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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 10.04.2026

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

1. Jan Vishwas Bill: Decriminalising Minor Offences and the Move Towards Trust-Based Governance

a. Introduction

India's regulatory system has traditionally relied heavily on criminal law—even for minor procedural mistakes like delayed filings or clerical errors. This often created fear and unnecessary legal burden, especially for small businesses and ordinary citizens.

The Jan Vishwas Bill marks an important shift in this approach. It is based on a simple idea: not every mistake should be treated as a crime. Instead, minor non-compliance should be handled through penalties, warnings, or administrative action, while criminal law should be reserved for serious wrongdoing like fraud or public harm.

Thus, the Bill reflects a broader transition from a punitive State to a trust-based and proportionate governance model.

Core Distinction Under the Jan Vishwas Bill

Basis	Serious wrongdoing	Minor non-compliance
Nature	Intentional misconduct	Procedural / technical lapse
Examples	Fraud, wilful evasion, public harm	Filing delay, reporting failure, documentation error
Treatment	Criminal liability	Civil / administrative penalty
Objective	Deterrence	Correction and compliance

Strict punishment for misconduct, corrective action for minor mistakes

b. The Core Idea Behind the Bill

The central idea of the Bill is decriminalisation of minor offences.

What Decriminalisation Means

- Removal of imprisonment or criminal prosecution for minor violations
- Use of civil penalties like fines, warnings, or notices instead
- Shift from courts to administrative adjudication

Why This Approach is Needed

- A delayed filing and fraud are fundamentally different
- Treating both as crimes makes the law harsh and irrational

- Law should focus on correcting mistakes, not punishing every error

Thus, the Bill promotes a balanced principle:

Serious wrongdoing — strict punishment; Minor mistakes — corrective action

c. Background and Broader Context

India's regulatory laws evolved over time with many provisions criminalising even small defaults.

Problems with the Old System

- Technical errors treated as criminal offences
- High compliance burden for businesses
- Courts flooded with minor cases
- Citizens exposed to harsh consequences without real harm

Reform Trajectory

- Builds upon Jan Vishwas Act, 2023
- Aims to deepen decriminalisation across laws
- Aligns regulation with modern economic needs

d. Why Such a Bill Was Needed

The key issue was over-criminalisation—using criminal law too widely.

Compliance Anxiety

- Fear of prosecution even for small errors
- Focus shifts from genuine compliance to avoiding punishment

Burden on MSMEs

- Lack of legal and compliance capacity
- Minor cases become financially and operationally disruptive

Lack of Proportional Justice

- No distinction between mistake and misconduct
- Law appears excessive and unfair

Judicial Overload

- Courts handle low-gravity cases unnecessarily
- Delays in serious matters increase

e. What the Bill Seeks to Do

The Bill proposes a systematic reform of penalties and enforcement.

Decriminalisation of Procedural Defaults

- Removal of jail terms for minor technical violations
- Focus on low-harm, first-time defaults

Retention of Criminal Liability

- Fraud, wilful evasion, public harm remain punishable
- Ensures deterrence for serious misconduct

Administrative and Civil Penalties

- Monetary fines, warnings, notices
- Faster resolution outside criminal courts

Graded Enforcement

- Penalties based on seriousness, intent, repetition
- Flexible and context-based response

Compounding and Faster Resolution

- Encourages settlement of minor cases
- Reduces long litigation

Digitisation and Simplification

- Reduces compliance complexity
- Prevents unintentional violations

f. Nature of Offences Targeted

The Bill clearly distinguishes between two types of behaviour.

Serious Offences (Remain Criminal)

- Fraud
- Wilful evasion
- Public safety threats
- Intentional harm

Minor Offences (Decriminalised)

- Filing delays
- Documentation errors
- Reporting failures
- First-time low-impact defaults

This distinction forms the conceptual backbone of the reform.

g. Why Jail for Minor Lapses is Problematic

Criminal punishment is the most severe form of State action.

