



# NEWS ANALYSIS

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

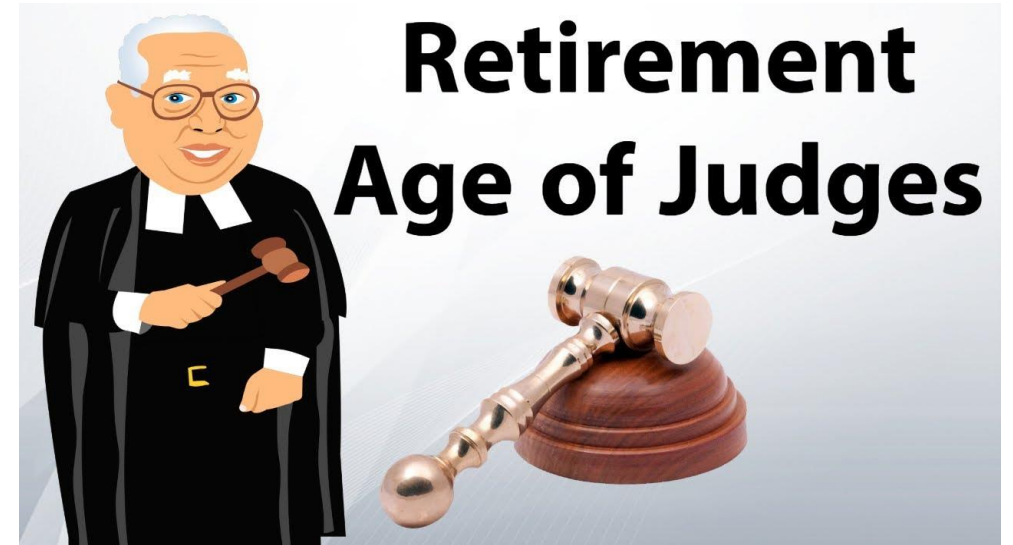
# Today's prelims practice Question

Who among the following have the power to increase the retirement age of judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court of India?

- a) Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice
- b) President
- c) Parliament
- d) Supreme Court collegium

# Explanation

- ❑ Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years, and judges of the 25 high courts in the country retire at 62 years.
- ❑ The Constitution, 114th Amendment Bill was introduced in 2010 to increase the retirement age of high court judges to 65 years. However, it was not taken up for consideration in Parliament and lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.



# Today's prelims practice Question

Q)The recently formed 'Middle Eastern Quad' consists of which of the following countries

1.India

2.Israel

3.USA

4.Saudi Arabia

5.UAE

Select the correct answer code:

a) 1, 2, 3, 4

b) 1, 3, 4, 5

c) 1, 2, 3, 5

d) 2, 3, 4, 5

# Instability and uncertainty stalk Bangladesh

## Instability and uncertainty stalk Bangladesh

It is often mentioned that the fate of individuals and nations hang by a slender thread. On August 5 this year, even as Muhammad Yunus (the current head/Chief Adviser of the interim government in Bangladesh) was to be arraigned before a court of law for certain alleged actions against the State, the then Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, was compelled to resign and flee the country to neighbouring India. This was a sequel to several weeks of protests over a 'quota system', reserving a percentage of all government jobs to descendants of 'freedom' fighters involved in Bangladesh's 'war of independence'. The government's heavy-handed measures to suppress the student demonstrations had led to a groundswell of protest against the government, and Sheikh Hasina herself. Even after the proposal for the 'quota system' was withdrawn, massive protests continued, signalling the depth of anger against the government, and Sheikh Hasina personally, compelling her to flee.

Bangladesh currently has an interim government headed by Mr. Yunus, an economist, which has the backing of the Army, and with students functioning as the 'storm-troopers'. In quick succession, the Chief Justice, the central bank governor, a host of university vice-chancellors and other key personnel were compelled to step down. The main charge levelled against Sheikh Hasina is that she had become a virtual dictator, trampling on the civil liberties of citizens and embarking on high handed actions against her political opponents.

