



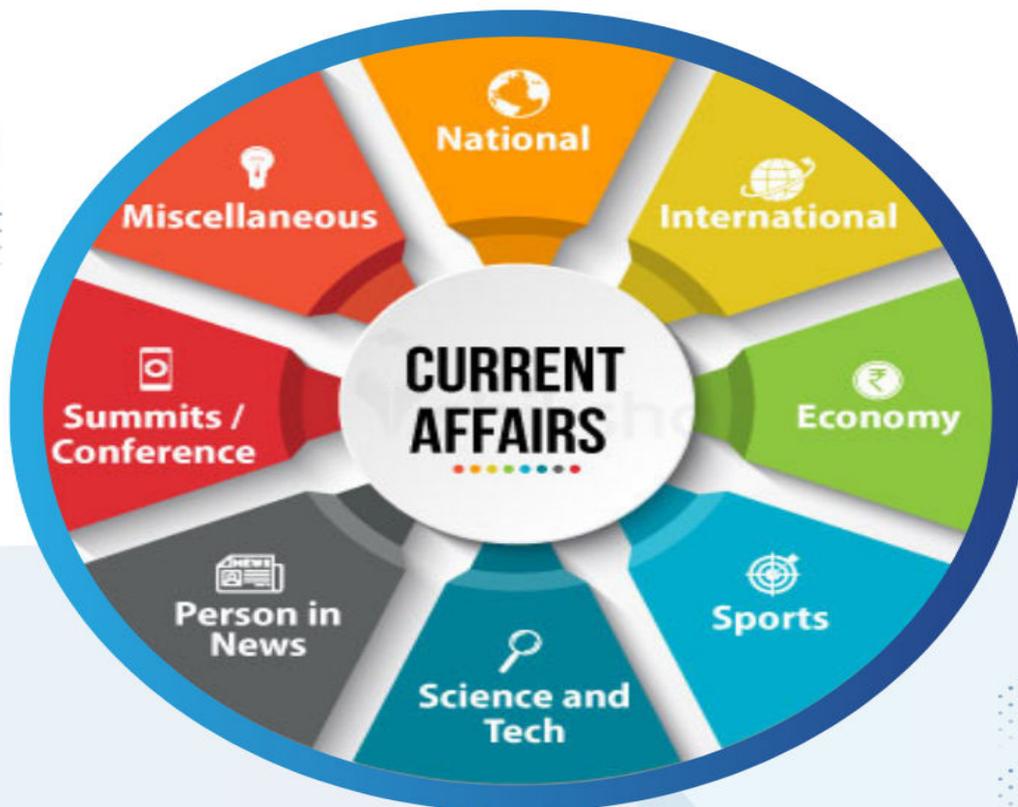
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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & **STUDY CENTRE**

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 10/12/2025 (WEDNESDAY)



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1. 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- **Co-Hosting & Objective:** India, in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, will co-host the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi (December 17-19, 2025). The summit aims to deliberate on **innovation, evidence-based practice**, and future strategies for integrating traditional medicine into global public health systems.
- **India's Leadership in Traditional Medicine:** The event reinforces India's growing global leadership in Traditional Medicine (TM), driven by the **Ministry of Ayush**. This reflects the national priority to enhance the scientific credibility of TM through research and global cooperation.
- **Definition & Context: Traditional Medicine (TM)**, as per WHO, is the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.
- **Key Research and Institutional Role:** Institutions like the **Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Delhi (under CCRAS)**, are crucial in advancing Ayurvedic research, focusing on integrated Clinical, Fundamental, and Policy research. Their work is particularly aimed at addressing major **lifestyle and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** through evidence-driven traditional healthcare.
- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions (Key Context):**
 - **Constitutional:** **Article 47** of the DPSP (Directive Principles of State Policy) mandates the State to regard the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.
 - **Legal:** The establishment of the **Ministry of Ayush (2014)** provides dedicated policy and legal support for the development and propagation of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy systems of medicine.
- **Summit Components:** The Summit will include ministerial discussions, scientific panels, exhibitions, and knowledge-sharing sessions, all geared towards strengthening the integration of TM within worldwide public health frameworks.



Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The co-hosting of the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine underscores the global recognition of **Ayush systems** and India's pivotal role in mainstreaming them. For UPSC, this topic is important under **General Studies Paper II (Governance, Health, International Relations)** and **Paper III (Science and Technology, Health)**. It highlights the convergence of traditional knowledge with modern science, the concept of **holistic health (SDG 3)**, and India's soft power projection through its cultural and medical heritage. The focus on **evidence-based practice** and addressing **NCDs** through Ayush is a critical area for questions related to public health strategy.

2. PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana – FPO Sangam: UPSC Analysis

- **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) Overview:** This is a comprehensive new Central Government scheme (launched in Union Budget 2025) focused on transforming Indian agriculture by shifting from a production-centric to an **income-centric model**. It targets **100 low-performing**



districts identified by three indicators: **Low Productivity, Moderate Cropping Intensity, and Below-Average Credit Parameters**. The Yojana aims to strengthen productivity, improve irrigation efficiency, enable crop diversification, and modernize post-harvest management.

