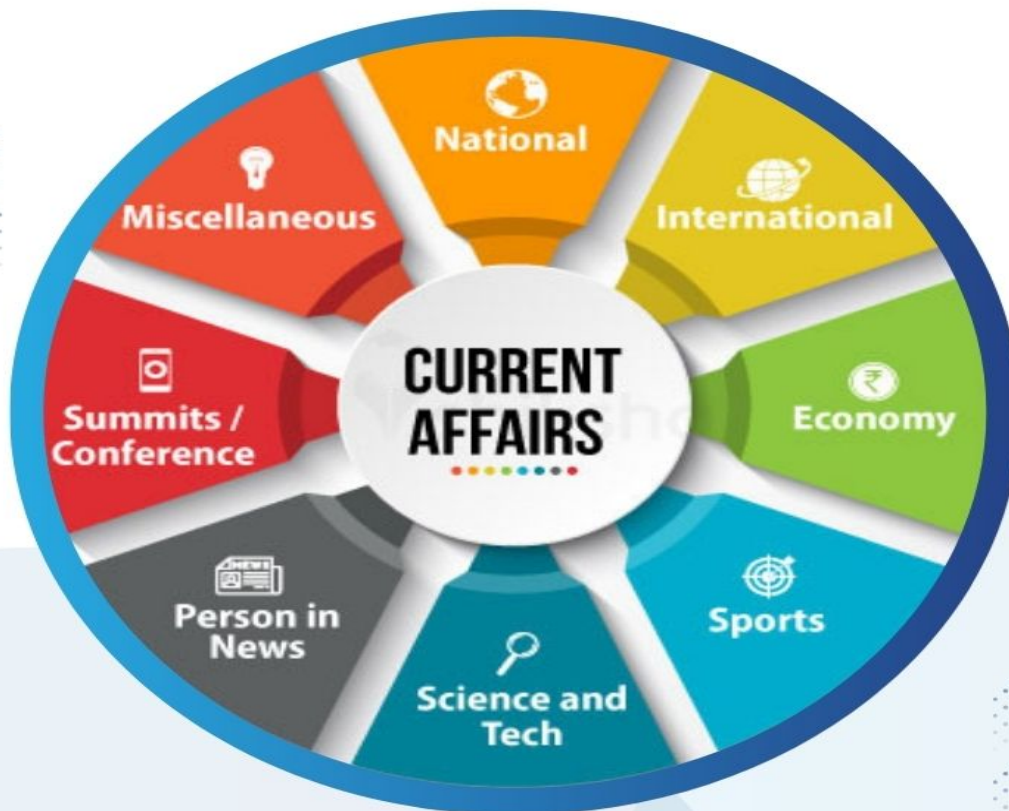"We help you reach for the star"

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
& STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 23/06/2025 (WEDNESDAY)

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1. Supreme Court Issues Notice on Presidential Reference – Powers of President and Governors in Assent to State Bills

Key Highlights of the Case

- **Presidential Reference under Article 143**: President Droupadi Murmu has sought the Supreme Court's opinion on constitutional questions regarding the powers of the **President and Governors in granting or withholding assent to State Bills**.

- **Constitution Bench Formed**: A **5-judge Constitution Bench** led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai has issued notices to **all States and the Union government**, seeking their responses within a week.

- **Nationwide Relevance**: The CJI emphasized that the issues raised go **beyond Tamil Nadu or Kerala** and are of **national constitutional importance**, affecting all States under the federal structure.

Background and Legal Provisions

- **Relevant Articles**:

  - **Article 200**: Power of the Governor to grant assent, withhold, reserve for President, or return a State Bill.

  - **Article 201**: If a Bill is reserved for the President, he/she may assent or withhold.

  - **Article 143**: Presidential Reference to Supreme Court for its advisory opinion on legal or constitutional questions.

> The issue affects all the States. The Supreme Court is concerned with the entire country. The court will answer the questions raised by the President.
>
> **B.R. GAVAI**
> Chief Justice of India

- **Recent Context**:

  - Tamil Nadu alleged **undue delay** by the Governor in assenting to Bills.

  - Kerala also raised concerns over similar inaction.

  - Supreme Court had criticized such **executive inaction**, calling it a **"constitutional breakdown."**

Key Constitutional and Governance Issues Raised

- **Time Limit**: The Constitution is silent on a **specific timeline** within which the Governor or President must act, leading to delays.

- **Doctrine of Federalism**: Governor and President acting on Bills passed by elected State legislatures is a **core issue in Centre-State relations**.

- **Judicial Review**: Whether judicial intervention is possible in cases of **delay or inaction** by the constitutional head.

- **Discretion vs. Aid & Advice**: Whether Governors/President can **indefinitely delay or withhold assent** or are **bound by the Council of Ministers' advice**.

Key Terms Defined

- **Presidential Reference (Article 143)**: A mechanism where the President seeks the SC's opinion on constitutional issues of **public importance**. Though **not binding**, it carries **high persuasive value**.

- **Assent to Bills**: A **constitutional process** required to transform a Bill into a law. The Governor/President has the final sign-off power for legislative enactments.

- **Federalism**: Division of powers between Union and States. Issues like **withholding assent** challenge this balance.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's upcoming judgment may **clarify constitutional ambiguities** surrounding the role of the **President and Governors in legislative processes**, especially in **assenting or withholding assent to State Bills**. This is vital for **strengthening cooperative federalism**, **ensuring legislative efficiency**, and **preventing misuse of constitutional offices for political ends**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 – Indian Constitution & Governance**:

    o   Issues and challenges in **Centre-State relations**

    o   **Role of constitutional authorities** like President & Governor

    o   **Judicial interpretation** and constitutional morality

- **Important for**: Questions on **Federal Structure, Separation of Powers, Judicial Activism**, and **Governor's Role in Indian Polity**.