### Still early days but much can happen

It would be invidious to characterise Sheikh Hasina's ouster as a victory for 'democratic forces'. No doubt, it has some of the characteristics of the 'Prague Spring' that rocked Czechoslovakia in the mid-20th century, but the revolt does not have to be reminded of how the revolt was stifled out within a short time frame. There may be no equivalent of the 'Warsaw Pact Powers' (which ended the Prague students' revolt) on the horizon in Bangladesh as of now. Today's major powers, essentially the United States and China, however, have a huge stake in how matters turn out and are not averse to meddling in Bangladesh.

What happened in Bangladesh does not conform to a classical 'colour' revolution instigated by the U.S. or the West, but it has provided scope for the 'Big Powers' to meddle in the affairs of Bangladesh, anxious to secure a base for themselves in South Asia, as part of their larger designs.

Much will depend on the turn of events. In the first flush of exuberance and anger against Sheikh Hasina, vandalism seemed to reach its apogee, with images of Sheikh Hasina and even the statue



**M.K. Narayanan**  
a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

of the nation's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, becoming targets of riotous mobs. The position of Mr. Yunus itself appears tenuous at this stage, and it is uncertain how long the Army would support the present arrangement. Pressure from political parties to hold early elections is already evident, and if and when elections are announced, it could shatter the surface calm.

### Areas of danger

The real concern is whether the 'democracy deficit', which Sheikh Hasina helped perpetuate to overcome political obstacles, can be offset democratically, or whether it would lead to another round of violent events. A worrying aspect is the increasing role of Islamist parties in Bangladesh which, in recent years, has become a potent force. An India intent on maintaining a balance between religion and politics would find the growing presence of radical Islamist entities a potent danger.

What India can at present possibly hope for is that the people of Bangladesh would continue to remember India's role in the early 1970s, which led to the creation of an independent state of Bangladesh. Also that any and future governments would display the same degree of warmth as the outgoing Sheikh Hasina regime. While many in India have not forgotten the 'dark days' of the early 1970s – when India had to fight a war with Pakistan on the one hand and cope with a hostile U.S. at another level, intent on detaching India from Russia – so as to bring about the independence of East Pakistan (later to become Bangladesh), India can only hope that similar sentiments still prevail in Bangladesh, notwithstanding the degree of hostility towards Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League.

For its part, India must acknowledge, and be grateful for, the support extended by Bangladesh over the years in dealing with militant groups belonging to India's northeast, that had sought sanctuary there and become a scourge for India's security establishment. Under Sheikh Hasina these militants could no longer find sanctuary in Bangladesh. A prolonged period of uncertainty in Bangladesh following recent developments could well result in the regrouping of, and revival of militant activities in India by groups such as the United Liberation Front of Assam, the Mizo National Front and the NSCN.

Meanwhile, the West, which generally views events across the globe through the prism of geo-politics, is already putting out the idea that Bangladesh might well become the crucible for the next phase of conflict between India and China. Undoubtedly, both India and China have important stakes in Bangladesh. More recently, Bangladesh has begun to make certain overtures to China to accommodate its economic and

defence needs. It is quite possible that with the eclipse of Sheikh Hasina, the successor regime in Bangladesh might well seek to strengthen its China connection, even as Sheikh Hasina was seen to be manifestly pro-India. All this is, however, in the realm of conjecture, and it may be too early to view Bangladesh through the prism of geo-politics – China, India, the U.S. et al.

### Compounding problems for India

For an India, wrestling with the problem of having to deal with difficult and uncertain situations along much of its periphery, specially to the west and the northwest, the Bangladesh developments could not have come at a worse time. In the east, it now confronts a Bangladesh that appears set to shift from being a friendly neighbour to a problem state. The vexed issue of the Rohingya Muslims, which needed an early solution, will, in all likelihood, be put on the back burner for now.

Myanmar is currently controlled by a clutch of generals (who are not above being enticed by western military advisers), and while the generals may not be overtly hostile to India at present, they do not see themselves as being in step with it. Lurking in the background are again certain external forces – not only China and Pakistan – who are likely to fish in these troubled waters.

This could exert a pincer-type stranglehold on India's ambition to achieve a peaceful and prosperous South Asia.

