



CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2026

1. Delimitation

Why in News

Concerns have been raised by several southern states regarding the **population-based delimitation of Lok Sabha seats**, arguing that it may reduce their representation in Parliament despite successful population control efforts.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- **Delimitation** refers to the process of fixing the **number and boundaries of territorial constituencies** for Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- Constitutional provisions:
 - **Article 82** – Parliament shall enact a Delimitation Act after every census.
 - **Article 170** – Readjustment of assembly constituencies in states.
 - **Articles 330 & 332** – Reservation of seats for **SCs and STs** in Parliament and State Assemblies.
- Delimitation is carried out by an independent **Delimitation Commission** whose orders have the **force of law** and cannot ordinarily be challenged in courts.
- Delimitation commissions have been constituted in **1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002**.

Key Provisions / Features

- The commission consists of:
 - A **retired Supreme Court judge** (Chairperson)
 - **Chief Election Commissioner**
 - Respective **State Election Commissioners**
- Decisions are final and **cannot be modified by Parliament or State Legislatures**.

Current Development

- In **Kishorchandra Chhanganlal Rathod v. Union of India (2024)**, the Supreme Court held that constitutional courts may review delimitation orders if they are **manifestly arbitrary or unconstitutional**, though judicial interference remains limited.



2. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 – Section 17A Case

Why in News

The Supreme Court delivered a **split verdict in Centre for Public Interest Litigation v. Union of India (2026)** regarding the constitutionality of **Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PCA)** aims to combat corruption among public servants.
- It defines **public servant**, criminalizes **bribery**, and prescribes punishment for corrupt acts.
- The Act was significantly amended by the **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018**.

Key Provisions / Features

- **Section 17A (inserted in 2018):**
 - Requires **prior approval of the government** before initiating investigation against a public servant for decisions taken during official duties.
- Punishment under PCA:
 - **Bribery by public servant** – 3 to 7 years imprisonment plus fine.
 - **Habitual offenders** – 5 to 10 years imprisonment plus fine.

Current Development

- **Justice Viswanathan** upheld Section 17A but suggested that sanction should be determined by **Lokpal or Lokayukta**.
- **Justice B.V. Nagarathna** held that Section 17A violates **Article 14**, as it grants protection only to a class of public servants.
- Due to the split verdict, the issue may require consideration by a **larger bench** of the Supreme Court.

3. “Romeo–Juliet” Clause in POCSO

Why in News

The Supreme Court highlighted the **misuse of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012** in cases involving consensual adolescent relationships and suggested introducing a “**Romeo–Juliet clause.**”

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The **POCSO Act, 2012** is a comprehensive law to protect children (below 18 years) from sexual offences such as:
 - Sexual assault
 - Sexual harassment
 - Pornography
- The Act provides for:
 - **Gender-neutral offences**
 - **Special courts for speedy trials**
 - Child-friendly procedures.

Key Provisions / Features

- Any sexual activity involving a person **below 18 years** is treated as an offence, regardless of consent.
- The law prescribes strict punishments for offences including **aggravated sexual assault and penetrative assault.**

Current Development

- The Supreme Court observed that many prosecutions arise from **consensual relationships between adolescents** where families oppose the relationship.
- The Court suggested introducing a “**Romeo–Juliet clause**”, which would exempt consensual relationships where:
 - Both individuals are adolescents, and
 - **The age difference is minimal.**
- The aim is to balance **child protection with personal liberty** and prevent misuse of criminal law.

4. Census 2027

Why in News

The Government of India has announced that the **next population census will be conducted in 2027**, with preparatory house-listing operations beginning in 2026.



Legal / Constitutional Background

- Census in India is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**.
- It is carried out by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Census is typically conducted **every 10 years**.

Key Provisions / Features

- **Two phases of census:**
 1. **House-listing phase**
 2. **Population enumeration**
- Census data is used for:
 - Delimitation of constituencies
 - Policy planning
 - Allocation of resources
 - Welfare schemes.

