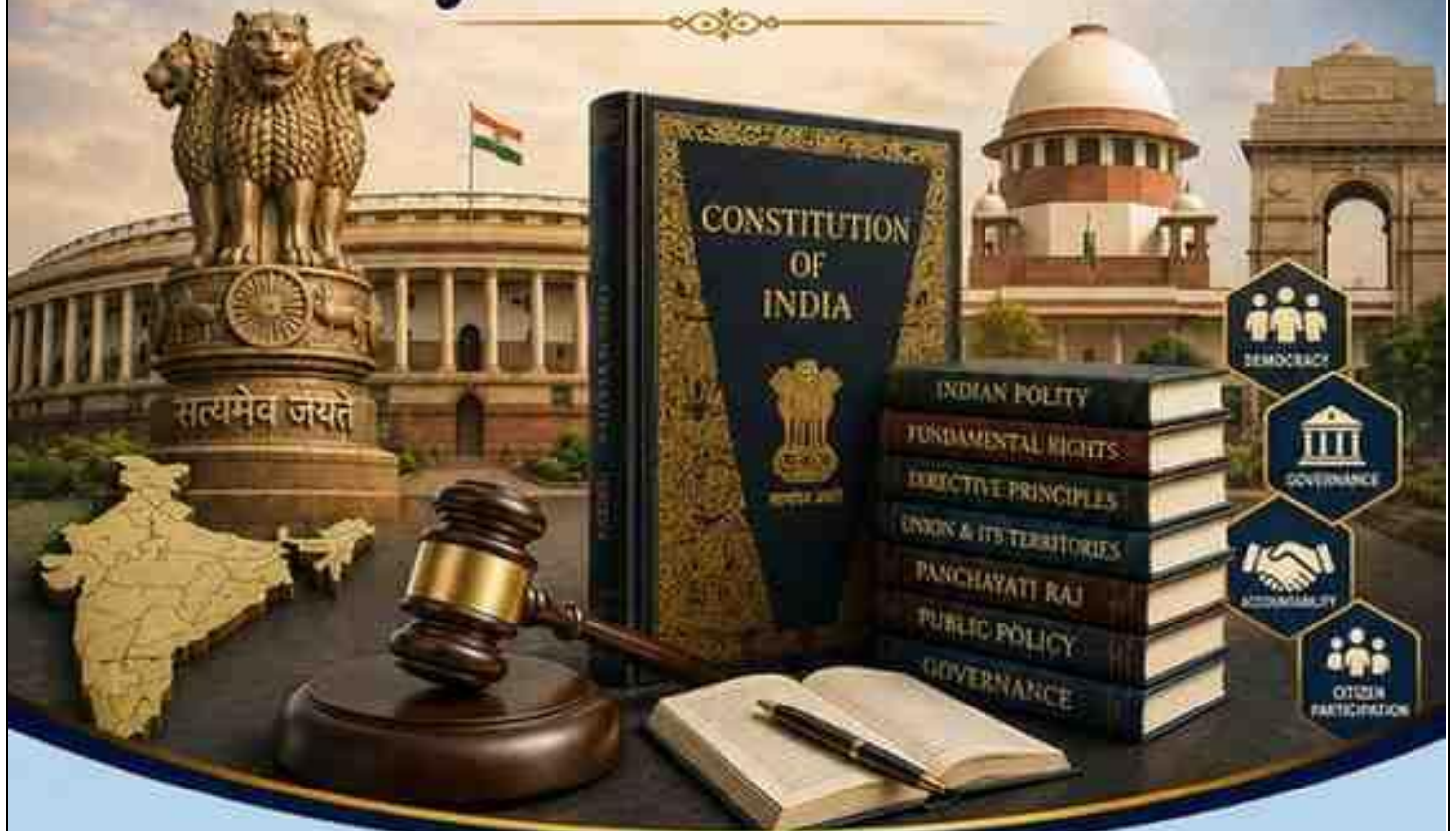




P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Civil Services Study Material

Polity & Governance



UPSC Prelims Current Affairs (July 2026)

MONTHLY COMPILATION



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1. Digital Transformation of India's Criminal Justice System

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Internal Security, Science & Technology

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper III-Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** announced that from **1 January 2027**, all investigation and trial procedures under the **new criminal laws** will be recorded digitally through the **Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)**.



Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS):

1. It is expected to achieve **nationwide implementation by 2027**, enabling a fully digital investigation and trial process.
2. ICJS integrates **police, courts, prisons, forensic laboratories, and prosecution** on a single digital platform to facilitate seamless information sharing.
3. **Digital Storage:** Criminal justice data will be securely stored on **MeghRaj**, the Government of India's cloud platform.
4. **Legal Framework:** The digital framework supports the implementation of:
 - i. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**
 - ii. **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**
 - iii. **Bharatiya Sakshya Sanhita (BSS), 2023**
5. **Implementation Status:** According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, **only 46% of FIRs** have been digitally transmitted to courts, while **Haryana, Goa,**

Assam, Punjab, and Chandigarh have fully implemented all prescribed digital parameters under the criminal justice system.

6. The BNSS strengthens the concept of **Zero FIR**, with the **CCTNS** enabling FIR registration in **23 languages** and the **Bhashini application** facilitating **multilingual translation** for seamless transfer of cases across jurisdictions.
7. The **national implementation score** increased from **46.47%** in **January 2025** to **70.06%** in **June 2026**, alongside significant improvement in compliance with statutory timelines for filing charge sheets.
8. The digital criminal justice system facilitates the generation of **digital evidence (Sakshya) IDs** and the **electronic service of summons**, enhancing efficiency and transparency in criminal proceedings.

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/criminal-justice-systems-digital-push-aims-for-a-full-roll-out-by-next-year/article71166359.ece>

2. Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global

Prelims:

Governance, Health, International Relations

Mains:

GS Paper II–Governance, GS Paper III–Economy

Current relevance:

NITI Aayog has released the report "**Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global**", outlining a phased strategy to establish Ayurveda as a globally recognised system of healthcare by 2047.

Highlights:

1. **Objective:** To position Ayurveda as a **globally recognised, evidence-based healthcare system** while promoting research, education, exports, and international collaboration.

2. The report was prepared by the **Health Division of NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)**.

3. **Three-Pillar Framework:**

i. **Availability**

Focuses on global practice and workforce, exports and manufacturing, **international research & development**, and standardised education.

ii. **Acceptability**

Promotes **regulatory compliance, international collaborations**, insurance coverage, and cultural adaptability.

iii. **Propagation**

Emphasises **global branding, international visibility**, medical value travel, and participation in global organisations.

Significance:

1. Supports the **vision of One Earth, One Health**.
2. Encourages **evidence-based research** and innovation for ayurveda.
3. Strengthens India's role as a **global hub for traditional healthcare** and wellness.
4. Enhance India's **cultural and knowledge-based soft power**.



Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2280540®=48&lang=1>

3. DAKSH Leadership Programme

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, public administration

Mains:

GS Paper II–Governance, GS Paper III–Science & Technology, Economy

Current relevance:

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the **third batch of the DAKSH Leadership Programme** for senior executives of **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

The DAKSH Leadership Programme is jointly organised by the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)** and the **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**, in collaboration with the Indian School of Business (ISB).

