

VIGNAN

INSPIRE

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Mr. ASWANI KUMAR
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UPSC Civil Services

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From the Editorial Desk

Vignan Inspire was launched last year with a simple mission: to bridge college students with the world of civil services and government exams, long before the intensity of full-time preparation sets in. Now in its third edition, the magazine stands as a reliable companion, seamlessly blending UPSC-relevant insights into daily academic life. Early exposure offers clear benefits-time to master intricate concepts calmly, opportunities to hone analytical skills, and space to ignite passion for public service. This method fosters not just knowledge but enduring resilience, shaping aspirants into reflective leaders.

Program Milestone

We celebrate a historic achievement: Chejerla Ashwini Kumar, a student from Vignan University's Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, has secured All India Rank 256 in the UPSC Civil Services Exam 2025, with final results announced on March 6th. This proud moment underscores our Civils+ Programme's impact, as classes progress vibrantly for 2nd and 3rd year students across VFSTR, LARA, and Nirula, deepening Modern and Ancient India foundations. First-year sessions, underway since February, welcome freshers to this transformative journey.

Core Themes

This issue delves into fiscal federalism, social equity, AI's opportunities and risks, disaster protocols, and scientific frontiers-staples for Prelims and Mains. It marries policy critique with innovative solutions, urging readers to connect governance with real-world action.

Featured Articles

The 16th Finance Commission anchors fiscal discussions, outlining tax devolution, grants-in-aid, fiscal discipline, and strategies to bridge regional gaps from 2026 onward. Rethinking India's juvenile justice system spotlights rehabilitation ideals clashing with backlogs, incomplete boards, and funding shortfalls, advocating digitized tracking and bolstered institutions. Tribal women's inheritance rights expose customary laws' tensions with constitutional equality under Fifth/Sixth Schedules.

NDMA's new Disaster Victim Identification SOP introduces forensic rigor-DNA, fingerprints, dental records-in a humane four-step process, replacing visual IDs for dignity in crises.

Technology and Innovation

AI narratives shine: Sovereign AI for national sovereignty in security and growth; synthetic media's deepfake threats to economy and democracy, calling for IT Act amendments and watermarking; AI revolutionizing education via personalized learning, smart tools, and inclusivity for diverse learners. Ladakh's telescope expansion-13.7m NLOT, 2m NLST, upgraded HCT-heralds cosmic insights and space-weather safeguards. Bharat Taxi exemplifies reliable intercity mobility.

With quizzes and reader voices, Vignan Inspire's third edition illuminates, provokes, and prepares. May it fuel your pursuit of excellence.

- Sriharsha Mannava
Advisor, Civil Services, VFSTR.



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The 16th Finance Commission of India

Strengthening Fiscal Balance and Development

The 16th Finance Commission ensures fair financial distribution between the Centre and States. It focuses on tax sharing, grants-in-aid, fiscal discipline, and reducing regional inequalities. Its recommendations from 2026 onwards will shape India's fiscal balance and promote inclusive development.

The Finance Commission is a constitutional body established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution to ensure a fair distribution of financial resources between the Central and State Governments. The 16th Finance Commission has been formed at a crucial time, as India faces rising public expenditure, regional inequalities, and increasing financial demands. Its recommendations, which will apply from 2026 onwards, are expected to significantly influence India's fiscal structure.

One of the main responsibilities of the Commission is tax devolution—the sharing of central tax revenues with the States. Since the Centre collects most major taxes while States handle key welfare and development responsibilities, this sharing is essential. The Commission determines what percentage of taxes should be allocated to States and how that share should be distributed among them. This ensures that States have adequate resources to fulfill their constitutional duties. The Commission also recommends grants-in-aid to States that continue to face revenue deficits even after tax sharing. These grants are provided

from the Consolidated Fund of India and support critical sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and disaster management. Special attention is also given to local bodies like Panchayats and Municipalities,

possibility of performance-based incentives promotes transparency and accountability, strengthening overall economic stability. Reducing regional disparities remains a key objective. India's States differ significantly in terms of development levels. Economically weaker States require greater financial assistance to improve infrastructure, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. By allocating resources based on need and capacity, the Commission aims to promote balanced and inclusive growth across the nation.

In essence, the 16th Finance Commission plays a central role in reinforcing India's fiscal federalism. Through its focus on equity, efficiency, and sustainability, it helps maintain financial harmony between the Centre and the States while supporting long-term development and democratic governance.

16th Finance Commission

Why in News?

The Government of India, on **31-Dec-2023** with the approval of the President of India, has constituted the Sixteenth Finance Commission, in pursuance to **Article 280(1) of the Constitution**.

