



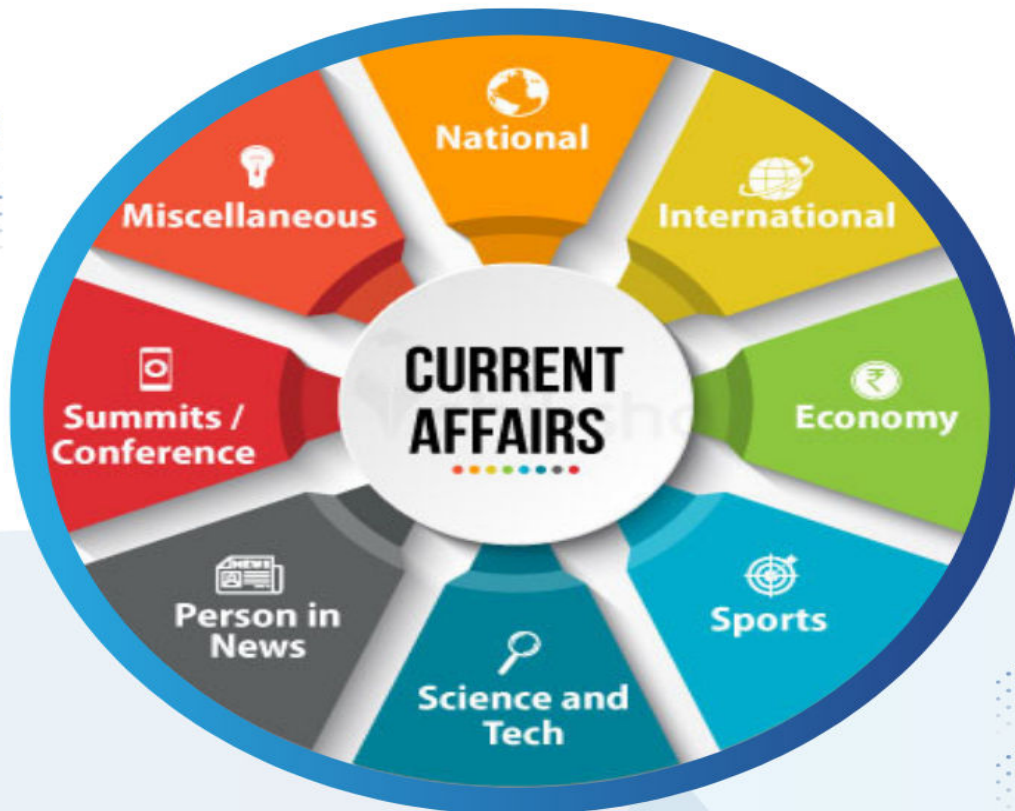
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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 04/06/2026 (THURSDAY)



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

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



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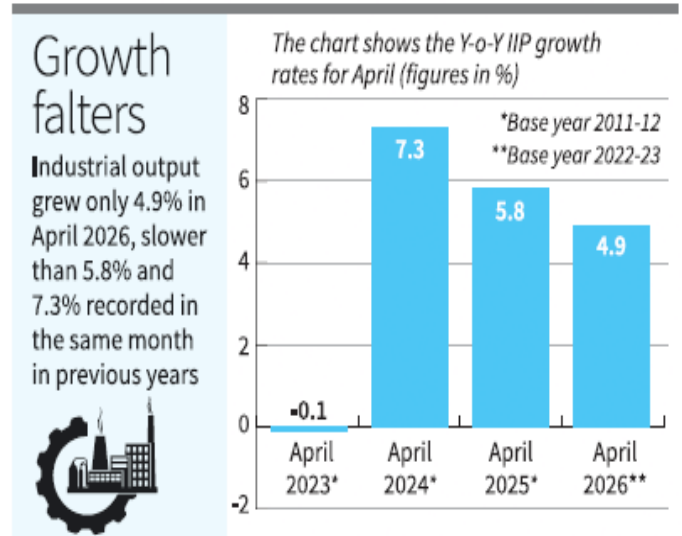