Highlights:

1. **DAKSH (Development of Aspiration, Knowledge, Succession and Harmony)** is a one-year leadership development programme designed for senior executives of **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.
2. **Objective:**

To develop a **future-ready leadership pool** by strengthening leadership, strategic thinking, governance, and decision-making capabilities among senior CPSE executives.

3. It is jointly organised by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE)**, in collaboration with the Indian School of Business (ISB).

4. **Governance Framework:**

i. **Whole-of-Government Approach**

- Promotes **convergence of individual expertise and institutional capabilities** to achieve common national development goals.
- Encourages collaboration across ministries, departments, institutions, and stakeholders for integrated governance.

ii. **Capacity Building**

- Focuses on strengthening **both individual competencies and institutional capacities**.
- Encourages continuous learning, innovation, adaptability, and collaborative leadership.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2280759®=48&lang=1>

4. LokOS: Digital Governance Platform

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Economy

Mains:

GS Paper II–Governance, GS Paper III–Economy

Current relevance:

LokOS, the digital platform under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, is strengthening digital governance by enabling end-to-end digitisation of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)**.

Highlights:

About LokOS:

1. LokOS (Lok = People, OS = Operating System) is a web and mobile platform under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** for end-to-end digitization of Self-Help Groups and their federations.
2. It offers a **comprehensive digital solution** for managing **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and **Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)** by digitizing member records, profiles, savings, lending, repayments, financial transactions, livelihoods, and convergence initiatives.
3. **LokOS comprises both web and mobile applications,**
 - i. **WEB Application** is designed for: supporting administrators, E-bookkeepers, and transaction approvers in creating and approving SHGs, Village Organizations (VOs), Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), and their members.
 - ii. **Mobile application** is for the member on field.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a flagship **poverty alleviation** programme promoting self-employment, skilled jobs, and sustainable livelihoods for poor rural households.

LokOS Network Coverage:

It supports **large scale digital transformation** in transforming community institutions. It improves Transparency, accountability and efficiency integrated with Program implementation and Program monitoring.

1. **Community Institutions Covered**

The linked community and community-based institutions are:

- i. Cluster Level Federations (CLFs)
- ii. Village Organizations (VOs)
- iii. Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- iv. SHG Members

2. Financial Support Mobilized

LokOS enables efficient tracking of financial support, including

- i. Revolving Fund (RF)
- ii. Community Investment Fund (CIF)
- iii. Community Enterprise Fund (CEF)

3. LoKoS supporting Lakhpati Didis

LokOS supports the Lakhpati Didi initiative through large-scale outreach, beneficiary tracking, and digital monitoring.

4. platform also maintains 18.50 crore Digital Aajeevika Registers (DARs)

5. SHE-LEAPS:

A Digital Platform for **Rural Entrepreneurship** – launched on 29th June 2026 and is implemented under the LokOS platform. SHE-LEAPS is a digital platform for **empowering women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across rural India.**



Source: PIB-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2280986®=48&lang=1>

5. e-Jagriti:

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Economy

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper III-Economy

Current relevance:

The Prime Minister shared an article highlighting **e-Jagriti**, a digital platform that **digitises the entire lifecycle of consumer complaints**.



Highlights:

About e-Jagriti

- i. **e-Jagriti** is an **end-to-end digital platform** developed to **digitise the entire lifecycle of consumer complaints**, from filing to final disposal.
- ii. It **modernises** the functioning of consumer dispute redressal commissions through a **unified digital system**.

Objective:

- i. To provide **faster, transparent, efficient, and accessible consumer justice** through digital technology.
- ii. To strengthen **consumer grievance redressal** by reducing procedural delays and improving case management.

Consumer Protection Framework:

- i. It Operates under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- ii. Strengthens the functioning of the **District, State, and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions**.

Key features:

- i. Provides a seamless digital platform for **filing consumer complaints**.
- ii. Ensures **end-to-end digital management** of consumer dispute cases.
- iii. Enables **electronic communication**, document management, and virtual hearings.
- iv. Offers **real-time monitoring** and tracking of complaint status.
- v. Enhances **transparency, efficiency, and accountability** through a **paperless** grievance redressal mechanism.

Source: PIB-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2281010®=48&lang=1>

6. IICA Certified Arbitration Program (ICAP)

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Economy

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper III-Indian Economy

Current relevance:

The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, inaugurated the **second batch of the IICA Certified Arbitration Program (ICAP)**

to strengthen India's arbitration ecosystem and develop globally trained arbitration professionals.



Highlights:

1. **ICAP** is the flagship arbitration training programme of the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**.
2. It aims to develop a pool of **globally benchmarked arbitration professionals** to strengthen India's dispute resolution ecosystem.
3. **Objectives of ICAP:**
 - i. Promotes **institutional arbitration** in India by developing a strong, efficient, and internationally recognised arbitration ecosystem.
 - ii. **Builds professional capacity** in arbitration and **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** through specialised training and skill development.
 - iii. Supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047** by strengthening India's legal, commercial, and dispute resolution institutions to improve investor confidence and ease of doing business.
4. **Reforms to Strengthen Arbitration:**
 - The Government is working to make India a **global arbitration hub** through reforms in the **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**.

- It has also indicated plans to establish the **Arbitration Council of India (ACI)** to strengthen institutional arbitration.

5. Significance:

The programme supports the development of a **robust arbitration ecosystem**, promotes judicial efficiency, and strengthens India's position as a preferred destination for international commercial dispute resolution.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2282584®=48&lang=1>

7. TribeX

Prelims:

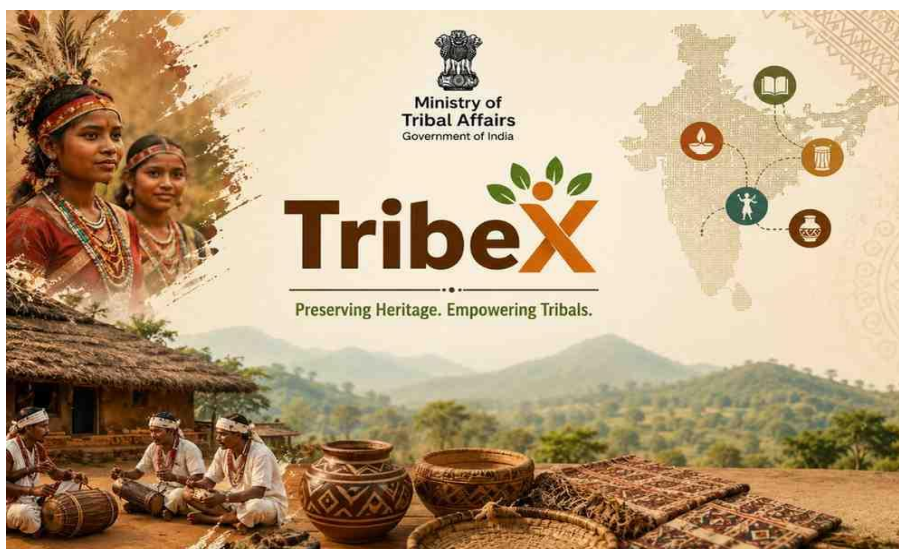
Polity & Governance, Social Justice

Mains:

GS Paper II–Social Justice, GS Paper III–Science & Technology

Current relevance:

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** inaugurated a **two-day National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and launched **TribeX**.



