



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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## Art & Culture

### Government seeks to relaunch National Manuscript Mission, set up autonomous body

#### Why in News?

Presently, NMM is a part of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts. The new body, likely to be named the National Manuscripts Authority, will be an autonomous entity under the Ministry.

#### Overview

The Indian government is initiating a revival and relaunch of the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), with a proposal to establish an independent body tentatively named the National Manuscripts Authority. Currently a division within the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), this prospective autonomous entity would operate under the Ministry of Culture, aiming to enhance the preservation, accessibility, and intellectual property protection of India's vast manuscript heritage.

Objectives of the National Manuscript Mission (NMM)

Objective	Details
<b>Preservation of Manuscripts</b>	Systematic preservation, documentation, and digitization of India's manuscripts.
<b>Digitization and Accessibility</b>	Increase digital access to manuscripts while addressing data mismatches and incomplete metadata.
<b>Encouragement for Private Owners</b>	Incentivize private owners (who hold around 80% of manuscripts) for public access through financial aid and registration policies.
<b>Cultural and Legal Safeguards</b>	Establish IPR and legal frameworks to protect manuscripts from being sold outside India and ensure preservation of lesser-known scripts.
<b>International Collaboration</b>	Setting up chairs at international universities to foster cross-cultural exchange and research collaboration on Indian manuscripts.

#### Future Developments in NMM

- 1. Revamping Organizational Structure :** The proposed transition to the National Manuscripts Authority as an autonomous body aims to streamline management and operations for greater flexibility and responsiveness.
- 2. Enhancing Digital Accessibility :** Since NMM's inception in 2003, a significant number of manuscripts have been documented, but access remains limited due to policy and metadata inconsistencies. Currently, 70,000 manuscripts are accessible, and efforts are underway to correct data mismatches manually.
- 3. Engagement of Private Owners :** Given that 80% of manuscripts are privately owned, the government aims to establish incentives and policies to encourage digitization and public access, along with financial aid for preservation efforts.
- 4. Preventive Conservation Efforts :** To date, conservation of 9 crore folios has been undertaken, reflecting NMM's commitment to preserving India's manuscript heritage. The new entity will aim to further expand these efforts.
- 5. Focus on Lesser-Known Scripts :** Beyond the commonly used Brahmi script, the mission aims to protect manuscripts in lesser-known scripts, promoting diversity in preservation and scholarly research.

#### Conclusion

The relaunch of the National Manuscript Mission as the National Manuscripts Authority will enhance the preservation, accessibility, and protection of India's rich manuscript heritage through improved management and support.

**Question :** Examine the role of intellectual property rights in the preservation of historical manuscripts and cultural artefacts.

**Source :** [The Hindu](#)



## Polity

### Sharpen the anti-defection law, strengthen democracy

#### Why in News?

The anti-defection law has played a crucial role in political stability, but there are gaps which need to be addressed to make it more effective and impartial

#### Introduction

The Anti-Defection Law, enacted through the 52nd Amendment of the Constitution (1985), was designed to counteract political instability caused by frequent defections.

Despite significant improvements, loopholes and challenges have emerged over time, necessitating reforms to enhance its effectiveness.

**Anti-Defection Law** : Prevents elected representatives in India from defecting to another party to promote political stability and party loyalty.

#### Historical Background

Feature	Description
<b>Origin</b>	Rooted in India's post-independence political instability, where defection often led to government collapses, most notably in the "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" incident.
<b>Legislative Basis</b>	Introduced through the 52nd Amendment, adding the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution.
<b>Why this law has been introduced?</b>	Curbing defection by disqualifying members who switch parties or disobey whips in key votes, like no-confidence motions.
<b>Amendment</b>	91st Amendment (2003): Raised the threshold for permissible party splits to two-thirds of members to prevent small-scale defections.

#### Problems with the Law

- Delay in Decision-making:** The law does not mandate a timeline for Speakers to decide defection cases, often causing delays.
- Discretionary Power of the Speaker:** The Speaker's role in defection cases has led to partisan interpretations, with little accountability.

- 3. Transparency in Whip Issuance:** Party whips, though essential, lack standardised communication methods, creating confusion in defection cases.

#### Proposed Amendments

- 1. Timely Decisions:** Introducing a fixed four-week deadline for Speakers to make decisions on defection cases. If not decided, defectors could face automatic disqualification.
- 2. Transparent Whip Communication:** A standardised framework (such as newspaper announcements or electronic notifications) for issuing whips to prevent disputes.
- 3. Independent Tribunal:** Based on the Supreme Court's recommendations, considering an independent tribunal for defection cases to ensure impartiality.

