



CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL 2026

Trust-Based Governance

Why in News?

The Government introduced the Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill, 2026 as part of its broader agenda of promoting trust-based governance and reducing unnecessary criminal provisions in business and regulatory laws.

What is Trust-Based Governance?

Trust-based governance is an administrative approach where citizens and businesses are treated as partners rather than suspects. It seeks to reduce excessive compliance burdens, simplify regulations, and encourage voluntary compliance.

Jan Vishwas Initiative

Objective

To improve the ease of doing business and ease of living by removing minor criminal penalties from various laws.

Key Features

- Decriminalisation of minor offences across several Acts.
- Replacement of imprisonment provisions with monetary penalties in specified cases.
- Promotion of technology-based compliance mechanisms.
- Reduction of regulatory burden on businesses.
- Encouragement of self-certification and voluntary compliance.

Significance

- Improves business environment.
- Reduces litigation and judicial burden.
- Encourages entrepreneurship and investment.
- Strengthens citizen-government trust.
- Supports economic growth through regulatory reforms.

Challenges



- Need to ensure accountability despite decriminalisation.
- Risk of non-compliance if penalties are not effective.
- Requirement of robust monitoring systems.

Census 2027

Why in News?

The Government announced that Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital census and will also include caste enumeration.

About Census

Constitutional Basis

- Census is conducted under the Census Act, 1948.
- It is administered by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Importance

- Provides demographic, social, and economic data.
- Basis for policy formulation and welfare programmes.
- Helps in resource allocation and development planning.

Key Features of Census 2027

First Digital Census

- Data collection through digital devices and mobile applications.
- Real-time data validation and monitoring.
- Reduced processing time and improved accuracy.

Caste Enumeration

- Collection of caste-related data along with other demographic information.
- Expected to provide updated data on social groups for policy planning.

Delimitation Implications

What is Delimitation?

Delimitation refers to the redrawing of boundaries of parliamentary and legislative assembly constituencies based on population changes.

Constitutional Provisions

- Article 82: Delimitation after every Census.
- Article 170: Readjustment of Assembly constituencies.

Importance of Census Data for Delimitation

- Determines representation in Parliament and State Assemblies.
- Influences allocation of seats among states.
- May have significant political implications due to population changes across regions.

Significance

- Improves quality of demographic data.
- Supports evidence-based policymaking.
- Facilitates welfare targeting.
- Assists future delimitation exercises.

AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)

Why in News?

The Government announced the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG) to address emerging opportunities and challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence.

About AIGEG

AIGEG is a policy and advisory platform focused on promoting responsible AI development and ensuring that AI contributes to economic growth while protecting public interests.

Objectives

- Develop frameworks for ethical AI.
- Promote innovation and economic growth.
- Address concerns related to privacy and security.
- Support responsible deployment of AI systems.
- Strengthen India's position in global AI governance.



Areas of Focus

- AI regulation and governance.
- Data protection and privacy.
- AI-driven economic transformation.
- Workforce reskilling and employment impacts.
- Ethical and trustworthy AI systems.

Significance

- Supports India's AI ecosystem.
- Encourages innovation while ensuring safeguards.
- Enhances global competitiveness.
- Helps prepare regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies.

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026

Why in News?

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been discussed in relation to delimitation and implementation of women's reservation.

Background

Women's Reservation

The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 provides 33% reservation for women in:

- Lok Sabha
- State Legislative Assemblies

However, implementation is linked to the next Census and subsequent delimitation exercise.

Key Issues

Delimitation

The Bill is linked to discussions regarding:

- Future redistribution of parliamentary seats.
- Representation of states after Census 2027.
- Implementation of women's reservation.

Concerns Raised

- Regional imbalance in parliamentary representation.
- Impact on states with successful population control measures.
- Political implications of seat redistribution.

Significance

- Important for representative democracy.
- Connected with women's political empowerment.
- Influences future composition of Parliament and State Assemblies.

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026

Why in News?

The Government notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 to strengthen oversight of online gaming platforms.

Objectives

- Protect users from harmful online gaming practices.
- Prevent fraud and financial risks.
- Promote responsible gaming.
- Ensure transparency in gaming platforms.

Key Provisions

- Registration and compliance requirements for gaming entities.
- User protection measures.
- Transparency regarding gaming rules and outcomes.
- Grievance redressal mechanisms.
- Measures against illegal betting and gambling activities.

Importance

- Protects consumers.
- Promotes responsible digital gaming.
- Reduces cyber fraud and financial exploitation.
- Encourages growth of legitimate gaming industry.

Challenges



- Distinguishing games of skill from games of chance.
- Cross-border digital platforms.
- Enforcement and regulatory coordination.

Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha

Constitutional Basis

Article 80

The President may nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha.

Eligibility

Nominated members are selected from persons having special knowledge or practical experience in:

- Literature
- Science
- Art
- Social Service

Features

- Nominated members enjoy almost all powers available to elected members.
- They can participate in debates and committees.
- They can vote in Presidential elections only if they become elected members later.
- They cannot vote in the election of the President.

Importance

- Brings expert knowledge into parliamentary discussions.
- Enhances quality of legislative deliberations.
- Ensures representation of distinguished individuals.

