Topic → MICE TOURISM

'India poised to become the capital of MICE tourism'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India is poised to become the global capital of MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Friday while inaugurating a two-day seminar organised by the Indian Exhibition Industry Association here.

"New segments of tourism are emerging, with MICE tourism being the most important and fastest-growing segment in the country. The exhibition and conference infrastructure across the nation,

MICE Tourism stands for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions** (or Events). It is a specialized niche of tourism in which large groups, usually planned well in advance, are brought together for a particular purpose related to business or professional interests.

Here's what each component typically involves:

1. **Meetings** – Organized gatherings of people for business, education, or networking purposes. These can be corporate meetings, board meetings, or seminars.
2. **Incentives** – Travel rewards given by companies to employees or partners as a motivation or recognition

for good performance. These are typically leisure-oriented.

3. **Conferences** – Large formal gatherings where individuals discuss particular topics, share research, or conduct training. Often includes keynote speakers, panels, and workshops.
4. **Exhibitions/Events** – Trade shows, expos, or public events where businesses showcase products or services, usually aimed at networking, marketing, or sales.

Why it's important:

MICE tourism is a high-value segment of the travel industry. It brings significant revenue to host cities through hotel bookings, dining, transportation, and other services.

Prelims Facts

□ **Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Missile Test Range at Nagayalanka in Andhra Pradesh worth around Rs 1,460 Crore. It will comprise a launch center, technical instrumentation facilities, Indigenous Radars, Telemetry and Electro-Optical systems enhancing the country's defence preparedness**

Topic - Mt MAKALU

ITBP team scales Mt. Makalu, fifth highest peak in the world

The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully scaled Mt. Makalu – the world's fifth highest peak, at an altitude of 8,485 metres above sea level – the China-border guarding force said on Friday. The ascent to the Himalayan peak in Nepal was made on April 19, it said. The International Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Makalu and Mt. Annapurna (8,091 m) was flagged off from Delhi on March 21. "It was a historic twin summit attempt – the first of its kind in ITBP history. Both peaks were being attempted for the first time by the force, adding to the challenge and legacy of this mission. Both peaks are in Nepal," the ITBP said. Led by Deputy Commandant Anoop Kumar Negi and Nihas Suresh as deputy leader, the 12-member team was divided into two groups of six climbers each.

Mount Makalu is the fifth highest mountain in the world, standing at 8,485 meters (27,838 feet) above sea level. It is part of the Mahalangur Himalayas and is located in the border region between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, approximately 19 km southeast of Mount Everest.

Key Facts about Mount Makalu:

- **Name Origin: The name "Makalu" is believed to come from the Sanskrit word "Maha-Kala," meaning "Big Black," a name for the Hindu god Shiva.**

- **Shape: Makalu is known for its distinctive pyramid-like shape, with four sharp ridges.**
- **First Ascent: The first successful ascent was made on May 15, 1955, by a French expedition led by Jean Franco, with climbers Lionel Terray and Jean Couzy among the first to reach the summit.**
- **Climbing Difficulty: Makalu is considered one of the more challenging 8,000-meter peaks due to its steep pitches, knife-edged ridges, and technical rock and ice climbing.**
- **Makalu-Barun National Park: The mountain lies within this protected area, which is rich in biodiversity, home to species like red pandas, snow leopards, and over 3,000 flowering plants.**

Topic - Brain computer interface

Indian scientists help develop brain-computer interface that aids movement of people struggling due to paralysis

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) have achieved a significant breakthrough in assistive technology for individuals with paralysis. The lead author of a scientific paper on the project, an Indian who grew up in Chennai, Nikhilesh Natraj, says they have developed a brain-computer interface (BCI) that allows a paralysed man to control a robotic arm simply by imagining the movements he wishes to execute.

Dr. Natraj is a neuroscientist and neural engineer at the Weill Institute for Neurosciences, UCSF. "Here, our team has developed a framework that allows a paralysed man to control a robotic arm for 7 months straight using just his thoughts alone, with minimal calibration," he says. The results of this study were published in a recent volume of the peer-reviewed journal *Cell*.

Developing stability

To start with, the team had to understand the neural patterns behind movement. The key was discovering how activity shifts in the brain day to day as a study participant repeatedly imagined making specific movements. Once a machine learning/AI algorithm was programmed to account for those shifts, it worked for months at a time.

