



CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2026

1. Constitutionalism

Why in News?

The Supreme Court reiterated that constitutionalism is the foundation of India's democratic system while emphasizing that all organs of the State must function within constitutional limits.

What is Constitutionalism?

Constitutionalism is the principle that government power is limited by the Constitution and exercised according to the Rule of Law. It ensures that no individual or institution is above the Constitution.

Constitutionalism is different from merely having a Constitution. A country may have a written Constitution, but constitutionalism exists only when the Constitution effectively limits governmental power and protects citizens' rights.

Essential Features

- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Rule of Law
- Limited Government
- Separation of Powers
- Judicial Review
- Protection of Fundamental Rights
- Independent Judiciary
- Democratic Governance and Accountability

Constitutionalism in India

The Constitution of India embodies constitutionalism through:

- Fundamental Rights (Part III)
- Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)
- Independent Judiciary
- Judicial Review (Articles 13, 32, 136, 226)
- Federal Structure
- Separation of Powers among Legislature, Executive and Judiciary



Important Supreme Court Judgments

Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)

- Established the **Basic Structure Doctrine**.
- Parliament can amend the Constitution but cannot alter its basic structure.

Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)

- Reaffirmed that limited government and judicial review form part of the basic structure.

I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu (2007)

- Laws placed under the Ninth Schedule are also subject to judicial review if they violate the basic structure.

Importance

- Prevents arbitrary exercise of power.
- Protects individual liberty and fundamental rights.
- Maintains checks and balances among organs of government.
- Strengthens democracy and the rule of law.

2. Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

Why in News?

The Supreme Court reiterated that Public Interest Litigation should be used only for genuine public causes and cautioned against its misuse for publicity or private interests.

What is Public Interest Litigation?

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a legal mechanism through which any public-spirited person may approach a court for enforcement of the rights of disadvantaged or affected sections of society.

It aims to provide access to justice for those who cannot approach the courts themselves.

Constitutional Basis



- Article 32 – Supreme Court
- Article 226 – High Courts

Evolution of PIL in India

PIL developed during the late 1970s and early 1980s through judicial activism.

Justice P.N. Bhagwati and Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer played a major role in expanding PIL in India.

Features

- Relaxed rule of locus standi.
- Protects larger public interest.
- Accessible through writ petitions.
- Courts may even treat letters or postcards as petitions in appropriate cases.

Major Areas Covered

- Environmental protection
- Human rights
- Prison reforms
- Bonded labour
- Child labour
- Women's rights
- Rights of marginalized communities
- Corruption affecting public interest

Important Judgments

S.P. Gupta v. Union of India (1981)

- Recognized liberal locus standi.
- Considered the foundation of PIL in India.

M.C. Mehta Cases

- Expanded environmental jurisprudence.
- Introduced principles such as Polluter Pays and Absolute Liability.

Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)

- Laid down guidelines against sexual harassment at the workplace.

Concerns

- Frivolous petitions.
- Political or publicity-oriented litigation.
- Judicial overreach.
- Delay in disposal of genuine cases.

Importance

- Makes justice accessible.
- Protects fundamental rights.
- Ensures government accountability.
- Promotes social justice.

3. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)

Why in News?

The Government has developed the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) to assess the performance of Gram Panchayats and promote evidence-based rural governance.

What is Panchayat Advancement Index?

The Panchayat Advancement Index is a performance assessment framework developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to measure the progress of Gram Panchayats.

It evaluates local governments based on their contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Nodal Ministry

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Objectives

- Improve governance at the village level.
- Encourage outcome-based planning.
- Promote transparency and accountability.
- Strengthen local self-government.

Assessment Areas



The Index evaluates Panchayats across themes such as:

- Poverty reduction
- Health
- Education
- Water and sanitation
- Gender equality
- Environmental sustainability
- Infrastructure
- Social justice
- Local economic development

Constitutional Background

The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Part IX of the Constitution (Articles 243–243O) deals with Panchayats.

The **Eleventh Schedule** contains **29 subjects** that may be devolved to Panchayats.

Importance

- Improves service delivery.
- Encourages competitive federalism among Panchayats.
- Supports achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
- Strengthens grassroots democracy.

4. Appointment Procedure of the Election Commission of India (ECI)

Why in News?

The appointment process of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners continues to remain an important constitutional issue following recent legislative changes.

Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India is an independent constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections.



Constitutional Provisions

- Article 324 provides for the Election Commission.
- It consists of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of Election Commissioners as the President may determine.

Appointment

The President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023** provides the present appointment mechanism.

Selection Committee

- Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (or leader of the largest opposition party)

Removal

Chief Election Commissioner

Can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.

Election Commissioners

Can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Functions

- Conduct elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.
- Prepare electoral rolls.
- Recognize political parties.
- Enforce the Model Code of Conduct.
- Conduct by-elections.

Importance

- Ensures free and fair elections.
- Protects democratic values.
- Promotes electoral integrity.

5. Sports Governance in India

Why in News?

The Supreme Court examined issues relating to transparency, accountability and administration of sports bodies in India.

What is Sports Governance?

Sports governance refers to the system of rules, institutions, policies and processes through which sports organisations are managed.

Major Institutions

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- Nodal ministry responsible for sports policy.

Sports Authority of India (SAI)

- Established in 1984.
- Responsible for athlete training and sports infrastructure.

National Sports Federations (NSFs)

- Govern individual sports at the national level.

National Sports Development Code, 2011

- Provides governance standards for National Sports Federations.

Key provisions include:

- Transparent elections
- Age limits
- Tenure limits
- Financial accountability

- Good governance practices

Major Issues

- Political interference.
- Lack of transparency.
- Governance disputes.
- Conflict of interest.
- Poor athlete representation.

Importance

- Promotes fair administration.
- Improves athlete welfare.
- Enhances India's sporting performance.
- Encourages transparency and accountability.

6. Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Why in News?

