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GS Paper II: Current Affairs

1. The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025

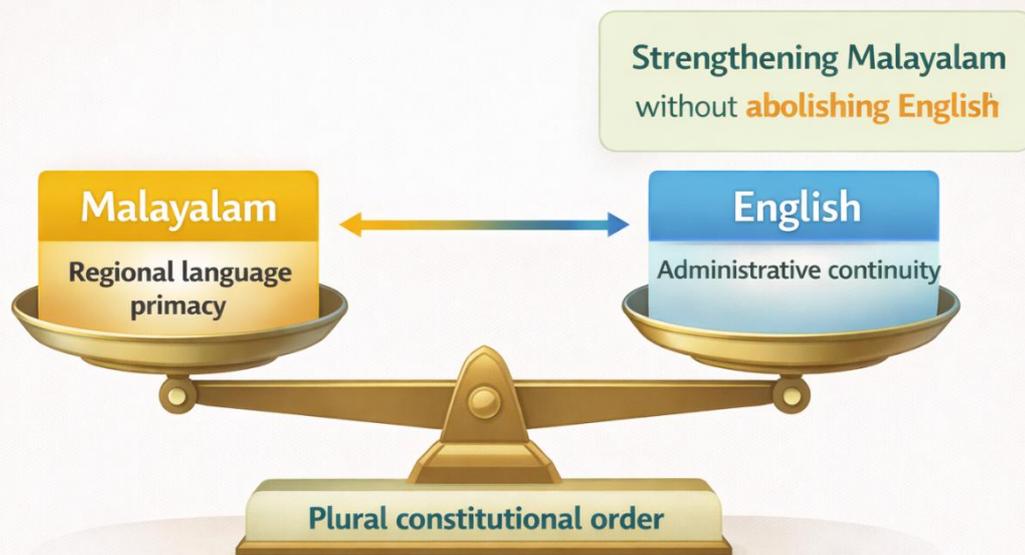
a. Understanding the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025

The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025 is a legislative initiative of the State of Kerala aimed at formally asserting Malayalam as the principal official language of the State. The Bill seeks to ensure the systematic and expanded use of Malayalam across governance, education, judiciary, public communication, commerce, and digital administration, while remaining within the constitutional framework of India.

Historically, Kerala has followed a dual official language arrangement, with both Malayalam and English used for official purposes. While Malayalam has remained dominant in social and cultural life, English has continued to play a significant role in administration, higher education, and legal processes. The present Bill does not abolish this duality outright. Instead, it seeks to recalibrate the linguistic balance by strengthening the primacy of Malayalam in governance, without eliminating English or infringing upon minority linguistic rights.

Thus, the Bill represents not a rejection of multilingualism, but an attempt to reinforce the regional language within a plural constitutional order.

Malayalam Language Bill, 2025: Rebalancing, Not Replacing



b. Constitutional Basis of the Bill

The constitutional validity of the Malayalam Language Bill flows from the language-related provisions of the Indian Constitution, which recognise linguistic diversity as a core feature of Indian federalism.

i. Article 345: State Autonomy in Language Policy

Article 345 empowers a State Legislature to adopt any language in use within the State for official purposes. This provision forms the primary constitutional anchor of the Bill and affirms the autonomy of States to shape their linguistic governance structures.

ii. Articles 346 and 347: Federal Coordination and Minority Recognition

Articles 346 and 347 regulate:

- Communication between States and between the Union and States
- Recognition of languages spoken by substantial linguistic minorities

These provisions underline that State language autonomy must coexist with inter-State coordination and minority accommodation.

iii. Articles 29 and 30: Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities

Articles 29 and 30 protect the cultural and educational rights of linguistic minorities, ensuring that language policies do not translate into cultural exclusion or educational disadvantage.

