



CURRENT AFFAIRS MARCH 2026

1. Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) aims to replace personal laws based on religion with a common set of laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all citizens.

Constitutional Basis

- Mentioned in **Article 44** (Directive Principles of State Policy)
- States that the **State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens**

What are Personal Laws?

- Laws based on religion governing family matters
- Examples:
 - Hindu Marriage Act
 - Muslim Personal Law (Shariat)
 - Christian Marriage Act

Need for UCC

1. **Equality before law (Article 14)**
 - Different personal laws create unequal rights
2. **Gender Justice**
 - Some personal laws discriminate against women
3. **National Integration**
 - Promotes unity through a common legal framework
4. **Secularism**
 - State should not differentiate based on religion

Arguments Against UCC

- Violates **freedom of religion (Article 25)**



- India's diversity requires legal pluralism
- Fear of cultural imposition by majority

Judicial View

- Supreme Court has repeatedly supported UCC:
 - *Shah Bano Case (1985)*
 - *Sarla Mudgal Case (1995)*

Current Status

- **Goa** is the only state with a Uniform Civil Code (Portuguese Civil Code)
- Several states exploring UCC frameworks

2. Food Sector Reforms in India (FSSAI)

India is strengthening food regulation through reforms led by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.

About FSSAI

- Established under **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**
- Under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- Apex body for food regulation in India

Need for Reforms

- Rising lifestyle diseases (obesity, diabetes)
- Increasing processed food consumption
- Need for transparency in food labelling

Key Reform Areas

1. Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoP)

- Warning labels for high sugar, salt, fat



2. Food Standards Strengthening

- Scientific limits on additives and contaminants

3. Consumer Awareness

- Campaigns like **Eat Right India**

4. Digital Regulation

- Tracking food businesses and supply chains

Challenges

- Resistance from food industry
- Lack of consumer awareness
- Enforcement issues

Significance

- Improves **public health outcomes**
- Strengthens **food safety ecosystem**
- Promotes **informed consumer choices**

3. CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026

The bill aims to streamline the administration and governance of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

About CAPFs

Includes:

- CRPF
- BSF
- CISF
- ITBP
- SSB



Purpose of the Bill

- Standardize administrative procedures
- Improve coordination among forces
- Enhance efficiency in operations

Key Features

1. **Unified Administrative Framework**
 - Common rules for service conditions
2. **Personnel Management**
 - Transfers, promotions, disciplinary rules
3. **Operational Efficiency**
 - Better coordination in internal security

Importance

- Strengthens **internal security architecture**
- Improves **governance of paramilitary forces**

4. Consumer Justice Report 2026

The report evaluates the effectiveness of India's consumer dispute redressal system.

Background

- Based on **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**
- Three-tier system:
 - District Commission
 - State Commission
 - National Commission

Key Findings

1. **Delay in Justice**



- Large backlog of cases
- 2. **Infrastructure Gaps**
 - Lack of adequate staff and resources
- 3. **Low Awareness**
 - Consumers unaware of rights

Major Recommendations

- Digitalisation of consumer courts
- Strengthening infrastructure
- Awareness campaigns

Significance

- Protects **consumer rights**
- Ensures **fair trade practices**
- Improves access to justice

5. Postal Ballot (Extension to 85+ & PwDs)

The Election Commission expanded postal ballot facility to include senior citizens (85+) and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

What is Postal Ballot?

- Voting method where voters cast votes remotely
- Used by:
 - Service voters
 - Election duty personnel

Recent Expansion

Now includes:

- Senior citizens (85 years and above)



- Persons with Disabilities

Objective

- Increase voter participation
- Ensure inclusive elections

Legal Basis

- Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961
- Administered by Election Commission of India

Significance

- Strengthens **democracy and inclusivity**
- Reduces barriers to voting

6. Media Certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC)

MCMC monitors political advertisements and paid news during elections.

What is MCMC?

- Committee set up by **Election Commission of India**
- Works at:
 - District level
 - State level

Functions

1. **Certify Political Advertisements**
2. **Monitor Paid News**
3. **Ensure Model Code of Conduct compliance**

What is Paid News?



- News presented as unbiased reporting but actually paid political content

Importance

- Ensures **free and fair elections**
- Prevents media manipulation

7. Sujal Gaon ID

A governance initiative aimed at improving rural water management and service delivery.

Objective

- Create unique identification for villages based on water resources and infrastructure

Key Features

- Data-driven mapping of:
 - Water supply
 - Infrastructure
 - Usage patterns
- Integration with digital governance systems

Purpose

- Improve water resource planning
- Ensure efficient implementation of schemes

Significance

- Supports **Jal Jeevan Mission**
- Enhances **rural governance and sustainability**

8. World Trade Organization (WTO) Crisis & Reform



The global trading system under the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** is facing significant challenges, leading to calls for reform and revival of multilateral trade cooperation.