Karunesh Ganguly, professor of neurology and a member of the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences who studied how patterns

Nikhilesh Natraj

of brain activity in animals represent specific movements, saw that these patterns changed day to day. If one assumed that the same thing was happening in humans, these changes would explain why the participants' BCIs became unstable and quickly lost the ability to recognise movement patterns. The team worked with an individual who had been paralysed by a stroke and could not speak or move, a note on the university website stated.

The study participant had tiny sensors implanted on the surface of his brain that could pick up brain activity when he imagined moving. The sensors do not send pulses to the brain, but only read out the intent to move from the movement regions of the brain, Dr. Natraj explains.

Signal processing

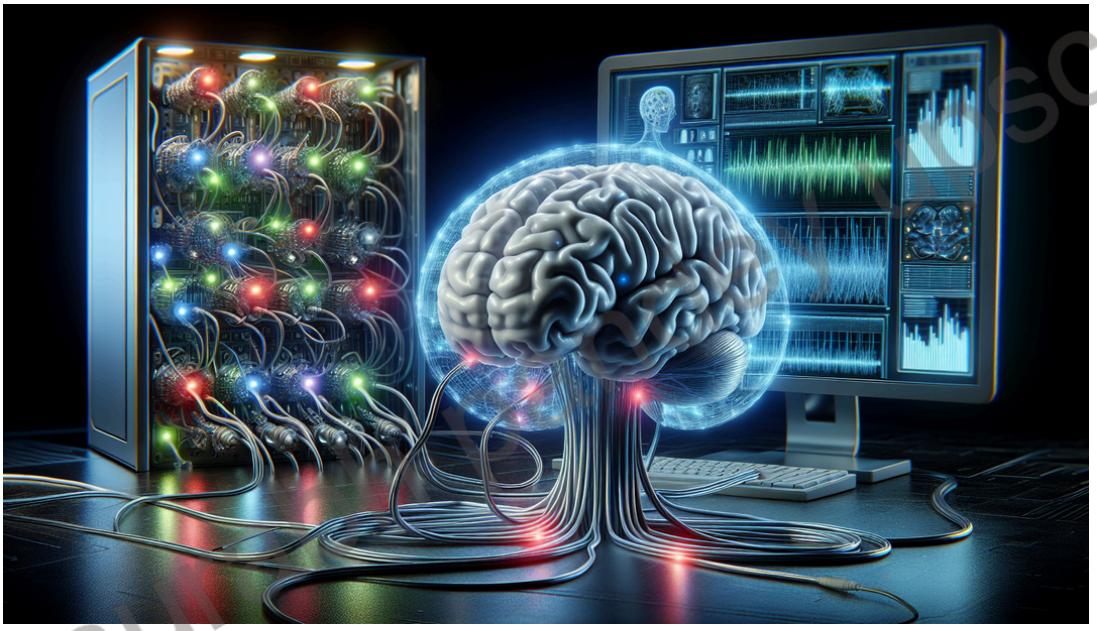
To see whether and how his brain patterns changed over time, the participant was asked to imagine moving different parts of his body. The BCI recorded the brain's representations of these movements through the sensors.

Analysing the patterns in the high-dimensional sensor data, the team found that while the structure of movement representations stayed the same, their locations in the high-dimensional data shifted slightly from day to day. By tracking these shifts and predicting how it would evolve, the team was able to overcome instability in BCI systems and developed an end-to-end signal processing and AI framework.

The participant was then tasked with imagining himself making simple movements with his fingers, hands or thumbs while the sensors recorded his brain activity to train the AI. The read out signals were then decoded to actuate a robotic arm. Initially, he practised on a virtual robot arm that gave him crucial feedback on the accuracy of his visualisations, helping him refine his direction and control.

Eventually, the participant managed to control a real-world robotic arm executing the action. He managed to open a cabinet, retrieve a cup, and hold it under a water dispenser – simple tasks but those that can be life-changing for those living with paralysis.

Having established that it can be done is the first stage, a lot more work needs to be put into refining the technique and for it to be deployed among people who have paralysis, Dr. Natraj says. Especially, the system should be able to work fluidly in complex scenarios with many distractions, such as when going to a crowded grocery store, he adds.



A Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) is a technology that creates a direct communication pathway between the brain and an external device, typically a computer or machine. BCIs are designed to read neural signals, process them, and translate them into commands that can control devices—such as robotic limbs, computers, or even speech

synthesizers—without the need for physical movement.

🧠 How BCIs Work:

1. **Signal Acquisition: Electrical activity in the brain (usually measured using EEG, ECoG, or implanted electrodes) is captured.**
2. **Signal Processing: The raw brain signals are filtered and decoded to identify patterns associated with specific thoughts or intentions.**
3. **Command Execution: The decoded signals are translated into commands that control external devices or applications.**

🔍 Types of BCIs:

- **Invasive: Electrodes are implanted directly into the brain (used in clinical settings, e.g., for paralysis or epilepsy).**
- **Non-invasive: Uses external sensors (like EEG caps) placed on the scalp—safer but less accurate.**
- **Partially invasive: Electrodes are placed inside the skull but not directly in brain tissue.**

💡 Applications:

- **Medical: Restoring movement in paralyzed individuals, controlling prosthetics, treating**

neurological conditions (e.g., Parkinson's, epilepsy).

- **Communication:** Helping people with conditions like ALS to communicate via thought-controlled typing.
- **Neurogaming:** Controlling games with brain activity.
- **Military/Defense:** Research into enhanced soldier performance or remote control of drones.
- **Brain-to-brain communication (experimental):** Sharing thoughts or motor commands between people.

Topic → India at a Crossroads

A profound shift in the global order

Mukul Sanwal
is a former UN diplomat

History should remind India to focus on its own destiny

India is at another inflexion point, reminiscent of Vasco De Gama sailing into Kozhikode in 1498 and of a complacent Zamorin lacking strategic intention. Instead of trade routes, global value chains are being reshaped by force. The stakes are high for India which is in line to be the third largest economy.

The 75-year-old post-colonial order, labelled as globalisation, characterised multilateralism imposing rule-based restrictions on all for the common good. Its conceptual foundation of a world divided between 'donors' and 'recipients' became obsolete with China 'overtaking' the United States as the largest donor, and in the share of manufacturing and global trade. The World Trade Organization and the United Nations and Treaties lost their utility to the proponents, leading to U.S. withdrawals. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the G-7 scrambling to corner medicines, oblivious of the plight of others. Now, the G-7 is splitting leaving a vacuum and global institutions such as BRICS will soon have more requests for membership.

U.S. President Donald Trump is not whimsical. He is responding to a more equal world moving out of the colonial frame that is attempting to hold on to fading benefits. Bilateral deals are forcing countries to subordinate their interests and the way tariffs have been described and defined arbitrarily based on trade imbalance intrudes into how national laws should be changed. Least Developed Countries no longer have privileges. The U.S. is restructuring its approach to prosperity and power and so should the others.

A post-WTO frame

The 'breakup' of the G-7 and G-20 now leaves global agenda-setting open. Since 2020, the U.S., China, the European Union and India have together contributed nearly three-quarters of all growth, with the U.S. and China accounting for almost half. There is also a decline in the relative power of the U.S. Russia has become an Asian power, increasing energy links with China and India.

Asia will soon again have two-thirds of global wealth and power (as had been the case throughout civilisation except for the age of colonialism). Geopolitics has returned to its natural state of co-existence sharing prosperity.

India has to be strategic to grasp new opportunities with the 'dismantling' of the WTO just as China used its entry into the WTO for its rise. The U.S. and China are pretty much evenly balanced in terms of influence, trade, technology, defensive military capacity and playing tit-for-tat on tariff levels. The challenge is to manage trade relations with the U.S. pushing its agricultural and energy surplus and to build on the rapprochement with China.

The future direction has been set in the recent statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that this is the Asian Century. The turmoil within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an opportunity to jointly work towards an Asian common market, with bilateral concessions to share prosperity. As the WTO's 'most-favoured nation' clause of non-discrimination withers away, it is in India's longer term interest to propose a new cooperative architecture to ASEAN and the African Union, as their potential consumption will exceed current consumption in the U.S. and Europe.

India's world-class diplomats should be given the task of coming up with a new type of principles of global governance for a more equal world. Gaining from global value chains that are dependent more on technology than on tariffs requires laying out a new type of rules that reduce non-tariff barriers and treat linkages between goods, services, investment and infrastructure as part of composite agreements, with a review of national impacts annually.

