

# 9 PM Current Affairs Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE mains examination



सत्यमेव जयते

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**Features :**

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

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### India builds deeper partnership with Namibia and Africa

**Source:** The post India builds deeper partnership with Namibia and Africa has been created, based on the article “In Namibia, India shows a new way to engage Africa” published in “The Hindu” on 18th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper2- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's July 2025 address to Namibia's National Assembly highlighted India's evolving engagement in Africa. His culturally nuanced remarks signalled a long-term, respectful partnership model, contrasting with the **West's conditional aid, sanctions, and migration-focused assistance**.

#### India's Adaptive Diplomatic Strategy

- 1. Cultural Sensitivity in Diplomacy:** Modi invoked the **Welwitschia mirabilis**, Namibia's national plant, the **Springbok**, and quoted a Namibian poet. His use of **Oshiwambo phrases** earned applause, showing India's effort to connect meaningfully with African identity.
- 2. Three-Step Logic of Engagement:** India's approach follows three steps: **anti-colonial solidarity**, **current pragmatic cooperation**, and **future-oriented knowledge ties**. This method reflects **alignment over instruction** and a grounded, adaptive strategy.
- 3. Coalition-Building Approach:** India prioritises **issue-based coalitions** shaped by mutual interests. This builds trust and ensures African priorities drive the agenda.

#### Shared Historical Foundations

- 1. Anti-Colonial Solidarity:** India recalls hosting **SWAPO's first diplomatic office** during Namibia's liberation struggle. It also highlights **Lieutenant General Diwan Prem Chand's leadership** of UN peacekeeping forces during Namibia's transition to independence.
- 2. Symbolism as Commitment:** These reminders reinforce India's **long-haul engagement**. They contrast with the **episodic presence of Western powers**.
- 3. History as Strategic Anchor:** Historical solidarity builds credibility and positions India as a **consistent, principled partner**.

#### Present Cooperation and Development

- 1. Trade and Development Footprint:** Bilateral trade between India and Namibia is **\$800 million**. Across Africa, India sustains a **\$12 billion development partnership**.
- 2. Capacity Building in Education and IT:** India set up the **India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in IT** at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. It also funded the **'India Wing' at Ongwediva campus** with a **\$12 million grant**.
- 3. People-Centric Development:** These initiatives leverage India's strengths in **digital education** and respond to Namibia's **youthful, digitally ready population**.

#### Future-Oriented Knowledge Diplomacy

- 1. Digital Transformation with UPI:** Namibia became the **first African country** to adopt **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. This marks a quiet revolution in **tech diplomacy**.
- 2. Exporting Institutional Models:** The UPI adoption is not only about digital tools but also about **regulatory frameworks, institutional design, and user-centric architecture** that India has tested at scale.

3. **Soft Power through Technology:** This cooperation creates **long-term, people-focused partnerships** and enhances India's **soft power**.

### Challenges and Missed Chances

1. **Inconsistent Engagement:** India's Africa policy has seen long lapses. Modi's visit to Namibia was the **first by an Indian head of government in nearly three decades**.

2. **Limited Outcomes:** The visit resulted in only **two MoUs** on entrepreneurship and health, and Namibia's accession to the **Global Biofuels Alliance** and the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**.

3. **Mineral Cooperation Gap:** Despite Namibia's role as a **leading uranium producer**, no strategic framework was concluded on minerals, resource access, or value addition. A major opportunity was missed.

### Toward a Credible Global South Partner

1. **Namibia's Strategic Importance:** Namibia offers **political stability, mineral wealth, and technological readiness**. Its leadership echoes India's calls for **fairer global systems**.

2. **Need for Follow-Through:** The upcoming **India-Africa Forum Summit** could formalise cooperation. But India must match ambition with **sustained institutional commitment**.

3. **Credibility through Consistency:** India's role as a **Global South leader** will depend not on promises but on **consistent, collaborative delivery**.

### Question for practice:

Discuss how India's evolving engagement with Namibia reflects its broader approach to Africa.

### India faces challenges in expanding ethanol blending

**Source:** The post India faces challenges in expanding ethanol blending has been created, based on the article "**What has been the impact of ethanol blending?**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 18th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Infrastructures- Energy,

**Context:** India has reached its target of blending 20% ethanol with petrol five years ahead of schedule under the National Policy on Biofuels. The government highlights benefits such as lower emissions, reduced oil imports, and higher farmer income. Yet, consumer concerns, environmental costs, and the transition to cleaner options remain debated.

For detailed information on **Ethanol Blending Programme (E20 Blending)- Significance and Challenges** [read this article here](#)

### Consumer Reactions and Concerns

1. **Compatibility of Vehicles:** Vehicles sold since 2023 carry E20 labels, showing fuel compatibility. Manufacturers, including Hero Motocorp, upgraded materials like rubbers and plastics in older vehicles to withstand ethanol exposure.

2. **Public Opposition:** A LocalCircles survey across 315 districts found **two in three petrol vehicle owners opposed E20**. Only 12% supported it, citing **reduced mileage and higher maintenance**. Consumers demanded freedom to choose fuel type.

3. **Government's Stand:** The Centre admitted a **marginal drop in efficiency**, but argued better tuning and compatible materials can reduce it. Minister Hardeep Singh Puri dismissed criticism as a "**vilification campaign**" driven by vested interests.

**4. NITI Aayog's Advice:** NITI Aayog suggested compensating consumers for efficiency losses through **tax incentives on E10 and E20**, balancing policy goals with fairness to users.

### Financial and Policy Dimensions

**1. Foreign Exchange Savings:** Since 2014-15, India claims savings of **₹1.40 lakh crore** by petrol substitution with ethanol. This is presented as proof of blending's economic success.

**2. PSU Contributions:** Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, oil PSUs like IOC, BPCL, ONGC, Coal India, and GAIL contributed **₹1.27 lakh crore in dividends**, about **42.3% of total non-banking PSU dividends**.

**3. Limited Relief for Consumers:** Despite a **65% fall in oil prices**, PSUs reduced petrol prices by only **2%**, while dividend payouts rose sharply. This raised concerns about whether the financial benefits reached the public.

### Agricultural and Environmental Impact

**1. Dependence on Sugarcane:** Ethanol output from sugarcane grew from **40 crore litres in 2014 to 670 crore litres in 2024**. Farmers received **₹1.20 lakh crore since FY15**. Yet, sugarcane cultivation requires **60-70 tonnes of water per tonne**, stressing water-scarce regions.

**2. Groundwater Stress and Land Degradation:** The **2023 Central Groundwater Board** found excess groundwater extraction in Maharashtra's sugarcane districts. The **2021 Land Degradation Atlas** reported **30% of India's land degraded**, worsened by unsustainable farming and climate stress.

**3. Crop Diversification Efforts:** FCI allocated **5.2 million tonnes of rice** for ethanol in 2024, up from 3,000 tonnes earlier. **34% of corn output** was diverted, forcing **9.7 lakh tonnes of imports** in 2024-25, six times the previous year. Yet, sugarcane acreage rose to **57.24 lakh hectares**.

**4. Future Outlook:** The OECD-FAO estimates that by 2034, **22% of sugarcane will go to ethanol**. The assured **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)** makes sugarcane an attractive crop, limiting a shift to sustainable alternatives.

### Trade and Global Pressures

**1. U.S. Push for Imports:** The U.S. has called India's ethanol policy a major **"trade barrier"**. Relaxing restrictions could hurt domestic producers who invested heavily in ethanol capacity.

**2. Industry Response:** The **Indian Sugar Mills Association** urged the government to maintain restrictions to protect India's ethanol economy from foreign competition.

### Ethanol and the EV Transition

**1. Emission Reductions:** The Centre says blending reduced **700 lakh tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**. However, EVs promise **greater emission cuts** and faster transport decarbonisation, as shown in Beijing's clean-air success.

**2. Slow EV Growth:** In 2024, only **7.6% of vehicle sales were electric**. To meet the **2030 target of 30%**, sales must rise by **22% in five years**.

**3. Rare Earth Dependency:** India's EV production depends on rare earth imports, mainly from China. Disruptions led **Maruti Suzuki to cut EV targets**, with other firms also facing delays. Diplomatic talks with Beijing aim to ease shortages.



**4. Policy Uncertainty:** While Minister Puri signalled pushing beyond 20% blending, the government clarified in March that **no decision has been taken yet**, leaving future direction unclear.

**Question for practice:**

Examine the economic, environmental, and consumer challenges of India's E20 ethanol blending policy.

**Families sustain caste while youth challenge it**

**Source:** The post Families sustain caste while youth challenge it has been created, based on the article "**How 'honour' killings in India are reinforced and legitimised**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 18th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper1- Salient features of Indian Society

**Context:** The article explains why caste persists in India despite change. Caste endures through family, community, and social structures. Backlash rises where equality advances. Tamil Nadu shows strong public resistance and hidden pride. Shifting youth priorities may weaken caste's base over time.

**How Caste Endures as a Social System**

- 1. Household customs and boundaries:** Caste survives through household rules. **Families police interaction, marriage, and avoidance.** These rules are passed down and defended within homes.
- 2. Early internalisation by children:** Children learn limits before they can explain them. **Boundaries become normal early in life** and guide choices.
- 3. Community and institutional reinforcement:** Communities and wider structures legitimise caste behaviour. **This scaffolding** keeps the system resilient.

**Empowerment, Inter-Caste Unions, and Backlash**

- 1. Social justice opens integration:** Education and secure jobs for Dalits enable integration. **Access to quality education and meaningful work changes status.**
- 2. Equal footing and new relationships:** Workplaces, colleges, and cities create daily contact. **Romantic ties begin to cross caste lines**, challenging inherited barriers.
- 3. Inter-caste marriages and regional patterns:** States such as **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Kerala** report more inter-caste marriages. **IHDS-II puts the national rate at about 5%.**
- 4. Honour killings where hierarchy is threatened:** These unions, often involving **Dalit men and dominant-caste women**, confront hierarchy. **Violence spikes where caste feels under siege.** Low violence can mean an untouched status quo.

**Tamil Nadu's Caste Paradox**

- 1. Strong civil society and public rejection:** Democratic voices in Tamil Nadu condemn caste killings. **The State has a vibrant civil society.**
- 2. Anonymity-driven online glorification:** Social media enables anonymous caste pride. Some accounts even defend killings. **Anonymity lowers restraint.**
- 3. Collective progress, individual conflict:** Public culture is anti-caste. **Private chats, groups, and posts still steer alliances and "honour."**
- 4. Liminal space and fear of loss:** Tamil Nadu lives between tradition and change. **Online pride shows fear of losing inherited power and anxiety.**

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### Family as the Core Vehicle of Caste

1. **Beyond parties and organisations:** Parties and caste bodies reinforce divisions in public. **They are not the root of caste.**
2. **Everyday practices transmit prejudice:** Rituals, marriage plans, and expectations pass bias to children. **Caste is learned as everyday common sense.**
3. **Transgenerational persistence amid modernity:** Caste endures despite education, urbanisation, and new ideas. **Home training outlasts exposure.**

### Changing Youth Priorities and Emerging Hope

1. **Global shifts and new relationship models:** In **South Korea and Japan**, marriage and fertility fall. **Open partnerships, cohabitation, single living, and self-parenting** rise as the family loses centrality.
2. **Urban Indian adolescents and autonomy:** Urban youths prioritise growth, well-being, and autonomy. **Traditional obligations carry less weight.**
3. **Eroding caste's main vehicle:** As the family's centrality weakens, caste loses its carrier. **Change will be gradual**, not sudden.
4. **Acknowledging contradiction and moving forward:** India stands at a crossroads. **Engagement and digital counter-narratives** can loosen caste's grip. Recognising the paradox is the first step to reform. **Tamil Nadu symbolises both contradiction and hope.** Change begins with families and everyday choices.