About WTO

- Established: **1995**
- Founded through: **Marrakesh Agreement**
- Successor to: **GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)**
- Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Members: **166 countries**
- Decision-making: **Consensus-based**

Key Issues Facing WTO

- 1. Dispute Settlement Crisis**
 - Appellate Body non-functional since **December 2019**
 - Weak enforcement of trade rules
 - Countries shifting to unilateral or bilateral mechanisms
- 2. Unresolved Trade Issues**
 - Agriculture subsidies disputes
 - Public stockholding for food security
 - Special & Differential Treatment for developing countries
 - Doha Round (2001) remains unresolved
- 3. Rise of Protectionism**
 - Trade wars and tariff barriers
 - Shift towards regional agreements
 - Weakening of multilateral system
- 4. New-Age Trade Challenges**
 - Digital trade (data flows, privacy)
 - Climate measures (carbon border taxes)
 - Supply chain disruptions



Reform Suggestions

- Restore dispute settlement mechanism
- Strengthen multilateralism
- Integrate trade with climate and digital economy
- Use plurilateral agreements cautiously

Significance

- WTO ensures **rule-based global trade**
- Important for **India's exports and food security policies**

9. United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Reform & G4

The demand for reform of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has intensified, led by the G4 grouping.

About UNSC

- Total Members: **15**
- Permanent Members (P5):
 - USA, UK, France, Russia, China
- Non-permanent Members: **10 (2-year term)**
- Role: Maintain **international peace and security**
- Headquarters: **New York**

What is G4 Grouping?

- Countries: **India, Brazil, Germany, Japan**
- Objective: Permanent membership in UNSC

Need for UNSC Reform

1. Outdated Structure

- Reflects **1945 power balance**

2. Underrepresentation

- Africa and Latin America lack permanent seats

3. Rising Role of Emerging Economies

- India, Brazil etc. play major global roles

4. Legitimacy Issues

- Decisions lack universal acceptance

Challenges to Reform

- Opposition from P5 nations
- Regional rivalries (e.g., Pakistan vs India)
- Requires:
 - 2/3rd UNGA majority
 - Ratification by all P5

Significance for India

- India is a major **peacekeeping contributor**
- Strong claim for permanent membership

10. India–France Strategic Partnership (2026 Upgrade)

India and France upgraded their bilateral ties to a **Special Global Strategic Partnership**, strengthening cooperation across defence, technology, and energy.

Background

- Strategic Partnership established in **1998**
- Guided by **Horizon 2047 Roadmap (2023)**

Key Areas of Cooperation

1. Defence

- Rafale aircraft cooperation



- HAMMER missile production in India
- Helicopter manufacturing

2. Technology & Innovation

- AI collaboration
- Innovation networks
- Digital science partnerships

3. Energy & Climate

- Nuclear energy cooperation
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
- Renewable energy

4. Trade & Economy

- Amendments to DTAA
- Startup and skilling collaboration

Joint Military Exercises

- SHAKTI (Army)
- GARUDA (Air Force)
- VARUNA (Navy)

Significance

- Enhances **defence self-reliance**
- Strengthens **Indo-Pacific strategy**
- Boosts **technology and innovation ecosystem**

11. Pax Silica Initiative (2025)

India joined the **Pax Silica Initiative**, a U.S.-led framework aimed at securing global technology and AI supply chains.

Meaning of Pax Silica



- “Pax” = Peace and stability
- “Silica” = Silicon-based digital economy
→ Refers to a stable, trusted global tech order

Key Objectives

1. Secure AI and semiconductor supply chains
2. Reduce dependence on dominant suppliers (e.g., China)
3. Promote joint investments in technology
4. Protect sensitive technologies
5. Build trusted digital infrastructure

Participating Countries

- USA, India, Japan, Australia, UK, UAE, South Korea, etc.

Strategic Importance for India

1. Access to **critical minerals** (lithium, cobalt)
2. Reduces dependency on China
3. Boosts semiconductor and AI ecosystem
4. Strengthens India–US tech partnership

Significance

- Important for **future tech geopolitics**
- Links with **AI, semiconductors, and national security**

12. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

India assumed the chairmanship of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)**, strengthening its maritime leadership.

About IONS



- Established: **2008**
- Initiated by: **Indian Navy**
- Nature: Multilateral naval cooperation forum
- Members: **25 countries**

Objective

- Enhance maritime cooperation among Indian Ocean countries

Key Areas of Cooperation

1. Maritime security (anti-piracy, counter-terrorism)
2. Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)
3. Information sharing (maritime domain awareness)
4. Capacity building and joint exercises

Importance of Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- Major global trade routes
- Energy supply chains
- Strategic chokepoints

Significance for India

- Positions India as a **net security provider**
- Supports **SAGAR doctrine** (Security and Growth for All in the Region)
- Strengthens maritime diplomacy

13. Sovereign AI Models & IndiaAI Mission

India launched **Sovereign AI Models** under the IndiaAI Mission to achieve technological independence in artificial intelligence.

What is Sovereign AI?



Sovereign AI refers to a country's ability to:

- Develop AI using **domestic data, infrastructure, and talent**
- Maintain **control over AI systems and governance**
- Ensure **data security and strategic autonomy**

IndiaAI Mission – Key Facts

- Launched: **2024**
- Ministry: **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**
- Budget: **₹10,371.92 crore (5 years)**

Six Pillars of IndiaAI Mission

1. AI Compute Capacity
2. AI Application Development
3. AI Datasets Platform (AIKosh)
4. AI FutureSkills
5. AI Startup Financing
6. Safe & Trusted AI

Major AI Models Launched

1. **LLMs (Sarvam AI)**
 - Advanced language models
 - Compete with global AI systems
2. **Vachana (Gnani.ai)**
 - Text-to-speech AI
 - Supports multiple Indian languages
3. **Param2 17B (BharatGen)**
 - Multilingual foundational AI model
 - Uses Mixture-of-Experts architecture

Significance

- Reduces dependence on foreign AI companies
- Promotes **AI ecosystem and startups**
- Supports **Indian languages and digital inclusion**

14. America–India Connect Initiative (Subsea Cables)

A major digital infrastructure initiative to enhance global connectivity through subsea cables.

