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THE HINDU COMPLETE ANALYSIS

Current Affairs & Editorial

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Compiled & Analysed by

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UPSC CIVIL SERVICES • DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS • PRELIMS + MAINS

SECTION I

CURRENT AFFAIRS — KEY NEWS

1. SUMAN Roadmap 2030 — Safe Motherhood Assurance

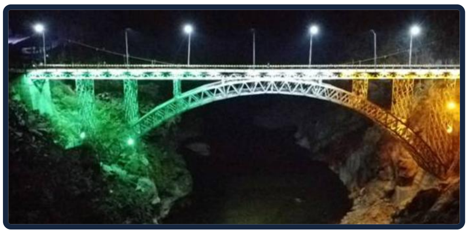
GS-2 HEALTH / SCHEMES

- The Union Health Minister launched the **SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan) Roadmap 2030** at the 16th Conference of the **Central Council of Health & Family Welfare (CCHFW)** — a data-driven strategy under the **MoHFW** using localised, tech-enabled interventions to eliminate preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
- **Targets:** cut India's **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) below 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030** (aligning with UN SDGs); reduce Neonatal (NMR) and Infant (IMR) Mortality Rates.
- **Mechanism:** continuous care from pre-pregnancy to postnatal stages; focus on **130 districts across 13 States** via Birth Waiting Homes, MCH Wings and Obstetric HDUs/ICUs; **SUMAN Panchayats** for 100% institutional deliveries; **bi-weekly ASHA screenings** in the 8th–9th months.

2. Project BRAHMANK — Border Roads Organisation

GS-3 SECURITY / INFRASTRUCTURE

- Project BRAHMANK of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** marked its **16th Raising Day** on **29 June 2026** at Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh — a forward-deployed unit building all-weather roads, tactical bridges and aviation assets on the frontier.
- **Mandate:** ensure rapid forward movement of the Armed Forces and link cut-off outposts and remote border villages to the mainstream.



A BRAHMANK bridge, Arunachal Pradesh

- **Footprint:** five districts of Arunachal Pradesh + adjoining Assam; maintains **811 km of strategic roads and 86 bridges**. In FY 2025-26 it completed **13 bridges (390 m)** and blacktopped **61 km** to NHDL standards; develops tactical helipads for the IAF.

3. Gulf Remittances Rose 70% in April Despite West Asia Crisis

GS-3 ECONOMY / EXTERNAL SECTOR

- Net remittances to India rose to **$16 billion in April 2026 — up 70% y-o-y** — despite the West Asia conflict, per the Finance Ministry's **Monthly Economic Review**. Remittances are "relatively acyclical" and insulated from market volatility.
- **Value addition:** regulated under **FEMA, 1999**; the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** permits up to **USD 2,50,000/ year** (barred for gambling, speculation, terror financing).
- India has been the **world's top recipient since 2008** (**USD 135 bn in 2024-25**). Per RBI's 2025 survey, advanced economies now give **>50%**; the **US overtook the UAE** (share 22.9% → 27.7%) as the largest source — a shift from Gulf blue-collar labour to skilled OECD professionals.

4. Criminal Justice Digital Push & the New Criminal Laws (ICJS)

GS-2 POLITY / GOVERNANCE

- From **1 January 2027**, all investigations and trials under the new laws will be recorded digitally; the **Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** — integrating police, courts, prisons, forensics & prosecution — is nearing full rollout, with data on the government cloud **MeghRaj**.
- The three laws — **BNS, BSA and BNSS** — replaced the IPC (1860), Evidence Act (1872) and CrPC (1898) from **1 July 2024**. NCRB data show court "consumption" of FIRs is only **46%**.
- **74.66 lakh FIRs** filed under BNS; **63,572 zero-FIRs** under BNSS; FSLs grew from **129 (2023) to 154 (2025)**. National implementation score rose from **46.47% (Jan 2025) to 70.06% (Jun 2026)**.

