



**APRIL - 2026**

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# NDI DEFENCE INSTITUTE

( A DEFENCE EXAM TRAINING CENTRE FOR NDA, CDS, AFCAT, CAPF AC, UPSC,  
SSB INTERVIEW, SAINIK, RMS, RIMC & SOLDIER)

10/2, Chakrapani Rd, Extn, Maduvinkarai, Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600032  
www.nationaldefenceinstitute.in | Mail Id: info@nationaldefenceinstitute.in | 91509 81461 | 91509 81462

## APRIL CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

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### IMPORTANT DAYS:

- **Odisha Day**, also known as **Utkal Divas**, is observed on 1 April to commemorate the formation of Odisha state in 1936 as the first Indian state created on a linguistic basis, highlighting the role of language in administrative reorganisation and later influencing the States Reorganisation Act of 1956 which reorganised states primarily on linguistic lines.
- **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed on 2 April under the United Nations framework with the theme **"Advancing Neurodiversity and Inclusion,"** focusing on promoting rights, inclusion, and acceptance of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, which is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting communication, behaviour, and social interaction.
- **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed on 4 April with the theme **"Safe Ground, Safe Lives,"** emphasizing the removal of landmines and explosive remnants of war, which pose long-term threats to civilians even after conflicts end, and is coordinated by the United Nations Mine Action Service.
- **National Maritime Day** is observed in India on 5 April to mark the historic voyage of SS Loyalty in 1919, the first Indian-owned ship to sail internationally, highlighting the importance of maritime trade, which accounts for about ninety percent of global trade by volume, and emphasizing **India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean Region.**
- **International Day of Conscience** is observed on 5 April by the **United Nations to promote peace, tolerance, and ethical awareness,** recognizing the role of moral responsibility and individual conscience in preventing conflicts and fostering peaceful coexistence.
- **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace** is observed on 6 April with the **theme "Sport for Inclusion and Peace,"** recognizing sport as a tool for promoting social inclusion, gender equality, and conflict resolution, and linking it to global initiatives such as the Olympic Movement.
- **World Health Day** is observed on 7 April to mark the establishment of the World Health Organization in 1948, with the theme **"My Health, My Right,"** emphasizing universal health coverage, which aims to ensure access to essential healthcare services without financial hardship, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 3.
- **World Homoeopathy Day** is observed on 10 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Samuel Hahnemann,** the founder of homoeopathy, which is an alternative system of medicine based on the principle of "like cures like" and uses highly diluted substances for treatment.
- **National Safe Motherhood Day is observed in India** on 11 April with the **theme "Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving No Mother Behind,"** focusing on improving maternal health services and reducing maternal mortality ratio, which is a key indicator of healthcare system performance.



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- **Jallianwala Bagh Remembrance Day** is observed on 13 April to honour the victims of the 1919 massacre in Amritsar, where British troops under General Dyer fired on unarmed civilians, becoming a turning point in India's freedom struggle and intensifying nationalist movements.
- **Ambedkar Jayanti** is observed on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Doctor B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution**, known for his contributions to social justice, abolition of untouchability, and promotion of equality and fundamental rights.
- **World Haemophilia Day** is observed on 17 April with the theme "**Equitable Access for All,**" raising awareness about haemophilia, a genetic bleeding disorder caused by deficiency of clotting factors, and emphasizing the need for accessible treatment and healthcare support.
- **World Heritage Day** is observed on 18 April with the theme "**Heritage Under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts,**" highlighting the importance of protecting cultural and natural heritage sites, which are designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under the World Heritage Convention of 1972.
- **National Civil Services Day** is observed in India on 21 April with the theme "**Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile,**" commemorating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to civil servants in 1947 and recognizing the role of bureaucracy in governance and public service delivery.
- **Earth Day** is observed on 22 April with the theme "**Planet versus Plastics,**" focusing on reducing plastic pollution, promoting environmental sustainability, and addressing climate change, which is driven by greenhouse gas emissions and human activities.
- **World Book and Copyright Day** is observed on 23 April with the theme "**Read Your Way,**" promoting reading habits, publishing, and protection of intellectual property rights under copyright laws, which safeguard original literary and artistic works.
- **National Panchayati Raj Day** is observed in India on 24 April with the theme "**Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas,**" marking the enactment of the Seventy Third Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which established a three-tier Panchayati Raj system for decentralized governance and grassroots democracy.
- **World Malaria Day** is observed on 25 April with the theme "**Accelerate the Fight Against Malaria,**" focusing on prevention and control of malaria, a mosquito-borne disease caused by Plasmodium parasites and transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- **World Intellectual Property Day** is observed on 26 April with the theme "**Intellectual Property and Music: Feel the Beat of Intellectual Property,**" raising awareness about intellectual property rights such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks, which promote innovation and creativity.



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- **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is observed on 28 April with the theme “**Safe and Healthy Working Environment,**” organized by the International Labour Organization to promote occupational safety standards and prevent workplace injuries and diseases.
- **International Dance Day** is observed on 29 April to promote the art of dance globally, recognizing its cultural significance and role in expression, creativity, and heritage preservation.
- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas** is observed on 30 April to promote healthcare accessibility under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which includes components such as Health and Wellness Centres and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana providing financial protection for secondary and tertiary healthcare.

### APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONALITIES:

- **Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026** were held in New Delhi to honour excellence in Indian classical music, where eminent Hindustani vocalists **Sumitra Guha** and **Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** were recognised for their lifelong contribution to preserving India’s musical heritage, and the awards are presented by **Lokmat Media** in memory of **Jyotsna Darda** to promote classical traditions and emerging talent.
- Botanist **N. Alim Yusuf** was honoured by the **World Wide Fund for Nature** for developing an artificial intelligence-based conservation application that uses digital tools to monitor biodiversity and assist in environmental protection, highlighting the growing role of artificial intelligence in ecological conservation and wildlife monitoring.
- **Goldman Environmental Prize 2026**, often referred to as the “Green Nobel,” was awarded to an all-women cohort for the first time, recognising six grassroots environmental activists from different regions of the world for their efforts in protecting ecosystems, fighting extractive industries, and advancing environmental justice.
- The **Goldman Environmental Prize** is an international award established in 1989 by the **Goldman Environmental Foundation** and is given annually to environmental activists from six geographic regions, emphasizing grassroots leadership in environmental conservation.
- India’s **Samridh Gram Initiative** has been nominated for the **World Summit on the Information Society Prizes 2026** under the “Enabling Environment” category, recognising its contribution to digital empowerment, rural development, and inclusive governance through information and communication technology-based interventions.
- The **World Summit on the Information Society** is a United Nations-led initiative that promotes the use of information and communication technologies for development, bridging digital divide and fostering inclusive digital societies.



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- **Laureus World Sports Awards 2026** were held in Madrid, Spain, recognising outstanding achievements in global sports across categories such as Sportsman of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year, and Team of the Year, and are widely regarded as one of the most prestigious international sports awards.
- **Laureus World Sports Awards** were established in 2000 by the **Laureus Sport for Good Foundation** and aim to celebrate sporting excellence while promoting the role of sport in social development and global unity.
- **Sanjay Khanna** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited** by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, reflecting leadership changes in public sector enterprises and the strategic importance of oil and gas sector in India's energy security.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited** is a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, engaged in refining, distribution, and marketing of petroleum products, playing a critical role in India's energy supply chain.
- **Sudarshan Pattnaik**, an internationally renowned sand artist from Odisha, has been appointed as the brand ambassador for **India Census 2027**, highlighting the use of cultural icons and public figures to promote awareness and participation in national statistical exercises.
- **Census of India** is a decennial exercise conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**, providing comprehensive data on population, socio-economic indicators, and demographic characteristics, which is essential for policy formulation, planning, and resource allocation.

