

# Topics - MINDS MAPS included (Daily current affairs 24th January 2025)

- Target UPSC CSE Prelims 2025
- **Cauvery-South Vellar Link Project: A Step Towards Sustainable Water Management**
- **India's Sagar Initiative**
- **Rhodamine B:**
- **The Withdrawal of French Troops from West Africa**
- **Pakistan's New Social Media Legislation**
- **Mains**



**By saurabh Pandey**



## **Target Mains -2025/26 -**

**Q “Maritime security without maritime cooperation is a distant dream” . Explain the statement in the context of India’s SAGAR Initiative.**

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**Q1. With reference to the Public key cryptography consider the following statements. (TheHindu)**

- 1) Public key cryptography is also called “symmetric encryption”.**
- 2) It uses two different keys, unlike asymmetric encryption which uses a single key for both encryption and decryption.**

**Which of the given statements is/are correct.**

- A) 1 Only**
- B) 2 Only**
- C) Both 1 and 2**
- D) Neither 1 or 2**

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# **PT730 - COURSE ON 2 YEARS PRELIMS CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- **2YRS Prelims current affairs**
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- **Practice sets**



**BY SAURABH  
PANDEY SIR**



# Centre yet to give approval to Tamil Nadu's Cauvery-South Vellar Link project, says SC

Karnataka argues that the plan prejudicially affects or is likely to affect the rights and interests of the State and its inhabitants along the waters of Cauvery; Bench disposes of Karnataka's application saying it is not necessary to consider the State's interim plea for injunction as of today

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court has found that the Centre is yet to grant 'in-principle approval' to the Cauvery-South Vellar Link project four years after Tamil Nadu sought clearance from the Jal Shakti Ministry in January 2021.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and A.G. Masih noted the fact while disposing of an application filed by Karnataka urging the top court to restrain neighbouring Tamil Nadu from proceeding with the work on the

Vellar project.

The Bench disposed of the application while observing it was not necessary to consider Karnataka's interim plea for injunction as the request by Tamil Nadu for project clearance has still not received the in-principle approval of the Centre.

"Therefore, as of today, it is not necessary to consider the prayer for interim relief," the order, which was published on Thursday, read.

Tamil Nadu had written to the Ministry on January 5, 2021 for in-principle approval to the Cauvery-



Tamil Nadu had written to the Centre in 2021 for in-principle approval to the Cauvery-South Vellar Link project. FILE PHOTO

South Vellar Link project and for the declaration of Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar Link project as a national project.

Karnataka, in its injunction application, said the

project was one of a series taken up by Tamil Nadu "to appropriate and commit Karnataka's Cauvery water".

The South Vellar Link project would result in the

transfer of a large quantity of inter-State Cauvery water. This would involve the diversion of flood surplus water from the Mettur dam to the dry tanks in the Sarabanga basin in Salem district at a cost of ₹565 crore. The water would be in excess of 483 tmcft available across the inter-State border at Biligundlu in Karnataka, the State submitted.

"The plan prejudicially affects or is likely to affect the rights and interests of Karnataka and its inhabitants along the waters of Cauvery," the application said.

In fact, Karnataka had

urged the Union government in February 2021 to not accord clearance to the South Vellar project or declare the Gundar Link as a national project.

The Karnataka application had argued that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister had gone ahead and laid the foundation stone for the project on February 21, 2021 "in disregard of Constitutional conventions" and against federal principles.

The application stemmed from an original suit filed by Karnataka against Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court.

# Topic → Cauvery-South Vellar Link Project: A Step Towards Sustainable Water Management



## Introduction

The Cauvery-South Vellar Link project stands as a beacon of hope for water management in Tamil Nadu, aiming to address the pressing issue of water scarcity in the region.

In a state where agriculture heavily relies on the availability of water, this project promises to be a transformative initiative. As we delve into its details, we'll explore its significance, challenges, and the latest developments surrounding this ambitious venture.

## Project Background

The roots of the Cauvery-South Vellar Link project trace back to the increasing demand for water in Tamil Nadu.

With a growing population and agricultural needs, the necessity for a sustainable water management solution became paramount.

## Objectives:

Ensure year-round water supply for irrigation.

Alleviate water scarcity in drought-prone areas.

Enhance the overall agricultural productivity of the region.

