

The Hindu Important News Articles & Editorial For UPSC CSE

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India's External Affairs Minister outlined a four-point principle for resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict, emphasising peace, negotiation, and Russia's involvement.

India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict'

In Berlin, External Affairs Minister says there could be no solutions in the battlefield, that this should be a time for peace, that Russia must be at the table for a dialogue and that New Delhi is engaged in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict

Suhasini Haidar
BERLIN

India has a four-point principle towards the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

He said that "suggestions have been made" for India to host a peace conference on the issue, but made no commitment on whether India would in fact forward any peace proposal of its own.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* about the possibility of India hosting the conference, and playing a role as peace-maker, Mr. Jaishankar said that India believes in the four principles: that this should be a time of peace; that there would be no solutions to the war on the battlefield; that Russia must be at the table for any successful peace process; and that India is "concerned and engaged" in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict.

"We don't believe disputes can be settled through war," said Mr. Jaishankar, referring to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv in the past two months.

"When there is a discussion, we believe Russia has to be in it," he said, adding that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is in Russia this week, an indication of India's consistent engagement.

Mr. Jaishankar spoke to the media after a bilateral meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock to prepare for a visit to New Delhi by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on October 24-25. Mr. Jaishankar said they had discussed "the state of the world", including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Gaza conflict as well as coordinating their agendas ahead of the UN Summit of the Future later this month, particularly India and Germany's joint pitch for the expansion of the UN Security Council.

"Germany is in an intensive discussion with India and other countries about our different roles in bringing about peace," Ms. Baerbock said, adding that despite "differences" in Indian



Friendly ties: S. Jaishankar with Annalena Baerbock after the talks at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on Tuesday. AP

and German positions on the conflict thus far, they had maintained regular discussions on the issues.

Ms. Baerbock's comments follow a series of statements by Western coalition countries that have urged India, China and other countries to step up peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine, two-and-a-half years into the war. If India was to play a mediatory role, it would be significant shift from its previous position where it had called the war "Europe's problem", and not something connected to India's "geography". India

has not so far accepted requests by Germany and other European countries including Ukraine to cut its oil imports from Russia, or as Mr. Zelenskyy said for India to "change its attitude" towards Russia.

Ties with China

Addressing German diplomats at an "Ambassadors' conference" earlier in the day, Mr. Jaishankar was also asked about economic ties with China, given the four-year-old military stand-off between the two countries that has led to many restrictions on Chinese companies and

investment.

"We are not closed to business from China," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that, "The issue is, which sectors do you do business and what terms do you do business? It's far more complicated than a black-and-white binary answer."

During bilateral talks, Mr. Jaishankar and Ms. Baerbock discussed broadening the India-Germany migration and mobility partnership to bring in more skilled Indian workers to Germany. According to Ms. Baerbock, about 1,25,000 Indian nationals are now working and 50,000 students are studying in Germany.

They also spoke about building their military partnership after holding their first-ever joint air force exercises this year, and upcoming naval exercises in Goa in October.

In an effort to increase annual bilateral trade levels of \$30 billion and about \$25 billion in investment from Germany, New Delhi will be the venue for the Asia Pacific Conference of German Business next month.

India's Four-Point Principle on Russia-Ukraine Conflict:

- India believes in pursuing peace, not war.

Daily News Analysis

- War cannot resolve the conflict; negotiations are essential.
- Russia must be included in any successful peace process.
- India remains concerned and engaged in seeking a resolution.



India's Role Amid The Conflict:

- India has not committed to hosting or proposing a peace conference on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted India's ongoing engagement, noting National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's visit to Russia.
- India's previous position was that the conflict was a European issue rather than one directly affecting India.

Page 06 : GS 2 : International Relations – Bilateral Relations

Prime Minister Modi chaired the first meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation's Governing Board, emphasising innovation in India's research ecosystem.

- ▶ The ANRF aims to boost R&D funding and foster collaboration between universities and industries for national growth.

Remove obstacles in the country's research ecosystem, says Modi

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday convened the first meeting of the Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

During the meeting, Mr. Modi said that a new beginning had been made, according to an official statement. The Prime Minister stressed the need to identify and remove obstacles in the country's research ecosystem. There was a need to set big targets, focus on attaining them, and on doing path-breaking research. Mr. Modi said that research ought to be focused on finding new solutions to existing problems.

He emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs.

During the meeting, the



Setting targets: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the first meeting of the newly formed ANRF in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

governing body decided to launch a programme in the 'hub and spoke model' by pairing universities where research is at nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode.

They also discussed several areas of strategic interventions by the ANRF, which include the global positioning of India in key sectors, aligning R&D with national priorities, pro-

moting inclusive growth, capacity building, driving scientific advances and innovation ecosystems, as well as bridging the gap between academic research and industrial applications through industry-aligned translational research.

A funding body

The ANRF was conceived as a funding body to galvanise science and engi-

neering research in the country.

It was conceived as a step-up over existing funding arrangements and meant to encourage research funding to State universities, and to have private industry participate more actively in funding basic research and development.

The ANRF aims to establish a ₹50,000 crore corpus with ₹36,000 crore of it coming in from non-government sources. For the current financial year, the ANRF has been earmarked ₹2,000 crore in the Union Budget.

The 15-member Governing Board, as notified by the Ministry of Science and Technology, has only one industrialist – Romesh Wadhvani, an American billionaire of Indian origin and former CEO and chairperson of the Symphony Technology Group.

Prime Minister Modi's Vision for ANRF and Research Ecosystem:

Daily News Analysis

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first Governing Board meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
- He emphasised the need to overcome obstacles in India's research ecosystem and urged a focus on ambitious, innovative research.
- Modi highlighted that solutions to global problems should be localised to suit Indian needs.
- A 'hub and spoke model' program will pair nascent research universities with established institutions for mentorship.
- The Governing Board discussed strategic interventions, including India's global positioning, R&D alignment with national priorities, and promoting industry-aligned translational research.

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

- The ANRF aims to bridge academic research and industrial applications while fostering inclusive growth and innovation ecosystems.
- Conceived as a funding body, ANRF will boost science and engineering research and encourage private industry participation.
- It aims to establish a ₹50,000 crore corpus, with ₹36,000 crore from non-government sources.
- The ANRF has been allocated ₹2,000 crore for the current financial year.
- The Governing Body of ANRF is a 15-member panel, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It is responsible for overseeing strategic interventions, fostering research collaboration, and aligning R&D efforts with national priorities in India.

UPSC Mains PYQ : 2014

Ques : Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as our business operations, engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer oriented. Critically comment.

ANI has sued the Wikimedia Foundation for defamation over Wikipedia's description of the agency as a propagator of government propaganda.

- The Delhi High Court has demanded the identification of editors behind these claims and threatened to block Wikipedia if the Foundation does not comply.
- The case highlights issues of online content and censorship.

On ANI's defamation suit against Wikipedia

Why has the news agency *Asian News International* filed a lawsuit against the Wikimedia Foundation? What has the Delhi High Court asked the Foundation to reveal? Who can make and edit pages on the Wikipedia site? Will Wikipedia be blocked in India?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep.

The story so far:

The news agency ANI sued Wikipedia parent Wikimedia Foundation last month for defamation, due to a description of the news agency as a propagator of government propaganda on the website. Last week, a Delhi High Court judge threatened to order the government to block Wikipedia if the Foundation didn't provide details of the users who made these edits.

What does the page on ANI say?

When Wikipedia's page for the news agency *Asian News International* started reflecting new reporting scrutinising the firm's record in 2020, a back-and-forth edit war ensued among users — seasoned editors on one side, and largely new accounts that only edited the ANI page, according to public logs of changes made to the entry — for months. The agency, which largely syndicates video and text feeds from around the country to news channels and other outlets (including *The Hindu*), was described as "running [a] pro India fake news network aimed at influencing European think tank [sic] against Pakistan," a version of the article then read. Over time, this rough sentence in the page's introduction was smoothed out, annotated, and crystallised into what it says today: that the agency is "accused of having served as a propaganda tool for the incumbent central government, distributing materials from a vast network of fake news websites, and misreporting events on multiple occasions." ANI found the description, along with a longer section detailing these descriptions, defamatory. They sued the Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia, in the Delhi High Court earlier this year, seeking ₹2 crore in damages.

In statements to *The Hindu*, the Wikimedia Foundation has stood by the ANI page, saying that the descriptions in that entry are borne out by reliable sources (which include *The Diplomat*, the EU DisinfoLab, and *The Caravan* magazine). Users who have made more than 300 edits and have an account that is at least a month old are free to "improve" the page, the Foundation said.

