



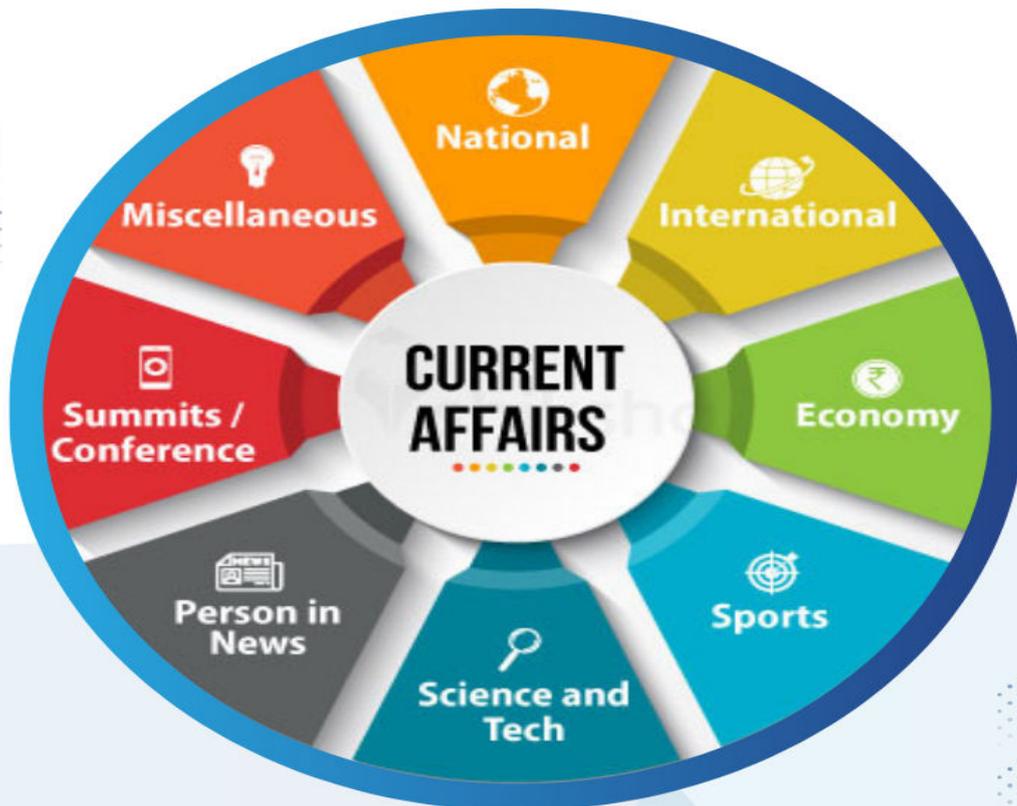
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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & **STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 01/11/2025 (SATURDAY)



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1. Fiscal Deficit in Control Despite Rise in Public Capital Expenditure (FY26 Mid-Year Review)

1. Overview and Key Highlights

- **Fiscal deficit** for April–September 2025 stood at **₹5.73 trillion**, which is **36.5% of the full-year target**, reflecting strong fiscal management despite a sharp increase in spending.
- The government achieved this control even with a **40% rise in capital expenditure (capex)** during the first half of FY26, aided by a **windfall dividend of ₹2.56 trillion from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- In comparison, the fiscal deficit during the same period last year was **29.4%** of the budget estimate, due to election-related lower expenditure.

2. Definition and Conceptual Understanding

- **Fiscal Deficit** = *Total Expenditure – (Revenue Receipts + Non-Debt Capital Receipts)*. It represents the government's **total borrowing requirement** in a financial year.
- It is a key indicator of the government's fiscal health and reflects the gap between its income and expenditure.
- A **lower mid-year fiscal deficit** (below 50% of the annual target) indicates fiscal comfort and sound expenditure management.

3. Fiscal Targets and Government Strategy

- The **Union Budget FY26** set a **fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP**, down from **4.8% in FY25** and significantly lower than **9.3% during the pandemic (FY21)**.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** emphasized maintaining fiscal consolidation while sustaining growth momentum.
- **Nominal GDP for FY26** is projected at **₹356.98 trillion**, implying a fiscal deficit of **₹15.7 trillion**.
- This trajectory aligns with the government's **medium-term fiscal consolidation path** under the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003**, which mandates long-term deficit reduction and debt sustainability.

4. Revenue and Expenditure Composition (April–September 2025)

- **Net Tax Revenue:** ₹12.30 trillion (43.3% of annual target).
- **Non-Tax Revenue:** ₹4.66 trillion (79.9% of target), driven largely by the **RBI dividend payout**.
- **Total Revenue Receipts:** ₹16.95 trillion (49.6% of budgeted target).
- **Capital Expenditure:** Increased by 40% YoY, reflecting strong government focus on infrastructure-led growth.
- **Gross Tax Revenue:** Grew modestly by 2.8% YoY, showing some pressure on collections due to external and cyclical factors.

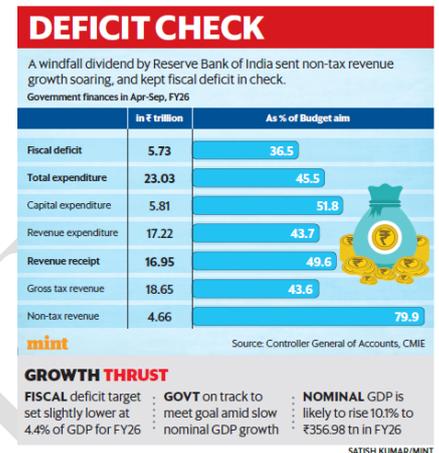


5. Economic and Policy Implications

- **RBI's dividend transfer** has significantly eased fiscal pressure, ensuring adequate fiscal space for capital creation.
- The **rise in public capex** supports long-term growth by crowding in private investment, enhancing employment, and improving productivity.
- **Fiscal prudence** strengthens India's **macroeconomic stability**, maintains **investor confidence**, and supports the **sovereign credit rating outlook**.
- Economists caution that slower nominal GDP growth (~8%) could make the deficit ratio slightly higher in practice, but the Centre's performance so far reflects discipline and adaptability.

6. Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Article 112**: Mandates the presentation of the **Annual Financial Statement (Budget)** to Parliament.
- **Article 266 & 292**: Deal with **Consolidated Fund of India** and **government borrowing powers** respectively.
- **FRBM Act, 2003**: Provides the statutory framework for maintaining fiscal discipline by setting limits on fiscal deficit and debt as a percentage of GDP.



