



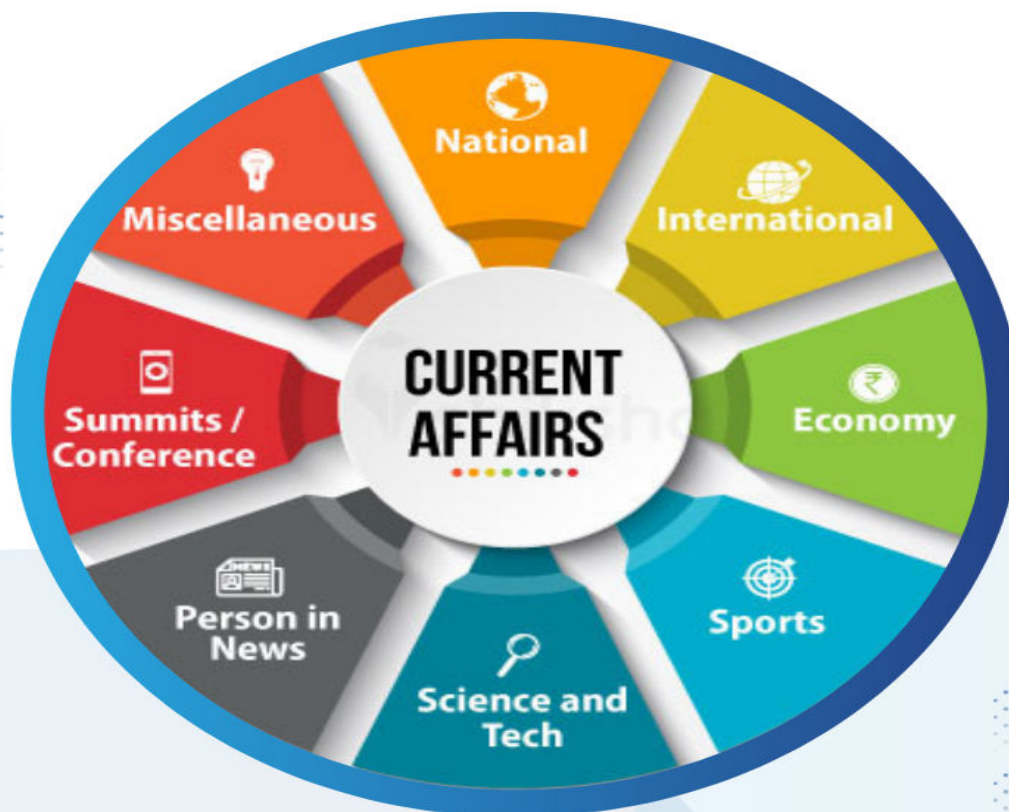
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 13/09/2025 (SATURDAY)



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1. Nepal's First Woman Prime Minister: Sushila Karki

1. Historic Appointment

- Former Chief Justice **Sushila Karki** became the **first woman Prime Minister of Nepal**.
- Oath of office administered by President **Ram Chandra Poudel** in Kathmandu.
- Her appointment marks a **historic gender breakthrough** in Nepal's political landscape.

2. Dissolution of Parliament & Fresh Elections

- President Poudel dissolved Parliament and announced **fresh elections on 5 March 2026**.
- Decision followed **Gen Z-led protests** which brought down the **K.P. Sharma Oli government**.
- Dissolution aimed at preventing traditional parties from retaining dominance.



3. Role of Gen Z Protesters and Civil Society

- **Gen Z campaigners** insisted on dissolution of Parliament before new government formation.
- Appointment of Karki gained momentum only after endorsement by **Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah**.
- Youth movements played a decisive role in shaping regime change.

4. Constitutional & Legal Dimensions

- Nepal's Constitution permits dissolution of Parliament under Presidential authority.
- Concerns arose regarding **accountability of the Cabinet** without Parliament in place.
- Experts like **Bipin Adhikari** argue her appointment is a **remedial measure** during crisis and unlikely to be struck down by courts.
- Demonstrates tension between **constitutional procedure** and **popular legitimacy**.

5. Army's Role and Political Stability

- The **Nepal Army** acted as a facilitator ensuring calm during unrest.
- Pressed for a speedy resolution to avoid escalation.
- Karki's Cabinet will function as a **caretaker government** to oversee elections.

6. Gender and Political Significance

- Karki had earlier created history as **Nepal's first woman Chief Justice**.
- Her elevation as Prime Minister highlights **women's empowerment in South Asian politics**.
- Represents both a **generational shift (Gen Z-driven)** and **gender transformation** in Nepal's polity.