Disproportionate Response

- Minor errors lack moral seriousness
- Criminalisation distorts the gravity of conduct

Business Impact

- Creates fear among entrepreneurs
- Discourages innovation and formalisation

Unfair Burden on Small Players

- MSMEs suffer more than large firms
- Legal costs and delays hit them harder

h. Principle of Proportionality

Proportionality means punishment should match the seriousness of the offence.

Key Elements

- Distinction between intent and error
- Replacement of jail with financial penalties
- Graded enforcement system
- Focus on compliance over punishment

Governance Significance

- Promotes fairness and rationality
- Strengthens trust between State and citizens

i. Changes in Penalty Structure

The Bill introduces a more flexible and rational system.

New Approach

- Warning → for first-time minor defaults
- Financial penalty → for moderate violations
- Higher penalties → for repeated or serious cases

Institutional Mechanism

- Adjudicating officers instead of courts
- Administrative resolution of cases
- Need for strong appellate systems

j. Significance for Businesses and MSMEs

MSMEs are the biggest beneficiaries of this reform.

Reduced Compliance Burden

- Less fear of criminal prosecution
- Easier regulatory environment

Improved Business Confidence

- Encourages entrepreneurship
- Promotes formalisation of economy

Economic Impact

- Better ease of doing business
- Lower transaction costs
- Predictable regulatory system

k. Impact on Justice Delivery

The Bill also improves the functioning of the justice system.

Reduced Court Burden

- Minor cases shift to administrative channels

- Courts focus on serious crimes

Faster Resolution

- Administrative adjudication is quicker
- Reduces delays

1. Institutional Implications

The reform affects multiple institutions.

Judiciary

- Reduced workload
- Focus on serious cases

Regulatory Agencies

- Greater responsibility for fair adjudication
- Need for consistency and transparency

Citizens and Businesses

- Shift from fear-based to trust-based interaction

m. Concerns and Challenges

Despite its benefits, some issues remain.

Administrative Discretion

- Risk of arbitrary decisions
- Need for clear guidelines

Weak Appeals System

- Appeals must be accessible and effective

Lack of Uniformity

- Different departments may apply rules differently

High Monetary Penalties

- Fines can become excessive
- May replace one burden with another

Implementation Gaps

- Requires training, capacity, digitisation

n. Way Forward

For effective implementation, several steps are necessary.

- **Clear Guidelines:** Define when to warn, penalise, or prosecute
- **Institutional Capacity:** Trained and accountable officers
- **Strong Appeals Mechanism:** Independent and accessible review system
- **Uniform Implementation:** Consistency across ministries
- **Proportionate Penalties:** Avoid excessive fines

- **Continued Simplification:** Reduce complexity through digitisation

Conclusion

The Jan Vishwas Bill represents a major evolution in India's regulatory philosophy. It replaces the overuse of criminal law with a more balanced, proportionate, and trust-based framework.

Its true significance lies in redefining the purpose of regulation—from punishing every mistake to encouraging compliance and punishing only serious wrongdoing. If implemented effectively, it can improve governance quality, reduce judicial burden, and create a more confident environment for citizens and businesses alike.

GS Paper III: Disaster Management

2. Climate Change and Human Health in India: A Growing Public Health Challenge

a. Introduction

Climate change is often discussed in terms of melting glaciers, rising sea levels, or extreme weather. However, its effects go much deeper. It is now directly affecting human health by changing the conditions in which people live, work, eat, drink, and access healthcare.

In India, this issue becomes especially serious because a large part of the population depends on climate-sensitive livelihoods such as agriculture, fisheries, and informal outdoor work. At the same time, many people already face weak healthcare access, malnutrition, poverty, and poor sanitation. In such a situation, climate change does not act alone; it intensifies existing weaknesses.

Thus, climate change should be understood as a health-risk multiplier. It may not always create entirely new diseases, but it increases exposure, worsens old illnesses, changes disease patterns, and places extra pressure on fragile public health systems. Therefore, climate change is no longer only an environmental issue; it has become a central issue of public health, social justice, and human development.

b. How Climate Change Affects Human Health

The link between climate change and health works through many connected pathways. These effects may be direct, indirect, and systemic.

