



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

20th October 2026



CONTEXT: The Supreme Court recognised children's internet access as a fundamental right, emphasising online safety while cautioning against blanket restrictions on their digital freedoms.

Internet Access, Children's Rights and Digital Safety :

Key observations and directions (Just Rights for Children Alliance - 2026)

- **Internet access as a fundamental right:** Children, irrespective of age, enjoy constitutional protections relating to digital access, expression and personal liberty.
- **Rejection of blanket bans:** General restrictions on children's internet use may be disproportionate and can push children towards less-regulated platforms.
- **Child-friendly safeguards:** Suggested private-by-default accounts, restrictions on contact from unknown adults, parental guidance and age-appropriate content moderation.
- **Platform accountability:** Called for stronger action against **Child sexual exploitation and abuse material (CSEAM)**, including a National Hash and URL List Database to identify harmful material.
- **Proportionality requirement:** Restrictions must have a valid legal basis, pursue a legitimate objective and remain proportionate to that objective.



Constitutional and Legal Framework

Internet Access, Children's Rights and Digital Safety

Provision / Judgment	Relevance
Article 19(1)(a)	Protects freedom of speech and expression exercised through digital media.
Article 21	Protects dignity, privacy and personal liberty; digital access increasingly enables these rights.
Article 21A	Right to education, which digital connectivity can help realise.
Article 14	Safeguards equality against arbitrary or discriminatory restrictions.
Anuradha Bhasin (2020)	Recognised constitutional protection for expression and trade through the internet.
Pragya Prasun (2025)	Recognised digital access as integral to the rights of persons with disabilities under Article 21.
K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)	Established privacy as a fundamental right.



International Framework: UNCRC

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) recognises children's rights to expression (Article 13), information (Article 17), privacy (Article 16) and protection from violence (Article 19).

Internet Access – Significance & Challenges :

- **Educational Empowerment**
- **Freedom of Expression and Participation**
- **Bridging Social Inequalities**
- **Digital Skill Development**
- **Social Inclusion and Accessibility**



Internet Access, Children's Rights and Digital Safety



CONTEXT: The Supreme Court recognised children's internet access as a fundamental right, emphasising online safety while cautioning against blanket restrictions on their digital freedoms.

Challenges in Ensuring Children's Online Safety

1. **Online Sexual Exploitation** – Abuse and long-term psychological harm.
2. **Cyberbullying and Harassment** – Dignity, mental health and confidence.
3. **Violation of Data Privacy** – profiling, surveillance and commercial exploitation.
4. **Harmful and Manipulative Content** – Emotional and cognitive development.
5. **Addictive Platform Design** – Excessive screen time and unhealthy digital habits.
6. **Weak Platform Accountability:** Protection against online abuse gets diluted.

Arguments in favour of parental supervision and consent

1. **Protection from Online Risks**
2. **Age-Appropriate Digital Access**
3. **Prevention of Data Exploitation**
4. **Parental oversight for Responsible digital habits**

Concerns associated with mandatory parental consent

1. **Conditional Exercise of Fundamental Rights** – Adult discretion
2. **Undermining Children's Autonomy** – restricts adolescents independence
3. **Reinforcing Social Inequalities** – Restrictive households
4. **Risks of Surveillance** – Collecting sensitive information about both children and adults
5. **Shifting Responsibility to Parents** – Allow digital platforms to avoid responsibility for unsafe designs



Internet Access, Children's Rights and Digital Safety



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Internet access– Legal and Institutional Safeguards in India

Framework	Key provisions / relevance
POCSO Act, 2012	Criminalises sexual offences against children, including relevant forms of exploitation involving child sexual abuse material
Information Technology Act, 2000	Provides legal mechanisms to address specified online offences and prohibited electronic content
IT Rules, 2021	Establish intermediary due-diligence and grievance-redressal obligations, including for unlawful online content
Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023	Section 9 provides for verifiable parental consent for children's personal data processing and restrictions on harmful processing, tracking and targeted advertising, subject to specified exemptions
Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025	Provide mechanisms for parental consent verification and exemptions for specified entities and purposes
National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal	Facilitates reporting of cybercrimes, with particular attention to offences against women and children



Internet Access, Children's Rights and Digital Safety



CONTEXT: The Supreme Court recognised children's internet access as a fundamental right, emphasising online safety while cautioning against blanket restrictions on their digital freedoms.

