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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 14/10/2026 (WEDNESDAY)



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1. India as a Global Growth Partner and Economic Reforms

Key Highlights & Summary



- **Global Growth & Trust Partner:** PM Narendra Modi highlighted India as a "steady pillar" and reliable partner, stating India grows "with the world, and for the world".
- **Conviction-Driven Reforms:** Structural economic reforms in India are pursued out of deep-seated conviction and strategic policy vision rather than political or economic compulsion.
- **Upgraded Growth Projections:** IMF raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7% (from 6.4%), while RBI projected 7.1%, driven by domestic demand and services activity.
- **Macroeconomic Stability:** India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) sharply declined from over 4% a decade ago to 0.61%, alongside foreign exchange reserves surpassing $700 billion.
- **Weaponization of Critical Sectors:** Technology, supply chains, energy, and critical minerals are increasingly exploited as geopolitical levers of coercion and dominance.
- **Banking and Financial Resilience:** The domestic banking sector stands significantly fortified, underpinning sustained economic momentum and global investor confidence.

Essential Definitions

- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** Represents a country's net trade balance in goods and services, net primary income, and net transfer payments with the rest of the world. A lower CAD signifies superior external balance stability.
- **Foreign Exchange Reserves:** Foreign assets held by a central bank (RBI) in foreign currencies, gold, SDRs, and IMF reserve positions to manage currency volatility and back external liabilities.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** The structural capacity of global trade networks to withstand, absorb, and rapidly recover from geopolitical or economic disruptions.

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Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 266(1) of the Constitution:** Establishes the Consolidated Fund of India, from which national development funds and budgetary allocations for economic reforms are appropriated.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003:** Statutory framework designed to ensure long-term inter-generational equity, institutionalize fiscal prudence, and stabilize national debt and deficits.
- **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:** Empowers the central bank to regulate monetary policy, maintain macroeconomic stability, manage forex reserves, and ensure banking system health.

Conclusion

India's robust growth narrative, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, fiscal discipline, and strategic reforms, positions the nation as an indispensable global engine of growth. Addressing geopolitical

risks related to energy and supply chains through self-reliance remains central to sustaining long-term economic stability.

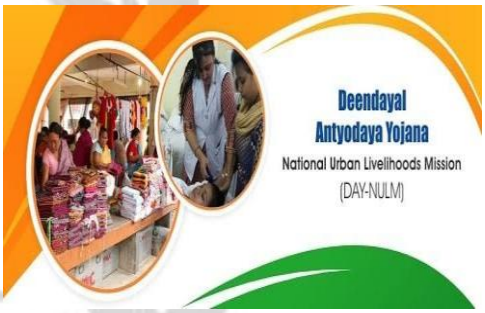
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Public policy formulation, institutional reforms, and international relations dynamics.
- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy):** Growth trajectories, inflation management, fiscal deficit control, banking health, CAD balance, and global supply chain vulnerability.

2. Funding Delays and Uncertainty Over Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

Key Highlights & Summary

- **States Demand Fund Release:** Five states—Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tripura—have urged the Centre to release pending funds for urban livelihoods to prevent disruption in grassroots social protection.
- **Impact on Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** DAY-NULM enabled the creation of over 10.02 lakh SHGs, benefiting nearly 1 crore urban poor women over the last decade through credit linkages, interest subventions, and skill training.



- **Transition and Scheme Limbo:** The scheme ran from 2014 to October 2024, followed by a pilot project—Deendayal Jan Aajeevika Yojana - Shehari (DJAY-S)—ending December 2025, leaving NULM 2.0 uncertain.
- **Committed Liabilities & Staff Salaries:** States report severe financial distress in covering committed interest subsidies for bank loans and disbursing salaries to mission personnel.
- **Disruption of Institutional Credit:** Non-release of funds threatens bank linkages, interest subvention mechanisms, and community support structures created over years.
- **Inter-Scheme Convergence:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) highlighted that SHG cadres are being leveraged across other schemes such as PMAY, Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT, and PM Surya Ghar.

