

CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC CSE 2026



**DAILY CURRENT
AFFAIRS NOTES**

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Former CJ: opinion given in Presidential Reference does not overrule a judgment

- He explained that an **opinion given in a Presidential Reference** does **not overrule a judgment** but only **clarifies the law**. He said, **“In a Presidential Reference, we cannot overrule a judgment, but we can lay down the law.”**
- While laying down the law, the Court can **observe that the law laid down in a particular manner in a judgment is not correct**.

No plan to bring Bill on Chandigarh, says Centre

- The Union Home Ministry said the Centre has **no intention of introducing a Constitution Amendment Bill** to bring **Chandigarh under Article 240** in the upcoming Parliament session.
- The proposal would have paved the way for the appointment of an **independent administrator in Chandigarh**, bringing the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana under the **direct control of the Ministry**.
- The claim over **Chandigarh** has been a **sensitive political issue** since the **Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966**.

The Chandigarh question

The Centre hurried to issue a clarification on a Bill that aims to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures

- On November 21, the Lok Sabha Bulletin listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 among **10 Bills** for the Winter Session
- Chandigarh has been a **sensitive issue** since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966. Currently, the Governor of Punjab serves as its Administrator
- **With protests in Punjab, the Ministry issued a clarification**
- Proposal is still under consideration, **no final decision yet**
- It does **not seek to alter** Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure
- **No Bill will be introduced** in the upcoming Winter Session

The future of health lies in harmony

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** reports that **around 90% of WHO member-states** have reported using **traditional medicine**.
- For billions of people, traditional medicine remains the **first line of care**, especially in **low- and middle-income nations** due to accessibility and affordability.
- Traditional medicine also supports **biodiversity, nutrition, food security, and livelihoods**, reflecting **integrative health**. Market analysts estimate **India's AYUSH sector at \$43.4 billion**.
- The **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC)** serves as a **knowledge hub** for evidence-based collaboration and innovation. It focuses on **evidence and learning, data and analytics, sustainability, and equity** to optimise traditional medicine's role in **global health and sustainable development**.
- GTMC upholds respect for **local heritages, resources, and rights**. The Centre is located in Jamnagar, Gujarat, established with foundational support from the **Government of India**.
- Under the Prime Minister's emphasis on **evidence-based research**, initiatives include a **dedicated AYUSH department at BIS**. India has developed **global standards in AYUSH systems through ISO/TC 249/SC 2**, enabling wider global acceptance.
- Recognition of traditional medicine advanced in **2023** with the **first WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, alongside the G-20 Health Ministerial Meeting.
- The **Gujarat Declaration** adopted at the Summit called for **biodiversity protection, fair benefit-sharing, digital innovation, and equitable access** to traditional health knowledge.
- WHO and the Government of India signed an **MoU to co-host the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi (December 2025)**.
- The theme of the summit is **“Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being”**.
- The summit will mobilise multi-stakeholder action supporting **WHO's 10-year Global Traditional Medicine Strategy (2025–34)** adopted at the **78th World Health Assembly**.

How can State PSCs be reformed?

- The **2025 National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions (PSCs)** is being hosted by the **Telangana State PSC**. State PSC recruitment exams continue to face **controversies, litigation, delays**, and a growing **trust deficit** due to structural and procedural lapses.

History of PSCs

- Originated from India's freedom struggle and the demand for **merit-based civil services**.

- **Montagu-Chelmsford Report** recommended a politically insulated Public Service body.
- First **Public Service Commission (1926)** established at the Union level.
- **Government of India Act, 1935** mandated PSCs for provinces.
- Constitution retained these provisions, creating **UPSC** and **State PSCs**.

Differences Between UPSC and State PSCs

Points of Differences	UPSC	State PSCs
Appointment & Structure	Members appointed on merit, experienced, apolitical ; usually 55+	Appointments often influenced by politics ; no minimum age/qualification norms
Representation	Ensures national & zonal diversity	Lacks uniform national representation standards
Institutional Capacity	Large, planned , well-funded manpower system	Limited, irregular , financially constrained
Dedicated Ministry	Has Ministry of Personnel (1985) for personnel policy	Most States do not have a dedicated Personnel Ministry
Vacancy Notification	Regular , systematic → timely exams	Irregular , delayed → unpredictable exams
Syllabus Revision	Regular expert committees	Syllabus rarely revised; limited expert pool
Question Setting	Access to best national talent	Restricted to State-level academics
Moderation Mechanism	Strong inter-se moderation	Weak moderation → errors, inconsistencies
Reservation Handling	Efficient with central reservation norms	Complex vertical + horizontal + zonal quotas → heavy litigation
Transparency & Grievance Handling	Quick corrective action, strong credibility	Frequent controversies , declining credibility

What Can Be Done?

