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Dr. GINDI'S IAS ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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TRANSFORMING DESIRANTS INTO ACHIEVERS

OCTOBER 2, 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. International Tourism Mart in Tawang and Strategic Border Tourism

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Event Announcement:** The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the International Tourism Mart (ITM) in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, featuring delegates from nearly 20 countries.
- **Global Participation:** Delegations from around 20 nations, including China, have been invited to participate in the mega event.
- **Rotational Host Model:** The annual ITM operates on a rotational basis across North-Eastern states to highlight regional tourism, following its previous edition in Sikkim.
- **Cartographic Assertions:** The event follows India's standardized naming of 27 locations in Arunachal Pradesh on official Survey of India maps to assert geographical sovereignty.
- **Geopolitical Significance:** Holding the mart in Tawang directly counters Beijing's territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh (referred to by China as Zangnan or South Tibet).
- **Promoting Cultural Sites:** Delegations will visit key cultural and ecological landmarks, including Tawang Monastery, Buddha Park, Panga Teng Tso Lake, and Shernup Village.

Essential Definitions

- **International Tourism Mart (ITM):** An annual event organized by the Ministry of Tourism to showcase the tourism potential of the North-Eastern Region (NER) to domestic and international stakeholders.
- **Cartographic Sovereignty:** The exercise of state authority through the official naming, mapping, and public recognition of geographic features within its international borders.
- **Line of Actual Control (LAC):** The demarcation line that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory along the disputed bilateral border.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 1 of the Constitution:** Defines India as a Union of States, affirming Arunachal Pradesh as an integral, inalienable territory of the Republic.
- **Inner Line Permit (ILP) System:** Regulated under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, requiring domestic and foreign visitors to obtain prior permission to enter protected border states like Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Survey of India Mandate:** Governed under national mapping policy directives to publish authoritative territorial maps establishing legal geographical names within sovereign boundaries.

Conclusion

Hosting international events in border regions like Tawang seamlessly integrates economic development, local tourism, and sovereign diplomacy. By inviting global delegates to disputed

frontiers, India asserts its territorial integrity while promoting inclusive development in the North-East.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** India and its Neighborhood-Relations, Bilateral and Regional Groupings involving India.
- **GS Paper III:** Security Challenges and Infrastructure Management in Border Areas, Role of Tourism in Regional Development.

2. Joint Parliamentary Committee Shelves Visit to Supreme Court on Simultaneous Polls

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Cancelled Visit:** The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the One Nation, One Election Bills cancelled its planned study visit to the Supreme Court for informal discussions with judicial officers.
- **Separation of Powers Concerns:** Opposition members and legal experts strongly criticized the proposed interaction, highlighting that informal consultations between the legislature and judiciary violate the doctrine of separation of powers.
- **Jurisdictional Boundaries:** Critics emphasized that only the President of India holds the constitutional authority to seek advisory opinions from the Supreme Court under Article 143, whereas Parliamentary Committees hold no such mandate.
- **Legislative Scope under Review:** The 39-member committee headed by P P Chaudhary is examining the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- **Proposed Article 82A:** The pending legislation proposes introducing Article 82A to align terms of state legislative assemblies with the Lok Sabha, restricting unexpired terms upon premature dissolution to maintain synchronous electoral cycles.
- **Governance Rationale vs. Constitutional Validity:** Proponents cite reduced election expenditure and policy continuity as main benefits, while legal experts caution against potential curtailment of state assembly tenures and federal principles.

Essential Definitions

- **Simultaneous Elections (One Nation, One Election):** A policy proposal aiming to synchronize elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies to reduce administrative strain and expenditure.
- **Doctrine of Separation of Powers:** A constitutional governance model where the executive, legislative, and judicial branches operate independently within distinct constitutional mandates without encroaching upon each other's functions.



- **Judicial Review:** The power of the judiciary to examine the constitutional validity of legislative enactments and executive actions passed by the government.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 143 of the Constitution:** Grants advisory jurisdiction strictly to the President of India to consult the Supreme Court on significant questions of law or public importance, excluding Parliamentary Committees from seeking such judicial opinions.
- **Article 83 and Article 172:** Govern the five-year duration of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies respectively, subject to early dissolution.
- **Basic Structure Doctrine:** Established in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), maintaining that constitutional amendments passed by Parliament remain subject to judicial scrutiny if they compromise core principles like democracy, federalism, or the separation of powers.