Removal of Judges

Constitutional Provisions

Supreme Court Judges

Article 124(4)

High Court Judges

Article 217 read with Article 124(4)

Grounds for Removal

A judge may be removed only on:

- Proved misbehaviour
- Incapacity

Procedure

Step 1 A motion is introduced in either House of Parliament.

Step 2 An inquiry committee investigates the allegations.

Step 3

Both Houses must pass the motion by:

- Majority of total membership of the House, and
- Two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

Step 4

The President issues the removal order.

Importance

- Protects judicial independence.
- Ensures accountability of judges.
- Maintains public confidence in the judiciary.

Recusal of Judges

Meaning



Recusal refers to the withdrawal of a judge from hearing a case due to a possible conflict of interest or apprehension of bias.

Grounds for Recusal

- Personal interest in the case.
- Financial interest.
- Prior involvement in the matter.
- Family or professional relationship with parties.
- Any circumstance creating reasonable apprehension of bias.

Legal Position

- No specific statutory law governs recusal.
- Based on principles of natural justice and judicial ethics.

Importance

- Ensures fairness in judicial proceedings.
- Protects impartiality of courts.
- Strengthens public trust in the justice system.

Concerns

- Excessive recusals may delay proceedings.
- Lack of uniform standards may create inconsistency.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

About CPA

Established 1911

Headquarters London, United Kingdom

Membership

Parliamentary branches from Commonwealth countries and territories.

Objectives

- Promote parliamentary democracy.



- Strengthen good governance.
- Facilitate exchange of parliamentary practices.
- Support capacity building for legislators.

Activities

- Conferences and seminars.
- Parliamentary training programmes.
- Research and publications.
- Promotion of democratic values.

Significance for India

- Platform for parliamentary diplomacy.
- Exchange of legislative best practices.
- Strengthening cooperation among Commonwealth legislatures.

NCERT Declared Deemed University

Why in News?

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted the status of a Deemed-to-be University.

About NCERT

Established 1961

Ministry Ministry of Education

Headquarters New Delhi

Functions

- Development of school curriculum.
- Preparation of textbooks.
- Educational research.
- Teacher training and capacity building.
- Educational innovation and policy support.

What is a Deemed University?



Legal Basis

Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

Meaning

An institution of high academic standing may be declared a Deemed-to-be University by the Central Government on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Significance

- Greater academic autonomy.
- Expanded research opportunities.
- Ability to award degrees.
- Strengthening teacher education and educational research.
- Enhancing India's educational ecosystem.

India–Nepal Relations

Background

India and Nepal share deep historical, cultural, religious, and economic ties. The relationship is often described as one based on "Roti-Beti" links due to extensive people-to-people connections.

Key Features of Bilateral Relations

Open Border

- India and Nepal share an open international border of about 1,850 km.
- Citizens of both countries can travel and work freely without visas.

Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950

- Forms the foundation of modern bilateral relations.
- Provides reciprocal privileges in residence, property ownership, trade, and movement.

Economic Cooperation

- India is Nepal's largest trading partner.



- India is a major source of foreign investment in Nepal.
- Extensive cooperation in infrastructure, energy, railways, and connectivity projects.

Hydropower Cooperation

- Nepal possesses enormous hydropower potential.
- India is a major partner in hydropower generation and electricity trade.

Areas of Cooperation

- Energy and hydropower
- Trade and transit
- Connectivity projects
- Education and healthcare
- Defence cooperation
- Disaster management

Challenges

- Boundary disputes (Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura)
- Water-sharing issues
- Political sensitivities regarding external influence

Importance for India

- Strategic importance due to proximity to the Himalayas.
- Acts as a buffer between India and China.
- Critical for regional connectivity and security.

Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Definition

The Indian Ocean Region refers to the countries and maritime spaces surrounding the Indian Ocean.

Geographical Importance

- Third-largest ocean in the world.
- Connects Asia, Africa, and Australia.
- Hosts some of the world's busiest sea routes.

Strategic Significance

- Nearly 80% of global seaborne oil trade passes through the Indian Ocean.
- Important maritime chokepoints include:
 - Strait of Hormuz
 - Bab-el-Mandeb
 - Strait of Malacca

Challenges

- Piracy
- Maritime terrorism
- Illegal fishing
- Human trafficking
- Strategic competition among major powers

India's Approach

SAGAR

Security and Growth for All in the Region

Objectives:

- Maritime security
- Regional cooperation
- Sustainable development
- Capacity building

Other Initiatives

- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- Mission-based naval deployments

Importance

- Energy security
- Trade and commerce
- Maritime security
- Strategic influence in Indo-Pacific



ASEAN Partnership Model

About ASEAN

Full Form Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Established 1967

Headquarters Jakarta, Indonesia

Members

10 Southeast Asian countries:

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Philippines
- Brunei
- Vietnam
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Cambodia

ASEAN Partnership Model

Objective

Promotes dialogue and cooperation with external partners through structured mechanisms.

Major Dialogue Partners

- India
- United States
- China
- Japan
- South Korea
- Australia
- European Union

India–ASEAN Relations

Strategic Partnership



Upgraded to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.