### • Babu Jagjivan Ram

**Babu Jagjivan Ram (1908–1986)**, popularly known as *Babuji*, was a **freedom fighter, Dalit leader, and former Deputy Prime Minister of India**. Born in **Bihar (Shahabad/Bhojpur region)**, he was a strong advocate of **social justice and rights of depressed classes**. He founded organisations like **All India Depressed Classes League, Akhil Bharatiya Ravidas Mahasabha, and Khetihar Mazdoor Sabha**.

### SPORTS:

- **India won four gold medals** at the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, highlighting India's rising dominance in youth strength sports, which serve as feeder systems for Olympic-level performance.
- **Punjab FC retained the AIFF Elite Youth League title**, reflecting the growing importance of structured youth academies in Indian football development.
- **Rithika Sri became India's first transgender umpire**, marking a step toward inclusivity and gender diversity in sports governance and officiating.



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- **P. V. Sindhu was inducted into the Badminton World Federation Council**, strengthening athlete representation in global sports governance frameworks.
- **Virat Kohli became the first player to reach 9000 runs in the Indian Premier League**, underlining the league's role as a high-performance commercial T20 ecosystem.
- **India topped the medal tally with 16 medals at the ISSF Junior World Cup**, showcasing its strength in shooting, a key Olympic medal discipline.
- **Sabastian Sawe achieved a sub-2-hour marathon at the London Marathon**, pushing the limits of human endurance and long-distance performance benchmarks.
- **Tashkent will host the World Para Athletics Championships**, reflecting growing global emphasis on para-sports and inclusivity in athletics.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras introduced OmegaBall**, India's first three-team football format, indicating innovation in sports formats to enhance engagement and strategy.
- **The ISSF Junior World Cup in Cairo saw strong Indian participation**, reinforcing India's focus on early talent identification in shooting sports.
- **Shubhankar Sharma won the inaugural Boulders Classic**, marking his return and highlighting growth in professional golf circuits in India.
- **International Cricket Council launched the Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026 in Rwanda**, signalling expansion of women's cricket into emerging regions.
- **R Vaishali won the Women's Candidates Tournament 2026**, qualifying for the World Chess Championship, strengthening India's position in global chess dominance.
- **Melie Kerr won ICC Women's Player of the Month (March 2026)**, reflecting performance-based recognition systems in international cricket.
- **Sanju Samson won ICC Men's Player of the Month (March 2026) after T20 World Cup heroics**, emphasizing short-format cricket performance metrics.
- **Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma were named Wisden's Leading Cricketers (2025)**, one of cricket's most prestigious recognitions.
- **Sawan Barwal broke a 48-year-old national record at the Rotterdam Marathon**, indicating progress in Indian long-distance running.



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- **Jannik Sinner defeated Carlos Alcaraz to win the Monte Carlo Masters and reclaim World No.1**, reflecting competitiveness in men's tennis hierarchy.
- **Sujeet Kalkal and Abhimanyu Mandwal won gold at the Asian Wrestling Championships**, reinforcing India's strength in combat sports.
- **Blanka Vlašić was appointed ambassador for the World 10K Bengaluru**, highlighting global athlete engagement in Indian sporting events.
- **Payal Nag became the first quadruple amputee to win an archery championship**, symbolizing resilience and advancements in para-sports inclusion.
- **Murali Sreeshankar won the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series**, strengthening India's track and field profile.
- **Khelo India Tribal Games concluded with Karnataka emerging victorious**, promoting grassroots sports development among tribal communities.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- **Cyber security** refers to protection of digital systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, cyber attacks, and data breaches, and is a critical component of national security in the digital age.
- **Cyber threats** include malware, ransomware, phishing, denial of service attacks, and advanced persistent threats, which target both individuals and institutions.
- **Digital infrastructure vulnerability** increases with growing dependence on online platforms, making cyber resilience essential for governance, economy, and defence.
- **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu** has achieved criticality, marking the initiation of a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction and a major milestone in India's nuclear energy programme.
- **Criticality in nuclear reactors** refers to a state where each nuclear fission reaction produces enough neutrons to sustain further reactions without external input, representing stable and controlled reactor operation.
- **Fast Breeder Reactors** use fast neutrons and plutonium-based fuel to generate more fissile material than they consume through a process called breeding, thereby increasing fuel efficiency and supporting long-term energy security.
- **These reactors** form the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme, which aims to utilize limited uranium resources and abundant thorium reserves for sustainable energy generation.



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- **Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors**, which form the first stage, use natural uranium and have low fuel utilisation efficiency of around one percent, making Fast Breeder Reactors crucial for improving efficiency.
- **Digital identity systems** rely on biometric and demographic data to uniquely identify individuals, and their integration with immigration systems enhances efficiency but raises concerns regarding data privacy, surveillance, and cybersecurity risks.
- **Biometric identification** includes features such as fingerprints, iris scans, and facial recognition, which are considered more reliable than traditional identity documents but require robust data protection frameworks.
- **Cyborg Botany** is an emerging interdisciplinary field that integrates living plant systems with electronic components such as sensors, nanowires, and conductive polymers, enabling plants to function as biohybrid systems capable of sensing environmental changes and transmitting data in real time.
- **The concept of cyborg** originates from the term "cybernetic organism," referring to a system that combines biological and artificial components to enhance functionality beyond natural limits.
- **In cyborg botany**, conductive polymers such as Poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) act as internal wiring within plant tissues, allowing electrical signals generated by biochemical processes to be transmitted externally for monitoring and analysis.
- **Nanowires and electronic transistors** can be embedded into plant cell walls, functioning as biosensors that detect physiological changes such as water stress, nutrient deficiency, or disease signals before visible symptoms appear.
- **This technology** contributes to precision agriculture by enabling early detection of stress conditions, allowing targeted intervention with water, fertilizers, or pesticides, thereby improving crop yield and resource efficiency.
- **Precision agriculture** refers to the use of advanced technologies such as sensors, data analytics, and automation to optimize agricultural inputs and improve productivity while minimizing environmental impact.
- **Barbary Macaque** is a primate species native to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa and is the only macaque species found outside Asia, known for its adaptability to temperate forest habitats and unique social behavior.
- **It is listed as Endangered** under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List due to threats such as habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Primates** are mammals characterized by advanced cognitive abilities, forward-facing eyes, and grasping hands, making them important for evolutionary and ecological studies.