What has the Delhi High Court ordered in the case so far?

At the second hearing on August 20, Justice Navin Chawla ordered the company to serve three of its users with a summons to appear in the case, and provide "details" about these users. The demand appeared to be aimed at unmasking the individual editors who made these changes, something that the Foundation has historically not done outside the U.S. Even as the non-profit communicated with ANI's lawyers shortly before the subsequent hearing on Thursday, the latter filed a contempt application. At the Thursday hearing, Mr. Chawla issued a verbal threat to order the Indian government to block Wikipedia if it did not comply. An "authorised representative" of the non-profit was directed to be personally present at the next hearing on October 25.

Does Wikipedia face lawsuits and censorship threats elsewhere?

Wikipedia has faced bans and lawsuits from around the world by individuals and organisations that have been aggrieved by descriptions of them. In Russia, Wikipedia editors have been targeted with arrests and intimidation since the beginning of

Wikipedia and some key numbers

In August this year, India recorded the fifth highest number of Wikipedia users — 78 crore — with United States leading the list followed by Japan, Great Britain and Germany. The "free encyclopedia" includes articles in all but two (Bodo and Dogri) of the 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Among them, the highest number of articles were in Urdu, at 2 lakh, followed by Tamil, at 1.5 lakh. Zooming out, globally, the English language had the highest number of articles, closely followed by Cebuano, a regional language spoken in the Philippines.

By The Hindu Data Team

Chart 1: The chart shows the countries with the largest number of Wikipedia users in August 2024

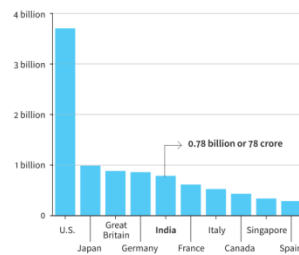


Chart 2: The chart lists the 23 languages spoken in India — including those in the Eighth Schedule — in which Wikipedia articles are available. The bigger the size of the rectangle, the more the number of articles

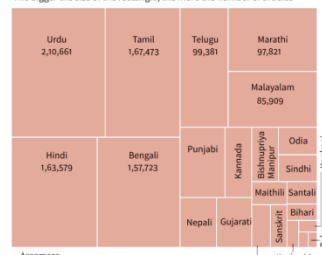
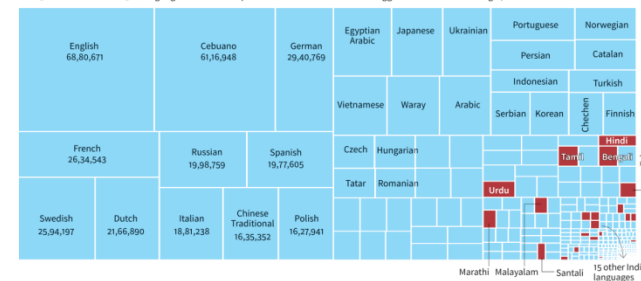


Chart 3: The chart lists the 320 languages in which Wikipedia articles are available. The bigger the size of the rectangle, the more the articles



that country's invasion of Ukraine. In 2019, a German court ordered the Foundation to remove records of an older version of an article about academic Alex Waibel; in the U.S., the firm routinely faces lawsuits, and nearly all cases have either been withdrawn or found in the non-profit's favour, due to the country's ironclad protections for web platforms.

The encyclopedia allows nearly anyone to edit posts, even without being logged in. However, some posts on contentious topics are restricted (sometimes for a long duration) to registered users with a track record of making contributions that have been upheld by other users. Norms on the site are decided by the community, and may be enforced unevenly, with articles on less notable subjects suffering from issues like advertising-like language.

Does Wikipedia content have an ideological bias?

The current policies followed by Wikipedia users do not have an explicit ideological flavour. These include guidelines such as having a "neutral point of view," only including "notable" information and having reliable sources decided by the community. However, the site is often accused of a progressive liberal bias, something that a few studies have also attested to.

