



INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

**KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/ GROUP C,
PSI/PC, TEACHER'S EXAMS**

ಕನ್ನಡ & English

By- Nandan Sir

May 2nd Week 2026

- Komagata Maru Incident
- Lift Abortion Time Limit for Minor Rape Survivors: SC
- 'Women and Men in India 2025' Report
- Election of UN Secretary-General
- Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report
- Foreign Exchange Reserves
- National Jute Board
- Baiga Tribe
- National Technology Day
- 'One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay initiative
- National Panchayat Awards 2025
- SEHAT Mission
- Chief of Defence Staff
- Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- Speedy Trial a 'Human Right'
- PCOS Renamed as PMOS
- Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)
- Study on Malaria Vaccine
- National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026
- NEET Paper Leak Controversy
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- Revving up Immune Cells Might Help Fight HIV: Study
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Taty Tope
- Sikkim Becomes India's First Paperless Judiciary State
- Centre Eyes New E-bus Scheme
- Sacred Groves in India
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026
- Ru-Soam Bridges
- Tanzania
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines

Watch Insta ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ Video

 **INSTA KAS**



080 69 405 206



www.insightsonindia.com

INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ
WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
MAY 2ND Week 2026

Komagata Maru Incident
Syllabus: GS1/History



In News

- Recently a Punjabi Singer compared the 1914 Komagata Maru rejection of Indians in Canada with his own sold-out concert to highlight how attitudes have changed over time.

Komagata Maru Incident

- The Komagata Maru (also called Guru Nanak Jahaz) was a Japanese steamship chartered by Gurdit Singh in 1914, carrying 376 Indians seeking better opportunities in Canada.
- Early 20th century Punjab faced rural indebtedness, famines and epidemics and many ex-soldiers and peasants migrated abroad for livelihood.
- Most passengers were Sikhs, along with Muslims and Hindus, who faced severe restrictions under Canada's immigration laws.
- On arrival in Vancouver, only 24 were allowed to disembark, and the rest were kept onboard without adequate food, water, or medical aid.

- Attempts by authorities to seize the ship were resisted, and a local support group raised funds to challenge the restrictions legally, but the ship was ultimately forced to leave.

Reasons for Passenger Denial

- Both India and Canada were under British rule, so Indian passengers believed they had the right to settle anywhere in the British Empire.
- However, in 1908 Canada introduced the "continuous journey regulation," which required immigrants to arrive directly from their country of origin without stops—something practically impossible from India.
- This rule, influenced by anti-Asian sentiment after the 1907 Vancouver riots led by the Asiatic Exclusion League, was designed to restrict immigration, particularly targeting Asians, including Indians.

Return in India

- After being expelled from Vancouver and refused entry at other ports during World War I, the ship was sent back to India.
- At Budge Budge near Kolkata, British authorities tried to send the passengers to Punjab, but they resisted and marched toward the city.
- Troops opened fire, killing 20 and injuring several. Gurdit Singh initially escaped but later surrendered on Mahatma Gandhi's advice and was imprisoned for five years.

Impact of Komagata Maru Incident on Indian Freedom Movement

- The Komagata Maru incident exposed the racial discrimination faced by Indians

within the British Empire, first in Canada and later in India.

- The humiliation and violence against the passengers strengthened the belief that **Indians could not secure equal rights under colonial rule, boosting demands for complete independence** instead of reforms.
- It also **energized revolutionary groups like the Ghadar Party**, further encouraging resistance and the **idea of armed struggle against British rule**.

Lift Abortion Time Limit for Minor Rape Survivors: SC **Syllabus: GS2/Health**

Context

- The Supreme Court has asked the Union government to **amend the abortion law to remove the time limit on medical termination of unwanted pregnancies in the case of minor rape victims**.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) in India

- The act was **passed in 1971 and was amended in 2021**,
- It **legalizes abortion in India under specific conditions**, promoting reproductive autonomy and health.

It allows termination up to

1. **20 weeks with one doctor's opinion**,
2. **20–24 weeks for special categories with two opinions, and beyond**
3. **24 weeks via medical boards for fetal abnormalities**.

Key Features of MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021

- **Increased Limits:** Enhanced **gestation limits to 24 weeks for special categories**, including rape survivors, victims of incest, minors, and women with disabilities.
- **Unmarried Women Included:** The 2021 amendment covers **unmarried women**,

allowing them to terminate pregnancies caused by contraceptive failure.

- **Confidentiality:** The name and details of the woman must remain confidential.
- **Legal & Constitutional Basis Reproductive Autonomy:** The Supreme Court has ruled that **the right to reproductive autonomy is part of Article 21 (Right to Privacy and Dignity)**.
- **Prior Legal Framework:** Originally enacted in 1971 based on the **Shantilal Shah Committee (1964) to reduce high maternal mortality from unsafe abortions**.