- It is a **constitutionally mandated body** that is at the centre of **fiscal federalism**.
- Its core responsibility is to evaluate the state of finances of the Union and State Governments, recommend the **Sharing** of taxes between them.
- The first Finance Commission was setup in **1951**.

Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Professor in Columbia University will be the Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission**.



which play a vital role in grassroots governance and local development. Another important focus of the 16th Finance Commission is fiscal discipline. It encourages States to manage their finances responsibly by controlling deficits, improving tax collection, and ensuring efficient use of public funds. The

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UPSC

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Civil Services Examination - (CSE) 2025

In the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2025 final list, several candidates from the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have secured impressive ranks, reflecting the growing presence of the region in India's top civil services. Their success demonstrates that with systematic preparation, strong basics and consistent practice, students from all backgrounds can compete at the national level. These achievers will now move into prestigious services such as the IAS, IPS and Central Services, where they will contribute to administration, development and public welfare across the country. For current aspirants, these ranks should serve as a powerful motivation to begin early, use quality guidance and aim for top positions in the merit list.

Service	Total
IAS	180
IFS	55
IPS	150
Central Services Group 'A'	507
Group 'B' Services	195
Total vacancies	1087*

Telugu Rankers

Rank	Candidate Name (English)	District / Region (English)
23	Jeenu Sri Jaswanth Chandra	Kakinada
55	Gudelli Srujana	Pedda Patnam area (Pedda... district)*
103	Bipul Gupta	Visakhapatnam
123	Atla Tharun Teja	-
125	Srigiriraju V P S Sai Krishna	Amalapuram, Annamayya district
139	Chakka Snehith	Hyderabad / Kakinada region*
150	Kolipaka Sree Krishna Sai	Hanumakonda district
178	Banoth Laxmi Rachana	Rangareddy district
193	D. S. K. Prachet	Hyderabad
256	Chejarla Aswani Kumar	-
259	S. Varshith Reddy	-
282	Dommeti Vinay	-
297	M. Pavan Kumar Reddy	Kadapa
358	M. Venkatesh Prasad Sagar	Mahabubnagar district
399	Merugu Kaushik	Medchal district
409	C. Yashwanth Kumar	-
462	Gundu Akhilesh	Nandyal, Annamayya district*
463	Ramu Saurabh	Srikakulam district
468	Raparathi Preethi	Medak district
472	Bethi Vikram	Hanumakonda district
475	S. Yashwanth	Nandyal district
541	Velimineti Vikram Simha Reddy	Rangareddy district
566	Kesaboyina Akhil Sainadh	-
573	Swetha Gummala	Visakhapatnam
640	Palli Pramod Vishnu	-

Artificial Reality, Real Consequences

Why Regulating Synthetic Media Matters

The growth of synthetic media through AI has created both opportunities and serious risks. Deepfakes and digital impersonation threaten economic stability, democratic values, and public trust. Strengthening legal frameworks and introducing technological safeguards can balance innovation with accountability. Responsible regulation is essential to protect ethics and ensure a secure digital future.

The rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence has given birth to a powerful new phenomenon—synthetic media. Videos, audio clips, images, and even text generated by algorithms can now imitate human expression with astonishing realism. While this technological progress enhances creativity, productivity, and digital interaction, its unchecked expansion poses serious ethical and economic risks. As AI-generated content becomes almost indistinguishable from authentic material, society must balance innovation with responsibility.

In recent years, global cybersecurity reports have highlighted a sharp increase in AI-assisted financial fraud. Deepfake videos, voice cloning, and digital impersonation have been used to fabricate executive announcements, manipulate investment promotions, and carry out identity-based scams. These fraudulent activities have led to significant financial losses, shaken investor confidence, and even disturbed stock market stability. In an economy that relies heavily on transparency and trust, the erosion of information credibility can directly threaten macroeconomic balance. When information loses its reliability,

markets lose their stability. Beyond financial damage, synthetic media also weakens the ethical foundations of society. Democracies function effectively only when citizens have access to accurate and trustworthy information. AI-generated misinformation and deepfakes can distort public discourse, influence elections, and reduce trust in institutions. If accountability mechanisms are not strengthened, essential values such as transparency, responsibility, and public trust may gradually erode under the weight of continuous digital deception.

In India, the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act 2000) provides a legal framework to address cyber fraud, identity theft, and other internet-based crimes. However, the rapid evolution of AI-generated content demands specific amendments to tackle deepfake fraud, digital impersonation, and misleading synthetic material more directly. Clear legal provisions would ensure that misuse of artificial media carries defined consequences and strengthens deterrence.

