



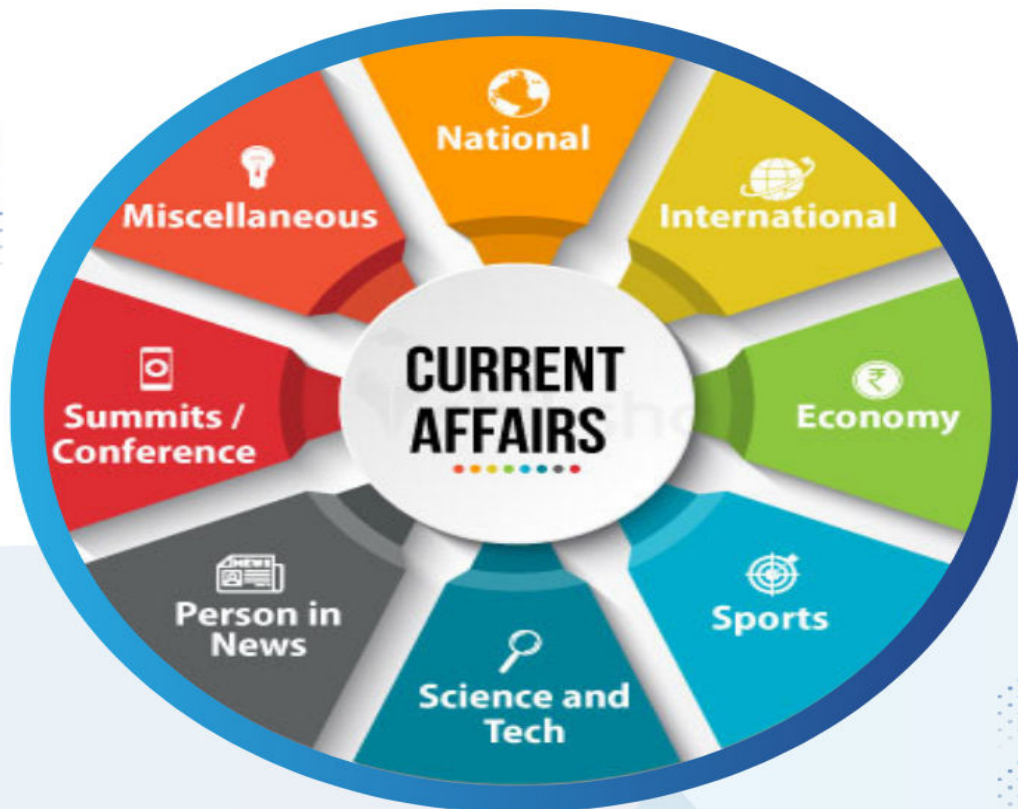
“ We help you reach for the star ”

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 31/03/2026 (TUESDAY)



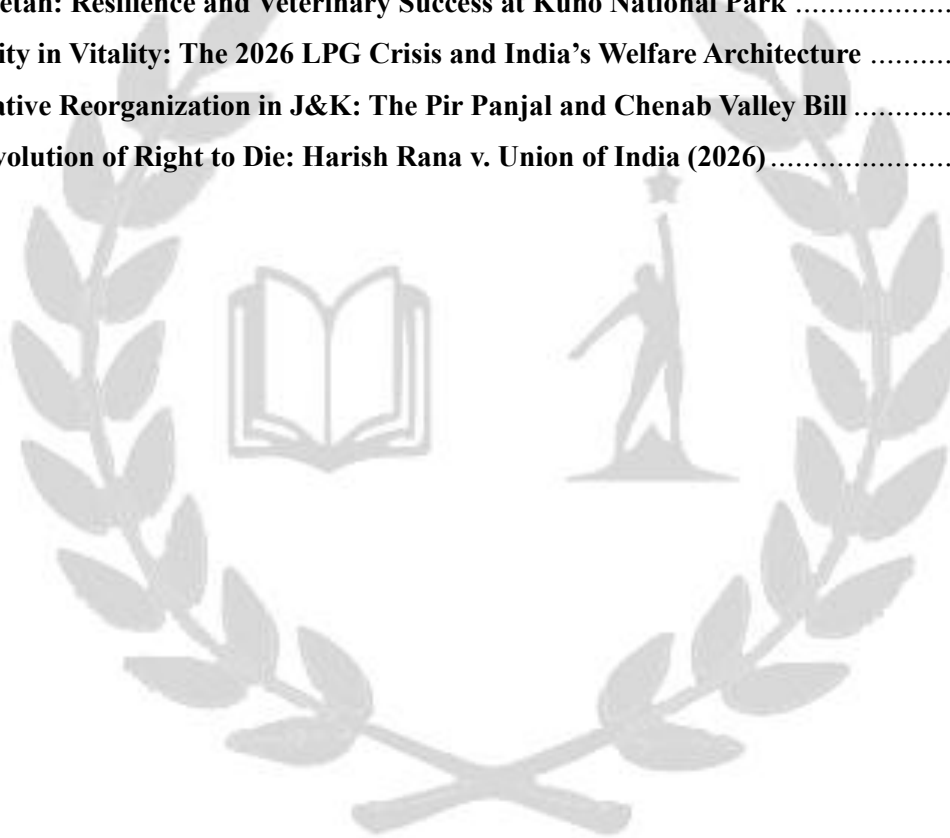
 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



Table of Contents

1. Escalation in West Asia: U.S. Threats and the Strait of Hormuz Crisis	2
2. Geopolitical Shift: Iran Weighs Exit from Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)	3
3. Economic Upswing: Manufacturing and Capital Goods Propel IIP to 5.2% in February	5
4. Internal Security Milestone: Dismantling of Maoist Leadership and "Naxal-Free" India Goal	6
5. Demographic Shift: Census 2027 to Include Caste Enumeration in Phase-2	8
6. Financial Reforms: Lok Sabha Passes the IBC (Amendment) Bill, 2025.....	10
7. Rajasthan HC Order on Transgender Affirmative Action & 2026 Amendment Bill	11
8. Electoral Integrity and Management in India: Challenges and Innovations	13
9. Project Cheetah: Resilience and Veterinary Success at Kuno National Park	14
10. Vulnerability in Vitality: The 2026 LPG Crisis and India's Welfare Architecture	16
11. Administrative Reorganization in J&K: The Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley Bill	17
12. Judicial Evolution of Right to Die: Harish Rana v. Union of India (2026)	19



