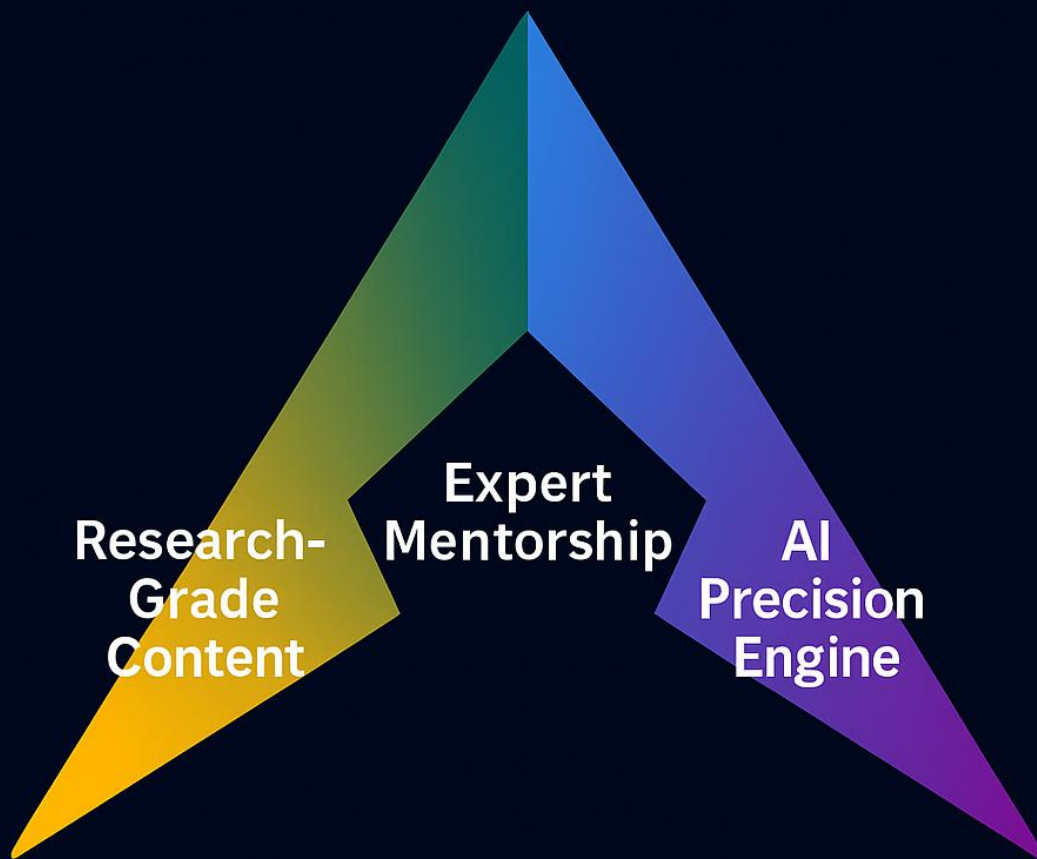


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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 20.06.2026

GS Paper II: Polity

1. Right to Walk on Safe Footpaths

a. Introduction

The Supreme Court has held that the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths is part of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution. The Court urged the government to enact a law recognising pedestrian rights and fixing clear duties on local bodies.

This judgment is significant because it shifts the understanding of urban mobility from a vehicle-centred model to a rights-based framework. Walking is not merely a matter of convenience. It is an essential part of dignified life, safe movement, accessibility and inclusive urban citizenship.

Thus, the judgment connects everyday urban mobility with constitutional rights and democratic urban governance.

CONSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE RIGHT TO SAFE WALKING



b. Key Issue

The Court observed that where roads exist, authorities have a duty to provide demarcated footpaths and pedestrian infrastructure. This responsibility falls on urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats.

Duty of Public Authorities

- Local bodies must provide safe and demarcated footpaths.
- Pedestrian infrastructure cannot be treated as optional.
- Urban roads must be planned for walkers, not only for vehicles.

Legal Remedies

- Violation of this right may allow citizens to seek constitutional and legal remedies.
- These remedies may include restitution and compensation.
- Such remedies may operate independently of remedies under the Motor Vehicles Act.

