VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

30th May 2025

The Age of AI: Challenges & Way forward

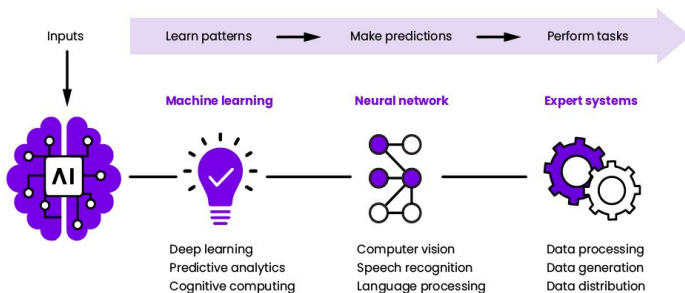**CONTEXT:** CEA cautioned private sector against possible over-deployment of AI tools to the detriment of labour

'Artificial' Intelligence
- Simulation of Human Intelligence
- Algorithms & Computational Models
- Core - Data - Machines
- **PROCESS – Two Techniques**
  - Machine Learning - Patterns
  - Deep Learning - ANNs - Mimic Human Brain

Applications of AI - wide areas:
- **Healthcare** - IBM Watson Health, Google DeepMind's AI
- **Finance** - PayPal
- **Education** - Duolingo, Gradescope
- **Transportation** - Tesla's Autopilot system, Google Maps
- **Retail and E-Commerce** - Amazon
- **Manufacturing** - Siemens, Foxconn
- **Agriculture** - IBM Watson
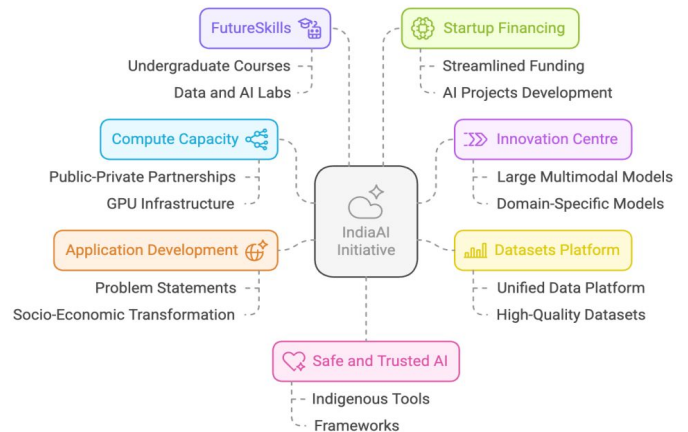- **Entertainment** - Netflix
- **Cybersecurity** - Darktrace

HOW AI WORKS

Inputs → Learn patterns → Make predictions → Perform tasks

Machine learning
Deep learning
Predictive analytics
Cognitive computing

Neural network
Computer vision
Speech recognition
Language processing

Expert systems
Data processing
Data generation
Data distribution

IndiaAI Mission
- **Objective** - Establish a robust AI computing infrastructure
- Enhance **data quality** and develop **indigenous AI technologies**
- Union Cabinet - March, 2024 - **Rs 10,372 Crores**
  - computing capacity of **>10,000 GPUs & develop foundational models**
- **GPUs? –** critical - training and building large-scale AI models
- GPUs Procurement - **Indian startups - essential - CP**

IndiaAI Initiative: Pillars and Objectives

- **FutureSkills**
  - Undergraduate Courses
  - Data and AI Labs
- **Compute Capacity**
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  - GPU Infrastructure
- **Application Development**
  - Problem Statements
  - Socio-Economic Transformation
- **Startup Financing**
  - Streamlined Funding
  - AI Projects Development
- **Innovation Centre**
  - Large Multimodal Models
  - Domain-Specific Models
- **Datasets Platform**
  - Unified Data Platform
  - High-Quality Datasets
- **Safe and Trusted AI**
  - Indigenous Tools
  - Frameworks

(IndiaAI Initiative)