#### Reform Recommendations

Past reports highlight the need for reforms:

- 1. Dinesh Goswami Committee Report (1990)** – Suggested guidelines on transparency and timelines.
- 2. 170th Law Commission Report (1999)** – Recommended reducing the discretionary powers of Speakers.
- 3. 255th Law Commission Report (2015)** – Proposed re-evaluation of the Speaker's role.

#### Implications for Democracy

Reforming the anti-defection law can:

- Enhance political stability.
- Uphold the integrity of the electoral mandate.
- Prevent misuse of power by restricting arbitrary decisions.

#### Way Forward

To strengthen democracy, the Anti-Defection Law should be reformed by ensuring timely decisions, enhancing transparency in whip communication, and establishing an independent tribunal for impartial adjudication.

**Question :** Analyse the effectiveness of India's Anti-Defection Law in maintaining political stability and discuss potential reforms to address its limitations.

**Source :** [The Hindu](#)



## The right to die with dignity — SC rulings and what the law says in India

### Why in News?

What are the laws on withholding and withdrawing life support in terminally ill patients? Does this mean giving up on the patient, and are doctors expected to decide whether someone lives or dies?

### Overview

The right to die with dignity has gained attention in India, especially after Supreme Court rulings in 2018 and 2023 recognizing it under Article 21. The Ministry of Health's draft guidelines seek to operationalize these rulings for terminally ill patients.

### Components of the Legal Framework

Term	Definition
<b>Withholding/Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Treatment</b>	Discontinuing medical interventions, such as ventilators and feeding tubes, when they no longer benefit the patient or prolong suffering.
<b>Euthanasia</b>	The intentional killing of a terminally ill patient for their benefit; in India, this concept is often misunderstood and conflated with passive euthanasia.
<b>Passive Euthanasia</b>	Commonly misinterpreted as withholding treatment; involves allowing a terminal condition to take its natural course while providing palliative care.
<b>Living Will</b>	A legal document wherein individuals specify their medical treatment preferences in case they lose decision-making capacity.

### Recent Guidelines

The draft guidelines released by the Ministry delineate processes for hospitals to follow Formation of Medical Boards

- **Primary Medical Board:** Comprised of the treating physician and two subject-matter experts to assess the patient's condition and recommend treatment decisions.
- **Secondary Medical Board:** Reviews the recommendations of the Primary Board, ensuring checks and balances in the

decision-making process.

### Process for Withholding/Withdrawing Treatment

- **Assessment by Primary Medical Board:** The patient's condition is evaluated, and treatment recommendations are made.
- **Review by Secondary Medical Board:** An independent review to validate the Primary Board's decision.
- **Consent from Surrogates:** Approval from appointed surrogates or family members is mandatory.
- **Notification:** The hospital must inform the local judicial magistrate about the decision.

### Ethical Considerations

- Withholding treatment does not equate to abandoning the patient; it involves recognizing when further interventions are futile and prioritizing comfort care.
- **Shared Decision-Making:** The process requires collaboration between healthcare providers and family members, promoting autonomy and legal clarity.

### Importance of Understanding the Right to Die with Dignity

- **Empowerment:** It empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their end-of-life care.
- **Clarity for Medical Practitioners:** Establishing guidelines reduces ambiguity and aids doctors in making ethical decisions aligned with patients' wishes.

### Conclusion

The right to die with dignity, as interpreted through recent Supreme Court rulings and draft guidelines, emphasises the need for a structured approach to end-of-life care in India. It calls for comprehensive understanding and implementation to ensure that terminally ill patients can choose a dignified exit from life without unnecessary suffering.

**Question :** Discuss the legal and ethical implications of the Supreme Court's recognition of the right to die with dignity in India. How do the recent guidelines contribute to this framework?

**Source :** [The Indian Express](#)



## International Relation

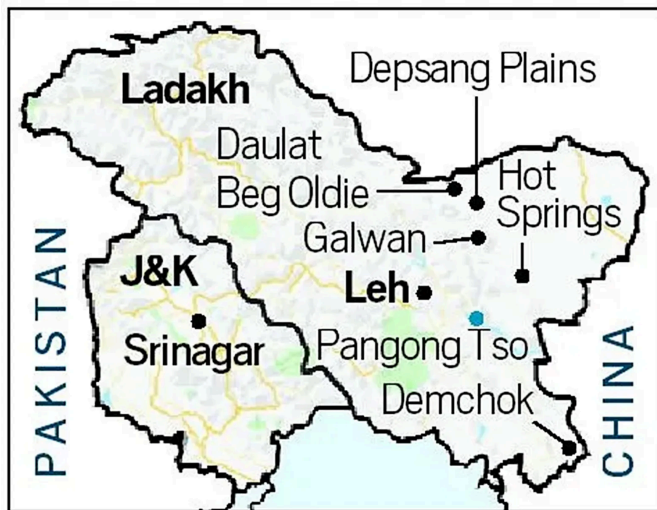
### Disengagement starts at two points along LAC in Ladakh, likely to be completed month-end