### Question for practice:

Examine how family structures and changing youth preferences influence the persistence and possible erosion of the caste system in India.

### India advances through resilience, science, and inclusive sustainable growth

**Source:** The post India advances through resilience, science, and inclusive sustainable growth has been created, based on the article "**The next leap forward**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 18th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper1- growth, development and employment.

**Context:** India's 79th Independence Day sparked a look back and ahead. The nation stands confident and resilient. It faced outside pressure in 1971 and in 1998. It now faces tariff headwinds. It grew stronger each time. Today's focus is inclusive, science-led growth, with pride in gains and awareness of pending tasks.

### A Nation's Upward Arc

1. **Hard-won confidence:** India sees itself as a rising power that has shaped its destiny since 1947 and emerged stronger after crises. It declares its time has come; no one can halt its rise.
2. **Policy continuity in science:** Shastri's "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," extended to "Jai Vigyan" and "Jai Anusandhan," anchors progress in technology and research. Vajpayee's line—IT for India, BT for Bharat—captures the twin engines.
3. **Twin moments: celebration and stock-taking:** Independence Day marks pride in gains and clarity about unfinished tasks.

### Economic Scale and Global Standing

1. **GDP momentum:** In the last decade, GDP more than doubled and is projected at \$4.19 trillion in 2025, placing India fourth after the US (\$30.5T), China (\$19.2T), and Germany (\$4.74T).

**PPP rank.** In PPP, India is third at \$17.65T, behind China (\$40.72T) and the US (\$30.51T) in 2025.

2. **Civilisational aspiration:** Rising scale reflects a resolve to reclaim India's legacy as a major economy.

### Human Development and Technological Strides

1. **From deprivation to capability:** 1947–1951 baselines were stark: GDP ~\$30B, 330M people, ~80% poverty, life expectancy 32 years, literacy 18.3%. By 2023–2025, poverty at the \$3/day (2021 PPP) line fell to 5.3%, literacy rose to 77%, and life expectancy to 72 years.

2. **Frontiers in space:** Chandrayaan's south-polar landing and Mangalyaan signalled leadership in exploration.

3. **Digital rails:** UPI processes over 10 billion monthly transactions and inspires global fintech.

4. **Global talent footprint:** Indian-origin leaders helm major firms, showcasing intellectual and entrepreneurial reach.

### Agriculture: Transformation and Next Leap

1. **Output and trade strength:** Foodgrains rose from ~50 MMT to 353.9 MMT (2024–25). India is the top rice exporter at 20.2 MMT (FY25); public grain stocks exceed 90 MMT, above buffers.

2. **Broad agro-growth:** Since Independence, horticulture output rose 15×, milk 11×, and eggs 77×. FY15–FY25 real GDP grew 6.5% annually; agri-GDP 4%, outpacing sub-1% population growth. India is a net agricultural exporter.

3. **Nutrition and sanitation:** Child under-five nutrition gaps persist. Women's education, maternal health, and sanitation remain vital; ODF status is credited for aiding nutrition.

4. **Subsidy reform:** Food and fertiliser subsidies total Rs 3.71 lakh crore in 2025–26 (Rs 2.03 lakh crore; Rs 1.67 lakh crore). Studies indicate 20–25% leakage. Rebalancing toward agri-R&D and efficient value chains is urged.

### Comparative Lens and the Road to 2047

1. **South Asian comparison:** India's per-capita income surpasses Pakistan and Bangladesh in nominal and PPP terms.

2. **China gap:** In 2025, China's per-capita income is \$13,690 (PPP \$28,980) versus India's \$2,880 (PPP \$12,130).

3. **Democracy and sustainability:** Democracy guides choices; environmental stewardship of soil, water, and air is essential for Viksit Bharat.

4. **Policy priorities:** Achieving the 2047 vision needs faster, inclusive growth, fewer bureaucratic hurdles, and a scientific culture backed by investments. The world watches; India offers lessons to Asia and Africa and competes in high-tech sectors.

### Question for practice:

Evaluate how rationalising food and fertiliser subsidies can advance India's Viksit Bharat 2047 goals.

### India drives global hunger decline and advances nutrition security

**Source:** The post India drives global hunger decline and advances nutrition security has been created, based on the article "The path to ending global hunger runs through India" published in "The Hindu" on 19th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Food security

**Context:** The UN's 2025 State of Food Security and Nutrition reports global undernourishment at 673 million in 2024, down from 688 million in 2023. India's digitally enabled policies drive much of this progress. Yet pre-pandemic levels are unmet, and nutrition gaps, obesity, and deficiencies are rising.

For detailed information on **Global Hunger Index and India** [read this article here](#)



### Global improvement and India's role

- 1. Reversal in global hunger:** Undernourishment now affects 8.2% of people, down from 2023, though above 2018's 7.3%. The trend has turned after the severe COVID-19 spike.
- 2. India's decisive contribution:** Policy investments in food security and nutrition underpin gains. Digital technology, smarter governance, and service delivery strengthened outcomes.
- 3. Measured national progress:** India's undernourishment fell from 14.3% in 2020–22 to 12% in 2022–24. About 30 million fewer people face hunger.
- 4. Scale and disruption context:** These results came despite the pandemic's disruption and India's large population base.

### The PDS transformation

- 1. Digital backbone:** The Public Distribution System was revitalised through digitalisation, Aadhaar-enabled targeting, real-time tracking, and biometric authentication.
- 2. Portability and inclusion:** Electronic point-of-sale devices and One Nation One Ration Card made entitlements portable nationwide, aiding migrants and vulnerable households.
- 3. Crisis response and continuity:** These innovations enabled rapid pandemic scale-up and continued subsidised staples for more than 800 million people.
- 4. Governance and delivery gains:** Improved delivery systems ensured reliable and timely access to food support.

### From calories to nutrition

- 1. Affordability challenge:** A healthy diet remains unaffordable for over 60% of people due to high prices, weak cold chains, and poor market linkages.
- 2. Quality-focused programmes:** PM POSHAN (2021) and ICDS now emphasise dietary diversity and nutrition sensitivity, improving child development and public health prospects.
- 3. Signs of dietary affordability progress:** New UN data shows advances in making healthy diets more affordable despite food inflation.
- 4. Emerging nutrition burdens:** Even as hunger falls, malnutrition, obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies are rising among poor urban and rural groups.

### Transforming the agrifood system

- 1. Nutrient-rich supply and prices:** India must boost production and affordability of pulses, fruits, vegetables, and animal-source foods for low-income families.
- 2. Post-harvest infrastructure:** Invest in cold storage and digital logistics to cut the 13% food loss between farm and market, improving availability and prices.
- 3. Inclusive enterprise support:** Strengthen women-led food businesses and FPOs, especially in climate-resilient crops, to enhance nutrition and livelihoods.
- 4. Digital leverage:** Use AgriStack, e-NAM, and geospatial tools to widen market access, guide planning, and deliver nutrition-sensitive support.

### Global significance and the road ahead

- 1. International recognition:** FAO notes India's agrifood transformation as a global contribution and leadership opportunity across the Global South.
- 2. SDG timeline and focus shift:** With five years to 2030, momentum must move from sustenance to nutrition, resilience, and opportunity.
- 3. Leadership and urgency:** The hunger clock is ticking. The path to ending global hunger runs through India, whose continued leadership is essential.

### Question for practice:

Examine the role of India's digitalised PDS in reducing hunger and the remaining nutrition challenges.

### **J&K LG should follow Council advice on Assembly nominations**

**Source:** The post J&K LG should follow Council advice on Assembly nominations has been created, based on the article “Who decides nominations to UT Assemblies?” published in “The Hindu” on 19th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure

**Context:** The Union Home Ministry told the J&K and Ladakh High Court that **J&K's LG can nominate five MLAs without the Council of Ministers' advice**. This sparked debate on nomination powers in Union Territories and democratic accountability.

**Current dispute: LG's nomination power in J&K**

1. **Affidavit before the High Court:** The Home Ministry stated that **the LG may act without ministerial advice** when nominating five MLAs. This is the core dispute.
2. **Question of aid and advice:** The issue is whether the **LG must follow the Council of Ministers**. The affidavit says no.
3. **Scope of nominations:** The power concerns a **fixed statutory quota** of nominees. Their addition may affect House composition.
4. **Implications for governance:** In a tight House, **nominated members can alter stability** and legislative outcomes.

### **Constitutional and statutory framework**

1. **Parliament and States:** Nominated seats exist in India's legislatures. **Anglo-Indian nominations ended in 2020**. The **Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members**, chosen by the President on **Union Cabinet advice**.
2. **Legislative Councils:** In six States with Councils, **nearly one-sixth are nominated** by Governors on **State Cabinet advice**.
3. **Delhi's model:** The 1991 Act provides **70 elected MLAs**. **There are no nominated MLAs in Delhi**.
4. **Puducherry's model:** The 1963 Act provides **30 elected MLAs**, and the Union government **may nominate up to three**.

### **Judicial interpretation and guidance**

1. **Puducherry nomination case (2018):** The Madras High Court **upheld the Union's power** to nominate three MLAs **without UT Cabinet advice**.
2. **Recommendations and their fate:** The High Court suggested **statutory clarity**, but the **Supreme Court set aside these recommendations** on appeal.
3. **Delhi services case (2023):** The Supreme Court described a “**triple chain of command**”: civil servants → ministers → legislature → electorate. It held the **LG is bound by ministerial advice**, except where the Assembly lacks competence. This reasoning **may inform nomination** questions.

### **Democratic accountability and federal balance**

1. **UTs and elected governments:** UTs are not full States. Yet UTs with Assemblies have **elected governments accountable to the people**.
2. **Political alignment issues:** Alignment between the Centre and a UT eases nominations. **Divergence should not derail democratic processes**.
3. **Protecting mandates:** Procedures should **respect popular mandates** and preserve stable governance.

### **The J&K path forward**

1. **Unique trajectory:** J&K was a State until 2019, with greater autonomy.
2. **Judicial and executive signals:** The **Supreme Court upheld** its conversion to a UT. The Union has said **statehood will be restored at the earliest**.