What is the Initiative?

- A **\$15 billion digital infrastructure project**
- Establishes **subsea cable gateway at Visakhapatnam**

Key Connectivity Routes

- Vizag → Singapore → Pacific networks
- Vizag → Africa → Atlantic networks
- Mumbai → Western Australia

About Submarine Cables

- Carry **95% of global internet traffic**
- Use fibre-optic technology
- Include repeaters for signal amplification

Importance

1. Strengthens India as a **global digital hub**
2. Supports **AI, cloud computing, data economy**
3. Improves **data speed and reliability**

Challenges



- Physical damage (anchors, fishing)
- Cybersecurity risks
- Geopolitical tensions

15. International Solar Alliance – AI for Energy Mission

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** launched a global initiative to integrate AI into energy systems.

About ISA

- Established: **2015 (Paris COP21)**
- Founders: **India and France**
- Headquarters: **Gurugram**
- Members: **120+ countries**

Objective of AI-for-Energy Mission

- Use AI to improve **efficiency and sustainability**
- Promote **clean energy adoption globally**

Role of AI in Energy

1. Demand forecasting and grid optimisation
2. Predictive maintenance of infrastructure
3. Energy efficiency improvements
4. Mineral exploration for renewables

Challenges

- High energy consumption of AI data centres
- Pressure on electricity grids

Significance



- Accelerates **energy transition**
- Strengthens India's leadership in **climate governance**

16. External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) – 2026 Update

The RBI updated ECB rules under FEMA to regulate foreign borrowings by Indian entities.

What are ECBs?

Loans taken by Indian companies from **foreign lenders**.

Forms of ECB

- Loans
- Bonds (FCCBs)
- Other instruments

Key Features (2026)

- Borrowing limit: **\$1 billion or 300% of net worth**
- Minimum maturity: **3 years**
- Allowed in **foreign currency or INR**

Restrictions

- Cannot be used for:
 - Stock market investment
 - Speculative purposes
 - Chit funds

Significance

- Provides **cheaper global capital**
- Supports **infrastructure and manufacturing**
- Enables **corporate restructuring**

17. Municipal Bonds in India

Municipal Bonds are used by urban bodies to finance infrastructure projects.

Definition

Debt instruments issued by:

- Municipal corporations
- Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

Purpose

- Water supply
- Roads and transport
- Smart cities
- Urban infrastructure

Types

1. **General Obligation Bonds** (low risk)
2. **Revenue Bonds** (project-based)
3. **Green Bonds** (environment-focused)

Regulation

- Regulated by **SEBI (2015 regulations)**

Importance

- Reduces dependence on government funding
- Promotes **financial autonomy of cities**
- Supports **urbanisation**

18. Edge Computing

Edge computing is a modern computing model where data is processed near the source.



Definition

Processing data:

- On device or nearby servers
- Instead of centralized cloud

How It Works

1. Data generated by device
2. Processed locally
3. Only essential data sent to cloud

Key Features

- Low latency
- Real-time processing
- Reduced bandwidth usage
- Better privacy

Applications

- Autonomous vehicles
- Smart cities
- Healthcare monitoring
- IoT devices

Significance

- Enables **AI-driven real-time systems**
- Improves efficiency and reliability

19. Bio-AI “Mulankur” Hubs

India launched Bio-AI hubs to integrate artificial intelligence with biotechnology research.



Meaning of Mulankur

- Sanskrit word meaning “seed” or foundation

Concept

- AI predicts biological outcomes
- Lab experiments validate results
- Feedback improves AI models

Focus Areas

1. Genomics and disease detection
2. Drug discovery and biomolecular design
3. Synthetic biology
4. Ayurveda-based scientific validation

Policy Link

- Aligned with **BioE3 Policy**
 - Biotechnology for Environment, Economy, Employment

Implementing Agencies

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- BIRAC

Significance

- Faster drug development
- Boosts bio-economy
- Supports healthcare innovation
- Strengthens AI + biotech integration

20. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is a regulatory process to evaluate the environmental consequences of proposed development projects before they are approved.

What is EIA?

- A process to **assess environmental impacts** of projects such as:
 - Industries
 - Infrastructure projects
 - Mining activities
-

Legal Basis

- Governed by **Environment Protection Act, 1986**
 - Implemented through **EIA Notification (2006)**
-

Stages of EIA Process

1. **Screening**
 - Determines whether project needs EIA
 2. **Scoping**
 - Identifies key environmental issues
 3. **Public Consultation**
 - Local community participation
 4. **Appraisal**
 - Expert committee evaluates project
 5. **Approval / Rejection**
 - Environmental clearance granted or denied
-

Types of Projects

- **Category A** → Cleared by Central Government
 - **Category B** → Cleared by State authorities
-



Importance

- Prevents environmental damage
- Promotes sustainable development
- Ensures public participation

Concerns

- Weak implementation
- Dilution of norms
- Limited public consultation

Significance for CLAT

- Links with **right to life (Article 21)**
- Frequently appears in **environment + governance passages**

21. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

India's NDCs outline its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement.