India may, hence, need to devise a new set of strategies to deal with the emerging situation. One myth that has already been exploded is that India had little to fear from developments to its east and south. Both regions have today become highly problematic, to say the least. The threat from China also looms larger than ever before if, as is being anticipated, it could secure a beachhead in a post-Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh. A simultaneous strengthening of the China-Pakistan axis would thereafter pose a threat of a kind that had not existed for several years. More than anything else, it is the spectre of Islamist radicalism that could well haunt the entire region – more so in Bangladesh at this time alongside the threat of a possible link up between radical Islamist elements in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Southeast Asia.

The troubles in Bangladesh are by no means over. Violent street protests are usually a precursor for events that seldom have a good ending. The experience of other countries is that students seldom achieve through protests what they seek. This has been the recent experience in Europe and elsewhere. Movements of this kind tend to be usually taken over by forces inimical to democracy. Consequently, India faces a moral and security dilemma in the wake of recent events in Bangladesh.

The troubles in Bangladesh are by no means over and India may need new strategies to deal with the situation to its east

- Recent unrest in Bangladesh has led to significant political upheaval, with **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** resigning and fleeing the country amid widespread protests.
- The interim government, led by **Muhammad Yunus**, now faces challenges as it attempts to stabilize the situation, with implications for regional geopolitics and India's strategic interests.

## Current Instability

- ❑ Protests in Bangladesh, initially triggered by **dissatisfaction with a 'quota system'** for government jobs, escalated into widespread demonstrations against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- ❑ Her resignation and departure to India reflect the severity of the public dissent and the resultant power shift to an interim government led by **economist Muhammad Yunus**.
- ❑ The interim administration, supported by the Army and facing significant public protests, **has forced the resignation of key figures** including the Chief Justice and central bank governor.
- ❑ The government's **legitimacy and stability are questioned** as it navigates the ongoing unrest and political pressure.



- ❑ The current instability in Bangladesh **opens opportunities for major powers** like the U.S. and China to intervene, aiming to secure strategic advantages in South Asia.
- ❑ The situation, while not a classic **'colour revolution,'** allows external forces to influence Bangladesh's future direction and regional alliances.

## Concerns

- ❑ The shift in governance raises concerns about the **potential erosion of democratic norms** and the rising influence of **Islamist radical parties** in Bangladesh.
- ❑ This poses a **threat to regional stability** and presents challenges for India, which seeks to balance religious and political dynamics in its neighboring state.

- ❑ India faces the risk of **increased militant activity** and a potential shift in Bangladesh's foreign policy, possibly favoring China over India.
- ❑ : The evolving situation in Bangladesh could **exacerbate regional security issues**, including the Rohingya crisis and the rise of Islamist radicalism.
- ❑ The interplay between Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Southeast Asia may influence **India's strategic environment**, requiring new diplomatic and security strategies.

# Health cover for all aged 70 and above

## Union Cabinet approves health cover for all aged 70 and above

**Bindu Shajan**  
**Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above irrespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

This will benefit nearly 4.5 crore families with six crore senior citizens by providing ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.

### **New card**

This scheme was one of the promises made in the BJP manifesto.

With this approval, persons aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, will be eligible to get the benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

The eligible senior citizens will be issued a new distinct card under the



Eligible senior citizens will get a new distinct card under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

scheme.

Senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover up to ₹5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with other members of the family who are below the age of 70).

All other senior citizens aged 70 and above will get a cover up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis. Senior citizens who are already getting benefits of other public health insurance

schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.

It has been clarified that senior citizens aged 70 and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to get benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

"The AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, which provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families," the Union government said in a release.

The expansion of cover to persons aged 70 and above was announced by Mr. Modi in April.

## Context

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved **health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above** irrespective of income under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.



- ❖ This will benefit nearly **4.5 crore families with six crore senior citizens** by providing ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.

## New card

- ❖ Persons aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socio economic status, will be eligible to get the benefits under the **AB PM-JAY**.
- ❖ The eligible senior citizens will be issued a new distinct card under the scheme.
- ❖ Senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM JAY will get an **additional top-up cover up to ₹5 lakh per year** for themselves (which they do not have to share with other members of the family who are below the age of 70).