3. **Statutory specifics:** J&K has **90 elected seats** (2019 Act, amended 2023). **Sections 15, 15A, 15B allow up to five nominees** two women, **two Kashmiri migrants**, and **one displaced person from PoK**.

4. **Suggested approach:** Given these factors, **LG nominations should be on the Council's advice**. This would **uphold democratic principles** and electoral accountability.

#### Question for practice:

Discuss whether the J&K Lieutenant Governor can nominate Assembly members without the Council of Ministers' advice.

#### **Deliver empowerment with structural support beyond verdicts for survivors.**

**Source:** The post Deliver empowerment with structural support beyond verdicts for survivors. has been created, based on the article **"What true empowerment of women entails"** published in **"The Hindu"** on 19th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper1 - Social empowerment

**Context:** Amid the trial of former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, a 47-year-old domestic worker resisted intimidation and delays. Her stance exposes a gap. India praises "empowerment" yet neglects unprivileged survivors after verdicts. The article urges **structural support** so legal wins lead to stable, dignified lives. She braved attempts at discrediting and crushing social pressures, yet persisted.

#### **A case that redefines empowerment**

1. **Survivor's stand against power:** She had no wealth, networks, or media. She faced legal muscle, smear attempts, and social pressure. She **did not withdraw**.

2. **From headline to jurisprudence:** Her fight is not a headline. It strengthens jurisprudence for women who fear dismissal at police stations. It shows the law can protect the powerless.

3. **From silence to service:** By asserting her rights, she performed public service. Her victory widens the path for future complainants.

#### **The gap between rhetoric and reality**

1. **Optics of empowerment:** India celebrates women leaders. But empowerment talk often centres on the privileged, not on survival battles.

2. **After applause, abandonment:** After verdicts, applause fades. Survivors return to hostile environments, face stigma, lose jobs, and carry legal debts.

3. **Structural support imperative:** Empowerment must be structural—legal, economic, and psychosocial—so success in court does not become defeat in life.

#### **Immediate state obligations**

1. **Compensation schemes:** Create state-funded survivor compensation. Other victims, including terrorism or industrial accidents, receive aid. Similar recognition should cover legal costs and ensure minimum stability. It should secure time to rebuild livelihoods and repay unavoidable debts.

2. **Specialised legal aid cells:** Legal aid exists but is under-resourced. States should fund survivor litigation cells with advocates, forensic experts, and support officers, on par with public prosecutors. Access must be real, not only on paper.

**3. Psychological support as a right:** Trauma recovery is a right. Provide long-term counselling, peer networks, and therapy. Fund through the state and CSR consistently.

### Pathways to dignity and livelihood

**1. Guaranteed employment:** Governments, PSUs, and corporates should create direct employment pathways for survivors of abuse-related legal battles.

**2. Institutionalise survivor expertise in policing:** Train survivors as counsellors in police stations. They can guide women through the first reporting stage.

**3. Mentors and POSH adjudicators:** Appoint survivors as community legal mentors and as members of Internal Complaints Committees under POSH. Lived experience adds empathy and provides income, institutionalising courage.

### Why targeted support matters

**1. Exceptions require visible backing:** In unreformed systems, these battles are exceptions. Visible support shows the state does not abandon resisters ever.

**2. Deterrence and confidence effects:** Backing raises the cost of silencing and reassures potential complainants.

**3. Delivering empowerment, not declarations:** Applause is easy. Real empowerment needs immediate economic support, long-term integration, and legitimised survivor voices in institutions. Concrete recognition reshapes our national idea of empowerment.

### Question for practice:

discuss the structural supports proposed for survivors after court victories and why they are necessary for real empowerment.

### Jellyfish swarms expose heat-stressed electricity grids worldwide

**Source:** The post Jellyfish swarms expose heat-stressed electricity grids worldwide has been created, based on the article “Climate havoc: Even jelly fish can trip electricity supply now” published in “Live Mint” on 19th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3-infrastructure- energy And Environment

**Context:** Jellyfish swarms in unusually warm northern European waters shut two French nuclear plants by clogging cooling intakes. This headline failure anchors the article's argument: **extreme heat strains generation, water, transmission, wind, and data-centre cooling**, while solar and batteries help only partly.

### Jellyfish Shutdowns and Heat-Driven Failures

**1. French nuclear intake clogging:** Jellyfish blocked reactor intakes, forcing shutdowns. Other units may cut output because the Rhône and Garonne are too warm for safe cooling.

**2. Iraq's demand surge in extreme heat:** During Arba'in, demand for fans and air-conditioners surged as temperatures topped 40 °C. Supply to most of Iraq collapsed.

**3. Backup equipment overheating:** At the Cincinnati Open, an on-site generator apparently overheated, causing a power outage and suspending play.

### Thermal Generation Loses Efficiency in Heat

- 1. Design limits surpassed:** Energy assets are built for narrow temperature bands. A warming climate pushes them beyond those limits when demand peaks.
- 2. Forced-outage probabilities:** Heatwaves raise failure risks: **coal +3.2 percentage points, gas +1.3, nuclear +1.0**, according to Sweden-Italy researchers.
- 3. Severe output loss case:** An Iraqi **gas plant lost ~21%** of potential output as ambient temperature rose from **25 °C to 50 °C**.

### Cooling Water Scarcity Deepens Risks

- 1. Heatwaves, drought, and coolant shortages:** Thermal plants must **dump waste heat**. Warmer air and water make cooling harder and less available.
- 2. India's shutdowns and local strain:** Since **2014**, India has **lost 19 days** of coal power to **water shortages**. Many communities turn to tanker trucks and deeper boreholes.
- 3. Rising competition with drinking needs:** By **2050**, power stations may pressure **water supplies** more than **drinking needs**, government forecasts warn.

### Renewables and the Grid Under Heat

- 1. Wind lulls in hot spells:** Hot conditions often cut wind speeds. The affected area has **grown 6.3% per decade** since the early 1980s; about **60% of the planet** is now at risk.
- 2. Regional wind variations:** **Australia, Siberia, and Europe** can see **30%–50%** declines during heatwaves. The **northern US, east Africa, the Amazon, and western China** sometimes see the opposite.
- 3. Transmission and transformer stress:** Cables and transformers **heat under load** as air temperatures rise. Failures become more likely during **AC-driven demand spikes**.

### Data-Centre Demand and the Outlook

- 1. Cooling loads at data centres:** About **one third** of data-centre electricity goes to heating and cooling. A **2022 heatwave** shut server racks at **two London hospitals**, disrupting IT.
- 2. Relative resilience of solar and batteries:** **Solar PV and lithium-ion batteries** are more heat-resilient than thermal plants and wind, offering **partial relief**.
- 3. Enduring legacy:** Industrial systems rely on a **moderate climate** now disrupted by fossil emissions. The **damage from fossil technology will persist** even after cleaner power spreads.

### Question for practice:

Examine how jellyfish swarms and heatwaves disrupt electricity generation and grids?



### **M.S. Swaminathan shows how science can build Viksit Bharat**

**Source:** The post M.S. Swaminathan shows how science can build Viksit Bharat has been created, based on the article “A tribute to M.S. Swaminathan, ‘the man who fed India’” published in “**The Hindu**” on 20th August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Science and technology- Achievements of Indians in science & technology.

**Context:** India's Viksit Bharat goal needs strong, self-reliant science, especially for the digital economy. A new biography of M.S. Swaminathan prompts reflection on how India achieved food self-sufficiency. The article distils lessons from the Green Revolution for building capability today.

For detailed information on **Swaminathan walked ahead of his time: scientific community** [read this article here](#)

#### **Seeds of collaboration and discovery**

**1. Collaboration, not isolation:** The Green Revolution was powered by science. Breakthroughs came from collaboration, not isolated labs. Inputs raised yields, but heavy grain bent weak stalks. Swaminathan tried radiation-induced mutations for stronger stalks. They failed.

**2. The dwarf wheat clue:** In 1958, a visiting Japanese scientist pointed to dwarf wheat with short, strong stalks that resisted lodging. The variety had gone to the United States, where a breeder was working on it.

**3. Mexican seeds and early results:** That breeder was developing winter wheat, unsuited to India. But Norman Borlaug in Mexico had promising lines. Swaminathan had met him earlier and secured a small seed shipment. The seeds performed well, and he sought to invite Borlaug.

**4. Cut red tape and connect globally:** IARI cleared the invitation in 1960, but approvals took over two years. Borlaug arrived only in March 1963. The lesson: build global contacts and travel freely; cut bureaucratic control.

#### **From lab to field: enabling trials**

**1. Trials need timely support:** The next step was farmer field trials. The Ministry would not fund them. Lal Bahadur Shastri became Prime Minister in 1964 and named C. Subramaniam Agriculture Minister. This changed the trajectory.

**2. Subramaniam's decisive intervention:** Subramaniam convened about 20 scientists. Swaminathan said seeds were ready but trials lacked funds. Subramaniam called for the file and released money.

**3. Hearing scientists directly:** A second lesson follows. On complex technical issues, leaders must hear scientists first-hand, not only through a generalist bureaucracy. Many ministers neither backed nor understood research. Orders to “sort out problems” ignored ground realities.

#### **Science-informed politics and capable ministers**

**1. Technically literate leadership:** China's success reflects ministers with technical training and management records. Subramaniam fit that mould. Achieving Viksit Bharat will require more such ministers.

**2. Deciding amid dissent:** Scaling up required importing 18,000 tonnes of seed, costing \$5 crore. Finance resisted the foreign exchange. The Planning Commission doubted superior performance. The Left opposed Rockefeller-linked seeds. Shastri visited IARI, was convinced, and approved imports. Indira Gandhi later gave full backing.

**3. Decide, back, and monitor:** New ideas trigger conflicting expert opinions. Debate is healthy, but decisions must be taken at the top. Once taken, back the effort and ensure independent monitoring with course corrections. The 1968 wheat harvest validated the strategy. PL-480 imports were phased out.

**4. Sustainability warnings:** Heavy water and fertilizer use caused environmental stress. Swaminathan, outside government, urged corrections for sustainability. The reforms remain overdue.

#### Future imperatives for Viksit Bharat

**1. Climate and institutional performance:** Climate change will depress farm productivity. Science will be decisive. Outcomes depend on the strength of research institutions.

**2. Funding, rankings, and quality:** India once led China in the late 1960s. Today China has eight agricultural research institutions in the world's top 10; India has none in the top 200. India spends only 0.43% of agricultural GDP on R&D. China spends roughly twice that share.

**3. Autonomy and access:** Institutions need autonomy and good governance to hire and promote on merit. Top scientists must have access to decision makers, as Swaminathan did. Filling these gaps best honours him. The lessons apply across scientific domains, not just agriculture.

#### Question for practice:

Examine how scientific collaboration and decisive political support enabled the Green Revolution and what lessons this offers for Viksit Bharat.

