



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



24 AUGUST 2026

---MONDAY---



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



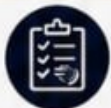
**YOUR
DREAMS.**

**OUR
MISSION.**

TOGETHER,
WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

— "INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW." —

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. Mining Threatens Kaziranga's Ecological Corridors
 2. Vande Mataram and the Constitutional Right to Dissent
 3. Chipflation: How the AI Boom Is Driving a Sharp Rise in Electronics Prices
- What India Can Learn from the EU's AI Regulatory Reset

1. Mining Threatens Kaziranga's Ecological Corridors

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court-constituted Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has criticised the Assam government for failing to take effective action against mining activities near Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
- The concern relates to renewed mining in the Parkup Pahar Range, an important ecological corridor along the southern boundary of Kaziranga.
- The CEC also noted that the Assam government failed to submit the required Watershed Drainage Analysis Report within the prescribed deadline.
- The issue assumes significance because the Supreme Court had already prohibited mining and related activities along the southern boundary of KNP and in its river catchments through its April 12, 2019 order.

Key

MINING BAN IGNORED NEAR KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Supreme Court Panel Criticises Assam Govt Inaction



SUPREME COURT ORDER

2019

BAN ON MINING

Along KNP Southern Boundary & River Catchments

WHY IT MATTERS

-  Threat to elephants & biodiversity
-  Risk to watersheds & river flows
-  Undermines ecological corridors

SC PANEL CONCERNS



No Watershed Drainage Analysis Report by Oct 2025 deadline

GOVT FAILURES



- No report submitted
- 9 animal corridors not notified (since May 6, 2021)

KAAC ROLE



Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council failed to present holistic picture of mining

REAL-WORLD IMPACT



Leases near Borjuri (Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve) linked to elephant deaths

Issues

- The CEC had earlier directed the Assam Chief Secretary to address mining-related concerns and implement its recommendations.
- Several animal corridors identified around Kaziranga have still not been formally notified despite the CEC's directions.
- Mining leases were reportedly sanctioned around Borjuri, an area associated with the Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve, with concerns over elephant deaths.
- The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has also been criticised for not presenting a comprehensive account of mining activities in the region.
- The controversy is particularly important because Kaziranga's southern landscape forms an important link between the park and the Karbi Anglong hills, allowing animals, particularly elephants and other wildlife, to move between habitats.
- Mining and associated infrastructure can fragment these corridors, disturb wildlife movement, degrade watersheds and increase human-wildlife conflict.

- The CEC's concerns were also linked to an RTI application filed by environmental activist Rohit Choudhury in June 2025.
- The matter comes amid concerns over a proposal to reduce the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Kaziranga National Park.

Significance

The issue highlights the need to balance mineral extraction with wildlife conservation and ecological connectivity. Protection of animal corridors is particularly important because wildlife conservation cannot be limited to the boundaries of a protected area; surrounding forests, river catchments and movement corridors are essential for maintaining viable ecosystems.

2.Vande Mataram and the Constitutional Right to Dissent

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

- The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 extends criminal-law protection to Vande Mataram.
- The amendment penalises intentionally preventing the singing of Vande Mataram or causing disturbance during its rendition, broadly bringing it under protection similar to the National Anthem.
- The move has raised questions about the balance between respect for national symbols, freedom of conscience and the right to dissent.
- The issue is particularly significant in light of the Supreme Court's *Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala* (1986) judgment.

Constitutional and Legal Context

- Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and played an important role in India's freedom movement.
- The Constituent Assembly did not designate it as the National Anthem. *Jana Gana Mana* was adopted as the National Anthem, while Vande Mataram was accorded equal honour.
- In 1937, the Indian National Congress decided that only the first two stanzas would generally be sung because the later verses contain devotional imagery associated with Hindu deities.

- The later stanzas describe the motherland through imagery associated with Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati, which has historically generated concerns about compulsory participation by people of different faiths.
- The 2026 amendment focuses on preventing intentional obstruction or disturbance and does not itself mandate that every person must sing Vande Mataram or prescribe participation in a particular manner.
- Article 19(1)(a) protects freedom of speech and expression, while Article 25 protects freedom of conscience and the freedom to profess, practise and propagate religion.
- Article 51A lays down Fundamental Duties, including respect for national symbols, but Fundamental Duties cannot automatically override Fundamental Rights.

Bijoe Emmanuel Judgment

- In *Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala* (1986), three schoolchildren belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses community were expelled for refusing to sing the National Anthem because of their religious beliefs.
- The Supreme Court held that their silent and respectful standing did not amount to disrespect and protected their rights under Articles 19(1)(a) and 25(1).
- The Court emphasised the importance of freedom of conscience and held that citizens cannot necessarily be compelled to express something that conflicts with their genuine beliefs.
- The judgment is therefore relevant to the present debate: respect for a national symbol does not necessarily mean compulsory verbal participation.