This widens the responsibility of public authorities beyond post-accident compensation and places emphasis on preventive infrastructure.

c. Significance

The judgment has important constitutional, governance and urban planning implications.

Expansion of Article 21

- Article 21 has gradually expanded beyond physical survival.
- It now includes dignity, safety, health, clean environment and meaningful access to public spaces.
- Safe pedestrian mobility becomes part of dignified life.

Pedestrian-Centric Urban Planning

- Indian cities have often prioritised motorised vehicles.
- Pedestrians, cyclists, children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and low-income groups remain vulnerable.
- Recognising safe footpaths as a right corrects this imbalance.

Municipal Accountability

- Local bodies can no longer treat footpaths, crossings, lighting and accessibility as optional civic facilities.
- These become part of a constitutional obligation.
- Failure to provide safe pedestrian infrastructure may attract legal responsibility.

Road Safety as Constitutional Governance

- Pedestrian deaths and injuries are not merely traffic-management failures.
- They reflect deeper failures of planning, enforcement and public infrastructure.
- Road safety must therefore be treated as a governance and rights issue.

The judgment is significant because it converts walkability from a planning preference into a constitutional concern.

d. Concerns and Challenges

Despite the constitutional recognition of pedestrian rights, implementation will face several challenges.

Vehicle-Centric Urban Design

- Many Indian cities continue to prioritise motor vehicles.
- Footpaths are often narrow, broken, encroached or absent.
- Unsafe crossings and unregulated parking further weaken pedestrian safety.

Weak Municipal Capacity

- Local bodies often lack adequate funds.
- Technical capacity for designing safe streets remains limited.
- Maintenance and accountability mechanisms are weak.

Accessibility Gaps

- Road design often ignores universal accessibility norms.
- Persons with disabilities, elderly citizens and children face greater difficulty.
- Poor lighting, uneven surfaces and lack of ramps reduce safety and inclusion.

Encroachment of Footpaths

- Footpaths are often occupied by parking, commercial activity, construction material or utility infrastructure.
- Livelihood concerns of street vendors must be addressed sensitively.
- However, pedestrian safety cannot be ignored.

Over-Reliance on Compensation

- Compensation after accidents cannot substitute preventive infrastructure.

- A rights-based approach requires prevention of avoidable harm.
- Cities must shift from reactive relief to proactive safety planning.

These challenges show that recognising pedestrian rights is only the first step. The larger task is to translate the judgment into urban design, municipal finance and enforcement practice.

e. Way Forward

India needs a clear legal, institutional and planning framework to protect pedestrian rights.

Enact Pedestrian Rights Law

- A legal framework should recognise pedestrian rights.
- Duties of local bodies should be clearly defined.
- Footpaths, safe crossings, lighting, signage and universal accessibility should be mandatory components of road infrastructure.

Pedestrian Safety Audits

- Safety audits should be conducted before approving road projects.
- Urban roads should be evaluated for walkability and accessibility.
- Vehicle flow should not be the only measure of road efficiency.

Fix Accountability

- Responsibility should be fixed for non-maintenance of footpaths.
- Authorities must be accountable for unsafe road conditions and encroachments.
- Failure to provide pedestrian infrastructure should invite legal and administrative consequences.

Integrate Walkability in Urban Schemes

- Municipal planning should integrate walkability into Smart Cities.
- AMRUT and city mobility plans should include pedestrian safety indicators.
- Public transport planning should be linked with safe walking access.

People-First Mobility

- Children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities should be placed at the centre of urban design.
- Public transport users and low-income pedestrians must be prioritised.
- Streets should be planned as public spaces, not merely as vehicle corridors.

A pedestrian-rights framework will succeed only when urban planning shifts from vehicle movement to human mobility.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's judgment marks an important step in constitutionalising pedestrian rights. It makes clear that safe footpaths are not civic charity or administrative discretion. They are part of the constitutional guarantee of dignified and secure life.

The judgment asks Indian cities to move beyond vehicle-first planning and recognise that the most basic form of mobility, walking, deserves legal protection, public investment and institutional accountability.