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1. Re-basing of Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **Context and Base Year Revision:** India's industrial output growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slowed to 4.9% in April 2026. This comes under the newly introduced IIP series which revises the base year to 2022-23 from the earlier 2011-12, following similar recent updates to national indicators like GDP.
- **Expanded Scope and Basket:** The new 2022-23 series expands the product basket from 839 items (mapped to 407 groups) to 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups. Crucially, the coverage has been broadened by incorporating two new sectors: water supply, sewerage & waste management, and gas supply, alongside the existing core sectors.
- **Sectoral Performance & Weight Realignment:** Under the revised format, the expanded sectors showed mixed trends in April 2026: manufacturing grew by 6.2%, water supply/sewerage grew by 6.6%, and electricity/gas grew by 4.9%, while the mining and quarrying sector contracted by 5.1%. Item weights have been realigned with the updated 2022-23 Gross Value Added (GVA) data.
- **Granular Data Classification:** The new series introduces enhanced data categorization to capture modern economic realities. The mining index now explicitly classifies fuel, metallic (including rare earths), and non-metallic (including minor) minerals, while the electricity index is now split into renewable and non-renewable sources.
- **Key Definitions:** **IIP** is a composite indicator measuring short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products over a given period relative to a chosen base period. **Base Year** is a specific year used as a benchmark for economic indices to eliminate the distorting effects of inflation and structural shifts over time.



Constitutional & Legal Provisions

The collection of industrial data is governed by the **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008**, which mandates the statistical framework for socio-economic data collection. While not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, economic planning and statistics fall under **Entry 20 (Economic and social planning)** and **Entry 94 (Inquiries, surveys and statistics)** of the Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule), giving Parliament the jurisdiction to regulate macroeconomic indicators.

Conclusion

The structural shift to the 2022-23 base year represents a vital modernization of India's macroeconomic toolkit. By integrating green energy data and waste management, the new IIP offers a more realistic, granular reflection of India's shifting industrial landscape, ensuring robust data-driven policy formulation.

UPSC Relevance

GS Paper III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment. Essential for understanding macroeconomic indicators, structural transformations in manufacturing, and indexing methodology.



2. Demise of Suman Kalyanpur: An Era Ends in Indian Music

- **Passing of a Musical Legend:** Renowned playback singer Suman Kalyanpur, a definitive voice of the golden era of Hindi cinema, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 89. Born on January 28, 1937, in Dhaka, she relocated to Mumbai in 1943, where her career flourished over three decades, culminating in her being honored with the prestigious Padma Bhushan.
- **Classical Foundation and Style:** Initially passionate about painting at the Sir J.J. School of Art, Kalyanpur transitioned to music under Pandit Keshav Rao Bhole. She received rigorous grounding in Hindustani classical music from maestro Khan Abdul Rehman Khan of the Kirana Gharana, developing an understated, luminous, and intimate vocal style.
- **Career Breakthrough and Trajectory:** Discovered by legendary singer Talat Mahmood during a college function in 1953, she secured her first break with the HMV record label. She successfully navigated a highly competitive industry dominated by contemporary giants, rendering soulful tracks in around 100 films across multiple regional languages.
- **Artistic Identity and Distinctions:** While often compared to Lata Mangeshkar due to vocal similarities—leading to frequent radio misattributions—discerning listeners celebrated Kalyanpur for her softer, rounder vocal texture. Her versatility spanned deep romantic yearning (*Na Tum Hamein Jano*) to vibrant, playful numbers (*Aaj Kal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche*).
- **Key Definitions: Playback Singing** refers to a technical process where a singer pre-records a song for use in films, which actors later lip-sync on screen. **Kirana Gharana** is one of the most prominent lineages (schools) of Hindustani classical music, deeply characterized by its emphasis on perfect intonation (*swara*) and emotional expressiveness.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

Cultural preservation is protected under **Article 29(1)** of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to conserve their distinct language, script, or culture. Furthermore, **Article 51A(f)** mandates a Fundamental Duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture. On the executive side, the civilian honor of the **Padma Awards** (such as the Padma Bhushan awarded to Kalyanpur) is institutionalized to recognize exceptional service in fields like Art and Culture, managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Conclusion

Suman Kalyanpur's demise marks the structural closing of the classic playback era. Her journey highlights the profound depth of India's classical traditions and their successful integration into popular media. Her legacy endures through timeless melodies that continue to serve as cultural benchmarks for successive generations of Indian musicians.