Areas of Cooperation

- Trade and investment
- Connectivity
- Maritime security
- Digital economy
- Education and culture

ASEAN Centrality

India supports ASEAN's central role in regional architecture and Indo-Pacific affairs.

Importance

- Enhances regional stability.
- Supports India's Act East Policy.
- Strengthens economic and strategic partnerships.

Reciprocal Exchange of Logistic Support (RELOS) Pact

Definition

A Reciprocal Exchange of Logistic Support (RELOS) Pact allows armed forces of two countries to access each other's military facilities for logistics support.

Key Features

- Refuelling of military platforms.
- Repair and maintenance facilities.
- Replenishment of supplies.
- Access to ports and military bases.

Objectives

- Improve interoperability between armed forces.
- Enhance military cooperation.
- Support joint exercises and deployments.

Benefits



- Extends operational reach.
- Reduces logistics costs.
- Improves response during emergencies and disasters.

Importance for India

- Strengthens defence partnerships.
- Enhances maritime presence.
- Supports Indo-Pacific security objectives.

United Nations Development Partnership Fund (UNDPF)

About UNDPF

Established 2017

Nature A fund supported by India in partnership with the United Nations.

Objective

To support developing countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Areas of Assistance

- Poverty reduction
- Healthcare
- Education
- Renewable energy
- Capacity building
- Disaster resilience

Key Features

- Focus on Global South countries.
- Demand-driven development assistance.
- Promotes South-South cooperation.

Importance

- Enhances India's development diplomacy.
- Strengthens India's role in international development.
- Supports SDG implementation in partner countries.

Operation Urja Suraksha

Background

Operation Urja Suraksha was launched to ensure India's energy security amid geopolitical uncertainties and disruptions in global energy supply chains.

Objectives

- Secure uninterrupted energy supplies.
- Diversify energy import sources.
- Strengthen strategic petroleum reserves.
- Reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

Key Components

- Monitoring global energy markets.
- Coordination among energy agencies.
- Strengthening oil and gas reserves.
- Promoting alternative energy sources.

Importance

- Protects economic stability.
- Ensures fuel availability.
- Enhances national energy security.

Impact of Iran War on Agriculture

Background

Conflicts involving Iran can affect global energy markets and international trade routes.

Impact on Agriculture

Increase in Fertilizer Costs

- Fertilizer production depends heavily on natural gas.
- Rising energy prices increase fertilizer costs.

Higher Transportation Costs

- Increased fuel prices raise logistics expenses.
- Agricultural products become costlier to transport.

Food Inflation

- Rising input costs may increase food prices.
- Impacts farmers and consumers alike.

Supply Chain Disruptions

- Maritime trade disruptions affect imports and exports.
- Delay in movement of agricultural commodities.

Impact on India

- Increased fertilizer subsidy burden.
- Higher agricultural input costs.
- Potential inflationary pressures on food prices.

Conflict Areas in News

Major Conflict Regions

- Iran–Israel region
- Gaza Strip
- West Bank
- Red Sea region
- Sudan
- Ukraine
- Afghanistan

Detailed geographical coverage and maps can be studied separately.

Strait of Malacca

Location

Located between:



- Malay Peninsula
- Sumatra Island (Indonesia)

Connects

Andaman Sea and South China Sea.

Importance

- One of the world's busiest maritime trade routes.
- Major route for oil and gas shipments.
- Connects Indian Ocean with Pacific Ocean.

Strategic Significance

- Approximately one-fourth of global trade passes through the strait.
- Vital for energy imports of China, Japan, South Korea, and India.

Challenges

- Piracy
- Maritime accidents
- Geopolitical competition

Importance for India

- Critical for maritime trade.
- Important for India's Act East Policy.
- Significant for Indo-Pacific security.

Canary Islands

Location

An archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean off the northwest coast of Africa.

Political Status

An autonomous community of Spain.

Capital Cities

- Santa Cruz de Tenerife
- Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Origin

Volcanic islands formed through volcanic activity.

Strategic Importance

- Important maritime location in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Significant tourism destination.
- Important for marine and climate research.

Major Island

Tenerife, home to Mount Teide, the highest peak in Spain.

Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project

Location on the Punatsangchhu River in Bhutan.

River System

Punatsangchhu River is known as the Sankosh River after entering India.

Project Type Run-of-the-river hydroelectric project.

Implementing Agencies Jointly developed by Bhutan and India.

Installed Capacity 1,020 MW

Importance

For Bhutan

- Major source of revenue.
- Supports economic development.

For India

- Imports clean hydroelectric power.

- Strengthens energy cooperation with Bhutan.
- Enhances regional energy security.

India–Bhutan Hydropower Cooperation

Major projects include:

- Chukha Hydroelectric Project
- Tala Hydroelectric Project
- Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project
- Punatsangchhu-I Project
- Punatsangchhu-II Project

Significance

- Renewable energy generation.
- Regional cooperation.
- Strengthening India–Bhutan strategic partnership.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2026

Background

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 was enacted to provide a time-bound mechanism for resolving insolvency of companies, partnership firms, and individuals.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2026 aims to strengthen insolvency resolution, improve creditor recovery, and reduce delays in the insolvency process.