‘Women and Men in India 2025’ Report **Syllabus: GS3/Economy**

In News

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the 27th edition of its publication titled **“Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data”**.

Women and Men in India 2025’ Report Brief

- It provides a comprehensive statistical **overview of gender-related conditions in India** using official data from multiple ministries and agencies.

Key Highlights of the publication:

Demography and Population

- **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** The national SRB improved from **904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23)**, signaling improved survival rates for female children.
- **Regional Variations:** **Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest sex ratio (1,085)**, while **Jharkhand registered the lowest (899)**.

Health and Nutrition

- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Documented a steady, long-term decline for both male and female infants between 2008 and 2023. **India’s Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is**

approximately 25 deaths per 1,000 live births

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** Marked a steep decline from 254 (2004–06) down to **88 (2021–23)**.

Education Gender

Higher Education:

- The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** for females rose to **30.2, surpassing the male GER of 28.9**.
- The **Literacy Gap:** A stark 14.4% gender gap persists, with **male literacy at 84.7% and female literacy at 70.3%.4**.

Economic Participation

- **Rural Female LFPR:** The Labour Force Participation Rate for rural women witnessed a major surge, climbing from 37.5% (2022) to 45.9% (2025).
- **Agricultural Concentration:** 72.7% of all working rural females remain heavily concentrated in agricultural activities.

Major steps taken for women empowerment

- **Constitutional and Legal Framework:** The Indian Constitution guarantees gender equality through provisions in its **Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy**.
- **Article 14** ensures **equality before the law**, while **Article 15** prohibits **discrimination based on sex**.
- **Article 51(a)(e)** encourages citizens to **renounce practices derogatory to women's dignity**.
- The **Directive Principles, particularly Articles 39 and 42**, emphasize **equal livelihood opportunities, equal pay, and maternity relief**.
- **Poshan Abhiyaan:** It launched in 2018, is a flagship government programme aimed at **improving nutrition for children, adolescent**

girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers by reducing malnutrition

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** The scheme aims to **prevent gender biased sex selective elimination**, ensure survival and protection of girl child and also to **ensure education of the girl child**.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** provides **financial compensation** for loss of wages due to pregnancy and childbirth.
- The scheme, previously limited to the first child, has now been extended to cover the second child if the child is a girl—a progressive step towards promoting gender equality.
- **Mission Saksham Anganwadi :** to improve nutrition, health, and immunity and reduce malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs)** are residential schools for girls from **socio-economically disadvantaged groups** in educationally backward areas, offering safe education from **classes VI to XII and supporting their transition to higher secondary schooling**.
- **Vigyan Jyoti**, run by the Department of Science & Technology, **encourages meritorious girls (classes IX–XII), especially in rural areas, to pursue STEM careers**.
- **Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls (NAVYA):** NAVYA, launched in 2025 is a **skill development programme for adolescent girls (16–18 years, Class 10 pass)**.
- **Mission Shakti :** It aims at ensuring the safety, security, and empowerment of women through two key components: **Sambal (safety and security) and Samarthya (empowerment)**.

Election of UN Secretary-General

Syllabus: GS2/International Organizations

Context

- **The election of the next UN Secretary-General is underway.**

Secretary-General as the UN

- The Secretary-General is the **UN's Chief Administrative Officer**, who oversees the **work of the UN Secretariat** and fulfills any other functions entrusted by the organisation's principal organs.

Elections:

- **Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.**
- This means that the **Permanent Members of the Security Council – China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S.** have a significant say in who gets elected.

Key Principal Organs of the UNO:

- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):** The main deliberative, **policymaking**, and representative organ, where all **193 member states have equal representation.**
- **United Nations Security Council (UNSC):** Responsible for maintaining **international peace and security**, with **15 members (5 permanent with veto power, 10 non-permanent).**
- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Coordinates **economic, social, and environmental work of the UN system**, overseeing **specialized agencies.**
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** The principal judicial organ, settling **legal disputes submitted by states, located at The Hague.**
- **Secretariat:** Carries out the **day-to-day work of the UN, administered by the Secretary-General.**

- **Trusteeship Council:** Established to supervise trust territories, it suspended operations in 1994 after Palau gained independence.
- **Headquarters:** New York (UNGA, UNSC, ECOSOC, Secretariat, Trusteeship Council) and The Hague (ICJ).
- **Membership: 193 member states (all part of UNGA).**

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report

Syllabus: Miscellaneous

Context

- **The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report (FY 2023–24) on National Panchayati Raj Day (24 April 2026).**

About

- **Objective -** It is India's first nationwide data-driven framework designed to act as a localized report card, **evaluating and monitoring the performance of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Traditional Local Bodies (TLBs).**

Foreign Exchange Reserves

Syllabus: GS3/ Economy

Context

- The appeal of **Prime Minister Modi to reduce the consumption of imported goods has reignited the debate on whether India should reduce consumption to save forex or strengthen production and productivity to sustain long-term economic growth.**

Foreign Exchange Reserves

- **Foreign exchange reserves refer to foreign currency assets held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- These reserves mainly consist of foreign currencies such as the **US dollar, gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and reserve positions in the International Monetary Fund (IMF).**

- **Significance:** Foreign exchange reserves are essential because **they help India finance imports, stabilise the rupee, maintain investor confidence, and meet external payment obligations** during periods of economic stress.