## Current Status and Developments

As of now, the project has witnessed several key developments that have shaped its trajectory:

**Judicial Rulings:** The Supreme Court's involvement has been crucial, as it examines the legalities surrounding land acquisition and environmental compliance.

**Government Actions:** Recent government announcements have expedited land acquisition processes, aiming for a swift implementation of the project.

**Project Timeline:** While initial phases are underway, the full completion is anticipated within the next few years, contingent on overcoming legal and environmental hurdles.



## Environmental and Social Implications



The Cauvery-South Vellar Link project is not merely an infrastructural endeavor; it brings with it a myriad of social and environmental implications:

### **Benefits for Agriculture:**

Increased water availability is expected to bolster agricultural yields, providing farmers with a reliable source of irrigation.

**This could lead to improved food security in the region.**

### **Impact on Local Communities:**

The project is poised to uplift local economies by ensuring consistent water flow for farming and related activities.

However, it's vital to address the concerns of communities that may be displaced due to land acquisitions.

### **Environmental Concerns:**

Potential ecological impacts are under scrutiny, with activists calling for stringent assessments to protect local biodiversity.

Mitigation strategies are being discussed to minimize adverse effects.



# Indian Navy vessel finishes hydrographic survey of Mauritius

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy's *INS Sarvekshak* completed the final phase of the hydrographic survey of Mauritius covering an extensive area of over 25,000 square nautical miles.

The fair sheet of the survey, along with newly prepared nautical charts, were formally handed over to President Dharambeer Gokhool on Thursday.

"The creation of a new nautical chart will enable Mauritius to develop its maritime infrastructure, resource management and coastal development planning. It reflects the enduring partnership between India and Mauritius in fostering maritime development and regional cooper-

ation," the Navy said.

In addition, Captain Tribhuvan Singh, Commanding Officer of *INS Sarvekshak* called on Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed, Minister of Housing and Lands, Mauritius and discussed the details of survey operations undertaken.

Indian Navy hydrographic vessels regularly assist various countries in hydrographic surveys of their exclusive economic zones. "In line with India's SAGAR initiative, the survey ships of the Indian Navy have conducted various joint survey operations with friendly foreign nations covering an area of 89,000 sq. km. in the last five years and have produced 96 charts," the Navy said last year.

# Topic → India's Sagar Initiative: Navigating the Maritime Future

## Introduction to the Sagar Initiative

The Sagar Initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is a cornerstone of India's maritime policy, aimed at bolstering the nation's presence in the Indian Ocean.

Launched in 2015, this initiative encapsulates India's commitment to ensuring maritime security, fostering regional cooperation, and enhancing trade routes.

### **Objectives:**

- Strengthen maritime security
- Promote economic growth in the region
- Foster partnerships with neighboring countries

### **Vision:**

- A stable and secure Indian Ocean for all nations

# Strategic Importance of the Sagar Initiative



The Sagar Initiative is pivotal for India, as it enhances its role as a maritime power in the Indian Ocean.

## **Enhancing Maritime Security:**

- Collaborative naval exercises with regional partners
- Surveillance and monitoring of maritime routes

## **Regional Cooperation:**

- Strengthening ties with neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Maldives
- Joint maritime patrols and information sharing

## **Implications for Trade:**

- Safeguarding crucial shipping lanes
- Promoting trade partnerships within the region

# The hidden dangers of Rhodamine B: a global and local perspective



Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye utilised in industries such as textiles, paper, and leather. Its application extends to scientific research due to its fluorescent properties. However, its use in consumable products is fraught with health risks. Studies indicate it can cause DNA damage, leading to mutations and potentially triggering cancerous growths

Monisha Madhumita

Imagine indulging in an appetizing looking, sweet treat, only to discover it contains a dye primarily used in textiles and linked to cancer. This alarming reality has prompted significant health interventions worldwide, including recent decisive actions in India.

Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye known for its bright pink hue, commonly utilised in industries such as textiles, paper, and leather. Its application extends to scientific research due to its fluorescent properties. However, its use in consumable products is fraught with health risks. Studies indicate that Rhodamine B can cause DNA damage, leading to mutations and potentially triggering cancerous growths.

Animal research has demonstrated tumour development in organs like the liver and bladder following prolonged exposure to the dye.

Recognising its potential dangers, many countries have put in place strict regulations on use of Rhodamine B. In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has long prohibited its use in food products, classifying it as unsafe for human consumption. A recent ban issued by the FDA in January 2025 further reinforces these restrictions, prohibiting the use of Rhodamine B in any food-related applications due to increasing evidence of its carcinogenic properties.