Key Features of IBC

- Time-bound insolvency resolution process.
- Maximization of value of assets.
- Promotion of entrepreneurship and credit availability.
- Balancing interests of creditors and debtors.

Institutional Framework

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)



- Established under IBC, 2016.
- Regulates insolvency professionals and insolvency proceedings.

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

- Adjudicating authority for corporate insolvency.

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- Appellate authority.

Significance

- Improves ease of doing business.
- Strengthens banking sector.
- Facilitates faster recovery of stressed assets.
- Enhances investor confidence.

Gig Economy

Definition

The gig economy refers to a labour market where individuals work on short-term, flexible, or task-based engagements rather than permanent employment.

Examples

- Cab aggregators
- Food delivery services
- E-commerce delivery partners
- Freelance digital services

Gig Workers

Workers who earn income through platform-based or task-based work arrangements.

Benefits

For Workers

- Flexible working hours.
- Multiple income opportunities.



For Businesses

- Lower operational costs.
- Access to a flexible workforce.

Challenges

- Lack of job security.
- Absence of social security benefits.
- Income uncertainty.
- Limited labour protections.

Government Initiatives

Code on Social Security, 2020

Recognises gig workers and platform workers for welfare measures.

e-Shram Portal

National database for unorganised workers.

Importance

- Supports digital economy.
- Generates employment opportunities.
- Encourages entrepreneurship.

Payments Vision 2028

Background

Payments Vision 2028 has been released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to guide the future development of India's payment ecosystem.

Importance

- Supports Digital India.
- Enhances financial inclusion.
- Strengthens digital economy.
- Promotes secure payment systems.



Digital Payment Frauds

Definition

Digital payment fraud refers to unauthorized or deceptive activities involving digital payment systems.

Common Types

Phishing

Fraudsters obtain sensitive information through fake messages or websites.

OTP Fraud

Users are tricked into sharing One-Time Passwords.

QR Code Fraud

Victims scan malicious QR codes leading to unauthorized transactions.

UPI Fraud

Fraudulent collection requests and social engineering attacks.

Preventive Measures

- Never share OTPs or PINs.
- Verify payment requests before approval.
- Use official applications only.
- Enable transaction alerts.

Regulatory Measures

RBI Initiatives

- Digital payment security guidelines.
- Enhanced customer protection measures.

National Cyber Crime Portal



Platform for reporting cyber frauds.

Importance

Protecting digital payment systems is essential for sustaining trust in India's digital economy.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

Background

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme was launched in 2020 to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence.

Objectives

- Increase manufacturing output.
- Attract investments.
- Generate employment.
- Promote exports.
- Strengthen global competitiveness.

Key Features

- Financial incentives linked to incremental production.
- Sector-specific implementation.
- Encourages domestic value addition.

Major Sectors Covered

- Electronics
- Mobile phones
- Pharmaceuticals
- Telecom equipment
- Solar PV modules
- Automobiles and auto components
- Drones

Significance

- Supports Make in India.
- Promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Enhances manufacturing competitiveness.



- Integrates India into global value chains.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025

About PLFS

Conducted By National Statistical Office (NSO)

Launched 2017

Objectives

- Estimate employment and unemployment indicators.
- Measure labour force participation.
- Assess workforce trends.

Key Indicators

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

Percentage of working-age population that is employed or seeking employment.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

Percentage of working-age population employed.

Unemployment Rate (UR)

Percentage of labour force without work but seeking employment.

Importance

- Supports labour market analysis.
- Assists employment policy formulation.
- Provides evidence for economic planning.

Workers' Protests

Background



Workers' protests arise from concerns related to wages, employment conditions, labour rights, and social security.

Common Issues

- Wage disputes.
- Contractual employment.
- Job security concerns.
- Working conditions.
- Social security benefits.

Constitutional Provisions

Article 19(1)(c)

Freedom to form associations and unions.

Article 43A

Participation of workers in management of industries.

Related Labour Reforms

- Code on Wages, 2019
- Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020
- Code on Social Security, 2020

Importance

Workers' rights are essential for industrial harmony and inclusive economic growth.

Self-Sufficiency in Edible Oils

Background

India is one of the largest importers of edible oils, particularly palm oil, soybean oil, and sunflower oil.

Need for Self-Sufficiency

- Reduce import dependence.



- Improve food security.
- Save foreign exchange.
- Enhance farmers' income.

National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

Launched 2021

Objective Increase domestic production of palm oil.

Major Oilseed Crops

- Mustard
- Groundnut
- Soybean
- Sunflower
- Sesame
- Oil Palm

Importance

- Strengthens agricultural resilience.
- Reduces vulnerability to global price shocks.
- Improves rural livelihoods.

Road Safety in India

Background

India records one of the highest numbers of road accidents globally.

Major Causes

- Over-speeding.
- Drunk driving.
- Distracted driving.
- Poor road infrastructure.
- Violation of traffic rules.

Legal Framework

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988



Primary legislation governing road transport and safety.

Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019

Introduced stricter penalties and safety measures.

Government Initiatives

National Road Safety Policy

Good Samaritan Guidelines

National Road Safety Board

Importance

- Protects human life.
- Reduces economic losses.
- Improves transportation efficiency.

