



## Current Affairs of the Day

### GS Paper II

- G7 accommodates Indian stand on the need for Internet curbs
- ‘May 28 order has no link with CAA’
- ‘China, India, Pak. expanding nuclear arsenal’
- Centre lists food schemes for migrants labourers



## G7 accommodates Indian stand on the need for Internet curbs

1. Internet freedoms are subject to national security, said government sources, claiming that India's tough negotiations on the joint communique issued by G7 and Guest Countries at the session on Open Societies had ensured that the original language criticising "Internet shutdowns" was amended to include New Delhi's concerns.
2. The explanation came after the 'G7 and Guest Countries: 2021 Open Societies Statement' referred to "politically motivated Internet shutdowns", which indirectly addresses Internet blackouts in various parts of the world including India.
3. Kashmir has experienced Internet and mobile telephony shutdown since Article 370 was amended on August 5, 2019. Similar communication shutdowns were witnessed in Delhi and Assam during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act during 2019-2020 and the farmer's protest.
4. Communication shutdowns were also witnessed in other parts of the world, including Hong Kong where a protest against Chinese security laws intensified during 2019.

### Democracies under threat:

1. The G7 statement also took note of the developments in military-ruled Myanmar as well as in larger economies.
2. "We are at a critical juncture, facing threats to freedom and democracy from rising authoritarianism, electoral interference, corruption, economic coercion, manipulation of information, including disinformation, online harms and cyber attacks, politically motivated Internet shutdowns, human rights violations and abuses, terrorism and violent extremism," declared the statement, referring to the problems facing the democratic world.
3. The assertion in the statement appears to touch upon several issues that are sensitive in nature as they are often subjected to public debate in India.

### Public safety

1. The statement went on to say that the G7 and guest countries would "promote respect for internationally accepted norms that drive inclusivity and protect digital civic-space, including through capacity building, and ensure that the



design and application of new technologies reflect our shared values, respect human rights and international law, promote diversity and embed principles of public safety”.

2. The sources said India “made it clear” that law and order concerns were important and public safety had to be prioritised when regulating the flow of information.

## ‘May 28 order has no link with CAA’

1. The Union Home Ministry maintained in the Supreme Court that its May 28 order delegating power to Collectors in 13 districts across five States to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh has “no relation whatsoever” with the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019.
2. The 2019 Act, better known as ‘CAA’, is under challenge before the Supreme Court. The law is accused of “fast-tracking” citizenship for non-Muslim persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from the three neighbours. The CAA is blamed for illegally granting citizenship on the basis of religion.
3. Petitions in the Supreme Court have drawn parallels between the CAA and the May 28 notification, which facilitates non-Muslims from the three countries residing in 13 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab to apply for citizenship.

### Centres reply:

1. The Ministry countered that the May order “merely delegates the power of [granting citizenship by registration and naturalisation] to the local authorities in particular cases”.
2. “The Central government used its authority under Section 16 of the Citizenship Act... It is merely a process of decentralisation of decision-making aimed at speedy disposal of the citizenship applications of such foreigners... It has no relation whatsoever to the CAA,” the MHA affidavit said.



## ‘China, India, Pak. expanding nuclear arsenal’

1. China is in the middle of significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear weapon inventory, and India and Pakistan also appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, according to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Year Book 2021.
2. The overall number of warheads in global military stockpiles now appears to be increasing, a worrisome sign that the declining trend that has characterised global nuclear arsenals since the end of the Cold War has stalled.
3. According to the yearbook, India possessed an estimated 156 nuclear warheads at the start of 2021, compared with 150 at the start of last year, while Pakistan had 165 warheads, up from 160 in 2020. China’s nuclear arsenal consisted of 350 warheads, up from 320 at the start of 2020.
4. The nine nuclear-armed states — the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea — together possessed an estimated 13,080 nuclear weapons at the start of 2021. Russia and the U.S. together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons, SIPRI said.

### IISS report

A report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, in May titled ‘Nuclear Deterrence and Stability in South Asia: Perceptions and Realities’ said that India and Pakistan are seeking new technologies and capabilities that dangerously undermine each other’s defence under the nuclear threshold. It said China’s evolving profile as a nuclear weapons state was compounding India’s security challenges.

## Centre lists food schemes for migrants labourers

1. The Centre informed the Supreme Court that the States and the Union Territories have purchased nearly 3.7 lakh tonnes of foodgrains at concessional rates from the Food Corporation of India this year to supply to migrants without ration cards and others outside the protective cover of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), debunking apprehensions raised in court that those without ration cards may be left to die amid a devastating pandemic.
2. However, the responsibility of identification and distribution to the beneficiaries lies with the States/UTs.



## ‘ONORC is tailor-made for migrants’

1. One Nation One Ration Card plan aims to empower all National Food Security Act migrant beneficiaries to access foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop [FPS] of their choice anywhere in the country by using their same/existing ration card with biometric authentication.
2. A total of 32 States/UTs covering around 69 crores NFSA beneficiaries, i.e., 86% of NFSA population in the country, were swiftly brought under the ONORC plan by December 2020.
3. The effort was to ensure that migrant workers and their families got assured access to nutrition via national portability of ration cards under the Food Security Act, the Centre stated.