Direct Impacts: Immediate and Visible Health Effects

- Heatwaves can cause heatstroke, dehydration, exhaustion, kidney stress, and heart-related problems.
- Floods, cyclones, and storms can lead to injuries, deaths, displacement, and contamination of drinking water.
- Droughts can reduce food and water availability, causing immediate distress in vulnerable communities.

These impacts are often sudden and visible. They affect survival directly and can quickly turn into public health emergencies.

Indirect Impacts: Slow but Wide-Ranging Effects

- Climate change reduces agricultural productivity, affecting food security.
- It alters water availability and quality, increasing disease risk.
- It damages livelihoods, which lowers people's ability to afford nutrition and treatment.
- It creates stress, migration, and social instability, which indirectly worsen health outcomes.

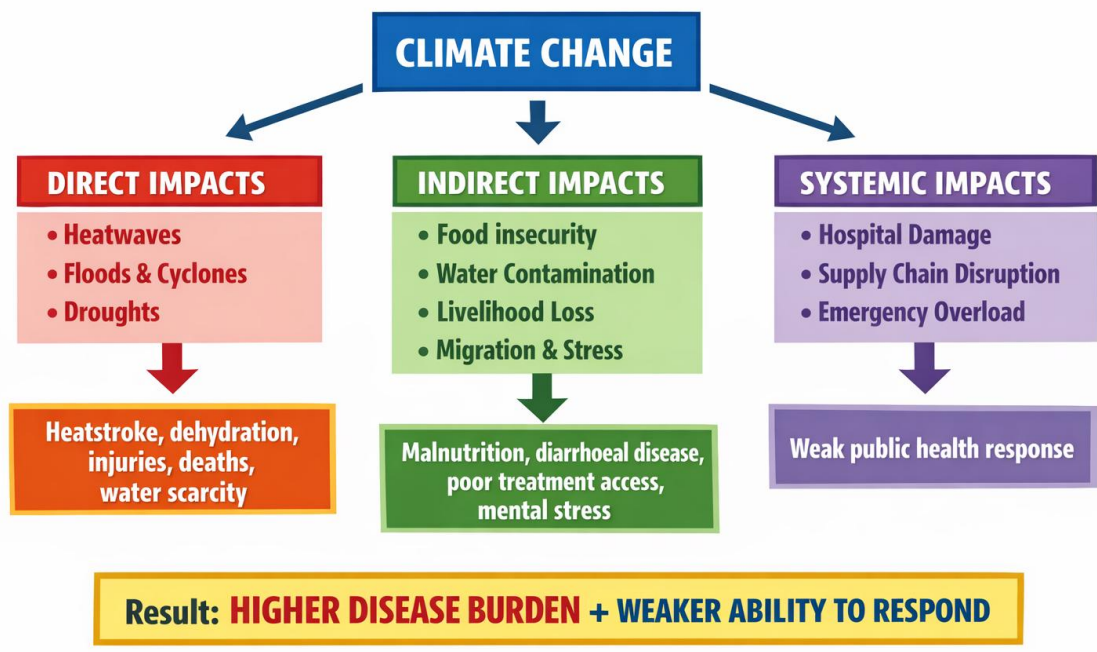
These effects may appear gradually, but they are often more widespread and long-lasting than direct disaster impacts.

Systemic Impacts: Pressure on Health Systems

- Hospitals may be damaged during extreme weather events.
- Roads and transport disruptions may delay emergency response.
- Medicine, oxygen, and vaccine supply chains may break down.
- A sudden rise in patients can overwhelm already overburdened hospitals.

Thus, climate change not only makes people ill; it also weakens the systems meant to protect them.

Climate Change as a Health-Risk Multiplier in India



c. Changing Disease Patterns in India

One of the most important consequences of climate change is that it is altering where diseases occur, how often they occur, and who becomes vulnerable.

