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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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1. Failure of PSLV-C62 and Quality Assurance in ISRO

- **Summary:**
 - The PSLV-C62 mission, carrying the EOS-NI earth observation satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites, failed to reach its intended trajectory on January 12, 2026
 - An anomaly occurred during the operation of the third stage, characterized by "disturbance in the vehicle roll rates"
 - This marks the second consecutive failure for the PSLV "workhorse" after the PSLV-C61 failure in May 2025
 - The EOS-NI satellite, built by DRDO for strategic applications, was lost in the mission
 - Quality assurance protocols are being questioned as the symptom of the C62 failure parallels that of the C61 mission
 - Increased insurance premiums for future commercial launches may impact NewSpace India Limited's global competitiveness
- **Additional Keypoints:** The failure occurred around 2 minutes into the third stage, leading to uncontrollable spinning⁷. ISRO has not yet publicly released the Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) report for the previous C61 failure
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 51A(h) of the Constitution (Fundamental Duty to develop scientific temper). The Department of Space (DoS) oversees ISRO.
- **Definitions: Roll Rate:** The speed at which a vehicle rotates around its longitudinal axis.
Workhorse: A reliable vehicle used for the majority of missions.
- **Conclusion:** These back-to-back failures necessitate a return to scientific openness and a thorough overhaul of quality assurance protocols to maintain India's standing in the global space market
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper III (Science & Technology - Space; Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, etc.).

2. Indo-German Defence Industrial Cooperation

- **Summary:**
 - India and Germany signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation with a focus on co-production and co-development
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced a 'consultation mechanism' for the Indo-Pacific region¹¹.
 - The partnership aims to counter global trends of instability and "rough winds" in world politics
 - Germany is simplifying processes related to defence trade to facilitate easier technology transfer and collaboration
 - Other MoUs signed cover recruitment of skilled professionals, sports, and higher education
 - This visit marks Friedrich Merz's first trip to Asia since assuming office in May 2025



- **Additional Keypoints:** The leaders participated in cultural diplomacy by flying kites in Ahmedabad¹⁶¹⁶¹⁶¹⁶. The agreement signals a shift toward making India a global hub for defence manufacturing.
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Entry 15 of the Union List (Foreign Affairs). Article 51 (Promotion of international peace and security).
- **Definitions: Co-production:** Joint manufacturing of products. **Indo-Pacific:** A strategic maritime region stretching from the eastern coast of Africa to the western Pacific Ocean.
- **Conclusion:** The deepening strategic partnership with Germany aligns with India's goal of "Atmanirbharta" in defence and ensures a stable multipolar world order¹⁷.
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (International Relations - Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India).

3. Retail Inflation Trends and Monetary Policy Comfort

- **Summary:**
 - India's retail inflation (CPI) reached a three-month high of 1.33% in December 2025.
 - Despite the rise, it remains significantly below the RBI's lower comfort level of 2%
 - The low inflation is attributed to a broad-based decline in price levels across various sectors
 - Food and beverages saw a price contraction of 1.85% in December 2025
 - Core inflation (excluding food and fuel) jumped to a 28-month high of 4.8%, primarily driven by precious metals
 - High base effects from the previous year (7.7% in December 2024) contributed to the lower current figures
- **Additional Keypoints:** Inflation for meat products, oils, and fruits remained high at over 5%²⁴²⁴²⁴²⁴. Housing inflation eased marginally to 2.86%
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** RBI Act, 1934 (provides the legal framework for the Monetary Policy Committee and the 4% +/- 2% inflation target).
- **Definitions: CPI (Consumer Price Index):** Measures changes in the price level of a weighted average market basket of consumer goods and services. **Core Inflation:** Inflation that excludes volatile food and energy sectors.
- **Conclusion:** While headline inflation is currently low, the spike in core inflation and specific food items warrants careful monitoring by the RBI to maintain price stability²⁶.
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper III (Indian Economy - Inflation, Monetary Policy).

4. Bamanwas Kankar: Rajasthan's First Fully Organic Panchayat

- **Summary:**
 - Bamanwas Kankar in Kotputli-Behror district has become the first village body in Rajasthan to be certified as fully organic
 - The transition was driven by concerns over soil degradation, declining groundwater, and health issues from chemical farming



- All farming activities are free of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers
- Animal husbandry practices have also been shifted to ecological and health-conscious standards
- The movement was community-driven, supported by the Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies (COFED)
- Certification has enabled farmers to access premium markets and reduce input costs
- **Additional Keypoints:** Villagers took a formal pledge against chemical-based agriculture on January 2³³³³³³³³. COFED aims to convert 300 more panchayats to organic status by the end of 2026
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (Panchayati Raj). Article 48 (Directive Principle to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines).
- **Definitions: Organic Farming:** An agricultural system that uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost and green manure. **Panchayat:** A local self-government body at the village level.
- **Conclusion:** The Bamanwas Kankar model serves as a grassroots blueprint for sustainable agriculture through community participation and ecological responsibility
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (Polity - Governance) and GS Paper III (Agriculture - Sustainable farming).

5. Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) as Human Capital

- **Summary:**
 - Investment in the first 3,000 days of life is critical for India to achieve a \$30 trillion economy by 2047
 - This period includes the first 1,000 days from conception to age two, followed by 2,000 days up to age eight
 - These years shape brain architecture, cognitive ability, and emotional regulation
 - ECCD should be viewed as a strategic economic investment rather than just a welfare intervention
 - Current interventions like Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 focus primarily on survival rather than developmental potential
 - Middle and upper-income families are often left out of government safety nets despite facing developmental challenges like screen exposure and obesity
- **Additional Keypoints:** 80-85% of brain development occurs in the first 1,000 days⁴². Pre-conception counseling and parental education are identified as urgent needs
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 45 (Directive Principle for early childhood care and education). National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Definitions: Human Capital:** The skills, knowledge, and experience possessed by an individual, viewed in terms of their value to society. **Epigenetics:** The study of changes in organisms caused by modification of gene expression rather than alteration of the genetic code itself.
- **Conclusion:** A national mission on ECCD that integrates health, nutrition, and early learning is essential to secure India's future competitiveness



- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (Social Justice - Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources).

6. The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025

- **Summary:**
 - Introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 15, 2025, to reimagine higher education regulation in India
 - It aims to replace fragmented oversight with a "light but tight" framework as envisioned in NEP 2020
 - The Bill proposes an apex umbrella body, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan, with three separate councils for regulation, accreditation, and standards
 - It intends to repeal the UGC Act (1956), AICTE Act (1987), and NCTE Act (1993) to unify the regulatory architecture
 - A technology-enabled single-window system based on public self-disclosure is proposed for transparency
 - The goal is to shift institutional focus from paperwork to teaching, research, and innovation⁵⁰.
- **Additional Keypoints:** The Bill is anchored in Entry 66 of the Union List (Coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education)⁵¹. It seeks to raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Seventh Schedule, Union List, Entry 66.
- **Definitions: Accreditation:** A process of review in which a body determines if an institution meets certain standards. **Gross Enrolment Ratio:** The total enrolment in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population.
- **Conclusion:** This structural reform is designed to grant autonomy to well-performing institutions while ensuring global benchmarks of quality and ethics
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (Education; Governance - Government policies and interventions).

7. U.S. Actions in Venezuela and International Law

- **Summary:**
 - Recent U.S. military action in Venezuela has been termed a "flagrant violation of international law"
 - The action violates Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any State
 - While the U.S. claims to counter "narco-terrorism," critics point to Venezuela's status as having the world's largest proven oil reserves
 - This event signals a breakdown in the "balance of power" principle that once maintained global peace
 - In the post-Soviet era, the world lacks a sole power capable of challenging unchecked U.S. authority



- Pre-emptive strikes and regime changes in Iraq, Libya, and Syria are cited as previous examples of this trend⁵⁹.
- **Additional Keypoints:** China is seen as the only emerging counter-balance to the U.S.⁶⁰. A loose axis between Russia and China could challenge the current unipolar structure⁶¹.
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** UN Charter Article 2(4) and Article 51 (Self-defence).
- **Definitions: Balance of Power:** A situation in which nations have roughly equal power, preventing any one from dominating. **Pre-emptive War:** A war commenced in an attempt to repel or defeat a perceived imminent offensive or invasion.
- **Conclusion:** The erosion of international legal norms highlights the need for a more robust multipolar system to prevent unilateral military interventions⁶².
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (International Relations - Important International institutions, agencies and fora; Effect of policies and politics of developed countries on India's interests).

8. Environmental Risks of Data Centres and 'Data Dumping'

- **Summary:**
 - India is identified as a high-risk candidate for 'data dumping'—hosting poorly designed, resource-intensive data centres
 - Data centres can guzzle large quantities of water for cooling and strain local power grids
 - India's capacity is projected to reach 1.8 GW by 2028 and potentially surpass 4.5 GW by 2030⁶⁵.
 - Many Indian cities are already water-stressed, making the use of evaporative cooling a significant environmental risk⁶⁶.
 - Hyperscale facilities often provide few permanent jobs despite being capital-intensive⁶⁷.
 - Transparent community engagement and strict environmental zoning are needed to mitigate these risks
- **Additional Keypoints:** Local resistance to data centres has grown in the U.S. and Chile due to water and energy concerns⁶⁹. India has judicial pathways like the National Green Tribunal to address these lacunae
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 21 (Right to a clean environment). National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- **Definitions: Data Dumping:** In this context, the relocation of environmentally harmful or inefficient data infrastructure to countries with laxer regulations. **Evaporative Cooling:** A method of cooling that uses the evaporation of water to lower temperatures.
- **Conclusion:** Sustainable development of India's IT sector requires balancing industrial growth with ecological limits and community participation
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper III (Environment - Environmental impact assessment; Science & Tech - IT).