What are NDCs?

- Climate action plans submitted by countries under **Paris Agreement (2015)**

India's Updated NDC Targets

1. Reduce **emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels)
2. Achieve **50% installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources**
3. Create **carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes** through forests

Key Measures by India

- Expansion of renewable energy
- Promotion of electric mobility



- Energy efficiency initiatives

Challenges

- Balancing development and climate goals
- Financing clean energy transition
- Technology access

Significance

- Positions India as a **responsible climate leader**
- Aligns with **sustainable development goals (SDGs)**

22. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) & Nagoya Protocol

The Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

About CBD

- Adopted: **1992 (Rio Earth Summit)**
- Objectives:
 1. Conservation of biodiversity
 2. Sustainable use of biological resources
 3. Fair sharing of benefits

Nagoya Protocol

- Adopted: **2010**
- Focuses on:
 - **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**
 - Ensures countries benefit from use of their biological resources



India's Role

- Active participant
- Submits national biodiversity reports
- Has legal framework:
 - Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Importance

- Protects ecosystems and species
- Promotes equitable sharing of resources
- Supports sustainable development

23. International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a global initiative to promote solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

About ISA

- Established: **2015 (Paris Climate Summit – COP21)**
- Founders: **India and France**
- Headquarters: **Gurugram, India**
- Members: **120+ countries**

Objective

- Promote solar energy adoption globally
- Mobilize **\$1000 billion investment by 2030**

Key Initiatives

- One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)
- Global Solar Facility (GSF)
- Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR-C)



Importance

- Supports renewable energy transition
- Helps developing countries access solar technology

Significance for India

- Strengthens India's leadership in **climate diplomacy**
- Promotes **clean energy and sustainability**

24. Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 is India's primary law governing the processing and protection of personal data.

What is Personal Data?

- Any data that can identify an individual
Example: Name, Aadhaar number, phone number

Key Features of the DPDP Act

1. **Consent-Based Data Processing**
 - Data can be processed only with **free, informed, and specific consent**
2. **Rights of Individuals (Data Principals)**
 - Right to access information
 - Right to correction and erasure
 - Right to grievance redressal
3. **Duties of Data Fiduciaries**
 - Ensure data security
 - Prevent data breaches
 - Delete data when no longer needed
4. **Children's Data Protection**
 - Processing requires parental consent



- Restrictions on tracking and targeted advertising

5. Data Protection Board

- Adjudicates complaints and imposes penalties

Penalties

- Heavy financial penalties for data breaches and non-compliance

Significance

- Protects privacy (linked to **Article 21 – Right to Privacy**)
- Regulates digital economy and tech companies

Concerns

- Broad exemptions for government
- Lack of independent regulator (board under government)

25. Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

Uniform Civil Code refers to a common set of laws governing personal matters for all citizens, irrespective of religion.

What is UCC?

- A uniform law covering:
 - Marriage
 - Divorce
 - Inheritance
 - Adoption

Constitutional Basis

- **Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy)**
→ State shall endeavour to secure a UCC



Present Situation

- Different personal laws exist:
 - Hindu law
 - Muslim law
 - Christian law
 - Parsi law

Arguments in Favour

- Promotes **equality before law (Article 14)**
- Ensures **gender justice**
- Strengthens national integration

Arguments Against

- Threat to religious freedom (**Article 25**)
- Cultural diversity concerns
- Implementation challenges

Judicial Observations

- Supreme Court has repeatedly supported UCC in principle

26. Artificial Intelligence Governance in India

AI governance refers to rules, frameworks, and policies regulating the development and use of artificial intelligence.

Key Concerns in AI Governance

- Algorithmic bias
- Data privacy issues
- Lack of accountability
- Risk of misinformation and deepfakes



India's Approach

1. **IndiaAI Mission (2024)**
 - Focus on compute capacity, datasets, and innovation
2. **Responsible AI Framework**
 - Emphasis on ethical, safe, and inclusive AI
3. **Global Engagement**
 - Participation in global AI discussions (e.g., AI summits)

Key Principles

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Inclusivity
- Safety

Challenges

- Rapid technological change
- Lack of global consensus
- Regulatory gaps

Significance

- Balances innovation with regulation
- Protects users and society

27. Electoral Bonds Scheme – Legal Debate

Electoral Bonds were financial instruments used for political funding, recently struck down by the Supreme Court.

What were Electoral Bonds?

- Introduced in **2018**



- Allowed anonymous donations to political parties

How it Worked

- Bonds purchased from SBI
- Donor identity not disclosed publicly
- Political parties could encash bonds

Supreme Court Judgment (2024)

- Declared scheme **unconstitutional**

Reasons for Striking Down

1. Violates **Right to Information (Article 19(1)(a))**
2. Enables **opaque political funding**
3. Favors ruling party disproportionately

Key Issues

- Transparency vs anonymity
- Corporate influence in politics

Significance

- Strengthens democratic accountability
- Ensures transparency in elections

28. India's Semiconductor Mission

India's Semiconductor Mission aims to develop a domestic semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.

What are Semiconductors?

