

9 PM Current Affairs Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE mains examination



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Features :

Arranged as per syllabus Topics
Most complete coverage of major
News Papers editorials

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Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in India

Source: The post Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in India has been created, based on the article "Reimagining access to justice" published in "The Hindu" on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- dispute redressal mechanisms

Context: The article discusses Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in India. It highlights how TPLF can help individuals afford legal battles against powerful entities. The article also emphasizes the need for a regulatory framework to manage TPLF and ensure fair access to justice for all.

For detailed information on **third party funding** [read this article here](#)

What is Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF)?

Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) allows external investors to finance legal cases. In return, these investors get a share of the winnings. It helps people who can't afford legal expenses, making justice more accessible.

Why is TPLF Important in India?

1. Justice in India is becoming increasingly expensive, and many can't afford them.
2. With over 80,000 cases pending in the Supreme Court and around 40 million across the country,
3. TPLF could provide access to justice and empower disadvantaged groups to pursue legal action.
4. The Supreme Court views TPLF as a "**potential equaliser**" in the courtroom.

How has TPLF been accepted in India?

1. The Supreme Court, in **Bar Council of India v. A.K. Balaji**, supported TPLF. It said TPLF is acceptable as long as lawyers don't fund the cases.
2. This builds on the **Ram Coomar Coondoo v. Chunder Canto Mookerjee** case, which said English laws against such funding don't apply in India.

What Challenges Does TPLF Face?

- 1. Profit-Driven Funding:** Critics worry that funders may choose only profitable cases, ignoring important but less profitable ones. There is also concern over how much control funders should have in deciding case strategies.
- 2. Regulatory Gaps:** India lacks a comprehensive national framework for TPLF, leading to uncertainty in operations. Only some states, like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, have started to recognize TPLF.
- 3. Transparency Issues:** Without regulations, there are concerns about how funding deals are structured, risking clients' decision-making rights.

4. Court Involvement: Determining the appropriate level of court oversight is complex and needs clear guidelines to maintain judicial integrity.

What are global examples of TPLF regulation?

Hong Kong's 2019 Code of Practice for Third Party Funding in Arbitration requires funders to disclose financial details, liability, and control. India may adopt similar rules to protect against risks and ensure fair litigation.

Question for practice:

Discuss the importance of Third-Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in making justice more accessible in India.

Status of organ transplant surgeries in India

Source: The post status of organ transplant surgeries in India has been created, based on the article "**Express View on illicit kidney trafficking: The body shop**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

Context: The article discusses India's organ transplant sector, highlighting both its growth and the illegal organ trafficking networks. It mentions legal donations and reveals international illicit markets, emphasizing the need for stricter enforcement and better awareness about organ donation.

For detailed information on **Organ donation in India** [read this article here](#)

What is the status of organ transplant surgeries in India?

1. India is a major hub for organ transplants, performing about 18,000 operations each year, the highest number after the US and China.
2. These surgeries mostly occur in private hospitals and attract international patients, showcasing India's advanced healthcare capabilities.

For detailed information on **India trails in deceased organ donation** [read this article here](#)

What illegal activities are associated with organ transplants?

1. The sector faces challenges with illegal organ trafficking involving doctors, hospital staff, and criminals.
2. A report exposed a network operating between India and Bangladesh, using fake documents to facilitate organ sales, deceiving the system as "altruistic donations."

What are the legal frameworks for organ donation in India?

1. India's laws allow three types of organ donations: from close relatives, altruistic donors, and swap donations between incompatible pairs.

2. Foreign donors must prove their donations are not coerced or paid for, requiring a certificate from their embassy.

For detailed information on **National Organ Transplant Programme(NOTP)** [read this article here](#)

What are the consequences of these illegal activities?

1. Illegal organ trading has been ongoing for over eight years, undermining trust in the healthcare system.
2. Despite some police success in dismantling trafficking rings, more consistent and thorough investigations are needed to preserve the integrity of organ transplantation.

What are the solutions to organ trafficking?

In addition to stronger law enforcement, there is a need to raise awareness about organ donation, correct misconceptions, and address gender imbalances—where women are often donors and men recipients. These steps could reduce organ trafficking in the long term.

Question for practice:

Examine the challenges faced by India's organ transplant sector, including both legal frameworks and the illegal organ trafficking networks.

Importance of disaster risk insurance

Source: The post importance of disaster risk insurance has been created, based on the article “**Why climate change is a national security issue**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Disaster Management

Context: The article discusses the importance of disaster risk insurance in protecting both individuals and the economy from the impacts of disasters. It emphasizes the need for early warning systems, compensation, and insurance to secure human and national security.