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Essential Definitions

- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NULM:** A flagship Centrally Sponsored Scheme under MoHUA aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households by enabling access to self-employment and skilled wage opportunities.
- **Interest Subvention:** A concession on the interest rate provided by the government to lower the cost of bank loans for beneficiaries, ensuring financial inclusion.
- **Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage:** A financial model connecting informal affinity groups of urban/rural poor with commercial banks to build credit history and access micro-finance.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 39(e) & (f) (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Directs the State to secure economic security, protect workers, and offer opportunities for healthy development of citizens.

- **Article 243W (12th Schedule):** Envisages powers and responsibilities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) regarding urban poverty alleviation and socio-economic development.
- **Fiscal Federalism Principles:** Governs financial relations between the Centre and States regarding fund transfers for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) under Article 282.

Conclusion

Sustained financial backing and structural clarity regarding NULM 2.0 are essential to preserve the socio-economic empowerment gains of urban poor women. Streamlining fund disbursement and strengthening institutional convergence will protect grassroots livelihoods and secure urban poverty alleviation goals.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Issues and challenges pertaining to federal structure, scheme implementation, and welfare schemes for vulnerable sections.
- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy & Development):** Urbanization challenges, poverty alleviation mechanisms, financial inclusion, inclusive growth, and employment generation models.

3. Proposed Reforms in National Competitive Examinations and Systemic Integrity

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Task Force on Examination Reforms:** Nandan Nilekani, heading a high-powered six-member task force constituted in the wake of examination paper leaks, proposed structural technological solutions to overhaul public testing integrity.
- **Question Bank Model:** The panel suggested transitioning from static, pre-printed question papers to maintaining a massive bank of questions, generating test papers at the last minute to eliminate economic incentives for paper leaks.



- **Expansion of CBT Infrastructure:** The task force advocated expanding the national network of Computer-Based Testing (CBT) centers beyond the existing 150,000 locations to support secure digital evaluation.
- **Elimination of Leaks via Dynamic Generation:** Generating papers dynamically right before exam commencement ensures no single static paper exists beforehand, addressing the root cause of malpractices.
- **Potential AI Integration:** The task force chief highlighted the feasibility of leveraging Artificial Intelligence for real-time, spontaneous paper generation on exam day.
- **Systemic Overhaul Focus:** The reforms aim to fix systemic vulnerabilities through robust technology adoption rather than ad-hoc administrative measures.

Essential Definitions

- **Question Bank System:** A secure repository of validated assessment questions from which dynamic sets of exam papers are algorithmically assembled shortly before an examination.
- **Computer-Based Testing (CBT):** An assessment delivery mechanism where candidates complete tests online or via dedicated computer terminals under supervised digital protocols.

- **Systemic Exam Leak:** Security compromise occurring during the creation, printing, transport, or storage phase of paper-based examination material prior to test administration.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:** Enacted to prevent paper leaks and malpractices in central recruitment and entrance examinations through strict penal provisions and criminalizing organized syndicates.
- **National Testing Agency (NTA) Operational Mandate:** Formed under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as an autonomous body to conduct standardized entrance assessments across the nation.
- **Article 21 of the Constitution:** Guarantees the Right to Life and Personal Liberty, which includes the right to fair, meritocratic, and transparent competitive evaluation for students.

Conclusion

Adopting dynamic question banks alongside expanded computer-based testing offers a sustainable technological blueprint to eliminate paper leaks. Strengthening regulatory frameworks and upgrading digital infrastructure will restore trust and transparency in national competitive examinations.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance):** Issues relating to transparency, accountability, institutional reforms, public service delivery, and regulatory oversight in the education sector.
- **GS Paper III (Science & Technology):** Technological applications in governance, AI integration, cyber security, and digital infrastructure expansion.

