



The Legend IAS Presents

Current Affairs Digest

A comprehensive analysis of key developments across **polity, governance, economy, international relations, environment, and social sectors** shaping **India's contemporary landscape.**

Governors Must Act 'Forthwith' on Bills

Supreme Court Challenge

States including West Bengal, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh have approached the Supreme Court arguing that Governors must provide assent to Bills immediately rather than sitting on them for three months or more.

Article 200

Governor may assent, withhold, return once, or reserve for President

Article 163

Bound by Council of Ministers' advice except in discretionary areas

Article 167

Chief Minister's duty to inform Governor forms part of pre-legislative process



⊗ **Common Trap:** Governor cannot question constitutionality of Bills - only courts can test validity later

Mains Relevance: This case highlights federalism tensions and the need to define limits on Governor's discretionary powers in India's constitutional framework.



Maratha Quota Controversy Intensifies

Political Tensions Rise

OBC leaders are threatening protests whilst NCP's Chhagan Bhujbal plans to approach courts against the government's decision to grant Kunbi caste certificates to Marathas, escalating the reservation debate.

1

1992

Indra Sawhney case establishes 50% reservation ceiling

2

2021

Maharashtra Supreme Court verdict quashes Maratha quota

3

2024

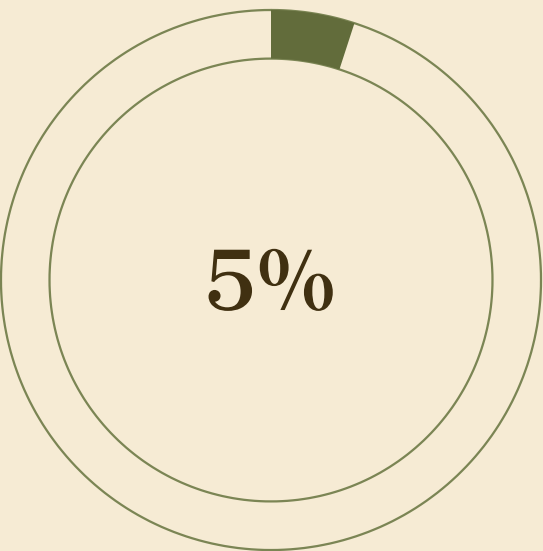
Current controversy over Kunbi certificates emerges

Constitutional Framework

- Backward Classes Commission (Article 338B, 342A)
- State governments require statutory backing for caste changes
- Supreme Court oversight on reservation policies

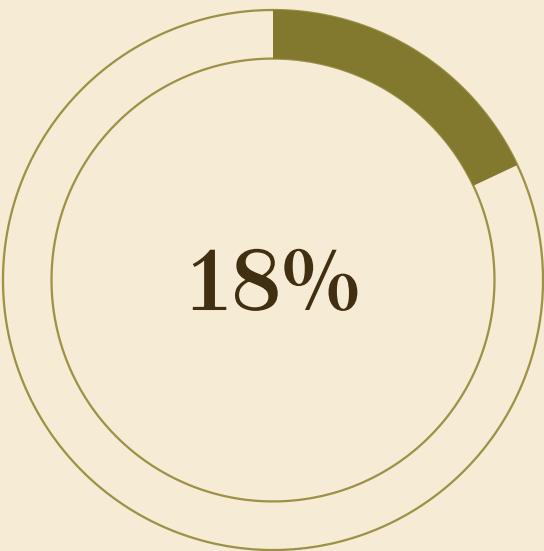
⚠ **Key Trap:** State governments cannot unilaterally change caste classifications without proper constitutional or statutory backing

