

PrepAlpine

The Next-Generation UPSC Institution

Where Research Meets Mentorship & Precision



Preparation Meets Precision

A Next-Generation Learning Institution

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 27.03.2026

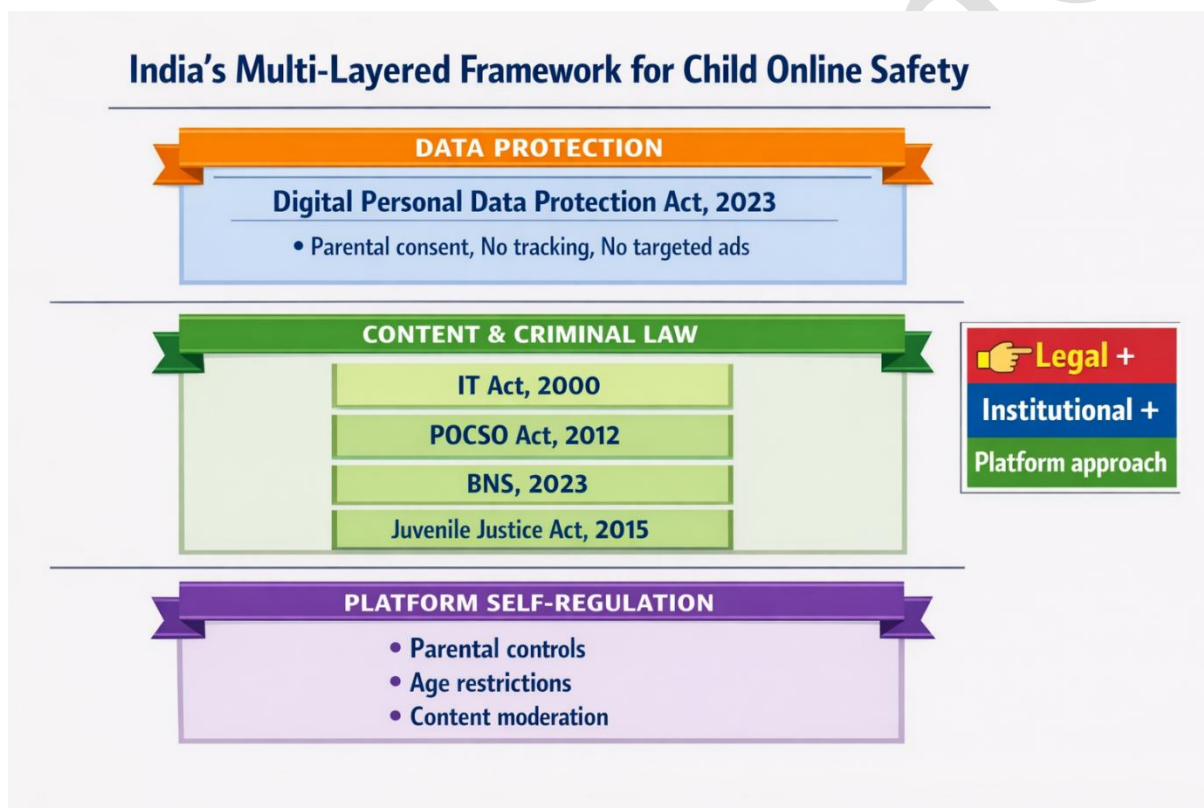
GS Paper II: Current Affairs

1. Safeguarding Children on Social Media: India's Regulatory Framework

a. Introduction

The rapid growth of social media has changed how children learn, communicate, and express themselves. However, it has also created new risks. Features like endless scrolling, algorithm-based recommendations, and personalised content are designed to maximise engagement, often without considering their impact on young users.

As concerns around mental health, privacy, and online safety increase, governments worldwide are strengthening regulations. India has also developed a multi-layered regulatory framework, though gaps in implementation still remain.



b. Why Regulation of Social Media is Necessary

Vulnerability of Children

- Cognitive and emotional development is still evolving
- More susceptible to influence and manipulation

Addiction and Mental Health Issues

- Platforms use reward-based engagement systems
- Leads to excessive screen time and stress

Exposure to Harmful Content

- Violence, misinformation, explicit material
- Distorts behaviour and emotional development

Privacy Risks

- Children share personal data unknowingly
- Data may be misused for profiling or exploitation

Online Exploitation and Grooming

- Offenders build trust through digital platforms
- Risk of sexual exploitation

Cyberbullying

- Harassment and trolling
- Long-term psychological impact

c. India's Existing Regulatory Framework

i. Data Protection Framework

- Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
 - Defines children as below 18 years
 - Requires parental consent for data processing
- Restricts behavioural tracking and targeted advertising
- Protects children from data-driven exploitation

ii. Content and Cybercrime Regulation

- Information Technology Act, 2000
 - Addresses illegal and obscene content
 - Covers child sexual abuse material
- POCSO Act, 2012
 - Covers online grooming and exploitation
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
 - Addresses online harassment and trafficking
- Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
 - Provides broader child protection framework

iii. Platform-Level Measures

- Parental controls and age restrictions
- Content moderation systems
- Effectiveness varies due to voluntary compliance

d. Emerging Policy Directions

Graded Regulation

- Different rules for different age groups
- Stronger protection for younger children