For detailed information on **Disaster Management Act 2005** [read this article here](#)

How do disasters affect personal and national security?

1. Disasters can devastate personal lives, rendering even middle-class families homeless, as seen during earthquakes.
2. Nationally, disasters hinder economic growth, impacting India's \$5-trillion and \$10-trillion economic goals.
3. Disasters lead to downturns, damaging infrastructure and disrupting livelihoods.
4. In 1991, Bangladesh lost 140,000 people to a super cyclone, causing long-term human security challenges.
5. The 2011 Haiti earthquake killed 316,000 people, forcing migration due to inadequate recovery efforts.

6. Pakistan's 2022-23 floods displaced 2.6 million people, making them vulnerable to exploitation by extremist groups, further destabilizing national security.

What role does disaster risk insurance play?

1. Disaster risk insurance helps people recover from losses after a disaster.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **Ten-Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** highlights the importance of risk coverage for everyone, including households and companies.
3. Insurance cannot stop disasters, but it can ensure that people receive compensation to rebuild their lives.
4. Many countries use disaster risk insurance to ensure faster recovery.

Why is disaster-related insurance important in India?

1. India is now focusing on disaster-related insurance as it realizes the importance of protecting people and the economy.
2. The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is working with insurance companies to develop effective insurance models.
3. Parametric insurance is being considered, as it offers quick payouts based on agreed disaster parameters, avoiding lengthy claim processes.

How can disaster risk insurance strengthen human security?

1. Human security is crucial for national security, especially in conflict-prone regions.
2. Countries like Bangladesh and Haiti have struggled with the aftermath of disasters, leading to displacement, illegal migration, and vulnerability to radical ideologies.
3. Pakistan's floods displaced 2.6 million people in 2022-23, and without proper recovery support, these people could be exploited by extremist groups, just like Afghan refugees were in the 1980s. Disaster risk insurance can reduce such vulnerabilities.

Question for practice:

Discuss how disaster risk insurance can strengthen human and national security.

India's electronics manufacturing goal

Source: The post India's electronics manufacturing goal has been created, based on the article "**India's \$500 billion opportunity — and how not to lose it**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 17th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3- Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

4. Financial Mobilization: The Kunming-Montreal Framework calls for \$200 billion per year by 2030 to be spent on conservation, with developed countries providing \$20-30 billion annually to developing countries. Ways and means to mobilise these financial resources is one of the main items on the agenda at COP16.

5. Eliminating Harmful Subsidies: Countries are expected to phase out \$500 billion worth of harmful subsidies by 2030.

Question for practice:

Discuss the main goals and expected discussions at COP16 of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia.

India's progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues

Source: The post India's progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues has been created, based on the article "**Celebration and vigil: India must not let its guard down on kala-azar**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

Context: The article talks about India's progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues. It highlights India's achievements, the difference between elimination and eradication, and emphasizes the need for continued efforts and vigilance to prevent future outbreaks.

For detailed information on **India to seek certification from WHO for eliminating Kala-azar** [read this article here](#)

What is the recent achievement of India in disease control?

1. India has made significant progress in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma. Kala-azar cases have dropped to less than one in 10,000 for two consecutive years.
2. Trachoma, which once caused 5% of blindness in the 1970s, has also been eliminated as a public health problem.
3. In 2023, India had 595 cases of kala-azar with four deaths, and in 2024, 339 cases with one death. India needs to maintain low numbers for another year to receive WHO certification for eliminating kala-azar.

For detailed information on **India Eliminates Trachoma as a Public Health Problem** [read this article here](#)

What is the difference between elimination and eradication?

1. Elimination means reducing the number of disease cases to a specific limit within a country, so it's no longer a public health problem.
2. Eradication, however, means completely stopping any new cases globally.
3. Only smallpox has been eradicated so far. Eliminating a disease like kala-azar or trachoma, which has no vaccine, is a significant challenge.

What challenges does India face in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma?

1. Lack of vaccines: Neither kala-azar nor trachoma has a vaccine, making elimination harder. Kala-azar is spread by sandflies carrying *Leishmania donovani*, and trachoma is caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

2. Socio-economic conditions: Both diseases are linked to poverty and poor sanitation. India's success required a government-run health campaign to tackle these factors.

For detailed information on **India achieves target to eliminate 'Kala-Azar'** [read this article here](#)

Question for practice:

Discuss the recent achievements of India in eliminating kala-azar and trachoma as public health issues, and the challenges faced in maintaining this progress.

