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# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

## Current Affairs - 17 April 2025



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### WAVES 2025 - ANTI-PIRACY CHALLENGE



- The **Anti-Piracy Challenge** is a **flagship initiative** under the **Create in India Challenge**, part of **WAVES** (World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit) 2025.
- Organized by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India, WAVES 2025 will be held from **May 1–4, 2025**, in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The challenge aims to **advance technologies like fingerprinting and watermarking** to combat the rising threat of **digital piracy** in India.

### About WAVES 2025

- **WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit)** is a global event organized by the **Government of India**.
- It aims to position India as a **hub for media innovation, IP creation, and content development**.
- Sectors covered include:
  - **Broadcasting, Films, TV, Radio, Animation, Gaming, Comics, Advertising,** and
  - Emerging tech like **Generative AI, Augmented/Virtual/Extended Reality (AR/VR/XR)** and **Digital Media Platforms**.
- Supports the **Creative Economy**, which is valued at **\$30 billion** and employs **nearly 8%** of India's workforce.
- Contributes to the growth of India's **Media and Entertainment (M&E) sector**, projected to reach **\$44.2 billion by 2028**, currently the **5th largest globally**.

## WHILE EXPORTS TO US SOAR, INDIA'S RELIANCE ON CHINESE IMPORTS DEEPENS

In 2024–25, the US remained India's **largest trading partner** for the fourth consecutive year, with bilateral trade reaching \$131.84 billion. China retained its position as the second-largest partner, with trade growing to \$127.7 billion.

However, India's trade deficit with China widened significantly to \$99.2 billion, a 17% increase from the previous year.

Historically, China was India's top trading partner between 2013–14 and 2017–18, and again in 2020–21. The US has held the top spot since 2021–22.

### **India–US Trade Registers Strong Growth in FY25**

- **Top Indian Exports to the US in 2024–25**
  - Drug formulations & biologicals – \$8.1 billion
  - Telecom instruments – \$6.5 billion
  - Precious & semi-precious stones – \$5.3 billion
  - Petroleum products – \$4.1 billion
  - Gold & precious metal jewellery – \$3.2 billion
  - Readymade garments (mostly cotton) – \$2.8 billion
  - Iron & steel products – \$2.7 billion
- **Major US Exports to India in 2024–25**
  - Crude oil – \$4.5 billion
  - Petroleum products – \$3.6 billion
  - Coal & coke – \$3.4 billion
  - Cut & polished diamonds – \$2.6 billion
  - Electric machinery – \$1.4 billion
  - Aircraft, spacecraft & parts – \$1.3 billion
  - Gold – \$1.3 billion

- **Future Outlook: Targeting \$500 Billion by 2030**
  - India and the US are **negotiating a trade agreement** aimed at boosting bilateral trade.
  - The shared goal: **increase total trade to \$500 billion by 2030**, up from the current **\$191 billion**.

### China Remains India's Second-Largest Trading Partner

- In 2024–25, India–China bilateral trade rose to \$127.7 billion, up from \$118.4 billion in 2023–24.
- China continues as India's second-largest trading partner, after the US.
- **Trade Deficit with China Widens Sharply**
  - **India's exports to China** fell by **14.5%**, dropping to **\$14.25 billion** (from \$16.66 billion).
  - **Imports from China** surged by **11.52%** to **\$113.45 billion** (from \$101.73 billion).
  - This caused India's **trade deficit with China to widen by 17%**, reaching **\$99.2 billion**, up from \$85.07 billion in the previous year.

### Conclusion

India's trade landscape is undergoing a steady transformation, marked by deepening economic ties with the US and persistent trade challenges with China.

While the US has emerged as India's largest trading partner, offering significant export growth and a widening trade surplus, China continues to dominate as a key supplier, leading to a growing trade deficit.

As India seeks to bolster its global economic standing, strategic partnerships with nations like the US and UAE are becoming more crucial.

## SHAPING A RESPONSE TO THE U.S.'S RECIPROCAL TARIFFS

- **India's Export Vulnerabilities**
- India's economic structure reveals **moderate exposure to U.S.-bound exports**.
- Despite a longstanding trade relationship, **India's exports to the U.S. have been in decline and remain a relatively small component of GDP**.
- This **dampens the overall macroeconomic impact of the 26% reciprocal tariff**. However, sector-specific vulnerabilities persist.
- **Key exports likely to be affected include:**
  - Electrical machinery
  - Machinery and mechanical appliances
  - Made-up textiles
  - Gems and jewellery (minimal due to inelastic demand)
  - Mineral fuels (mainly re-exports)
- Crucially, **India's export competitors, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Bangladesh**—are also subjected to **high reciprocal tariffs**, somewhat levelling the playing field.
- Notably, **South Korea, another competitor in electronics, faces a comparable 25% tariff**.
- This shared burden among major exporters may **mitigate relative losses** for Indian producers.

### How Can India Calibrate Its Response to US Tariff

- **A Multi-Dimensional Approach**
  - A **retaliatory tariff war**, as witnessed in the U.S.-China standoff (with China facing tariff rates up to 245%), would be counterproductive.
  - **India's imports from the U.S. largely consist of essential goods**. Levying **additional duties would only raise domestic prices** without significantly hurting the U.S.

- Instead, **India can tactically reduce its reciprocal tariff rate by increasing imports from the U.S.**, especially in non-sensitive sectors such as petroleum.
- **Proactive Consultations**
  - Simultaneously, **India should initiate proactive consultations with U.S. trade officials** to explore a broader trade framework that accommodates the strategic interests of both nations.
  - Meanwhile, **India must remain vigilant against ‘dumping’ from countries adversely affected by the U.S. tariffs**, particularly China.
- **Sector-Specific Protection and Prioritisation**
  - **India must also analyse which sectors are most vulnerable** to the increased tariffs and act to cushion the impact.
  - For example, **electrical machinery, mechanical appliances, and made-up textiles are likely to suffer** due to the added tariff burden.