VIDHVATH IAS ACADEMY



1. Escalation in West Asia: U.S. Threats and the Strait of Hormuz Crisis

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has entered a critical phase following U.S. President Donald Trump's latest ultimatum to the Iranian administration. The following points summarize the most significant developments for the examination:

- **Targeting Civilian Infrastructure:** The U.S. has threatened to strike Iran's essential "dual-use" infrastructure—specifically **Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells, and Desalination Plants**—marking a shift from purely military targets to those that sustain the Iranian economy and civilian life.
- **The Strait of Hormuz Deadlock:** A central demand of the U.S. is the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for global business. Iran has utilized its geographical advantage to disrupt maritime traffic, leading to a "de facto" blockade that has surged global Brent crude prices to approximately **\$115 per barrel**.
- **Strategic Ultimatum (April 6 Deadline):** Following a series of tactical delays, the U.S. administration has set a final deadline of **April 6, 2026**, for Iran to agree to a 15-point deal. This timeline underscores a policy of "coercive diplomacy" aimed at securing a ceasefire and reopening vital energy corridors.
- **Kharg Island Significance:** For the first time, **Kharg Island**—Iran's primary maritime oil terminal which handles over **90%** of its crude exports—has been explicitly named as a target. Its destruction would effectively terminate Iran's ability to export oil, crippling the regime's primary revenue source.
- **Diplomatic Disconnect:** While the U.S. claims "serious discussions" with a "more reasonable regime" in Tehran, official Iranian spokespersons have dismissed these claims as "unrealistic and irrational." This discrepancy suggests either back-channel negotiations (possibly via Oman or Pakistan) or a strategic use of misinformation by both sides.
- **Regional Spillover:** The conflict is no longer confined to U.S.-Iran tensions; it involves active exchanges between the **Israel Defence Forces (IDF)** and the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**, alongside threats to American bases and energy assets in neighboring Gulf nations like Kuwait and the UAE.



Key Definitions

- **Strait of Hormuz:** A narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It is the world's most important energy chokepoint, through which roughly **1/5th** of global oil and **1/3rd** of global LNG passes.
- **Force Majeure:** A legal clause in contracts that allows a party to skip its obligations due to extraordinary events beyond its control (e.g., war). Several Gulf nations have declared this for energy exports.
- **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):** Emergency fuel stores maintained by countries to tide over supply disruptions. India's SPR currently covers roughly **9.5 days** of its crude requirements.



Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 51 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Mandates that India shall endeavor to promote international peace and security and maintain just and honorable relations between nations. This guides India's current "strategic silence" and calls for de-escalation.
- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955:** Leveraged by the Indian government to regulate the supply and pricing of LPG and fertilizers, which have been severely affected by the West Asian supply chain disruption.
- **UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea):** The legal framework governing "Transit Passage" through international straits. Any permanent closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran is considered a violation of international maritime law.

Conclusion

The current standoff represents a "maximum pressure" tactic by the U.S. to force a structural change in Iranian foreign policy. For the global economy, the stakes involve a potential energy catastrophe, while for Iran, the threat to its desalinization and power plants poses an existential domestic crisis. The success of the April 6 deadline will determine whether the region moves toward a fragile ceasefire or an all-out conventional war.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Impact of West Asian instability on India's "Link West" policy, the role of major powers (U.S., China), and the challenge of maintaining strategic autonomy.
- **GS Paper III (Economy & Security):** Energy security, "Imported Inflation," and the vulnerability of India's maritime trade routes. The crisis highlights the need for expanding India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) and diversifying energy sources.
- **Prelims:** Mapping of the Persian Gulf, Kharg Island, and the Strait of Hormuz; understanding the mechanics of global oil pricing and the role of the IRGC.

2. Geopolitical Shift: Iran Weighs Exit from Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The Iranian administration has confirmed that its Parliament is formally reviewing a withdrawal from the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**. This development follows a series of military escalations, including precision strikes by the U.S. and Israel on Iranian nuclear sites in **June 2025** and subsequent attacks in early **2026**.

- **Strategic Re-evaluation:** Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei questioned the utility of the treaty, arguing that while Iran adheres to its obligations, "bullying parties" continue to strike its sovereign nuclear facilities. Tehran views the NPT as failing to provide its promised "right to peaceful energy" while acting as a tool for international espionage.
- **The "North Korea" Precedent:** If Iran withdraws, it would be the first nation to do so since North Korea in **2003**. Such a move would effectively terminate the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** oversight and its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, removing all international "eyes" from Iranian enrichment activities.
- **Shift in Nuclear Doctrine:** Following the death of the previous Supreme Leader in February 2026, hawkish elements in the Iranian Parliament are pushing for a transition from a "peaceful use" doctrine to an "overt weaponization" policy as a deterrent against further airstrikes.



- **Erosion of Global Governance:** A withdrawal would likely trigger the "Snapback Mechanism" of UN sanctions, which were previously suspended. However, Iranian officials suggest that since sanctions are already at a peak, the marginal economic cost of withdrawal is now lower than the perceived security benefit of nuclear ambiguity.
- **Impact on Regional Arms Race:** Analysts warn that an Iranian exit could catalyze a "nuclear domino effect" in West Asia, prompting neighbors like Saudi Arabia or Turkey to reconsider their own non-proliferation commitments, fundamentally destabilizing the global energy heartland.
- **India's Strategic Dilemma:** For India, an Iranian NPT exit threatens the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and the **Chabahar Port** project. Furthermore, any resulting regional instability directly impacts India's energy security, as nearly **65%** of its LPG and a significant portion of its crude oil transit through the nearby Strait of Hormuz.



Key Definitions

- **NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty):** A landmark 1970 international treaty with three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- **IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency):** Known as the world's "nuclear watchdog," it is an autonomous organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and inhibit its use for military purposes.
- **Additional Protocol:** A legal document granting the IAEA expanded rights of access to information and locations in a country to verify that all nuclear material is in peaceful use.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to promote international peace and security and maintain just and honorable relations between nations. India's stance remains a call for diplomatic resolution while upholding the principle of universal nuclear disarmament.
- **Article X of the NPT:** The specific clause that allows a member state to withdraw from the treaty with three months' notice if "extraordinary events" have jeopardized its supreme interests.
- **The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Act, 2005 (India):** Provides the domestic legal framework for India to prevent the proliferation of WMDs and their delivery systems, aligning with international safety standards despite India not being a signatory to the NPT.

Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The potential withdrawal of Iran from the NPT marks a terminal crisis for the 20th-century nuclear order. For India, this isn't just a distant diplomatic event; it is a direct threat to its **"Extended Neighborhood Policy."** The resulting volatility in global oil markets and the risk of a regional nuclear arms race would force India to recalibrate its energy sourcing and accelerate its transition to renewable alternatives.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Important for questions on "Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests." The NPT and IAEA are core topics under international nuclear governance.
- **GS Paper III (Security & Economy):** Relevant for "Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks" (cyber-threats to nuclear sites) and "Energy Security" (impact of West Asian wars on the Indian economy).
- **Prelims:** Mapping of Iranian nuclear sites (**Natanz, Fordow, Isfahan**) and understanding the functional differences between the **NPT, CTBT, and TPNW**.

3. Economic Upswing: Manufacturing and Capital Goods Propel IIP to 5.2% in February

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently released the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data for February 2026, indicating a resilient industrial trajectory. The growth accelerated to **5.2%**, up from a revised **5.1%** in January, signaling a robust investment-led recovery in the Indian economy.

- **Manufacturing as the Growth Engine:** The manufacturing sector, which carries a weight of **77.6%** in the IIP, grew by **6%** in February. This is a significant jump from the **5.3%** recorded in January and a stark contrast to the **2.8%** growth seen in the same month last year, reflecting improved domestic demand and industrial capacity utilization.
- **Capital Goods and Infrastructure Surge:** A standout feature of the data is the double-digit gains in the **Capital Goods** and **Infrastructure/Construction Goods** segments. This points toward a "Capex-led upcycle," where both government and private players are investing heavily in machinery and physical assets, which acts as a multiplier for future economic growth.
- **Sectoral Divergence in Mining and Electricity:** While manufacturing surged, the **Mining** sector slowed to a four-month low of **3.1%**, and the **Electricity** sector's growth moderated to **2.3%** from **5.1%** in January. These fluctuations are often attributed to seasonal variations and base-year effects but warrant close monitoring for supply-side bottlenecks.
- **Upward Revision of Previous Data:** MoSPI revised the January IIP growth upward to **5.1%** from the provisional **4.8%**. Such revisions indicate that actual industrial performance was stronger than initially estimated, providing a more optimistic base for the final quarter (Q4) of the fiscal year.
- **Investment-Led Recovery:** Lead indicators such as basic metals, automobiles, and machinery have shown consistent strength. Analysts suggest that the current growth is less about erratic consumption and more about structural industrial strength, driven by the government's focus on "Make in India" and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.

Key Definitions

- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** An index that tracks the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to a chosen base year (currently **2011-12**).
- **Capital Goods:** Physical assets that a company uses in the production process to manufacture products and services that consumers will later use (e.g., machinery, equipment, and buildings).



- **Base Effect:** Refers to the impact of the corresponding period of the previous year on the current year's growth figures. If the growth was very low last year, even a small increase this year will appear as a high percentage growth.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 77 of the Constitution:** Provides the framework for the "Conduct of Business of the Government of India," under which the Allocation of Business Rules mandates the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** under MoSPI to compile and release macro-economic data like IIP and GDP.
- **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008:** The legal backbone that empowers the government to collect socio-economic data from industrial units. It ensures that the data provided by industries is used only for statistical purposes and remains confidential.
- **National Indicator Framework (NIF):** IIP data serves as a crucial input for monitoring India's progress toward **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9**, which focuses on Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

Conclusion

The February IIP data reaffirms that the Indian industrial sector is moving beyond post-pandemic recovery into a phase of structural expansion. The dominance of manufacturing and capital goods suggests that the economy is successfully building productive capacity. However, the moderation in electricity and mining highlights the need for sustained reforms in the energy and extractive sectors to ensure that the manufacturing "engine" remains well-fueled.

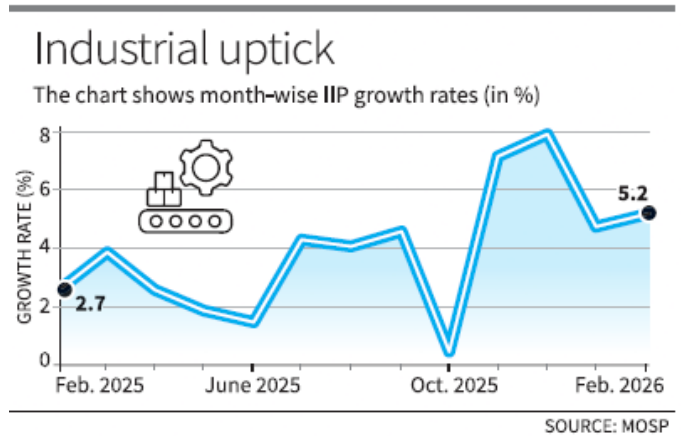
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Economy):** Essential for topics related to "Changes in Industrial Policy and their effects on Industrial Growth" and "Investment Models." The IIP is a primary indicator of the health of the organized industrial sector.
- **GS Paper III (Infrastructure):** The surge in construction and infrastructure goods aligns with discussions on the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** and **Gati Shakti**.
- **Prelims:** Frequent questions are asked regarding the IIP base year, the frequency of release (monthly), the compiling agency (NSO/MoSPI), and the weightage of the "Eight Core Industries" (which comprise nearly **40.27%** of the IIP).

4. Internal Security Milestone: Dismantling of Maoist Leadership and "Naxal-Free" India Goal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the Lok Sabha, announcing a near-total collapse of the Maoist organizational hierarchy. The government's targeted operations over the past two years have successfully neutralized the top leadership of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), moving the nation toward the deadline of a "Naxal-free India" by March 31, 2026.

- **Strategic Decapitation of Leadership:** Of the 21 Politburo and Central Committee members active at the start of 2024, 20 have been neutralized (12 killed, 7 surrendered, and 1 arrested). Dialogue is



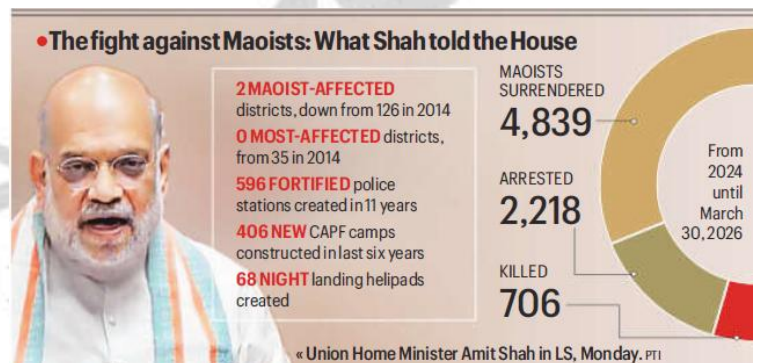


currently underway with the final absconding member, effectively dismantling the ideological and operational command structure of the movement.