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- **Mammography** is a medical imaging technique that uses low-dose X-rays to examine breast tissue for early detection of abnormalities, particularly breast cancer, and is widely used as a screening tool to identify disease before clinical symptoms appear, thereby improving treatment outcomes.
- **Mammograms** can detect breast arterial calcifications, which are deposits of calcium in breast arteries and are increasingly recognized as indicators of underlying cardiovascular disease risk, linking breast imaging with broader systemic health assessment.
- **Screening mammography** is used for asymptomatic individuals to detect early disease, while diagnostic mammography is used when symptoms such as lumps or pain are present, though it cannot conclusively diagnose cancer without further testing.
- **Early detection through screening programmes** reduces mortality by enabling timely intervention, making preventive healthcare a key component of public health systems.
- **Parkinson's Disease** - Parkinson's disease is a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** that primarily affects movement due to the loss of **dopamine-producing neurons in the brain**. It is characterized by **tremors, muscle rigidity, and bradykinesia (slowness of movement)**, along with balance problems.
- **CAR T-Cell Therapy**- An advanced form of immunotherapy that uses genetically modified T-cells. Applied in the treatment of certain cancers and autoimmune diseases. Involves engineering patient T-cells to identify and destroy target cells. A personalized and highly targeted treatment approach
- **Leaf Spot Disease** – A group of plant diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, or other microorganisms. Characterized by spots or lesions on leaves, leading to reduced photosynthesis. Common in humid and wet environmental conditions. Around 85% of plant diseases are fungal in origin. May also occur due to non-pathogenic factors such as environmental stress
- **Kawasaki Disease** – A rare inflammatory condition affecting blood vessels (vasculitis). Primarily occurs in children below 5 years of age. Also known as mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome. Symptoms include prolonged fever, skin rash, and swollen lymph nodes. Can lead to serious complications such as coronary artery damage

### DEFENCE:

- **Malwan** is an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft of the Indian Navy, indigenously designed and built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, with over eighty percent indigenous content, equipped with torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, sonar systems, and advanced radars, and is designed for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine operations, low intensity maritime operations, and mine warfare in coastal waters.



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- **Anti-Submarine Warfare** refers to military operations aimed at detecting, tracking, and neutralizing enemy submarines using platforms such as ships, aircraft, and underwater sensors, and is critical for securing maritime trade routes and naval dominance.
- **Indigenous defence manufacturing** under the policy of self-reliance promotes domestic production of military equipment to reduce import dependence and enhance strategic autonomy.
- **Information Warfare** refers to the strategic use of information, digital platforms, and communication systems to gain advantage over adversaries by influencing perception, disrupting communication, and weakening decision-making capabilities, and includes tools such as cyber attacks, misinformation campaigns, psychological operations, and electronic warfare.
- **Information Warfare** operates across domains including cyber space, media platforms, and cognitive space, where the aim is not just physical damage but manipulation of public opinion and institutional trust.
- **Psychological operations** are designed to influence attitudes and behavior of target populations through controlled dissemination of information, often used during conflicts and hybrid warfare situations.
- **Exercise Cyclone** is a joint special forces exercise conducted between India and Egypt, focusing on counter-terrorism operations in desert environments, and is held alternately in both countries to enhance interoperability and strategic cooperation.
- **Military exercises** enhance operational readiness, improve coordination between armed forces, and strengthen bilateral defence relations between participating countries.
- **Egypt** holds strategic importance due to its proximity to the Suez Canal, a major global trade route connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea.
- **Qader Cruise Missile** is a medium-range, shore-based anti-ship cruise missile developed by Iran and deployed by its naval forces, designed to target surface vessels such as warships and oil tankers, with a reported range of approximately one hundred twenty to three hundred kilometres and a high-explosive warhead of around two hundred kilograms.
- It is an upgraded version of the Noor missile, which itself is derived from Chinese missile technology, indicating technology transfer and adaptation in missile development.
- **Cruise missiles** are guided missiles that fly at low altitude using aerodynamic lift and onboard navigation systems, making them difficult to detect by radar compared to ballistic missiles.



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- **Anti-ship missiles** are specifically designed to destroy or disable naval vessels, forming a crucial component of maritime warfare and naval deterrence strategies.
- **SLINEX DIVEX 2026** is a bilateral maritime diving exercise conducted between India and Sri Lanka, focusing on underwater operations such as salvage, search and rescue, and diving training, aimed at strengthening naval interoperability and maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Maritime diving exercises** enhance capabilities in underwater repair, mine clearance, and emergency rescue operations, which are critical for naval preparedness and safety of sea lanes.
- **Exercise Dustlik** is a joint military exercise conducted between India and Uzbekistan, with its seventh edition held in Uzbekistan, focusing on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain, reflecting growing defence cooperation under Central Asia engagement policy.
- **Exercise Cyclone** is a joint special forces exercise between India and Egypt conducted in Anshas, focusing on counter-terrorism, desert warfare, and high-intensity combat operations, enhancing interoperability between elite forces.
- **Exercise Pragati** is a multilateral military exercise hosted by India in Meghalaya involving participation from eleven nations, focusing on joint operations, regional security cooperation, and capacity building in complex operational environments.
- **Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range** is an indigenously developed missile by Defence Research and Development Organisation designed for deployment from Indian Navy platforms, capable of targeting enemy ships with high precision using advanced guidance systems.
- **Anti-ship missiles** are designed to strike naval vessels and are crucial for sea denial strategies, enhancing maritime strike capabilities of naval forces.
- **Indigenous missile development** is part of India's defence self-reliance strategy under initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, reducing dependence on foreign technology.
- **INS Aridhaman** is an indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine of India, forming a crucial component of the sea-based leg of the nuclear triad, enhancing second-strike capability and strategic deterrence.
- **Nuclear triad** refers to the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land-based missiles, aircraft, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, ensuring survivability and credibility of nuclear deterrence.
- **Submarine-based nuclear capability** provides stealth and survivability, making it the most secure component of nuclear deterrence strategy.



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- **INS Dunagiri** is an indigenous stealth frigate inducted under Project 17A, which is a series of advanced guided missile frigates with enhanced stealth features, advanced sensors, and network-centric warfare capabilities.
- **Project 17A** is a follow-on to the Shivalik-class frigates and represents a major step in indigenous warship construction, incorporating reduced radar cross-section, improved survivability, and modern combat systems.
- **Stealth technology** in naval vessels reduces detectability by radar, infrared, and acoustic signatures, enhancing survivability in combat scenarios.
- **The first-ever conference of Central Armed Police Forces** led by the Prime Minister aims to strengthen coordination among forces such as Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and Central Industrial Security Force for improving internal security management.
- **Central Armed Police Forces** play a key role in border guarding, counter-insurgency operations, internal security, and disaster response, functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Integrated security approach** involves coordination between central and state agencies, intelligence sharing, and modernisation of forces.
- **Indian Army commands** are divided into geographical operational commands such as Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern, Central, and training command, each headed by a General Officer Commanding-in-Chief responsible for regional defence operations.
- **Appointment of new commanders** reflects ongoing military reforms, leadership restructuring, and focus on operational readiness in response to evolving security challenges.
- **Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth** assuming charge as Vice Chief of Army Staff highlights emphasis on modernisation, capability enhancement, and strategic planning within the Indian Army.
- **Vice Chief of Army Staff** is responsible for assisting the Chief of Army Staff in administration, planning, and modernisation of the Army.

### MISCELLANEOUS:

- **Hybrid warfare** is a combination of conventional military force, irregular tactics, cyber warfare, and information manipulation, blurring the line between war and peace.
- **Modern conflicts** increasingly involve non-kinetic methods such as economic sanctions, cyber attacks, and propaganda campaigns alongside traditional military operations.