5. New FCRA 2.0 Portal & e-OCI Card

GS-2 GOVERNANCE / E-GOVERNANCE

- The Union Home Minister launched a **new FCRA 2.0 portal** and an **e-Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) card**, hosted on **MeghRaj**, to speed up clearances and monitor foreign fund inflows.
- Around **14,500 organisations** hold FCRA registration (mandatory to receive foreign donations). Features include **Aadhaar-based authentication, e-Sign and OCR document analysis**.
- The **e-OCI card** benefits 50 lakh+ cardholders — no re-issue for each new passport, with a unique number for real-time verification.

6. General Dhiraj Seth — New Chief of the Army Staff

GS-3 DEFENCE / PERSONS IN NEWS

- General Dhiraj Seth assumed charge as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi.
- His command experience spans an armoured regiment in the desert, an armoured brigade in the Western Theatre and a counter-insurgency force in J&K; he headed both the South Western and Southern Commands.

7. India on FATF Credibility & Terror Financing

GS-2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- India said attempts by some countries to question the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** reflect their "fear of scrutiny," and urged nations to stop exporting instability and shielding terrorists — remarks made at a UN **Counter-Terrorism Week** side event (a veiled reference to Pakistan).
- **Context:** FATF is the global watchdog on money laundering and terror financing; its grey/black listing carries major economic consequences.

SECTION II

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

A. India's 'Israel Habit' Meets West Asian Realities

GS-2 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS EDITORIAL

India's 'Israel habit' meets West Asian realities

When leaders make foreign policy decisions, each may appear reasonable in isolation. However, their cumulative impact can be strikingly different from what was originally intended. As Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, India's deepening engagement with Israel perhaps falls into that category. What was once a mutually beneficial partnership between New Delhi and Tel Aviv seems to have become more of a habit than the product of serious strategic deliberation. Yet, sound policy cannot be guided by the momentum of habit, for habit and strategy often pull in opposite directions.

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A reconfigured region

For one thing, it is important to acknowledge the gains from the partnership between India and Israel. India has received considerable military technology and know-how from Israel, as well as expertise in intelligence gathering derived from their extensive counter-insurgency experience. However, the more important question is not only what this relationship provides today, but also what it forecloses over time. Judged on those terms, the picture is not particularly encouraging.

West Asia has been undergoing one of its most intense geopolitical reconfigurations in years, and this one is different in scale. For the past decade, the region's regional arithmetic has rested on the assumption that Iran was a wounded, sanctions-strangled actor whose reach could be curtailed and ambitions contained. That assumption has now been tested and found wanting. American and Israeli military strikes on Iranian facilities have not produced the strategic calm that Tel Aviv had hoped for at the outset of this costly campaign. Iran responded with retaliatory missile and drone salvoes and, more importantly, demonstrated that any blockade of the Strait of Hormuz could not be easily overcome by the rhetoric of carrier groups. Once again, the geography of energy has become the geography of coercion. The terms of the final agreement quietly confirm that Iran was not broken.

The last three months have made it clear that the United States-Iran confrontation is not a distant geopolitical contest for New Delhi. It has had a direct impact on India's economy. Most of India's oil imports pass through routes vulnerable to any prolonged conflict in the Gulf. Whenever the Strait of Hormuz becomes a flashpoint, the consequences are felt directly in Indian

A changing West Asia demands

unchanging – a constant around which all regional policy revolves. That assumption now needs to be revised. The public differences between Washington and Tel Aviv, reflected in U.S. President Donald Trump's frequent outbursts against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, are no mere diplomatic squall. They appear to be genuine, notwithstanding Mr. Trump's well-known idiosyncrasies, because Washington's strategic calculus in West Asia has changed faster than expected.

The U.S. urgently needs off-ramps, while Mr. Netanyahu, whose political survival is bound up with escalation, has little interest in de-escalation without achieving his maximalist objectives. The friction becomes evident when the patron and the client are at odds, and the once-blank cheque starts to float.