- **Mains Answer Writing Angle**: Discuss how **delay in assent** may lead to a **constitutional impasse** and affects **legislative intent of elected representatives**.

2. Punjab Cabinet Approves Amendments to Land Pooling Policy

Key Highlights of the Policy Amendments

- **Amendments to Land Pooling Policy**: The **Punjab Cabinet** has approved changes to its **land pooling scheme** aimed at promoting urban development while safeguarding farmers' interests.

- **Compensation Structure Revised**:

    o   Farmers will continue farming on the pooled land until development begins.

    o   They will receive ₹50,000 per acre as **interim compensation**.

    o   Once the land is taken over for development, they will get ₹1 lakh per acre.

    o   If development takes more than a year, compensation increases by **10% annually**.

- **Political and Public Discourse**: CM **Bhagwant Mann** dismissed opposition claims that the scheme would "rob" farmers of their land, call such allegations **propaganda** and emphasize that the **farming community supports** the policy.

Key Concepts and Constitutional Provisions

- **Land Pooling Policy**: A mechanism where landowners voluntarily contribute their land for urban development. In return, they receive a portion of the developed land or compensation. This is seen as a more **equitable alternative to land acquisition**.

- **Article 243ZD & 243ZE**: Mandate **District and Metropolitan Planning Committees** for coordinated planning and integration of land use and development.

- **Article 300A**: Guarantees the **Right to Property** as a constitutional right – land acquisition or pooling must follow **due compensation and fairness**.

- **Participatory Governance**: The amendment process reflects **consultation with farmers**, indicating a move toward **inclusive policymaking**.

Significance of the Amendments

- **Farmer-Centric Urbanization**: The revised policy tries to **balance urban growth with agrarian livelihoods**, ensuring **continued income for farmers** even during the transition phase.

- **Transparent Development Model**: The annual increment in compensation and permission to farm until land is used reflect efforts to **minimize exploitation** and **maximize transparency**.

- **Prevention of Litigation**: By addressing compensation concerns upfront, the government hopes to **reduce land-related disputes and delays** in urban projects.

Key Definitions

- **Land Pooling**: A process by which land parcels owned by individuals are voluntarily contributed to a central authority, which develops infrastructure and returns a part of the developed land or pays monetary compensation.

- **Compensation**: Under land pooling, it includes **both financial payments** and/or **return of developed plots**. It differs from **land acquisition**, where ownership is permanently transferred.

Conclusion

The Punjab government's amended land pooling policy seeks to create a **pro-farmer, development-friendly model** of urban growth. It reflects an effort to **resolve the urban-rural conflict** through policy innovation, ensuring **farmer participation, fair compensation, and transparency**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 – Governance & Policy Implementation**:
  - **Centre-State policy innovation**, role of States in urban governance
  - Mechanisms of **consultative policymaking**

- **GS Paper 3 – Land Reforms in India & Inclusive Development**:
  - Urbanization challenges, land acquisition vs. land pooling
  - Protection of **farmer rights and compensation** frameworks

- **Prelims**: Important schemes related to **urban planning and land reforms**

- **Essay/Ethics**: Model of **inclusive governance**, **public trust**, and **state accountability**

3. Karnataka Government Plans New Law to Combat the Devadasi System

Key Highlights of the New Proposed Law

- **New Bill in Place of Old Act**: The **Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill** aims to replace the existing **Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982**, to provide **stronger legal safeguards** and **rehabilitation measures**.

- **Recognition of Children's Rights**:

    o Any child of a Devadasi will be considered a **legitimate child**.

    o Such children will be entitled to **inheritance and succession rights** under **Hindu Personal Law**.

    o The law will allow children to establish paternity through **DNA testing** and remove the requirement for mentioning the father's name in government documents.

- **Stricter Punishments Proposed**:

    o The **maximum imprisonment term** for performing or abetting Devadasi dedication is proposed to be increased from **3 years to 5 years**.

    o This aims to deter continued exploitation under the guise of religious or traditional practices.

Legal and Constitutional Context

- **Existing Law**: Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982 banned the practice, but implementation has remained weak.

- **Constitutional Provisions**:

    o **Article 14** – Right to Equality

    o **Article 15(1) & (3)** – Prohibition of discrimination and special provisions for women and children

    o **Article 21** – Right to Life and Dignity

    o **Article 23** – Prohibits human trafficking and forced labour

- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** and **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012** are also relevant in cases of child dedication.

Key Definitions

- **Devadasi System**: A centuries-old **religious and social practice** of "dedicating" young girls to deities in temples. In reality, many Devadasis faced **sexual exploitation, caste-based violence**, and **denial of fundamental rights**.

- **Legitimate Child**: As per **Section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act**, a legitimate child has **equal rights to property** even if born out of void or voidable marriages or relationships.

Significance of the New Bill

- **Social Justice for Marginalised Women**: Recognizes and **restores dignity and legal identity** to Devadasis and their children who were long stigmatized and exploited.

- **Modern Legal Approach**: By enabling DNA-based paternity claims and delinking the father's name from essential documents, it challenges patriarchal and casteist norms.

- **Rehabilitation Focus**: The bill ensures **relief, protection, and reintegration** of Devadasis into society with dignity.

Conclusion

The proposed law marks a **progressive shift** from mere prohibition to **comprehensive relief and rehabilitation**. It addresses the **legal invisibility and social ostracization** faced by Devadasis and their children and reflects the state's commitment to **eliminating exploitative practices** rooted in caste, gender, and religion.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 1** – Indian Society: Role of women and women's organizations, social empowerment, and caste-based practices.

- **GS Paper 2** – Governance, Polity, and Constitution: Welfare schemes, issues of vulnerable sections, implementation of laws.

- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics)** – Issues of social justice, human dignity, and empathy.

- **Prelims**: Recent developments in legislation against **traditional exploitative practices**.

