

The Hindu Important News Articles For UPSC CSE

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Page 01: GS II : Governance/ Preliminary Examination

The Government of India has notified major changes in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Rules to tighten the monitoring and transparency of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) receiving foreign funding in the country. Under the new rules, it will no longer be enough for NGOs to be registered under just 5 broad categories; instead, they will have to operate strictly within the scope of specific activities and geographical areas determined by the government. Along with this, increasing the disclosure and accountability of publications, a provision for a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh has been made for violations of the rules.

Centre tightens norms for foreign donations

NGOs must stick to the activities specified by Centre in their category and geographical area

NGOs must declare everything they published: books, magazines, and articles in newspapers

Existing registrations must comply within the next year; a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh will apply

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wanting to access foreign funds must now stick to a list of activities specified by the Centre, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, notified on Monday.

While NGOs seeking foreign funds are required to register under one of the five permitted categories, namely social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious, this is the first time separate activity lists have been laid out for those in each category.

NGOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes, their websites, social media accounts, and publications. They must pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous sin-

gle fee for FCRA registrants.

Any new registration must follow the new norms and existing registrations must comply with the changes within the next year. Any violations will be penalised with a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh, according to another order from the Union Home Ministry. The Ministry regulates all foreign donations through the FCRA.

Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.

Key functionaries

The amended Rules also broaden the definition of an NGO's "key functionary" beyond office-bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Kar-ta or head of a Hindu Undivided Family, governing body members, and

Funding check

Under the fresh changes to Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, all NGOs are required to disclose specific activities and geographical scope of their programmes to receive contributions under 5 permitted categories:



EDUCATIONAL

- Schools, colleges, and libraries
- Scholarships
- Research institutions and think tanks
- Civic-awareness and constitutional-rights programmes



ECONOMIC

- Livelihood generation
- Skill development
- Agricultural sectors
- Entrepreneurship and micro-enterprises
- Financial and digital inclusion



RELIGIOUS

- Places of worship
- Religious education
- Pilgrim services
- Meditation programmes
- Preservation of religious traditions



SOCIAL

- Public health
- Rehabilitation
- Sanitation and nutrition
- Disaster relief



CULTURAL

- Preservation of Indian arts and languages
- Museums, archives, and cultural festivals
- Heritage conservation

anyone else controlling or managing the organisation.

Associations having foreign nationals (other than persons of Indian origin) as key functionaries will ordinarily not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission, unless specifically permitted by the Centre, according to the new Rules. NGOs must

also declare whether their association or any of their key functionaries brought out any publication during the year, including books, magazines, and newspaper articles.

A senior government official said that the amendments were effected to bring uniformity in Foreign Contribution forms (FC) and to avoid

duplication.

The amended Rules state that the certificate of registration or the application form (for fresh registrations) shall specify the purpose or purposes for which registration is granted, chosen only from such list of purposes as specified in the Schedule appended to the Rules; and the States or Union territories in

which the NGO proposes to undertake the activities.

The Rules also impose a fee on NGOs to operate for each specified purpose, and within each State or Union Territory.

Some categories specifically exclude political activities. For instance, the "educational" purpose lists 22 activities but adds the caveat that "awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities" must be "strictly non-political in nature."

The "cultural" purpose lists "promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions" among 18 categories, adding the caveat to "exclude political/ ideological content."

There are 16 permitted categories of religious activities, including "conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)", and "burial/cremation ground development and maintenance." There are 19 activities listed

under "economic" purpose, and 30 items under the "social" category.

Fines for violations

MHA notified another order which specifies fines for FCRA violations such as excess administrative spending, speculative investments, misuse of funds, unauthorised receipt/use of foreign contributions, and using funds for unapproved purposes or in unapproved States/UTs.

Any use of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to 30% of the amount misused or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. Similarly, using foreign funds for purposes or in areas not covered under the NGO's approval also invites a fine of 30% of the amount or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. In addition, spending beyond the permitted expense limit is penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of ₹1 lakh.

1. Key Amendments Made to FCRA Rules

According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the following epoch-making changes have been made in the structure of foreign funding:

- **Activity-Specific Schedules:** Until now, NGOs had to register under one of the 5 traditional categories (social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious). But now, for the first time, within each category, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a specific list (schedule) of permitted activities. NGOs will have to limit themselves only to these notified tasks.

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Daily News Analysis

- **Geographical Scope & Multiple Fees:** NGOs will now have to clarify in which State or Union Territory (UT) they will operate. Unlike the previous 'single registration fee' system, NGOs will now have to pay separate fees for operating in each specific purpose and each State/UT.
- **Strict Digital and Disclosure of Publications:** Organizations receiving foreign funds will have to make a full declaration to the government of their websites, social media accounts, and all materials published throughout the year — such as books, magazines, and articles written in newspapers.
- **Compliance Timeline:** New applicants will have to comply with these rules immediately, while already registered (existing) NGOs have been given a period of 1 year to adopt these changes.

2. Expansion of the Definition of 'Key Functionaries'

- **Broad Scope:** The definition of 'key functionary' in the rules has been made very broad, instead of being limited only to board directors or chairpersons. Now it will be deemed to include trustees, partners, Karta/heads of Hindu Undivided Families (HUF), members of the governing body, and any other person managing or controlling the organization.
- **Restrictions on Foreign Nationals:** If any foreign national is included among the key functionaries of an NGO (excluding Persons of Indian Origin or PIOs), that organization will generally not be eligible for FCRA registration or Prior Permission, unless the Central Government specifically permits it.