Water-Borne Diseases

- Flooding often contaminates drinking water with sewage and waste.
- This creates favourable conditions for diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, hepatitis, and other gastrointestinal infections.
- The burden is especially high in urban slums, flood-prone settlements, and areas with poor sanitation systems.

Vector-Borne Diseases

- A vector is an organism, such as a mosquito, that carries disease from one host to another.
- Rising temperature and changing rainfall patterns affect mosquito breeding cycles.
- Diseases such as dengue, malaria, chikungunya, and Japanese encephalitis are spreading to new areas.
- Some hilly and previously cooler regions are also becoming vulnerable.

Heat-Related Illnesses

- Extreme heat increases cases of heatstroke, dehydration, fainting, kidney damage, and cardiovascular stress.
- Long heatwaves also worsen fatigue and reduce the body's ability to function normally.
- Elderly persons, outdoor workers, and those with existing illnesses face the highest risk.

Respiratory and Chronic Diseases

- Climate change contributes to poor air quality through dust, wildfires, heat-related ozone formation, and atmospheric instability.
- This aggravates asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), allergies, and other lung conditions.
- It also worsens non-communicable diseases such as heart ailments and stroke.

Thus, climate change expands the burden of disease across both infectious and non-infectious categories.

d. Unequal Impact on Vulnerable Groups

Climate change may be universal, but its effects are highly unequal. Those who contribute the least to the problem often suffer the most from its consequences.

Rural Populations

- Many rural households depend on rainfall, farming, livestock, and natural resources.
- Climate shocks reduce income, food availability, and access to healthcare.
- Health facilities in rural areas are often fewer, distant, and poorly equipped.

Informal and Outdoor Workers

- Construction labourers, street vendors, sanitation workers, and agricultural labourers face direct heat exposure.
- They often lack shade, cooling, protective equipment, and paid leave.
- Loss of work due to climate stress directly affects nutrition and medical access.

Women

- Women often carry the burden of water collection, caregiving, and household health management.
- Climate stress can increase malnutrition, anaemia, and reproductive health burdens.
- Disasters also increase risks related to displacement, insecurity, and disruption of maternal services.

Children and Elderly Persons

- Children have developing immune systems and are more vulnerable to infections, malnutrition, and heat stress.
- Elderly persons are more prone to dehydration, cardiovascular strain, and respiratory problems.

Therefore, climate change is not just an environmental crisis; it is also a crisis of equity, justice, and human vulnerability.

e. Climate Change and Maternal-Child Health

The impact on maternal and child health deserves special attention because it affects not only present health but also future human development.

Maternal Health Risks

- High temperatures are linked with greater risk of preterm birth.

- Air pollution can aggravate pregnancy-related complications such as hypertension and pre-eclampsia.
- Disasters disrupt access to antenatal care, institutional delivery, and emergency obstetric services.

Child Health Risks

- Children are more susceptible to diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory illnesses, and heat stress.
- Climate-induced food insecurity increases the risk of undernutrition and stunting.
- Repeated illness and poor nutrition can affect cognitive and physical development.

Thus, climate change directly threatens improvements in infant mortality, maternal health, and child development indicators.

f. Livelihoods, Economy, and Health

Health and economy are deeply connected. When climate change damages livelihoods, health outcomes also worsen.

Loss of Labour Productivity

- High temperatures reduce the ability of people to work safely, especially outdoors.
- Sectors such as agriculture, construction, mining, and transport are especially affected.
- This leads to reduced income and rising economic insecurity.

Poverty–Health Cycle

- Lower income means poorer nutrition and delayed healthcare seeking.
- Climate-related illness increases medical expenditure.
- This can push already vulnerable households deeper into poverty.

Hidden Public Health Burden

- Heat stress may not always appear in official disease counts, but it reduces working capacity and quality of life.
- Recurrent climate shocks also create chronic stress and social insecurity.

Thus, climate change creates a double burden: it harms health directly and weakens the economic ability of families to recover.

g. Pressure on Healthcare Systems

Climate change exposes the structural weaknesses of public health systems.