- **Essay**: Can be used as a case study in topics like **"Women and Social Justice"**, **"Caste and Gender in India"**, or **"Law as an Instrument of Social Change."**

4. UPSC's 'PRATIBHA Setu' – A Talent Bridge for Civil Services Aspirants

Key Highlights of the PRATIBHA Setu Initiative

- **Alternative Career Pathways for Aspirants**: *PRATIBHA Setu* is a forward-looking initiative by UPSC to help candidates who **cleared Mains and appeared in the Interview** stage of exams like **CSE, IFS, ESE**, etc., but narrowly missed final selection. It connects them with **verified government and private employers**.

- **Growing Institutional Adoption**: So far, **113 organizations** have been onboarded to the platform, indicating **rising interest** from both **public and private sector employers** in recruiting highly assessed candidates from the UPSC talent pool.

- **From Passive Disclosure to Interactive Platform**: Earlier, candidate information was just published online. Now, through PRATIBHA Setu, **employers can log in and directly connect** with shortlisted candidates—**making recruitment more dynamic, targeted, and transparent**.

Key Features of the Platform

- **PRATIBHA** = "Professional Resource And Talent Integration", and **Setu** = "Bridge" – symbolizing a link between **assessed talent** and **employment opportunities**.

- The platform covers **multiple UPSC exams**, including:

  - **Civil Services Exam (CSE)**

  - **Indian Forest Service (IFS)**

- o **Engineering Services Exam (ESE)**

- o **Combined Medical Services (CMS)**
  (Excludes NDA/NA and select departmental exams).

- **Voluntary Participation**: Only **willing candidates** are listed. Employers get access to a **verified, high-quality talent pool** for hiring purposes.

Legal & Institutional Framework

- **UPSC's Constitutional Mandate**:

  - o **Article 315–323** of the Indian Constitution lay the foundation for the UPSC's function of recruiting for public services.

  - o PRATIBHA Setu, though not constitutionally mandated, **aligns with UPSC's evolving role** in human resource development and institutional capacity-building.

- **Public Disclosure Scheme (2018)**: PRATIBHA evolved from this policy, indicating **institutional continuity and innovation** in **governance reforms**.

Why It Matters: Talent Utilization & Governance Efficiency

- **Optimizes Assessed Human Capital**: Candidates who clear multiple UPSC stages undergo **rigorous evaluation**, and PRATIBHA Setu ensures their potential is not lost due to minor rank-based cutoffs.

- **Bridges Public-Private Recruitment Gap**: The initiative promotes **cross-sectoral talent integration**, meeting **diverse employment demands** across the economy.

- **Contributes to Transparent Recruitment**: By offering **verified, open access to candidate data**, it sets a **benchmark in ethical and merit-based hiring**.

Definitions

- **PRATIBHA Setu**: A structured **employment facilitation platform** that acts as a **bridge** between **assessed but unselected UPSC aspirants** and prospective employers.

- **Non-recommended Candidates**: Those who qualify all stages of UPSC exams but fall short of final merit list due to rank limitations.

Conclusion

UPSC's PRATIBHA Setu is a **progressive employment facilitation initiative** that taps into a valuable pool of **pre-screened, trained, and motivated aspirants**. By building a bridge between governance-focused preparation and real-world opportunities, it aligns with the larger goal of **inclusive and efficient human resource development**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 – Governance, Transparency & Reforms**:

  - o Role of constitutional bodies (UPSC), employment reforms, and public service delivery innovation.

- **GS Paper 3 – Human Resource Development & Inclusive Growth**:
  - o Policies for effective talent utilization and bridging public-private human resource needs.
- **GS Paper 4 – Ethics & Aptitude**:
  - o Case study in **integrity-based selection**, meritocracy, and reform-minded governance.
- **Prelims**: Recent Government/UPSC initiatives like **PRATIBHA Setu**, their objectives and coverage.

5. Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan – A Whole-of-Nation Movement for Responsive Governance

Key Highlights of the Aadi Karmayogi Initiative

- **Mission for Viksit Bharat @2047**: *Aadi Karmayogi – National Mission for Responsive Governance* is a transformative initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, aiming to build a cadre of **2 million grassroots change leaders** to strengthen **last-mile service delivery** in tribal areas.
- **Second Regional Process Lab (RPL) in Bhopal**: This **7-day training program** focuses on developing **State Master Trainers (SMTs)** from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh who will cascade training to District-level Master Trainers and frontline functionaries.
- **Whole-of-Nation Approach**: The mission follows a **convergence model**, integrating efforts across **key ministries** like Rural Development, Women & Child Development, School Education, Jal Shakti, and Forests for **responsive, participatory, and culturally grounded governance**.

Vision, Structure & Governance Model

- **Cadre-Based Capacity Building**: Aadi Karmayogi promotes a **cascading training model**:
  - o **Regional Process Labs (RPLs) → State Process Labs (SPLs) → District Master Trainers (DMTs)**
- **Bottom-Up Governance**: The initiative emphasizes **local leadership**, **community engagement**, and **contextual solutions** for tribal development.
- **Integration with Flagship Schemes**: The mission complements ongoing tribal welfare programs such as:
  - o **PM-JANMAN** (*Prime Minister's Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan*) – Whole-of-Government approach
  - o **DAJGUA** (*Development Action for Janjatiya Gram Unnati Abhiyan*) – Whole-of-Society approach
  - o **Aadi Karmayogi** – Whole-of-Nation approach

Key Definitions and Conceptual Framework

- **Aadi Karmayogi**: A transformative capacity-building initiative to train grassroots workers in tribal areas for responsive governance rooted in local traditions and tribal ethos.
- **Responsive Governance**: A governance system that is **citizen-centric**, **timely**, **empathetic**, and **culturally sensitive**, especially in underserved areas.

- **Convergence Model**: A coordinated inter-ministerial and inter-departmental approach to avoid duplication, bridge implementation gaps, and deliver holistic outcomes.