GS Paper III: Environment

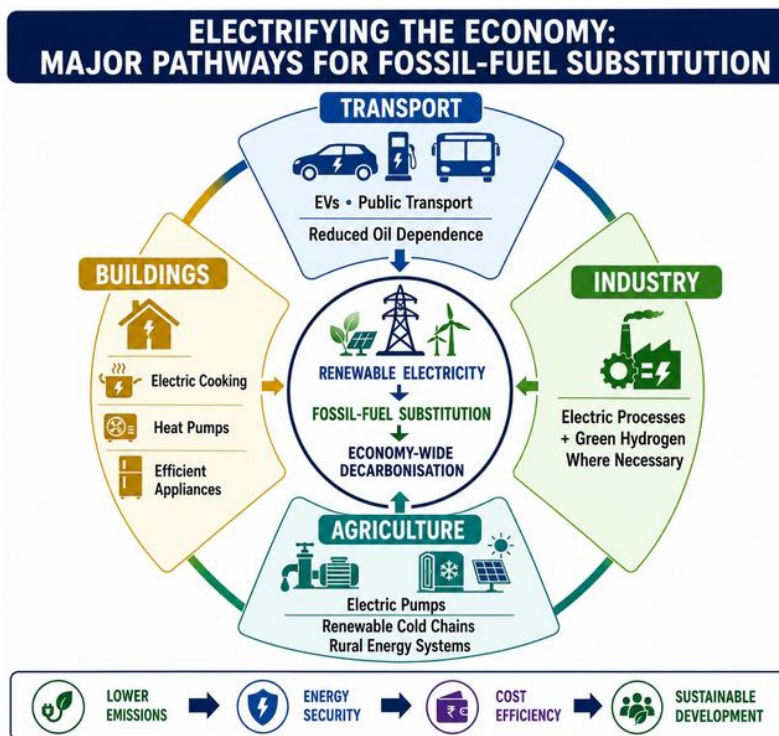
2. Electrification: The Missing Link in Climate Action

a. Introduction

Electrification is emerging as one of the central requirements of global climate action. At the Bonn Climate Conference, Turkey proposed that electricity should account for at least 35 per cent of global final energy consumption by 2035. This proposal places electrification at the centre of the climate agenda ahead of COP31.

The issue is important because the energy transition is not only about producing more renewable electricity. It is also about replacing direct fossil fuel use with electricity across transport, buildings, industry, agriculture and households. Unless more sectors shift from coal, oil and natural gas to clean electricity, renewable energy expansion alone will not be sufficient to achieve deep decarbonisation.

Thus, electrification must be understood as the bridge between clean power generation and economy-wide climate action.



b. Key Issue

At present, electricity accounts for only about 21 per cent of global final energy consumption. Within this, only about 42 per cent of electricity is generated from non-fossil sources such as renewables, hydro and nuclear energy.

This means that clean electricity currently contributes only around 8 to 9 per cent of total global final energy consumption.

Electrification Gap

- Electricity still forms a limited share of total final energy use.
- A large share of energy demand continues to be met directly through coal, oil and natural gas.
- Renewable electricity alone cannot decarbonise the economy unless more end-use sectors shift to electricity.

Global Climate Requirement

- The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that electrification must reach around 35 per cent by 2035 to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway viable.
- This requires both cleaner electricity generation and wider use of electricity across the economy.
- The world must therefore clean the power sector and electrify end-use sectors simultaneously.

This makes electrification a necessary condition for converting renewable energy expansion into real emissions reduction.

c. Why Electrification Matters

Electrification matters because fossil fuels are not used only in power generation. They are also used directly in transport, industrial processes, heating, cooking, agriculture and buildings.

Even if electricity generation becomes cleaner, climate benefits will remain limited if vehicles continue to run on petrol and diesel, industries continue to rely on coal and gas, and households continue to use polluting fuels.

Transport

- Electric mobility can reduce dependence on oil.
- It can cut urban air pollution.
- It can improve energy efficiency in public and private transport.

Buildings and Households

- Electric cooling and efficient appliances can reduce fossil fuel dependence.
- Heat-pump-based systems can support low-carbon heating and cooling.
- Electric cooking can reduce reliance on polluting household fuels where clean electricity is available.