Challenges

- **Threatens Jobs:** Displacement of Routine Jobs, Vulnerability of Low-skilled Workers & Job Polarisation
- **Limited GPU Capacity and Infrastructure**:
  - High costs & Low Availability of GPUs
- **Data Access and Quality**: current datasets - inadequate - indigenous AI models.
- **Limited AI Expertise and High Costs**: shortage - skilled AI professionals
- **High Implementation Costs**: includes capital investments - infrastructure & integration
- **Infrastructure Deficiencies**: Deficit - advanced cloud computing infrastructure; AIRAWAT
- **Ethical and Integrity Concerns**: Datasets - biases; sensitive and personal data - privacy issue
- **Geopolitical and Regulatory Issues**: restrict access - essential AI technologies & components
- **Environmental Concerns**: significant energy; more heat - IEA - 1.3% to 3% electricity
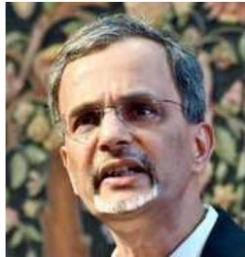
The Age of AI: Challenges & Way forward

CONTEXT: CEA cautioned private sector against possible over-deployment of AI tools to the detriment of labour

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday cautioned private sector against possible over-deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to the detriment of labour, saying India was a country that needed eight million additional jobs every year.

Speaking to a gathering of industry leaders at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Annual Business Summit 2025, Mr. Nageswaran said the deployment of end-to-end AI systems was a business policy choice and not inevitable, and companies could decide for themselves where

V. Anantha Nageswaran

to stop AI deployment and instead use labour.

Mr. Nageswaran's statements comes a day after TCS chairman N. Chandrasekaran spoke about how "the rise of autonomous robots and AI agents promises a future of 'dark factories' and AI-assisted enterprise functions".

Challenges

- **Threatens Jobs:** Displacement of Routine Jobs, Vulnerability of Low-skilled Workers & Job Polarisation
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Way Forward

- **Incentivize Hardware Manufacturing**: Expanding PLI Scheme - stimulate growth
- **Start-up Support**: financial incentives, mentorship; like T- Hub of Telangana.
- **Comprehensive Data Ecosystem**: centralised data repository - standardised formats & quality checks; encryption & data labelling
- **Prioritise Ethical AI**: Comprehensive AI ethics guidelines; independent AI ethics boards, regular AI audits
- **AI Applications - Societal Impact**: Identify - societal challenges & develop AI-driven solutions; Ensure equitable access to AI benefits
- **Promote Sustainable AI**: investing in energy-efficient AI algorithms and hardware; renewable energy sources for data centres
- **Talent Gap**: internships, research projects, and faculty exchange; Incentives - better salaries

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION:

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers immense potential for India's growth, but it also brings significant challenges, especially in the context of employment, ethics, and governance." Discuss the challenges posed by AI adoption in India and suggest a way forward to harness its benefits while minimizing its adverse impacts.

Centre Appoints 3 Judges to Supreme Court

CONTEXT: The Centre cleared the appointment of three judges to the Supreme Court. With this, the top court has reached its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges

The Centre on Thursday cleared the appointment of three judges to the Supreme Court. With this, the top court has reached its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

"The President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), was pleased to appoint Justice N.V. Anjaria, the incumbent Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court; Justice Vijay Bishnoi, presently functioning as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court; and Justice Atul S. Chandurkar of the Bombay High Court as SC judges," the Minister wrote.

The newly appointed judges are expected to be sworn in by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai on Friday.

The appointment came three days after the Supreme Court Collegium forwarded its recommendations to the Centre.

How are Supreme Court Judges Appointed?

- **Composition and Strength of the Supreme Court:**
  - Originally – SC – eight judges (one CJ and seven others).
  - The Parliament – increased – number of judges
  - The current strength – 34 judges (one CJ and 33 others)

- **Qualifications for Appointment as a Judge:**
  - According to **Article 124(3)**, a person can be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court if he or she:
    - A person must be a **citizen of India.**
    - Must have served as a **judge of a HC** for at least **five years** or two such courts in succession.
    - Alternatively, must have been an **advocate** of a High Court for **at least ten years** or two or more such courts in succession.
    - Must be a **distinguished jurist** in the opinion of the president.

IV

Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India:—

"I, A.B., having been appointed Chief Justice (or a Judge) of the Supreme Court of India (or Comptroller and Auditor-General of India) do swear in the name of God / solemnly affirm that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, [1][that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,] that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws."