Conclusion

The appointment of Sushila Karki as Nepal's first woman Prime Minister and the dissolution of Parliament mark a **watershed moment** in Nepal's democratic journey. While it fulfills the aspirations of youth



protesters, it also raises questions on **constitutional propriety**, **executive accountability**, and the future stability of Nepal's political system.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance, IR):** Constitutional provisions in crisis, role of President, democratic accountability, women in governance.
- **GS Paper 1 (Society):** Generational change through youth movements, gender empowerment in politics.
- **Essay/IR Topics:** Nepal's democratic trajectory, India–Nepal relations, constitutional remedies in political instability.

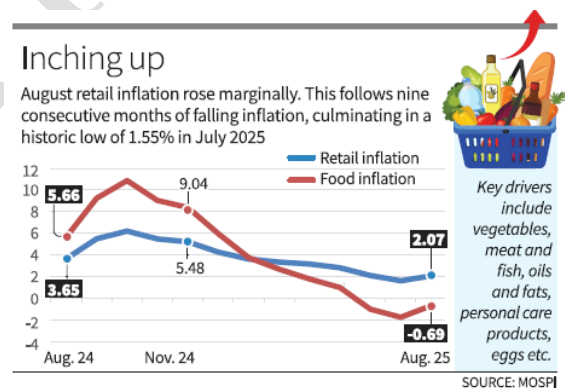
2. Retail Inflation Quickens to 2.1% (August 2025)

1. Inflation Trend and Key Data

- Retail inflation (CPI-based) rose to **2.1% in August 2025** from **1.55% in July**, ending a nine-month declining streak.
- Inflation remains marginally above the **lower bound (2%)** of RBI's comfort zone (2%-6%).
- The decline had continued since **November 2024**, reflecting easing prices earlier.

2. Sector-wise Inflation Movement

- **Food & Beverages:** Flat at **0.05%** (compared to 5.3% in August 2024). Vegetables (-15.9%) and pulses (-14.5%) dragged inflation down, while edible oils rose sharply by **21.2%**.
- **Clothing & Footwear:** Stable at **2.67%** in August (2.62% in July).
- **Housing:** Marginal rise to **3.06%** (3.03% in July).
- **Fuel & Light:** Significant jump to **2.9%** in August from **1.4% in July**, reflecting global energy pressures.



3. Causes and Contributing Factors

- **Global factors:** Higher international oil and edible oil prices exerted upward pressure.
- **Base effect:** Very low inflation in August 2024 has magnified current percentage changes.
- **GST Rate Cut Impact:** Expected to moderate inflationary pressures in the coming year.

4. Monetary Policy Implications

- RBI's **monetary policy framework (2016)** mandates inflation targeting at **4% (±2%)** under the **RBI Act, 1934 (amended in 2016)**.
- Analysts expect RBI to **pause rate changes** in the short term.
- Possibility of **25-50 basis points rate cut from December 2025** if growth risks emerge and US Fed cuts rates aggressively.



5. Key Definitions

- **Retail Inflation (CPI):** Rise in the general price level of goods & services consumed by households, measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.
- **Base Effect:** Distortion in inflation data when the previous year's prices were unusually high or low, making current inflation appear lower or higher.
- **Comfort Band:** The tolerance zone for inflation (2%-6%) set under India's flexible inflation targeting system.

6. Economic & Policy Significance

- Low food inflation reflects **improved supply management**, though oil prices remain a risk.
- Balanced inflation provides **policy space for growth-supportive monetary easing**.
- Inflation management is crucial for **macroeconomic stability, investor confidence, and inclusive growth**.

Conclusion

Retail inflation's uptick to 2.1% ends a long disinflationary phase but still remains within the RBI's tolerance band. While global oil and edible oil prices pose risks, weak food inflation offers comfort. The trajectory ahead will shape RBI's policy stance, fiscal management, and economic stability.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3 (Economy):** Inflation trends, CPI measurement, RBI's monetary policy framework.
- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Impact of fiscal measures like GST on inflation.
- **Essay/Current Affairs:** Inflation management as a tool for economic stability, India's growth-inflation trade-off.

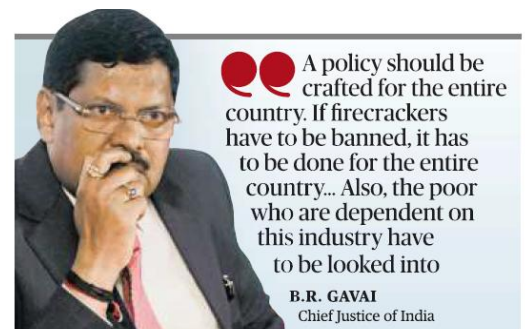
3. Supreme Court on Firecracker Ban and Right to Clean Air

1. Supreme Court's Observation

- The Supreme Court held that a **firecracker ban should not be limited to Delhi-NCR** but extended across India since **every citizen has the right to pollution-free air**.
- Chief Justice B.R. Gavai questioned why relief from air pollution should be confined to Delhi alone when other cities face similar or worse conditions.