Why Does India Need Strong Forex Reserves?

- **Dependence on Imports:** India depends heavily on imports for crude oil, fertilisers, edible oils, gold, electronics, and industrial machinery.
- Hence India requires adequate forex reserves to ensure uninterrupted trade and economic stability.
- **Protection from External Shocks:** Strong forex reserves help protect the economy during periods of global financial instability, rising oil prices, currency volatility and sudden capital outflows.
- Countries with weak forex reserves often face balance of payments crises and severe currency depreciation.

Additional Information - Balance of Payments (BoP)

- The Balance of Payments (BoP) is a **record of all economic transactions between India and the rest of the world** during a particular period.

Components of BoP:

- **Current Account:** It includes **trade in goods and services, remittances, and income transfers**. India generally imports more goods than it exports, which results in a Current Account Deficit (CAD).
- **Capital Account:** It includes foreign investments such as **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), and external borrowings**.
- **India has traditionally financed its current account deficit through capital inflows from foreign investors.**

National Jute Board

Syllabus: GS3/Economy and Agriculture



Context

- The **National Jute Board** has been implementing the **Jute Crop Information System** project since 2023 in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and the **Jute Corporation of India**.

Jute Crop Information System project

- **Aim:** To monitor jute cultivation using remote sensing and field data.
- As part of this initiative, two key tools have been developed:
 1. **BHUVAN JUMP** - A mobile app for **on-field jute monitoring**, and
 2. **PATSAN (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations)** - a web-based platform that provides **near-real-time jute surveillance and analytics** to support informed decision-making by officials and stakeholders.

Jute Production In India

- It is also called the **golden fibre**, in view of being a **natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product**.
- **India is the largest producer of jute** followed by Bangladesh and China.
- **West Bengal, Bihar and Assam** account for almost **99% of India's total production**.

Conditions Required for Jute Production

- **Temperature:** A mean maximum and minimum temperature of **34°C and 15°C** and a mean relative humidity of 65% are required.
- **Rainfall:** Around **150-250 cm**.
- **Soil:** Jute can be raised on **all kinds of soils from clay to sandy loam**, but **loamy alluvial soils** are best suited.

Baiga Tribe

Syllabus: GS1/Tribal Groups



Context

- Children belonging to the Baiga tribe rescued from bonded labour in Chhattisgarh.

Baiga Tribe

- Found in - The Baiga are an **ethnic group found in central India** primarily in the state of **Madhya Pradesh**, and in smaller numbers in the surrounding states of **Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**.
- The name **Baiga** means “**sorcerer- medicine man**”.
- The Baigas in Chhattisgarh are **classified as Particularly vulnerable tribal group(PVTG)** by the Government due to their declining population and low level of literacy.
- They traditionally practiced **shifting cultivation**, locally called “**Bewar**” cultivation.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- PVTGs are the most marginalized and extreme backward sections among Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The criteria for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are:
 1. **Pre-agricultural level of technology,**
 2. **Low level of literacy,**
 3. **Economic backwardness,**
 4. **A declining or stagnant population.**
- **History of PVTGs:** Dhebar commission (1960-61) identified that there is inequality among tribal communities in terms of socio-economic development.
 - In **1975**, acting on the **Dhebar Commission report**, the government identified **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category and listed 52 tribal groups as PTGs.
 - As per 2001 census, there are **75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** with a total population of **27,68,322**, living in **18 States and Union Territory**.
 - In **2006**, PTGs were renamed as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.

Recent Government Initiatives

- **The PM-PVTG Development Mission program** - The programme envisions connecting all 22,544 PVTG villages to **basic government services like communications, electricity, public education, healthcare, water supply, and connectivity**.
- **Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** - It will focus on **11 critical interventions like Provision of pucca houses, Connecting roads, Piped Water Supply, Community water supply, Mobile Medical Units with medicine cost, etc.**

National Technology Day

Syllabus: GS3/ Science and Technology

Context

- **National Technology Day is observed annually on 11 May.**

National Technology Day

- The day commemorates the **successful nuclear tests conducted by India at Pokhran in Rajasthan in 1998 under Operation Shakti.**
- The day recognizes the contribution of Indian scientists, engineers, and technological institutions to national development and strategic capability.