Constitution's role in managing diversity through special provisions for various states

Source: The post Constitution's role in managing diversity through special provisions for various states has been created, based on the article "**The Manipur crisis, the issue of managing diversity**" published in "The Hindu" on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Polity- issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Context: The article discusses the violence in Manipur and the Chief Minister's demands for more control over security. It highlights the Constitution's role in managing diversity through special provisions for various states, aiming to ensure political stability and represent different cultural identities effectively.

What is the situation in Manipur?

There has been an escalation of violence in Manipur. The Chief Minister is demanding greater control over security. Media reports suggest the constitutional machinery in Manipur is breaking down, with Article 355 invoked to manage internal disturbances.

For detailed information on **analyses on Manipur** [read this article here](#)

How does the Constitution handle diversity?

1. The Indian Constitution uses "**special provisions**" to manage diversity across states. These provisions aim to maintain political stability and address cultural or developmental concerns.

2. States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Karnataka have been granted such provisions.

3. **Article 371F, for example, was introduced when Sikkim joined India in 1975.** It protected different sections of Sikkim's population and ensured power sharing to promote stability.

4. In *R.C. Poudyal* (1993), the Supreme Court upheld Article 371F, allowing greater representation for the **Bhutia-Lepcha community due to Sikkim's** historical background.

5. **Tripura's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule in 1984** resolved insurgency issues by reserving a third of its legislative seats for Scheduled Tribes.

6. The Constitution's flexibility helps reconcile competing identities while preserving political stability.

For detailed information on **Article 371 of Indian Constitution** [read this article here](#)

What is the current legal framework in Manipur?

1. Article 371C: Manipur is governed by Article 371C, which mandates the creation of a Hill Area Committee to represent tribal areas. However, its approval is not required for decisions affecting governance.

2. Autonomous District Council: The Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Council Act, 2000 governs district councils for Scheduled Tribes but lacks veto power, unlike states like Nagaland and Sikkim.

3. No Sixth Schedule Protections: Unlike Tripura, Manipur is not governed by the Sixth Schedule, which devolves more power to local tribal councils.

4. Challenges in Representation: The lack of strong representation for tribal areas has fueled tensions, contributing to ongoing violence.

What should Manipur consider?

The Court in *R.C. Poudyal* emphasized that pluralist societies are part of history. The Constitution has shown it can adapt to different challenges. Manipur should look to constitutional solutions to manage its internal conflicts and achieve peace.

Question for practice:

Examine how the Indian Constitution's special provisions, particularly Article 371C, impact the governance and representation of tribal areas in Manipur, and how these provisions compare to those in other states.

Supreme Court judgment addressing CSEAM in India

Source: The post Supreme Court judgment addressing CSEAM in India has been created, based on the article "**Supreme Court's child sexual abuse verdict is a step forward**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Context: The article discusses the Supreme Court's recent judgment on child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM). It emphasizes the seriousness of the issue, India's alarming involvement, and the need for strict action against both viewing and producing such content.

For detailed information on **Supreme Court's Verdict on CSEAM** read [Article 1](#), [Article 2](#)

What is the Supreme Court's judgment on CSEAM?

The Supreme Court ruled that viewing child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) is a serious offense. Even watching it once is a crime. The Court stated that demand for such material fuels its production, making the crime more heinous.

How widespread is CSEAM in India?

1. India leads the world in uploading Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM), according to reports.
2. The National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children reported 46,99,515 CSEAM videos uploaded in India.
3. Cases of child pornography rose significantly, from 44 in 2018 to 1,171 in 2022, as per National Crime Records Bureau data.
4. Local children, aged 5 to 16, are frequently involved, with covert videos taken using spy cameras.
5. Kerala Police seized over 200 devices containing illegal content, revealing growing CSEAM activity on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram.

What actions have been taken to combat CSEAM?

1. **MoU with NCMEC:** India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), U.S. This agreement facilitates the receipt and analysis of Cyber Tipline Reports (CTR) related to CSEAM activities, which are shared with respective states for further action.
2. Kerala Police seized over 200 devices containing illegal content, revealing growing CSEAM activity on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram.

How does CSEAM impact children?

CSEAM victims often don't realize they've been exploited until much later. The knowledge that their abuse is being viewed repeatedly causes lifelong trauma. This exploitation affects all of society, as it perpetuates a culture of treating children as objects.

Way forward

While prosecuting offenders is essential, long-term prevention through sex education and awareness is crucial. Schools, governments, and law enforcement must work together to create safe environments for children online and offline.

Question for practice:

Examine the Supreme Court's stance on viewing Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) and its impact on the production of such content.