The FDA cited growing concerns over children's exposure to high levels of the dye in candies, baked goods, and other processed foods, prompting an urgent call for manufacturers to reformulate their products. This ban stems from studies indicating its potential carcinogenicity and other health risks. Similarly, the European Union classifies Rhodamine B as a substance of very high concern, restricting its use in cosmetics and other consumer goods.

## Indian perspective

In India, the rampant use of Rhodamine B in food items has drawn significant health concerns. The dye has been illegally employed to enhance the visual appeal of various consumables, posing serious health risks to consumers. Over the last few years, action has been taken by various Indian states and these highlight the growing awareness of these dangers.

In February 2024, Tamil Nadu banned the production and sale of cotton candy after the Government Food Analysis Laboratory in Chennai detected Rhodamine B in samples collected from



Animal research has demonstrated tumour development in organs such as the liver and bladder following prolonged exposure to the dye. FILE PHOTO.

vendors. Health Minister Ma Subramanian emphasised that the use of Rhodamine B in food violates the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, categorising such products as unsafe. The ban aims to raise public awareness about the hazards associated with coloured candies and ensure that only safe, colour-free cotton candy is available.

Following Tamil Nadu's lead, other Indian states and territories have taken similar measures. Karnataka, in March 2024, prohibited the use of Rhodamine B in popular street foods like "Gobi Manchurian" and cotton candy. Minister for Health and Family Welfare in the Government of Karnataka, Dinesh Gundu Rao, announced stringent penalties for violators, including imprisonment of up to seven years and fines reaching ₹10 lakh. Laboratory tests revealed the presence of harmful chemicals in numerous samples collected across the state.

Puducherry also followed suit by banning the sale of cotton candy containing Rhodamine B. Food safety officers have been directed to conduct inspections and take strict action against violators to safeguard public health. In May 2024, Himachal Pradesh instituted a one-year ban on the production, sale, and storage of cotton candy after detecting Rhodamine B in samples. This preventive measure aims to protect consumers from the potential carcinogenic effects of the dye.

Mohammed Mithi, Consultant Surgical Oncologist at Safjee Hospital in Mumbai, explains, "Synthetic dyes, including Rhodamine B, may pose carcinogenic risks due to certain chemical components. Some dyes, like azo dyes,



Synthetic dyes, when used in concentrations approved by regulatory bodies, are generally safe. However, in sensitive individuals, they can lead to allergic reactions such as itching, redness, and skin thickening

can break down into aromatic amines, which are known carcinogens. Laboratory studies have shown that specific synthetic dyes can induce DNA damage, oxidative stress, and promote tumour growth in animal models. While concrete evidence in humans is limited, long-term exposure to unregulated products remains a concern." He further adds that certain groups, such as children, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals, are more susceptible to these harmful effects due to their body's reduced ability to metabolise and detoxify harmful substances.

Abyrany Balasundaram, consultant dermatologist at Cosmed Hair Transplant and Skin Clinic, Chennai, states, "Synthetic dyes, when used in concentrations approved by regulatory bodies, are generally safe. However, in sensitive individuals, they can lead to allergic reactions such as itching, redness, and skin thickening. Long-term exposure to synthetic dyes like Rhodamine B can result in chronic allergic reactions and permanent skin pigmentation changes. Although there is no definitive link to cancer in humans through topical application, it is always advisable to opt for products from reputable brands with

proper labeling."

She further notes, "The European Union was among the first to ban Rhodamine B in cosmetics in the early 1990s due to concerns about its potential carcinogenic effects and skin sensitisation risks. This move has paved the way for stricter global regulations on synthetic dyes in personal care products."

## India's food safety ecosystem

Priyadarshini Chidambaram, Community Health Specialist and Researcher, Bengaluru, says, "The ecosystem in India for research into food dyes safety is weak. There is a need for proactive funding and commissioning of independent research by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to study the impact of additives, especially synthetic dyes, on public health based on Indian diet practices through collaborations with academic and research institutions. We must build a robust system of rapid scientific reviews and proactive policy implementation to be on par with international recommendations for food safety instead of reacting to a public health crisis or just joining the bandwagon of international ban trends."

