

# PrepAlpine

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# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED 30.01.2026

## GS Paper II: Current Affairs

### 1. Public Health Expenditure in India

#### a. Introduction

Public health expenditure refers to government spending on healthcare services such as hospitals, medical personnel, medicines, disease prevention, public health infrastructure, and health administration. Adequate public investment in health is a foundational requirement for improving life expectancy, labour productivity, and overall quality of life. It also plays a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality by protecting households from catastrophic medical expenses.

In India, however, public health expenditure remains persistently low. More significantly, a structural imbalance has emerged between the constitutional responsibility of State governments to deliver healthcare and the limited and inconsistent financial contribution of the Union government. This imbalance has serious implications for equity, access, and the quality of healthcare services across States.

### Why Public Health Expenditure Matters



#### b. Distribution of Responsibility in India's Federal Structure

Health is constitutionally a State subject, placing primary responsibility for healthcare delivery on State governments.

##### i. Role of State Governments

States are responsible for:

- Managing public hospitals and medical colleges
- Running primary health centres and community health facilities
- Implementing disease control programmes
- Managing frontline health workers and public health administration

They also adapt healthcare delivery to local epidemiological and demographic conditions.

## **ii. Role of the Union Government**

The Union government plays a supporting role through:

- Budgetary transfers and grants
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)
- National health programmes and missions

These interventions are intended to reduce inter-State disparities and ensure minimum national standards.

India's health system thus rests on cooperative federalism, where outcomes depend on adequate and sustained contributions from both levels of government.

## **c. Policy Vision for Public Health Spending**

The National Health Policy (NHP), 2017 acknowledged the limitations of State-led financing alone.

### **i. Expenditure Target**

The policy set a clear target of increasing total public health expenditure to 2.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### **ii. Role of the Union Government**

The policy emphasised:

- Increasing the Union government's share in health spending
- Reducing dependence on private healthcare
- Lowering out-of-pocket medical expenses

### **iii. Underlying Rationale**

This vision was based on two realities:

- States face limited fiscal capacity and competing expenditure priorities
- The Union government has stronger revenue-raising ability and macro-fiscal stability

## **d. Actual Level of Public Health Spending**

India's public health expenditure remains far below both national targets and global benchmarks.

### **i. Chronic Underinvestment**

Even among developing countries, India spends relatively little per capita on public health. This underinvestment manifests in:

- Overcrowded public hospitals
- Shortages of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff
- Inadequate infrastructure and equipment
- Uneven quality of care across regions

### **ii. Dependence on Private Healthcare**

The most visible outcome is heavy reliance on private healthcare, exposing households to high medical costs and increasing the risk of poverty due to illness.

## **e. Performance of State Governments**

Over time, State governments have made visible efforts to increase health spending.

### **i. Budgetary Commitment**

Many States have:

- Increased the share of health in their budgets
- Expanded primary healthcare and rural health services
- Invested in urban public health infrastructure

### **ii. Fiscal Pressure on States**

However, States face growing pressures due to:

- Population growth and urbanisation
- Ageing population
- Rising burden of non-communicable diseases
- Increasing healthcare costs

These factors stretch State finances, even as their constitutional responsibilities expand.

## **f. Role of the Union Government**

The Union government's health spending has lacked consistency.

### **i. Inconsistent Allocations**

- Temporary increases during public health emergencies
- Declines during normal years in both GDP share and real terms

### **ii. Gap with Policy Commitments**

As a result, central spending remains well below the targets envisaged in the National Health Policy, forcing States to shoulder a disproportionate share of healthcare expenditure.

## **g. Why Low Central Spending is a Serious Concern**

Limited Union government spending affects the health system in multiple ways.

### **i. Financial Stress on States**

States have restricted taxation powers and borrowing limits. Inadequate central transfers constrain their ability to expand infrastructure or improve service quality.

### **ii. Weakening of National Health Programmes**

Programmes related to:

- Primary healthcare
- Maternal and child health
- Nutrition
- Disease prevention

suffer from uneven coverage, especially in poorer and rural States.

### **iii. High Out-of-Pocket Expenditure**

Insufficient public facilities force households to rely on private care, leading to:

- Medical indebtedness
- Poverty due to health shocks
- Deepening inequalities in access

## **h. Issue of Health and Education Cess**

The Health and Education Cess was introduced to generate additional resources for social sectors.

