



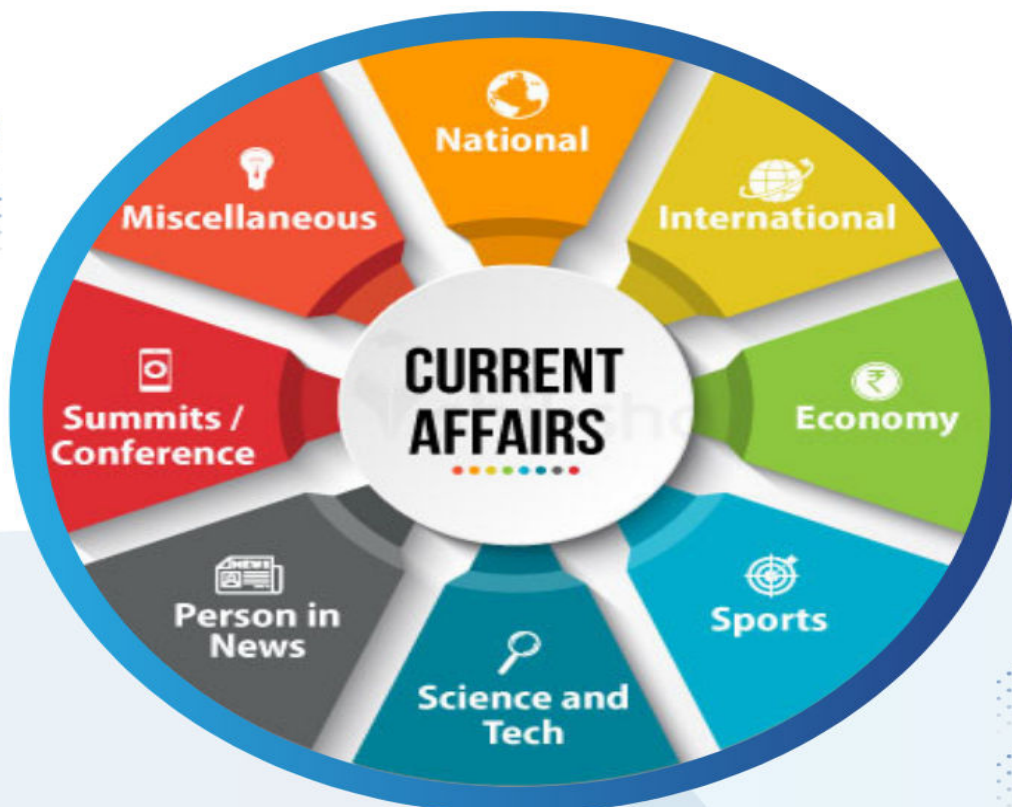
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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE**

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FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 18/09/2026 (FRIDAY)



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VIDHVATH IAS ACADEMY



1. U.S. Clears Russia Sanctions Bill; India Faces Tariff Threat

Key Highlights & Summary

- **U.S. Legislation Clearance:** The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation passed by a vote of 262-159 to target Russia's energy sector, individuals, and shadow fleet tankers.
- **100% Tariff Provision:** The legislation authorises the U.S. President to impose up to 100% tariffs on countries, including India, making new purchases of Russian crude oil and gas on or after 30 days of enactment.
- **Targeting Top Importers:** The bill specifically targets the top five largest importers of Russian energy by total volume over the preceding 12 months.
- **India's High Import Volume:** Russian oil accounted for over 51% of India's total crude imports in July, reaching an all-time high of 110.4 lakh tonnes.
- **New Delhi's Stance:** The Ministry of External Affairs affirmed India's firm commitment to protecting national interest and securing energy supplies for its 1.4 billion citizens through market-driven diversification.
- **Presidential Waiver Mechanism:** The U.S. President retains discretionary statutory authority under the legislation to waive sanction enforcement based on national interest imperatives.



Essential Definitions

- **Shadow Fleet:** Unregulated, older oil tanker vessels operating outside standard Western maritime insurance, flag registration, and financing structures to bypass energy sanctions.
- **Secondary Sanctions:** Penalties imposed by a nation-state against foreign third-party entities or countries for conducting economic transactions with sanctioned primary targets.
- **Presidential Waiver Clause:** A legal provision within U.S. sanctions laws empowering the executive branch to temporarily exempt foreign nations from penalties due to strategic priorities.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026:** The parent U.S. legislative statute under which tariff mandates and energy trade sanctions are codified.
- **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), 2017:** Federal law providing a framework for secondary sanctions against trade entities dealing with targeted adversaries.
- **Article 73 of the Indian Constitution:** Extends executive power of the Union to international treaties, global trade negotiations, and external trade regulation policies.