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- **Strategic communication** plays a key role in shaping narratives and maintaining international legitimacy during conflicts.
- The Reserve Bank of India regulates export timelines, export credit, and foreign exchange flows to maintain external sector stability, liquidity, and macroeconomic balance.
- **Export realisation** refers to the process by which exporters receive foreign exchange earnings for goods and services exported, and under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, exporters are required to repatriate these earnings within a specified time frame.
- **Export credit** includes pre-shipment credit, which finances production and packaging before export, and post-shipment credit, which supports exporters after goods are shipped until payment is received.
- **Extension of export realisation period** from nine months to fifteen months and export credit period up to four hundred and fifty days provides liquidity support to exporters during global disruptions.
- **Global disruptions** such as geopolitical conflicts increase shipping risks, insurance costs, and transit delays, thereby affecting international trade flows and payment cycles.
- **Foreign exchange reserves** are used by central banks to stabilize currency volatility, manage external shocks, and maintain confidence in the economy.
- **Geopolitical tensions in West Asia** affect global energy markets because the region contains major oil-producing countries and critical maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, leading to increased freight costs, supply disruptions, and inflationary pressures.
- **Energy security** refers to the availability of reliable, affordable, and uninterrupted supply of energy resources, and is influenced by import dependence, diversification of suppliers, and geopolitical stability.
- **Disruption of maritime routes** increases transportation costs and delays, which in turn raise global commodity prices including oil, fertilizers, and food products.
- **Disaster Risk Index** is a framework used to assess disaster vulnerability based on the interaction of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, where disasters occur when natural hazards affect exposed and vulnerable populations.
- **The multiplicative model of disaster risk**, expressed as hazard multiplied by exposure multiplied by vulnerability, reflects a more realistic approach compared to additive models because it captures interdependence between risk factors.
- **Disaster preparedness** includes early warning systems, evacuation planning, resilient infrastructure, and community awareness, which significantly reduce loss of life during natural disasters.



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- **Finance Commission allocations for disaster management** depend on risk assessment frameworks, which may not always accurately reflect actual vulnerability, leading to policy challenges.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act** is the primary law governing foreign exchange transactions in India, focusing on facilitating external trade and maintaining orderly foreign exchange markets.
- **Balance of Payments** records all economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world, including trade, services, capital flows, and reserves.
- **Currency depreciation** increases import costs, especially for oil-importing countries like India, leading to inflationary pressures.
- **Maritime chokepoints** such as the Strait of Hormuz are narrow sea routes through which a large volume of global trade passes, making them strategically vulnerable to disruptions.
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution** refers to mechanisms such as arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and negotiation that resolve disputes outside traditional court systems, reducing burden on judiciary and ensuring faster settlement.
- **Arbitration** is a formal dispute resolution process where a neutral third party called an arbitrator gives a binding decision based on evidence and legal arguments.
- **Conciliation** is a less formal process where a conciliator facilitates negotiation between parties to reach a mutually acceptable settlement, and the outcome is not binding unless agreed upon.
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms** are encouraged in India under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to promote ease of doing business and reduce litigation delays.
- **Article 61 of the Constitution of India** provides the procedure for impeachment of the President for violation of the Constitution, making it one of the rare constitutional removal processes.
- **Impeachment** can be initiated in either House of Parliament, and requires a special majority of not less than two-thirds of total membership of the House.
- **The process** involves investigation, notice, and passage of resolution in both Houses, reflecting checks and balances within the constitutional framework.
- **Impeachment of the President** is distinct from removal of other officials like judges, which follow different constitutional provisions.



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- **Vigyan Jyoti Programme** is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology aimed at encouraging girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics by providing mentorship, exposure, and skill development opportunities.
- **Gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields** is addressed through targeted interventions such as scholarships, mentoring, and institutional support.
- **Human capital development in science and technology sectors** is critical for innovation, economic growth, and technological self-reliance.
- **Piped Natural Gas** is a form of natural gas supplied directly to households and industries through underground pipeline networks, ensuring continuous and uninterrupted fuel supply without the need for storage cylinders, and is considered safer and more efficient compared to cylinder-based systems.
- **Liquefied Petroleum Gas** is a mixture of propane and butane gases obtained during petroleum refining and natural gas processing, stored under pressure in liquid form and distributed through cylinders, making it widely used for cooking in India due to ease of transport and distribution.
- **Liquefied Natural Gas** is natural gas cooled to extremely low temperatures to convert it into liquid form for long-distance transport, which is later regasified at terminals before use, enabling global trade of natural gas.
- **Compressed Natural Gas** is natural gas stored at high pressure and used primarily as a cleaner vehicular fuel, producing lower emissions compared to petrol and diesel.
- **India** is promoting **Piped Natural Gas** to reduce dependence on **Liquefied Petroleum Gas**, as a significant portion of **Liquefied Petroleum Gas** demand is met through imports, exposing the country to global price volatility and geopolitical risks.
- **Nearly three-fifths of India's Liquefied Petroleum Gas demand** is met through imports, with a large share routed through sensitive maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, making supply chains vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions.
- **Pipeline-based fuel delivery** reduces risks associated with storage, transportation, and handling of fuel, while ensuring consistent supply and reducing logistical bottlenecks.
- **Energy security** is closely linked to geopolitical stability, as disruptions in key regions such as West Asia can affect global oil and gas supply, transportation routes, and pricing, thereby impacting economies dependent on energy imports.



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- **Maritime chokepoints** such as the Strait of Hormuz are critical for global energy trade, and any disruption in these routes can lead to supply shortages, increased freight costs, and global inflationary pressures.
- **Diversification of energy sources and suppliers** is a key strategy adopted by countries to reduce vulnerability to geopolitical shocks and ensure stable energy supply.
- **Current Account Deficit** arises when a country's total imports of goods, services, and transfers exceed its total exports, indicating higher outflow of foreign exchange compared to inflow, and requiring financing through capital inflows or foreign exchange reserves.
- **A rising Current Account Deficit** puts pressure on the domestic currency by increasing demand for foreign currency, leading to depreciation and higher import costs, especially for essential commodities such as crude oil.
- **Currency depreciation** increases inflation as costlier imports raise production costs and consumer prices, particularly in energy-dependent economies.
- **Sustainable management of Current Account Deficit** requires boosting exports, reducing import dependence, attracting foreign investment, and improving domestic competitiveness.
- **Expansion of pipeline infrastructure** for natural gas distribution is essential for improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting transition towards cleaner fuels.
- **Natural gas** is considered a transition fuel because it emits lower carbon dioxide compared to coal and oil, making it important in the shift towards a low-carbon economy.
- **Urban energy transition** involves replacing traditional fuels with cleaner alternatives such as natural gas, electricity, and renewable energy sources to improve air quality and sustainability.
- **Energy access** is a critical component of human development, as reliable and affordable fuel is essential for cooking, heating, and economic activities.
- **Government policies promoting cleaner fuels** aim to reduce indoor air pollution, which is a major health concern in developing countries.
- **Transition from traditional fuels to cleaner energy sources** requires infrastructure development, affordability measures, and behavioral change among consumers.
- **Raja Ravi Varma** was a nineteenth century Indian painter born in Kilimanoor in present-day Kerala, belonging to the aristocratic Koil Thampuram family, and is known for revolutionizing Indian art by combining traditional Hindu mythological themes with European techniques of realism and perspective.



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- He was among the first Indian artists to use oil painting as a medium and mastered lithographic printing, which enabled mass reproduction of his artworks and popularized religious imagery among common people across India.
- **Lithography** is a printing technique based on the immiscibility of oil and water, allowing artists to reproduce images in large numbers, which played a major role in democratizing art in colonial India.
- His notable works include depictions of characters from epics such as the Mahabharata and Ramayana, contributing to shaping visual imagination of Hindu mythology in modern India.
- He established a lithographic press in Maharashtra in the late nineteenth century, marking a transition from elite art patronage to mass cultural dissemination.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code** is a comprehensive law enacted in 2016 to provide a time bound framework for resolution of insolvency of companies, partnerships, and individuals, shifting control from debtors to creditors and improving credit discipline in the economy.
- The insolvency resolution process is conducted under the supervision of the National Company Law Tribunal, while the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India acts as the regulatory authority overseeing insolvency professionals and agencies.
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment 2026** introduces mechanisms such as creditor initiated insolvency resolution process, group insolvency framework, and cross border insolvency to address complexities of interconnected firms and international operations.
- **Creditor initiated insolvency resolution process** allows financial creditors to initiate insolvency proceedings outside traditional court driven processes with approval of majority creditors, reducing delays and improving efficiency.
- **Cross border insolvency** deals with resolution of companies operating across multiple jurisdictions, requiring coordination between domestic and foreign legal systems, aligning India with global best practices.
- The amendments also replace certain criminal penalties with civil penalties for procedural violations, reflecting a shift from punitive to facilitative regulatory approach.
- **Decriminalisation of economic offences** is part of broader governance reforms aimed at reducing regulatory burden on businesses by replacing criminal penalties with civil liabilities for minor procedural violations.
- **Over criminalisation of compliance requirements** leads to increased litigation, fear among businesses, and inefficiency in regulatory systems, necessitating a shift towards trust based governance.