Internet access – Way Forward

Measure	Recommendations
1. Safety-by-Design	<i>Make children's accounts private by default, restrict contact from unknown adults and limit exposure to harmful content.</i>
2. Platform Accountability	<i>Ensure prompt detection and removal of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM), independent safety audits and penalties for non-compliance.</i>
3. Privacy-Preserving Age Verification	<i>Verify age without unnecessarily collecting Aadhaar details or other sensitive personal information.</i>
4. Graduated Parental Supervision	<i>Replace blanket restrictions with age-appropriate parental guidance, allowing greater autonomy as children mature.</i>
5. Digital Literacy	<i>Introduce online safety education covering cyberbullying, privacy, misinformation and responsible internet use.</i>
6. Child Protection Mechanisms	<i>Establish confidential, child-friendly grievance redressal systems, helplines and counselling services.</i>
7. Bridging the Digital Divide	<i>Expand affordable internet connectivity, digital infrastructure and digital education for disadvantaged children.</i>
8. Participatory Digital Governance	<i>Involve children, parents, educators, technology companies and child-rights organisations in framing digital safety regulations.</i>

Mains Practice Question

Q. "Children's digital safety and their fundamental right to internet access need not be mutually exclusive." Examine this statement in light of recent judicial developments and suggest measures to reconcile both objectives. (250 word / 15 Marks)

Climate Change, Changing Seasons and Urban Resilience



CONTEXT: Unseasonal heat, erratic rainfall and worsening air pollution in Mumbai highlight growing climate-related risks and the need for climate-resilient urban planning in India.

Climate Change - Changing Seasons

1. Rising Temperatures
2. Increasing Frequency of Climate Extremes
3. Changing Rainfall Patterns
4. Greater Seasonal Variability
5. Changing Coastal Climate Risks

TH The Hindu

Worsening climate change main culprit behind India's extreme heat: UN climate chief

UN climate chief attributes India's extreme heat to worsening climate change, urging measures for adaptation and clean energy solutions.

27 May 2026



Down To Earth

Hotter, drier Hindu Kush Himalaya monsoon likely in 2026, ICIMOD warns of dual threat of droughts and flash floods

New monsoon outlook warns that Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan could face below-normal rainfall, higher temperatures and short bursts of...

11 Jun 2026



TH The Hindu

Chennai may see 1°C rise in summer temperatures by 2040: Report

According to a climate change projections report released by Azim Premji University, Chennai is likely to become hotter and wetter over the...

5 Jun 2026



TH The Hindu

Global temperatures to reach near-record highs in next five years, report finds

Global temperatures are set to soar near record highs in the next five years, with accelerated Arctic warming predicted.

28 May 2026



Climate Change, Changing Seasons and Urban Resilience



CONTEXT: Unseasonal heat, erratic rainfall and worsening air pollution in Mumbai highlight growing climate-related risks and the need for climate-resilient urban planning in India.

Vulnerability of Indian Cities

A. Climatic and Environmental Factors

1. Urban Heat Island Effect
2. Loss of Natural Drainage Systems
3. Coastal Vulnerability
4. Air Pollution–Weather Interaction

B. Urban Planning and Governance Factors

1. Unplanned Urbanisation
2. Inadequate Urban Infrastructure
3. Fragmented Institutional Governance
4. Outdated Planning Standards
5. Socioeconomic Vulnerability

