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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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## 1. Supreme Court Intervention in Tamil Nadu Governor Case – Key Summary

- **Background of the Case:** A five-judge Presidential Reference Bench headed by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai observed that the Supreme Court's decision to grant *deemed assent* to 10 Tamil Nadu Bills (pending since 2020) was to address an “egregious situation” caused by prolonged inaction of the Governor. The Court clarified it did not intend to overrule or reopen the earlier judgment but only to provide clarity.
- **Governor's Role under Article 200:** The Attorney General argued that under **Article 200 of the Constitution**, the Governor has powers to grant assent, withhold assent, or reserve the Bill for President's consideration. He maintained that the Governor was not strictly bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers in this context, giving the Governor discretionary powers.
- **Issue of Pendency of Bills:** The Bench highlighted the unusual delay, with Bills pending since 2020, calling the situation “glaring.” Justice Surya Kant questioned the constitutional propriety of such inaction, as it impacts the functioning of representative democracy in the State.
- **Constitutional Principle Involved:** The case reflects the tension between **Governor's discretionary powers (Articles 153–162, 200, 201)** and the **principle of responsible government under Article 163**, where the Governor is generally bound by the advice of the elected Council of Ministers.
- **Key Definition – Deemed Assent:** *Deemed assent* means that if the Governor withholds action on a Bill for an inordinately long time, the Supreme Court may interpret such inaction as tacit assent, to prevent constitutional deadlock. This is not explicitly provided in the Constitution but evolved through judicial interpretation to safeguard legislative authority.
- **Separation of Powers Concern:** The Bench clarified that it was not substituting its judgment for legislative or executive power but stepping in only because of the extraordinary constitutional crisis created by prolonged gubernatorial inaction.



### Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The case underscores the **delicate balance between constitutional morality and legal authority** in Centre-State relations. It highlights the friction between elected governments and Governors appointed by the Centre, raising questions on federalism, separation of powers, and democratic accountability.

**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **Polity and Governance** (GS Paper 2) – topics like *Governor's role, discretionary powers, Centre-State relations, constitutional provisions (Articles 153–201), judicial review, and constitutional morality*. It is also relevant for questions on **current affairs linked with constitutional interpretation**.

## 2. Saltwater Crocodile Population in Sundarbans

- **Population Increase (2025 Survey):** The latest survey by the West Bengal Forest Department shows a rise in saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) numbers in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR). Estimated population ranges from **220 to 242** this year, compared to **204–234** in 2024. Direct sightings: **213 crocodiles** (125 adults, 88 juveniles, 23 hatchlings), showing a sharp rise especially in hatchlings, which are rarely sighted in Sundarbans terrain.





- **Ecological Role:** Saltwater crocodiles are *hypercarnivorous apex predators* that play a crucial role in maintaining aquatic ecosystems by feeding on carcasses and regulating species balance. They are among the **largest reptiles in the world** and critical indicators of wetland and mangrove health.
- **Distribution in India:** Found in the mangroves and rivers of **West Bengal, Odisha**, and coastal areas of **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**. Sundarbans, being the world's largest mangrove delta, is a prime habitat for their survival.
- **Conservation Measures:** The **Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project (1976)** in South 24 Parganas has been central to conservation and breeding efforts. Use of **GPS mapping, systematic surveys, and habitat characterisation** in the latest study shows scientific progress in wildlife monitoring. Saltwater crocodiles are protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, making hunting/poaching illegal. They are also listed in **CITES Appendix I** (highest protection in international trade).
- **Key Definitions:**
  - *Biosphere Reserve:* A designated area under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme balancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
  - *Encounter Rate:* Average sighting density—in this study, about **1 crocodile per 5.5 km stretch**, showing healthy presence.
  - *Hatchlings:* Newly hatched young crocodiles; their higher sightings signal improved breeding success.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **Article 48A (Directive Principles):** State shall protect and improve environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
  - **Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duty):** Duty of every citizen to protect natural environment and wildlife.
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 & Biological Diversity Act, 2002** provide legal framework for crocodile conservation.



### Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The increasing saltwater crocodile population in Sundarbans is an **indicator of successful conservation strategies** and improved habitat health. However, challenges remain due to human-wildlife conflict, climate change, and habitat loss in fragile mangrove ecosystems.