She adds, "There needs to be active testing for harmful food dyes and enforcement of strict action against both errant big brands and smaller establishments and vendors. The fact that a state-level ban was necessary to bring attention to harmful dyes like Rhodamine B is a wake-up call. It underscores the need for FSSAI to play a more visible role in educating the public about unsafe food practices. There is a definite knowledge gap among the public on food standards. We must harness the growing digital and social media influence to disseminate information on safe food additives and food label warnings. Community education and engagement are needed to tackle the menace of harmful additives."

The case of Rhodamine B serves as an important reminder of the hidden dangers that lurk in seemingly innocuous products. It underscores the collective responsibility of governments, industries, and consumers to prioritise health over aesthetics. By staying informed and vigilant, we can ensure that the foods we enjoy are not only appealing but also safe. As medical professionals apply what "The health of a nation begins with the safety of its food. It's time we prioritise long-term well-being over short-term convenience."

Dr. Monisha Madhumita is a consultant dermatologist at Sarfaj Medical College, Chennai and member of the International Alliance for Global Health Dermatology, London, UK. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com

## THE GIST

In the U.S., the FDA has long prohibited Rhodamine B in food due to evidence of its carcinogenic properties. The FDA cited growing concerns over children's exposure to high levels of the dye in candies, baked goods, and other processed foods

In February 2024, Tamil Nadu banned production and sale of cotton candy after it detected Rhodamine B. Such products are graded as unsafe and substandard. The ban aims to raise public awareness and ensure only safe, colour-free cotton candy is available

According to doctors: 'Specific synthetic dyes can induce DNA damage, oxidative stress, and promote tumour growth in animal models. While concrete evidence in humans is limited, long-term exposure to unregulated products remains a concern'

Rhodamine B serves as an important reminder of the hidden dangers that lurk in seemingly innocuous products. It underscores the collective responsibility of governments, industries, and consumers to prioritise health over aesthetics

# Topic → Rhodamine B: Health Risks and Global Regulations



## Overview of Rhodamine B

🚫 Health Risks: Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye associated with severe health risks, including DNA damage and cancer.

🔬 Industrial Applications: Widely used in textiles, paper, and leather, it is also valued in scientific research for its fluorescent properties.

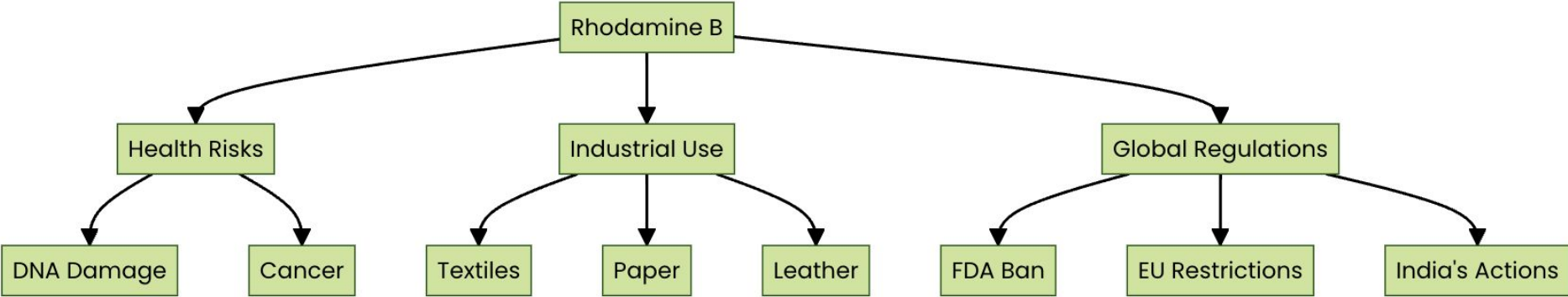
🐭 Animal Research: Studies indicate that prolonged exposure in animals can result in tumor development in organs like the liver and bladder.

🇺🇸 FDA Regulations: The FDA has banned Rhodamine B in food products, reinforcing this ban in January 2025 due to its carcinogenic nature.

👶 Children's Health: The ban was significantly influenced by concerns over children's exposure to the dye in processed foods.

🇪🇺 EU Restrictions: The European Union classifies it as a substance of very high concern, restricting its use in cosmetics and consumer goods.

**Regulatory Actions and Health Risks:**





# Is France's influence in West Africa over?

Why did Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal ask for the withdrawal of French troops? What does the withdrawal signify for Europe's waning influence in Africa? How has Russia benefited from this?