### POSHAN Abhiyaan falters as child stunting persists in India

**Source:** The post POSHAN Abhiyaan falters as child stunting persists in India has been created, based on the article “The complex web of factors behind India’s persistent stunting crisis” published in “The Hindu” on 20th August 2025

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

**Context:** POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018) aimed to reduce child stunting by **2 percentage points annually**, targeting “**Mission 25 by 2022.**” Yet, by **June 2025**, stunting is **37%**, barely down from **38.4% (2016)**. The stagnation signals **deeper systemic causes**.

#### Targets and stalled outcomes

1. Ambitious goals and timelines: The path set was from **38.4% (2016)** to **26.4% (2022)**, with an even tighter **25%** goal under Mission 25.

2. Minimal change in prevalence: Instead, the rate stands at **37% (June 2025)**—a **~1 percentage point** fall since 2016. The 2022 milestone was **missed**.

3. Signal of systemic deprivation: Experts call persistent stunting “**the tip of the iceberg of deprivation,**” pointing to structural deficits beyond program design.

#### Maternal health and early-life factors

1. **Stunting begins before or at birth:** Nearly **half** of stunted children are already **small at birth**, linking outcomes to maternal health and care.

2. **Adolescent pregnancy and early childbearing:** Teen pregnancies raise risks because bodies are **not ready**. Despite laws, **child marriage persists**; 7% of women 15–19 had begun childbearing (2019–21).

3. **Caesarean deliveries and breastfeeding initiation:** C-sections rose from 9% (2005–06) to 22%+ (2021). They can **delay colostrum and early breastfeeding** when mothers are unwell or infants are shifted to SNCU/NICU.

4. **Exclusive breastfeeding and class divides:** Only 64% of infants under six months are **exclusively breastfed**. **Leave entitlements** benefit salaried mothers; informal workers **return early**, limiting feeding frequency.

#### Diet and nutrition deficits

1. **Carbohydrate-heavy household diets:** Poor households rely on **rice-heavy** meals. Pulses or protein are **infrequent**, as seen in some **Adivasi** communities.

2. **Inadequate child diets in 6–23 months:** Only ~11% of children under two meet the **minimum acceptable diet** for diversity and meal frequency.

3. **Limited protein and micronutrient access:** Some States added **eggs** to Anganwadi meals, yet **protein and micronutrient** access remains **limited**.

4. **High anaemia among women and children:** Anaemia is **widespread**: 57% of women 15–49 and 67% of under-fives (2019–21), undermining growth.

#### Sanitation, infection, and growth

1. **Unsafe water and open defecation:** 19% of households practiced **open defecation** (2019–21), contaminating groundwater and increasing infections.

2. **Gut health and the malnutrition–infection cycle:** Unsanitary conditions **damage gut microbiota** and absorption. Illness reduces intake and **traps children** in a **malnutrition–infection cycle**.

#### Education and intergenerational impacts

1. **Maternal education as a protective factor:** Stunting affects 46% of children of mothers with **no schooling** versus 26% with 12+ years of education.

2. **Pathways from schooling to child health:** Educated mothers **access ANC**, follow **better nutrition**, and **delay early pregnancies**, improving outcomes.

3. **Long-term socioeconomic consequences:** Stunting correlates with **poverty, lower education, weaker cognition**, and **reduced employability, perpetuating intergenerational deprivation**.

#### Question for practice:

What should be the title of above article, in simple sentences, 7 words only. Please don't use ":" this symbols. It should be grammatically correct sentence

#### India can cut oil imports through electric vehicle adoption

**Source:** The post India can cut oil imports through electric vehicle adoption has been created, based on the article "Betting on batteries, not barrels" published in "Businessline" on 20th August

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Infrastructure- Energy

**Context:** India's transport depends on imported oil, straining the economy. In FY 2024–25, crude imports exceeded \$130 billion. Price spikes and geopolitical shocks hit the current account, weaken the rupee, and raise household costs. The article argues for a decisive shift to EVs powered by solar and storage, enabled by policy. For detailed information on **Adoption of EVs: Challenges and Solutions** [read this article here](#)

### Oil-Driven Vulnerability

- 1. Import bill and dependence:** Transport is the largest oil user, pushing import dependence near record highs. Each barrel adds recurring, volatile costs that India cannot control.
- 2. Macroeconomic shocks:** Oil price spikes transmit quickly to the current account and exchange rate. They also inflate logistics costs and household budgets, worsening inflation.
- 3. Avoidable exposure:** This vulnerability is not inevitable. Replacing barrels with batteries can localise energy, cut imports, and build domestic manufacturing strength.

### Economics Have Flipped

- 1. Falling technology costs:** Battery packs are about 90% cheaper than in 2010, reaching \$115/kWh in 2024. Solar PV costs fell by a similar 90%, making new solar exceptionally cheap.
- 2. Efficiency and per-km costs:** EV drivetrains are three to four times more efficient than engines. With solar firmed by storage for evening charging, per-km costs drop and inflationary pressure eases.
- 3. Longer battery lifetimes:** LFP batteries now deliver around 5,000 cycles versus 1,000 a decade ago. The same rupee of capex buys far more lifetime kilometres.

### Dependency, Reframed

- 1. Capital goods vs consumables:** Oil is a consumable dependency bought monthly at volatile prices. Batteries and panels are capital goods, sourceable from multiple suppliers, buildable at home, and recyclable.
- 2. Import bill impact:** Replacing one oil barrel with imported clean hardware costs roughly one-fifth. Even with imports, the overall energy import bill would fall by about 80%.
- 3. Domestic capacity and recycling:** PLI-backed giga-factories, diversified sourcing, and recycling reduce risk. Recyclers can recover over 95% of battery metals at high purity, turning past imports into feedstock.

### Why Intervention Is Essential

- 1. Market limits and coordination:** Without clear signals, investment lags, infrastructure is slow, and risk perceptions persist. Policy must accelerate cost declines and coordinate supply chains at scale.
- 2. Lessons from China, India's gap:** China's near-50% EV share in 2024 arose from mandates and planning. India's electric-car share was about 2%, underscoring the need for targets and networks.
- 3. Bottlenecks and alignment:** High first costs, fragmented charging standards, and material risks impede adoption. Strategic intervention must align demand creation with local supply capacity.

### Freight First

- 1. Diesel-heavy segment focus:** Long-haul trucks consume a disproportionate share of diesel. Prioritising electrification on the Golden Quadrilateral and port connectors yields outsized savings.
- 2. Corridor infrastructure and MCS:** Deploy Megawatt Charging System depots delivering over 1 MW per charger. Use global standards to avoid vendor lock-in and enable rapid scaling.
- 3. Solar-plus-storage near highways:** Highway-adjacent solar-storage plants tied to distribution grids can supply cheap, inflation-proof power. Paired with EV efficiency, they cut charging and per-km transport costs.

#### Financing, Security, and an Integrated Roadmap

- 1. Financing innovation lowers capex:** Battery-leasing and battery-as-a-service reduce upfront costs for operators. Public tenders can buy “vehicle-kilometres,” extending successful city e-bus PPP models to freight.
- 2. Supply security and materials:** Greater use of LFP and emerging sodium-ion reduces nickel and cobalt dependence. Invest in domestic anodes, cathodes, separators (including synthetic graphite).
- 3. Close the loop at scale:** Recovered materials already reach 95–98% yields at battery-grade purity. Scaling under Extended Producer Responsibility will create a secure domestic resource base.
- 4. National plan and standards:** Adopt a 2047 “no-oil transport” goal with interim ZEV milestones. Build MCS-ready hubs every 100–150 km, enable open-access PPAs for solar-storage, accelerate PLI disbursals, update battery-warranty standards, and coordinate power-market, charging, and logistics reforms. The payoff: cheaper transport, a stronger rupee, cleaner air, and vibrant manufacturing.

#### Question for practice:

Examine why policy intervention is essential for India's shift to electric vehicles.

#### Amid geopolitical tensions, India must bolster submarine cable resilience

**Source:** The post Amid geopolitical tensions, India must bolster submarine cable resilience has been created, based on the article “**Resilience of subsea cables**” published in “**Businessline**” on 20th August

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

**Context:** Submarine cables underpin global digital flows, carrying 6,400 Tbps. As networks expand and reconfigure, geopolitical tensions and conflict have increased risks to seabed infrastructure. The article assesses India-linked systems, rising faults, strategic chokepoints, and practical, legal, and policy measures to strengthen resilience and recovery.

For detailed information on **India is improving its undersea cable network** [read this article here](#)

#### Role and Expansion of Subsea Cables

- 1. Digital backbone and growth:** These cables are the backbone of information flows. They are growing, expanding, and being reconfigured to meet demand.
- 2. India's current and planned links:** Eighteen systems connect India today, with four more proposed. IAX provides about 240 Tbps, IEX 210 Tbps, and Google-part-owned Raman offers 400 Tbps toward the Middle East and Europe.
- 3. Next-wave scale and projects:** About 500,000 km of new cables are planned, adding roughly 20,000 Tbps. Meta's Project Waterworth will connect Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa, and the US.



## Rising Risks and Repairs

1. **Fault causes and frequency:** Ageing, ship anchors, fishing trollies, and suspected sabotage drive faults. Fifty-five major faults occurred in the last two years.
2. **Repair timelines and burden:** Average repair takes about 55 days. One core fibre cut near Taiwan needed nearly 170 days. Repair ships cost \$80–130 million and require specialised crews and tools.
3. **Conflict-linked incidents:** Seabed warfare has resurfaced with the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Taiwan saw major cuts in early 2023; its Matsu Islands went offline. In June 2025, a Chinese captain of a Togolese-registered vessel was convicted and jailed three years for damaging Taiwan's cables.

## Strategic Chokepoints and Redundancy

1. **Singapore's centrality:** Over 90 carriers connect through 40 systems at Singapore, making it a vulnerable Indo-Pacific node. Seven systems link India to Singapore for regional traffic.
2. **Diversifying interconnection points:** Carriers and system providers are seeking alternatives to Singapore. The goal is to manage any route failure through substitute interconnection points.
3. **Leased capacity for continuity:** Most telcos lease from two or more systems. This allows rerouting when faults occur.

## Technology and Operations for Resilience

1. **Joint repair capability:** Governments and carriers can jointly support repair facilities and crews. An institutional mechanism would enable rapid recovery after failures.
2. **Monitoring and self-healing:** Unmanned Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and self-healing cables can reduce repair time. Effective incidence reporting helps mobilise resources as soon as faults occur.
3. **Regional hotspots:** An ORF report notes the Red Sea as a damage hotspot, largely tied to Houthi attacks on merchant vessels linked to the Gaza war.

## Legal Models and India's Policy Imperatives

1. **Cable protection zones:** Geofenced protection zones deter intrusions. Australia's Schedule 3A to the Telecommunications Act 1997 applies criminal penalties for wilful damage.
2. **Capacity-building initiatives:** Australia's DFAT has set up a Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre. It offers technical assistance and training across the Indo-Pacific.
3. **Steps for India:** India should adopt similar protections at landing stations. Extending measures to Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep links will add resilience to national Internet infrastructure

## Question for practice:

Discuss risks to submarine cable networks and measures to strengthen resilience in india

## Bihar migrants face a silent voter purge

**Source:** The post Bihar migrants face a silent voter purge has been created, based on the article "India's democracy is failing the migrant citizen" published in "The Hindu" on 21st August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper1- Population and associated issues.