#### Why in News?

Agreement on patrolling rights in Depsang Plains, Demchok: Troops of both sides will revert to pre-April 2020 positions

#### Introduction

The ongoing military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh has seen recent developments concerning the disengagement of troops at two key friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This process marks a significant step toward restoring bilateral relations and normalizing patrolling rights in the affected areas.



#### Background

- **Historical Context:** The standoff began in 2020 following Chinese incursions into Indian territory, leading to heightened military presence and infrastructure development on both sides.
- **Previous Agreements:** Earlier disengagements occurred at other friction points, including Galwan Valley and Hot Springs, but Depsang and Demchok had remained contentious.

#### Disengagement Process

- **Troop Withdrawal:** Troops from both nations will retreat to their pre-2020 positions.
- **Structure Dismantling:** Removal of temporary facilities established during the standoff.
- **Patrolling Resumption:** Both sides will recommence patrols, adhering to the established protocols prior to April 2020.

#### Strategic Implications

- **Confidence-Building Measures:** The agreement is intended to build trust and reduce the chances of face-offs.
- **Bilateral Engagement:** The progress sets the stage for high-level discussions between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS Summit.
- **Long-Term Goals:** The focus is on re-establishing peace and tranquillity along the LAC, a priority emphasized by both leaders.

#### Conclusion

The disengagement agreement represents a crucial step toward restoring stability in a region marked by tensions. The effective implementation of this agreement could pave the way for improved diplomatic relations between India and China, crucial for regional security.

**Question :** Discuss the significance of the recent India-China disengagement agreement along the LAC. What are the implications for regional stability?

**Source :** [The Indian Express](#)



## Science

### ISRO-DBT ink deal to conduct biotechnology experiments in space station

#### Why in News?

Some of the experiments being mooted include how weightlessness can influence muscle loss on those in space, what kind of algae may be suitable as nutrients or to preserve food for longer

#### Overview

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have entered into a strategic partnership to conduct biotechnology experiments onboard the upcoming Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).

Set to commence between 2028 and 2035, BAS will be India's first fully indigenous space station, facilitating advanced research in space biotechnology, bio-manufacturing, and human health.

#### Objectives of the ISRO-DBT Collaboration

Objective	Details
<b>Human Health and Muscle Research</b>	Study the effects of weightlessness on muscle degeneration in astronauts.
<b>Nutritional Algae Cultivation</b>	Identify algae species that could serve as a nutrient source or preserve food for extended missions.
<b>Biological Waste Management</b>	Develop bio-based technologies for waste management in space, promoting a closed-loop ecosystem.
<b>Bio-manufacturing</b>	Research potential applications of space-grown algae for jet fuel and pharmaceuticals, contributing to bio-economy goals.
<b>Space Bio-manufacturing Sector</b>	Facilitate India's entry into space-based bio-manufacturing under the BIOE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) policy initiative.

#### Milestones and Timeline

Event	Expected Timeline	Details
<b>Gaganyaan Mission (Uncrewed)</b>	2025-2026	Three uncrewed test flights with potential for testing biotechnology experiments.
<b>Gaganyaan Mission (Crewed)</b>	2025-2026	India's first human spaceflight with potential for conducting select bio-experiments.
<b>Bharatiya Antariksh Station</b>	2028-2035	India's indigenous space station dedicated to various scientific and biotech research.

#### Importance of the ISRO-DBT Partnership

- The collaboration between ISRO and DBT underlines India's aim to make advancements in space-based biotechnology.
- It reflects the potential of space research to drive innovations in areas like regenerative medicine, biotherapeutics, and waste management technologies, with long-term applications back on Earth.

#### Additional Facts

- BIOE3 Initiative:** Aims to foster bio-manufacturing for economic, environmental, and employment growth in India.
- Bio-economy Projections:** DBT anticipates India's bio-economy to reach \$300 billion by 2030.
- Space-Biotechnology Innovations:** Countries like the U.S. and China have been investing in space biotech to address health and sustainability challenges in long-duration space missions.