Current Development

- **Census 2027 will be India's first digital census**, with enumerators using mobile applications for data collection.
- Key digital initiatives include:
 - **Self-Enumeration Portal** for citizens
 - **Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS)** to track enumeration progress
 - **Satellite-based Houselisting Block Creator**
- It will also include the **first nationwide caste enumeration since 1931**.

5. Land Stack

Why in News

The Government launched **Land Stack and the Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT)** under the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)** to improve land governance.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Land is primarily a **State subject** under the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution (State List)**.



- Land administration and records are maintained by state governments.
- The **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)** aims to digitize land records and modernize land management systems.

Key Provisions / Features

- **Land Stack** is a **GIS-based integrated digital platform** for managing land and property records.
- It integrates multiple land-related databases and services.
- Key benefits include:
 - Unified access to land records
 - Improved transparency in property transactions
 - Better coordination between government departments
 - Reduction in disputes related to land ownership.

Current Development

- The initiative draws inspiration from international digital land management systems used in countries such as **Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Finland**.
- It aims to strengthen **digital governance of land records**, improve service delivery, and support transparent land administration in India.

6. Urban Water Governance

Why in News

A recent health crisis in **Indore caused by contaminated municipal tap water** highlighted serious weaknesses in urban water governance and infrastructure management.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- **Water supply and sanitation** fall under the **State List (Entry 17, Seventh Schedule)** of the Constitution.
- Urban water supply systems are generally managed by **State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**.
- The **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** strengthened the role of municipalities and entrusted them with functions including **water supply, sanitation, and urban planning**.
- Drinking water standards in India are prescribed by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** under **IS 10500:2012**.

Key Provisions / Features



- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** oversees urban water infrastructure programmes.
- Major government initiatives include:
 - **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)** – aims to provide universal tap water supply in urban areas.
 - **AMRUT 2.0 (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)** – focuses on water supply, sewerage, and urban water management.
- Key challenges in urban water governance include:
 - Ageing pipelines and leakages
 - Non-revenue water losses
 - Overdependence on groundwater
 - Poor wastewater treatment.

Current Development

The Indore incident led to scrutiny of municipal water systems after contamination was linked to pipelines passing near unhygienic infrastructure. Authorities have emphasized the need for **better infrastructure maintenance, improved monitoring, and stronger institutional coordination in urban water governance.**

7. Sports Administration Reforms

Why in News

The Government constituted a **Task Force on Capacity Building of Sports Administrators** under **Khelo Bharat NITI 2025** to improve governance in sports administration.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Sports administration in India is regulated through policies and guidelines issued by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- The **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** aims to strengthen transparency and accountability in sports bodies.

Key Provisions / Features

The task force recommended several institutional reforms:

- Establishment of a **National Council for Sports Education and Capacity Building** to regulate sports administration training.



- Creation of a **National Training and Development Cell** to deliver standardized training programs.
- Introduction of a **Unique Administrator ID (UAID)** to track training and career progression of sports administrators.
- Development of a **five-level competency framework** for sports administrators at different levels.

The **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026** also provide:

- Mandatory representation of **women and sportspersons of outstanding merit** in governing bodies.
- Formation of **National Sports Election Panel** to oversee elections of sports bodies.

Current Development

The reforms aim to professionalize sports administration and support India's goal of becoming a **top global sporting nation and hosting the 2036 Olympic Games**.

8. PRAGATI Platform

Why in News

The **50th meeting of the PRAGATI platform** was recently held, highlighting its role in improving coordination between the Union and State governments.

Legal / Constitutional Background

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is an initiative launched by the Government of India in **2015** to strengthen administrative efficiency and ensure effective implementation of government programmes.