The Government notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026 to operationalise provisions relating to grant of Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Background

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act amended the Citizenship Act, 1955.

It provides a fast-track route to Indian citizenship for specified migrants belonging to certain religious communities from neighbouring countries.

Beneficiaries

Persons belonging to:

- Hindu
- Sikh
- Buddhist
- Jain
- Parsi
- Christian

communities from:

- Pakistan
- Bangladesh
- Afghanistan

who entered India before the prescribed cut-off date.

Key Features of the Rules

- Online application process.
- District-level verification.
- Digital scrutiny of applications.
- Grant of citizenship through registration or naturalisation.

Citizenship under the Constitution

Articles 5 to 11 deal with citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution.

Parliament has power to regulate citizenship through law.

Citizenship Act, 1955

Provides five methods of acquiring citizenship:

- By birth
- By descent
- By registration
- By naturalisation
- By incorporation of territory

7. Disqualification of Members of Parliament

Why in News?

Recent developments relating to disqualification of Members of Parliament have again brought the anti-defection law and constitutional provisions into focus.

Grounds for Disqualification



Articles **102** and **191** provide grounds for disqualification of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures.

Major grounds include:

- Office of profit.
- Unsound mind.
- Insolvency.
- Foreign citizenship.
- Disqualification under any law made by Parliament.

Anti-Defection Law

Introduced through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**.

Contained in the **Tenth Schedule**.

Decision-Making Authority

The Speaker (or Chairman) decides questions relating to disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.

Important Judgment

Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Tenth Schedule while making the Speaker's decision subject to judicial review.

Importance

- Promotes political stability.
- Prevents unethical defections.
- Strengthens parliamentary democracy.

8. Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026



Why in News?

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 seeks to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court to address mounting pendency of cases.

Background

The Supreme Court was established under **Article 124** of the Constitution.

Parliament determines the number of judges through legislation.

Objective of the Amendment

- Reduce case backlog.
- Improve access to justice.
- Ensure timely disposal of cases.

Composition

The Supreme Court consists of:

- Chief Justice of India.
- Such number of other judges as prescribed by Parliament.

Importance

- Faster disposal of cases.
- Strengthens judicial efficiency.
- Improves delivery of justice.

9. e-Courts Mission

Why in News?

The Government continues implementation of the e-Courts Mission to modernise the Indian judiciary through digital technology.

About e-Courts Mission

The e-Courts Mission is a flagship project under the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India.



It aims to digitise court functioning and improve access to justice.

Objectives

- Paperless courts.
- Online filing of cases.
- Digital case management.
- Virtual hearings.
- Better judicial transparency.

Major Components

- e-Filing
- e-Pay
- Virtual Courts
- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)
- e-Seva Kendras

Importance

- Reduces delays.
- Improves transparency.
- Enhances access to justice.
- Promotes efficient judicial administration.

10. National Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative

Why in News?

The Government has launched the National Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative to simplify regulatory requirements and improve the ease of doing business.

Objective

To reduce unnecessary legal and regulatory compliances imposed on businesses and citizens.

Key Features

- Simplification of procedures.

- Removal of obsolete laws and regulations.
- Digitalisation of approvals.
- Time-bound service delivery.
- Promotion of self-certification wherever feasible.

Benefits

- Improves Ease of Doing Business.
- Reduces compliance costs.
- Encourages investment.
- Promotes entrepreneurship.
- Increases administrative efficiency.

Significance

The initiative supports the Government's objective of creating a transparent, efficient and business-friendly regulatory framework while reducing unnecessary litigation and procedural delays.

11. India–United States Relations

Why in News?

India and the United States strengthened their strategic partnership through cooperation in defence, technology, critical minerals, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, clean energy, and trade. The two countries also expanded cooperation under the TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) framework.

Background

India and the United States established diplomatic relations in 1947. Over the last two decades, the relationship has evolved into a **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**, covering defence, trade, technology, energy, education and regional security.

Major Areas of Cooperation

Defence

- India has been designated as a **Major Defense Partner** by the US.
- Defence agreements include:

- LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement)
- COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement)
- BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)
- Joint military exercises include:
 - Yudh Abhyas (Army)
 - Tiger Triumph (Tri-services)
 - Cope India (Air Force)
 - Malabar Naval Exercise (with Japan and Australia)

Technology

Recent cooperation focuses on:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Semiconductors
- Quantum Computing
- Space technology
- Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)

Trade

The United States is among India's largest trading partners.

Major exports:

- Pharmaceuticals
- Engineering goods
- Gems & jewellery
- IT services

Major imports:

- Crude oil
- Defence equipment
- Aircraft
- Technology products

Strategic Cooperation

Both countries cooperate in:

- Indo-Pacific security
- Counter-terrorism

- Maritime security
- Supply chain resilience

Importance

- Strengthens India's strategic autonomy.
- Enhances defence capability.
- Boosts technology transfer and investment.
- Diversifies critical supply chains away from China.

12. India–Nordic Relations

Why in News?

India deepened cooperation with the Nordic countries in clean energy, green technology, innovation, climate action, and digital transformation.

Who are the Nordic Countries?

The Nordic region consists of:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden

India–Nordic Summit

The India–Nordic Summit began in **2018**.

It provides a platform for cooperation between India and the five Nordic countries.

Major Areas of Cooperation

- Green technology
- Renewable energy
- Clean hydrogen
- Circular economy
- Artificial Intelligence



- Digital innovation
- Arctic research
- Sustainable urban development
- Blue Economy

Importance

The Nordic countries possess advanced technologies in:

- Renewable energy
- Waste management
- Smart cities
- Maritime technology

India benefits through technology transfer, investment and climate cooperation.

13. India–United Arab Emirates (UAE) Relations

Why in News?

India and the UAE expanded cooperation in trade, investment, fintech, food security, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and logistics.

Background

India and UAE share strong historical, economic and cultural ties.

Relations were elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in 2017.