9. Land Use Trade-offs: Biofuels vs. Solar Energy

- **Summary:**
 - Global biofuel cultivation occupies approximately 32 to 61 million hectares of land⁷².
 - Biofuel crops often do very little to effectively decarbonize energy supplies compared to other alternatives⁷³.
 - Transitioning this land to solar power could potentially offer a much greater climate benefit⁷⁴.
 - Land-related disputes and the impact of wind/solar farms on landscapes are often scrutinized, but the land use of existing biofuels is rarely questioned⁷⁵.
 - Freeing up cropland from biofuels is seen as an alternative to improve food security or enhance renewable energy generation⁷⁶.
 - Efficient land use is critical as the world seeks to meet decarbonization targets without compromising other resources
- **Additional Keypoints:** Biofuels are often grown on land that could otherwise be used for animal feed or human food⁷⁸. The analysis emphasizes challenging how society thinks about and discusses land use
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 48A (Protection and improvement of environment).
- **Definitions: Biofuel:** Fuel derived directly from living matter (e.g., ethanol from corn).
Decarbonisation: The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through the use of low carbon power sources.
- **Conclusion:** Rethinking land allocation from inefficient biofuels to high-yield solar energy is a necessary step for achieving global climate goals⁸⁰.
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper III (Environment - Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation; Energy).

10. Digital Land Records: Lessons from Karnataka's 'Bhoomi'

- **Summary:**
 - Karnataka's 'Bhoomi' project, celebrating 25 years, offers lessons in digital governance and administrative reform⁸¹.
 - The project has integrated with platforms like PM-Kisan and the Aadhaar-seeded FRUITS platform for over 2.17 crore accounts⁸².
 - It has reduced discretionary abuse and improved the predictability of the relationship between citizens and the revenue administration⁸³.
 - Since 2016, crop compensation is credited directly to farmers' bank accounts, bypassing intermediaries⁸⁴.
 - Data from Bhoomi enabled the waiver of loans for nearly 20 lakh farmers during the 2018 programme⁸⁵.
 - Success is attributed to embedding technology in administrative restructuring and legal change⁸⁶.



- **Additional Keypoints:** Digital governance succeeds when it is incremental, inclusive, and grounded in local realities⁸⁷. It has converted paper entitlements into actual ground-level benefits
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 300A (Right to Property). Entry 18 of the State List (Land).
- **Definitions: Digital Governance:** The use of information and communication technologies to improve the activities of public sector organizations. **Intermediaries:** Middlemen who act between two parties.
- **Conclusion:** Bhoomi demonstrates that technology alone is not reform; it must be supported by institutional learning and inclusive design⁸⁹.
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (Governance - E-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential).

11. The Economic Burden of Diabetes in India

- **Summary:**
 - India faces the second-highest economic burden due to diabetes globally, estimated at \$11.4 trillion⁹⁰.
 - This burden is part of a global study calculating the impact across 204 nations⁹¹.
 - The United States bears the highest cost at \$16.5 trillion, while China is third at \$11 trillion⁹².
 - The high economic cost stems from healthcare expenditures, loss of productivity, and long-term complications⁹³.
 - Diabetes is a significant component of the rising Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) crisis in India.
 - Prevention and early management are critical to reducing this fiscal strain on the national economy.
- **Additional Keypoints:** The figure of \$11.4 trillion highlights the severe impact on India's growth potential. Strengthening primary healthcare is essential for early screening.
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 47 (Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health).
- **Definitions: Economic Burden:** The total cost to society, including direct medical costs and indirect costs like lost wages. **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):** Diseases that are not transmissible directly from one person to another (e.g., diabetes, heart disease).
- **Conclusion:** Addressing the diabetes epidemic is not just a health priority but an economic necessity for India's long-term prosperity⁹⁴.
- **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper II (Social Justice - Issues relating to Health).

12. Nuclear Fusion: China's Progress and Global Implications

- **Summary:**
 - A Chinese fusion reactor has pushed the density limit, potentially widening the path to commercial fusion power⁹⁵.



- In tokamak reactors, superhot plasma typically runs into a density limit that can halt the fusion process⁹⁶.
 - Overcoming this limit allows the reactor to run at twice the fuel density, facilitating "ignition" at lower temperatures⁹⁷.
 - This breakthrough is significant for ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), the global fusion project in France⁹⁸.
 - India is a key partner in ITER and has invested in its construction⁹⁹.
 - Validating the "plasma-wall self-organisation theory" is critical for the success of fusion power plants¹⁰⁰.
 - **Additional Keypoints:** Fusion power offers a potential source of clean, near-limitless energy by mimicking the process that powers the sun. The breakthrough could lead to shorter confinement times for plasma¹⁰¹.
 - **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:** Article 51A(h) (Scientific temper). Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) oversees India's participation in fusion research.
 - **Definitions: Tokamak:** A device which uses a powerful magnetic field to confine plasma in the shape of a torus. **Ignition:** The point at which a nuclear fusion reaction becomes self-sustaining.
 - **Conclusion:** Advancements in fusion density limits bring the world closer to a sustainable energy revolution, with India as a stakeholder in the global effort¹⁰².
 - **UPSC Relevance:** GS Paper III (Science & Technology - Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life).
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