Conservative grievances with

Wikipedia users' editorial slant have invariably become part of the discourse around the ANI-Wikipedia case. *OpIndia*, a right wing news portal that has covered the ANI lawsuit closely, has accused Wikipedia editors of propagating liberal "propaganda" on the site; has previously revealed the identity of an individual editor who started and contributed to the entry on the 2020 Delhi riots; and has criticised the site's description of the riots for allegedly downplaying attacks by Muslim rioters. The portal's editor on Sunday vowed to put out a detailed "dossier" outlining these allegations. Wikipedia's volunteer editors have had a general prohibition on *OpIndia* articles since 2009, with the site being described by a Wikipedia policy page on reliable sources by/for editors as "considered generally unreliable due to its poor reputation for fact-checking and accuracy".

Has Wikipedia faced criticism for content vandalism in India before?

Wikipedia has faced the Union government's ire at least once in the past due to vandalism. The cricketer Arshdeep Singh's page was briefly vandalised last year, and then Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the vandalism was inconsistent with the government's

principles for the Indian internet. The site's volunteers had quickly addressed the vandalism and restricted the page to experienced editors.

The site also suffers from a weakness under Indian law — unlike social media companies, it has no procedure in place to block access to articles after receiving a court order. In 2019, the Wikimedia Foundation termed a prior draft of the IT Rules, 2021, which enable such blocking orders, as having "the potential to limit free expression rights for internet users across the country".

Can Wikipedia be blocked?

However, Wikipedia may not be completely immune from arm-twisting or blocking. China, for instance, has had the site blocked for years. While Russia has not blocked the site, it has arrested volunteer editors of Russian-language Wikipedia, and told search engines to mark the site as a violator of Russian laws. Since Wikipedia content is licensed under what is called Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike Licence 4.0, its pages can be legally mirrored to a "fork" setup that can edit and censor its content as per government demands or individual biases. Ruwiki is an example of such a fork, which complies with Russian authorities' narratives on the Russia-Ukraine war.

THE GIST

ANI is described on Wikipedia as "accused of having served as a propaganda tool for the incumbent central government, distributing materials from a vast network of fake news websites, and misreporting events on multiple occasions."

At the second hearing on August 20, Justice Navin Chawla ordered the company to serve three of its users with a summons to appear in the case, and provide "details" about these users.

In statements to *The Hindu*, the Wikimedia Foundation has stood by the ANI page, saying that the descriptions in that entry are borne out by reliable sources (which include *The Diplomat*, the EU DisinfoLab, and *The Caravan* magazine).

Reasons for the Suit Filed by ANI:

- ANI sued the Wikimedia Foundation, alleging defamation due to a description on Wikipedia portraying it as a "propagator of government propaganda."
- ANI claimed that the page falsely depicted the agency as involved in distributing materials from fake news websites and misreporting events.
- The agency sought ₹2 crore in damages for the perceived harm to its reputation.

Concerns Raised by ANI:

- ANI highlighted concerns over Wikipedia's portrayal of its work, accusing the platform of facilitating unverified claims and unreliable sources.
- The defamation claim primarily focuses on ANI being labelled as a tool for government propaganda, which it disputes.

Delhi High Court's Involvement:

- The Delhi High Court, led by Justice Navin Chawla, ordered the Wikimedia Foundation to serve three Wikipedia users with summons, demanding their identification.
- The judge threatened to direct the Indian government to block access to Wikipedia if the Foundation didn't comply with these demands.

Potential Implications:

- This case raises concerns about freedom of speech and the potential for government intervention in online content.
- If Wikipedia is blocked, it could set a precedent for censorship in India, possibly leading to more lawsuits from individuals and organisations displeased with their portrayals.
- The case also highlights the tension between maintaining neutrality on Wikipedia and addressing allegations of bias and defamation.