Conclusion

India's fiscal trajectory in FY26 demonstrates a **balance between fiscal consolidation and growth-oriented spending**. Despite a sharp increase in capital expenditure, the fiscal deficit remains well within control due to strong non-tax revenues, particularly from the RBI dividend. This indicates **sound fiscal management**, effective revenue mobilization, and prudent expenditure prioritization.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 3 (Economy)**: Public finance, fiscal policy, and budgeting.
- **GS Paper 2**: Government policies and fiscal federalism.
- **Static Linkages**: FRBM Act, fiscal deficit, capital expenditure, and macroeconomic stability.
- **Potential Mains Themes**:
 - "Fiscal Consolidation vs. Growth Stimulation: Balancing India's Budgetary Priorities"
 - "Role of Non-Tax Revenues in Fiscal Sustainability"
 - "Impact of Public Capital Expenditure on Economic Growth."

2. India-U.S. 10-Year Defence Partnership Framework (2025)

1. Overview and Key Developments

- India and the **United States** signed a **10-year defence partnership framework** to enhance long-term strategic collaboration in the **Indo-Pacific region**.



- The agreement, titled “**Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defence Partnership,**” was signed by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth** in **Kuala Lumpur** on the sidelines of the **12th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)**.
- The framework emphasizes joint efforts to promote **peace, security, and regional stability**, while also reaffirming the **rules-based international order** in the Indo-Pacific.

2. Objectives and Key Features of the Framework

- Establishes a **10-year roadmap** for comprehensive defence cooperation.
- Aims to deepen collaboration in **defence industry, joint production, innovation, and technology sharing**.
- Focuses on **enhancing military interoperability**, intelligence sharing, logistics support, and joint training exercises.
- Reinforces the commitment to a **Free, Open, and Rules-based Indo-Pacific (FOIP)**, countering coercive regional behavior.
- Encourages private sector and start-up participation in **defence innovation and supply chains**.



3. Strategic Significance in the Indo-Pacific Context

- The pact aligns with broader regional initiatives such as **Quad (India, U.S., Japan, Australia)** and **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** to counterbalance China’s assertiveness.
- Strengthens India’s role as a **net security provider** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Enhances maritime domain awareness, cyber defence cooperation, and resilience in emerging technologies such as **AI, robotics, and space defence**.
- Despite temporary trade tensions (like U.S. tariffs on Indian goods), the defence partnership underscores the **strategic convergence** between the two democracies.

4. Background: Evolution of India-U.S. Defence Relations

- **Foundational Defence Agreements Signed Earlier:**
 - **LEMOA (2016)** – Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (access to each other’s bases).
 - **COMCASA (2018)** – Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (secure information sharing).
 - **BECA (2020)** – Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (geospatial data sharing).
- **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** mechanism institutionalized for regular strategic engagement.
- U.S. has emerged as one of **India’s top defence suppliers**, with increasing focus on **co-development** and **co-production** rather than pure arms sales.

5. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Article 73 & 246 of the Constitution** empower the Union Government to conduct foreign affairs and defence relations.



- **Article 253** allows Parliament to make laws for implementing international agreements.
- **Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020** supports joint ventures and indigenization of defence manufacturing.
- The pact aligns with India's "**Atmanirbhar Bharat**" initiative and **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**, promoting domestic production and reduced import dependency.

6. Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

- **Challenges:**
 - Technology transfer sensitivities and intellectual property issues.
 - Balancing strategic autonomy with alignment under U.S. partnership.
 - Managing tensions arising from trade frictions and differing global positions (e.g., Russia relations).
- **Opportunities:**
 - Boost to India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.
 - Enhanced deterrence and regional security posture.
 - Strengthened global perception of India as a **reliable strategic partner** and defender of Indo-Pacific stability.

Conclusion

The India–U.S. 10-year defence framework marks a significant evolution in bilateral strategic relations, transforming cooperation from buyer-seller dynamics to a **technology-driven, co-development partnership**. It underscores a shared vision of a **rules-based Indo-Pacific**, regional stability, and defence innovation. The framework complements India's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and enhances its stature as a **key security actor in the global order**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** India-U.S. relations, regional security, and Indo-Pacific strategy.
- **GS Paper 3 (Security & Defence):** Defence technology, modernization, and strategic partnerships.
- **Static Linkages:** Constitutional provisions on foreign affairs (Articles 73, 246, 253), Defence Production Policy.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - "Evolving Dynamics of India-U.S. Defence Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Context."
 - "Balancing Strategic Autonomy and Partnership: India's Defence Diplomacy."
 - "Role of Defence Partnerships in Strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat."



3. “Fitness is Key to Becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047” – National Fitness & Wellness Conclave 2025

1. Overview and Key Highlights

- The **National Fitness & Wellness Conclave 2025** was held in **Mumbai**, where **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** emphasized that **fitness is central to India’s vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047**.
- The event celebrated the **Fit India Mission**, launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and honoured new **Fit India Icons and Ambassadors**, including **Rohit Shetty, Harbhajan Singh, and Saina Nehwal**.
- The conclave aimed to promote a **national fitness movement** linking physical well-being with economic productivity, youth empowerment, and societal development.



2. Importance of Fitness in Nation Building

- Dr. Mandaviya stressed that **fitness is foundational to productivity, innovation, and human capital development**, directly impacting **economic growth**.
- With **65% of India’s population below 35 years**, fitness and wellness are critical for harnessing the country’s **demographic dividend**.
- He noted that a fit population leads to **reduced healthcare costs, enhanced workplace efficiency, and a stronger economy**, supporting sustained growth above **8% GDP**.
- Fitness was also linked to **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, as the fitness and sports industry can drive domestic production of **sports goods, nutrition supplements, and equipment**, fostering **employment and entrepreneurship**.

3. Institutional and Policy Framework

- The **Fit India Movement (launched in 2019)** is a flagship initiative under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**, aimed at encouraging every citizen to adopt fitness as a lifestyle.
- It aligns with the **National Sports Policy, National Youth Policy 2021, and Khelo India Programme**, focusing on physical education and sports development.
- The event reinforced the constitutional directive under **Article 47** – “The State shall regard the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.”
- It also complements **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)** of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**.

4. Key Messages and Stakeholder Insights

- **Dr. Mandaviya:** Urged the middle and upper-middle classes to prioritize fitness, warning against sedentary digital lifestyles.
- **Smt. Raksha Khadse (MoS Sports):** Emphasized collective efforts for a fitter India, highlighting initiatives like *Sundays on Cycle* to build community engagement in fitness.



- **Rohit Shetty:** Cautioned against misinformation by unqualified “fitness influencers.”
- **Saina Nehwal:** Linked fitness to sports culture, urging parents to encourage discipline and limit children’s screen time.
- **Harbhajan Singh:** Credited improved fitness culture in Indian cricket to leadership like **Virat Kohli’s** and the government’s prioritization of health.
- **Panel Discussions:** Experts stressed early-age fitness habits, parental guidance, and regulation of supplements and misleading fitness content.

5. Broader Socio-Economic Implications

- Fitness is not only a personal responsibility but a **public good** that contributes to **national resilience and economic stability**.
- A fit youth population is crucial for **reducing disease burden**, improving **labour force participation**, and ensuring **mental well-being** in a digitally driven society.
- The fitness industry can emerge as a **multi-billion-dollar sector**, promoting **Make in India** in sports science, wellness tourism, and digital fitness technologies.