Conclusion

The cancellation of the JPC's visit underscores the necessity of respecting institutional boundaries during legislative drafting. While reforming electoral cycles aims to streamline governance, structural constitutional principles such as federal balance and judicial independence must be preserved.

UPSC Relevance

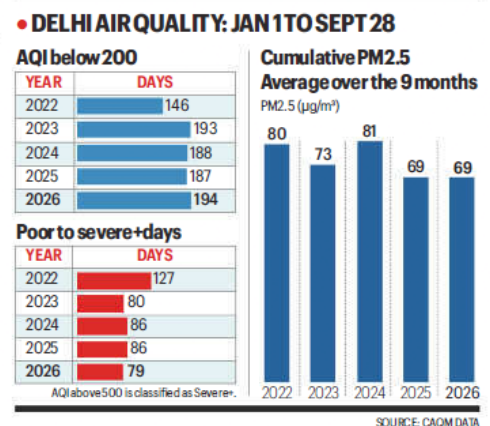
- **GS Paper II:** Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions, and Basic Structure; Structure, Organization, and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges.

3. Air Quality Index Dynamics and Real-Time Pollution Monitoring in Delhi

Key Highlights & Summary

- **AQI vs. Pollutant Trends:** Delhi recorded its lowest September average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 102 in five years, yet concentrations of PM2.5 and PM10 showed a subtle increase compared to previous years.
- **Disparity in Indicators:** The mathematical structure of AQI calculation explains why overall AQI can improve or remain stable even when individual pollutants like particulate matter spike.
- **Integrated Command and Control Centre:** An AI-enabled real-time monitoring facility was launched by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee at Shastri Park to track urban pollution sources.

- **Technological Enforcement:** The new monitoring centre utilizes GPS-enabled vehicle tracking, AI cameras, and live CCTV feeds to oversee mechanical sweeping machines and construction sites.
- **Public Participation Portal:** The government introduced the 'Jan Sujhav' portal, enabling citizens to lodge complaints and submit recommendations regarding localized environmental violations.
- **Sub-Index Determination:** Overall AQI is governed by the single pollutant registering the highest individual sub-index, rather than reflecting a simple mathematical average of all monitored pollutants.



Essential Definitions

- **Air Quality Index (AQI):** A composite index converting complex chemical concentration data of multiple air pollutants into a unified numerical value and health-based category.
- **Particulate Matter (PM2.5 and PM10):** Fine inhalable particles with diameters measuring 2.5 micrometres or less and 10 micrometres or less, capable of penetrating deep into lungs and cardiovascular systems.
- **Sub-Index:** A calculated value representing the risk level of an individual pollutant, where the maximum sub-index among all monitored pollutants dictates the final composite AQI score.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 48A (Directive Principles):** Directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife across the nation.
- **Article 21 (Fundamental Right to Life):** Interpreted by the Supreme Court to include the fundamental right to enjoy clean air and a pollution-free environment.
- **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act, 2021:** Statutory authority empowered to coordinate, research, and enforce air quality interventions across the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.
- **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:** Framework empowering Central and State Pollution Control Boards to implement monitoring systems and enforce emission standards.

Conclusion

Technological integration through real-time AI command centres enhances urban pollution mitigation capabilities. However, long-term environmental protection requires addressing systemic particulate matter sources alongside improving citizen awareness and administrative monitoring.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III:** Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment, Government Initiatives for Urban Air Quality Management.
- **GS Paper II:** Governance Issues, Application of Technology in Public Service Delivery and Environmental Monitoring.