Importance of educating students about the Constitution

Source: The post importance of educating students about the Constitution has been created, based on the article “**Almost 75 years after Constitution was adopted, what does education mean for nation-building?**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 24th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- Governance-Governance-Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to education

Context: The article emphasizes the importance of educating students about the Constitution. It highlights its role in shaping collective consciousness, fostering national identity, celebrating diversity, promoting social justice, and empowering people, especially as India marks 75 years of its adoption.

For detailed information on **Significance of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India** [read this article here](#)

What is the Current State of Higher Education in India?

1. India has over 40 million students in higher education and 1.5 million faculty members.
2. There are more than 1,100 universities and nearly 50,000 colleges.
3. In 1947, India had only 20 universities and 500 colleges, with 2.5 lakh students and 20,000 faculty members.
4. Higher education is now accessible to more than just the elite.
5. Universities play a vital role in shaping India's identity, diversity, and social justice.

For detailed information on **Quality Education for All** [read this article here](#)

What are the challenges of education in India?

- 1. Quality of Education:** A focus on STEM subjects alone cannot drive the necessary transformation in society's value system. Broader education on the Constitution is essential.
- 2. Lack of Constitutional Awareness:** Schools and universities often fail to teach the values and importance of the Indian Constitution, which is crucial for nation-building and social transformation.
- 3. Diversity and Inclusion:** While the Constitution promotes equality, higher education must better incorporate lived experiences of diversity to build informed citizens.

Why should universities educate students about the Constitution?

- 1. Promoting Collective Consciousness:** The Constitution binds India's diverse population. With over 80% illiteracy at independence, universities now must shape this consciousness to build a progressive, unified nation.

2. Identity Creation: The Constitution fosters an Indian identity that respects socio-cultural diversity. It promotes "constitutional patriotism" through education, reflecting values like equality and freedom, as seen in India's pluralistic identity.

3. Celebrating Diversity: Universities must promote diversity through lived experiences. This builds an enlightened citizenry by allowing students to engage with diverse perspectives.

4. Empowering Citizens: The Constitution abolished untouchability (Article 17), emphasizing liberty, equality, and fraternity. Universities are ideal places to teach these values, shaping a socially aware and empowered population.

5. Advancing Social Justice: Social justice is a core theme of the Constitution. Universities, by embedding constitutional values, can drive societal transformation and create a new generation committed to equality, aligning with India's evolving educational ecosystem of over 40 million students.

Question for practice:

Discuss how universities in India can promote constitutional values to foster social justice and empower citizens.

UK transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius

Source: The post UK transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius has been created, based on the article "UK-Mauritius Chagos Deal: Crossroads for India's strategic autonomy" published in "Indian Express" on 9th October 2024

UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper2- International Relations-Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests,

Context: The article discusses the UK's decision to transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. This move affects Indian Ocean geopolitics. It also discusses India's role, the strategic importance of Diego Garcia, and balancing ties with the US while countering China's influence.

For detailed information on **Why Mauritius is calling UK an 'illegal colonial occupier' over a tiny set of islands** [read this article here](#)

Why did the UK transfer the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius?

1. International Pressure: The UK transferred the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius due to mounting international pressure from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN General Assembly, and several regional states, including India.

2. UK's Strategic Interests: while the UK transferred sovereignty of the archipelago, it ensured US-UK control over Diego Garcia for 99 years, maintaining strategic interests.

3. Pragmatic Move: UK viewed the transfer as a **pragmatic move** to align with international consensus and avoid diplomatic challenges.

How does this affect India's role in the Indian Ocean?

1. Diego Garcia Access: India could potentially gain access to Diego Garcia's military facilities, supporting its naval patrols, anti-piracy operations, and intelligence gathering.

2. Countering China: With China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean, including bases in Djibouti and Pakistan, India can leverage closer cooperation with the US to counterbalance Beijing's influence.

3. Strategic Autonomy: India's access to Diego Garcia raises concerns about maintaining strategic autonomy, as deeper cooperation with the US may complicate India's foreign policy, especially with non-Western nations like Russia and Iran.

4. Mauritius Partnership: India can help Mauritius safeguard its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) against illegal fishing, particularly by China, enhancing regional security without direct intervention.

5. Middle East Relations: India needs to manage relations in the Middle East, especially with growing tensions between Israel (a US ally) and Iran, a key Indian partner.

What is the Future of India's Regional Strategy?

1. India aims to maintain its role as an independent regional power. This involves balancing its relationships with Western countries and other global partners.
2. The agreement with Mauritius offers an opportunity for India to enhance its maritime security collaboration and assert its presence in the Indian Ocean, countering China's growing influence without aligning too closely with Western political strategies in the Middle East.

Question for practice:

Examine how the transfer of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius impacts India's role in the Indian Ocean region.