



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 12-01-2026**

### **Mapping Perspective**

1. Syria

### **Prelims Perspective**

2. C-Reactive Protein (CRP)
3. Dust Experiment (DEX)

### **Mains Perspective**

4. Samagra Shiksha 3.0
5. How US Exit from Global Bodies Reshapes World Order

## Syria

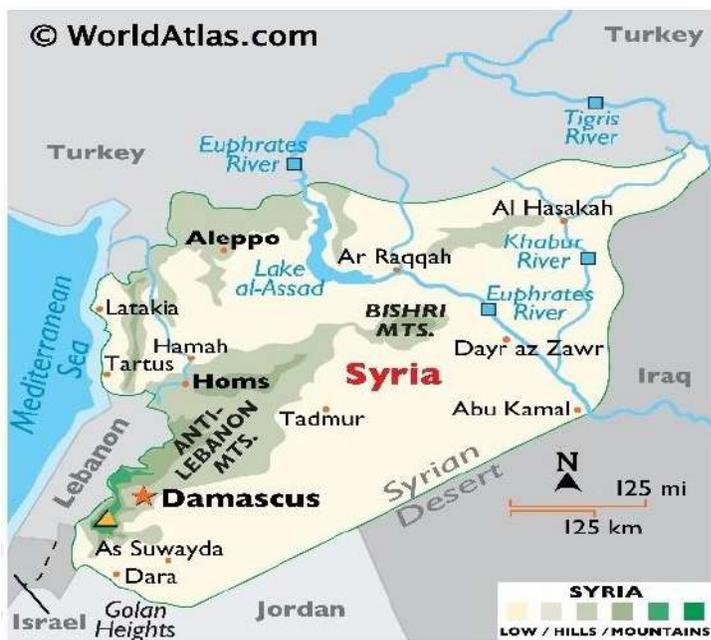
Syllabus: GS-1; Geography-Mapping

Context:

Syria Govt forces detain 300 Kurds, evacuate 400 fighters from Aleppo

Location

- Located in **Southwest Asia**
- Lies along the **eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea**
- Acts as a **land bridge between Asia, Europe, and Africa**



Capital

- **Damascus**
  - One of the **oldest continuously inhabited cities** in the world

Neighbouring Countries

- **Turkey** – North
- **Iraq** – East
- **Jordan** – South
- **Israel** – Southwest
- **Lebanon** – West

Geological and Physiographic Features

## Mountains

- **Al-Anṣariyyah Mountains**
  - Run parallel to the Mediterranean coast
  - Form a **rain-shadow barrier**
  - Highest peak: ~**1,562 m**
- Other important ranges:
  - Mount Al-Durūz (volcanic origin, south)
  - Abū Rujmayn Range
  - Bishrī Mountains

## Rivers

- **Euphrates River**
  - Originates in Turkey
  - **Longest and most important river of Syria**
  - **Lake Al-Asad** formed by the **Euphrates (Tabqa) Dam**
  - Backbone of irrigation and hydropower
- **Orontes River**
  - Unique for **northward flow**
  - Passes through **Ghāb Depression**
  - Empties into the Mediterranean
- **Yarmouk River**
  - Forms part of the **Syria–Jordan border**

## Plains and Deserts

- **Syrian Desert**
  - Covers **southeastern Syria**
  - Rocky and gravelly terrain
  - Transitional zone between Fertile Crescent and Arabian Desert

## Lakes

- **Al-Jabbūl Lake**
  - **Largest seasonal salt lake**

- Located east of Aleppo
- Other lakes:
  - Lake Qattinah
  - Lake Muzayrīb
  - Lake Khātūniyyah

