



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



21 AUGUST 2026

---FRIDAY---



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.

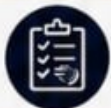


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. Why Are South Asians Missing From Global Health Databases?
2. The Vanashakti Verdict Is Balanced and Pragmatic
3. CMLRE National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources
4. Buffalo Meat Exports Boom: Read the Message
5. English: Indigenous or Foreign Language?

1. Why Are South Asians Missing From Global Health Databases?

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

South Asians remain significantly underrepresented in global health and genomic databases, creating gaps in disease-risk assessment, diagnosis and AI-based healthcare tools despite the region's large and genetically diverse population.

The Data Representation Gap

- South Asians constitute over 20% of the world's population, yet less than 1% of participants in global Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) are of South Asian ancestry.
- The underrepresentation is also visible in major health databases such as the U.K. Biobank, which can reduce the accuracy of health tools developed using these datasets.
- The problem is particularly significant for diseases such as diabetes, where South Asians face a higher and earlier risk.

Impact on AI and Genomic Medicine

- The lack of South Asian data can reduce the effectiveness of artificial intelligence and machine learning tools used in healthcare.
- Polygenic risk scores developed mainly from European populations may provide less accurate estimates of disease risk for South Asian populations.
- Diagnostic thresholds and disease-prediction models based primarily on European populations may require recalibration for South Asian populations.
- The problem becomes more complex because South Asia itself contains substantial genetic diversity, including significant differences among populations within India.

Why the Gap Exists?

- Historical disparities in research funding have contributed to weaker genomic research infrastructure and biobanking facilities in many low- and middle-income countries.
- Limited representation in global datasets can create a cycle in which populations with less available data receive less accurate medical research and fewer tailored healthcare solutions.
- Regional collaboration among existing biobanks and health cohorts can help create larger and more representative datasets.

India's Response and Way Forward

- The GenomeIndia Project seeks to address the representation gap by developing a comprehensive genetic database of India's diverse population.
- Greater participation of South Asian populations in genomic studies can improve the accuracy of disease-risk prediction and personalised healthcare.
- Regional collaborations among countries and institutions can strengthen genomic data infrastructure while enabling more equitable scientific benefits.
- Greater diversity in health datasets is essential to ensure that AI-based healthcare systems do not reproduce existing biases and provide reliable outcomes across populations.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding South Asian representation in global health databases:

1. South Asians account for over one-fifth of the global population.
2. South Asian ancestry accounts for less than 1% of participants in global Genome-Wide Association Studies.
3. Polygenic risk scores developed predominantly from European populations may be less accurate for South Asian populations.
4. The GenomeIndia Project aims to address gaps in India's genomic data infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only

- (c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question

The underrepresentation of South Asians in global health and genomic databases can create biases in AI-driven healthcare and disease-risk assessment. Discuss the causes and implications of this data gap and suggest measures to promote more equitable genomic research.

2.The Vanashakti Verdict Is Balanced and Pragmatic

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The Supreme Court, in its July 29, 2026 judgment in Vanashakti vs Union of India, clarified the legal requirement of obtaining prior Environmental Clearance (EC) and examined the possibility of dealing with projects that commenced operations without the required clearance.

Mandatory Prior Environmental Clearance

- The Supreme Court reiterated that obtaining prior Environmental Clearance is mandatory under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.
- Projects that commenced without prior EC and did not apply under earlier violation mechanisms cannot seek regularisation through the 2017 Notification or the 2021 Standard Operating Procedure.
- The judgment distinguishes between statutory notifications issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and administrative office memorandums that cannot override the requirement of prior EC.

Scope for Legacy Violations

- The Court clarified that the Central Government may frame a fresh statutory mechanism for projects that violated EC requirements if it considers such a mechanism necessary in the larger public interest.
- The judgment does not direct the government to introduce a regularisation scheme but leaves open the possibility of a carefully designed one-time mechanism.
- Any such mechanism would have to derive authority from the statutory framework and cannot be created merely through an administrative order.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT, 1986

AFTER BHOPAL TRAGEDY, GIL ENACTED THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT UNDER ARTICLE 253 OF THE CONSTITUTION, GENESIS IS IN ARTICLE 48A (DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY) AND ARTICLE 51A(g) (FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES)