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**Context:** Bihar's Special Intensive Revision has deleted nearly 3.5 million names (4.4% of voters) as "permanently migrated" after hurried house-to-house checks. For circular and split-family migrants, this means losing the vote both at destinations and at home. The article warns of an unfolding, silent disenfranchisement.

For detailed information on **Ensuring voting rights for India's migrant population** [read this article here](#)

### A sweeping deletion and its consequences

1. **Scale and label:** Nearly 3.5 million voters were removed during SIR. Many were marked "permanently migrated" only because they were absent when verification teams arrived.
2. **Migration misread:** Locked homes and split-family arrangements are common among the poor. The state is reading these realities as abandonment of electoral rights.
3. **Double exclusion:** Migrants cannot vote where they work and are now struck off at origin. This creates permanent disenfranchisement.
4. **Economic lifeline ignored:** Out-migration sustains Bihar's households and economy. Treating mobility as desertion erases the poor from the democratic record.

### A sedentary electoral design in a mobile society

1. **Residence-tethered rules:** Registration relies on proof of address and in-person checks. Migrants fail these tests.
2. **Precarious housing:** Many live in rented rooms, construction sites, footpaths, or slums. Documentation is unavailable or denied.
3. **Politics of exclusion:** Regionalism and sub-nationalism cast migrants as job-stealers or threats. Domicile norms and private-sector quota demands express these sentiments.
4. **Host-state resistance:** Fears of altered outcomes discourage destination registration. Migrants remain stuck: unregistered there, deleted here.

### Evidence on turnout and migration

1. **Study findings:** A 2015 TISS study funded by the Election Commission confirmed marginalisation in host-state processes. It identified a triple burden: administrative barriers, digital illiteracy, and social exclusion.
2. **Turnout correlation:** Lower turnout correlates with higher migration in source States. Bihar's SIR widens this turnout gap instead of closing it.
3. **Comparative turnout:** Bihar averaged 53.2% across its last four Assembly polls. Gujarat and Karnataka averaged 66.4% and 70.7%, respectively.
4. **Mobility data:** Visitor location data suggest seven million circular migrants leave Bihar annually. About 4.8 million migrate June–September; 2.7 million return for festivals in October–November. Many returning during an election year will still be unable to vote without cross-state verification.

### Portability gaps and dual belonging

1. **Ration portability limits:** Since 2019, only 3.3 lakh Bihar households used One Nation One Ration Card portability by May 2025. Dual residency fears and hurdles restrict transfers.
2. **Parallel with voter IDs:** Migrants keep origin documents due to insecurity in host States. This is not indifference to civic duty.
3. **Demonising mobility:** The message is blunt: if not at home when officials knock, the vote disappears. Dual belonging is penalised.
4. **Border complexities:** Along the 1,751-km India–Nepal open border, "roti-beti" ties shape movement and marriage. New documentation norms and restrictive citizenship readings threaten women's legal and electoral status, adding gendered and xenophobic edges to exclusion.

### Steps to prevent a silent purge

1. **Portable voter identity:** India should adopt mobile, flexible voter IDs. The Election Commission must halt blanket deletions and cross-verify with destination rolls.
2. **Grassroots re-enrolment:** Empower panchayats and civil society to run migrant outreach and re-registration drives.
3. **Data-led governance:** Replicate Kerala's migration surveys in high-origin States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
4. **Avoiding rupture:** Without these measures, India risks the largest silent voter purge since Independence, targeting poor migrants seeking bread, dignity, and work.

### Question for practice:

Examine how Bihar's Special Intensive Revision has disenfranchised migrant voters and what remedies are proposed.

### India needs strong space laws for growth

**Source:** The post India needs strong space laws for growth has been created, based on the article "Why India needs a national space law" published in "The Hindu" on 21st August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Achievements of Indians in science & technology

**Context:** India will celebrate its second National Space Day on August 23. **Missions advance fast, but law lags.** The article argues that **enforceable national space legislation** must match India's exploration and commercial ambitions.

#### National momentum, legal lag

1. **Celebrations and missions:** Chandrayaan-3 landed near the lunar south pole. Gaganyaan, future Chandrayaan missions, and the Bharat Antariksh Station are planned. **Ambition is high.**
2. **Policy intent versus legal gap:** The programme grows, yet the **legal architecture remains weak. Law must guide exploration, innovation, and commerce.**
3. **Why this matters now:** Rising activity increases risk and responsibility. **Without clear rules, growth slows and disputes rise.**

#### Global frameworks and their limits

1. **Foundational UN principles:** The 1967 Outer Space Treaty makes **space the province of all mankind**, bars national appropriation, and places **state responsibility** for all national activities, public or private.
2. **Treaties need domestic effect:** Companion agreements set rights and liability. **They are not self-executing.** States must implement them at home.
3. **Call for national legislation:** UNOOSA's Aarti Holla-Maini says **national laws give domestic effect** to UN principles and enable safe, sustainable growth. **India has ratified key treaties but lacks a comprehensive law.**

#### Why national legislation matters

1. **Predictability and clarity:** UNOOSA's Rossana Deim-Hoffmann notes that national laws provide **predictability, legal clarity, and stability** for government and industry.
2. **Lessons from other countries:** **Japan, Luxembourg, and the U.S.** have frameworks for licensing, liability coverage, and commercial rights.

**3. Policy is not enough:** Policy signals intent; law creates enforceable structures that investors and operators rely on.

#### India's incremental strategy

**1. Two interdependent aspects:** Ranjana Kaul lists two parts: **(i) technical regulations** for commercial operations under Article VI, and **(ii) an overarching "space activities law."**

**2. Progress on authorisation:** India issued the **Catalogue of Indian Standards for Space Industry**, the **Indian Space Policy** for non-governmental activities, and **IN-SPACe NPG 2023** for authorising space activities.

**3. The pending textual framework:** The **overarching statute** to embed Outer Space Treaty norms **is still pending**.

#### Industry needs and operational hurdles

**1. Statutory authority for IN-SPACe:** Gp.Capt. T.H. Anand Rao (retd.) seeks **formal statutory backing** for IN-SPACe as the central regulator.

**2. Unified, clear licensing:** He urges **clear licensing rules, timelines, fees, and reasons** for decisions to avoid **multi-ministry delays**, especially for dual-use technologies.

**3. Capital and FDI clarity:** He calls for **clear FDI rules** (e.g., **100% automatic route for satellite components**) to help startups scale.

**4. Liability, insurance, and IP:** India is internationally responsible. Companies should carry **third-party insurance**, with **affordable options for startups**. **Strong IP protection** should encourage partnerships and **prevent talent flight**.

#### Safety, debris, and oversight

**1. Accident probes and debris control:** Rao proposes **mandatory accident investigations** and **enforceable space-debris laws**.

**2. Data and communications alignment:** A **unified framework** for space data and satellite communications is needed.

**3. Independent appellate review:** An **independent appellate body** would reduce conflicts of interest. **Without statute, IN-SPACe decisions face procedural vulnerability.**

#### Question for practice:

Discuss the need for comprehensive national space legislation in India and the key provisions it should include.

#### Affection economy returns communities to the center of power

**Source:** The post Affection economy returns communities to the center of power has been created, based on the article "**The affection economy**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 21st August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** **GS Paper1-** Society And **Gs paper3-**Developmental model across the world

**Context:** Power in each era rests on a core currency. Today, affection — via communities, kinship, and cohorts — shapes value, alliances, and growth. Digital change and pandemic isolation weakened old bonds and elevated communities, turning care and belonging into assets.

For detailed information on **Why state must cede power to communities** [read this article here](#)

## The Affection Economy: Concept and Stakes

1. **From older currencies to care:** Earlier ages prized land, minerals, demography, and innovation. Now success depends on affection. It guides purpose and determines power.
2. **Building blocks of cooperation:** Cohorts, kinships, and communities are the units that create value. Curating and nurturing them is a critical capability.
3. **Attention and data are not enough:** Past decades birthed the attention and data economies. A divided world now needs affection as the binding force.

## International Relations and Soft Power

1. **Like-mindedness as strategy:** Nations seek “like-minded” partners. Shared purpose sustains direction and trust, even amid turbulence from the current American president.
2. **Networks define leadership:** What separates countries today is the networks they lead. Affection capital builds and protects these networks.
3. **China, the US, and ceilings:** China is respected but not loved, limiting its rise. The US had no such ceiling until it built one for itself.
4. **Running down stored capital:** The United States long relied on private actors to cultivate affection. President Donald Trump is rapidly depleting that reserve.

## Corporate and State Playbooks

1. **Competing for affection:** Firms and states now expand through empathetic engagement and care. Both vie to be embraced by communities.
2. **Dubai's curated cohorts:** Dubai designs visas and growth policies to assemble a “golden cohort.” The aim is to make people like, fly, buy, and live Dubai.
3. **Other national models:** The UAE is a leading example. Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore also build soft power around communities of interest.
4. **Indian and American cases:** Dhirubhai Ambani's stakeholder capitalism rallied co-owners and now yields a data-equity community, taking broadband to the bottom of the pyramid. Apple scaled global networks that look to California for inspiration.

## Roots in Social Capital

1. **Digital flattening and fragile bonds:** Technology replaced neighborhood and workplace ties with diffuse online connections. Individualisation advanced for decades.
2. **Putnam's warning:** In *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam argued that social capital was declining. Civic consciousness fell with it.
3. **Trust as an economic engine:** Francis Fukuyama's *Trust* showed how social capital creates trust, and how trust drives stability and growth.
4. **Dark substitutes for community:** Putnam notes that extreme movements offer imitation communities. Steve Bannon cited *Bowling Alone* as inspiration for a political cure to isolation.

## Covid and the New Primacy of Community

1. **Pandemic as accelerant:** Covid deepened isolation and weakened workplaces. It elevated the solo actor.
2. **Two sides of one coin:** The digital nomad and the lone-wolf terrorist show two outcomes of the same shift.
3. **What the future rewards:** Those who understand that communities again matter most will lead. Prosperity flows from care and belonging.
4. **A governing maxim:** “Vasudhaiva kutumbakam” captures this turn: One Earth, One Family, One Future. It is time to return to affection.



**Question for practice:**

Examine how the affection economy reshapes power through communities and trust, with examples from Dubai, the United States, China, and India?

**India secures chip technology through manufacturing and global investments**

**Source:** The post India secures chip technology through manufacturing and global investments has been created, based on the article “**India's chip challenge: To build at home, we must invest abroad**” published in “**Live Mint**” on 21st August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper3-** Science and technology-Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology.