Constitutional & Policy Framework

- **Fifth & Sixth Schedules**: Special provisions for tribal areas ensuring **autonomy and cultural preservation** through local governance.

- **Article 46**: Directive Principle requiring the State to **promote educational and economic interests** of Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.

- **PESA Act, 1996**: Empowers **Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas**, encouraging **bottom-up participation**.

- **Forest Rights Act, 2006**: Recognizes **community forest rights** of tribal populations.

Significance & Outcomes Expected

- **Empowerment of Tribal Communities**: Through **capacity-building and leadership development**, the initiative seeks to address **systemic exclusion** of tribal voices in governance.

- **Bridging Last-Mile Governance Gaps**: Trained SMTs and DMTs will act as **change agents** in delivering services related to health, education, livelihood, and rights-based schemes.

- **Promotes Sustainable Development**: Emphasizing **locally prevalent skills**, **traditional knowledge**, and **community-led planning** ensures long-term tribal welfare.

Conclusion

The Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan signifies a **paradigm shift in tribal governance**—from being scheme-driven to **community-empowered and convergence-based**. With a focus on **responsive service delivery**, **grassroots capacity building**, and **cultural sensitivity**, it sets the foundation for a **Viksit Bharat that is inclusive, participatory, and equitable**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 – Governance & Welfare Schemes**:

  - Tribal welfare policies, cooperative federalism, capacity-building in public service delivery
  - Role of training institutions, civil society, and convergence in development programs

- **GS Paper 3 – Inclusive Growth & Human Resource Development**:

  - Addressing disparities in tribal areas through skill-based empowerment

- **GS Paper 4 – Ethics & Leadership**:

  - Role of grassroots change agents in delivering ethical and people-centric governance

- **Essay Topics**:

  - *"Empowering the Marginalised for Inclusive Development"*

  - *"Grassroots Governance – The Foundation of Viksit Bharat"*

6. VISION 2030 for Textile Industry

Key Highlights of the Vision 2030 for the Textile Sector

- **Launch of 'Mission for Cotton Productivity':**

    o Announced in **Union Budget 2025–26**, the mission is a 5-year programme to enhance **cotton productivity and quality**.

    o **Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)** is the nodal agency; **Ministry of Textiles** is the partner department.

    o Aims to **strengthen the entire cotton value chain** from farm to fibre using scientific and technological interventions.

- **Focus Areas of the Mission:**

    o Development of **climate-smart, pest-resistant, high-yielding cotton varieties**.

    o Emphasis on **Extra Long Staple (ELS)** cotton to reduce import dependency and enhance export competitiveness.

    o Utilizes **advanced breeding and biotechnology tools** to improve cotton strains.

- **Special Project by ICAR-CICR (Nagpur):**

    o Project titled *"Targeting Technologies to Agro-Ecological Zones"* under **National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)**.

    o Implemented in **8 major cotton-growing states** from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

    o Focuses on **large-scale demonstration of best practices** to enhance cotton productivity.

    o **Total budget allocation: ₹6,032.35 lakhs**.

- **Alignment with the 5F Vision:**

    o The initiative supports the government's integrated approach of **Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign**.

    o Aims to increase **farmers' income**, provide **steady raw material supply** to the textile industry, and enhance **India's global textile competitiveness**.

- **Use of Science, Innovation & Extension:**

    o Farmers will be equipped with **cutting-edge research, extension services**, and **technological tools**.

    o Helps tackle **climate change**, **pest threats**, and **yield stagnation** in the cotton sector.

Important Definitions & Constitutional/Legal Provisions

- **ELS Cotton (Extra Long Staple Cotton):** A type of cotton with fibre length ≥ 34 mm, essential for high-quality yarn and premium textiles.

- **DARE (Department of Agricultural Research & Education):** An attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture, overseeing ICAR and coordinating agri-research.

- **ICAR-CICR:** Central Institute for Cotton Research under **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**, responsible for cotton R&D in India.

- **NFSNM:** A sub-mission under the **National Food Security Mission** for improving productivity and nutritional output of crops.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The *Vision 2030* for the textile sector is a **strategic roadmap** to rejuvenate India's cotton and textile industry by combining **agricultural reforms with industrial goals**. The mission highlights:

- Inter-ministerial collaboration,

- Climate-resilient agriculture,

- Self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in ELS cotton,

- Sustainable growth of the textile value chain.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-3:** Indian Economy – Agriculture, Infrastructure (Textile Sector), Science & Tech in Agriculture.

- **GS-2:** Government Policies and Interventions (Budget announcements, inter-ministerial coordination).

- **Essay & Ethics:** Innovation in public policy, inclusive development, value-chain enhancement.

Linkages with climate-smart agriculture, boosting rural income, and industrial growth make this a model initiative aligned with sustainable development and economic transformation goals.

7. 10 Years of Skill India Mission

Key Highlights of the 10-Year Milestone Celebration

- **Launch of the SOAR Initiative (Skilling for AI Readiness):**

  o Aims to **make the world's largest school-going population AI-ready**.

  o Targets students from **Classes 6 to 12** with progressive modules: *AI to be Aware, Acquire, Aspire*.

  o Includes a **45-hour AI literacy module for educators**.

  o Covers AI fundamentals, ethics, generative AI, cybersecurity, and future career paths.

- **Major Institutional & Digital Launches:**

  o **IndiaSkills 2025–26 Guidelines & Portal** for national-level skill competitions.

- o **KaushalVerse Digital Enterprise Portal** by NCVET for transparent governance in vocational education.

- o Launch of **Apprenticeship Training Portal** with improved UI/UX for smoother skilling lifecycle.

- **Strategic MoUs with National and International Institutions:**

  - o Key partnerships signed with **France**, **Microsoft**, **Apollo MedSkills**, **IITs**, **NITs**, **IIITs**, and **RRU**.

  - o Aim to foster **public-private collaboration**, **global mobility**, and **region-specific training** under **PMKVY 4.0**.