‘One Case One Data’ and ‘Su Sahay initiative

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

In News

- Recently, the Supreme Court launched ‘**One Case One Data**’ and ‘**Su Sahay initiative**.’

One Case One Data initiative

- It is a major **digital initiative to connect all levels of courts — from taluka and district courts to High Courts and the Supreme Court through a unified database system.**
- It aims to **improve case management** by creating a comprehensive and **interconnected digital judicial information system.**

‘Su Sahay’ Chatbot

- It is an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered assistance chatbot .**
- It is integrated with the Supreme Court website to **facilitate easier access to justice and court-related services for litigants.**
- It has been developed by the **National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry

National Panchayat Awards 2025

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

In News

- **Kawrthah North Village Council in Mizoram has secured the top rank at the national level under the “Clean and Green Panchayat” category of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025, for its work in sustainable rural development and environmental conservation.**

National Panchayat Awards

- **Conferred by - Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- It is annually conferred to **recognize and incentivise best-performing Panchayats** and promote inclusive, participatory, and sustainable development in rural India.
- Winning Panchayats receive **financial incentives ranging from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 5 crore per awardee, depending on tier and category.**

Categories

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar awards** - It recognises outstanding Gram Panchayats for their performance across themes linked to **Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty-free livelihoods, health, water sufficiency, sanitation, women-friendly governance and social justice.**
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, awards** - It will be given to the **best-performing Panchayats at the district, block and gram levels.**

Latest winners

- **Karnataka has secured the highest number of awards with six Panchayats being selected, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with five awards each.**

SEHAT Mission

Syllabus: GS2/Governance; GS3/Economy

In News

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilisers launched the ‘SEHAT Mission’ in Delhi,**

SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)

- It is a national mission aimed at linking agriculture, nutrition, and public health by converting agricultural innovations into better health outcomes for people in India.
- It is a joint initiative of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- **Objective** - It aims to improve nutrition and public health through biofortified foods, integrated farming, better occupational health for farm workers, and support for the One Health Mission.
- **Significance** - to address nutrition, preventive healthcare, non-communicable diseases, farmer welfare, and public health challenges.

Chief of Defence Staff **Syllabus: GS3/ Defence**



Context

- **The Government of India has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).**
- He will also function as the Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- **The post of CDS was created in 2019** following recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee** and subsequent defence reforms.
- **The first CDS of India was General Bipin Rawat.**

Role and Responsibilities of the CDS:

- **Principal Adviser:** Acts as the **primary military adviser to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters.**
- **Department of Military Affairs:** Functions as the **Secretary to the Government of India for the Department of Military Affairs.**
- **Military Reform:** Focuses on **enhancing synergy, jointness in operations, and modernization of the armed forces.**
- **Theater Commands:** Drives the restructuring of military commands into integrated theater commands.
- **Strategic and Nuclear Role:** Serves as an important **military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.**

Sardar Vallabhai Patel **Syllabus: GS1/History**

In News

- **Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Somnath Temple during the 75th anniversary celebrations of the temple’s reconstruction.**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Born on - October 31, 1875,**
- **India’s first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.**
- He is widely regarded as the **architect of India’s national integration** and a key force behind the **establishment of modern civil services**
- He was posthumously honoured with the **Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the country in 1991.**

Contributions in India's Freedom Struggle

- **Kheda Satyagraha, 1917:** As a prominent local leader in the Kheda district of Gujarat, Patel supported Mahatma Gandhi in organising the Satyagraha against unjust land revenue taxes imposed by the British.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920-22:** Patel significantly impacted the Non-Cooperation Movement, recruiting approximately 300,000 members and raising 1.5 million rupees.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928:** During the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel supported the local population suffering from famine and increased land taxes.
- **Civil Disobedience Movement 1930-34:** He actively participated in the Salt Satyagraha, a nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.
- **Quit India Movement, 1942:** He organised protests and strikes against British rule, and delivered compelling and electrifying speeches throughout India, inspiring and mobilising people to join mass protests, engage in acts of civil disobedience, boycott tax payments, and stage civil service shutdowns.

Do you know?

- Since 2014, **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as National Unity Day**, has been celebrated every year on October 31 to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sardar Patel**.
- The **Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue**, was unveiled on 31 October 2018 at **Kevadia in Gujarat** on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- **Civil Services Day is observed on 21 April to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to the first batch of civil servants of Independent India in 1947.**

Speedy Trial a 'Human Right'
Syllabus: GS2/ Polity and Governance

Context

- The Supreme Court of India, while hearing a **criminal case pending for nearly 35 years in Uttar Pradesh**, declared that the **right to speedy trial is not only a constitutional guarantee under Article 21 but also a human right**.

Article 21 of the Constitution

- **Article 21** guarantees the **protection of life and personal liberty** except according to procedure established by law.
- **Judicial interpretation** has expanded **Article 21 to include fair trial, legal aid, humane prison conditions, and speedy justice**.

