



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## INDIA – QATAR

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “INDIA – QATAR”. This topic has relevance in the International Relations section of the UPSC CSE exam.

### **For Prelims:**

*India’s Gas Import Dependency and Trade with Qatar?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS 2: International Relations*

*Qatar’s Significance for India?*

*Geostrategic Significance of India-Qatar Relations?*

*Concerns Impacting India-Qatar Relations?*

### **Why in the news?**

In a recent development, a Qatari court sentenced eight former Indian Navy veterans who were detained in Doha in 2022 to death.

### **India’s Gas Import Dependency and Trade with Qatar**

#### **• Imports from Qatar:**

- In FY2022-23, India’s total imports from Qatar amounted to \$16.81 billion.
- LNG imports alone represented a significant portion at \$8.32 billion, accounting for 5% of the total imports.
- Other major imports from Qatar include fossil fuel-related commodities like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), plastics, and petrochemical products.
- Petronet LNG, a government-owned entity, holds a long-term contract with Qatar for importing 8.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG.

#### **• Exports to Qatar:**

- In the same fiscal year, India’s exports to Qatar were valued at \$1.97 billion.
- Key exports encompass cereals, copper articles, iron and steel products, vegetables, fruits, spices, and processed food items.

### **Qatar’s Significance for India**

#### **• Indian Diaspora in Qatar:**

- Over 800,000 Indian nationals call Qatar their home.

- They constitute the largest expatriate community in Qatar, contributing to various sectors such as medicine, engineering, education, finance, banking, business, media, and a substantial number in blue-collar jobs.
- **Imports and Exports:**
  - Qatar is a vital trade partner for India.
  - Key exports from Qatar to India include LNG, LPG, chemicals, petrochemicals, plastics, and aluminum articles.
  - India reciprocates with exports to Qatar, such as cereals, copper articles, iron and steel products, vegetables, fruits, spices, processed food items, electrical and machinery, plastic products, construction materials, textiles and garments, chemicals, precious stones, and rubber.
  - India ranks among the top three largest export destinations for Qatar, alongside China and Japan, and is among the top three sources of Qatar's imports, along with China and the United States.
- **Defense Ties:**
  - India and Qatar share defense ties with various collaborations.
  - India provides training opportunities in its defense institutions to several partner countries, including Qatar.
  - India takes an active part in the biennial Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX) hosted in Qatar.
  - Indian Naval and Coast Guard ships make regular visits to Qatar, enhancing bilateral cooperation.
  - The India-Qatar Defense Cooperation Agreement, initially signed during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Qatar in November 2008, was extended for an additional five years in November 2018, solidifying defense cooperation between the two nations.

### **Geostrategic Significance of India-Qatar Relations**

- **GCC Membership:**
  - Qatar's membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) holds considerable geostrategic importance for India, particularly regarding sensitive matters like Kashmir.
- **UNSC Support:**
  - India's pursuit of a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) necessitates backing from nations like Qatar.

### **Concerns Impacting India-Qatar Relations:**

- **Religious Controversy:**
  - In June 2022, a controversy erupted due to derogatory remarks about the Prophet on a TV show, causing tensions between India and Qatar.
  - Qatar demanded a public apology, which India promptly addressed by removing the individual responsible.
- **Recent Shift-Overs:**
  - A notable challenge arises from the imprisonment of eight former Navy personnel in Qatar.
  - This incident caught India off guard, especially given the presence of a substantial Indian expatriate community in Qatar, rendering India-Qatar relations a delicate issue.



Source:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/8-navy-veterans-sentenced-to-death-qatar-9002680/>

**Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding Qatar's location?**

1. Qatar is situated on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula.
2. Qatar is a landlocked country in the Middle East.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: A**

**Q.2 Consider the following statements:**

1. Indians constitute the largest expatriate community in Qatar.
2. India is a part of the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX).

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: C**

**Q.3 How has the India-Qatar relationship evolved, and what are the key factors influencing this bilateral partnership in the contemporary geopolitical landscape?**

**Rishabh**

## MUSHROOMS

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Mushrooms". This topic has relevance in the "Ecology and Environment" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

