



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



10 SEPTEMBER 2026

---THURSDAY----



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.

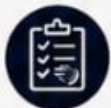


Converting Possibilities into Reality

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. India's 'Sugar' Problem
2. Pollution from Open Waste Burning
3. Orangutan Rescue
4. ESA-ISRO Space Cooperation
5. New GDP Series: Producer Prices and Double Deflation

1. India's 'Sugar' Problem

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed **Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL)** with prominent red warnings for packaged foods high in **fat, sugar and salt (HFSS)**. The move comes amid rising concerns over childhood overweight, obesity and diet-related diseases in India.

Key Facts

- India had over **41 million children aged 5–19 years** classified as overweight or obese by 2025, according to the World Obesity Atlas 2026.
- The proposed FoPL is intended to help consumers identify unhealthy products quickly and make informed dietary choices.
- The proposal has faced criticism over a **“double-trigger” approach**, under which a warning may be required only when a product is high in at least two of the three nutrients—fat, sugar or salt.
- Existing healthy-food recommendations for **schools and canteens** have faced weak implementation.
- FoPL mainly covers packaged foods, leaving much of the **unorganised food sector**, such as street vendors and sweet shops, outside its nutritional labelling framework.

Sugar Tax and Policy Challenge

- India currently applies a **flat 40% GST on sweetened beverages**, including sugar-free versions. A flat tax does not encourage manufacturers to substantially reduce sugar content.
- The **UK Soft Drinks Industry Levy** provides an alternative model. Its **tiered taxation based on sugar content** encouraged manufacturers to reformulate products and reduce sugar levels.
- For India, a calibrated **sugar tax linked to sugar concentration** could create an incentive for healthier reformulation. Revenue generated could also support subsidies for healthier food and public-health programmes.

FSSAI PROPOSES FRONT-OF-PACK LABELS

Bold warnings. Better choices.

fssai
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India



Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL)



WHY NOW?	POLICY RESPONSE	KEY CONCERNS
Supreme Court prompted action 41 MILLION+ Children (5-19 years) overweight or obese in India by 2025 2nd HIGHEST GLOBALLY	GST 40% ON ALL SWEETENED BEVERAGES Includes sugar-free versions Effective since September 2025	"DOUBLE TRIGGER" SYSTEM + Warning only if HIGH in at least two nutrients MISLEADING MARKETING Emphasis on "energy" & vitamins High sugar DOWNPLAYED

Sugar Tax

The **Sugar Tax**, often referred to as a **Sugar-Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Tax**, is a fiscal tool used by governments to combat the rising burden of **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** like obesity and Type-2 diabetes. As of **September 2026**, this policy is gaining significant global traction, with **South Asian countries** leading the way in adoption.

Current Status in India (as of 2026)

India does not have a "tiered" sugar tax (which varies by sugar content) like the UK. Instead, it uses the **GST framework** to tax sugary drinks:

- Uniform High Tax:** Since **September 2025**, aerated and sweetened beverages (including energy drinks) are placed in the **40% GST slab** (28% GST + Compensation Cess absorbed into the slab).
- The "Zero-Sugar" Paradox:** A significant criticism of the current Indian system is that "normal" cola and "zero-sugar" variants are taxed at the same **40% rate**. This provides no financial incentive for manufacturers to reformulate products with less sugar.
- Proposed Health Tax:** In **July 2026**, the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) recommended an additional **22–32% health tax** on top of existing GST for SSBs to curb a childhood obesity crisis that now affects **41 million** Indian children.

Global Trends & Success Models

Recent research (June 2026) indicates that **64 countries** have now implemented health-focused sugar taxes, covering 3.5 billion people.

- **United Kingdom (The Tiered Model):** The UK's Soft Drinks Industry Levy (SDIL) is the "gold standard." It taxes drinks based on sugar thresholds. This led to massive **reformulation** where companies reduced sugar levels to avoid the tax, rather than just passing the cost to consumers.
- **South Asia Leadership:** South Asia is the fastest-adopting region, with **50% of countries** now implementing some form of SSB tax, driven by high rates of diabetes.

Significance

The issue reflects the growing **double burden of malnutrition**—India faces undernutrition alongside increasing obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases. Effective policy therefore requires more than labelling, including better enforcement in schools, regulation of food marketing to children, healthier food environments and appropriate fiscal measures.

Way Forward: Strengthen FoPL, avoid loopholes such as a restrictive double-trigger system, introduce evidence-based tiered taxation, regulate misleading health-food advertising and ensure implementation across both organised and unorganised food sectors.

Prelims Practice

Q. With reference to Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL), consider the following statements:

1. It is intended to provide consumers with easily visible information about potentially unhealthy nutrients in packaged foods.
2. The proposed framework focuses on nutrients such as fat, sugar and salt.
3. It can directly regulate the nutritional composition of food sold by all street vendors and sweet shops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Mains Practice

Q. Rising consumption of high-sugar and ultra-processed foods is creating a growing public-health challenge in India. Discuss the limitations of Front-of-Pack Labelling and suggest a comprehensive policy approach to address diet-related non-communicable diseases. (150 words)

2. Pollution from Open Waste Burning

Source: WRI India

Why in News?

A new **WRI India study** found that **open waste burning in Indian cities triples during winter compared with summer**. The rise is particularly concerning because stagnant winter atmospheric conditions reduce pollutant dispersion and increase people's exposure to toxic smoke.

Key Findings

- The study covered 11 polluted Indian cities during 2019–2026.
- Winter witnesses a sharp increase in the frequency, quantity and emissions associated with open waste burning.
- Tier 2 cities recorded the highest quantities of waste burned.
- Tier 3 cities recorded the highest winter incidence, averaging 49.6 incidents/km²/day.
- In poorer areas of Tier 2 cities, burning incidence reached nearly 84 incidents/km²/day, indicating disparities in municipal waste-collection services.
- Open waste burning contributes less than 1% of total citywide PM2.5 and PM10 emissions, but its impact can be much greater locally because people living near burning sites are directly exposed to toxic smoke.