Judicial Evolution

- **Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar:** The Supreme Court first recognised speedy trial as a fundamental right under Article 21. The case highlighted the plight of undertrial prisoners languishing in jails for years.
- **A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak:** The Court laid down principles to determine violation of the right to speedy trial. It clarified that delays caused by systemic inadequacies also violate constitutional rights.

PCOS Renamed as PMOS
Syllabus: GS2/ Health

Context

- A global medical consensus has **renamed Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)** after nearly 14 years of scientific consultations involving doctors, researchers, and patient advocacy groups across the world.

PMOS

- **PMOS, earlier known as PCOS, is a complex hormonal and metabolic disorder affecting women of reproductive age.**
- It impacts the **endocrine system, metabolism, reproductive health, and mental well-being**.

- The **disorder affects nearly one in eight women** globally and is among the leading causes of infertility and menstrual irregularities.

Symptoms of PMOS:

- **Risk of Diabetes:** Insulin resistance can lead to Type-2 diabetes mellitus.
- **Cardiovascular Risks:** Women with PMOS are more vulnerable to hypertension and heart diseases.
- **Fertility Challenges:** The disorder affects ovulation and reproductive health.
- **Mental Health Concerns:** Long-term stress, body image issues, and hormonal imbalance may contribute to psychological disorders.

Why Was PCOS Renamed?

- The earlier name **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome** was considered scientifically inaccurate and misleading, as many women diagnosed with the condition do not actually develop ovarian cysts.
- The earlier term primarily associated the disorder with reproductive organs, whereas the condition also significantly affects metabolism, hormones, cardiovascular health, and mental health.

Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

Context

- The Union Ministry of Education has issued a fresh reminder regarding the pending implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)** scheme to West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

PM SHRI Schools

- **Abbreviation** - PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Education
- **Type** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme

- **Aim** - To upgrade and develop more than **14,500 Schools** across the country by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- **Features** - PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education.
- The focus of these schools will be on **modern infrastructure including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more.**
- They will also be developed as “green schools” with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of an organic lifestyle in the curriculum.
- Hence, these schools will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 and act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.

Study on Malaria Vaccine **Syllabus: GS2/Health**

In News

- A major study published in the Lancet found that the world’s first approved malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01E, reduced overall child deaths by 13% in parts of Africa.

Additional Information - **Malaria**

- **Responsible pathogen** - Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by **Plasmodium** parasites.
- **Vector** - It spreads from people to people through the bites of infected female **Anopheles mosquitoes**. It is preventable and curable.
- **Transmission** - **Malaria is not contagious and cannot spread from one person to another**; the disease is transmitted through the bites of female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- **Five species of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – Plasmodium**

falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.

Symptoms

- **Infants, children under 5 years, pregnant women, travelers and people with HIV or AIDS are at higher risk.** Severe symptoms include:
 - extreme tiredness and fatigue
 - impaired consciousness
 - multiple convulsions
 - difficulty breathing
 - dark or bloody urine
 - jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin)
 - abnormal bleeding.

Initiatives to Control Malaria by WHO

- **WHO's Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030** - It aims to **reduce malaria case incidence and mortality rates** by at least **40% by 2020, at least 75% by 2025 and at least 90% by 2030** against a 2015 baseline.
- **'E-2025 Initiative'**: The WHO has identified **25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025** under the initiative.
- **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative**: WHO has initiated the initiative in **11 high malaria burden countries, including India.**

Indian Government Initiatives to Control Malaria

- **National target** - The Government of India set a target to **eliminate malaria in India by 2027.**
- **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** - It has been developed and launched in 2016 aligned with the Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for **malaria elimination 2016-2030.**
- **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India)**: It was established by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**

(ICMR) as a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 **Syllabus: Miscellaneous**

Context

- **President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** to nurses at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

National Florence Nightingale Awards

- **Named after Florence Nightingale**, the founder of modern nursing.
- **It was instituted in 1973** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- **It recognizes meritorious services of nurses and nursing professionals** who contribute significantly to society.
- **Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs.1,00,000/- and a medal.**

NEET Paper Leak Controversy **Syllabus: GS2/Education/Governance**

Context

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** stated that the **2026 NEET examination had been "compromised"** and announced that a re-test would be conducted for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).
- **NEET paves the way for admission to medical colleges.**

Radhakrishnan Panel

- Following the NEET-UG 2024 controversy, the **Ministry of Education formed a high-level committee headed by former ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan.**

National Testing Agency (NTA)

- **Established: In 2017.**

- It is an autonomous body of the **Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education of India.**

NTA conducts major entrance examinations such as the

1. **Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)** Main for engineering;
2. **National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test- Undergraduate (NEET-UG)** for medicine;
3. **Common University Entrance Test (CUET)** for general Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes in central universities.
4. It also conducts recruitment exams for several government agencies including **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Delhi High Court, Employment Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** and for several posts in central government universities.

Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

- It was passed in 2024 and is aimed at curbing leaks, malpractices in recruitment examinations like UPSC, SSC etc and entrance tests such as NEET, JEE, and CUET.
- The Act broadly defines “unfair means” to include various malpractices, such as:
 1. Leaking question papers or answer keys,
 2. Assisting candidates during exams (unauthorized communication, providing solutions),
 3. Tampering with computer networks or resources,
 4. Impersonating candidates,
 5. Conducting fake examinations or issuing fake documents,
 6. Tampering with documents for merit lists or ranks.

Penalties and Punishments:

Individuals:

- Imprisonment ranges from 3 to 10 years depending on the offense’s severity.

- Fines up to Rs. 1 crore for organized crimes.

Service providers:

- Fines up to Rs. 1 crore for involvement in malpractices.
- Barring from conducting public examinations for 4 years.
- Personal liability for directors/management involved.

Organized crimes:

- Harsher penalties, with imprisonment between 5 and 10 years and a minimum fine of Rs. 1 crore
- The institution involved can face property attachment and forfeiture

Investigation:

- All offences under the Act are cognisable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
- An officer not below the rank Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police will investigate the offences under the Act.
- The Central Government may transfer the investigation to any Central Investigating Agency.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) **Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance**

Context

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a **one-year extension in the tenure of Praveen Sood as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.**

Central Bureau of Investigation

- **Set up in** - It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Established under** - It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**

- **Recommended by** - It was established on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee**.
- **Legal status** - The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**.

Functions

1. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the **Central Government**.
2. It also provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal**.
3. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates **investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries**.

Revvng up Immune Cells Might Help Fight HIV: Study Syllabus: GS2/Health

Context

- **Scientists are tweaking a powerful cancer therapy in hopes it could fight HIV instead, by supercharging patients' own immune cells.**

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

- **Pathogen** - It is a chronic, potentially life-threatening health condition caused by the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** which damages the human immune system.
- **Transmission:** Through direct contact with certain **body fluids (blood, semen, rectal fluid, vaginal fluid or breast milk) from a person infected with HIV**.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Stage 1: Flu-like illness (Fever, chills, rashes, night sweats)
 - Stage 2: Clinical latency (No particular symptoms)
 - Stage 3: AIDS (Weakening of Immune System)
- **Prevention: Prevention is better than cure, using protective techniques, non-contaminated**

needles & preventing mother to child transmission.

- **Treatment:** There is no cure for HIV infection. It is treated with **antiretroviral drugs**, which stop the virus from replicating in the body. Untreated HIV can progress to AIDS, often after many years.

Steps taken by Government of India

- **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) (Central Sector Scheme)**
- India has achieved the 6th MDG of halting and reversing the HIV epidemic.
- **Prevention from Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme**
- **HIV/AIDS Act 2017 (Prohibits discrimination against HIV-infected people on any grounds)**
- **90:90:90 strategy as adopted by UNAIDS (90% (diagnosed, treatment (by a nti-retroviral treatment (ART)) & suppression)) by 2020. Extended by 10 years with the goal post of 95-95-95.**
- **Project ACCELERATE (John Hopkin & NACO initiative): To provide HIV Services through Safe Zindagi online portal.**
- **Mission Sampark:** Its purpose was to “bring back” people living with HIV (PLHIV) who had stopped antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Alzheimer's Disease Syllabus: GS2/Health

In News

- **Eli Lilly and Company has launched a new Alzheimer's treatment in India called Lormalzi**, marking one of the first disease-modifying therapies for the condition in the country.
- **Lormalzi Drug** - It is a monoclonal antibody, is given as a once-a-month infusion and works by removing amyloid-beta plaques in the brain, which are linked to Alzheimer's progression.

Alzheimer's Disease

- It is the most **common form of dementia**, a brain disorder that slowly destroys a person's memory and thinking skills.
- **It is characterized by a loss of cognitive functioning** — thinking, remembering, and reasoning — and behavioral abilities to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities.
- Eventually, people with **Alzheimer's lose the ability to perform simple daily tasks, such as eating or walking.**
- Drugs like **lecanemab and aducanumab exist globally**, benefits are modest and come with **complexity, high cost, and safety concerns.**

Tatya Tope

Syllabus: GS1/ Modern History

Context

- A rare handwritten and signed letter of **Tatya Tope dating back to 1857 has been discovered in the archives of Madhya Pradesh.**