- **Definition & Role of FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations):**

- **Definition:** An FPO is a legal entity formed by a group of farm producers, such as farmers, fishers, or artisans, to leverage collective strength through **economies of scale** in production, procurement of inputs, processing, and marketing.
- **Role in PMDDKY:** FPOs are highlighted as the "**backbone of this reform,**" central to improving **input access** (seeds, fertilizers), building better **production systems** (Integrated/Natural farming), expanding **market opportunities** (direct linkages with buyers), and ultimately **unlocking higher incomes** for farmers, especially small and marginal ones.



- **FPO Sangam Event Significance:** The event, organized by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**, served as a critical platform to connect **72 FPOs** from 15 states with senior government officials, financial institutions, private sector buyers, and AgTech innovators. The goal is to facilitate **market linkages**, encourage **value addition** (showcased in the FPO Exhibition), and explore **long-term sourcing arrangements** between private players and FPOs.
- **Key Thematic Areas for Sectoral Reform:** The thematic sessions addressed core challenges in agriculture: **integrated and natural farming**, **oilseeds and beekeeping value chains** (aligned with national missions), **protected cultivation**, **micro-irrigation** (water efficiency), **institutional financing**, and **digital agriculture solutions**. These areas reflect the multi-dimensional approach of PMDDKY and the focus on climate-resilience and sustainability.
- **Constitutional and Legal Context:**
 - **Constitutional:** The scheme aligns with the directive principle in **Article 39(a)** (right to an adequate means of livelihood) and the spirit of **Article 48** (organization of agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines).
 - **Legal:** The FPO model is primarily registered under the **Companies Act, 2013 (Part IXA, as a Producer Company)** or the Cooperative Societies Act, ensuring a corporate structure with profit-sharing for farmers. The scheme achieves convergence by unifying over 36 existing Central Schemes (like PM-KISAN, PMFBY, PMKSY) for better resource efficiency in the targeted districts.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the FPO Sangam event represent a strategic push towards **holistic agricultural transformation** by focusing on institutional reform (FPOs) and targeted interventions in underperforming areas. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this topic is crucial for **General Studies Paper III (Indian Economy – Mobilization of Resources, Growth and Development, and Indian Agriculture)**. Key takeaways are the government's shift to an **income-centric model**, the principle of **convergence** in scheme implementation, the importance of **FPOs** as aggregators and market actors, and the focus on **sustainable farming, value addition, and post-harvest management** as key to achieving the goal of enhanced farmer prosperity and a resilient agrarian economy.



3. PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): Strengthening Implementation

- **Scheme Objective and Scope: PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** is the flagship crop insurance scheme of the Government of India, launched in 2016. Its primary objective is to provide **financial support** to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events, stabilize their income, and encourage them to adopt innovative practices. The scheme replaced the earlier National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS.
- **Key Technological Reforms for Transparency:** The government has introduced robust technology-based mechanisms to streamline implementation and ensure timely, transparent claim settlement:
 - **National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP):** A single source of data for online enrollment, subsidy payment, monitoring, and electronic claim transfer directly to farmers' bank accounts.
 - **Digiclaim Module (from Kharif 2022):** A dedicated module integrated with NCIP, PFMS (Public Finance Management System), and Insurance Companies' systems for rigorous and transparent monitoring and processing of claims.
- **Leveraging Modern Technology for Assessment:** To improve the accuracy and timeliness of yield assessment and claim disbursement, the scheme utilizes advanced technologies:
 - **CCE-Agri App:** Used for capturing yield data/Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and uploading it directly to the NCIP.
 - **YESTECH (Yield Estimation System Based on Technology):** Utilizes technology (remote sensing, drones, etc.) for yield estimation.
 - **WINDS (Weather Information Network and Data System):** Provides crucial weather data for risk assessment.
 - Integration of State Land Records with NCIP.
- **Scale of Financial Assistance and Outreach:** During the three years (2022-23 to 2024-25), the Central Government released a total of **₹35,395.66 Crore** as its share of premium subsidy, while the total claims paid to farmers amounted to **₹52,869.78 Crore** (as on Oct 31, 2025). The Government has also actively promoted awareness through structured campaigns like '**Fasal Bima Saptah**' and '**Fasal Bima Pathshalas**' and organized the nationwide drive '**Meri Policy Mere Haath**' for doorstep policy distribution.
- **Definition & Concept: Premium Subsidy** refers to the portion of the actuarial premium (actual cost of insurance) paid by the Central and State Governments to reduce the burden on farmers, who pay a nominal uniform premium rate (1.5% for Rabi, 2.0% for Kharif, 5.0% for commercial/horticultural crops). **Risk Sharing** under PMFBY is done by the farmer, Central Government, State Government, and the empaneled Insurance Companies.



Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The continued high utilization of funds and the successful disbursement of a substantial claim amount under PMFBY underscore its critical role as a **social security net** for the agricultural sector. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this topic is highly relevant for **General Studies Paper III (Indian Economy)** –



Agriculture), specifically regarding issues like **risk management, food security, and technology in agriculture**. The key relevance lies in the government's strategy of using **Digital Governance (NCIP, Digiclam)** and **Geo-spatial technology (YESTECH, WINDS)** to enhance transparency, improve delivery, and reduce moral hazard in financial inclusion schemes. The large volume of claims paid highlights the scheme's role in mitigating the impact of increasing climate variability on farm income.

4. AI in Agriculture: Boosting Productivity and Supply Chain

- **Definition & Core Application: Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in agriculture involves using machine learning, deep learning, and predictive analytics to solve complex farming problems, moving beyond basic mechanization to **precision agriculture**. The core objective is to improve **crop productivity, sustainability, and farmer livelihoods**. AI applications are primarily focused on decision support, risk mitigation, and efficient resource use.
 - **Enhancing Farmer Support and Outreach (Kisan e-Mitra):** The government utilizes the "**Kisan e-Mitra**," a voice-based, AI-powered chatbot, to provide instant, multi-lingual assistance to farmers. This tool supports 11 regional languages and addresses queries on major schemes like **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Fasal Bhima Yojana, and Kisan Credit Card**. The large volume of daily and total queries handled (over 93 lakh queries answered) demonstrates its effectiveness as a digital extension service.
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- **Pest and Crop Surveillance (AI-based Detection):** AI and Machine Learning are deployed in the **National Pest Surveillance System** to tackle crop loss due to pest infestation. This system allows extension workers and farmers to capture images of pests, enabling timely detection and mitigation of attacks for **66 crops and over 432 pests**. Furthermore, AI-based analytics utilizing satellite imagery and field photographs are used for **crop mapping and crop-weather matching monitoring**, promoting healthier crops and sustainability.
 - **Advanced Predictive Forecasting (Monsoon Onset):** An AI-based pilot project was successfully conducted for **local monsoon onset forecasts (Kharif 2025)**. This blended model incorporated IMD's historical data, NeuralGCM, and ECMWF's AIFS. Crucially, the probabilistic forecasts predicted the *local* onset, which is vital for farmer decision-making on the **date of sowing and crop/input choice**. Forecasts were disseminated to nearly 4 crore farmers in 13 states via SMS (M-Kisan portal), demonstrating the potential of AI in mitigating climate risk.
 - **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**
 - **Constitutional:** AI use aligns with **Article 48** of the DPSP, which calls for organizing agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.
 - **Legal/Policy:** The development and deployment of AI in agriculture fall under the **Digital India** initiative and the specific policy push by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare** to promote technology adoption for agricultural efficiency and doubling farmer's income.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The integration of Artificial Intelligence in India's agriculture supply chain marks a significant step towards achieving **Precision Agriculture** and **Climate Resilience**. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this topic is



crucial for **General Studies Paper III (Science and Technology and Indian Agriculture)**. The key relevance lies in understanding how AI-driven tools (**Kisan e-Mitra, Pest Surveillance, Monsoon Forecasting**) enhance **e-Governance** in the agriculture sector, improve **farmer decision-making**, optimize resource use, and serve as an effective mechanism for **disaster and risk mitigation** in the face of climate change. This technology-led transformation is fundamental to ensuring food security and sustainable agricultural growth.

5. Implementation and Economics of Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **Definition and Determination (CACP): Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is a floor price fixed by the Government of India for **22 mandated crops** (7 Cereals, 5 Pulses, 7 Oilseeds, and 4 Commercial Crops) before the sowing season. The price is determined based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)**, which considers factors like cost of production, demand/supply, market price trends, and inter-crop parity. The final decision is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- **Fixing Formula (1.5 Times Cost):** Since 2018-19, the government has implemented the principle of fixing MSPs at a level of at least **1.5 times the cost of production**.
 - **Cost Definition:** The CACP primarily uses the **$\$A2+FL\$$** cost concept for calculating this return. **$\$A2+FL\$$** includes all paid-out costs (A2: cash/kind expenses on seeds, fertilizer, labour, etc.) plus the imputed value of Family Labour.
 - **Key Debate:** Farmers' organizations often demand MSP to be fixed at **$\$C2+50\%\$$** , where **$\$C2\$$** (Comprehensive Cost) includes **$\$A2+FL\$$** plus the imputed rent on owned land and interest forgone on fixed capital assets, making it a more inclusive cost.
- **Procurement Mechanisms:** Government intervention to realize the MSP objective is done through designated agencies:
 - **FCI and State Agencies:** Primarily procure **cereals and coarse cereals** (like Wheat and Paddy) to ensure food security and Public Distribution System (PDS) requirements.
 - **PM-AASHA Scheme (Pulses, Oilseeds, Copra):** Procurement of these crops is done under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** component of the Umbrella Scheme of **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** by agencies like **NAFED and NCCF**, usually when market prices fall below MSP.
 - **CCI and JCI:** Procure **Cotton** and **Jute**, respectively, at MSP.
- **Non-Statutory Nature and Farmer Benefit:** MSP currently has **no statutory backing**, meaning a farmer cannot demand it as a matter of right. The government procurement is an *offer*, and farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market if the price is advantageous. The increase in MSPs, coupled with substantial procurement (e.g., 1,223 LMT procured in 2024-25), has injected significant funds (₹3.47 Lakh Crore) into the rural economy, directly benefiting farmers.
- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**