Highlights:

1. The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, in collaboration with the **Government of Odisha**, organised a National Workshop on Strengthening **Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** in Bhubaneswar.
2. **Aim:** To transform **TRIs into centres of research, innovation, policy support, and cultural preservation.**
3. **About TribeX:**
 - i. A first-of-its-kind **digital learning platform** for preserving and promoting **tribal arts, languages, culture, and traditional knowledge.**
 - ii. The platform includes a **Digital Academy** offering **free certificate and UGC-aligned diploma courses**, along with a **Heritage Archive** for documenting tribal literature and oral traditions.
4. The Ministry signed an **MoU** with **Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi**, to jointly develop **UGC-recognised diploma programmes** on **tribal languages, traditional knowledge, arts, textiles, and museology** under TribeX.
5. **Technology Integration:**

Highlighted the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**, digital documentation, and data analytics to strengthen research and policymaking related to tribal communities.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2282205®=48&lang=1>

8. Right to be forgotten

Prelims:

Polity & Governance

Mains:

GS Paper II–Polity & Governance

Current relevance:

Recently **Delhi High Court** has laid down **principles governing Right to Be Forgotten**. The court has evolved a new jurisprudence to protect the privacy of those who continue to be victimised on account of their digital footprints on social media and elsewhere, despite having those matters settled in their favour.



At a glance:

1. Definition:

The **Right to be Forgotten** means that an individual may request the removal, de-indexing, or restriction of access to personal information available online when its continued availability causes unjustified harm and no larger public interest requires it to remain accessible.

2. Constitutional provision:

The RTBF is implicitly provided under **Right to Privacy** mentioned **article 21, (Puttasamy case 2017)**.

3. Delhi High Court decision:

- i. **Recognized the Right to be Forgotten (RTBF):** The Court held that, in appropriate cases, individuals can seek the removal or restriction of personal information available online.

- ii. **Privacy is a Fundamental Right:** The Court reaffirmed that RTBF flows from the Right to Privacy under **Article 21** of the Constitution.
- iii. **RTBF is not an absolute right:** A person's privacy must be balanced against freedom of speech, public interest, and the principle of open justice.
- iv. **Case-by-case approach:** The Court clarified that every RTBF request should be decided based on the specific facts of the case. There cannot be a **one-size-fits-all rule**.
- v. **Judicial records should generally remain public:** Instead of deleting court judgments, the Court suggested that in suitable cases names and personal details may be **redacted (masked) to protect privacy**.
- vi. **Need for institutional mechanism:** The Court observed that an effective framework, including the **Data Protection Board under the DPDP Act**, would help deal with RTBF requests more efficiently.

4. **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**

- i. The **DPDP Act, 2023** provides the **Right to Erasure** of personal data under specified conditions.
- ii. Under the DPDP Act, 2023, a **Data Principal** may request the erasure of personal data once the purpose for its collection has been fulfilled, consent has been withdrawn, or retention of the data is no longer required under the Act.
- iii. However, **the Act does not expressly recognise or define the "Right to be Forgotten"** as a distinct legal right.

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/what-is-the-right-to-be-forgotten-explained/article71198013.ece>

9. Age-Based Social Media Restrictions for Minors:

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Science & Technology

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper III-Science & Technology

Current relevance:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** praised **Australia's ban on social media access for children below 16 years** and indicated that India is considering similar age-based restrictions to enhance online safety for minors.



At a glance:

1. Australia's Social Media Law:

Australia's **Online Safety Amendment (social media Minimum Age) Act, 2024** requires social media platforms to prevent children **below 16 years** of age from accessing their services.

2. India's Approach:

India is exploring **age-based restrictions** on social media platforms to improve online safety for children and adolescents.

3. Legal Options:

This restriction may be introduced through:

- **New legislation passed by Parliament, or**
- Amendments to the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.**

4. **Significance:**

To strengthening **child online safety**, promoting **responsible digital governance**, and creating a **secure digital ecosystem** while ensuring balanced access to technology and **freedom of expression**.

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-narendra-modi-praises-australias-social-media-ban-for-minors/article71202133.ece>

10. Protocol for Singing Vande Mataram and National Anthem

Prelims:

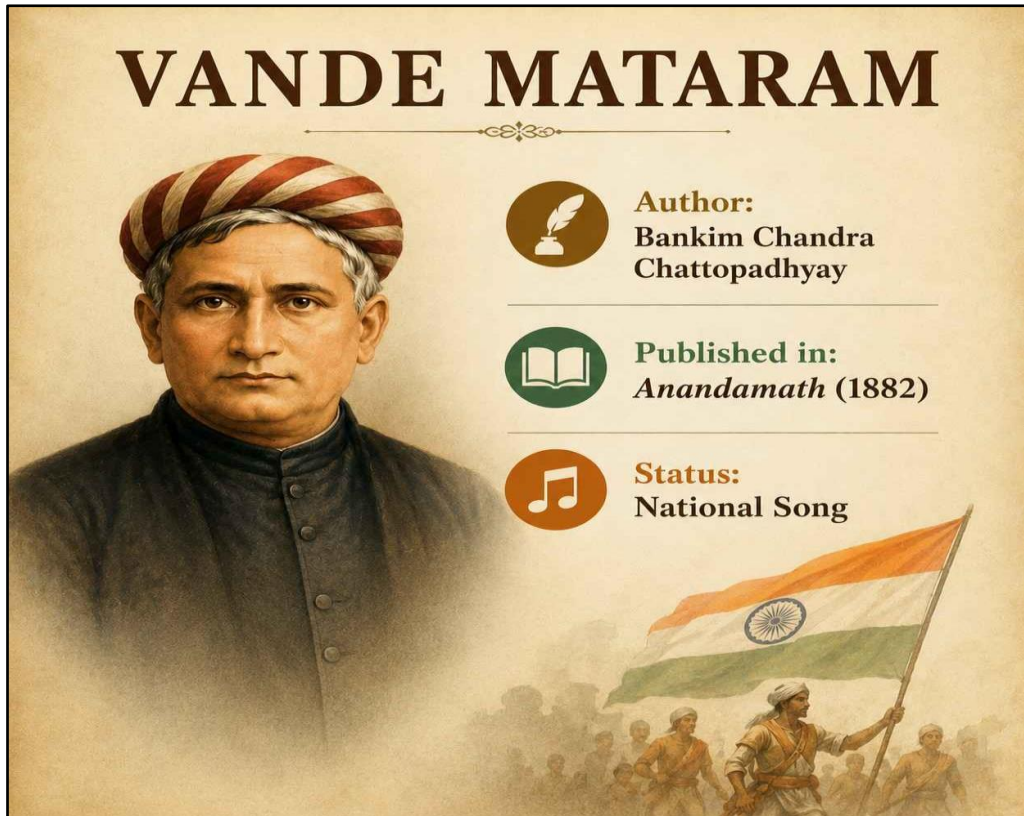
Indian Polity, History

Mains:

GS Paper II–Polity & Governance, GS Paper I–Modern Indian History

Current relevance:

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has directed all **States and Union Ministries** to **strictly comply** with the protocol that **Vande Mataram (National Song)** must be sung or played **before Jana Gana Mana (National Anthem)** whenever both are performed at official events.