UPSC Relevance

GS Paper I: Indian Culture, salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature, and Architecture from ancient to modern times. Specifically relevant for topics covering Hindustani classical music gharanas, evolution of modern performing arts, and institutional recognition of cultural icons via National Awards.

3. Telangana Mandates Digital Wages and Minimum Wage Net for Gig Workers

- **Policy Intervention & Cash Ban:** Through Government Order (GO) Ms No. 6, the Telangana government has banned cash wage payments, making electronic transfers mandatory. This move aims to institutionalize financial transparency, eliminate under-the-table deductions, and establish a verifiable digital audit trail for labor compensation.



- **Inclusion under Minimum Wage Net:** The executive order extends the statutory minimum wage protections to previously excluded segments of the labor force. Specifically, it brings e-commerce, courier, and platform-based workers directly under the ambit of the official minimum wage legal framework.
- **Legislative Backing:** This administrative order serves as the formal enforcement mechanism for the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2026. The act was passed earlier by the state assembly to build a robust regulatory safety net for informal digital workers.
- **Overtime and Compliance Penalties:** To curb exploitative working hours common in the gig economy, the order legally requires digital platforms to compensate workers for overtime at double the standard wage rate. Compliance measures have been significantly tightened to ensure platforms do not bypass these mandates.
- **Key Definitions:** **Gig Workers** are individuals performing work or participating in a work arrangement and earning from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship. **Platform Workers** are a subset of gig workers whose work is accessed, coordinated, or allocated through online digital platforms or applications.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

Labor regulations in India fall under the **Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule)** under **Entry 22 (Labour welfare)** and **Entry 24**, allowing both Center and States to legislate. This mandate aligns with **Article 43** of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), which directs the State to secure a living wage and decent standard of life for all workers. It also reinforces the spirit of **Article 21 (Right to Life with Dignity)** by preventing economic exploitation. Nationally, this mirrors the intent of the **Code on Wages, 2019**, and the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, which first structurally recognized gig workers.

Conclusion

Telangana's regulatory framework marks a pioneering step toward formalizing India's booming gig economy. By legally linking platform work to minimum wage protections and digital accountability, the state addresses a critical gap in labor jurisprudence, setting a transformative precedent for nationwide welfare architecture.

UPSC Relevance

GS Paper III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment. Inclusive growth and issues arising from it. **GS Paper II:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

4. Changes in NFHS-6: Rationale and Missing Key Indicators

- **Reduction in Key Indicators:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) factsheet, dropping the number of key indicators to 101 from the 131 indicators tracked in NFHS-5 (2019-21). This structural trimming is aimed at "data harmonisation" across various government data-producing bodies.
- **Omission of Critical Demographic Data:** Key population-level data points have been omitted, including the overall population sex ratio, sex ratio at birth, mortality rates, and percentages of births and deaths recorded under the civil registration system. These omissions come despite survey questions on these topics being actively asked during the 2023-2024 fieldwork.