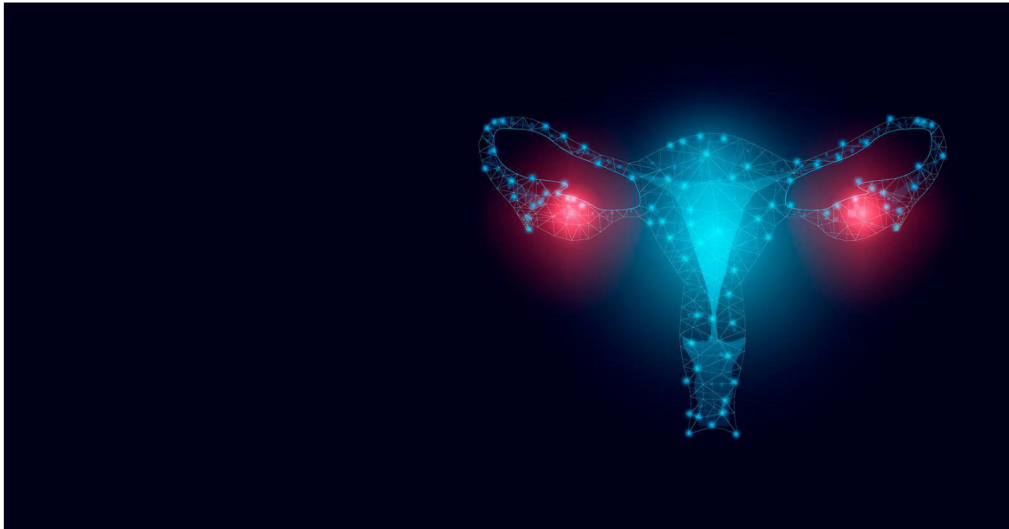
Global Context:

- Similar cases of censorship and lawsuits against Wikipedia have emerged in countries like Russia and China, where the site has been restricted or censored.

UPSC Mains PYQ : 2014

Ques : What do you understand about the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.

Ovarian cancer, often called a “silent killer,” has vague symptoms like bloating and pain.



GETTY IMAGES

Understanding ovarian cancer: its causes, symptoms, and screening methods

This September, during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, understanding the cancer's lesser-known facts – from subtle symptoms to genetic and lifestyle risks – can lead to earlier detection, personalised treatment, and preventive strategies

Anup Rawool
Vid Karmarkar

Note: The information in this article is provided as such and is not intended as medical advice. If you have any concerns, please consult your physician.

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecological malignancy. It is often called a “silent killer” because its symptoms are non-specific and mimic less serious conditions that lead to late diagnosis and a poor prognosis. In India, ovarian cancer ranks among the top three cancers, contributing to 6.6% of all women's cancers.

In 2022, India reported 47,333 new ovarian cancer cases and 32,978 deaths. These alarming figures highlight the gravity of the disease. Understanding lesser-known aspects of ovarian cancer can enhance prevention, early detection, and treatment efforts, offering hope to patients and healthcare providers.

Unlike other cancers, ovarian cancer presents vague symptoms such as bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, loss of appetite, feeling full quickly, and an urgent or frequent need to urinate. Other signs include indigestion, constipation, back pain, persistent fatigue, weight loss, and postmenopausal vaginal bleeding. These symptoms are often mistaken for common ailments, leading to late diagnosis. A 2004 study reported women with (malignant) ovarian cancer typically experience these symptoms 20 to 30 times a month, and which are more severe than those without the disease. Unfortunately, because of the overlapping nature of these symptoms with other common ailments, they can be dismissed until the cancer has advanced. Healthcare providers must be vigilant when women

report persistent symptoms.

Cancer subtypes and screening

Ovarian cancer is not a uniform disease. It has two main subtypes: type I and type II. Type I tumours are less common, typically diagnosed at an early stage, and have a better prognosis. Type II tumours are more common, more aggressive, usually diagnosed at an advanced stage, and are responsible for most deaths due to ovarian cancer.

The survival rate for patients with ovarian cancer depends on the stage of detection and access to appropriate treatment. Researchers reported in September 2022 that around 20% of patients with advanced ovarian cancer who receive optimal surgery and platinum-based chemotherapy could be disease-free at 10 years and might be considered potentially cured.

Unlike breast or cervical cancer, there are no effective screening tests for ovarian cancer. The CA125 blood test, often included in cancer screening packages, is not recommended for routine screening in women at average risk due to its limited specificity. While CA125 is useful to monitor ovarian cancer after diagnosis, it is less effective at screening asymptomatic women as it can lead to false positives and unnecessary further testing, anxiety, and potentially over-treatment.

Due to the absence of a reliable screening tool, awareness of risk factors and symptoms becomes crucial. Regular consultations with healthcare providers and discussions about family history can lead to earlier detection and better management of ovarian cancer.

Genes and endometriosis

While it's possible to develop ovarian cancer even without a family history of

breast or ovarian cancer, it's the most heritable of all cancers: 65-85% of hereditary ovarian cancer cases involve mutations in the BRCA1 or the BRCA2 genes. Women with these mutations have a significantly higher risk of developing ovarian cancer – up to 50% for BRCA1 and around 15% for BRCA2. Some other genes have also been associated with hereditary ovarian cancer.