**Question :** Discuss the significance of the ISRO-DBT collaboration in the context of India's indigenous space station, Bharatiya Antariksh Station.



Source : [The Hindu](#)

## Economy

### 84.8 lakh workers registered under MGNREGS 'deleted', finds report

#### Why in News?

An analysis by Lib Tech shows that the net deletion of workers between April to September is 39.3 lakh. While 84.8 lakh workers were deleted from the programme, 45.4 lakh new workers were added.

**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** is a key social welfare initiative in India.

**Enacted in 2005**, MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment per year to rural households willing to do unskilled labor, enhancing livelihood security and rural infrastructure.

#### Objectives

- **Employment:** Reduces rural poverty.
- **Rural Development:** Builds assets like water conservation, rural infrastructure.
- **Social Inclusion:** Benefits vulnerable groups (SCs, STs, women).

#### Features

- **Legal Right to Work:** Provides minimum wages and wage delays compensation.
- **Decentralized Planning:** Gram Panchayats plan and monitor projects.
- **Transparency:** Social audits and digital payments for accountability.

#### Achievements

Employment generation and income security.  
Significant participation of women.  
Improved agricultural productivity through asset creation.

#### Challenges

- Delayed wages, fund allocation.
- Corruption, lack of monitoring.
- Limited awareness among beneficiaries.

#### Reforms

- **Digital Payments:** Aadhaar-based for transparency.
- **Social Audits:** Strengthening audits and grievance mechanisms.
- **Focus on Asset Creation:** Emphasis on projects benefiting agriculture and water resources.

#### Current Scenario

- A recent report by Lib Tech, a consortium of academics and activists, highlights a concerning trend within the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**: a high rate of worker deletions.
- Between April and September 2024, the program saw 84.8 lakh deletions, offset

by 45.4 lakh additions, resulting in a net deletion of 39.3 lakh workers.

- These deletions align with the mandatory shift to the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS), raising questions about accessibility and inclusivity.

#### State-Wise Deletion Highlights

- **Tamil Nadu:** 14.7% of workers deleted.
- **Chhattisgarh:** 14.6% of workers deleted.

#### Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) Requirements

- **Mandatory Linking:** Aadhaar with job cards, Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts, and National Payments Corporation of India mapping.
- **Issues:** Approximately 15% of deletions are deemed wrongful, per ongoing studies by Lib Tech in Andhra Pradesh.

#### Trends and Impacts

- **Decreased Dependence on MGNREGS:** Increased barriers due to ABPS may be contributing to rural-urban migration, diminishing MGNREGS as a rural employment safeguard.
- **Reduction in Person-Days:** Reflects lowered engagement and declining program uptake.

#### Way Forward

To enhance MGNREGA, prioritise timely wage payments, strengthen monitoring and social audits, ensure effective digital payment integration, and improve awareness among beneficiaries to prevent worker deletions.

**Question :** Analyse the trends in person-days generated under MGNREGS over recent years. How do these trends reflect on rural distress and employment opportunities in India?

Source : [The Hindu](#)





## Environment

### Fair trade: On the 29th COP and India's carbon market

#### Why in News?

India must develop a transparent carbon trade policy

#### Context

The upcoming 29th Conference of Parties (COP) in Baku, Azerbaijan, centres around climate finance and the operationalization of carbon markets under the Paris Agreement.

For India, the event presents an opportunity to refine its carbon market framework, addressing the challenges of transparency and accountability in carbon trade.

#### Carbon Markets Under the Paris Agreement

Aspect	Details
<b>Paris Agreement, Article 6</b>	Allows for carbon trading where countries can trade emissions reductions to meet climate commitments.
<b>Carbon Credit</b>	A tradable permit representing the right to emit one ton of CO <sub>2</sub> , generated by activities like renewable energy adoption and afforestation.
<b>Objective</b>	Encourage global climate action by enabling countries to claim emissions reductions achieved in other regions.

#### Significance of Carbon Markets

- Carbon markets incentivize emission reductions, enabling both developed and developing nations to contribute to global climate goals.
- India, with a target of deriving half of its energy from non-fossil sources by 2030, has a unique opportunity to capitalise on carbon markets, especially with its private sector's forestry projects and

energy-efficient technologies.

#### Issues and Potential Solutions

1. **Opacity in Verification:** Carbon markets face challenges in ensuring the authenticity of carbon credits, often resulting in "phantom credits."

**Solution:** Standardised verification processes and independent audits.

2. **Regulatory Challenges in India:** For India, establishing stringent standards is essential for credibility.

