

CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC CSE 2026



**DAILY CURRENT
AFFAIRS NOTES**

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2030 for 2036

- Exactly **two decades** after hosting its **maiden Commonwealth Games (CWG)**, India will welcome the **quadrennial extravaganza's centenary edition** in **2030**. The move is another unmistakable sign that **India wants to be seen as a sports destination of repute**.
- The choice of **Ahmedabad as the host city** is **strategic**, for India has submitted the **Letter of Intent** to hold the **2036 Olympics with Ahmedabad as the front-runner**.
- Once signifying the **imperial unity of the British empire**, the **CWG is struggling for relevance in the post-colonial world**. Successive host cities have dropped out citing rising costs — **Birmingham replaced Durban** in **2022**. **Glasgow** has come to the rescue for **2026** after the **Australian State of Victoria withdrew**.
- Ahmedabad has stepped in for the **Canadian province of Alberta**.
- When India **conducted the Games in 2010**, there were **allegations of large-scale corruption and incompetence**.
- The CWG is seen as an important **soft-power medium**. India has **world-class heroes** such as **double-Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** to showcase.
- **Glasgow 2026** will feature just **10 disciplines**. Sports such as **badminton, hockey, shooting and cricket** have been **excised**. Very few sports match **international standards**, as nations like the **United States and China** are **not part of the Commonwealth**.
- **India has won 61, 66, 64, 101 medals** in the **last four CWG editions**. In subsequent **Olympics**, India has secured only **six, seven, two and six medals**, respectively. The **financial outlay for the CWG** should be **kept in mind**.

AIDS and TB fight — Tamil Nadu shows the way again

- On **World AIDS Day (December 1)**, **Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)** caused by the **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)** was devastating a whole generation of **young adults** in **southern and eastern African nations** in the **mid-1980s**.
- The **Government of India** launched the **National AIDS Control Project** in **1992** with a **soft loan of \$84 million** from the **World Bank**. Every **State government** set up an **AIDS Cell** in the respective **medical directorates**.
- **Fund flow** through the **Central and State government machinery** was **very slow**. A solution was found in **1994** by **Tamil Nadu**.
 - The **State AIDS Cell** was converted into a **Registered Society** named the **Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TNSACS)** under the **Societies Registration Act**. This facilitated a **direct fund flow** to **TNSACS** with a fair degree of **autonomy in implementation**.
 - The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** mandated the **Tamil Nadu model** for all the **States** in the **Second National AIDS Control Project (1997–2002)**.
 - Every **State** converted its **AIDS cell** into an **AIDS Control Society** and launched **vigorous awareness campaigns**. India's **adult HIV prevalence rate** came down from **0.54% in 2000** to **0.22% now**.
- The **2025 Global TB Report** of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** shows **25% of the global TB burden (36 million)** is in **India**. **7.5% of the global total number of people living with HIV (40 million)** are in **India**.
- **Tuberculosis (TB)** is the most common **opportunistic infection** in **HIV-infected people**, accounting for **25% of AIDS deaths** in **India**.
- India has **25% of the global total number of people infected with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)**.
- The **global target date for elimination of TB is 2030**. India set a target of achieving **TB elimination by 2025**, five years ahead of the **global target date**.
- Though the **2025 target has not been achieved**, the **pace of decline in new TB cases** is **faster in India**.
- The **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)** supports the **treatment of TB patients** and **community and corporate social responsibility programmes**.
- **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan** account for **56% of total TB infections** reported in **India during 2024**.
- **Tamil Nadu** has become the **first State** to integrate a model that **predicts the possibility of TB deaths** with an existing **State-wide screening application** at **diagnosis**.
- The model developed by the **Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE)** will help in **bringing down the TB mortality rate**.
- **Screening with rapid test kits** is the **first step**, followed by **reporting, starting treatment, and nutrition support**.

The Chandigarh question

- After a **political furore**, the **Central government** has backed away from introducing a **Bill** to include the **Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh** under the ambit of **Article 240 of the Constitution**.

- **Article 240** empowers the **President** to make **regulations** for the **peace, progress, and good governance** of certain **UTs** that do not have their own legislatures.
- Government wanted “to **align Chandigarh** with other **Union Territories without legislatures**”. Such UTs include Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Puducherry.
- The **claim over Chandigarh** — the **joint capital of Punjab and Haryana** — has been a **sensitive and emotive issue** since the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966.
- Punjab Governor serves as the **Administrator of Chandigarh**. Punjab has been asking for the **handing over of Chandigarh**.
- The **Agreement of 1970** stated that the **capital project area of Chandigarh** “would, as a whole, go to Punjab”.
- This was a **clear commitment from the Central government**.
- In 1985, the Rajiv-Longowal Accord reaffirmed that **Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab**.

