

Strengthening Governance through Blockchain Technology

In the recent time, Blockchain Technology has emerged as a key driver in transforming governance in India.

➤ **Blockchain** is a distributed, transparent, secure, and immutable database that functions like a **ledger** of records or transactions, resistant to tampering and accessible across a network of computers.

Key Role of Blockchain Technology in Governance

➤ **Property Chain: Blockchain-powered Property Management System** ensures that every property transaction is securely recorded on the blockchain.

➡ This transparency helps prospective buyers verify ownership, rights, and liabilities, significantly reducing litigation and expediting dispute resolution.

➤ **Certificates and Document Chain:** E.g., National Informatics Centre (NIC) has built a 'Certificate Chain' for secured storage and retrieval of records.

➤ **Logistics Chain:** All transactions in the supply chain are recorded in a tamper-proof ledger, ensuring traceability and accountability at every stage. E.g., Online Supply Chain Management System for medicines (Aushada) of Karnataka

➤ **Judiciary Chain:** Blockchain facilitates electronic delivery of notices, summons, and bail orders, reducing delays and eliminating manual dependencies.

➤ **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS):** Over 39,000 ICJS documents have been verified on the blockchain platform, as of October 2025.

Key Initiatives taken for Promoting Blockchain Technology

➤ **National Blockchain Framework (NBF), 2024**, its core components include **Vishvasya Blockchain Stack**, NBFLite, Praamaanik (Innovative Blockchain Solution for App Verification), and the National Blockchain Portal.

➤ **National Strategy on Blockchain** developed by MeitY.

➤ **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in Blockchain Technology by NIC.

Weakening of Multilateralism

Experts have highlighted that the erosion of multilateralism is occurring at a time when the world urgently needs coordinated global action.

➤ **Multilateralism** refers to **coordinated action** among at least three actors to address common problems beyond individual capacity.

Erosion of Multilateralism

➤ **Reduced effectiveness of Global Organisation:** E.g., Blocking of new Appellate Body appointments by US, leaving appeals unresolved and enforcement delayed.

➤ **Withdrawal from Global Frameworks:** E.g., US withdrew from the **Human Rights Council** and UNESCO.

➤ **Resolving Conflicts-** E.g., Failure of UN to resolve Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

➤ **Rise of Minilateralism and Regional Partnership:** Due to delayed decision making in multilateral institutions, nations are shifting towards mini-lateral. E.g., BRICS, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), etc.

➤ **Other:** Imposing unilateral economic sanctions, protectionist policies, etc.

Way Ahead

➤ **Institutional Overhaul-** E.g., reforming the UNSC to grant veto power to countries such as India, Japan, and Brazil, to make it more representative and effective.

➤ **Addressing New and Emerging Global Challenges:** Establish new global standards in evolving areas such as digitalization and artificial intelligence.

➤ **Other:** Addressing Global South Priorities (e.g., climate finance), addressing protectionist policies, etc.

Key aspects of the philosophy of Multilateralism

	Collective problem-solving
	Dialogue and diplomacy
	Leave no one behind
	Shared responsibility
	Rule-based international order

Supreme Court observed Freedom of Religion & Right to Privacy are interlinked

The Supreme Court in **Rajendra Bihari Lal vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and Others** emphasized that the **Right to Privacy** is intrinsic to **Freedom of Religion**.

What is the relation between Freedom of Religion and Right to Privacy?

- **Direct link between Privacy & Religion:** The Supreme Court highlighted that **Article 25** includes elements of privacy in right to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion.
 - ⊕ **Article 25** includes the **ability to choose a faith** and **freedom to express or not to express** such a choice.
 - ⊕ **Publishing and declaration** of one's personal faith **breaches the fundamental right to privacy** under **Articles 25 and 21**.
- Various **anti-conversion legislations** framed by several states, now being examined by the Supreme Court, **are required to meet the privacy test**.

Other Observations by SC

- **Secularism:** The bench reiterated that the word '**secular**' in the Preamble is an intrinsic part of the **basic structure** of the Constitution.
- **Previous Judgements Highlighted by SC:**
 - ⊕ **K.S. Puttaswamy case:** The **right to privacy** is a **fundamental right** protected within Article 21 in particular and Part III on the whole.
 - ⊕ **Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K.M. Case:** Upheld **individual autonomy in faith and marriage choices**.



Inadequate Laws to Protect Domestic Workers in India

As highlighted in the news recently, Union Government is yet to frame a **comprehensive domestic workers' rights law** as directed by the Supreme Court in January, 2025.

Other Legal Frameworks Available

- **Right to Fair Wages:** Workers must receive at least the state-prescribed **minimum wage** under the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**.
- **Right to Safe Working Conditions:** Employers must provide an **abuse-free environment** (POSH Act, 2013).
- **Protection from abuse/exploitation:** **Bharatiya Nari Suraksha (BNS) Act, 2023** provides protection **against all forms of abuse**; enables **legal remedies and complaint mechanisms**.
- **State-Level Initiatives:** Tamil Nadu provides **welfare benefits and minimum wages under the Manual Worker Act, 1982**, while **Karnataka's 2025 Bill mandates worker registration, contracts, minimum wages etc.** to a welfare fund.

Issues in Implementation of Legal Protection

- **Patchy State Regulation:** Minimum wages and labour protections **vary across states**; enforcement is weak.
- **Exclusion under Labour Codes:** Defines a **"worker" in relation to establishments or industries, excluding workers** employed in private households, such as domestic workers.
- **Limited Organising:** **Dispersed workplaces, migratory status, poor socio-economic conditions**, etc. make unionisation difficult.
- **Data and Definition Issues:** Lack of **credible data and contested definitions of domestic work** complicate policy-making.