Trade and innovation neglected

Emerging from colonialism, India framed foreign policy in terms of a balancing between the great powers, relying on tactics than on strategy. The first challenge to the post-colonial world was the Bandung Conference of newly independent Asian and African countries in 1955. Jawaharlal Nehru moved to the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961, shifting from economic development to peace in a divided world, becoming a darling of the West while India remained poor. The best diplomats are still sent to negotiate resolutions in the United Nations, ignoring rights and opportunities through trade. India also ignored what other leading powers were doing – technological innovation in partnership with academia and industry, which is the other side of the coin of trade.

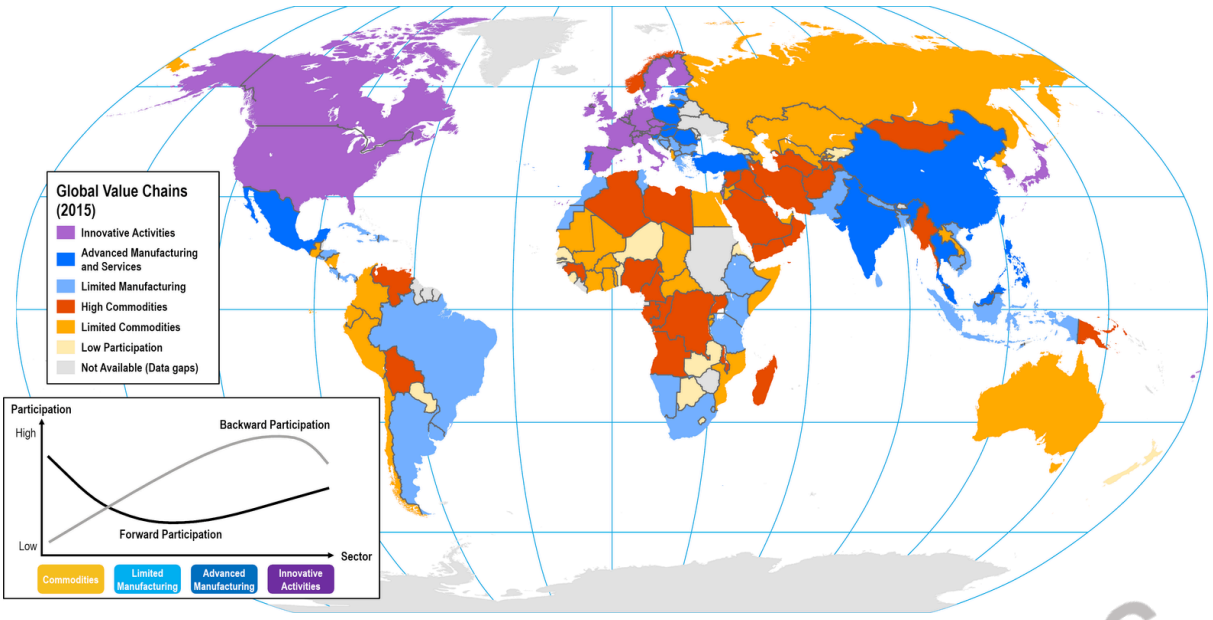
Now is the time for hard decisions to be taken to develop a national consensus between political parties and States on how to nurture talent and focus on skills and employment in order to regain our technological edge, wealth and global status. The West developed on the foundation of colonialism unlike the East. New policy groups need to engage and seek complementarity with China, ASEAN and Africa as value chains get restructured. There will no longer be global goods and treaties to which others can subscribe; the smaller countries that have been hit hardest by the new order are looking for an alternative to choosing sides

India has the endogenous capacity to aim for global technological leadership by developing open source software that will shape future multilateralism and international cooperation. Huawei, which was sanctioned by the U.S. for spreading telecommunication networks worldwide, is manufacturing 7-nanometer (7nm) chips just behind global technology leaders. The DeepSeek open source AI model is cheaper than and as good as the best in the U.S.. Fifteen years ago, a World Bank study noted that China has reached global scale in the hardware industry but not in software. India had achieved the reverse, then faltered.