3. Conditions Imposed on Various Categories and Political Exclusion

The Ministry of Home Affairs has fixed the number of permitted activities under various categories and clarified that there should be no political color in them:

Category	Number of Permitted Activities	Key Conditions / Caveats
Educational	22 activities	Awareness programs on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities must be entirely non-political.
Cultural	18 activities	The promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions must not include political or ideological content.
Religious	16 activities	Religious education, Satsang, discourses, and meditation camps are permitted, but proselytisation (religious conversion) is strictly prohibited.

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Category	Number of Permitted Activities	Key Conditions / Caveats
Economic	19 activities	Works related to economic development and livelihoods.
Social	30 activities	Activities related to social welfare and the upliftment of marginalized sections.

4. Provision of Heavy Penalties for Violations

The Ministry of Home Affairs has fixed strict financial penalties for exceeding administrative expense limits, making speculative investments, misappropriating funds, or spending money in non-approved states/activities:

- **Misuse of Funds:** If foreign funds are used for a purpose other than that for which they were received, or are used in a non-notified state, a fine of 30% of the misused amount or ₹1 lakh (whichever is higher) will be imposed.
- **Violation of Administrative Expense Limit:** A minimum fine of ₹1 lakh will be imposed even for spending on administrative expenses beyond the set limit.

5. Critical Analysis

- **Positive Side:** These amendments will bring immense transparency to the flow of foreign funds, curb money laundering and shell (fake) NGOs, and ensure that foreign money is not used in anti-national activities or forced conversions that affect India's sovereignty or internal security.
- **Concerns (NGOs' Perspective):** Civil society experts believe that separate fees for each state, providing details of even social media/newspaper articles, and dividing activities into strict compartments will increase the 'compliance burden' for NGOs. For legitimate organizations working on human rights and civil rights, the risk of harassment may increase based on the interpretation of the term "non-political".

Conclusion

There are no two opinions that strict monitoring of foreign donations is essential to keep national security and financial integrity intact. However, the government must also ensure that the rules do not become so complex and repressive that they choke grassroots and honest non-governmental organizations (such as trusts serving the underprivileged) that make significant contributions to India's development, education, and health sectors. A positive balance between security and the freedom of civil society will keep India's democratic fabric strong.

UPSC Prelims Exam Study Questions

Question: Which of the following statements is correct regarding the activities permitted under the 'religious' category under the amended FCRA rules?

- (a) Proselytisation is permitted.
- (b) Only the construction of places of worship is permitted.
- (c) Satsangs, religious education, and meditation camps are permitted, but religious conversion is prohibited.
- (d) Religious organizations cannot receive foreign contributions.

Ans: (c)

UPSC Mains Practice Questions

Question: "The recent amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) are an attempt to enhance the transparency and accountability of non-governmental organizations." Examine this statement.(10Marks, 150Words)

Page 06 : GS II : Governance/ Preliminary Examination

The Delhi High Court (Order dated June 19, 2026) has given its approval to the temporary ban imposed by the Central Government on the messaging app Telegram to protect the integrity of the NEET (UG) re-examination. This case underlines a massive shift in the legal interpretation of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. The court and the government have expanded the traditional meaning of the term "Information" under the IT Act so broadly that it now includes an entire intermediary platform instead of a single specific message or post. This decision triggers a new debate on the balance between digital freedom, national security, and the 'Principle of Proportionate Restrictions'.

1. Legal Expansion of the Term 'Information' and the Controversy

The main legal controversy of this entire matter is linked to changing the definition of a word under the IT Act (Interpretative Sleight of Hand):

- **Traditional Definition:** Under Section 2(1)(v) of the IT Act, 2000, 'Information' was defined as very small units. It included data, messages, text, images, sound, codes, computer programs, software, and databases.
- **New Government Argument:** The government argued that an online platform like Telegram is actually an 'aggregation' or 'compilation' of all these small information-units. Therefore, the entire platform itself is "Information".
- **Use of Section 69A as a Weapon:** Section 69A of the IT Act empowers the government to block (restrict) any 'information' available to the public through any computer resource. Following this new interpretation, the government blocked the entire 'Telegram app' instead of blocking only the disputed content (such as a leaked paper or chat).

2. Historic Stance of the Delhi High Court

The Delhi High Court, in its order dated June 19, 2026, fully supported this broad approach of the Central Government:

"The power of blocking under Section 69A of the IT Act is not limited only to individual pieces of content. Given its broad legislative scope, it will also be deemed to include the software architecture, codebase, database, and its programmatic ecosystem that make up an entire application."

3. Telegram's Position and Legal Arguments

Ban on Telegram stretched meaning of 'information' under the IT Act

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government temporarily blocked Telegram to protect the sanctity of the NEET (UG) re-test by a single interpretative sleight of hand which compressed an entire intermediary platform into an expression: "information".

The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court by stretching the meaning of "information" under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

Section 2(1)(v) of the Act had traditionally defined "information" in diminutive units, including data, messages, text, image, sound, voice, codes, computer programme, software, and databases. The Telegram ban changed that legal interpretation.

The government argued

that an online platform like Telegram was an "aggregation" or "compilation" of these units. By reading entire platforms run by companies, which were legal entities by their own nature, within the ambit of 'information' under the Act, the government has effectively weaponised the content-blocking provision of Section 69A.

Section 69A of the IT Act gives the government power to issue directions to block public access to any 'information' through a computer resource. Here, the interpretation of the Centre has led to the successful replacement of the word 'information' with an 'entire intermediary platform'.