GST Simplification: Two-Rate Structure



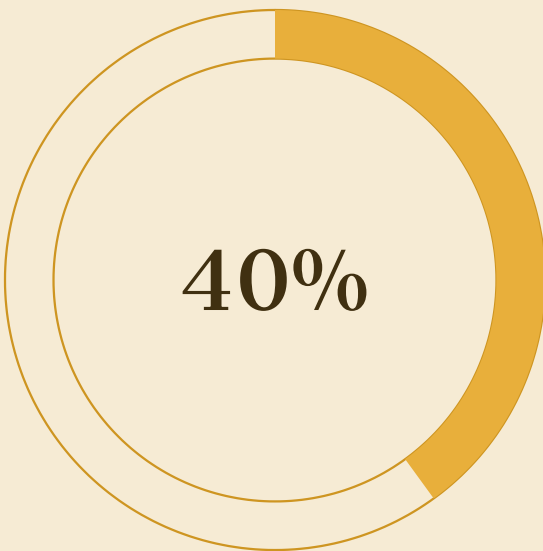
Standard Rate

Essential goods and services



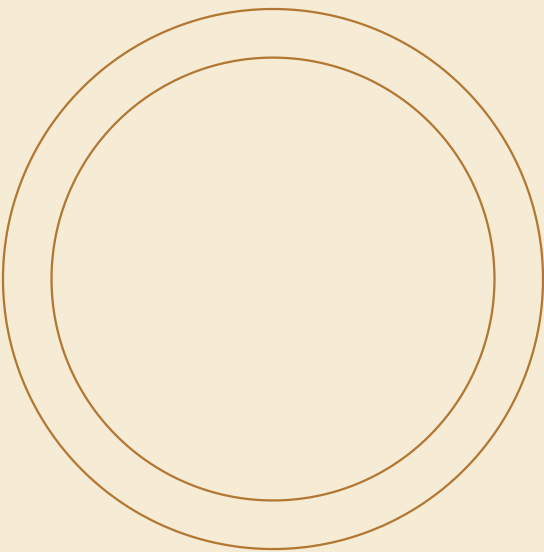
Higher Rate

Non-essential items



Special Rate

Sin and luxury goods



The **GST Council** has approved a revolutionary **two-rate structure** with **5%** and **18%** slabs, plus a **40%** "**special rate**" for **sin and luxury goods**, effective from **September 2022**.

Constitutional FrameworkArticle 279A: **GST Council** chaired by **Union Finance Minister**
Voting Structure: **75% weighted majority** required

- **Centre:** **33.3% voting weight**
- **States:** **66.7% voting weight**

Remember: **GST** was introduced by the **101st Amendment**, not **102nd**

Notable Changes: **Electric vehicles** continue to be taxed at **5%**, whilst **Indian breads (roti/paratha)** are now at **0%** - important for **UPSC** questions.*The Legend IAS*





Foreign Investment Exodus: ₹2 Lakh Crore Impact

₹1.97L Cr

Projects Scrapped

In Q1 2025-26 alone

8.8

Drop Ratio

Highest since 2010

CMIE data reveals that foreign firms have scrapped projects worth ₹1.97 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2025-26, primarily due to tariff uncertainty and global economic headwinds.

Key Factors

- Tariff policy uncertainty
- Stalled India-US "mini trade deal"
- Global economic volatility
- Investment climate concerns

□ Data Source: CMIE is a private think tank. Official GDP and trade data comes from MoSPI, not CMIE

Mains Implications: This trend highlights challenges in India's investment climate and the need for consistent tariff policies to maintain investor confidence.

India-Germany Strategic Partnership

Strengthening EU Relations

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar's meeting with the German Foreign Minister has resulted in pledges to double bilateral trade and accelerate the EU-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations.



EU Framework

The European Union headquarters is located in Brussels, with the Parliament meeting in Strasbourg. India-EU FTA negotiations under the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) have been ongoing since 2007.

Germany and France are backing sanctions over Russian oil purchases, creating diplomatic challenges for India's strategic autonomy policy.

❓ Emerging Issue: Can the EU impose secondary sanctions like the US? This is now being actively debated in international forums



Devastating Floods Ravage North India



Himachal Pradesh

100+ deaths recorded

Cumulative loss: ₹3,526 crore
(2023-25)



Punjab

37 deaths reported

1.75 lakh hectares crop loss



Border Impact

BSF posts damaged

110 km fencing washed away

Disaster Management Framework

The National Disaster Management Act 2005 established the NDRF and SDRF for emergency response. Multiple cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh between 2023-25 have caused unprecedented damage to infrastructure and agriculture.



Important Clarification: NDRF is created under the Disaster Management Act, with MHA providing administrative support, not direct control

Mains Focus: Climate resilience, fragile Himalayan ecosystems, and agricultural vulnerability to extreme weather events.