Highlights:

1. The **directive reiterates** that:

- If both **Vande Mataram** and **Jana Gana Mana** are performed at an official event, Vande Mataram **must precede the** National Anthem.
- The officially prescribed **text, script, pronunciation, and tune** must be followed.
- The Ministry has requested **Chief Secretaries of States** and **Secretaries of Union Ministries** to issue suitable instructions to all institutions and organizations under their jurisdiction for **uniform compliance**.

2. **Historical Background:**

- **Vande Mataram** was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** and first appeared in his novel **Anandamath**, published in **1882**.
- The song became one of the **most powerful symbols of India's freedom struggle**, inspiring nationalist movements, particularly during the **Swadeshi Movement (1905–08)** following the Partition of Bengal.

- In **1937**, the **Indian National Congress** resolved that only the **first two stanzas of Vande Mataram** would be used at its official gatherings, considering them universally acceptable.
- **After Independence**, the Constituent Assembly, on **January 24, 1950**, adopted **Jana Gana Mana** as the **National Anthem** while according **Vande Mataram** the status and honour of the **National Song**.

3. Significance:

- Reinforces **uniform observance** of national symbols across the country.
- **Preserves the historical and cultural** significance of Vande Mataram in India's freedom movement.
- Promotes respect for officially recognized national symbols while ensuring **standardized rendition** at government functions.

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.pressreader.com/foryou?popupArticleId=281702621468126>

II. Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat

Prelims:

Polity & Governance

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, Social Justice, GS Paper IV – Ethics

Current relevance:

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS)**, through the **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** platform, has launched the **district-level competitions** under the nationwide '**Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat**' campaign.



Highlights:

1. The campaign follows a **three-tier competition** format comprising District, State and National levels.
2. Competitions will be held across **five creative categories—Dance, Music, Reel & Short Film, Nukkad Natak, and Slam Poetry**—to promote the message of a drug-free India through culture, storytelling, music and digital creativity.
3. The initiative is open to **youth aged 15–29 years**, allowing both individual and group participation, with entries accepted in Hindi, English and regional languages through the **MY Bharat Portal**.
4. The campaign aims to encourage **Yuva Shakti** to use creativity as a means of social transformation, contributing to the vision of a **Nasha Mukta Bharat** and Viksit Bharat during Amrit Kaal.
5. The campaign reinforces the Prime Minister's call to make the fight against substance abuse a nationwide **Jan Andolan (People's Movement)**.
6. **Jan Andolan** is the initiative that seeks to **mobilise youth** through **creativity, culture and community leadership** to promote a Nasha Mukta Bharat.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2283943®=20&lang=1>

12.National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Social Justice, Government Schemes

Mains:

GS Paper II-Social Justice, Governance

Current relevance:

An **Impact Evaluation Study** of the **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)** revealed that its **Credit-Based Schemes** have significantly improved **entrepreneurship, self-employment, income, asset creation, and socio-economic conditions** of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries across the country.



Highlights:

About NSFDC:

1. National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) is a **central public sector enterprise (CPSE)** functioning under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
2. Established to promote the **economic and social development** of **Scheduled Castes** through concessional financial assistance.
3. **Objectives:**
 - i. Promotes **entrepreneurship and self-employment** among Scheduled Caste beneficiaries.
 - ii. It provides concessional credit for **income-generating activities**.
 - iii. It supports **skill development and sustainable livelihood** opportunities.
4. **Outcomes:**
 - i. The proportion of **self-employed beneficiaries** increased from **46.62% to 73.95%** after receiving assistance.
 - ii. More than **81% of beneficiaries** reported a positive improvement in their **social and economic status**.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2284193®=48&lang=1>

13.e-VSP Portal

Prelims:

Polity & Governance

Mains:

GS Paper II – Governance

Current relevance:

The Union Minister of State for Law & Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, launched the **e-VSP (Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan) Portal** on July 2026.



Highlights:

1. **e-VSP (Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan) Portal** is a digital platform developed by the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice.
2. It provides **online access** to Hindi legal publications, including judgments of the **Supreme Court and High Courts**, legal journals, and reference books.

Objective:

1. **Promoting Digital Access:**
 - i. To make **legal literature available online** for lawyers, judicial officers, students, teachers, researchers, and citizens worldwide.
 - ii. To support the **Digital India** initiative by improving access to legal knowledge.
2. **Promoting Hindi in the Legal Domain:**
 - i. Encourages the use of **simple, lucid, and citizen-friendly Hindi** in legal literature.
 - ii. Strengthens Hindi as a language for legal understanding and professional discourse.

Major benefit:

1. The e-VSP Portal makes legal information more accessible to citizens, **promoting transparency and enhancing legal awareness.**
2. Preserves India's **constitutional values and legal heritage** through **digital documentation.**

Source: PIB -

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2285193®=48&lang=1>

14. Dark patterns

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Digital Governance

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper III-Science & Technology

Current relevance:

The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** imposed a **₹1 lakh penalty** on **SpiceJet** for using **dark patterns** on its flight booking platform.



Highlights:

Dark patterns:

1. They are deceptive user interface (UI) designs that manipulate or **mislead users into making choices** they would not have made voluntarily.
2. They impair **consumer autonomy**, undermine **informed decision-making**, and violate the principles of **fair and transparent digital commerce**.

Dark Patterns in SpiceJet's Booking Platform:

1. **Forced Action** – automatic enrolment of consumers into the **SpiceClub Loyalty Programme** through a **pre-ticked checkbox**.
2. **Interface Interference** – presenting the company's preferred option as the **default choice**, thereby influencing consumer decision-making.
3. **Trick Question** – use of **confusing and negatively worded consent language** that had the potential to mislead consumers.

Legal Provisions:

1. **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, relating to unfair trade practices, unfair contracts and misleading representations.
2. **Rule 4(9) of the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020**, which requires consumer consent to be obtained through explicit and affirmative action
3. **Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023**.