Centre Appoints 3 Judges to Supreme Court

CONTEXT: The Centre cleared the appointment of three judges to the Supreme Court. With this, the top court has reached its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges

- **Appointment:**
  - The Judges of the SC are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
    - The President **consults with judges of the SC & HCs** to make informed appointments.
- **Oath of Office:**
  - Every appointed judge must make and subscribe to an oath **before the President** or an appointed person.
  - The oath includes commitments to **uphold the Constitution, sovereignty and integrity of India**, and perform duties **without fear or favor**.
- **Tenure and Resignation:**
  - There is **no prescribed minimum age limit** for a judge's appointment.
  - A judge of the SC serves until they reach the age of 65 years.
    - However, a judge **may resign** before reaching the age of 65 years by tendering their r**esignation to the President**.

- **Collegium System for Judicial Appointments:**
  - Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed through the collegium system.
    - The collegium, **consisting of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court**, decides on **appointments, elevations, and transfers** of Judges.
    - The term **"collegium"** is **not mentioned** in the Indian Constitution but has been established through j**udicial pronouncements.**

Evolution of Collegium System:

- **First Judges Case (1981)**: "primacy" of the CJI's recommendation - refused for "cogent reasons." - Primacy to Executive
- **Second Judges Case (1993)**: SC introduced - Collegium system - "consultation" = "concurrence"; not the CJI's individual opinion - consultation with the two senior-most judges SC
- **Third Judges Case (1998)**: SC - President's reference - expanded the Collegium - five-member body
- **Fourth Judges Case (2015)**: The 99th CAA, 2014 and JAC Act, 2014 - replaced collegium system - NJAC; SC - Unconstitutional

Memorandum of Procedure (MoP):

- ❖ The MoP is the **list of rules and procedures** for the appointment of judges to the SC & HCs. It is a document framed by the government and the judiciary together.
- ❖ The Union government framed an MoP on **30 June 1999.**
- ❖ It states that all appointments of judges to the Supreme Court **must be recommended by the Collegium**, composed of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. This recommendation is then sent to the central government. The **law minister will forward it to the prime minister**, who is to advise the President on the appointment.

Revised MoP: In 2015, the Supreme Court instructed the central government to **develop a new MoP** to ensure transparency in the collegium's proceedings. In 2017, although the MoP was finalized, the **government did not adopt it**, citing a need to reconsider the matter.

Early Childhood Education

VAJIRAM & RAVI

"Some kids win the lottery at birth; far too many don't – and most people struggle to catch up," said the Nobel Laureate Prof. James Heckman. This holds true for India as well where its employment problem is partly a consequence of this "lottery of birth". A child born in India has a one-in-five chance of being born into poverty, affecting their health, nutrition, learning and earning potential. Yet, there is a way to beat these odds. From the decision by Uttar Pradesh to hire 11,000 dedicated Early Childhood Care and Education educators for Balavatikas to Odisha launching Shishu Vatikas and Jaduipedi Kits, States in India are showing the way.

The Heckman curve was a powerful economic model that provided a simple yet profound insight – of the relationship between age and the rate of return on investments in human capital. Heckman found that every dollar invested in early childhood education yields a return that ranges from $7 to $12, with lasting impacts: children who receive quality early education are four times more likely to have higher earnings and three times more likely to own a home as adults. By age five, many gaps in outcomes – such as earning potential and quality of life –are already evident. Children often struggle throughout life if motivation and learning habits are not nurtured early.

Learning outcomes

Yet, India's ECE system faces three major challenges. First, children are not receiving sufficient instructional time. Nearly 5.5 crore children between ages three to six are enrolled in 14 lakh operational Anganwadis and 56,000 government pre-primary schools. However, Anganwadi workers spend only 38 minutes per day on preschool instruction, which is far short of the scheduled two hours, and only 9% of pre-primary schools have a dedicated ECE teacher. We are planting trees without the right care to help them grow. The effects are reflected in learning outcomes. The India Early Childhood Education Impact Study found that only 15% of pre-primary children could match basic objects, a skill essential for letter recognition in Class one. Similarly, only 30% could identify larger and smaller numbers, which are foundational for arithmetic. As a result, children often start formal schooling without the skills they need, with many bypassing essential ECE years entirely: 2% of three-year-olds, 5.1% of four-year-olds, and nearly one-fourth of five-year-olds are enrolled directly in Class one.