4. India Rejects China's Objections to Standardised Naming in Union Territory of Ladakh

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Standardised Naming Drive:** The Ministry of Home Affairs, alongside the UT administration of Ladakh, identified and published standard names for 28 geographical places/features on official Survey of India maps.
- **Firm Rejection of Chinese Objections:** Ministry of External Affairs unequivocally rejected China's opposition, asserting that Union Territory of Ladakh is an integral, inalienable part of India.
- **Countering Cartographic Inventions:** New Delhi dismissed Chinese naming attempts as fictional "inventions", asserting that renaming does not alter ground sovereignty or established territorial facts.
- **Key Strategic Locations:** The 28 features encompass peaks, mountains, passes, glaciers, rivers, and critical friction points like Gogra and Hot Spring along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- **Reiteration on Article 370:** India firmly rejected Beijing's objections regarding the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir and creation of UT of Ladakh, upholding national constitutional sovereignty.
- **Public Awareness and Cartographic Accuracy:** Official designation aims to ensure standard geographical references, accurate public awareness, and formal mapping precision across administrative records.

Essential Definitions

- **Line of Actual Control (LAC):** A non-demarcated 3,488-kilometer conceptual border separating Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled regions across Western, Middle, and Eastern sectors.
- **Cartographic Assertiveness:** Strategic deployment of official cartography, standardized geographical naming, and topological mapping to consolidate territorial claims and legal sovereignty.
- **Survey of India (SoI):** The national survey and mapping organization under the Department of Science and Technology, responsible for publishing authoritative maps of national boundaries.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 1 of the Constitution:** Defines India as a Union of States and establishes its sovereign territorial limits, including Union Territories listed under First Schedule.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019:** Parliamentary statute that restructured the state into two Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh—under direct central administration.
- **Article 3 of the Constitution:** Grants Parliament exclusive legislative power to form new States or Union Territories and alter their boundaries, areas, or names.

Conclusion

India's firm response highlights its resolve to safeguard sovereign rights against external cartographic pressures. Standardizing geographical names strengthens domestic governance, administrative clarity, and strategic posture along the sensitive border regions.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance & International Relations):** India-China bilateral relations, border management disputes, sovereignty issues, and foreign policy responses.
- **GS Paper III (Internal Security & Geography):** Border area management, critical LAC friction points, strategic infrastructure, and official cartography.

5. First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting and Regional Security Cooperation

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Inaugural Ministerial Gathering:** India hosted the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with representation from all seven member nations.
- **Adoption of Delhi Declaration:** Member states adopted the landmark Delhi Declaration, approving pacts to enhance collective security against terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal financial flows.
- **Zero Tolerance for Safe Havens:** The conference emphasized a zero-tolerance approach toward terrorism, resolving to deny safe havens, recruitment bases, funding avenues, and operational shelters to terror networks across the region.
- **Five Key Priority Areas:** India outlined five vital sectors for regional action: drug control, counter-terrorism and legal cooperation, extradition of fugitive criminals, cyber-security investigations, and capacity building.

- **Operationalizing Disaster Resilience:** Member states were urged to actively participate in operationalizing the planned BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre at Jamnagar, Gujarat, reinforcing India's role as a first responder.
- **Integrated Regional Approach:** Member nations reaffirmed that national security is interconnected, requiring institutionalized intelligence sharing, mutual legal assistance, and coordinated law enforcement.

Essential Definitions

- **BIMSTEC:** The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, an interregional organization comprising seven Bay of Bengal littoral and adjacent nations: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT):** An agreement between nations to gather and exchange information, evidence, and judicial assistance to enforce public or criminal laws.
- **Extradition:** The formal legal process by which a jurisdiction surrenders an individual accused or convicted of a crime to another requesting jurisdiction for trial or sentencing.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking:** Provides the regional legal mechanism for information exchange, law enforcement coordination, and joint counter-terrorism actions.
- **BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters:** Establishes standardized frameworks for cross-border criminal investigations, asset forfeiture, and judicial cooperation.
- **Article 51(c) of the Constitution (Directive Principles):** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organized peoples with one another.

Conclusion

The inaugural BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting marks a decisive step toward transforming the Bay of Bengal region into a secure, interconnected economic zone. Institutionalizing legal cooperation, intelligence sharing, and counter-terror mechanisms safeguards regional stability and collective prosperity.

UPSC Relevance

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- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Regional groupings and agreements involving India, influence of BIMSTEC on Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.
- **GS Paper III (Internal Security):** Transnational organized crime, terrorism, cyber-threats, drug trafficking, and border management strategies.