*What are key characteristics of mushrooms?*

**For Mains:**

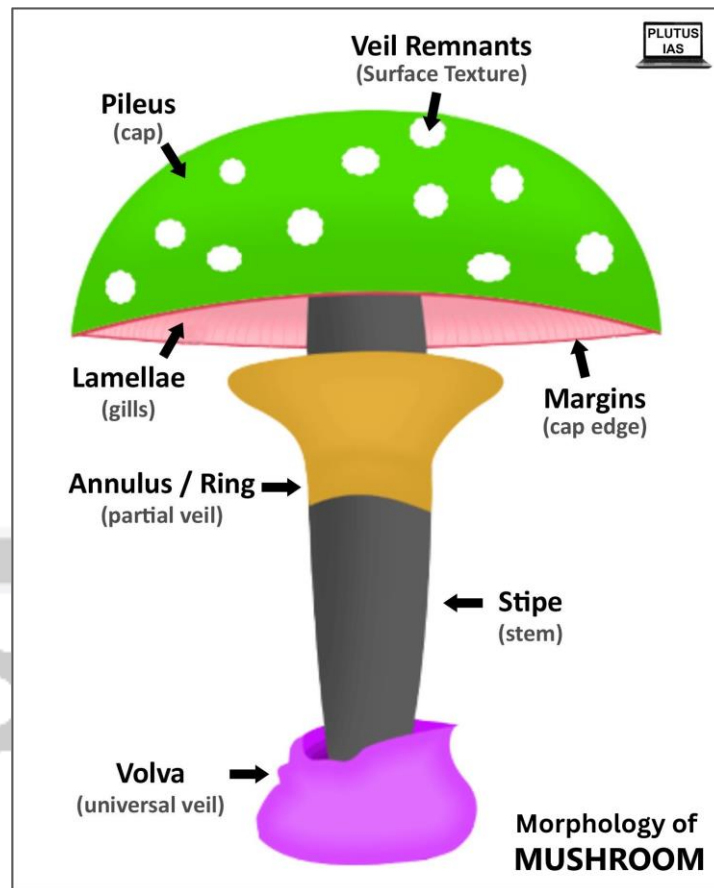
*GS3: Ecology and Environment*

**Why in the news?**

A newly discovered mushroom species has been identified in the Western Ghats by researchers.

**About Mushrooms**

- Mushrooms, also known as toadstools, are fleshy and spore-bearing fruiting bodies of **fungi**. They are typically found above ground, growing on soil or their food source.
- The word '**toadstool**' is commonly used to describe fungi considered **toxic**, whereas "**mushroom**" is typically used to categorise fungi that are **safe to eat**.
- They **lack chlorophyll** and, unlike plants, **do not engage in photosynthesis**.
- Instead, they derive nutrients through the **decomposition of organic matter** or by **forming symbiotic relationships with plants**, particularly through mycorrhizal fungi.



### Morphology of Mushrooms:

- The standard mushroom morphology includes a stem (stipe), a cap (pileus), and gills (lamellae) on the underside of the cap.
- These gills produce microscopic spores, aiding the fungus's spread across the ground or surrounding surface.

### Nutritional Profile:

- Mushrooms offer several nutritional benefits. They are low in calories and fat and a good source of protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals.
- They contain essential nutrients such as B vitamins (riboflavin, niacin, and pantothenic acid) and minerals (selenium, potassium, and copper).
- Mushrooms also contain various beneficial compounds, including antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds.
- These compounds may help to protect against chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease.
- Certain mushroom species, like **shiitake mushrooms**, are also known for their potential health benefits.

### Medicinal Properties:

- Certain mushrooms have been used in traditional medicine for their potential medicinal properties.

- For example, reishi mushrooms (*Ganoderma lucidum*) are believed to boost the immune system and have anti-inflammatory properties.
- Lion's mane mushrooms (*Hericium erinaceus*) may enhance brain function and promote nerve regeneration.

**Some interesting facts:**

- Some mushrooms **can glow in the dark**. This phenomenon is called bioluminescence, caused by a chemical reaction that produces light.
- The **largest living organism on Earth is a fungus**: It is a honey fungus in Oregon that covers an area of over 2,200 acres.
- There are an estimated **3.8 million species of fungi** worldwide, but only a small fraction of these have been identified and classified.
- Mushrooms play an essential role in the ecosystem by **breaking down dead organic matter**. This process of decomposition helps to recycle nutrients back into the soil.

**Sources:**

[Researchers identify a new mushroom species from the Western Ghats - The Hindu](#)

**Q1. With reference to mushrooms, consider the following statements:**

1. The 'toadstool' is commonly used to describe toxic fungi.
2. Mushrooms are low in calories, proteins and fats.
3. They have anti-cancer characteristics and can protect against chronic diseases such as heart disease.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

**Answer: (b)**

**Q2. Consider the following statements:**

1. Some mushrooms have medicinal properties.
2. Some mushrooms have psychoactive properties
3. Some mushrooms have insecticidal properties
4. Some mushrooms have bioluminescent properties.

**How many of the above statements are correct? (UPSC CSE 2023 PYQ)**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Answer: (d)**