Taken together, these provisions establish that while language policy lies within the State domain, it is constitutionally constrained by minority rights and federal balance.

c. Core Provisions of the Bill

i. Declaration of Official Language

The Bill formally declares Malayalam as the official language of the State of Kerala, giving statutory clarity to a practice long established in social and cultural terms but lacking comprehensive legal articulation.

ii. Domains of Application

The Bill envisages the use of Malayalam across multiple public domains, including:

- Government offices and public administration
- Educational institutions
- Judicial processes (in a phased manner)
- Public communication and State-linked commercial transactions
- Digital governance platforms

The emphasis is on gradual and structured expansion, rather than abrupt replacement of existing practices.

iii. Legislature and Judiciary

All Bills and Ordinances introduced in the State Legislature are to be drafted in Malayalam. In the judicial sphere, the Bill provides for progressive translation of proceedings and judgments, recognising both the need for accessibility and the practical constraints of legal administration.

iv. Institutional Framework

To support implementation, the Bill proposes:

- Renaming the existing language department as the Malayalam Language Development Department
- Establishment of a Malayalam Language Development Directorate

These institutions are tasked with promoting Malayalam in information technology, open-source software, and digital governance, thereby aligning linguistic policy with technological modernisation.

d. Language Policy in Education

The educational provisions of the Bill adopt a calibrated and limited approach, avoiding universal imposition.

Malayalam is made a compulsory first language only in government and aided schools, and only up to Class 10. This mandate does not extend to unaided private schools or constitutionally protected minority institutions.

By restricting the scope of compulsion, the Bill attempts to balance linguistic promotion with educational plurality, competitive learning outcomes, and constitutional protections.

e. Protection of Linguistic Minorities

One of the most significant features of the Bill is its explicit protection of linguistic minorities, addressing a major shortcoming of earlier legislative attempts.

Non-Obstante Clause (Clause 7)

Clause 7 contains a non-obstante clause, ensuring that linguistic minorities — including Kannada, Tamil, Tulu, and Konkani speakers — retain the right to:

- Correspond with the State Secretariat
- Communicate with heads of departments
- Engage with local government offices in their mother tongue.

This safeguard is especially relevant in border districts, where such minorities are geographically concentrated.

The overriding nature of this clause ensures that minority rights prevail even in the event of conflict with other provisions of the law.

f. Historical Background: The 2015 Malayalam Language Bill

The 2025 Bill must be understood in continuity with an earlier legislative attempt in 2015.

The 2015 Bill sought to make Malayalam the sole official language of the State. It was reserved for the President's assent, which was ultimately withheld.

The primary objections included:

- Conflict with the Official Languages Act, 1963
- Inconsistency with the Right to Education Act, 2009
- Tension with the national three-language formula
- Inadequate safeguards for linguistic minorities

The 2025 Bill represents a corrective redrafting exercise, consciously designed to address these constitutional and legal deficiencies.

g. Karnataka's Objections to the Bill

The Government of Karnataka has raised objections, particularly concerning the Kannada-speaking population of Kasaragod district.

i. Educational Concerns

Kannada-speaking students in Kasaragod have traditionally studied Kannada as their first language. Karnataka fears that the strengthened promotion of Malayalam may indirectly discourage Kannada-medium education, accelerating the decline of Kannada schools already facing numerical reduction.

ii. Minority Rights Concerns

It is argued that the Bill may dilute the spirit of Articles 29 and 30 by creating indirect linguistic pressure on minority students, even if formal safeguards exist.

iii. Conflict with Central Frameworks

The Bill has also been alleged to conflict with central legislations and national language frameworks, particularly in education.

h. Assessing the Constitutionality of the Bill

From a constitutional perspective, the Bill presents both strengths and challenges.

i. Supporting Factors

- Clear grounding in Article 345
- Explicit minority safeguards through a non-obstante clause
- Correction of flaws present in the 2015 Bill
- Alignment with the principle of linguistic federalism

ii. Areas of Concern

- Sensitivity of implementation in border districts
- Risk of perceived linguistic imposition
- Potential for inter-State political friction

Ultimately, the constitutionality of the Bill will depend not merely on its text, but on the manner and spirit of implementation.

i. Way Forward

A sustainable path forward requires:

- Context-sensitive implementation, especially in minority-dominated border districts
- Area-specific exemptions where necessary
- Continuous monitoring of educational outcomes
- Sustained inter-State dialogue rooted in cooperative federalism

Equally essential is strict adherence to Articles 29 and 30, alongside alignment with broader governance goals such as inclusive institutions under Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Conclusion

The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025 exemplifies the exercise of State autonomy in language policy within the Indian constitutional framework. Its success will ultimately rest on achieving a careful balance between linguistic identity and minority protection, demonstrating how linguistic federalism can function through sensitivity, accommodation, and constitutional discipline.