New Income Tax Act, 2025

Background

The New Income Tax Act, 2025 seeks to simplify and modernize India's direct tax framework.

Objectives

- Simplify tax provisions.
- Reduce litigation.
- Improve compliance.
- Promote transparency.

Key Features

- Simplified language and structure.
- Greater use of digital compliance systems.
- Rationalization of provisions.
- Improved taxpayer services.

Importance



- Enhances ease of compliance.
- Improves tax administration.
- Supports economic growth.

General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR)

Definition

GAAR is an anti-tax avoidance mechanism that empowers tax authorities to deny tax benefits arising from arrangements primarily designed to avoid taxes.

Objective

Prevent aggressive tax planning and artificial tax avoidance arrangements.

Key Features

- Targets impermissible avoidance arrangements.
- Focuses on substance over form.
- Applies to arrangements lacking commercial substance.

Importance

- Protects tax revenues.
- Promotes fairness in taxation.
- Discourages abusive tax practices.

WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14)

About Ministerial Conference

Highest Decision-Making Body of WTO

Meets approximately every two years.

Functions

- Reviews functioning of WTO.
- Takes decisions on multilateral trade issues.
- Negotiates trade reforms.



Key Issues Discussed

- Agricultural subsidies.
- Fisheries subsidies.
- E-commerce.
- Dispute settlement reforms.
- Development concerns of developing countries.

Importance for India

- Protection of food security programmes.
- Safeguarding interests of farmers.
- Ensuring fair trade rules.

World Economic Outlook (WEO)

Published By

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Frequency

Twice annually

Purpose

Provides analysis of:

- Global economic growth.
- Inflation trends.
- Financial stability.
- Economic risks and prospects.

Importance

- Influences global economic policy discussions.
- Helps governments and investors assess economic conditions.
- Provides growth projections for countries and regions.

FAO Food Price Index



Published By

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Purpose

Measures monthly changes in international prices of major food commodities.

Components

- Cereals
- Vegetable oils
- Dairy products
- Meat
- Sugar

Importance

- Indicator of global food inflation.
- Helps assess food security trends.
- Influences agricultural and trade policies.

Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)

Established 2019

Nature

A joint venture of:

- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)
- Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)
- Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL)

Objective

Secure critical and strategic mineral resources abroad.

Focus Minerals

- Lithium
- Cobalt

- Nickel
- Rare earth elements

Importance

- Supports energy transition.
- Secures raw materials for EVs and batteries.
- Strengthens mineral security.

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

Background

The Government launched Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 to strengthen startup financing and innovation.

Objective

Provide growth capital to startups through Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

Implementing Agency

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Focus Areas

- Deep technology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Manufacturing
- Clean energy

Importance

- Promotes entrepreneurship.
- Supports innovation ecosystem.
- Generates employment.
- Encourages domestic technological development.

Urban Challenge Fund

Background

The Urban Challenge Fund has been proposed to support innovative urban development projects and improve urban infrastructure.

Areas of Focus

- Public transport
- Water supply
- Waste management
- Urban mobility
- Climate-resilient infrastructure
- Smart city solutions

Importance

- Supports planned urban growth.
- Enhances quality of life.
- Strengthens urban governance.
- Promotes sustainable development.

India's Defence Exports

Background

India's defence exports have witnessed significant growth in recent years due to policy reforms, increased indigenous manufacturing, and greater participation of the private sector.

The growth of defence exports supports the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and aims to transform India into a major defence manufacturing hub.

Major Defence Exported Products

- BrahMos supersonic cruise missile
- Akash missile system
- Offshore patrol vessels
- Radar systems
- Electronic warfare systems
- Armoured vehicles
- Protective equipment and defence electronics

Key Policy Measures

Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP), 2020

- Encourages indigenous production.
- Promotes exports of defence equipment.

Positive Indigenisation Lists

- Restrict import of specified defence equipment.
- Encourage domestic manufacturing.

Defence Corridors

Two Defence Industrial Corridors have been established:

- Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor
- Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor

Major Export Destinations

India exports defence equipment to countries in:

- Southeast Asia
- Africa
- Middle East
- Latin America

Significance

Strategic Importance

- Enhances India's defence diplomacy.
- Strengthens strategic partnerships.

Economic Importance

- Generates employment.
- Promotes manufacturing growth.
- Earns foreign exchange.

Technological Importance

- Encourages innovation and R&D.

- Strengthens domestic defence ecosystem.

AI in Internal Security Architecture

Background

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being integrated into India's internal security framework to improve surveillance, threat detection, crime prevention, and intelligence gathering.

Applications of AI in Internal Security

Predictive Policing

- Uses data analytics to identify crime patterns.
- Helps law enforcement allocate resources efficiently.

Facial Recognition Systems

- Assists in identifying suspects and missing persons.
- Enhances public safety and investigation capabilities.

Cybersecurity

- Detects cyber threats and unusual network activities.
- Improves response to cyberattacks.

Border Management

- AI-enabled surveillance systems monitor border regions.
- Supports detection of infiltration and illegal activities.

Counter-Terrorism

- Assists in intelligence analysis.
- Helps identify suspicious communication and financial patterns.