- 1. Strengthen Manpower Planning & Create a Personnel Ministry:** Establish a **dedicated Ministry of Personnel** in States. Prepare a **five-year recruitment roadmap** for regular exam cycles.
- 2. Amend Constitutional Provisions for PSC Membership:** Fix **minimum age: 55, maximum age: 65**. Set clear **qualification criteria: Official members** → must have served as **State Secretary** or equivalent, **Non-official members** → **10 years' experience** in recognised professions (law, medicine, engineering, etc.).
- 3. Reform Syllabus & Examination Format:** Periodically revise syllabus aligned with **UPSC standards**. Use **technology + human oversight** for accurate translation.

PM calls for global compact on AI to prevent misuse

- PM called for a **global compact** to prevent the **misuse of artificial intelligence (AI)**. He urged that **critical technologies** must be **“human-centric”** rather than **“finance-centric”**.
- Addressing the third session of the **G-20 Summit**, he spoke on **critical minerals, decent work, and AI**.
- He said technology applications should be **“global” not “national”**, and based on **open source** rather than exclusive models. He said this vision has been integrated into **India’s technology ecosystem**, yielding benefits in **space, AI, and digital payments**.
- He called for a **global compact on AI** based on **human oversight, safety-by-design, transparency, and strict restrictions** on AI use in **deepfakes, crime, and terror activities**.
- He said the world must shift from **“jobs of today” to “capabilities of tomorrow”** in the age of AI.
- Under the **India-AI Mission**, India is building **accessible high-performance computing capacity** so AI benefits reach everyone. He announced that India will host the **AI Impact Summit in February 2026** with the theme **“Sarvajanam Hitaya, Sarvajanam Sukhaya”** (welfare and happiness for all).

‘Consensus on most recommendations of Assam Accord panel’

- The Assam government and the **All Assam Students' Union (AASU)** have reached a **consensus on "most recommendations"** of a panel to implement **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord (1985)**.
- **Clause 6** of the peace deal promised **constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards** to protect, preserve, and promote the **cultural, social, and linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people**.
- **Union Home Ministry** appointed a **high-level panel in 2020** to suggest ways to implement Clause 6.
- The panel was headed by **Biplab Kumar Sarma**.

COP30 stresses 'adaptation' as path to fossil fuel-free world

- The deliberations at **COP30**, which concluded in Brazil, underlined that countries agreed on **transitioning away from fossil fuels** but emphasised **adaptation to climate change** over defining fossil fuel phase-out road maps.
- The consensus text, called the **Mutirão (coming together) agreement**, establishes a **two-year "work programme" on climate finance**.
- Countries called for efforts to **"at least triple" adaptation finance by 2035**.
- They agreed to a **systematic dialogue** with UN trade forums such as the **International Trade Centre, UNCTAD**, and the **WTO** on ensuring climate measures do not impede the **trade and growth of developing countries**.
- **Climate finance** refers to money that must be disbursed by **developed countries to developing ones**.
- COPs aim to deliver climate finance evenly for **mitigation** (avoiding fossil fuel projects, funding renewable energy) and **adaptation** (resilient infrastructure, agriculture, etc.).
- The **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)** refers to the agreement at **COP29, Baku** for developed countries to mobilise **\$300 billion annually by 2035** and work towards expanding it to **\$1.3 trillion annually** from all sources.
- India expressed **"satisfaction with major outcomes"** of COP30 such as the **Just Transition Mechanism (JTM)** and for allowing space to discuss **Unilateral Trade-restrictive Climate Measures**. The **JTM** refers to a process where labour systems adapt to a future away from fossil fuels in a way that **promotes justice and equity**.
- The **Mutirão agreement** has **no mention of fossil fuels** or a road map to end their use.
- COP President's commitment to creating **two road maps** — one on halting and reversing **deforestation**, and another on **transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner** — is viewed as a placatory measure towards the EU and countries demanding an end to fossil fuels.

State Forest Departments across India have no record of African grey parrot trade, reveal RTI responses

- There are **no registered breeders or authorised pet shops** to sell **African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*)** in India. The bird remains **extensively available in pet markets**, even though **no breeder has registered** with State Forest Departments.
- The African grey parrot is listed under **Appendix I of CITES**, requiring **special permits**, including individual CITES registration and import certificates, for domestic and international trade. Extensive capture for the **international pet trade** has **decimated populations** in their home ranges in parts of **Central Africa**.
- The species is listed as **'Endangered'** by the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- To breed **CITES Appendix I species**, a **valid breeding licence** is required under the **Breeders of Species Licence Rules, 2023**. Applicants must hold a **CITES import permit**, a **DGFT import licence number**, and a **no-objection certificate** from the Chief Wildlife Warden before applying for a breeding licence.
- It is **mandatory for State Forest Departments to maintain records** of exotic species. Trade in exotic species is **on the rise**, and maintaining registries is crucial as these species pose **biohazards**, including risks of **zoonotic diseases** and becoming **invasive species**.

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