### The Role of the WTO and the Need for Global Reform

- **The unpredictability** ushered in by Trump’s tariff regime **underscores a deeper crisis in the global trading order.**
- A **fragmented tariff system governed by bilateral skirmishes threatens the stability of international commerce.**
- The **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**, as the custodian of multilateral trade, **must take the lead in restoring equilibrium.**
- A movement toward universally low and **rational tariff structures is imperative for fostering global economic growth.**
- While regional trade blocs may offer temporary relief, **they are inherently suboptimal compared to a cohesive global trading system.**
- The **WTO must spearhead reforms that reinforce the principles of fairness, transparency, and cooperation.**



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### EXERCISE DUSTLIK-VI



- Exercise DUSTLIK is an annual bilateral military exercise conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan, with the previous edition (DUSTLIK-V) held in Termez District, Uzbekistan in April 2024.
- The first edition was held in November 2019 in Uzbekistan, marking the beginning of a structured defence partnership.
- Participants and Representation
  - The Indian contingent consists of 60 personnel, including troops from a battalion of the JAT Regiment and the Indian Air Force (IAF).
  - The Uzbekistan contingent is represented by troops from the Uzbekistan Army, reflecting their ongoing military cooperation with India.

### Theme and Focus of DUSTLIK-VI

- The central theme of DUSTLIK-VI is “Joint Multi-Domain Sub-Conventional Operations in a Semi-Urban Scenario”.
- The exercise simulates response mechanisms to terrorist activities, specifically territorial capture by hostile forces, with coordinated joint battalion-level operations.

### TYPE 5 DIABETES



- Type 5 diabetes primarily affects lean, undernourished teenagers and young adults in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- It is caused by malnutrition-induced reduction in insulin production, unlike Type 2 diabetes, which involves insulin resistance with continuing insulin secretion.

- In **Type 5**, the **pancreatic beta cells** function abnormally, resulting in **severely reduced insulin secretion**.
- This form of diabetes has long been **neglected in medical research** and often **misdiagnosed**.

### Historical Background

- The condition was **first reported in Jamaica** in **1955** under the term **J-type diabetes**.
- In **1985**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** named it “**malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus**”, but this was removed in **1999** due to **lack of causal evidence** linking malnutrition to diabetes.
- Despite this, similar cases were later reported in **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Korea**, mostly in the **Global South**.
- The condition is estimated to affect **about 25 million people globally**.

### Clinical Markers of Type 5 Diabetes

- **No autoimmune or genetic cause** is associated with this condition.
- Patients have **very low BMI (<18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)**, much lower than typical Type 2 diabetic patients.
- **Insulin levels are extremely low**, significantly below Type 2 diabetes and slightly above Type 1 diabetes.
- **Body fat percentage** is substantially lower than in Type 2 patients.
- **Dietary intake of protein, fibre, and micronutrients** is notably inadequate.



### MACGREGOR MEMORIAL MEDAL

Five military personnel were recently conferred the MacGregor Memorial Medal by Chief of Defence Staff for outstanding contributions in military reconnaissance, exploration and adventure for the years 2023 and 2024.

- It was **instituted on 03 July 1888** to commemorate the memory of **Gen. Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor**, the **founder of the United Service Institution of India (USI)**.
- Initially this medal was awarded for **military reconnaissance and journeys of exploration** such as British Army expeditions in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Tibet, and Burma.
- **After independence**, it was decided to award this medal for **adventure activities as well**.
- The medal is **open to all ranks, serving and retired, of the Indian Armed Forces, Territorial Army, and Assam Rifles**.
- Among the **notable recipients** of this in the past are **Capt F E Younghusband (1890)**, **Maj. Gen. Orde Charles Wingate (1943)**, **ZC Bakshi, VrC (1949)**, **Col. Narinder Kumar for Siachen Glacier exploration (1978-81)** and **Cdr. Dilip Donde and Lt. Cdr. Abhilash Tomy** for their solo global circumnavigations.

### What is the United Service Institution of India (USI)?

- It is a **national security and defence services think tank** based in **New Delhi**,
- It was **founded in Shimla in 1870** by **Col. (later Maj Gen) Charles Metcalf MacGregor**, to advance military knowledge and professional development among British Indian Army officers.
- It is the **oldest autonomous think tank in India**.
- Its mission encompassed promoting knowledge in the art, science, and literature of national security, with a particular focus on the Defence Services.



### SILKYARA BEND-BARKOT TUNNEL

- It is a **531 km long, two-lane bi-directional tunnel** with



an **escape passage**, located on the **Dharasu-Yamunotri** section in **Uttarakhand**.

- Barkot and Silkyara are the two ends of the tunnel.
- **Part of NH-134** (formerly NH-94), the project is being **constructed under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Mode**.
- **Around ninety percent** of the tunnel is being excavated in **phyllite**, which is **very weak rock**.
- **The New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)** is used for the construction of the tunnel.
- NATM is a method of modern tunnel design and construction employing sophisticated monitoring to optimize various wall reinforcement techniques based on the type of rock encountered as tunnelling.
- **Funded** under the National Highway (Original) [NH(O)] Scheme of the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**, it is a **key component** of the ambitious **Chardham Plan**.
- It promises to cut travel time by about an hour and improve accessibility, particularly during adverse weather conditions.
- **Yamunotri** is just about **50 km** from this tunnel. It will provide easy access to devotees to **Badrinath and Kedarnath**.