### **i. Dilution of Purpose**

In practice:

- Only a small proportion is spent directly on health
- Most revenue flows into the general pool

### **ii. Governance Implications**

This weakens transparency, reduces accountability, and undermines public trust in earmarked funding for health.

## **i. India in International Perspective**

India's public health spending per capita is:

- Lower than Sri Lanka and Bhutan
- Far below emerging economies like Thailand and Malaysia

Countries with higher public health investment consistently show:

- Better health outcomes
- Lower private medical expenditure
- More resilient health systems

This demonstrates that India's health challenges are policy-driven, not inevitable.

## **j. Key Structural Issues**

India's public health system continues to face:

- Inadequate overall public health spending
- Insufficient Union government contribution
- Excessive fiscal burden on States
- Underfunding of primary and preventive healthcare
- Rising dependence on private healthcare

## **k. Way Forward**

Improving health outcomes requires predictable and sustained public investment.

- Gradually increase public health expenditure towards 2.5 percent of GDP
- Strengthen the Union government's role in health financing
- Ensure stable and adequate transfers to States
- Prioritise primary and preventive healthcare
- Ensure transparent and strict use of health-specific cesses

Health spending must be viewed not as a welfare cost, but as a long-term investment in human capital and national development.

## **Conclusion**

India's healthcare system is heavily dependent on State governments, while the Union government's financial contribution remains limited and inconsistent. Short-term increases during crises cannot substitute for sustained public investment.

Without adequate and long-term public health expenditure, universal and affordable healthcare will remain beyond reach. Strengthening public health spending is essential not only for social welfare, but also for economic growth, equity, and national resilience.

## GS Paper II: International Relations

### 2. India–Arab League Relations: Bridging Cultures and Creating Opportunities

#### a. Introduction

India–Arab League relations constitute one of the most consequential regional partnerships in India’s foreign policy architecture. Anchored in centuries-old civilisational contacts, maritime trade routes, cultural exchanges, and enduring people-to-people linkages, the relationship has steadily evolved beyond its historical foundations.

In the contemporary period, this engagement has acquired a distinctly strategic character, encompassing energy security, trade and investment, defence cooperation, maritime security, counter-terrorism, and emerging digital domains. As India’s global footprint expands and West Asia continues to occupy a pivotal position in global energy flows and geopolitical stability, engagement with the Arab League has assumed a central role in India’s external relations. The partnership today reflects not only shared interests but also a convergence of long-term strategic visions.



#### b. The Arab League and India’s Institutional Engagement

##### i. The League of Arab States

The League of Arab States, commonly known as the Arab League, was established in 1945 as a regional organisation representing Arab countries of West Asia and North Africa. It comprises twenty-two member states and seeks to promote political coordination, economic cooperation, cultural integration, and regional stability among its members.

The Arab League functions as a collective diplomatic platform, allowing member states to articulate common positions on regional and global issues while preserving national sovereignty.

## **ii. Framework of India–Arab League Engagement**

India's engagement with the Arab League was institutionalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2002. This cooperation was further strengthened by the establishment of the Arab–India Cooperation Forum in 2008, which provides a structured mechanism for dialogue across political, economic, and cultural domains.

Regular meetings at the level of Foreign Ministers and senior officials have enhanced diplomatic coordination. India's Ambassador to Egypt serves as India's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, underscoring the importance New Delhi attaches to this regional grouping.

This institutional framework places India's West Asia policy within a multilateral regional context, complementing its strong bilateral relations with individual Arab states.

## **c. Key Pillars of India–Arab League Relations**

### **i. Energy Security as the Core Pillar**

Energy security remains the most critical foundation of India–Arab League relations. Arab countries collectively supply nearly three-fifths of India's crude oil imports and around seventy per cent of its natural gas requirements. Additionally, more than half of India's fertiliser imports originate from the region, linking West Asia directly to India's agricultural stability.

Key energy partnerships include:

- Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as major crude oil suppliers
- Qatar as a long-term and reliable supplier of liquefied natural gas
- Participation of the United Arab Emirates in India's strategic petroleum reserves

These arrangements ensure energy affordability, supply stability, and insulation from global market disruptions, thereby supporting sustained economic growth.