The High Court, in its June 19 order, endorsed the Centre's view that the "blocking power under Section 69A of the IT Act extends beyond individual pieces of content and, hav-



The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court.

Access to app restored

Access to Telegram resumed on Tuesday after a week-long blocking order expired. The platform had approached the Delhi High Court seeking a stay on the order, but the court held that the blocking direction was proportionate.

ing regard to its wide legislative scope, encompasses the software architecture, codebase, databases, and programmatic ecosystem constituting an application".

Telegram had not accepted the "expansive" interpretation of the term "information" while noting that the government, acting through Section 69A, could only block access to "specific information".

Such a sweeping ban had disproportionately affected the very section it

deemed to protect. Many of the 150 million Telegram users were students and educators who used the platform to share study material and educational resources for NEET preparation.

The platform's arguments are backed by the Supreme Court's judgment in the *Anuradha Bhasin* case on digital freedoms, holding that restrictions on fundamental rights must be proportionate and only the least restrictive measure must be employed.

Daily News Analysis

- **Opposition to Ultra-Expansive Interpretation:** Telegram did not accept this "expansive" interpretation of the government. The company's argument was that under Section 69A, the government can only block access to "specific information" (Specific Content), and not the entire platform or the legal entity of the company.
- **Principle of Proportionality:** Telegram cited the historic Anuradha Bhasin Case of the Supreme Court, which stated that restrictions imposed on internet and digital rights must always be 'proportionate'. The government should always adopt the least restrictive measure. Shutting down the entire app is an excessive step.

4. Socio-Economic Impact of this Ban

- **Blow to Students and Teachers:** Ironically, the very section (examinees) for whose protection this ban was imposed suffered the maximum loss.
- **Large User Base:** Telegram has around 150 million (15 crore) users in India. A very large portion of these includes students and teachers who used this platform to share study material, notes, and educational resources for the preparation of NEET and other competitive exams. The sudden ban disrupted their academic work.

5. Critical Analysis from the UPSC Examination Perspective

Positive Side (Security and Swift Action)

To prevent paper leaks or mass cheating in national-level examinations (such as NEET), it is essential for the government to have the power of swift action. Due to Telegram's policy of 'encryption' and 'anonymity', tracking and blocking specific groups or chats is technically extremely difficult and time-consuming. In such a scenario, temporarily blocking the entire platform was the only administratively viable and practical option.

Concerns (Over-reach and Digital Rights)

- **Judicial Precedent:** Including the entire software ecosystem within the scope of 'information' has given the government a legal weapon to completely ban any app (such as WhatsApp, Signal, X) in the future.
- **Freedom of Speech and Expression:** This can violate the digital rights of citizens under Article 19(1)(a) (Freedom of Speech and Expression) and Article 19(1)(g) (Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business through the internet) of the Constitution, as the communication system of crores of innocent citizens gets disrupted due to a few criminals.

Conclusion

Protecting national security or the integrity of examinations is undoubtedly paramount, but stretching the definitions of law excessively for this can become a risky precedent for the country's digital legal framework. India needs to develop such an advanced technical and legal system that can 'identify the crime' and remove it without banning the entire platform. In the future 'Digital India Act', such legal contradictions of 'Platform-versus-Content' must be clearly defined, so that a healthy balance between security and civil liberty is maintained.

UPSC Prelims Exam Study Questions

Question: With which of the following is the "Principle of Proportionality" most closely associated?

- (a) Fairness in taxation
- (b) Independence of the judiciary
- (c) Reasonable and minimal restrictions on fundamental rights
- (d) Division of powers within the federal structure

Ans: (c)

UPSC Mains Exam Study Questions

Question: "The balance between security and freedom in digital governance has become the biggest policy-making challenge." Analyze in the context of Telegram ban issue. **(10 Marks, 150 Words)**

Page 06 : GS II : Social Justice / Preliminary Examination

The burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is rising rapidly across the globe, with diabetes taking the form of a pandemic. A research paper by the renowned Chennai-based diabetologist, Dr. V. Mohan, was published on June 23, 2026, in the prestigious international journal '**Diabetologia**'. In this article, he argues that based on four decades of ground-level experience, India now has the capability to guide global health policies by providing an affordable, integrated, and tech-enabled model of diabetes control to other Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

India's experience in diabetes care could guide other countries: expert

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

With four decades of diabetes work under its belt, India now has the ability to show other low- and middle-income countries how integrated, low-cost, and tech-enabled solutions can be deployed on the ground to launch effective interventions, according to an article by Chennai-based diabetologist V. Mohan, published in the leading journal *Diabetologia* on June 23.

Striking out for indigenous innovations over a copy-paste model from high income countries, he makes the case for local solutions, integrated diabetes care, and looking at the whole heterogeneity of diabetes.

Dr. Mohan begins with the idea that diabetes in South Asia is not the same as elsewhere. People in this region, he says, deve-



The article advocates local solutions and integrated diabetes care.

lop diabetes at a lower Body Mass Index (BMI), with more visceral fat and greater insulin resistance, indicating the need for region-specific screening and treatment strategies. An important component of these strategies are lifestyle, diet, and environmental factor, particularly the intake of highly refined carbohydrates and low levels of physical activity

among the population.

The "total diabetes care" model developed at his centre, the Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre in Chennai, is no longer about just testing blood sugar, but looking at the total impact that diabetes has on the human body, and the range of metabolic disorders. There are lessons in this, Dr. Mohan argues, showing that an integrated approach to screening, treatment, education, lab work, eye, kidney, foot, and nutrition services has made care delivery more efficient. This reduces fragmentation of treatment and delays in delivering care.