Core Constitutional Question

The central issue is the distinction between protecting a national symbol from deliberate insult or disruption and compelling an individual to participate in its rendition. A democratic constitutional order must protect national honour while also preserving freedom of conscience and legitimate, peaceful dissent.

Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**, is a central statute enacted to maintain the dignity and respect of India's most significant national symbols. It serves as a legal bridge to enforce the **Fundamental Duty** under **Article 51A(a)** of the Constitution.

Key Provisions of the 1971 Act

The Act is concise but stringent, focusing on intentional acts of disrespect in public spaces.

- **Section 2: Protection of Flag and Constitution**
 - It criminalizes the burning, mutilating, defacing, destroying, or trampling upon the **National Flag** or the **Constitution of India**.
 - This includes "disrespect" by words (spoken or written) or by acts.

- **Scope:** Includes any visible representation of the Flag (pictures, paintings, photographs).
- **Section 3: National Anthem**
 - It prohibits intentionally preventing the singing of the **National Anthem** (*Jana Gana Mana*) or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing.
- **Penalties**
 - **First Offence:** Imprisonment for a term up to **3 years**, or a fine, or both.
 - **Repeat Offences:** A minimum mandatory imprisonment of **1 year** for the second and every subsequent conviction under Sections 2 or 3.

2026 Amendment: Inclusion of Vande Mataram

In July 2026, Parliament passed the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026**. This is a significant update for your current affairs preparation.

- **Equal Status for National Song:** The amendment brings the **National Song (Vande Mataram)** under the same legal protective umbrella as the National Anthem.
- **Objective:** To fulfill the 1950 vision of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who stated that *Vande Mataram* should be honored equally with *Jana Gana Mana*.
- **Penal Action:** Intentionally preventing the singing of the National Song or disturbing an assembly singing it is now punishable by up to 3 years of imprisonment.

3. Chipflation: How the AI Boom Is Driving a Sharp Rise in Electronics Prices

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The rapid expansion of Artificial Intelligence infrastructure has created a global shortage of memory chips, driving up prices of consumer electronics in 2026 and giving rise to the term "Chipflation".

What is Chipflation?

- Chipflation refers to the rapid increase in prices of electronic products due to rising semiconductor and memory-chip costs.
- The price increases that traditionally occurred over several years have been compressed into just six months in 2026.
- Data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation shows a 3-5% increase in the Consumer Price Index for several electronic products between January and July 2026.
- Products such as smartphones, televisions, refrigerators and washing machines are affected because they depend on memory chips.

Role of the AI Boom

- The global AI investment boom has increased demand for advanced chips used in data centres.
- Major semiconductor manufacturers are prioritising advanced chip production for AI infrastructure.
- This diversion of production has reduced the availability of memory chips for conventional consumer electronics.
- Large AI and cloud companies are securing chip supplies through long-term agreements, creating a two-tier market.
- Traditional electronics manufacturers are therefore competing for a smaller pool of available chips.

Impact on Semiconductor Prices

- DRAM prices are projected to increase by more than 400% between early 2024 and the end of 2026.
- The rise in memory-chip prices reverses the long-standing trend of falling costs in the electronics industry.
- The estimated memory-chip shortfall for 2027 is equivalent to the requirements for manufacturing around 134 million mobile phones.
- Global smartphone exports declined by 11% during the April-June quarter, reaching their second-lowest level since 2013.

What is Chipflation?

Chipflation refers to the economic trend where semiconductor prices rise sharply due to structural demand-supply imbalances, reversing the historical trend of electronics getting cheaper over time.

Key Fact

- The term was coined by Morgan Stanley in mid-2026 to describe the inflationary pressure exerted by the AI-driven demand for memory chips.
- Historically, technology followed **Moore's Law** where memory prices dropped by nearly **90% every five years**. Chipflation has flipped this, with DRAM (memory) prices skyrocketing by over **400%** between early 2024 and mid-2026.

Chipflation and Moore's Law

- The current rise in chip prices contrasts with the historical trend associated with Moore's Law.
- Moore's Law broadly describes the historical doubling of transistor density on integrated circuits over time, which contributed to greater computing capability and falling costs per unit of performance.
- The present supply shortage shows how demand pressures and manufacturing constraints can temporarily reverse the trend of declining electronics costs.
- Consumers are increasingly becoming value-conscious and relying more on discounts and promotional offers as electronic products become costlier.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding Chipflation:

1. Chipflation refers to rising prices of electronic products due to increasing semiconductor costs.
2. The recent increase in memory-chip demand is partly driven by the expansion of AI data centres.
3. DRAM is a type of memory used in electronic devices.
4. Moore's Law primarily explains the increase in consumer prices of electronic products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Question

The rapid expansion of AI infrastructure is creating new pressures on global semiconductor supply chains. Discuss how "Chipflation" could affect consumer electronics, semiconductor markets and the broader digital economy.