GS Paper II: Current Affairs

2. UGC Regulations on Caste Discrimination in Higher Education, 2026

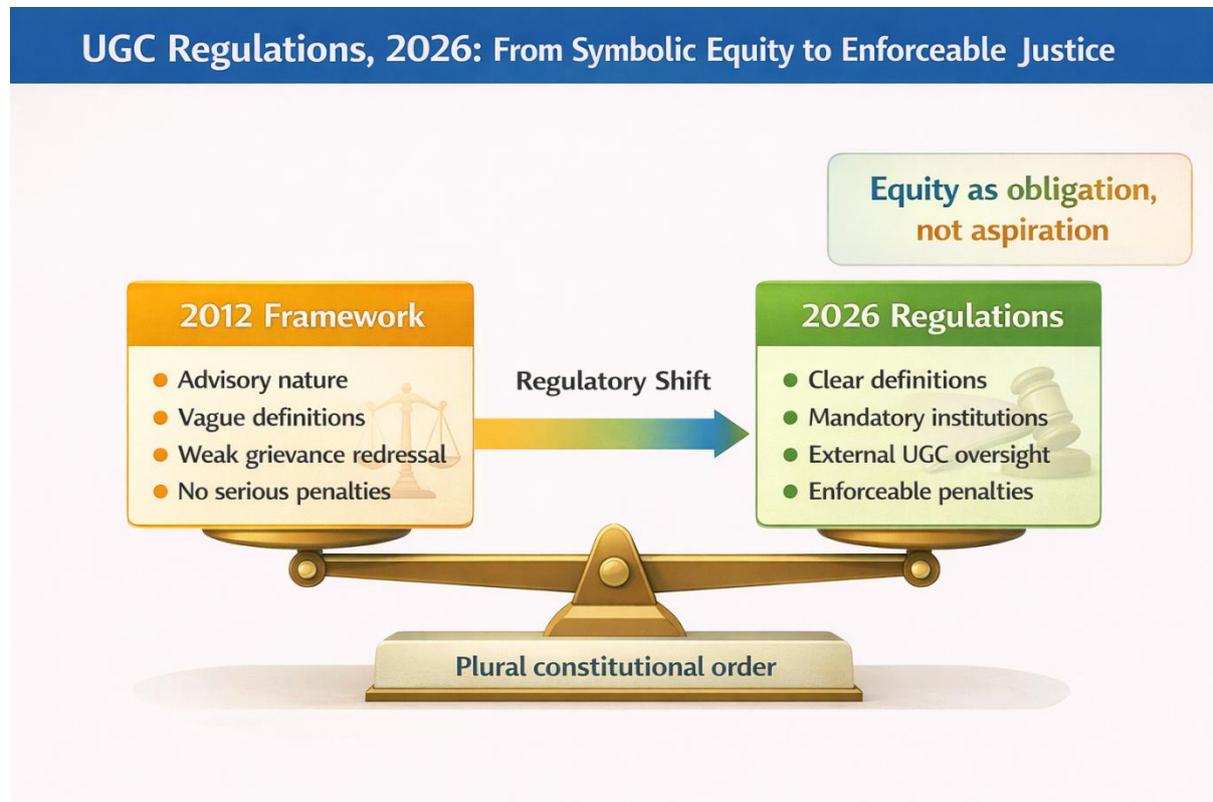
a. Introduction

The UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026 represent a major regulatory intervention aimed at eliminating caste-based discrimination and institutionalising equality, dignity, and inclusion within India's higher education system. Framed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), these regulations apply uniformly to all UGC-recognised universities and colleges across the country.

The 2026 regulations replace the earlier anti-discrimination framework of 2012. While the earlier rules formally acknowledged the problem of discrimination, they suffered from weak enforcement

mechanisms, vague definitions, and absence of meaningful penalties. As a result, discrimination often remained unaddressed at the institutional level.