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- The concept of shifting from “danda” based governance to “data” driven governance emphasizes transparency, digital monitoring, and facilitation instead of punitive enforcement.
- **Kerala’s development model** is characterized by high human development indicators such as literacy, health outcomes, and social welfare, despite relatively lower industrial growth and fiscal constraints.
- **Human development indicators** include measures such as life expectancy, education level, and standard of living, which collectively reflect quality of life beyond income levels.
- **Fiscal constraints** arise when government expenditure exceeds revenue, leading to deficits and debt accumulation, limiting the ability of states to invest in infrastructure and development.
- **National Company Law Tribunal** is a quasi judicial body established under the Companies Act, 2013 to adjudicate issues related to company law and insolvency proceedings, replacing earlier bodies such as Company Law Board.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** is a statutory body responsible for regulating insolvency professionals, agencies, and information utilities, ensuring smooth functioning of insolvency processes.
- **Quasi judicial bodies** possess powers similar to courts in specific domains but are not part of the regular judicial system, often used for specialized dispute resolution.
- **Credit discipline** refers to timely repayment of loans by borrowers, which is essential for stability of banking system and efficient allocation of capital.
- **Non performing assets** arise when borrowers fail to repay loans within specified time, affecting profitability and lending capacity of banks.
- **Insolvency resolution** improves recovery of stressed assets and frees up capital for productive use in the economy.
- **Oil painting technique** involves use of pigments mixed with oil, allowing richer colors, depth, and durability compared to traditional Indian painting methods such as fresco and miniature painting.
- **European realism in art** emphasizes accurate depiction of subjects with attention to detail, perspective, and natural light, which influenced Indian artists during colonial period.
- **Bankruptcy** refers to legal declaration of inability to repay debts, while insolvency is the financial condition of being unable to meet obligations.
- **Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the state of Chhattisgarh in central India, forming part of the Mahanadi basin ecosystem, and is characterized by tropical dry deciduous forests with dominant species such as teak,



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sal, and bamboo, supporting wildlife including leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs, and a variety of herbivores, making it an important conservation area in central Indian landscape.

- **Wildlife sanctuaries in India** are protected areas declared under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, where conservation of wildlife is prioritized while allowing limited human activities unlike national parks where stricter protection is enforced.
- **Indian Softshell Turtle** is a freshwater turtle species found in rivers, lakes, and wetlands of the Indian subcontinent, belonging to the family Trionychidae, characterized by a soft leathery shell instead of a hard carapace, and plays an important ecological role in aquatic ecosystems as a scavenger helping in nutrient recycling.
- **Freshwater turtles** are often threatened by habitat degradation, river pollution, illegal poaching, and sand mining, making river conservation crucial for their survival.
- **Multi Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System** is an integrated technological platform designed to provide real time forecasting, monitoring, and decision support for multiple hazards such as cyclones, floods, heatwaves, and earthquakes, thereby improving disaster preparedness and reducing loss of life and property.
- **Early warning systems** are essential components of disaster risk reduction as they combine risk knowledge, monitoring, communication, and response capability to minimize disaster impact.
- **Disaster risk** is a function of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, and reduction strategies focus on improving resilience, infrastructure, and institutional capacity.
- **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon** is a peacekeeping mission established by the United Nations to monitor cessation of hostilities, assist the Lebanese Armed Forces, and ensure stability along the Lebanon–Israel border region, reflecting global efforts toward conflict management and peacekeeping operations.
- **United Nations peacekeeping operations** are deployed in conflict zones with consent of parties involved and focus on maintaining peace, protecting civilians, and supporting political processes rather than engaging in offensive military action.
- **Newcastle Disease** is a highly contagious viral disease affecting birds, particularly poultry, caused by avian paramyxovirus, leading to respiratory distress, neurological symptoms, and high mortality rates, thereby posing a significant threat to poultry industry and food security.
- **Zoonotic diseases** are those that can be transmitted from animals to humans, and surveillance of animal health is crucial for preventing outbreaks and ensuring food safety.



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- **Earthquake Lights** are rare luminous phenomena observed in the sky before or during seismic activity, believed to be caused by electrical charges generated due to stress and movement of tectonic plates, although the exact mechanism is still under scientific investigation.
- **Earthquakes** occur due to sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust caused by movement of tectonic plates along faults, generating seismic waves that propagate through the Earth.
- **Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative** is a scheme aimed at supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises by providing assistance for market access, export promotion, and capacity building, thereby enhancing competitiveness of Indian products in global markets.
- **Micro, small, and medium enterprises** play a crucial role in employment generation, industrial output, and export performance in India's economy.
- **Non Deliverable Derivative** is a financial instrument used in foreign exchange markets where settlement occurs in a convertible currency rather than the underlying currency, often used in markets with currency restrictions, and regulatory oversight is necessary to manage risks.
- **SAMPANN Platform**, which stands for System for Accounting and Management of Pension, is a digital platform developed by the Department of Telecommunications for end to end pension management, enabling direct benefit transfer into bank accounts and improving transparency, efficiency, and accountability in pension disbursement.
- **Digital governance** involves use of technology to improve public service delivery, reduce corruption, and enhance efficiency through platforms such as direct benefit transfer and online monitoring systems.
- **Burkina Faso** is a landlocked country located in West Africa, bordered by countries such as Mali, Niger, Ghana, and Ivory Coast, and is part of the Sahel region which is characterized by semi arid climate, political instability, and security challenges.
- **The Sahel region** forms a transitional ecological zone between the Sahara Desert in the north and the savanna in the south, often affected by desertification, climate change, and conflict.
- **Manufacturing sector performance in India** is often measured using indices such as Purchasing Managers Index, which reflects expansion or contraction based on parameters like output, new orders, employment, and inventory levels.
- **Purchasing Managers Index** value above fifty indicates expansion in manufacturing activity, while a value below fifty indicates contraction, making it an important leading indicator of economic health.