The issue of resources, engaging parents

Second, the thoughtful optimisation of resources for early childhood education remains a challenge. The Government of India spends only ₹1,263 a child annually on ECE compared to ₹37,000 a student on school education – largely on producing teaching-learning materials that are often underused. There simply are not enough teachers to implement these resources, and there is a lack of oversight – one supervisor is responsible for monitoring 282 Anganwadis. To improve oversight, we need targeted funding to hire more supervisors and dedicated ECE teachers. These measures, though modest, promise high returns.

Uttar Pradesh has now moved ahead on the hiring of nearly 11,000 ECE educators for Balavatikas in all districts. The State also organised a six-day residential training programme for 50 master trainers from 13 districts to train them on ECE pedagogy. Odisha has taken the decision to open Shishu Vatikas in all government schools to make children in the age group five to six school ready.

While increased funding would lead to immediate improvements, sustaining these gains depends on engaging parents, and here lies the third challenge. Most parents care deeply about their children's education but may lack guidance on supporting early learning. Empowering parents with simple, effective ECE practices can make a significant difference. For instance, providing worksheets or encouraging their participation in ECE centre activities can deepen their involvement.

In Madhya Pradesh, the monthly Bal Choupal programme engages with parents directly by showing them the importance of play-based learning. With smartphone access nearly universal, parental engagement can be further strengthened through WhatsApp or EdTech apps, allowing parents to support their children's development.

In perspective

Reversing these odds may seem like an uphill battle, but with targeted funding and increased parental involvement, we can provide our children with the foundation they deserve.

By 2047, over a billion Indians will enter the global workforce, presenting an unprecedented opportunity to reshape India's role in the world economy. Strategic investments in ECE and engaging parents in their children's learning journey could help 200 million Indians escape the lottery of birth and give today's young learners the chance to become tomorrow's leaders. This is a critical pathway to realising India's vision of becoming a true Vishwa Guru, empowering generations to come.

Early Childhood Education

National ECCE Policy, 2013

- With the vision of holistic and integrated development of the child, focuses on the care and early learning to support children's all-round holistic development.

- It identifies **3 sub-stages** with age-specific needs:

Sub-Stages	Age-specific Needs
Conception to birth	Ante and postnatal health and nutritional care of mother, maternal counseling, safe childbirth, etc.
Birth to three years	Survival, safety, protective environment, health care, nutrition, etc.
Three to six years	Protection from hazards, health care, nutrition, play-based preschool education.

- It acknowledges multiple models of ECCE service delivery that are offered by **public, private, and non-governmental service providers** through **Anganwadi centers(AWCs), crèches, play schools, pre-schools, kindergartens (balwadis), home-based care,** etc.

What are the schemes and programs for ECCE in India?

- **Integrated Child Development Scheme(under Saksham Anganwadi) and Poshan 2.0:**
  - It is an integrated nutrition support programme, and Early Childhood Care and Education is an integral component of this programme.
  - The major objectives of the Scheme are to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group **0-6 years** and to reduce the incidence of **mortality**, **morbidity**, and **malnutrition**.
  - The scheme offers a package of services like **supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, immunization**, etc.
  - The scheme provides a platform in the form of **Anganwadi centres** for providing all the above services.
  - The Anganwadi services under ICDS have focused on ensuring calorie sufficiency, quality and diversity of diets, and behavioral change towards better nutrition.

- **PM-POSHAN(Previously known as Mid-day Meals Scheme)**
  - The Government has launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme **'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman** (PM POSHAN) for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided Schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
  - Under the Scheme, there is the provision of hot cooked meals to children of **pre-schools** (**before class I**) and also to the children of classes I to VIII.

- **National Health Mission (NHM)**
  - The National Health Mission was launched in 2013. The NHM envisages the achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable, and quality healthcare services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.
  - The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening, **Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health**, and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

- **Key areas:**
  - Universalising ECCE and ensuring adaptive strategies for **inclusion** of all children with specific attention to vulnerable children.

  - **Access** with **equity** and inclusion in programmes and interventions across service providers.

  - Improving **quality standards**, regulation, curriculum, play and learning material, programme assessment, and **child assessment**.

  - **Strengthening Capacity** (institutions, personnel, families, and communities)

  - **Monitoring** and Supervision. (By **National ECCE Council**)

  - **Research** and Documentation.