Genetic testing allows for personalised risk management, including tailored clinical surveillance, chemoprevention, and prophylactic surgeries, which can reduce the risk of developing ovarian cancer in high-risk women. Endometriosis, a condition where uterine-like tissue grows outside the uterus, has been linked to an increased risk of certain types of ovarian cancer, particularly endometrioid and clear-cell cancers. This said, endometriosis-linked ovarian cancer risk is low and radical measures, such as a bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy, to prevent ovarian cancer alone are rarely justified.

Lifestyle factors

Certain lifestyle factors are linked to ovarian cancer risk. For example, the use of talcum powder in the genital area has long been debated, with mixed evidence about its potential link to ovarian cancer. In the past, some talc products contained asbestos, a known carcinogen, but the evidence regarding modern, asbestos-free talc is still inconclusive. Experts including the American Cancer Society have called for more research to settle these questions. Another emerging area of concern is the use of chemical hair products. Some studies have shown a possible link between the prolonged use of hair dyes and an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

Additionally, frequent use of hair straighteners, relaxers or pressing products that release formaldehyde gas – a known carcinogen – may elevate the risk of developing ovarian cancer. Again, more research is required.

HRT, menopause, and genetic counselling

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), commonly used to alleviate menopausal symptoms, has been linked to a higher risk of ovarian cancer even when used for less than five years. Postmenopausal women considering HRT should weigh this risk against the benefits and explore alternatives with their healthcare provider to make informed decisions.

For women with a family history of ovarian or breast cancer, genetic counselling is a valuable tool. This process helps identify individuals at risk for hereditary cancers and provides tailored guidance on preventive measures and potential treatments. Through personalised risk management strategies, genetic counselling can improve outcomes and help reduce the likelihood of developing ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer may be elusive, but knowledge is power. This September, during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, understanding its lesser-known facts – from subtle symptoms to genetic and lifestyle risks – can lead to earlier detection, personalised treatment, and preventive strategies. Empower yourself and others with this knowledge – it can save lives.

Anup Rawool is a Clinical and Cancer Geneticist and the founder of Sahaj Genetics Clinic, Comprehensive Medical Genetics & Counselling Center. Vid Karmarkar is the founder and CEO of Canseva Foundation.

➔ It lacks effective screening tests, with the CA125 blood test not recommended for routine use.

- Genetic factors and lifestyle choices influence risk, with no standard early detection methods available.

Ovarian Cancer:

Is ovarian cancer a silent killer?



• Individuals may not show specific symptoms in the early stages due to similarities with other common conditions



What can increase the risk?

1. Middle-aged (above 40 years old)
2. Evidence in your family history
3. Obesity
4. Smoking
5. Early menarche or late menopause



Symptoms

1. Vaginal bleeding
2. Pelvic or stomach pain
3. Abdominal bloating
4. Frequent urination
5. Loss of appetite
6. Abnormal vaginal discharge



How to potentially reduce the risk?

1. Usage of combined contraceptive pills
2. Having children
3. Breastfeeding
4. Hysterectomy

c

Causes:

- **Genetics:** Changes in certain genes can greatly increase the risk of ovarian cancer.
- **Endometriosis:** A condition where tissue similar to the uterus grows outside it can slightly increase the risk of some ovarian cancers.
- **Lifestyle Factors:** Using talcum powder or certain hair products might be linked to ovarian cancer. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) might also raise the risk.

Symptoms:

- **Common Signs:** Feeling bloated, pain in the lower abdomen or pelvis, losing appetite, feeling full quickly, needing to urinate often, and having back pain. Other signs include tiredness, weight loss, and bleeding after menopause.
- **Symptom Frequency:** Women with ovarian cancer might have these symptoms 20-30 times a month, and they are usually more intense than common ailments.

Screening Methods:

- **No Regular Tests:** There are no standard tests for early detection like those for other cancers.

- **CA125 Test:** This test can help monitor the disease after it's diagnosed but isn't reliable for screening healthy women because it might give false positives.



Term In News : Nilgiri Mountain Railway

NASA recently captivated space enthusiasts with a breathtaking image of the Red Spider Nebula.