6. US-Russia Strategic Accommodation (The "Other G2") and Implications for India

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Concept of the "Other G2":** Refers to a potential strategic accommodation or rapprochement between the United States and Russia, contrasting with the often-discussed US-China G2 axis.
- **Sanctions Easing and Energy Realpolitik:** Washington eased sanctions on Russian diesel imports to alleviate domestic inflation pressure, illustrating that transactionism and national interest drive global politics.

- **Three Lessons for Indian Diplomacy:** Great-power confrontation is not permanent; Russian foreign policy is guided by pragmatism rather than ideology; and European strategic stability directly impacts India's interests.
- **Reduction of Bilateral Friction:** A thaw in US-Russia relations could ease secondary sanction pressures on New Delhi regarding its procurement of Russian energy and defense hardware.
- **Shifting Moscow Dynamics:** Russia prioritizes direct engagement with major powers, meaning India must maintain realistic expectations regarding Moscow's strategic commitments.
- **Balancing European and Eurasian Interests:** India must actively engage with European security dynamics, as an American-Russian bargain along Europe's Eastern flank affects global economic and technological stability.

Essential Definitions

- **G2 (Group of Two):** A geopolitical concept describing an informal bilateral condominium or strategic understanding between two dominant global superpowers to manage international order.
- **Geopolitical Realism (Realpolitik):** A foreign policy framework grounded in practical, pragmatic considerations of national power and economic self-interest rather than moral or ideological stances.
- **Secondary Sanctions:** Economic penalties imposed by one nation on foreign individuals or third-party countries for doing business with a sanctioned entity or state.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51 of the Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy):** Mandates that the State shall endeavor to promote international peace and security, maintain just relations between nations, and foster respect for international law.
- **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA):** A US federal law authorizing secondary sanctions against countries engaging in significant transactions with Russian defense or intelligence sectors.
- **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Legally regulates India's import and export policies, enabling strategic adjustments during global economic or trade sanctions.

Conclusion

A prospective US-Russia strategic alignment underlines the fluid nature of international relations. India must adopt a pragmatic foreign policy that balances its Russian energy dependencies, strategic ties with the West, and growing security interests in Europe.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Impact of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, major bilateral groupings, and strategic autonomy.
- **GS Paper III (Economic Development & Energy Security):** Global energy supply chain disruptions, international trade sanctions, and macroeconomic stability.

7. Unpacking India's CSR Evolution: Transitioning from Compliance to Maximizing Impact

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Massive Capital Mobilization:** Over the past decade, India's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) legal mandate has mobilized 2.6 lakh crore, reaching an annual spend of $₹40,794$ crore in 2024-25 across 29,500 companies and 72,000 projects.
- **Geographical Disparity:** CSR capital remains heavily concentrated where corporate headquarters reside rather than where development deficits are acute, with four states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi) absorbing over $₹20,000$ crore.
- **Shift to Outcome-Based Accountability:** The next decade of CSR mandates moving beyond mere financial deployment tracking toward standardized outcome indicators and measuring actual impact on national indicators.
- **Consolidation Over Fragmentation:** Rather than scattered, isolated contributions, the framework urges inter-company collaboration and fund aggregation to drive systemic district-level interventions.
- **Leveraging Core Competencies:** CSR deployment should align with corporate managerial expertise and technical domain strengths to maximize the strategic value of each rupee spent.
- **Complementing Public Expenditure:** CSR funds are designed to act as a catalyst for private-sector innovation and sustainable development rather than replacing state welfare spending.

Essential Definitions



- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** A statutory governance mechanism mandating qualifying corporations to allocate a specific percentage of profits toward social, environmental, and developmental projects.
- **Development Finance Capital:** Private or public funds strategically deployed to address socio-economic vulnerabilities, infrastructure gaps, and sustainable development goals.
- **Outcome Indicators:** Quantitative and qualitative metrics used to evaluate the long-term effectiveness and structural change created by developmental projects, beyond mere financial expenditure.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013:** Mandates companies meeting specified financial thresholds (net worth $₹500$ crore, turnover $₹1,000$ crore, or net profit $₹5$ crore) to spend at least 2% of average net profits on CSR.
- **Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013:** Outlines permissible activities for CSR expenditure, including hunger eradication, education, healthcare, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 38 & Article 39):** Directs the State to promote public welfare, minimize inequalities in income and status, and ensure the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth.