Major Areas of Cooperation

Trade

The **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** came into force in **2022**.

Objectives:

- Increase bilateral trade
- Reduce tariffs
- Promote investment
- Improve market access

Energy

UAE is one of India's major suppliers of crude oil and LPG.

Both countries also cooperate in:

- Green hydrogen
- Renewable energy
- Strategic petroleum reserves

Digital Economy

Cooperation includes:

- FinTech
- UPI integration
- Digital payments
- Artificial Intelligence

Indian Diaspora

Over **3 million Indians** live in the UAE, making it one of the largest Indian communities abroad.

Importance

- Enhances India's energy security.
- Boosts exports and investments.
- Strengthens India's engagement with West Asia.
- Supports food and logistics security.

14. India–Italy Relations



Why in News?

India and Italy expanded cooperation in defence manufacturing, clean energy, critical technologies, mobility, and industrial innovation.

Background

India and Italy established diplomatic relations in **1947**.

Relations were elevated to a **Strategic Partnership** in **2023**.

Major Areas of Cooperation

- Defence manufacturing
- Maritime security
- Green hydrogen
- Renewable energy
- Artificial Intelligence
- Critical technologies
- Space cooperation

Economic Relations

Italy is an important European trading partner of India.

Major sectors include:

- Engineering
- Machinery
- Pharmaceuticals
- Fashion
- Food processing

Multilateral Cooperation

India and Italy cooperate in:

- G20
- G7 Outreach
- United Nations
- Indo-Pacific initiatives

Importance

- Diversifies India's partnerships in Europe.
- Promotes technology and industrial cooperation.
- Strengthens maritime cooperation in the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific.

15. Nuclear Governance

Why in News?

Nuclear governance remained in focus amid global discussions on nuclear security, non-proliferation, and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

What is Nuclear Governance?

Nuclear governance refers to the international rules, institutions and agreements that regulate:

- Peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Nuclear safety
- Nuclear security
- Prevention of nuclear weapon proliferation
- Nuclear disarmament

Major International Institutions

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- Established: 1957
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Functions:

- Promotes peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- Conducts safeguards and inspections.
- Prevents diversion of nuclear material for weapons.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Entered into force in **1970**.

Three pillars:

- Non-proliferation
- Peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Nuclear disarmament

India is **not a signatory** to the NPT.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Prohibits nuclear weapon test explosions.

India has **not signed** the treaty.

India's Nuclear Policy

India follows:

- Credible Minimum Deterrence
- No First Use (NFU) policy
- Peaceful use of nuclear energy

Importance

- Prevents nuclear proliferation.
- Promotes international peace and security.
- Ensures safe use of nuclear technology.

16. India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

Why in News?

India and New Zealand resumed negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to strengthen economic cooperation.

What is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)?

An FTA is an agreement between countries to reduce or eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers.

Objectives

- Increase bilateral trade.
- Improve market access.
- Promote investment.
- Strengthen supply chains.
- Facilitate services trade.

Major Areas Covered

- Agriculture
- Dairy
- Information Technology
- Education
- Investment
- Services

Challenges

New Zealand seeks greater access for dairy products.

India aims to protect domestic farmers while expanding exports.

Importance

- Expands India's trade in the Indo-Pacific.
- Diversifies export markets.
- Encourages investment and technology transfer.

17. India–EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC)

Why in News?

India and the European Union strengthened cooperation through the Trade and Technology

Council on digital technologies, AI, semiconductors, clean energy, and resilient supply chains.

About the Trade and Technology Council (TTC)

Established in **2023**, the India-EU TTC is a strategic coordination mechanism for cooperation in trade and technology.

India is the **first country** with which the European Union has established such a mechanism.

Three Working Groups

1. Strategic Technologies

- Artificial Intelligence
- Semiconductors
- Quantum technologies
- High-performance computing

2. Green and Clean Energy

- Green hydrogen
- Batteries
- Renewable energy
- Clean technologies

3. Trade and Supply Chains

- Resilient supply chains
- Digital trade
- Investment
- Standard-setting

Importance

- Strengthens India-EU strategic partnership.
- Supports technological innovation.
- Reduces dependence on vulnerable global supply chains.



18. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Why in News?

India continued to promote regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region through the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

About IORA

Established: **1997**

Headquarters: **Ebène, Mauritius**

Members: **23 countries** bordering the Indian Ocean.

India is a **founding member**.

Objectives

- Promote regional economic cooperation.
- Enhance maritime safety and security.
- Facilitate trade and investment.
- Promote Blue Economy.
- Encourage disaster risk management.
- Support academic and scientific cooperation.

Priority Areas

- Maritime safety
- Blue Economy
- Fisheries management
- Trade facilitation
- Disaster management
- Tourism
- Women's economic empowerment

Importance for India

- Supports India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** vision.
- Enhances maritime security.
- Strengthens India's leadership in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Promotes regional connectivity and economic cooperation.

19. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Why in News?

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) model has gained global recognition for enabling inclusive digital governance, financial inclusion, and public service delivery. It continues to be promoted as a model for other countries.

What is Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)?

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to a set of interoperable digital platforms that enable governments, businesses, and citizens to access services efficiently and securely.

It acts as the digital backbone of governance and the digital economy.

Key Components of India's DPI

- Aadhaar – Digital identity
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) – Digital payments
- DigiLocker – Digital document storage
- CoWIN – Vaccination management platform
- ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)
- Account Aggregator Framework
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

Objectives

- Promote financial inclusion
- Improve public service delivery
- Enable paperless and cashless governance
- Enhance transparency and accountability
- Support Digital India

Significance

- Reduces leakages in welfare schemes.
- Enables Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Promotes digital payments.
- Strengthens digital economy.
- Serves as a model for developing countries.

20. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

Why in News?

UPI continues to witness record transaction volumes and remains India's most widely used digital payment platform. Recent initiatives aim to expand UPI globally and improve financial inclusion.