Conclusion The proposed U.S. tariffs highlight growing geopolitical pressure on India's energy diplomacy. Maintaining strategic autonomy while securing affordable energy imports requires careful diplomatic engagement and economic adaptation to mitigate potential trade trade-offs.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** India-U.S. bilateral ties, secondary sanctions impact on India's foreign policy, strategic autonomy, and global energy diplomacy.



- **GS Paper III (Economy & Security):** Energy security, import dependence, international supply chain disruptions, and global trade dynamics.

2. PM Releases Annapurna Yojana Instalment, Says No More 'Cut Money' in W.B.

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Direct Financial Assistance Released:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the fourth instalment of the Annapurna Yojana, providing ₹3,000 directly to each of the nearly 1.5 crore women beneficiaries in West Bengal.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Integration:** Financial aid is transferred directly into bank accounts to eliminate intermediaries and curb illegal commissions locally termed as "cut money".
- **Expansion of Social Housing:** The government announced plans to identify and provide *pucca* housing to over 50 lakh eligible families across the state.
- **Targeted Welfare Alignment:** Unlike universal social security models, the Annapurna Yojana follows specific eligibility criteria to streamline welfare delivery to deserving sections.
- **Empowerment of Women:** The scheme aims to enhance financial independence, decision-making authority, and socio-economic agency among women beneficiaries.
- **Implementation & Verification Issues:** Ongoing verification drives to identify genuine beneficiaries have drawn criticism and protests over the exclusion of certain eligible claimants.

Essential Definitions

- **Annapurna Yojana (State Context):** A financial support initiative aimed at empowering women through direct cash assistance transferred to their bank accounts.
- **Cut Money:** An informal term referring to illegal commissions or kickbacks extorted by local intermediaries or political handlers to facilitate welfare scheme access.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** An administrative mechanism designed to transfer government subsidies and welfare benefits directly into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of beneficiaries.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 39(e) & (f) of Directive Principles of State Policy:** Mandates state policies toward securing the health, strength, and socio-economic welfare of women and children.
- **Article 15(3) of the Constitution:** Empowers the State to make special provisions, schemes, and affirmative action measures for women and children.
- **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016:** Statutory basis for implementing Direct Benefit Transfers to ensure targeted delivery of government aid and prevent leakages.

Conclusion

Direct Benefit Transfer mechanisms under schemes like the Annapurna Yojana serve as critical tools for improving administrative transparency and eliminating intermediary corruption. Strengthening robust, inclusive eligibility verification remains vital to ensuring uninterrupted welfare delivery without excluding legitimate beneficiaries.



UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance & Welfare Schemes):** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms, issues of corruption, and administrative transparency.
- **GS Paper I (Society):** Social empowerment, issues related to women's financial autonomy, and poverty alleviation strategies.

3. Arunachal CM Denies Govt. Arm-Twisting People to Push Mega Dam on Siang River

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Project Scale & Strategic Role:** The proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh boasts an estimated capacity of 11,000 MW to 12,500 MW.
- **Countering Transboundary Infrastructure:** India is pursuing the dam as a strategic countermeasure against China's 60,000 MW Medog hydropower station being constructed upstream on the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.
- **Refutation of Coercion Claims:** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu refuted allegations of forced compliance, stating that the government remains open to discussions with villagers regarding the Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR).
- **Local Community Resistance:** Residents across East Siang, Siang, Upper Siang, and West Siang districts continue to oppose the project due to concerns over physical displacement, ecological degradation, and heightened seismic risks.
- **Investigative Action Under FCRA:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against anti-dam activist and lawyer Bhanu Tatak for alleged violations under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.
- **Community Engagement Progress:** State authorities reported that multi-party discussions have been ongoing for two years, with several village representatives signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in support of the project.

Essential Definitions

- **Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR):** A preliminary technical evaluation examining economic viability, hydrological data, geological stability, and baseline environmental factors prior to detailed project execution.
- **Transboundary Water Conflict:** Geopolitical disputes over shared international river basins involving upper-riparian water diversion, flow management, and lower-riparian ecological safety.
- **Multipurpose Hydropower Project:** Infrastructure designed simultaneously for electricity generation, flood moderation, downstream water security, and silt retention.



Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:** Regulates foreign donations to domestic individuals and NGOs to ensure foreign funds do not compromise national security interest.