**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper 3 (Environment, Biodiversity, Conservation)** and **Prelims (Biosphere Reserves, Wildlife Acts, Species Conservation, Protected Areas, Crocodile projects like Bhagabatpur)**. It also links with **India's obligations under CBD, CITES, and Ramsar Convention**.

### 3. Karnataka Assembly Passes Gig Workers' Welfare Bill, 2025 – Key Summary

- **Objective of the Bill:** The *Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025* seeks to protect gig workers' rights, establish a **social security and welfare fund**, and



impose obligations on aggregators (platform companies). It also aims to ensure **dispute resolution, registration of workers and platforms, income security, and better working conditions.**

- **Funding Mechanism:** A welfare fee (1%–5%) will be levied on each transaction made by aggregators with gig workers. The Gig Workers' Welfare Fund will be financed through (i) worker contributions, (ii) aggregator fees, and (iii) grants-in-aid from State and Central governments.
- **Rationale for the Law:** Gig workers, such as delivery agents and ride-hailing drivers, face **health issues (due to long hours, pollution, unsafe roads)** and economic insecurity. Many work up to 16 hours a day, earning around ₹1,800. The Bill addresses precarious working conditions and lack of social security in the gig economy.
- **Statistical Context:** According to NITI Aayog (2022 report), India will have around **23.5 million gig workers by 2029–30**. Currently, Karnataka has **4 lakh gig workers**, of which **10,500 are registered**. This makes Karnataka one of the first states to legislate specifically for gig workers' welfare.
- **Key Definitions:**
  - *Gig Worker:* A person who earns income through short-term, task-based, or platform-mediated work arrangements, without a long-term employer-employee relationship.
  - *Aggregator/Platform:* Digital platforms like food delivery apps, cab services, and courier services that connect customers with gig workers.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **Article 39 (Directive Principles):** State shall ensure adequate livelihood, equal pay, and protection against exploitation.
  - **Article 41 (Right to Work, Education, Public Assistance):** State to provide social security in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disablement.
  - **Article 42:** State to secure humane conditions of work.
  - **Code on Social Security, 2020:** Includes gig and platform workers as a new category of workers entitled to certain benefits.
  - **ILO Conventions on Decent Work** also emphasize protection for informal and platform workers.



## Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The Bill is a **pioneering step in labour welfare legislation**, recognizing the vulnerabilities of platform-based gig workers. It creates a framework for **social security, dispute resolution, and income protection**, setting a model for other states. However, challenges remain in enforcement, compliance by platforms, and coverage of all informal workers.

**UPSC Relevance:** Highly relevant for **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Welfare Schemes, Labour Rights, Social Justice)** and **GS Paper 3 (Inclusive Growth, Employment, Informal Economy)**. It may also appear in **Prelims (labour codes, Articles 39, 41, 42, gig economy definition, NITI Aayog data)**.



## 4. Adoption of AI by White-Collar and Blue-Collar Workers

- **Survey Findings (Indeed Report – “The Work Ahead”):** Over 3,000 professionals across India (white-collar and blue-collar) were surveyed. **43% workers** feel confident about using emerging technologies like *Generative AI* and *Agentic AI* in the next 2–5 years. Confidence is highest among **mid-career professionals (35–54 years)**, with **49% ready** to adapt to AI-integrated workplaces.
- **Generative AI and Agentic AI:**
  - *Generative AI:* Artificial Intelligence systems that create new content (text, images, code, etc.) from training data.
  - *Agentic AI:* AI systems capable of autonomously completing complex tasks without constant human input.Around **34% respondents expect frequent use of Generative AI**, while **25% anticipate Agentic AI adoption** in the near future.
- **Training and Upskilling Demand:** **56% of mid-career workers** seek more AI training; **29% respondents** prefer self-paced online programs. Nearly **one-third fear job insecurity** if they fail to keep pace with technological change. Employers are expected to provide structured training and support for AI learning.
- **Blue-Collar Workers and AI:** Contrary to perception, AI is penetrating manual and service-based roles. **70% of blue-collar workers** believe technology aids their work. Already **20% use Generative AI** in tasks like paperwork streamlining, logistics, and customer service. This reflects AI’s cross-sectoral adoption.
- **Economic and Labour Market Implications:** Upskilling in AI is becoming a **career accelerator** linked with higher pay, promotions, and future employability. Integration of AI into both knowledge-based and manual sectors highlights the shift towards a **tech-augmented labour market**.