**Solution:** Developing emission intensity standards across industries and supporting regulatory enforcement.

3. **Industry Impact:** Sectors like iron and steel must meet emission standards by 2025, creating a viable foundation for India's carbon market. However, complex calculations and industry resistance remain a concern.

**Solution:** Engage research institutions and international consultants to design transparent calculation methodologies.

4. **Need for Transparent Policy:** A clear and equitable carbon trade policy will be crucial for India's global competitiveness and compliance with international standards.

#### Conclusion

India must establish a transparent carbon trade policy to enhance its carbon market framework, ensuring credibility, compliance, and competitiveness in global climate efforts at COP 29.

**Question :** Critically analyse the role of carbon markets in achieving global climate goals. Discuss India's preparedness to participate in international carbon trading.

**Source :** [The Hindu](#)



## From Suda to Tony, a seed of life for Great Indian Bustards

### Why in News?

The success of bustard conservation involved overcoming challenges, including achieving "human imprinting" to form close bonds with Great Indian Bustards for effective training in simulated mating.

### Context

The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is critically endangered, with only about 150 individuals remaining in the wild, predominantly in Rajasthan.

In a significant development, the first GIB chick was successfully born through artificial insemination, marking a hopeful milestone in the species' conservation.

### Facts

Aspect	Details
Species	Great Indian Bustard (GIB)
Population	Approximately 150 individuals remaining in the wild
Habitat	Primarily the Thar Desert, Rajasthan
Key Locations	Ramdevra and Sam captive breeding centers in Jaisalmer
Who are Suda & Tony	Suda (male), Tony (female) Both are GIB
Breeding Centers Established	Since 2019, 45 GIBs hand-reared; plans for aviary soft release in 2025

### Challenges Overcome

- Human Imprinting** : Handlers developed close bonds with the bustards to enable simulated mating, crucial for the success of artificial insemination.
- Training Methodology** : Male GIB Suda was trained to mate with a dummy bird, allowing for sperm collection. This innovative approach was vital in

facilitating the insemination of female Tony.

- Genetic Diversity** : Artificial insemination not only aids in overcoming the limitations of natural mating cycles but also enhances genetic diversity by allowing the careful selection of genetic material without the stress of physical relocation.
- Learning from International Experts** : WII scientists visited the International Fund for Houbara Bustard (IHFC) in Abu Dhabi to acquire knowledge on assisted reproductive techniques.

### Implications for Conservation

- Population Management** : The establishment of a founder population is critical, aiming for a minimum viable population of at least 20 adult GIBs (15 females).
- Future Rewilding Plans** : Aviaries will be constructed for soft release, with the first GIBs expected to return to the wild in late 2025.

### Conclusion

The successful birth of a GIB chick through artificial insemination represents a promising step toward the recovery of a species on the brink of extinction.

Continued efforts in breeding, genetic management, and habitat conservation are essential for ensuring the survival of the Great Indian Bustard.

**Question** : Evaluate the significance of human imprinting in wildlife conservation efforts. What lessons can be learned from the case of the Great Indian Bustard?

**Source** : [The Indian Express](#)



## Why 'protected' areas are seeing faster biodiversity decline

### Why in News?

The analysis was carried out by the Natural History Museum (NHM), based in London

#### Context

A recent study by the Natural History Museum (NHM) in London reveals concerning trends regarding biodiversity within protected areas. It indicates that biodiversity is declining more rapidly inside these areas compared to unprotected regions. This finding raises critical questions about existing conservation practices and the efficacy of simply designating areas as protected.

#### Understanding Biodiversity Decline

- 1. Ecosystem-Specific Protection:** Protected areas often focus on individual species rather than entire ecosystems. This narrow approach undermines the goal of achieving complete biodiversity intactness.
- 2. Pre-existing Degradation:** Many protected areas may have been designated due to prior degradation, meaning their biodiversity levels were already low at the time of designation.
- 3. External Threats:** Economic activities such as oil, gas, and mining concessions within or near protected areas contribute significantly to biodiversity loss. For example, over 65% of the Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Republic of the Congo is now occupied by such concessions.
- 4. Impact of Climate Change:** Increasingly severe climate events, including droughts and wildfires, have adversely affected protected areas. The 2019 wildfires in Australia's national parks serve as a stark reminder of these impacts.