## **C-Reactive Protein (CRP)**

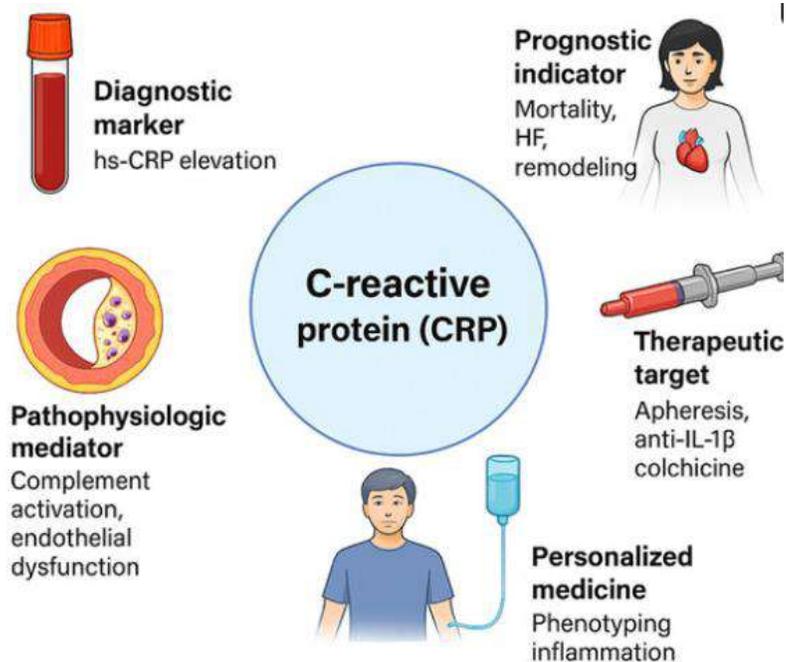
**Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology - Health**

### **Context**

C-reactive protein has emerged as a **better predictor of heart disease risk than cholesterol.**

### **About CRP**

- Protein produced by the **liver**.
- Levels increase during inflammation.
- Measured through blood tests.



### Indicates

- Acute or chronic infections
- Autoimmune disorders
- Inflammatory bowel diseases
- Lung diseases
- Effects of smoking and pollution

## **Dust Experiment (DEX)**

Syllabus: GS-3; Space Technology

### Context

ISRO confirmed through its first-ever **Dust Experiment (DEX)** that an interplanetary dust particle enters Earth's atmosphere approximately **every 1,000 seconds**.



### About Dust Experiment (DEX)

- India's first indigenous instrument to detect **interplanetary dust particles (IDPs)**.
- Developed by **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad**.
- Launched onboard **PSLV-C58 XPoSat Mission** on January 1, 2024.
- Mounted on the **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)**.

### Key Features

- Compact, impact-sensing instrument.
- 3-kg detector based on **hypervelocity impact principle**.
- Power consumption: **4.5 W**
- Operational altitude: **~350 km**
- Adaptable for planetary dust studies.

### Significance

- Enhances understanding of cosmic dust environment.
- Useful for **Gaganyaan** and future deep-space missions.

### Interplanetary Dust Particles (IDPs)

- Micrometre-sized particles from comets and asteroids.
- Form Earth's meteor layer.
- Offer insights into early solar system evolution.

## **Samagra Shiksha 3.0**

### Syllabus: GS-2: Social Sector – Education.

#### Context:

The Union government has initiated nationwide consultations with States and stakeholders to chart a roadmap for Samagra Shiksha 3.0 for the 2026-27 academic cycle.

#### Background and Evolution

- **Samagra Shiksha** is an integrated **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for school education.
- Covers the **entire continuum**:

- Pre-primary
- Primary
- Upper primary
- Secondary
- Senior secondary
- **Launched in 2018** by subsuming:
  - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
  - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
  - Teacher Education schemes
- Represented a shift from **fragmented interventions** to a **holistic school education framework**.



