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# KAVISH INFORMIX

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS




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Kolkata Topper

**VAISHNA BISWAS**

**AIR - 367 | CSE 2025**

**TODAY'S DATE**

**28 SEPTEMBER 2026**

**---MONDAY-----**

YOUR DREAMS. OUR MISSION. TOGETHER, WE ACHIEVE THE EXTRA ORDINARY.

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**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
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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-**

1. **Tamil Nadu Withdraws Order Exempting Public Department from RTI**
2. **UN Declaration on Sea-Level Rise**
3. **OneSCD**
4. **United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime**
5. **Incendiamoeba cascadensis**

## 1.Tamil Nadu Withdraws Order Exempting Public Department from RTI

**Source:** The Hindu, Page 1
**Subject:** Indian Polity | Governance | Transparency & Accountability

### Why in News?

The Tamil Nadu government has withdrawn a **Government Order (G.O.) dated September 21, 2026**, which had exempted the **Public (Law and Order) Department** from the ambit of the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**. The withdrawal followed strong criticism from political parties and activists.

### RTI and the Controversial Exemption

- The G.O. was issued by the Human Resources Management Department under **Section 24(4) of the RTI Act**.
- The initial justification was that the Public Department performs functions related to **intelligence and security**.
- The department handles sensitive matters including:
    - Communal and caste clashes.
    - Police action and related inquiries.
    - Detentions under **COFEPOSA and the National Security Act (NSA)**.
    - Reports concerning deaths in police custody and alleged police torture.
    - References from the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- The government later withdrew the order following public and political opposition.
- The episode highlights the tension between **confidentiality in sensitive security matters and citizens' right to transparency and accountability**.

### Key Provisions of the RTI Act, 2005

- **Section 2(h):** Defines public authorities, including bodies established under the Constitution, Parliament or State Legislatures and organisations substantially financed by government.
- **Section 4:** Provides for **suo motu disclosure** of information by public authorities.

- **Section 7:** Normally requires information to be provided within **30 days**.
- Information concerning the **life or liberty** of a person must generally be provided within **48 hours**.
- **Section 8:** Provides exemptions for specified categories, including information affecting national security, strategic interests, foreign relations and certain other protected interests.
- **Section 24:** Provides exemption for specified intelligence and security organisations, subject to the conditions prescribed under the Act.

## RTI, Constitutional Rights and Recent Changes

- The RTI Act aims to promote **transparency, accountability and informed citizen participation** in governance.
- Though the RTI Act itself is a statutory law, the Supreme Court has linked the **right to information** with **Article 19(1)(a)**, particularly the freedom of speech and expression.
- The **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019** changed the framework governing the tenure, salaries and service conditions of Information Commissioners, with these matters to be prescribed by the Central Government.
- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** altered the RTI framework relating to personal information, intensifying the debate over balancing **privacy and transparency**.
- The broader challenge is to ensure that legitimate national-security and privacy exemptions do not become a means of unnecessarily restricting public access to information.

## Way Forward

- Exemptions should be applied narrowly and only to genuinely sensitive information.
- Sensitive information can be protected without creating unnecessarily broad departmental exemptions.
- Strengthen **suo motu disclosure** under Section 4 to reduce dependence on individual RTI applications.
- Maintain an appropriate balance between **national security, privacy, transparency and accountability**.
- Independent information commissions and effective appeals are essential for maintaining the credibility of the RTI framework.

**UPSC Prelims Practice**

**Q.With reference to the Right to Information Act, 2005, consider the following statements:**

1. Section 4 deals with suo motu disclosure by public authorities.
2. Information concerning the life or liberty of a person is generally required to be provided within 48 hours.
3. Section 8 provides exemptions from disclosure of certain categories of information.
4. The RTI Act does not provide any exemption for intelligence and security organisations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:** Section 24 provides exemptions relating to specified intelligence and security organisations, subject to the provisions of the Act.