### Legal, Constitutional, and Policy Dimensions

- **Article 41 (Directive Principles):** Right to work and public assistance – requires state action to support workers in adapting to technological change.
- **Article 43:** State to ensure decent work conditions and a living wage.
- **National Policy on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** and initiatives like **Skill India Mission** aim at reskilling workforce for Industry 4.0.
- **Labour Codes** (Code on Social Security, 2020) may need to expand coverage to AI-displaced workers.
- **ILO “Decent Work Agenda”** also emphasizes balancing technology with job security and worker protections.

### Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

AI adoption is no longer limited to white-collar work—it is reshaping both **formal and informal sectors**. While it creates opportunities for **productivity, higher pay, and new job roles**, it also risks **job insecurity and widening skill gaps** if upskilling is not universal. The issue raises debates around **technological**



change, labour rights, inclusive growth, and social security frameworks.

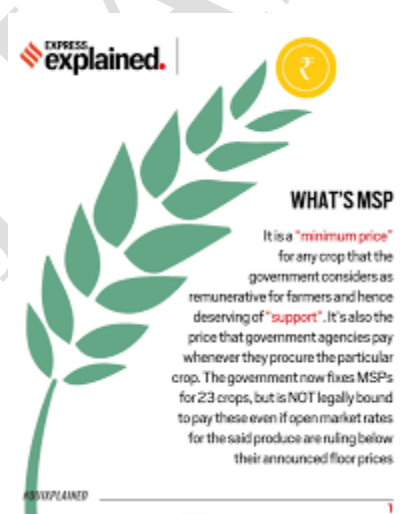
**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Social Justice, Labour Welfare)**, **GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech, Employment, Skill Development)**, and **Essay Paper (Future of Work, AI and Society)**. Also useful for **Prelims (AI concepts like Generative AI, Agentic AI, skill development schemes, Articles 41 & 43)**.

## 5. Cost-Reflective Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) Framework

- **Definition of MSP:** *Minimum Support Price (MSP)* is the guaranteed price announced by the Government of India before each sowing season to protect farmers against sharp fall in market prices. The government procures crops at this rate to ensure **farm income stability and food security**. Currently MSP is announced for **22 mandated crops + Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane**.
- **List of MSP Crops:**
  - Kharif (14 crops)** – Paddy (Common & Grade A), Jowar (Hybrid & Maldandi), Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Tur (Arhar), Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower seed, Sesamum, Nigerseed, Cotton (Medium & Long staple).
  - Rabi (6 crops)** – Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masur (Lentil), Rapeseed-Mustard, Safflower.
  - Commercial (2 crops)** – Jute, Copra (Milling & Ball).
  - Sugarcane** – FRP is announced separately, not MSP, but functions similarly.
- **Institutional Mechanism:** MSPs are recommended by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** after consulting **State Governments, Central Ministries, and Departments**. Final approval is given by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.
- **Method of Calculating MSP:**

CACP uses different cost concepts while fixing MSPs:

  - **A2:** All paid-out costs by the farmer (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, hired labour, irrigation, fuel, etc.).
  - **A2+FL:** A2 plus imputed value of family labour.
  - **C2:** A2+FL plus imputed rent on owned land and interest on owned fixed capital assets. The government follows the **2018–19 Budget formula**, where MSP is kept at least **1.5 times A2+FL**, ensuring a **minimum 50% return over average cost of production**.
- **Factors Considered by CACP:** Cost of production, demand-supply conditions, domestic & international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, likely effect on the economy, and sustainable use of natural resources.
- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**
  - **Article 38 & 39 (DPSP):** State to ensure adequate livelihood, equitable distribution of material resources.
  - **Article 43:** State to secure living wage and decent standard of life for workers, including farmers.







- **Food Security Act, 2013:** MSP procurement feeds into PDS and food subsidy system.
- No legal right to MSP yet, though farmer unions demand statutory backing.

### Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The **cost-reflective MSP framework** provides a safety net to farmers and ensures food security, but faces challenges like **procurement skewed towards rice & wheat, fiscal burden, storage constraints, and ecological impacts (overuse of water, soil depletion)**. Reforms are being debated, including **region-specific diversification, linking MSP with market reforms, and direct income support models**.

**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper 3 (Agriculture, Food Security, Inclusive Growth, Farm Reforms)** and **Prelims (CACP, crops covered under MSP, FRP of sugarcane, cost calculation methods A2, A2+FL, C2)**.