- **Statistical Impact of Security Operations:** In the last three years, security forces have killed 706 Maoists, arrested 2,218, and facilitated the surrender of over 4,800 cadres. This massive reduction in manpower indicates a breakdown in the recruitment and sustenance capabilities of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).
- **The "Three-Tool" Strategy:** The Union Government attributed this success to a coordinated "Triad Power" approach: **Security** (offensive operations), **Dialogue** (offering a path back to the mainstream), and **Coordination** (seamless intelligence sharing between Centre and States).
- **Policy Shift and Political Will:** The Home Minister emphasized that while Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) existed prior to 2014, the decisive factor has been a "clear policy and strong political will." The current doctrine follows a "bullet-for-bullet" response to violence while keeping rehabilitation doors open for those who lay down arms.
- **Shrinking of the Red Corridor:** The "Red Corridor," which once spanned 12 states, has seen a dramatic contraction. The restoration of the "Rule of Law" in these remote areas has allowed for the entry of administrative services and developmental infrastructure that were previously blocked by insurgents.
- **Rehabilitation and Surrender Policy:** The government reiterated its commitment to the complete rehabilitation of surrendered cadres, aiming to reintegrate them into the socio-economic fabric of the country, provided they abandon the path of armed insurgency.

Key Definitions

- **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE):** Also known as Naxalism or Maoism, it is an armed insurgency led by the CPI (Maoist) aiming to overthrow the state through "protracted people's war."
- **Red Corridor:** A term used to describe the region in the eastern, central, and southern parts of India that experienced considerable LWE insurgency.
- **Politburo:** The highest policy-making body within the CPI (Maoist) structure, responsible for strategic planning and ideological direction.



Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Seventh Schedule (Article 246):** While "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects, the Centre derives authority to intervene and support through "Entry 2A" of the Union List (Deployment of armed forces of the Union).
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:** The primary legal tool used to ban the CPI (Maoist) as a terrorist organization and prosecute its leadership for anti-national activities.
- **Article 355:** Imposes a duty on the Union to protect every State against internal disturbance, justifying the deployment of CAPFs like the CRPF (COBRA unit) in LWE-affected regions.



Conclusion

The transition from a widespread insurgency to the "dismantling of the central structure" marks a historic shift in India's internal security paradigm. While the operational core has been neutralized, the final challenge lies in ensuring that the administrative vacuum in formerly Maoist-held territories is filled with robust governance, education, and healthcare to prevent any resurgence of the movement.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Internal Security):** Direct relevance to the topic "Linkages between development and spread of extremism" and "Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security."
- **GS Paper II (Governance):** Analysis of the "Centre-State Coordination" in managing internal disturbances and the impact of the "SAMADHAN" doctrine.
- **Ethics (GS Paper IV):** The dilemma of "force vs. dialogue" in internal conflict resolution and the ethical implications of rehabilitation for former insurgents.

5. Demographic Shift: Census 2027 to Include Caste Enumeration in Phase-2

Registrar General and Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan has announced the commencement of **Census 2027**, a landmark exercise that will integrate caste enumeration during its second phase. This decennial exercise, delayed from 2021, is structured in a two-pronged manner to capture the evolving socio-economic and demographic profile of the nation.

- **Two-Phase Implementation:** The exercise begins on **April 1, 2026**. **Phase 1** (April to September 2026) covers House-listing and Housing Census (HLO), focusing on housing conditions and household assets. **Phase 2**, known as Population Enumeration (PE), will capture demographic, socio-cultural, and economic parameters, including migration, fertility, and **caste**.
- **Self-Enumeration Feature:** For the first time, a 15-day window for digital self-enumeration has been introduced preceding the house-to-house operations. This allows citizens to submit data digitally, enhancing accuracy and reducing the burden on designated enumerators.
- **Data Confidentiality and Legal Shield:** Under the **Census Act, 1948**, all individual data collected remains strictly confidential. It cannot be shared with any organization, accessed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, or used as evidence in a court of law. No documents are required to be collected from citizens during the exercise.
- **Scope and Coverage:** Census 2027 will cover all **36 States and UTs**, spanning 784 districts, over 5,100 statutory towns, and nearly 6.4 lakh villages. The first set of data results is expected to be available by late 2027.
- **NPR and State Compliance:** While the update of the National Population Register (NPR) remains undecided, the Centre has urged states like West Bengal to fulfill the legal requirement of publishing Census notifications. The HLO phase for most states is scheduled to be completed by September 2026.
- **Socio-Political Significance:** The decision by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) to include caste in the second phase addresses a long-standing demand for updated data to refine reservation policies and social justice schemes, moving beyond the 1931 caste data benchmarks.



Key Definitions

- **Registrar General and Census Commissioner (RGCC):** An officer of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, responsible for conducting the decennial Census and the registration of births and deaths.
- **House-listing and Housing Census (HLO):** The first step of the Census where houses are identified, numbered, and details regarding amenities (water, electricity, etc.) and assets are collected.
- **Population Enumeration (PE):** The second stage where detailed data on individuals (age, sex, literacy, occupation, caste, etc.) is recorded.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 246 (Union List - Entry 69):** The conduct of the Census is a Union subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Only the Central Government has the authority to conduct this exercise.
- **Census Act, 1948:** Provides the legal framework for the Census. It mandates that every person is legally bound to answer questions truly, while also providing a guarantee of confidentiality for the information provided.
- **Census Rules, 1990:** Outlines the procedural aspects, including the appointment of census officers and the specific duties of enumerators.