## Cabinet announcements



### Health cover for senior citizens

Health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per year to all citizens aged 70 and above under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

### 'Electric Drive Revolution'

'PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme' for promotion of electric mobility



### Electric bus scheme

PM-eBus Sewa PSM for procurement of e-buses by states with ₹3,435.33 cr outlay



### Hydropower infrastructure

₹12,461 crore to support the cost of enabling infra for hydroelectric projects



### Mission Mausam

₹2,000 crore to boost weather and climate-related science, research, services

- ❖ All other senior citizens aged 70 and above will get a cover up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis.
- ❖ Senior citizens who are already **getting benefits of other public health insurance schemes** such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) **may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.**
- ❖ Senior citizens aged 70 and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to get benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

## Ayushman bharat

- ❖ “The AB PM-JAY is the **world’s largest publicly funded health assurance** scheme, which provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for **secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 55 crore** individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families.”



# Madrasas unfit for proper education

## Madrasas 'unfit' for proper education, NCPCLR tells SC

Including a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that children are receiving formal and quality education, it says

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCLR), the top child rights protection body in the country, has told the Supreme Court that madrasas are "unsuitable or unfit" places for children to receive "proper education".

The NCPCLR, represented by senior advocate Swarupama Chaturvedi and advocate Abhaid Parikh, made the submission in response to petitions challenging an Allahabad High Court judgment which struck down the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004.

The commission said the textbooks in madrasas "profess supremacy of Islam". "Merely teaching a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that the children are receiving formal and quality education," it argued.

The NCPCLR highlighted issues of curriculum, eligibility of teachers, opaque funding, violation of land laws, and failure to provide children a holistic environment as problems associated with madrasas.

"The teachers appointed in madrasas are largely



The NCPCLR highlighted issues of curriculum, eligibility of teachers, opaque funding, and others. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

dependent on the conventional methods used in learning Koran and other religious texts. The 'scanty and unregularised' working in madrasas creates a haywire system which just stands alone on the conventional ground of religion," it said.

"Majority of madrasas have no idea as to how to plan social events or extra-curricular activities, such as field trips, that could provide students with some level of experiential learning... Madrasa education is neither all-encompassing nor thorough. It is not helping children advance since it lacks so many crucial components of learning. Madrasas infringe on children's fundamental right to a good education by failing to provide these basic requirements. Children are denied not only a suitable education

but also a healthy atmosphere and improved opportunities for growth," the commission said.

It said children from faiths other than Islam were also studying in madrasas in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Providing Islamic religious education to non-Muslims was a violation of Article 28(3) of the Constitution, which upholds the right against forced participation in religious instruction or worship.

The High Court had ordered the transfer of madrasa students to regular schools. The top court stayed the implementation of the High Court decision in April. On Wednesday, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the petitions would be taken

up for a detailed hearing soon.

Taking Uttar Pradesh's case, the NCPCLR drew the court's attention to the Darul Uloom Deoband Madrasa founded in Deoband in Saharanpur district.

"According to the information available the Deoband Madrasa fanned out across South Asia and has also set up seminaries, or madrasas, teaching an austere version of Islam, particularly along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border... it has also been alleged by Taliban extremists groups to have been influenced by the religious and political ideologies of Darul Uloom Deoband Madrasa... the Deoband Madrasa issues fatwas online as well as offline and has a very strict and conservative interpretation of Sharia, as evidenced by its issuance of roughly 2,50,000 fatwas which restrict followers in terms of faith, life, and many other aspects," the NCPCLR submitted.

"Though madrasas dot the country, only States such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand have Madrasa Boards. Large number of children attend madrasas that are either unrecognised or unmapped," the commission observed.

## Context

- ❖ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCLR), the top child rights protection body in the country, has told the Supreme Court that madrasas are "unsuitable or unfit" places for children to receive "proper education".