EMPOWERS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT AND CONTROL POLLUTION, ESTABLISH MACHINERY TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT'S QUALITY



AUTHORISED PERSONNEL TO COLLECT SAMPLES OF AIR, WATER, SOIL, OR OTHER SUBSTANCES AS EVIDENCE OF OFFENCES UNDER THE ACT

IT HAS A SPECIAL PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, THIS ACT WILL BE SUPERIOR OVER ANYTHING INCONSISTENT CONTAINED IN ANY ENACTMENT OTHER THAN THIS ACT

Environmental Safeguards

- A future mechanism for specified violation cases would need to incorporate assessment of environmental damage caused by the project.
- The mechanism would also need provisions for environmental remediation and compensation.
- The approach seeks to ensure that dealing with legacy projects does not dilute the principle that prior environmental clearance is a mandatory requirement.
- The judgment therefore closes earlier regulatory routes for post-facto approvals while leaving limited legislative space for addressing existing violations.

Significance

- The judgment seeks to balance strict environmental regulation with the practical challenges associated with existing projects and investments.
- It reinforces the importance of prior environmental assessment rather than treating environmental clearance as an approval that can ordinarily be obtained after a project has commenced.
- The ruling also establishes that any future approach to legacy violations must have statutory backing and strong environmental safeguards.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the Vanashakti judgment:

1. The Supreme Court reiterated that prior Environmental Clearance is mandatory under the EIA Notification, 2006.
2. A project that commenced without prior Environmental Clearance can automatically obtain regularisation under the 2021 Standard Operating Procedure.
3. The Central Government may frame a fresh statutory mechanism for specified legacy violations under its powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
4. Any future mechanism for legacy violations would require environmental damage assessment, remediation and compensation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Question

The Vanashakti judgment reinforces the principle of prior Environmental Clearance while leaving limited scope for addressing legacy violations. Discuss how the judgment seeks to balance environmental protection with the practical challenges associated with existing projects.

3.CMLRE National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources

Source: PIB

Why in News?

- The **Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** released the *National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian EEZ*.
- The report brings together nearly **four decades of research** and around **three decades of systematic surveys** of India's marine fishery resources.
- It covers India's **2.37 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and supports sustainable utilisation of marine resources under the **Blue Economy** framework.

Key Findings

- The assessment is based on **400+ oceanographic cruises** under the **Marine Living Resources Programme (MLRP)**, mainly using the research vessel **FORV Sagar Sampada**.
- Surveys covered the **Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Lakshadweep, Andaman Sea and Southern Ocean**.
- Several **underexploited deep-sea fishery resources** have been identified, providing scope for expanding India's marine fisheries.
- Important biodiversity and fishery regions include **Kollam Bank, Angria Bank, Off-Mangalore Deep-Sea Slope, Terrace off Trivandrum, Lakshadweep and Andaman-Nicobar Islands**.
- Deep-sea resources beyond **200 metres** include **shrimps, perches, scombroids, flatfishes and eels**.
- Distant-water resources include **tunas, billfishes, sharks, oceanic squids and Antarctic krill**.

Mesopelagic or “Twilight Zone”

- The report provides detailed information on the **mesopelagic layer**, generally extending from about **200–1,000 metres** depth.
- It contains large populations of **lanternfish, deep-sea shrimps and cephalopods**.
- Many organisms undertake **diel vertical migration**, moving towards the surface at night and returning to deeper waters during the day.
- This movement contributes to the **biological carbon pump**, through which carbon is transported from surface waters into the deeper ocean, linking deep-sea ecosystems with **global climate regulation**.

Technology and Sustainable Blue Economy

- The report combines conventional fisheries surveys with **fisheries acoustics, environmental DNA (eDNA), Artificial Intelligence and satellite observations**.
- These tools can improve species identification, biomass estimation, ecosystem monitoring and **marine spatial planning**.
- The assessment is important for balancing **fishery development with biodiversity conservation**, particularly as deeper waters come under increasing economic pressure.