## 6. “Anna-Chakra” Supply Chain Optimisation Tool – Key Summary

- **Objective and Implementation:** The “*Anna-Chakra*” *Supply Chain Optimisation Tool* is designed to improve efficiency in the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** by optimising transport routes for food grains. It has been implemented in **30 out of 31 States/UTs**, with **Manipur** being the exception.
- **Financial Impact:** By reducing transportation costs, the tool is expected to generate **savings of around ₹250 crore per annum**, showcasing the economic benefits of applying digital and optimisation technologies in welfare schemes.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Route optimisation has reduced fuel consumption and **cut CO2 emissions**, contributing to India’s **climate change and sustainability commitments** under international agreements like the **Paris Agreement**.
- **Key Features:**
  - Uses *data-driven algorithms* to optimise food distribution routes.
  - Ensures faster and cost-effective delivery of food grains to fair price shops.
  - Reduces wastage and improves transparency in the supply chain.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **Article 21 (Right to Life):** Interpreted by SC to include right to food.
  - **Article 39(b) (DPSP):** Distribution of resources to subserve the common good.
  - **Article 47:** Duty of the State to raise nutrition levels and standard of living.
  - **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)** provides the legislative basis for subsidised foodgrain distribution under PDS.
- **Definition:**
  - **Public Distribution System (PDS):** Government-run system that distributes subsidised food and non-food items to poor households through Fair Price Shops.







- *Supply Chain Optimisation*: Use of technology and algorithms to make distribution more cost-efficient, transparent, and eco-friendly.

## Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The “Anna-Chakra” initiative represents a **technological leap in governance**, combining **digital optimisation, food security, fiscal prudence, and environmental protection**. It strengthens the PDS by making it more efficient and climate-conscious, directly impacting millions of beneficiaries under the **NFSA, 2013**.

**UPSC Relevance**: Important for **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Welfare Schemes, E-Governance in service delivery)**, **GS Paper 3 (Economy, Food Security, Technology for sustainable development, Climate commitments)**, and **Prelims (PDS, NFSA 2013, Articles 39(b), 47, Anna-Chakra tool implementation states)**.

## 7. PACS Integration with PM-KISAN – Key Summary

1. **ERP-enabled Digital Convergence of PACS**: The Centrally Sponsored Project on Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) integrates national farmer databases (PM-KISAN, PMKSK, PMFBY, PDS, LPG, CSC, etc.) through a uniform ERP platform, ensuring transparency, financial discipline, and efficient service delivery.
2. **Multi-Sectoral Service Hubs**: PACS are being transformed into local-level service delivery hubs by diversifying into multiple functions:
  - **PMKSKs**: 36,592 PACS upgraded to supply fertilizers, seeds, pesticides.
  - **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**: 47,918 PACS offering 300+ e-services (banking, insurance, bill payments).
  - **PMBJKs**: 762 PACS ready to provide affordable generic medicines.
  - **Fuel & LPG**: Eligible for petrol/diesel outlets and LPG distributorships, boosting non-credit income.
  - **Water Supply O&M**: 539 PACS selected for rural piped water management.
  - **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**: 1,117 FPOs registered through PACS to ensure revenue diversification.
3. **Financial & Governance Reforms**: Model bye-laws allow PACS to diversify into 25+ economic activities (dairy, fishery, warehousing, fair price shops), reducing over-dependence on credit operations. ERP-enabled software ensures **audit transparency, inclusive governance, and representation of women & SC/ST members**.
4. **Monitoring & Evaluation Mechanisms**:
  - **National Cooperative Database (NCD)**: Real-time data repository for PACS activities.
  - **ERP/MIS Dashboards**: For accounting, procurement, inventory, and loan tracking.
  - **Cooperative Ranking Framework**: Performance benchmarking of PACS.





- **Multi-layered Committees:** National (NLMIC), State (SCDC/SLIMC), and District (DLIMC/DCDC) for monitoring implementation.
- **NITI Aayog Evaluation:** Independent impact assessment of PACS computerization & IT interventions.

#### 5. Legal & Institutional Framework:

- **Constitutional Backing:** Article 43B (Directive Principles) promotes cooperative societies; 97th Constitutional Amendment gave constitutional status to cooperatives (though parts struck down by SC in *Union of India v. Rajendra Shah*, 2021).
- **Statutory Basis:** Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and State Cooperative Acts regulate PACS functioning.
- **Role of NABARD:** Supervises audit, funding, and training of PACS under cooperative banking structure.