What is UPI?

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time digital payment system that enables instant transfer of money between bank accounts through mobile applications.

It was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Key Features

- Instant bank-to-bank transfers
- Available 24×7
- QR code-based payments
- Mobile number and UPI ID-based payments
- Interoperable across banks

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- Established: 2008
- Promoted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)
- Headquarters: Mumbai

Advantages

- Cashless transactions
- Low transaction cost
- Financial inclusion
- Secure digital payments
- Faster merchant payments

International Expansion

UPI services have expanded to several countries including:

- Singapore
- UAE
- France
- Nepal
- Bhutan
- Sri Lanka
- Mauritius

Significance

- Strengthens Digital India.
- Promotes formal economy.
- Improves ease of doing business.
- Makes India a global leader in digital payments.

21. All India Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Why in News?

Recent IIP data indicated trends in India's industrial growth, providing an important indicator of overall economic performance.

What is IIP?

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures the short-term growth of industrial output in the country.

It serves as an important indicator of economic activity.

Compiled By

National Statistics Office (NSO)

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Base Year

2011–12

Major Sectors

- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Electricity

Among these, Manufacturing carries the highest weight.

Uses

- Measures industrial growth.
- Helps formulate economic policy.
- Used by RBI and Government.
- Indicates business cycle trends.

Difference between IIP and GDP

IIP	GDP
Measures industrial production	Measures total economic output
Monthly	Quarterly and Annual
Covers industrial sector	Covers all sectors of economy

22. Strengthening Rural Economy

Why in News?

The Government announced measures to strengthen the rural economy through agriculture, rural enterprises, infrastructure development, and employment generation.

What is Rural Economy?

The rural economy comprises economic activities carried out in villages and rural areas, including agriculture, allied activities, small industries, and services.

Major Components

- Agriculture
- Animal husbandry
- Fisheries

- Rural MSMEs
- Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- Rural infrastructure

Major Government Initiatives

- PM-KISAN
- MGNREGA
- DAY-NRLM
- PMGSY
- PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME)

Importance

- Provides livelihood to a large share of India's population.
- Supports food security.
- Reduces rural poverty.
- Promotes balanced regional development.
- Generates rural employment.

23. Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs)

Why in News?

The Government continued to strengthen Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) to improve farmers' incomes and enhance market access.

What are FPOs?

Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are collective organizations formed by farmers to undertake agricultural production, processing, marketing, and value addition.

They function as registered companies under the Companies Act.

Objectives

- Improve bargaining power of farmers.
- Reduce input costs.



- Increase market access.
- Promote value addition.
- Improve farm incomes.

Central Sector Scheme

The Government launched the **Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs Scheme** in 2020.

Nodal Ministry:

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Benefits

- Better access to markets.
- Improved credit availability.
- Bulk purchase of inputs.
- Higher income through collective marketing.

Importance

- Empowers small and marginal farmers.
- Encourages modern agriculture.
- Strengthens agricultural supply chains.

24. Capital Adequacy Norms for Banks

Why in News?

Capital adequacy norms remained in focus as regulators reviewed banking resilience and financial stability.

What is Capital Adequacy?

Capital adequacy refers to the minimum amount of capital that banks must maintain to absorb losses and protect depositors.

It ensures the stability of the banking system.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)

$$\text{CAR} = (\text{Bank Capital} \div \text{Risk Weighted Assets}) \times 100$$

Higher CAR indicates greater financial strength.

Basel Norms

Capital adequacy standards are based on the Basel framework developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

The current global framework is **Basel III**.

Components of Bank Capital

- Tier I Capital (Core Capital)
- Tier II Capital (Supplementary Capital)

Importance

- Protects depositors.
- Reduces risk of bank failure.
- Promotes financial stability.
- Enhances confidence in the banking system.

25. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

Why in News?

The Government announced Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 to provide greater financial support to startups and strengthen India's innovation ecosystem.

About the Scheme

Startup India Fund of Funds (FoF) is a government initiative to support startups through SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

The new phase expands financial support and sectoral coverage.

Implementing Agency

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Objectives

- Increase availability of risk capital.
- Promote innovation.
- Encourage entrepreneurship.
- Support technology startups.

Priority Sectors

- Artificial Intelligence
- Deep Technology
- Biotechnology
- Space Technology
- Clean Energy
- Semiconductor manufacturing

Importance

- Promotes employment generation.
- Encourages innovation.
- Strengthens startup ecosystem.
- Supports Atmanirbhar Bharat.

26. RBI Surplus Transfer

Why in News?

The Reserve Bank of India transferred a record surplus to the Central Government, providing additional fiscal resources.

What is RBI Surplus?

RBI earns income from:

- Interest on government securities

- Foreign exchange reserves
- Liquidity management operations
- Investments

After maintaining required reserves, the remaining profit is transferred to the Government.

Legal Provision

Section 47 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Why is it Important?

Surplus transfer helps the Government:

- Reduce fiscal deficit.
- Increase public expenditure.
- Fund infrastructure projects.
- Support welfare schemes.

Bimal Jalan Committee (2019)

The committee recommended the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) to determine the amount of surplus transferable by RBI.

Significance

- Strengthens government finances.
- Maintains financial stability.
- Supports economic growth.

27. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

Why in News?

India launched the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool to strengthen domestic marine insurance capacity and reduce dependence on foreign insurers.

What is Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool?

It is a collaborative insurance mechanism through which Indian insurance companies jointly provide marine insurance coverage for ships and maritime trade.

Objectives

- Strengthen India's maritime insurance sector.
- Reduce dependence on overseas insurers.
- Support Indian shipping companies.
- Enhance maritime risk management.

Benefits

- Faster insurance settlements.
- Greater financial security.
- Lower insurance costs.
- Strengthens maritime trade.

Significance

- Supports Maritime India Vision 2030.
- Promotes self-reliance in maritime services.
- Enhances India's blue economy.

28. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

Why in News?

The Government expanded support under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to assist eligible sectors facing financial stress.

About ECLGS

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme was launched in **2020** as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

It provides government-backed collateral-free loans to eligible borrowers.

Implementing Agency

National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)

Objectives

- Provide emergency liquidity.
- Support MSMEs and businesses.
- Protect employment.
- Reduce financial distress.

Features of ECLGS 5.0

- Government guarantee on additional loans.
- Support for identified sectors.
- Collateral-free credit.
- Time-bound implementation.

Importance

- Helps businesses recover from economic disruptions.
- Supports MSMEs, which are major employment generators.
- Strengthens credit flow to productive sectors.
- Promotes economic growth and business continuity.

29. Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS-2026)

Why in News?

The Indian Navy released the **Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS-2026)**, providing a comprehensive framework to address emerging maritime challenges and strengthen India's role as a leading maritime power in the Indian Ocean Region.

What is INMSS-2026?

The Indian Navy Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS-2026) is the Indian Navy's guiding document for safeguarding India's maritime interests and ensuring a secure, stable and rules-based maritime environment.

It replaces the earlier **Indian Maritime Security Strategy (IMSS-2015)**.

Objectives

- Protect India's maritime interests.
- Ensure security of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).
- Safeguard India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- Counter traditional and non-traditional maritime threats.
- Strengthen maritime partnerships with friendly countries.

Major Areas of Focus

Maritime Security

- Counter piracy
- Maritime terrorism
- Arms and narcotics trafficking
- Illegal fishing
- Human trafficking

Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)

Emphasis on:

- Real-time surveillance
- Information sharing
- Satellite and radar monitoring
- Coastal security network

Regional Cooperation

Promotes cooperation through:

- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- Colombo Security Conclave
- QUAD and other regional partnerships

Blue Economy

Recognises the importance of:

- Sustainable use of marine resources
- Offshore energy
- Fisheries
- Maritime trade
- Coastal development

Significance

- Strengthens India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Enhances protection of maritime trade routes.
- Supports the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- Improves coordination with friendly navies.

30. Money Laundering

Why in News?

Money laundering remained in focus following actions by enforcement agencies and continued efforts to strengthen India's anti-money laundering framework.

What is Money Laundering?

Money laundering is the process of disguising illegally obtained money as legitimate income by concealing its true origin.

The objective is to make proceeds of crime appear legal.

Stages of Money Laundering

1. Placement

Illegal money is introduced into the financial system.

2. Layering

Multiple transactions are carried out to hide the origin of the money.

3. Integration

The laundered money re-enters the economy as apparently legitimate income.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is India's principal law to combat money laundering.

Objectives

- Prevent money laundering.
- Confiscate proceeds of crime.
- Punish offenders.
- Fulfil international obligations.

Enforcement Agency

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Ministry of Finance

Functions:

- Investigates money laundering offences.
- Attaches and confiscates proceeds of crime.
- Conducts searches and arrests under PMLA.

Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND)

Established in 2004.

Functions:

- Receives reports of suspicious financial transactions.
- Analyses financial intelligence.
- Assists law enforcement agencies.

International Organisation

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- Established: 1989
- Headquarters: Paris, France

Functions:

- Sets global standards against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Maintains Grey List and Black List of countries with deficiencies.

India is a member of FATF.

Significance

- Protects financial integrity.
- Prevents financing of terrorism.
- Strengthens banking and financial systems.
- Promotes international financial cooperation.

31. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

Why in News?

The role of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) continued to gain importance in strengthening jointness and integration among the three armed forces.

About the Chief of Defence Staff

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is the highest-ranking military officer in India and serves as the principal military adviser to the Government on tri-service matters.

The post was created in **2019** following the recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee** and the **Shekatkar Committee**.

Appointment

Appointed by the Government of India.

The CDS functions under the Ministry of Defence.

Major Functions

- Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister.
- Promotes jointness among the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Facilitates integrated planning and procurement.
- Oversees establishment of Integrated Theatre Commands.
- Heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).



Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Established in **2019** under the Ministry of Defence.

Headed by the CDS.

Responsible for:

- Joint military training
- Procurement coordination
- Military staffing
- Promotion of indigenous defence capability

Importance

- Enhances coordination among the three services.
- Improves defence preparedness.
- Promotes efficient utilization of defence resources.
- Strengthens India's national security architecture.

32. Important Military Exercises in News

Military exercises enhance interoperability, strengthen defence cooperation, and improve operational preparedness among participating countries.

SHAKTI

Countries: India – France

Service: Army

Conducted to improve joint counter-terrorism operations and military cooperation.

VARUNA

Countries: India – France



Service: Navy

Focuses on maritime security, anti-submarine warfare, and naval interoperability.

GARUDA

Countries: India – France

Service: Air Force

Conducted to strengthen air combat capabilities and operational coordination.

YUDH ABHYAS

Countries: India – United States

Service: Army

Focuses on counter-terrorism operations, disaster response, and interoperability.

MALABAR

Participants: India, United States, Japan and Australia

Service: Navy

Major multilateral naval exercise promoting maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific.

MITRA SHAKTI

Countries: India – Sri Lanka



Service: Army

Enhances counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism capabilities.

HAND-IN-HAND

Countries: India – China

Service: Army

Conducted to improve mutual confidence and cooperation in counter-terrorism operations.

DUSTLIK

Countries: India – Uzbekistan

Service: Army

Focuses on joint counter-terrorism operations and military cooperation.

EKUVERIN

Countries: India – Maldives

Service: Army

Promotes defence cooperation and interoperability between the two countries.

SIMBEX

Countries: India – Singapore

Service: Navy

One of India's longest-running bilateral naval exercises, aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation and naval operational capabilities.

Importance of Military Exercises

- Strengthen defence cooperation with partner countries.
- Enhance interoperability among armed forces.
- Improve combat preparedness and operational capabilities.
- Promote maritime security and regional stability.
- Support India's strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region.