Physical Damage to Health Infrastructure

- Floods and storms can damage hospitals, primary health centres, and storage facilities.
- Power cuts may affect intensive care, oxygen systems, and cold chains for vaccines.

Service Disruption

- Roads may become inaccessible during disasters.
- Patients may not reach hospitals in time.
- Health workers may themselves be affected or displaced.

Surge in Disease Burden

- Heatwaves can sharply increase emergency cases.
- Floods can cause outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases.
- This puts pressure on already understaffed and underfunded facilities.

Therefore, climate change demands not just better treatment capacity, but climate-resilient healthcare planning.

h. India's Policy Response

India has gradually begun to recognise the climate–health connection.

National-Level Efforts

- The National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health aims to integrate health concerns into climate adaptation planning.
- It reflects the growing understanding that climate policy must include public health preparedness.

State and Local Responses

- Several states have included health dimensions in their climate action plans.
- Heat Action Plans in many cities provide early warning systems, awareness campaigns, and emergency response measures.

Disaster and Health Integration

- There is increasing policy recognition that disaster management, environment policy, and health governance must work together.

These efforts show that India is slowly moving from a purely environment-focused approach to a more health-centred adaptation strategy.

i. Key Challenges

Despite growing awareness, several barriers continue to weaken India's response.

Weak Data Systems

- India still lacks sufficient localised data connecting climate variables with disease outcomes.
- Without district-level evidence, targeted intervention becomes difficult.

Low Public Awareness

- Climate change is still often seen only as an environmental issue.
- Its health dimension is not yet fully understood by communities or even institutions.

Inadequate Funding for Adaptation

- Much of climate finance is directed towards mitigation, that is, reducing emissions.
- Adaptation means adjusting systems to reduce harm from climate impacts.
- Health adaptation still receives inadequate attention and resources.

Institutional Fragmentation

- Health, environment, urban development, and disaster management departments often work separately.
- This weakens coordinated action.

Infrastructure Deficits

- Many healthcare facilities are not climate-resilient.
- They may lack cooling systems, flood protection, backup power, or emergency supply systems.

Thus, the challenge is not only scientific or medical; it is also administrative and institutional.

j. Way Forward

A meaningful response requires an integrated and human-centred strategy.

Mainstream Health into Climate Policy

- Climate planning should treat health as a core concern, not a side issue.
- Adaptation strategies must be designed around human well-being.

Build Climate-Resilient Healthcare Infrastructure

- Hospitals and primary health centres should be designed to withstand floods, heatwaves, storms, and supply disruptions.
- Backup power, cooling systems, and resilient cold chains must be strengthened.

Develop Local Data and Early Warning Systems

- District-level tracking of heat illness, vector spread, and climate-sensitive diseases is necessary.
- Early warning systems should be linked with public health response.

Protect Vulnerable Groups

- Women, children, elderly persons, rural communities, and informal workers need targeted support.
- Social protection, nutrition support, and occupational safety measures are essential.

Strengthen Institutional Coordination

- Ministries dealing with health, environment, water, labour, and disaster management must work together.
- Climate-health governance should be integrated across levels of government.

Expand Community Awareness and Preparedness

- Local communities should be trained to respond to heatwaves, floods, disease outbreaks, and drinking water risks.
- Public health messaging must be simple, local, and action-oriented.

Conclusion

Climate change has fundamentally changed the nature of public health in India. Diseases can no longer be understood only in biological or medical terms because their drivers are increasingly linked to environmental stress, extreme weather, poor air quality, food insecurity, and livelihood disruption.

A strong response requires a shift from reactive healthcare to preventive and resilience-based health systems. It also requires a movement from viewing climate change as a distant environmental issue to seeing it as a direct challenge to human life, dignity, and development.

Ultimately, protecting human health in the era of climate change is not only a matter of medical response. It is a matter of governance, justice, and sustainable development.

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 → paras, paras → 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.

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