**THE
LEGEND
IAS**

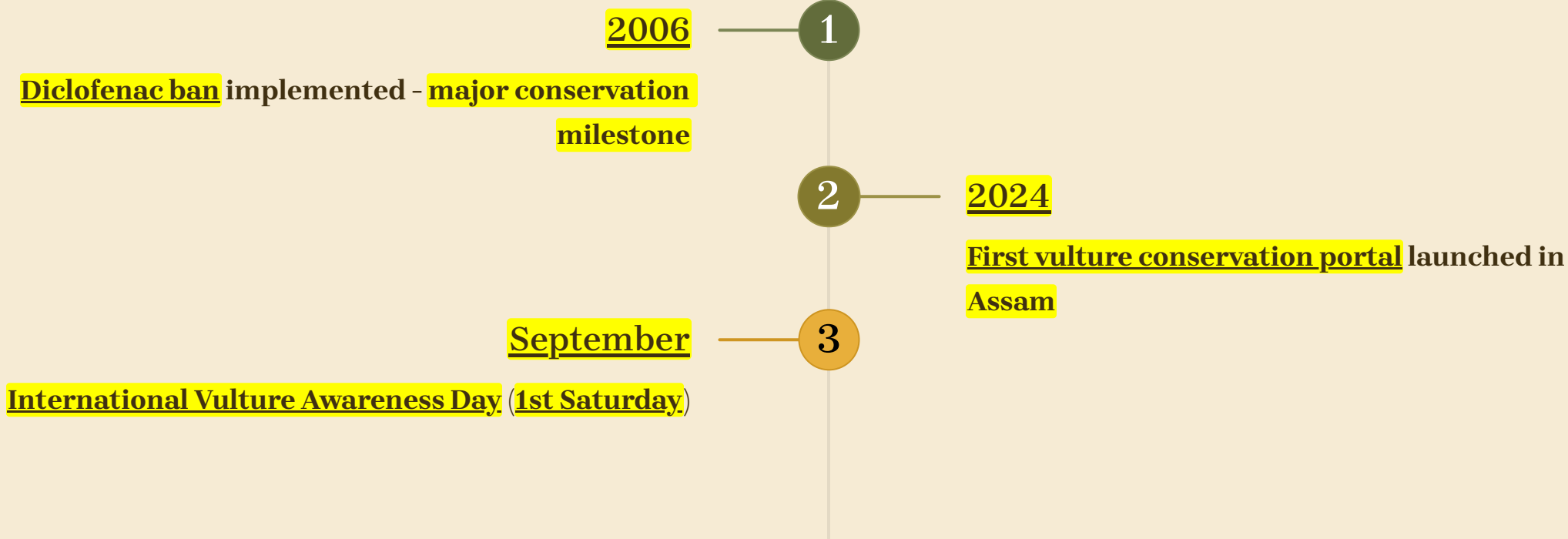
Shaping Future Officers

India's First Vulture Conservation Portal



Grassroots Conservation Initiative

An Assam-based NGO has launched India's first vulture conservation portal in collaboration with Gauhati University, marking a significant step in community-led biodiversity conservation.



Conservation Status

- Vultures are Schedule I species under Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- Portal available in Assamese for grassroots awareness
- Community-led conservation approach



Mains Significance: This initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of community-led biodiversity conservation and the importance of local language resources in environmental awareness.

Anganwadi-School Integration Initiative

Transforming Early Childhood Education

The government plans to co-locate 11 lakh anganwadis with primary schools, creating an integrated approach to foundational learning and child development.

01

Current Structure

Anganwadis under Ministry of Women and Child Development since ICDS launch in 1975

02

Integration Plan

Co-location of 11 lakh anganwadis with primary schools for seamless transition

03

Digital Tracking

APAAR ID system for comprehensive child tracking and development monitoring

04

NEP 2020 Alignment

Supports 5+3+3+4 system with pre-primary integration as recommended

This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy 2020's recommendation for a 5+3+3+4 system that integrates pre-primary education. The co-location strategy will ensure smoother transitions for children from early childhood care to formal schooling.



Mains Applications: Foundational learning, SDG 4 achievement, and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) reforms in India's education system.

Arun Gawli Granted Bail After 18 Years

Landmark Bail Decision

The Supreme Court has granted bail to Arun Gawli after 18 years of incarceration in a 2007 murder case, highlighting significant issues in India's criminal justice system and bail jurisprudence.

Legal Background

Convicted under Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) 1999

Life sentence upheld by Bombay High Court in 2019

Political Career

Served as MLA from 2004-2009 despite criminal background

Represents the gangster-politician nexus phenomenon

Supreme Court Powers

Bail can be granted even after conviction under SC's constitutional powers

Demonstrates judicial discretion in exceptional circumstances

Important Legal Point: The Supreme Court can grant bail even after conviction, exercising its constitutional powers under Article 32 and 136



Mains Relevance: This case underscores criminal justice delays, the evolution of bail jurisprudence, and the complex relationship between crime and politics in India.