- **Exclusion of Welfare and Health Metrics:** Several indicators on women's health, family planning (e.g., adolescent fertility rate, type of contraceptives used), and access to central welfare schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (sanitation) and Ujjwala Yojana (clean cooking fuel) were removed. Screening data for cervical, breast, and oral cancers was also dropped due to historically poor uptake statistics.
- **Methodological Shift in Anaemia Tracking:** Data on anaemia prevalence, a major highlight in previous surveys, has been excluded from NFHS-6. Experts noted that the older finger-prick blood method could overestimate prevalence, shifting this tracking role to the venous blood-sample-based "Diet and Biomarker" survey conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN).
- **Key Definitions:** **NFHS** is a large-scale, multi-round household survey conducted across India to track vital data on health, family welfare, and nutrition, coordinated by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). **Data Harmonisation** is the process of integrating data from different sources into a cohesive system to avoid duplication, eliminate conflicting metrics, and improve structural efficiency.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

Public health, sanitation, and statistics fall squarely under the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution, specifically split between the State List (**Entry 6: Public health and sanitation**) and the Concurrent List (**Entry 94: Inquiries and statistics**). Tracking these metrics fulfills the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** under **Article 47**, which mandates the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and to improve public health.

Conclusion

While the rationalization of indicators under NFHS-6 reduces survey redundancy and attempts to correct methodological flaws in metrics like anaemia, removing key demographic indicators like the sex ratio could obscure long-term social trends. A balanced approach requires replacing these omissions with equally robust, alternative administrative data streams.

UPSC Relevance

GS Paper II: Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources. Performance of welfare schemes and the critical role of robust statistical data infrastructure in evidence-based policymaking.

5. Delhi HC on Right to be Forgotten and De-indexing of Legal Records

- **Restriction on Name-Based Indexing:** The Delhi High Court ruled that legal records and judgments should not be indexed online solely through name-based search mechanisms when it causes disproportionate harm to an individual's privacy and dignity. This primarily safeguards acquitted persons, discharged accused, victims, and parties involved in sensitive matrimonial or personal disputes.
- **Perpetual Digital Marking:** The Court emphasized that digital permanence creates an "involuntary and perpetual marking" of individuals. This continuous online exposure severely impacts an individual's reputation, livelihood, and social standing, effectively functioning as a social punishment that outlasts the formal judicial process.
- **De-indexing vs. Erasure:** The judgment clarified that de-indexing does not delete or erase official court records or judicial decisions. The core legal texts remain publicly accessible through alternative



identifiers like case numbers, legal citations, or specific court details, thereby restricting only unrestricted, casual name-based discovery.

- **Balancing Open Justice and Privacy:** The Court directed search engines and digital legal databases to limit name-based search functionalities in specific verified cases. This mechanism structurally balances the foundational principle of open court transparency with an individual's constitutional right to privacy.
- **Key Definitions: Right to be Forgotten (RTBF)** is the right of an individual to limit, delink, or remove personal information from public digital platforms when such data becomes irrelevant, excessive, or no longer serves a public purpose. **De-indexing** refers to the process of removing specific web links from search engine results without deleting the original underlying content from the source website. **Informational Self-determination** is the legal concept granting an individual authority to control the disclosure, processing, and dissemination of their personal data.

Constitutional & Legal Dimensions

The judgment is rooted in **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)**, which includes the Right to Privacy and informational self-determination as affirmed by the Supreme Court in the landmark **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** case. This right must be judicially balanced against **Article 19(1)(a) (Freedom of Speech and Expression)**, which protects public access to information and open court principles. Furthermore, **Article 14 (Right to Equality)** ensures fairness, preventing arbitrary and disproportionate digital harm. While the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023** strengthens data processing norms, a dedicated statutory framework for RTBF remains evolving.

Conclusion

The Delhi High Court's ruling establishes a progressive legal equilibrium between open justice and human dignity. By preventing judicial transparency from morphing into a mechanism of lifelong social stigmatization, the judiciary has fortified digital privacy boundaries within India's evolving constitutional jurisprudence.

UPSC Relevance

GS Paper II: Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions, and basic structure. Judicial review and the impact of technology on fundamental rights. **GS Paper IV:** Theoretical and practical dimensions of ethics, human dignity, and the right to privacy in the digital age.