#### Key Definitions

- **PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies):** Grassroot-level cooperative institutions that provide short-term and medium-term credit to farmers, now being transformed into **multi-functional rural service hubs**.
- **ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning):** A digital platform that integrates financial management, procurement, inventory, and service delivery, ensuring transparency and accountability.

#### Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The integration of PACS with PM-KISAN and multiple central schemes is a **transformational reform in India's cooperative sector**, shifting PACS from being credit-focused entities to **multi-dimensional rural service delivery institutions**. This reform ensures financial sustainability, inclusive governance, rural employment generation, and supports **Doubling Farmers' Income** and **Digital India** goals. For UPSC, it is relevant under **GS-2 (Governance, Government Schemes)**, **GS-3 (Agriculture, Inclusive Growth)**, and **Essay/Case Studies in GS-4 (Cooperative Values, Transparency, Rural Empowerment)**.

### 8. Objectives of National Cooperative Policy, 2025

#### Key Highlights

- **Launch of Policy (2025):** The New National Cooperation Policy, 2025, provides a **10-year roadmap** for systematic and holistic development of the cooperative sector.
- **Mission Framework:** The policy sets **16 objectives** grouped under **six strategic mission pillars**: legal reforms, finance, cooperation, inclusivity, entry into new sectors, and youth empowerment.
- **Platform Cooperatives:** Introduction of innovative models like **Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited**, registered under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002**, as a people-centric alternative to private ride-hailing apps.





- **Promotion & Support:** National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), supported by **IFFCO, NAFED, Amul, KRIBHCO, NDDB, NCEL & NABARD**, plays a major role in operationalising cooperative models.
- **Regulatory Backing:** Under **Section 19 (MSCS Act, 2002 – amended 2023)**, cooperatives can promote subsidiaries; **Section 64** allows investment of cooperative funds in banks, securities, government undertakings, and cooperative enterprises.
- **Scale of Cooperatives:** As of 2025, **1779 Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS)** are registered in India, with 8 in Chhattisgarh alone.

### Six Strategic Mission Pillars

1. **Strengthening Foundations** – Legal reforms, autonomy, good governance, and ease of doing business for cooperatives.
2. **Financial & Business Access** – Affordable credit, equal opportunities, and market expansion for cooperatives.
3. **Promoting Vibrancy** – Developing a cooperative business ecosystem and ensuring access to international markets.
4. **Future-Readiness** – Technology adoption, professional management, and sustainability through circular economy practices.
5. **Inclusivity & Deep Reach** – Focusing on youth and women participation, ensuring cooperatives as a people's movement.
6. **Youth & Capacity Building** – Cooperative-centric courses, skilling initiatives, and creating an ecosystem for cooperative-based employment.

### Key Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 43B (97th Constitutional Amendment, 2011):** Recognises promotion of cooperative societies as a Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP).
- **Part IXB (Articles 243ZH – 243ZT):** Provides constitutional status to cooperatives, ensuring democratic functioning and autonomy.
- **MSCS Act, 2002 (Amended 2023):** Empowers cooperatives with flexibility for investments, subsidiaries, and professional management.

### Definition

- **Cooperative Society:** A voluntary association of individuals united to meet common economic, social, and cultural needs through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.
- **Platform Cooperative:** A technology-driven, member-owned cooperative business model (e.g., app-based taxi service).

### Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The **National Cooperative Policy, 2025** marks a significant shift by integrating technology, professional management, and inclusivity into India's cooperative framework. It aligns with **constitutional provisions (Art. 43B, Part IXB)**, supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, and strengthens rural as well as urban livelihoods. For UPSC, it is relevant under **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Constitution, Government Policies)** and **GS Paper 3 (Inclusive Growth, Employment, Agriculture & Rural Economy)**.