Conclusion

India's statutory CSR framework has successfully established the world's largest pool of private-led development capital. Strategic aggregation, geographic rebalancing, and outcome-oriented evaluation will be essential to transform these financial flows into long-term structural development outcomes.

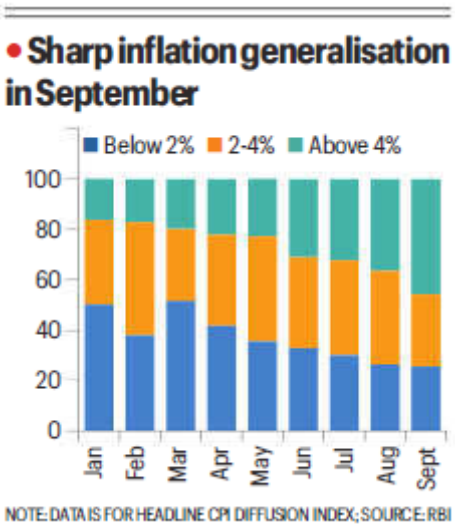
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Governance & Development Process):** Role of non-state actors, private sector participation in development, public policy evaluation, and social welfare delivery.
- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy & Inclusive Growth):** Corporate governance, resource mobilization, inclusive development, regional imbalances, and sustainable development goals.

8. Inflation Generalisation and Measurement Dynamics in India

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Surge in Retail Inflation:** Household Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation surged to 5.54% in September from 4.83% in August, driven by broadening price pressures.
- **Shift in RBI Stance:** The Reserve Bank of India recognized evidence of elevated inflation expectations and inflation generalisation, departing from its earlier view that price spikes were limited to localized supply shocks.
- **Understanding Inflation Generalisation:** Inflation generalisation occurs when price increases spread sustainably across the household consumption basket from volatile categories like food and fuel to core consumer goods and services.
- **Rising Breadth in CPI Basket:** Items registering inflation above the RBI target threshold of 4% increased significantly from 65 items in January to 129 items out of 358 items in the CPI basket by September.



- **Diffusion Indices and Price Momentum:** Economists utilize diffusion indices to account for item weightage in the CPI basket, assessing price momentum and tracking month-on-month shifts to gauge overall inflationary breadth.
- **Monetary Policy Implications:** Broadening price pressures increase the likelihood of rate hikes, as broader inflation generalisation requires policy rate adjustments to anchor long-term inflation expectations.

Essential Definitions

- **Inflation Generalisation:** The sustained spread of price rises beyond volatile sectors (like food and energy) to a broader range of goods and services within the household consumption basket.
- **Diffusion Index:** An economic metric measuring the proportion of individual components within an index (such as the CPI basket) that are rising, reflecting the breadth of price momentum.
- **Price Momentum:** The rate of change in prices from one consecutive month to another, helping economists differentiate short-term dynamics from base-effect variations.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 45ZA):** Statutory framework empowering the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, to determine the inflation target once every five years.
- **Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Framework:** Statutory mandate under the RBI Act setting the headline CPI target at 4\%$ with an operational tolerance band of 2% to 6%.
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** A six-member statutory committee constituted under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act to determine policy rates required to achieve the inflation target.

Conclusion

Tracking the generalisation of inflation is essential for monetary policy, as widespread price pressures threaten macroeconomic stability and real household income. Combining headline CPI monitoring with diffusion metrics enables central bankers to implement timely monetary adjustments to keep inflation anchored.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III (Indian Economy):** Issues related to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, inflation management, and monetary policy mechanisms.
- **GS Paper III (Macroeconomic Indicators):** CPI calculation, index weightages, base effect, and central bank tools for price stability.