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6. Census 2027: Data Discrepancy and Verification Issues

- **Context & Discrepancies:** The ongoing Census 2027 exercise has revealed significant variations between ground data and official government records. Key discrepancies include high rates of reported open defecation despite ODF claims, widespread usage of traditional cooking fuels (wood/dung cakes) by urban LPG cardholders, and under-reporting of "tap water from treated sources."
- **Administrative Action:** The Director of Census Operations (DCO), Rajasthan, has ordered charge officers to re-verify block-level data via the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal. Enumerators (primarily government teachers and Anganwadi workers) have been directed to revisit households to reconcile these variations with the "actual field situation."
- **Ground Challenges:** Enumerators face severe resistance as residents fear that disclosing accurate ground realities (like non-functional amenities) might lead to the cancellation of their existing



welfare benefits. Ground workers have also used social media to flag stark rural-urban socio-economic inequalities.

- **Constitutional & Legal Framework:** The Census is a statutory exercise conducted under the **Census Act, 1948** and Census Rules, 1990. Constitutionally, "Census" is a Union subject under **Article 246** (Sl. No. 69, List I, Seventh Schedule). Section 15 of the Census Act guarantees strict confidentiality, ensuring data cannot be used as evidence in courts or for stripping welfare benefits.
- **Key Definitions:** * *Discrepancy:* The statistical divergence between self-reported citizen data during enumeration and administrative data maintained by welfare ministries.
 - *CMMS Portal:* A tech-driven real-time management tool used by administrative heads to monitor coverage, validate inputs, and ensure data integrity during field operations.
- **UPSC Relevance: GS Paper II & III** (Governance, Welfare Schemes, Transparency & Accountability, and Robust Data Systems for Policy Formulation). This issue highlights the challenges of data collection, the digital divide, citizen trust in administrative processes, and the divergence between policy outputs (connections provided) and policy outcomes (sustained usage).

Conclusion: A credible Census is fundamental to evidence-based policymaking. While data verification ensures accuracy, the administration must address citizen anxieties regarding benefit cancellation. Ensuring strict enforcement of statutory confidentiality clauses under the Census Act, 1948, alongside empathetic public communication, is vital to bridging the gap between state records and ground realities.

7. US Forced Labour Tariff Proposal and Global Trade Implications

- **Context & Tariff Proposal:** The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) has proposed levying an additional 12.5% tariff on imports from 54 economies, including India, China, Japan, and Switzerland. The unilateral move targets nations that the US claims have failed to establish and effectively enforce prohibitions on importing goods produced using forced labour.
- **Underlying Investigation:** This development follows a comprehensive investigation initiated under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974. The USTR concluded that the absence of domestic import bans on forced labour goods in these partner countries artificially suppresses manufacturing costs, creates an uneven playing field, and burdens US commerce.
- **Vulnerable Sectors:** The USTR report flags high risks of forced labour inputs, such as cotton and polysilicon, embedded within global supply chains. Key export-oriented sectors vulnerable to these proposed tariffs include textiles, steel, aluminium, automobiles, electronics, and agricultural commodities.
- **India's Stance & Trade Negotiations:** India has firmly denied all allegations of unfair trade practices, calling the probe unjustified. New Delhi remains actively engaged in Section 301 proceedings while simultaneously attempting to finalize a bilateral Interim Framework Agreement on trade to secure comparative market advantages.
- **Constitutional & Legal Framework:** In India, forced labour is strictly prohibited under **Article 23** of the Constitution (Right against Exploitation). Statutory enforcement is driven by the **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**. Internationally, India is a signatory to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) and Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105).



- **Key Definitions:** * *Section 301 (US Trade Act, 1974):* A statutory provision authorizing the USTR to investigate and unilaterally impose trade sanctions or tariffs against foreign trade practices deemed unfair, unreasonable, or restrictive to US commerce.
 - *Forced Labour:* Work or service exacted from any person under the menace of penalty, for which the worker has not offered themselves voluntarily, distorting global supply chain pricing.
- **UPSC Relevance: GS Paper II & III** (Bilateral Agreements, Effect of Developed Country Policies on India's Interests, Important International Institutions, and Intellectual Property Rights/Trade Barriers). It underscores evolving non-tariff barriers, supply chain geopolitics, and unilateral trade measures challenging World Trade Organization (WTO) principles like the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) status.