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- **Manufacturing sector** plays a critical role in economic growth by generating employment, boosting exports, and supporting industrialization.
- **World Health Day** is observed every year on 7 April to mark the establishment of the World Health Organization in 1948, and it focuses on raising global awareness about public health issues and promoting universal access to healthcare services.
- **The World Health Organization** is a specialized agency of the United Nations headquartered in Geneva, responsible for international public health, disease control, and coordination of global health responses.
- **Universal Health Coverage** refers to ensuring that all individuals receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship, and includes preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care.
- **Heatwave** is defined as a prolonged period of excessively high temperature relative to the normal climate of a region, and in India it is declared by the India Meteorological Department based on threshold temperature and deviation from normal conditions.
- **Heatwaves** are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change, urban heat island effect, and land use changes, increasing risks to human health, agriculture, and water resources.
- **Urban Heat Island effect** refers to the phenomenon where urban areas experience higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas due to concrete surfaces, reduced vegetation, and human activities.
- **Heat Action Plans** are strategies developed by governments to mitigate heatwave impacts through early warning systems, public awareness, cooling centers, and emergency response mechanisms.
- **Forest fires** are uncontrolled fires occurring in vegetation areas such as forests and grasslands, often caused by natural factors like lightning or human activities such as agricultural burning and negligence.
- **Forest fires** are classified into surface fires, ground fires, and crown fires depending on the layer of vegetation affected, with crown fires being the most intense and destructive.
- **Climate change and rising temperatures** increase the frequency and intensity of forest fires by drying vegetation and creating favorable conditions for ignition and spread.
- **Food processing** refers to transformation of agricultural produce into consumable products through methods such as preservation, packaging, and value addition, and plays a crucial role in reducing post-harvest losses and increasing farmer income.
- **Value addition in agriculture** enhances economic value of raw products by processing, branding, and improving shelf life, contributing to rural development and employment generation.



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- **Supply chain efficiency in agriculture** ensures timely transportation, storage, and distribution of food products, reducing wastage and stabilizing prices.
- **Index of Industrial Production** is a composite indicator that measures the growth of industrial sector including manufacturing, mining, and electricity, and is released monthly to assess economic performance.
- **Industrial growth** is influenced by factors such as demand, investment, infrastructure, and global economic conditions, making it a key indicator of economic health.
- **Manufacturing sector** contributes significantly to employment, exports, and gross domestic product, and is a focus area under initiatives such as Make in India.
- **Public health infrastructure** includes facilities such as hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and human resources required to deliver healthcare services effectively across regions.
- **Strengthening primary healthcare systems** is essential for early disease detection, prevention, and reducing burden on tertiary healthcare institutions.
- **Government interventions in public health** include vaccination programmes, disease surveillance, sanitation initiatives, and awareness campaigns.
- **Global cooperation in health** is essential for managing pandemics, controlling infectious diseases, and sharing medical resources and technology among countries.
- **International health regulations** provide a legal framework for countries to prevent and respond to public health risks that have the potential to cross borders.
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry** is a central sector scheme aimed at promoting investment in food processing by providing financial incentives based on incremental sales, thereby enhancing value addition, increasing export potential, and strengthening supply chains in the agriculture sector, with cumulative investments exceeding committed targets indicating strong industry response.
- **Production Linked Incentive schemes** are designed to boost domestic manufacturing by linking incentives to output performance, encouraging economies of scale and reducing import dependence.
- **Food processing sector** plays a critical role in reducing post-harvest losses, increasing farmer income, and improving food security through value addition and preservation.
- **Chief Election Commissioner of India** is the head of the Election Commission of India, appointed by the President, and is responsible for supervising elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and offices of President and Vice President, ensuring free and fair elections.



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- **The Chief Election Commissioner** enjoys security of tenure similar to a judge of the Supreme Court, and can only be removed through a process similar to impeachment, ensuring independence of the Election Commission.
- **The Election Commission** is a constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Constitution, entrusted with the conduct and control of elections in India.
- **League of Nations** was established in 1920 under the Treaty of Versailles after the First World War with the aim of maintaining international peace and security, but it failed due to lack of enforcement power, absence of major powers, and inability to prevent aggression.
- **The failure of the League of Nations** led to the establishment of the United Nations after the Second World War with stronger institutional mechanisms.
- **Shree Chamundeshwari Temple** is located on Chamundi Hills near Mysuru in Karnataka and is dedicated to Goddess Chamundeshwari, a form of Durga who is believed to have killed the demon Mahishasura, making it an important Shakti Peetha-associated regional shrine and a major pilgrimage site in South India.
- **Chamundi Hills** derive their name from the presiding deity Chamundeshwari, and the temple architecture reflects Dravidian style with a prominent gopuram and sculptural detailing typical of South Indian temples.
- **Shakti Peethas** are sacred sites associated with Goddess Shakti where parts of Sati's body are believed to have fallen, forming an important aspect of Hindu pilgrimage geography.
- **India's decision not to host Conference of Parties thirty three** reflects strategic considerations in climate diplomacy, including financial burden, negotiation priorities, and balancing domestic developmental needs with global climate commitments.
- **Conference of Parties** is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where countries negotiate climate policies, emission targets, and funding mechanisms.
- **Climate diplomacy** involves balancing national interests such as development and energy security with global responsibilities like emission reduction and climate finance commitments.
- **Debates around legislative amendments** highlight concerns of increasing centralisation of power, where decision-making authority shifts from federal units or democratic institutions towards bureaucratic or executive control.
- **Federalism in India** is a system of governance where powers are divided between the Union and the States, ensuring decentralisation and regional autonomy within a unified constitutional framework.
- **Centralisation of governance** can improve efficiency but may reduce local participation and weaken cooperative federalism, making it a recurring theme in policy debates.



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- **Conflicts related to mining projects** highlight the tension between economic development and environmental and social concerns, where local communities often oppose resource extraction due to displacement, ecological damage, and livelihood loss.
- **Mining projects** require environmental clearance, land acquisition, and rehabilitation measures, and are governed by laws such as the Environment Protection Act and Forest Rights Act.
- **Sustainable development** involves balancing economic growth with environmental protection and social equity, ensuring long-term resource management.
- **Conference of Parties** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change plays a central role in global climate governance by setting emission reduction targets, monitoring compliance, and facilitating climate finance for developing countries.
- **Climate negotiations** often involve issues such as common but differentiated responsibilities, where developed countries are expected to take greater responsibility due to historical emissions.
- **e-SafeHER Initiative** is a digital safety programme aimed at enhancing online security for women by providing awareness, reporting mechanisms, and support systems to combat cyber harassment, cyber stalking, and online abuse, reflecting the growing importance of cyber safety in the digital governance ecosystem.
- **Cyber crimes against women** include offences such as identity theft, online harassment, revenge pornography, and cyber stalking, requiring legal frameworks under laws like the Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code provisions.
- **Digital literacy and awareness** are essential tools in preventing cyber crimes, as technological solutions alone cannot address behavioral and social dimensions of online threats.
- **Film piracy** refers to the unauthorized copying, distribution, or sharing of copyrighted audio-visual content through illegal platforms such as torrent websites, streaming links, or unauthorized recordings, causing significant revenue loss to the film industry and raising concerns about intellectual property protection.
- **Copyright law in India** protects original literary, artistic, musical, and cinematographic works under the Copyright Act, 1957, providing exclusive rights to creators for reproduction, distribution, and public exhibition.
- **Piracy** is increasingly facilitated by digital technologies, including high-speed internet, cloud sharing, and encrypted messaging platforms, making enforcement more challenging.