4. Centenary Celebrations of Union Public Service Commission and Call for Recruitment Reforms

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Centenary Milestone:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked 100 years of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by releasing a commemorative postage stamp, a special coin, and a compilation of 100 landmark case laws.
- **Shorter Recruitment Cycles:** The Prime Minister emphasized reducing the duration of examination cycles to ensure "time certainty" for youth, preventing unnecessary administrative delays.
- **Values of Civil Services:** Core pillars of independence, impartiality, merit, confidentiality, and fair processes were cited as vital traits to maintain UPSC's institutional credibility.
- **Shift in Testing Methodology:** Recruitment agencies were urged to evaluate not merely a candidate's knowledge base, but also their underlying motivation and aptitude for public service.
- **Role in Viksit Bharat:** Civil servants recruited today are envisioned as both the primary architects and beneficiaries of a developed India by 2047.
- **Pillars of Modern Administration:** The operational ethos for future governance was defined through three core principles: pro-people, pro-active, and good governance.



Essential Definitions

- **Constitutional Body:** An autonomous institution established directly under the provisions of the Constitution of India, possessing independent functional powers.
- **Time Certainty in Recruitment:** A policy principle advocating strict, predictable, and condensed examination schedules to minimize career uncertainty for candidates.
- **Steel Frame of India:** A phrase coined by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel referring to the civil services as the structural backbone of Indian administration and national unity.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 315 of the Constitution:** Mandates the establishment of a Public Service Commission for the Union and for each State.
- **Article 320 of the Constitution:** Outlines the functions of Public Service Commissions, including conducting examinations for appointments to the services of the Union and consulting on disciplinary matters.
- **Article 323 of the Constitution:** Requires the UPSC to present an annual report to the President regarding the work done by the Commission.

- **Lee Commission (1923):** Recommended the setting up of an independent Public Service Commission, leading to the creation of the Public Service Commission in India on October 1, 1926.

Conclusion

The centenary of UPSC highlights its enduring role in upholding meritocracy in public administration. Modernizing exam structures, reducing cycle lengths, and aligning recruitment with citizens' evolving aspirations remain essential steps toward ensuring a responsive governance framework for a developed India.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Constitutional Bodies—Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities of UPSC; Governance Aspects; Role of Civil Services in a Democracy.

5. Madhya Pradesh Pauses Controversial Directive on Community Forest Rights

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Directive Held in Abeyance:** The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department suspended an August 6 directive regarding Community Forest Resource (CFR) claims following statutory concerns.
- **Intervention by Union Ministry:** Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey wrote to the Chief Minister, warning that the order violated the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- **Gram Sabha Authority Preserved:** The original directive incorrectly tasked forest officials with receiving CFR claims, bypassing the legally mandated primary authority of the Gram Sabha.
- **Narrowing Scope Allegations:** Experts and task force members criticized the directive for potentially restricting and narrowing the forest areas eligible for CFR claims.
- **3-Tier Verification Process:** CFR claims must originate at the Gram Sabha level before undergoing review by Sub-Divisional and District Level Committees.
- **Role of Forest Officials:** The law confines forest and revenue officials strictly to verification assistance rather than replacing the decision-making power of Gram Sabhas.

Essential Definitions

- **Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights:** Customary common forest land rights granted to forest-dwelling communities to protect, regenerate, conserve, or manage forest resources for sustainable use under FRA, 2006.
- **Gram Sabha:** A statutory body consisting of all persons whose names are registered in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level, acting as the primary authority under FRA.
- **Abeyance Order:** A temporary suspension or holding of an administrative directive until further legal or governmental clarification is provided.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006:** Recognizes and vests forest rights and occupation in forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have resided in such forests for generations.
- **PANCHAYATS (EXTENSION TO SCHEDULED AREAS) ACT (PESA), 1996:** Strengthens Gram Sabha autonomy in Fifth Schedule areas regarding natural resource governance.
- **Fifth Schedule of the Constitution:** Guarantees administrative protection and autonomous governance for tribal-dominated regions across designated states.
- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs Mandate:** Acts as the nodal central authority overseeing the implementation and legislative intent of the FRA, 2006.

Conclusion

Suspending the Forest Department's directive reinforces the statutory decentralization established under the FRA, 2006. Upholding Gram Sabha supremacy prevents administrative encroachment and ensures tribal rights remain protected through legal procedures.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Constitutional Provisions relating to Tribal Areas; Statutory Bodies; Governance and Implementation of Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections.
- **GS Paper III:** Environment and Forest Conservation Policies; Issues Related to Land Reforms and Community Resource Rights.