Agriculture

- Electric pumps can reduce diesel use.
- Renewable-powered cold chains can improve energy efficiency.
- Electrified rural systems can support productivity and reduce emissions.

Industry

- Electrification can support low-carbon industrial processes where technically feasible.
- It can reduce dependence on coal and gas in selected sectors.
- It can complement green hydrogen in hard-to-abate industries.

Therefore, electrification is the bridge between renewable energy generation and economy-wide decarbonisation.

d. Significance

Electrification has major climate, economic and strategic significance.

Reduction in Fossil Fuel Dependence

- Electrification can reduce direct use of coal, oil and natural gas.
- This is especially important for countries that import large quantities of fossil fuels.
- It can improve both climate outcomes and energy security.

Renewable Energy Integration

- Electrification expands the sectors where renewable power can substitute fossil fuels.
- It converts renewable energy from a power-sector reform into a whole-economy transformation.
- Higher electricity demand can create larger markets for clean power.

Long-Term Decarbonisation

- Electric vehicles can reduce transport emissions.
- Electric cooking, heat pumps and renewable-powered systems can reduce household and building-sector emissions.
- Green industrial processes can gradually reduce emissions from fossil-fuel-dependent sectors.

Support for Global Climate Goals

- Electrification supports the Paris Agreement.
- It strengthens the credibility of Net Zero targets.
- It links renewable energy expansion with demand-side transformation.

Thus, electrification is essential for making climate action more comprehensive, practical and economy-wide.

e. Challenges

The path towards wider electrification faces several technological, financial and geopolitical challenges.

Hard-to-Abate Sectors

- Aviation, shipping, steel, cement and heavy transport are difficult to electrify with current technologies.
- These sectors may require green hydrogen, sustainable fuels, carbon capture or other low-carbon alternatives.
- Direct electrification may not be feasible everywhere.

Fossil-Dependent Electricity Generation

- Many countries still generate electricity from coal and gas.
- Electrification produces real climate benefits only when the electricity mix becomes cleaner.
- If new electricity demand is met through fossil fuels, emissions reduction may remain limited.

Infrastructure Deficit

- Massive investment is required in transmission and distribution networks.
- Charging infrastructure, storage systems and smart grids must be expanded.
- Electrification cannot succeed if power supply remains weak or unreliable.

Grid Integration Challenges

- Solar and wind power are intermittent.
- Higher renewable penetration requires storage, flexible power systems, demand response and better forecasting.
- Without these, grid reliability may come under pressure.

Supply-Chain and Geopolitical Risks

- Batteries, critical minerals, semiconductors, solar modules and grid equipment are concentrated in specific supply chains.
- Geopolitical tensions can increase costs and delay deployment.
- Developing countries may face access barriers without finance and technology support.

These challenges show that electrification requires not only technological ambition, but also infrastructure planning, finance, supply-chain resilience and international cooperation.

f. India's Perspective

India has rapidly expanded renewable energy capacity and increased the share of non-fossil electricity. However, many sectors still depend heavily on fossil fuels.

Existing Dependence

- Heavy industry continues to rely on coal and gas.
- Freight transport and construction use large quantities of diesel and fossil fuels.
- Cooking, agriculture and parts of urban mobility still depend on fossil-based energy.

Multiple-Track Transition

- Renewable energy capacity must continue to expand.
- Grid modernisation and battery storage must be strengthened.
- Electric mobility and green hydrogen must be developed in parallel.

Energy Security Dimension

- Reducing oil and gas dependence can lower import vulnerability.
- It can improve macroeconomic stability.
- Electrification can strengthen domestic energy resilience when linked with clean power.

Developmental Challenge

- India still has large developmental energy needs.
- The transition must remain affordable and reliable.
- Electrification must support growth without creating energy insecurity.

The Indian challenge is therefore not simply to electrify faster, but to electrify in a way that is clean, reliable, affordable and inclusive.

g. Way Forward

India and the world need a coordinated strategy for clean and inclusive electrification.

Expand Clean Electricity

- Renewable energy deployment must be accelerated.
- Transmission and distribution infrastructure should be upgraded.
- Clean electricity generation must grow fast enough to meet both existing and new electrification demand.