## EXPLAINER

Anu Maria Joseph  
Padmashree Anandhan

### The story so far:

**I**n January 1, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara announced that French troops would withdraw from the country by the end of the month. On December 26, in Chad, France handed over its military base in Faya-Largeau and began the withdrawal of troops following the termination of a defence cooperation agreement in November. On December 3, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye called for the closure of all French military bases, commenting that their presence was “incompatible” with the country's national sovereignty. Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Chad have joined three West African countries – Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso – asking for French troop's withdrawal, marking a major blow to France's waning influence in the region.

### Why did Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal ask for French troop's withdrawal?

First, the narrative on incompatibility with national sovereignty. France has around 1,000 troops in Chad, 600 in Ivory Coast, and 350 in Senegal. Since independence, France had colonial pacts with these former colonies to maintain economic, political, and military influences, referred to as ‘Françafrique’. In Senegal and Ivory Coast, French troops have been stationed since 2014 as part of Operation Barkhane. For Chad, the defence pact existed for decades and does not align with its security requirements. Chad's President Mahamat Daby says ending the defence agreements is like taking back national sovereignty. Ivory Coast and Senegal have followed in similar footsteps for a reciprocal relationship that respects each other's independence and sovereignty.

Second, public dissatisfaction over French presence. French troops have been fighting insurgent groups linked to



**Power shift:** French troops have been fighting insurgent groups linked to the Islamic state and al Qaeda across West Africa since 2014. AFP

the Islamic state and al Qaeda across West Africa since 2014. Despite their military presence, French troops failed to quell the insurgency in the region. Besides, it has spread, degenerated, and intensified across the region. This raised anti-French sentiments alongside a public demand for their withdrawal.

Third, West Africa's quest to move beyond France. Recently, many West African countries have shown interest in diversifying their relations from traditional colonial to new partners. The military governments in West Africa, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, have built military ties with Russian mercenaries to fight insurgency. For military leaders, Russian mercenaries do not come with the baggage of adhering to democratic values. Besides, Russia has successfully spread an image as a better security provider in Africa.

### What does French withdrawal mean for African countries?

For Africa, French withdrawal means the end of France's decades-long influence. However, in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, French withdrawal and Russia's arrival has not addressed or contained insurgency. Rather, these three countries rank among the top in the Global Terrorism Index 2024 by the Institute for Economics & Peace. The military regimes

have strengthened in the region with the new Alliance of Sahel states between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The common anti-French sentiments would likely bring Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast to join the Sahel alliance and an opportunity to boost regional counter-terrorism efforts.

### What does the withdrawal mean for France?

The withdrawal would have four implications – first, the obituary of the ‘Françafrique’. Under French President Emmanuel Macron, the withdrawal marks the end of ‘Françafrique,’ giving prominence to maintaining a strong economic and diplomatic foothold. Second, the decline in political influence affects economic relations. Since 2010, President Ouattara has been in term with support from France; however former president Gbagbo's reemergence in 2020 challenged political stability. Without political influence, fulfilling France's economic interests can be problematic. Third, a waning military presence would impact international reputation. The military has supported pro-France African leaders to maintain political and economic stability. French Armed Forces have been stationed in support of UN operations since the Ivorian Civil War. Therefore, projecting France as a global fighter against terrorism and a defender

of international values and human rights will be undermined in the new reality. Fourth, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have pushed out French troops involuntarily, which are now either replaced by Russian mercenaries or engulfed in a military coup, making French influence impossible. It is uncertain for the Ivory Coast, given its political and economic ties with France even after independence.

### Is there a larger waning European influence in Africa?

In the geopolitical era of conflicts, Europe's declining presence and the competition from Russia and China in Africa were the least focused. The EU is struggling with the shifting political landscape, security issues from the war in Ukraine, and larger economic strain; therefore handling autocracies, migrants, and anti-Europe sentiments has been put on the back burner. In the last few decades, Germany, France, and the U.K. have called down their development funding, leading to increased military coups and greater involvement of external actors. To gain a political and security presence in Africa, Russia has filled the military vacuum, while China asserts its economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative. The EU's trade surplus has declined by 15%, from 55 billion euros to 35 billion euros between 2022 and 2023. In comparison, China maintains a surplus of more than 70 billion euros.