## 9. Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – Key Summary

### Overview

- **Launch & Purpose:** The Government of India launched the **Vibrant Villages Programme-I (VVP-I)** on 15th February 2023 as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** to ensure comprehensive development of select border villages in 46 blocks across **19 districts** of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh (UT).
- **VVP-I Coverage:** Initially, **662 border villages** identified for development. State-wise distribution: Arunachal Pradesh – 455, Himachal Pradesh – 75, Sikkim – 46, Uttarakhand – 51, Ladakh – 35.
- **VVP-II:** Approved on 2nd April 2025 as a **Central Sector Scheme** with an outlay of **Rs. 6,839 crore till FY 2028-29**, targeting strategic villages along international land borders (ILB) not covered under VVP-I. States/UTs include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K (UT), Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

### Objectives & Key Interventions

1. **Livelihood Generation:** Promote tourism, cultural heritage, skill development, entrepreneurship, and cooperative societies (agriculture, horticulture, medicinal plants/herbs).
2. **Infrastructure Development:** Roads for unconnected villages, village amenities, health and education facilities, renewable energy, and telecom/TV connectivity.
3. **Incentivizing Residents:** Encourage residents to stay in strategic border villages by improving quality of life and economic opportunities.
4. **Strategic & Security Relevance:** Strengthens **border area development**, aids in surveillance, and ensures **national security along international borders**.



### Constitutional & Policy Backing

- **Directive Principles:** Article 39(b) & 39(c) – equitable distribution of resources and reduction of regional imbalances.
- **Article 243G:** Empowers local self-governments to undertake village development activities.
- **National Policy Alignment:** Supports **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** and **Neighbourhood First Policy**, integrating socio-economic growth with strategic priorities.

### Key Definitions

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):** A scheme funded by both Centre and States where the Centre provides a major share of funding and sets broad guidelines.
- **Central Sector Scheme (CS):** Fully funded and implemented by the Central Government for specific developmental objectives.
- **Strategic Villages:** Villages located in sensitive areas along international land borders with national security and socio-economic significance.





## Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The Vibrant Villages Programme addresses **border area development**, balancing **economic growth**, **infrastructure**, **livelihood opportunities**, and **national security**. VVP-I and II collectively strengthen **regional equity**, **strategic preparedness**, and **rural livelihoods**, particularly in remote and sensitive areas.

**UPSC Relevance:** Relevant for **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Welfare Schemes, Border Area Development)**, **GS Paper 3 (Infrastructure, Rural Development, Agriculture, Renewable Energy)**, and **Prelims (Scheme details, state-wise coverage, budgetary allocation)**.

## 10. Lessons from M.S. Swaminathan for Viksit Bharat

### Overview

- **Viksit Bharat Aspiration:** India's vision for a developed nation requires **robust scientific capability**, particularly in emerging sectors and the **digital economy**, with a focus on **aatmanirbharata (self-reliance)**.
- **M.S. Swaminathan (1925–2025):** Architect of India's Green Revolution; his centenary in 2025 highlights lessons in **science-policy synergy**, **innovation**, and **food security**.

### Key Lessons from Swaminathan's Work

#### 1. Collaborative Scientific Innovation:

- The Green Revolution succeeded through **international collaboration**, adoption of **dwarf wheat varieties**, and cross-fertilization of ideas.
- Lesson: **Scientific progress requires global engagement**, exposure to cutting-edge research, and **reduced bureaucratic hurdles**.



#### 2. Politicians Listening to Scientists:

- Success depended on visionary leaders like **Lal Bahadur Shastri** and **C. Subramaniam**, who directly engaged with scientists to fund field trials.
- Lesson: **Policy decisions must incorporate expert advice**, especially for complex technical issues.

#### 3. Evidence-Based Field Trials:

- Seeds were tested on actual farmer fields before nationwide rollout.
- Lesson: **Policy implementation should be informed by empirical evidence and local conditions**.

#### 4. Decision-Making Amid Conflicting Opinions:

- Despite opposition from Finance Ministry, Planning Commission, and political groups, the Green Revolution proceeded under **high-level political backing**.
- Lesson: **Bold leadership and independent monitoring are crucial for implementing untested innovations**.



## 5. Sustainability and Environmental Considerations:

- Overuse of water and fertilizers led to environmental challenges. Swaminathan emphasized **environmentally sustainable practices**.
- Lesson: **Scientific interventions must integrate long-term ecological sustainability**.

## 6. Future Challenges – Research & R&D:

- Climate change threatens agriculture; India spends only **0.43% of agricultural GDP on R&D**.
- Need: **Strengthen institutional autonomy, merit-based scientist recruitment, and direct scientist-policy engagement** to achieve Viksit Bharat.

## Constitutional & Policy Relevance

- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Article 39(b) & 39(c) – ensuring equitable distribution of resources and national food security.
- **Agricultural Policies:** Green Revolution laid foundations for **National Food Security Act (2013)** and ongoing schemes like **PM-Kisan**.
- **Science & Technology Governance:** Highlights need for **institutional autonomy, meritocracy, and efficient resource allocation**.