The new regulations mark a decisive shift from symbolic commitment to enforceable standards, clearly signalling that equity in higher education is not optional, but a regulatory and constitutional obligation.



b. Rationale: Why Such Regulations Are Necessary

Higher education institutions are often projected as engines of social mobility and equal opportunity. However, lived experiences across many campuses reveal persistent patterns of exclusion, marginalisation, and unequal treatment, particularly affecting students from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Students from these communities have frequently reported:

- Social isolation and exclusion
- Biased academic evaluation
- Harassment and humiliation
- Institutional neglect and delayed grievance handling

The earlier regulatory framework failed to:

- Clearly define what constitutes discrimination
- Provide robust and independent grievance redressal
- Impose serious consequences for institutional failure

The 2026 regulations seek to bridge the gap between constitutional ideals and campus realities, ensuring that equality is actively practised within institutional structures, rather than merely proclaimed in policy documents.

c. Constitutional Foundations of the Regulations

The UGC Equity Regulations draw legitimacy from multiple provisions of the Indian Constitution, which collectively establish social justice as a foundational objective of governance.

i. Equality and Non-Discrimination

Article 14 guarantees equality before the law, while Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds such as caste, religion, and sex.

ii. Enabling Provisions for Educational Equity

Articles 15(4) and 15(5) empower the State to make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes, particularly in matters of education.

iii. Directive Principle of Social Justice

Article 46, a Directive Principle of State Policy, places a constitutional duty on the State to promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and OBCs and to protect them from social injustice.

Viewed together, these provisions make it clear that preventing caste discrimination in education is not an administrative choice, but a constitutional mandate.

d. Scope of Protection under the 2026 Regulations

The regulations adopt an explicitly inclusive approach by clearly identifying the categories of persons entitled to protection.

These include:

- Students belonging to SCs, STs, and OBCs
- Women
- Persons with disabilities
- Any other individual associated with higher education institutions

A crucial development is the explicit inclusion of OBCs in the final regulations. OBCs were absent from the initial draft, but following widespread criticism, they were formally incorporated, reinforcing the comprehensive and corrective nature of the equity framework.

e. Defining Caste-Based Discrimination

One of the most significant contributions of the 2026 regulations is their clear and expansive definition of caste-based discrimination.

In simple terms, caste-based discrimination refers to any unfair treatment imposed solely on the basis of caste or tribe. The regulations recognise multiple manifestations of discrimination, including:

- Biased evaluation and academic prejudice
- Social exclusion and segregation
- Harassment and humiliation
- Neglect or denial of equal access to educational opportunities

Importantly, the regulations recognise both:

- Explicit discrimination, which is direct and visible
- Implicit discrimination, which operates subtly through institutional practices and informal behaviour

By acknowledging indirect and structural forms of exclusion, the regulations address the deep-rooted nature of caste-based inequality in education.

f. Mandatory Institutional Mechanisms

i. Equity Committee

Every higher education institution must constitute an Equity Committee, headed by the head of the institution.

The committee must include representation from:

- Scheduled Castes
- Scheduled Tribes
- Other Backward Classes
- Women
- Persons with disabilities

The committee's functions include:

- Addressing complaints of discrimination
- Promoting an inclusive campus environment
- Monitoring equity-related concerns

To prevent inactivity, the regulations mandate that the committee must meet at least twice every year.

ii. Equal Opportunity Centre

In addition to the Equity Committee, institutions must establish an Equal Opportunity Centre.

Its functions extend beyond grievance redressal and include:

- Awareness creation and sensitisation
- Student support and counselling
- Promotion of social inclusion

The centre is required to submit bi-annual reports to the UGC, creating a formal structure of documentation and accountability.

g. Monitoring and Oversight by the UGC

To ensure that the regulations do not remain confined to paperwork, the UGC has instituted a national-level monitoring framework.

This includes:

- Regular scrutiny of institutional compliance reports
- Evaluation of the functioning of Equity Committees
- Assessment of grievance redressal processes

By introducing external oversight, the regulations reduce the risk of internal committees shielding institutional failures and strengthen regulatory accountability.

h. Penalties for Non-Compliance

A defining feature of the 2026 regulations is the introduction of stringent penalties for non-compliance.