- It can strengthen India's **food security, climate resilience and ocean-based economic activities** while supporting sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

Significance for India

- India's large EEZ provides considerable potential for expanding deep-sea and distant-water fisheries.
- Scientific assessment is essential to prevent overexploitation of previously underutilised resources.
- The report provides a scientific basis for marine spatial planning, fisheries management and conservation of ecologically sensitive areas.
- It contributes to India's Vision 2047 for the Blue Economy and commitments under SDG 14  Life Below Water and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- The initiative also demonstrates the importance of long-term ocean observation for understanding the links between marine biodiversity, fisheries and climate regulation.

4. Buffalo Meat Exports Boom: Read the Message

Source: The Hindu (TH)

Context:

- India's buffalo meat (carabeef) exports reached a record \$5.1 billion in 202526 and are projected to exceed \$6 billion in 2026.
- India is the world's third-largest bovine meat exporter, with buffalo meat constituting the major share of its exports.
- Unit value realisation has increased from below \$3,000 per tonne to more than \$4,000 per tonne, reflecting improved quality, processing and compliance with international standards.
- Export growth is supported by government-approved abattoirs, improved hygiene standards and compliance with importing-country requirements.
- Export destinations are also becoming more diversified, with markets such as Uzbekistan, Russia, Georgia, Oman and Senegal gaining importance.
- Buffalo meat exports have an important link with India's dairy economy. Farmers can sell aged, low-yielding and spent animals, enabling replacement with more productive dairy animals.

- This process contributes to herd turnover and can improve the economic efficiency of dairy farming.
- Indian buffalo meat is largely obtained from animals that have completed their productive milk-giving life rather than from animals specifically raised for meat.
- APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) plays an important role in promoting and regulating agricultural and processed-food exports and ensuring compliance with international requirements.
- A Meat Export Development Fund, established in October 2025 and financed through an export levy, is intended to support market development and address trade barriers.
- Halal certification is important for several major export markets. India's India Conformity Assessment Scheme (I-CAS) Halal framework has been expanded to cover 35 countries.
- The Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) supports investment in meat-processing infrastructure and product diversification.
- The expansion also highlights the need for scientific livestock management. Buffaloes generally have lower milk yields than crossbred cattle and relatively longer inter-calving intervals, making productivity and herd-management decisions important for meeting rising milk demand.
- Thus, the growth of buffalo meat exports is not merely an export story; it connects livestock management, farmer income, dairy productivity, food processing, foreign exchange earnings and India's agricultural export strategy.

5.English: Indigenous or Foreign Language?

Source: The Hindu (TH)

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court is examining the constitutional validity of treating English as a “non-indigenous” language under the CBSE’s three-language policy.
- The issue has arisen in petitions challenging the implementation of the three-language requirement under NEP 2020 from the 2026-27 academic session.
- The Court has also raised concerns about the availability of qualified teachers, language infrastructure and practical implementation, particularly for current Class 6 students.



The Three-language formula is a language learning policy designed to promote multilingualism, national integration, and cultural unity in India.



Starting **July 1, 2026**, the CBSE will mandate the three-language formula for students entering **Class IX**, requiring them to study three languages, at least two of which must be **native Indian languages**.

HOW THE FORMULA WORKS (NEP 2020)			
The current framework (to be fully implemented by 2026–27) categorizes languages into R1, R2, and R3.			
Region	Language 1 (R1)	Language 2 (R2)	Language 3 (R3)
Hindi-speaking States 	Hindi	English	Any Modern Indian Language (e.g., Tamil, Telugu)
Non-Hindi Speaking States 	Regional Language	English	Hindi or another Indian language

- The Court questioned the use of the term “native”, with Justice Joymalya Bagchi suggesting that “indigenous” may be a more appropriate term.

Key Facts

- The three-language formula was recommended by the Kothari Commission (1964² 66) and adopted under the National Policy on Education, 1968.
- It was retained in NPE 1986 and subsequently incorporated into the framework of NEP 2020.
- NEP 2020 promotes multilingualism, while emphasising flexibility and stating that no language should be imposed.
- Under the present CBSE framework, students are required to learn three languages, with at least two being Indian languages.
- English has a distinctive position in India due to its historical development and its continued use as an official language of the Union and in several States.
- Petitioners have highlighted shortages of B.Ed.-qualified teachers for several Indian languages and inadequate infrastructure for implementing multiple language options.
- The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) regulates teacher education and maintains standards for teacher-training institutions.
- The case raises questions involving language policy, education, cultural identity, federal diversity and the constitutional position of English.