• FIRST LEG OF DATA COLLECTION

STATE/UT	SELF-ENUMERATION PERIOD	HOUSELISTING AND HOUSING CENSUS PERIOD
Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi (New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment Board), Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, and Sikkim.	1 April to 15 April	16 April to 15 May
Gujarat*, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	5 April to 19 April	20 April to 19 May
Uttarakhand	10 April to 24 April	25 April to 24 May
Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana	16 April to 30 April	1 May to 30 May
Bihar	17 April to 1 May	2 May to 31 May
Telangana	26 April to 10 May	11 May to 9 June
Punjab	30 April to 14 May	15 May to 13 June
Delhi (Municipal Corporation of Delhi), Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Jharkhand**	1 May to 15 May	16 May to 14 June
Uttar Pradesh	7 May to 21 May	22 May to 20 June
Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Puducherry	17 May to 31 May	1 June to 30 June
Himachal Pradesh	1 June to 15 June	16 June to 15 July
Kerala and Nagaland	16 June to 30 June	1 July to 30 July
Tamil Nadu and Tripura	17 July to 31 July	1 Aug to 30 Aug
Assam	2 Aug to 16 Aug	17 Aug to 15 Sep
Manipur	17 Aug to 31 Aug	1 Sep to 30 Sep
West Bengal	To be decided	

*GUJARAT- SUBJECT TO CHANGE. **JHARKHAND- NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT CENSUS PUBLISHED. FOR HLO PERIOD NOTIFICATION TO BE ISSUED. SOURCE: PIB

Conclusion

Census 2027 is more than a mere head-count; it is a vital tool for evidence-based policymaking. The inclusion of caste enumeration represents a shift toward "targeted governance," allowing the state to identify specific sub-groups that have lagged in the development process. However, the success of this mammoth task depends on federal cooperation and the public's trust in the data's confidentiality.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I (Society):** Crucial for topics like "Population and Associated Issues" and "Caste as a social institution." The data will redefine the understanding of social stratification in India.
- **GS Paper II (Governance):** Relevant for "Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections." Census data is the bedrock for the Delimitation Commission and the allocation of parliamentary seats.
- **GS Paper III (Economy):** Essential for planning resource allocation and evaluating the impact of schemes like PMAY (Housing) based on HLO data.



6. Financial Reforms: Lok Sabha Passes the IBC (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The Lok Sabha has passed the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, which introduces 12 pivotal reforms to the existing 2016 framework. These amendments, based on the recommendations of the **Baijayant Panda-led Select Committee**, aim to reduce judicial bottlenecks, enhance transparency, and align Indian insolvency laws with global best practices.

- **Introduction of CIIRP:** The Bill replaces the underutilized "fast-track" process with the **Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP)**. This allows financial creditors (holding at least **51%** of the debt) to initiate an out-of-court resolution. Unlike the standard process, the existing management remains in control (debtor-in-possession) under the supervision of a Resolution Professional (RP).
- **Mandatory Admission & Strict Timelines:** To curb delays, the Bill mandates that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admit applications within **14 days** solely on the proof of default. It removes discretionary grounds for rejection. Furthermore, resolution plans must be approved or rejected within **30 days** of receipt, and liquidation must conclude within **180 days**.
- **Recognition of "Clean Slate" Principle:** The amendment codifies the "clean slate" doctrine, clarifying that once a resolution plan is approved, the corporate debtor starts fresh. All past claims not included in the plan are extinguished, providing much-needed certainty to successful bidders and protecting them from "surprise" legacy liabilities.
- **Group and Cross-Border Insolvency:** For the first time, a framework is introduced to handle the insolvency of corporate groups collectively (shared NCLT bench and RP). It also creates an enabling provision for **Cross-Border Insolvency**, allowing Indian authorities to coordinate with foreign jurisdictions where a debtor may hold assets or creditors.
- **Enhanced Creditor Oversight in Liquidation:** The Committee of Creditors (CoC) is now empowered to supervise the liquidation process and replace the liquidator if necessary. Additionally, a new 12th amendment requires the CoC to **record written reasons** for selecting a specific resolution plan, significantly boosting transparency and accountability.
- **Deterrence against Frivolous Litigation:** To prevent the misuse of the legal process to stall recoveries, the Bill introduces heavy financial penalties ranging from **Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 crore** for filing "frivolous or vexatious" applications before the Adjudicating Authority.



Key Definitions

- **CIIRP (Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process):** A hybrid, largely out-of-court mechanism where creditors initiate resolution while the debtor maintains day-to-day operations under a monitor.
- **Clean Slate Doctrine:** A legal principle ensuring that an entity emerging from insolvency is not burdened by undisclosed or past liabilities that were not part of the approved resolution plan.
- **Information Utility (IU):** A centralized electronic database that stores evidence of active debt and defaults, which the Bill now recognizes as "sufficient proof" for case admission.



Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 246 (Union List - Entry 9 & 43):** The Parliament has exclusive power to make laws regarding "Banking" and "Incorporation, regulation and winding up of corporations," which forms the basis for the IBC.
- **Section 12A of IBC:** Amended to restrict the withdrawal of cases. Once a case is admitted and reaches the stage of inviting resolution plans, withdrawal is prohibited to ensure the process remains "in rem" (affecting the public/all creditors) rather than a private settlement.
- **Section 240A:** Provides specific exemptions for MSMEs, allowing their promoters to bid for their own companies, a provision further streamlined in the 2025 Bill through lower voting thresholds.

Conclusion

The 2025 amendments mark a shift from "judicial-heavy" to "creditor-led" insolvency management. By integrating cross-border frameworks and tightening timelines, the Bill directly addresses the "twin balance sheet" challenge and supports the banking sector's health. As of late 2025, the IBC has already facilitated the recovery of over **Rs 4.11 lakh crore**, and these reforms are expected to further improve the recovery rate, which currently stands at roughly **32%** of admitted claims.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Economy):** High relevance for "Effects of liberalization on the economy," "Changes in industrial policy," and "Banking reforms." The IBC is a cornerstone of India's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) strategy.
- **GS Paper II (Governance):** Important for "Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies" (NCLT, IBBI). The Bill's focus on reducing judicial pendency is a key governance theme.

7. Rajasthan HC Order on Transgender Affirmative Action & 2026 Amendment Bill

The Rajasthan High Court, in the case of **Ganga Kumari v. State of Rajasthan (2026)**, has issued a landmark ruling regarding the reservation and identity rights of transgender persons. The court criticized the state's existing policy and raised serious constitutional concerns over the newly passed **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**.

Summary of the High Court Ruling

- **Interim Weightage:** The Court directed the Rajasthan government to grant **3% additional weightage** in marks to transgender candidates for state government jobs and admissions to educational institutions as an interim measure.
- **Criticism of OBC Classification:** The Bench termed the state's January 2023 notification—which placed all transgender persons in the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** category—as a "mere facade" and an "eyewash."
- **Substantive Equality vs. Formal Ritual:** The Court observed that since many transgender persons already belong to SC/ST categories, placing them in the OBC list provides no real benefit and may even dilute their existing entitlements.