6. Constitutional and Legal Provisions Related to Public Health and Fitness

- **Article 21:** Ensures the Right to Life, interpreted by the Supreme Court to include the **Right to Health**.
- **Article 47 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Mandates the State to raise the level of nutrition and improve public health.
- **National Health Policy (2017):** Emphasizes preventive and promotive healthcare through awareness and lifestyle interventions.
- **National Sports Policy (2023 Draft):** Integrates sports, fitness, and wellness into education and community development.

Conclusion

The **National Fitness & Wellness Conclave 2025** reinforced that **fitness is not merely a health goal but a national mission**, vital for achieving a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**. By integrating fitness with education, industry, and policy, India can unlock its youth potential, enhance productivity, and emerge as a global leader in health and well-being. **A fit population equals a fit economy**, forming the backbone of India’s developmental vision.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance, Welfare Schemes):** Fit India Mission, Public Health Policy, and National Sports Policy.
- **GS Paper 3 (Economy & Development):** Human resource development, demographic dividend, and health-led growth.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Responsibility and self-discipline in personal and public health.
- **Static Linkages:** Article 21, Article 47, SDG 3, and National Health Policy.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - “Fitness as a Pillar of National Development: Building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.”



- “Role of Preventive Health and Wellness in Economic Growth.”
- “Integrating Fitness and Sports into India’s Developmental Vision.”

4. Supreme Court on Lawyer–Client Confidentiality and Investigative Powers (2025)

1. Overview and Context

- The **Supreme Court of India**, in a landmark judgment delivered by a **three-judge Bench** led by **Chief Justice B.R. Gavai**, ruled that **investigating agencies cannot compel lawyers to disclose confidential communications with their clients**.
- The Court emphasized that forcing an advocate to reveal professional communications **violates the client’s constitutional right against self-incrimination under Article 20(3)** and undermines the sanctity of the **lawyer–client privilege**.
- The judgment reinforces the **autonomy and integrity of the legal profession**, ensuring that advocates can represent clients without fear or coercion from law enforcement agencies.

2. Key Legal Principles and Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 20(3)**: Protects individuals from being compelled to be witnesses against themselves. The Court extended this protection to include indirect coercion through the client’s lawyer.
- **Article 19(1)(g)**: Guarantees the right to practice any profession, including law; coercing lawyers to reveal client information infringes upon this right.
- **Article 21**: Ensures the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the **right to fair legal representation** and confidentiality in legal advice.
- The Court held that **lawyer-client confidentiality** is integral to the **right to a fair trial**, a fundamental aspect of the rule of law and justice delivery.



3. Statutory Backing – Section 132, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023

- The judgment drew from **Section 132 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (2023)**, which explicitly protects advocates from being compelled to disclose communications with clients.
- **Definition**: Lawyer–Client Privilege refers to the legal protection preventing disclosure of confidential communications between an advocate and their client.
- The **exceptions** to this privilege are limited to:
 - When the client **consents** to disclosure; or
 - When the communication is made **in furtherance of an illegal act**; or
 - When the advocate’s services are misused to **commit a crime or fraud**.
- This principle mirrors the earlier provision under **Section 126 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, reaffirmed and modernized under the BSA, 2023.



4. Observations by the Supreme Court

- Justice K. Vinod Chandran, writing for the Bench (also comprising Justice N.V. Anjaria), observed that **summoning advocates to reveal information about crimes or FIRs indicates a failure of investigative agencies to gather independent evidence.**
- The **relationship of trust between a lawyer and client** is “sacred and professionally privileged,” and any attempt to breach it is a **violation of constitutional and ethical norms.**
- The Court noted that advocates are not at the “beck and call” of investigation agencies and that their professional independence is part of the **fundamental framework of justice.**

5. Broader Legal and Ethical Implications

- The ruling strengthens **judicial independence** and **professional ethics** under the **Advocates Act, 1961**, particularly the **Bar Council of India Rules** which mandate confidentiality.
- Reinforces the idea that **the justice system relies on uninhibited trust** between a client and counsel — essential for effective legal representation.
- Prevents misuse of investigative authority and ensures that **lawyers are not weaponized as tools of the State** against their own clients.
- The verdict enhances **public faith in the fairness of criminal justice**, safeguarding both individual liberty and professional integrity.

6. Constitutional and Legal Safeguards Linked to the Judgment

- **Article 22(1):** Right of an arrested person to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice.
- **Advocates Act, 1961 – Section 49:** Empowers the Bar Council of India to frame rules of professional conduct, which include confidentiality obligations.
- **Bar Council of India Rules, Chapter II, Part VI:** Explicitly prohibit advocates from disclosing any communication or advice given in the course of professional employment.
- The judgment aligns with **international norms**, including the **UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990)**, which affirm lawyer–client confidentiality as a human right.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court’s ruling in 2025 is a **milestone for the protection of fundamental rights and the independence of the legal profession.** By reaffirming the sanctity of lawyer–client privilege, the Court not only fortified **constitutional guarantees under Articles 20(3), 19(1)(g), and 21** but also reinforced the **ethical core of justice delivery.** The verdict sends a clear message that **professional trust and client confidentiality are non-negotiable pillars of India’s legal system.**

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance):** Constitutional safeguards, judicial independence, professional ethics, and rule of law.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Professional responsibility, integrity, and confidentiality.
- **Static Linkages:** Article 20(3), Article 21, Advocates Act 1961, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, and principles of natural justice.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**



- “Lawyer–Client Privilege and the Right to Fair Trial: Balancing Ethics with Investigation.”
- “Judicial Safeguards Against Investigative Overreach.”
- “Professional Confidentiality as a Constitutional Guarantee in Indian Jurisprudence.”

5. Survey of India’s National Geo-Platform – Spatially Enabling Digital India (2025)

1. Overview and Key Highlights

- The **Survey of India (SoI)**, under the **Government of India**, has partnered with **C.E. Info Systems Pvt. Ltd. (MapmyIndia)** to develop a **National Geo-Spatial Platform (NGP)** — a unified digital infrastructure for geospatial data.
- The initiative is a major step towards realizing the **vision of the National Geospatial Policy, 2022**, aimed at creating a robust and interoperable national geospatial ecosystem.
- The NGP will serve as a **centralized digital repository** for authentic, standardized, and accurate spatial data to support **governance, research, industry, and citizen-centric applications**.
- It marks a significant milestone in India’s journey toward **spatially enabling Digital India** and promoting **data-driven decision-making**.

2. Objectives and Core Functions of the National Geo-Platform

- To **aggregate, harmonize, and disseminate** foundational geospatial datasets such as **Digital Elevation Models (DEM), Ortho-Rectified Imagery, Administrative Boundaries, Geodetic Reference Frames, and Geographical Names**.
- To enable **seamless data sharing and interoperability** among Central Ministries, State Governments, academia, and private industry.
- To provide **web-based access, APIs, and mobile applications** for geospatial data use in governance and developmental planning.
- To establish a **Spatial Data Registry (SDR)** for metadata management and ensure **data authenticity, accuracy, and standardization**.
- To strengthen India’s **Geospatial Data Infrastructure (GDI)**, fostering innovation, start-ups, and sustainable growth.