2. Constitutional Provisions Involved

- **Article 21:** Right to life includes the right to a clean and healthy environment.
- **Article 48A (Directive Principle):** Duty of the State to protect and improve the environment.
- **Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duty):** Duty of citizens to protect and improve the natural environment.





- The Court highlighted the **national dimension of air pollution**, making it a matter of fundamental rights.

3. Economic and Social Dimensions

- The Court stressed the need to balance **environmental concerns with livelihood issues** of poor workers dependent on the firecracker industry.
- Senior advocates pointed out that the **real sufferers are daily wagers, construction workers, and street dwellers**, who bear the worst health impacts.
- The industry argued that revocation of valid licences (till 2028) has hurt employment and small-scale businesses.

4. Wider Impact Beyond Delhi

- Instances cited by CJI: In **Amritsar**, pollution levels during winter and festivals were found worse than Delhi's.
- The Court emphasized that **air pollution is a pan-India crisis**, aggravated during winter due to stubble burning, vehicular emissions, and climatic conditions.

5. Institutional Mechanism and Action

- The Court directed the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to submit a report on the matter.
- SC had earlier (April 2025) confirmed the **ban on production, sale, and manufacture of firecrackers in Delhi-NCR**, which now faces scrutiny for expansion nationwide.
- A **national policy on firecrackers and air quality management** was suggested.

6. Key Definitions

- **Right to Clean Air**: Interpreted under Article 21 as part of the right to life.
- **Pollution-Free Environment**: Condition where pollutants in the air, water, and soil are within prescribed safety limits ensuring human and ecological well-being.
- **CAQM**: Statutory body created in 2020 for effective air quality management in Delhi-NCR and adjoining states.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's observation underscores that **air pollution is a national issue, not just a Delhi-centric problem**. Extending firecracker regulations across India while safeguarding livelihoods reflects the need for **balanced environmental governance**. This highlights the tension between **economic rights and environmental protection**, requiring a uniform national framework.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Polity)**: Judicial role in environmental governance, fundamental rights, and directive principles.
- **GS Paper 3 (Environment)**: Air pollution, regulatory mechanisms, CAQM, livelihood-environment balance.



- **Essay/Ethics:** Conflict between sustainable development and economic livelihoods; role of judiciary in environmental justice.

4. RTI's Shift to a 'Right to Deny Information'

1. Foundational Principle of RTI

- The **Right to Information Act, 2005** is based on the idea that information held by the government belongs to citizens, making the government a **custodian of information**.
- Default position: Information must be disclosed unless exempt under specific provisions.
- **Section 8(1)(j)** of RTI originally allowed denial of personal information only if it was unrelated to public activity or amounted to unwarranted invasion of privacy, unless larger public interest justified disclosure.

2. Original Safeguards and Constitutional Basis

- A key safeguard was the proviso: *information that cannot be denied to Parliament or State Legislature shall not be denied to any citizen*.
- Restrictions on RTI should align with **Article 19(2)** which permits reasonable restrictions only on grounds such as security, decency, or morality.
- **Article 21** (Right to Life) and **Puttaswamy Judgment (2017)** recognized privacy as a fundamental right, requiring balance with transparency.

3. Impact of DPDP Act on RTI

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act** amends Section 8(1)(j), drastically shortening it and broadening "personal information".
- Lack of a clear definition of "personal information" creates ambiguity. If DPDP's expansive definition (including firms, HUFs, companies, State) is applied, almost everything can be withheld.
- DPDP overrides other laws in case of conflict and imposes **heavy penalties (up to ₹250 crore)**, pushing Public Information Officers (PIOs) to prefer denial over disclosure.



4. Consequences for Transparency and Accountability

- **Citizen oversight weakens:** denial of data on pensions, ghost employees, or even marksheets may become routine.
- **Corruption risk rises:** Information that exposes misuse of funds or irregularities could be withheld as "personal information".
- **Larger public interest clause (Section 8(2))** becomes ineffective in practice since PIOs rarely invoke it.

5. Broader Democratic Concerns

- Transformation of RTI into "**Right to Deny Information (RDI)**" undermines transparency.
- Apathy from media and citizens due to the guise of "data protection" weakens resistance.



- Calls for stronger public engagement, political assurances in manifestos, and citizen mobilization to restore RTI's original spirit.

6. Key Definitions

- **Right to Information:** A statutory right under RTI Act, 2005, enabling citizens to seek information from public authorities.
- **Personal Information:** Traditionally, information not linked to public activity or causing unwarranted invasion of privacy; now widened under DPDP.
- **Data Protection:** Safeguarding personal data from misuse; must balance with transparency in governance.