  - o Focused sectors: Electronics, Agriculture, Green Jobs, Healthcare, AI–ML, Cybersecurity, EV, AR/VR.

- **Policy and Regulatory Advancements:**

  - o **Revised Guidelines** for recognition of **Assessment Agencies** and **Awarding Bodies** under NCVET.

  - o Launched the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)** integration for flexible, multidisciplinary learning aligned with **NEP 2020**.

- **New Reports and Handbooks Released:**

  - o **India Semiconductor Workforce Strategy Report** – aligns Indian skilling with global chip supply chains (design to ATMP).

  - o **Skill Impact Bond (SIB)** – India's and world's **largest outcome-based skilling bond**, with **$14.4 million mobilized**.

  - o **Employability Skills Handbook** – for JSS learners including neo-literates and dropouts.

  - o **Decentralized Planning Book** – documents local-level skilling via **District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs)**.

- **National and Global Vision:**

  - o **From "Skilling as fallback" to "Skilling as foundation"**—a transformative shift in mindset.

  - o India aligning its youth with **global future job markets** through **AI, digital productivity, sustainability**, and **climate resilience**.

  - o Vision aligned with **Viksit Bharat 2047**, aiming for **inclusive and tech-integrated development**.

Definitions & Constitutional/Legal Provisions

- **SOAR:** A foundational AI literacy initiative for school students and teachers under the Skill India Mission.

- **Skill India Mission (2015):** Flagship programme under **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** for providing employable skills to youth.

- **NEP 2020:** Advocates for **integration of vocational education** from school level and **flexible learning pathways** through credit-based systems.

- **PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana):** Flagship skill certification scheme for imparting industry-relevant skills to youth.

- **NCVET (National Council for Vocational Education and Training):** Regulatory body under MSDE for standardizing assessment and certification in skilling.

Conclusion

The 10-year celebration of the **Skill India Mission** marked a **paradigm shift** from mere vocational training to creating a **future-ready, digitally-empowered, and globally competitive workforce**. With the integration of **AI, semiconductor ecosystem readiness, inclusive skilling for rural youth, and industry-aligned training**, India is preparing its population for a **technology-driven future**. The mission reflects India's commitment to **empower every citizen with dignity, mobility, and opportunity**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2:** Government schemes, Public policy implementation, Education, and International collaborations.

- **GS-3:** Employment, Skill Development, Digital Economy, Innovation, AI, and Semiconductor Industry.

- **Essay & Ethics:** Human capital, dignity of labour, inclusive growth, and ethical AI education.

- **Prelims:** Key initiatives like **SOAR, PMKVY, KaushalVerse, Skill Impact Bond, NCVET**.

India's approach to skilling exemplifies the convergence of education, technology, and empowerment—a model case for aspirants to understand governance with innovation.

8. National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) & FAME Scheme

Key Objectives and Vision

- **NEMMP 2020**: A comprehensive roadmap launched to promote *faster adoption of electric vehicles (EVs)* and to develop a domestic *EV manufacturing ecosystem*.

- **FAME Scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles)** was launched in **2015** under NEMMP.

  o Aim: Encourage adoption of **hybrid and electric vehicles (xEVs)** and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Phase-Wise Implementation

1. FAME-I (2015–2019):

- Focused on **market development and initial adoption**.

- **EVs supported**:

  o *e-2W*: 1,51,648

  o *e-3W*: 786

- o *e-4W*: 1,02,446

- o *e-Buses*: 425

- o **Total**: 2,55,305 vehicles

- **EV Charging Infrastructure**:

  - o 520 charging stations sanctioned

  - o ₹43 crore allocated.

2. FAME-II (2019–2024):

- Enhanced scale with focus on **technology, demand aggregation, and emission reduction**.

- Key targets:

  - o *Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)* production,

  - o Boost to **domestic components manufacturing**.

- Supported EVs as of 30 June 2025:

  - o *e-2Ws*: 14,35,065

  - o *e-3Ws*: 1,65,029

  - o *e-4Ws*: 22,644

  - o *e-Buses*: 5,165 (6,862 committed)

  - o **Total**: 16,29,600 vehicles

- **EV Charging Infrastructure**:

  - o ₹912.50 crore sanctioned for 9,332 stations

  - o 8,885 charging stations installed by June 2025.

Additional Key Points

- FAME-II contributed to **reducing vehicular emissions**, especially in **urban areas**, aligning with India's **COP21 commitments**.

- The schemes extended to **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, promoting nationwide EV accessibility.

- The promotion of **indigenous EV technologies** supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)**.

Definitions of Key Terms

- **xEVs**: A collective term for electric and hybrid vehicles.

- **ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicles)**: Vehicles that produce no tailpipe pollutants.

- **PCS (Public Charging Stations)**: Infrastructure that enables public access to EV charging.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 48A** (Directive Principles): State to protect and improve the environment.

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**: Legal framework for emission reduction.

- EV mobility aligns with **India's obligations under the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC)**.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The NEMMP and FAME schemes represent India's **strategic push towards green mobility**, emission reduction, and industrial self-reliance. They signify the intersection of **environmental sustainability, innovation, and infrastructure development**. Their success is vital for reducing oil imports, meeting climate goals, and fostering a competitive EV market.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3 (Environment, Infrastructure, Technology, Economy)**:

  o   Sustainable development

  o   Urban transport

  o   Renewable energy ecosystem

- **GS Paper 2 (Government schemes, Policy implementation)**

- **Prelims**: Schemes, current data, and objectives

- **Essay / Mains**: Green energy transition, Climate change mitigation, Mobility reforms

9. India-China Conflict over Buddhism – A Geopolitical Contest in the Himalayas

1. Faith as a Tool of Geopolitics in the Himalayas

- The **India-China rivalry over Buddhism** has emerged as a silent yet powerful dimension of their strategic competition, especially in the **Himalayan borderlands** (Ladakh, Tawang, Bhutan, Nepal).