About the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):

1. It was established under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, and functions under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** to protect and promote consumer rights.
2. It investigates unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, and has the authority to impose penalties, order product recalls, and initiate legal action against violators.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2285871®=6&lang=1>

15. Sonam Wangchuk

Prelims:

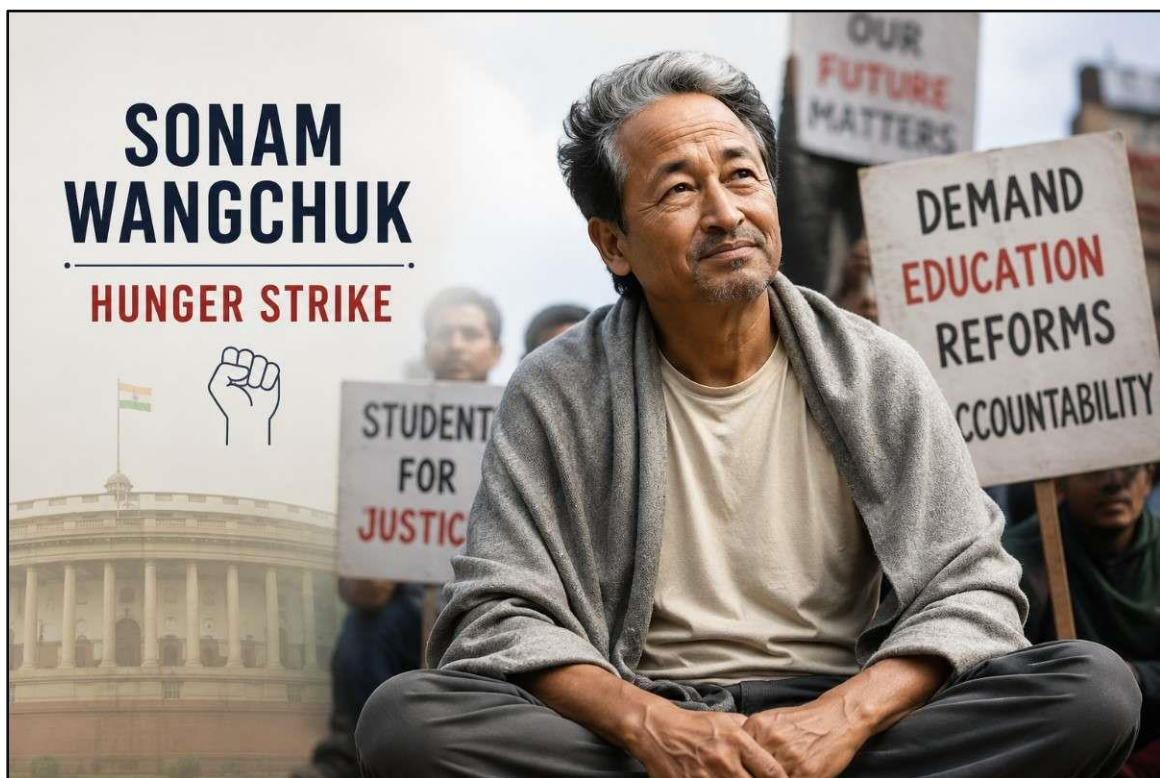
Polity

Mains:

GS Paper II–Polity and Governance, GS Paper IV–Ethics

Current relevance:

Activist Sonam Wangchuk continued his **indefinite hunger strike** for the 20th day, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



Highlights:

Sonam Wangchuk:

1. He is an engineer, **education reformer**, innovator, and environmental activist from Ladakh.

2. He is known for **promoting sustainable development**, educational reforms, and climate conservation through community-based initiatives.

Background of the Hunger Strike:

1. Hunger strike demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister, holding the Ministry **accountable** for its handling of issues related to the **education sector**.
2. The protest seeks greater **transparency, accountability**, and **reforms** in educational governance.
3. The protest has attracted support from political parties, student organisations, and public figures across the country.

Constitutional Provisions:

1. **Article 19(1)(a)**: Guarantees the **Freedom of Speech and Expression**, enabling citizens to voice their grievances peacefully.
2. **Article 19(1)(b)**: Guarantees the **Right to Assemble Peacefully and Without Arms**, forming the constitutional basis for peaceful protests and demonstrations.
3. **Article 19(1)(c)**: Guarantees the **Right to Form Associations or Unions**, allowing collective action through civil society and student organisations.
4. **Article 21**: Guarantees the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**, imposing a duty on the State to safeguard the health and life of hunger strikers by ensuring timely medical care.
5. **Article 14**: Guarantees **Equality Before Law and Equal Protection of Laws**, requiring the State to respond fairly and without discrimination.
6. **Article 32 & Article 226**: Empower the **Supreme Court and High Courts** to protect Fundamental Rights through constitutional remedies, as reflected in judicial intervention to monitor the protester's health.

Ethical Dilemmas:

Positive Ethical Dimensions

1. **Moral Courage:** Demonstrates personal sacrifice to highlight issues of public interest.
2. **Democratic Dissent:** Upholds the democratic right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression.
3. **Accountability:** Seeks transparency and responsibility from public authorities regarding governance and policy decisions.
4. **Public Participation:** Reinforces active citizen engagement in democratic processes by encouraging public involvement in matters of governance and accountability.
5. **Non-Violence:** Embodies Gandhian principles of peaceful protest, emphasizing moral persuasion and constitutional methods over the use of force.
6. **Social Justice:** Highlights systemic issues affecting the public and advocates institutional reforms to ensure fairness, transparency, and equitable governance.

Negative Ethical Dimensions

1. **Risk to Life:** Prolonged hunger strike endangers the protester's health and life, raising ethical concerns.
2. **Moral Pressure on Government:** Hunger strikes may exert emotional or moral coercion rather than relying solely on democratic deliberation.
3. **Public Disruption:** Prolonged protests may divert administrative attention and affect normal governance.
4. **Influence on Vulnerable Groups:** Such protests may inspire students or supporters to undertake similar health-threatening actions.
5. **Ethical Dilemma for the State:** The government must balance respect for individual autonomy with its constitutional duty to protect life.
6. **Political Polarisation:** The movement may become politicised, shifting focus away from the core issues and reducing the scope for constructive dialogue.

Source: THE HINDU – https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu-international-9bn2/20260718/281560887560601?srsId=AfmBOorBIKsQOLIHAtDlamiBfcx3BHYIF_rXOpqqxF6QxT7u7z7zMI5k

16. Atmanirbhar Philanthropy Ecosystem

Prelims:

Government Policies and Interventions

Mains:

GS Paper II-Government Policies and Interventions,

Current relevance:

India's growing domestic philanthropy and the evolving debate around the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** have renewed focus on building an **Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) philanthropy ecosystem**.



Highlights:

1. An **Atmanirbhar philanthropy ecosystem** refers to a development model in which India's social sector is primarily financed, and **supported by domestic philanthropy**, while foreign funding plays a complementary role.

2. Domestic private philanthropy has **grown rapidly** and now **exceeds ₹1.18 lakh crore annually**, significantly surpassing foreign philanthropic inflows.
3. **Family philanthropy, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**, and individual donations have emerged as the primary sources of funding for social development.
4. Strengthening India's Domestic Philanthropy Ecosystem
 - i. Encourage greater participation from **high-net-worth individuals** to unlock larger pools of domestic philanthropic capital.
 - ii. Promote **long-term domestic philanthropy** by creating a supportive policy and institutional environment.
 - iii. Strengthen **governance, transparency, and accountability** to enhance public trust in the social sector.
 - iv. Enhance **tax incentives** under **Section 80G** by increasing deduction benefits and expanding eligible limits to encourage charitable giving.
 - v. Develop a framework for **donating appreciated listed shares** to eligible charitable organizations, enabling greater philanthropic contributions.
 - vi. Broaden the **donor base** by leveraging digital platforms such as **UPI, SIPs, and demit accounts** to facilitate small, recurring donations.
 - vii. Strengthen the **Social Stock Exchange** to connect credible non-profit organizations with individual donors through transparent disclosure and measurable social impact.