Militarily, Russia has benefited from the troops' withdrawals. Whether this will change the right-wing governments in Europe is worth asking. The 2024 manifestos of these parties can be useful in this regard. Their policies are more security-oriented in managing borders and migrants, rather than being economically driven. In the coming years, Europe's foreign policy approach will be more inward-looking, with few EU members looking to expand markets into Africa while facing competition from China.

*The authors are Project Associates at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore*

## THE GIST

West African countries are moving away from traditional colonial ties with France, seeking partnerships with global powers for security and economic cooperation.

Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal requested French troop withdrawals, citing incompatibility with national sovereignty and public dissatisfaction over France's failure to curb insurgencies.

France's withdrawal marks the end of ‘Françafrique’, diminishing its political, military, and economic presence in Africa, while Russia and China continue to expand their influence in the region.



# **Topic → The Withdrawal of French Troops from West Africa**



## **Introduction**

The winds of change are blowing through West Africa, and they carry the scent of independence. On January 1, 2024, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara made a bold announcement: French troops would be withdrawing from the country by the end of the month. This decision is part of a larger trend, as countries like Chad and Senegal have also called for the removal of French military presence..

## **The Announcement of Withdrawal**

### **Context of French Military Presence**

France has maintained a military presence in its former colonies for decades, often under the guise of protecting these nations from insurgencies. However, the reality is more complex.

## **Historical Background**

Since gaining independence, countries like Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal have been tied to France through various military agreements, often referred to as 'Françafrique'. This relationship has allowed France to exert considerable influence over these nations, but it has also led to growing resentment among the local populations.

## **Current Troop Deployments**

As of now, France has approximately 1,000 troops in Chad, 600 in Ivory Coast, and 350 in Senegal. These troops have been involved in operations aimed at combating insurgent groups linked to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda. However, despite their presence, the insurgency has only intensified.

# **Reasons for Withdrawal Requests**

## **National Sovereignty Concerns**

One of the primary reasons for the withdrawal requests is the narrative surrounding national sovereignty. Leaders like Chad's President Mahamat Daby have expressed that ending these defense agreements is akin to reclaiming their national sovereignty. Countries like Senegal and Ivory Coast are following suit, seeking a reciprocal relationship that respects their independence.

## **Public Dissatisfaction**

Public sentiment plays a crucial role in this narrative. Many citizens in these countries feel that the French military presence has not only failed to quell the insurgency but has also led to increased anti-French sentiments. The call for withdrawal is a reflection of this growing dissatisfaction.

## **Shift Towards New Alliances**

Interestingly, many West African nations are now looking to diversify their international relationships. Countries like Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso have begun forging military ties with Russian mercenaries, who are perceived as more favorable partners without the baggage of colonial history.

### **Implications for African Countries**

#### **End of French Influence**

The withdrawal of French troops marks a significant turning point for Africa. It signals the end of decades of French influence in the region. However, the situation remains precarious, as countries like Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso continue to struggle with insurgency despite the shift in military alliances.

#### **Rise of Regional Alliances**

The common anti-French sentiment may lead to the formation of stronger regional alliances, particularly among countries like Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast. This could pave the way for enhanced regional counter-terrorism efforts

## **Implications for France**

### **The End of 'Françafrique'**

For France, this withdrawal signifies the obituary of 'Françafrique'. Under President Emmanuel Macron, the focus has shifted towards maintaining a strong economic and diplomatic foothold, but the loss of military presence complicates this goal.

### **Decline in Political Influence**

The decline in political influence is another significant concern for France. The support that President Ouattara has received from France since 2010 is now in jeopardy, especially with the reemergence of former president Gbagbo challenging political stability.

### **Impact on International Reputation**

The waning military presence will also impact France's international reputation. The French Armed Forces have long been seen as defenders of international values and human rights, but this image is now at risk.

# **The Larger Picture: European Influence in Africa**



## **Competition with Russia and China**

The withdrawal of French troops is not just a localized issue; it reflects a larger trend of waning European influence in Africa. With Russia and China stepping in to fill the void, the geopolitical landscape is shifting dramatically.

## **Future of European Foreign Policy**

As Europe grapples with its own internal challenges, its foreign policy approach towards Africa may become more inward-looking. The competition from China and Russia will only intensify, making it crucial for European nations to reassess their strategies.

## **Conclusion**

The withdrawal of French troops from West Africa is a significant development that marks a turning point in the region's history. It reflects a growing desire for independence and a shift towards new alliances. As the dust settles, both African nations and France will need to navigate this new reality carefully.