Judgments must not be tossed out after their authors retire

- Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court said **judgments are not written in sand, but in ink**. Judgments should not be “**tossed out**” by subsequent Benches once the **judges who authored them have retired**.
- The remarks of the **lone woman judge in the Supreme Court** follow recent overruling of judgments by subsequent Benches. One case in point is the recent overturning of the Vanashakti judgment. The **Vanashakti judgment** had stopped the practice of **ex post facto environmental clearances**.
- **Political insularity** was critical to **judicial independence**. **Judicial independence** is ultimately **conviction, courage and independence of individual judges** who decide matters before a **court of law**.

Software upgrade done on all operational A320 family aircraft: aviation regulator

- The **aviation regulator DGCA** said **Indian carriers** have completed **software upgrades** of a serviceable Elevator Aileron Computer (ELAC) on **323 operational Airbus A320 family planes**.
- The upgrades were done to address a **potential issue related to flight controls**.
- **Airbus** said **intense solar radiation** might **corrupt data critical to flight controls**.

Centre's citizenship scrutiny power is 'limited', EC says

- The **Election Commission (EC)** dismissed arguments raised in the **special intensive revision (SIR)** case by the **Opposition parties** that only the **Union government** had **exclusive authority to scrutinise citizenship**.
- The EC said the Centre's power was “limited” to inquiring into the **circumstances in which Indian citizens voluntarily acquired foreign citizenship**.
- Commission referred to Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which deals with the **termination of citizenship** in cases of **voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship**.
- EC argued that it is only for this **limited purpose** that **exclusive jurisdiction is vested in Centre**, and every other aspect related to citizenship can be inquired into by other authorities.
- **Indian citizenship** is one of the **constitutional preconditions under Article 326** for **entry into the voter list**.
- The Commission emphasised that the **SIR exercises** was not meant to determine the status of citizenship.
- The Commission reiterated that its power to **scrutinise citizenship** flowed directly from Article 324, which empowers it to **supervise and control the conduct of elections**.
- **No parliamentary law** could oust the **EC's jurisdiction**, and even the **authority of Parliament** to make laws on elections under Article 327 must align with the **commission's plenary powers**.
- The Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1950, through **Sections 16 and 19**, requires that voters must be **Indian citizens**. **Section 16** disqualifies **non-citizens** from being included in the **electoral roll**.
- Electors must be “ordinarily resident” in a **constituency** to be registered.
- An **SIR**, conducted under Section 21(3) of ROPA, had to be **“intense”** and was triggered by **“felt necessities”**.
- EC argued that **guidelines issued with respect to the SIR** are **constitutional** and aimed at maintaining the **purity of the electoral rolls**, a **prerequisite for free and fair elections**, which is a **Basic Feature of the Constitution**.
- Electors were required only to sign their pre-filled forms delivered at their homes by **booth-level officers**.

New finds highlight Great Nicobar project site's biodiversity

- A **new species of snake** with **only four records till date** and a **potentially new species of bird** photographed **only thrice in over a decade** have been found at the site of the Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project.
- The two are among the **nearly 40 new species** reported from here since **2021**. These include **two species of frogs, four crabs, two geckos**, and a number of **insects** including **flies, moths and beetles**.
- The new wolf snake has been named Lycodon irwini after **Australian zookeeper Steve Irwin**.

- Given the snake's **rarity**, **sharply restricted range**, and **potential threats**, it has been recommended to be classified as "**Endangered**" under the IUCN Red List criteria.
- **Great Nicobar Island** is reported to have **650 species of plants** and over **1,800 species of fauna**.
- The region exhibits about **24% endemism** among some **faunal groups**.

Modi urges people to take part in Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- **PM Modi** described **Tamil** as the **pride of India**. He urged people to participate in the **upcoming Kashi Tamil Sangamam** to strengthen the spirit of "**Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat (One India, great India)**".
- The **fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam**, organised on the theme "**Learn Tamil-Tamil Karkalam**", commences at **Namo Ghat in Kashi**.
- The country set a **historic record** with **food grain production of 357 million tonnes, an increase of 100 million tonnes in 10 years**.
- He inaugurated the **world's largest LEAP engine maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility in Hyderabad**. The LEAP MRO facility marks a **significant step** in augmenting **India's aircraft maintenance and repair capability**.
- The **indigenously designed INS Mahe** was inducted into the **Navy**. People in **Puducherry** and the **Malabar Coast** were delighted by the **name of INS Mahe**. Many in **Kerala** and **Tamil Nadu** noted that the **warship's crest** resembles the **traditional flexible sword of Urumi and Kalaripayattu**.
- He mentioned a challenge organised by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to fly drones in **conditions similar to Mars**, where **GPS navigation is not possible**.
- The "**Wed in India**" **campaign** had picked up in **winter**.
- On **Navy-related tourism**, he mentioned museums in **Diu (Gujarat)**, **Goa**, **INS Dronacharya (Fort Kochi)**, **Samudrika Naval Marine Museum in Srivijayapuram (formerly Port Blair)**, **Rabindranath Tagore Beach in Karwar**, and **Visakhapatnam**.