritual tradition	Bhoota Kola
Performing art	Yakshagana
Relevant Constitution Article	Article 345
Karnataka official language law	Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963

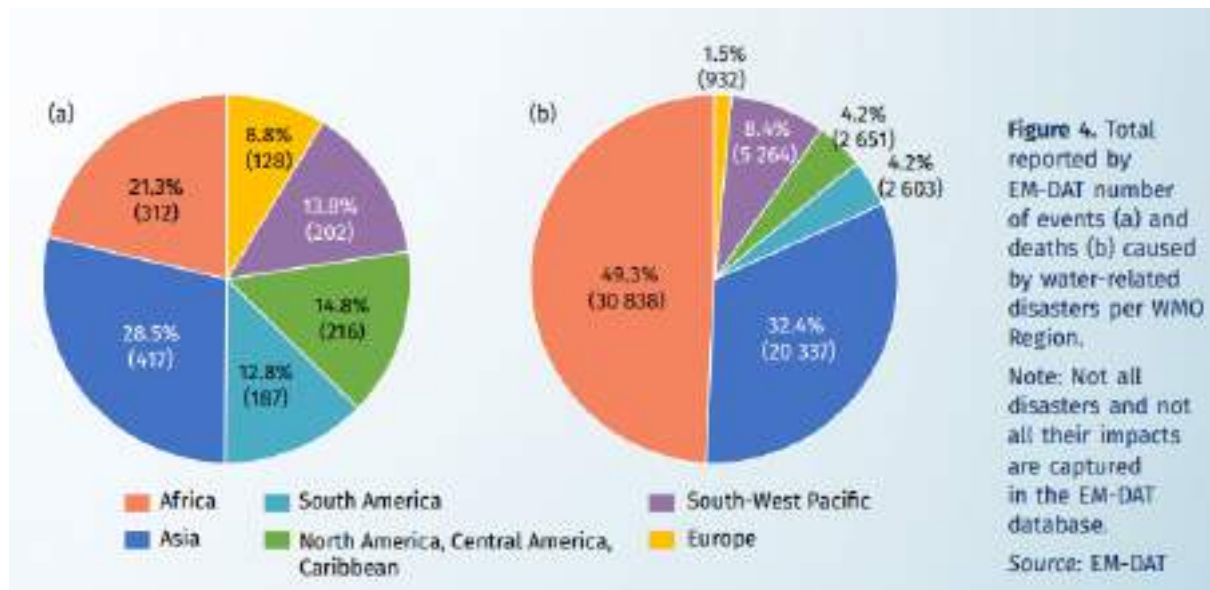
Conclusion

- Tulu represents India's **linguistic pluralism and intangible cultural heritage**. Its rich oral epics, traditional rituals, performing arts and distinct linguistic identity demonstrate that language preservation extends beyond administrative recognition. A balanced approach involving **documentation, education, digitisation, cultural promotion and appropriate legislative processes** can help preserve Tulu while strengthening India's constitutional commitment to linguistic diversity.

Answer Writing Practice Question: *“India’s linguistic diversity is both a cultural asset and a governance challenge.” Discuss with reference to the demand for greater recognition of Tulu and the constitutional framework governing State official languages.*

5. State of Global Water Resources 2025 Report

Context: The **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** has highlighted growing instability in the global water cycle, including persistent **groundwater depletion in India**, declining terrestrial water storage, drier river systems and accelerating glacier loss. The findings underline the increasing risks to **water, food and climate security**.



About the State of Global Water Resources Report

What is it?

- The **State of Global Water Resources** is an annual assessment published by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**.
- It assesses the **availability, distribution and variability of global freshwater resources**.
- Over five years, its assessment framework has expanded from **3 to 15 hydrological variables**.
- It covers:
 - Groundwater
 - River discharge
 - Terrestrial water storage
 - Glaciers
 - Soil moisture
 - Other components of the hydrological cycle.

Key Findings

1. Rising Groundwater Stress

- Around **34% of monitored groundwater stations** recorded **below- to much-below-normal levels in 2025**.
- This increased from **25% in 2024**.
- The trend indicates a growing shift towards **groundwater deficits**.

2. Persistent Groundwater Depletion in India

- Parts of India experienced persistent groundwater deficits during **2022–2025**.
- **Over-abstraction** remains an important driver.
- The problem is particularly significant in **north-western India**, where agriculture has historically relied heavily on groundwater irrigation.

3. Declining Terrestrial Water Storage

- Global **terrestrial water storage (TWS)** has shown a persistent decline since **2014–16**.
- Below-normal storage continued in several regions during 2025, including parts of **northern India**.