- **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986:** Mandates compulsory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) clearance and formal public hearings before initiating major infrastructure projects.
- **Sixth Schedule / Article 371H:** Grants special constitutional provisions regarding customary land rights and administrative governance in Arunachal Pradesh.

Conclusion

Balancing strategic border security and water management imperatives against indigenous land rights remains critical. Transparent public consultation mechanisms and comprehensive environmental assessments are vital for achieving sustainable infrastructure development in ecologically sensitive border regions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance & IR):** Transboundary water geopolitics (India-China relations), FCRA enforcement, NGO regulation, and tribal rights under local governance frameworks.
- **GS Paper III (Environment & Infrastructure):** Hydropower development, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), disaster risk reduction in seismic zones, and energy security.

4. Navodaya Case: SC Tells T.N. to Change 'Anti-Hindi' Mindset

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Supreme Court Directive:** The Supreme Court cautioned that "individual States cannot act like individual countries," telling Tamil Nadu to alter its mindset against teaching Hindi on its soil.
- **Three-Month Land Identification Order:** A bench led by Justice B.V. Nagarathna gave the Tamil Nadu government three months to comply with a December 15, 2025 order to identify suitable land for Navodaya schools in each district.
- **State Opposition Grounds:** The Tamil Nadu government opposed the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme as "fundamentally incompatible" with its long-standing two-language policy (Tamil and English), citing deviations from the Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006.
- **Cooperative Federalism Imperative:** The Court emphasized national unity and administrative continuity, remarking that "Chennai should not alienate Delhi, and vice versa" and that change of government should not alter education policy constants.
- **State Argument on Concurrent List:** Legal counsel for Tamil Nadu submitted that 'Education' falls under the Concurrent List, making Central optional policies non-mandatory through court-issued writs of mandamus.
- **Language Fundamental Right Claim:** Political dispensations in the state argued that choice of language and learning medium constitutes a fundamental right, alleging the scheme acts as a backdoor attempt to make Hindi compulsory.





Essential Definitions

- **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV):** Centrally funded, co-educational residential schools managed by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti under the Union Ministry of Education to provide quality modern education to talented rural children.
- **Three-Language Formula:** A national language policy framework incorporating the study of the mother tongue/regional language, Hindi, and English (or another modern Indian language in Hindi-speaking states).
- **Two-Language Policy:** A state-level educational framework adopted by Tamil Nadu prioritizing instruction strictly in Tamil and English, rejecting compulsory third-language provisions.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Entry 25, Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule):** Assigns joint legislative and administrative jurisdiction over Education to both Parliament and State Assemblies following the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
- **Article 29 & 30 of the Constitution:** Guarantees protection of fundamental cultural and educational rights, including the choice of language and script preservation for minorities.
- **Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006:** A state legislation mandating Tamil as a compulsory subject in all primary and secondary schools within Tamil Nadu.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's observations underscore the delicate balance between state-level linguistic autonomy and cooperative national educational frameworks. Implementing centrally sponsored educational infrastructure requires constructive dialogue between the Centre and States without compromising local language rights or national integration.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Federal structure, Centre-State relations, Concurrent List dynamics, Cooperative Federalism, and execution of Central welfare policies.
- **GS Paper I & II (Social Issues & Fundamental Rights):** Educational equity, linguistic diversity, protection of regional languages, and fundamental rights related to medium of instruction.

5. Assam Govt. Begins Observing Garg's First Death Anniversary with Cultural Events

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Commemoration of Cultural Icon:** Assam commenced a series of cultural and spiritual programmes to mark the first death anniversary of cultural icon Zubeen Garg at Zubeen Kshetra in Sonapur, located near Guwahati.
- **Declaration of 'Zubeen Divas':** The State government and family members marked September 17 as 'Zubeen Divas' to honor the singer-composer's legacy and contributions to Indian music.
- **Tragic Demise in Singapore:** Zubeen Garg passed away on September 19, 2025, while swimming near an island in Singapore, triggering widespread public grief and protests across Assam.
- **Divergent Findings on Cause of Death:** While the Singapore Police Force and State Coroner ruled the death as accidental drowning without evidence of foul play, the Assam government constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate potential criminal responsibility.



- **Chargesheet and Legal Action:** The SIT filed a chargesheet against seven individuals, with four facing murder charges, and the case is currently being adjudicated by a special fast-track court in Guwahati.
- **Public and Logistics Support:** The Cultural Affairs Department of Assam ensured venue logistics, while community groups like the State Drivers' Union offered discounted fares for visiting fans.