6. ISRO Establishes Advanced Space Tracking and Radar Facility in Guwahati

Key Highlights & Summary

- **New Infrastructure Hub:** ISRO laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art radar and satellite tracking facility in Chandrapur near Guwahati, Assam.
- **Integration with NETRA:** The station operates under ISRO's Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) to strengthen national Space Situational Awareness (SSA).
- **Executing Nodal Agency:** The project is being executed by the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) using advanced radar technology.
- **Collision Risk Mitigation:** The facility will actively track active operational satellites and orbital space debris to prevent in-space collisions.
- **Atmospheric & Weather Monitoring:** The radar systems will perform real-time ionospheric and atmospheric studies to improve space weather forecasting, cloud observations, and climate research.
- **Disaster Management Support:** Beyond orbital tracking, the facility will aid terrestrial applications including flash-flood warnings, urban-flood monitoring, lightning nowcasting, and aviation safety.

Essential Definitions

- **Space Situational Awareness (SSA):** The comprehensive knowledge and tracking of space objects, debris, space weather, and operational satellites to ensure safe orbital operations.
- **NETRA Project:** An initiative by ISRO aimed at creating an early warning system in space to detect and track space debris and potential hazards threatening Indian space assets.
- **ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network):** The dedicated ground-network unit of ISRO responsible for tracking, telemetry, and command support to satellite and launch vehicle missions.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Indian Space Policy 2023:** Outlines the overarching regulatory framework encouraging advanced space technology infrastructure, asset protection, and sustainable space utilization.
- **Registration Convention, 1975 (UN):** International treaty to which India is a signatory, requiring registration of space objects launched into outer space to facilitate space debris tracking and orbital safety.
- **Liability Convention, 1972:** Establishes international standards for damage caused by space objects, underlining the legal necessity for real-time tracking systems under NETRA.

Conclusion

Setting up the radar tracking facility in Guwahati enhances India's strategic surveillance capacity over outer space while simultaneously delivering critical terrestrial benefit for disaster warning systems in the North-East. Strengthening SSA mechanisms ensures the long-term sustainability and protection of high-value national space infrastructure.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III: Science and Technology—**Developments and Applications in Daily Life and Space Technology; Indigenization of Technology; Disaster and Disaster Management.

7. Challenges and Reforms in India's Model Bilateral Investment Treaty Framework

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Economic Critique of Model BIT:** India's 2016 Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) has faced scrutiny for driving down the nation's network of active investment protection agreements.
- **Drastic Reduction in Treaties:** Following the rollout of the 2016 framework, India's active BITs dropped from 73 in 2015 to less than ten, creating gaps in bilateral investment protection.
- **Controversial Exhaustion Clause:** A primary point of friction is the clause requiring foreign investors to exhaust domestic judicial remedies for up to five years before filing for international arbitration.

- **Comparison with Global Norms:** Global practices typically enforce a three-to-six-month consultation period prior to arbitration, making India's prolonged domestic litigation requirement an outlier.
- **Shift toward Shorter Windows:** Recent pacts, such as those signed with the UAE in 2024 and Israel in 2025, reduced the mandatory domestic litigation timeline to three years, with experts advocating for a two-year standard.
- **Capital Outflow Concerns:** While India continues to receive gross FDI, significant profit repatriations and Indian outward direct investments highlight the importance of balancing capital protections.

Essential Definitions

- **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT):** A formal agreement between two sovereign nations establishing legal terms, conditions, and protections for private investments made by nationals of one country in another country.
- **Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS):** A legal mechanism allowing foreign investors to initiate international arbitration proceedings directly against host governments for alleged treaty violations.
- **Exhaustion of Local Remedies:** A principle in international law requiring foreign investors to seek redress through host country domestic courts before seeking international arbitration.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 253 of the Constitution:** Grants Parliament exclusive authority to enact legislation giving effect to international treaties, agreements, and conventions signed with foreign nations.
- **Article 51(c) (Directive Principles):** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in dealings between organized peoples.
- **Union List (Schedule VII, Entry 14):** Places entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries exclusively under the legislative domain of the Union Parliament.