- **Constitutional:** The MSP policy aligns with the **Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP)** under **Article 39(a)** (right to an adequate means of livelihood) and **Article 48** (organization of agriculture).
- **Legal:** The MSP regime operates under various executive orders and the framework established by the **CACP** (which functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture) and schemes like **PM-AASHA**. The ongoing demand is for a central law to provide a **legal guarantee** for MSP.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The implementation of MSP is a crucial component of India's agricultural policy, designed to stabilize farmer income and ensure food security. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this topic is central to **General Studies Paper III (Indian Economy – Agriculture, Food Security, and Subsidies)**. The key areas of relevance include the **CACP's methodology (\$A2+FL\$ vs. \$C2\$)**, the operational difference between the mandatory procurement of cereals (FCI) and conditional procurement of oilseeds/pulses (PM-AASHA), and the ongoing debate regarding the **legal guarantee of MSP** and its potential fiscal and market distortionary impacts. Understanding the financial scale of procurement and the non-statutory nature of MSP is essential.

6. Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and Judicial Scrutiny

- **Core Provision of CAA, 2019:** The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, amended the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, to make specific religious minorities—Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians—who fled religious persecution from **Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh** eligible for Indian citizenship. The cut-off date for entry into India was set as **December 31, 2014**.
- **Supreme Court's Clarification on Conferment of Rights:** The Supreme Court (SC) bench orally clarified that the conferment of rights associated with Indian citizenship under the CAA is **wholly dependent on the verification of claims**. The court emphasized that while the CAA introduces changes in favor of granting "enforceable rights" to persecuted minorities, every claim must be **enquired into and verified by the authorities** before citizenship is granted.
- **Definition of Citizenship:** **Citizenship** is the status of being a legal member of a country, conferring certain rights (like the right to vote, right to contest elections, right to hold public office) and duties, and is primarily governed by **Part II (Articles 5-11)** of the Indian Constitution and the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- **Context of Electoral Rolls and Statelessness Fear:** The SC observations came in response to a petition concerning people, particularly those who fled Bangladesh, who feared that the ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls** would render them stateless before their CAA application status is finalized. The SC stated that citizenship is **not automatically granted** and applicants must fulfill conditions before applying for inclusion in the voters' list.
- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**
 - **Constitutional:** **Article 11** grants Parliament the power to regulate the right of citizenship by law. This power was exercised to enact the Citizenship Act, 1955, and subsequently amend it via the CAA, 2019.
 - **Legal:** **Section 6B** (Special Provisions as to Citizenship of Persons Covered by the Assam Accord) and **Section 6B(3)** (The CAA insertion) in the Citizenship Act, 1955, govern the grant of citizenship to these specific groups, overriding the standard 11-year residency requirement.



Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The Supreme Court's stance reinforces that the CAA, while providing a specific pathway to citizenship, operates through a **due legal process of verification**. This topic is highly relevant for the UPSC Civil Services Exam under **General Studies Paper II (Polity, Governance, and Social Justice)**. Key takeaways include understanding the **statutory basis of citizenship (Citizenship Act, 1955)**, the constitutional provision allowing Parliament to regulate it (**Article 11**), the specific targeted groups and countries under the CAA, and the critical importance of the **verification mechanism** in the conferment of citizenship rights and inclusion in democratic processes (like electoral rolls).



6. India's Organic Market Growth and Export Strategy

- **Global Market Trend and India's Position:** The **global organic market** has shown robust growth, rising from \$112 billion in 2019 to **\$147.49 billion in 2023**. India's total organic market is estimated at ₹16,800 crore (approximately \$2 billion) in FY 2023-24, accounting for only about **1.4% of the global market** in 2022. This highlights a significant opportunity for market expansion and export growth.
- **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP):** The NPOP is the **certifying framework** implemented by the Government of India through **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** that provides institutional mechanisms for the certification of organic products.
 - **Key Policy Update:** The NPOP has been **revised to its 8th edition** (implemented from July 2025) to enhance its **credibility, transparency, and farmer-friendly features**, directly supporting export promotion.
 - **Definition: Organic Production** is a system of farming that prohibits the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, genetically modified organisms, and aims to maintain soil fertility and ecological balance.
- **Strengthening International Market Access:** To boost exports, India is actively pursuing **Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs)** with key trading partners.
 - **Recent Successes:** MRA with **Taiwan** is operational (since 2024), and MRA with **Australia** was implemented in September 2025. These arrangements reduce the need for double certification, significantly easing trade barriers.
 - **Promotion Efforts:** India was designated as the **Partner Country for Biofach 2026** and participated in other major global events (e.g., Natural Products Expo West, USA) to diversify export destinations (USA, EU, Australia, etc.).
- **State-Level Growth and Focus (Case of Tamil Nadu):** The NPOP data highlights varied organic farming adoption across states. Tamil Nadu, for example, has over **32,430 hectares** under organic or in-conversion cultivation, largely driven by **grower groups**. The state exports diverse value-added products (coconut oil, mango purée, spices, teas), demonstrating the potential of Southern States in meeting global demand for specialized organic produce.
- **Key Agencies and Constitutional Alignment:**