Key Provisions / Features

- PRAGATI is a **multi-purpose digital governance platform** that integrates:
 - **Central Government ministries**
 - **State governments**
 - **District-level officials**
- The meetings are **chaired by the Prime Minister** and enable direct interaction with senior officials across levels of government.
- Key objectives include:
 - Monitoring major infrastructure projects



- Reviewing public grievances
- Ensuring timely implementation of government schemes.
- The platform integrates tools such as **PM Gati Shakti, PARIVESH, and PM Reference Portal.**

Current Development

PRAGATI has helped resolve numerous long-pending infrastructure and governance issues by improving coordination between different levels of government and promoting **cooperative federalism.**

9. ECINET

Why in News

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched the **ECINET digital platform** during the International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The **Election Commission of India** is a constitutional body established under **Article 324 of the Constitution.**
- It is responsible for conducting elections to:
 - Parliament
 - State Legislatures
 - Office of the President and Vice-President.

Key Provisions / Features

- **ECINET** is an integrated digital ecosystem developed by the Election Commission.
- It aims to bring together various election-related services on a **single unified platform.**
- Major features include:
 - **Voter registration services**
 - **Electoral roll management**
 - **Candidate information**
 - **Election-related grievances**
 - **Digital access to voter services such as e-EPIC.**
- The platform integrates multiple existing election management systems into one digital interface.



Current Development

The beta version of ECINET was **successfully piloted during the Bihar Assembly Elections 2025**. The platform is expected to strengthen transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in India's electoral management system.

10. Gig Workers

Why in News

The rise of digital platform-based employment such as ride-hailing, food delivery, and online services has drawn attention to the **legal status and social security of gig workers** in India.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Gig workers are individuals who work on a **temporary, task-based or platform-based basis** rather than in traditional employer–employee relationships.
- The **Code on Social Security, 2020** formally recognizes **gig workers and platform workers** for the first time in Indian labour law.
- The Constitution directs the State to ensure **just and humane conditions of work** under **Article 42** and **living wages** under **Article 43** (Directive Principles of State Policy).

Key Provisions / Features

- Under the **Code on Social Security, 2020**:
 - Gig workers are defined as workers engaged in **non-traditional work arrangements outside employer–employee relationships**.
 - The law provides for **social security schemes** for gig and platform workers.
- Proposed benefits include:
 - Health and accident insurance
 - Old-age protection
 - Disability benefits
 - Maternity benefits.
- Contributions for these schemes may be made by:
 - The **Central Government**
 - **State Governments**
 - **Digital platform aggregators**.

Current Development

The increasing size of the gig economy has led to policy discussions on **regulating working conditions, ensuring minimum social protection, and clarifying employment rights** for gig workers.

11. Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model

Why in News

Public Private Partnerships are increasingly used by governments to **develop infrastructure projects and deliver public services**.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- PPP is not governed by a single statute but operates through **contractual arrangements between government authorities and private entities**.
- Infrastructure development through PPPs is promoted under various government policies and programmes.
- PPP projects are implemented in sectors such as **transport, energy, urban infrastructure, and public utilities**.

Key Provisions / Features

A **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** is a long-term collaboration between the government and private sector for financing, constructing, and operating public infrastructure.

Common PPP models include:

- **BOT (Build–Operate–Transfer)** – Private entity builds and operates infrastructure before transferring it to the government.
- **BOOT (Build–Own–Operate–Transfer)**
- **DBFOT (Design–Build–Finance–Operate–Transfer)**.

Advantages:

- Mobilization of private investment
- Improved efficiency and innovation
- Faster infrastructure development.

Concerns:

- Financial risks



- Contractual disputes
- Unequal risk sharing between government and private partners.

Current Development

The government continues to expand the use of PPP models to improve infrastructure development and attract **private sector participation in public projects**.

12. Startup India

Why in News

The **Startup India initiative** continues to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in India by providing regulatory and financial support to new businesses.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The **Startup India programme** was launched by the Government of India in **2016**.
- It aims to encourage innovation, generate employment, and support new enterprises in technology and other sectors.

Key Provisions / Features

Key benefits under the Startup India initiative include:

- **Simplified regulatory compliance** for startups.
- **Tax incentives**, including income tax exemption for eligible startups.
- Establishment of a **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)** to support venture capital investment.
- **Faster patent examination and intellectual property support**.
- Creation of **startup incubators and innovation hubs**.