Iran cannot be ignored

Thus, the perception of a shift towards Israel, reflected in Mr. Modi's unexpected visit to Tel Aviv (February 25-26, 2026) just before the U.S. and Israel launched their coordinated attack on Iran (February 28, 2026), becomes riskier when it is made more explicit, as it could place India on the wrong side of a regional reconfiguration that neither Israel nor any third party can control. While Mr. Modi's personal absence from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral is unsurprising, the choice of India's representatives is itself a deliberate signal. Pairing Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita with Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain (retired) – himself a soldier-scholar shaped by counter-insurgency experience – may be read as a calibrated posture of political reassurance, while also subtly reflecting India's religious pluralism.

In other words, it reflects a posture that has internalised the war's central lessons without yet being willing to say aloud that Tehran's coercive capacity, demonstrated through the Strait of Hormuz and the missile exchanges, cannot be managed through the optics of Tel Aviv alone. This choice conveys an important diplomatic message of reassurance to Iran, which has demonstrated that it remains a regional heavyweight.

Moreover, Iran is a civilisational state with deep-rooted political and ideological networks across Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, as well as the proven capacity to generate economic pressure that can bypass conventional military deterrence.

A nation that can dictate ceasefire terms to Mr. Trump after absorbing punitive strikes from the

There is also the matter of Europe, an underutilised and undervalued element in India's economic planning. India must recognise that Europe's political landscape has turned against Israel's actions in Gaza and Lebanon in ways, and at a pace, that would have been unimaginable two years ago.

More than sentiment, electoral arithmetic is at work. And electoral arithmetic often shapes trade policy and, eventually, the tone of bilateral negotiations. India's status-seeking desire to be seen as a responsible international actor, rather than merely a vast market, and its economic ambitions in Europe – including the operationalisation of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement – may come under closer scrutiny in the context of its West Asia policy than New Delhi anticipates.

What is unusual about the present moment is that India has no option but to act strategically, independently, and decisively. It has leverage because it has maintained good relations with many Arab Gulf states, from which millions of Indian workers send remittances home. Although Saudi Arabia may once again have found tactical reasons to accommodate Rawalpindi (Pakistan), India's relationship with the United Arab Emirates has grown even stronger.

New Delhi's historical ties with Tehran, though constrained by shifting regional dynamics, have not been completely severed. More fundamentally, India's sheer size combined with its geostrategic attributes makes it an indispensable stakeholder in any emerging regional order. What India needs now is the political will to wield its leverage effectively in pursuit of clearly defined national objectives.

Beyond binary choices

India needs a sufficiently ambitious strategic imagination. But that does not mean choosing between Israel and Iran, for that would be far too simplistic, and history rarely rewards such simplifications. Herein lies the distinction between an adaptive, alignment-driven foreign policy – the kind that follows and adapts to alignments forged by others – and an architectonic foreign policy, which seeks to shape its own strategic environment.

For a country that claims to be 'Vishwabandhu', it is important to recognise that the credibility of such a claim will be tested in moments such as these, when the world is watching India's words and actions. New Delhi's most valuable strategic asset in the coming multipolar decade is its authentic voice as a champion of the Global South, and every visible

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EXPLANATION & ANALYSIS

- A changing West Asia demands **strategic imagination, flexibility and diplomatic balance** from India; the India-Israel partnership (military tech, intelligence, counter-insurgency) risks becoming "more a habit than strategy."
- The old assumption of a "wounded, contained Iran" no longer holds after strikes on Iranian facilities and Iran's demonstrated leverage over the **Strait of Hormuz** — a chokepoint vital to Indian energy security.
- **Iran cannot be ignored:** India's participation in Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral rites signalled calibrated reassurance; Iran's networks across Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen give it non-conventional deterrence.
- **Beyond binary choices:** India's most valuable asset is its authentic voice as a champion of the **Global South**, which largely sympathises with Palestinians; overt alignment with Israel could jeopardise that capital. India needs an **architectonic** foreign policy that shapes its environment rather than merely reacting.

B. Reimagining Sovereign AI for India's Strategic Future

GS-3 | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY | EDITORIAL

becomes more complicated, with every diplomatic choice carrying economic consequences. Strategic flexibility requires shunning comfortable alignments.