Conclusion

Revising restrictive clauses within India's Model BIT remains critical to restoring investor confidence while maintaining legitimate state regulatory rights. Aligning local remedy periods with competitive global benchmarks will help build a predictable legal environment for sustained foreign capital inflows.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper III:** Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- **GS Paper II:** India's International Relations, Bilateral Treaties, and Constitutional Distribution of Powers under Treaty-Making Obligations.

8. Mahatma Gandhi's Early Resistance in Natal and the Sacredness of Universal Adult Franchise

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Origins of Franchise Struggle:** Before launching satyagraha, Mahatma Gandhi's initial political battle in 1894 opposed the Natal government's proposal to disenfranchise Indian settlers in South Africa.
- **Petition to Lord Ripon:** In petitions to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Gandhi argued that stripping voting rights destroys citizen self-respect and narrows electoral participation.
- **Advocacy for Universal Franchise:** Overcoming colonial arguments regarding literacy and social diversity, Gandhi consistently demanded unqualified universal adult franchise across publications like Young India and Harijan.
- **Round Table Conference Stand:** At the 1931 Round Table Conference, Gandhi urged full voting rights for all men and women regardless of wealth, caste, or educational status.
- **Electoral Roll Integrity:** Drawing from personal experiences in Durban in 1896, Gandhi warned against the arbitrary manipulation and unauthorized modification of voter rolls.
- **Three Ethical Tests for Electoral Revision:** Contemporary electoral roll revisions must ensure they restore citizen self-respect, maintain political impartiality, and treat the vote as a fundamental right rather than a privilege.

Essential Definitions

- **Universal Adult Franchise:** A constitutional principle granting equal voting rights to all adult citizens without discrimination based on wealth, sex, race, literacy, or caste.
- **Electoral Roll:** The official list of eligible citizens registered to vote in a specific constituency or jurisdiction.
- **Disenfranchisement:** The deliberate revocation or administrative suppression of the right to vote from a group of individuals.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 326 of the Constitution:** Mandates that elections to the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies shall be conducted on the basis of adult suffrage.
- **Article 325 of the Constitution:** Prohibits the exclusion of any person from the general electoral roll on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or sex.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Lays down statutory rules for the registration of electors, preparation of voter rolls, and qualification criteria for voters.
- **Article 324 of the Constitution:** Vests the superintendence, direction, and control of electoral roll preparation in the independent Election Commission of India.

Conclusion

Mahatma Gandhi's early campaign in Natal established democratic inclusion as an essential condition for human dignity. Protecting the integrity and transparency of voter registration processes ensures that India's constitutional commitment to equal franchise remains uncompromised.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper I:** Modern Indian History—The Freedom Struggle, Its Various Stages, and Important Contributors/Contributions (Role of Mahatma Gandhi).
- **GS Paper II:** Indian Constitution—Salient Features, Democratic Principles, Electoral Systems, Functioning of the Election Commission, and Statutory Frameworks Governing Elections.

9. The Semantics of Genius in Gandhian Thought and Its Contemporary Relevance

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Etymological and Conceptual Framework:** Derived unchanged from classical Latin meaning 'divine inner power', the word 'genius' was employed by Mahatma Gandhi both as an extraordinary skill and as a unique defining characteristic.
- **Early Architectural Wonder:** Gandhi first recorded using the term in 1888 to describe Ferdinand de Lesseps' engineering marvel, the Suez Canal, reflecting on human ingenuity.
- **The Concept of 'Evil Genius':** Mirroring René Descartes' philosophical construct of *malignum genium*, Gandhi applied 'evil genius' to institutional oppression, such as the British Empire's colonial Asiatic Department and Sir Michael O'Dwyer after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- **Contextual Praise for Leadership:** Gandhi praised Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak as the "genius of swaraj" during the 1924 Belgaum Congress, applying the term specifically to Tilak's political vision.
- **Acknowledging Creative and Spiritual Minds:** Gandhi attributed "poetic and creative genius" to Rabindranath Tagore, while reserving unconditional personal praise of "genius" for the Jain ascetic and scholar Shrimad Rajchandra (Raychandbhai).
- **Moral Imperative for Modern Times:** Understanding that genius can serve both creative progress and destructive evil remains a critical lesson for evaluating modern administrative, technological, and global security developments.



