

**MUST
HAVE
PDF**

DAILY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

USEFUL FOR UPSC | TGPSC | APPSC

12TH OCTOBER 2026

Headlines:

- Supreme Court Directs Delhi Police to Stop Illegal Detentions
- Black Panther Cub Captured in Keralam: Conservation Concerns
- Electoral Reforms and the Independence of the Election Commission
- Gaps in the Implementation of the RTI Act, 2005
- UAPA Reform: Balancing National Security with Civil Liberties



सत्यमेव जयते



WWW.VISHNUIAS.COM



<https://t.me/vishnuiasmentor>



9000400939

1. Supreme Court Directs Delhi Police to Stop Illegal Detentions

GS Paper II – Polity and Governance | Fundamental Rights | Judiciary

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court reportedly directed the Union government and Delhi Police to stop illegal detentions and ensure the free movement of people amid a crackdown on protesters in Delhi.
- It called for a review of road barricades, uninterrupted internet connectivity and the removal of prohibitory orders around courts to facilitate access to justice.

Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Article 19(1)(a):** Guarantees freedom of speech and expression.
- **Article 19(2):** Permits reasonable restrictions on free speech on specified grounds, including public order, security of the State and sovereignty and integrity of India.
- **Article 19(1)(b):** Guarantees the right to assemble peacefully and without arms.
- **Article 19(3):** Permits reasonable restrictions on peaceful assembly in the interests of public order and the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- **Article 19(1)(d):** Guarantees freedom of movement throughout India, subject to constitutionally permissible restrictions.
- **Articles 21 and 22:** Protect life and personal liberty and provide safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention.
- **Article 32:** Enables individuals to approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
- **Section 163, BNSS, 2023:** Empowers an Executive Magistrate to issue written orders in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger. Its use must satisfy statutory requirements; it is not a blanket authority to prohibit every protest.

Key Issues Highlighted

- **Arbitrary detention:** Detentions without adequate legal grounds undermine personal liberty and police accountability.
- **Right to protest:** Peaceful demonstrations are essential to democratic participation and government accountability.
- **Access to justice:** Excessive restrictions around courts may obstruct litigants' access to lawyers and judicial remedies.
- **Digital freedom:** Internet disruptions can restrict communication and access to information.
- **Public order versus civil liberties:** Restrictions must satisfy the tests of legality, necessity and proportionality.

Significance of Judicial Intervention

- Reinforces judicial oversight of executive and police action.
- Upholds the rule of law and constitutional safeguards against arbitrary exercise of power.
- Highlights the need to balance public order with democratic freedoms.

Way Forward

- Ensure restrictions have a clear legal basis and are necessary, proportionate and time-bound.
- Strengthen safeguards against arbitrary detention and provide effective remedies for rights violations.
- Facilitate peaceful protests through transparent procedures and proportionate policing.
- Establish accountability mechanisms to prevent misuse of police powers.

2. Black Panther Cub Captured in Keralam: Conservation Concerns

GS Paper III – Environment and Biodiversity | Wildlife Conservation | Human-Wildlife Conflict

Why in News?

- A black panther cub, approximately two years old, was captured in a cage trap in Kalanjoor panchayat, Pathanamthitta district, Keralam.
- Wildlife enthusiasts demanded its release, expressing concern that the animal might not have been responsible for the reported human-wildlife conflict.
- The Forest Department shifted the animal to Thrissur zoological park for observation and indicated that its release would follow an assessment.

Understanding Black Panthers

- **Species:** The black panther in Asia is generally a melanistic leopard (*Panthera pardus*), not a separate species.
- **Melanism:** A genetic condition causing increased dark pigmentation, resulting in a black appearance.
- **Ecological role:** Leopards regulate prey populations and contribute to ecosystem balance.
- **Conservation status:** Leopards are classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and are protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, in India.



Key Conservation Concerns

- **Human-wildlife conflict:** Habitat fragmentation, prey depletion and expanding human settlements can increase encounters between wildlife and people.
- **Unnecessary captivity:** Capturing an animal that may not have caused the conflict raises concerns about animal welfare and conservation management.
- **Animal stress:** Trapping, transportation and confinement can cause physical and behavioural stress.
- **Release versus rehabilitation:** Release decisions should consider veterinary fitness, hunting ability, human habituation and the animal's capacity to survive independently, alongside public safety.