### **ii. Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation**

Economic engagement constitutes the backbone of India–Arab League relations. Bilateral trade between India and Arab League countries has crossed USD 240 billion annually, making the region one of India's largest trading partners. The United Arab Emirates stands out as India's most significant commercial partner within the Arab world.

Key dimensions of economic cooperation include:

- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with countries such as the UAE and Oman
- Large-scale investments by Arab sovereign wealth funds in Indian infrastructure, ports, logistics, renewable energy, and digital sectors
- Emergence of the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor as a new geoeconomic initiative enhancing connectivity and supply-chain resilience

These developments position India as a central node in transcontinental trade networks linking Asia, West Asia, and Europe.

### **iii. Strategic and Defence Cooperation**

India's engagement with Arab League countries has expanded decisively into the strategic and defence domain. Strategic partnerships have been formalised with countries such as Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar.

Defence cooperation encompasses:

- Structured defence dialogues and institutional mechanisms
- Joint military exercises and naval exchanges

- Logistics support and port access arrangements

India has also emerged as a credible defence exporter, offering platforms such as the Tejas light combat aircraft, missile systems like BrahMos and Aakash, and artillery equipment.

A particularly significant asset is access to Duqm Port in Oman, which enhances India's naval operational reach and maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region.

#### **iv. Maritime Security and Indian Ocean Cooperation**

Maritime cooperation represents a vital pillar of India–Arab League relations. A substantial proportion of India's external trade transits through critical Sea Lines of Communication such as the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, and the Gulf of Aden.

Cooperation in this domain includes:

- Joint anti-piracy operations
- Maritime surveillance and information sharing
- Capacity building for regional maritime security

India's approach is guided by the SAGAR doctrine—Security and Growth for All in the Region—reinforcing its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean.

#### **v. Counter-Terrorism and Security Convergence**

India and Arab League countries face shared threats from terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation. This common security challenge has led to expanding cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts.

Key areas of convergence include:

- Intelligence sharing and capacity building
- Coordinated action against terror financing
- Diplomatic support for India's concerns regarding cross-border terrorism

This shared security outlook has strengthened normative alignment and enhanced mutual trust in multilateral forums.

#### **vi. Digital, Financial and Emerging Areas of Cooperation**

India–Arab League relations are steadily expanding into new domains shaped by technological transformation. India's digital public infrastructure has found increasing acceptance in the Arab world.

Notable areas include:

- Adoption of Unified Payments Interface and RuPay systems
- Rupee–Dirham settlement mechanisms to reduce transaction costs
- Collaboration in fintech, cyber security, space applications, drones, and emerging defence technologies

These developments reflect India's transition from a traditional market to a technology and solutions partner.

#### **vii. Alignment of Long-Term Strategic Visions**

A defining feature of India–Arab League relations is the convergence of long-term national visions. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, the UAE's Centennial 2071, Oman's Vision 2040, and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 emphasise diversification, innovation, human capital development, and sustainability.

India is increasingly viewed as a strategic partner in achieving these ambitions, strengthening long-term engagement and strategic trust.

#### **d. Challenges and Constraints**

Despite its strengths, the partnership faces certain structural and geopolitical challenges:

- Political instability and conflicts in parts of West Asia
- India's heavy dependence on the region for energy supplies
- Intra-regional rivalries among Arab states
- Intensified geopolitical competition involving extra-regional powers

Addressing these challenges requires calibrated diplomacy, diversification strategies, and strategic autonomy.

#### **e. Way Forward**

The future trajectory of India–Arab League relations lies in deepening strategic trust while broadening cooperation. Priority areas include:

- Securing long-term energy partnerships alongside diversification of India's energy mix
- Further institutionalisation of defence and maritime cooperation
- Sustained political support for economic corridors and connectivity projects
- Leveraging digital and financial integration for high-growth opportunities
- Active diplomatic engagement to promote regional stability

#### **Conclusion**

India–Arab League relations have evolved from historically rooted interactions into a comprehensive strategic partnership. As India consolidates its position as a major global power and the Arab world undergoes economic and strategic transformation, this partnership promises mutual growth, stability, and strategic depth.