3. Institutional and Policy Framework

- The initiative aligns with the **National Geospatial Policy, 2022**, which aims to make India a **global leader in geospatial technology and services** by 2030 and fully **spatially enabled** by 2047.
- It operationalizes the goals of **Digital India, Gati Shakti National Master Plan, and National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), 2012**.
- The **Survey of India**, established in 1767 and functioning under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, continues to serve as the **nodal agency for foundational geospatial data**.



- The policy encourages **public-private partnerships (PPP)** for geospatial innovation and citizen-focused service delivery.

4. Constitutional, Legal, and Governance Provisions

- **Article 73 & 246:** Empower the Union Government to undertake scientific mapping and national data coordination.
- **National Map Policy (2005) and National Geospatial Policy (2022):** Provide legal and policy frameworks for spatial data collection, dissemination, and usage.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000 and Data Governance Frameworks** ensure data integrity, security, and privacy in digital mapping.
- The National Geo-Platform complements **good governance initiatives** under **Article 38 (promotion of welfare through data-driven governance)** and **Article 51A(h) (development of scientific temper)**.

5. Strategic and Developmental Significance

- Strengthens India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** by integrating location-based data for **smart cities, disaster management, environmental monitoring, land reforms, and logistics optimization**.
- Supports the **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan** through integrated spatial data for transport, urban planning, and infrastructure coordination.
- Promotes **e-governance, precision agriculture, resource management, and climate resilience** by enabling spatially informed decision-making.
- Encourages domestic innovation in the **Geospatial Industry**, supporting **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and enhancing India's **data sovereignty**.
- Helps bridge the **data divide** by making geospatial resources easily accessible to researchers, policymakers, and citizens.

6. Key Components of the Platform

- **Geospatial Data Integration & Dissemination System (GDIDS):** Core system for collecting and distributing spatial datasets.
- **Integrated Geospatial Application Interface (IGAI):** Facilitates user-friendly access to applications and analytical tools.
- **Spatial Data Registry (SDR):** Manages metadata and ensures compliance with national data standards.
- **Web Services & APIs:** Enable real-time integration with existing digital governance platforms.

Conclusion

The **National Geo-Spatial Platform** represents a transformative leap toward making India a **spatially intelligent and data-driven nation**. By merging technology, policy, and governance, it will empower decision-makers with accurate geospatial insights, boost innovation, and enhance national planning capabilities. The initiative not only operationalizes the **National Geospatial Policy, 2022** but also lays the foundation for **Digital India's next phase of integrated development**, aligning with the vision of a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.



UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** E-Governance, Digital India, Public-Private Partnerships, Data Sharing Policies.
- **GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech / Infrastructure):** Geospatial technology, innovation ecosystem, and digital infrastructure.
- **Static Linkages:** National Geospatial Policy 2022, Survey of India, Digital India Mission, PM Gati Shakti, NDSAP 2012.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - “Role of Geospatial Technologies in Digital Governance and National Development.”
 - “Spatial Data Infrastructure as a Catalyst for India’s Sustainable Growth.”
 - “National Geo-Platform: Building a Data-Driven and Spatially Enabled Bharat.”

6. The Case for a Board of Peace and Sustainable Security – Reforming the United Nations for the 21st Century

1. Context and Current Crisis of the UN System

- As the **United Nations (UN)** marks its **80th anniversary**, tensions between its founding ideals and institutional structure have become starkly visible.
- The **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, designed to prevent catastrophic wars, today struggles to **sustain peace** — many conflicts around the world remain unresolved or relapse due to the **absence of continuous political engagement**.
- Peacekeeping missions stabilize ground realities but often **lack political direction**, while **peace agreements and transitions falter** due to institutional gaps.
- The UN’s peace architecture — particularly the **Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** — lacks both authority and mandate to sustain peace during critical post-conflict transitions.

2. Institutional Shortcomings and Need for Functional Reform

- The UN’s institutional design is **episodic**, with limited mechanisms to ensure **political continuity after active conflict**.
- Waiting for **structural reforms of the UNSC** (like expansion or veto reform) has led to stagnation; instead, the article advocates **functional reform** using existing powers under the **UN Charter**.
- **Article 22 of the UN Charter** empowers the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** to establish subsidiary bodies — a provision that can be used to create new institutional mechanisms.
- Such an approach focuses on **innovation within the Charter framework**, rather than complete restructuring, ensuring practicality and immediate impact.





3. Proposal: The Board of Peace and Sustainable Security (BPSS)

- The proposed **Board of Peace and Sustainable Security (BPSS)** would fill the current **institutional void** in global peacebuilding.
- **Mandate:** To provide structured political engagement **during and after conflicts**, ensuring sustained international support where current UN presence fades.
- **Functions:**
 - Reinforce **nationally-led dialogue and peace agreement implementation**.
 - Coordinate **regional diplomatic efforts** and align **peacekeeping missions with political outcomes**.
 - Maintain institutional continuity by tracking commitments and ensuring momentum in fragile post-conflict settings.
- The BPSS would **subsume the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** and coordinate closely with the **UN Secretary-General and UNSC**, without infringing on sovereignty or duplicating roles.

4. Composition and Principles of Functioning

- **Representation:** The BPSS should be **representative but efficient** — about **two dozen rotating member-states** elected by the UNGA for fixed terms.
- **Regional Balance:** Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, and West Asia would have equitable representation; regional organizations would participate directly (not just as observers).
- **Decision-Making:** No permanent seats or veto powers — ensuring inclusivity without hierarchy.
- **Functioning Style:** The BPSS would be a **working body**, not a debating forum — continuously engaged beyond crises, ensuring **institutional memory, accountability, and policy coherence**.

5. Concept of Sustainable Security

- **Definition:** Sustainable Security links **conflict management with long-term political stability**, ensuring peace through **inclusive governance, development, and regional cooperation** rather than external intervention.
- Unlike “preventive intervention,” it emphasizes **national ownership and negotiated settlements**, aligning peace efforts with development and governance frameworks.
- The concept recognizes that **peace is not a moment but a process**, requiring long-term engagement and political accompaniment beyond ceasefires or military interventions.
- It redefines global peacebuilding around **sovereignty-respecting, politically sustainable mechanisms** that promote inclusion and legitimacy.

6. Broader Implications and Legal Basis

- **Legal Framework:**
 - **Article 22 of the UN Charter:** Allows creation of new subsidiary bodies like the BPSS.
 - **Chapter VI and VII:** Provide the basis for peaceful settlement of disputes and action in case of threats to peace.
- The BPSS would **complement**, not replace, existing structures like the UNSC and PBC.