Conclusion

The amendments to Section 8(1)(j) through the DPDP Act risk converting the RTI into a “**Right to Deny Information**”, undermining democratic accountability and facilitating corruption. The balance between **privacy and transparency** is tipping heavily in favor of secrecy, endangering citizens' right to monitor governance. Active public debate, citizen engagement, and political accountability are essential to preserve RTI as a cornerstone of democracy.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance):** RTI Act, transparency in governance, judicial interpretations (Puttaswamy case), role of DPDP Act.
- **GS Paper 3 (Internal Security & Technology):** Data protection vs transparency, impact of digital governance.
- **Ethics (GS Paper 4):** Accountability, transparency, and conflict between privacy and public interest.
- **Essay Topics:** “Transparency vs Privacy in Democracy”, “Role of RTI in Strengthening Democratic Accountability”.

5. Tribal Women's Property Rights and Gender Equality

1. Supreme Court Judgment and Gender Justice

- In *Ram Charan and Ors. vs Sukhram and Ors.* (2025), the Supreme Court equated the **exclusion of daughters from ancestral property** with violation of **fundamental right to equality (Article 14)**.
- The Court emphasized that customs cannot justify gender discrimination, highlighting the need to look at tribal women's property rights through the lens of **gender equality and justice**.

2. Customary Laws and Exclusion of Women

- In Scheduled Areas, **customary laws** govern marriage, succession, and adoption, but **women are largely excluded from inheritance** despite contributing more to agriculture.
- The **Agriculture Census 2015-16** shows only 16.7% of ST women possess land, compared to 83.3% of ST men.





- Fear of land alienation due to inter-community marriages and the claim of “communitarian ownership” often justify denial of women’s rights.

3. Constitutional and Legal Context

- **Article 14:** Right to Equality.
- **Article 15(1):** Prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex.
- **Article 15(3):** Allows special provisions for women.
- **Article 21:** Right to life includes dignity and livelihood, closely linked with property rights.
- **Fifth Schedule:** Provides governance framework for Scheduled Areas, including tribal rights.
- **Customary Law Test:** Antiquity, certainty, continuity, reasonableness, and public policy compliance—courts can strike down unreasonable customs.

4. Key Judicial Precedents

- *Madhu Kishwar vs State of Bihar* (1996): Court upheld customary exclusion of tribal women, citing fear of chaos.
- *Prabha Minz vs Martha Ekka* (2022, Jharkhand HC): Recognized inheritance rights for Oraon tribe women, rejecting custom-based denial.
- *Kamala Neti vs Special Land Acquisition Officer* (2022): SC upheld affirmative stand on tribal women’s property rights.

5. Policy Debate and Way Forward

- Section 2(2) of the **Hindu Succession Act, 2005** excludes Scheduled Tribes.
- Proposal: **Separate Tribal Succession Act** for codifying inheritance rights, ensuring parity like Hindu and Christian personal laws.
- Codification would reduce ambiguity, protect women’s rights, and harmonize tribal autonomy with constitutional principles.

6. Key Definitions

- **Customary Law:** Traditional practices followed by a community; legally valid only if reasonable and not discriminatory.
- **Succession:** Legal inheritance of property after the death of an individual.
- **Gender Parity:** Equal access to rights and resources irrespective of gender.

Conclusion

The exclusion of tribal women from property rights represents a **deep gender injustice**, conflicting with constitutional guarantees of equality and dignity. Judicial interventions like *Ram Charan vs Sukhram* are pivotal, but systemic change requires legislative action. Codification through a **Tribal Succession Act** can bridge the gap between customary autonomy and gender justice, ensuring tribal women receive their rightful inheritance.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 1 (Society):** Gender issues, role of women in tribal communities.



- **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance):** Fundamental Rights, equality before law, Scheduled Areas, Fifth Schedule.
- **GS Paper 3 (Agriculture & Land Reforms):** Land ownership patterns, tribal agriculture.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Justice, equity, and gender fairness.
- **Essay Topics:** “Custom vs Constitution: Gender Equality in Tribal India”, “Land Rights and Women’s Empowerment in India”.

6. U.S. Pressure on India to End Russian Oil Imports

1. U.S. Demand and Policy Position

- Sergio Gor, U.S. Ambassador-designate to India, declared that ending India’s Russian oil imports (35–40% of India’s crude intake) is a **“top priority”** of the Trump administration.
- U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said stopping Russian oil purchases is a **pre-condition for progress** in the proposed India–U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- President Trump has described India’s Russian oil imports as “nonsense” and imposed a **50% tariff** on India as pressure.

2. Trade and Tariff Concerns

- India and the U.S. are reportedly “not that far apart” on resolving the 50% tariffs dispute, with negotiations expected in coming weeks.
- Trump expressed that tariffs on India were a “big deal” and admitted they risk causing a **“rift” with India**, though he insisted they are necessary leverage.
- Reports suggest Trump has also urged the EU to impose **100% tariffs** on India and China for continuing Russian oil purchases, though EU negotiators have avoided such measures.