- **Concerns over 2026 Amendment Bill:** The Court flagged that the Parliament's recent Amendment Bill, which mandates administrative certification for gender identity, risks reducing an "inviolable aspect of personhood" into a "State-mediated entitlement."
- **Right to Self-Identity:** Reaffirming the **NALSA (2014)** principles, the Court stated that "Selfhood is not a matter of concession" but a fundamental right under **Articles 14, 15, 16, and 21**.
- **Directive for Policy Framework:** The state was ordered to constitute a committee to conduct a socio-economic study and formulate a dedicated reservation framework (preferably horizontal) that gives actual effect to the Supreme Court's mandate.

Key Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 14 & 15:** Guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on grounds of "sex," which the Judiciary interprets to include "gender identity."
- **Article 16:** Provides for equality of opportunity in public employment. The HC noted that the state is under a "constitutional obligation" to provide tangible reservation for the marginalized transgender community.
- **Article 21:** The right to life and personal liberty includes the right to live with dignity and the right to self-determine one's gender identity.
- **NALSA vs. Union of India (2014):** The foundational Supreme Court judgment that recognized transgender persons as the "Third Gender" and upheld the right to self-perceived gender identity without medical intervention.

Definitions of Key Terms

- **Horizontal Reservation:** A form of reservation that cuts across vertical categories (like SC, ST, OBC). For example, a 1% horizontal quota for transgenders means they are selected from within their respective social categories (SC-Transgender, General-Transgender, etc.).
- **Vertical Reservation:** Reservations specifically for social groups like SC, ST, and OBC. The Rajasthan government's attempt to put all transgenders in the OBC category is a vertical approach that ignores their pre-existing caste identities.
- **Self-Perceived Gender Identity:** The internal sense of being male, female, or third gender, regardless of the sex assigned at birth.

Comparison: 2019 Act vs. 2026 Amendment Bill

Feature	Transgender Persons Act, 2019	Amendment Bill, 2026
Identity Recognition	Based on self-perceived identity.	Conditioned upon medical/administrative certification.
Verification	Simple application to District Magistrate.	Mandatory scrutiny by a Medical Board .
Definition	Broad (includes trans-men, trans-women).	Narrower; specifically lists socio-cultural groups (e.g., Kinners, Eunuchs).



Conclusion

The Rajasthan High Court's intervention underscores the "omissive discrimination" where states fail to provide functional reservation despite judicial mandates. By granting the 3% marks weightage, the Court has moved beyond theoretical rights to practical empowerment. However, the conflict between the 2026 Amendment's "medicalized" approach and the NALSA "self-identity" principle suggests a looming constitutional challenge in higher courts.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; Mechanisms, laws, institutions, and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- **GS Paper IV:** Social Justice and Ethics (Rights of marginalized communities).
- **Essay/Interview:** Issues of identity, dignity, and the role of the "State as a Facilitator" versus "State as a Gatekeeper" for human rights.

8. Electoral Integrity and Management in India: Challenges and Innovations

The conduct of periodic elections is the bedrock of Indian democracy. As several States and Union Territories head to the polls in 2026, the Election Commission of India (ECI) faces the dual task of managing massive logistical scales while safeguarding the sanctity of the vote against modern threats like deepfakes and the "4M" challenges.

Core Summary of Election Management

- **Scale and Logistics:** India's electoral machinery is unparalleled, involving over 25 lakh officials for a 17.4 crore electorate across 2.19 lakh polling stations. This ensures a ratio of one official for every 70 electors, reaching even the most remote terrains such as the Varusanad hills.
- **The 4M Challenge:** The ECI has declared a "war" on four primary threats: Money (inducements), Muscle (violence/intimidation), Misinformation (fake news/deepfakes), and Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations.
- **Neutrality and Oversight:** Under Section 28A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, all election officials are deemed to be on deputation to the ECI, ensuring their legal allegiance is to the Commission rather than state governments during the poll period.
- **Curbing Inducements:** There is a rising trend of "promise bazaars" and freebies. Seizures of illicit cash, liquor, and drugs have seen a massive spike, with over 10,000 crore worth of material seized during the 2024 general elections—nearly triple the 2019 figures.
- **Technological & Ethical Safeguards:** Innovations such as 24/7 live webcasting of polling stations, home-voting facilities for citizens over 85 years, and a voluntary code of ethics for social media are being deployed to enhance transparency and inclusivity.
- **Phased Management:** A reduction in polling phases (notably in volatile regions like West Bengal) indicates maturing security movement and election management, aiming to balance safety with administrative efficiency.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 324:** Grants the ECI the power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections. It is the fountainhead of the ECI's authority to ensure free and fair polls.



- **Article 325 & 326:** Ensure no person is ineligible for inclusion in electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex, and grant adult suffrage (Right to Vote) to every citizen not less than 18 years of age.
- **Section 28A, Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951:** Legally binds officials involved in election work to the ECI, making them subject to its disciplinary control to prevent local political interference.
- **Model Code of Conduct (MCC):** A set of guidelines issued by the ECI to regulate the conduct of political parties and candidates. While not statutory, it gains "teeth" through the ECI's power under Article 324.



Definitions of Key Terms

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** A rigorous process of updating electoral rolls to remove "ASD" (Absent, Shifted, Deceased) voters, thereby increasing the accuracy of turnout percentages and preventing proxy voting.
- **Horizontal vs. Vertical Issues:** In the context of the 4Ms, "Muscle" power is a vertical/physical threat, while "Misinformation" acts as a horizontal/digital threat that permeates the entire social fabric simultaneously.
- **SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation):** The flagship program of the ECI for voter education, spreading awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.

Conclusion

While the logistical success of Indian elections is a global benchmark, the qualitative challenge remains significant. The shift from "Muscle power" to "Money and Misinformation" requires a transition in election management—from physical policing to digital and fiscal auditing. Ultimately, the integrity of the process rests on "civic resistance"—the ability of the voter to make a moral choice independent of inducements or polarized narratives.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions, and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies (ECI); Salient features of the Representation of the People's Act.
- **Governance:** Role of technology in elections, transparency, and accountability.
- **Ethics (GS Paper IV):** The moral responsibility of the voter and the ethical conduct of civil servants during election duties.

9. Project Cheetah: Resilience and Veterinary Success at Kuno National Park

The celebration of the third birthday of **Mukhi**, India's first native-born cheetah in over seven decades, marks a significant milestone for **Project Cheetah**. Beyond the survival numbers, the project's success is increasingly defined by the advanced veterinary interventions that have saved several cheetahs from life-threatening musculoskeletal and soft tissue injuries.

