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PrepAlpine — Where Research-Grade Content Meets Mentorship, and AI Makes It Personal

PrepAlpine is India's next-generation UPSC institution — built by educationists, retired bureaucrats, IITians, and experienced educators, and powered by a 500+-member technology firm specialising in AI-driven education infrastructure.

We're not another coaching platform — we're a complete preparation ecosystem that unites:

• Research-Grade Content:

Every content is crafted and reviewed by civil servants, educators, and scholars, and follows UPSC's Intro-Body-Conclusion format. Content is built from official reports, verified data, and visual pedagogy — flowcharts, frameworks, maps, and comparative tables.

• Two-Tier Mentorship:

Interview-qualified mentors and Subject-Matter Experts provide structured strategy, accountability, doubt-solving, and exam-aligned depth — bridging the gap between preparation and performance.

• AI Precision Engine:

Developed with our 500+-member AI & EdTech partner firm, the PrepAlpine AI system integrates Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), adaptive MCQ engines, AI-based answer evaluation, and intelligent revision tracking. It continuously identifies each learner's strengths, weaknesses, and learning patterns — ensuring preparation evolves dynamically with every step.

This fusion of research-grade content + expert mentorship + enterprise-grade AI technology has created a credible, scalable, and aspirant-first platform.

Every PrepAlpine module is built not just to inform, but to transform — converting effort into precision and hard work into predictable progress.

We're reimagining UPSC preparation as a research-led, mentor-guided, AI-personalised journey that adapts to every aspirant.

PrepAlpine — From Aspirant to Authority. Lead the State, Not the Struggle.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 26.11.2025

GS Paper II: Polity

1. Constitution as the Guiding Framework for Viksit Bharat 2047

a. Introduction

India's ambition to become a developed nation by 2047 requires a foundation that is stable, visionary and widely accepted. The Constitution provides precisely this foundation. It draws strength from the legacy of the freedom struggle, reflects the aspirations of a diverse society, and establishes durable institutions of governance.

Thus, it is not merely a legal document. It acts as a national guidebook—shaping India's path towards economic progress, social justice and democratic maturity.

b. How the Constitution Was Built: A People's Document

The Indian Constitution evolved through a transparent and inclusive process. The Constituent Assembly debated its provisions for nearly three years, examining reports from numerous committees and engaging with diverse viewpoints.

The original text contained 395 Articles, 22 Parts and 8 Schedules. Over time, with changing social and economic needs, it expanded to 472 Articles, 25 Parts and 12 Schedules.

This participatory journey gave the Constitution deep moral authority. It became a collective national agreement rather than a top-down blueprint—allowing it to serve naturally as a long-term guide for development.



c. Constitutional Principles Supporting National Development

i. Rule of Law

The rule of law ensures predictable governance and protects individual freedoms. When citizens and businesses trust institutions, economic activity expands and social stability strengthens.

ii. Inclusivity and Social Justice

The Constitution acknowledges historical disadvantages and ensures corrective mechanisms such as reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. These safeguards make development genuinely inclusive, preventing the exclusion of vulnerable groups.

iii. Unity in Diversity

By protecting linguistic, cultural and religious identities, the Constitution strengthens national unity. A harmonious society offers a stable environment for sustained economic growth.

iv. Democracy and Universal Adult Franchise

India chose universal adult franchise at independence itself. This broadened political participation and ensured that development became a people-driven, bottom-up process.

v. Separation of Powers

Clear division of authority among the legislature, executive and judiciary prevents excessive concentration of power. Balanced institutions improve accountability and transparency—essential for quality governance.

vi. Flexibility Through Amendments

While protecting core values, the Constitution allows change through amendments. This flexibility helps India adapt to modern challenges—technological, economic and social—without losing continuity.

d. How the Constitution Enables Viksit Bharat 2047

i. Inclusive Growth

Constitutional protections—especially for women, minorities, tribal communities and economically weaker groups—ensure that development reaches all sections of society.

ii. Economic Transformation

Stable institutions rooted in constitutional values create an environment conducive to investment, innovation and efficient markets—key pillars of a modern economy.

iii. National Unity

Fundamental duties, cultural protections and the idea of fraternity nurture social cohesion. A united nation can think long-term and act collectively.

iv. Good Governance

The Constitution embeds norms of accountability, transparency and citizen-centric administration. These norms guide public institutions towards ethical and efficient governance.

v. Future-Readiness

Through amendment provisions and adaptable institutions, the Constitution equips India to handle emerging issues—digital governance, demographic shifts, environmental pressures and global competitiveness.