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- **Heatwaves in India** are expanding geographically and intensifying in frequency due to climate change, with more than half of the districts now classified as heat-prone, indicating a shift from localized seasonal phenomenon to a widespread national crisis.
- **Thermal inequality** refers to unequal exposure to heat risks based on socio-economic conditions, where vulnerable populations such as informal workers, urban poor, and marginalized communities face higher risks due to lack of access to cooling infrastructure.
- **The concept of "Right to Cool"** proposes access to cooling resources and protection from extreme heat as part of the right to life, linking climate change with human rights discourse.
- **Congress of Vienna** was a diplomatic conference held between 1814 and 1815 after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte, where major European powers such as Austria, Britain, Russia, and Prussia reorganized the political map of Europe to restore balance of power and ensure long-term peace.
- **Balance of power** is a concept in international relations where no single country is allowed to dominate others, ensuring stability and preventing large-scale conflicts.
- **The Congress of Vienna** marked the beginning of a new diplomatic order in Europe based on cooperation and collective security mechanisms.
- **Legislative gaps in addressing heatwaves** highlight the absence of a comprehensive legal framework to manage extreme heat as a disaster, despite its increasing severity and impact on public health and economy.
- **Disaster management in India** is governed by the Disaster Management Act, 2005, but emerging challenges like heatwaves require updated policies and institutional mechanisms.
- **Early warning systems, heat action plans, and urban planning reforms** are essential for mitigating heatwave impacts.
- **Resource inefficiency in food systems** leads to economic losses, environmental degradation, and increased greenhouse gas emissions, linking food waste with climate change concerns.
- **Sustainable consumption and production patterns** are essential for reducing waste, improving efficiency, and achieving long-term economic and environmental goals.
- **Mansar Lake** is a freshwater lake located in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, considered a Ramsar site due to its ecological importance, supporting diverse aquatic biodiversity, migratory birds, and acting as a key wetland ecosystem contributing to groundwater recharge and local climate regulation.



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- **Wetlands** are ecosystems where land is saturated with water either permanently or seasonally, and they perform critical ecological functions such as flood control, carbon sequestration, water purification, and habitat support for flora and fauna.
- **Srivilliputhur–Meghamalai Tiger Reserve** is located in Tamil Nadu in the Western Ghats region, forming part of a biodiversity hotspot characterized by high endemism, and supports species such as tigers, elephants, and diverse plant species, contributing to conservation of fragile mountain ecosystems.
- **Biodiversity hotspots** are regions with high species richness and endemism but significant threat levels, and the Western Ghats is one of the globally recognized hotspots.
- **Potomac River** is a major river in the United States flowing into the Chesapeake Bay, and it forms part of the boundary between states such as Maryland and Virginia, playing a significant role in regional geography and historical development.
- **Rivers** often serve as natural boundaries and are crucial for transportation, agriculture, and settlement patterns, making them important in geographical and political contexts.
- **Earth Day** is observed annually on 22 April to promote environmental awareness and protection, highlighting issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and sustainable development.
- **Climate change** refers to long-term alteration in temperature and weather patterns primarily due to human activities such as greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and industrialization.
- **Sustainable development** involves meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, balancing economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity.
- **Multilateral environmental agreements** are international treaties where multiple countries collaborate to address global environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, and pollution control.
- **Global environmental governance** involves cooperation among countries, international organizations, and institutions to manage shared environmental challenges.
- **Agricultural productivity** refers to the efficiency of agricultural production measured as output per unit of input, influenced by factors such as technology, irrigation, soil quality, and government policies.
- **Sustainable agriculture** focuses on practices that maintain soil health, reduce environmental impact, and ensure long-term productivity, including organic farming, crop diversification, and efficient water use.
- **Public distribution systems** are government mechanisms for distributing essential commodities such as food grains at subsidized prices to ensure food security for vulnerable populations.



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- **Food security** refers to availability, accessibility, and affordability of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for all individuals.
- **Conservation strategies** include in-situ conservation, which protects species in their natural habitat, and ex-situ conservation, which involves conservation outside natural habitats such as zoos, botanical gardens, and gene banks.
- **Ecosystem services** are benefits provided by natural ecosystems to humans, including provisioning services such as food and water, regulating services such as climate regulation, and cultural services such as recreation.
- **Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking Scheme** is a mission-mode project aimed at modernizing and integrating immigration services in India through digital platforms, enabling real-time tracking of foreigners, streamlined visa processing, and enhanced border security using centralized databases and biometric systems.
- **The scheme** integrates multiple agencies such as immigration authorities, police, and intelligence agencies to ensure coordination in monitoring foreign nationals and preventing illegal activities such as overstaying and identity fraud.
- **Immigration governance** involves regulation of entry, stay, and exit of foreign nationals, balancing national security concerns with tourism, trade, and diplomatic relations.
- **Hindu Kush Himalaya region** is a transboundary mountain system extending approximately three thousand five hundred kilometres across eight countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, and is considered the "Third Pole" due to its extensive ice reserves outside the polar regions.
- **The region** contains the largest concentration of glaciers outside the Arctic and Antarctic and is the source of major river systems such as Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mekong, Yangtze, and Yellow River, making it critical for water security of nearly two billion people.
- **Snow persistence** in the region has declined significantly, indicating climate change impacts on cryosphere, which can affect river flows, agriculture, hydropower, and disaster risks such as glacial lake outburst floods.
- **Cryosphere** refers to the frozen components of the Earth system including glaciers, snow cover, permafrost, and sea ice, playing a crucial role in global climate regulation and hydrological cycles.
- **Wheat** is a major staple crop in India and the second most important food grain after rice, grown primarily as a rabi crop during winter season and requiring cool climatic conditions for growth and warm conditions for ripening.
- **Optimal temperature conditions** for wheat cultivation include cool temperatures during sowing and moderate temperatures during grain filling, while excessive heat or untimely rainfall can reduce yield and quality.



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- **Food security** depends on stable production of staple crops such as wheat and rice, along with efficient storage, distribution, and procurement systems.
- **Leaf Spot Diseases** refer to a group of plant diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, or other microorganisms that infect leaf tissues, leading to formation of visible lesions or spots which can vary in size and shape and ultimately reduce photosynthetic efficiency of plants.
- **These pathogens** colonize the leaf surface and spread rapidly under favorable conditions such as high humidity and temperature, causing significant damage to crops and reducing agricultural productivity.
- **Leaf spot diseases** interfere with photosynthesis by damaging chlorophyll-containing tissues, thereby reducing the plant's ability to produce energy and affecting growth and yield.
- **If left untreated**, severe infection can lead to defoliation, weakening of plants, and increased susceptibility to other diseases and environmental stress.
- **Plant diseases** are broadly classified based on causative agents such as fungal diseases, bacterial diseases, viral diseases, and nematode infections, each requiring specific management strategies.
- **Integrated disease management** involves use of resistant crop varieties, crop rotation, biological control agents, and judicious use of chemical pesticides to control plant diseases sustainably.
- **Photosynthesis** is the process by which green plants convert light energy into chemical energy using chlorophyll, and damage to leaf tissues directly affects this process, reducing crop yield.
- **Electoral roll revision** refers to the process of updating voter lists to ensure accuracy and inclusiveness, governed by legal provisions under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
- **Article 326 of the Constitution of India** guarantees universal adult suffrage, stating that every citizen above eighteen years of age has the right to be registered as a voter unless disqualified by law.
- The Election Commission of India, established under Article 324, is responsible for conducting elections but does not have authority to define citizenship criteria, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Union Government.
- **Intensive revision of electoral rolls** involves comprehensive re-verification of voter lists and is usually conducted in non-election periods due to its complexity and time requirement.
- **Concerns regarding electoral roll purges** relate to issues of exclusion, procedural lapses, and potential violation of democratic principles, highlighting the importance of transparency and legal compliance.