Effective regulation must be proactive rather than reactive. It should combine technological

safeguards with legal enforcement. Measures such as traceable watermarking, authentication systems, AI-based detection tools, and mandatory labeling of synthetic content can improve transparency. At the same time, AI developers must incorporate ethical design principles and conduct risk assessments, while digital platforms enforce clear standards for responsible content sharing.

Regulation should not be seen as an obstacle to innovation but as a stabilizing force. Synthetic media has immense potential in areas like education, accessibility, creative industries, and communication. Yet, without proper oversight, its misuse could harm institutions, economies, and public trust. Preserving truth is not merely a policy objective—it is fundamental to societal stability. By regulating artificial reality today, we can ensure a safer, more accountable digital world for tomorrow.



- Y. Nayana Sree
III ECE, Vignan Nirula

Sovereign AI

Redefining National Power in the Age of Intelligent Systems



Sovereign AI refers to a nation’s ability to develop and govern its own artificial intelligence systems. It enhances national security, supports economic growth, and aligns technology with local values.

However, it also presents challenges such as global fragmentation, resource gaps, and risks to civil liberties. A balanced approach is essential for responsible and sustainable AI development.

As artificial intelligence becomes deeply integrated into governance, defense, healthcare, finance, and communication, countries around the world are beginning to view AI not just as a technology, but as a matter of national sovereignty. The idea of “Sovereign AI” has emerged from this shift, highlighting the need for nations to build and govern their own AI capabilities rather than relying entirely on foreign technologies or external digital platforms.

Sovereign AI refers to a country’s ability to develop, deploy, and regulate its own artificial intelligence systems using domestic research, infrastructure, talent, and legal frameworks. Instead of depending heavily on global technology giants or imported AI tools, nations aim to establish secure data centers, promote local innovation, and create regulatory systems that reflect their own priorities and values. In simple terms, it is about maintaining control over how AI is built and used within national boundaries.

There are several important advantages to pursuing sovereign AI. One of the most significant is national security and resilience. When critical systems such as defense networks, financial infrastructure, and public services rely on domestically developed AI, governments can

better protect sensitive data and reduce cybersecurity risks. This also ensures that mission-critical systems remain reliable and free from external interference. Another major benefit is alignment with cultural values and legal standards. AI systems designed or governed locally are more likely to reflect a nation’s ethical principles, human rights commitments, and regulatory norms. This reduces the risk of bias, misuse, or incompatibility that may arise when foreign-developed algorithms are applied without contextual adaptation.

Sovereign AI also plays a crucial role in economic growth and technological leadership. Investment in domestic AI ecosystems fosters innovation, creates high-skilled jobs, strengthens startups, and enhances global competitiveness. Countries that lead in AI development not only attract international investment but also influence global standards and technological directions.

However, the path toward sovereign AI is not without challenges. One concern is the fragmentation of global standards. If every country builds isolated AI systems with unique technical frameworks, it may create compatibility issues, making international collaboration and cross-border data exchange more complex. There are also significant resource and capability gaps. Developing advanced AI systems

requires large-scale investment in research infrastructure, computational power, skilled professionals, and data governance frameworks. Smaller or developing nations may struggle to keep pace, potentially widening the global technological divide. Additionally, sovereign AI initiatives must be approached carefully to avoid overreach. Without transparency and accountability, such systems could be misused for excessive state surveillance or restrictions on free expression, raising serious concerns about civil liberties and democratic values.

Ultimately, sovereign AI represents a balancing act. It offers nations the opportunity to strengthen security, protect cultural identity, and drive economic progress. At the same time, it requires thoughtful policymaking that harmonizes independence with global cooperation, innovation with regulation, and security with the protection of individual rights. As AI continues to shape the modern world, how countries approach sovereignty in this domain will significantly influence the future of technology and society.



- Sk. Md. Fayazullah
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Smart Classrooms & Smarter Learning

The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Education

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming many aspects of modern life, and education is one of the fields experiencing the most significant change. The integration of AI into education is gradually reshaping traditional teaching methods and creating more intelligent and efficient learning environments. By supporting both students and teachers, AI has the potential to improve learning outcomes and make education more flexible, engaging, and accessible.

One of the most important advantages of AI in education is the ability to provide personalized learning experiences. AI-powered platforms can analyze how students learn by observing their strengths, weaknesses, and learning patterns. Based on this analysis, the system can recommend customized lessons, practice exercises, and feedback tailored to each student's needs.

AI is also contributing to the development of smart educational content and digital learning tools. Modern platforms now include interactive textbooks, educational videos, and simulation-based learning modules that make complex topics easier to understand. Virtual tutors and AI-based chatbots can respond instantly to students' questions, making support available at any time. In language learning, AI applications can even check pronunciation and provide immediate corrections, helping learners improve their skills more effectively.