**UPSC Mains Practice**

Q."Transparency and national security need not be mutually exclusive in the implementation of the RTI Act." Discuss with reference to exemptions and accountability under the RTI framework. (150 words)

## 2.UN Declaration on Sea-Level Rise

**Source:** The Hindu, Page II
**Subject:** Environment | International Relations | Law of the Sea | Climate Change

### Why in News?

The **UN General Assembly approved the Declaration on Sea-Level Rise by consensus on September 24, 2026**. The declaration seeks to protect the statehood, sovereign rights and maritime entitlements of low-lying and small island countries threatened by rising sea levels.

### Declaration on Sea-Level Rise

- The declaration emerged from a **2024 high-level meeting**, followed by negotiations among UN member states.

- It recognises the severe consequences of sea-level rise for countries such as **Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu**.
- It affirms that rising seas should not automatically result in the loss of:
    - Statehood and sovereignty.
    - UN membership.
    - Sovereign rights over maritime areas.
- It calls for action in four broad areas:
    - Science, research and data.
    - Adaptation and climate finance.
    - Livelihoods, socio-economic development, data sharing and early-warning systems.
    - Legal consequences of sea-level rise.



- The **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** has played an important role in advocating safeguards for vulnerable island nations.

## UNCLOS and Maritime Zones

The declaration is linked to the legal uncertainty created when rising seas alter coastlines and baselines under the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.

- **Internal Waters:** Waters landward of the baseline; coastal states exercise sovereignty.
- **Territorial Sea:** Extends up to **12 nautical miles**; coastal states exercise sovereignty, subject to the right of innocent passage.
- **Contiguous Zone:** Extends up to **24 nautical miles**; states can enforce laws relating to customs, taxation, immigration and health.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Extends up to **200 nautical miles**; coastal states have sovereign rights over natural resources.
- **High Seas:** Areas beyond national maritime zones, open to all states subject to international law.

The key issue is whether **retreating coastlines should alter previously established maritime zones and resource rights**. The declaration seeks greater legal certainty for vulnerable states.

## Climate Change, Ocean Governance and BBNJ

- Sea-level rise creates risks not only for territory and populations but also for **maritime boundaries, resources, livelihoods and cultural heritage**.
- The declaration calls for affected communities to be involved in adaptation and decision-making.
- The **BBNJ Agreement**—the third implementing agreement under UNCLOS—strengthens governance of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Its key areas include:
    - Marine Protected Areas.
    - Marine Genetic Resources and benefit sharing.
    - Environmental Impact Assessments.
    - Capacity building and transfer of marine technology.
- Together, developments on sea-level rise and BBNJ highlight the growing need to adapt the **law of the sea to climate change and emerging ocean-governance challenges**.

## Challenges and Significance

- Rising sea levels can threaten the physical existence of small island states and create uncertainty over their **baselines and maritime entitlements**.
- The issue also raises questions about climate justice because countries facing severe consequences may have contributed relatively little to historical emissions.
- Effective implementation will require **scientific cooperation, climate finance, adaptation measures and international legal clarity**.
- The declaration represents an effort to ensure that climate-driven geographical changes do not automatically translate into loss of **statehood, sovereignty or maritime rights**.

**UPSC Prelims Practice**

**Q.With reference to the maritime zones recognised under UNCLOS, consider the following statements:**

1. The territorial sea extends up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline.
2. The contiguous zone can extend up to 24 nautical miles.
3. The EEZ can extend up to 200 nautical miles.
4. Coastal states exercise complete sovereignty over the EEZ in the same manner as over territorial waters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:** A coastal state has sovereign rights over resources in its EEZ, but it does not exercise complete sovereignty over the zone as it does in its territorial sea.

**UPSC Mains Practice**

Q."Sea-level rise is emerging as not only an environmental challenge but also a question of sovereignty, statehood and international maritime law." Discuss with reference to UNCLOS and vulnerable island nations. (150 words)

## 3.OneSCD

Source: News On Air

### Why in News?

- India co-hosted the launch of OneSCD on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 81) in New York.
- OneSCD is a global partnership aimed at advancing equity and transforming Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) care.
- It seeks to strengthen existing country-led SCD programmes and scale proven approaches to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and continuing care.