3. India’s Position

- India maintains that its oil procurement is guided by **national interest, energy security, and market dynamics**.
- Officials have clarified that India has **no plans to cancel Russian oil imports**, underscoring its strategic need for affordable energy.
- India’s stance is consistent with its policy of **strategic autonomy**, balancing relations with major powers.

4. Constitutional, Legal and Policy Dimensions

- **Article 51 of the Constitution (Directive Principles):** Calls for fostering international peace and security while protecting national interests.
- **Energy Security Policy:** Ensures availability of affordable, reliable energy sources—central to economic stability.
- **Trade Policy:** India follows WTO norms; unilateral tariffs (like U.S. sanctions) challenge multilateral trade frameworks.



- **Strategic Autonomy:** India's foreign policy principle to retain independence in global decision-making, including energy choices.

5. Key Definitions

- **Tariff:** A tax imposed on imports or exports to regulate trade and protect domestic industries.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** A pact between two or more nations to reduce or eliminate trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas.
- **Energy Security:** The uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price.

Conclusion

The U.S. demand to end Russian oil imports highlights the intersection of **geopolitics, trade, and energy security**. While the U.S. links oil imports to trade negotiations, India emphasizes its sovereign right to secure affordable energy. This clash underscores the delicate balance India must maintain between strategic autonomy and global diplomatic pressures.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (IR):** India–U.S. relations, strategic autonomy, impact of sanctions.
- **GS Paper 3 (Economy):** Energy security, international trade, tariff policies.
- **GS Paper 2 (Polity):** Directive Principles (Article 51), national interest in foreign policy.
- **Essay Topics:** “Energy Security and Strategic Autonomy in India’s Foreign Policy” or “Trade Sanctions as Instruments of Power Politics.”

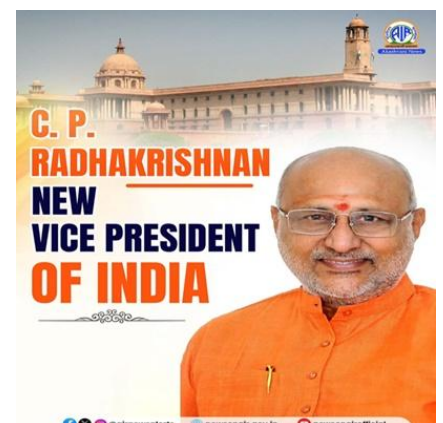
7. C.P. Radhakrishnan Sworn in as 15th Vice-President of India

1. Swearing-in and Ceremony Highlights

- Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan took oath as the **15th Vice-President of India** at Rashtrapati Bhavan, administered by President Droupadi Murmu.
- The event was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Vice-Presidents Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hamid Ansari, M. Venkaiah Naidu, and other dignitaries.
- Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar made his **first public appearance** since resigning on health grounds in July.

2. Role as Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman

- As Vice-President, Mr. Radhakrishnan also assumed charge as **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.
- He held a meeting with floor leaders of parties in Parliament, promising to work with patience and ensure Opposition participation in the functioning of the House.
- Some Opposition parties (Trinamool Congress, BJD, NCP-SP, Shiv Sena-UBT) skipped the meeting, citing short notice.



3. Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 63:** Provides for the office of the Vice-President of India.



- **Article 64:** Vice-President is ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Article 66:** Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.
- **Article 67:** Term of office is **five years**.
- The Vice-President acts as the **second-highest constitutional office** in India and steps in as Acting President in case of vacancy.

4. Political and Symbolic Significance

- Mr. Radhakrishnan emphasized that the Opposition is an **essential element of parliamentary democracy**, reflecting the spirit of **deliberative democracy**.
- His oath was followed by **tributes at Rajghat, Sadaiv Atal, and Kisan Ghat**, underlining respect for India's democratic and political legacy.
- Prime Minister Modi described him as a **dedicated public servant** who has devoted his life to nation-building and strengthening democratic values.

5. Key Definitions

- **Vice-President of India:** The second-highest constitutional authority after the President, also functioning as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Parliamentary Democracy:** A system where the executive is accountable to the legislature, and the Opposition plays a vital role in ensuring checks and balances.

Conclusion

The swearing-in of C.P. Radhakrishnan as the 15th Vice-President marks a significant constitutional event, reinforcing India's parliamentary traditions. His assurance of cooperative functioning with the Opposition will be crucial for the effective working of the Rajya Sabha. The occasion also symbolises continuity in India's democratic institutions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity):** Constitutional provisions relating to Vice-President (Articles 63–71), role as Rajya Sabha Chairman, importance of Opposition in democracy.
- **GS Paper 1 (Modern History):** Legacy of leaders remembered during the oath-taking (Gandhi, Vajpayee, Charan Singh).
- **Essay Topics:** “The Role of the Vice-President in Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy” or “Opposition as the Backbone of Democratic Functioning.”