## Definitions

- **Aatmanirbharata:** Economic and technological self-reliance.
- **Green Revolution:** Transformation using **high-yield varieties, fertilizers, irrigation, and mechanization** to achieve food self-sufficiency.
- **Field Trials:** Empirical testing of innovations on real-world farm conditions.

## Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

M.S. Swaminathan exemplifies **integration of science, policy, and leadership** to achieve national food security. His legacy provides lessons in **scientific collaboration, decisive governance, sustainable agriculture, and investment in R&D**.

**UPSC Relevance:** Vital for GS Paper 3 (Agriculture, Science & Technology, Food Security, Climate Change), GS Paper 2 (Policy Implementation, Role of Scientists in Governance), and Prelims (Green Revolution, Key Scientists, Agricultural Policies).

# 10. Making India's Climate Taxonomy Framework Work

## Overview

- **Climate Finance Taxonomy:** A framework released by the Ministry of Finance (May 2025 draft) to **mobilize climate-aligned investments, prevent greenwashing, and provide clarity to investors** on sectors, technologies, and practices contributing to mitigation, adaptation, or transition.
- **Objective:** To establish a **living, adaptable framework** aligned with India's evolving priorities and international obligations, ensuring credibility and investor confidence.

## Key Features & Mechanisms



### 1. Two-Level Review Architecture:

- **Annual Reviews:** Timely course corrections based on implementation gaps, policy changes, stakeholder feedback, and evolving international obligations.
- **Five-Year Reviews:** Comprehensive reassessment aligned with **India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and UNFCCC global stocktake, incorporating global climate finance trends and sectoral transitions.

### 2. Legal and Substantive Coherence:

- **Legal Assessment:** Ensures alignment with **Energy Conservation Act, SEBI norms, Carbon Credit Trading Scheme**, and international obligations; removes redundancies and harmonizes terms.
- **Substantive Editorial Review:** Ensures readability, technical precision, clarity of definitions, and updated quantitative thresholds for greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, and other benchmarks.

### 3. Inclusivity and Accessibility:

- Designed to be usable by **MSMEs, informal sectors, and vulnerable communities**.
- Features **simplified entry points, staggered compliance timelines, and proportionate expectations** in sectors like agriculture and small-scale manufacturing.



### 4. Institutional Mechanisms & Accountability:

- Proposed standing unit in the **Department of Economic Affairs** or expert committee with **financial regulators, climate scientists, legal experts, and civil society representatives**.
- Use of **public dashboards, review reports, and annual/five-year summaries** to enhance transparency, coordination, and investor confidence.

### 5. Integration with Climate Finance Ecosystem:

- Framework aligns with **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, green bonds, public investment flows, and disclosure obligations**.
- Ensures **coherence between climate finance mandates and broader fiscal/economic measures**.

### Definitions

- **Climate Finance Taxonomy:** Classification tool to identify investments that contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation, or transition.
- **Greenwashing:** Misleading claims about environmental benefits of investments or practices.
- **Living Framework:** A dynamic system that evolves with changing priorities, policies, and scientific knowledge.

### Conclusion & UPSC Relevance



India's climate taxonomy is **critical for achieving net-zero goals, attracting climate-aligned investment, and ensuring transparent, legally coherent governance**. Its success depends on **structured reviews, institutional accountability, and inclusive implementation**.

**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper 3 (Environment, Climate Change, Economic Development, Finance)** and **Prelims (Carbon Market, Green Bonds, Climate Governance)**.

## 11. U.S. Tariff Hike on Indian Imports: Implications and Policy Options

### Overview

- **U.S. Tariff Announcement:** In August 2025, President Trump announced a **50% tariff on imports from India**, including a 25% penalty on India's oil purchases from Russia. Tariffs are taxes levied on imported goods to protect domestic industries.
- **Significance for India:** India's exports to the U.S., including **textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT services**, are crucial for bridging its external trade deficit. The tariffs threaten **competitiveness, employment, and income generation**.

### Key Points

#### 1. Impact on Competitiveness:

- Indian goods become more expensive for U.S. consumers (e.g., a \$10 shirt costs \$15 with tariffs), while competitors like Vietnam and Bangladesh remain cheaper.
- India risks losing market share due to **high tariffs despite being a U.S. ally**.