  - Advocacy and **awareness generation**.

  - **Convergence** and **Coordination** among policies and programmes.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after a section of the under-construction six-lane National Highway 66 collapsed at Kooriyad in Malappuram district, Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, directed the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to conduct a comprehensive performance audit, scrutinising the contract terms, and the road design that led to the collapse.

Parliaments' Public Accounts Comm

to design flaw.

The panel also asked the NHAI Chairman to inspect the affected stretch and review other projects in the State. It is learnt that Mr. Venugopal said there had been multiple complaints regarding construction flaws in national highway stretches across seven districts in Kerala.

As per sources, officials from both the Ministry of Road and Transport and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) admitted at the meeting that the collapse was due

Recounting his recent visit to Kooriyad, Mr. Venu-

What is the importance of the office of CAG in the Indian Polity?

Under Article 148, The Constitution of India provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

- CAG is the **head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department**.
- He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels–the Centre and the state.
- His/Her duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
- He is one of the **bulwarks of the democratic system** of government in India.

What is the role of CAG in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)?

The CAG submits three audit reports to the President– on appropriation accounts, on finance accounts, and on public undertakings.

- **PAC examines the reports of CAG:** The President lays these reports before both houses of Parliament. The PAC examines these reports and submits its findings to the Parliament.
- **Ensuring checks and balances:** CAG helps PAC to ensure a check on the government, especially with respect to its expenditure bill.
- **Ensuring accountability:** The CAG assists the PAC in examining these reports. Thus, there is a close working relationship between CAG and PAC to secure the accountability of the executive in the field of financial administration and fiscal federalism.
- **CAG as a guide to PAC:** CAG acts as a guide, friend, and philosopher of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.
- **Corrective action:** CAG ensures that the corrective action suggested by him has been taken. In cases where it has not been taken, CAG reports the matter to the PAC, which will take up the matter.
- **Interpreter and translator:** CAG acts as interpreter and translator, explaining the officials' views to the politicians and vice-versa.
- **Listing the urgent matters:** CAG prepares a list of the most urgent matters which deserve the attention of the PAC.

About the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

- **Established in 1921** (oldest parliamentary committee in India).
- **Purpose: Audits the revenue and expenditure of the Government of India** to ensure **public funds are spent efficiently and legally**.
- **Key functions:**
  - **Examines the CAG audit report** on government expenditure.
  - Ensures money **sanctioned by Parliament is spent properly**.
  - Investigates **financial irregularities, losses, and inefficiencies** in government spending.
- **Membership:**
  - **22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha)**.
  - **Chairperson: A Lok Sabha MP**, traditionally from the **Opposition**.
  - **Term: One year**.
  - **Ministers cannot be members** of the PAC.

NHRC

THE MIDDAY meal workers, who have been working at a school in Nuh in Haryana for 10-15 years, have not been paid for around 10 months, according to a complaint received by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday. Officials concerned have assured action in the matter.

In his complaint, a Delhi-based lawyer, advocate Ashok Agarwal, alleged a serious violation of labour rights at the Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School in Raniyala village in the Ferozpur Jhirka area. He urged the human rights body to investigate the matter urgently, direct authorities to release the salaries, and ensure such violations do not recur.

About NHRC – National Human Rights Commission

The National Human Rights Commission is an independent **statutory body**, established on October 12, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The commission serves as a guardian of human rights in India, overseeing the rights associated with life, liberty, equality, and the dignity of individuals. These rights are guaranteed by the **Constitution of India** and are also reflected in international covenants, like the **Paris Principles on Human Rights**.

NHRC Composition

The National Human Rights Commission is a **multi-member body**. It consists of a **chairperson** and **five members**, each bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to the commission. The composition is as follows:

- **Full-Time Members: The chairperson** should be either a retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
  - **Members** include a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a sitting or retired Chief Justice of a High Court, and three individuals **(with at least one being a woman)** who possess knowledge or practical experience in human rights.