Electrify End-Use Sectors

- Transport, buildings and industry should be electrified where technically feasible.
- Electric mobility, efficient appliances, electric cooking and heat pumps should be promoted.
- Renewable-powered industrial processes should be supported through incentives and standards.

Invest in Grid Flexibility

- Battery storage must be expanded.
- Smart grids and demand-response systems should be strengthened.
- Flexible power systems are necessary for managing intermittent renewable energy.

Scale Green Hydrogen

- Green hydrogen should be used for hard-to-abate sectors.
- Steel, fertilisers, shipping and heavy industry should be priority sectors.
- Green hydrogen should complement electrification, not replace it where direct electrification is possible.

Strengthen Climate Finance and Technology Transfer

- Developing countries need affordable finance for electrification.
- Clean technologies must be made accessible.
- Resilient supply chains are essential for a fair global energy transition.

Ensure a Just Transition

- Climate goals must be balanced with energy access.

- Industrial growth and employment concerns must be addressed.
- The transition should reduce emissions without deepening inequality or energy insecurity.

A successful electrification strategy must combine clean power, reliable grids, affordable technology and social justice.

Conclusion

Electrification is the backbone of the global energy transition. Climate goals cannot be achieved merely by expanding renewable capacity. They require replacing fossil fuel use across the economy with clean electricity.

For India, faster electrification combined with renewable energy expansion will be critical for balancing energy security, economic growth and climate commitments.

The future of climate action will depend not only on how much clean electricity the world produces, but also on how effectively it uses that electricity to transform transport, industry, buildings and daily life.

GS Paper III: Environment

3. Grid Modernisation: The Missing Link in India's Clean Energy Transition

a. Introduction

India's clean energy transition has reached a stage where the main challenge is no longer only the creation of renewable generation capacity. It is increasingly about whether the electricity grid can absorb, transmit and distribute renewable power efficiently.

Although solar and wind have become among India's cheapest sources of electricity, a significant share of renewable capacity remains stranded because transmission infrastructure has not kept pace with generation. More than 50 gigawatts of solar and wind capacity is reportedly unable to supply power fully due to inadequate transmission access.

This shows that India's renewable energy future will depend not only on building more solar parks and wind farms, but also on modernising and optimising the electricity grid.

b. Key Issue

Solar and wind projects can often be commissioned within 12 to 18 months. In contrast, transmission lines may take three to five years because of land acquisition, regulatory clearances, right-of-way issues and coordination delays.

Generation-Transmission Mismatch

- Renewable projects may become ready before evacuation infrastructure is available.
- This creates underutilisation and curtailment of clean power.
- Investor returns are weakened when generation capacity cannot be fully used.

System-Level Impact

- Cheaper renewable electricity remains stranded.
- Substitution of costly fossil-fuel generation is delayed.
- India's clean energy transition becomes slower and less efficient.

This mismatch shows that renewable expansion must be planned along with grid readiness from the beginning.

c. Significance

Grid modernisation has major economic, environmental and energy security significance.

Faster Renewable Integration

- Modernisation can help integrate more solar and wind power into the grid.
- Better use of existing infrastructure can reduce dependence on new transmission corridors.
- It can lower land, cost and approval burdens.

Reduction in Curtailment

- Better grid capacity reduces renewable energy curtailment.
- This improves project viability.
- It strengthens investor confidence in renewable energy.

Industrial Decarbonisation

- A stronger grid can supply low-cost clean electricity to industries.
- This can support industrial decarbonisation.
- It can improve India's manufacturing competitiveness.