- By promoting **continuity, coordination, and political accountability**, the BPSS could revitalize the **UN’s legitimacy and credibility** in peacebuilding.
- It would bridge the **gap between conflict management and sustainable peace**, ensuring the UN evolves responsibly rather than remaining stagnant.

Conclusion

The proposed **Board of Peace and Sustainable Security (BPSS)** represents a pragmatic and necessary innovation within the UN framework. It acknowledges that peace is not merely the absence of war but a process of **sustained political engagement, governance reform, and institutional trust-building**. By strengthening the UN’s ability to **accompany nations through transitions**, the BPSS would correct one of the system’s most persistent weaknesses — the lack of political continuity after conflict. Real reform lies not in rewriting the Charter but in **reviving the UN’s original mission to sustain peace through political responsibility and global cooperation**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** UN reforms, global governance, peacekeeping, and India’s role in multilateral diplomacy.
- **GS Paper 3 (Security & Ethics):** Conflict resolution, institutional reforms, and sustainable peacebuilding.
- **Static Linkages:** UN Charter (Articles 22, 24, 99, Chapters VI–VII), Peacebuilding Commission (2005), and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - “UN Reforms Beyond the Security Council: Functional Innovation for Global Peace.”
 - “From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding: Rethinking the UN’s Political Mandate.”
 - “Sustainable Security as the Foundation of Global Stability in the 21st Century.”

7. U.S. Announcement to Resume Nuclear Testing – Implications for Global Security and Non-Proliferation Regimes

1. Context and Background

- After a **33-year moratorium on nuclear weapons testing**, U.S. President **Donald Trump** announced the **resumption of nuclear testing**, marking a major policy shift with global repercussions.
- The announcement came soon after **Russia’s successful test of a nuclear-capable cruise missile** and a meeting between Trump and China’s President Xi Jinping, signaling potential escalation in **great-power competition**.
- The move comes when the **Doomsday Clock stands at 89 seconds to midnight**, symbolizing humanity’s closest proximity to nuclear catastrophe since the Cold War.
- The decision risks triggering a **new global arms race**, destabilizing decades of nuclear restraint and undermining existing disarmament frameworks.





2. Impact on Global Power Dynamics and Treaties

- **U.S.-Russia Relations:** The move endangers the **New START Treaty (2010)** — the last remaining arms control agreement between the two superpowers, due to expire in **February 2026**. Renewing or negotiating a successor will now become far more difficult.
- **U.S.-China Relations:** China urged the U.S. to uphold its commitments under the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**. A U.S. breach could prompt **China and Russia to resume testing**, further legitimizing nuclear modernization.
- The **CTBT (1996)**, although not yet in force, had created a **global moratorium on nuclear tests** observed by all major powers except North Korea. The U.S. move threatens to dismantle this tacit understanding.
- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT, 1968):** The U.S. decision undermines the NPT's "**grand bargain**"—where nuclear-weapon states commit to disarmament while non-nuclear states agree not to acquire weapons. Such violations could prompt proliferation by states citing security concerns.

3. Strategic and Regional Implications

- The announcement is likely to destabilize **global nuclear restraint**, giving legitimacy to other states to pursue testing.
- **China's potential response** could alarm **India**, which may reassess its nuclear doctrine and testing policy, triggering **Pakistan's retaliatory actions**, escalating tensions in **South Asia**.
- The **domino effect** of resumed testing could lead to an arms buildup across multiple regions, undermining **global deterrence stability** and **nuclear diplomacy**.
- It could also strain **U.S. alliances** in Europe and Asia, as partners question Washington's reliability and the credibility of its **extended deterrence** guarantees.

4. Implications for Global Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Regimes

- The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**: Though unsigned by some powers, it functioned as a de facto ban; U.S. testing would effectively nullify its moral and political authority.
- The **NPT (Article VI)** commits nuclear states to pursue disarmament. U.S. testing runs counter to this obligation, weakening global faith in the treaty's fairness and encouraging **nuclear nationalism**.
- Decades of progress toward **arms control, disarmament, and verification mechanisms** risk reversal, eroding trust built since the end of the Cold War.
- The move undermines **UN efforts**, particularly those of the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, to strengthen non-proliferation monitoring and safeguards.

5. Need for Global Dialogue and Responsible Nuclear Governance

- Experts advocate for a **renewed international dialogue** to reinforce global disarmament norms and restore confidence in non-proliferation frameworks.
- The upcoming **NPT Review Conference** presents an opportunity for nations to push for a **global "No-First Use" (NFU)** pledge and reaffirm commitments to disarmament.
- With the **New START Treaty** nearing expiry, the U.S., Russia, and China should engage in **trilateral arms control negotiations**, setting a precedent for broader multilateral agreements.



- A reassertion of **UN-based arms control mechanisms** and civil society advocacy is crucial to preserve the moral foundation of non-proliferation.

6. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), 1996:** Prohibits all nuclear explosions but awaits entry into force due to pending ratifications (including by the U.S., China, and India).
- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1968:** Legally binding treaty aimed at preventing proliferation, promoting disarmament, and fostering peaceful nuclear cooperation.
- **New START Treaty (2010):** Bilateral agreement between U.S. and Russia limiting deployed strategic warheads to 1,550 each; expiry in 2026 poses major risk to global stability.
- **UN Charter & Article 26:** Urges members to promote international peace and reduce armaments to the minimum necessary levels.

Conclusion

The U.S. decision to resume nuclear testing represents a **turning point for global nuclear governance**, threatening to unravel decades of painstaking progress toward arms control and disarmament. It risks igniting a new **global arms race**, weakening non-proliferation norms, and destabilizing regions like South Asia. Restoring balance demands **collective global leadership, renewed diplomacy**, and adherence to treaties like the NPT and CTBT. Peaceful coexistence in the nuclear age requires remembering the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—**that nuclear restraint is the foundation of human survival**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** Global arms control, non-proliferation treaties (NPT, CTBT, New START), and India's nuclear policy.
- **GS Paper 3 (Security & Technology):** Nuclear weapons, deterrence theory, and strategic stability.
- **Static Linkages:** NPT, CTBT, New START Treaty, Nuclear Doctrine (No-First Use Policy), and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - “Erosion of Global Nuclear Order: Implications of U.S. Resumption of Testing.”
 - “The Future of the Non-Proliferation Regime in a Multipolar Nuclear World.”
 - “Balancing National Security and Global Disarmament Commitments: Lessons for India.”

8. Census 2027: Trial Run of Self-Enumeration Begins – India's First Digital and Caste-Enumerated Census

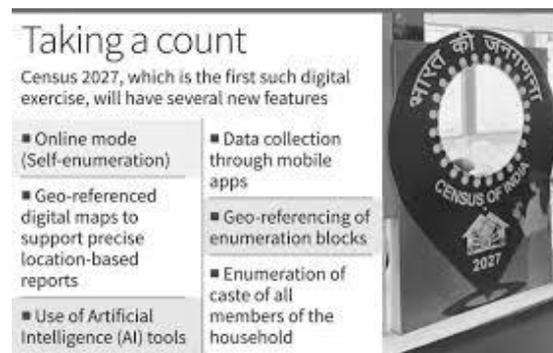
1. Overview and Context

- The **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI)** has initiated a **trial run of the self-enumeration module** for the **Population Census 2027**, marking India's **first fully digital Census** and the **first to include caste enumeration** since Independence.
- The pre-test will be conducted in **selected areas across all States and Union Territories** between **November 10–30, 2025**, while the **self-enumeration portal** will be tested from **November 1–7, 2025**.