Essential Definitions

- **Special Investigation Team (SIT):** A specialized investigative body established by executive order or court directive to conduct focused, impartial inquiries into high-profile complex cases.
- **Coroner's Inquiry:** A formal legal proceeding conducted by a judicial official (coroner) to determine the cause, time, and circumstances surrounding an unnatural or sudden death.
- **Fast-Track Court:** A specialized judicial tribunal set up to expedite trials and dispose of pending high-priority cases within a defined timeframe.



Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Section 302 / BNS Provisions:** The statutory framework under Indian criminal law (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita / Indian Penal Code) penalizing the offense of murder and culpable homicide.
- **Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT):** International legal frameworks facilitating evidence sharing and judicial cooperation between India and foreign sovereign nations like Singapore.
- **Entry 1 & 2 of State List (Seventh Schedule):** Assigns exclusive constitutional jurisdiction over Public Order and Police powers to State governments to constitute specialized investigative agencies like SITs.

Conclusion

The state-level commemoration of Zubeen Garg highlights the deep interface between cultural heritage, public sentiment, and governance. Resolving transnational legal inquiries through transparent fast-track judicial proceedings remains critical to maintaining public trust and law and order.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I (Art & Culture):** Performing arts, regional music traditions, modern Indian cultural icons, and preservation of intangible cultural heritage.
- **GS Paper II (Governance & Criminal Justice):** Functioning of Special Investigation Teams (SITs), fast-track courts, police reforms, and cross-border judicial/extradition coordination.

6. Shivakumar Unveils Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Establishment of KKEM:** Karnataka government announced the establishment of the Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission (KKEM) to accelerate industrial growth and investment.
- **Non-Profit Corporate Structure:** The KKEM will operate as a Section 8 company under the Companies Act, functioning as a non-profit entity.



- **Targeted Regional Focus:** The mission specifically targets the socio-economically backward Kalyana Karnataka region to promote balanced regional development.
- **Commemoration of Liberation Day:** The announcement coincided with Kalyana Karnataka Liberation Day, celebrated annually on September 17.
- **Historical Integration:** September 17 marks the end of the Nizam's rule in 1948 and the integration of the erstwhile Hyderabad State into the Indian Union.
- **Institutional Support Mechanism:** The company structure provides an agile operational model to connect government policy with industrial and corporate investments.



Essential Definitions

- **Section 8 Company:** A company registered under the Companies Act, 2013, established for promoting commerce, art, science, education, or charity, where profits are applied solely toward its objectives without paying dividends.
- **Kalyana Karnataka Region:** The north-eastern region of Karnataka comprising seven districts (Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari, and Vijayanagara) formerly under Hyderabad State.
- **Kalyana Karnataka Liberation Day:** Commemorates the success of Operation Polo in 1948, leading to the merger of the Nizam-ruled territory into the Union of India.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 371J of the Indian Constitution:** Inserted via the 98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012, providing special status to the Kalyana Karnataka region for development, education, and employment.
- **Companies Act, 2013 (Section 8):** Governs the formation and operational compliance of non-profit entities facilitating public welfare goals.
- **States Reorganisation Act, 1956:** Legislative framework through which the Kannada-speaking parts of Hyderabad State were unified into Mysore State (renamed Karnataka).

Conclusion The creation of the Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission as a Section 8 company represents a structured attempt to combine corporate governance with public policy. Integrating public investment models with constitutional safeguards under Article 371J is crucial to overcoming historical regional imbalances.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Article 371J special provisions, regional imbalances, federalism, and non-profit governance frameworks.
- **GS Paper III (Economy & Post-Independence History):** Integration of princely states (Operation Polo), public-private investment bodies, and inclusive economic growth.

7. Karnataka's Financial Aid Scheme Helped Woman to Sustain Psychiatric Care: Study

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Case Study Publication:** A study published in the *Digital Journal of Clinical Medicine* by JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (JSSAHER) highlights how state financial assistance helps women sustain chronic psychiatric treatment.
- **Gruha Lakshmi Scheme Assistance:** Direct cash transfers of ₹2,000 per month provided to eligible female heads of households under Karnataka's Gruha Lakshmi scheme served as a critical financial lifeline.
- **Mitigating Healthcare Out-of-Pocket Costs:** Direct income support helped cover approximately ₹1,000 per month in psychotropic medications alongside travel and lost wage expenses incurred during hospital visits.
- **Addressing Episodic Illness Exclusions:** The study points out that episodic psychiatric disorders like bipolar disorder often fail to qualify for official state disability benefits, making general social welfare schemes vital for continuous care.
- **Gender-Based Economic Vulnerability:** Women facing severe mental illness experience compounded vulnerability from economic dependence, unpaid caregiving responsibilities, and limited workforce participation.
- **Enabler of Financial Autonomy:** Direct financial aid fosters financial independence, reducing reliance on family members and preventing treatment interruptions or clinical deterioration.