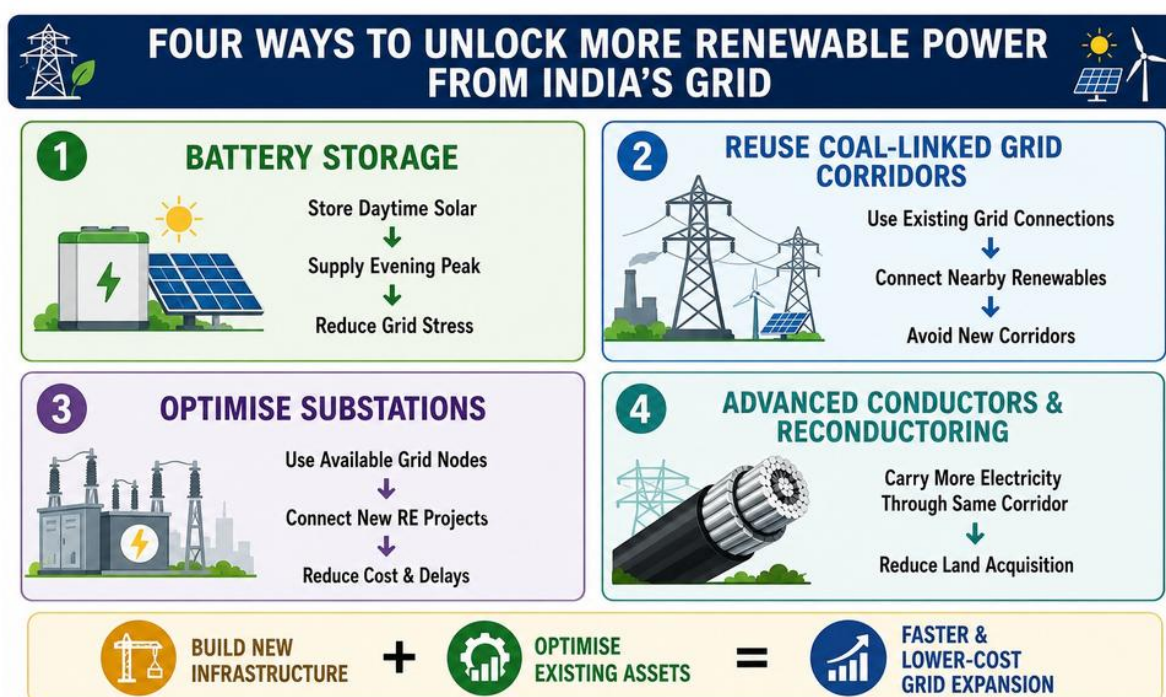
Energy Security

- Greater use of domestic renewable power can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- It can protect the economy from global fuel price volatility.
- It supports long-term energy resilience.

Cost Efficiency

- Modernisation maximises the value of existing assets.
- It can reduce the need for expensive new infrastructure.
- It improves the overall efficiency of the power system.

Therefore, grid modernisation is not a secondary reform. It is central to making renewable energy reliable, affordable and scalable.



d. Key Strategies

India can unlock more renewable power by combining storage, smarter planning and advanced transmission technologies.

Battery Storage

- Battery storage can improve utilisation of existing transmission lines.
- Solar power generated during the day can be stored and supplied during evening demand peaks.
- This reduces grid stress and improves reliability of renewable energy.

Reuse of Coal-Linked Transmission Corridors

- Ageing or underutilised coal plants often have valuable grid connections.
- Renewable projects located near such nodes can use available transmission capacity.
- This can reduce the need for entirely new corridors.

Efficient Use of Substations

- Existing substations should be used more efficiently.
- New renewable projects can be connected through available grid nodes.
- This can reduce delays and capital costs.

Advanced Conductors and Reconductoring

- High-capacity conductors can carry more power through the same corridor.
- Reconductoring reduces the need for additional land acquisition.
- This is especially useful in densely populated or environmentally sensitive areas.

These strategies show that India can expand clean power not only by building new infrastructure, but also by using existing grid assets more intelligently.

e. Challenges

Grid modernisation faces several institutional, financial and technical challenges.

Land Acquisition and Right-of-Way Issues

- Transmission lines often pass through multiple jurisdictions.
- Projects require coordination with landowners, forest authorities and local administrations.
- Delays in right-of-way clearance slow renewable power evacuation.

High Upfront Investment

- Grid modernisation requires large capital investment.
- Battery storage, smart meters, digital control systems and advanced conductors remain costly.
- Financing structures are often fragmented and short-term.

Grid Stability

- Solar and wind power are variable in nature.
- Large-scale renewable integration requires forecasting, storage and flexible generation.
- Demand response and real-time grid management are also necessary.