**Context:** India's semiconductor ambition is framed as national security, not just industry. The Prime Minister's Independence Day remark triggers a push for sovereignty over core technologies. The article maps early steps, hard realities, and a strategy that combines domestic capacity with bold, outward-looking investment.

For detailed information on **Semiconductor Industry in India- Significance and Challenges** [read this article here](#)

**Semiconductors as Sovereignty and Security**

- 1. Sovereignty through technology control:** Semiconductors underpin power in a fractured world. The goal is to influence and control critical platforms, not merely use them.
- 2. Past obstacles and renewed resolve:** Prior fabrication attempts were blocked. India now treats self-sufficiency as a long, arduous, but necessary journey.
- 3. Policy intent beyond symbolism:** The speech signals a doctrine: chips are a new pillar of national security.

**Current Domestic Push and Early Steps**

- 1. Institutional architecture and incentives:** The India Semiconductor Mission began in 2021. It offers production-linked incentives and 50% capital aid for components and chips.
- 2. Near-term manufacturing focus:** Initial plans target less advanced nodes. Packaging and testing are prioritized where entry barriers are lower.
- 3. Ecosystem building and talent:** The state hosts events to attract foreign firms while developing talent through education and skilling programmes.
- 4. On-ground projects and coordination:** A Tata fabrication plant in Gujarat and a Micron packaging facility in Sanand mark progress. Centre-state alignment is urged for speed.

**Scale of the Challenge and Moving Target**

- 1. Length, cost, and limited shortcuts:** This climb is immense and expensive. Even relentless execution cannot compress every technological step.
- 2. China's costly lessons:** China invested well over \$100 billion for a decade with full state power. Progress is large, yet behind the cutting edge.
- 3. Frontier racing ahead:** Leaders in Taiwan, South Korea, and the US invest hundreds of billions to push frontiers.

**4. The widening-gap paradox:** Starting \$100 billion and 10 years behind, five years and \$50 billion later the gap could be \$200 billion and 15 years. Progress may not slow divergence.

### Leveraging Private Capital for Strategic Reach

**1. Fiscal limits versus risk appetite:** Government resources are stretched. India's private markets brim with risk-seeking investors.

**2. A new investment vehicle:** Proposed is a strategic fund, sovereign-like yet privately capitalized, investing abroad rather than building at home. It channels private wealth now parked in low-yield foreign debt into stakes in leaders.

**3. Influence through ownership:** By taking meaningful stakes in cutting-edge firms, India gains board seats, voice, and directional influence beyond financial returns.

**4. Access and resilience:** Such stakes secure access to roadmaps, deepen technology understanding from within, and reduce long-term vulnerability.

### Historical Precedent and Global Imperative

**1. Past patterns of resource security:** Rising powers long secured resources and routes beyond their borders. East Asian successes often acquired assets and know-how abroad.

**2. Technology as the critical resource:** In the twenty-first century, the most vital resource is technology, with semiconductors at the forefront.

**3. Dual pathway to self-sufficiency:** True security needs concrete at home and capital abroad. India must build domestically while investing boldly in the world's labs and boardrooms.

### Question for practice:

Examine how leveraging private Indian capital abroad complements domestic efforts to achieve semiconductor self-sufficiency.

### Teaching a lesson cannot justify custodial violence

**Source:** The post Teaching a lesson cannot justify custodial violence has been created, based on the article "Justice is not about 'teaching someone a lesson'" published in "The Hindu" on 22nd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper2- Governance- criminal Justice system

**Context:** A Chhattisgarh High Court ruling on a custodial death said police intended "to teach a lesson." A Dalit man died hours after a clean medical check. It legitimises brutality and weakens constitutional policing.

For detailed information **Custodial Violence in India** [read this article here](#)

### The Case and Judicial Finding

**1. Troubling facts and timeline:** A Dalit man, arrested for alleged public misbehaviour, was medically cleared without injuries and died in custody within hours. The postmortem recorded 26 wounds.

**2. Trial conviction and charges:** The trial court convicted four officers of murder, recognising a fatal assault shown by the postmortem and custody.

3. **High Court alteration of offence:** The High Court reduced the offence to culpable homicide, finding no intent to kill, only knowledge the assault could cause death.

4. **The “teach a lesson” remark:** By noting an intent “to teach a lesson,” the court cast violence as discipline. In a judgment, such phrasing shapes how misconduct is viewed.

### Deterrence Logic and its Dangers

1. **Not a constitutional principle:** “Teaching a lesson” is not a legal standard. It reflects vigilante logic where fear replaces rights and procedures.

2. **Normalising torture:** Treating violence as corrective zeal normalises custodial torture. Brutality appears as discipline rather than illegality.

3. **Emboldening and steering policy:** This framing invites officers to act as enforcer and judge. Judicial language then shapes policy, making future misconduct more likely.

### Caste, Identity, and the SC/ST Act

1. **Erased victim identity:** The deterrence narrative obscures the victim’s Scheduled Caste identity. In rural India, upper-caste officers beating a Dalit detainee signals caste-coded enforcement.

2. **Acquittal under the Act:** The trial court acquitted the prime accused under the SC/ST Act, and the High Court did not interfere, limiting accountability for caste-based harm.

3. **Demand for explicit proof:** Requiring explicit proof of caste motive ignores structural power. Without slurs or declarations, the Act is rarely triggered.

4. **Consequence of a narrow lens:** This narrow reading denies justice in cases the law sought to address, weakening the statute’s protection.

### Precedents Versus Persistent Abuse

1. **Supreme Court safeguards:** Judgments like D.K. Basu, Ashok K. Johri, State of U.P., and Munshi Singh Gautam require transparency, safeguards, and strict limits on police force.

2. **Disproportionate victims:** Custodial deaths persist at alarming levels, disproportionately affecting Dalits, Adivasis, and the poor, despite clear judicial guidance.

3. **Weak enforcement and conflicted inquiries:** Compliance is sporadic, and inquiries are often led by implicated institutions. This undermines accountability and enables repeat violations.

### Pathways for Judicial Integrity and Reform

1. **Reject deterrent framing and reassert policing limits:** Courts must reject deterrent justifications and reaffirm police are constitutional functionaries, not disciplinarians. Using force for public nuisance erodes dignity, proportionality, and due process.

2. **Apply law and strengthen oversight:** The SC/ST Act should be robustly applied wherever social power is weaponised. Independent accountability and enforceable safeguards are essential.

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3. **Guard against moral shelter:** Courts must not offer moral cover to extra-legal instincts. A Constitution rooted in dignity and equality cannot coexist with “lessons” written in bruises.

#### Question for practise:

Discuss how framing custodial violence as “teaching a lesson” undermines constitutional policing and accountability in the Chhattisgarh case.

#### **Bihar voter deletions disenfranchise young women amid migration ambiguity**

**Source:** The post Bihar voter deletions disenfranchise young women amid migration ambiguity has been created, based on the article “**How women migrant electors are disenfranchised in the Bihar SIR process**” published in “**The Hindu**” on 22nd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic: GS Paper1- Population and associated issues.**

**Context:** Bihar’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) produced a draft roll on August 1, 2025. Supreme Court-mandated, AC-wise lists enabled granular analysis. Patterns indicate migration-linked removals concentrated among young women, raising concerns of **systemic bias** and **disenfranchisement**.

For detailed information on **Ensuring voting rights for India’s migrant population** [read this article here](#)

#### **Scale and Patterns of Deletions**

1. **Overall magnitude and timeline:** The EC used the **June 24, 2025 base roll** to compile deletions for the draft published on **August 1, 2025**.
2. **Reasons for removal:** Over **55%** were **permanently shifted or untraceable**. About **34%** were **deceased**. Only **10.8%** were **multiple enrolments**.
3. **Granular constituency insights:** AC-wise lists allowed *The Hindu’s* Data Point analysis. In the **top nine ACs**, **4.73 lakh** names were deleted, and **56%** were **women**.
4. **Female-specific patterns:** Of **2.68 lakh** deleted women in these ACs, **46%** were permanently shifted, **27%** untraceable, **20%** deceased, and **6%** multiple enrolments. Of **1.23 lakh** women removed as permanently shifted, **66%** were **18–39**.

#### **Gendered Migration and Built-in Bias**

1. **Marriage as the driver:** Census data show **marriage** dominates female migration; in Bihar, it accounts for **85.7%** of female migrants.
2. **Signal from age-wise deletions:** Concentration among women **18–39** classified as permanently shifted indicates exclusion of **married women en masse**.
3. **Design concerns in SIR 2025:** The pattern reflects an **exclusionary migrant bias** and a **gender bias** against young married women.
4. **Ambiguity of “ordinary residence”:** Eligibility requires being “**ordinarily resident**,” but statutes **do not** define it, enabling **arbitrary deletions**.

#### **Process Design and Legal Gaps**

1. **Extra-legal procedural hurdle:** SIR required existing electors to submit an **enumeration form within 30 days**. This added an **extra-legal** filter that burdens migrants, especially women.

2. **Narrow framing of migration:** The **June 24 SIR order** mentions education and livelihood but **omits marriage**, the principal female migration reason.

3. **Multiple entries vs migration:** **Multiple-enrolment deletions are far fewer** than **migration-related deletions**, weakening the rationale for mass removals.

### Risks of Disenfranchisement

1. **Deletion without re-enrolment:** Removing “permanently shifted” electors **without ensuring re-enrolment** at current residence leads to **disenfranchisement**.

2. **Unsettled legal guidance:** The **EC Manual (March 2023)** notes **Section 20(7)** empowers EROs to decide ordinary residence, yet **no rules exist**.

3. **Bihar’s migration reality:** Launching SIR in a high out-migration State without clarifying migrant status produced mass exclusion. A focus on “**foreign illegal migrants**” diverted attention.

### Path Forward and Immediate Measures

1. **Define principles and act now:** Clarifying “ordinary residence,” including **marriage-driven migration**, will take time. Immediate safeguards are essential.

2. **Current response is inadequate:** By **August 21**, only **70,895** claims/objections and **2.28 lakh** Form 6 applications were filed. Roughly **36 lakh** marked as shifted or untraceable may **remain excluded**.

3. **Targeted corrective steps:** **Extend deadlines by 30 days**, **re-verify** shifted and untraceable cases, **mandate re-enrolment** in current constituencies, and **let women choose** natal or marital household rolls.

### Question for practice:

Examine how Bihar’s SIR 2025 deletions, driven by migration and unclear “ordinary residence,” disproportionately excluded young married women and risked disenfranchisement?

### India must overhaul vocational education for broad-based job growth

**Source:** The post India must overhaul vocational education for broad-based job growth has been created, based on the article “**The skills check**” published in “**Indian Express**” on 22nd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper2- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education.

**Context:** With a **volatile external sector**, the Prime Minister announced reforms on **August 15**. Beyond **GST recalibration**, the article urges overhauling **vocational education and training (VET)** to raise productivity and employability. A **rote-heavy system** cannot supply a future-ready workforce.