Tatya Tope

- **Early Life:** Tatya Tope, originally named **Ramachandra Pandurang Tope**, was born in **1814 in Nashik, Maharashtra.**
- His father served as a noble in the court of **Baji Rao II**, the last Maratha Peshwa.
- He shared a **close association with Nana Sahib**, the adopted son of **Baji Rao II**, which later shaped his role in the revolt.
- **Role in the Revolt of 1857:** He emerged as one of the most capable military commanders during the Revolt of 1857.
- He played a key role in major centres of resistance such as **Kanpur and Gwalior.**
- He worked **closely with leaders like Rani Lakshmibai**, helping sustain the rebellion against British forces.
- **Military Tactics:** He was known for his **effective use of guerrilla warfare, rapid mobility, and surprise attacks.**

- He was eventually captured by the **British and executed in Shivpuri in 1859 after a formal trial.**

Sikkim Becomes India's First Paperless Judiciary State

Syllabus: GS2/Judiciary

Context

- **The Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, declared Sikkim as the first paperless judiciary state in India.**

About -

- **Significance** - This initiative drastically reduces dependence on physical files, minimizes logistical delays, ensures transparency, and aids in reducing case pendency.
- **Technology Integration:** The system includes **e-filing, digital case management, and virtual hearings, aligning with the broader e-Courts Mission Mode Project and the Digital India vision.**
- **Relevance to Hilly Terrain:** Digitalization facilitates easier access to justice for litigants and lawyers, **overcoming geographical barriers in the region.**

Centre Eyes New E-bus Scheme

Syllabus: GS3/Environment

Context

- The Centre may roll out a fresh electric bus scheme for States after completing the tendering and allocation of all 14,000 buses under the **PM E-DRIVE programme.**

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- **Objective** - **To set up charging infrastructure and development of EV manufacturing ecosystem in India.**
- **Duration** - The scheme shall be implemented from **October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026.**

- **e-Vouchers:** Ministry of Heavy Industries is introducing e-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme.
- **Charging Stations:** The scheme addresses range anxiety of EV buyers by promoting in a big way the installation of electric vehicle public charging stations (EVPCS).

Additional Information

- **India's Electric Vehicle Policy** - To achieve the ambitious target of having EV sales penetration of 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial cars, 40% of buses and 80% of two and three-wheelers by 2030.
- **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP):** The NEMMP was launched in 2013 with the goal of achieving national fuel security by **promoting hybrid and electric vehicles.**
- **FAME India Scheme:** The Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Electric Vehicles (FAME) India scheme was launched in 2015 to promote the manufacturing and adoption of EVs.

Sacred Groves in India Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

Context

- The Kerala State Biodiversity Board has launched a pilot programme to restore sacred groves.

Sacred Groves

- **Sacred groves are patches of forest or natural vegetation protected by local communities** due to religious beliefs and traditional practices.
- They function as community-conserved ecosystems, often associated with temples, rituals, and indigenous traditions.
- **India has an estimated 100,000–150,000 sacred groves, reflecting their widespread cultural and ecological significance.**

- **Suitable groves may be notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.**

Significance

- Sacred groves act as biodiversity hotspots, preserving rare, endemic, and medicinal plant species.
- They contribute to soil conservation and prevent erosion, especially in fragile ecosystems like the Western Ghats and Himalayas.
- Culturally, they are centres of rituals, festivals, and community identity, reinforcing conservation through belief systems.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026 Syllabus: GS2/ Polity & Governance

Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India flagged the critical issues like Self-identification vs State verification and Welfare targeting vs individual dignity in Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026.

Background: Legal Evolution of Transgender Rights in India

- **NALSA Judgment, 2014:** It recognised transgender persons as the 'third gender', and affirmed **right to self-identification without medical intervention.**
- It established self-determination as a core constitutional value.
- **It is linked gender identity to Article 21 (Right to Life and Dignity).**
- **Transgender Persons Act, 2019:** It defines transgender persons, mandates the right to self-perceived identity, **prohibits discrimination in employment and education, and establishes the right to reside in the household.**
- **It introduced certification by District Magistrate.**

- **Amendment Act, 2026:** It mandates **medical board certification before legal recognition**; **removes explicit recognition of self-perceived identity**; and introduces stricter definitions and penal provisions.

Key Issues Raised in the Supreme Court

- **Self-Identification vs Medical Gatekeeping:** Violates bodily autonomy and dignity (Art. 21), and creates ‘medical gatekeeping’ by the State. Clinical validation undermines identity autonomy.
- **Fear of Misuse vs Rights Protection:** Court flagged risk of ‘masquerading’ to access reservations/welfare.
- However, misuse probability is negligible, and concerns of misuse are often overstated compared to systemic exclusion.
- **Impact on NALSA Principles:** Amendment in 2026 dilutes self-identification doctrine, and reintroduces biological essentialism.
- It acts as a ‘regressive shift from rights-based to regulatory framework’.
- **Healthcare and Transition Rights:** It alleged that ongoing gender-affirming treatments will be disrupted.
- Access to healthcare is already limited and stigmatized in India.
- **Classification and Stigma:** Inclusion of victims of coercion alongside transgender persons leads to arbitrary and stigmatizing classification (Art. 14 violation).