Eligibility criteria generally include:

- A company or LLP incorporated within the prescribed time limit.
- Annual turnover below the specified threshold.
- Engagement in **innovation, development, or improvement of products or services**.

Current Development

The initiative has contributed to the rapid growth of India's startup ecosystem, making India one of the **largest startup hubs in the world** with thousands of recognized startups across sectors.

13. Demographic Winter

Why in News

The concept of “**Demographic Winter**” has gained attention in policy discussions due to declining fertility rates and ageing populations in several countries across the world.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Population and demographic policies influence **economic planning, labour markets, and social welfare systems**.
- The Indian Constitution directs the State to promote **public health and welfare** under **Article 47 (Directive Principles of State Policy)**.
- Population trends also influence governance matters such as **resource allocation, electoral representation, and social security policies**.

Key Provisions / Features

- **Demographic Winter** refers to a situation where a country experiences **sustained low birth rates**, leading to:
 - Declining population growth
 - Ageing population
 - Shrinking workforce.
- It usually occurs when the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** falls below the **replacement level of 2.1**.
- Major consequences include:
 - Increased burden on social security systems
 - Labour shortages
 - Slower economic growth
 - Rising dependency ratio.

Several developed countries such as **Japan, South Korea, and many European nations** are facing demographic winter due to persistently low fertility rates.

Current Development

Although India still has a relatively young population, declining fertility rates in several states have triggered debates about long-term demographic trends and the need for balanced population policies.

14. Menstrual Health & Right to Life

Why in News

Courts and policymakers have increasingly emphasized that **menstrual health and hygiene are integral to the fundamental right to life and dignity of women.**

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The **Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution** includes the right to live with **dignity, health, and personal autonomy.**
- Judicial interpretation has expanded Article 21 to cover various aspects of **public health and bodily integrity.**
- The State is also directed to improve **public health and living standards** under **Article 47 (Directive Principles of State Policy).**

Key Provisions / Features

Recognition of menstrual health as a rights issue includes:

- Ensuring **access to menstrual hygiene products.**
- Providing **sanitary facilities in schools and workplaces.**
- Promoting **awareness and education regarding menstrual health.**
- Addressing social stigma and discrimination associated with menstruation.

Menstrual health is also linked with:

- **Gender equality**
- **Right to education,** as lack of menstrual hygiene facilities often affects school attendance among girls.

Current Development

Courts have increasingly recognized that **menstrual health management is connected to dignity, health, and equality,** emphasizing the responsibility of governments to provide adequate sanitation facilities and awareness programmes, especially in schools and public institutions.

15. Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

Why in News

The **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** was recently launched in New Delhi to assess how responsibly countries act toward their citizens, the environment, and the international community.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Global indices play an important role in evaluating governance, development, and policy performance of countries.
- Such indices influence international policy debates and may guide governments in improving governance frameworks and sustainability practices.

Key Provisions / Features

- The **Responsible Nations Index** evaluates countries on the basis of how responsibly they exercise power and influence.
- The index was developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation** in collaboration with **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** and **IIM Mumbai**.
- It assesses **154 countries** based on multiple indicators.
- The evaluation framework aggregates **58 indicators**, grouped into several themes covering:
 - Governance
 - Social welfare
 - Environmental responsibility
 - Global cooperation.
- The index seeks to shift global evaluation from **power-based metrics (economic or military strength)** to **responsibility-based governance**.

Current Development

In the first edition of the index:

- **Singapore ranked first**, followed by **Switzerland and Denmark**.
- **India ranked 16th globally**, emerging as the **highest-ranked major Asian country (excluding Singapore)**.

16. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

Why in News

India has recently concluded several **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** with different countries, strengthening its global trade partnerships.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Trade agreements between countries are governed by international trade law and principles of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
- Under **Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, member countries may form free trade areas that reduce trade barriers among themselves.