- **Agencies:** **APEDA** (under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry) is the nodal agency for NPOP implementation and export promotion. **CRISIL** provides market research.
- **Constitutional:** Promoting organic farming aligns with the Directive Principle in **Article 48** (organization of agriculture on modern and scientific lines) and the broader national objective of public health improvement (Article 47) and sustainable development.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The consistent growth in the global organic market presents a strong opportunity for India, which currently holds a small share. The government's strategic measures—particularly the revision of the **NPOP**, securing **Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs)**, and targeted export promotion—are crucial for realizing this potential. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this topic is important for **General Studies Paper III (Indian Economy – Agriculture, Foreign Trade, and Sustainable Development)**. The key relevance lies in understanding the **institutional framework (NPOP, APEDA)** governing organic exports, the role of **trade agreements (MRAs)** in reducing Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), and the economic significance of **value addition** and crop diversification in agriculture.

7. Ladakh's Demand for Constitutional Safeguards: LAB's Fresh Proposal

- **The Core Issue: Post-2019 Political Vacuum:** After the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir in 2019, Ladakh was made a **Union Territory (UT) without a legislature**, leading to a perceived deficit in **local political autonomy** and governance. The region, with over **97% Scheduled Tribe (ST)** population, now fears the loss of control over land, resources, and local employment to external commercial and demographic changes.
- **Key Demands of the Leh Apex Body (LAB):** The LAB (an amalgam of socio-religious bodies in Leh, often collaborating with the Kargil Democratic Alliance-KDA) is spearheading a movement focused on two principal demands: **Statehood for Ladakh** and **inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**. The fresh draft proposal seeks public input to emphasize transparency and inclusiveness in presenting the UT's issues to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Definition and Relevance of Sixth Schedule:** The **Sixth Schedule** (under **Article 244**) provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram by establishing **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)**.
 - **Why Ladakh Demands It:** Inclusion would grant ADCs legislative, executive, and judicial powers over subjects like **land, forests, village administration, and social customs**, thus constitutionally protecting the unique culture, demography, and fragile ecology of the high-altitude region.
- **Contradictory Local Aspirations and Strategic Imperative:** While the LAB/KDA demand Statehood and Sixth Schedule status, there are contradictory voices, such as the civil society group from Zaskar, which has opposed the demand for Statehood and additional Lok Sabha seats. Furthermore, the Central Government often views Ladakh's strategic location (bordering China and Pakistan) as necessitating **direct central control** for defense, security, and quick infrastructure development.



- **Judicial Probe and Addressing Violence:** In the backdrop of the political movement, the LAB is actively engaging with the judicial commission (headed by Justice (retd.) B.S. Chauhan) inquiring into the violence and the killing of four civilians during the September 24 protests. This focus on **judicial accountability and justice** for those affected by security force action is a critical component of the political trust-building process.
- **Constitutional Basis and Policy Context:**
 - **Constitutional:** The demand necessitates either a constitutional amendment to extend the **Sixth Schedule** to a non-Northeast region or a special legal provision under **Article 371** tailored for Ladakh (as reportedly offered by the Centre).
 - **Policy Context:** This issue highlights the challenge of balancing local **democratic aspirations** and the need for constitutional safeguards (given the high tribal population) against the **national strategic imperatives** of a sensitive border region.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The ongoing consultation by the Leh Apex Body underscores the deepening constitutional and political crisis in Ladakh post-2019, revolving around the core themes of **autonomy, identity, and representation**. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this issue is critical for **General Studies Paper II (Indian Polity, Federalism, Center-State Relations, and Issues related to STs)**. Key areas of focus include the purpose and mechanism of the **Sixth Schedule**, the challenges of extending it to a strategically sensitive region, and the role of civil society groups in articulating demands for greater **local self-governance** in a Union Territory without a legislature.