### About / Key Facts

- OneSCD is a multilateral coordination mechanism bringing together governments, UN agencies, health experts, civil society and people with lived experience of SCD.
- It was hosted by the Government of Nigeria and co-organised with UNICEF, WHO, Africa CDC, the World Coalition on Sickle Cell Disease and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- Focus areas include:
    - Strengthening international cooperation on SCD.
    - Improving access to prevention and early diagnosis.
    - Expanding treatment and continuing care.
    - Supporting country-led programmes and proven approaches.

### Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- SCD is a group of inherited blood disorders affecting haemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells (RBCs) responsible for carrying oxygen.
- Sickle cell anaemia is the most common and severe form of SCD.
- A defective gene causes the production of abnormal haemoglobin called haemoglobin S.
- This can distort RBCs into a sickle or crescent shape.
- Sickle-shaped cells become less flexible and can block blood vessels, restricting blood flow.
- Symptoms generally begin in early childhood and may include anaemia, fatigue, swollen hands and feet, jaundice, severe pain, organ damage and infections.

- Bone marrow/stem cell transplantation can cure SCD in some patients, while gene therapy is being explored as another potential curative approach.

## 4.United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime

Source: User-provided source

### Why in News?

- India has signed the United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating cybercrime.
- The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2024.
- It is the first comprehensive, legally binding global treaty specifically focused on combating cybercrime.

### About / Key Facts

- Adopted by consensus by 193 UN Member States.
- Developed through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- Objectives:
    - Strengthen international cooperation against cybercrime.
    - Improve prevention and investigation of cyber offences.
    - Facilitate capacity-building, particularly for developing countries.
    - Enable cooperation in collecting and sharing electronic evidence.
- It establishes a 24/7 cooperation network among States for cybercrime-related assistance.
- It covers offences including hacking, illegal access and interception, cyber fraud, ransomware, online financial fraud, money laundering and online child exploitation.
- It recognises non-consensual dissemination of intimate images as an offence.
- The Convention also applies to the collection and sharing of electronic evidence relating to serious crimes, even when the underlying crime is not itself a cyber offence.
- It establishes legal safeguards relating to human rights and data privacy while facilitating cross-border access to electronic evidence.

## 5.Incendiamoeba cascadensis

Source: The Hindu

### Why in News?

- Scientists discovered a new amoeba species, *Incendiamoeba cascadensis*, that can reproduce at temperatures up to 145°F (63°C).
- It represents a new record for heat tolerance among eukaryotes.

### About / Key Facts

- Discovered in geothermal streams of Lassen Volcanic National Park, California, USA.
- The name *Incendiamoeba cascadensis* translates to "fire amoeba from the Cascade mountain range".
- It can reproduce at 63°C, exceeding the previously estimated upper limit of about 60°C for eukaryotic survival.
- Some thermophilic bacteria and archaea can grow above 100°C, but they have a different cellular organisation from eukaryotes.
- Eukaryotes, including animals, plants, fungi and amoebae, possess a nucleus and other specialised cellular structures.
- *I. cascadensis* reproduces through mitosis, in which one eukaryotic cell divides to produce two daughter cells.
- It can remain mobile at around 64°C and recover after brief exposure to approximately 70°C, although it does not normally reproduce at this temperature.
- It occurs in elongated, worm-like and compact amoeboid forms and develops pseudopodia.

### Heat Tolerance

- Extreme heat can damage proteins and destabilise cell membranes.
- The amoeba appears to possess adaptations that protect its proteins and cell membranes.
- It can alter its shape and movement patterns as temperatures rise.
- At higher temperatures, it forms a protective structure that helps it withstand short periods of extreme heat.
- The precise mechanisms responsible for its exceptional heat tolerance have not yet been identified.