



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



01 AUGUST 2026

---SATURDAY---



Kolkata Topper

VAISHNA BISWAS

AIR - 367 | CSE 2025

★ OUR PROVEN LEGACY ★

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2023



IPS LAXMAN PRATAP
RANK - 597

FORMER ASST. COMMANDANT IN BSF
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2024



IRS SARLA JAKHER
AIR 593

CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA



IRS TANMAY
AIR 346

IIT KHARAGPUR



**YOUR
DREAMS.**

**OUR
MISSION.**

TOGETHER,
WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.

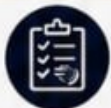


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



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PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. **Cauvery Water Dispute: Latest Developments**
2. **Western Ghats ESA: Balancing Conservation and Livelihoods**
3. **National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan**
4. **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026**

1.Cauvery Water Dispute: Latest Developments

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** has endorsed the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)** recommendation directing Karnataka to release **3,500 cusecs** of water to Tamil Nadu for **15 days (29 July–12 August 2026)** amid deficient southwest monsoon rainfall and reduced water availability in the Cauvery basin.

Key Highlights

- CWMA approved the release of **3,500 cusecs** (approximately **4.5 TMC ft**) of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu.
- The decision follows severe rainfall deficiency and declining reservoir storage across the Cauvery basin.
- Karnataka has expressed reservations over the release under prevailing drought-like conditions, while Tamil Nadu has sought a larger allocation to meet irrigation requirements.

Cauvery Water Management Mechanism**Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)**

- Established in **2018** under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** to implement the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) Award, 2007**, as modified by the **Supreme Court (2018)**.
- Functions under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Ensures implementation of water-sharing arrangements among basin States and issues directions regarding reservoir operations.

Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)

- Functions as the technical arm of the CWMA.
- Headed by the **Member (Water Resources), CWMA**.

- Comprises Chief Engineers of the Cauvery basin States along with representatives of the **Central Water Commission (CWC)**, **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** and the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- Monitors reservoir levels, assesses basin hydrology and recommends water releases during normal as well as distress years.

How does the CWRC decide water releases?

The Committee adopts a scientific hydro-meteorological approach rather than relying solely on fixed allocations during distress years. It considers:

- Rainfall received across the basin and IMD forecasts.
- Live storage, inflows and outflows of major reservoirs.
- River discharge at **Biligundulu**, the inter-State gauging station.
- Water availability in intermediate catchments.
- Compliance with previous release directions.
- Drinking water requirements, irrigation demand and ecological flow requirements.

Factors behind the latest release order

- Reservoir inflows into Karnataka were nearly **60% below** the long-term average.
- River flow at **Biligundulu** recorded nearly a **90% deficit**, reflecting basin-wide water stress.
- Combined storage in Karnataka's four major reservoirs stood at **64.15 TMC ft** against a total capacity of **114.57 TMC ft**.
- IMD forecasts indicated weak monsoon conditions, reducing the likelihood of significant inflows during the remaining season.

Considering these hydrological conditions, the CWRC recommended a reduced but operationally feasible release to balance competing water demands.