Institutions failing to implement the mandated provisions may face:

- Debarment from offering academic programmes
- Withdrawal of UGC recognition
- Other actions permitted under the UGC Act

This represents a clear shift from earlier advisory frameworks and transforms equity from a moral expectation into a legally enforceable obligation.

i. Significance of the Regulations

From multiple perspectives, the regulations carry wide-ranging significance:

- **Social justice:** Protection of dignity and equal opportunity for marginalised students
- **Governance:** Introduction of transparency, accountability, and enforceability in higher education administration
- **Education reform:** Creation of safer and more inclusive learning environments

They also reinforce the equity-oriented vision of the National Education Policy, 2020, aligning institutional practices with national reform goals.

j. Implementation Challenges

Despite their strengths, the regulations face practical challenges:

- Risk of committees existing only in form, not substance
- Fear of retaliation or stigma discouraging student complaints
- Need for sustained sensitisation of faculty and administrators to recognise implicit bias
- Dependence on the monitoring capacity and institutional resolve of the UGC

Addressing these challenges is crucial for meaningful impact.

k. Way Forward

Effective implementation requires:

- Strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms
- Ensuring independent and functional Equity Committees
- Institutionalising regular sensitisation programmes
- Transparent public disclosure of compliance reports

Aligning higher education governance with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (inclusive education) and SDG 10 (reducing inequality) can provide additional normative direction.

Conclusion

The UGC Equity Regulations, 2026 represent a shift from symbolic anti-discrimination norms to constitutionally grounded, enforceable equity governance, seeking to eliminate caste-based discrimination in higher education through clear definitions, mandatory institutions, explicit inclusion of OBCs, and strict regulatory penalties.

GS Paper III: Science and Technology

3. Futuristic Marine and Space Biotechnology

a. Introduction

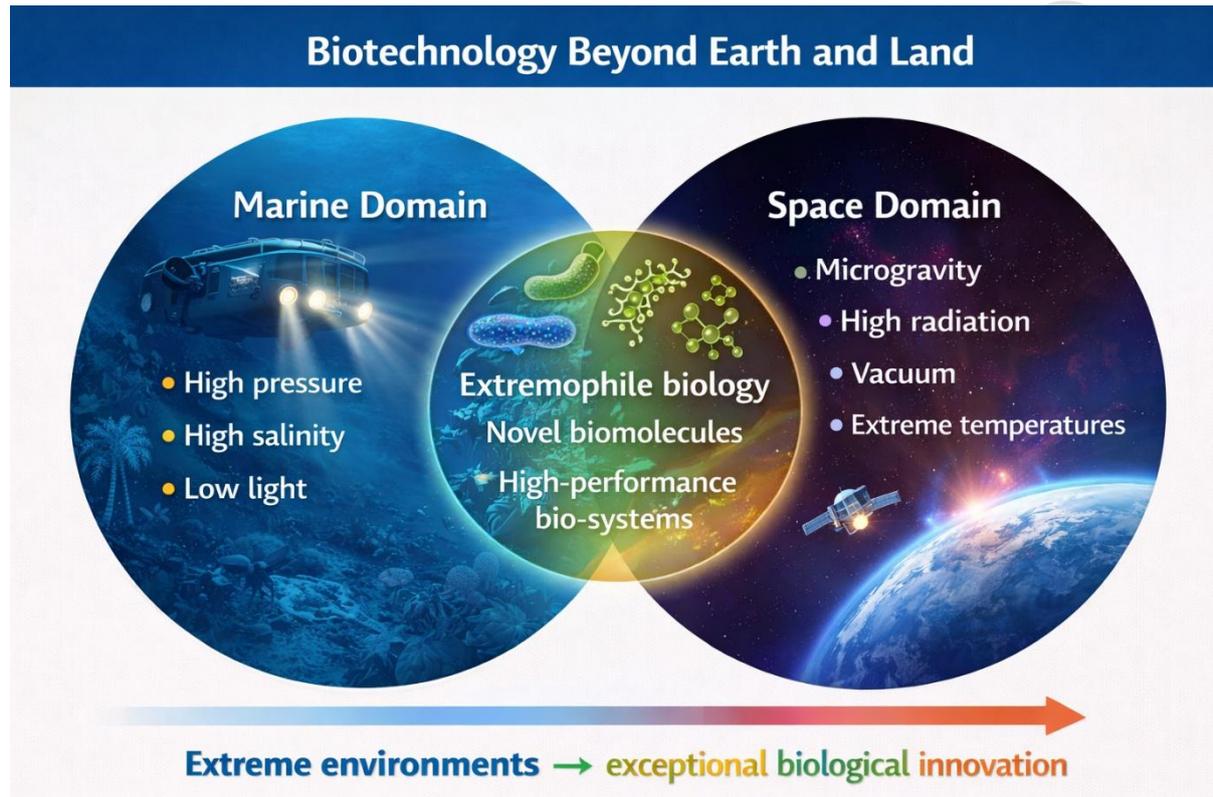
Futuristic marine and space biotechnology refers to advanced biological research and production systems that draw upon some of the most extreme and underexplored environments known to humanity, primarily the deep oceans and outer space. These environments host organisms that