e. Challenges in Upholding Constitutional Ideals

i. Social Polarisation

Growing divisions can weaken fraternity and reduce collective trust.

ii. Judicial Delays

Slow delivery of justice diminishes public confidence and affects economic efficiency.

iii. Centre-State Tensions

Uncertainty in financial devolution or lack of consultation can strain cooperative federalism.

iv. Declining Quality of Legislative Debate

Poor deliberation affects the quality of laws and weakens accountability.

v. Implementation Gaps

Well-designed policies often lose impact due to weak execution, inadequate coordination or administrative delays.

f. Way Forward

i. Strengthening Constitutional Culture

Civic education must deepen public awareness of constitutional values, duties and institutional roles.

ii. Improving Parliamentary Functioning

Richer debates, greater use of committees and regular sessions can improve legislative quality.

iii. Reinforcing Cooperative Federalism

Predictable financial devolution and structured Union–State consultations can reduce friction and enhance collaboration.

iv. Reforming Justice Delivery

Faster adjudication supported by technology, better infrastructure and increased capacity is essential.

v. Deepening Inclusion

Accessible education, affordable healthcare and meaningful digital access will strengthen equity and participation.

vi. Nurturing Fraternity

Social harmony, empathy and trust must be cultivated to ensure collective progress and national unity.

Conclusion

The Constitution remains India's moral compass and institutional anchor. It provides a clear vision for social justice, democratic governance, economic transformation and national unity. As India advances towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Constitution ensures that development is equitable, sustainable and rooted in democratic values. Its blend of stability and adaptability makes it the most reliable framework for India's long-term progress.

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

2. Draft Seeds Bill: Features, Rationale, Concerns and Institutional Framework

a. Introduction

Seeds form the backbone of agriculture. Their purity, vigour and genetic quality determine crop output, farmer income and national food security. India's existing law—the Seeds Act of nineteen sixty-six—was drafted at a time when seed technology was simple and public institutions dominated the sector.

With rapid advances in hybrid breeding, biotechnology, private research laboratories and global seed trade, the older law is no longer adequate. The Draft Seeds Bill therefore seeks to modernise regulation, improve seed quality, and protect farmers from fraudulent or poor-quality seeds.

b. Why a New Seeds Bill Was Needed

i. Outdated Provisions of the Nineteen Sixty-six Act

The old law focuses on basic quality checks and does not address digital seed markets, biotechnology, genetically modified traits or private research. This gap has led to inconsistent oversight across States.

ii. Rapid Technological Advancement

Modern breeding techniques and transgenic traits require rigorous scientific evaluation. Without updated legal tools, quality control remains uneven and farmers risk receiving inferior seeds.

iii. Changing Patterns of Trade

India is now an active participant in the global seed market. Harmonised standards and scientific testing are necessary to protect farmers and enhance India's global competitiveness.

iv. Protection of Farmers

Farmers often suffer losses due to misbranded or substandard seeds. A stronger regulatory framework is essential to reduce such risks.

v. Need for Uniform Standards

Variation in implementation among States leads to different quality norms. A new law promises greater clarity, uniformity and accountability.

c. Key Features of the Draft Seeds Bill

i. Compulsory Registration of Seed Varieties

No seed variety can be sold unless it is scientifically evaluated and registered. Tests include field performance, purity, germination standards and a Value for Cultivation and Use assessment. This protects farmers from untested or fraudulent varieties.

ii. Registration of All Seed-sector Actors

Producers, processors, distributors, dealers and nurseries must register with authorities. This ensures traceability and accountability across the supply chain.

iii. Protection of Farmers' Rights

Farmers may grow, save, exchange, share and resow their seeds.

However, they cannot sell seeds under a brand name unless registered. This preserves traditional practices while preventing misuse of the "farmer seed" label for commercial gains.

iv. Strengthening Seed Testing Infrastructure

The Bill proposes a network of Central and State Seed Testing Laboratories to certify quality and ensure that only reliable seeds reach the market.

v. Enhanced Penalties

Offences are categorised as minor, trivial or major with proportionate penalties. Fines range from fifty thousand rupees to thirty lakh rupees, and imprisonment up to three years for severe violations. The aim is to deter malpractice.

vi. Liberalised Import Provisions

Seed imports are allowed if they meet prescribed tests and standards. This helps India access superior germplasm while protecting domestic farmers.

vii. Central Accreditation System

Companies operating across multiple States can seek Central accreditation. This simplifies compliance and sets uniform professional standards.

d. Why Farmers' Groups Are Concerned

i. Possibility of Corporatisation

Farmers fear that large seed companies may dominate the market, raising input costs and reducing farmers' bargaining power.