Many strategic analysts have long believed that Washington's policy towards Israel is fixed and

strategic imagination, flexibility, and diplomatic balance from India

discounted. China also appears poised to expand its strategic and economic footprint in Iran, making it imperative for India to exercise greater caution. Greater alignment with Israel risks pushing Tehran further into the China-Pakistan strategic embrace.

Global South overwhelmingly sympathises with the Palestinians risks putting that precious capital in jeopardy. The defence technologies provided by Tel Aviv are undeniably valuable. But the strategic price of appearing aligned in a conflict that has reshaped West Asia is no less real.

Reimagining sovereign AI for India's strategic future

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India must

The United States government recently directed American Artificial Intelligence (AI) behemoth Anthropic to suspend access to its most advanced Fable 5 and Mythos 5 models for foreign nationals on national security grounds. A U.S. Presidential order also creates a voluntary mechanism for the U.S. federal government to access such models up to 30 days before trusted partners can. The Trump administration is simultaneously considering equity stakes in leading AI companies, ostensibly to redistribute the supernormal profits expected from technological advances.

These policy shifts are the latest and most dramatic in a series of sovereign actions demonstrating that governments are increasingly shaping AI policy around national advantage. Europe is moving away from its "regulate first, ask questions later" approach by investing in AI compute and promoting "Buy European" public procurement. Meanwhile, in keeping with President Javier Milei's swashbuckling style, even Argentina aims to attract AI investment by offering a regulatory safe harbour.

Navigating AI geopolitics

Aggressive AI policy is the new normal. As a large IT services economy that does not have its own frontier AI systems – those requiring upwards of ten septillion floating-point operations to train – India must review global developments and articulate a coherent policy response that allows it to benefit from frontier technology without letting its economic capabilities depend on policy decisions made elsewhere.

to outcompete rivals. They cannot, however, manage the geopolitical risks that accompany dependence on those technologies. This is where public policy must step in. India's discourse is stuck in a false binary between globalisation and industrial policy. India's industries must benefit from both at the same time.

The lesson is already visible in another strategic industry: Indian pharma is deeply dependent on ingredients from China, and at the same time, navigates wavering policy regimes for market access in the U.S. A Production-Linked Incentive promotes domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs but NITI Aayog's latest assessment finds that India still sources 65% of critical ingredients from China. Industrial policies can create footholds, not instant resilience.

Building strategic AI linkages

Frontier AI presents the same strategic dilemma, but on a much larger scale. India's spends 0.6% of GDP on research and development, and the private sector accounts for a third of this. OpenAI alone projects its compute spending at $50 billion this year, over six times India's annual private R&D spend. The implication is straightforward.

India cannot outspend frontier AI investment, so it must instead deepen its backward linkages to frontier AI through government action while strengthening its forward linkages to global markets for its products and services. This starts with a whole-of-government approach, in which ministries such as external affairs coordinate closely with commerce and it, and perhaps even defence, energy, and telecom, to better serve the

government should help underwrite risks that private firms cannot efficiently bear alone. Export credit recognises that firms cannot shoulder geopolitical risks on their own and insures them against disruption. Hybrid-annuity contracts do the same for long-gestation infrastructure by having the state fund part of a project and make fixed payments over time, rather than leaving private capital to bear the full risk.

Industry must step up

And while the government can create the conditions for success, competitiveness must ultimately come from firms themselves. For its part, the Indian tech ecosystem needs to pay attention to quality and innovation that makes services and products valuable to the world.

There is less room for complacency than India's technology industry often assumes. The Philippines generates $40 billion in IT exports –already nearly a sixth of India's IT exports – and is growing faster than the global industry.

Similarly, Indian app companies have barely made a dent abroad. No Indian app features among the top 10 by downloads, in-app purchase revenue, or monthly active users. This calls for greater ambition from the industry itself.