survive under conditions radically different from those on land, such as extreme pressure, salinity, radiation, temperature variation, and microgravity.

The study and application of such organisms open new pathways for:

- Generating advanced biological knowledge
- Discovering novel bioactive compounds
- Developing high-performance biomaterials
- Designing sustainable and low-resource manufacturing processes

Since large-scale commercial utilisation of these domains is still limited, marine and space biotechnology are widely regarded as frontier areas of science and technology with long-term strategic significance.



b. Marine Biotechnology: Scope and Significance

Marine biotechnology involves the scientific study and practical use of marine organisms, including microorganisms, algae, seaweeds, and other marine life forms, for producing valuable goods and services.

i. Areas of Application

Marine biotechnology finds applications across multiple sectors:

- Pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals
- Industrial enzymes and bio-catalysts
- Biomaterials and biodegradable plastics
- Food ingredients and functional foods
- Biostimulants and bio-based chemicals

ii. Unique Value of Marine Organisms

Marine organisms have evolved under high pressure, high salinity, low light, and nutrient-scarce conditions. As a result, they produce:

- Enzymes stable under extreme conditions
- Novel chemical compounds with high bioactivity
- Metabolic pathways rarely seen in terrestrial organisms

These properties make marine bio-resources particularly valuable for industrial processes requiring stability, efficiency, and resilience.

Marine biotechnology therefore holds promise not only for innovation in medicine and industry, but also for developing environmentally sustainable alternatives to land- and freshwater-intensive production systems.

c. Space Biotechnology: Exploring Life Beyond Earth

Space biotechnology focuses on understanding how biological systems behave in the microgravity and high-radiation environment of outer space. It examines the responses of microbes, plants, human cells, and tissues beyond Earth's gravity-bound conditions.

i. Key Research Areas

Major areas of space biotechnology include:

- Space-based food production systems
- Maintenance of astronaut physical and mental health
- Protein crystallisation for advanced drug discovery
- Stem cell and regenerative medicine research
- Closed-loop life-support systems for air, water, and waste recycling

ii. Scientific and Terrestrial Benefits

Experiments conducted in space often reveal biological behaviours impossible to observe on Earth, such as altered cell growth, gene expression, and protein formation. These insights benefit:

- Long-duration space missions
- Earth-based medicine and biotechnology

In this sense, space biotechnology acts as a bridge between space exploration and cutting-edge biomedical and industrial research.

d. Relevance of These Technologies for India

i. Sustainability and Resource Security

Marine biotechnology can provide India with new sources of food, energy, chemicals, and biomaterials, reducing pressure on:

- Agricultural land
- Freshwater resources
- Fossil-based industrial inputs

ii. Space Ambitions and Human Exploration

With India's expanding space programme, space biotechnology becomes critical for:

- Reliable food systems for astronauts
- Maintaining health during long-duration missions
- Enabling biological manufacturing beyond Earth

These capabilities are essential for future space stations and deep-space missions.

iii. Economic and Strategic Dimensions

Both marine and space biotechnology support biomanufacturing, a high-growth sector with applications in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and green industries. Early investment can translate into:

- Technological leadership
- Strategic autonomy
- Long-term economic competitiveness

e. India's Present Position

i. Marine Biotechnology

India enjoys strong natural advantages:

- A coastline exceeding 11,000 kilometres
- An Exclusive Economic Zone of over 2 million square kilometres