Teachers also benefit greatly from AI-supported systems. Administrative tasks such as grading objective tests, recording attendance, and preparing performance reports can be automated using AI tools. By



Artificial Intelligence is transforming education by enabling personalized learning, smart digital tools, and automated academic support. It helps teachers reduce administrative work while improving accessibility for students worldwide. Although challenges like data privacy remain, AI is expected to play a major role in building smarter and more inclusive education systems in the future.

reducing this workload, teachers can spend more time focusing on mentoring students, encouraging creativity, and building meaningful classroom interactions..

Another significant contribution of AI is its role in improving accessibility and inclusion in education. AI-powered tools such as speech recognition, text-to-speech conversion, and real-time translation can assist students with disabilities and those who face language barriers. Online learning platforms supported by AI can also deliver quality education to students in remote or rural areas, helping reduce educational inequality.

Despite these benefits, the integration of AI into education also presents several challenges. Concerns related to data privacy, high implementation costs, and over-dependence on technology must be addressed carefully. Educational institutions and policymakers need to ensure that AI is used ethically and responsibly, maintaining a healthy balance between technology and human interaction in the learning

process. Assessment methods are also evolving with the help of AI. Traditional examinations are gradually being supplemented with AI-powered evaluation systems. These systems can assess objective responses quickly and are increasingly capable of evaluating written answers using natural language processing techniques and instant feedback.

Looking ahead, the role of AI in education is expected to grow even further. Future developments may include fully virtual classrooms, intelligent robots acting as teaching assistants, and advanced learning analytics that track academic progress in real time. As technology continues to evolve, AI will play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of education.



- B. Navya Sri
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Science for Dignity?

India's New Protocol for Disaster Victim Identification

The NDMA has introduced a scientific protocol for Disaster Victim Identification to ensure accurate and respectful identification of disaster victims. The process uses forensic methods such as DNA, fingerprints, and dental records. By combining science with humanitarian care, the system aims to provide families with closure while preserving the dignity of every life lost.

In response to the growing need for accurate and respectful handling of disaster casualties, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has introduced a significant new framework known as the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). For the first time, India now has a formal, scientific system designed to identify individuals who lose their lives in large-scale disasters such as floods, train accidents, building collapses, and other emergencies. This development marks an important shift toward a more organized and evidence-based approach to handling such sensitive situations.

In the past, victim identification often depended on visual recognition by grieving family members. While understandable during moments of distress, this method could be inaccurate and emotionally overwhelming for families. The newly introduced SOP replaces this approach with a structured, science-driven process that ensures victims are identified correctly and respectfully before being returned to their families. The protocol

follows a carefully designed four-step process. The first stage involves the systematic recovery of remains from the disaster site by trained professionals. In the next stage, specialists collect “after-death” data, which may include fingerprints, dental records, and DNA samples. These scientific details are then compared with “before-death” information provided by families, such as medical records, physical descriptions, or previous dental data. The final step involves a detailed verification process, where experts review the collected evidence to confirm an accurate identification before the remains are officially released to the family. Beyond its scientific approach, the SOP also places strong importance on humanitarian values. The guidelines emphasize treating the deceased with dignity and ensuring that cultural and religious customs are respected throughout the identification process. The protocol also encourages authorities to minimize delays and provide emotional support to grieving families, recognizing that the process of identification is not only

technical but deeply personal. For students and professionals involved in disaster management, forensic science, and civil safety, this new protocol represents a major step forward. It establishes a clear chain of responsibility among authorities and aligns India's disaster response systems with internationally accepted standards. More importantly, it highlights the role of science in bringing closure to families who have lost loved ones during tragic events.

By combining scientific precision with compassion, the NDMA's new identification protocol ensures that even in the aftermath of devastating disasters, every life is acknowledged with dignity and respect. Through this initiative, India moves closer to a disaster response system that values both accuracy and humanity.



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Vignap Nirula



Tradition and Equality

Rethinking Inheritance Rights for Tribal Women in India

Tribal women in India often face restrictions in inheriting property due to customary laws and special constitutional protections granted to tribal communities. While these safeguards aim to preserve tribal identity and land rights, they have also limited women's economic independence. Achieving true equality requires community-driven reforms that balance tribal autonomy with constitutional principles of gender justice.