Advantages

- Faster decision-making.
- Improved situational awareness.
- Enhanced threat detection.
- Better resource utilization.

Challenges

- Privacy concerns.
- Risk of algorithmic bias.
- Data protection issues.
- Need for robust regulatory oversight.

Significance

AI is emerging as a critical tool for strengthening national security, law enforcement, and public safety.

INS Aridaman

Background

INS Aridaman is India's third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) developed under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Programme.

It represents a major step in strengthening India's nuclear deterrence capability.

Classification

SSBN

Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear

An SSBN is a nuclear-powered submarine equipped with nuclear-capable ballistic missiles.

Key Features

- Nuclear-powered propulsion system.
- Longer endurance and operational range.
- Ability to remain submerged for extended periods.
- Capable of carrying submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

India's Nuclear Triad

A nuclear triad refers to the ability to launch nuclear weapons from:

Land



Land-based ballistic missiles.

Air

Aircraft capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Sea

Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.

INS Aridaman strengthens the sea-based leg of India's nuclear triad.

Strategic Importance

Credible Minimum Deterrence

Enhances India's nuclear deterrence posture.

Second-Strike Capability

Provides the ability to retaliate even after a nuclear attack.

Maritime Security

Strengthens India's strategic presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

Related Submarines

- INS Arihant
- INS Arighaat
- INS Aridaman

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

About IONS

Established 2008

Initiated By Indian Navy

Nature



A voluntary and inclusive forum of navies from countries of the Indian Ocean Region.

Objectives

- Enhance maritime cooperation.
- Promote mutual understanding among navies.
- Address common maritime challenges.
- Strengthen regional security and stability.

Membership

IONS consists of navies from countries located in the Indian Ocean Region along with observer nations.

Areas of Cooperation

Maritime Security

- Counter-piracy operations.
- Counter-terrorism efforts.
- Protection of sea lanes.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

- Disaster response coordination.
- Rescue and relief operations.

Capacity Building

- Training programmes.
- Professional exchanges.
- Joint workshops and exercises.

Information Sharing

- Maritime domain awareness.
- Intelligence sharing.

Significance for India

- Supports India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- Enhances maritime diplomacy.
- Strengthens India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean.



Important Military Exercises in News

Exercise SHAKTI

Participants India and France

Service Army

Exercise GARUDA

Participants India and France

Service Air Force

Exercise VARUNA

Participants India and France

Service Navy

Exercise YUDH ABHYAS

Participants India and United States

Service Army

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR

Participants India and United States

Service Special Forces



Exercise MALABAR

Participants India, United States, Japan, and Australia

Service Navy

Exercise DUSTLIK

Participants India and Uzbekistan

Service Army

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI

Participants India and Sri Lanka

Service Army

Exercise SAMPRITI

Participants India and Bangladesh

Service Army

Exercise HAND-IN-HAND

Participants India and China

Service Army

Renewable Energy in India

Definition

Renewable energy refers to energy obtained from naturally replenishing sources such as sunlight, wind, water, biomass, and geothermal heat.

Major Renewable Energy Sources in India

Solar Energy

- Largest contributor to India's renewable energy capacity.
- Supported through schemes such as PM Surya Ghar Yojana and Solar Parks Scheme.

Wind Energy

- Major wind-producing states include Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

Hydropower

- Generated from flowing water.
- Considered an important source of clean energy.

Biomass Energy

- Produced from agricultural residues, animal waste, and organic matter.

National Targets

- India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.
- Commitment made under India's climate action goals.

Major Initiatives

- National Solar Mission
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- PM-KUSUM Scheme
- Green Energy Corridor Project

Significance

- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels.
- Enhances energy security.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Supports sustainable development.

Water Bankruptcy

Definition

Water bankruptcy refers to a situation where water demand exceeds the available water resources, making sustainable water use impossible without significant interventions.

Causes

- Over-extraction of groundwater.
- Rapid urbanisation.
- Population growth.
- Climate change.
- Inefficient irrigation practices.
- Water pollution.

Water Situation in India

- India possesses about 18% of the world's population but only around 4% of global freshwater resources.
- Groundwater depletion is a major concern in several states.

Consequences

- Agricultural distress.
- Drinking water shortages.
- Industrial disruptions.
- Increased inter-state water conflicts.
- Environmental degradation.

Government Initiatives

- Jal Jeevan Mission
- Atal Bhujal Yojana
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan
- National Water Mission

Way Forward

- Rainwater harvesting.
- Efficient irrigation methods.
- Groundwater recharge.
- Water conservation awareness.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Definition

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a mechanism through which benefits arising from the use of biological resources and traditional knowledge are shared fairly with local communities and resource providers.

Legal Basis

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992

Introduced the concept of ABS.

Nagoya Protocol, 2010

Provides an international framework for implementing ABS.

Indian Framework

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Provides legal provisions for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

Regulates access to biological resources and associated knowledge.

Objectives

- Promote conservation of biodiversity.
- Ensure equitable sharing of benefits.
- Protect traditional knowledge.
- Support local communities.

Significance

- Prevents biopiracy.
- Supports indigenous communities.
- Encourages sustainable use of biological resources.

