

Current Affairs Analysis: Key News Updates and Prelims Insights

A comprehensive analysis of recent developments across governance, environment, defence, and economy with focused prelims preparation insights and key terminology.

Kolkata Reels Under Record Rainfall; Electrocution Deaths

Kolkata received **~247.5 mm rainfall in 24 hrs** (22–23 Sept 2025), leading to **massive waterlogging, metro disruption, power cuts, and 5 electrocution deaths**. The city struggled amid **Durga Puja preparations**.

Prelims Traps

Trap 1: Disaster Type → Not a cyclone, but an **extreme monsoon rainfall event** caused by **Bay of Bengal depression**.

Trap 2: Jurisdiction → Managed by **State Disaster Mgmt + KMC**, not only **NDMA**.

Key Pointers

Governance Lesson: Exposed weak **urban flood preparedness**.

Climate Angle: Shows increasing **extreme rainfall events** in metro cities.

Key Terms

- **Extreme Rainfall:** >200 mm in 24 hrs (**IMD**)
- **Urban Flooding:** Drainage overflow in built-up areas
- **NDMA:** Apex body under **DM Act, 2005**



Heavy Rains Hit Marathwada; ₹2,215 Crore Farmer Relief

Western Maharashtra & **Marathwada** faced 4 days of heavy rain → 10+ deaths, 150 villages submerged. **State govt** announced **₹2,215 cr relief** for **31.64 lakh farmers**.

Prelims Traps

Trap 1: Disaster Classification → Not drought but flood-like situation in **drought-prone Marathwada**.

Trap 2: Relief Source → From **state fund**, not only **SDRF/NDRF**.

Key Terms

- **SDRF: State Disaster Response Fund**
- **NDRF: Central response fund for major disasters**
- **PMFBY: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance)**

Key Pointers

Agriculture: Link with **PMFBY** (crop insurance).

Climate Change: Wet-drought paradox: drought-prone regions hit by floods.



India to Hold "Cold Start" Drone & Counter-Drone Drill

In early October 2025, India will hold its first **tri-service drone/counter-drone exercise "Cold Start"** in **Madhya Pradesh**, involving **Army, Navy, IAF** + academia & industry.

Critical Traps

Trap 1: Confusion with Doctrine → "**Cold Start**" here = exercise name, not **2004 Army doctrine**.

Trap 2: Scope → Strictly **UAV / counter-UAV systems**, not **nuclear drills**.

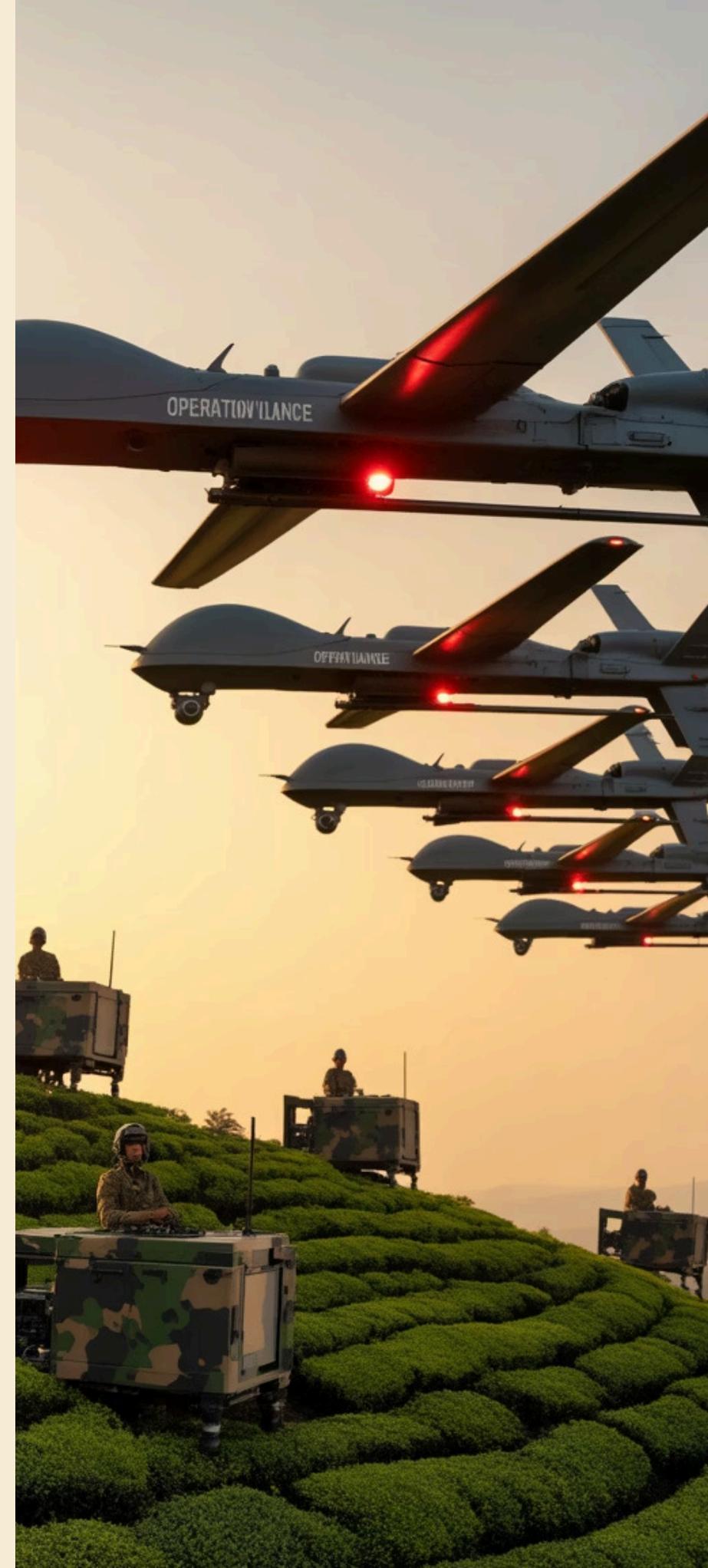
Strategic Insights

Defence Tech: Shows India's focus on **electronic warfare & drone combat**.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: Involvement of domestic R&D.