Position of the Basin States

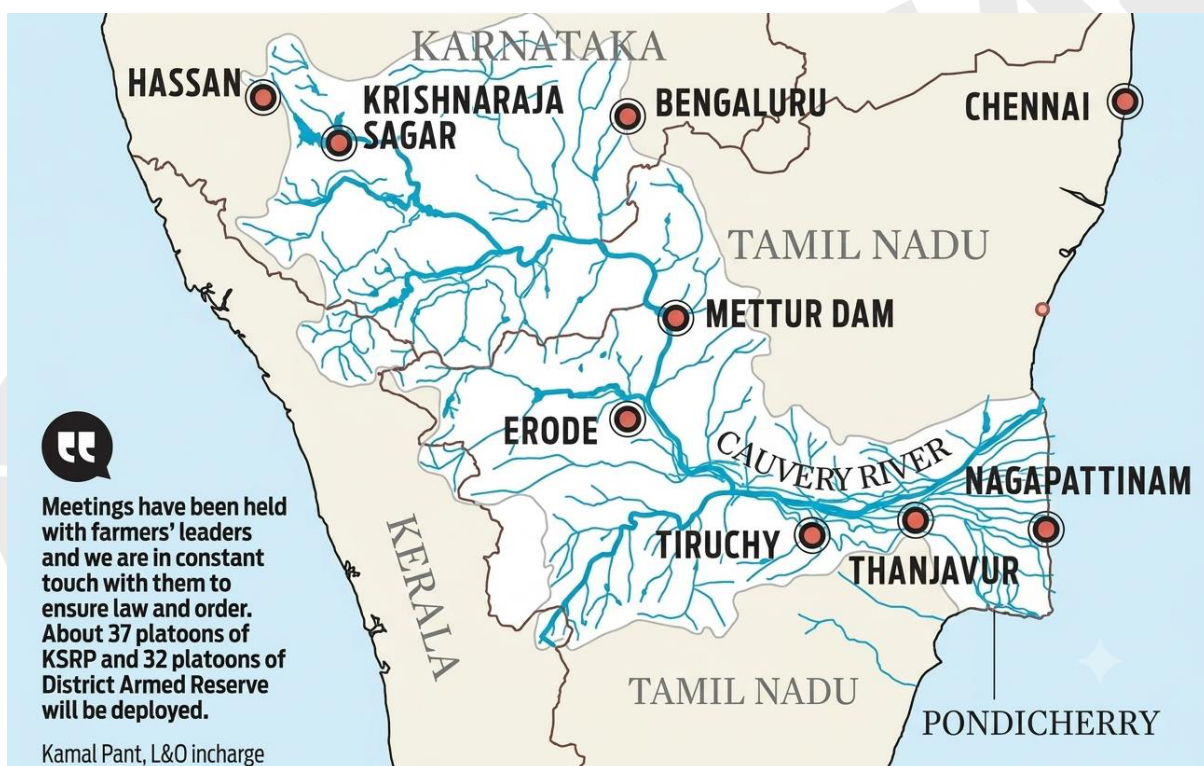
Karnataka

- Irrigation releases have not commenced due to inadequate monsoon rainfall.

- The State considers the ordered release difficult to implement under existing reservoir conditions.
- Farmers' organisations have demanded application of a **distress-sharing formula** instead of fixed allocations during drought years.
- The State is examining the possibility of approaching the CWMA for further review.

Tamil Nadu

- The ordered release is considered insufficient to meet agricultural requirements.
- The State has argued that nearly **9.8 TMC ft** remains to be released as per assessed requirements.
- **Kuruwai cultivation** requires around **100 TMC ft** of water for nearly **4 lakh acres**.
- Water available in the **Mettur Reservoir** is constrained after accounting for drinking water requirements and dead storage.



Key Challenges

- **Distress years** continue to lack an agreed formula for proportionate sharing of reduced river flows.
- **Climate variability** has increased uncertainty in monsoon rainfall and reservoir inflows.

- **Competing sectoral demands** for drinking water, irrigation and ecological flows complicate allocation decisions.
- **Hydrological realities** during drought years often differ from legally allocated water shares.
- **Inter-State political differences** continue despite the existence of statutory dispute-resolution institutions.

Way Forward

- **A scientifically accepted distress-sharing formula** can ensure equitable distribution of shortages during drought years.
- **Real-time hydrological monitoring and transparent data sharing** can improve trust among basin States.
- **Continuous coordination through the CWMA and CWRC** can reduce recurring disputes.
- **Water-use efficiency, micro-irrigation, crop diversification and integrated river basin management** can reduce pressure on Cauvery waters.
- **Periodic review of water allocation mechanisms** should incorporate changing climatic and hydrological conditions.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)**:

1. It functions under the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).
2. It monitors reservoir storage and recommends water releases among the Cauvery basin States.
3. It was constituted under Article 262 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. *Recurring inter-State river water disputes highlight the challenge of balancing legal water entitlements with changing hydrological realities. Discuss in the context of the Cauvery river dispute. Also examine the role of institutional mechanisms such as the CWMA and CWRC in promoting cooperative federalism. (15 Marks, 250 Words)*

2. Western Ghats ESA: Balancing Conservation and Livelihoods

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The Union Government has extended the tenure of the **Sanjay Kumar Expert Committee** till **July 2027** as consultations continue with States over the notification of **Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)** in the Western Ghats.