8. Supreme Court on Upward Mobility for Persons with Disabilities

Key Highlights

- The Supreme Court directed the Union Government to clarify whether **meritorious candidates with disabilities (PwDs)** who qualify for the **unreserved category** are allowed “upward mobility” so that more PwD candidates can benefit from reservations.
- A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked the Centre to submit its response by **October 14** on measures taken to ensure such mobility in both **recruitment and promotions**.



- The Court highlighted that restricting meritorious PwD candidates to reserved seats denies opportunities to less-advantaged PwDs, defeating the very purpose of **reservation under Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.
- Justice Mehta compared the situation with backward class candidates, who are moved to unreserved seats if they cross the general cut-off, leaving reserved seats available for others from their community.
- The judgment stressed that **disability should not be seen as a deficit** but as a lens to test the inclusiveness of legal and institutional frameworks in society.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 14:** Right to Equality – prevents hostile discrimination.
- **Article 16(1) & 16(4):** Equality of opportunity in public employment; allows reservations.
- **Article 41 (Directive Principle):** Obligation of the State to provide assistance to disabled persons.
- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** – Section 34 provides for **4% reservation in government jobs** for PwDs.



Definition – Upward Mobility in Reservation

- It refers to the **adjustment of meritorious reserved-category candidates** to the general/unreserved list when they score above the general cut-off, thereby allowing **less-advantaged candidates** to fill reserved seats.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court emphasized that denying upward mobility to PwD candidates amounts to **hostile discrimination** and contradicts the intent of affirmative action. The larger purpose of reservation is not just allocation of seats but ensuring **real inclusion of marginalized groups** into the mainstream.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Polity & Governance – Issues related to reservation, equality, and rights of vulnerable sections.
- **GS Paper II:** Welfare Schemes for disabled persons, legal provisions for social justice.
- **Essay:** Themes on **affirmative action, equality of opportunity, and social inclusion**.
- **Case Law Update:** Important for **judicial developments in reservation policies**.

9. Withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon – IMD Update

Key Highlights

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** announced that the **withdrawal of the southwest monsoon** is likely to begin from parts of **west Rajasthan around September 15, 2025**.
- Normally, the monsoon **sets in over Kerala by June 1**, covers the **entire country by July 8**, and begins withdrawal from **northwest India around September 17**, completing withdrawal by **October 15**.



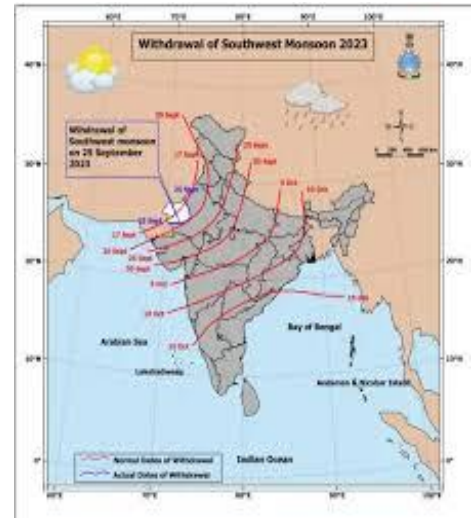
- In 2025, the monsoon **covered the entire country by June 29**, nine days earlier than the usual July 8.
- The retreat begins when **rainfall decreases, moisture reduces, and wind patterns change** in northwest India.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions (Indirect Relevance)

- **Article 48A** (Directive Principles): Duty of the State to protect and improve the environment.
- **Disaster Management Act, 2005**: Empowers authorities to prepare for and mitigate monsoon-related floods or droughts.
- **Environment Protection Act, 1986**: Provides for legal measures to deal with climatic variations and their impact on ecology.

Definition – Southwest Monsoon

- The **seasonal wind system** bringing about **70–80% of India's annual rainfall**, crucial for agriculture, water resources, and hydropower.
- **Withdrawal of Monsoon**: The reversal of wind circulation, reduction of cloud cover, and gradual cessation of rainfall from **northwest to southeast India**.



Additional Key Points

- The timing of monsoon withdrawal directly impacts **Rabi crop sowing** and **groundwater recharge**.
- Delayed withdrawal may cause **excess soil moisture**, affecting harvesting of Kharif crops, while early withdrawal can lead to **water scarcity**.
- IMD uses **rainfall patterns, humidity levels, and wind shifts** as scientific indicators for withdrawal.

Conclusion

The monsoon's arrival and withdrawal are critical determinants of India's **agricultural economy, disaster preparedness, and water security**. A timely and predictable withdrawal helps in planning for **Kharif harvests and Rabi sowing cycles**, making monsoon monitoring a core element of governance and economic stability.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I (Geography)**: Monsoon system, climatic patterns, impact on agriculture.
- **GS Paper III (Economy & Environment)**: Agriculture planning, disaster management, water resources.
- **Prelims**: Dates of monsoon onset and withdrawal, IMD's role.
- **Essay**: Themes on "Climate and Indian Agriculture" or "Monsoon and Economic Stability in India."