- Materials used to manufacture **electronic chips**



- Essential for:
 - Smartphones
 - Computers
 - Defence systems
 - AI technologies

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- Launched: **2021**
- Aim: Build domestic chip manufacturing capacity

Key Components

1. **Financial Incentives**
 - Support for chip fabrication units
2. **Design Ecosystem**
 - Promote chip design startups
3. **Supply Chain Development**
 - Reduce import dependence

Why Important?

- Currently India imports most semiconductors
- Global shortages highlight vulnerability

Strategic Importance

- Enhances **technological sovereignty**
- Supports defence and digital economy

Challenges

- High cost of fabrication plants
- Need for skilled workforce



- Global competition

29. India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is a major connectivity initiative aimed at linking India with Europe through the Middle East.

What is IMEC?

- A **multimodal economic corridor** connecting:
 - India → Middle East → Europe
- Announced during the **G20 Summit 2023 (New Delhi)**

Participating Countries

- India
- United States
- Saudi Arabia
- UAE
- European Union
- France, Germany, Italy

Structure of IMEC

1. **Eastern Corridor**
 - India → UAE → Saudi Arabia
2. **Northern Corridor**
 - Saudi Arabia → Jordan → Israel → Europe

Key Components

- Railway connectivity
- Shipping routes
- Energy pipelines (including green hydrogen)



- Digital cables

Objectives

- Reduce logistics cost and time
- Enhance trade connectivity
- Strengthen supply chains
- Promote clean energy transport

Strategic Importance

- Alternative to China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**
- Strengthens India's role in global trade routes
- Enhances cooperation with Middle East and Europe

Challenges

- Geopolitical tensions in Middle East
- Infrastructure coordination among multiple countries

30. Blue Economy

The Blue Economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods, and environmental protection.

What is Blue Economy?

- Economic activities related to oceans, seas, and coastal areas
- Focuses on **sustainability + economic development**

Key Sectors

- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Marine tourism
- Shipping and ports



- Offshore energy (wind, tidal)
- Marine biotechnology

India's Blue Economy Initiatives

1. **Sagarmala Programme**
 - Port-led development
2. **Deep Ocean Mission**
 - Exploration of marine resources
3. **Blue Economy Policy (Draft)**
 - Focus on sustainable ocean use

Importance

- Supports livelihoods of coastal communities
- Enhances economic growth
- Promotes sustainable resource use

Challenges

- Marine pollution
- Overfishing
- Climate change impacts (rising sea levels)

Global Context

- Linked with **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**

31. Global Biofuel Alliance

The Global Biofuel Alliance is an international initiative aimed at promoting the use of sustainable biofuels.

What is Global Biofuel Alliance?



- A multilateral initiative launched by India
- Announced during **G20 Summit 2023**

Members

- Founding members:
 - India
 - Brazil
 - United States
- Open to other countries and organizations

Objectives

- Promote biofuel adoption globally
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- Support energy transition
- Enhance technology sharing and cooperation

Types of Biofuels

- **First-generation:** Ethanol from crops (sugarcane, corn)
- **Second-generation:** Agricultural waste-based fuels
- **Third-generation:** Algae-based fuels

Importance

- Reduces carbon emissions
- Enhances energy security
- Supports farmers (biofuel crops)

India's Role

- Ethanol blending programme
- Target: **20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20)**

Challenges

- Food vs fuel debate
- Infrastructure requirements
- Cost and scalability

32. Green Hydrogen Mission (India)

The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to make India a global hub for production, usage, and export of green hydrogen.

What is Green Hydrogen?

- Hydrogen produced using **renewable energy sources** (solar/wind)
- No carbon emissions during production

Mission Details

- Launched: **2023**
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Target:
 - Become global export hub
 - Reduce fossil fuel dependence

Key Objectives

- Promote domestic production of green hydrogen
- Reduce import of fossil fuels
- Develop hydrogen ecosystem (production, storage, transport)

Uses of Green Hydrogen

- Fertilizer industry
- Steel manufacturing
- Energy storage

- Transport sector
-

Significance

- Helps in achieving **net-zero targets**
 - Reduces carbon emissions
 - Strengthens energy security
-

Challenges

- High production cost
 - Infrastructure gaps
 - Storage and transportation issues
-

33. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

CBAM is a climate policy tool introduced by the European Union to reduce carbon emissions and prevent carbon leakage.

What is CBAM?

- A **carbon tax on imports** into the EU
 - Applied to goods produced in countries with weaker climate regulations
-

Objective

- Ensure fair competition between EU and foreign producers
 - Prevent industries from shifting to low-regulation countries
-

Sectors Covered

- Steel
 - Cement
 - Aluminium
 - Fertilizers
-



- Electricity
-

Impact on India

- Affects Indian exports to EU
 - Increases cost of carbon-intensive goods
-

Significance

- Promotes global climate accountability
 - Encourages cleaner production methods
-

Concerns

- Seen as **protectionist measure** by developing countries
 - May violate WTO principles
-

34. One Health Approach

The One Health approach recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

What is One Health?

- Integrated approach to:
 - Human health
 - Animal health
 - Environmental health
-

Why Important?