Inheritance rights are an important foundation of social justice and gender equality. Owning property gives individuals economic security, independence, and dignity. However, in many tribal regions of India, women have historically been excluded from inheritance and property ownership. This situation arises from a complex mix of constitutional safeguards and special legal provisions that were originally designed to protect tribal identity and autonomy. While these protections aim to preserve tribal traditions and land rights, they have also unintentionally reinforced systems that deny women equal inheritance. Rethinking tribal women's inheritance rights therefore requires examining these protective frameworks through the broader principles of constitutional morality and equality.

The Constitution of India provides special protections for tribal communities through the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule. These provisions grant autonomy to Scheduled Areas and Autonomous District Councils, allowing them to manage land, culture, and social customs according to their traditional practices. Such autonomy has played an important role in protecting tribal land from exploitation by outsiders. However, it has also allowed certain customary laws—many of which are patriarchal in nature—to continue without challenge. In several tribal communities, these customs restrict women from inheriting land or property, reinforcing gender inequality within the community.

Additional constitutional provisions further strengthen this autonomy. Articles 371A and 371G grant special protections to the states of Nagaland and Mizoram. According to these



provisions, Parliament cannot make laws affecting religious practices, customary laws, and land ownership in these states without the approval of the respective state legislatures. While these safeguards were created to respect tribal traditions and self-governance, they also limit the scope for legal reforms that could ensure equal inheritance rights for women.

Historical laws from the colonial period have also contributed to this issue. The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 and the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act of 1949 were originally introduced to prevent tribal land from being taken away by non-tribal groups. Although these laws were meant to protect tribal communities, their interpretation over time has often excluded daughters—particularly married women—from inheriting family land. As a result, women are frequently treated as dependents within the family rather than rightful property owners.

Another major factor is the limited application of modern inheritance laws to tribal communities. The Hindu Succession Act of 1956, which governs property rights for many Indians, does not apply to Scheduled Tribes under Section 2(2). Even though the Act was amended in 2005 to grant equal inheritance rights to daughters, tribal women continue to remain outside its protection. This

legal gap has prevented them from benefiting from reforms that promote gender equality in other parts of Indian society.

Efforts have been made to strengthen tribal governance and rights through laws such as the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996, commonly known as PESA, and the Forest Rights Act of 2006. These laws were intended to empower tribal communities and recognize their rights over land and forest resources. However, in many areas, the decision-making bodies responsible for implementing these laws, such as Gram Sabhas, are dominated by men. As a result, land titles and ownership records are often issued in the names of male family members, leaving women with little or no control over property.

A constructive way forward would involve community-led reforms that gradually address gender inequality within tribal societies. Increasing legal awareness among tribal communities, encouraging the participation of women in tribal councils and decision-making bodies, and reinterpreting customary practices in line with the constitutional principles of equality under Articles 14 and 15 could help create meaningful change. True justice will not come from dismantling tribal traditions, but from allowing them to evolve in ways that uphold fairness, dignity, and equal rights for all members of the community.



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India's Ladakh Telescope Expansion will establish advanced facilities such as the NLOT, NLST, and an upgraded Himalayan Chandra Telescope. The region's high altitude and clear skies make it ideal for deep-space and solar observations. The project will enhance scientific research, support space-weather monitoring, and strengthen India's position in global astronomy.



India's New Window to the Universe

The Ladakh Telescope Expansion

High in the cold desert of Ladakh, where the air is thin and the skies remain remarkably clear, India is building one of its most ambitious scientific projects. The Union Budget for 2026–27 has approved a major expansion of the country's astronomical infrastructure in this region. The initiative includes the construction of the 13.7-metre National Large Optical–Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT) at Hanle, the development of a 2-metre National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) near Pangong Tso, and the upgrading of the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT). Along with the recently established MACE gamma-ray telescope, these facilities aim to transform Ladakh into a leading global center for both deep-space and solar research.

The project is being led by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and represents more than a technological upgrade. It signals India's growing commitment to scientific leadership and advanced astronomical research. By expanding observational capabilities, the initiative will enable Indian scientists to explore distant galaxies, study cosmic events, and better understand the dynamic processes occurring on the Sun.

One of the major reasons Ladakh was chosen for this project lies in its unique geographical advantages. The region of Hanle, located at an

altitude of about 4,500 meters, offers ideal conditions for astronomical observation. The atmosphere here is extremely dry, meaning there is very little water vapor to interfere with telescopic signals. The region also experiences minimal light pollution and a large number of cloudless nights each year.

The expansion focuses on several key instruments that will strengthen India's ability to observe and understand the universe. One of them is the Himalayan Chandra Telescope, which has already served astronomers for over two decades. Originally built with a 2-metre mirror, the telescope is now being upgraded to a 3.7-metre segmented mirror system.