10. Commissioning of INS Aravali – Strengthening India's Naval Infrastructure

Key Highlights



- The **Indian Navy** commissioned **INS Aravali** at **Gurugram** on Friday, enhancing its **information and communication infrastructure**.
- The ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi**, Chief of the Naval Staff, and included a **50-men Guard of Honour**.
- The commissioning warrant was read by **Captain Sachin Kumar Singh**, while the commissioning plaque was unveiled by **Mrs. Shashi Tripathi**, President of NWWA.
- Admiral Tripathi highlighted that the base will function as a **technology hub**, linking platforms and partners across oceans, thereby strengthening **maritime security** and **operational readiness**.

Definition – INS (Indian Naval Ship)

- “INS” is the prefix used for ships, bases, and establishments of the Indian Navy after they are commissioned.
- Commissioning marks the formal inclusion of a vessel or establishment into naval service.



Strategic Importance

- INS Aravali will act as a **command and control centre** for communication, surveillance, and information sharing.
- Enhances **network-centric warfare capabilities** and integration of naval platforms.
- Supports India's focus on **blue-water navy ambitions** and maritime security in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 51(c) of the Directive Principles**: Calls for fostering international peace and security – naval preparedness plays a direct role.
- **Union List, Entry 2 & 7 (Seventh Schedule)**: Defence of India and naval forces fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Union Government.
- **Maritime Zones of India Act, 1976**: Provides legal framework for India's control over its territorial waters, EEZ, and continental shelf.

Additional Key Points

- Gurugram was chosen due to its **proximity to Delhi** and strong connectivity for national-level defence coordination.
- Establishment complements India's maritime doctrine of “**Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**”.
- Enhances **tri-service synergy** with Air Force and Army commands located nearby.

Conclusion

The commissioning of INS Aravali represents a significant step in India's push towards a **digitally empowered, network-centric Navy**. It strengthens maritime security, improves information flow, and underlines India's determination to safeguard its strategic interests in the **Indian Ocean and beyond**.

UPSC Relevance



- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** India's maritime diplomacy and SAGAR vision.
- **GS Paper III (Security & Defence Technology):** Modernisation of Armed Forces, network-centric warfare.
- **Prelims:** Facts about INS Aravali, location (Gurugram), strategic role.
- **Essay:** Topics on "India's Maritime Security Challenges" or "Technology and Defence Preparedness."

11. Centre Unveils Licensing Policy for Opium Poppy Cultivation (2025-26)

Key Highlights

- The Union Government announced the **annual licensing policy for opium poppy cultivation** for the crop year **2025-26**.
- Cultivation will be permitted in **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- Around **1.21 lakh farmers** are eligible for licenses — a **23.5% increase** over the previous year, including **15,000 new farmers**.
- The policy aims to ensure adequate supply of **alkaloids** for **medical and palliative care**.



Definition – Opium Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*)

- A plant cultivated for producing **opium latex**, which contains alkaloids like **morphine, codeine, thebaine**.
- Used in **pharmaceutical industry** for pain relief and palliative care.
- Cultivation is strictly regulated due to its narcotic potential.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Union List, Entry 59 (Seventh Schedule):** Regulation of opium is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Union Government.
- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985:** Governs cultivation, production, possession, and trade of opium.
- Only licensed farmers, under the supervision of the **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)**, can cultivate.

Strategic & Policy Importance

- Ensures **legal cultivation** to prevent illegal trade and smuggling.
- Balances **farmer welfare** with **public health needs** by providing alternative livelihoods.
- Helps India maintain its status as the **only country** legally producing opium gum for medicinal purposes under international conventions.

Additional Key Points

- India is a signatory to the **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)**, which mandates regulation of opium cultivation.



- The increase in licensed farmers reflects **rising domestic and global demand** for medical opioids.
- Focus on **palliative care** aligns with public health priorities, especially in cancer and terminal illness treatments.

Conclusion

The new licensing policy for opium poppy cultivation reflects India's dual strategy of **supporting farmers** while ensuring a **regulated supply of essential alkaloids for healthcare**. By expanding legal cultivation under strict monitoring, the government strengthens its commitment to international obligations while addressing domestic health and economic needs.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Government policies, regulation of narcotic substances, international conventions.
- **GS Paper III:** Agriculture, public health, role of science and technology in medicine.
- **Prelims:** Facts about opium poppy, states allowed cultivation, NDPS Act, Central Bureau of Narcotics.
- **Essay:** "Balancing Public Health and Farmer Livelihood: The Case of Opium Cultivation in India."