However, India's share in global marine biotechnology remains limited. Seaweed cultivation illustrates this gap clearly:

- India produces around 70,000 tonnes of seaweed annually
- Yet imports key derivatives such as agar, carrageenan, and alginates

This reflects underdevelopment in value-added marine bioprocessing.

ii. Space Biotechnology

India has made a more visible start through ISRO:

- Microgravity experiments on microbes and algae
- Research on space food and life-support systems
- Studies on human health in space

However, these efforts remain largely research-oriented, with limited translation into a comprehensive industrial ecosystem.

f. Government Initiatives and Policy Support

The government has begun recognising the strategic importance of these sectors through:

- Blue Economy framework
- Deep Ocean Mission
- BioE3 Programme (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment)

These initiatives aim to:

- Scale up marine biomass production
- Link research institutions with industry
- Promote sustainable biomanufacturing

Nevertheless, private sector participation remains limited, mainly due to high costs, long gestation periods, and technological uncertainty.

g. Global Developments

i. European Union

The EU supports large-scale programmes on:

- Marine bioprospecting

- Algae-based biomaterials through shared research infrastructure and funding.

ii. China

China has rapidly expanded:

- Industrial-scale seaweed farming
- Marine bioprocessing and exports

iii. United States

The US leads in space biotechnology through:

- NASA
- Use of the International Space Station

Focus areas include drug discovery, regenerative medicine, and technologies for long-duration space missions.

These trends highlight the competitive and strategic nature of futuristic biotechnology.

h. Strategic Importance

Marine and space biotechnology are still at an early stage of development. Countries that invest early are likely to gain advantages in:

- Technology and innovation ecosystems
- Bio-based industrial supply chains
- Global standard-setting and influence

For India, the convergence of marine and space biotechnology offers an opportunity to:

- Become a global hub for sustainable biomanufacturing
- Strengthen leadership in space exploration
- Advance environmental stewardship

i. Key Challenges

Major challenges include:

- Fragmented research efforts
- Slow transition from laboratory to industry
- High capital and technological risks
- Absence of a clearly articulated national roadmap

Without coordinated planning and sustained investment, India risks falling behind global leaders in these frontier domains.

j. Way Forward

A coherent national roadmap for marine and space biotechnology should involve:

- Stronger public-private partnerships
- Investment in shared research and testing infrastructure
- Integration with Blue Economy, space, and biomanufacturing policies
- Targeted incentives to reduce private-sector risk
- International collaboration to accelerate learning and innovation

Conclusion

Futuristic marine and space biotechnology harness extreme environments such as deep oceans and outer space to generate high-value biological products, offering India a strategic pathway towards sustainable biomanufacturing, technological leadership, and long-term space exploration.

GS Paper IV: Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

4. Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 Protection of Honest Officers and the Imperative of Accountability

a. Introduction

Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 introduces a procedural safeguard requiring prior approval of the appropriate government before any enquiry or investigation is initiated against a public servant for decisions taken or recommendations made in the discharge of official duties. This protection applies uniformly to all public servants, irrespective of rank or position.

The provision was inserted through the 2018 amendment to the Act and represents a conscious legislative attempt to recalibrate the balance between administrative efficiency and anti-corruption enforcement. While its stated objective is to protect honest decision-making, its design has generated serious constitutional, institutional, and governance concerns.

Section 17A, Prevention of Corruption Act: The Procedural Shield



b. Rationale Behind the Provision: Addressing Policy Paralysis

The immediate context for introducing Section 17A was the phenomenon often described as policy paralysis. This refers to a situation where public officials become excessively risk-averse, fearing that bona fide administrative decisions may later be questioned as corrupt acts.

Such fear can lead to:

- Delay in decision-making

- Preference for inaction over initiative
- Weakening of governance capacity

Section 17A was thus conceived as a protective filter, intended to:

- Shield honest officers from harassment
- Prevent criminalisation of good-faith policy decisions
- Encourage timely and decisive administrative action

In theory, the provision seeks to create an environment in which officials can act without constant anxiety about retrospective scrutiny.

c. The Core Controversy: Protection Versus Oversight

Section 17A has proved controversial because it places the power to permit investigations in the hands of the executive government itself. In effect, the authority that may be implicated in allegations of corruption also becomes the gatekeeper for determining whether an investigation can even begin.