Lesson from China

The most important lesson in China's re-emergence is national consensus on endogenous pathways to achieve prosperity, and not looking at socio-economic growth through the modelling prism of the West. Patents are a better indicator of future prosperity than GDP. Reducing the price of assured electricity is the most effective incentive for a restructuring of the economy, and prosperity is the optimum adaptation to adverse effects of climate change.

India needs to formulate grand challenges with academia and industry to leverage its world-class human talent, vast data and proven digital stack to build the best large language models in the world, which would make India a formidable cyber power. In the digital world, the foundation of wealth and influence is AI, which is reminiscent of India clothing the world for millennia relying on skill and not monopoly.



□ **The Shift from Trade Routes to Global Value Chains**

Unlike the past, where trade routes defined economic power, we are now witnessing a transformation in global value chains.

□ **These chains are being reshaped by force, and India must adapt to this new reality. The question is, how can India position itself to benefit from these changes?**

□ **The Post-Colonial Order and Globalization**

For the past 75 years, the post-colonial order has been characterized by globalization, which imposed multilateralism and rule-based restrictions for the common good. However, this framework is becoming obsolete.

□ The rise of China as a dominant player has shifted the dynamics, leaving traditional institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations struggling to maintain relevance.

The Rise of China

China's emergence as a global powerhouse has changed the game.

□ It has overtaken the United States in terms of manufacturing and global trade, leading to a re-evaluation of the global economic order.

□ This shift has significant implications for India, which must now navigate a world where China is a key player.

The Decline of Traditional Institutions

As the U.S. withdraws from its leadership role, the G-7 and G-20 are losing their grip on global agenda-setting.

□ This vacuum presents an opportunity for India to step up and assert its influence on the world stage.

The New Trade Reality

□ The WTO framework is disintegrating, replaced by bilateral and often unequal trade deals.

□ **Tariffs and trade rules are now used as tools of power, not fairness.**

□ **India must act strategically to benefit from the restructuring of global trade—just as China leveraged WTO entry.**

□

The Role of the G-7 and G-20

□ **The recent fragmentation of the G-7 and G-20 highlights the need for new alliances and partnerships. India must seize this moment to forge relationships that can help shape a more equitable global order.**

The New Global Landscape

□ **As we move forward, the balance of power is shifting. The U.S. and China are now evenly matched in terms of influence, trade, and technology. India must find its place in this new landscape, leveraging its strengths to build a prosperous future.**

The Balance of Power

□ With Russia emerging as a significant player in Asia, the geopolitical landscape is evolving.
□ India has the opportunity to strengthen its ties with both China and Russia, creating a more balanced approach to international relations.

The Emergence of Asia

□ Asia is on the brink of reclaiming its historical position as a center of global wealth and power.
□ India must be strategic in its efforts to collaborate with other Asian nations, particularly in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

India's Strategic Opportunities

□ To capitalize on these changes, India must adopt a strategic approach.
□ This includes building new alliances and fostering technological innovation.
□ The future of global trade will depend on technology, and India has the potential to lead in this area.

Building New Alliances

□ India should propose a new cooperative architecture with ASEAN and the African Union, focusing on shared prosperity.
□ As traditional trade agreements lose their relevance, India can position itself as a leader in creating new frameworks for collaboration.

The Importance of Technological Innovation

□ Technological innovation is crucial for India to regain its competitive edge.
□ By investing in research and development, India can harness its vast human resources and data to drive growth and innovation.

Need for Strategic Foreign Policy Shift

□ India's foreign policy has historically focused more on tactics and diplomacy, not economic strategy.
□ Time to shift from UN-centered diplomacy to economic and technological diplomacy.
□ Encourage trade-focused diplomacy, tech partnerships, and global governance reform proposals.

Emphasizing Innovation and Technology

□ Unlike China, India once led in software but lost momentum.

□ China now leads in hardware and is catching up in AI and semiconductors.

- India must:
  - Leverage its digital infrastructure (like Aadhaar and UPI),
  - Develop open-source AI models,
  - Drive academic-industry partnerships, and
  - Regain its technological edge through national consensus and grand challenges.

□

Lessons from the Past

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□ The need for national consensus on economic policies is paramount. Political parties must come together to focus on nurturing talent and skills development.

The Need for National Consensus

□ To achieve prosperity, India must prioritize collaboration between political parties and states.