12. Kerala Capital to Host Two-Day Blue Economy Conclave

Key Highlights

- A **two-day blue economy conclave** titled "*Blue Tides – Two Shores One Vision*" will be held in Thiruvananthapuram on **September 18–19, 2025**.
- Organized by the **Kerala Fisheries Department**, in collaboration with the **Union Government** and the **European Union (EU)**.
- Representatives from **29 European countries** invited; **17 have confirmed participation** including Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, and others.
- Attendees include **EU Ambassador to India and Bhutan Hervé Delphin**, policy experts, and blue economy stakeholders.



Definition – Blue Economy

- Refers to the **sustainable use of ocean resources** for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems.
- Includes fisheries, aquaculture, renewable ocean energy, shipping, tourism, biotechnology, and marine ecosystem conservation.

Strategic Significance of the Conclave

- Aims to create a **road map for Kerala** as a **sustainable and resilient blue economy model**.
- Promotes **India–EU collaboration** in technology, research, and sustainable marine resource management.



- Leverages Kerala's **geostrategic coastal advantages** (long coastline, rich fisheries, proximity to shipping routes).

Constitutional & Policy Framework

- **Article 48A:** Directive Principle obligates the State to protect and improve the environment.
- **Article 51(c):** Promotes respect for international law and treaties (relevant for India–EU cooperation).
- **Blue Economy Policy Framework (India, 2021 draft):** Integrated approach for ocean governance, aligned with **SDG-14 (Life Below Water)**.
- Linked to **Sagarmala Project** and **Deep Ocean Mission** for port-led development and marine research.

Additional Key Points

- The conclave will address **sustainability, climate resilience, and marine biodiversity conservation**.
- Expected to boost **blue diplomacy**, strengthening India's partnership with Europe in the Indo-Pacific.
- Can lead to joint ventures in **marine renewable energy, ocean data sharing, and coastal community development**.

Conclusion

The Kerala Blue Economy Conclave is a significant step towards positioning India as a **leader in sustainable ocean governance**. It merges **local advantages with global expertise**, ensuring that Kerala becomes a **model state for blue growth** while fostering **India–EU strategic cooperation**.

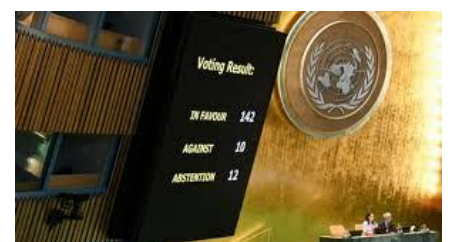
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** India–EU relations, international cooperation.
- **GS Paper III:** Economy, environment, blue economy, sustainable development.
- **Prelims:** Definition of blue economy, SDG-14, Sagarmala, Deep Ocean Mission.
- **Essay:** “Blue Economy as the New Driver of Sustainable Development.”

13. India votes in favour of UNGA Resolution on Palestine State

Key Highlights for UPSC Civil Services Exam

- **India's Stand:**
 - India voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution endorsing the *New York Declaration* on the peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue.
 - This resolution emphasizes the implementation of the **two-state solution**, which envisions independent and sovereign states of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace.
- **Global Response:**
 - The resolution was introduced by France and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia at the UN headquarters in July.





- It was adopted with **142 nations voting in favour, 10 against, and 12 abstentions**.
- Countries voting against included the **U.S., Israel, Argentina, and Hungary**.
- **Essence of the Declaration:**
 - Calls for **collective international action** to end the ongoing conflict in Gaza.
 - Emphasizes a peaceful and lasting settlement of the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.
 - Urges Israeli leadership to make a **clear commitment to the two-state solution**, ensuring a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.
- **India's Foreign Policy Context:**
 - India has historically supported the Palestinian cause while also maintaining strong diplomatic and strategic relations with Israel.
 - This balanced approach reflects India's commitment to **principles of justice, peaceful settlement of disputes, and multilateralism** under the UN Charter.
- **Constitutional & Legal Relevance:**
 - Article 51 of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** directs India to:
 - Promote international peace and security.
 - Maintain just and honourable relations among nations.
 - Encourage settlement of disputes by arbitration.
 - India's vote aligns with these constitutional principles.
- **Definition of Key Term:**
 - **Two-State Solution** – A proposed framework to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict by establishing two separate sovereign states: **Israel and Palestine**, coexisting peacefully within recognized borders.

Conclusion:

India's vote reinforces its **long-standing support for Palestine's statehood** and peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict, while also showcasing its commitment to multilateral diplomacy and balance in West Asia.

UPSC Relevance:

- Important for **GS Paper 2** (International Relations: India and UN, India's foreign policy in West Asia).
- Linked to **Essay topics** on peace, multilateralism, and global governance.
- Relevant for **Prelims** (international organizations, major resolutions, India's foreign policy).