8. Education Crisis: CAG Report on Dropout and Enrollment in Odisha

- **High Dropout Rate Post-Secondary:** The CAG report highlights a critical failure in educational continuity, noting that the **transition rate from secondary to higher-secondary level was only 70.3%**. This indicates that approximately **30% of students** are not making the transition, either due to dropping out or failing to qualify for the next level. This bottleneck at the Class 10/12 level is a major contributor to reduced overall educational attainment.
- **Declining Enrollment Ratios vs. National Trend:** Odisha's education system is performing poorly relative to the national average. The report found that the **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** and **Net Enrollment Rate (NER)** in secondary and higher-secondary levels **declined** in the state during 2018-19 to 2022-23, contrasting sharply with the **improvement seen at the national level** during the same period.
 - **Definitions:**
 - **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER):** Total enrollment in a specific education level (regardless of age) as a percentage of the official age-specific population corresponding to that level.
 - **Net Enrollment Rate (NER):** Enrollment of children belonging to the official age group for a specific level as a percentage of the corresponding population.
- **Systemic Failure to Retain and Reintegrate Students:** Between 2018 and 2023, a massive number of children (ranging from 1.50 lakh to 5.47 lakh) discontinued education before reaching the immediate-higher classes. Furthermore, the state failed to bring **61,487 out-of-school children** (aged 6 to 18 years) back into the school education system during this period, indicating a failure of targeted outreach and tracking mechanisms under the State Education Programme Authority.



- **Root Causes: Infrastructure Deficit and Planning Lapses:** The CAG attributed the decline in NER and high dropouts to underlying systemic failures, including **ineffective measures to arrest dropouts** and **inadequate school infrastructure and facilities**. Other findings highlighted poor fund utilization (saving/surrender of 12% of budget), adverse **Student-Classroom Ratios** (up to 57% in higher secondary schools), and lack of basic amenities like CwSN-friendly toilets and ramps in many schools.
- **Constitutional and Legal Violations:**
 - **Fundamental Right to Education (Article 21A):** The high dropout and non-enrollment rates violate the spirit of **Article 21A**, which guarantees free and compulsory education for all children between 6 and 14 years.
 - **Fundamental Duty (Article 51A(k)):** It undermines the fundamental duty of parents/guardians to provide opportunities for education to their children/wards.
 - **Legal:** The failures point to weaknesses in implementing the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**, which mandates the retention of children till the completion of elementary education. The failure to provide allowances and aids to eligible Children with Special Needs (CwSN) also violates inclusive education mandates.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The CAG report on Odisha's education sector reveals a profound gap between constitutional mandate and on-ground reality, particularly concerning **equity, access, and retention** at the secondary and higher-secondary levels. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this is highly relevant for **General Studies Paper II (Social Justice, Governance, and Human Resource Development)**. The key relevance lies in understanding the difference between GER and NER, analyzing **bottlenecks** in the educational pipeline (transition dropouts), and assessing the role of the **CAG (Article 148)** in exposing governance failures related to the implementation of fundamental rights and flagship schemes like *Samagra Shiksha*.

9. Aditya-L1's Breakthrough on Solar Storm Dynamics

- **Aditya-L1's Landmark Discovery:** India's first solar observatory, **Aditya-L1**, in collaboration with six US satellites (including NASA's Wind, ACE, and DSCOVR), provided crucial data to explain the unusual intensity of the May 2024 solar storm (Gannon's Storm). The study revealed that two **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)** collided mid-space, triggering an unexpected internal magnetic upheaval within one of the CMEs.
- **Mechanism: Massive Magnetic Reconnection:** The core finding is the unprecedented observation of **magnetic reconnection** *inside* a CME.
 - **Definition: Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)** is a massive bubble of hot plasma and magnetic field ejected from the Sun's corona into space.
 - **Definition: Magnetic Reconnection** is a fundamental plasma process where magnetic field lines snap and rejoin in new ways, converting stored magnetic energy into kinetic and thermal energy, and accelerating particles.
 - **Observation:** The precise magnetic field measurements from Aditya-L1's instruments helped map this reconnection region, which was found to be enormous—about **1.3 million km across** (nearly 100 times the size of Earth). This massive event caused a sudden reversal in the storm's magnetic field direction, significantly amplifying its impact on Earth.



- **Aditya-L1's Strategic Vantage Point (L1):** The spacecraft is positioned in a **halo orbit** around the **Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**, located approximately **1.5 million km** from Earth.
 - **Significance:** L1 offers an **uninterrupted, continuous view of the Sun**, free from occultation/eclipses, allowing for real-time monitoring of solar activities and the space environment between the Sun and Earth. This continuous monitoring is vital for space weather prediction.
- **Importance for Space Weather Prediction:** Solar storms (CMEs) can severely disrupt space-based and ground-based technology, including **satellites, GPS, communication systems, and power grids**. This discovery significantly enhances the understanding of how CMEs evolve and gain strength as they travel from the Sun to Earth, which is essential for **improving the forecasting models** for severe solar events and protecting critical infrastructure.
- **Constitutional and Policy Context:**
 - **Constitutional:** The mission aligns with the spirit of **Article 51A(j)** (Fundamental Duty to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity) by pushing the frontiers of India's scientific and technological capabilities.
 - **Policy:** Aditya-L1 is the country's first dedicated solar observatory, positioning ISRO at the forefront of **global space science collaboration** (as demonstrated by the joint study with US satellites) and boosting India's capability to independently manage the risks posed by **Space Weather**.



Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

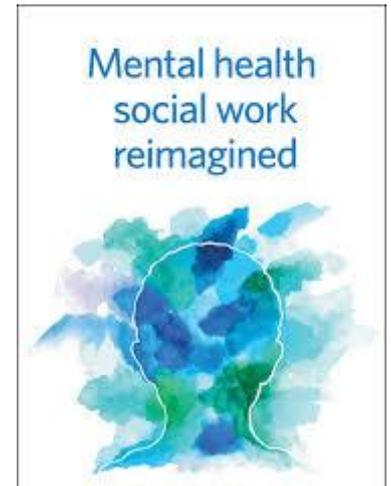
Aditya-L1's contribution to understanding the May 2024 solar storm is a landmark achievement, demonstrating India's growing expertise in planetary science and solar physics. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this is critical for **General Studies Paper III (Science and Technology – Space)**. Key relevance lies in understanding the **Aditya-L1 mission objectives**, the concept of **Lagrange Points (L1)**, the phenomenon of **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)** and **Magnetic Reconnection**, and the direct economic and security impact of **Space Weather** on modern technological infrastructure.

10. Reimagining Mental Health: Dignity, Justice, and Social Context

- **Critique of Dominant 'Deficits Lens':** Current dominant mental health approaches are criticized for viewing experiences through a "**deficits lens**", focusing narrowly on clinical pathology and mere "**integration**" into communities that enforce reductive and stereotypical ideas of "the normal" and "productive living." This approach fails to unpack the complex, lived narratives of suffering that numerical data (like NCRB suicide statistics) often simplify.
- **Radical Reimagination: Dignity and Disability Justice:** The article advocates for a **radical reimagining** of mental health care. Care must be centered as the primary pursuit of **Dignity** and **Disability Justice**, emphasizing **equity, inclusion, and diversity**. This approach shifts the focus from merely "fixing" the person to addressing the **relational, material, and structural suffering** created by an unequal and unquestioned social order.



- **The Intersectional and Multi-dimensional Nature of Distress:** Mental distress is not singular but arises from the complex, overlapping intersection of multiple factors: **biological** (neurotransmitter changes), **psychological** (learned patterns), **social** (isolation, precarity), **cultural, political** (oppressive structures), and **historical** (intergenerational trauma). These explanations intersect with identities like caste, class, gender, and queer status, shaping both the experience of suffering and access to care.
- **Addressing Systemic and Relational Gaps (NCRB Data):** The article highlights that gaps in mental health access remain vast (70-90% globally). The analysis of **NCRB suicide data** indicates that a significant portion of suicides is due to **family problems and relational ruptures**, often rooted in feelings of shame, alienation, and abandonment. Effective care must engage with these existential, relational disruptions rather than placing the entire onus for "maladaptive patterns" solely on the individual.
- **Re-centering Care Practice as Relational Justice:** Care should be a practice of **Relational Justice**, recognizing that "what we owe to one another" is central to healing. This requires moving beyond just distributing resources (like fair housing or medication) to incorporating **relational work** that explores existential questions around vulnerability, purpose, and incoherence within a person's socio-ecological context. The focus shifts from "treatment" to "What does this person need to live the life they want?"
- **Policy and Systemic Reforms Needed:** Transforming the sector requires: 1) **Reorienting research** to capture granular aspects of care (implementation science). 2) **Reimagining education** to prepare practitioners for discomfort and complexity. 3) Critically, **recognizing and compensating those with lived experience** and non-specialist community wisdom as valuable practitioners, affording them the same systemic support given to professional credentials.



Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

This critical perspective on mental health is highly relevant for the UPSC Civil Services Exam under **General Studies Paper II (Social Justice, Governance, and Health)**. It emphasizes the need to view mental health not merely as a medical issue but as an issue of **Disability Justice** and **Human Rights**. Key takeaways include the necessity of integrating the **social determinants of health** into mental healthcare policy, understanding the intersectional nature of suffering, and recognizing the need for systemic changes in the **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**, to truly prioritize **dignity, non-discrimination, and community-based support** over institutionalization and a purely biological model. The focus on relational justice and lived experience is a modern public health imperative.

11. National Convention on Health Rights: Challenging Privatisation and Advocating for Universal Health Coverage

- **Core Agenda: Right to Health and Public System Strengthening:** The Convention, organized by **Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)**, aims to address major health challenges by charting an agenda on the **Right to Health**. The central vision is to affirm healthcare as a **fundamental right** and anchor it in **robust, responsive public health systems**. It will critique the commercialization of healthcare and draw lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, emphasizing decentralized planning and community-led models.



