

Editorial of the Day – 29.12.2025

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1. Linked civilisations, a modern strategic partnership(TH)

General Studies 1- Society

Topic- Bilateral, regional, and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests. (India-Iran Relations (Historical ties, Energy Security, Connectivity Projects, and Strategic Partnership)).

Introduction

The relationship between India and Iran is unique in international relations; it goes beyond standard diplomatic statecraft, rooting itself in a "living civilisational relationship." While ancient ties provide the foundation, modern engagement is increasingly driven by hard economic realities, energy security, and the need for regional stability in West Asia.

The Civilisational & Literary Continuum

The historical bond between the two nations is defined by shared ancestry and deep cultural osmosis.

Common Ancestry- Both civilisations trace their roots to the Aryan peoples before they branched out one settling in the Iranian plateau and the other in the Indus-Ganga plains.

Linguistic & Spiritual Roots- There are deep parallels between the Avesta (Zoroastrian scripture) and the Rigveda, confirming a shared spiritual imagination and civilisational origin. This shared linguistic and mythological background has fostered a resilience in the relationship that has survived centuries of political flux.

Persian Influence in India- Persian endured for centuries as the language of art, diplomacy, and poetry in India.

Sabk-e-Hendi (Indian Style)- The cross-cultural milieu gave birth to a specific style of Persian literature known as the "Indian Style."

Cultural Icon- The text highlights Mirza Abdul-Qadir Bedil Dehlavi, a poet whose philosophical depth represents the creative brilliance of this shared heritage.

Pillars of Contemporary Strategic & Economic Convergence

In the current geopolitical landscape, historical sentiment is insufficient; the partnership is now anchored in tangible strategic and economic interests.

Energy Security

Natural Alignment- Iran possesses vast hydrocarbon reserves, while India has rapidly growing energy demands. This creates a natural, symbiotic supplier-consumer relationship.

Connectivity and Trade

Chabahar Port- India's involvement in the development of the Chabahar Port is a strategic anchor, allowing India to bypass Pakistan to access Afghanistan and Central Asia.

INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor)- Iran holds a central geographical position in this corridor. The INSTC offers a shorter, cheaper, and more efficient route for Eurasian commerce compared to traditional routes (like the Suez Canal).

Security Cooperation & Geopolitics

As the world shifts toward a multipolar order, India and Iran are positioning themselves to influence regional stability.

Counter-Terrorism- Both nations face threats from the spread of extremism and terrorism across West and South Asia.

Intelligence Sharing- Consequently, intelligence cooperation has become a "quiet but vital pillar" of the relationship.

Strategic Autonomy- Despite external pressures (often implying Western sanctions), India has managed its ties with Iran by prioritizing Strategic Autonomy and national interest.

Financial Resilience- To insulate the partnership from external constraints (sanctions), there is a push for flexible financial arrangements, specifically local-currency trade.

Future-Oriented Engagement- Beyond Transactional Ties

The article suggests moving from a buyer-seller relationship to an innovation-driven alliance.

Knowledge-Based Diversification- The future of the partnership lies in diversifying into high-tech sectors, including Information Technology (IT), Nanotechnology, Medical Sciences

Diplomatic Milestone- As the nation's commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations, the goal is to convert historical goodwill into a modern, forward-looking partnership.

Conclusion

India and Iran are described as "one soul in two bodies," bound by history and aligned by geography. A revitalised alliance offers mutual prosperity and contributes significantly to long-term stability in West Asia. The moment is ripe to shape a collaborative, resilient, and autonomous future that resonates with their ancient harmony.

Source- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/linked-civilisations-a-modern-strategic-partnership/article70446666.ece>

2. SC has role in clean-up, not in GST on purifiers(IE)

General Studies 2- Governance

Topic- Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary. Separation of Powers between various organs (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary). Judicial Activism vs. Judicial Overreach.

Judicial Overreach Limits- The Debate on Fiscal Intervention

Introduction

The Indian Constitution relies on a delicate balance of power between the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. While the Judiciary is the guardian of Fundamental Rights and the environment, its recent intervention in fiscal matters—specifically the Delhi High Court's suggestion to reduce GST on air purifiers—has reignited the debate on Judicial Overreach. This incident highlights the tension between judicial activism in public interest and the exclusive domain of the Executive in economic governance.

Judicial Activism vs. Constitutional Boundaries

Role of Courts- Courts often step in to correct "executive inaction," particularly when public interest is at stake (e.g., environmental protection).

Risk of Overreach- Intervention becomes problematic when courts enter policy domains strictly reserved for elected representatives.

Legislative Prerogative- Fiscal decisions, such as taxation, require detailed legislative deliberation, balancing of budgets, and political consensus, which are beyond the court's expertise and mandate.

The Constitutional Role of the GST Council

The power to determine tax rates is constitutionally codified and federal in nature.

Article 279A- The GST Council is a constitutional body established under Article 279A to govern Goods and Services Tax.

Composition & Consensus- It includes representatives from both the Centre and States. Decisions require a three-fourths majority, ensuring a federal consensus.

Unilateral Limits- Because of this federal structure, neither the Judiciary nor any single government authority has the power to unilaterally alter GST rates.

Public Health vs. Fiscal Policy

The context of the court's intervention is the severe air pollution crisis, but the text argues that the *method* of intervention (tax cuts) is misplaced.

Valid Judicial Mandate- Monitoring and enforcing environmental laws to protect public health is well within the court's constitutional power.

Invalid Policy Prescription- lowering GST is a specific policy choice, not a matter of legal right. Tax cuts on devices (air purifiers) shift the burden of clean air to individuals (buying machines) rather than forcing the state to fix structural causes.

The Need for Structural Solutions

Beyond Band-Aids- Reducing taxes is a short-term, superficial measure. Real solutions require structural reforms in

1. Emission controls.
2. Urban planning.
3. Energy policy.
4. Transport reforms.

Constructive Engagement- The text cites the Aravalli region cases as examples of *constructive* judicial engagement, where courts focused on protecting natural resources rather than dictating fiscal terms.

Conclusion

The Judiciary remains indispensable for enforcing environmental compliance and holding the government accountable. However, Constitutional Discipline mandates that fiscal decisions (like GST rates) remain with the GST Council. Effective governance is achieved when institutions respect their defined roles while working toward long-term solutions.

Source- <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/sc-has-role-in-clean-up-not-in-fixing-gst-rates-on-purifiers-10443690/>