- What was once a peaceful **spiritual tradition** is now being used as a means to assert **national identity and territorial legitimacy**.

- **Monasteries and lama lineages** are becoming geopolitical instruments, influencing loyalty and identity in contested regions.

2. China's Strategy: Buddhist Statecraft

- Since the 1950s, **China has sought control over Tibetan Buddhism** by:

  o   **Exiling or marginalising independent lamas**,

  o   Claiming **exclusive authority to approve reincarnations** of high lamas (via the 2007 order),

  o   Maintaining a **state-approved database of reincarnated lamas**.

- China promotes **"Buddhist diplomacy"** through infrastructure investments (e.g., shrines, roads, conferences) in **Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet** to shift religious loyalties.

- It uses **soft power as hard power**, strategically controlling **monasteries and spiritual leadership**.

3. India's Response: Late, Yet Evolving

- India has **hosted the Dalai Lama** and Tibetan exile government since 1959 but has only recently:

  o   **Promoted Buddhist pilgrimage circuits** (e.g., Sarnath, Bodh Gaya),

o Highlighted **India as Buddha's birthplace**,

o Engaged in limited **Buddhist diplomacy**, though still fragmented compared to China.

- India is trying to **anchor loyalty of Himalayan Buddhist communities** to Indian soil.

4. Dalai Lama Succession Crisis: The Next Flashpoint

- With the 14th Dalai Lama turning 90, the issue of his **successor** may lead to:

  o **Two rival Dalai Lamas** — one appointed by China (using "Golden Urn") and one by the Tibetan exile community (likely based in India).

- This spiritual schism may **polarise Buddhist populations** across **Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Nepal**, impacting **regional geopolitics and national allegiances**.

5. Buddhism and Border Security

- Religious identity is becoming **a proxy for territorial control**.

- India faces the challenge of **retaining allegiance of high lamas** and monasteries within its border.

- Splits within Tibetan Buddhism (e.g., **rival Karmapas** in the Karma Kagyu school and **Dorje Shugden sect**) are being **leveraged by both nations** to gain soft power advantages.

6. Key Definitions & Constitutional-Legal Context

- **Soft Power**: The ability to shape preferences and influence others through appeal and attraction (culture, values, diplomacy).

- **Golden Urn System**: Qing dynasty-era Chinese system to appoint high Tibetan lamas—now used by China to claim legitimacy.

- **Article 25-28 of Indian Constitution**: Guarantee **freedom of religion**, allowing India to offer **religious asylum and support to Tibetan Buddhists**.

- **Refugee Law & Asylum Policy**: India, though not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, hosts the **Tibetan government-in-exile** on humanitarian and strategic grounds.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

India and China's competition over **spiritual legitimacy in Buddhism** is a strategic contest for **hearts, minds, and identities** in the Himalayas. As reincarnations become political and monasteries turn into soft-power assets, this contest is redefining the **geo-cultural landscape of Asia**.

UPSC Relevance

➤ GS Paper 2 – International Relations

- India-China relations

- Role of soft power in diplomacy

- Tibetan government-in-exile and border politics

➤ GS Paper 1 – Indian Culture

- Buddhist philosophy and institutions

- Influence of religion on regional politics

➤ **GS Paper 3 – Internal Security**

- Role of **identity and ideology** in sensitive border areas

- Strategic implications of **religious influence in border regions**

➤ **Essay & Ethics**

- Intersection of **faith, diplomacy, and geopolitics**

- Moral dilemmas in foreign policy related to **religious succession and sovereignty**

10. Remote Work Realities: A Global Experiment Under Scrutiny

Key Highlights

1. **Gap Between Aspiration and Reality**

   o The "Global Survey of Working Arrangements" (2024–2025) reveals that workers want an average of **2.6 remote days/week**, but receive only **1.27 days/week** globally.

   o In Asia (India, China, Japan), remote work averages only **1.1 days/week**, much below aspirations.

2. **Cultural and Infrastructural Constraints**

   o In countries like India, *"presenteeism"* (the belief that physical presence equates to productivity and loyalty) dominates.

   o Urban challenges: small homes, shared spaces, and poor internet infrastructure deter effective work-from-home models.

3. **Gender Dimensions of Remote Work**

   o Women, especially mothers, prefer and engage in more remote work (average 2.66 days/week) due to **caregiving burdens**.

   o This raises questions—**Is remote work an empowerment tool or a survival strategy under patriarchy?**

   o Gendered division of labour remains deeply entrenched.

4. **Health, Productivity, and Psychological Risks**

   o Remote workers face physical issues (backaches, eye strain) and **mental stress** (isolation, blurred boundaries).

   o Many homes lack ergonomic setups and digital wellness standards.

5. **Employers' Reluctance and Policy Gaps**

   o Employers worry about **team bonding**, **creativity**, and **oversight**.

   o Some firms are quietly reversing remote work policies due to concerns over innovation and cohesion.

- o Governments lack updated **labour protections**, infrastructure support, or **universal digital access** mechanisms.

6. **Path Forward – A Holistic Hybrid Model**

   - o Emphasis on well-designed **hybrid systems**—mix of office and home-based work.

   - o Need for state interventions: broadband access, ergonomic home-office support, enforceable **digital labour laws**.

   - o Social shift needed: Recognizing and redistributing **unpaid domestic labour**.
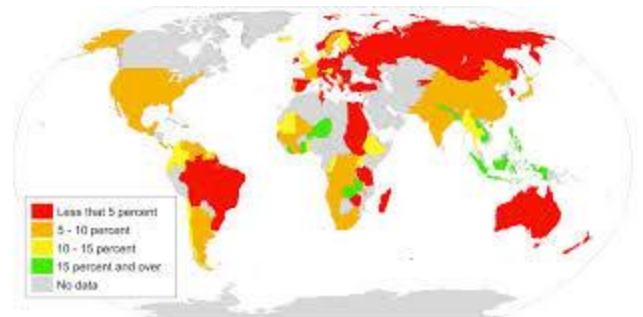
Important Definitions for UPSC

- **Presenteeism**: The practice of being present at work more than required, often valued in traditional work cultures.