About Nebula:

- ▶ A nebula is a giant cloud of dust and gas in space.
- ▶ Some nebulae (more than one nebula) come from the gas and dust thrown out by the explosion of a dying star, such as a Supernova.
- ▶ Other nebulae are regions where new stars are beginning to form. For this reason, some nebulae are called "star nurseries."

How do stars form in a nebula?

- ▶ Nebulae are made of dust and gases—mostly hydrogen and helium.
- ▶ The dust and gases in a nebula are very spread out, but gravity can slowly begin to pull together clumps of dust and gas.
- ▶ As these clumps get bigger and bigger, their gravity gets stronger and stronger.
- ▶ Eventually, the clump of dust and gas gets so big that it collapses from its own gravity.
- ▶ The collapse causes the material at the center of the cloud to heat up—and this hot core is the beginning of a star.
- ▶ Nebulae exist in the space between the stars—also known as interstellar space.
- ▶ The closest known nebula to Earth is called the Helix Nebula. It is approximately 700 light-years away from Earth.

- Nebulas come in many shapes and sizes and can be further divided into several subcategories, including planetary nebulas, supernova remnants, dark nebulas, and emission nebulas.

Red Spider Nebula:

- It is a planetary nebula located 3,000 light-years from Earth and can be found in the constellation of Sagittarius.
- It harbours one of the hottest stars known, which heats the gas around it to form shockwaves 62 billion miles (100 billion km) high.



UAE-India ties are rooted in affinity, trust and respect

During the visit of Sheikh Khaled, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, to Delhi this week, there was one engagement that had emblematic significance for him and for the ties between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India.

Visiting Rajghat, His Highness planted a tree in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, following the example of his father, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, in 2016, and his grandfather, the founding president of our country, Sheikh Zayed, in 1992.

The three trees, planted by three generations of the past, current and future leaders of our country, within the span of three decades, will stand side by side, a symbol of the deeply-rooted and growing ties between our two countries: embedded in the past but reaching towards the future. At first glance, our countries appear to be very different. India is almost 40 times larger than the UAE in size and is also the most populous country in the world. There are more than 1,000 Indian citizens for every Emirati citizen. Our economies too are founded on different strengths: agriculture is a key pillar of India's economy, for example, but only makes up less than 1% of the UAE's GDP. And while we both emerged as modern nations in the 20th century, our histories and governance are very different. Yet, the strongest ties between nations are those where common interests and values are enriched by complementary strengths and diversity, embracing difference rather than seeking to paper over it.

Deep connections, of people and progress

The secret of the success – and distinctiveness – of the UAE-India relationship is the way it is rooted in affinity, trust and respect, derived from generations of human connections. Just as trees depend on strong roots to draw the water and



Reem Al Hashimy

the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Minister of State for International Cooperation and the UAE Special Envoy to the Republic of India

Given their long history of connections, the two countries are determined to keep growing and innovating together

nutrients they need for growth and to hold them fast in tough times, partnerships between nations must have these qualities in order to thrive.

Ours has always been a relationship about people and progress. The first trade links between the Arabian Gulf and India go back thousands of years, as people, goods and ideas crossed back and forth across the ocean. Pottery discovered in recent archaeological excavations in Abu Dhabi shows connections to the Indus Valley civilisations of more than four millennia ago. In my parents' time, many Emiratis travelled to India for medical treatment, and when my children catch the typical colds and flus of childhood, I turn to Indian homoeopathic medicine first, before other remedies.

Strength of the expatriate community

The UAE is home to more than 3.5 million Indians, the largest expatriate community in our country. Our success is built on our leaders' far-sighted commitment to tolerance, inclusion and the empowerment of women and minorities, and we are grateful for the contribution Indian nationals make to the strength and vibrancy of our economy. The degree of connectivity between our countries can be seen in the simple fact that there are more than 1,500 flights between the UAE and India every single week.

When a relationship is founded on respect and a sincere inclination towards partnership and collaboration, there is no limit to what can be achieved. In February 2022, India became the first country with which the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Trade negotiations often take years, if not decades, and are sometimes abandoned due to insurmountable differences. We were able to agree our partnership agreement within six months, because of the trust and affinity at the

heart of our relationship. In its first year of operation, our bilateral trade jumped by over 15%. We have signed billions of rupees of additional investment deals, and plan to go much further.