Early Stage of Storage and Smart Grid Deployment

- Battery storage deployment is still limited in India.
- Smart grid technologies require clearer regulations and procurement frameworks.
- Wider adoption depends on market design and cost reduction.

Coordination Deficit

- Transmission planning involves the Centre, States, regulators, utilities and distribution companies.
- Misalignment among these actors can delay grid connectivity.
- Lack of integrated planning weakens system efficiency.

These challenges show that grid modernisation is not only a technical task. It also requires better governance, financing and institutional coordination.

f. Way Forward

India should modernise existing transmission infrastructure while continuing to expand new corridors.

Dual Strategy

- India must build new grid capacity where required.
- Existing transmission capacity should be used more efficiently.
- Grid planning should move from reactive expansion to proactive optimisation.

Scale Battery Energy Storage

- Battery energy storage systems should be promoted through supportive tariffs.
- Viability gap funding can help reduce early-stage financial barriers.
- Market mechanisms for ancillary services should be developed.

Promote Advanced Transmission Technologies

- High-capacity conductors should be encouraged.
- Dynamic line rating and digital monitoring should be adopted.
- Regulatory approval and procurement norms should support these technologies.

Integrated Renewable Energy Planning

- Renewable energy zones must be planned with transmission infrastructure from the beginning.
- Grid connectivity should be ensured before project commissioning.
- Planning should be linked with industrial corridors, green hydrogen hubs and future demand centres.

Strengthen Centre-State Coordination

- Faster approvals and land facilitation are needed.
- Grid connectivity should be coordinated across agencies.
- States must be active partners in transmission planning.

Digital and Smart Grid Management

- Real-time demand and supply management should be improved.
- Forecasting and automated controls should be strengthened.
- Data-driven dispatch can make the grid more reliable and flexible.

A modern grid must be flexible, storage-enabled, digitally managed and institutionally coordinated.

Conclusion

India's renewable energy challenge is increasingly not one of generation alone, but of transmission and system integration. Cheap solar and wind power can transform India's energy economy only if the grid is capable of carrying and balancing that power.

A modern, flexible and storage-enabled grid will determine whether India can fully harness its renewable energy advantage.

Grid modernisation is therefore not a supporting reform. It is the central infrastructure requirement for a reliable, affordable and sustainable power system.

GS Paper III: Environment

4. Heatwaves and Ground-Level Ozone Pollution

a. Introduction

Heatwaves are usually understood as periods of extreme temperature that cause heatstroke, dehydration and stress on the human body. However, recent research from India shows that heatwaves also worsen air pollution by increasing ground-level ozone concentration.

This creates a compound health risk, where high temperature and polluted air together increase human vulnerability. In 2024, more than 830 deaths in India could be linked to ozone pollution intensified by extreme heat.

This finding is important because heatwaves are not only a climate hazard. They are also an air-quality and public-health concern.

OZONE: PROTECTIVE ABOVE, POLLUTING BELOW 			
 STRATOSPHERIC OZONE	GROUND-LEVEL OZONE 		
 Found in upper atmosphere	 Found near Earth's surface		
 Naturally forms the ozone layer	 Secondary air pollutant		
 Absorbs harmful UV radiation	 Harms human health and vegetation		
 Protects life on Earth	 Worsens respiratory and cardiovascular illness		
 Beneficial environmental role	 Formed from NO _x + VOCs + sunlight		
"GOOD OZONE"		"BAD OZONE"	
 STRATOSPHERIC OZONE = SHIELD FROM UV RADIATION		GROUND-LEVEL OZONE = SECONDARY AIR POLLUTANT	

b. Key Issue

Ozone has different effects depending on where it is found. In the upper atmosphere, ozone protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. At ground level, however, ozone is a harmful pollutant.

Formation of Ground-Level Ozone

- Ground-level ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight.
- These precursor pollutants are released from vehicles, industries, power plants, fuel combustion, solvents and other urban sources.
- Heatwaves accelerate these chemical reactions and increase ozone concentration.

Regional Vulnerability

- Ozone concentration can rise sharply during extreme heat.