4. Drier River Systems

- Around **36% of the global catchment area** experienced drier-than-normal conditions.
- **2025 was among the driest years for global river discharge in around 35 years.**

5. Accelerating Glacier Loss

- Global glaciers lost around **408 ± 132 gigatonnes (Gt)** of mass in 2025.
- This corresponds to approximately **1.1 ± 0.4 mm of sea-level rise**.
- It was the **fourth consecutive year** in which all major glaciated regions recorded net ice loss.

Why is Groundwater Depletion in India Significant?

India is highly dependent on groundwater for:

- Irrigation
- Drinking water
- Domestic requirements
- Industrial activities.

Major Drivers

- Excessive groundwater extraction for irrigation.
- Water-intensive crops.
- Subsidised/free electricity encouraging over-pumping.
- Inefficient irrigation practices.
- Rapid urbanisation.
- Reduced groundwater recharge due to concretisation.
- Increasing climate variability.

Consequences

- **Groundwater depletion**
- **Declining water tables**
- **Higher extraction costs**
- **Agricultural stress**
- **Food & livelihood insecurity**

Broader Implications

1. Water Security: Declining groundwater, river discharge and terrestrial water storage reduce reliable freshwater availability.

2. Food Security: Groundwater-dependent irrigation supports agricultural production. Persistent depletion can threaten:

- Crop yields
- Irrigation reliability
- Farmer incomes
- Food security.

3. Climate Resilience: Groundwater, glaciers and terrestrial water storage act as **natural buffers** during periods of drought and climatic variability. Their depletion reduces the resilience of societies and ecosystems.

4. Himalayan Ecosystem: Glacier loss can initially increase meltwater availability but eventually reduce long-term water availability in glacier-dependent river systems.

This has implications for:

- Himalayan ecosystems
- Agriculture
- Hydropower
- Drinking water
- Downstream river basins.

5. Water–Food–Energy Nexus

Water stress can simultaneously affect:

Agriculture → Food Security

Hydropower → Energy Security

Drinking Water → Human Security

Thus, water insecurity has **cross-sectoral implications**.

India-Specific Concerns

North-Western India

Groundwater stress is particularly important in regions such as:

- Punjab
- Haryana
- Western Uttar Pradesh
- Rajasthan

where intensive irrigation and water-intensive cropping have contributed to groundwater depletion.

Agricultural Distortions

The combination of **MSP-linked cropping patterns + subsidised electricity + flood irrigation** can encourage excessive groundwater extraction.

Urban Water Stress

Increasing urbanisation creates additional pressure through:

- Falling recharge
- Rising demand
- Groundwater dependence
- Loss of wetlands and recharge zones.

Way Ahead

1. Promote Groundwater Governance

- Strengthen groundwater monitoring.
- Regulate excessive extraction.
- Promote aquifer-based management.

2. Improve Irrigation Efficiency

Expand:

- **Drip irrigation**
- **Sprinkler irrigation**
- Micro-irrigation
- Precision agriculture.

3. Crop Diversification

Move away from highly water-intensive crops in groundwater-stressed regions.

Promote:

- Millets
- Pulses
- Oilseeds
- Less water-intensive crops.

4. Artificial Recharge

Promote:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Recharge wells
- Watershed development
- Wetland restoration
- Urban recharge structures.

5. Reform Water-Energy Incentives

Rationalise electricity subsidies and encourage **energy-efficient groundwater pumping** without undermining farmer livelihoods.

6. Integrated River Basin Management

Water management should move from fragmented administrative approaches towards **river-basin and aquifer-level planning**.

7. Climate-Resilient Water Management

Integrate: **Groundwater + Surface Water + Glaciers + Soil Moisture + Rainfall** into a comprehensive water-security strategy.

Prelims Quick Revision

Parameter	Key Fact
Report	State of Global Water Resources
Publisher	World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
Hydrological variables	15

Groundwater stations below/much-below normal, 2025	34%
Same indicator, 2024	25%
Global catchment area with drier-than-normal conditions	~36%
Glacier mass loss, 2025	408 ± 132 Gt
Sea-level equivalent	~1.1 ± 0.4 mm
Consecutive years of net glacier loss	4 years
India's persistent groundwater deficit	2022–25
Major driver in India	Over-abstraction

Conclusion

- The WMO report demonstrates that the global water crisis is no longer merely a problem of **water scarcity**, but increasingly one of **water-cycle instability**. Groundwater depletion, declining terrestrial water storage, drying rivers and glacier loss are interconnected manifestations of changing hydrological systems.
- For India, the priority should be to shift from **groundwater extraction to groundwater management**, supported by crop diversification, efficient irrigation, aquifer recharge and integrated river-basin planning. Building **water-secure and climate-resilient communities** will be essential for India's long-term food, livelihood and ecological security.

Secure Answer Writing Practice Question: “Groundwater depletion, glacier retreat and declining freshwater storage are transforming water insecurity into a major developmental challenge.” Examine the causes and implications of changing global water resources with special reference to India. Suggest a sustainable water-management strategy.