#### Recommendations from the Study

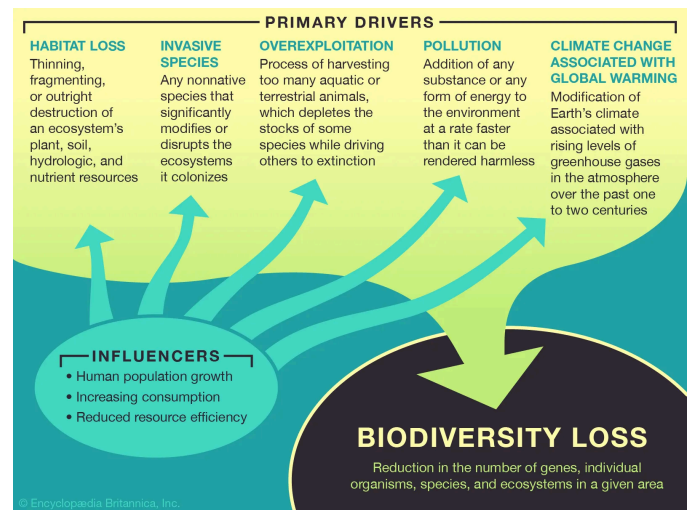
NHM emphasises that simply increasing the number of protected areas is insufficient.

Policymakers should focus on:

- 1. Strengthening Protection Measures:** Enhancing conservation strategies that go beyond just designating protected zones.
- 2. Regional Analysis:** Conducting in-depth

studies to understand the specific causes of biodiversity decline in different regions.

- 3. Implementing the 30x30 Commitment:** Continuing the global commitment made during COP15 to protect at least 30% of the world's lands and oceans by 2030, while ensuring effective conservation practices.



#### Conclusion

- The findings from the NHM study serve as a crucial wake-up call for global conservation efforts.
- It stresses the importance of adopting holistic approaches to biodiversity preservation, focusing on ecosystems as a whole rather than isolated species.

**Question :** Discuss the significance of the findings from the Natural History Museum's recent study on biodiversity decline in protected areas. How should policymakers respond to this data?

**Source :** [The Indian Express](#)



## Editorial, Opinions & Ideas

### A Nobel in hand, but where AJR's model falls short

#### Why in News ?

The AJR Eurocentric framework falls short of representing the Global South, oversimplifies history and ignores diverse development paths

#### Background

The 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson for their research on institutions' impact on economic development. However, critiques highlight the Eurocentric limitations of their model in addressing the complexities of the Global South.

#### AJR's Eurocentric Assumptions

- **Main Argument:** AJR's framework assumes that European-style "good" institutions, which prioritize property rights and checks on power, are the universal path to development.
- **Critique:**
  - Scholars argue that this overlooks diverse historical and cultural contexts, where non-European regions have seen development through alternative means.
  - By using a Eurocentric lens, AJR's model may imply that other nations should aspire to replicate European systems, disregarding local contexts and varied pathways to development.

#### The Challenge of Institutional Flexibility

- **China Perspective:** "How China Escaped the Poverty Trap" argues that flexible, evolving institutions—characterised by "directed improvisation"—allowed for economic growth under initially extractive conditions.
- **Example:** China's Special Economic Zones enabled adaptive policy experimentation, showcasing that development can occur without pre-set institutional frameworks.
- **Comparison with AJR:** AJR's static model fails to account for institutional evolution driven by economic realities, as in China's case.

#### Western Development and Its Exclusionary Practices

- **AJR's Glorification of Western Institutions:** AJR holds Western development up as a model of inclusive institutions driving growth. However, critiques highlight the exclusion and cronyism that accompanied early

Western capitalism.

- **Example:** Britain's Industrial Revolution relied heavily on exploitative labor practices and restricted access to wealth accumulation, contradicting AJR's view of inherently inclusive institutions.

#### Simplification of Historical Complexities

- **Historians' Perspectives:** Scholars like Ha-Joon Chang argue that countries often relied on protectionist policies before adopting free-market institutions. AJR's framework misses the role of state-led industrialization that historically contributed to the wealth of today's developed countries.
- **Example:** Both the U.K. and the U.S. used protectionism and industrial policies that could be seen as "extractive" before transitioning to inclusive institutions post-industrialization.

#### Colonial Legacy and Dependency Theory

- **AJR's View on Colonial Institutions:** AJR view colonial institutions as either inclusive or extractive, based on European mortality rates and settlement patterns.
- **Critique:** Dependency theorists argue that colonial institutions were designed to extract resources, reinforcing structural dependencies and underdevelopment. This framework may neglect the colonial-era policies that entrenched inequality and resource exploitation.