Sheikh Khaled recently attended the inauguration of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Abu Dhabi, which is the first overseas branch of the prestigious university. We have exchanged agreements on topics including health innovation and renewable energy, crucial to our nations' and the world's future. During the Crown Prince's visit, further co-operation agreements will be signed, including on civil nuclear technology: a domestic success story for the Emirates, but one rooted in international co-operation. India's research into nuclear desalination to produce clean drinking water – which has obvious importance for a desert country such as the UAE – is one example of the many opportunities which our partnership can enable advances not just in green energy production but also in medical technology, scientific research, agriculture and industry.

Ties that will flourish

Like his grandfather, Sheikh Khaled planted an amaltas tree, *Cassia fistula*. His father, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, planted the mousari tree (*Mimusops elengi*). Amaltas trees grow fast, embodying opportunity and renewal, while the slower-growing mousari points us to the virtues of stability and patient trust. As the UAE and India continue to develop our comprehensive strategic partnership, these different qualities symbolise our approach. We can have confidence in our mutual affinity and respect and our long history of connection, but also be determined to keep growing and innovating together, renewing our partnership and finding new ways to flourish.

GS Paper 02 : International Relations – Bilateral Relations

PYQ: (UPSC CSE (M) GS-2 2022): How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics ?

UPSC Mains Practice Question Discuss the evolving India-UAE relationship, highlighting its historical roots, economic partnerships, and strategic significance in the contemporary geopolitical landscape. (250 w /15 m)

Context :

- The recent visit of the UAE Crown Prince to India highlighted the enduring ties between the two nations, symbolised by the planting of trees at Rajghat.
- Despite differences in size and economy, both countries share a strong bond of mutual respect, trust, and collaboration across various sectors.

Growing Ties Between India-UAE

- During a recent visit to Delhi, a symbolic gesture of planting a tree at Rajghat reflected the deep ties between two countries.
- This tradition has been carried out by three generations of the UAE's leadership over three decades, marking a connection rooted in history but reaching towards the future.
- Despite differences in size, population, and economic focus, the countries' relationship is based on shared values, mutual respect, and complementary strengths.

Roots of Affinity, Trust, and Respect

- The UAE-India relationship is based on long-standing trust, respect, and human connections.
- Ancient trade links between the Arabian Gulf and India date back thousands of years, with archaeological evidence showing ties to the Indus Valley civilization.
- Over time, many Emiratis travelled to India for medical treatment, and even today, Indian homoeopathic medicine is valued.
- This deep-rooted relationship has been nurtured by generations, and like a tree, it draws strength from these shared human connections.

Contribution of the Indian Expatriate Community

- With over 3.5 million Indians living in the UAE, they form the largest expatriate community in the country.
- The UAE's success is built on principles of tolerance, inclusion, and empowerment of minorities, with Indian expatriates playing a vital role in its economy.
- The high degree of connectivity between the two countries is reflected in the more than 1,500 weekly flights between them.

Strong Bilateral Economic Ties

- The economic partnership between the UAE and India has led to significant achievements.
- In February 2022, India became the first country with which the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Unlike most trade negotiations, which often take years, this agreement was reached within six months, reflecting the high level of trust between the two nations.
- The CEPA has already led to a 15% increase in bilateral trade within the first year, with future plans for further investments.

Expanding Educational and Technological Cooperation

- The recent opening of an overseas branch of a prestigious Indian university in Abu Dhabi highlights the educational ties between the UAE and India.
- Cooperation between the two countries also extends to areas such as health innovation and renewable energy, which are vital for their future development.
- The partnership will soon expand into civil nuclear technology, with India's expertise in nuclear desalination offering promising solutions for the UAE's water needs.

Symbolism of the Tree Planting

- The Crown Prince planted an amaltas tree, known for its fast growth and embodiment of opportunity and renewal.
- His father had planted the slower-growing mousari tree, symbolising stability and patient trust.
- Together, these trees represent the balance of innovation and stability in the UAE-India partnership, with a shared commitment to growth, renewal, and flourishing together.

Conclusion: Confidence in Mutual Growth

- The UAE and India's comprehensive strategic partnership is built on strong historical connections, mutual respect, and shared values.
- Both nations are committed to continuing their growth and innovation, with confidence in the stability and opportunities that their partnership offers for the future.