### Scale and outcomes of India’s VET

1. **Low formal training and seat utilisation:** Only **4%** of India’s workforce is formally trained. The system has **14,000+ ITIs** and **25 lakh** seats, but enrolment was **12 lakh in 2022**—just **48% utilisation**.

2. **Modest employment after training:** In **2018**, only **63%** of ITI graduates were employed. VET systems in **Germany, Singapore, and Canada** achieve **80–90%**.

3. **Demand-led growth needs skills:** GST may lift demand, but **job-rich growth** needs skills; the weak VET pipeline restrains productivity and formal jobs.



### Structural reasons for weak performance

- 1. Late integration in schooling:** Germany integrates VET at **upper-secondary** via a **dual system** with paid apprenticeships. India adds VET **after high school**, reducing hands-on time and early orientation.
- 2. No academic progression or credit transfer:** Singapore provides **clear pathways** from technical education and polytechnics to university. India lacks **formal progression** and **credit transfer**, deterring students who want academic options open.
- 3. Quality and perception deficits:** Many courses are **outdated**; **over one-third** instructor posts are vacant due to limited **NSTI** capacity. **Irregular grading** and absent feedback weaken quality.
- 4. Thin employer engagement and PPP gaps:** Employer participation is **limited**; ITIs depend on government funds; **MSMEs** have capacity limits; **Sector Skill Councils** lack state presence.

### International practices that work

- 1. Germany's dual system:** Early embedding with **paid apprenticeships** improves employability and smooths school-to-work transitions.
- 2. Singapore's quality and lifelong upskilling:** **Industry-led design**, strong instructors, and routine audits ensure relevance. **SkillsFuture** supports continuous learning.
- 3. Shared financing and co-design:** Governments fund institutions; employers pay apprenticeships, share costs, and **co-design curricula**. This aligns training with labour demand.

### Reform priorities for India

- 1. Integrate VET early and create pathways:** Implement **NEP 2020** school integration. **Fast-track the National Credit Framework** with recognised certifications and progression routes.
- 2. Raise training quality and capacity:** Align courses with **local demand** via market assessments. **Expand NSTIs**, hire instructors, and strengthen **ITI grading** with trainee feedback.
- 3. Build strong partnerships with industry:** Scale the Private Training Partner model. Engage MSMEs and use CSR funding.

### Financing and current schemes—what's missing

- 1. Invest more and link funding to performance:** India spends ~3% on VET vs **10–13%** in **Germany, Singapore, Canada**. Improve viability via lower per-student costs, **revenue autonomy**, and **performance-linked funding**.
- 2. Scheme design focused on jobs, not skills:** **ELI Part A** gives up to ₹15,000 to first-time **EPFO**-registered workers. **ELI Part B** pays employers ₹3,000/month per new hire. Both promote **formalisation** but **lack skilling** components.
- 3. Internships and upgrades without clear outcomes:** The **PM Internship Scheme** offers **one-year placements** but no route to permanent jobs. The **ITI Upgradation Initiative** modernises **1,000 ITIs** with industry

partners, not necessarily training quality. These measures **tinker at the margins**; a **system overhaul** is essential for VET to become a reliable path to jobs and a **Viksit Bharat**.

### Question for practice:

Examine the reasons for low VET uptake and employment in India and the reforms proposed to improve outcomes.

### Climate adaptation creates new markets and growth opportunities

**Source:** The post Climate adaptation creates new markets and growth opportunities has been created, based on the article “**Climate resilience spending can generate a new wave of startups**” published in “**Live Mint**” on 22nd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper3- Environment And Growth, development and employment.

**Context:** Adaptation is not only a defensive cost. It is a growth market. **Public spending on resilience is creating private demand** for climate-ready goods, services, and technologies, opening new commercial avenues.

### Reframing Adaptation as Opportunity

**1. From cost to market:** Government resilience projects generate contracts. They create **markets for climate-ready infrastructure, materials, and services**. Adaptation becomes a pipeline of commercial activity.

**2. Public capital to private delivery:** Public institutions set requirements, allocate funds, and procure private solutions. **Capital flows mainly from public sources to private executors** as resilience enters programme design.

**3. Current finance mix and gap:** Global adaptation finance was **\$63 billion in 2021-22 (<5% of climate finance)**. Mitigation dominates. Developing countries need **~\$212 billion annually by 2030**, revealing a large gap.

### India's Market Size and Demand Signals

**1. Investment needs and sectors:** India's business-ready adaptation market could be **\$24 billion by 2030**. Annual needs for resilient infrastructure, agriculture, water, and health **may exceed \$100 billion**. CPI highlights **water management, coastal protection, and disaster risk reduction** as tangible opportunities. **Agriculture, technology, finance, and insurance** stand to gain.

**2. Urban infrastructure surge:** The World Bank projects **\$2.4 trillion** in urban climate infrastructure by 2050. This includes **flood defences, water supply, and drainage networks**.

**3. Early corporate participation:** **VA Tech Wabag, Jain Irrigation, and Larsen & Toubro** are executing projects in **AMRUT, Smart Cities, and the National Water Mission**, where resilience is embedded in procurement.

### Innovation Priorities and Startup Pathways

**1. Frontier agriculture and materials:** Early bets and long horizons are needed. Priorities include **drought-tolerant seeds, bio-stimulants, and resilient construction** such as **cool roofs, permeable paving, and flood-resistant coatings**.

**2. Water and climate intelligence tools:** Opportunities include **rainwater harvesting, decentralised wastewater treatment, smart metering, distributed water systems, and climate-risk intelligence** using remote sensing, forecasting, and early warnings.

**3. Health systems for climate emergencies:** Health infrastructure must handle **heatwaves, floods, and other climate-linked crises**. **Resilience-first startups** can fill gaps where market-ready solutions are scarce.

### Mobilising Capital and Policy Actions

**1. Present channels and constraints:** Most finance is public or donor-led. Private capital is constrained by **limited risk data, thin bankable pipelines, and low regulatory clarity**.

**2. Unlocking private finance:** India should catalyse an ecosystem via **blended finance, procurement incentives, and resilience-focused R&D missions** to de-risk and crowd in investors.

**3. Scale and economic rationale:** The RBI estimates **₹85.6 trillion by 2030 (~2.5% of GDP)** for mitigation and adaptation. This protects operations, manages risks, and opens new avenues.

### Strategic Outlook

**1. Demand, reforms, and advantage:** Without higher spending, **risks rise and growth is constrained**. **Public demand will stay strong**, while reforms and financial innovation open markets. Adaptation now **resembles a necessity-anchored growth industry**. With **heatwaves, floods, and water stress** accelerating, **early movers** that build local markets, invest in R&D, and nurture entrepreneurship will gain **economic and ecological advantages** beyond disaster management.

### Question for practice:

Examine how public spending on climate adaptation creates private market opportunities in India

### Delhi needs sterilisation and vaccination not cruel dog shelters

**Source:** The post Delhi needs sterilisation and vaccination not cruel dog shelters has been created, based on the article **"A Court order that was barking up the wrong tree"** published in **"The Hindu"** on 23rd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper2- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

**Context:** On August 11, 2025, the Supreme Court ordered Delhi's street dogs confined; on August 22, 2025, it stayed that order. The initial decree ignored science, law, and compassion, and distracted from governance failures. With the final hearing pending, **humane, evidence-based options** require focus.

For detailed information on **Supreme Court order on street dogs raises legal concerns** [read this article here](#)

### What the Court Ordered and Why It Matters

**1. A flawed decree and reversal:** The order mandated citywide incarceration of street dogs. **Its stay on August 22, 2025** exposed deep policy and legal flaws.

**2. A sentence without compassion:** **Lakhs of sentient beings** would face misery and likely death. The directive sidelined constitutional compassion and societal duty.

**3. A diversion from real crises:** The dog focus masked governance failures: **alleged voter theft**, crumbling infrastructure, monsoon flooding, corruption, and inflation. **MCD's statutory lapses** persisted.

**4. Costly and impractical fantasy:** Mass shelters would cost **thousands of crores** and lack capacity. The plan promised chaos, not safety, for people or animals.

### Why Mass Sheltering Fails

- 1. Public health catastrophe:** Overcrowded shelters fuel **aggression, injuries, and disease**. Outbreaks would create hazardous **carcass-disposal** burdens for poorly protected staff.
- 2. Behavioural harm is predictable:** Research, including **Leslie Irvine** and **David Tuber (1999)**, shows confinement causes severe distress and dangerous behaviour. Welfare declines sharply.
- 3. Zoonotic risk magnifier:** Shelters can become epicentres for **rabies and leptospirosis**, endangering dogs and workers. Public health risk rises, not falls.
- 4. Imagined outcomes in Delhi:** Mixing territorial dogs would trigger **fight and casualties**. Control would collapse as stress and injuries escalate quickly.

#### Ecological and Policy Contradictions

- 1. The vacuum effect:** Mass removal creates an **ecological vacuum**. Dogs from **Haryana and Uttar Pradesh** would migrate to food sources. Border policing is absurd.
- 2. Losing urban scavengers:** Removing dogs cuts **scavenging**. **Rodent and monkey** numbers could surge, bringing new public health problems.
- 3. Against WHO and NAPRE guidance:** **WHO** and India's **NAPRE** endorse **mass sterilisation and vaccination** for control. The order contradicted these scientific guidelines.
- 4. Social misrepresentation:** It is not **elite versus poor**. Research shows street dogs 'symbiosis with marginalised residents', including homeless people who rely on them.

#### Evidence and Law Favour ABC

- 1. Proven programme, poor execution:** **ABC** has worked, including in **Jaipur**. A **2010 Jodhpur study** showed stable declines and high vaccination. **MCD missed targets and budgets**.
- 2. Legal inconsistency corrected:** The **Pardiwala** order clashed with **Maheshwari (2024)** upholding **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**. The **August 22, 2025** modification restored coherence.
- 3. A constitutional duty of compassion:** **Article 51A(g)** mandates compassion for living creatures. **State-sanctioned cruelty** violates India's moral and legal framework.
- 4. Accountability, not scapegoats:** The core problem is **MCD dereliction**, not dogs. Statutory duties and humane protocols remain **unimplemented**.

#### A Targeted, Humane Way Forward

- 1. Focused risk management:** Address bites with **evidence**. Capture and observe specific dogs after **clear, unprovoked attacks**. Avoid indiscriminate round-ups.
- 2. Implement proven protocols:** Scale **sterilisation and vaccination**. Establish **uniform, humane protocols** aligned with **WHO/NAPRE** for population and rabies control.
- 3. Re-centre governance:** Fix **waste, drainage, and urban services** shaping human-animal interactions. **Hold MCD accountable** for execution.
- 4. Choose science and compassion:** Reject **dog prisons**. A safer city comes from **ABC**, vaccination, and responsible governance—**science with compassion**.



### Question for practice:

Evaluate the scientific, ecological, and legal flaws in the Supreme Court's initial order to shelter Delhi's street dogs.