- ❖ The commission said the textbooks in madrasas “**profess supremacy of Islam**”.
- ❖ The NCPCR highlighted **issues of curriculum, eligibility of teachers, opaque funding, violation of land laws**, and failure to provide children a holistic environment as problems associated with madrasas.
- ❖ The madrasa is an Arabic word that means educational institution. Madrasa education seems to be working on the old traditional outline as there is no prominence on any research.
- ❖ They are the centers of free education. They are the heart of the cultural and educational life of Muslims and began in the seventh century for those who wanted to learn the Islamic religion in mosques.



**MADRASA EDUCATION**

### **Madrasas unfit for ‘proper education’: Child rights body tells Supreme Court**

The body noted that madrasa students are deprived of the benefits given to children in formal schools, such as midday meals, uniforms and trained teachers.

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- ❖ “Majority of madrasas have no idea as to how to plan social events or extracurricular activities, such as field trips, that could provide students with some level of experiential learning... **Madrasa education is neither all-encompassing nor thorough.**
- ❖ Madrasas **infringe on children’s fundamental right to a good education** by failing to provide these basic requirements.
- ❖ Children are denied not only a suitable education but also a healthy atmosphere and improved opportunities for growth.
- ❖ Providing Islamic religious education to non-Muslims was a **violation of Article 28(3) of the Constitution**, which upholds the right against forced participation in religious instruction or worship.



# Scheme for e-mobility push

## Cabinet approves ₹10,900-cr. scheme for e-mobility push

PM E-Drive scheme aims to enable procurement of e-buses, setting up 72,000 charging stations; plan offers subsidies or demand incentives worth ₹3,679 crore, says Ministry of Heavy Industries

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a scheme with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore to provide for procurement of e-buses as well as for setting up more than 72,000 charging stations for EV batteries in cities and on highways to address 'range anxiety' among buyers.

The scheme, named PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive), will be valid for two years.

### Charge booster

PM E-Drive scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to address range anxiety among EV buyers

■ Scheme, valid for two years, will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses

■ ₹4,391 cr. for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by State transport undertakings of 9 cities

■ ₹2,000 cr. to set up charging stations in cities with high EV penetration and on some select highways



According to a press statement from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the scheme also offers subsidies or demand incentives

worth ₹3,679 crore for e-two wheelers (e-2Ws), e-three wheelers (e-3Ws), e-ambulances, and e-trucks to buyers. The scheme will

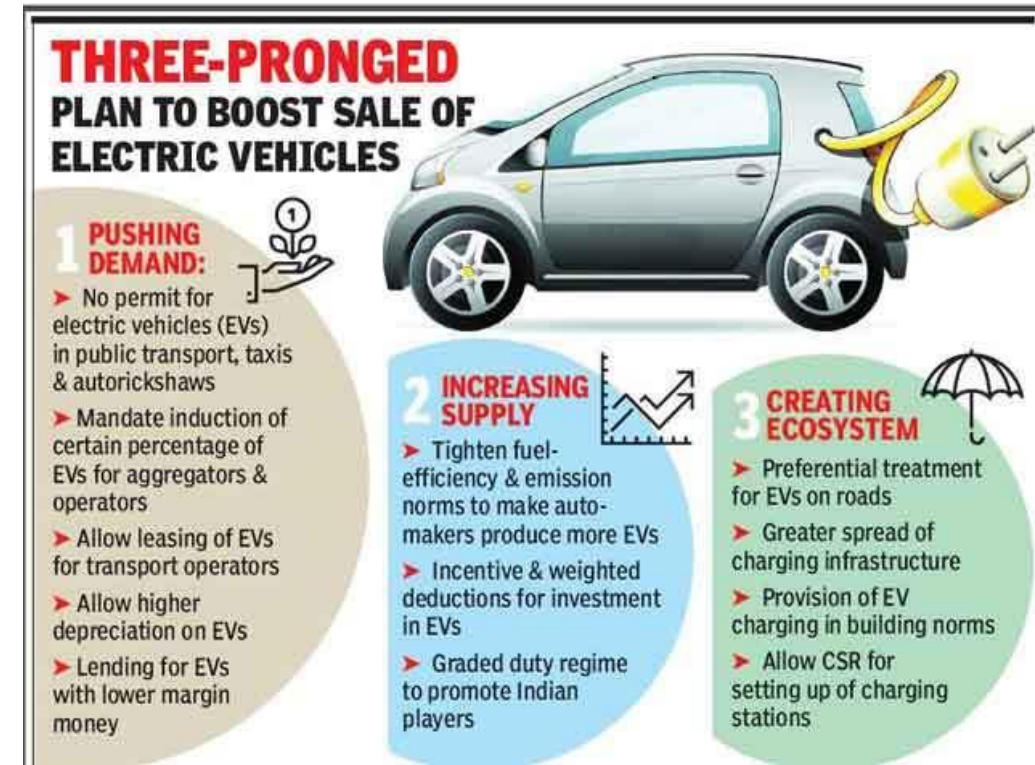
support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses, the Ministry added. A total of ₹4,391 crore will be set aside under the scheme for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state transport undertakings for 9 cities with a population of more than 40 lakh, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.

