UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

- The **UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN)**, with the **primary responsibility** of maintaining **international peace and security**.
- Under the **UN Charter**, all member states must **comply with UNSC decisions**.
- It determines **threats to peace**, recommends **settlement methods**, imposes **sanctions**, and authorizes **military actions**.

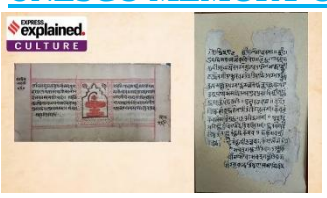
Structure and Membership

- The **UNSC consists of 15 members**, each having **one vote**.
- **Five permanent members (P5)** with **veto power**:
  - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **Ten non-permanent members**, elected by the **UN General Assembly** for **two-year terms**, with equitable **geographical representation**:
  - **5 from Africa/Asia**, **1 from Eastern Europe**, **2 from Latin America**, and **2 from Western Europe/others**
- The UNSC is headquartered at the United Nations Headquarters in **New York City**.

G4 Nations' Position and India's Advocacy

- **India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan (G4)** are actively advocating UNSC reform. At a recent IGN meeting, **India's Permanent Representative** declared the **current UNSC structure outdated**, no longer reflecting **contemporary geopolitical realities**.
- The **G4 proposal** calls for:
  - Expanding the Council from **15 to 25 or 26 members**
  - Including **11 permanent members** and **14–15 non-permanent members**
  - Encouraging **Member States to submit models** to enable **formal negotiations.**

UNESCO MEMORY OF THE WORLD (MOW) PROGRAMME



Recently, UNESCO has added manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra to the Memory of the World (MoW) Register in 2025.

The **MoW Programme** was launched by **UNESCO in 1992** with the goal of **preserving global documentary heritage** and preventing what it called **"collective amnesia."**

- It aims to **safeguard rare documents**, including **manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual content, and archive materials**, of **global and universal value**.
- According to UNESCO, this **documentary heritage should be preserved, protected, and permanently accessible to all**, while respecting cultural practices.
- The **MoW Register** serves as a **global compendium of such heritage**, and is **updated biennially** (every two years).
- As of 2025, the Register contains **570 entries**, including:
    - The **Mahavamsa** (Sri Lanka's ancient chronicle),
    - **Shaiva Siddhanta manuscripts** (India),
    - **Auschwitz trial recordings** (Germany),

India's Contributions to the MoW Register

- India has made **13 contributions**, including **two joint submissions**:
    - **Rig Veda** (added in 2005),
    - **Works of Abhinavagupta**, the Shaivite philosopher (added in 2023),
    - **Archives of the Non-Aligned Movement's first summit in Belgrade, 1961** (joint submission),
    - **Dutch East India Company archives** (joint submission).
- In 2025, two new **Indian manuscripts were added**, both preserved at the **Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune**:
    - **Natyashastra** by **Bharata Muni**
    - **Bhagavad Gita**, attributed to **Vyasa.**

NISAR

- **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** is a **joint Earth observation satellite mission** developed by **NASA** and **ISRO** under a **bilateral agreement signed in 2014**.
- The satellite is scheduled for **launch in June 2025** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, Andhra Pradesh, aboard **ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II)**.
- It marks the **first-ever collaboration of its kind** between India and the United States in **radar-based Earth monitoring from space**.
- **NISAR aims to map the entire Earth's surface every 12 days**, enabling high-frequency, precise, and repeat observations.
- It will monitor **ecosystem changes, ice sheet dynamics, vegetation patterns, sea level rise**, and **groundwater variation**, and will track **natural hazards** like **earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and landslides**.

Key Features and Components

Feature	Details
Thermal blanketing	Uses **gold-coloured thermal blankets** to maintain the satellite's optimal temperature.
Radar payload	Core instrument for capturing **Earth surface movement** and **geophysical changes**.
Spacecraft bus	Supports **power generation, communication, navigation**, and **attitude control**.
Antenna and Reflector	Equipped with a **12-metre drum-shaped wire mesh reflector**, the **largest in space**, to enhance signal focus and surface imaging precision.