Key Highlights

- The **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)**, chaired by **Madhav Gadgil**, recommended declaring the entire Western Ghats as an **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)** with graded levels of protection.
- Following opposition from States, the **Kasturirangan Committee (2012)** reduced the proposed ESA to **37% of the Western Ghats**, restricting regulations mainly to ecologically sensitive natural landscapes.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** issued the first ESA draft notification in **2014**, followed by multiple draft notifications due to the absence of consensus.
- In **2022**, the Centre constituted the **Sanjay Kumar Committee** to examine objections raised by the six Western Ghats States.
- Gujarat and Goa have broadly accepted the proposal, while discussions continue with **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.

Evolution of the ESA Proposal

- The **WGEEP Report (2011)** proposed declaring **142 talukas across 44 districts** as ESA and classified them into **three Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ-I, ESZ-II and ESZ-III)** based on ecological significance.

- The report recommended regulating mining, quarrying, large infrastructure projects and other environmentally damaging activities under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- The **Kasturirangan Committee** adopted a landscape-based approach by excluding cultural landscapes such as plantations and agricultural areas from strict regulation while retaining protection for natural ecosystems.
- Repeated consultations between the Centre and States have delayed final notification, leading to successive draft notifications between **2014 and 2026**.
- The latest approach allows for a **phased or State-wise notification** depending on the level of consensus achieved.

Concerns Raised by Karnataka

- Karnataka has proposed reconsideration of nearly **20,668 sq. km** identified under the ESA notification.
- The State has consistently argued that the proposal could adversely affect **agriculture, plantation crops, mining activities and infrastructure development**.
- Local communities fear restrictions on cultivation, construction and livelihood activities despite residing in these areas for generations.
- Dependence on **satellite imagery** for ESA demarcation has been questioned, as plantations such as **coffee, arecanut, rubber and coconut** are perceived to have been incorrectly classified as forests.
- Residents have also expressed concerns regarding the absence of extensive field verification before identifying ESA boundaries.

Livelihood Issues

- Villages located near protected areas such as **Kali Tiger Reserve** and **Kudremukh National Park** have experienced restrictions similar to those proposed under the ESA framework.
- Rehabilitation packages have been accepted by some residents, while others fear gradual depopulation of villages due to relocation pressures.
- Communities possessing forest rights have reported difficulties in collecting **minor forest produce** and pursuing traditional agricultural practices.
- Long-settled non-tribal residents have highlighted rejection of forest rights claims despite generations of residence.
- Local stakeholders have nevertheless supported regulation of environmentally damaging activities such as **stone quarrying** and unplanned tourism projects.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)**:

1. It was constituted under the chairmanship of **Madhav Gadgil**.
2. It recommended declaring the entire Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area with graded Ecologically Sensitive Zones.
3. The Kasturirangan Committee recommended expanding the Ecologically Sensitive Area beyond the WGEEP proposal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. *The conservation of the Western Ghats requires balancing ecological protection with the livelihood concerns of local communities. Discuss in the light of the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) proposal and the recommendations of the Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committees. (15 Marks, 250 Words)*

3.National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme (NOES) – Samudra Manthan** with a total outlay of **₹84,084 crore** to accelerate offshore oil and gas exploration, strengthen India's energy security and reduce dependence on hydrocarbon imports.

Core Objectives and Targets

The scheme aims to secure India's energy future by focusing on high-risk, high-reward offshore basins.

- **Reserve Accretion:** Target to add over **600 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE)** to India's hydrocarbon reserves.
- **Production Boost:** Aims to increase annual domestic production from ~62 MMTOE to **80 MMTOE**.
- **Import Reduction:** Intended to lower crude oil import dependency, which reached a record **88.7% in 2025-26**.
- **Viksit Bharat 2047:** A strategic component of the mission to achieve energy independence by India's centenary of independence.

★ Key Fact

The government will provide financial support of up to ₹675 crore per well for exploratory drilling in deep-sea and ultra-deep-sea regions.

Major Components of the Scheme

Deepwater Exploration

- **₹43,200 crore** has been allocated for drilling **60 deepwater exploration wells**.
- Government support will cover **up to 50% of eligible drilling costs**, subject to a maximum of **₹675 crore per well**.
- The initiative aims to reduce geological uncertainty and encourage exploration in frontier offshore basins.

Offshore Data Acquisition

- **₹28,534 crore** has been earmarked for acquiring high-quality offshore geological and geophysical data.
- Improved seismic and subsurface data will facilitate scientific assessment of hydrocarbon potential and support future exploration activities.

Common Offshore Infrastructure

- **₹10,000 crore** has been allocated for developing shared offshore infrastructure.
- The infrastructure will facilitate faster commercialisation of hydrocarbon discoveries and reduce development costs for exploration companies.