One of the programme's most valuable interventions for the region is the effort to overcome specialist shortages, by training physicians, diabetes educators, and technicians, using task shifting to make sure the care is extended

beyond the tertiary or secondary care settings.

Tech interventions

In the article, Dr. Mohan also recommends the deployment of technology to enable continuity of care, listing an electronic medical record platform, an AI chatbot, a patient app for appointments and results, telemedicine, particularly for ophthalmology, and a physician decision-support tool for classifying diabetes subtypes.

He explains that diabetes care is now moving away from a one-size-fits-all paradigm to a personalised approach based on precision medicine, appreciating that not all individuals with diabetes (or even with the same type of diabetes) are alike, and that they may vary in clinical characteristics, risk of complications and response to different treatments.

1. Heterogeneity of Diabetes in South Asian Countries

According to Dr. Mohan, the models of high-income Western countries cannot be directly 'copied and pasted' into India or South Asia because the nature of diabetes here is biologically different:

- **Diabetes at Lower BMI:** People in South Asia develop diabetes despite having a lower Body Mass Index (BMI).

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Daily News Analysis

- **Visceral Fat:** People here have a higher amount of internal fat deposited around organs (visceral fat) and possess a higher predisposition to insulin resistance.
- **Lifestyle Factors:** The consumption of highly refined carbohydrates (such as white rice, refined flour/maida) and low physical activity are the primary drivers of diabetes in this region. Therefore, India must formulate its screening and treatment strategies based on its regional specificities.

2. 'Total Diabetes Care' Model

Developed by the Chennai-based 'Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre', this model is not limited merely to checking blood sugar levels, but treats the holistic impact of diabetes on the body:

- **Integrated Approach:** Under this model, screening, treatment, patient education, lab tests, and services related to ophthalmology (eyes), kidney, podiatry (feet), and nutrition are provided under one roof.
- **Reduction in Fragmentation:** This integrated system prevents the fragmentation of care, eliminates delays in treating complications, and makes healthcare delivery efficient.

3. Solving the Shortage of Specialists through 'Task Shifting'

The biggest challenge in India and other developing countries is the severe shortage of specialist doctors (diabetologists). India has found a solution to this through 'Task Shifting':

- Under this, general physicians, diabetes educators, and technicians are specially trained.
- As a result, advanced diabetes care is being successfully moved out of large tertiary hospitals and delivered to primary and secondary healthcare centers at the grassroots level.

4. Technology and Digital Health Interventions (Tech Interventions)

The article advocates for the integration of modern technologies for the long-term management of diabetes, an area where India has been a leader:

- **Electronic Medical Records (EMR):** Digitally securing the health history of patients.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chatbots:** Providing quick resolution to patients' doubts and ensuring continuous communication.
- **Telemedicine:** Utilizing tele-ophthalmology in remote areas, particularly for screening diabetic retinopathy (an eye disease caused by diabetes).
- **Decision-Support Tool:** AI-based tools for doctors that help accurately classify the various subtypes of diabetes.

5. From 'One-Size-Fits-All' to 'Precision Medicine'

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Traditionally, all diabetes patients have been given similar medicines or advice. However, the Indian experience shows that treatment must now shift toward '**Precision Medicine**' or a personalized approach. Since every patient's clinical characteristics, risk of complications, and bodily response to medicines vary, the treatment must be entirely customized.

Conclusion

India's affordable, locally solution-oriented, and tech-driven diabetes care model serves as a guiding light for the countries of the 'Global South'. This indigenous technological and practical success of India demonstrates how healthcare can be democratized even with limited resources. To achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being) and the global target of reducing premature deaths from non-communicable diseases by one-third, the world needs to adopt India's 'Integrated Health Model'.

UPSC Prelims Exam Study Questions

Question: 'Task Shifting' refers to:

- (a) Transferring the health budget to the states
- (b) Partial performance of tasks usually done by specialist doctors by trained health workers
- (c) Handing over health services to private hospitals
- (d) Digitization of health services

Ans: b)

UPSC Mains Practice Questions

Question: Discuss the need for an integrated health model for diabetes control in the context of the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India. **(10 Marks, 150 Words)**

Page 09 :GS III : Environment / Preliminary Examination

An analysis of the ambitious targets set by the Government of India — 'Make in India', 'Viksit Bharat (2047)', and 'Net-Zero Carbon Emissions (2070)' — leads to the clear conclusion that industrial decarbonisation is at the heart of India's long-term climate goals. Along with economic growth, a massive increase in manufacturing and energy demand is natural. To reduce national emissions while balancing this industrial growth and population-driven consumption, highly targeted policies are required. However, currently, a major policy gap exists in India's industrial climate strategy, which is imperative to overcome.

1. Current Emission Profile of India's Industrial Sector

According to India's recently submitted 'First Biennial Transparency Report' (BTR1) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more than 20% of India's total carbon emissions in the year 2022 originated directly from the industrial sector:

- **Manufacturing & Construction:** Fuel consumption in this accounts for 13% of the total national emissions.
- **Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU):** This sector is responsible for 9% of the total emissions.