- This pilot aims to test the **usability, reliability, and data integration capacity** of the digital platforms (web portal and mobile app) before the nationwide rollout.
- The Census, postponed from 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will now be conducted in **two phases**:

- **Phase I:** Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO)
- **Phase II:** Population Enumeration (April 2026 – February 2027).



2. Key Features of the Self-Enumeration Module

- Citizens will be able to **digitally self-enumerate** by filling in household details on a designated portal, using credentials shared by enumerators.
- The **enumerators** will guide prominent citizens during the pilot phase and later revisit households to cross-verify data.
- The **Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS)** will link the web and mobile modules, allowing real-time data integration and monitoring.
- Enumerators will use **digital district layout maps** for geo-referencing and spatial accuracy.
- The pre-test will assess both the **technical feasibility** (portal/app usability, data security, mapping accuracy) and **administrative efficiency** of the process.

3. Nature of Data Collected

- Around **30 questions** will be asked regarding **household particulars**, including:
 - Building number, roof and floor material, and housing type.
 - Demographics: name, sex, and size of household.
 - Access to basic amenities: drinking water, lighting, toilet, and cooking fuel.
 - Ownership of assets: radio, TV, laptop, vehicle.
 - Food patterns (main cereal consumed) and mobile number.
- The **caste enumeration** feature marks a major change, allowing for updated **socio-economic and caste data (SECC-type)** to guide welfare and policy decisions.

4. Legal and Constitutional Framework

- The Census is governed by the **Census Act, 1948**, which mandates the collection of demographic and housing data and ensures **confidentiality of individual information** (Section 15).
- **Article 246 (Union List Entry 69)** empowers the Union Government to conduct the Census through a central authority.
- **Data Privacy and Digital Security:** Under Article 21 (Right to Privacy as part of Right to Life), data protection norms must be adhered to, ensuring citizens' personal data are safeguarded.
- Integration with **Aadhaar** and **mobile numbers** for authentication in earlier plans raised privacy concerns — the current pre-test phase may review such provisions for compliance with the **Puttaswamy judgment (2017)** on privacy.



5. Significance and Policy Implications

- **Digital Transformation:** Marks a shift from manual enumeration to **data-driven governance**, reducing logistical costs and enhancing accuracy.
- **Real-Time Data Access:** Facilitates instant compilation, verification, and analysis for planning and implementation of welfare schemes.
- **Caste Data Collection:** Enables evidence-based policymaking in social justice, affirmative action, and resource allocation, aligning with **Articles 15(4), 16(4)** on equality and reservations.
- **Urban-Rural Infrastructure Planning:** The Houselisting data aids in **housing, sanitation, and infrastructure development programs** such as PMAY and Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **Governance Innovation:** Strengthens the **Digital India Mission**, promoting citizen participation and e-governance efficiency.

6. Challenges and Way Forward

- **Data Security & Privacy Risks:** With digital systems, ensuring encryption, restricted access, and compliance with upcoming **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023)** will be essential.
- **Digital Divide:** Rural and low-connectivity regions may face difficulties in using self-enumeration portals.
- **Training & Infrastructure:** Enumerators need robust digital training and infrastructure support.
- **Verification and Accuracy:** Ensuring that self-entered data are verified to maintain reliability and prevent duplication or false entries.
- The pre-test outcomes will determine scalability and readiness for **nationwide rollout in 2026–27**.

Conclusion

The **Census 2027 self-enumeration trial** represents a transformative step toward a **digitally empowered, participatory, and transparent data ecosystem** in India. By enabling citizens to self-report demographic and household details, it integrates technology, governance, and inclusion. Successful implementation will depend on **data privacy safeguards, digital accessibility, and robust institutional readiness**. As India prepares for its first digital and caste-inclusive Census, the initiative has the potential to reshape governance and social policy planning for decades to come.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Digital governance, citizen-centric services, data-driven policymaking, and inclusion.
- **GS Paper 3 (Technology & Social Development):** Use of ICT in governance, digital data systems, and demographic analysis.
- **Static Linkages:** Census Act 1948, Article 246 (Union List Entry 69), Article 21 (Right to Privacy), Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - “India’s First Digital Census: Challenges and Opportunities for Data-Driven Governance.”
 - “Caste Enumeration and its Role in Inclusive Policy Planning.”
 - “Balancing Digital Efficiency with Data Privacy in National Census Operations.”



9. India to Host Historic Maritime Convergence – IFR 2026, MILAN 2026 & IONS Conclave of Chiefs

1. Overview and Strategic Significance

- India will host three major international maritime events — the **International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026**, **Exercise MILAN 2026**, and the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs** — simultaneously from **15 to 25 February 2026** at **Visakhapatnam**.
- This is the **first time** India will conduct these global naval events together, marking a significant step in operationalising the **Prime Minister’s MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**, announced in 2025.
- The convergence aims to showcase India’s **indigenous naval capabilities**, reinforce its image as a **Preferred Security Partner**, and underline its leadership role in promoting a **free, open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime order** across the Indo-Pacific.
- The event also aligns with India’s broader strategic frameworks like **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**, **Act East Policy**, **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, and **IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium)**.

2. MAHASAGAR Vision and India’s Maritime Diplomacy

- **MAHASAGAR** expands the scope of **SAGAR**, extending India’s maritime engagement from the Indian Ocean to wider oceanic regions, emphasizing **sustainability, resilience, and cooperative security**.
- It seeks to institutionalize maritime partnerships through **collective responsibility** for ensuring safe sea lanes, environmental protection, and maritime prosperity.
- The vision underscores India’s transition from being a **“net security provider”** in the Indian Ocean to a **global maritime collaborator**, supporting **regional stability and blue economy initiatives**.
- It reflects the integration of maritime strategy into India’s **foreign, defence, and economic policies**, promoting Indo-Pacific synergy.



3. Key Components of the Maritime Convergence

- **International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026:**
 - Presidential Fleet Review by the **President of India** at sea.
 - Participation of **Indian Navy’s indigenous platforms** such as **INS Vikrant**, **Visakhapatnam-class destroyers**, **Nilgiri-class frigates**, and **Arnala-class ASW corvettes**.
 - Inclusion of **foreign naval ships**, **Indian Coast Guard**, and **Merchant Marine vessels**, highlighting India’s emergence as a **“Builder’s Navy”**.
- **Exercise MILAN 2026:**
 - Conducted in **Sea and Harbour phases**, focusing on **interoperability, maritime domain awareness, air defence, anti-submarine warfare (ASW)**, and **search & rescue (SAR)** operations.