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Background

The Plastic Waste Management Rules were introduced to regulate plastic waste generation, collection, recycling, and disposal.

The 2026 amendments aim to strengthen plastic waste management and reduce environmental pollution.

Key Objectives

- Reduce plastic pollution.
- Promote recycling and reuse.
- Strengthen producer responsibility.
- Encourage sustainable alternatives.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Meaning

Manufacturers, importers, and brand owners are responsible for collection and environmentally sound disposal of plastic waste generated by their products.

Major Provisions

- Improved plastic waste collection mechanisms.
- Enhanced recycling targets.
- Greater accountability of producers.
- Promotion of biodegradable alternatives.

Importance

- Reduces environmental pollution.
- Protects marine ecosystems.
- Supports circular economy principles.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

Definition



Hydrofluorocarbons are synthetic greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigeration, air conditioning, aerosols, and foam production.

Characteristics

- Do not deplete the ozone layer.
- Possess very high Global Warming Potential (GWP).

International Framework

Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (2016)

Aims to gradually phase down HFC production and consumption worldwide.

India's Commitments

India has committed to reducing HFC usage according to the Kigali Amendment schedule.

Importance of HFC Reduction

- Mitigates climate change.
- Promotes energy-efficient cooling technologies.
- Supports global climate goals.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Definition

Sustainable Aviation Fuel is a renewable fuel used in aircraft that significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional aviation fuel.

Sources

- Agricultural residues.
- Used cooking oil.
- Municipal waste.
- Biomass feedstock.
- Algae-based fuels.

Advantages

- Lower carbon emissions.

- Compatible with existing aircraft engines.
- Supports decarbonisation of aviation sector.

Challenges

- High production costs.
- Limited production capacity.
- Supply chain constraints.

Significance

- Helps aviation sector achieve net-zero goals.
- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels.
- Supports clean energy transition.

Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)

Definition

Flex Fuel Vehicles are vehicles capable of operating on more than one type of fuel, particularly petrol blended with varying proportions of ethanol.

Common Fuel Combinations

- Petrol and ethanol blends.
- E20 (20% ethanol blend).
- E85 (85% ethanol blend).

Objectives

- Reduce crude oil imports.
- Promote biofuels.
- Lower vehicular emissions.
- Support farmers through ethanol production.

Ethanol Blending Programme

Implemented by the Government of India to increase ethanol mixing with petrol.

Benefits

- Energy security.



- Environmental sustainability.
- Rural income generation.
- Reduced foreign exchange expenditure.

Global Initiative on the Taking of Migratory Species (GTI)

Background

The Global Initiative on the Taking of Migratory Species aims to improve international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species.

Objectives

- Monitor exploitation of migratory species.
- Improve conservation measures.
- Promote scientific research.
- Strengthen international collaboration.

Importance of Migratory Species

Migratory species play an important role in:

- Biodiversity conservation.
- Ecosystem balance.
- Pollination and seed dispersal.
- Food chain stability.

Challenges

- Habitat loss.
- Climate change.
- Illegal hunting and trade.
- Pollution.

Significance

- Supports global biodiversity conservation.
- Strengthens international environmental cooperation.

Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2026

About the Report

The Financing for Sustainable Development Report is prepared by the United Nations to assess global progress in financing sustainable development goals.

Objective

Evaluate availability of financial resources required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key Areas Covered

- Public finance.
- International development cooperation.
- Debt sustainability.
- Private sector investment.
- Climate finance.

Major Concerns Highlighted

- Large financing gap for SDGs.
- Rising debt burdens in developing countries.
- Insufficient climate finance.
- Unequal access to development funding.

Significance

- Provides guidance for policymakers.
- Supports SDG implementation.
- Encourages international financial cooperation.

State of India's Bats Report

Background

The State of India's Bats Report provides information on the diversity, distribution, conservation status, and ecological importance of bats in India.

About Bats

Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight.

Ecological Importance

Pollination

Many plants depend on bats for pollination.

Seed Dispersal

Bats help regenerate forests by dispersing seeds.

Pest Control

Insect-eating bats help control agricultural pests.

Threats

- Habitat destruction.
- Urbanisation.
- Hunting and persecution.
- Climate change.

Significance

- Highlights conservation needs.
- Supports biodiversity protection.
- Improves understanding of ecosystem services provided by bats.

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

Definition

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a large system of ocean currents that circulates water within the Atlantic Ocean.

How AMOC Works

- Warm surface water moves northward from tropical regions.
- Water cools and becomes denser in the North Atlantic.
- Dense water sinks and flows southward at deeper levels.
- This creates a continuous circulation system.

Importance



Climate Regulation

AMOC helps regulate global and regional climate patterns.

Heat Distribution

Transfers heat from tropical regions to higher latitudes.

Rainfall Patterns

Influences rainfall and monsoon systems across different regions.

Concerns

Scientists have observed signs of weakening AMOC due to:

- Global warming.
- Melting of Greenland ice sheets.
- Increased freshwater input into oceans.

Potential Impacts of Weakening

- Changes in rainfall patterns.
- More extreme weather events.
- Sea-level rise along some coastlines.
- Disruption of marine ecosystems.