2. Current Mitigation Schemes and Their Transformation

To reduce industrial emissions and energy consumption, the government is primarily relying on two market-based mechanisms:

- **PAT Scheme (Perform, Achieve and Trade):** This has been the primary initiative to reduce specific energy consumption across 13 energy-intensive industries.
- **Transition into CCTS (Carbon Credit Trading Scheme):** Currently, the PAT scheme is being transitioned into the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS). Under CCTS, the focus will be on reducing emission intensity across 9 specific industrial sectors (Aluminium, Cement, Fertilizer, Iron & Steel, Petrochemicals, Petroleum Refining, Pulp & Paper, Textile, and Chlor-Alkali).
- The remaining 4 sectors (Thermal Power Plants, Railways, Discoms, and Commercial Buildings) will continue to operate under the PAT scheme.

3. The Core Policy Crisis of 'Non-Specific Industries'

The author has highlighted a serious flaw and puzzle in the policy planning:

India's patchy industrial climate strategy

The inevitable conclusion emerging from the ambitious targets set up by the government's Make-in-India, Viksit Bharat (2047) and net-zero emissions (2070) commitments is that industrial decarbonisation is central to India's long-term climate goals. As the economy grows, both existing and emerging manufacturing segments expand, fuelling a steep rise in energy demand. Balancing this industrial growth on the one hand and population-driven consumption demand on the other with national emission reduction objectives requires highly targeted policies. The recently submitted First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) by India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides a detailed account of national emissions. The report discloses that in 2022, over 20% of India's total emissions stemmed directly from the industrial sector. Specifically, it shows that the fuel consumption in manufacturing industries and construction accounts for 13% of total emissions, while industrial processes and product use accounts for another 9%. This clearly demonstrates how much manufacturing activities contribute to the overall carbon footprint, a trend that has remained consistent over time.

Mitigation planning To mitigate industrial emissions and energy consumption, the government has relied on two major market-based mechanisms. The BTR1 acknowledges the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme as a primary initiative, which aims to reduce specific energy consumption across 13 energy-intensive industries. PAT is now transitioning to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), which focuses on reducing the emission intensity of nine industrial sectors, including aluminium, cement, fertilizers, iron and steel, petrochemicals, petroleum refining, pulp and paper, textiles, and chlor-alkali. The other four industries, which include thermal power plants, railways, DISCOMs and commercial buildings, will continue under the PAT scheme. While these schemes set benchmarks, encourage energy efficiency, and reduce emission intensity, there is a clear gap in how mitigation planning is envisioned across Indian industries. These policies are designed almost entirely for well-defined, traditional heavy-emitting sectors such as cement, steel, fertilizers, refineries, and textiles. However, they do overlook a massive proportion of industrial emissions, specifically those generated by fuel consumption in, what India's emission inventory classifies as, "non-specific industries".

A careful analysis of emissions data for India's manufacturing industries and construction sector for the latest reported year, 2020, reveals a crucial puzzle that needs to be solved urgently. The explicitly specified major industrial sectors accounted for slightly more than 55% of the total emissions generated from manufacturing industries and construction. Conversely, more than 40% of those sectoral emissions were caused by the "non-specific industries" category alone. A similar pattern has been seen in 2004, 2006, and 2009 as well, as per the detailed emission inventory available on NITI Aayog's India Climate and Energy Dashboard. To sum up, the classification of sectors in India's emission inventory reflects that a surprisingly large volume of emissions falls under a single, vague heading of "non-specific industries".

The point of concern is that the scope of mitigation policies in India has relied on an enforcement and incentive-based structure around specific, identifiable sectors. For instance, some of the explicitly identified sectors in the emission inventory, such as power, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, and textiles, are covered by mitigation measures such as PAT and CCTS. Yet, a major part of industrial emissions remains in an administrative grey area, with serious implications for India's broader industrial climate strategy. As this 40% block lacks specific sub-sectoral definitions, various inefficiencies clustered therein effectively fall outside the primary scope of both PAT and CCTS. They are not subject to the same energy efficiency mandates or emission reduction targets as industries such as steel or cement, despite their contributions to the emissions load. This policy gap keeps a significant portion of the country's industrial base out of the green transition.

Need to identify industries For India to successfully decouple its industrial growth from greenhouse gas emissions, the next phase of its national climate strategy needs more transparent, disaggregated data. This must begin with breaking down the existing "non-specific industries" in the emission inventory. For timely realisation of the net-zero emissions target, policymakers need to urgently focus on identifying exactly which sub-sectors contribute to these 40% emissions, how their specific energy consumption patterns are evolving, and the part in the process chain where emissions are primarily concentrated.

Transparency in climate reporting is often framed as an international obligation, a way to prove to the world that a nation is effectively traversing the path for honouring its pledges. But the real value of transparency is deeply domestic. It provides policymakers with an appropriate level of clarity to monitor exactly where the interventions are heading and where there is scope for course correction. Therefore, to build a low-carbon economy, exact knowledge on these passive outliers is non-negotiable.

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Balancing industrial growth on the one hand and population-driven consumption demand on the other with national emission reduction objectives requires highly targeted policies

Daily News Analysis

- **Focus on Traditional Industries Only:** Current mitigation policies (such as PAT and CCTS) are designed only for well-defined, traditional heavy-emitting sectors (such as cement, steel, refineries).
- **Administrative Grey Area of 40%:** An analysis of data from NITI Aayog's 'India Climate and Energy Dashboard' (ICED) reveals that while 55% of the total emissions from the manufacturing and construction sector clearly come from specified industries, a massive emission of more than 40% originates from a single, ambiguous category of 'non-specific industries'. The same pattern was observed in the data of 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2020.
- **Left Out of Policy:** Since this 40% block has no sub-sectoral definition, the industries falling under it remain outside the mandatory purview of PAT and CCTS. They fail to become participants in strict energy efficiency rules or emission-reduction targets, leaving a large part of the country's industrial base untouched by the green transition.