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- **India's fuel pricing policy** has evolved from administered pricing mechanism to a system of managed deregulation, where prices are influenced by global crude oil prices but still subject to government intervention in certain situations.
- **Administered Pricing Mechanism** refers to a system where the government controls prices of petroleum products, while deregulation allows market forces to determine prices.
- **Managed deregulation** creates a hybrid system where market pricing operates within a framework of policy oversight, leading to issues such as lack of transparency and asymmetric risk distribution between consumers and oil companies.
- **Energy security strategy** involves ensuring availability, affordability, and accessibility of energy resources, often through diversification of sources, strategic reserves, and pricing reforms.
- **Expansion of digital regulation by the state** involves increased oversight, data retention requirements, and content moderation, raising concerns about balance between national security, governance, and freedom of expression.
- **Data retention** refers to storage of user data by service providers for a specified period, which can aid law enforcement but also raises privacy concerns.
- **Digital public space** is increasingly becoming a domain of governance, requiring legal frameworks to balance regulation and individual rights.
- **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0** is a comprehensive assessment framework designed to evaluate performance of local self-government institutions based on parameters such as governance, service delivery, infrastructure, and socio-economic development, covering more than two and a half lakh Panchayats across India.
- **Decentralised governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions** enables local participation in decision-making, improving accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of development programmes.
- **Performance indices** help in evidence-based policy making by identifying gaps, benchmarking progress, and guiding allocation of resources for balanced regional development.

### PLACES IN NEWS:

- **Somaliland** gained attention after recognition efforts, highlighting its strategic location near the **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**, a critical global maritime chokepoint for energy trade.
- **South Kordofan** remains a conflict hotspot between Sudan and South Sudan, reflecting issues of ethnic tensions, resource control, and UN peacekeeping challenges.



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- **Benin** is strategically located along the **Bight of Benin**, important for regional trade and coastal geopolitics in West Africa.
- **Strait of Hormuz** remains critical for global oil supply, as a major portion of world petroleum exports passes through it, making it geopolitically sensitive.
- **Al Udeid Air Base** is one of the largest US military bases in West Asia, significant for regional security and strategic military operations.
- **Tashkent** is emerging as a global event hub, reflecting Central Asia's growing importance in international sports and diplomacy.
- **Vanuatu** is highly vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, making it significant in global climate negotiations.
- **Thiruvananthapuram** gained attention for strategic and developmental initiatives, highlighting India's focus on urban infrastructure and coastal management.
- **Bitra Island** is India's least populated island, important for maritime security and island ecosystem conservation.
- **Cape Verde** is a volcanic archipelago vulnerable to water scarcity and climate risks, making it relevant for environmental geography.
- **Lesotho** is entirely surrounded by South Africa, making it a classic example of an enclave state in political geography.
- **Canary Islands** are volcanic islands off northwest Africa, significant as a migration route to Europe and for plate tectonics studies.
- **Gulf of Mexico** plays a major role in forming the Gulf Stream, influencing climate patterns in North America and Europe.

## SCHEMES, ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS :

### 1. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)

- Launched in 2016 (restructured from Indira Awaas Yojana), aims to provide **“Housing for All” in rural areas** by assisting houseless and kutcha house families.
- Targets **2.95 crore houses (Phase I)** and additional **2 crore houses (2024–29)** with DBT, geo-tagging, and e-governance monitoring.
- Cost sharing: **60:40 (Centre–State)** in plains and **90:10** in NE/Himalayan states.



## 2. Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

- Launched by the **Ministry of Electronics & IT (2025)** with ~₹40,000 crore outlay to build a **robust electronics component ecosystem**.
- Aims to **reduce import dependence and integrate India into Global Value Chains (GVCs)** by attracting domestic and global investment.
- Provides **turnover-linked, capex-linked, and hybrid incentives** for components like PCBs, camera/display modules, and supply-chain equipment.

## 3. Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme

- Launched in **2019 (Ministry of Textiles)** to **rebate embedded State and Central taxes/levies** on export of garments and made-ups.
- Rebates are provided as **duty credit scrips**, improving export competitiveness and reducing cost burden.
- Recently **extended till 30 September 2026** to support textile exports.

## 4. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)

- Launched in **2015**, EBSB aims to promote **national integration through cultural exchange between paired states/UTs**.
- Focuses on **language learning, tourism, traditions, cuisine, and people-to-people connect**.
- Aligns with the vision of **"unity in diversity"** by strengthening emotional bonds among citizens

## 5. Skills Outcomes Fund (SOF)

- A **first-of-its-kind initiative by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** to promote **outcomes-based financing in skilling**.
- Links funding to **verified employment outcomes (job placement & retention)** instead of just training completion.
- Anchored by **NSDC**, it uses a **blended finance model (public + private capital)** to create sustainable livelihoods for youth.

## 6. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

- Under **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**
- Registered as **Section 8 (non-profit) company**



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- Objective: Promote **economic & developmental activities for OBCs**
- Provides **loans, skill development, self-employment support**
- Disbursed **₹613 crore (highest ever) in FY 2025–26**

### 7. Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) Scheme (250 words)

The Government of India has notified the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)**, a major initiative aimed at strengthening India's manufacturing ecosystem through world-class industrial infrastructure. The scheme seeks to develop **100 investment-ready "plug-and-play" industrial parks** across the country by **2031–32**, with a total outlay of about **₹33,660 crore**.

#### Key Features

BHAVYA is implemented by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with states, central PSUs, and the private sector.

### 8. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

- Implemented under **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
- Provides **price support for perishable horticultural crops**
- Activated when **market prices fall below cost of production**
- Operates on **request of State Governments**
- Works along with **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**

### 9. Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Scheme

- Introduced via **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005**
- Provides **lifetime visa & multiple-entry benefits**
- Not full citizenship → **no voting, no public office**
- Eligible for persons of **Indian origin (except certain countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh)**
- Offers parity with NRIs in **economic, educational fields**

### 10. Samudra Manthan Mission (National Deep Ocean Mission)

- Launched by **Ministry of Earth Sciences (2021)**
- Objective: **deep-sea exploration & resource extraction**
- Includes development of **manned submersible (MATSYA 6000)**
- Focus on **polymetallic nodules, marine biodiversity, climate studies**
- Supports India's role in **Blue Economy**



## 11. SMILE Scheme

- Stands for **Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**
- Ministry: **Social Justice & Empowerment**
- Targets **beggars and transgender persons**

## 12. International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- Global body for **airline regulation & coordination**
- HQ: **Montreal, Canada**
- Develops **aviation standards & safety protocols**

## 13. Technology Development and Investment Promotion Scheme (TDIPS)

- Scheme to boost indigenous defence manufacturing & technology
- Focus on R&D, innovation, and private sector participation
- Supports self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence)

## 14. Artemis Accords

- Launched in **2020**, led by **NASA (USA)**
- A set of **non-binding principles for peaceful space exploration**
- Covers **Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies**
- Reinforces **Outer Space Treaty (1967)** principles
- Key principles: **peaceful use, transparency, interoperability, data sharing, emergency assistance**
- India is a **signatory**

## 15. Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)

- Central scheme to provide **interest-free loans to states**
- Aims to boost **capital expenditure and infrastructure development**
- Supports sectors like **transport, urban development, health, and education**
- Enhances **economic growth and fiscal capacity of states**

## 16. Startup India Fund of Funds (SIFoF) 2.0 Scheme

- Announced by **DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce & Industry)**
- Corpus: **₹10,000 crore**
- Implemented by **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**
- Invests via **SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**



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- Focus: **deep tech, innovation, early-growth startups**
- Aim: **crowd-in private investment & strengthen startup ecosystem**

### 17. Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan

- Launched in **2020** by Ministry of Social Justice
- Aims to **reduce drug demand and addiction**
- Focus districts identified based on **vulnerability data**

### 18. Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)

- Conducted by **National Statistical Office (NSO)**
- Covers **corporate services sector entities**
- Uses **GSTN database** for sampling
- Helps in **policy planning & data-driven governance**

### 19. SAMPANN Platform

- Digital platform for **pension management (DoT)**
- Provides **direct pension transfer & grievance redressal**
- Enhances **transparency and efficiency**

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