Ru-Soam Bridges

Syllabus: GS1/ Culture; GS3/ Environment



Context

- **UNESCO** has partnered with the **Government of Sikkim** to document **indigenous Ru-Soam (cane bridge) engineering practices**.
- The project is being implemented in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve** with support from **Airbnb**.

About Ru-Soam Bridges

- **Ru-Soam** are **traditional cane bridges built by the Lepcha community**.
- These bridges are **constructed using locally available natural materials such as bamboo, cane, and wood**.
- They demonstrate a **high level of ecological understanding and structural resilience suited to mountainous terrain**.
- The bridges proved their **resilience during the Sikkim Glacial Lake Outburst Flood 2023**.

Tanzania

Syllabus: GS1/Geography



In News

- **Recently, the 5th session of the India–Tanzania Joint Trade Committee (JTC), held in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.**

Tanzania

- It is an **East African country** located just south of the Equator.
- The **capital is Dodoma**, and **Dar es Salaam is the largest city** and main port.
- tanzania

- **Bordering countries** - It is bordered by Uganda, Kenya, and Lake Victoria to the north; the Indian Ocean to the east; Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and Lake Nyasa to the south; and Rwanda, Burundi, and Lake Tanganyika to the west.
- **Geographical features: Mount Kilimanjaro Located in Tanzania,**
- **Mount Kilimanjaro is the African continent's highest peak**
- Tanzania also includes a **portion of Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa and a source of the Nile River.**
- **Rivers - Great Ruaha, Rufiji, and Kagera rivers**
- **Lake Tanganyika, forms the boundary between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

In News

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines** at the recently concluded National Summit on Good Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Service Delivery.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)

- It is a national initiative **launched under the National Health Mission (NHM).**
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Objective** - It focuses on early identification and intervention for children from birth to 18 years to manage conditions like birth defects, deficiencies, diseases, and developmental delays.

- **Target Beneficiaries** - The programme splits children into age-appropriate cohorts for structured tracking:
 1. 0 to 6 weeks: Newborns screened at delivery points and through home visits by ASHAs.
 2. 6 weeks to 6 years: Pre-school children monitored at local Anganwadi centres.
 3. 6 years to 18 years: Students enrolled in government and government-aided schools.
- **The "4Ds" Strategy** - RBSK systematically screens and provides free treatment for 30 to 32 selected health conditions grouped under four major categories:
 1. **Defects at Birth:** Down syndrome, congenital cataract, cleft lip/palate, club foot, and congenital heart diseases.
 2. **Deficiencies:** Anaemia, Vitamin A or D deficiency, severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and goitre.
 3. **Diseases of Childhood:** Skin conditions, otitis media, rheumatic heart disease, and reactive airway disease.
 4. **Developmental Delays & Disabilities:** Vision impairment, hearing loss, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy.



KPSC PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2026 PROGRAM AT BENGALURU

BATCH-4 STARTS ON
25TH MAY 2026



SUBSCRIBE HERE



Under the Guidance of
VINAY KUMAR G B
Founder & Director, Insights IAS



Integrated Classes for Prelims & Mains (8-9 Months)



Medium of Classes English & Kannada



Emphasis on Mains Answer Writing Practice



Basic & Advanced Classes by Experienced Faculty



One-on-One Personalized Mentorship by Faculty



Offline & Online Classes & Prelims & Mains Test Series

FEE OFFLINE CLASSES:

₹ 60,000/- ₹ 54,000/-

Incl. taxes



Early Bird Offer

FEE ONLINE CLASSES:

₹ 50,000/- ₹ 45,000/-

Incl. taxes

OUR FACULTIES



GIRIDHAR SIR
ETHICS



SHIVANAND SIR
POLITY
(HONORARY ADVISOR)



SHASHANK SIR
GEOGRAPHY



DHRUV SIR
GEOGRAPHY
(HONORARY ADVISOR)



NAVEEN SIR
HISTORY



NANDAN SIR
ENVIRONMENT & CA



MAHESH SIR
ECONOMY
(HONORARY ADVISOR)



PRAJWAL SIR
SOCIETY



SRIKANTH SIR
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



VINAYAK SIR
HISTORY



MAMDAPUR SIR
PHYSICS



LINGARAJU SIR
ESSAY



YOGANAND SIR
AGRICULTURE



NINGAPPA SIR
MENTAL ABILITY

Bengaluru Office:

2nd floor, 30 road feet, 1133/B, Service Rd, opposite to Bunt's Sangha, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka



Contact:
08069405206



Mail:
support@insightsias.com



www.insightsonindia.com
instacourses.insightsonindia.com

Branches: Bengaluru | Delhi | Srinagar | Davanagere