- Prevents zoonotic diseases
(e.g., COVID-19, Ebola)
 - Improves global health security
-



Key Features

- Multi-sectoral collaboration
- Early disease detection
- Coordinated response mechanisms

Applications

- Disease surveillance
- Pandemic prevention
- Food safety
- Antimicrobial resistance control

Global Support

- Promoted by WHO, FAO, UNEP

Significance for India

- Helps manage public health risks
- Strengthens healthcare systems

35. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Digital Public Infrastructure refers to foundational digital systems that enable delivery of services at scale.

What is DPI?

- Shared digital platforms used by government and citizens

Key Components in India

- Aadhaar (identity)
- UPI (payments)
- DigiLocker (document storage)



- CoWIN (health platform)

Features

- Open and interoperable systems
- Scalable and low-cost
- Accessible to all citizens

Benefits

- Promotes financial inclusion
- Improves governance efficiency
- Reduces corruption and leakages

Global Recognition

- India's DPI model seen as global benchmark

Significance

- Supports Digital India
- Enables innovation and startups

36. Climate Finance

Climate finance refers to financial resources provided to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

What is Climate Finance?

- Funding provided for:
 - Reducing emissions
 - Adapting to climate impacts

Sources



- Developed countries
- Multilateral institutions (World Bank, IMF)
- Private sector

Global Commitment

- Developed countries pledged **\$100 billion annually** to developing nations

Uses

- Renewable energy projects
- Disaster resilience
- Climate adaptation measures

Issues

- Funding gap
- Unequal distribution
- Lack of accountability

India's Position

- Demands **climate justice**
- Seeks more funding from developed nations

37. Urban Flooding in India

Urban flooding refers to the inundation of land in cities due to heavy rainfall and poor drainage systems.

Causes of Urban Flooding

- Poor drainage infrastructure
- Unplanned urbanisation
- Encroachment of water bodies



- Climate change (intense rainfall)
-

Major Affected Cities

- Mumbai
 - Chennai
 - Bengaluru
 - Delhi
-

Impacts

- Damage to property and infrastructure
 - Traffic disruption
 - Loss of life and livelihood
-

Government Measures

- Smart Cities Mission
 - AMRUT Scheme
 - Urban flood management guidelines
-

Solutions

- Improve drainage systems
 - Protect wetlands and lakes
 - Better urban planning
 - Early warning systems
-

Significance

- Major urban governance challenge
 - Linked to climate change
-

38. Global Value Chains (GVCs)

Global Value Chains refer to the international fragmentation of production processes, where different stages of production are carried out in different countries.

What are GVCs?

- Production process divided across countries
- Each country specializes in a specific stage

Example:

- Design → USA
- Manufacturing → China
- Assembly → Vietnam

Key Features

- International division of labour
- Cross-border trade in intermediate goods
- Integration of global markets

Importance

- Boosts international trade
- Enhances efficiency and specialization
- Creates employment opportunities

India's Position

- Limited participation compared to China, Vietnam
- Government promoting:
 - PLI Schemes
 - Make in India
 - Export promotion

Challenges for India

- Infrastructure gaps
- Logistics inefficiencies
- Skill mismatch

39. Gig Economy

The gig economy refers to a labour market characterized by short-term, flexible jobs instead of permanent employment.

What is Gig Economy?

- Workers engaged in:
 - Freelancing
 - Platform-based jobs
 - Short-term contracts

Examples:

- Uber drivers
- Swiggy/Zomato delivery agents
- Freelancers

Key Features

- Flexibility of work
- No long-term employer-employee relationship
- Digital platform-based employment

Advantages

- Income opportunities
- Flexible working hours
- Supports digital economy



Challenges

- Lack of job security
- No social security benefits
- Income instability

Government Initiatives

- Social security codes
- Discussions on gig worker protections

Significance

- Growing sector in India's economy
- Important for employment generation

40. National Logistics Policy (NLP)

The National Logistics Policy aims to improve efficiency and reduce logistics costs in India.

What is NLP?

- Launched: **2022**
- Objective: Develop an integrated, efficient logistics ecosystem

Key Goals

- Reduce logistics cost from ~13–14% of GDP to global standards (~8%)
- Improve supply chain efficiency
- Enhance export competitiveness

Key Components

1. **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)**
 - Digital integration of logistics services
2. **Ease of Logistics Services (E-Logs)**



- Grievance redressal mechanism

3. Integration of Multiple Modes

- Rail, road, waterways, air

Importance

- Boosts trade and exports
- Supports manufacturing sector
- Improves ease of doing business

41. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of global development targets adopted by the United Nations.

What are SDGs?

- 17 global goals
- Adopted in **2015**
- Target year: **2030**

Key Areas Covered

- Poverty eradication
- Education
- Gender equality
- Climate action
- Economic growth

Examples of SDGs

- SDG 1 → No Poverty
- SDG 3 → Good Health
- SDG 4 → Quality Education



- SDG 13 → Climate Action

Importance

- Provides global development framework
- Guides national policies

India's Performance

- Progress in:
 - Poverty reduction
 - Digital inclusion
- Challenges:
 - Climate goals
 - Inequality

42. Circular Economy

Circular Economy is an economic system focused on minimizing waste and maximizing reuse of resources.

What is Circular Economy?