□ This consensus will enable the country to harness its potential and regain its status as a global leader.

The Role of Education and Skills Development

□ Investing in education and skills development is essential for India's future.
□ By fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, India can create a workforce that is equipped to thrive in the digital age.

Strategic Lessons from China

- China's success lies in endogenous development—not copying the West.
- India should prioritize:
  - Patent creation (as a better future prosperity indicator than GDP),
  - Affordable electricity (as a key enabler of economic growth),
  - Skills and employment development,
  - AI and cyber power leadership

Conclusion

India stands at a critical juncture, much like the

Zamorin of old. The choices made today will shape the future of the nation. By embracing strategic thinking, fostering innovation, and building new alliances, India can navigate the complexities of the modern world and emerge as a global leader.

***Q "The 21st century belongs to Asia, but only if Asian powers rise together."* Discuss India's role in shaping a cooperative Asian economic and geopolitical architecture (250 Words)**

Topic → Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight in India

Strengthening parliamentary oversight in India

A historical fact is that over nearly three years, the Constituent Assembly met for 167 days to frame the Constitution of India. Among the many crucial debates that occurred was the question of what form of government India should adopt. Defending the choice of a parliamentary system, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar argued that it offered more responsibility and less stability which is a necessary trade-off for a functioning democracy. He emphasised the point that such a system allows for the daily accountability of the executive through questions, motions and debates in Parliament, and periodic accountability through elections.

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Along with 'maximum governance, there needs to be 'maximum accountability', which must start with an empowered and effective Parliament

A diminishing of oversight

While the Constitution enshrines checks and balances, legislative oversight has often been diminished. Efficiency in governance is important, but not at the cost of transparency. Strengthening the role of Parliament in scrutinising executive action is essential in not just making laws but also ensuring their effective implementation and accountability. If India seeks 'Maximum Governance', it must also commit to 'Maximum Accountability', starting with an empowered and effective Parliament.

Over decades, Parliament has developed an array of mechanisms to fulfil this mandate – some formal, some by convention. From the daily scrutiny of Question Hour and the spontaneity of Zero Hour, to the behind-the-scenes workings of Standing Committees, these tools form the framework of accountability. In theory, they empower Members of Parliament (MP) to ask probing questions, seek detailed information, and even move a no-confidence motion if necessary.

Despite its strong framework, parliamentary oversight often falls short. Question Hour, intended as a daily spotlight on government accountability, is frequently disrupted by noisy protests, leading to adjournments where important issues remain unaddressed. During the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24), Question Hour functioned for 60% of its scheduled time in the Lok Sabha and 52% in Rajya Sabha, significantly reducing its effectiveness. Even when it operates, individual MPs tend to focus on isolated queries rather than a systematic scrutiny of complex, cross-ministerial problems.

Parliamentary committees, including the Department-related Standing Committees (DRSC), meet regularly and generate detailed reports, though these are often not taken up for discussion on the floor. Consequently, despite their detailed evaluations of policies and schemes, committee findings have had limited influence on legislation or executive action. Despite their mandate for detailed scrutiny, committee consultations tend to engage a relatively small group of stakeholders, raising concerns about diversity and the breadth of input. Moreover, their inherently temporary structure limits the ability of members to develop both expertise and institutional standing.

Some successes

Even with its inconsistencies, Indian legislative oversight has had notable successes. The Standing Committee on Railways recommended waiving dividend payments by Indian Railways in 2015 to improve its financial health, which was implemented in 2016. The Standing Committee on Transport influenced the Motor Vehicles Bill amendments in 2017, removing caps on third-party insurance and establishing a National Road Safety Board.

Other significant interventions include the Committee on Public Undertakings addressing delays in National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)-managed highway projects, recommending that projects commence only after acquiring 80% of land and necessary clearances. Similarly, the Estimates Committee advised increasing domestic uranium production by opening new mines, reducing dependency on imports. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) exposed critical delays, opaque appointments, and corrupt practices during the Commonwealth Games in 2010. On average, the PAC has made 180 recommendations every year in the past eight years, out of which 80% were accepted by the government.