Shaped by shared interests, converging visions, and growing trust, India–Arab League relations are poised to remain a cornerstone of India's engagement with West Asia in the decades ahead.

### **GS Paper III: Economics**

## **3. Why the Rupee's Challenges Are Primarily External**

### **a. Introduction**

Movements in the Indian rupee are often interpreted as a direct reflection of India's domestic economic health. Such an interpretation, however, is incomplete. In reality, the rupee's vulnerability stems less from internal macroeconomic weakness and more from India's deep integration with global trade and financial systems.

In an international environment marked by volatile capital flows, shifting global interest rate cycles, and frequent geopolitical shocks, the rupee is disproportionately influenced by external forces that lie beyond India's immediate control. Consequently, understanding rupee depreciation requires moving beyond domestic indicators and examining India's position within the global economy.

### **b. How the Rupee's Value Is Determined**

The exchange value of the rupee is governed by the basic principle of demand and supply of foreign exchange, particularly the US dollar.

Demand for dollars arises from:

- Imports of goods and services
- Repayment of external debt

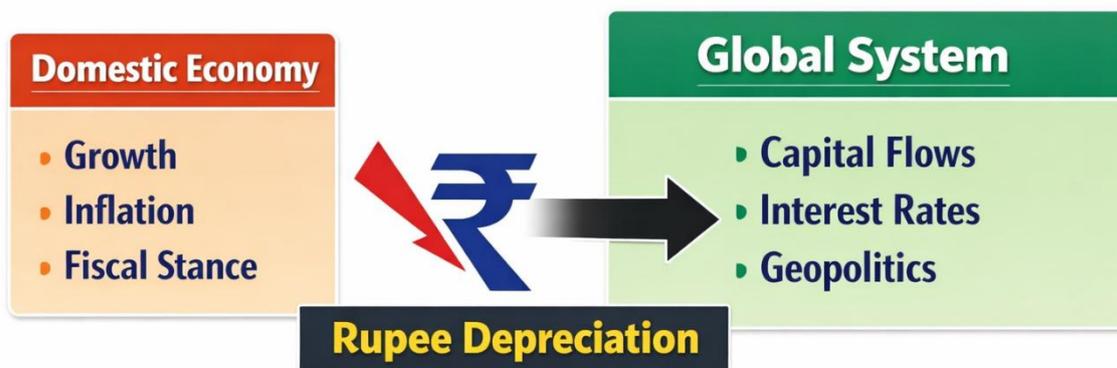
- Capital outflows

Supply of dollars comes from:

- Merchandise exports
- Services exports
- Remittances
- Foreign investment inflows

Whenever the demand for dollars exceeds their supply, the rupee depreciates. This mechanism indicates that exchange rate movements are often driven not by domestic growth rates or fiscal strength alone, but by changes in external trade and capital flows.

## Rupee Depreciation: Beyond Domestic Fundamentals



➔ Exchange rate reflects **global integration**,  
not just **domestic health**

### c. India's Structural Position in the Global Economy

#### i. Persistent Trade Deficit

India consistently imports more goods than it exports. Essential imports such as crude oil, electronics, defence equipment, and advanced machinery create a large merchandise trade deficit. Although India earns substantial foreign exchange through information technology services and remittances from Indians working abroad, these inflows are insufficient to fully offset the deficit in goods trade.

As a result, India must rely on external capital inflows to finance its current account gap. This structural dependence makes the rupee inherently sensitive to changes in global capital availability.

#### ii. Dependence on Foreign Capital

To bridge its external gap, India relies heavily on foreign investment, particularly foreign portfolio investment. Such flows are highly mobile and driven by global sentiment rather than domestic fundamentals. While foreign direct investment is relatively stable, its cushioning effect is increasingly limited by rising profit repatriation.

When global investors withdraw funds, dollar inflows fall sharply, placing immediate pressure on the rupee irrespective of India's domestic economic performance.

## **d. Why External Factors Dominate Rupee Movements**

### **i. Global Interest Rate Cycles**

Interest rate decisions in advanced economies, especially the United States, exert a powerful influence on global capital flows. When US interest rates rise, investors shift funds toward safer and higher-yielding dollar assets.