- Opposite of linear economy (use → dispose)
- Focus on:
 - Reduce
 - Reuse
 - Recycle

Key Principles

- Design out waste
- Keep products in use
- Regenerate natural systems



Examples

- Recycling plastic and metals
- Reusing electronic components
- Waste-to-energy systems

Importance

- Reduces environmental damage
- Conserves resources
- Promotes sustainability

India's Initiatives

- Plastic Waste Management Rules
- E-waste Management
- Circular economy policies (in progress)

Challenges

- Lack of awareness
- Recycling infrastructure gaps

43. ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) Framework

ESG refers to a set of standards used to evaluate a company's impact on environment, society, and governance practices.

What is ESG?

- A framework used by investors to assess:
 - Environmental impact
 - Social responsibility
 - Corporate governance



Three Pillars of ESG

1. Environmental (E)

- Carbon emissions
- Pollution control
- Renewable energy usage

2. Social (S)

- Labour rights
- Employee welfare
- Gender equality

3. Governance (G)

- Transparency
- Corporate ethics
- Board accountability

Importance

- Promotes sustainable business practices
- Attracts responsible investment
- Enhances corporate accountability

India's ESG Framework

- SEBI mandates **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)**
- Applicable to top listed companies

Challenges

- Lack of standardised metrics
- Risk of “greenwashing” (false sustainability claims)

44. Digital India Programme

Digital India is a flagship initiative aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Launch Details

- Launched: **2015**
- Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Vision

- Digital infrastructure as a core utility
- Governance and services on demand
- Digital empowerment of citizens

Key Components

1. **Digital Infrastructure**
 - Aadhaar
 - Broadband connectivity
 - Digital identity
2. **Digital Services**
 - e-Governance
 - Online public services
3. **Digital Literacy**
 - PMGDISHA (digital literacy programme)

Major Initiatives under Digital India

- UPI
- DigiLocker
- BHASHINI
- CoWIN



Significance

- Promotes financial inclusion
- Improves governance transparency
- Enables digital economy

Challenges

- Digital divide (urban vs rural)
- Cybersecurity risks

45. Startup India Initiative

Startup India is a government initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in India.

Launch Details

- Launched: **2016**
- Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

Objectives

- Encourage startups
- Create employment
- Promote innovation

Key Features

1. **Financial Support**
 - Fund of Funds for Startups
2. **Tax Benefits**
 - Tax exemptions for eligible startups
3. **Ease of Compliance**
 - Simplified regulations



- Self-certification

4. Incubation Support

- Support through incubators and innovation hubs

Benefits

- Boosts entrepreneurship
- Encourages innovation ecosystem
- Supports economic growth

Challenges

- Funding constraints
- High startup failure rates
- Regulatory hurdles

46. Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

The Social Stock Exchange (SSE) is a platform under SEBI that allows social enterprises and non-profit organizations to raise funds from the public.

What is SSE?

- A separate segment of stock exchanges (like NSE/BSE)
- Enables funding for:
 - NGOs
 - Non-profit organisations
 - Social enterprises

Launched By

- Regulated by **SEBI**
- Operationalised in **2023**



How it Works

- Social organisations list on SSE
- Investors contribute funds for social causes
- Ensures transparency and accountability

Types of Instruments

- Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds (for NGOs)
- Equity (for for-profit social enterprises)

Importance

- Promotes **impact investing**
- Improves funding for social sectors
- Enhances transparency

47. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

ONDC is a government-backed initiative aimed at democratizing e-commerce in India.

What is ONDC?

- Open digital network for buyers and sellers
- Breaks dominance of large e-commerce platforms

Launched By

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Key Features

- Platform-neutral system
- Interoperability between apps
- Sellers can connect without being tied to a single platform



Objectives

- Promote small businesses (MSMEs)
- Reduce monopoly of big platforms
- Increase competition

Benefits

- Lower costs for sellers
- Wider market access
- Consumer choice increases

Challenges

- Adoption by sellers
- Technical standardization
- Competition with established players

48. Data Localisation

Data localisation refers to storing and processing data within the borders of a country.

What is Data Localisation?

- Requirement that data be:
 - Stored locally
 - Processed within the country

Why Important?

- Enhances data security
- Ensures national control over data
- Protects citizens' privacy



India's Position

- Promoted under:
 - Digital Personal Data Protection Act
 - RBI guidelines (for financial data)

Advantages

- Improves law enforcement access
- Reduces foreign surveillance risks

Concerns

- Increased cost for companies
- May affect global trade
- Risk of state surveillance

49. Platform Economy

The platform economy refers to economic activity facilitated by digital platforms that connect buyers and sellers.

What is Platform Economy?

- Digital platforms act as intermediaries

Example:

- Amazon (e-commerce)
- Uber (transport)
- Swiggy (food delivery)

Key Features

- Network effects
- Digital intermediation
- Data-driven business models



Importance

- Drives digital economy growth
- Creates employment (gig work)
- Enables innovation

Issues

- Monopoly and market dominance
- Data privacy concerns
- Worker exploitation in gig platforms

Regulatory Concerns

- Need for competition regulation
- Consumer protection
- Worker rights

50. Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- Apex body for **financial sector coordination** in India
- Established: **2010**
- Chaired by: **Finance Minister**
- Members: RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, Finance Ministry
- Functions:
 - Maintain financial stability
 - Inter-regulatory coordination
 - Address systemic risks

51. National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

- Quasi-judicial body for **company law disputes**
- Established under **Companies Act, 2013**
- Handles:



- Insolvency cases (IBC)
- Company disputes
- Mergers & restructuring
- Appeals go to **NCLAT**

52. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016

- Law to resolve **corporate insolvency**
- Time-bound process (generally **180–330 days**)
- Key body: **Insolvency professionals + NCLT**
- Objective:
 - Maximise asset value
 - Recover loans
- Shifted control from debtor → creditor

53. Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- Statutory body under **Competition Act, 2002**
- Regulates:
 - Anti-competitive agreements
 - Abuse of dominant position
 - Mergers & acquisitions
- Objective:
 - Promote fair competition
 - Protect consumers

54. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

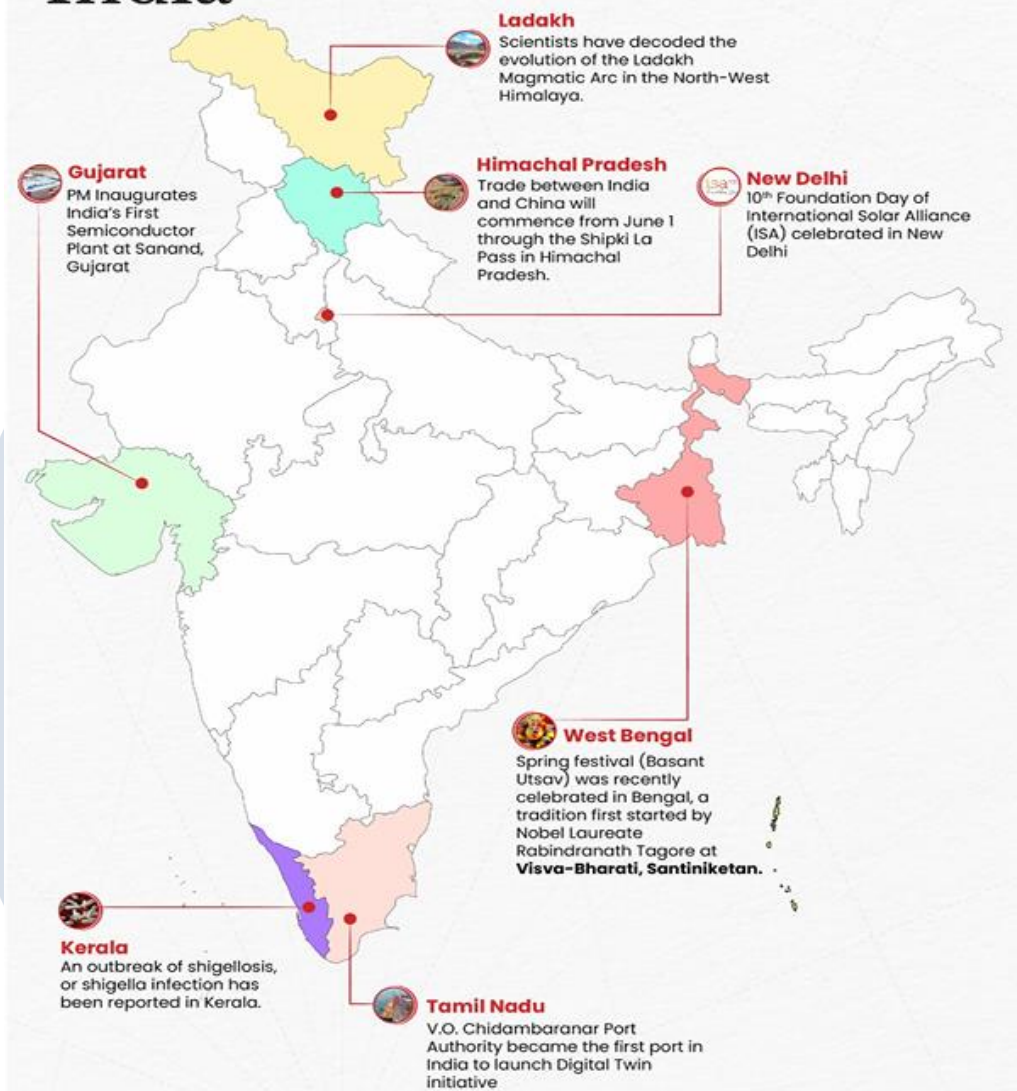
- Indirect tax system introduced in **2017**
- Replaced multiple taxes (VAT, excise, etc.)
- Types:
 - CGST, SGST, IGST



- Governing body: **GST Council**
 - Chaired by Union Finance Minister
- Objective:
 - “One Nation, One Tax”



Places in News India



Places in News World



Lebanon (Capital: Beirut)

Recently, there have been discussions in Israel about extending the country's northern border to the Litani River.



Panama Canal

Panama Canal is functioning at top capacity as Iran war triggers more LNG vessel traffic.



Cameroon (Capital: Yaounde)

WTO (World Trade Organisation) Ministerial Conference (MC14) concludes in Yaoundé, Cameroon



Chile (Capital: Santiago)

Scientists are studying gypsum deposits in the **Salar de Pajonales** (Atacama Desert, Chile) because the region closely resembles the harsh environmental conditions of Mars.



South Sudan (Capital: Juba)

Violence escalated in Jonglei state of South Sudan.



Malawi (Capital-Lilongwe)

India has sent 1,000 Metric Tons of rice to Malawi for drought relief.