Editorial Analysis: Key Governance Themes



Federal Balance

Governor-Bill disputes highlight the need for immediate assent to maintain federal harmony and prevent constitutional deadlocks between Centre and states.



Reservation Limits

Maratha quota controversy demonstrates judicial oversight on reservation policies and the constitutional ceiling established by Indra Sawhney case.



Tax Simplification

GST two-rate reform represents fiscal federalism in action, balancing revenue needs with compliance simplicity for businesses and consumers.



Climate Resilience

North India floods expose gaps in disaster preparedness and the urgent need for climate-resilient infrastructure in vulnerable regions.

These interconnected themes reflect India's evolving governance challenges, from constitutional federalism to climate adaptation, requiring integrated policy responses and institutional reforms.

Strategic Outlook: Policy Implications

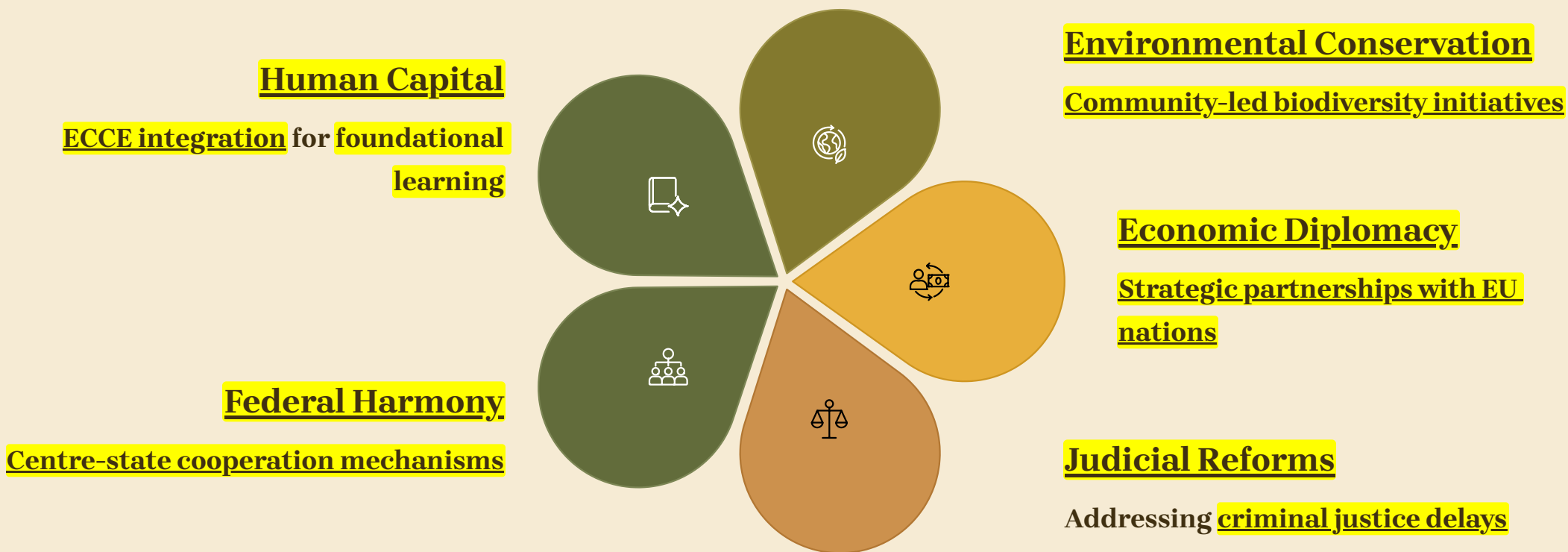
Immediate Priorities

- 1 **Constitutional Clarity**
Define Governor's discretionary powers and time limits for Bill assent
- 2 **Investment Climate**
Address tariff uncertainties to restore foreign investor confidence
- 3 **Disaster Preparedness**
Strengthen early warning systems and climate-resilient infrastructure



Long-term Strategic Vision

India's governance framework must evolve to address 21st-century challenges whilst maintaining constitutional principles. The integration of anganwadis with schools exemplifies innovative policy thinking that can be replicated across sectors.



These developments collectively shape India's trajectory towards becoming a more resilient, equitable, and globally integrated democracy whilst preserving its constitutional values and federal structure.