Key Terms

- **UAV:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone)
- **Counter-UAS:** Anti-drone tech incl. jamming & kinetic systems
- **Tri-service exercise:** Joint ops of Army, Navy, Air Force



India to Submit Updated NDCs at COP30

Ahead of COP30 (10 Nov 2025, Belém, Brazil), India will submit updated NDCs — likely with stronger energy-efficiency and renewable targets.

01

Prelims Traps

Trap 1: Agreement Source → NDCs stem from Paris Agreement (2015), not Kyoto.

Trap 2: Nature of Pledge → NDCs are nationally determined, not legally binding.

02

Strategic Pointers

Diplomacy: India pushes climate justice & equity.

Economy: NDC updates affect energy, industry, finance.

Key Terms

- NDC: Nationally Determined Contributions (Paris pact)
- COP30: UN Climate Summit 2025 in Brazil
- Carbon Intensity: Emissions per GDP unit

SC: Bail Can't Be Denied on Past Criminal Record Alone

Supreme Court held that criminal antecedents alone cannot justify denial of **bail** — reaffirmed principle that "**bail is the rule, jail the exception**".

Prelims Traps

Trap 1: Confuse with Conviction »» **Bail** is pre-trial, not punishment.

Trap 2: Authority »» Bail decisions are judicial discretion, not executive.

Key Terms

- Anticipatory Bail: Pre-arrest protection (Sec 438, CrPC)
- Default Bail: Bail due to delay in filing chargesheet
- Personal Liberty: Core under Art. 21

Constitutional Links

Polity: Link with Article 21 (Right to Liberty).

Criminal Justice Reform: SC curbing misuse of bail denial.

SC Suo Motu: Himachal Must Submit Disaster/Ecology Report

Supreme Court ordered **Himachal Pradesh** to submit full data on **tree felling**, **hydropower**, **highways** & **disaster mgmt.** Next hearing: 28 Oct 2025.

1

Jurisdiction Trap

Trap 1: SC used **Article 32 suo motu power.**

Trap 2: Subject »» Concerns **ecology** + **disaster risk**, not only **infrastructure.**

2

Policy Implications

GS-III: Example of **judicial environmental activism.**

Development vs Ecology: Balancing **hydropower** with fragile **Himalayas.**

Key Terms

- **Suo motu:** Case taken up by court on its own motion
- **Article 32:** Right to constitutional remedies
- **Eco-sensitive Zone:** Fragile ecological areas under **MoEFCC**

Tamil Nadu Launches TN-SHORE Mangrove Restoration

World Bank-funded ₹1,675 crore TN-SHORE project to restore 1,000 ha mangroves (300 new, 700 degraded) with direct funding to village councils.



Prelims Traps

Trap 1: Scope » Covers coastal resilience, not only fisheries.

Trap 2: Funding Source » From World Bank, not Green Climate Fund.



Key Insights

Nature-based Solution: Mangroves as climate shields.

Governance: Decentralisation via village councils.

Key Terms

- **Bioshield:** Natural coastal protection
- **Blue Carbon:** Carbon stored in mangroves/seagrass
- **World Bank Loan:** Multilateral development finance

Enforcement Directorate Attaches ₹7.44 Cr Assets

ED attached assets worth ₹7.44 cr in PMLA probe linked to AAP leader Satyendar Jain.

Jurisdictional Traps

Trap 1: ED Jurisdiction »→ Works under Ministry of Finance, not Home.

Trap 2: Law Invoked »→ PMLA (2002), not Prevention of Corruption Act.

Key Terms

- PMLA: Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
- Provisional Attachment: Temporary seizure of assets
- FATF: Global AML/CFT watchdog

Broader Context

Governance: Debate on federal misuse of agencies.

Economy: Links to India's AML / FATF compliance.



Andhra Moves Bill for SC Sub-Classification

Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill to sub-classify Scheduled Castes into 3 groups for more equitable reservation distribution.

1 Authority Clarification

Trap 1: Authority »→ Allowed after SC ruling (2020: Punjab case).

Trap 2: Reservation Limit »→ Sub-classification does not breach 50% ceiling.

2 Policy Significance

Social Justice: Addresses intra-caste inequities.

Polity: Federal powers in State List (reservation policy).

Key Terms

- **Reservation:** Affirmative action under Art. 15(4), 16(4)
- **Sub-classification:** Splitting a reserved category internally
- **Indra Sawhney Case (1992):** Capped quota at 50%

Festival GST Cut Boosts Auto Sales

Auto sector reported festive sales boom; GST cut + discounts helped growth, according to SIAM.

GST Authority Trap

Trap 1: GST Authority »→ Decided by GST Council, not Finance Ministry alone.

Trap 2: Sector »→ Covers automobiles (28% slab), not all consumer goods.

Economic Insights

Economy: Example of counter-cyclical fiscal measure.

Prelims Link: SIAM = Society of Indian Automobile

Manufacturers (industry body).

Key Terms

- **GST Council: Art. 279A** body chaired by **Union FM**
- **Counter-cyclical policy:** Govt action to boost demand in slowdown
- **SIAM: Auto industry apex body.**