Essential Definitions

- **Gruha Lakshmi Scheme:** A targeted direct benefit transfer (DBT) social welfare initiative launched by Karnataka providing ₹2,000 monthly financial aid to female heads of households.
- **Bipolar Disorder:** A chronic mental health condition characterized by extreme mood swings involving episodic periods of mania and severe depression.
- **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE):** Direct financial payments made by individuals for medical treatments that are not reimbursed or covered by insurance or public welfare schemes.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA), 2017:** Section 18 guarantees every person the statutory right to access mental healthcare services funded or run by the government without discrimination.
- **Article 21 of the Constitution:** Incorporates the right to health and medical treatment as an intrinsic component of the fundamental Right to Life and Personal Liberty.
- **Article 39(e) & (f) of Directive Principles:** Directs the state to ensure health security and prevent economic necessity from forcing vulnerable citizens into unviable livelihoods.



Conclusion

Social welfare schemes providing unconditional income support play an essential role in bridging healthcare affordability gaps for chronic psychiatric conditions. Integrating target-oriented financial aid with public health infrastructure mitigates gendered vulnerabilities and ensures long-term treatment continuity.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Social Justice & Governance):** Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Gender Empowerment, and Welfare Schemes for vulnerable sections.
- **GS Paper III (Economy):** Role of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), out-of-pocket health expenses, and inclusive growth strategies.

8. A War Room for India in an Age of Sanctions

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Rising Weaponised Interdependence:** Global financial, maritime, and supply networks are increasingly weaponized, causing unilateral secondary sanctions against nations like Iran and Russia to directly impact Indian enterprises and domestic energy supplies.
- **Multilateral Disruption & Tariff Threats:** Unilateral U.S. sanctions legislation authorising up to 100% tariffs on buyers of Russian energy, alongside Iranian maritime restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, present complex dual-front trade risks.
- **Limitations of Standalone Measures:** Mechanisms like Rupee-denominated trade settlements or legal blocking statutes offer incomplete protection when transaction networks pass through Western clearing banks, maritime insurers, or global shipping lines.
- **Proposal for Economic Security War Room:** Former diplomat Syed Akbaruddin advocates creating an Economic Security and Sanctions Office under the Cabinet Secretariat to serve as a unified strategic "war room" handling economic coercion.
- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination:** The proposed institutional body would unify decision-making across Foreign Policy, Finance, Commerce, Energy, Shipping, Law, Defence, RBI, and market regulators to track end-to-end supply chain risks.
- **Strategic Autonomy Strategy:** Unlike China's state-directed market leverage, India must adopt a calibrated, legal, and commercial diplomatic framework to protect national interests while maintaining relationships with major global powers.



Essential Definitions

- **Weaponised Interdependence:** A geopolitical condition where a state leverages its centralized control over key global economic, financial, or physical networks to exert coercive pressure on dependent nations.
- **Secondary Sanctions:** Penalties imposed by a state on foreign third-party businesses or nations for engaging in economic trade with a primary sanctioned target.



- **Economic Security War Room:** A centralized, inter-agency administrative mechanism designed to monitor, anticipate, and mitigate external economic coercion and supply chain disruptions.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **UNSC Mandated vs. Unilateral Sanctions:** India legally recognizes sanctions mandated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, but rejects non-multilateral, unilateral secondary sanctions.
- **Article 73 of the Indian Constitution:** Provides the executive power of the Union to manage international treaties, foreign affairs, and trade regulations to safeguard national economic security.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Authorizes the Central Government to formulate export-import policies, regulate international trade flows, and protect domestic commercial interests during geopolitical crises.

Conclusion As economic coercion increasingly targets whole financial and logistical networks, siloed ministerial responses are inadequate. Establishing a dedicated institutional war room under the Cabinet Secretariat will help preserve India's economic sovereignty and strategic autonomy amidst volatile global sanctions regimes.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Impact of foreign policies and sanctions on India's interests, strategic autonomy, UN mechanisms versus unilateral sanctions, and global governance frameworks.
- **GS Paper III (Economy & Security):** Supply chain resilience, energy security, international trade challenges, foreign exchange management, and economic security architectures.