9. Himalayan Flash Floods, Glacial Retreat, and Climate Vulnerability

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Nepal Flash Flood Incident:** A sudden surge of water, mud, and debris swept along Nepal's Budhi Gandaki river in Gorkha district, highlighting acute vulnerability across the Himalayan arc.
- **Mechanisms of Himalayan Hazards:** Flash floods in high-altitude terrain are driven by Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), rock-and-ice avalanches, or sudden releases of dammed water mobilising loose glacial sediment.
- **Amplifying Impact of Debris Slurry:** High-altitude erosion produces large amounts of loose rocks and sediments, which transform water flows into dense, highly destructive debris slurries capable of crushing infrastructure.



- **Climate Change Acceleration:** Global warming accelerates glacial retreat, unbinds permafrost and ice-stabilized slopes, and increases slope failure risks across Indian Himalayan states such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Parallel Indian Disasters:** The event mirrors past severe mountain disasters in India, including the 2013 Kedarnath floods and the 2021 Chamoli rock-and-ice avalanche.
- **Early Warning and Ground Sensors:** Experts recommend integrating satellite monitoring with ground-based early warning sensors to detect rapid water level changes and enable timely downstream evacuations.

Essential Definitions

- **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF):** A sudden, catastrophic release of impounded water from a glacial lake retained by unstable moraine or ice dams.
- **Debris Flow Slurry:** A dense, fast-moving fluid mixture of water, mud, loose sediment, boulders, and organic material created during high-energy mountain floods.
- **Permafrost Degradation:** The thawing of permanently frozen ground layers due to rising atmospheric temperatures, reducing slope stability in high-altitude alpine zones.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Institutional framework governing national, state, and district-level disaster risk reduction, mitigation, early warning systems, and emergency response capabilities.
- **Article 48A of the Constitution (Directive Principles):** Directs the State to protect and improve the natural environment, including mountain ecosystems, forests, and wildlife.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** Encompasses the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) to monitor climate impacts and assess glacial vulnerability across the Indian Himalayan Region.

Conclusion

Recurring flash floods in the Himalayas underline the urgent need for transboundary disaster monitoring and climate-resilient infrastructure planning. Deploying ground-based sensor networks and strengthening early warning systems will safeguard fragile ecosystems and human settlements.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I (Geography):** Geophysical phenomena, glacial landforms, climate change impacts on mountain ecosystems, and hazard vulnerability.
- **GS Paper III (Environment & Disaster Management):** Disaster risk reduction strategies, early warning infrastructure, climate change adaptation, and Himalayan sustainable development.

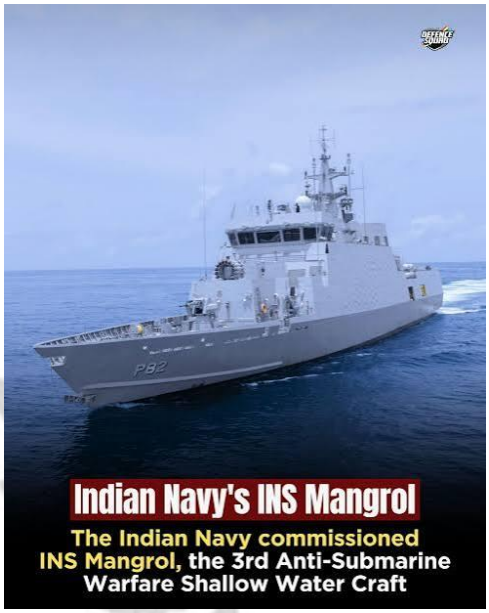
10. Commissioning of INS Mangrol and India's Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Commissioning of INS Mangrol:** The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mangrol at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, bolstering coastal defense and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations in littoral zones.
- **Indigenously Designed Mahe-Class:** INS Mangrol is the third of eight Mahe-class ASW Shallow-Water Crafts (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), featuring over 80% indigenous content.
- **Fleet Expansion Program:** A total of 16 ASW-SWCs are being constructed—8 Mahe-class ships by CSL and 8 Arnala-class ships by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- **Operational Capabilities:** Equipped with diesel engine-waterjet propulsion for reduced underwater noise, advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, search and rescue capabilities, and mine-laying facilities.
- **Addressing Coastal Capability Gaps:** Replaces aging Abhay-class corvettes to detect and track stealthy diesel-electric submarines near critical harbour approaches and offshore energy assets.