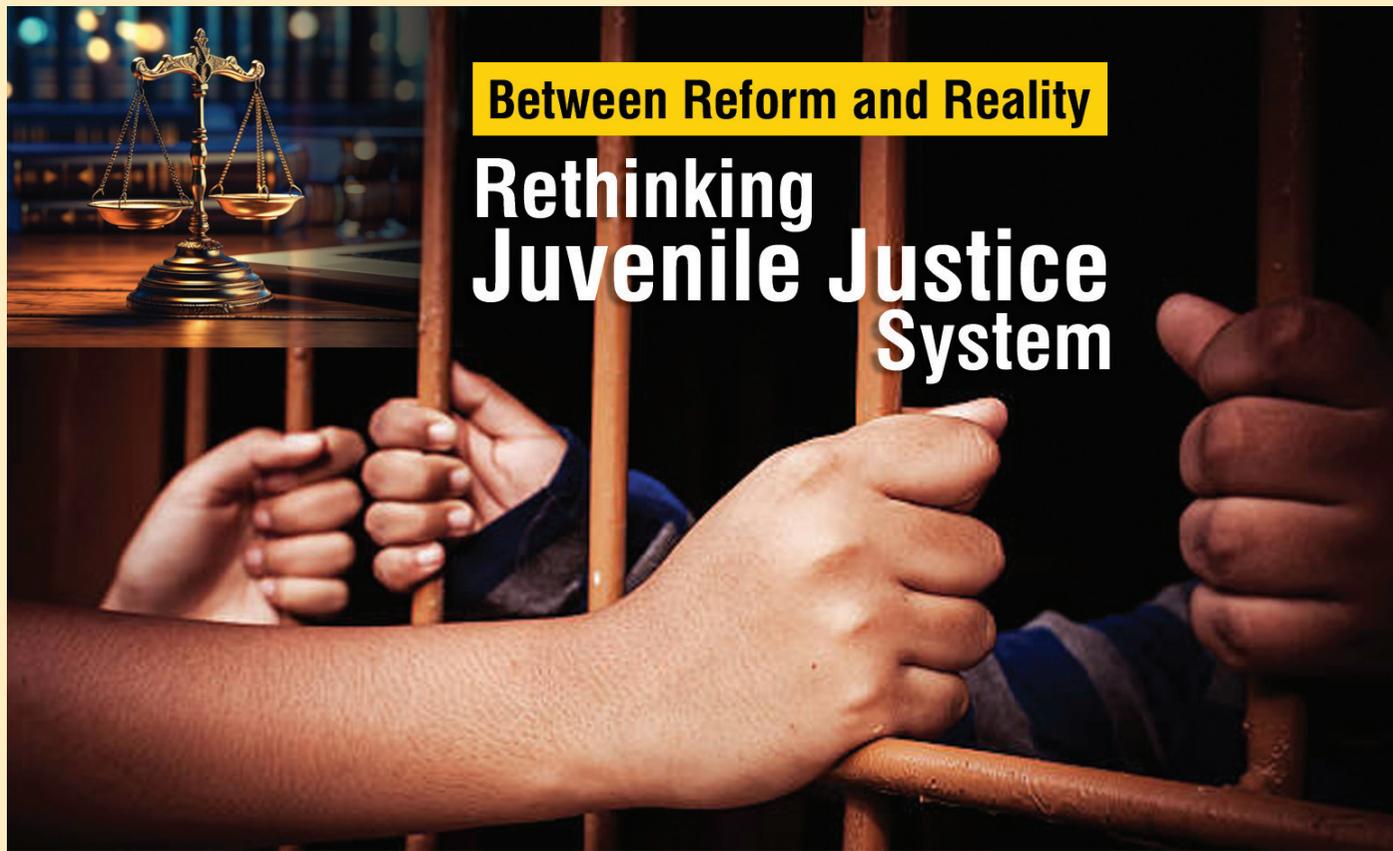
Another major component is the National Large Solar Telescope (NLST), which will be located at Merak near Pangong Tso Lake. With a 2-metre aperture, this telescope will be capable of capturing highly detailed images of the Sun. Scientists will use it to study solar magnetic fields, sunspots, and solar flares. These observations are particularly important because solar activity can influence satellite operations, communication networks, and power systems on Earth. The NLST will also complement India's space-based Aditya-L1 mission, creating a powerful combination of ground-based and space-based solar observation. Perhaps the

most ambitious instrument in the project is the National Large Optical–Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT), often described as a “giant eye” looking into the cosmos. With a massive 13.7-metre segmented mirror, it will be among the largest telescopes of its kind in the world.