### What is Samagra Shiksha 3.0?

- Proposed **next phase** of the scheme, planned for the **2026–27 academic cycle**.
- Being shaped through **nationwide consultations** with:
  - States and Union Territories
  - Education experts
  - Central ministries and stakeholders
- Aligned with:
  - **Five years of NEP 2020 implementation**
  - Long-term national vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**

### Core Objectives

- Achieve **universal enrolment up to Class XII**
- **Reduce dropout rates**, especially at secondary and senior secondary levels
- Improve:
  - **Foundational literacy and numeracy**
  - **Grade-level learning outcomes**
- Strengthen:
  - **Teacher capacity**
  - **School leadership**
- Ensure **equity and inclusion** for socio-economically disadvantaged groups

### **Key Focus Areas**

#### **A. Access and Infrastructure**

- Bridging **regional, gender, and social disparities**
- Focus on underserved and aspirational districts

#### **B. Quality of Learning**

- Age-appropriate learning benchmarks
- Curriculum equivalence across school boards
- Shift towards **competency-based assessments**

#### **C. Teacher Capacity Building**

- Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- Pedagogical reforms aligned with NEP 2020
- Leadership training for head teachers and administrators

#### **D. Digital Education**

- Integration of:
  - Digital platforms
  - Educational technology
  - **Artificial Intelligence** for personalised learning
- Emphasis on blended and adaptive learning models

#### **E. Equity and Inclusion**

- Targeted support for:

- Girls
- Children with disabilities (CwDs)
- SC/ST students
- Educationally backward regions

### Governance and Planning Approach

- **Major shift** towards:
  - Consultative
  - Bottom-up planning
- States/UTs encouraged to:
  - Prepare **robust annual plans**
  - Base planning on **local school realities**
  - Align with national priorities
- Emphasis on **convergence**:
  - Ministries
  - State governments
  - Civil society organisations

### Latest News: National Consultations

- High-level consultation held in **New Delhi**.
- Participants included:
  - State Education Secretaries
  - State Project Directors
  - Central ministries
  - Education experts
- Objective:
  - Develop a **clear, implementable national roadmap** for Samagra Shiksha 3.0.

### Key Themes of Deliberation

- Bridging **learning losses** due to pandemic disruptions
- Linking **nutrition with learning outcomes**
- Integrating:

- Vocational education
- Skill pathways within schools
- Leveraging:
  - Digital tools
  - AI for personalised and adaptive learning
- Positioning schools as **agents of social and economic transformation**

### Alignment with National Development Goals

- Human capital development identified as **central to India's growth strategy**
- Strong school education system seen as foundation for:
  - Skilled workforce
  - Social mobility
  - Inclusive development

### Outcome-Oriented Vision

- Globally competitive yet **rooted in Indian values**
- Responsive to **regional and learner diversity**
- Outcome-driven with **measurable learning indicators**
- Society-centric:
  - Community participation
  - Local ownership of school governance

### Road Ahead

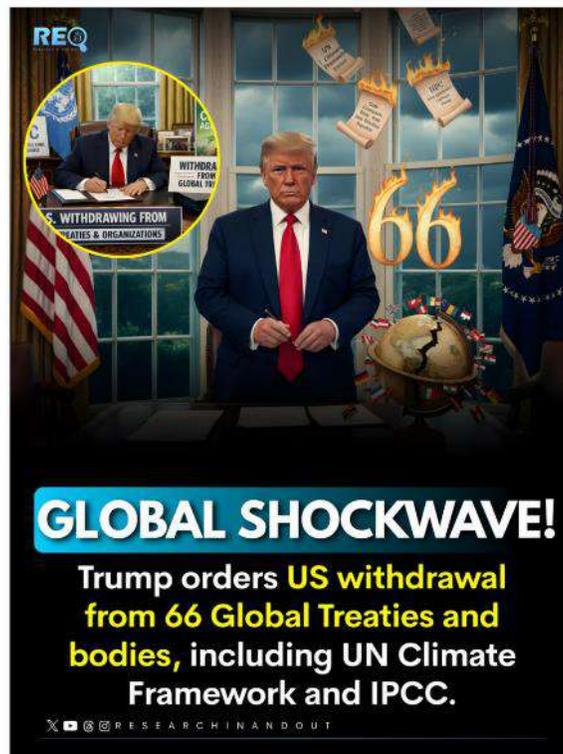
- States urged to treat **2026–27 planning cycle** as:
  - A **national movement**, not a routine exercise
- Emphasis on:
  - Cooperative federalism
  - Best practice sharing
  - Technological innovation
- Expected to **strengthen India's school education ecosystem** over the next decade.