Oil & Gas Manufacturing and Services Zones

- **₹2,000 crore** has been provided for establishing specialised manufacturing and service hubs.

- The initiative seeks to promote indigenous manufacturing, localisation of critical equipment and development of domestic supply chains.

Challenges

- **Deepwater exploration** involves high capital investment and long gestation periods before commercial production.
- **Geological uncertainty** continues to remain a major exploration risk despite improved seismic surveys.
- **Technological dependence** on advanced offshore drilling equipment remains significant.
- **Environmental safeguards** will be essential to minimise ecological risks associated with offshore drilling activities.

Way Forward

- **Advanced seismic surveys and geophysical mapping** should continue to improve exploration success rates.
- **Public-private collaboration** can accelerate investment and technology transfer in offshore exploration.
- **Domestic manufacturing ecosystems** should be strengthened to reduce import dependence for specialised offshore equipment.
- **Robust environmental monitoring** must accompany offshore exploration to ensure sustainable resource development.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the **National Offshore Exploration Scheme (Samudra Manthan)**:

1. It aims to promote deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon exploration.
2. The scheme provides government support for eligible deepwater drilling costs.
3. It includes the development of common offshore infrastructure and manufacturing hubs for the oil and gas sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. India's energy security increasingly depends on unlocking offshore hydrocarbon resources. Discuss the significance of the National Offshore Exploration Scheme (Samudra Manthan) in promoting domestic energy production while highlighting the associated challenges. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

4.Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The **Lok Sabha** has passed the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, which seeks to tighten the procedure for delayed registration of births and deaths by introducing judicial scrutiny for registrations made after two years.

Key Highlights

- The **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was passed by the **Lok Sabha** through a voice vote.
- The Bill seeks to amend the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
- Delayed registration of births or deaths **beyond two years** will require an order from a **Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC)**.
- The amendment aims to strengthen the authenticity and legal reliability of civil registration records.

Major Provision of the Bill

The core of the 2026 Bill is a shift from administrative to judicial oversight for cases where a birth or death is reported long after the event.

- **Delay of 1 to 2 Years:** The process remains largely unchanged. Registrations in this window continue to require an order from an **Executive Magistrate** (such as a DM or SDM) after verifying the facts.

- **Delay beyond 2 Years:** This is the most significant change. Such cases will now require an order from a **Judicial Magistrate of the First Class**.

★ Key Fact

The Bill shifts authority for registrations delayed by more than two years from the Executive to the Judiciary to ensure stricter verification.

Why these changes were introduced?

The government's primary objective is to curb the misuse of birth certificates as a foundational document for various legal and administrative purposes.

- **Preventing Fraud:** Very late registrations are often exploited to create fake identities or claim benefits/citizenship illegally. Judicial scrutiny provides a higher bar for evidence.
- **Incentivizing Timeliness:** By making the "late" process more rigorous (involving court proceedings), the Bill encourages citizens to adhere to the statutory **21-day reporting period**.
- **Alignment with BNSS:** The Bill updates the legal terminology, replacing references to the old CrPC (1973) with the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**.

Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969

- Provides the legal framework for **compulsory registration** of births and deaths across India.
- Mandates appointment of Registrars for maintaining official civil registration records.
- Forms the basis for preparation of **vital statistics** used in governance, planning and public health.
- Implemented by States and Union Territories through designated registration authorities.

Challenges

- **Delayed reporting** remains common in remote and rural areas due to limited awareness and administrative access.
- **Judicial approval** may increase procedural time and compliance costs for genuine delayed registrations.
- **Administrative coordination** between registration authorities and judicial institutions will require strengthening.

Way Forward

- **Awareness campaigns** should encourage timely registration of births and deaths.
- **Digital civil registration systems** can simplify registration procedures and reduce delays.
- **Capacity building of local registration authorities** can improve accessibility and efficiency.
- **Judicial processes** for genuine delayed registrations should remain simple and time-bound.

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026**:

1. It amends the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
2. Registration of births or deaths after two years requires an order from a Judicial Magistrate First Class.
3. The amendment aims to strengthen the authenticity of civil registration records.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. *Accurate civil registration forms the foundation of effective governance and public service delivery. Discuss the significance of the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in strengthening India's civil registration system. (10 Marks, 150 Words)*