Beyond its scientific value, the Ladakh Telescope Expansion represents an example of how advanced research can contribute to society. Improved understanding of solar activity will strengthen space-weather forecasting, which is essential for protecting satellites, communication systems, and power grids. At the same time, the project can promote regional development through scientific tourism, research collaboration, and technological innovation. As India builds these powerful instruments under the clear skies of Ladakh, it is opening a new window to the universe. The expansion not only strengthens the country's scientific capabilities but also positions India as an important contributor to global space and astronomical research.



- B. Naaga Laxmee
II IT, Vignana Lara



Between Reform and Reality

Rethinking Juvenile Justice System

India's juvenile justice framework is built on a strong constitutional and legal foundation that emphasizes care, protection, and rehabilitation for children. Constitutional provisions such as Articles 15(3), 39(e), and 21 highlight the State's responsibility to safeguard children's rights and welfare. These principles are further reflected in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which promotes a child-centric approach to justice. The philosophy behind this system is clear: children who come into conflict with the law should be guided toward reform and reintegration rather than subjected to harsh punishment.

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 replaced the earlier 2000 law and introduced several significant reforms. It created two important categories to address the needs of vulnerable children. The first is Children in Conflict with Law

India's juvenile justice system is designed to prioritize rehabilitation and child welfare, but practical challenges such as case backlogs, incomplete boards, and limited funding weaken its effectiveness. Recent debates on lowering the age for adult trials have raised concerns about undermining its reform-oriented philosophy. Strengthening institutions, improving data systems, and increasing investment in child welfare are essential for meaningful reform

(CCL), referring to minors accused of committing offences. The second is Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP), which includes

children who are abandoned, abused, or otherwise vulnerable. One of the most debated provisions of the 2015 Act allows juveniles aged between 16 and 18 who are accused of heinous crimes to be tried as adults, but only after a psychological assessment by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). Later, the 2021 amendment strengthened administrative oversight by giving District Magistrates greater authority in matters related to adoption and institutional child care.

Despite the progressive intent of the legislation, the actual functioning of the juvenile justice system faces serious challenges. The India Justice Report highlights that a large number of cases involving children remain unresolved for long periods. Across the country, around 55 percent of juvenile cases are still pending. In some states, the situation is even more concerning. For example, in Odisha, about 83 percent of such cases remain

unresolved, leaving thousands of children waiting for decisions that could shape their future. Reports suggest that over 50,000 children are currently awaiting the outcome of their cases.

Institutional weaknesses further complicate the situation. According to recent data from 2023–24, nearly one-fourth of the surveyed Juvenile Justice Boards were functioning without a complete bench.

Another major challenge is the absence of a centralized national database for juvenile justice cases. Without a unified data system, effective monitoring by the Ministry of Women and Child Development becomes difficult, making it harder to evaluate the performance of the system or plan necessary reforms.

At the same time, recent policy debates have raised new concerns about the direction of juvenile justice in India. A Private Member's Bill introduced in December 2025 proposes reducing the age at which juveniles can be tried as adults for heinous crimes from 16 to 14 years. Critics argue that such a change goes against the rehabilitative spirit of the juvenile justice system. They also point out that official crime data does not justify such a move. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's 2023 report, crimes committed by children in conflict with the law accounted for only about 0.5 percent of the total crimes recorded in the country.

Strengthening the juvenile justice system therefore requires practical reforms rather than harsher punishments. Digitizing case-management systems could help reduce delays and improve transparency. Ensuring that all Juvenile Justice Boards function with complete benches and providing professional training to their members would improve the quality of decision-making. Adequate funding is equally important. In recent years, government spending on child-focused welfare programs



has declined to less than 0.35 percent of India's GDP, a level that many experts believe is insufficient to address the needs of vulnerable children.

India has also introduced several supportive initiatives and legal frameworks aimed at protecting children. Mission Vatsalya serves as a national umbrella program that focuses on the safety, rehabilitation, and welfare of vulnerable children through institutional and community-based support systems. The legal principle of *doli incapax* establishes that children below the age of seven are presumed incapable of forming criminal intent and therefore cannot be held legally responsible for crimes. In addition, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) regulates and monitors both domestic and international adoption processes to ensure that orphaned or abandoned children find safe families. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, further strengthens child protection by

providing a strict legal framework to address sexual abuse and exploitation of minors.

Ultimately, India's juvenile justice system reflects a powerful promise: that children who make mistakes or face difficult circumstances should be given the opportunity to rebuild their lives. However, bridging the gap between legal ideals and real-world implementation remains a major challenge. Meaningful reforms, stronger institutions, and greater investment in child welfare are essential to ensure that the system truly serves the best interests of every child.