ii. Over-centralisation of Authority

The Central Seed Committee will have extensive powers. Farmers worry this could weaken States' roles and ignore local agricultural contexts.



iii. Concerns About Seed Sovereignty

There is apprehension that traditional seed-exchange networks may shrink due to stricter certification and branding requirements.

iv. Overlap with the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act

Farmer groups believe that community rights and biodiversity safeguards may weaken unless the new Bill is harmonised with the existing Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights law.

v. Burden of Penalties on Small Actors

Small-scale seed sellers may find penalties difficult to bear and fear being driven out of the market.

vi. Possibility of Higher Seed Prices

Testing, certification and compliance costs may be passed on to farmers, raising input prices.

e. Institutional Framework: Central and State Seed Committees

i. Central Seed Committee

A twenty-seven-member Central Seed Committee will set national standards for purity, germination and traits. It will maintain the National Seed Register, approve guidelines for registration and oversee imports.

ii. State Seed Committees

State Seed Committees, usually fifteen members, will register seed producers, dealers and nurseries. They will adapt standards to local conditions and supervise field inspections and seed testing.

Together, these bodies ensure coordinated regulation—balancing national uniformity with regional needs.

Conclusion

The Draft Seeds Bill represents a significant update to India's seed regulation framework. By emphasising scientific testing, quality control and institutional strengthening, it aligns seed governance with modern agricultural realities. However, meaningful safeguards for farmers, affordable seed access and protection of biodiversity are essential for its long-term success. A balanced and transparent implementation will determine whether the new law enhances both agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

GS Paper III: Science and Technology

3. India's Research Fraud Crisis and the "Publish or Perish" Problem

a. Introduction

India is facing a growing crisis in academic integrity. In recent years, fraudulent research practices—plagiarism, data fabrication, use of artificial-intelligence-generated papers and large-scale publication in predatory journals—have become alarmingly common.

This trend reflects a deeper structural issue: an academic culture that prioritises publishing papers over high-quality teaching. Faculty promotions, institutional reputation and university rankings increasingly depend on the number of publications rather than the quality of classroom instruction.

As a result, quantity is rewarded over quality, shortcuts become tempting, and the foundations of India's knowledge ecosystem weaken.

b. Why Research Fraud Is Increasing in India

i. Overemphasis on Publishing

The Academic Performance Indicator system introduced in 2010 gave disproportionate weight to publishing research papers. Teaching quality, mentoring and student engagement received limited recognition. Faculty therefore began prioritising rapid publication over meaningful teaching.

ii. Influence of University Rankings

National and global rankings reward institutions with high research output. Even colleges focused primarily on undergraduate teaching push faculty to publish to improve ranking scores. Many private universities treat research numbers as branding tools, even when the infrastructure for serious research is absent.

How Predatory Publishing Becomes the Easy Route Promotions achieved but academic quality collapses Journal accepts paper instantly for fee Lack of research support (labs, mentors) Faculty under pressure to publish

iii. Weak Research Infrastructure

Most institutions lack laboratories, trained supervisors, libraries and funding. Faculty are still expected to publish regularly despite inadequate support. This gap between expectation and actual capacity pushes some researchers towards unethical practices.

iv. Rise of Predatory Journals

Predatory publishers exploit pressure to publish by accepting almost any manuscript for a fee. Faculty and students use these outlets to meet academic requirements quickly. These journals thrive because they provide an easy way to add publications to curricula vitae.

v. Unregulated Use of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence makes it possible to generate full research papers within hours. Without robust safeguards, such tools encourage plagiarism, poor-quality writing and fabricated data.

c. Why the "Publish or Perish" Model Is Unsuitable for India

i. A Predominantly Undergraduate System

Most Indian students are undergraduates who need strong teaching and mentoring. When faculty are compelled to prioritise research, classroom learning suffers.

ii. Weak Link Between Research and Teaching

Studies show that research activity does not automatically improve teaching quality. In institutions lacking a robust research ecosystem, the two are often disconnected.

iii. Overburdening of Faculty

Teachers already juggle heavy teaching loads, administrative duties and student responsibilities. Publishing frequently—despite limited time and resources—adds further strain and encourages shortcuts.

iv. Rewarding Quantity Over Quality

The system rewards the number of publications, not their merit. Serious research needs time, creativity and resources, which many institutions do not possess. As a result, low-quality output proliferates.

d. Why Research Fraud Is Dangerous

i. Erosion of Academic Credibility

Fraudulent work damages India's global reputation and reduces trust in its academic output.

ii. Contamination of Knowledge

Fabricated or plagiarised studies enter research literature, misinforming future scholars and policymakers.