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/building-an-atmanirbhar-philanthropy-ecosystem/article71250572.ece>

17.FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Prelims:

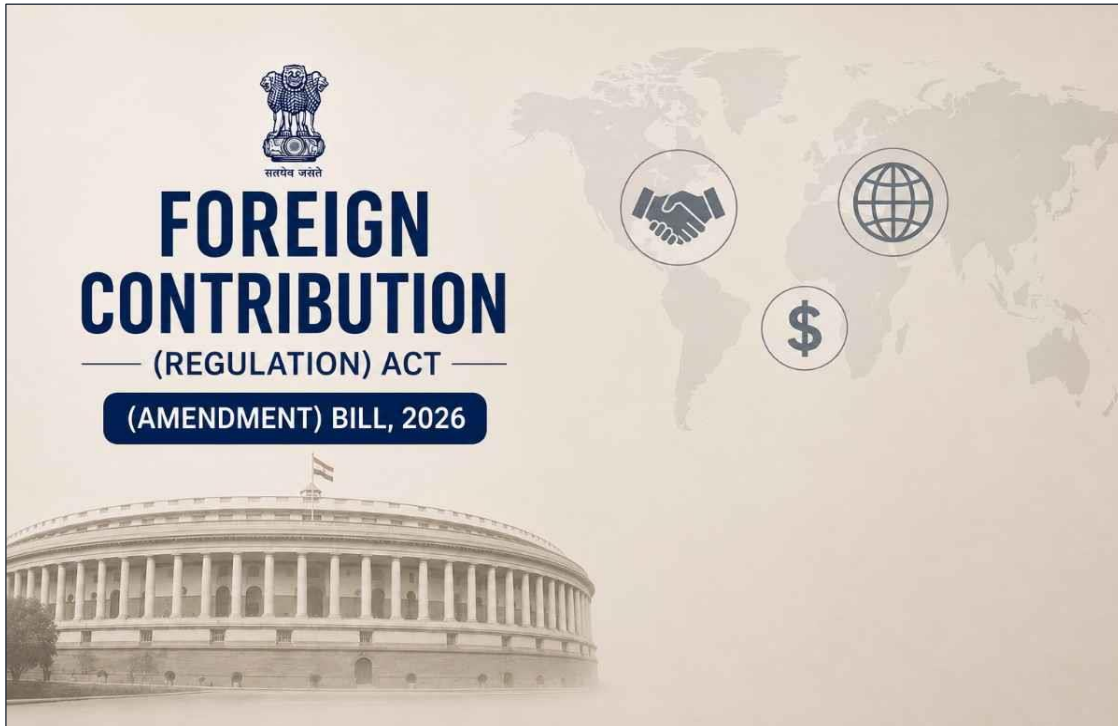
Indian Polity

Mains:

GS Paper II–Government Policies and Interventions

Current relevance:

The **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** has highlighted the role of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** in ensuring transparency, sovereignty, and democratic accountability.



Highlights:

1. The FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has recently attracted attention due to **concerns raised by religious and charitable institutions** regarding the proposed **Designated Authority provision**.
2. In response, the Government clarified that the amendment does not empower the government to permanently seize or repurpose religious institutions or their assets. Instead, the objective is to establish **a clear legal mechanism for managing assets created using foreign contributions** when an organization's FCRA registration lapses, is surrendered, or is cancelled.
3. **Recent Proposal (2026)**

- i. **Designated Authority for Foreign-Funded Assets:** A Designated Authority will temporarily manage foreign-funded assets of organisations whose FCRA registration expires or is cancelled.
- ii. **Protection of Religious Institutions:** The Designated Authority cannot alter the religious character, ownership, or religious practices of places of worship.
- iii. **Provisional, Not Permanent Vesting:** Asset vesting is initially provisional and becomes permanent only if FCRA registration is not restored within the prescribed period. After which assets are applied for public purposes, with sale proceeds credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- iv. **Judicial Safeguards:** Organisations can challenge the Designated Authority's orders through revision **within 90 days** and appeal before the District Judge.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2287897®=48&lang=1>

18. Bharat Taxi

Prelims:

Polity & Governance, Indian Economy

Mains:

GS Paper II-Government policies and interventions for development, GS Paper III – Indian Economy

Current relevance:

The launch of **Bharat Taxi** in **Maharashtra**, after **Delhi and Gujarat**, marks an effort to extend India's cooperative movement beyond agriculture into the urban transportation sector.



Highlights:

1. **Bharat Taxi** is a **cooperative-based ride-hailing platform** that seeks to provide an alternative to conventional aggregator models. Unlike private platforms where drivers work independently while paying commissions to the platform, Bharat Taxi is owned collectively through a cooperative structure.
2. **Under this model:**
 - i. **Sarathis (drivers)** are members of the cooperative.
 - ii. They become shareholders and participate in the institution's profits.
 - iii. The platform follows a fixed service fee instead of charging high commissions.
 - iv. There is no surge pricing and no hidden charges for passengers.
 - v. The objective is to create a **driver-centric transportation** ecosystem rather than an intermediary-centric one.
3. **Shift in Cooperation revolution:**
 - i. India's cooperative movement has traditionally focused on agriculture, dairy, credit societies and sugar cooperatives. But now it has expanded the cooperative model into new sectors.

- ii. Bharat Taxi represents the **application of cooperative principles to urban mobility**, demonstrating that cooperation can also be used in service industries.

Source: PIB – [The launch of Bharat Taxi in Maharashtra, after Delhi and Gujarat, marks an effort to extend India's cooperative movement beyond agriculture into the urban transportation sector.](#)

19. E-courts

Prelims:

Polity, Science & Technology

Mains:

GS Paper II- E-Governance, GS Paper III-Science and Technology

Current relevance:

The Government has accelerated the **digital transformation** of the judiciary under the **eCourts Phase III Project (2023–2027)** to enable faster case disposal.



Highlights:

1. Adjudication and disposal of cases remain the responsibility of the judiciary, the Government is facilitating judicial efficiency by expanding **digital infrastructure**, promoting **paperless courts**, and **integrating advanced technologies**.
2. **Phase I (2011–2015): Building the Digital Foundation:**
With an outlay of **₹935 crore**, the project laid the foundation for the digital transformation of the judiciary by **computerising courts**, strengthening digital infrastructure, enhancing **judicial capacity** through training, and enabling technology-driven services such as **video conferencing**.
3. **Phase II (2015–2023): Expanding Digital Judicial Services:**
With an outlay of **₹1,670 crore**, the project significantly expanded the digital judicial ecosystem by computerising courts, strengthening digital connectivity, establishing the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**, and introducing citizen-centric services such as **e-Filing, e-Payments, Virtual Courts, mobile applications, the multilingual e-Courts portal, and e-Sewa Kendras**. It also enhanced **virtual hearings** and **online case disposal** through wider adoption of video conferencing and Virtual Courts.
4. **Phase III** approved in September **2023** with a financial outlay of **₹7,210 crore**, It represents the next stage in India's vision of a **technology-driven, transparent, and citizen-centric justice delivery system**.