Emerging market economies like India experience capital outflows even when their growth prospects remain strong. Thus, robust domestic growth alone cannot prevent rupee depreciation during phases of global monetary tightening.

### **ii. Global Risk Aversion**

Periods of global uncertainty—triggered by wars, geopolitical tensions, banking crises, or financial instability—lead investors to avoid risk. During such “risk-off” phases, emerging market currencies are among the first to be sold.

In these situations, the rupee weakens not because of India-specific weaknesses, but because global investors seek safety in reserve currencies such as the US dollar.

### **iii. Geopolitical Fragmentation**

The global economy is increasingly shaped by sanctions, trade restrictions, and strategic decoupling. Supply chains are being reorganised under political pressures rather than economic efficiency.

This fragmentation heightens uncertainty in trade and capital flows, directly affecting currencies like the rupee that depend on a stable and open global environment.

### **iv. Volatility of Capital Flows**

Foreign portfolio investors can exit markets within days, creating sudden shortages of foreign exchange. While domestic investors may stabilise equity markets, they cannot replace the loss of foreign currency inflows.

This asymmetry makes the rupee particularly vulnerable to external financial shocks.

## **e. Limits of Strong Domestic Fundamentals**

India today exhibits several macroeconomic strengths, including high growth rates, relatively controlled inflation, and comfortable foreign exchange reserves. Despite this, the rupee continues to face depreciation pressures.

This apparent contradiction arises because exchange rates respond more strongly to capital movements than to growth fundamentals in the short to medium term. Moreover, India’s manufacturing exports have not yet achieved the scale or competitiveness required to anchor the currency.

While services exports provide important support, they cannot fully substitute for a broad-based manufacturing export base.

## **f. External Shock Scenarios and Rupee Vulnerability**

If global uncertainty persists, even minor shocks can trigger disproportionate capital outflows, keeping the rupee fragile. In scenarios of intensified geopolitical fragmentation, sanctions and trade disruptions may further destabilise capital flows.

In the event of a systemic global financial crisis, sudden capital flight could lead to sharp depreciation. In each of these cases, the initiating forces are external rather than domestic.

## **g. Is a Weak Rupee Always Harmful?**

A depreciating rupee can generate short-term benefits:

- Improved export competitiveness
- Partial offset to foreign trade barriers
- Limited inflationary impact if global commodity prices, especially crude oil, remain stable

However, persistent depreciation over the medium to long term discourages foreign investors, raises the cost of imports and external borrowing, and signals underlying structural vulnerabilities.

### **h. Long-Term Path to Rupee Stability**

Sustainable currency stability requires structural transformation rather than short-term intervention. Key priorities include:

- Strengthening manufacturing-led exports
- Reducing critical import dependence
- Deepening domestic capital markets
- Prioritising stable long-term FDI over volatile portfolio flows
- Diversifying trade partners and payment mechanisms

Equally important is institutional credibility, built through predictable policies, regulatory stability, and sustained macroeconomic discipline.

### **Conclusion**

The rupee's challenges are primarily the outcome of India's integration with a volatile and fragmented global financial system, rather than a reflection of weak domestic fundamentals. Until India reduces its reliance on foreign capital and builds a robust, manufacturing-driven export base, the rupee will remain exposed to external shocks.

Ultimately, currency strength follows structural economic resilience—not short-term policy measures.

## **GS Paper IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude**

### **4. Right to Information Act and Governance Efficiency**

#### **a. Introduction**

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 represents one of the most transformative democratic reforms in post-independence India. By granting citizens a legally enforceable right to access information held by public authorities, the Act fundamentally altered the relationship between the State and its citizens. It strengthened transparency, enhanced accountability, empowered citizens, and emerged as a powerful deterrent against corruption and arbitrariness.

However, as governance has become more complex and policy-making increasingly technical, an important debate has emerged within democratic discourse. The question is no longer whether transparency is desirable, but whether unrestricted transparency at every stage of decision-making may, in some circumstances, impair administrative efficiency and policy innovation.

This evolving tension has prompted calls for a careful re-examination of certain aspects of the RTI framework, not to weaken transparency, but to balance openness with effective governance.

#### **b. Core Purpose of the RTI Act**

The RTI Act was conceived as an enabling law with multiple democratic objectives.