iii. Loss of Public Resources

Time, funds and institutional effort are wasted when fraudulent research is produced or promoted.

iv. Impact on Students

When faculty focus excessively on publications, the quality of teaching, mentoring and student preparation declines.

e. Why the Current Approach Is Misaligned

i. Misplaced Faith in Publication Numbers

The system assumes that more publications automatically improve institutional reputation. Low-quality work, however, undermines credibility rather than enhancing it.

ii. Wrongly Linking Research to Better Teaching

Research can support teaching in some contexts, but it does not consistently lead to better learning outcomes—especially in institutions primarily serving undergraduate students.

f. What Needs to Change

i. Separate Teaching and Research Tracks

India should differentiate between undergraduate colleges focused on teaching and universities centred on research. Each can reward excellence in its own domain.

ii. Reform the Academic Performance Indicator

Promotion criteria must recognise teaching quality, student learning outcomes, mentoring, curriculum development and community engagement. Research evaluation should emphasise quality, not quantity.

iii. Strengthen the Research Ecosystem

Meaningful research requires well-equipped laboratories, strong libraries, trained mentors, collaborative cultures and long-term funding. India needs dedicated research universities and clusters to support serious scholarship.

iv. Control Predatory Publishing

A national registry of approved journals and strict penalties for fraudulent publications can curb misuse. Institutions must check publication quality before using it for promotion.

v. Ensure Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence

Clear national guidelines, mandatory detection tools and awareness programmes are needed to prevent misuse of artificial-intelligence tools in research writing.

vi. Reorient Higher Education Towards Students

The focus of Indian higher education must return to teaching excellence. Better pedagogy, effective mentoring and student-centred learning must become priority areas.

Conclusion

India's research fraud crisis is not simply the product of individual misconduct; it arises from distorted incentives that prioritise publication counts over genuine scholarship and high-quality teaching. Reform must shift attention from quantity to quality, strengthen ethical practices and place

student learning at the centre of higher education. Only then can India build a credible, responsible and globally respected knowledge economy.

GS Paper III: Security

4. Custodial Torture and CCTV Compliance: Supreme Court's Directions and Ongoing Concerns

a. Introduction

Custodial torture remains one of India's most persistent human rights challenges. Despite constitutional protections, reports of violence inside police stations continue to emerge, underscoring structural gaps in accountability.

To address this, the Supreme Court in the year 2020, in *Paramvir Singh Saini versus Baljit Singh*, directed all police stations and central investigative agencies to install functional closed-circuit camera systems with both audio and video recording.

Five years later, the Court has expressed strong dissatisfaction over widespread non-compliance, emphasising that transparency in custody is essential for protecting the right to life and dignity under Article 21.

b. Why CCTV in Police Stations Matters

i. Protection of Fundamental Rights

Cameras act as a safeguard against torture, protecting detainees' dignity and constitutional rights.

ii. Prevention of Misconduct

CCTV systems deter the use of force, encourage lawful procedures and create an environment where violations become harder to conceal.

iii. Reliable Evidence for Investigations

Footage helps establish facts during allegations of misconduct and shields honest officers from false accusations.

iv. Public Trust and Institutional Credibility

Transparent policing strengthens public confidence and demonstrates the State's commitment to human rights.

c. Supreme Court's Directions in the 2020 Judgment

i. Mandatory Installation of CCTV Systems

Cameras must cover all areas of police stations, including entrances, lock-ups, corridors, interrogation rooms and office spaces of agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, National Investigation Agency, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office.

ii. Technological Standards

Cameras must include night-vision capability, simultaneous audio and video recording and uninterrupted power backup. Footage must be stored for at least eighteen months.



iii. Oversight Through Monitoring Committees

State and District Monitoring Committees were mandated to conduct audits, verify compliance and ensure that cameras remain functional. The intent was to create sustained monitoring, not symbolic installation.

d. Present Concerns Identified by the Supreme Court

i. Limited Submission of Compliance Reports

Only a few States and Union Territories have provided complete reports. Many police stations still lack functional cameras or do not meet prescribed standards.

ii. Non-compliance by the Union Government

The Court noted that the Union Government had not filed a full compliance status and appeared to treat the directions casually.

iii. Continued Incidents of Custodial Deaths

Recent custodial deaths, including those reported in Rajasthan, highlight the urgent need for effective surveillance.

iv. Weak Justifications by States

Technical objections—such as difficulty placing cameras outside buildings—were rejected by the Court, which stressed that transparency cannot be compromised on grounds of convenience.

e. Supreme Court's Current Directions

i. Demand for Verifiable Compliance

The Court no longer accepts formal affidavits and expects concrete evidence of functioning systems.