Conclusion: The proposed 12.5% tariff highlights a growing shift among developed economies to link international trade with labour and environmental standards. While India possesses strong domestic laws against forced labour, the lack of an explicit import ban on foreign goods made with forced labour leaves it legally exposed under US trade law. Moving forward, India must balance its export interests through proactive bilateral negotiations while defending its manufacturing integrity on multilateral platforms like the WTO.

8. Centre's Vehicle Transition Scheme to Curb Delhi-NCR Pollution

- **Scheme Architecture & Funding:** The Union Cabinet has approved a two-year scheme with a total financial outlay of ₹9,585 crore (₹5,041 crore from the Centre and ₹1,601 crore from States via tax concessions). Funded through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), it will be implemented jointly by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Target & Coverage:** The initiative aims to transition around 2.07 lakh commercial vehicles (1.91 lakh trucks and 16,329 buses) in Delhi-NCR (spanning Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and UP) from BS-IV or older emission norms to BS-VI variants or Electric Vehicles (EVs). Government-owned vehicles are excluded from this scheme.
- **Operational Guidelines:** BS-III or older vehicles must be scrapped at registered facilities. BS-IV vehicles can either be scrapped or sold outside the NCR in non-National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities. Crucially, within Delhi proper, all new light goods vehicles must be electric, while new buses must be BS-VI compliant, CNG, or electric.
- **Financial Incentives:** To drive compliance, the Centre offers a 5% interest subvention on loans for five years, monthly fuel vouchers up to ₹4,800, and lump-sum benefits for EV purchases. Participating States will waive registration fees and grant up to 100% motor vehicle tax concessions for new vehicles over a 10-year period.
- **Statutory & Institutional Framework:** The scheme aligns with the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and operates alongside the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021. Air pollution mitigation also directly addresses **Article 21** (Right to a healthy environment) and **Article 48A** (Directive Principles directing the State to protect the environment).
- **Key Definitions:** * *Interest Subvention:* A form of financial subsidy where the government pays a part of the interest on a loan, lowering the borrowing cost for the end-user.



- *Certificate of Deposit (Scrapping)*: A document issued when an old vehicle is scrapped, which can be traded or used to unlock fiscal incentives and tax waivers on purchasing a new vehicle.
- **UPSC Relevance: GS Paper II & III** (Government Policies & Interventions, Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Urbanization, and Infrastructure). This topic is highly critical for analyzing cooperative federalism in environmental governance, market-based environmental regulations, and the challenges of transitioning to green transport corridors.

Conclusion: By targeting heavy commercial vehicles, which contribute disproportionately to urban smog, this scheme creates a structured regulatory framework to clean up Delhi-NCR's airshed. The success of this fiscal-incentive model will depend heavily on inter-state coordination, robust scrapping infrastructure, and preventing the leakage of older polluting vehicles into vulnerable non-NCAP regions.