Initiatives under e-Courts Phase III

1. Transition to digital and **paperless courts** through large-scale digitization of judicial records.
2. Large-scale digitisation of court records, robust digital connectivity, online case filing and payments, **integrated case management systems, electronic transmission of judicial documents**.
3. **Judicial Digital Trustworthy Repository** developed for secure digital preservation of court records.

4. AI-based **Legal Research Analysis Assistant (LegRAA)** developed to assist judges in legal research and document analysis.
5. **e-Sewa Kendras** provide digital assistance to litigants and lawyers, while Virtual Courts facilitate the online adjudication of **traffic challans**, and secure court websites hosted on the **S3WaaS platform** enhance accessible and reliable digital judicial services.

Source: PIB-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2289461®=48&lang=2>

20. India Moved to Take Down Bichat Repositories

Prelims:

Indian Polity and Governance, Science and Technology

Mains:

GS Paper II – Governance and Constitution, GS Paper III – Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, directed GitHub on **July 23** to remove three repositories hosting **BitChat**.



Highlights:

1. The government stated that **BitChat's decentralised and anonymous communication system** could be misused to:
 - i. Coordinate unlawful assemblies and violent protests
 - ii. Circumvent lawful restrictions during public-order situations
 - iii. Evade surveillance and lawful interception
 - iv. Spread misinformation and facilitate radicalisation
 - v. Support terrorism, organised crime and criminal conspiracies
2. **The government order directs GitHub to:**
 - i. Remove and disable access to **three BitChat repositories**, including the Android application and associated release files, **within three hours** of receiving the communication, while preserving all relevant evidence.
 - ii. The notice also warns that failure to comply may result in **criminal prosecution**.
3. **Legal Framework:**
 - i. Section 79(3)(b) of the **Information Technology Act, 2000**
 - ii. Rule 3(1)(d) of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**

4. BitChat:

- i. It is a **decentralised peer-to-peer messaging application**, creates temporary communication networks among devices located near one another.
- ii. It operates through **Bluetooth mesh networks** and does not require internet connectivity, centralised servers, phone numbers, mandatory user registration.

Source: THE HINDU - https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu-kochi-9ww8/20260727/282398406203390?srsId=AfmBOoon3Zj2MKg2mhwv0mXoVT0X9_I_NfDh8lUnbZsZrW7l0NaC7bVKV

21. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

Prelims:

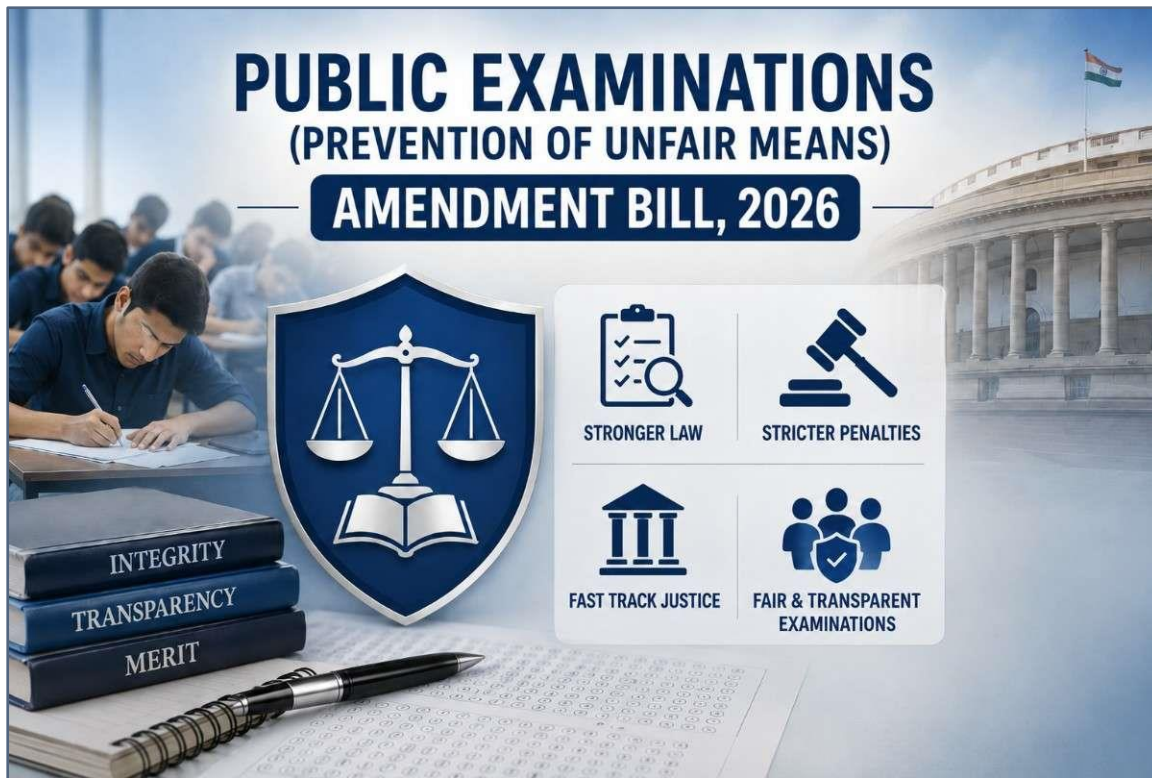
Polity

Mains:

GS Paper II–Government Policies and Interventions, GS Paper IV–Ethics in Public Administration.

Current relevance:

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha to further strengthen the legal framework.



Highlights:

1. Objective:

The **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** seeks to further strengthen the legal framework to **curb examination-related malpractices**, safeguard the interests of students, and enhance the integrity, transparency, and credibility of public examinations.

2. Existing Legal Framework:

The proposed amendments build upon the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**, incorporating implementation experience to make the law more stringent and effective in addressing examination-related offences.

3. The Act covers examinations conducted by **major recruitment agencies** including,
 - i. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
 - ii. Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
 - iii. Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)
 - iv. Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
 - v. National Testing Agency (NTA)

4. Key provisions:

- i. **Individuals using unfair means:** Punishment is proposed to be enhanced from **3–5 years'** imprisonment to **5–10 years' imprisonment**, while the maximum fine is proposed to increase from **₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh**.
- ii. **Service providers involved in examination malpractices:** The maximum fine is proposed to be increased from **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**, and the **debarment period** from conducting public examinations is proposed to be extended from **4 years to 8 years**.
- iii. **Directors and senior management of service providers:** Punishment is proposed to be enhanced from **3–10 years'** imprisonment to **5–10 years' imprisonment**, with the **maximum fine** increasing from **₹1 crore to ₹5 crore**.
- iv. **Organised examination-related crimes:** The punishment is proposed to be increased from **5–10 years' imprisonment** to **7–10 years' imprisonment**, while the **maximum fine** is proposed to be enhanced from **₹1 crore to ₹10 crore**.