- **Hybrid Work Model**: A flexible work arrangement combining in-office and remote work days.

- **Ergonomics**: Designing workplaces and tools to fit the user's health, efficiency, and comfort.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions (Indian Context)

- **Article 42** (Directive Principles): Promotes just and humane conditions of work.

- **Labour Codes (e.g., Occupational Safety Code, 2020)**: Still evolving to incorporate remote work challenges.

- **Digital India Programme**: Can be leveraged to ensure broadband access for remote workers.

- **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961**: Needs updates to include support for remote working mothers.

Conclusion

The global shift to remote work has revealed **structural inequities**, **gendered responsibilities**, and **infrastructural weaknesses**, particularly in developing countries like India. While offering autonomy, remote work also imposes hidden health and social costs. For it to truly democratize labour, both **employers and governments must invest** in supportive ecosystems, and **cultural attitudes must evolve**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II – Governance**: Issues related to **e-governance**, labour welfare, gender equality, and inclusive workspaces.

- **GS Paper III – Economy**: Future of work, digital infrastructure, hybrid economy, labour market trends.

- **GS Paper I – Society**: Gender roles, changing family structures, unpaid care economy.

- **Essay/GS-IV (Ethics)**: Freedom vs Control, Work-life balance, Social justice in employment.

11. Redeeming India's Nuclear Power Promise

Key Highlights

1. **India's Ambitious Nuclear Target (100 GW by 2047)**

   o Union Budget 2025-26 announced a **target of 100 GW nuclear power capacity** by 2047 (current capacity is just 8.18 GW).

   o This aligns with India's goals of becoming a **developed nation (Viksit Bharat by 2047)** and achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**.

   o ₹20,000 crore allocated to develop **at least five Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** by 2033.

2. **Challenges to Expansion: Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks**

   o Nuclear energy remains under **exclusive state control** per the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**.

   o The **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010**, imposes liability on both operators and suppliers—deterring foreign investment.

   o Reforms are needed to open the sector to **private and foreign players**, amend CLNDA, and establish **independent regulation**.

3. **Historical Background: From Bhabha to Kudankulam**

   o India began nuclear power early (Apsara, 1956; Tarapore, 1963) but global isolation post-1974 (PNE) and NPT refusal slowed progress.

   o Russia remains the only active external partner (Kudankulam), via a pre-CLNDA 1988 agreement.

   o Indigenous design success: 220 MW → 540 MW → 700 MW **Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)** operational today.

4. **Why Nuclear Energy is Essential for India's Growth**

   o India's electricity demand is rising rapidly (from 1,208 kWh/capita vs. 4,600 for China and 12,500 for the U.S.).

   o Renewable sources provide **intermittent power**, whereas **nuclear provides clean, stable, base-load power**—essential for a \$35 trillion economy by 2047.

   o COP26 (Glasgow) and COP28 (Dubai) globally acknowledged **nuclear as a green, low-carbon option**.

5. **Reforms Required for Enabling Environment**

   o Amendments to the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** to allow private/public-private participation.

   o Recast **CLNDA** to ease supplier liability; define clear **tariff regulations** under **Electricity Act** to reduce disputes.

   o Establish a **statutory independent regulator** to replace the current AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board), which is not legally autonomous.

o **Financial incentives** (viability gap funding, tax breaks, green financing, FDI up to 49%) to encourage investment.

6. **Need for Strategic Partnerships and Fast-Tracked Projects**

   o Joint Ventures like **NPCIL-NTPC** (Mahi Banswara) are welcome but insufficient.

   o Stalled negotiations with **France and U.S.** must be expedited to import advanced technology.

   o Replace **captive thermal plants (100 GW)** with **small nuclear reactors** to ensure reliability and low emissions.

Key Definitions for UPSC

- **PHWR (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor)**: Uses natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator; indigenous to India.

- **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)**: Compact, factory-fabricated reactors with scalable deployment and enhanced safety.

- **Base Load Power**: Minimum level of constant electricity supply needed to meet fundamental demand.

- **CLNDA, 2010**: Law that imposes strict and potentially unlimited liability on operators and suppliers in case of nuclear accidents.

- **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**: Governs development and control of nuclear energy in India; vests exclusive control with the Union Government.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 21**: Right to a safe and healthy environment—supports shift to clean energy like nuclear.

- **Article 48A** (Directive Principles): Protect and improve environment and safeguard natural resources.

- **Seventh Schedule**: Atomic energy is under the **Union List** (Entry 6), thus exclusively under Central Government control.

- **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and **CLNDA, 2010**: Require amendment to allow PPPs and foreign participation.

- **Electricity Act, 2003**: May need clarification on tariff-setting jurisdiction for nuclear operators.

Conclusion

India's goal of becoming a $35 trillion economy and meeting its climate commitments cannot be achieved without **a major nuclear power push**. With indigenous capability now maturing and international climate narratives supporting nuclear energy, **comprehensive legal, financial, and institutional reforms** are essential.

The shift requires a **paradigm change**—from complete state monopoly to **public-private partnerships and global collaborations**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II – Polity & Governance**:

   o **Policy reforms**, legislative amendments (Atomic Energy Act, CLNDA).

- o **Centre-State relations** in energy and environment.

- **GS Paper III – Economy & Environment**:

  - o **Energy security**, clean energy transitions, climate commitments (COP26, COP28).

  - o Role of nuclear power in sustainable development and low-carbon pathways.

- **GS Paper I – Modern Indian History & Society**:

  - o Evolution of India's nuclear journey, strategic autonomy, technology indigenisation.