Institutional and Legal Framework

- **Chief Wildlife Warden:** Plays a key role in wildlife management and decisions concerning captured animals under the applicable legal framework.
- **Forest Department:** Responsible for wildlife rescue, veterinary assessment, rehabilitation and conflict mitigation.
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:** Provides legal protection to leopards under Schedule I, supporting stringent protection against hunting and other prohibited activities.
- **NTCA protocols:** The National Tiger Conservation Authority primarily oversees tiger conservation. Its protocols should not automatically be assumed to apply universally to leopard rescues.

Way Forward

- Adopt science-based rescue, rehabilitation and release protocols.

- Use cage traps only when justified by an assessed threat and appropriate authorisation.
- Strengthen habitat protection, wildlife corridors and community awareness.
- Ensure that release follows veterinary assessment and a determination that the animal can survive in the wild, while safeguarding local communities.

3. Electoral Reforms and the Independence of the Election Commission

GS Paper II – Polity and Governance | Constitutional Bodies | Electoral Reforms

Why in News?

- An opinion article titled “Changing the Guard, Confronting the Democratic Crisis” questions whether replacing Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar alone can restore public confidence in India's electoral system.
- The author raises concerns about Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), institutional independence and the effectiveness of democratic checks and balances.

Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Article 324:** Vests the Election Commission of India (ECI) with the superintendence, direction and control of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.
- **Article 326:** Provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies based on adult suffrage.
- **Article 19(1)(a):** Guarantees freedom of speech and expression, supporting independent media and democratic scrutiny.
- **Article 14:** Guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws.
- **CEC and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023:** Governs the appointment, service conditions and tenure of the CEC and Election Commissioners.

Key Issues Highlighted

- **Electoral-roll integrity:** SIR must identify ineligible and duplicate entries while protecting genuine voters from wrongful exclusion.
- **EVM transparency:** Credible verification procedures, appropriate safeguards and evidence-based communication are essential to public confidence.
- **Institutional independence:** Transparent appointments and impartial decision-making strengthen the ECI's credibility.
- **Democratic accountability:** Independent media, judicial review and executive accountability help maintain checks and balances.

- **Political neutrality:** Investigations and election-related enforcement must follow due process and avoid arbitrary or discriminatory treatment.

Significance

- In *Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain* (1975), the Supreme Court recognised free and fair elections as part of the Constitution's basic structure.
- Public trust in elections depends on impartial institutions, transparent procedures and effective remedies for electoral grievances.

Way Forward

- Ensure transparent electoral-roll verification, adequate notice and opportunities to submit claims and objections.
- Provide accessible and timely appeals against wrongful voter deletion.
- Strengthen transparency in electoral technology and voter-verification procedures without presuming unproven allegations to be facts.
- Promote institutional autonomy, independent scrutiny and timely judicial remedies.
- Ensure accountability for procedural violations and communicate election-related decisions transparently.

4. Gaps in the Implementation of the RTI Act, 2005

GS Paper II – Polity and Governance | Transparency and Accountability | Citizen-Centric Governance

Why in News?

- An analysis published in *The Hindu* highlighted gaps in implementing Section 4 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, which mandates proactive disclosure by public authorities.
- According to the Central Information Commission (CIC) Annual Report 2024–25, 1,446 out of 2,303 registered public authorities (62.7%) submitted third-party transparency audit reports.

Key Provisions

- **Section 4(1)(a):** Requires public authorities to maintain records duly catalogued and indexed and, where appropriate, computerised to facilitate access to information.
- **Section 4(1)(b):** Mandates proactive disclosure of specified information, including organisational structure, powers and duties, decision-making procedures and budget allocations.

- **Section 4(2):** Requires continuous efforts to provide information suo motu so that citizens have minimum resort to filing RTI applications.
- **Central Information Commission:** A statutory body that hears appeals and complaints under the RTI Act concerning Central public authorities.

Major Implementation Gaps

- **Audit-report compliance:** Around 37.3% of registered public authorities did not submit transparency audit reports in 2024–25. This indicates an audit-reporting gap, but does not by itself establish non-compliance with every Section 4 requirement.
- **Disclosure quality:** More than half of the submitted audit reports reportedly received Grade C or below.
- **Outdated information:** Several departmental websites lack updated disclosures and publicly accessible audit reports.
- **Administrative burden:** Weak proactive disclosure can increase RTI applications and contribute to pendency before Information Commissions.
- **Accountability deficit:** Inadequate monitoring weakens the implementation of statutory transparency requirements.