##### **i. Transparency and Accountability**

Its primary purpose was to promote transparent governance by allowing citizens to scrutinise the functioning of public authorities, thereby ensuring accountability of public officials and institutions.

### ii. Citizen Empowerment and Participation

By enabling access to information, the Act empowered citizens to participate meaningfully in public affairs, question decisions, and seek explanations for administrative actions.

### iii. Anti-Corruption Instrument

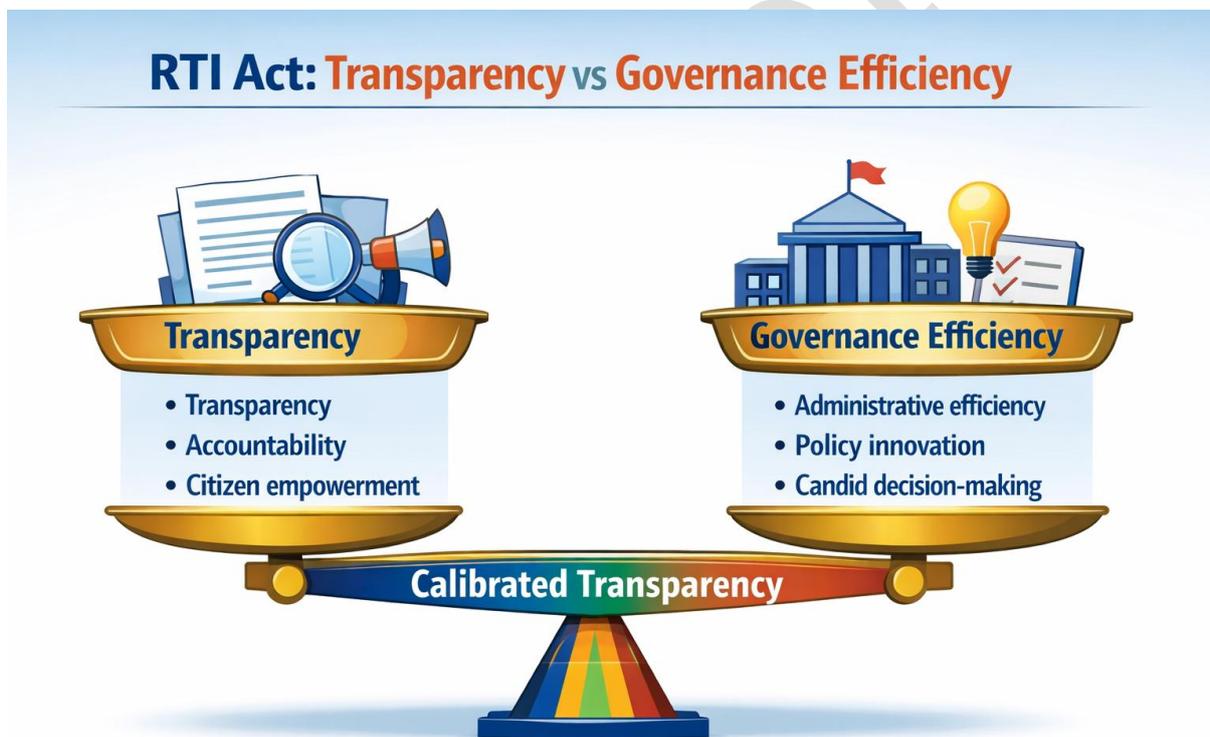
Transparency under RTI reduced information asymmetry, thereby limiting opportunities for rent-seeking, discretion-driven corruption, and misuse of public power.

### iv. Expansive Definition of Information

A defining feature of the Act is its wide definition of “information,” covering:

- Official records and documents
- Opinions, advice, and memoranda
- Emails, file notings, and correspondence
- Draft documents and internal notes

This breadth makes India’s RTI regime among the most comprehensive globally, reflecting a strong normative commitment to openness.



## c. RTI and the Governance Process

### i. Nature of Policy-Making

Policy-making is not a single, linear act but a continuous and iterative process.

- It involves brainstorming, internal discussions, and preliminary assessments
- Drafting and redrafting of proposals
- Inter-departmental consultations
- Political and executive approval

Many documents generated during this phase represent tentative ideas, exploratory opinions, and evolving viewpoints, rather than final government positions.