4. Domestic Importance of Transparency in Climate Reporting

Transparency is often viewed merely as an international obligation to prove to the world that a country is fulfilling its promises. But according to the author, the real value of transparency is domestic:

- It provides precise clarity to the country's policymakers as to which sectors are moving in the right direction and where course correction needs to be taken.
- To build a low-carbon economy, precise knowledge of these 'passive outliers' (unclear categories) is indispensable and non-negotiable.

5. Way Forward

If India is to completely decouple its industrial growth from greenhouse gas emissions, the following steps must be taken in the next phase of the national climate strategy:

- **Disaggregated Data:** The existing category of "non-specific industries" in the emission inventory must be immediately broken down and subjected to granular classification.
- **Identification of Sub-sectors:** Policymakers must urgently identify which small, medium, or other sub-sectors are actually contributing to this 40% emission, what their energy consumption patterns look like, and which part of their process chain holds the highest carbon footprint.
- **Inclusive Policies:** Once the sub-sectors are identified, the scope of CCTS or other similar mitigation mechanisms must be expanded to make these sectors accountable and energy-efficient as well.

Conclusion

India's path to Net-Zero (2070) cannot be determined solely by the decarbonisation of large steel or cement mills. Without uncovering the hidden 40% emissions of the industrial sector, the goal of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' and an eco-friendly economic superpower will remain incomplete. Instead of keeping its industrial climate strategy 'patchy' (inconsistent or

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fragmented), India must make it comprehensive, transparent, and data-driven, so that both economic prosperity and environmental sustainability can be achieved simultaneously.

UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Question: What is the primary objective of the "Public Trust Doctrine"?

- (a) Protection of private property
- (b) Treating the State as a trustee of public resources
- (c) Increasing corporate taxation
- (d) Privatization of local bodies

Ans: b)

UPSC Mains Practice Questions

Question: Analyze the importance of transparency and access to information in good governance. **(10 Marks, 150 Words)**

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Due to the impact of El Niño, the onset of the Southwest Monsoon in June 2026 has been extremely weak, resulting in nearly 43% less rainfall than normal recorded in the country so far. According to the forecast of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the monsoon will remain weak during the week ending July 2, 2026. To deal with this situation, the Central Government has identified 315 districts across the country as 'Vulnerable', out of which 111 districts across 12 states have been placed under the 'Primary Concern' or high-priority category. Instead of waiting for the crisis to escalate, the government has initiated preparations to implement the 'District Agriculture Contingency Plan' proactively.

El Nino: 111 districts in 12 States of 'primary concern'

While 315 districts have been identified as potentially affected by weak monsoon, 111 among them, with irrigation coverage below 25%, have been categorised as high priority, says Chouhan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has held a high level meeting with State Agriculture Ministers and officials on the El Nino situation, that has led to a delay of the southwest monsoon. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Chouhan said the rainfall so far has been around 43% below normal.

The Centre has assessed that 315 districts are vulnerable and 111 districts in 12 States are of primary concern due to poor irrigation facilities. "We are preparing in advance. Not waiting for a crisis," the Minister said, adding that each of the 315 districts would have a contingency plan to face the challenge.

Agriculture Ministers of States, senior officials, District Collectors of vulnerable regions, experts from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and officials of the Union Agriculture Ministry and the Indian Meteorological Department attended the meeting. Citing IMD forecasts, he said rainfall was likely to remain weak even during the week ending July 2. "This could directly affect Kharif crops, particularly in rain-fed regions where agriculture is heavily dependent on monsoon rains," he said.

"Around 315 districts have been identified as potentially affected by weak monsoon conditions. Of these, 111 districts [20 of these districts are in Maharashtra] have been categorised as high priority, where irrigation coverage is below 25%. Another 76 districts fall under the medium-priority category with irrigation coverage between 25 and 50%, while 128 districts have been classified as low priority owing to relatively better irrigation facilities through dams and other sources," the Minister told reporters.

The districts are located across M.P., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, A.P. and Odisha. "Detailed discussions were held with Agriculture Ministers and District Collectors of these states," he said, adding that the District Agriculture Contingency Plans, prepared by the ICAR, incorporated district-specific climatic conditions, cropping patterns, and water resources and prescribed measures such as suitable alternative crops under low rainfall conditions, crop diversification strategies, optimum use of available water resources and additional income opportunities to mitigate risks.

"Water conservation and harvesting works under MGNREGA and forthcoming rural development programmes such as VB-GRAMG should receive priority so that employment generation and enhancement of water storage capacity can go hand in hand," he said.

Parched pastures: Rainfall is likely to remain weak even during the week ending July 2 and this could directly affect Kharif crops. PTI



1. Classification of Districts: Priority Based on Irrigation Capacity

The Ministry of Agriculture has divided the 315 districts affected by the weak monsoon into three categories based on their irrigation infrastructure:

Priority Category	Number of Districts	Basis of Classification (Irrigation Coverage)	Key Features / Impact
High	111 Districts	Less than 25% irrigation	This is the zone of 'Primary Concern'. These are predominantly rain-fed agricultural areas. Out of these, 20 districts are

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Daily News Analysis

Priority Category	Number of Districts	Basis of Classification (Irrigation Coverage)	Key Features / Impact
Priority		coverage	located in Maharashtra alone.
Medium Priority	76 Districts	Between 25% and 50% irrigation coverage	Partial groundwater or canal facilities are available here, but a severe monsoon deficit could intensify the crisis.
Low Priority	128 Districts	More than 50% irrigation coverage	Due to dams, canals, and other sources, the irrigation status here is better, making the risk relatively lower.