Need for change in Urban Climate Policies

1. **Outdated Seasonal Planning** – Fixed pre-monsoon and summer preparedness calendars
2. **Reactive Disaster Management** – Prioritise emergency relief – preventing climate risks through long-term planning.
3. **Fragmented Environmental Governance** – reducing the effectiveness of coordinated responses.
4. **Inadequate Local Climate Data** – weakens risk assessment and early warnings.
5. **Insufficient Climate Adaptation Finance** – upgrade climate-resilient infrastructure.
6. **Limited Focus on Compound Risks** – Focus on Individual hazards



Existing Initiatives and Best Practices

Climate Change, Changing Seasons and Urban Resilience

Initiative / Example	Significance for Urban Climate Resilience
 National Mission on Sustainable Habitat	Promotes sustainable urban planning, energy efficiency and climate-responsive development.
 ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework	Helps cities assess climate performance across mobility, air quality, green buildings, urban planning, water and waste management.
 Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan (2013)	Pioneered heat warnings, public awareness and health-system preparedness; associated with reduced heat-related mortality.
 Chennai Climate Action Plan	Integrates climate risk assessment with adaptation, mitigation and urban planning.
 Kolkata Flood Forecasting System	Demonstrates the importance of urban flood prediction and advance warnings.
 National Disaster Management Guidelines	Provide guidance for managing hazards such as heatwaves and urban flooding.

Climate Change, Changing Seasons and Urban Resilience



CONTEXT: Unseasonal heat, erratic rainfall and worsening air pollution in Mumbai highlight growing climate-related risks and the need for climate-resilient urban planning in India.

Way Forward

Measure	Recommendations
1. Climate-Responsive Urban Planning	<i>Integrate projected changes in temperature, rainfall and sea levels into master plans, zoning and building regulations.</i>
2. Integrated Climate Governance	<i>Coordinate heat action plans, pollution control, flood management and public-health preparedness under city-level climate action plans.</i>
3. Nature-Based Solutions	<i>Restore urban wetlands, protect mangroves, expand green spaces and adopt permeable surfaces to reduce heat and flooding.</i>
4. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure	<i>Upgrade drainage systems, flood-proof critical infrastructure and promote climate-responsive, energy-efficient buildings.</i>
5. Hyperlocal Early Warning Systems	<i>Develop ward-level monitoring and predictive warnings for extreme heat, rainfall and air pollution.</i>
6. Inclusive Climate Adaptation	<i>Prioritise informal settlements, outdoor workers, elderly people and other vulnerable groups through targeted adaptation measures.</i>
7. Strengthening Urban Local Bodies	<i>Improve municipal finances, technical capacity and coordination between climate, planning and disaster-management agencies.</i>
8. Community-Based Preparedness	<i>Promote public awareness, neighbourhood resilience planning, early-warning communication and local disaster-response capacity.</i>

Mains Practice Question

Q. Climate change is exposing the limitations of conventional urban planning and disaster management in India. Examine the emerging climate-related vulnerabilities of Indian cities and suggest measures to strengthen their resilience. (250 word / 15 Marks)



Newspaper : The Indian Express **Page Number :** 15

Challenges in AI Adoption in Indian Enterprises

1. **Data Readiness Bottleneck:** Fragmented, outdated and unreliable datasets hinder effective AI deployment and accurate decision-making.
2. **Data Security and Compliance:** AI access to sensitive data raises concerns over cybersecurity, privacy, accountability and regulatory compliance.
3. **Shortage of Skilled Professionals:** Lack of trained AI professionals and AI-ready workforce limits effective deployment and integration into business operations.

'Data, security, skills key challenges in Indian enterprise AI adoption'

Challenges in AI Adoption in Indian Enterprises

4. Foreign Technology Dependence:

Reliance on foreign AI models, advanced chips and software ecosystems increases costs and threatens technological autonomy.

5. Challenges of AI Sovereignty:

Limited domestic capabilities in AI hardware, software and models make complete technological self-reliance difficult.

6. Difficulty in Scaling AI: Enterprises struggle to expand AI from small-scale pilot projects to organisation-wide operations due to integration and infrastructure gaps.