4. What India Can Learn from the EU's AI Regulatory Reset

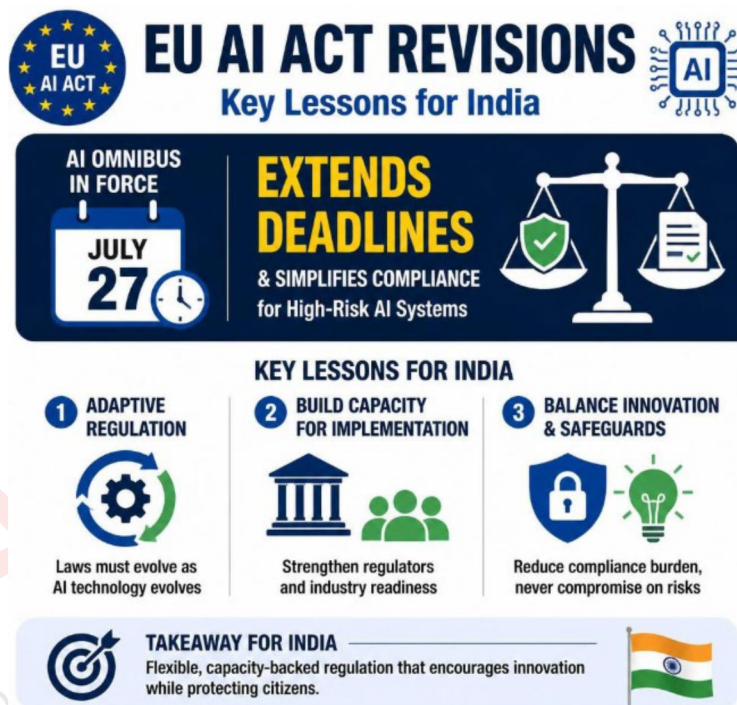
Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The European Union has revised aspects of its AI regulatory framework through the EU AI Omnibus, highlighting the need for flexible and adaptive AI regulation. The developments offer lessons for India in balancing technological innovation with citizen protection.

EU AI Act and the Reset

- The EU AI Act established a risk-based framework for regulating Artificial Intelligence.
- The framework prohibits certain harmful AI practices and imposes stricter obligations on high-risk AI systems and general-purpose AI models.
- The EU introduced the AI Omnibus to simplify compliance requirements and extend certain implementation deadlines.
- The changes reflect the challenge of applying traditional legislative frameworks to rapidly evolving AI technologies.
- The regulatory reset highlights the need for continuous review and adaptation of AI rules.



Key Lessons for India

- India can adopt regulations that are flexible enough to respond to rapid technological changes.
- The regulatory framework should balance innovation with safeguards against privacy breaches, discrimination and manipulation.
- Regulators and companies need adequate institutional and technical capacity to implement AI regulations effectively.
- The compliance burden on smaller companies should be considered while designing AI governance frameworks.

- Regulatory simplification should not weaken essential protections for citizens.

India's Approach to AI Governance

- India has so far focused on responsible AI, technological innovation and sector-specific governance rather than adopting a single comprehensive AI law.
- This approach provides India with greater flexibility to develop rules according to sector-specific risks and technological developments.
- India's large digital population and experience with digital public infrastructure provide a strong foundation for adaptive AI governance.
- The IndiaAI Mission can support the development of an AI ecosystem that combines technological experimentation with citizen protection.

Way Forward

- India should develop an adaptive regulatory framework that can evolve alongside AI technologies.
- The government should strengthen the capacity of regulators to assess emerging AI risks and enforce safeguards.
- Regulatory frameworks should provide clarity to businesses while avoiding excessive compliance costs.
- A balance should be maintained between encouraging AI innovation and protecting fundamental rights such as privacy and equality.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the EU AI Act:

1. The EU AI Act follows a risk-based approach to Artificial Intelligence regulation.
2. The framework imposes stricter obligations on high-risk AI systems.
3. The EU AI Omnibus seeks to simplify certain compliance requirements.
4. India has already adopted a single comprehensive AI law based on the EU AI Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Question

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence requires regulatory frameworks that are both innovation-friendly and capable of protecting citizens. Discuss the lessons India can draw from the European Union's adaptive approach to AI governance.