- **Seven Ex-officio Members:** In addition to these full-time members, the commission includes seven ex-officio members, comprising the chairpersons of various national commissions, including:
  - The National Commission for Minorities
  - The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
  - The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs)
  - The National Commission for Women
  - The National Commission for Backward Classes (BCs)
  - The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
  - The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

NHRC Appointment

The appointment of the chairperson and members of the NHRC is carried out by the **President of India** based on the recommendations of a **six-member committee**. This committee is headed by the **Prime Minister** and includes the following members:

- **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**,
- Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha,
- **Leaders of the Opposition** in both Houses of Parliament, and
- Union Home Minister.

Additionally, the appointment of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court or a sitting Chief Justice of a High Court requires prior consultation with the **Chief Justice of India**.

NHRC Tenure and Conditions of Service

The chairperson and members of the NHRC serve for a **term of three years** or until they reach the age of **70 years**, whichever is earlier. They are **eligible for reappointment** following the completion of their term. However, once their tenure concludes, neither the chairperson nor the members are permitted to seek further employment with the Central or State governments.

The Analyst Handout

30th May 2025

NHRC

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SYLLABUS : **GS 2:** Statutory Bodies
Newspaper: Indian Express   **Page Number: 3**

NHRC Functions

The NHRC is entrusted with a variety of functions aimed at promoting and protecting human rights across India. These functions include conducting inquiries into violations, recommending measures for improvement, and raising awareness about human rights issues. The key functions of the NHRC are as follows:

- **To inquire** into any violation of human rights or negligence in preventing such violations by public servants, either on its initiative (**suo motu**), based on petitions presented to it, or by order of a court.

- **To intervene** in any ongoing court proceedings involving allegations of human rights violations.

- To **visit prisons and detention centres** to assess the living conditions of inmates and make recommendations for improvements.

- To **review constitutional and legal safeguards** for the protection of human rights and suggest measures for their effective implementation.

- To analyze factors such as **acts of terrorism** that impede the enjoyment of human rights and recommend necessary remedial actions.

- To **study treaties and international human rights instruments** and recommend effective measures for their implementation.

- To **promote and conduct research** in the field of human rights.

- To **enhance human rights literacy** among the public and increase awareness of the protections available for these rights.

- To support the initiatives of **nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)** working in the area of human rights.

- To **undertake any other functions** deemed necessary for the promotion of human rights.

ECI'S Initiatives

VAJIRAM & RAVI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The new integrated dashboard developed by the Election Commission is set to become operational during the current round of Assembly byelections and the upcoming Bihar Assembly election.

The dashboard, named ECINET, is aimed at providing all services for stakeholders at a single point, instead of the over 40 apps or websites that exist now.

EC sources said that some modules of ECINET will be made available during the current byelection process and by the time the Bihar Assembly election is held, the entire dashboard will be available for use.

Byelections to five Assembly seats in four States would be held on June 19.

The ECINET is among the slew of initiatives taken by the poll body since February to standardise poll management amid charges made by Opposition par-

The ECINET is among the slew of initiatives taken since February after Gyanesh Kumar assumed office as CEC. FILE PHOTO

ties over myriad issues ranging from anomalies in electoral rolls to duplicate voter ID card numbers.

It was on February 19 that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar assumed office.

Some of the other initiatives taken by the EC since then include direct integration of death registration data from the Registrar General of India to enable timely and verified removal of deceased electors from the rolls and training of grassroots polling offic-

ers to streamline poll management.

The EC has also revised the maximum number of electors per polling station from 1,500 to 1,200. Additional polling booths will be established in densely populated areas such as gated communities and high-rise buildings.

The commission aims at ensuring that no voter is required to travel more than 2 km to vote. Voter information slips have been redesigned for clarity, with enhanced visibility of se-

rial and part numbers. Mobile phone deposit facility will also be set up at the entrance of every polling station, a senior EC official said.

The EC has also facilitated 4,719 meetings across the country with participation from over 28,000 political party representatives.

The commission has also held consultations in New Delhi with leaders of recognised political parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Communist Party of India (Marxist), and National People's Party, with more meetings planned after the current byelections.

Training programmes have been conducted for Booth Level Officers (BLOs), BLO Supervisors, and Booth Level Agents (BLAs). Over 3,500 BLOs and BLO Supervisors have been trained and they will in turn train the larger BLO network of over 10.5 lakh functionaries.

KYC-ECI

A dedicated mobile application containing information published by candidates regarding their criminal antecedents. It extracts the data from the nomination module of the encore.