- **Strategic Maritime Defense:** Frees up larger frontline warships for deep-water oceanic operations while securing India's 7,516 km coastline, 12 major ports, and over 1,100 islands.

Essential Definitions



- **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW):** A branch of naval warfare that uses surface warships, aircraft, or submarines to analyze, locate, track, and neutralize hostile sub-surface threats.
- **Littoral Zone:** The shallow, near-shore marine environment close to coastlines and harbour approaches, requiring high manoeuvrability and low draught vessels for surveillance.
- **Waterjet Propulsion:** A marine propulsion system that draws water under the vessel into a pump and discharges it at high velocity, providing high manoeuvrability and reduced underwater acoustic signature.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 246 (List I - Union List, Entry 1 & 2):** Grants the Union Parliament exclusive power over national defense, naval forces, and maritime security administration.
- **Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) Mandate:** Apex body under the Ministry of Defence responsible for approving capital acquisitions and advancing the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision in defense manufacturing.
- **Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, EEZ and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976:** Statutory framework establishing India's sovereign rights over its internal waters, territorial sea, continental shelf, and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Conclusion

The induction of INS Mangrol marks a major milestone in India's quest for indigenous defense shipbuilding and coastal sovereignty. Developing specialized shallow-water anti-submarine platforms fortifies layered maritime security and deters sub-surface threats across the Indian Ocean Region.

UPSC Relevance

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- **GS Paper III (Indigenization of Technology & Security):** Indigenous defense equipment manufacturing, 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in shipbuilding, and military modernization.
- **GS Paper III (Internal Security & Border Management):** Maritime and coastal security architecture, protecting critical infrastructure, ports, and territorial waters.

11. Preventive Detention, Prohibitory Orders, and Fundamental Freedoms in India

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Mass Detentions and SC Intervention:** Following widespread police crackdowns on protesters in Delhi, the Supreme Court held an extraordinary hearing directing the Centre and Delhi Police to ensure free movement, prohibit unlawful detentions, and uphold fundamental freedoms subject to law and public order.

- **Distinction Between Detention and Prohibitory Orders:** Preventive detention involves detaining a person without trial to prevent future offenses, whereas Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) allows Executive Magistrates to issue temporary prohibitory orders to avert immediate public disorder or danger.
- **Evolution of Detention Frameworks:** Evolving from colonial instruments like the Rowlatt Act, post-independence India institutionalized preventive detention via the Preventive Detention Act (1950), MISA (1971), and currently the National Security Act (NSA), 1980.
- **Judicial Safeguards and Proportionality:** The Supreme Court has repeatedly held (e.g., *Babulal Parate*, *Ramlila Maidan*, *Shaik Nazneen*) that preventive detention and prohibitory orders are extraordinary powers to be exercised judiciously, not routinely.
- **Constitutional Primacy of the Golden Triangle:** In *Ameena Begum (2023)*, the apex court emphasized enforcing the "golden triangle" of Articles 14, 19, and 21 to protect individual liberty against arbitrary state action.
- **Communication of Grounds:** *Khudiram Das (1975)* established that detaining authorities must communicate the grounds of detention promptly to enable effective representation and limited judicial review.

Essential Definitions

- **Preventive Detention:** Detention of an individual without formal trial or court conviction, executed to prevent future actions detrimental to public order, state security, or defense.
- **Section 163 of BNSS:** The statutory successor to Section 144 CrPC, empowering Executive Magistrates to issue urgent prohibitory orders to prevent obstruction, nuisance, or disturbance of public tranquility.
- **Golden Triangle of the Constitution:** The interconnected constitutional protection formed by Articles 14 (Equality), 19 (Freedoms), and 21 (Life and Personal Liberty) that ensures procedure restricting liberty must be just, fair, and reasonable.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 22(4) & 22(5) of the Constitution:** Guarantees procedural safeguards, capping detention without Advisory Board approval at three months and mandating speedy communication of detention grounds along with the right to representation.
- **National Security Act (NSA), 1980:** Grants statutory power to Central/State governments to preventively detain individuals acting against state security, defense, or public order maintenance.
- **Article 32 of the Constitution:** Guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court via writs like *Habeas Corpus* to enforce fundamental rights against arbitrary detention.