33. Circular Economy

Why in News?

India continued to promote the Circular Economy through policies aimed at improving resource efficiency, reducing waste, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

What is Circular Economy?

A Circular Economy is an economic model that emphasizes keeping products, materials, and resources in use for as long as possible through **reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling**, thereby minimizing waste generation.

It is an alternative to the traditional **Linear Economy** model of *Take → Make → Use → Dispose*.

Key Principles

- Reduce resource consumption.
- Reuse products and materials.
- Recycle waste into new products.
- Extend product life cycle.
- Promote sustainable production and consumption.

Government Initiatives

- Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Plastic Waste Management Rules

- Battery Waste Management Rules
- E-Waste Management Rules

Significance

- Conserves natural resources.
- Reduces pollution and waste generation.
- Promotes sustainable industrial growth.
- Supports climate change mitigation.
- Creates green jobs and encourages innovation.

34. Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

Why in News?

The Government approved measures to promote Small Hydro Power projects as part of India's renewable energy expansion strategy.

What is Small Hydro Power?

Small Hydro Power (SHP) refers to hydroelectric power projects with an installed capacity of up to 25 MW.

Unlike large dams, SHP projects generally have a lower environmental footprint.

Nodal Ministry

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Objectives

- Increase renewable energy generation.
- Improve electricity access in remote areas.
- Promote decentralized power generation.
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Advantages

- Clean and renewable energy.
- Low greenhouse gas emissions.
- Long operational life.
- Suitable for hilly and remote regions.
- Supports rural development.

Significance

- Contributes to India's renewable energy targets.
- Enhances energy security.
- Supports sustainable development.
- Generates local employment.

35. Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)

Why in News?

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) technologies received attention as potential tools to combat climate change by enhancing the ocean's capacity to absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide.

What is Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal?

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) refers to technologies and natural processes that increase the ability of oceans to absorb and store carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

Major Techniques

- Ocean alkalinity enhancement
- Seaweed cultivation
- Ocean fertilization
- Artificial upwelling and downwelling
- Coastal blue carbon restoration (mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes)

Advantages

- Removes atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- Supports climate change mitigation.

- Complements emission reduction efforts.

Concerns

- Ecological impacts on marine ecosystems.
- Scientific uncertainty regarding long-term effectiveness.
- Need for international regulation and monitoring.

Significance

- Supports global climate goals.
- May contribute to achieving net-zero emissions.
- Encourages research on sustainable carbon removal technologies.

36. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Why in News?

India continued to strengthen the International Big Cat Alliance by promoting global cooperation for the conservation of big cat species.

About the International Big Cat Alliance

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a global initiative launched by **India in 2023** for the conservation of the world's seven major big cat species.

Headquarters

India

Big Cats Covered

- Tiger
- Lion
- Leopard
- Snow Leopard
- Cheetah
- Jaguar
- Puma

Objectives

- Promote conservation of big cats.
- Facilitate international cooperation.
- Support habitat protection.
- Combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
- Encourage scientific research and capacity building.

Significance

- Strengthens India's leadership in wildlife conservation.
- Supports biodiversity conservation.
- Enhances global cooperation on endangered species.

37. Dam Safety in India

Why in News?

Dam safety remained an important policy issue following reviews of dam maintenance and implementation of the Dam Safety Act.

Dam Safety Act, 2021

The **Dam Safety Act, 2021** provides a legal framework for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams across India.

Objectives

- Prevent dam failures.
- Ensure structural safety.
- Protect lives and property.
- Promote uniform safety standards.

Institutional Framework

National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS)

- Evolves dam safety policies.
- Recommends technical standards.

National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

- Implements national dam safety framework.
- Resolves disputes among State Dam Safety Organisations.

State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs)

- Monitor dams within respective States.
- Conduct inspections and safety evaluations.

National Dam Safety Programme (NDSP)

Supported by the World Bank to improve dam safety and strengthen institutional capacity.

Significance

- Reduces disaster risk.
- Protects downstream populations.
- Improves water resource management.
- Enhances infrastructure resilience.

38. Super El Niño

Why in News?

Climate scientists highlighted the increasing frequency of extreme El Niño events and their impact on global weather patterns.

What is El Niño?

El Niño is the periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

It forms one phase of the **El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** cycle.

What is Super El Niño?

A Super El Niño is an exceptionally strong El Niño event characterized by unusually high warming of Pacific Ocean waters, resulting in severe global weather disturbances.

Impacts

Global

- Heat waves
- Droughts
- Floods
- Forest fires
- Coral bleaching

India

- Weak southwest monsoon
- Lower agricultural output
- Water shortages
- Food inflation

Opposite Phase

La Niña is characterized by cooler-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific and often brings above-normal monsoon rainfall to India.

Significance

- Influences agriculture.
- Affects food security.
- Impacts global climate patterns.
- Important for weather forecasting.

39. AI-enabled Weather Forecasting Systems

Why in News?

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being integrated into weather forecasting to improve prediction accuracy and disaster preparedness.

What is AI-enabled Weather Forecasting?

It involves the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning algorithms to analyse vast amounts of meteorological data and generate faster and more accurate weather forecasts.

Applications

- Rainfall prediction
- Cyclone forecasting
- Flood forecasting
- Heatwave prediction
- Agricultural advisories

Advantages

- Improved forecast accuracy.
- Faster data analysis.
- Better disaster preparedness.
- Early warning systems.
- Supports climate resilience.

Indian Institutions

- India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
- National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)

Significance

- Protects lives and property.
- Improves agricultural planning.
- Strengthens disaster management.
- Enhances climate adaptation.

40. Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026

Why in News?

The United Nations released the **Global Forest Goals Report 2026**, assessing progress towards sustainable forest management and conservation worldwide.