Why Does Winter Make It Worse?

- Lower temperatures and **stagnant atmospheric conditions** during winter restrict the dispersion of pollutants. Consequently, smoke from waste burning remains concentrated closer to the ground, increasing local exposure.
- Open burning can release **dioxins, furans, heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**, which are associated with respiratory and cardiovascular problems and increased cancer risks.
- The study also links higher burning incidence with **poorer socio-economic areas**, suggesting that open waste burning is not merely an environmental issue but also reflects **inequality in access to municipal services**.

Implications & Way Forward

The findings highlight gaps in **waste collection, segregation at source and scientific waste management**. Tackling open burning requires better door-to-door collection, source segregation, decentralised waste processing, strict enforcement against illegal burning and improved municipal services in underserved neighbourhoods.

The key lesson is that even when a source contributes a relatively small share of citywide emissions, **high local exposure can make it a significant public-health concern**.

Prelims Practice

Q. With reference to open waste burning in Indian cities, consider the following statements:

1. Open waste burning in cities increases significantly during winter.
2. Winter atmospheric conditions can hinder the dispersion of pollutants released from waste burning.
3. Open waste burning contributes more than 10% of total citywide PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ emissions.

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) 1 and 2 only

Mains Practice

Q. Open waste burning is both an environmental and public-health challenge in Indian cities. Discuss the factors responsible for its seasonal increase and suggest measures to address it. (150 words)

3.Orangutan Rescue

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

Five young **orangutans** were rescued from a forest area in **Balasore, Odisha**, prompting the Odisha Police Special Task Force (STF) to investigate suspected **international wildlife trafficking**. The Odisha Forest and Environment Department has sought assistance from the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**.

Key Facts

- Five orangutans — three males and two females — were found in a casuarina plantation in the Udayapur–Talsari forest area.
- Since orangutans are not native to India, their presence raises suspicion of illegal international wildlife trade.
- The incident highlights India's possible role as a transit point or destination in the global illegal wildlife trade.
- Orangutans are native to the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra in Southeast Asia.
- All three orangutan species are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Wildlife Trafficking & Conservation

- Illegal wildlife trade is often linked to **organised crime networks** and is driven by demand for exotic pets and traditional-medicine products.
- India is a party to **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**, which regulates international trade in endangered wildlife and their products.
- The involvement of the **WCCB** is important because it specialises in combating organised wildlife crime and can assist enforcement agencies in tracing trafficking networks.

Significance

The rescue highlights the transnational nature of wildlife trafficking and the need for **inter-agency and international cooperation**. Effective enforcement, stronger border controls,

intelligence-sharing and implementation of CITES obligations are essential for protecting critically endangered species.

Prelims Practice

Q. With reference to orangutans, consider the following statements:

1. Orangutans are native to the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra.
2. All three species of orangutans are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
3. India is a signatory to CITES, which regulates international trade in endangered species.

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) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Practice

Q. Wildlife trafficking has increasingly emerged as a transnational organised crime. Discuss the challenges it poses to biodiversity conservation and suggest measures to strengthen India's response. (150 words)

4.ESA-ISRO Space Cooperation

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

ESA and ISRO are discussing deeper cooperation in human spaceflight and lunar exploration at the International Space Summit in Paris.

Key Areas of Cooperation

- ESA and ISRO are exploring cooperation for India's Gaganyaan human-spaceflight missions.
- A Technical Implementing Plan (TIP) has been signed for ESA ground-station support to Gaganyaan.

- ESA ground stations will support tracking, communication and data flow during the mission.
- Both sides are also exploring cooperation for India's Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan).

Gaganyaan Mission

- India's first human spaceflight programme.
- Aims to send a three-member crew to about 400 km Low Earth Orbit for around three days.
- The crew will return and splash down in Indian sea waters.
- LVM-3 is being human-rated for the mission.

Venus Orbiter Mission

- India's first dedicated mission to Venus.
- Also known as Shukrayaan.
- It will study Venus's atmosphere and surface.
- Planned launch: 2028.

Significance

- Strengthens India–Europe cooperation in space technology.
- ESA's ground infrastructure can provide crucial tracking and communication support for Gaganyaan.
- Cooperation in planetary exploration can enhance India's capabilities for future deep-space missions.

5.New GDP Series: Producer Prices and Double Deflation

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

MoSPI has introduced a new GDP series with 2022–23 as the base year, bringing major methodological changes such as the use of Producer Price Index (PPI) and double deflation.

Key Changes

- New base year: 2022–23, replacing 2011–12.

- Double deflation replaces the earlier single-deflation approach for real GVA.
- Producer Price Index (PPI) is introduced to improve measurement of price changes.
- The changes have revised some historical GDP growth estimates.

Double Deflation

- It separately deflates the value of output and the cost of inputs using appropriate price indices.
- $\text{Real GVA} = \text{Real value of output} - \text{Real value of intermediate inputs}$.
- It provides a more accurate estimate when input and output prices change at different rates.
- Earlier, a common deflator was often used for both inputs and outputs.

Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Measures prices received by producers for their goods and services.
- Captures prices closer to the producer/factory-gate level.
- Unlike WPI, PPI is designed to cover both goods and services.
- It helps improve the conversion of nominal GDP/GVA into real measures.

Significance

- Improves the accuracy of India's national accounts.
- Better captures changes in real economic activity.
- Brings India's methodology closer to international statistical practices recommended by the IMF.