## Mapping

**Ipanema Beach is a famous beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**



# Pakistan passes Bill tightening control over social media

**Associated Press**

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Lower House of Parliament has passed a controversial Bill granting the government extensive controls over social media, including the ability to imprison users for spreading disinformation.

The Bill was expedited after Opposition lawmakers, protesting the law, staged a walkout. Critics argue it threatens freedom of speech, with human rights

activists claiming it expands executive power over both content and social media platforms.

The new law mandates that platforms register with a regulatory authority and criminalises disinformation, punishable by up to three years in prison and fines.

Despite widespread opposition, the ruling government defends the legislation as necessary to combat misinformation and hate speech.

# Topic → Pakistan's New Social Media Legislation



## Key Highlights of the Legislation



Legislation Passed: Pakistan's Lower House of Parliament has approved a controversial Bill that enhances government control over social media.




Imprisonment for Disinformation: The Bill allows for imprisonment of users for up to three years for spreading disinformation.





Opposition Walkout: The Bill was expedited following a walkout by Opposition lawmakers who protested against the law.



Freedom of Speech Concerns: Critics, including human rights activists, argue that the law threatens freedom of speech and expands executive power over content.

 **Platform Registration Required:** Social media platforms are now required to register with a regulatory authority under the new law.

 **Penalties for Disinformation:** Disinformation is criminalized under the law, with penalties including fines and imprisonment.

 **Government's Justification:** The ruling government defends the legislation as a necessary measure to combat misinformation and hate speech.

## Summary

Overview: Pakistan's Parliament has passed a Bill that grants extensive control over social media, allowing imprisonment for disinformation, amidst concerns over freedom of speech.

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**BY SAURABH  
PANDEY SIR**

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Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025	Indian GEOGRAPHY old ncert-Class XI
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Basics of International Relations Class 3
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Indian GEOGRAPHY old ncert-Class XI

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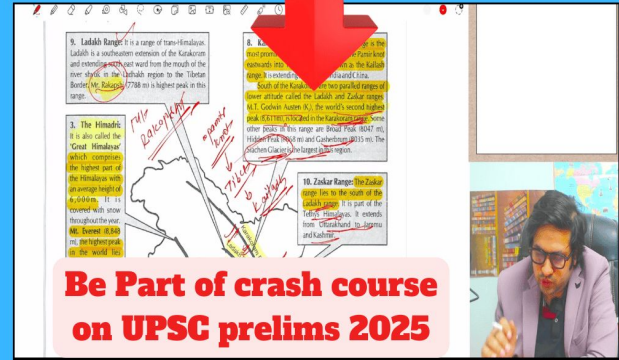
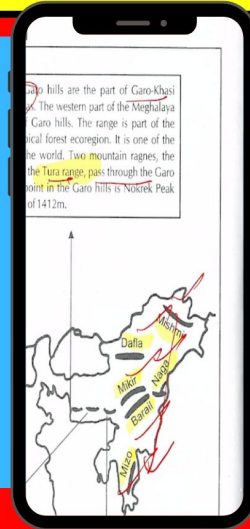
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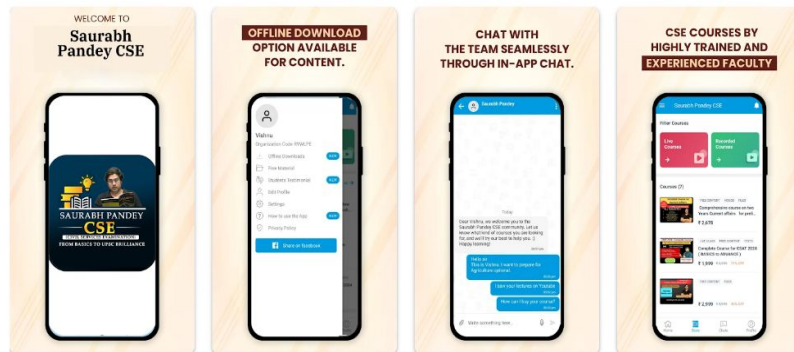
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- 1) Public key cryptography is also called “symmetric encryption”.**
- 2) It uses two different keys, unlike asymmetric encryption which uses a single key for both encryption and decryption.**

**Which of the given statements is/are correct.**

- A) 1 Only**
- B) 2 Only**
- C) Both 1 and 2**
- D) Neither 1 or 2**

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