Technological Advancements

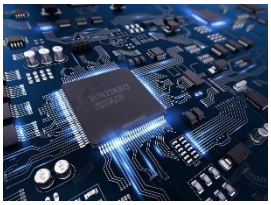
- **Dual Radar System**: NISAR is the first satellite to **use two radar frequencies simultaneously** — L-band (NASA) and S-band (ISRO).
    - **L-band Radar**: Penetrates **dense forests and soil**, useful for **volcanic and seismic zone monitoring**.
    - **S-band Radar**: Offers **higher resolution surface imaging**, operating at 2–4 GHz frequency and 8–15 cm wavelength, ideal for **urban and terrain analysis**.

ARTICLE 142

- **Article 142** empowers the **Supreme Court** to pass any **order or decree** necessary for **complete justice** in any **pending case** before it. This power is **discretionary** and **unique** to the apex court.
- The **concept of complete justice** means ensuring justice beyond technicalities by **filling legislative gaps**, and interpreting or even overriding laws when necessary to protect **constitutional values**, **fundamental rights**, and **social welfare**.
- The **framers of the Constitution**, especially **B.R. Ambedkar**, intentionally entrusted this extraordinary power **only to the Supreme Court**. The jurisprudence under Article 142 has developed over **50+ years**, with the Court maintaining **self-imposed limits**.
- **Article 142** elevates the Supreme Court's role as the **guardian of the Constitution**, enabling it to **intervene** in cases involving **public interest**, **human rights**, or **democratic breakdown**, ensuring justice where legislative or executive action is lacking.
- The Article strengthens **democracy** by protecting the **rights of minorities**, ensuring **equal treatment** before the law, and acting as a **check on executive and legislative overreach**.

- Article 142 promotes **judicial innovation** by allowing the Court to create **guidelines** and direct **government authorities**, especially in cases involving **public interest and constitutional values**.
- The **lack of a clear definition** of "**complete justice**" can lead to **subjectivity**, **inconsistent rulings**, and **unaccountable discretion**. This raises concerns under the **basic structure doctrine**, particularly **separation of powers**.

SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)



- It refers to a **manufacturing technique** where **electronic components are directly applied to the surface of a printed circuit board (PCB).**
- SMT, developed in the 1960s and 1970s, **replaced conventional through-hole technology (THT),** producing more compact, economical, and efficient electronic devices.
- This method **enables automated production** to conduct a more extensive assembly, resulting in the creation of a fully functional circuit board.
- **Any electronic element installed in this manner** is identified as a s**urface-mounted component (SMD).**
- In opposition to conventional manufacturing techniques, **SMT removes the necessity for elements to be placed through apertures;** rather, **elements are attached** to the board **via the process of soldering.**
    - The two main soldering techniques are **reflow soldering and wave soldering.**
    - Assembling PCBs using SMT involves various **steps like solder paste application, component placement, reflow soldering, and cleaning.**
- SMT is used in many industries like consumer electronics, medical, and aerospace industries.

THT vs. SMT:

- As compared to THT, SMT has **cheaper production costs**, i**ncreased component density,** and **superior electrical performance**. But the **initial cost is high,** and it is **difficult to repair.**
- The **process** for SMT production setup **is faster** when compared to THT. This is because components are mounted using solder paste instead of drilled holes. It saves time and labor-intensive work.
- **SMT supports microelectronics** by allowing more components to be placed closer together on the board. This **leads to designs that are more lightweight and compact.**
- **Simplicity**: **In THT, lead wires pass through the holes** to connect components. Because **SMT components are soldered** right onto the PCB, the overall makeup is **far less complex.**
- The **heat dissipated in SMT is also less** than through-hole components.

STEERING THE DECARBONISATION OF INDIA'S LOGISTICS SECTOR

- **India's vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat**, a developed nation by 2047, **is rooted not only in economic ambition but in the inclusive and sustainable upliftment of its people, businesses**, and regions.
- **Realising this vision necessitates a robust, efficient, and future-ready logistics sector** that can fuel equitable development across the country.