- Already polluted regions such as northwestern India and the Gangetic plains are especially vulnerable.
- Unlike dust or smoke, ozone is not easily visible, which reduces public awareness of the risk.

This makes ground-level ozone a silent but serious summer air-pollution hazard.

c. Significance

The issue has important implications for climate policy, air-quality management and public health.

Climate-Air Pollution Link

- Rising temperatures do not only create direct heat stress.
- They also worsen secondary air pollution.
- Climate change can therefore amplify existing environmental health risks.

Wider Understanding of Heatwaves

- Heatwave policy usually focuses on heatstroke, dehydration and drinking water supply.
- These remain important, but heatwave management must also include air quality.
- High ozone levels can worsen respiratory and cardiovascular illness.

Impact on Vulnerable Groups

- Elderly persons and children face higher health risks.
- Outdoor workers are exposed to both heat and polluted air.
- People with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease or other respiratory conditions are especially vulnerable.

Summer Air Pollution Challenge

- Air pollution in India is often seen as a winter problem due to particulate matter.
- Ground-level ozone shows that summer air quality is also a serious concern.
- This requires year-round air pollution governance.

Therefore, ozone pollution expands the public-health meaning of heatwaves and demands an integrated policy response.

d. Concerns and Challenges

India faces several challenges in responding to heat-linked ozone pollution.

Low Public Awareness

- Ground-level ozone is less understood than PM2.5 and PM10.
- Citizens may not realise that a bright, hot and sunny day can also produce harmful air pollution.
- Invisible pollutants are harder to communicate as public risks.

Extended Health Risk

- Ozone levels may remain elevated for several days after the peak heatwave period.
- This extends health risks beyond the immediate heat event.
- Public health systems may underestimate delayed exposure impacts.

Weak Warning Integration

- Existing heatwave warnings usually focus on temperature, humidity and heat index.
- They rarely communicate combined exposure to heat and air pollution.
- Vulnerable groups may not receive timely advisories.

Climate Change Intensification

- Climate change is likely to make heatwaves more frequent and intense.
- Longer heat periods may increase ozone formation.
- Dense urban areas may face greater pressure on public health systems.

These challenges show that isolated heat alerts are no longer sufficient. India needs integrated heat-air-health governance.

e. Way Forward

India should adopt a combined strategy for heatwave management and ozone pollution control.

Integrate Ozone Monitoring with Heat Alerts

- Ground-level ozone data should be included in heatwave bulletins.
- India Meteorological Department warnings should be linked with air-quality updates.
- Citizens should be informed about both temperature and pollution risks.

Link Heat Action Plans with Air Pollution Control

- City-level Heat Action Plans should include ozone-risk management.
- Emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds should be reduced during heatwave periods.
- Vehicles, industries, power plants, diesel generators and solvent use should be monitored more strictly.

Targeted Health Advisories

- Elderly persons, children and outdoor workers should receive specific warnings.
- People with lung or heart disease should be advised to reduce outdoor exposure during high-ozone days.
- Schools, hospitals, construction sites and workplaces should receive clear protocols.

Heat-Resilient Urban Planning

- Urban greenery and shaded public spaces should be expanded.
- Cool roofs and reflective surfaces should be promoted.
- Heat-resilient building design can reduce local temperatures and indirectly reduce ozone formation.

Public Awareness

- Citizens should be informed that summer heat can worsen air pollution.
- Awareness campaigns should explain the difference between stratospheric ozone and ground-level ozone.
- Public discussion should shift from isolated heat alerts to a broader climate-health approach.

A successful response will require coordination between meteorological agencies, pollution control boards, health departments and urban local bodies.

Conclusion

Heatwaves are not only a temperature hazard. They also intensify secondary air pollution by increasing ground-level ozone formation. This creates a combined climate, air-quality and health challenge for India.

India's response must therefore move beyond isolated heat alerts. A stronger framework should integrate heatwave management, air-quality monitoring, public health advisories and urban planning.

Such an approach will be essential for protecting vulnerable populations in a hotter and more polluted future.

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.

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The formatting combines:

- paragraphs
- lists
- tables
- visual cues

—all optimised for retention.

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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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