This design brings into conflict two competing governance objectives:

- Protection of honest officials from vexatious complaints
- Independent and effective accountability mechanisms to detect and punish corruption

The tension between these objectives lies at the heart of the constitutional debate.

d. The Central Constitutional Question

At the core of the debate lies a fundamental question:

Can the executive be permitted to control investigations into its own officials or decisions?

This question has far-reaching implications for:

- The rule of law
- The principle of equality before the law under Article 14
- The independence of investigative agencies

If executive approval becomes a precondition for enquiry, accountability mechanisms risk being subordinated to political or administrative convenience, thereby undermining constitutional governance.

e. Arguments Against Section 17A

Critics argue that Section 17A risks shielding corruption rather than merely protecting honest officers.

i. Blocking of Preliminary Enquiries

One major concern is that Section 17A blocks even preliminary enquiries. Without such enquiries:

- It becomes impossible to separate frivolous complaints from genuine allegations
- Facts remain unexamined at the threshold

Denial of approval can therefore prevent scrutiny before evidence is even assessed.

ii. Lack of Impartiality

When allegations involve senior bureaucrats or political executives, expecting the government to act as a neutral approving authority is widely seen as unrealistic. This creates the risk of:

- Selective approvals

- Politically motivated obstruction

iii. Weakening of Investigative Autonomy

Executive control over the initiation of investigations can:

- Undermine the autonomy of agencies
- Allow political influence to shape enforcement priorities

iv. Chilling Effect on Whistleblowers

The possibility that complaints may be quietly blocked can:

- Discourage whistleblowers
- Erode public confidence in anti-corruption mechanisms

f. Arguments in Favour of Section 17A

Supporters of Section 17A emphasise the practical realities of administration.

i. Protection of Decision-Making

Government decisions often involve:

- Discretion
- Risk
- Complex trade-offs

Without procedural protection, officials may prefer inaction over action, leading to governance stagnation.

ii. Uniform Application

Unlike earlier practices that informally protected only senior officials, Section 17A applies uniformly to all public servants, introducing a form of formal equality within the administrative hierarchy.

iii. Filtering Frivolous Complaints

Proponents argue that the provision is intended not to shield corruption, but to filter out malicious or frivolous complaints that can derail careers and distract officials from their duties.

g. Possible Constitutional Approaches

Two broad constitutional approaches emerge in addressing Section 17A.

i. Complete Invalidation

One approach is to strike down Section 17A altogether, on the ground that:

- Any prior approval requirement undermines investigative independence
- Executive control defeats the purpose of anti-corruption law

ii. Conditional Retention with Safeguards

An alternative approach is to retain Section 17A but restructure its operation:

- Prior approval may exist
- Approval power should vest in an independent authority, not the executive

Institutions such as the Lokpal (Centre) and Lokayuktas (States) are often suggested as appropriate screening bodies.

h. Link with Established Constitutional Principles

The Supreme Court has consistently emphasised that:

- Investigations, especially in corruption cases, must remain independent of executive interference
- Anti-corruption laws are meant to subject power to scrutiny, not place it beyond reach

Underlying this jurisprudence is a core principle of natural justice:
No authority should be a judge in its own cause.

Any legal framework violating this principle risks eroding public trust in the rule of law.

i. The Broader Governance Dilemma

Section 17A reflects a classic governance dilemma:

- Protection of honest officers is essential for administrative efficiency
- Accountability is indispensable for preventing abuse of power

The challenge lies in designing institutional mechanisms that:

- Prevent harassment
- Preserve investigative independence
- Maintain constitutional accountability

j. Way Forward

A balanced approach could involve:

- Allowing preliminary enquiries without prior approval
- Requiring approval only at later stages, such as full investigation or prosecution
- Vesting screening power in independent constitutional bodies, not the executive
- Prescribing clear time limits for granting or refusing approval
- Strengthening autonomy and capacity of investigative agencies

Such reforms can protect honest decision-making without compromising accountability.

Conclusion

Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act seeks to protect honest administrative decision-making, but by vesting control over investigations in the executive, it raises serious constitutional concerns relating to accountability, investigative independence, and the rule of law.

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.

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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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