- **Challenging Privatisation and PPPs:** A major focus is opposing the aggressive push for the **privatisation of public health services**, often through **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**, which threaten to dismantle already weak public systems and render healthcare unaffordable for the majority of Indians who depend on public provisioning (over 80 crore people). JSA advocates for halting the "selling off" of medical colleges and health facilities to private players.
 - **Definition: Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)** refers to the amount that people spend directly on health care without third-party reimbursement (e.g., insurance). India's OOPE remains critically high.
- **Regulation of Commercial Private Sector and Patient Rights:** Commercial private healthcare has expanded rapidly but remains largely **unregulated**. The Convention demands the **effective implementation** of the **Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010**, which has seen only "nominal" implementation despite being enacted years ago. Key regulatory demands include:
 - **Rate standardization** and transparent pricing.
 - Mandatory observance of the **Charter of Patient's Rights**.
 - Accessible grievance redress systems to curb overcharging and unnecessary procedures.
- **Demand for Fairer Financing and Drug Policy:** India's **financial allocation for public health** is among the lowest globally (just \$25 annual per capita public spending and only 2% of the Union Budget). Participants will advocate for **enhanced government spending** and explore alternative financing to reduce the high OOPE, which often pushes families into poverty.
 - **Medicine Access:** The convention demands a pro-people pharmaceutical policy including placing **essential medicines under effective price control** (currently over 80% are outside price control), eliminating irrational drug combinations, and strengthening public sector production.
- **Justice for Health Workers and Social Equity:** The convention highlights the urgent need for **justice to health workers** (doctors, nurses, ASHAs, paramedics, etc.), many of whom face low wages, insecure employment, and inadequate social security, despite their indispensable role during the pandemic. A special session will address **gender and social justice** by focusing on the experiences of marginalized groups (Dalits, Adivasis, LGBTQ+, etc.) to embed inclusion and **non-discrimination** in health systems.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The National Convention on Health Rights is a significant civil society initiative that highlights the core failures and systemic inequities in India's healthcare delivery system, particularly the struggle between **health as a public good** and its **commercialisation**. For the UPSC Civil Services Exam, this topic is central to **General Studies Paper II (Social Justice, Governance, and Human Resource Development)**. Key takeaways include the constitutional basis of the **Right to Health** (implied under **Article 21 - Right to Life**, and supported by **DPSP Article 47 - duty to improve public health**), the legislative gap and implementation failure of the **Clinical Establishments Act, 2010**, the crisis of **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)**, and the socio-economic necessity of increasing public health spending as a proportion of GDP (National Health Policy 2017 target is 2.5% by 2025).



12. Crisis in Indian Transport: Price, Supply, and Neo-Liberal Constraints

- **Divergent Shocks in Transport Infrastructure:** Recent crises highlight two distinct market failures:
 - **Demand Shock (Indian Railways):** The sudden rush for Bihar-bound trains (due to Chhath Puja/elections) faced **fixed, affordable prices** and **inelastic supply**. This led to massive **excess demand**, overcrowding, and hazardous conditions, rather than price increases.
 - **Supply Shock (Indigo Flights):** The mass cancellation of Indigo flights reduced supply against normal demand. This led to **huge price increases** and consumer loss, amplified by Indigo's **near-monopoly** position in the competitive, deregulated aviation market.
- **Critique of Low Prices in Public Services:** Critics argue that low prices for government services (like train travel) cause inefficiency due to excess demand. However, the article argues that for welfare services (health, education, transport), **prices must remain affordable**. The solution to overcrowding is **not raising prices** but **increasing state investment** to expand supply and access, a strategy constrained by neo-liberal economics.
- **Constraints of the Neo-Liberal Economy on the State:** The current economic model imposes strict limits on government intervention by restricting the **size of the fiscal deficit**. This constrains the State's ability to undertake the significant investments required to expand public services (like Railways) and match demand. The State is left with no option but to keep prices low while struggling with the resulting inefficiency and overcrowding.
- **Monopolies and Failures of Deregulation:** The Indigo crisis exposes the limits of **deregulation** and the private sector model, which assumes perfect competition. In reality, deregulation often leads to the **concentration of capital and the rise of monopolies** (like Indigo's near-monopoly). When a monopoly faces a supply restriction, it amplifies price increases market-wide, demonstrating that unregulated private markets can lower consumer welfare.
- **Alternative Financing for Welfare:** To overcome the fiscal deficit constraint and fund the expansion of public services, the article suggests increasing revenue through **wealth and income taxation of the top 1%** (citing research by Thomas Piketty). This method could raise considerable resources to strengthen the welfare state without violating fiscal deficit targets, though it faces political resistance from domestic and global capital.



Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The two transport crises serve as case studies demonstrating the structural flaws resulting from India's adherence to the **neo-liberal economic model**: the degradation and under-investment in public services on one hand, and the rise of unchecked private monopolies on the other. This topic is highly relevant for **General Studies Paper III (Indian Economy – Government Budgeting, Infrastructure, and Market Structure)** and **General Studies Paper II (Welfare Schemes)**. Key takeaways include understanding the concepts of **Demand Shock** vs. **Supply Shock**, the critique of the **Fiscal Deficit** as a constraint on welfare spending, and the necessity of **anti-monopoly intervention** (government regulation) to protect consumer welfare in deregulated markets. The suggested solution (wealth tax) directly addresses the fiscal debate in Indian economic policy.