7. High Infrastructure Costs:

Expensive computing hardware, GPUs and digital infrastructure restrict AI adoption, particularly among MSMEs.



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Regional and Global Groupings*
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number :** 6

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- **Second largest intergovernmental organisation** after the United Nations.
- Member – **57 states** spread over four continents. (30 – founding members)
- **Aim** – **Preserve Islamic values**, safeguard and defend the **national sovereignty** and **independence of member states**, and **contribute to international peace and security**.
- **“Collective voice of the Muslim world”** and endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of its member states in economic, social, and political areas.
- **Established** – **Rabat**, Kingdom of Morocco, 1969,
- **Charter of the OIC** – originally adopted in 1972 and substantially revised in 2008 at the Dakar Summit.

57 Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Regional and Global Groupings*

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number :** 6

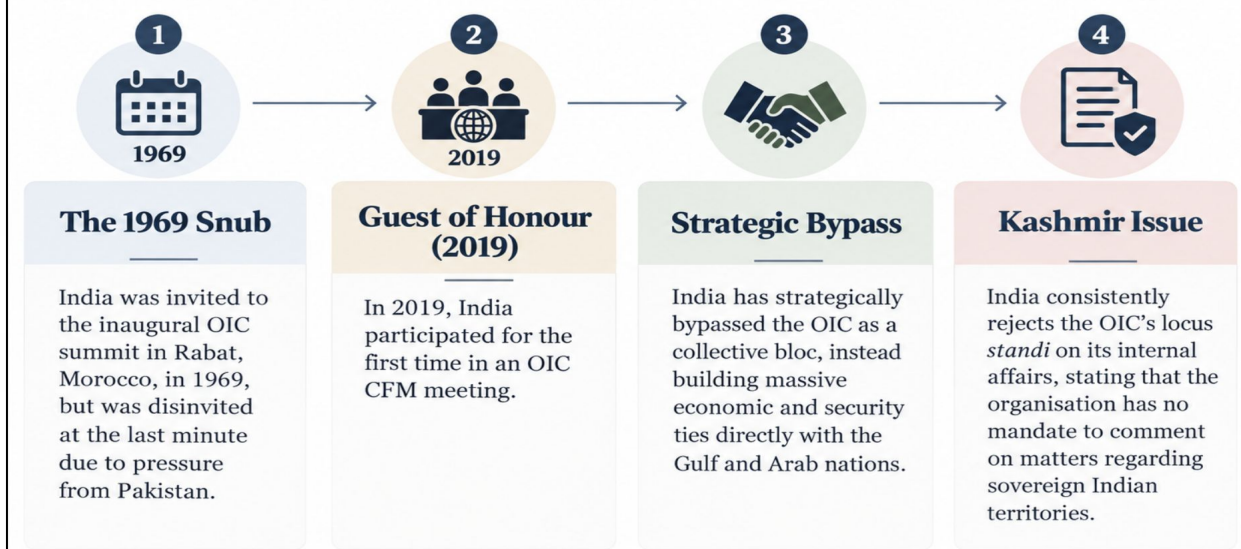
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- The name " Organization of Islamic Conference" – "Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)" in 2011
- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- **Official languages** – Arabic, English, and French

Main Bodies of OIC

- **Islamic Summit Conference (ISC):** Supreme authority – meets every three years to lay down the Organization's policy.
- **Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM):** meets once a year – examine the implementation of its decisions the ISC.
- **General Secretariat:** Executive organ – implementation of the decisions of the two preceding bodies.
- **Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)** – established in 2011

India and OIC



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Constitutional Bodies*

Newspaper : Indian Express

Page Number : 9

Composition and Appointment

- Chairman and other members appointed by the **Governor of the state.**
- Composition and service conditions** – Articles 316 and 318
- Chairman and Members:** Number determined by the Governor through regulations.
- Qualification:** The Constitution does not prescribe specific educational qualifications; however, at least half of the members must have held a government office for at least 10 years under the Union or a State.
- Tenure:** Six years or until the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
- Resignation:** Written resignation to the Governor.
- Removal:** The President of India under the conditions specified in Article 317.
- Independence:** Their security of tenure, service conditions, and removal safeguards help maintain the Commission's independence

Constitutional Provisions

Public Service Commissions (Articles 315–323)



Article 315

Constitution of PSCs

Provides for Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the States of India.