Platform Accountability

- Focus on design, not just content
- Address addictive features

Age-Based Restrictions

- Possible limits on access for younger users
- Inspired by global practices

Regulation of Platform Design

- Control features like infinite scroll
- Limit algorithmic amplification

e. Key Challenges

Age Verification Issues

- Easy to bypass using false information
- Weak enforcement of restrictions

Implementation Gap

- Strong laws exist on paper
- Weak execution due to limited capacity

Rapid Technological Change

- New platforms and features evolve quickly
- Laws struggle to keep pace

Industry Resistance

- Companies fear over-regulation
- Tension between innovation and control

Lack of Awareness

- Parents and children unaware of risks
- Underuse of safety tools

f. Way Forward

Strengthen Age Verification

- Use secure digital ID systems
- Adopt advanced verification technologies

Regulate Platform Design

- Limit addictive features
- Promote safer user interfaces

Improve Enforcement

- Regular audits of platforms
- Strict penalties for non-compliance

Promote Digital Literacy

- Educate parents, teachers, and children
- Encourage safe online behaviour

Enhance International Cooperation

- Learn from global best practices
- Address cross-border digital challenges

Adopt Child-Centric Policies

- Prioritise mental health and safety
- Treat children as vulnerable users, not consumers

Conclusion

India has developed a broad and multi-dimensional framework to protect children on social media. However, the real challenge lies in effective implementation and adapting to rapidly changing technologies.

A balanced approach is essential—combining strong regulation, platform accountability, and public awareness. The ultimate goal should be to ensure that children can benefit from digital opportunities while being protected from risks, creating a safe and healthy online environment.

GS Paper III: Environment

2. India's Climate Targets for 2035: Modest but Strategic

a. Introduction

India has recently announced its third set of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2035 under the Paris Agreement. At first glance, these targets may seem modest compared to global expectations or India's potential.

However, a closer look shows that they are carefully designed to balance three key factors:

- Economic development
- Climate responsibility
- Uncertainty in global cooperation

The core message is clear: India is committed to clean energy transition, but it prefers realistic and achievable targets rather than overly ambitious promises.

b. Conceptual Framework: Nationally Determined Contributions

i. Meaning of NDCs

- Country-specific climate action plans under the Paris Agreement
- Reflect national priorities and capabilities

ii. Key Principles

Progression

- Each new target should be more ambitious than the previous one

Flexibility

- Countries decide targets based on development needs and resources

c. Evolution of India's Climate Targets

Gradual Progression

- Initial targets focused on emission intensity and renewable energy
- Strengthened in 2030 commitments
- Further extended in 2035 targets

Current Targets

- ~47% reduction in emission intensity, from 2005 levels
- ~60% electricity capacity from non-fossil sources
- Expansion of carbon sink through forests

Key Insight

- Many earlier targets already achieved or nearly achieved
- New targets appear incremental as a result

d. Why the Targets Appear Modest

Limited Increase in Ambition

- Emission intensity reduction increased only slightly
- Renewable targets lower than potential estimates

Strategic Choice

- Preference for achievable targets
- Avoidance of unrealistic commitments

Policy Approach

- “Under-promise, over-deliver” strategy
- Builds credibility in global negotiations

e. Rationale Behind the Cautious Approach

Shortfall in Climate Finance

- Developed countries failed to meet funding commitments
- Creates trust deficit

Global Uncertainty

- Geopolitical tensions and energy crises
- Renewed reliance on fossil fuels in some regions

Domestic Development Needs

- Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation
- Rising energy demand

Strategic Autonomy

- Avoid external pressure
- Retain flexibility in policymaking

f. Significance of the Targets

WHY TARGETS LOOK MODEST

| Aspect | Reality | Interpretation |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Emission Intensity | Already declining | Limited increase needed |
| Renewable Energy | 50%+ achieved | Near target saturation |
| Carbon Sink | Gradual progress | Long-term effort |

 Incremental ≠ Weak

Continued Climate Commitment

- Reinforces India's dedication to clean energy transition
- Maintains consistency in policy

Energy Security

- Reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels
- Promotes domestic renewable energy

Economic Opportunities

- Growth in green technology and jobs
- Encourages investment

Global Leadership

- Strengthens India's role in Global South
- Advocates climate justice and equity

g. Challenges in Implementation

Financing Constraints

- Large investments required for clean energy
- Limited access to affordable capital

Continued Dependence on Coal

- Coal still central to energy supply
- Transition is gradual

Technological Gaps

- Need for energy storage and smart grids
- Emerging technologies like green hydrogen

Administrative Challenges

- Land acquisition delays
- Coordination issues between agencies

h. Way Forward

Strengthen Climate Finance

- Mobilise domestic investment
- Secure international funding

Accelerate Renewable Energy

- Expand solar and wind capacity
- Invest in storage and grid modernisation

Focus on Adaptation

- Build resilience in vulnerable regions
- Address climate risks

Promote Sustainable Lifestyles

- Encourage behavioural change — Mission LiFE
- Reduce consumption-based emissions

Maintain Strategic Flexibility

- Increase ambition gradually
- Align with global developments

Conclusion

India's climate targets for 2035 reflect a pragmatic balance between ambition and realism. While they may appear modest, they are grounded in practical constraints and global uncertainties.

Rather than indicating weak commitment, these targets represent a strategy of steady and achievable progress. In a world marked by uneven cooperation, India's approach seeks to align climate responsibility with developmental priorities, ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.

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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