About the Global Forest Goals

The Global Forest Goals were adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** under the **United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–2030)**.

Six Global Forest Goals

- Increase global forest area.
- Improve forest-based economic and social benefits.
- Expand protected forests.
- Mobilize financial resources for sustainable forest management.
- Promote good forest governance.
- Enhance international cooperation.

Key Findings

- Forest loss continues in many regions.
- Restoration efforts are increasing.
- Climate change remains a major threat.
- Sustainable forest management needs greater investment.

Importance of Forests

- Carbon sequestration.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Water cycle regulation.
- Livelihood support.
- Climate change mitigation.

Significance

- Supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Contributes to biodiversity conservation.
- Strengthens global climate action.
- Promotes sustainable use of forest resources.

41. Examination System of India



Why in News?

The Government announced reforms to strengthen transparency, fairness, and security in public examinations following incidents of examination malpractices and paper leaks.

Constitutional Position

Education is placed in the **Concurrent List (List III)** under the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**. Both the Union and State Governments can legislate on education.

Major Examination Bodies in India

- Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
- Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
- National Testing Agency (NTA)
- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- State Public Service Commissions
- State Education Boards

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

The Act aims to curb unfair practices in public examinations.

Key Features

- Prevents question paper leaks.
- Penalizes organized cheating and impersonation.
- Targets examination mafias and organized crime.
- Protects the integrity of recruitment examinations.

Major Challenges

- Paper leaks
- Use of unfair means
- Cyber fraud
- Coaching-related malpractice
- Delay in recruitment examinations

Significance

- Ensures fair and transparent recruitment.
- Protects merit-based selection.
- Enhances public confidence in examination systems.
- Strengthens governance and accountability.

42. School Education in India

Why in News?

School education remained a policy focus with continued implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and efforts to improve learning outcomes.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 21A** – Right to free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
- **Article 45** – Early childhood care and education.
- **Article 46** – Promotion of educational interests of weaker sections.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020

The NEP aims to transform India's education system by improving quality, equity, and accessibility.

Key Features

- 5+3+3+4 curricular structure.
- Focus on foundational literacy and numeracy.
- Multilingual education.
- Experiential and competency-based learning.
- Greater use of technology in education.
- Holistic development of students.

Major Government Initiatives

- Samagra Shiksha
- PM SHRI Schools
- DIKSHA Platform
- NIPUN Bharat Mission
- Vidyanjali Programme

Challenges

- Learning gaps
- School dropout
- Teacher shortages
- Digital divide
- Infrastructure deficiencies

Significance

- Promotes inclusive education.
- Improves learning outcomes.
- Enhances employability and skill development.
- Supports long-term human capital formation.

43. Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2024 & Demographic Transition

Why in News?

The Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2024 highlighted continued demographic transition in India, including declining fertility and improving life expectancy.

What is Sample Registration System (SRS)?

The Sample Registration System is India's largest demographic survey that provides reliable annual estimates of births, deaths, and fertility indicators.

Conducted By

Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI)

Ministry of Home Affairs

Major Indicators

- Birth Rate
- Death Rate

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
- Maternal Mortality indicators
- Life Expectancy (through related demographic analysis)

Demographic Transition

Demographic Transition refers to the gradual shift from **high birth and death rates** to **low birth and death rates** as a country develops economically and socially.

Stages

- High birth rate and high death rate
- High birth rate and declining death rate
- Declining birth rate
- Low birth rate and low death rate

India is currently in the later stages of demographic transition, with fertility rates approaching replacement level.

Importance

- Assists population planning.
- Supports health policy formulation.
- Guides education and employment planning.
- Helps design social welfare programmes.

44. Care Economy

Why in News?

The Care Economy has received increased policy attention due to its role in employment generation, women's workforce participation, and inclusive economic growth.

What is Care Economy?

The Care Economy comprises paid and unpaid work related to caring for children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and other dependent individuals.

It includes services that support health, education, and social well-being.

Components

- Childcare
- Elder care
- Healthcare services
- Domestic care work
- Community care services

Importance

Economic Importance

- Generates employment.
- Increases women's labour force participation.
- Supports productivity of the overall economy.

Social Importance

- Improves health and education outcomes.
- Promotes gender equality.
- Reduces unpaid care burden on women.

Challenges

- Large share of unpaid care work.
- Limited institutional care infrastructure.
- Gender inequality in care responsibilities.
- Low recognition of care work in economic statistics.

Significance

- Supports inclusive economic development.
- Promotes women's empowerment.
- Improves quality of life.
- Contributes to sustainable development.

45. Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

Why in News?

The Right to Education (RTE) Act continued to remain in focus in discussions on improving school education, learning outcomes, and equitable access to education.

Constitutional Basis

The **86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002** inserted **Article 21A**, making education a Fundamental Right for children between **6 and 14 years** of age.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 came into force on **1 April 2010**.

Objective

To provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

Key Features

- Free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
- No capitation fee or screening procedure for admission.
- No detention policy at the elementary level (subject to later amendments).
- Prescribes pupil-teacher ratio.
- Establishes School Management Committees (SMCs).
- Mandates recognition norms for schools.

Reservation in Private Schools

Section 12(1)(c) mandates **25% reservation** for children belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Disadvantaged Groups in entry-level classes of private unaided schools.

Important Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 21A** – Right to Education
- **Article 45** – Early childhood care and education
- **Article 46** – Promotion of educational interests of weaker sections

Significance

- Universalises elementary education.
- Promotes social inclusion and equality.

- Reduces educational disparities.
- Strengthens human resource development.

46. Private Players in India's Space Sector

Why in News?

The Government continued to promote greater participation of private companies in India's space sector through policy reforms, commercialization, and technology transfer.

Background

For many decades, India's space activities were primarily carried out by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. Recent reforms have opened the sector to private participation to encourage innovation, investment, and global competitiveness.

