

CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC CSE 2026



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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 Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMA)** 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**.