- **12 Affected States:** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.

2. El Niño and its Impact on Indian Agriculture

- **Weak Monsoon:** El Niño is a phenomenon involving the warming of the ocean surface temperature in the Pacific Ocean, which weakens or disrupts the Indian monsoon. Due to this, 43% less rainfall has been recorded this June.
- **Crisis on Kharif Crops:** The months of June and July are the most crucial for sowing Kharif crops (such as paddy, maize, millet, soybean, cotton, and pigeon pea/arhar). A delay or deficiency in rainfall could shrink the sowing area and directly impact crop productivity, especially in regions that are entirely dependent on rain.

3. Crisis Management Strategy: 'Contingency Plan'

District-specific 'Contingency Plans' have been formulated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The main points of this strategy are as follows:

- **Alternative Crops:** Advising the use of alternative crops that consume less water and mature in a shorter duration (such as coarse grains/Shree Anna, pulses, and oilseeds) in the event of low rainfall.
- **Crop Diversification:** Encouraging farmers to adopt diversity instead of relying solely on a single traditional crop (such as paddy) to mitigate risk.
- **Optimum Utilization of Water Resources:** Utilizing available water through micro-irrigation methods like 'drip' or 'sprinkler' irrigation.
- **Sources of Additional Income:** Exploring opportunities for additional income through animal husbandry, poultry, or other allied activities to reduce farmers' risk in case of crop failure.

4. Convergence with Rural Development Schemes

To tackle this drought-like situation, the government has emphasized the integration (convergence) of agricultural and rural development schemes:

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Daily News Analysis

- **Utilization of MGNREGA:** Priority will be given to water conservation and water harvesting works under MGNREGA. This will generate employment in rural areas while also enhancing water storage capacity.
- **VB-GRAMG Scheme:** Priority will be given to the rejuvenation of water bodies and the construction of check dams under upcoming rural development programs like VB-GRAMG, ensuring water reaches the fields during times of crisis.

Conclusion

In this era of weather uncertainty and climate change, phenomena like El Niño test the resilience of Indian agriculture. The Central Government's approach of "preparing in advance rather than waiting for the crisis" is commendable. However, for a long-term solution, India must safeguard its agriculture from being a 'gamble on the monsoon'. For this, it is highly essential to expand irrigation infrastructure in rain-fed areas based on the principle of 'Per Drop More Crop', promote drought-resistant seeds, and ensure the effective implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.

UPSC Prelims Exam Study Questions

Question: Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)?

- (a) It will apply only to the renewable energy sector.
- (b) Its objective is to reduce the emission intensity of industrial sectors.
- (c) It is designed solely for the transport sector.
- (d) It abolishes the PAT scheme.

Ans: b)

UPSC Mains Practice Questions

Question: Provide a brief analysis of the impact of El Niño events on Indian agriculture.(10 Marks, 150 Words)

India's next challenge — from invention to global scale

India has never lacked technological vision. Time and again, it has anticipated transformative technologies long before they became mainstream. It has built impressive scientific capabilities, developed indigenous innovations, and demonstrated remarkable ingenuity. Yet, in several critical sectors, it has struggled to convert early technological leadership into globally dominant industries.

As India embarks on ambitious missions in semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing and space technologies, it is worth reflecting on an important lesson from its past: invention alone is not enough. The true measure of technological success lies in scaling innovation into globally competitive enterprises.

Ahead of its time

Consider semiconductors. India established the Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL) in the 1970s – when semiconductors were still an emerging industry – recognising early that integrated circuits would become the foundation of the digital age. Yet, while Taiwan built TSMC and South Korea developed Samsung's semiconductor empire, India failed to translate its early lead into a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem. The problem was not vision or scientific capability, but limited capital, inadequate scale, inconsistent policy support and an inward-looking public sector approach.

A similar story can be told about ECIL. Established in 1967, it developed indigenous computers, control systems and strategic electronics when India faced severe technology embargoes. ECIL played a vital role in building technological self-reliance. However, its focus remained on strategic requirements rather than globally competitive commercial products. As a result, scientific excellence stayed within institutions instead of creating large industrial ecosystems. The Simputer followed a similar trajectory. Conceived in 1998 by Indian technologists, it anticipated many features that would later define smartphones and tablets. Yet,



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Executive Chairperson, Biocon Limited

The country must transform innovation into globally dominant technology enterprises

despite its innovation, the supporting ecosystem was absent. Venture capital, software platforms, component supply chains and consumer markets were not mature enough to help it achieve global scale. A few years later, Apple transformed personal computing through the iPhone and built one of the world's most valuable technology ecosystems. The lesson is clear: being first matters little if you cannot scale.

India has seen similar patterns elsewhere. It developed early expertise in computing, telecommunications and electronics. Yet, many pioneering initiatives remained prototypes, pilots or public-sector achievements rather than globally dominant businesses.

Models of success

Fortunately, history also offers examples of success. India's pharmaceutical industry evolved into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse, making the country the pharmacy of the world and a leading vaccine producer. India also developed indigenous supercomputing capabilities through the PARAM programme. More recently, Aadhaar and UPI have shown how technology platforms designed for scale can transform a nation. Scale creates ecosystems, ecosystems create industries, and industries create global leadership.