5. Special provisions:

- i. Establishment of **Special Fast Track Courts** to ensure speedy disposal of offences relating to public examinations.
- ii. It is implementing the recommendations of a **high-level task force** constituted to make the public examination system "**leak-proof**."
- iii. The Central Government is empowered to **refer investigation of offences** under the Act to a **Special Task Force**, enabling swift and effective action against organised examination-related crimes.

Source: PIB–

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2290606®=48&lang=2>

22. Justice-Centric System

Prelims:

Polity

Mains:

GS Paper II-Government Policies and Interventions, GS Paper IV-Justice

Current relevance:

The Government highlighted the justice-centric provisions of the New Sanhitas, emphasizing a **citizen-centric, accessible, transparent, and efficient criminal justice system**.



Highlights:

1. The **New Sanhitas** seek to establish a **citizen-centric, accessible, transparent, and efficient justice system**, shifting the emphasis from punishment towards justice.
2. The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** prescribes punishment up to the death sentence for the rape of a minor.
3. **Victim-Centric Provisions:**
 - i. Incidents can be **reported electronically**, eliminating the need to visit a police station physically.
 - ii. **Zero FIR** allows an FIR to be filed at any police station, irrespective of jurisdiction.
 - iii. Victims are entitled to receive a **free copy of the FIR**.
 - iv. Victims are entitled to receive case progress updates within **90 days**.

- v. Copies of the FIR, police report/chargesheet, statements, confessions, and other documents must be supplied to **both the victim and the accused** within **14 days**.
- vi. It **mandates** all State Governments to implement a **Witness Protection Scheme**.
- vii. Women, persons below **15 years**, persons above **60 years**, and persons with disabilities or acute illness are **exempt from attending police stations**.
- viii. Under **Section 360** of the **BNSS**, the victim **must be heard** before any withdrawal from prosecution, ensuring greater participation in the criminal justice process. This statutory right reflects the **Nyaya-centric approach** by making the justice system more responsive to the needs and concerns of victims.

1. Time-Bound Justice:

- i. The laws promise a **faster and fair resolution** of cases, instilling confidence in the legal system.
- ii. Investigations relating to **offences against women and children** must be completed **within two months** of recording information.

2. Reformatory Approach:

- i. **Community service** has been introduced as a punishment for **minor offences**, enabling offenders to **contribute positively to society** and **promote rehabilitation**.
- ii. The scope of **summary trials** has been expanded to cover **more offences**, ensuring speedy disposal of cases.

3. Rights of the Accused:

- i. Restrict **arbitrary arrests** solely for initiating judicial proceedings. Arrest is not required for obtaining handwriting, signature, fingerprint, or voice samples.

4. Trial in Absentia:

- i. A new provision enables **trial in absentia** for persons declared as **proclaimed offenders**, allowing courts to proceed with the trial and pronounce judgment even in the absence of the accused.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2290363®=48&lang=1>

23. Pellet Guns:

Prelims:

Polity

Mains:

GS Paper II- polity and Governance

Current relevance:

The **Supreme Court** observed that the use of **pellet guns** forms part of a **graded police response** in exceptional circumstances, while hearing a petition seeking a ban on their use against civilian assemblies.



At a glance:

Graded Police Response:

The **Supreme Court** observed that police rules permit the use of **pellet guns** as part of a **graded crowd-control response** in **exceptional circumstances**, though it did not define what constitutes such circumstances.

Petition Before the Court:

1. The petition sought a **ban on the use of kinetic metallic pellet guns** by law enforcement agencies against civilian assemblies.
2. It argued that **projectile-activated guns (PAGs)** fail the constitutional tests of **necessity, proportionality and reasonableness**.

Peaceful Protests and Public Order

3. The Court agreed that the **State should not respond to students' protests with brutality**.
4. At the same time, it noted that **bona fide protests may be hijacked by unscrupulous elements**, requiring the police to remain prepared with **a graded response**, including the use of force where necessary.

About pellet guns:

1. Pellet guns are **less-lethal crowd-control weapons** that fire multiple small pellets using compressed gas or a propellant and are primarily used by **law enforcement agencies** for **crowd dispersal** and **riot control**.
2. They are intended to be used as part of a **graded crowd-control** response before resorting to more lethal force.
3. After being fired, the pellets disperse over a wide area, making them effective for crowd control but increasing the risk of **serious injuries**, especially to the **eyes, face and upper body**.
4. Their use remains **controversial** due to concerns over **proportionality, human rights and the potential for permanent injuries**.

Source: THE HINDU - https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu-international-9bn2/20260731/281535117787450?srsId=AfmBOooEgeIU6j8okZjc5A2Hc56NP4ENSdJ9dzWgl3xN4eXcRtd_-Ytx

24. Online Harassment and Doxing

Prelims:

Polity and cyber security

Mains:

GS Paper II- Governance and Internal Security, GS Paper III-Cyber Security

Current relevance:

Several women who participated in the **Jantar Mantar protests** demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister have reported **online harassment**, including **doxing, rape threats and death threats** through social media platforms.



Highlights:

Online Abuse

1. Doxing:

- i. It is the **unauthorised collection, disclosure or dissemination of an individual's personal or sensitive information online**, often with the intent to intimidate, harass, threaten or target the person.
- ii. Videos and photographs of women protesters were widely shared on **X and Instagram**, with posts urging followers to **"teach them a lesson."**
- iii. Personal details, including names, city, phone numbers and addresses, were allegedly circulated online.

2. Legal Framework in India:

- i. The **Right to Privacy**, recognised by the Supreme Court as part of **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)**, provides constitutional protection against unlawful disclosure or misuse of personal information.
- ii. **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)**, enables citizens to report cybercrimes, including **online harassment, cyber stalking, identity theft, doxxing**, and the unauthorised disclosure of personal information.
- iii. **Information Technology Act, 2000**
Provides a legal framework to address unauthorized access, identity theft, data theft and other cyber offences.
- iv. **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**
Mandate social media intermediaries to remove unlawful content and provide effective grievance redressal mechanisms for users.
- v. **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**
Regulates the processing and protection of personal digital data and imposes obligations on entities handling personal information.
- vi. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**
Depending on the nature of the act, doxxing-related conduct involving **criminal intimidation, stalking, harassment, defamation, identity-related offences, or publication of personal information** may attract relevant provisions of the BNS.

3. Preventive measures:

- i. Protect your personal information by limiting what you share online, **strengthening privacy settings**, using strong passwords with **multi-factor authentication (MFA)**, and avoiding oversharing of sensitive details.
- ii. Exercise caution while posting by removing location tags and metadata, **protecting contact information**, monitoring your digital footprint, and staying alert to **phishing attempts**.
- iii. If targeted, **preserve evidence**, report the content to the platform and **law enforcement authorities**, and encourage family members to secure their online privacy to prevent misuse of personal information.

Source: THE HINDU-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cjp-stir-fir-against-noida-woman-over-objectional-remarks-on-pm-transferred-to-delhi/article71289838.ece>