### India's courts must adopt artificial intelligence responsibly and transparently

**Source:** The post India's courts must adopt artificial intelligence responsibly and transparently has been created, based on the article "Set the guardrails for AI use in courtrooms" published in "The Hindu" on 23rd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper2- Justice And GS paper 3-Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

**Context:** July this year, the Kerala High Court issued the country's **first policy** on AI use in district courts. It seeks **speed and efficiency** in a system with **five crore pending cases**, but stresses safeguards. The article maps **risks, gaps, and governance** for responsible adoption.

For detailed information on **How AI Can Improve India's Justice System** [read this article here](#)

### Early Policy and Promised Benefits

- 1. First-of-its-kind guidance:** Kerala's policy directly regulates AI in judicial processes. It is **timely** and sets **strict safeguards**. It shows openness to innovation with caution.
- 2. Efficiency gains for a burdened system:** AI can assist translation, transcription, and defect detection in filings. These tools promise **faster routine work** in overburdened courts.
- 3. Experimental deployments underway:** Some tools are used on a **non-commercial test basis** for oral arguments and depositions. Benefits must be weighed against risk and capacity limits.

### Practical Risks in Seemingly Simple Tasks

- 1. Translation and transcription errors:** A judge saw "leave granted" rendered as **chhutti sweekaar**. In **Noel Anthony Clarke v. Guardian News & Media Ltd. (2025) EWHC 550 (KB)**, an AI tool repeatedly transcribed "Noel" as "no". **OpenAI's Whisper** sometimes **hallucinates** phrases, especially with long pauses.
- 2. Research and citation pitfalls:** Search bias can **invisibilise precedents** by nudging toward user-patterned results. A **Journal of Empirical Legal Studies** study shows legal LLMs can **make up case law** and **cite incorrect sources**.
- 3. Risks to adjudication quality:** Over-reliance on rule-based outputs can **sideline human judgment**, context, and careful use of precedent in decisions.

### Pilots, Dependencies, and Risk Management Gaps

- 1. Undefined guardrails for pilots:** Pilots often lack **time-frames, success parameters, and data access, storage, and use** rules for **non-public, sensitive, or personal data**.
- 2. Dependencies and infrastructure needs:** "Test" access may create **dependencies** without a clear path to sustainable adoption. AI needs **reliable Internet** and **adequate hardware**.
- 3. Tender patterns and oversight reality:** Tenders show **incomplete risk frameworks**. **Manual vetting** by retired judges, advocates, and translators exists, yet AI learns from changing data and can err.
- 4. Hallucinations are inherent:** Scholars note **hallucinations are a feature**, not a bug. **Human oversight** is essential in **high-risk** settings.



### Governance Measures for Responsible Adoption

- 1. Build critical AI literacy:** Judges, staff, and lawyers need **capacity building** to use tools and understand **limitations**. Judicial academies and bar associations can partner with **AI governance experts**.
- 2. Transparent courtroom use:** Guidelines should cover **personal use** for research and writing. **Litigants must be informed** if AI is used and may **opt out** of pilots or deployments where safeguards worry them.
- 3. Procure with standards:** Adopt **standardised procurement** to test **reliability** and **fitness**. **Pre-procurement** should confirm the problem and whether AI is the **best solution**. Assess **explainability**, **data management**, and **risk mitigation**.
- 4. Monitor vendor performance:** Frameworks should track **compliance** and **outcomes** beyond routine judicial expertise.

### Institutional Scaffolding and Purpose

- 1. Technology offices under eCourts:** The **eCourts Phase III Vision Document** calls for **technology offices** to assess, select, and oversee complex digital solutions and infrastructure.
- 2. Specialist support for courts:** **Dedicated specialists** can close expertise gaps and guide **comprehensive planning** for AI adoption.
- 3. Keep the justice purpose central:** AI must **serve the ends of justice**. **Efficiency** should not eclipse **nuanced reasoning** and **human decision-making**.
- 4. Mind the paper-based reality:** Most procedures remain **paper-based**. Any shift to advanced AI must **not debilitate** an **imperfect system**.

### Question for practice:

Examine the opportunities and risks of adopting artificial intelligence in the Indian judicial system as highlighted in the article.

### Citizen dialogue rebuilds trust and strengthens India's plural coexistence

**Source:** The post Citizen dialogue rebuilds trust and strengthens India's plural coexistence has been created, based on the article "**The necessity of bridges**" published in "**Indian Express**" on 23rd August 2025

**UPSC Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper1-Indian society

**Context:** Four years ago, amid rising communal polarisation, five friends began a citizen dialogue with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. Seeing Muslim alienation and fearing hardened divisions, they tested whether frank engagement with the BJP's ideological mentor could reduce mistrust and prompt corrective action.

### Origins and Intent

- 1. Personal initiative, not representation:** They met Bhagwat as concerned citizens, not Muslim delegates, because targeted policies and rhetoric had left many feeling cornered.
- 2. Why engage the RSS:** Despite claims of BJP-RSS separation, the RSS remains the ideological mother body with policy influence.
- 3. Early reactions and outreach:** The step drew cautious support and criticism. They then met clerics, priests, activists, and educators; lack of conversation was deepening mistrust.

### Nature of Dialogue

1. **A fraught history:** RSS literature has included anti-Muslim and anti-Christian rhetoric, casting minorities as outsiders to a Hindu Rashtra vision.
2. **Direct but honest exchanges:** Bhagwat expressed Hindu anxieties; the group aired Muslim concerns.
3. **Signals from Bhagwat:** He pledged to reduce differences and has at times urged unity, less hate, and tolerance.

#### Practical Recommendations

1. **Sustained dialogue platforms:** Create regular forums, local and national, for scholars, clerics, leaders, and activists to address misconceptions quickly.
2. **Joint social and cultural action:** Collaborate on relief, literacy, and health drives. Update madrasa syllabi with shared histories; hold joint festivals and celebrate major occasions together.
3. **Sensitivities and public order:** Limit loudspeakers for daily azans; run visible campaigns against cow slaughter; manage Friday prayers to avoid road blockages; promote civic responsibility among youth; avoid derogatory labels like “kafir” and “jihadis.”
4. **Engagement with laws and policy:** Consider a Uniform Civil Code if the government publishes a draft and seeks genuine feedback. Imposition without consultation, as with the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, invites resistance.

#### Reform and Reciprocity

1. **Comparative Muslim reforms.** Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Algeria have adapted family, education, and public laws.
2. **Scope for Indian Muslim reform:** Indian Muslims can pursue faith-consistent reforms that suit a plural nation.
3. **Need for reciprocity:** Such reforms will fail without reciprocal respect from Hindus and the state. Trust cannot be one-sided.

#### State, Trust, and the Path Ahead

1. **Eroding confidence in institutions:** Many minorities distrust executive and judiciary due to discriminatory laws, selective justice, and majoritarian rhetoric. Policing often appears partial, seen in Kanwar festival courtesies like flowers, feet-touching, and aerial flower showers.
2. **Equal application of law:** Confidence-building needs depolarised politics, equal enforcement, and action against hate speech—shown in deeds, not words.
3. **A choice before India:** India's strength is complex coexistence. The balance is strained; the choice is division or the harder path of conversation, reform, and mutual respect.
4. **Scaling the initiative:** The dialogue may be a drop in the ocean. More citizens and institutions must sustain engagement. Trust takes time, but small bridges matter.

#### Question for practice:

Discuss how sustained dialogue between communities, joint social action, and equal enforcement of laws can rebuild communal trust in India.

### **Make every Made in India pill safe**

**Source:** The post Make every Made in India pill safe has been created, based on the article “**Reclaiming our leadership in safe drugs**” published in “**Financial Express**” on 23rd August 2025

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

**Context:** India's pharma industry is globally vital and domestically foundational. Recent incidents and data exposing substandard and falsified medicines have triggered intense scrutiny. The article warns that credibility, public health, and hard-won access gains are at risk unless action escalates rapidly across government, industry, and society.

For detailed information on **States and the Danger of Poorly Manufactured Drugs** [read this article here](#)

#### **India's Pharma Strength and Pride**

1. **Global supply and scale:** India supplies 60% of global vaccines, 40% of US generics, and 25% of UK medicines. Exports crossed \$25 billion in 2023, with over 650 FDA-approved facilities and buyers in more than 200 countries.
2. **Domestic access and affordability:** Affordable, quality medicines support initiatives like Jan Aushadhi and Ayushman Bharat, benefiting vast populations within India.
3. **Trust at risk:** Despite global trust, uneven quality now endangers India's reputation as the “pharmacy of the world.”

#### **The SF Medicines Crisis**

1. **Prevalence and estimates:** A 2023 CRISIL–ASPA study estimates about 20% of medicines sold in India may be counterfeit or substandard. WHO warns one in ten medical products in low- and middle-income countries is SF.
2. **Human tragedies:** Ineffective chemotherapy, contaminated syrups, and misdiagnoses translate statistics into suffering for patients and families.
3. **International alarms:** Deaths linked to Indian-made cough syrups in Gambia, Uzbekistan, and Cameroon drew global headlines and concern.

#### **Public Health Consequences**

1. **Resistance and treatment failure:** SF drugs fuel antimicrobial resistance and make routine infections harder to treat.
2. **Chronic disease burden:** They compromise treatment for diabetes, cancer, and heart conditions, worsening illness and outcomes.
3. **Erosion of trust:** They corrode confidence in healthcare systems, which is hard to rebuild once lost.

#### **Government Action So Far**

1. **Enforcement drives:** Recent raids shut illegal units and seized thousands of fake drug consignments across states.
2. **Surveillance upgrades:** The Union health ministry is rolling out mandatory QR codes on top-selling medicines, upgrading Central Drugs Testing Laboratories, and promoting “Track and Trace.”
3. **First steps, not finish line:** Given the scale, these actions are necessary but insufficient.

### Gaps, Enforcement, and Accountability

1. **Awareness and access gaps:** Most consumers do not know how to verify medicines. Rural areas face unlicensed pharmacies; urban markets suffer supply-chain opacity and uneven enforcement.
2. **Criminality and penalties:** Counterfeiting is a deadly criminal act. Laws must be strengthened to treat it as endangering life, with swift, exemplary punishment.
3. **Coordination and gatekeeping:** Central and state authorities need tighter coordination and resources. Retailers and pharmacists must verify sources and reject untraceable stock.

### Industry Measures and National Call

1. **Technology and assurance:** Companies are deploying tamper-evident packaging, advanced serialisation, and real-time tracking to block counterfeits.
2. **Quality culture and collaboration:** Manufacturers conduct rigorous audits and quality checks, and work with regulators to flag irregularities; sustained collaboration with law enforcement is essential.
3. **High stakes and urgency:** Counterfeits threaten Ayushman Bharat's universal coverage goals and India's global standing. The article urges an all-of-government, industry, and society push—acting now so every “Made in India” pill guarantees safety, efficacy, and integrity.

### Question for practise:

Examine the challenges posed by substandard and falsified medicines in India and evaluate how government action, industry measures, and public awareness are addressing the crisis.