Major Reforms

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)

- Established: **2020**
- Autonomous agency under the **Department of Space**.
- Acts as a single-window agency to promote, authorize, and regulate the activities of non-government entities in the space sector.

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)

- Established: **2019**
- Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Space.
- Responsible for commercialization of ISRO technologies, launch services, and satellite-based products.

Indian Space Policy, 2023

The policy clearly defines the roles of:

- ISRO – Research and development.
- IN-SPACe – Promotion and regulation of private participation.
- NSIL – Commercialization of space technologies.
- Private sector – Development, launch, ownership, and operation of space assets.

Role of Private Sector

Private companies are now permitted to participate in:

- Satellite manufacturing
- Launch vehicle development
- Satellite communication
- Space-based applications
- Space exploration technologies
- Ground infrastructure and data services

Importance

- Encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Attracts domestic and foreign investment.
- Creates high-skilled employment.
- Enhances India's global competitiveness in the space economy.
- Supports the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

47. Ease of Doing Research & Development (R&D) in India

Why in News?

The Government announced measures to simplify research regulations and promote innovation by improving the ease of conducting Research and Development (R&D) in India.

What is Research and Development (R&D)?

Research and Development refers to systematic scientific and technological activities undertaken to develop new knowledge, products, technologies, or processes.

R&D plays a vital role in innovation, industrial growth, and economic development.

Objectives of Recent Reforms

- Simplify regulatory procedures.
- Promote collaboration between academia and industry.
- Encourage private sector investment in research.
- Improve commercialization of research outcomes.
- Strengthen India's innovation ecosystem.

Major Institutions Supporting R&D

- Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Government Initiatives

- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- Startup India
- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

Importance

- Promotes scientific innovation.
- Strengthens technological self-reliance.
- Improves industrial competitiveness.
- Encourages startup development.
- Supports long-term economic growth.

48. Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication

Why in News?

Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communication has gained importance as India moves towards intelligent transportation systems, connected vehicles, and improved road safety.

What is V2X Communication?

Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) is a communication technology that enables vehicles to exchange real-time information with other vehicles, road infrastructure, pedestrians, and communication networks.

Its objective is to improve road safety, traffic management, and driving efficiency.

Types of V2X Communication

Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V)

Enables communication between vehicles to share information such as speed, position, and direction, helping prevent collisions.

Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I)

Allows vehicles to communicate with traffic signals, road sensors, toll plazas, and other roadside infrastructure for efficient traffic management.

Vehicle-to-Pedestrian (V2P)

Facilitates communication between vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists carrying smart devices, enhancing road safety.

Vehicle-to-Network (V2N)

Connects vehicles with cloud servers and mobile networks to provide navigation, weather updates, emergency services, and software updates.

Applications

- Collision avoidance
- Intelligent traffic management
- Emergency vehicle prioritization
- Autonomous and connected vehicles
- Smart city transportation systems
- Fleet management

Benefits

- Improves road safety.
- Reduces traffic congestion.
- Enhances fuel efficiency.
- Enables real-time traffic information.
- Supports autonomous driving technologies.

Challenges

- High infrastructure costs.
- Cybersecurity and data privacy concerns.
- Need for common communication standards.
- Requirement of widespread 5G and digital infrastructure.

Importance

- Supports development of intelligent transportation systems.
- Improves mobility and road safety.
- Promotes smart city initiatives.
- Strengthens India's digital and automotive ecosystem.

49. Bhojshala Temple

Why in News?

The Bhojshala Temple at Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, remained in the news due to ongoing legal proceedings regarding its religious character and the rights of worship.

About Bhojshala

Bhojshala is a protected historical monument located in **Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh**.

It is traditionally associated with **King Bhoja** of the **Paramara Dynasty** (11th century CE) and is believed to have been a centre of Sanskrit learning dedicated to **Goddess Saraswati (Vagdevi)**.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) maintains the monument as a protected site.

Historical Background

- Associated with **Raja Bhoja**, the famous Paramara ruler.
- Considered an important centre of Sanskrit education and learning.
- The monument later became associated with the **Kamal Maula Mosque**, leading to competing religious claims over the site.

Archaeological Significance

- Contains numerous Sanskrit and Prakrit inscriptions.



- Features pillars and sculptures displaying medieval temple architecture.
- Protected under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Legal Issues

The dispute primarily concerns:

- Religious character of the monument.
- Rights of worship of different communities.
- Interpretation of archaeological and historical evidence.

The matter has been considered by the courts, with the ASI continuing to supervise and preserve the monument.

Significance

- Important monument of medieval Indian history.
- Illustrates India's architectural and cultural heritage.
- Highlights issues relating to heritage conservation, archaeology, and constitutional law.

50. Padma Awards 2026

Why in News?

The Government of India announced the **Padma Awards 2026**, recognising distinguished contributions in various fields including art, literature, science, medicine, public affairs, sports, social work, and civil service.

About Padma Awards

The Padma Awards are among the **highest civilian honours** of India.

They are announced every year on the occasion of **Republic Day**.

The awards are conferred by the **President of India** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Categories



1. Padma Vibhushan

Awarded for **exceptional and distinguished service**.

2. Padma Bhushan

Awarded for **distinguished service of a high order**.

3. Padma Shri

Awarded for **distinguished service in any field**.

Fields Covered

Padma Awards are conferred in areas such as:

- Art
- Literature and Education
- Science and Engineering
- Medicine
- Public Affairs
- Social Work
- Civil Service
- Trade and Industry
- Sports

Selection Process

- Nominations are invited from the public, State Governments, Union Territories, Ministries, and other institutions.
- Recommendations are examined by the **Padma Awards Committee**.
- The final approval is given by the **Prime Minister and the President of India**.

Padma Awards 2026

For **2026**, the President approved **131 Padma Awards**, including **2 duo cases**, across the three categories.

Significance

- Recognises exceptional contributions to society.



- Encourages excellence across diverse fields.
- Promotes national service and public recognition of outstanding achievements.