- Aims to deepen operational cooperation among participating navies.
- **IONS Conclave of Chiefs:**
 - Brings together naval leaders from **25 member nations** and **9 observer states** to deliberate on **maritime security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and information sharing.**
 - India assumes the **IONS Chairmanship (2025–2027)** for the second time, emphasizing its role as a convener of maritime dialogue.

4. Diplomatic, Economic, and Defence Significance

- The convergence consolidates India's role as a **regional maritime hub** and a key advocate for **freedom of navigation and rule-based maritime governance.**
- It enhances **naval diplomacy**, fostering trust and cooperation through **joint exercises and strategic dialogue.**
- Promotes **indigenisation and self-reliance** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing by showcasing homegrown platforms.
- Expected to generate substantial **economic benefits** through **tourism, hospitality, and logistics**, contributing to the local economy of **Visakhapatnam.**
- The event strengthens **defence-industrial partnerships** and **maritime innovation**, paving the way for global collaborations in naval technology and security.

5. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Constitutional Basis:**
 - **Article 51(c):** Promotes respect for international law and treaty obligations.
 - **Article 73:** Empowers the Union to conduct defence and foreign affairs.
- **Maritime Legal Framework:**
 - Guided by the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982**, which upholds freedom of navigation and peaceful maritime cooperation.
 - India's commitment to **UNCLOS principles** underpins its stance on open and inclusive maritime governance.
- **Policy Frameworks:**
 - **SAGAR, MAHASAGAR, IPOI, and Maritime India Vision 2030** aim to integrate maritime security with trade, connectivity, and sustainable development.

6. Broader Geopolitical and Strategic Implications

- Reinforces India's leadership in the **Indo-Pacific architecture** and strengthens multilateral cooperation among regional navies.
- Acts as a counterbalance to coercive maritime behaviour, particularly in the **South China Sea**, by promoting a cooperative and inclusive maritime order.
- Encourages **regional capacity-building** in maritime security, HADR operations, and disaster resilience.



- Enhances **India's global visibility** as a nation capable of combining diplomacy with operational prowess — projecting both **soft power (through cooperation)** and **hard power (through capability demonstration)**.

Conclusion

The **Maritime Convergence 2026** at Visakhapatnam marks a **historic milestone in India's naval and diplomatic evolution**. By simultaneously hosting IFR, MILAN, and the IONS Conclave, India is transforming its maritime vision from regional outreach to global leadership. The event operationalises the **MAHASAGAR vision**, showcasing India's capacity as a **responsible maritime power** dedicated to peace, prosperity, and cooperative security. It blends naval tradition with strategic diplomacy, strengthening India's image as a **Preferred Security Partner** and a **pillar of stability in the Indo-Pacific region**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** India's maritime diplomacy, SAGAR/MAHASAGAR vision, and regional cooperation.
- **GS Paper 3 (Security):** Maritime security, naval modernization, blue economy, and defence indigenisation.
- **Static Linkages:** UNCLOS 1982, IONS, SAGAR initiative, IPOI, and Maritime India Vision 2030.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - "MAHASAGAR Vision: Expanding India's Maritime Footprint Beyond the Indian Ocean."
 - "Naval Diplomacy and Maritime Security as Pillars of India's Foreign Policy."
 - "From Builder's Navy to Security Partner: India's Emerging Role in the Indo-Pacific."

10. Ministry of Education Reinforces Commitment to Swachhata under Special Campaign 5.0

1. Overview and Objective of the Campaign

- The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** launched **Special Campaign 5.0** on **2nd October 2025**, marking the **fifth consecutive year** of the cleanliness and efficiency initiative.
- The campaign aligns with the **Prime Minister's vision** to institutionalize *Swachhata* (cleanliness) in government functioning, promoting **efficiency, transparency, and sustainable resource utilization**.
- It focuses on three main objectives — **cleanliness drives, optimal space utilization, and disposal of pending matters**, ensuring better administrative performance across all educational institutions and offices.
- The initiative is a part of the broader national effort to reinforce the ideals of **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** and **Good Governance (Sushasan)** within ministries and public sector institutions.

2. Key Achievements under Special Campaign 5.0

- **Space Optimization:** A total of **14,19,245 sq. ft.** of office space was reclaimed through decluttering and systematic record management.





- **Revenue Generation: ₹6.8 crore** was generated through **scrap disposal and auction of obsolete items**, surpassing previous years' performance.
- **File Review & Digitization:**
 - Physical files reviewed: **86.68% (1,79,926 out of 2,07,574)**
 - E-files reviewed: **85.34% (61,059 out of 71,544)**
 - **3,312 files** were digitized, promoting paperless governance.
- **Cleanliness Drives: 893 campaigns** were conducted by universities and institutions under the Department of Higher Education.
- **Vehicle Auction: 11 obsolete vehicles** (9 four-wheelers and 2 two-wheelers) were identified for auction, contributing to revenue generation.
- **Reduced Pendency:** The campaign significantly lowered pendency levels in administrative references, improving institutional efficiency and responsiveness.

3. Institutional and Policy Framework

- The campaign is conducted under the guidance of the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** and monitored through the **Special Campaign Dashboard** of the Government of India.
- It operationalizes **Swachhata as a Governance Value**, ensuring each ministry institutionalizes cleanliness and waste management practices at every level.
- The initiative also complements **Mission Karmayogi** and **e-Governance reforms**, which emphasize efficiency, digital recordkeeping, and citizen-centric administration.
- The campaign is embedded within the **Government of India's Efficiency and Transparency Framework (ETFs)** to improve service delivery and reduce administrative delays.

4. Constitutional and Legal Provisions Supporting Swachhata and Administrative Efficiency

- **Article 47 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Directs the State to improve public health and living standards, forming the foundation for cleanliness and sanitation initiatives.
- **Article 51A(g):** Makes it a **Fundamental Duty** of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including cleanliness and hygiene.
- **Right to Clean Environment:** Interpreted under **Article 21 (Right to Life)** by the Supreme Court, affirming that a clean environment is integral to a dignified life.
- **Public Records Act, 1993:** Governs record management and ensures proper disposal and digitization of obsolete files in government departments.
- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:** Legally reinforce proper waste disposal and recycling mechanisms within institutions.

5. Broader Significance and Impact

- Promotes **"Zero Waste Governance"** and **sustainable administration** through digitization, paper reduction, and efficient resource management.



- Strengthens **organizational discipline and accountability**, fostering a culture of proactive maintenance and space optimization.
- Demonstrates a **whole-of-government approach**, integrating Swachhata with operational efficiency, service quality, and public welfare.
- Encourages participation of educational institutions, thereby promoting environmental consciousness among youth and academia.
- Generates **economic and environmental dividends** through resource recovery and reduction of administrative inefficiencies.