#### Conclusion

AJR's model, while groundbreaking, inadequately addresses the complexities of non-European contexts and development paths, necessitating a more nuanced understanding of institutional evolution and local realities.

**Question :** "Eurocentrism in economic models overlooks the diverse developmental pathways of the Global South." Critically analyze this statement, citing AJR's framework and its limitations.

**Source :** [The Hindu](#)



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Which of the following industries is expected to meet emission intensity standards by 2025 in India?**

- A. Textile
- B. Agriculture
- C. Iron and Steel
- D. Pharmaceutical

**Q2. The “Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram” phrase, often associated with political instability due to defections, originated in which of the following Indian states?**

- A. Haryana
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Bihar

**Q3. Which of the following best describes an "inclusive institution"?**

- A. An institution designed primarily for wealth extraction.
- B. An institution that enforces property rights and checks on power.
- C. An institution focused on colonial expansion.
- D. An institution built solely on protectionist policies.

**Q4. Which of the following statements about India's National Manuscript Mission is/are correct?**

- 1. The mission was launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2003.
- 2. It aims to document, preserve, and promote manuscripts of cultural significance.
- 3. The mission focuses exclusively on manuscripts written in Sanskrit.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of the above

**Q5. Which of the following statements is/are true about the BIOE3 initiative?**

- 1. It is focused solely on space bio-manufacturing for India's space missions.
- 2. The initiative seeks to boost India's bio-economy and employment through biotechnology.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) under MGNREGS:**

- 1. Only Aadhaar-linked bank accounts are eligible for payments under ABPS.
- 2. All workers must have Aadhaar-mapped job cards to participate.
- 3. The ABPS is mandatory for all MGNREGS workers from 2023 onwards.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 Only
- B. 2 and 3 Only
- C. 1 and 3 Only
- D. All are correct

**Q7. Consider the following statements about the Great Indian Bustard:**

- 1. It is native to the Indian subcontinent.
- 2. They are herbivorous.
- 3. It is categorised as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.

**Which of the statements above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**Q8. Which two areas are currently witnessing disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops?**

- A. Galwan Valley and Hot Springs
- B. Depsang Plains and Demchok
- C. Pangong Tso and Gogra
- D. None of the above



**Q9. Which of the following are in-situ methods of conservation of biodiversity?**

1. Biosphere Reserves
2. Botanical Gardens
3. National Parks
4. Wildlife Sanctuaries

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A. 1, 2, and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Q10. What does the term 'passive euthanasia' refer to in the Indian legal context?**

- A. Intentional killing of a terminally ill patient
- B. Withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment
- C. The use of palliative care in terminally ill patients
- D. None of the above



## Solutions

### 1. Option C is Correct

#### Explanation:

In India, the government has set various emission intensity standards aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions across different sectors. The **Iron and Steel industry** is the one expected to meet emission intensity standards by 2025.

Here's a brief overview of why this is the case and the context for the other industries:

#### A. Iron and Steel

- **Emission Standards:** The Iron and Steel sector has been actively working towards reducing its carbon emissions due to its significant contribution to overall industrial emissions in India. Initiatives like the National Steel Policy aim for a cleaner production approach and increasing the share of electric arc furnace (EAF) steelmaking.
- **Technological Advancements:** Adoption of modern technologies, such as cleaner production methods and the use of renewable energy sources, is expected to help this industry meet the standards by 2025.

#### B. Textile

- **Current Status:** The textile industry is a significant contributor to pollution, primarily due to dyeing and finishing processes. Although there are efforts towards sustainability and reducing water usage, the industry may find it challenging to meet strict emission intensity standards by 2025.

#### C. Agriculture

- **Challenges:** Agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions primarily through methane and nitrous oxide. While there are ongoing initiatives for sustainable agricultural practices, significant reductions in emission intensity may take longer due to the complexities of the sector and

its dependence on traditional practices.

#### D. Pharmaceutical

- **Emission Concerns:** The pharmaceutical industry is also working on sustainability, but its processes can be emissions-intensive. It may not meet the stringent standards by 2025, as the sector is focused on compliance with safety and regulatory frameworks alongside emissions reductions.

### 2. Option A is Correct

#### Explanation:

The phrase "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" is often used in the context of political instability and defections in India. It originated in Haryana.

#### Here's a detailed explanation:

##### Origin of the Phrase

- **Context:** The phrase became popular in the late 1960s and early 1970s when political defections were rampant in Haryana. It describes a scenario where legislators or political leaders switch parties frequently, creating instability in governance.