The scheme also provides for ₹2,000 crore to set up charging stations in select cities with high EV penetration and on some specified highways.

### CONTEXT

- ❖ The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a **scheme with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore** to provide for procurement of e-buses as well as for setting up more than 72,000 charging stations for EV batteries in cities and on highways to address **'range anxiety' among buyers.**

- ❖ The scheme, named **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive)**, will be valid for two years.
- ❖ The scheme also offers subsidies or demand incentives worth ₹3,679 crore for e two wheelers (e-2Ws), e three wheelers (e-3Ws), e ambulances, and e-trucks to buyers.
- ❖ A total of ₹4,391 crore will be set aside under the scheme for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state transport undertakings for 9 cities with a population of more than 40 lakh, namely **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.**
- ❖ The scheme also provides for ₹2,000 crore **to set up charging stations in select cities** with high EV penetration and on some specified highways.



## Electronic vehicle

- ❖ Electric vehicles are a type of vehicle that use one or more electric motors for propulsion, instead of a **traditional internal combustion engine (ICE)** that burns gasoline or diesel.

## Benefits of EVs

- ❖ Produce zero tailpipe emissions, contributing to cleaner air and improved public health.
- ❖ Electricity can be cheaper than gasoline, leading to lower fuel costs per kilometer.
- ❖ Electric motors generate significantly less noise compared to gasoline engines.
- ❖ Electric motors convert a higher percentage of energy into usable power compared to gasoline engines.

## Challenges

- ❖ Compared to an internal combustion engine (ICE) car, a similar electric car can be significantly more expensive.
- ❖ India's charging infrastructure for EVs is still in its early stages of development.
- ❖ While the number of charging stations is increasing, **they are concentrated mainly in major cities.**
- ❖ The current Indian automotive workforce is not adequately equipped to handle the complexities of EV technology.



# How can cities cope with climate change-induced floods that pose a great challenge to urban communities the world over? (15M)

## Rise Above the Waters: Charting a Course to Resilience

By Antarixa Bhardwaj

**New Delhi:** The phenomenon of Bengaluru's monsoon rainfall evoking awe and delight through tweets and Instagram stories quickly takes a dire turn in the months of September and October when the city is gripped by devastating floods. However, the social media narratives and shared experiences, become futile if not translated into meaningful action. It is a recurring pattern where blame is often directed towards the rainfall itself, masking the true culprit that remains unaddressed.

Bengaluru, the once-declared alternative to Delhi and Bombay, has been grappling with a devastating problem in recent years: floods. The repetitive occurrence of flooding in Bengaluru necessitates a deeper understanding of the root causes rather than solely attributing the blame to the rainfall, which is inherently a natural occurrence.

One cannot ignore the fact that Bengaluru's governance has been unkind to the elaborate ecosystem that once sustained the city. The issue extends beyond physical infrastructure. Bengaluru's urban planning and governance play an important role in contributing to the flooding problem.

The city's governance structure is highly fragmented, with different agencies managing different projects. Water and sewerage management is under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Water and Sewerage Board, while city transport is handled by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation



Bengaluru's flood woes - who's to blame? Image Credit: The News Minute

This fragmented system lacks connectivity and poses major challenges in times of crisis. In terms of planning, the Bangalore Development Authority is responsible for town planning, while the Bangalore City Administration looks after planning for the city of Bangalore. The lack of coordination between these agencies is evident in times of crisis, making it difficult for effective measures to mitigate flooding.