6. Way Forward and Strategic Importance

- The success of Special Campaign 5.0 will guide future administrative reforms, contributing to **Digital India** and **Green Governance** goals.
- The Ministry plans to **expand the model** to cover all autonomous educational institutions, ensuring sustained Swachhata practices.
- Emphasis will be placed on **capacity building, monitoring through digital dashboards, and adoption of circular economy principles** in government offices.

Conclusion

The **Ministry of Education's Special Campaign 5.0** is a pioneering example of integrating **Swachhata with governance efficiency**. By reclaiming over 14 lakh sq. ft. of space, digitizing thousands of files, and generating substantial revenue from waste management, the initiative showcases how administrative reform can coexist with environmental stewardship. The campaign has institutionalized cleanliness as a continuous process, enhancing the functioning of public offices and reinforcing the vision of a **Clean, Efficient, and Transparent Government**.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Government reforms, administrative efficiency, Swachh Bharat Mission, and e-Governance.
- **GS Paper 3 (Environment):** Waste management, sustainable administration, and environmental ethics.
- **Static Linkages:** Articles 47, 51A(g), Public Records Act 1993, Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - “Institutionalizing Swachhata: Linking Cleanliness with Administrative Efficiency.”
 - “Special Campaign 5.0: A Model for Sustainable Governance.”
 - “From Cleanliness to Good Governance: The Administrative Evolution of Swachh Bharat.”



11. UIDAI Initiates Technological and Strategic Review – Shaping the Future of Digital Identity through Aadhaar Vision 2032

1. Overview and Context

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has launched a comprehensive **technological and strategic review** under the **Aadhaar Vision 2032** framework to redefine the future of India's digital identity system.
- The initiative aims to strengthen Aadhaar's technological backbone, align it with emerging technologies and privacy frameworks, and ensure **resilience, inclusivity, and data protection** for the coming decade.
- This marks a major modernization of the **UIDAI technology stack**, which underpins the world's largest digital identity program and serves as a key enabler of India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.
- The move reflects India's commitment to maintaining leadership in digital governance while ensuring **trust, security, and innovation** in public service delivery.



2. Aadhaar Vision 2032: Objectives and Strategic Focus

- The **Aadhaar Vision 2032** is designed to make the Aadhaar ecosystem **future-ready, privacy-compliant, and globally benchmarked**.
- It will strengthen Aadhaar's role as the foundation of India's **Digital Economy**, ensuring interoperability with other national platforms such as **DigiLocker, UPI, and the India Stack**.
- Core focus areas include:
 - **Upgradation of technological architecture** using emerging tech such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Quantum Computing, and Advanced Encryption**.
 - Enhancing **cybersecurity, data privacy, and user consent mechanisms** in line with India's **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**.
 - Ensuring **inclusivity and accessibility** for all demographics, including rural and marginalized communities.
 - Developing scalable solutions to handle the growing digital demands of over **1.3 billion Aadhaar users**.

3. Expert Committee for Strategic Roadmap

- A **High-Level Expert Committee**, chaired by **Shri Neelkanth Mishra**, Chairperson of UIDAI, has been constituted to guide the Aadhaar Vision 2032 roadmap.
- The committee comprises **leading experts from academia, industry, and administration**, including specialists in cybersecurity, AI, digital governance, and law.
- Key members include **Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar (CEO, UIDAI)**, **Shri Vivek Raghavan (Sarvam AI)**, **Shri Dheeraj Pandey (Nutanix)**, and professors from **IIT Jodhpur, Amrita University, and Michigan State University**.



- Their task is to create the **Aadhaar Vision 2032 document**, detailing the framework for a **next-generation Aadhaar architecture** aligned with the **DPDP Act, 2023** and **global privacy standards** such as the **EU GDPR**.

4. Technological and Legal Framework

- **Emerging Technology Integration:** AI-driven authentication, blockchain-based verification, quantum-resistant encryption, and real-time fraud detection will form key pillars of the next-gen Aadhaar system.
- **Legal Compliance and Data Protection:**
 - The initiative ensures compliance with the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**, emphasizing **purpose limitation, consent-based data sharing, and minimal data retention**.
 - **Information Technology Act, 2000 (Section 43A)** and **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies) Act, 2016** provide statutory backing for secure data processing and identity authentication.
 - **Article 21 of the Constitution (Right to Privacy)**, upheld in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)**, serves as the constitutional foundation for privacy-by-design principles.
- UIDAI's review will also consider **global best practices** in digital identity frameworks, promoting interoperability with international digital systems.

5. Broader Implications for Digital Governance and Economy

- **Digital Empowerment:** Aadhaar Vision 2032 strengthens India's position as a leader in **digital inclusion and governance innovation**, enabling seamless service delivery across sectors.
- **Economic Integration:** A secure and scalable Aadhaar infrastructure enhances **FinTech, e-Governance, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** systems, reducing leakages and ensuring efficient public expenditure.
- **Cybersecurity Enhancement:** Upgrading the tech stack will protect Aadhaar against emerging threats such as **data breaches, identity theft, and cyber espionage**.
- **Innovation Catalyst:** The roadmap will encourage **start-ups and research institutions** to co-develop authentication and verification tools, promoting India's deep-tech ecosystem.
- **Global Benchmarking:** Aadhaar's transformation will serve as a model for other developing nations adopting **digital ID ecosystems** for inclusive growth.

6. Strategic Vision and Way Forward

- UIDAI's transformation agenda under Vision 2032 signifies a shift from **identity issuance to digital trust-building**, making Aadhaar not just an ID tool but a **pillar of digital citizenship**.
- Focus areas for the next decade include:
 - Strengthening **governance frameworks** around consent and data sharing.
 - Building **quantum-safe cryptographic systems**.
 - Expanding **international partnerships** for knowledge exchange in secure ID technologies.



- The initiative also aims to foster **citizen confidence and data transparency**, ensuring that Aadhaar continues to empower, not endanger, individual rights.

Conclusion

The UIDAI's **Technological and Strategic Review** marks a defining moment in India's digital governance journey. Through **Aadhaar Vision 2032**, the government seeks to ensure that Aadhaar evolves as a **secure, inclusive, and future-proof digital identity system**, fully aligned with constitutional values of privacy and dignity. By leveraging cutting-edge technology, strong legal frameworks, and global best practices, Aadhaar will continue to serve as a **trustworthy foundation for India's digital economy and public service delivery** over the next decade.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** E-Governance, Digital India, Aadhaar, and Data Protection.
- **GS Paper 3 (Science & Technology):** Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Cybersecurity.
- **Static Linkages:** Aadhaar Act 2016, DPDP Act 2023, IT Act 2000, Article 21 (Right to Privacy).
- **Potential Mains Themes:**
 - "Aadhaar Vision 2032: Reimagining Digital Identity for a Secure Future."
 - "Balancing Innovation with Privacy: India's Approach to Digital Governance."
 - "UIDAI's Technological Evolution as a Pillar of India's Digital Economy."