9. Implementation and Debate Surrounding the Uniform Civil Code

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Political Roadmap:** Union Home Minister announced the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across all 21 NDA-ruled States by 2029, following Uttarakhand's enactment in January 2025.
- **Current Personal Law Regime:** Religion-based personal laws currently govern marriage, divorce, and inheritance (e.g., Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Muslim Personal Law Shariat Application Act 1937), unlike uniform criminal and contract laws.
- **Arguments for UCC:** Promotes true secularism, national integration, and ensures gender justice by eliminating discriminatory practices against women across all religious personal codes.
- **Arguments Against UCC:** Creates potential friction with Fundamental Rights under Article 25 (freedom of religion) and Article 29 (cultural preservation), while selectively exempting tribal populations raises concerns about uniform applicability.
- **Voluntary Application Option:** Recalls Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constituent Assembly proposal that a UCC could initially remain voluntary, applying only to citizens who explicitly opt-in.
- **Law Commission's Alternative Strategy:** The 21st Law Commission (2018) concluded that a UCC is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage," advocating instead for reforming gender-discriminatory provisions within individual personal laws to achieve equality within communities.



Essential Definitions

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** A single, non-religious set of civil laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, custody, adoption, maintenance, and inheritance universally for all citizens regardless of religion.
- **Personal Laws:** A set of custom-based or scripturally derived laws applying to a specific group of people based on their religious affiliation or tribal identity.
- **Constitutional Morality:** A principle requiring governance and legal interpretation to align with core constitutional values like equality, liberty, non-discrimination, and individual dignity over majoritarian or religious doctrines.



Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Mandates that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.
- **Articles 25 to 28 (Right to Freedom of Religion):** Guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise, and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, and health.
- **Article 29 (Protection of Interests of Minorities):** Protects the fundamental right of any section of citizens residing in India to conserve their distinct language, script, or culture.

Conclusion Reforming personal laws is essential to securing gender justice and upholding constitutional morality for all women. Balancing national legislative intent with minority trust through targeted reforms within individual personal laws, as recommended by the Law Commission, offers a pragmatic path forward.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 44), Fundamental Rights (Articles 14, 15, 25, 29), Constitutional Morality, Law Commission reports, and secular governance.
- **GS Paper I (Social Issues):** Gender justice, women empowerment, personal law reforms, and protection of cultural diversity.

10. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision on Uniform Civil Code and Gender Equality

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Support for Uniform Civil Code:** As Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar strongly backed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to foster national integration and secular governance.
- **Instrument for Gender Equality:** Dr. Ambedkar identified personal laws as major sources of gender discrimination and advocated for the UCC to eliminate patriarchal biases.
- **Equal Rights Across Personal Domains:** He argued that a comprehensive civil code must guarantee equal rights for women in critical areas like marriage, divorce, and inheritance.



- **Distinction Between Religion and Secular Law:** He stressed the need to divorce religion from personal relations and inheritance, asserting that social relations must be regulated by secular state laws.
- **Observation on Existing Legal Uniformity:** Dr. Ambedkar highlighted that India already possessed uniform laws across criminal, property, and contract sectors, leaving family law as a minor un-unified area.
- **Voluntary Implementation Approach:** To ease minority concerns, he proposed that the UCC could initially remain voluntary, allowing citizens to opt-in rather than facing immediate coercion.

Essential Definitions

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** A single set of non-religious civil laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all citizens uniformly.
- **Drafting Committee:** The specialized body chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar responsible for framing the Constitution of India.
- **Gender Justice:** The systemic removal of gender-based inequities in legal, social, and economic spheres to ensure substantive equality.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens throughout India.
- **Article 15 (Fundamental Rights):** Prohibits state discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- **Article 25 (Right to Freedom of Religion):** Guarantees freedom of conscience, subject to public order, morality, health, and other fundamental rights.

Conclusion

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar viewed the Uniform Civil Code as an essential social reform tool designed to uphold constitutional morality and gender justice. Harmonizing uniform legal protections with cultural sensitivities remains central to fulfilling his constitutional vision.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Constitutional debates, Role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Article 44 (DPSP), Directive Principles versus Fundamental Rights, and gender equality frameworks.
- **GS Paper I (Social Issues):** Women empowerment, social reform movements, secularism, and eradication of gender discrimination in personal laws.