## How US Exit from Global Bodies Reshapes World Order

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations – Multilateral Organisations.

### Context:

- US President **Donald Trump** has ordered withdrawal from **66 international organisations**.
- Includes:
  - Several **UN agencies**
  - World Health Organization (WHO)
  - UNESCO
  - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - International Solar Alliance
  - UN Women
  - UN Population Fund
- Action taken via **formal presidential memorandum** directing all federal agencies.



**Why the US Is Pulling Out of International Organisations**

**Cost Without Control (Trump Doctrine)**

- US argues it **pays disproportionately** but exercises **limited agenda-setting power**.
- Multilateralism portrayed as:
  - “Globalist”
  - Misaligned with **US national interest**
- Preference for **transactional diplomacy** over rule-based governance.

### Allegations of Pro-China Bias

- Trump accuses global institutions of:
  - Shielding or empowering **China**
  - Being politically influenced despite US being the largest funder.
- Perception: US funding indirectly strengthens China’s global standing.

### WHO Exit as a Precedent (January 2025)

- US withdrawal from WHO cited:
  - Failure to reform
  - Lack of political neutrality
- Funding disparity highlighted:
  - China contributes ~90% less than the US despite a much larger population.

### Broader Policy Signal

- WHO exit became a **template** for wider institutional retreat.
- Reinforces:
  - Unilateral action
  - Reduced faith in multilateral governance frameworks.

### US Exit from the Global Climate Framework

- US plans to exit **UNFCCC**:
  - Foundational treaty for global climate cooperation.
  - Parent framework for the **Paris Agreement**.
- Significance:
  - US would be **first country to leave UNFCCC**.
  - Loss of influence over climate negotiations shaping:
    - Energy transition

- Green finance
- Carbon markets
- Context:
  - US skipped UN Climate Summit for first time in ~30 years.

### **Withdrawal from UN Women and UNFPA**

#### **UN Women**

- Works on:
  - Gender equality
  - Women's empowerment
- US exit weakens global gender advocacy.

#### **UNFPA**

- Operates in **150+ countries**.
- Focus:
  - Family planning
  - Maternal & child health
- US funding already curtailed prior to formal exit.

### **Funding Cuts and Impact on the UN System**

- US has reduced:
  - Most **voluntary contributions**
- Consequences:
  - Financial stress across UN agencies
  - Reduced operational capacity
  - Leadership vacuum
- **India's Assessment:**
  - Weakens institutional effectiveness
  - Opens strategic space for China to expand influence.

### **How the US Seeks to Project Power Outside Global Institutions**

#### **Tariffs and Military Power**

- Continued reliance on:

- Trade tariffs
- Hard power
- 2025 military actions reported in:
  - Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, Iran

### **Selective Multilateral Engagement**

- Complete UN exit unlikely.
- US keen to stay in forums where:
  - Global standards are set
  - China holds veto power (e.g., UN Security Council).

### **Retention of Strategic Bodies**

- Expected continued engagement with:
  - International Telecommunication Union
  - International Maritime Organization
  - International Labour Organization
- Rationale:
  - Standards influence trade, technology, supply chains.

### **NATO and Strategic Posturing**

- Trump reaffirmed commitment to **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**.
- Greenland acquisition remarks raised concerns but framed as strategic necessity.
- Core belief:
  - US economic and military power is the ultimate guarantor of influence.

### **Implications for Global Order (Mains Value Addition)**

- Weakening of **rules-based multilateralism**
- Reduced predictability in global governance
- Expansion of Chinese influence in UN bodies
- Increased fragmentation of climate and health cooperation
- Greater burden on middle powers (India, EU) to uphold institutions

12 January 2026

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