#### **ii. Process versus Outcome Distinction**

This distinction between policy process and policy outcome is central to understanding the governance challenges posed by extensive disclosure requirements under RTI.

#### **d. Key Governance Challenge: Disclosure of Internal Deliberations**

A major concern under the current RTI framework relates to the disclosure of internal working documents such as:

- Draft policy notes
- Brainstorming papers
- File notings
- Internal correspondence

While such disclosures formally enhance transparency, they also raise critical questions about their impact on decision-making quality and administrative effectiveness.

#### **e. Impact on Governance Quality**

When internal deliberations are exposed to continuous public scrutiny, several unintended consequences may follow.

##### **i. Chilling Effect on Candid Decision-Making**

Officials may become reluctant to record honest opinions or unconventional ideas due to fear of misinterpretation, controversy, or personal targeting.

##### **ii. Defensive and Risk-Averse Drafting**

Policy drafting often becomes overly cautious, discouraging bold, innovative, or experimental approaches necessary for complex governance challenges.

##### **iii. Shift to Informal Decision-Making**

To avoid scrutiny, discussions may shift from written records to informal verbal exchanges, which:

- Weakens institutional memory
- Reduces traceability
- Undermines long-term accountability

Paradoxically, therefore, excessive procedural transparency can weaken governance capacity, even while appearing to enhance openness.

#### **f. RTI as an Instrument versus RTI as an End**

The RTI Act was designed as a means to improve governance, not as an end in itself.

A growing concern is that disclosure is sometimes pursued mechanically, without assessing whether it genuinely advances public interest or governance outcomes. When transparency becomes detached from accountability and effectiveness, it risks undermining the very objectives it was meant to serve.

Transparency must remain instrumental to better decision-making, not a substitute for it.

#### **g. Comparative International Experience**

Most mature democracies adopt a calibrated approach to transparency.

- **United States:** Recognises a deliberative process exemption under its freedom of information laws.
- **United Kingdom:** Protects draft policy discussions to allow free and frank advice.
- **South Africa:** Exempts internal working documents from routine disclosure.
- **Sweden:** Despite strong transparency norms, incorporates safeguards for decision-making processes.

In comparison, India provides relatively limited protection to internal deliberations, apart from temporary exemptions for Cabinet papers until decisions are taken.

## **h. Key Reform Ideas in the Ongoing Debate**

### **i. Protecting the Deliberative Process**

Internal deliberations—such as draft policy documents, brainstorming notes, and preliminary opinions—could be exempted during the decision-making phase, with full disclosure once decisions are finalised.

### **ii. Narrow and Clearly Defined Exemptions**

Exemptions relating to personnel records, confidential assessments, and inter-agency communications should be:

- Precise
- Narrowly tailored
- Subject to strict public interest tests

to prevent misuse or blanket secrecy.

### **iii. Ministerial Override with Legislative Safeguards**

A limited ministerial veto has been proposed for disclosures that clearly harm public interest, subject to:

- Transparent justification
- Parliamentary oversight
- Judicial review

to prevent arbitrariness.

### **i. Balancing Transparency and Accountability**

Transparency remains indispensable for:

- Preventing corruption
- Building public trust
- Enabling citizen participation
- Strengthening democratic oversight

At the same time, absolute transparency can be counterproductive if it suppresses free thinking and innovation within the administration.

Public officials should be held accountable for final decisions and their rationale, rather than for every tentative thought expressed during internal deliberations. The goal must be calibrated transparency, not secrecy.

## **j. Way Forward**

A mature RTI regime must balance citizens' right to information with the requirements of effective governance.

- Protect internal policy deliberations while ensuring full transparency of final outcomes
- Strengthen Information Commissions and improve consistency in adjudication
- Align Indian practices with global democratic standards

Good governance requires openness in outcomes and protection in processes.

### **Conclusion**

The Right to Information Act remains a cornerstone of Indian democracy and a vital instrument of accountability. Re-examining certain provisions does not weaken transparency; rather, it reflects the evolving needs of a complex governance system.

A well-calibrated RTI regime can ensure that Indian democracy remains both open and functional, combining transparency with administrative effectiveness and policy innovation.

## 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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