Steps Required Towards Green Transformation in Logistics Sector

- **Innovations in Road, Maritime, and Air Logistics**
  - Despite the environmental drawbacks, **road freight will remain an integral part of India's logistics network.**
  - Therefore**, it is imperative to make road transport cleaner.**

- **Coastal Shipping and Inland Waterways**
    - The International Maritime Organization's goal of **cutting shipping emissions by 50% by 2050** has catalysed global momentum toward adopting cleaner fuels.
    - **India, too, can lead by investing in LNG-powered vessels**, solar-electric boats, and biofuel-run barges, steps that will not only decarbonise transport but also stimulate innovation in green maritime technologies.

The Way Forward

- **Adoption of Renewable Energy**
    - **Warehousing,** often overshadowed by transport in emissions discussions, **is another major source of carbon emissions due to its heavy energy usage.**
    - To reduce its carbon footprint, **India must prioritise the adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar,** wind, and geothermal power within warehouse operations.
- **Toward a Future-Ready, Sustainable Logistics Network**
    - **The decarbonisation of India's logistics sector offers the country a chance to redefine its logistics landscape** by making it more competitive, resilient, and aligned with global sustainability standards.
    - **By investing in electrified rail and road networks, cleaner fuels for shipping**, and energy-efficient warehousing, **India can build a logistics infrastructure that supports both economic growth and environmental stewardship.**

Conclusion

- The road to a **greener logistics future is already under construction.**
- **What remains is the political will, strategic investment**, and collaborative action to accelerate this transition.
- As India charts its path toward Viksit Bharat, **the logistics sector must not lag behind but lead the charge, efficiently, inclusively, and sustainably.**

INDIA'S SILENT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS - A CALL FOR URGENT REFORM AND EMPATHY

The Hidden Epidemic of Youth Mental Health:

- **Startling statistics:**
  - Over 40,000 student **suicides** in the last 5 years (NCRB) - over 20 daily.
  - **1 in 10** adolescents suffers from a **mental health disorder** (National Mental Health Survey, 2016).
  - India allocates **less than 0.5%** of its total health budget to **mental health**.
  - India has **over 250 million people below age 20**, making the underinvestment a serious crisis.
- **Post-pandemic impact:**
  - COVID-19 **exacerbated emotional distress** among adolescents.
  - **Digital dependency** and **compulsive social media** use during lockdown led to:
    - **Online validation** replacing self-esteem.
    - **Unrealistic** beauty and **success standards**.
    - Increased **performance anxiety** and **emotional insecurity**.

Cultural and Social Pressures on Mental Health:

- **The influence of online culture:**
  - Social media contributes to **comparison culture**, fear of missing out (**FOMO**), and **digital burnout.**
  - **Netflix** series **Adolescence** highlights gaps in youth support systems.
- **Rise of toxic masculinity:**
  - Influencers promoting **dominance, aggression, and emotional suppression** harm both boys and girls.
  - Boys are discouraged from showing vulnerability or seeking help.
  - Urgent need to redefine **masculinity around empathy**, emotional expression, and resilience.

The Need for Systemic and Cultural Reform:

- **Education system reforms:**
  - Mental health support must be integrated into **school infrastructure** - trained counsellors, preventive programmes, and emotional education
  - **Teach digital literacy** and **emotional intelligence** to combat negative online influences.
- **Budget and infrastructure:**
  - **Increase mental health budget** allocation significantly.
  - **Expand services to rural** and underserved areas.
  - Address shortage of trained professionals and weak infrastructure.

The Road Ahead - Policy and Empathy:

- **National priority:**
  - Addressing youth mental health is not merely a health issue, but a **developmental imperative**.
  - Inaction leads to **lost potential, lost futures, and lost lives**.
- **Civil society and government responsibility:** India must listen with **empathy**, invest with **urgency**, and act with **compassion**.

Conclusion - A Call to Action:

- India's youth need more than academic goals and digital success.
- They need emotional support, safe spaces, and a society that values mental well-being.
- **If we call them the future, we must protect their present**. The choice is ours - silence or solidarity.