To make oversight truly effective, Parliament must adopt targeted reforms, beginning with robust post-legislative scrutiny. Laws do not end with their passage; they begin there. Yet, India lacks a formal process to track whether laws are achieving their intended impact. This gap can be addressed by creating subcommittees under each Standing Committee or a specialised body to review implementation. The United Kingdom offers a useful model: government departments submit reviews of major laws within three to five years, which are then examined by parliamentary committees – enabling timely course correction and ensuring that laws deliver on their promises.

Strengthening and institutionalising committee work must also be a priority. One way to do this is by making oversight findings more accessible; through translations in local languages, visual explainers, or short videos. At the same time, select DRSC reports should be brought to the floor for debate, followed by a mandatory response from the Minister concerned. This would ensure that committee work informs parliamentary discourse and enhances executive accountability. Committees must also be strengthened with dedicated research and technical support, thus moving beyond mere administrative assistance.

Adopt technology

Technology offers a powerful opportunity to modernise and strengthen parliamentary oversight. MPs in India often operate without specialised staff or professional research support, making it harder to scrutinise complex policies or spending data. Faced with massive volumes of budget documents, audit reports, and policy reviews, they are at a disadvantage. By leveraging Artificial Intelligence and data analytics, Parliament can help members swiftly flag irregularities, track policy trends, and frame sharper, evidence-based questions.

While delivering the inaugural address held to formally inaugurate the new Standing Committees in 1993, the then Vice-President K.R. Narayanan said that the main purpose of the system was not to weaken or criticise the administration but to strengthen it by investing it with more meaningful parliamentary support. Strengthening legislative oversight means honouring the mandate citizens have given their representatives; to make sure the machinery of government stays transparent, accountable, and truly "of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Background

□ The **Constituent Assembly**, after intense debates, chose the **parliamentary system** for India.

□ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar defended this system for offering **"more responsibility and less stability,"** ensuring **daily and periodic accountability** of the executive.

The Importance of Legislative Oversight

Checks and Balances in the Constitution

□ While the Constitution enshrines checks and balances, legislative oversight has often been diminished.

□ Efficiency in governance is crucial, but not at the cost of transparency.

□ Strengthening the role of Parliament in scrutinizing executive action is essential for not just making laws but also ensuring their effective implementation and accountability.

The Need for Transparency

□ If India seeks 'Maximum Governance', it must also commit to 'Maximum Accountability', starting with an empowered and effective Parliament.

□ This is where the real challenge lies—ensuring that the mechanisms of accountability are not just in place but are actively functioning.

Mechanisms of Accountability in Parliament

Question Hour and Zero Hour

□ Over decades, Parliament has developed an array of mechanisms to fulfill this mandate—some formal, some by convention.

□ From the daily scrutiny of Question Hour to the spontaneity of Zero Hour, these tools form the framework of accountability.

□ In theory, they empower Members of Parliament (MPs) to ask probing questions, seek detailed information, and even move a no-confidence motion if necessary.

Standing Committees

□ Parliamentary committees, including the Department-related Standing Committees (DRSC), meet regularly and generate detailed reports.

□ However, these reports are often not taken up for discussion on the floor, limiting their influence on legislation or executive action.

Current Challenges

- **Oversight mechanisms**, though constitutionally enshrined, are **often weakened** in practice.
- **Question Hour** is frequently disrupted; in the 17th Lok Sabha, it functioned only **60%** of scheduled time (52% in Rajya Sabha).

- **Parliamentary Committees** like DRSCs submit detailed reports, but:
  - Their findings are **rarely debated** in the House.
  - **Limited stakeholder consultation** and short tenures affect effectiveness.
  - MPs lack **technical expertise** and **research support**.

Success Stories of Legislative Oversight

Notable Recommendations

□ Even with its inconsistencies, Indian legislative oversight has had notable successes.

□ For instance, the Standing Committee on Railways recommended waiving dividend payments by Indian Railways in 2015 to improve its financial health, which was implemented in 2016.

The Role of the Public Accounts Committee

□ The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has also made significant contributions, exposing critical delays and corrupt practices during events like the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

□ On average, the PAC has made 180 recommendations every year in the past eight years, with 80% accepted by the government

Proposed Reforms

1. **Post-legislative scrutiny**: Assess law implementation and impact, as practiced in the **UK**.
2. **Strengthen committees**:
   - Create **sub-committees** for follow-up.
   - **Mandate debates** on select reports in Parliament.
   - Provide **dedicated research and technical staff**.