- B. S. Mayur
Civil Services
Coordinator



Bharat Taxi Driving Trust Across India's Roads

India's roads tell countless stories every day—from the fast-moving traffic of metropolitan cities to the long, peaceful highways connecting distant towns. In the middle of this constant movement, Bharat Taxi has emerged as a dependable name in intercity travel, building its reputation on reliability and customer trust.

Founded with the vision of making travel smooth and stress-free, Bharat Taxi offers a wide range of services including outstation cabs, airport transfers, and local car rentals. Each service is thoughtfully designed to meet different travel needs. Whether it is a student returning home after months away, a professional heading to an important meeting, or a family planning a long-awaited vacation, the focus remains the same—comfort, safety, and punctuality.

Bharat Taxi has established itself as a reliable intercity travel service across India. With transparent pricing, professional drivers, and round-the-clock support, it ensures safe and comfortable journeys. By connecting cities and communities, it continues to build trust on Indian roads.

One of the company's key strengths lies in its transparent pricing system. Passengers are assured that there are no hidden charges, which removes one of the biggest concerns associated with travel bookings. Professional and experienced drivers ensure safe journeys, while 24/7 customer support provides assistance whenever required. This commitment reduces common

travel anxieties such as last-minute cancellations or unexpected route changes.

With its expanding network across multiple cities, Bharat Taxi connects people across vast distances with ease. In a country as geographically diverse as India, dependable transportation plays an important role in bridging gaps between regions. More than just a cab service, Bharat Taxi represents accessibility, consistency, and the trust of countless passengers who rely on it every day.



- O. Sai Bhavagna
II CSE, VFSTR

PRELIMS PATHFINDER

- The primary objective of the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative(MGGSI), recently seen in the news, is to strengthen which of the following sectors?
 - Cooperatives and self-help groups
 - Agriculture and food processing
 - Khadi, handloom, and handicrafts
 - Rural housing and infrastructure
- What percentage of India's international trade is currently conducted in rupees as part of the rupee internationalisation process?
 - About 2%
 - About 5%
 - About 10%
 - About 15%
- Consider the following statements regarding SHE Marts, recently seen in the news:
 - They are planned as Government-run wholesale markets for self-help groups (SHGs).
 - The main objective is to provide women entrepreneurs with better market access, branding opportunities, and sustainable income avenues.
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- What is the primary objective of the SAKSHAM 2026 campaign, recently seen in the news?
 - Improving road safety and reducing vehicular accidents.
 - Promoting climate-resilient agriculture practices
 - Promoting fuel conservation and sustainable energy practices.
 - None of the above
- Fortified rice is enriched mainly with which of the following nutrients?
 - Calcium, Zinc, Vitamin D
 - Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12
 - Magnesium, Potassium, Vitamin A
 - Zinc, Vitamin C, Iron
- With reference to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements:
 - It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
 - The constituency of CERT-In is the Indian cyber community.
 - It is a functional organisation of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

 - Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- Consider the following statements regarding Epstein-Barr virus:
 - It is a type of herpesvirus called herpesvirus 4 which is highly contagious.
 - It only affects children and teenagers.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

 - AI-powered mobile app to identify invasive plant species
 - 2 only
 - Both 1& 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- NeophyteID App, recently in news, is a:
 - AI-powered mobile app to identify invasive plant species
 - new app to detect plagiarism in scientific journals
 - initiative to detect childhood TB
 - multilingual AI tool for agriculture
- Consider the following statements regarding PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:
 - It provides subsidy to households to install solar panels on their roofs.
 - Under this scheme, household must have a valid electricity connection

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

 - Only One
 - Only Two
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements regarding the High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (AS-HAPS), recently seen in the news:
 - HAPS are solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicles.
 - They primarily operate in the troposphere.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1&2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS: 1) A 2) B 3) B 4) C 5) B 6) B 7) A 8) A 9) C 10) A

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“Education is the movement from darkness to light.” – Allan Bloom

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From the readers



As a student reader and civil services aspirant, I find Vignan INSPIRE to be an insightful and motivating companion in my academic journey. It not only supports exam preparation but also deepens our understanding of governance, public policy, and current national and international developments.

What I value most is the way the magazine blends articles by experienced mentors with contributions from students. This combination bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world administration, encouraging us to think critically, engage ethically, and appreciate the responsibilities associated with public service.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the editorial team for creating a platform that informs, inspires, and empowers young minds. I look forward to future issues that continue to explore national concerns, ethical leadership, and the larger purpose of public service in building a better society..



- K. Rohini
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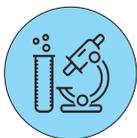


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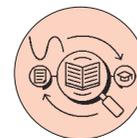
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