Today, India stands at another technological inflection point. AI, quantum computing and space technologies are likely to shape the next half-century, just as semiconductors and software shaped the last. India already possesses significant strengths in software engineering and digital infrastructure. The challenge now is to build globally scalable AI products and platforms. The emergence of DeepSeek showed that technological leadership is not only about building the largest models. It is also about making intelligence cheaper and more accessible. The AI race may ultimately be won by those who make intelligence affordable, ubiquitous and widely available.

India is uniquely positioned to lead this

movement. Just as UPI democratised financial inclusion, India should aspire to democratise intelligence through low-cost, energy-efficient AI models that can serve billions of people.

Quantum computing presents another opportunity. Rather than merely replicating existing approaches, India should focus on reducing the cost of quantum infrastructure and developing practical applications in health care, materials science, climate modelling and drug discovery.

The same should extend to space. The successes of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan proved that frugal innovation can coexist with world-class ambition. As computing demands escalate globally, concepts such as space-based data centres powered by continuous solar energy are attracting serious attention. India should not merely participate in these conversations; it should lead them. We should ask bold questions about orbital computing infrastructure, space-based AI platforms or even data centres and quantum communication networks.

These ideas may seem futuristic today. But so did semiconductors, smartphones and AI when they first emerged.

Stopping too soon

The deeper lesson from SCL, ECIL and Simputer is not that India failed, but that it often stopped too soon. We celebrated technological capability before building the ecosystems needed for global scale. The next phase of India's technological journey must combine self-reliance with global ambition. The challenge is no longer merely to invent; it is to build, scale, commercialise and create enterprises that can compete globally.

India has already demonstrated world-class scientific and engineering capabilities. The opportunity now is to translate that ingenuity into globally competitive industries that shape the technologies of the future.

The countries that lead tomorrow may not be those that invent first, but those that scale best. This time, India must do both.

GS Paper III: Science and Tech

UPSC Mains Exam Practice Questions:

"India recognized the importance of several emerging technologies in a timely manner but achieved limited success in translating them into commercial success on a global scale." Explain. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Context : India has never lacked technological vision or scientific talent. It has always recognized the significance of several revolutionary technologies long before they entered the mainstream. However, past history bears witness to the fact that in

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many critical sectors, India has struggled to translate its early technological leadership into large-scale global industries. Today, as India steps into futuristic domains such as semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and space technology, the author notes that we must learn a vital lesson from the past: mere 'invention' is not enough; real success lies in 'scaling to a global scale'.

1. Ahead of Time but Behind in Scale: Lessons from the Past

The author explains where India missed the mark by highlighting three major technological endeavors from the past:

- **Semiconductors and SCL (1970s):** Long before Taiwan and South Korea, India recognized in the 1970s that Integrated Circuits (ICs) would become the foundation of the digital era by establishing Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL). However, while Taiwan built a semiconductor empire with TSMC and South Korea with Samsung, India failed to create a global manufacturing ecosystem due to limited capital, inadequate scale, inconsistent government policies, and an inward-looking public sector approach.
- **ECIL (1967):** Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) achieved self-reliance by developing indigenous computers and strategic electronics during an era of foreign sanctions. However, its focus remained strictly confined to strategic requirements rather than globally competitive commercial products. Consequently, scientific excellence remained locked within institutions.
- **Simputer (1998):** Envisioned by Indian technologists in 1998, the 'Simputer' anticipated many features of smartphones and tablets years before Apple's iPhone. Yet, venture capital, software platforms, component supply chains, and the consumer market were not mature in India at that time. As a result, it remained a mere prototype, and Apple went on to capture the global market.

2. India's Models of Success

History also shows that India has achieved immense scale and demonstrated global leadership in certain key sectors:

- **Pharmaceutical Industry:** India achieved such a massive scale in the manufacturing of generic medicines and vaccines that the nation is now widely recognized as the "Pharmacy of the World."
- **Supercomputing and Digital Infrastructure:** Indigenous supercomputing through the 'PARAM' program, along with current Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like UPI and Aadhaar, has demonstrated that when technology is designed for scale, it transforms an entire nation and sets a global benchmark.

3. India's Strategy for Future Technologies

At the current technological inflection point, India must bridge both 'invention and scale' across the following next frontiers:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The AI race will not be won simply by building the largest model, but by making intelligence affordable and accessible (as recently demonstrated by the 'DeepSeek' model). India should "democratize intelligence" by developing low-cost, energy-efficient AI models on the lines of the UPI framework.

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Daily News Analysis

- **Quantum Computing:** Instead of mimicking Western countries, India should focus on reducing the cost of quantum infrastructure and targeting its practical applications in healthcare, materials science, climate modeling, and drug discovery.
- **Space Technology (Space Tech):** Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan have proven that India excels in frugal innovation. Looking toward the future, India must now lead in space-based data centers (powered continuously by solar energy), orbital computing infrastructure, and space-based quantum communication networks.

4. Key Policy Lesson: "Stopping Too Soon"

India's greatest vulnerability has been that we often stop too soon, celebrating our technological prowess before building a global ecosystem.

In the next phase of its technological journey, India must marry self-reliance with global ambition. The challenge is no longer just to invent, but to commercialize and build enterprises that can compete in the global market.

Conclusion

This article by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw serves as a wake-up call for Indian policymakers and industry leaders alike. Tomorrow's leadership will not belong to the countries that merely invent first, but to those that scale the best. India must transition beyond its image of 'Jugaad' or merely building prototypes, and work toward large-scale manufacturing and creating global brands. The availability of capital, private sector participation, coherent government policies, and a mindset to compete globally are what will drive India toward its dream of 'Viksed Bharat @2047'.

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