- **Essay & GS-IV (Ethics)**:

  - o Balancing development with safety, energy justice, and environmental ethics.

12. How Different Constitutional Drafts Imagined India (1895–1948)

1. Early Liberal Vision: Constitution of India Bill, 1895

- Attributed to early nationalists like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, this draft proposed **representative government**, **civil liberties** (free speech, property rights), and **legal equality**, inspired by **British constitutionalism**.

- Aimed for **dominion status**, not full independence; contained **110 articles** focusing on the **rule of law**, **separation of powers**, and **individual rights**.

- **Significance**: Laid the foundation for a rights-based legal framework in the Indian constitutional journey.

2. Radical Humanism & Participatory Democracy: M.N. Roy's Draft (1944)

- Drafted by **M.N. Roy** under the **Radical Democratic Party**, it proposed **popular sovereignty**, **federalism based on linguistic states**, and **citizens' committees** for participatory governance.

- Included enforceable **socio-economic rights**, **right to revolt**, and a **comprehensive Bill of Rights**; rejected **parliamentary supremacy** in favor of **citizen-centric democracy**.

- **Preamble** defined India as a **"free, secular, federal, and democratic" republic**.

- **Significance**: Preceded concepts like **Directive Principles** and **grassroots democracy** in the 1950 Constitution.**3. Cultural Nationalism with Secular Guarantees: Hindusthan Free State Act (1944)**

- Linked to the **Hindu Mahasabha**, this draft envisioned a **unitary, culturally unified state**—"one language, one law, one national culture".

- Surprisingly guaranteed **religious freedom**, **no state religion**, and **non-discrimination** in public life, echoing **formal secularism**.

- Contained rare provisions like the **right to secession** and mandated the state to uphold **moral-spiritual values**.

- **Significance**: Blended majoritarian nationalism with **liberal-democratic rights** in a paradoxical structure.

4. Gandhian Decentralism: Constitution for Free India (1946)

- Drafted by **Shriman Narayan Agarwal** with a foreword by **Mahatma Gandhi**, this proposed a **confederation of self-sufficient village republics** (Gram Swaraj).

- Focused on **khadi, cottage industries**, and **non-violence**, but also included the **right to bear arms**—an ironic contradiction to **ahimsa**.

- Rejected Western-style legalism and centralized state in favor of **ethical self-governance**.

- **Significance**: Ideologically influenced **Directive Principles** and **Panchayati Raj system** in post-independence India.

5. Socialist Blueprint: Socialist Party's Draft (1948)

- Led by **Jayaprakash Narayan**, this draft proposed **abolition of private property**, **nationalization** of industries, and **economic democracy**.

- Envisioned a **unicameral legislature** of workers, peasants, and intellectuals; focused more on **redistributive justice** than procedural liberties.

- Included **gender equality** and anti-**caste discrimination** provisions; less emphasis on judicial structure.

- **Significance**: Echoed in **socialist policies**, **land reforms**, and economic planning post-1950.

Key Definitions & Legal/Constitutional Concepts

- **Popular Sovereignty**: Authority of the government is created and sustained by the people's will.

- **Directive Principles of State Policy** (Article 36–51): Non-justiciable socio-economic goals in the 1950 Constitution.

- **Fundamental Rights** (Article 12–35): Justiciable civil-political rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution.

- **Gram Swaraj**: Gandhi's concept of village self-rule and decentralised governance.

- **Secularism**: Equal respect for all religions, and **no state religion** (Articles 25–28).

- **Right to Revolt** (Roy's Draft): A radical idea allowing rebellion against tyranny—absent in the 1950 Constitution.

- **Right to Bear Arms**: Proposed in Gandhian draft (Article 6); not adopted in the final Constitution.

Comparative Insights

Draft	Governance Model	Focus Area	Rights Emphasized
Constitution Bill, 1895	Liberal, legalistic, centralized	Political representation	Civil liberties
M.N. Roy's Draft (1944)	Participatory federalism	Rights, decentralization	Civil + socio-economic rights (enforceable)
Hindusthan Free State Act (1944)	Unitary, nationalist	Cultural identity	Religious freedom, secularism
Gandhian Draft (1946)	Village-based decentralism	Morality, self-reliance	Community duties > individual rights
Socialist Party Draft (1948)	Marxist socialism, centralized	Economic justice, planning	Economic rights, class-based representation

Constitutional & Legal Provisions Influenced

- **Article 38 & 39**: Socio-economic justice and equitable distribution of resources (echoing Socialist and Roy's drafts).

- **Article 40**: Village panchayats (inspired by Gandhian Gram Swaraj).

- **Articles 25–28**: Freedom of religion and secular state (aligned with Hindusthan Free State's guarantees).

- **Part III (Fundamental Rights)**: Reflects liberal ideas from the 1895 and Roy's drafts.

- **Article 1 & 2**: Union structure; partially influenced by debates on federalism from Roy's and other drafts.

Conclusion

The journey from **1895 to 1950** was marked by rich **ideological diversity**, reflecting multiple visions of sovereignty, democracy, rights, and identity. While none of the drafts were adopted in entirety, the final **1950 Constitution** integrated elements from each—**liberal legalism**, **Gandhian ethics**, **socialist planning**, and **pluralist secularism**.

Together, these drafts **expanded India's democratic imagination**, showcasing a robust constitutional culture even **before independence**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity)**:

  o Evolution of constitutionalism in India.

  o Precursor drafts to the Constitution.

  o Federalism, secularism, socialism debates.

- **GS Paper I (Modern History)**:

  o Role of nationalists, Gandhi, Roy, JP Narayan in constitution-making.

- **GS Paper IV (Ethics)**:
    - Ethical dilemmas between ideals (ahimsa vs right to bear arms).
    - Moral philosophy in governance (Gandhian trusteeship).
- **Essay / Optional**:
    - Ideal models of democracy, constitutional morality, and pluralism.