1. **Enhance accessibility**:
   - Translate reports into **regional languages**.
   - Use **infographics, short videos**, and **public summaries**.

1. **Use technology**:
   - Employ **AI and data analytics** to help MPs track budgets, policy outcomes, and irregularities more effectively.

Conclusion

Strengthening legislative oversight means honoring the mandate citizens have given their representatives. It's about ensuring that the machinery of government stays transparent, accountable, and truly "of the people, by the people, and for the people." As we move forward, it's crucial to remember that a robust democracy thrives on active participation and accountability.

📘 GS Paper II: Polity & Governance

Q "Accountability is the cornerstone of democracy." Examine the role of legislative oversight in strengthening democratic governance in India.(150 Words)

Q "Maximum Governance demands Maximum Accountability." Discuss how the Indian Parliament can be reformed to ensure transparent and responsible governance(150 words)

Q Despite constitutional mechanisms, legislative oversight in India remains weak. Critically examine the factors contributing to this weakness and suggest ways to enhance parliamentary scrutiny.(250 words)

Topic ⟶ Uncontrolled Reentry of Soviet-Era Kosmos 482 Spacecraft

Soviet-era spacecraft set to plunge to Earth half-century after failed launch

Associated Press
CAPE CANAVERAL

A Soviet-era spacecraft meant to land on Venus in the 1970s is expected to soon plunge uncontrolled back to Earth, possibly within the first two weeks of May.

It's too early to know where the half-ton mass of metal might come down or how much of it will survive reentry, according to space debris-tracking experts.

Dutch scientist Marco Langbroek predicts the failed spacecraft will reenter around May 10. He estimates it will come crashing in at 150 mph (242 kph), if it remains intact.

"While not without risk, we should not be too worried," Mr. Langbroek said in an email. The object is relatively small and, even if it doesn't break apart, "the risk is similar to that of a random meteorite fall, several of which happen each year. You run a bigger risk of getting hit by lightning in your lifetime," he said.


The Soviet Union launched the spacecraft known as Kosmos 482 in 1972, one of a series of Venus missions. PTI

The chance of the spacecraft actually hitting someone or something is small, he added. "But it cannot be completely excluded."

The Soviet Union launched the spacecraft known as Kosmos 482 in 1972, one of a series of Venus missions. But it never made it out of Earth orbit because of a rocket malfunction. Most of it came tumbling down within a decade. But Mr. Langbroek and others believe the landing capsule itself – a spherical object about 3 feet (1 meter) in diameter – has been circling the world in a highly elliptical orbit for the past 53 years, gradually dropping in altitude.

It's quite possible that the 1,000-pound-plus (nearly 500-kilogram) spacecraft will survive reentry. It was built to withstand a descent through the carbon dioxide-thick atmosphere of Venus, said Mr. Langbroek of Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands.

Experts doubt the parachute system would work after so many years. The heat shield may also be compromised after so long in orbit.

The spacecraft could reenter anywhere between 51.7 degrees north and south latitude, or as far north as London and Edmonton in Alberta, Canada, almost all the way down to South America's Cape Horn. But since most of the planet is water, "chances are good it will indeed end up in some ocean," Mr. Langbroek said.

□ A Soviet Venus lander, Kosmos 482, launched in 1972, is expected to make an uncontrolled reentry

into Earth's atmosphere in the first half of May 2025.

□ Originally intended for a Venus mission, the spacecraft failed to exit Earth orbit due to a rocket malfunction.

□ Over the last 53 years, a 1-meter-wide landing capsule, weighing nearly 500 kg, has remained in a highly elliptical orbit, gradually descending.

□ Most of the spacecraft fell back decades ago, but this durable capsule—designed to withstand the intense atmospheric conditions of Venus—may survive reentry.

□ Experts like Marco Langbroek suggest the object could hit Earth at 150 mph (242 kph) but downplay the risk to people, comparing it to the odds of being struck by a meteorite or lightning.

□ There is still uncertainty over the reentry location, which could be anywhere between 51.7° north and south latitude—covering major land masses and oceans.

□ Despite failing parachute systems and a possibly compromised heat shield, most analysts expect the object to fall into an ocean, given the Earth's geography.

□ The event highlights the long-term hazards of space debris and the need for better tracking and disposal strategies for aging satellites.

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