- **Success of Native-Born Populations:** Mukhi's journey from a cub with a complete diaphyseal fracture to a mother of five cubs illustrates the biological adaptation of the species to the Indian



terrain. Her recovery and subsequent successful breeding signify the long-term viability of the reintroduction program at **Kuno National Park**.

- **Advanced Veterinary Interventions:** Since the launch of the project in September 2022, there have been six major documented clinical interventions involving five cheetahs. These cases include complex surgeries for fractures (paw, tail, and humerus), amputations, and management of viral infections like the **feline calicivirus**.
- **Managing Interspecies and Intraspecies Conflict:** A significant cause of injuries has been identified as high-speed chases and territorial fights among coalition groups (e.g., the Gaurav-Shaurya and Agni-Vayu coalitions). Managing these interactions through "quarantine bomas" and constant monitoring is critical for reducing mortality.
- **Technological and Medical Expertise:** The project has successfully moved from reliance on international experts to a highly experienced indigenous team of veterinarians and range officers. This internal capacity building is essential for the scaling of cheetah reintroduction to other sites like the **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Rehabilitation Protocols:** The recovery of cheetahs like **Nirva** and **Nabha** involved long-term monitoring in restricted enclosures, specialized antiseptic dressing, and supportive care for infections. The ability of these animals to return to the wild after major amputations or dental abscesses proves the resilience of the species.
- **Shift from Introduction to Stabilization:** With the current population including healthy cubs and recovering adults, the focus is shifting from the mere "introduction" of cheetahs to the "stabilization" of a self-sustaining population within the Indian ecosystem.



Key Definitions

- **Project Cheetah:** The world's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project, aiming to reintroduce cheetahs to India after they were declared extinct in the country in 1952.
- **Diaphyseal Fracture:** A break occurring in the shaft (diaphysis) of a long bone, such as the humerus or femur, which requires intensive surgical or rehabilitative care in wild animals.
- **Quarantine Boma:** A specialized, high-fenced enclosure used to house wild animals for medical observation, acclimatization, or protection from predators before full release.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 48A (DPSP):** Mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. Project Cheetah is a direct fulfillment of this constitutional directive.
- **Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duties):** It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** The overarching legal framework that governs the protection of scheduled animals. The cheetah is placed under **Schedule I**, providing it the highest level of legal protection and necessitating stringent conservation measures.



Conclusion

The survival and thriving of cheetahs like Mukhi despite severe injuries underscore the success of the "Human-Animal-Technology" interface in modern conservation. While initial critics focused on mortality rates, the current data suggests that Kuno's environment is conducive to growth, provided that veterinary oversight remains proactive. The success here serves as a blueprint for future rewilding projects involving other extinct or highly endangered species in India.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Environment & Biodiversity):** Crucial for topics related to "Conservation," "Environmental Impact Assessment," and "Wildlife Reintroduction Programs." The project is a major case study in biodiversity restoration.
- **GS Paper III (Science & Technology):** Relevant for understanding "Indigenous Veterinary Technology" and its application in wildlife management.
- **Prelims:** Mapping of **Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**; understanding the differences between African and Asiatic cheetahs; and the role of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in managing the project.

10. Vulnerability in Vitality: The 2026 LPG Crisis and India's Welfare Architecture

The LPG crisis triggered by the West Asian war has exposed a critical misalignment between India's massive welfare expansion and its supply chain resilience. While the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** successfully connected millions to clean fuel, the current disruption in the **Strait of Hormuz** reveals that a "sovereign guarantee" without physical infrastructure buffers remains a fragile promise.

- **The Chokepoint Constraint:** India's dependence on LPG imports stands at **60%**, with nearly **90%** of these imports transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. The lack of an LPG-specific strategic buffer—unlike the **9.5-day** crude oil reserve—leaves the clean cooking transition entirely at the mercy of global commodity market stability.
- **Transition from State to Market:** The phase-out of PDS kerosene (now "Kerosene-free" in 13 States) replaced an inefficient but state-controlled distribution system with a high-quality but volatile global market supply. This shift withdrew the state's direct supply responsibility without establishing a safety net for market failures.
- **The "Last Mile" Regression:** The crisis disproportionately hits the poorest quintiles and marginalized communities. Data suggests that **SC/ST households** have **10% to 30%** lower access due to distributor biases, and rising prices (up by **₹60** in March 2026) force the most vulnerable to revert to hazardous biomass.
- **Gendered Burden of Failure:** While PMUY empowered women by saving approximately **one hour** of daily labor, the supply failure restores that drudgery. With **14%** of surveyed households reverting to biomass during price spikes, women bear the physical and health costs of the state's structural design flaws.
- **Strategic Redundancy Gap:** The current welfare architecture measures success by "connections delivered" rather than "continuity under stress." The





absence of crisis protocols and triage rules means that when global chains snap, the institutional support for the household evaporates.

- **The Decentralized Solution:** Experts advocate for "targeted redundancy" through the **GOBARdhan** scheme. Reviving five million dormant community biogas plants with a **₹10,000** subsidy per unit and accelerating piped natural gas (PNG) could provide a localized buffer against global shocks.

Key Definitions

- **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):** Underground rock caverns used to store crude oil to ensure energy security during supply disruptions. India currently lacks a dedicated equivalent for LPG.
- **Biomass Reversion:** The phenomenon where households return to using traditional fuels like wood or dung cakes due to the unaffordability or unavailability of clean fuels like LPG.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** A mechanism to transfer subsidies directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries, intended to reduce leakages and ensure the "sovereign presence" in welfare.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 47 (DPSP):** Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health. Access to clean cooking fuel is a primary component of this directive.
- **Article 21 (Right to Life):** Interpreted by courts to include the right to a clean environment and health. Persistent exposure to indoor air pollution from biomass violates this fundamental right.
- **Essential Commodities Act, 1955:** Provides the legal backing for the government to regulate the price and distribution of LPG during crises to prevent hoarding and ensure equitable access.

Conclusion

The 2026 crisis is a reminder that a durable welfare state must build "redundancy underneath" its delivery systems. A transformation built on unbroken global supply chains, without strategic buffers or localized alternatives like biogas, is a fragile achievement. Real energy security for the poor requires moving beyond "branding" to building the physical infrastructure of a sovereign guarantee.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance & Social Justice):** Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health and Gender; Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections.
- **GS Paper III (Economy & Energy):** Infrastructure: Energy; Security: Linked to global supply chain disruptions and energy sovereignty.
- **Prelims:** Focus on the **Strait of Hormuz** geography, the **PMUY** eligibility criteria, and the **GOBARdhan** scheme's institutional framework.