Article 316

Appointment & Tenure

Deals with the appointment and term of office of members of UPSC and SPSC.



Article 317

Removal & Suspension

Concerns the removal and suspension of a member of UPSC or SPSC.



Article 318

Service Regulations

Empowers regulation of the conditions of service of members and staff of the Commission.



Article 319

Restriction After Office

Prohibits members from holding certain offices after ceasing to be members of the Commission.



Article 320

Functions of PSCs

States the functions of the Public Service Commissions.



Article 321

Extension of Functions

Allows extension of the functions of Public Service Commissions.



Article 322

Expenses

Deals with the expenses of Public Service Commissions.



Article 323

Reports

Provides for reports of Public Service Commissions.

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : Minerals

Newspaper : Indian Express

Page Number : 12

Sand Mining Legal Framework

- Legal Sand Mining – regulated extraction carried out under government approval with environmental safeguards, licensing and scientific limits to ensure sustainability and ecological balance.
- **Legal Definition and Nature:** Classified as a **minor mineral** under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957** and its regulation is primarily under State Governments.
- **Environmental Clearance Requirement:** Required under the **Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006**, even for areas below 5 hectares
- The State Environment Impact **Assessment Authority** and State Expert **Appraisal Committee** evaluate mining proposals based on river flow, replenishment capacity and ecological sensitivity before granting approvals.

- **Legal Definition and Nature:** Classified as a **minor mineral** under the **MMDR Act 1957** and its regulation is primarily under State
- **Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2016:** Issued by MoEFCC
- **Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020:** These guidelines provide a standardized protocol for tracking sand extraction, transportation and usage using technologies like drones, GPS and satellite monitoring systems.
- **District Survey Report:** Scientific basis for granting mining leases, which are **updated every five years** to reflect resource availability and ecological conditions.
- **Illegal Sand Mining Punishments:** MMDR Act amendments (2015) increased penalties to ₹5 lakh per hectare and imprisonment up to 5 years
- **Illegal Sand Mining Complaint:** Reported to district authorities, police or mining departments.



SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Places In News*

Newspaper : Indian Express

Page Number : 14



CSE 2015

Q. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea?

- a) Syria
- b) Jordan
- c) Lebanon
- d) Israel

CSE 2017

Mediterranean Sea is a border, following countries?

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Iraq
- 3. Lebanon
- 4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only



Q1. With reference to the State Public Service Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The Chairman and other members are appointed by the Governor of the state.
2. The Constitution prescribes specific educational qualifications for its members.
3. The Chairman and members hold office for six years or until the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
4. The President of India can remove the Chairman or any other member under Article 317.

How many of the above given statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: c

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is Not correct?

- a) It is the second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the United Nations.
- b) Its headquarters is located in Rabat, Morocco.
- c) Its Charter was originally adopted in 1972 and substantially revised in 2008.
- d) It aims to promote international peace and protect the interests of its member states

Answer: b

Q3. With reference to internet access and constitutional rights in India, consider the following statements:

1. In *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* (2020), the Supreme Court recognised that freedom of speech and expression through the internet is constitutionally protected under Article 19(1)(a).
2. In *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017), the Supreme Court recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right.
3. Article 21A guarantees every citizen an unconditional fundamental right to free internet access

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to sand mining in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is classified as a minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
2. The Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2016.
3. Environmental clearance is never required for sand mining projects covering less than five hectares.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to the Levant region, consider the following statements:

1. The Levant broadly refers to the eastern Mediterranean region of West Asia.
2. Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Palestine are commonly associated with the Levant.

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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