Key Provisions / Features

- A **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is a treaty between two or more countries aimed at:
 - Reducing or eliminating **tariffs and trade barriers**
 - Promoting **trade in goods and services**
 - Encouraging **investment and economic cooperation**.
- Modern FTAs often include provisions relating to:
 - Services and digital trade
 - Intellectual property rights
 - Investment protection
 - Government procurement.
- India has signed several FTAs in recent years with countries such as:
 - **United Arab Emirates**
 - **Australia**
 - **United Kingdom**
 - **Oman**
 - **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**.

Current Development

India has been actively negotiating FTAs as part of its strategy to expand export markets, integrate into global supply chains, and strengthen economic partnerships with major economies.

17. India–EU Free Trade Agreement

Why in News

India and the **European Union (EU)** recently announced the conclusion of negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement**, marking a significant milestone in their economic partnership.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The **European Union** is a political and economic union of **27 member states**, operating as a single market that allows free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.
- Trade agreements between India and the EU are negotiated through diplomatic and legal frameworks governing international trade.

Key Provisions / Features

The India–EU FTA aims to strengthen trade and investment relations between the two economies.

Key features include:

- Preferential market access covering **most tariff lines for goods traded between India and the EU**.
- Expansion of cooperation in **services sectors** such as IT and professional services.
- Greater access for **Indian labour-intensive exports** such as textiles, leather, footwear, and marine products.
- Provisions relating to:
 - Intellectual property protection
 - Technical standards and regulatory cooperation
 - Movement of professionals and students.

Current Development

The agreement was announced during the **16th India–EU Summit**. After legal review and approval processes in both jurisdictions, the agreement is expected to further strengthen **India–EU trade, investment flows, and economic cooperation**.

18. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Why in News

The **Atal Pension Yojana** continues to expand coverage among workers in the **unorganized sector**, providing social security through a guaranteed pension scheme.

Legal / Constitutional Background



- The scheme is part of the government's effort to promote **social security and financial inclusion**.
- The Constitution directs the State to ensure **public assistance in cases of old age, sickness, and unemployment** under **Article 41 (Directive Principles of State Policy)**.

Key Provisions / Features

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched in **2015** by the Government of India.
- It is administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
- The scheme targets workers in the **unorganized sector** who lack formal pension coverage.

Main features include:

- Subscribers contribute regularly during their working years.
- After attaining the age of **60 years**, subscribers receive a **guaranteed minimum monthly pension** ranging from **₹1,000 to ₹5,000**, depending on their contributions.
- In case of the subscriber's death, the pension is payable to the **spouse**, and thereafter the accumulated pension corpus is returned to the **nominee**.

Current Development

The scheme has seen increasing participation as part of the government's broader initiative to strengthen **social security coverage and financial protection for low-income workers**.

19. PM Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

Why in News

The **PM SVANidhi** scheme continues to support **street vendors and small traders** by providing access to affordable credit and promoting financial inclusion.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The scheme aligns with the objectives of the **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**, which aims to protect the rights and livelihoods of street vendors.
- The Constitution under **Article 19(1)(g)** guarantees citizens the **freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade or business**.

Key Provisions / Features

- **PM SVANidhi (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi)** was launched in **2020**.
- The scheme provides **collateral-free working capital loans** to street vendors.

Major features include:

- Initial loan of up to **₹10,000** for one year.
- Vendors who repay the first loan on time become eligible for **higher loan amounts in subsequent cycles**.
- **Interest subsidy** is provided to encourage timely repayment.
- Promotion of **digital transactions** through incentives and cashback benefits.

Current Development

The scheme has helped integrate street vendors into the **formal financial system**, improving their access to institutional credit and strengthening their economic security.

20. Somnath Temple

Why in News

The **Somnath Temple** has been in news due to developments related to cultural heritage preservation and religious tourism initiatives.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Protection of historical monuments and heritage sites is supported under **Article 49 of the Constitution**, which directs the State to protect monuments of national importance.
- Cultural heritage is also protected through laws such as the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.