##### Implications

- **Political Instability:** The phrase encapsulates the issue of political instability that arises when elected representatives frequently change their party affiliation for personal or political gain, undermining the electoral mandate.
- **Broader Usage:** While it originated in Haryana, the phrase has since been used more broadly to comment on similar situations across various Indian states and political contexts.

### 3. Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

An "inclusive institution" is best described by "An institution that enforces property rights and checks on power."

**Definition:** Inclusive institutions promote broad participation in economic and political processes.



### Characteristics:

- Enforces Property Rights: Ensures security for investments and innovations.
- Checks on Power: Limits concentration of power, promoting accountability and democracy.

### Contrast with Other Options:

(a): Describes extractive institutions that benefit a small elite.

(c): Relates to exploitative colonial institutions.

(d): Protectionist policies can limit inclusivity and economic engagement.

### 4. Option A is Correct

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1 is Correct :** The National Manuscript Mission (NMM) was indeed launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2003 with the objective of conserving the rich heritage of manuscripts in India.

**Statement 2 is Correct :** One of the primary goals of the mission is to document, preserve, and promote manuscripts that hold cultural significance, thereby ensuring their accessibility for future generations.

**Statement 3 : Incorrect :** The mission does not focus exclusively on Sanskrit manuscripts. It encompasses a wide range of manuscripts written in various languages, including regional and local languages, thus promoting the diverse linguistic heritage of India.

### 5. Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1: Incorrect.** The BIOE3 initiative is not limited to space bio-manufacturing. It is a broad initiative aiming to expand India's bio-economy through a variety of biotechnology applications across multiple sectors, including agriculture, health, and sustainable manufacturing. While bio-manufacturing might support space missions indirectly, the initiative has a wider scope beyond space-related applications.

**Statement 2: Correct.** The BIOE3 initiative indeed aims to boost India's bio-economy and create employment opportunities through the advancement of biotechnology. It promotes bio-based innovations that can enhance productivity in multiple sectors, contributing to economic growth, sustainability, and job creation.

### 6. Option D is Correct

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1 : Correct.** Under the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), only workers who have linked their bank accounts with their Aadhaar numbers are eligible to receive payments. This linkage is necessary for authentication through the ABPS.

**Statement 2 : Correct.** Workers must have Aadhaar-mapped job cards to participate in MGNREGS and receive wages through ABPS. This is part of the initiative to ensure transparency and prevent duplication, ensuring that payments are made only to verified workers.

**Statement 3 : Correct.** The ABPS became mandatory for all MGNREGS workers starting from 2023. The government made this shift to streamline the wage payment process, improve transparency, and reduce delays by directly transferring wages to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

### 7. Option C is Correct

#### Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Great Indian Bustard is native to the Indian subcontinent, primarily found in areas like the Desert National Park in Rajasthan, as well as in parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Pakistan.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Great Indian Bustard is actually an omnivore, feeding on a variety of arthropods, worms, small mammals, and reptiles, in addition to some plant material.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The species is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, with fewer than 150 individuals remaining in the wild.

### 8. Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

- The current disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops is reportedly taking place in the **Depsang Plains and Demchok areas**.
- This marks a significant move, as both locations have been long-standing friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, and resolving tensions here has been a complex issue in bilateral relations.





- Depsang and Demchok have seen military standoffs dating back to earlier disputes, but recent talks have shown progress in disengagement efforts

#### 9. Option C is Correct

##### Explanation:

**In-situ Conservation** is the conservation of species in their natural habitats. This approach preserves entire ecosystems and natural biodiversity within their original environments.

- **Biosphere Reserves** : Areas designated to conserve ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity while promoting sustainable use by local communities. They are in-situ conservation areas.
- **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries** : Protected natural habitats where species and ecosystems are conserved in place.

**Botanical Gardens** are ex-situ conservation methods, as they involve conserving plant species outside their natural habitats.

#### 10. Option B is Correct

##### Explanation:

**Passive euthanasia** involves withholding or withdrawing medical treatments that are essential to keeping a terminally ill patient alive.

This could mean stopping life-support machines, halting medication, or discontinuing medical procedures that prolong life.

The intention here is not to actively end the life but to allow the natural progression of a terminal illness without intervention.

##### Legal Context in India:

- In the landmark case of Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011), the Supreme Court of India recognized the legality of passive euthanasia under specific guidelines.
- It was further affirmed and expanded in Common Cause v. Union of India (2018), where the Supreme Court upheld the right to die with dignity, allowing individuals to create a "living will" that outlines their wishes regarding withdrawal of life support in case they become terminally ill and are incapable of expressing consent.





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