Significance

- Enables citizens to scrutinise public expenditure and administrative decisions.
- Promotes participatory governance, reduces information asymmetry and helps prevent corruption.
- Improves administrative efficiency by reducing repetitive information requests.

Way Forward

- Establish time-bound compliance monitoring and regular third-party transparency audits.
- Update departmental websites periodically using standardised disclosure formats.
- Publish accessible information in local languages and formats suitable for persons with disabilities.
- Fix responsibility for persistent non-compliance and strengthen public awareness.
- Improve the timely disposal of RTI appeals and complaints to reinforce transparency and accountability.

5. UAPA Reform: Balancing National Security with Civil Liberties

GS Paper II – Polity and Governance | GS Paper III – Internal Security | GS Paper IV – Ethics

Why in News?

- An opinion article marking the death anniversary of Professor G.N. Saibaba highlights concerns regarding the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, particularly stringent bail conditions and prolonged pre-trial detention.
- Saibaba was acquitted by the Bombay High Court in 2024 after spending years in prison, renewing debate over due process and civil liberties.

Key Provisions of UAPA

- **Objective:** Prevent unlawful activities and address terrorism-related threats to India's sovereignty, integrity and security.
- **Section 2(o):** Defines “unlawful activity” in relation to specified actions affecting India's sovereignty, territorial integrity and other statutory grounds.
- **Section 43D(5):** Restricts bail for offences under Chapters IV and VI where the court finds reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is prima facie true. Bail is not automatically prohibited; judicial assessment remains necessary.
- **Section 35:** Provides the statutory framework for the Central Government to add organisations and individuals to the relevant schedules, subject to prescribed conditions.

Major Concerns

- **Broad provisions:** Ambiguous wording may permit inconsistent interpretation and excessive discretion.
- **Prolonged detention:** Trial delays can undermine personal liberty and make pre-trial incarceration disproportionately punitive.
- **Stringent bail conditions:** The prima facie test can make securing bail difficult in terrorism-related cases.
- **Civil liberties:** Misuse of anti-terror legislation may adversely affect legitimate dissent and freedom of expression.

Constitutional Safeguards and Judicial Precedent

- **Article 19:** Protects speech and association, subject to constitutionally permissible restrictions.
- **Article 21:** Protects life and personal liberty and encompasses the right to a speedy trial.
- **Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb (2021):** The Supreme Court held that constitutional courts can grant bail where prolonged incarceration and trial delays raise serious Article 21 concerns, notwithstanding Section 43D(5).

Way Forward

- Clarify ambiguous provisions while preserving effective counterterrorism powers.
- Ensure reasoned judicial scrutiny of evidence and bail applications.
- Strengthen investigation and trial capacity to reduce delays.
- Periodically review prolonged detention and safeguard due process.
- Balance national security with constitutional freedoms to uphold the rule of law.

UPSC CSE 2027/28

ANTHROPOLOGY
OPTIONAL | Mentorship Batch
(Full Course)

FEATURES :

- ✓ 4 Months Duration (1 Year Validity)
- ✓ One-to-One Mentorship
- ✓ Test Series & Daily Answer Writing
- ✓ 12 Tests + 2 Standard Books
- ✓ Value-Added Content
- ✓ 1,500+ Case Studies & PYQs
- ✓ Daily Handouts for Offline Students

LIMITED TO 75 SEATS

NEW BATCH STARTS FROM
9th NOVEMBER

For More Enquiries:
www.vishnuias.com
9000350939

UPSC CSE 2027/28
GENERAL STUDIES
PRELIMS CUM MAINS

SUPER 50 BATCH

COURSE FEATURES

- Duration: 10 Months (2 Years Validity)
- Free NCERT Foundation Classes
- Hard Copy of NCERT & Standard Books
- Daily & Weekly Tests
- Prelims & Mains Test Series
- Daily News Paper Facility
- Daily, Weekly & Monthly Current Affairs
- One To One Mentorship
- Regular Value Added Content
- 24/7 Support System
- Interview Guidance after Mains

BATCH STARTS FROM **22ND OCTOBER 2026**

Mode
Offline | Online

Optionals Available
Anthropology | PSIR | Sociology

Our Phone: **9000400939**
Our Website: **www.vishnuias.com**
Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Telegram



Whatsapp



Instagram



Youtube