11. Administrative Reorganization in J&K: The Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley Bill

A Private Member's Bill has been introduced in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly seeking the creation of new administrative divisions and districts to address long-standing regional imbalances.

- **Divisional Status Demand:** The Bill seeks to grant independent divisional status to the mountainous **Pir Panjal** (Rajouri and Poonch) and **Chenab Valley** (Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban) regions.
- **Decentralization of Power:** The primary objective is to decentralize administration in remote, hilly areas where large geographical expanses and rugged terrain have historically hindered public service delivery and administrative efficiency.



- **Creation of New Districts:** Beyond divisional status, the Bill proposes the creation of **16 new districts** (8 each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions), expanding the current count from 20 districts to 36.
- **Addressing Regional Neglect:** Political leaders from these regions argue that being clubbed with "mainland" Jammu has led to discrimination in the distribution of development funds and infrastructure.
- **Financial and Legal Hurdle:** Under Section 36(b) of the J&K Reorganisation Act, Bills impacting finances require the Lieutenant Governor's (L-G) approval; the Bill's proposer claims it involves minimal appropriation from the Consolidated Fund.
- **Political Sensitivity:** The move has polarized the political landscape, with some parties viewing it as a move toward "Greater Kashmir" or a "divisive" strategy, while others see it as an administrative necessity.



Key Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019:** The legal framework governing the Union Territory. Section 36(b) is critical as it mandates L-G's nod for Bills with financial implications.
- **Article 371 (General Principles):** While Article 370 was abrogated, the principle of equitable development for different regions remains a core governance objective.
- **Seventh Schedule:** Land and local administration are typically state subjects, but in the UT of J&K, the Parliament and the L-G hold significant oversight.

Definitions of Key Terms

- **Private Member's Bill:** A legislative bill introduced by any Member of Parliament or Assembly who is not a Minister.
- **Administrative Division:** A geographical unit of government, typically consisting of multiple districts, headed by a Divisional Commissioner to streamline regional governance.
- **Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory:** The fund into which all revenues received by the UT government are credited and from which all expenditure is met (subject to legislative approval).

Conclusion

The proposed Bill for Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley highlights the persistent tension between centralized control and regional autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir. While the creation of new administrative units can potentially bring governance closer to the people in challenging terrains, the move is heavily shaded by the complex demographic and political map of the region. The success of this initiative will depend on balancing financial viability with the genuine aspirations of the remote populations for equitable growth.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States; Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure; Devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- **Geography/Polity:** Regional planning and administrative geography of Jammu and Kashmir.



12. Judicial Evolution of Right to Die: Harish Rana v. Union of India (2026)

The Supreme Court of India, in its landmark 2026 judgment in **Harish Rana v. Union of India**, has significantly expanded the jurisprudence on "Death with Dignity." By allowing the withdrawal of Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) for the first time, the court has bridged the gap between medical ethics and constitutional rights, emphasizing that life is a sociological concept as much as a biological one.

- **Expansion of Article 21:** The court reaffirmed that the **Right to Die with Dignity** is an inseparable part of the **Right to Life** under Article 21. It clarified that "dignity" at the end of life includes the right to receive quality palliative care and the right to refuse life-prolonging treatments that merely extend suffering.
- **Withdrawal of CANH:** In a first for Indian legal history, the *Harish Rana* case permitted the withdrawal of **Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH)**. The court reasoned that when a patient is in a permanent vegetative state with no hope of recovery, artificial nutrition constitutes medical "interference" rather than natural sustenance.
- **Streamlining Passive Euthanasia:** Building on the *Common Cause (2023)* ruling, the 2026 judgment further refined the procedural hurdles. It replaced the cumbersome requirement of two separate medical boards (Hospital and District) with a more efficient internal board and removed mandatory immediate judicial oversight for every stage, ensuring smoother implementation.
- **Patient Autonomy and Advance Directives:** The ruling places "Patient Autonomy" at the center of medical ethics. It validates **Advance Medical Directives (Living Wills)**, allowing individuals to document their refusal of life-sustaining treatment in advance, thereby preventing "disguised abandonment" or involuntary prolongation of pain.
- **Socio-Economic Justification:** The court acknowledged the economic burden of long-term life support on middle- and lower-income families. It noted that forcing a family into financial ruin for a treatment with zero clinical utility is an affront to the dignity of both the patient and the kin.
- **Terminology Shift:** The Supreme Court advised against the use of the term "**Passive Euthanasia**," labeling it "obsolete and incorrect." It suggested that the legal debate should focus on the "withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment" rather than a binary of acts and omissions.

Key Definitions

- **Passive Euthanasia:** The act of withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment (like ventilators or feeding tubes) to allow a terminally ill patient to die naturally.
- **Living Will (Advance Directive):** A legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves due to illness or incapacity.
- **Doctrine of Double Effect:** An ethical principle (derived from Thomas Aquinas) which suggests that an action with a good intent (relieving pain) is ethical even if it has a foreseeable but unintended bad effect (death).
- **CANH (Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration):** A medical treatment that involves providing food and water to a patient via tubes or drips when they can no longer swallow.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Article 21:** The fundamental right to protection of life and personal liberty. The SC has interpreted this to include the right to a dignified exit.



- **Doctrine of Parens Patriae:** The legal doctrine where the state acts as the "parent" or guardian of those who are unable to care for themselves (e.g., patients in a persistent vegetative state).
- **Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011):** The starting point of the euthanasia debate in India, which first legalized passive euthanasia under strict judicial monitoring.
- **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018 & 2023):** The judgments that recognized the Living Will and subsequently simplified the procedure for its execution.

Conclusion

The *Harish Rana* judgment marks a transition from a "sanctity of life" approach to a "quality of life" approach. By addressing the **Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI)**, the court has balanced the principle of *Non-maleficence* (do no harm) with *Beneficence* (acting in the patient's interest). While it empowers the individual, the state must remain vigilant against potential misuse—such as coercion of the elderly or disabled due to financial constraints—by ensuring robust palliative care infrastructure.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance & Constitution):** Crucial for "Significant provisions and basic structure of the Constitution" (Article 21) and "Role of the Judiciary."
- **GS Paper IV (Ethics):** A core case study for "Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions" and "Bioethics" (Autonomy vs. Paternalism).
- **Essay Paper:** Often used as a theme for topics related to "Human Rights," "Dignity," and "The interface of Technology and Morality."