Conclusion

Preventive detention and prohibitory orders represent extraordinary state powers designed to protect public order, but their routine deployment undermines democratic freedoms. Balancing national security with individual liberty requires strict adherence to constitutional safeguards, procedural fairness, and active judicial oversight.

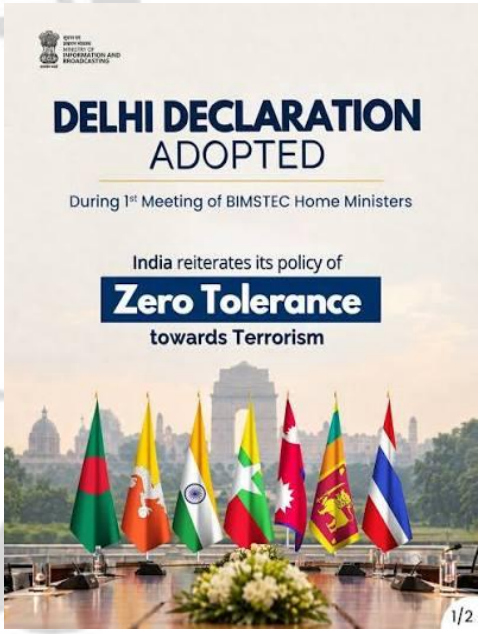
UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (Polity & Governance):** Fundamental Rights (Articles 14, 19, 21, 22), preventive detention laws, judicial review, executive power limitations, and civil liberties protection.
- **GS Paper II (Judiciaries & Governance):** Supreme Court jurisprudence on public order, procedural safeguards, and statutory provisions under the BNSS.

12. BIMSTEC Adopts 'Delhi Declaration' on Countering Terrorism and Regional Security

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Adoption of Delhi Declaration:** India hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, where member states adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' to counter radicalisation and violent extremism.
- **Mitigating Tech Misuse:** The declaration focuses on preventing the misuse of emerging technologies—such as encrypted communications, social media, drones, cryptocurrencies, and the dark web—for terror financing and recruitment.



- **Zero Tolerance & UNSC Compliance:** Member nations strongly condemned terrorism in all forms, committing to enforce UN Security Council sanctions, including the 1267 Sanctions Committee sanctions framework.
- **Five Key Cooperation Pillars:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah outlined critical priority areas: drug control, counter-terrorism, repatriation of fugitive criminals, cybersecurity investigations, and institutional capacity building.
- **Extradition and Intelligence Sharing:** The regional bloc resolved to eliminate safe havens, strengthen real-time intelligence exchange, and streamline extradition procedures for fugitive offenders across borders.
- **Focus on Cyber Slavery & Trafficking:** Highlighted human trafficking and "cyber slavery" as critical threats requiring immediate actionable intelligence sharing among law enforcement and border agencies.

Essential Definitions

- **BIMSTEC:** The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, a regional organization bridging South and Southeast Asia, comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- **UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee:** A United Nations Security Council committee tasked with overseeing target sanctions (asset freezes, travel bans, arms embargoes) against individuals and entities associated with Islamic State and Al-Qaeda.
- **Cyber Slavery:** The coercive practice where individuals are trafficked across borders and forced by criminal syndicates to execute online fraud, illegal gambling, and cybercrime schemes.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking:** Regional legal agreement establishing cross-border cooperation in intelligence sharing and law enforcement.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:** Primary Indian anti-terror law providing statutory power to designate individuals/organisations as terrorists and freeze assets in line with international obligations.
- **Article 51(c) of the Constitution (Directive Principles):** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another.

Conclusion

The adoption of the Delhi Declaration marks a major milestone in transforming BIMSTEC into a resilient security arrangement. Regional intelligence integration, robust counter-terror financing mechanisms, and joint cybersecurity efforts are critical to safeguarding the Bay of Bengal region.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II (International Relations):** Regional groupings like BIMSTEC, Neighborhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and international counter-terrorism frameworks.
- **GS Paper III (Internal Security):** Transnational organized crime, cyber security threats, money laundering, terror financing, and border management strategies.

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