Assigning blame solely to one entity would be unfair. The current situation in Bengaluru is a collective failure of successive governments and citizens alike. While the government must take responsibility for poor planning, lack of vision, and enforcement, citizens, too,

are guilty of their share of offenses.

Encroachments, pollution of water bodies and stormwater drains, and illegal construction—these actions have further worsened the flooding problem. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of shared responsibility is necessary to address the problem effectively and implement sustainable solutions. Addressing the issue requires both short-term and long-term solutions.

In the short term, audits of stormwater drainage and dams are required. Encroachment on these lands must be removed to protect the wetlands and restore the lakes to their original state. Additionally, it is important to increase communication between the drains and

promptly identify and resolve any complications.

Looking ahead, long-term solutions need to be implemented. A comprehensive master plan, including a stormwater drainage system, is needed. Considering the changes wrought by climate change, capital investment in infrastructure is crucial for future resilience. In addition, transparency and community engagement must be prioritised, including making the master plan and associated maps publicly accessible. This approach encourages accountability, inclusion and shared responsibility for the well-being of the city.

In conclusion, Bengaluru's floods are a dire consequence of poor governance, mismanaged urban planning, and the degradation of the city's ecosystem. The city's lakes, once celebrated, have fallen victim to human activities and neglect. Urgency is paramount, and the government must take the lead in developing better infrastructure and implementing effective measures to mitigate flooding. NGOs, citizens, and stakeholders must come together to advocate for government accountability and action.

By recognizing the underlying causes of the city's flooding, the situation in the city should serve as a catalyst for informed decision-making and concerted efforts to mitigate the impact of floods, ensuring a more resilient and harmonious future for Bengaluru.

## Approach

- Introduce climate change induced floods and vulnerability of Indian cities.
- Write causes for the rise of urban floods in India.
- Write measures for mitigation of urban floods and reduce vulnerability.
- Conclude the answer by stressing on resilient cities.

As the incidence of climate variability and extreme weather events increases, urban flooding becomes more and more common. While the untimely heavy rains can be attributed to climate variability, the urban flooding is largely due to an unplanned urbanisation.


### **Causes for the rise in urban floods Climate change**

- Higher rainfall-As per the IMD, monsoon has become frequent and unpredictable**
- Storm surges (for coastal cities): E.g. Cyclone Amphan in 2020 flooded the streets of Kolkata. Within eastern India, the storm killed 98 people and caused \$13.8 billion(2020 USD).**
- Inadequate Drainage Infrastructure: Cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai rely on a century-old drainage system, covering only a small part of the core city.**
- As the city grew beyond its original limits, not much was done to address the absence of adequate drainage systems.**

- ❑ Indian cities are becoming increasingly impervious to water, not just because of increasing built up but also because of the nature of materials used (hard, nonporous construction material that makes the soil impervious).
- ❑ Encroaching Natural Spaces: The number of wetlands has reduced to 123 in 2018 from 644 in 1956.
- ❑ Green cover is only 9 per cent, which ideally should have been at least 33 per cent.

### **Suggestions to mitigate urban floods**

- ❑ Urban floods of this scale cannot be contained by the municipal authorities alone. Floods cannot be managed without concerted and focused investments of energy and resources.
- ❑ The Metropolitan Development Authorities, National Disaster Management Authority, State revenue and irrigation departments along with municipal corporations should be involved in such work together.

- 
- ❑ There is a need to start paying attention to the management of wetlands by involving local communities.**
  - ❑ Watershed management and emergency drainage plan should be clearly enunciated in policy and law.**
  - ❑ Vulnerability analyses and risk assessments should form part and parcel of city master plans.**

**These can all be delivered effectively through an urban mission along the lines of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and Smart Cities Mission. Urban Flood management will not just help control recurring floods but also respond to other fault lines, provide for water security, more green spaces, and will make the city resilient and sustainable**



# Thank you

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