ii. Accountability of Senior Officials

Directors of investigative agencies and State Home Secretaries must submit accurate compliance updates and may be summoned personally if progress remains inadequate.

iii. Clear Timelines for Review

The Court has fixed a specific schedule for the next review, acknowledging that sustained oversight is key to meaningful implementation.

iv. Reminder of Larger Police Reforms

The Court reiterated that preventing custodial torture requires broader structural reforms—not merely installing cameras.

f. Why Custodial Torture Continues

i. Poor Implementation of Guidelines

Many Supreme Court directives remain unimplemented or enforced only on paper.

ii. Weak Oversight Mechanisms

Monitoring bodies often lack independence or regular review systems.

iii. Non-functional CCTV Systems

Even where cameras exist, they are sometimes non-operational or lack adequate storage capacity.

iv. Institutional Resistance to Transparency

Sections of law-enforcement agencies remain reluctant to accept fully transparent custodial processes.

v. Slow Investigations into Abuse

Delayed inquiries undermine justice and dilute deterrence.

vi. Staff and Infrastructure Constraints

Shortage of personnel and inadequate facilities in police stations complicate internal supervision.

g. Significance of the Supreme Court's Intervention

i. Protection of Article 21 Rights

The Court reinforces the State's responsibility to safeguard life and dignity for all individuals in custody.

ii. Strengthening Police Accountability

Functional CCTV systems bring India closer to global human rights standards, including those under the United Nations Convention against Torture.

iii. Incentive for Institutional Reform

Judicial scrutiny pushes both the Union and the States to modernise police infrastructure and adopt rights-based practices.

h. Way Forward

i. Dedicated Funding and Maintenance

Regular budgetary support is required for installing and maintaining surveillance systems.

ii. Independent Review of Footage

Committees with independent members must review footage periodically and ensure impartial oversight.

iii. Swift Action Against Misconduct

Investigations into alleged torture must be timely, fair and transparent.

iv. Human Rights Training for Officers

Training in lawful interrogation techniques should be institutionalised.

v. Secure Digital Storage

Footage must be tamper-proof, ideally through cloud-based systems with strict access controls.

vi. Continued Judicial Monitoring

Ongoing review by the Supreme Court may be required until uniform nationwide compliance is achieved.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's renewed scrutiny highlights a core constitutional concern. Custodial torture is incompatible with the fundamental right to life and dignity. Functional and transparent CCTV systems are a simple yet powerful safeguard that protect both citizens and honest officers. Ensuring strict and universal compliance is therefore essential for building a humane, accountable and trustworthy policing system.

Reader's Note — About This Current Affairs Compilation

Dear Aspirant,

This document is part of the PrepAlpine Current Affairs Series — designed to bring clarity, structure, and precision to your daily UPSC learning.

While every effort has been made to balance depth with brevity, please keep the following in mind:

1. Orientation & Purpose

This compilation is curated primarily from the UPSC Mains perspective — with emphasis on conceptual clarity, analytical depth, and interlinkages across GS papers.

However, the PrepAlpine team is simultaneously developing a dedicated Prelims-focused Current Affairs Series, designed for:

- factual coverage
- data recall
- Prelims-style MCQs
- objective pattern analysis

This Prelims Edition will be released separately as a standalone publication.

2. Content Length

Some sections may feel shorter or longer depending on topic relevance and news density. To fit your personal preference, you may freely resize or summarize sections using any LLM tool (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) at your convenience.

3. Format Flexibility

The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

-all optimised for retention.

If you prefer a specific style (lists \rightarrow paras, paras \rightarrow tables, etc.), feel free to convert using any free LLM.

4. Monthly Current Affairs Release

The complete Monthly Current Affairs Module will be released soon, optimized to a compact 100–150 pages — comprehensive yet concise, exam-ready, and revision-efficient.

5. Join the PrepAlpine Discord Community

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• Peer-to-Peer Discussions

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"From Isolation to Interaction — Learn the UPSC Way, the Smart Way."

6. Suggest Topics for Coverage

If you feel any important theme is missing or under-covered, simply post it in the "Suggestions" channel on our Discord server.

Our content team regularly reviews inputs and includes relevant suggestions in upcoming Monthly Current Affairs Modules.

Beyond daily updates, the PrepAlpine Discord functions as a complete UPSC learning ecosystem — offering free peer mentorship, structured discussions, practice threads, AI-powered micro-learning tools, and a community of serious aspirants working together.

Together, these resources embody the PrepAlpine vision:

Better Content. Smarter Mentorship. Intelligent Preparation.