Significance

AMOC is considered one of the most important components of Earth's climate system, and its stability is critical for maintaining global climatic balance.

Amaravati

Why in News?

Amaravati has been in the news due to renewed efforts by the Andhra Pradesh Government to develop it as the capital city of the state and for various infrastructure and urban development projects.

About Amaravati



- Located on the southern bank of the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
- Planned as the capital city of Andhra Pradesh after the bifurcation of the state in 2014.
- The city derives its name from the ancient Amaravati region, which was an important centre of Buddhism.

Historical Significance

Satavahana Period

- Amaravati was a major centre of the Satavahana Dynasty.
- It emerged as an important hub of trade, culture, and religion.

Amaravati Stupa

- One of the most important Buddhist monuments in India.
- Built around the 2nd century BCE and expanded over several centuries.
- Known for its elaborate limestone sculptures depicting scenes from the life of Buddha and Jataka tales.

Amaravati School of Art

- Flourished between the 2nd century BCE and 3rd century CE.
- Characterised by:
 - Intricate carvings
 - Narrative relief panels
 - Dynamic human figures
 - Extensive use of white limestone
- Along with Gandhara and Mathura Schools, it represents one of the major traditions of ancient Indian sculpture.

Significance

- Important centre of Buddhist heritage.
- Reflects India's ancient maritime trade and cultural links with Southeast Asia.
- Holds archaeological and religious importance.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule

About Jyotirao Govindrao Phule

- Born: 1827, Maharashtra
- Social reformer, thinker, writer, and anti-caste activist.



- One of the pioneers of social justice movements in India.

Major Contributions

Education for Women

- Along with Savitribai Phule, established one of India's first schools for girls in Pune in 1848.
- Advocated universal access to education irrespective of caste or gender.

Fight Against Caste Discrimination

- Criticized the caste system and social oppression.
- Worked for the upliftment of lower castes and marginalized communities.

Satyashodhak Samaj

- Founded in 1873.
- Objective:
 - Promote social equality
 - Oppose caste-based discrimination
 - Encourage rational thinking and social reform

Women's Rights

- Supported widow remarriage.
- Opposed child marriage.
- Worked against social practices that discriminated against women.

Important Works

Gulamgiri (1873)

- Critique of caste-based oppression.
- Compared caste discrimination in India with slavery elsewhere.

Sarvajanik Satya Dharma

- Advocated equality, justice, and human dignity.

Significance

- Considered a pioneer of social justice movements in India.
- Inspired later leaders such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other reformers.

Samrat Samprati

About Samrat Samprati

- Grandson of Emperor Ashoka.
- Son of Kunala.
- Ruled the Mauryan Empire after Ashoka.

Historical Importance

- Remembered in Jain traditions as one of the greatest patrons of Jainism.
- Often referred to as the "Jain Ashoka."

Contributions to Jainism

- Promoted Jain teachings across different regions.
- Supported the construction of numerous Jain temples and religious institutions.
- Encouraged the spread of Jainism to western and southern parts of India.

Administration

- Maintained Mauryan authority after Ashoka's reign.
- Continued policies that emphasized ethical governance and religious patronage.

Significance

- Important figure in the spread of Jainism.
- Demonstrates the religious diversity of the Mauryan period.

Petroglyphs

Definition

Petroglyphs are images, symbols, or designs carved, engraved, or pecked onto rock surfaces by prehistoric humans.

Characteristics

- Created by removing part of the rock surface.
- Different from pictographs, which are painted images.

- Found in caves, rock shelters, cliffs, and open rock surfaces.

Importance

Historical Evidence

- Provide insights into prehistoric societies.
- Help understand early human activities and beliefs.

Cultural Significance

- Reflect religious practices, rituals, and social life.
- Depict hunting scenes, animals, human figures, and symbols.

Archaeological Value

- Important source for studying prehistoric cultures where written records are absent.

Petroglyph Sites in India

Bhimbetka Rock Shelters

- Madhya Pradesh
- UNESCO World Heritage Site

Ratnagiri Petroglyphs

- Maharashtra

Edakkal Caves

- Kerala

Significance

- Help reconstruct ancient human history.
- Provide evidence of artistic and symbolic expression in prehistoric communities.

Konyak Tribe

About the Konyak Tribe

- Largest Naga tribe of Nagaland.
- Primarily inhabits Mon district of Nagaland.
- Also found in adjoining areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar.

Social and Cultural Features

Traditional Identity

- Historically known for head-hunting practices, which were abandoned in the 20th century.
- Warriors traditionally wore distinctive tattoos and ornaments.

Language

- Speak the Konyak language belonging to the Tibeto-Burman language family.

Village Administration

- Traditionally governed by hereditary chiefs known as Anghs.
- Anghs exercised significant authority over village affairs.

Economy

Main occupations include:

- Agriculture
- Shifting cultivation (Jhum cultivation)
- Handicrafts
- Weaving

Cultural Heritage

Aoleang Festival

- Major festival of the Konyak tribe.
- Celebrates the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new agricultural cycle.

Traditional Crafts

- Wood carving
- Beadwork
- Metal craftsmanship
- Traditional weapon-making