9. West Bengal Rolls Out Annapurna Bhandar Cash Transfer Scheme

- **Context & Launch:** The West Bengal government, led by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, has officially launched the "Annapurna Bhandar" scheme under the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare. The universal social security program provides monthly direct financial assistance of ₹3,000 to eligible women.
- **Fiscal Scale & Expansion:** In its initial phase, the cash payout has been rolled out to 28,25,769 verified female beneficiaries via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The scheme fulfills an electoral promise, effectively doubling the ₹1,500 monthly benefit previously provided under the Trinamool Congress government's "Lakshmir Bhandar" scheme.
- **Target Demographics & Exclusions:** The scheme targets resident women in the 25 to 60 age group. To ensure fiscal targeting, permanent government employees (receiving institutional salaries or pensions) and active income tax payers are legally excluded from enrollment.
- **Administrative Vigilance & Transparency:** To curb legacy administrative leakages, the state has mandated a detailed multi-page verification form, requiring fresh applications from existing beneficiaries. To institutionalize public accountability, the beneficiary lists will be published at local block, panchayat, and booth levels, allowing citizens to file public objections against undeserving recipients.
- **Constitutional & Legal Framework:** The scheme aligns with **Article 15(3)** of the Constitution, which empowers the State to make special provisions for women, and **Article 39(a)** (Directive Principles targeting adequate means of livelihood). Operationally, it relies on the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** for statutory verification and leak-proof banking.
- **Key Definitions:** * *Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)*: An electronic mechanism aimed at transferring subsidies and cash doles directly into the Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of citizens, eliminating intermediary leakages.
 - *Social Registry*: A centralized state database used to map citizens' socio-economic profiles, verify eligibility, cross-examine welfare overlap, and monitor inclusion-exclusion errors.
- **UPSC Relevance: GS Paper II & III** (Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections, Issues Arising out of Design & Implementation of Policies, Fiscal Federalism, and Women Empowerment). It highlights the debate surrounding competitive populism versus welfare-driven economics, and the administrative challenges of migrating large-scale state beneficiary databases.



Conclusion: The Annapurna Bhandar scheme signifies a continuation of the targeted basic income model to ensure gender-responsive budgeting. While doubling financial aid strengthens household economic resilience, the transition underscores a delicate administrative challenge. Balancing stringent verification parameters to purge institutional corruption with citizen-centric application designs remains vital to preventing unintended exclusion of genuine beneficiaries.

10. Post-Maoist Bastar: Structural Governance and Adivasi Trust

- **Context & New Milestone:** Following India being declared officially Maoist-free on March 31, 2026, the Union Home Minister announced 2031 as the next milestone for the overall welfare and integration of Bastar's Adivasis. The strategy transitions from security-led tactical operations to democratic values, grassroots cooperation, and development.
- **Dual-Channel Governance:** The constitutional vision for tribal areas relies on two parallel administrative channels: elected Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) centered around the Gram Sabha, and government-appointed officials (Tehsildars, District Collectors). Historically, bureaucratic channels have overshadowed elected bodies, a structural imbalance that requires correction.
- **The Core of Contention:** While infrastructural growth like roads, mobile towers, and security-led welfare centers improve the ease of living, lasting peace depends on resolving deeper existential issues related to *Jal, Jungle, and Zameen* (water, forest, and land) that impact tribal identity.
- **Impediments in PESA Implementation:** The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996, remains under-implemented across Fifth Schedule States. State governments have frequently undermined the Act; for instance, Chhattisgarh's 2022 proposal tried to dilute the Gram Sabha's veto power by replacing the mandatory "consent" provision with mere "consultation."
- **Constitutional & Legal Framework:** Governance in tribal pockets is protected under the **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution (**Article 244(1)**). The **PESA Act, 1996**, legally extends participatory democracy to these areas, recognizing customary laws. This is reinforced by the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA)**, which secures tenurial rights.
- **Key Definitions:**
 - *Positive Peace:* A state-of-being that goes beyond the mere absence of active violence (negative peace) to encompass the presence of social justice, equitable distribution of resources, and robust democratic institutional frameworks.
 - *Gram Sabha Veto:* The statutory power vested in the local village assembly under PESA, making its prior informed consent mandatory for land acquisition, mining leases, and developmental projects in scheduled areas.
- **UPSC Relevance: GS Paper II & III** (Internal Security, Left-Wing Extremism, Devolution of Powers, Statutory Bodies, and Vulnerable Sections). It provides critical insights into the security-development nexus, transitioning from counter-insurgency to democratic consolidation, and tribal rights.

Conclusion: The absolute elimination of Left-Wing Extremism offers a historic window to secure a sustainable peace dividend in Bastar. True integration will not occur by absorbing Adivasis into an external mainstream, but by empowering them to define it through participatory governance. Genuine implementation of the PESA Act and safeguarding the statutory autonomy of the Gram Sabha are essential to bridging the historical trust deficit between the tribal populace and the state.



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