Indian technology also needs a more coherent strategic voice. Incumbent IT firms remain preoccupied with visas and market access, while start-ups are consumed by regulatory frictions and fundraising. Yet, both ultimately share the same interest: ensuring that India remains deeply connected to the world's leading AI ecosystems while steadily building greater domestic

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EXPLANATION & ANALYSIS

- The US directed AI firm **Anthropic** to suspend foreign-national access to its most advanced **Fable 5 and Mythos 5** models on national-security grounds — underscoring **AI as an instrument of sovereign power**.
- **India's dilemma:** using foreign AI models today is the only way to build the surpluses needed to depend on them less tomorrow — diffusion and model-dependence pull in opposite directions.
- **Pharma parallel:** despite PLI incentives, NITI Aayog finds India still sources **65% of critical drug ingredients from China** — industrial policy creates footholds, not instant resilience.
- **The gap & the fix:** India spends only **0.6% of GDP on R&D**. Government should underwrite geopolitical risk (export credit, hybrid-annuity models); industry must move beyond visa/market-access concerns to build world-class models — staying integrated globally while cutting strategic vulnerabilities.

C. Damocles' Sword over Kerala's Fortunes

GS-3 | ECONOMY / FISCAL FEDERALISM | EDITORIAL

- Kerala's **high debt** constrains its ability to borrow and invest; deficits are above the median of major States, with debt financing current (not capital) expenditure.
- Losses at **KIIFB** and PSEs, off-budget borrowings and committed liabilities squeeze capacity — **Rs 77 of every Rs 100** of revenue is pre-committed.
- **Way forward:** overhaul GST administration, raise non-tax revenue, tap diaspora via RBI-compliant bonds, reform PSEs — while protecting safety nets for the poorest.

D. UN Report on Israel's Crimes against Palestinian Children

GS-2 | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | EDITORIAL

- The **UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry** termed Israel's actions in Gaza a **genocide**; children were **30% of casualties and 26% of injuries** since 7 October 2023.
- Its June 2026 report found the **war crime of wilful killing** and the **crime against humanity of extermination**; children killed represent about **2%** of Gaza's child population.
- It documented deliberate deprivation of schooling, food and healthcare — a grave concern for international humanitarian law.

E. The Three-Language Formula Debate (Language Policy)

GS-2 | EDUCATION | EDITORIAL

- The row over a **third language from Class 6** stems from a contradiction in **NEP 2020**: it prizes English for STEM, yet its three-language formula needs two Indian languages — effectively treating English as "foreign."
- **CBSE**'s rule (two "Bharatiya" languages) forced students who took French to drop it, hurting Class 10 performance; after backlash norms were eased, but only temporarily.
- **Editorial view:** teach the **mother tongue and English** on equal footing and offer a third language by choice where resources permit — serving India's skilling vision over "atavistic relapses."

SECTION III

PRELIMS PRACTICE — 10 MCQs

Q1. With reference to the SUMAN Roadmap 2030, consider the following:

1. It aims to reduce India's Maternal Mortality Ratio below 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. It aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

How many statements are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (b) Only two — Statement 2 is wrong; SUMAN is under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Q2. Project BRAHMANK functions under which organisation?

(a) Army Corps of Engineers

(b) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

(c) NHAI

(d) DRDO

Answer: (b) BRO — it develops border infrastructure in five districts of Arunachal Pradesh and adjoining Assam.

Q3. Consider the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):

1. It is part of FEMA, 1999.
2. It permits residents to remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year.
3. It allows remittances for speculative trading abroad.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only — LRS bars gambling, speculation and terror financing.

Q4. The three new criminal laws (effective 1 July 2024) replaced which of the following?

1. Indian Penal Code, 1860
2. Indian Evidence Act, 1872
3. Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

Select the correct answer:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3 — replaced by BNS, BSA and BNSS respectively.

Q5. The ICJS integrates which pillars on a single platform?

(a) Police and courts only

(b) Police, courts and prisons only

(c) Police, courts, prisons, forensics and prosecution

(d) Courts and prosecution only

Answer: (c) — data is stored on the government cloud MeghRaj.

Q6. 'MeghRaj' refers to:

(a) A weather supercomputer

(b) India's national cloud platform

(c) A defence satellite

(d) A crop-insurance scheme

Answer: (b) — used for ICJS, FCRA 2.0 and e-OCI data.

Q7. The FATF is primarily associated with:

(a) Trade dispute settlement
(b) Combating money laundering and terror financing
(c) Regulating data flows
(d) Climate finance

Answer: (b) — the inter-governmental watchdog on money laundering and terror financing.