Essential Definitions

- **Genius (Classical vs. Modern):** Classical Latin defines genius as an innate 'divine inner power', whereas modern usage denotes exceptional intellectual capacity as a noun, or a singular defining trait as an adjective.
- **Evil Genius (*Malignum Genium*):** A concept denoting a powerful, destructive, or malignant intelligence that operates against moral, humanistic, and ethical values.
- **Swaraj:** A Gandhian concept encompassing self-rule, political independence, and moral self-restraint, fundamentally anchored in truth and non-violence.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 51A(b) of the Constitution:** Directs every Indian citizen to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom, including self-reliance and ethical governance.
- **Article 51A(j) of the Constitution:** Mandates striving toward excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, aligning with the constructive application of human talent and genius.
- **Ethics in Public Administration (Nolan Principles):** Emphasizes integrity, accountability, and moral leadership to prevent the misuse of administrative authority for oppressive or unethical practices.

Conclusion

Mahatma Gandhi's nuanced application of the word 'genius' highlights the dual potential of human intellect to uplift humanity or enforce subjugation. Aligning cognitive and technological achievements with moral integrity remains vital for constructive statecraft and sustainable governance.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper IV:** Ethics and Human Interface—Human Values, Lessons from the Lives and Teachings of Great Leaders (Mahatma Gandhi, Lokamanya Tilak, Rabindranath Tagore); Moral and Ethical Dilemmas in Public Governance.
- **GS Paper I:** Modern Indian History—The Freedom Struggle, Its Key Figures, and Ideological Foundations.

10. Political Transformation in Sri Lanka and the Quest for System Change

Key Highlights & Summary

- **Origins of the Uprising:** The 2022 *Janatha Aragalaya* (people's struggle) ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, demanding systemic political overhaul over severe economic mismanagement and public queues.
- **Electoral Breakthrough:** Anura Kumara Disanayake (AKD) and the National People's Power (NPP) coalition won power in 2024, breaking Sri Lanka's long-standing bi-party hegemony on a platform of anti-corruption.
- **Economic Discipline:** The NPP administration sustained the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recovery programme, maintaining strict fiscal discipline while navigating severe shocks including Cyclone Ditwah and global fuel volatility.
- **Anti-Corruption and Governance:** High-profile legal actions against narcotics networks and corrupt political figures reflected administrative commitment to equal enforcement of law.
- **Pending Structural Reforms:** Crucial structural promises—such as conducting Provincial Council elections, drafting a new constitution, and repealing executive presidency—remain unfulfilled.

- **Concerns Over Legislation:** Draft anti-terror legislation replacing the Prevention of Terrorism Act and judicial retirement age amendments drew criticism from rights groups and legal experts.

Essential Definitions

- **Janatha Aragalaya:** A Sinhala phrase meaning "People's Struggle," referring to the 2022 mass political protest movement in Sri Lanka.
- **System Change:** A fundamental overhaul of governance structures, administrative cultures, and political norms beyond mere alteration of political officeholders.
- **Executive Presidency:** A governance structure in Sri Lanka where substantial executive power is vested in an directly elected President.

Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka:** Created Provincial Councils to devolve political power to regions, a statutory mechanism key to addressing Tamil minority aspirations.
- **Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), 1979:** A temporary anti-terror enactment granting broad executive detention powers, long targeted for repeal by civil rights advocates.
- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the promotion of international peace and security, guiding India's Neighborhood First policy and economic support during crisis in South Asia.

Conclusion

While the NPP government successfully stabilized macroeconomic indicators and altered administrative tone, achieving true political transformation requires delivering structural constitutional reforms and maintaining democratic trust.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** India and its Neighborhood—Relations, Political Instability in South Asia, Governance Models, Constitutional Frameworks, and De-centralization of Power.
- **GS Paper II:** Bilateral Relations—Impact of Regional Economic and Political Dynamics on India's Security and Maritime Policy.

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