Key Provisions / Features

- **Somnath Temple** is located in **Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Gujarat**.
- It is one of the **twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva**, which are considered among the most sacred shrines in Hinduism.
- The temple has been **destroyed and rebuilt several times in history**, notably during medieval invasions.
- The present structure was reconstructed after independence under the leadership of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and completed in **1951**.



- The temple is managed by the **Shree Somnath Trust**.

Current Development

The temple continues to be a major pilgrimage and heritage site, and recent initiatives aim to strengthen **tourism infrastructure and heritage conservation** around the temple complex.

21. Padma Awards

Why in News

The Government of India recently announced the recipients of the **Padma Awards**, one of the country's highest civilian honours.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- National honours are awarded by the **President of India** under the executive powers of the Union.
- The awards were instituted in **1954** to recognize distinguished contributions in various fields.

Key Provisions / Features

The **Padma Awards** are conferred in three categories:

- **Padma Vibhushan** – for exceptional and distinguished service.
- **Padma Bhushan** – for distinguished service of a high order.
- **Padma Shri** – for distinguished service in any field.

Features include:

- Awards are given in fields such as **art, literature, science, public affairs, social work, sports, and civil service**.
- They are announced annually on the **eve of Republic Day**.
- Recommendations are made by a **Padma Awards Committee** constituted by the Government of India.

Current Development

The awards recognize contributions of individuals across various sectors, highlighting achievements in public service, innovation, arts, and social work.

22. Gallantry Awards

Why in News

Gallantry awards were recently announced to honour members of the armed forces and civilians for acts of bravery and courage.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Gallantry awards are part of India's system of **military and civilian honours** awarded by the **President of India**.

Key Provisions / Features

Gallantry awards are categorized into two groups:

1. Wartime Gallantry Awards

- **Param Vir Chakra**
- **Maha Vir Chakra**
- **Vir Chakra**

2. Peacetime Gallantry Awards

- **Ashoka Chakra**
- **Kirti Chakra**
- **Shaurya Chakra**

These awards recognize acts of **exceptional bravery, sacrifice, and courage** in the face of danger.

Current Development

The government periodically confers these awards to recognize acts of bravery by **armed forces personnel, paramilitary forces, and civilians**.

23. Bhadrakali Inscription

Why in News

A **Bhadrakali inscription** has recently drawn attention among historians and archaeologists due to its historical and cultural significance.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- Archaeological discoveries and inscriptions are protected under heritage laws such as the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.
- These findings contribute to understanding India's historical and cultural heritage.

Key Provisions / Features

- The **Bhadrakali inscription** provides important historical evidence regarding regional history and religious practices.
- Inscriptions such as these help historians reconstruct:
 - Political events
 - Administrative systems
 - Religious traditions
 - Social life of earlier periods.
- Such inscriptions are valuable sources for studying **ancient Indian epigraphy and cultural history**.

Current Development

The discovery and study of the Bhadrakali inscription have attracted scholarly attention for providing insights into the historical and religious traditions associated with the region.

24. Bagurumba Dance

Why in News

The **Bagurumba dance**, a traditional folk dance of Assam, has been highlighted in cultural events celebrating India's indigenous traditions.

Legal / Constitutional Background

- The Constitution promotes preservation of cultural diversity and heritage under **Article 29**, which protects the cultural rights of communities.



Key Provisions / Features

- **Bagurumba** is a traditional dance performed by the **Bodo community of Assam**.
- It is commonly performed during the **Bwisagu festival**, which marks the Bodo New Year.
- The dance is characterized by:
 - Graceful hand movements
 - Traditional costumes
 - Rhythmic music played with instruments such as **kham, sifung, and serja**.

Current Development

Bagurumba dance continues to be promoted through cultural festivals and heritage initiatives aimed at preserving **indigenous art forms and tribal cultural traditions**.