#### 2. Lessons from China's Trade Model:

- China's global trade advantage is due to **scale, infrastructure, and technological capabilities**, not just low wages.
- India's low-value export focus, underinvestment in **R&D**, and limited access to critical materials limit its competitiveness.

#### 3. Need for Domestic Market-Led Growth:

- Global demand from high-income countries is declining due to aging populations and inequality.
- India must transform from a **low-cost producer** to a **producer-consumer economy**, enhancing wages, incomes, and high-value industries.

#### 4. Strategic Role of India's Youth:

- One-fifth of the world's youth live in India; the 15–29 age group numbers ~120 million, comparable to Japan's population.
- Proper **skill development, education, and job creation** can convert India's young population into a **major driver of knowledge economy and domestic demand**.





## 5. Policy Implications:

- Enhance **public expenditure on health, education, and innovation** to leverage domestic consumption.
- Strengthen India's **technology, infrastructure, and R&D capabilities** to reduce dependency on exports to tariff-sensitive markets.
- Negotiate strategically to protect Indian interests without compromising long-term developmental goals.

## Definitions

- **Tariffs:** Taxes levied on imported goods to protect domestic industries or influence trade.
- **Low-value export activities:** Exported goods/services with minimal domestic value addition.
- **Knowledge economy:** Economic growth driven by skilled human capital, technology, and innovation.

## Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The U.S. tariffs highlight India's **structural vulnerabilities in global trade** and the need to focus on **domestic market-led growth and youth empowerment**. Harnessing India's young population, investing in education, innovation, and skill development can serve as a **strategic shield against global economic turbulence**.

**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper 3 (Indian Economy, International Trade, External Sector, Employment)** and **Prelims (Trade Policies, Tariff Measures, Bilateral Relations)**.

## 12. The Derozio Effect: Young Bengal and Early Radicalism in Colonial India

### Overview

- **Henry Derozio (1809–1831):** Anglo-Portuguese poet and radical educator at **Hindu College, Calcutta**. Appointed lecturer at age 17 in 1826, he promoted **liberty, reason, and free thought** among students.
- **Young Bengal Movement:** A group of students, known as **Derozians**, who propagated **inclusive, tolerant, and reformist ideas** challenging social, cultural, and religious orthodoxies in 19th century Bengal.

### Key Points

#### 1. Philosophy and Influence:

- Derozio's poetry emphasized **freedom, equality, and national pride**, depicting India as enslaved yet capable of revival.
- Advocated for **human rights and social reform**, inspiring debates on morality, education, and political engagement among the youth.



#### 2. Radical Initiatives:

- Formation of the **Academic Association** to debate contemporary social issues.
- Promoted **rational inquiry, scientific reasoning, and challenge to entrenched orthodoxies**.



- Despite Derozio's dismissal in 1831 and early death, students continued activism, forming **Bengal British India Society** in 1843 with a vision of equality and welfare for all classes.

### 3. Notable Personalities and Actions:

- **Radhanath Sikdar:** Mathematician and member of Young Bengal; confronted British officials over labor exploitation, setting early examples of **legal resistance and human rights advocacy under colonial rule**.
- Sikdar also **calculated Mount Everest's height**, highlighting contributions of Indians overlooked in colonial narratives.

### 4. Social and Cultural Impact:

- Young Bengal challenged **Macaulay's vision of Anglicized Indian elites**; promoted a **new, independent perspective on modernity, education, and reform**.
- Inspired ideas similar to later leaders like **Gandhi and Nehru**: inclusive, eclectic, open to global ideas while rooted in Indian context.

### 5. Legacy:

- Though short-lived, Young Bengal planted **seeds of rationalism, reform, and political engagement** in Indian society.
- Demonstrated early **assertion of Indian identity, equality, and critique of colonial structures**, paving the way for later social and political movements.

### Definitions

- **Derozians:** Followers of Henry Derozio advocating rationalism, freedom, and reform in 19th century Bengal.
- **Academic Association:** Student society formed by Derozians to debate social, political, and religious issues.
- **Radical Reformism:** Efforts challenging existing norms, traditions, or colonial authority for social or political change.

### Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

The Derozio effect illustrates **early Indian intellectual radicalism and youth-led social reform** under colonial constraints. It highlights **the role of education, critical thinking, and civic courage** in shaping India's reformist and nationalist trajectory.

**UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper 1 (Modern Indian History, Social Reform Movements)** and Prelims (Young Bengal, Henry Derozio, early radical movements).