Suvidha Candidate

Mobile application for the Candidate and political parties to track the status of the election permission and nomination.

Encore Nodal App

A mobile app that allows Nodal Officers to take immediate action i.e. whether Objection or No- Objection. Nodal officers can automatically assign and get push notifications as permission is applied.

Voter Turnout

This simple app provides two hourly basis dissemination of Voter Turnout trends to Election officers and Citizens. The turnout is auto-compiled as and when the Returning Officers enter the data.
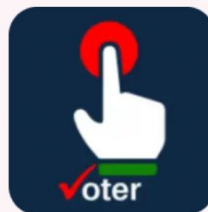
ECI'S Initiatives

cVIGIL

cVIGIL is an innovative mobile application for citizens to report Model Code of Conduct and Expenditure violations during the elections. 'cVIGIL' stands for Vigilant Citizen and emphasizes the proactive and responsible role citizens can play in the conduct of free and fair elections.

Voter Helpline

Voter Helpline App is a comprehensive app for Indian Voters to search their name in the electoral roll, submit forms for voter registration & modification, download their digital photo voter slips, make complaints, find details about the contesting candidates, and most importantly see the real-time results of the elections.

Saksham-ECI

This application provides all the voter-related services to a person with a disability to its door steps. The Saksham app facilitates PwD Voters in verifying their names in the electoral roll, enrolling them, and getting their name, address, photograph corrected, and many more.

Observer

Observer App allows the observers to file their statutory reports like their arrival, departure, etc. Upon deployment to a constituency, the Observer gets the complete deployment schedule, notices, meeting invites, and constituency details here.

ESMS

ESMS Mobile App is used to digitize data for intercepted/Seized items (Cash/Liquor/Drugs/ Precious Metal/Freebies/Other Items) direct from field through Mobile App during Model Code Conduct

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan, will visit Singapore from May 30 to June 1 to attend the 22nd edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue, hosted annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

General Anil Chauhan will hold bilateral meetings with the Chiefs of Defence Forces and senior military leadership from several countries and regions, including Australia, the European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, the U.K., and the U.S.

The Chief of Defence Staff will address the academia, think tanks and researchers and speak on the topic "Future wars and warfare". He will participate in simultaneous special sessions as part of the event and address them on the issue of "Defence innovation solutions for future challenges", the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

"Shangri-La Dialogue is Asia's premier defence and

General Anil Chauhan

The Chief of Defence Staff will address the academia, think tanks and researchers

security summit that brings together Defence Ministers, military chiefs, policy makers and strategic experts across the globe. The event will witness leaders from 40 nations addressing Indo-Pacific security challenges. The engagements will provide a platform to strengthen defence cooperation, discuss mutual security interests and enhance India's strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region," the Ministry added.

From - Mar 17, 2025 - Mar 19, 2025

The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, leaders in politics, business, media, and civil society converge in New Delhi to discuss the state of the world and explore opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of contemporary matters. The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia.

The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This effort is supported by a number of institutions, organisations and individuals, who are committed to the mission of the conference.

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RAISINA DIALOGUE 2025

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PEOPLE PEACE PLANET

March 17 - 19, 2025
New Delhi, India

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the IndiaAI Mission:

1. Its primary objective is establishing a strong AI computing infrastructure and improving data quality for Indigenous AI development.
2. The Union Cabinet approved the mission in March 2024 with a total outlay of ₹15000 crores.
3. The mission aims to develop foundational AI models using a computing infrastructure exceeding 10,000 GPUs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Q2. Consider the following qualifications for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court of India:
1. S/He must have served as a judge of a High Court for at least five years.
2. S/He must have been an advocate of a High Court for at least ten years.
3. If in the opinion of the President of India, S/He is a distinguished jurist.

How many of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) Only One
b) Only Two
c) All Three
d) None

Answer: c

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

1. It was established in 1921 and is the oldest parliamentary committee in India.
2. It examines the Comptroller & Auditor General of India's report on Government expenditure.

Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. It is a Constitutional body.
2. It consists of the Chairperson and ten other members.
3. The Chairperson is either a retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 only

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements :

1. KYC - ECI is a dedicated mobile application that contains information published by the candidates regarding their criminal antecedents.
2. Suvidha Candidate is a mobile application that helps political parties track the status of election permissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

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