Q8. Regarding remittances to India, consider:

1. India has been the world's largest recipient since 2008.
2. Per RBI's 2025 survey, the USA overtook the UAE as the largest source.
3. Advanced economies now provide over 50% of inflows.

How many are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (c) All three — a shift from Gulf labour to skilled OECD professionals.

Q9. The Strait of Hormuz connects:

(a) Red Sea & Mediterranean
(b) Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman
(c) Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal
(d) Black Sea & Aegean Sea

Answer: (b) — a critical chokepoint for India's oil imports.

Q10. 'Fable 5' and 'Mythos 5' are:

(a) Indigenous missiles
(b) Advanced Artificial Intelligence models
(c) Reusable launch vehicles
(d) Semiconductor nodes

Answer: (b) — advanced AI models whose foreign access the US suspended, sparking the 'sovereign AI' debate.

SECTION IV

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Language policy in India reflects a balance between cultural preservation, educational objectives and federal harmony. Discuss the significance of the Three-Language Formula in this context. (GS-II) **8 Marks**

MODEL APPROACH / POINTERS

- **Intro:** Define the Three-Language Formula (Kothari Commission 1968; NEP 2020).
- **Cultural:** promotes multilingualism and protects linguistic diversity (Eighth Schedule).
- **Educational:** mother-tongue instruction aids STEM comprehension; English for global mobility.
- **Federal harmony:** language is State-sensitive; non-imposition (Article 343–351) is key to cooperative federalism.
- **Challenges:** teacher shortages, board-exam disruption (CBSE case), "foreign vs Bharatiya" classification.
- **Conclusion:** voluntary, choice-based, resource-backed implementation upholding integration and regional sentiment.

Q2. "Using foreign AI models today may be the only way to build the surpluses needed to depend on them less tomorrow." In light of recent restrictions on advanced AI models, examine the challenges and strategy for India in building 'sovereign AI'. (GS-III) **12 Marks**

MODEL APPROACH / POINTERS

- **Intro:** US restricting frontier-model access (Fable 5, Mythos 5); AI as sovereign power.
- **Sovereign AI:** domestic capability across compute, data, models and talent.
- **Challenges:** low R&D (0.6% of GDP); foreign compute/model dependence; pharma parallel (65% inputs from China); brain-drain; chip access.
- **Opportunities:** IT/app ecosystem, IndiaAI Mission, Digital Public Infrastructure, Bhashini.
- **Strategy:** government to underwrite risk (export credit, hybrid-annuity compute); "Buy Indian" procurement; deepen backward linkages while strengthening forward linkages; whole-of-government coordination.
- **Conclusion:** remain integrated globally while steadily reducing strategic vulnerabilities.

SECTION V

ESSAY TOPIC

"Technological self-reliance is the new frontier of national sovereignty."

INTRODUCTION

- **Hook:** From salt and steel of the freedom struggle to silicon and algorithms today — sovereignty has moved from territory to technology (open with the AI-access episode / Aatmanirbhar Bharat).
- **Thesis:** In a multipolar, tech-driven world, autonomy depends on command over critical technologies — AI, semiconductors, energy, defence, pharma.

DIMENSIONS TO DEVELOP

- **Economic:** value-chain dependence (65% pharma inputs from China; chip imports); PLI and "footholds without resilience".
- **Strategic & Security:** AI/defence tech restrictions as leverage; energy security (Strait of Hormuz, ethanol blending); data sovereignty (MeghRaj).
- **Scientific & Institutional:** low R&D (0.6% of GDP); public–private partnership, talent retention, indigenous innovation (ISRO, DRDO, IndiaAI, UPI).
- **Ethical / Global South:** self-reliance vs autarky; India as a voice for equitable tech access.

COUNTER-VIEW & CONCLUSION

- Absolute self-sufficiency is neither feasible nor desirable — the goal is **strategic autonomy, not isolation**.
- True 21st-century sovereignty is the ability to choose one's own path — built on **capability and cooperation**.

— End of Analysis —

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