Status of Domestic Workers	
	India has approximately 2.81 crore domestic and household registered workers (e-SHRAM portal).
	Most of the them are women and girls from SC/ST communities, making them vulnerable to exploitation.
	Many workers are migrants, requiring protection across states and from neighboring countries.
	Issues include abuse, harassment, child labour, exploitative employment agencies, lack of minimum wages, inconsistent work hours, and absence of social security.

Way Forward

- **Minimum wages:** All states must **stipulate and update wages**.
- **Compulsory Registration:** Employers, agencies, and workers **should be compulsorily registered** at the state level.
- **Legislative action:** Comprehensive **Central legislation to enforce rights, wages, social security**, and welfare for domestic workers.

Also In News



Kafala system

Recently, Saudi Arabia has abolished the Kafala system.

- It is expected to benefit around 13 million foreign workers, including over **2.6 million Indians**.

About Kafala System

- It is a **worker sponsorship programme** which gave employers full control over their employees' legal status, residencies, when or if they could leave the country, seeks legal help, or even changes jobs.
- ⌚ The system tied each sponsor or 'Kafeel' to a migrant worker.
- **Concern associated with System:** It is criticized as modern day slavery as Employers started to abuse this system to exploit employees. E.g., they would restrict their movement, seize passport, etc.



SWAMIH Fund

RBI has exempted **SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund**, a **government-backed fund** from its tightened rules of **Alternate investment fund (AIF)**.

- The RBI prescribes the regulatory guidelines in respect of investment by the regulated entities in AIF.

About SWAMIH, 2019

- It is a **Category II AIF**.
 - ⌚ **AIF** means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investments.
 - ⌚ SEBI regulates **AIF**. E.g., Venture capital funds (Including Angel Funds)
- **Objective:** Provide priority debt financing for completion of stalled housing projects.
- **Fund Manager:** SBI Ventures Limited.



Mahe Water Crafts

The first of 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) 'Mahe' was delivered to the Indian Navy.

About Mahe

- **Built by:** Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi.
- **Named after:** Historic port town in the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- **Capabilities:** Underwater surveillance, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations in coastal waters.
- **Significance:** Enhances Indian Navy's ASW capability in littoral zones & supports Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.



Intrusion Detection System (IDS)

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is implementing an **Intrusion Detection System (IDS)** across its network to **prevent elephant deaths** on tracks.

About IDS

- It uses **advanced optical fibre sensing technology** to **detect the vibrations generated by elephants' movement** by the sensor cables, which then transmit signals to the control room **in real-time**.
- It enables **timely intervention** and ensuring smooth operations.



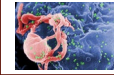
Responsible Use of AI during Elections

The Election Commission issued an advisory to all political parties on responsible use of AI-generated content during elections.

- The advisory will help ensure a level playing field in elections and promote fairness in the electoral process.

Key Guidelines

- AI-generated or digitally altered campaign content must carry a **clear label such as "AI-Generated" or "Synthetic Content"**.
- Unlawful or misleading content that **distorts a person's identity, appearance, or voice** is strictly prohibited. E.g. Deepfakes.
- Political parties must maintain detailed records of all AI-generated materials etc.



Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Maldives became **first country** to halt mother-to-child transmission of **HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B**.

- All of them are **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)**.

About Diseases

- **HIV:** It weakens the immune system by **attacking white blood cells**, and **when severely advanced**, it leads to **Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)**.
- **Syphilis:** It is caused by a type of bacteria called **Treponema pallidum**.
- **Hepatitis B:** It is a viral infection that **attacks the liver** and can cause **both acute and chronic disease**.



Execution Petitions

Recently, Supreme court highlighted the **high pendency in lower courts** due to the massive backlog (over 8.82 lakhs) of **executive petitions**.

About executive petition

- It is the **legal tool used to implement a decree**, in which the winner formally requests the court to enforce its decision when the **losing party fails to comply**.
- In 2021, the **Supreme Court laid down guidelines** including a **six-month deadline** for disposing of execution proceedings.



Kunar River

Afghanistan has announced plans to construct a dam on the Kunar River, obstructing its flow into Pakistan.

About Kunar River

- It is a **main tributary of Kabul River**, which then **merges with the Indus River in Pakistan**.
- **Origin:** From **glaciated Hindu Kush Mountains of Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan**.
 - ➡ It then flows into Afghanistan and merges with Kabul River there.
- **Two main tributaries:** **Bashgal** (or Landiasind) and **Pech**.

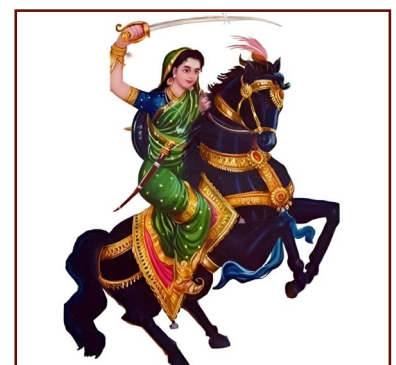
Personality in News



Rani Chennamma (1778 - 1829)

Recently, Birth anniversary of Rani chennamma was celebrated on 23d October.

- She was married to Raja Mallasarja of Kittur (**or Kitturu**).
- After death of her husband & only son she adopted Shivalingappa.
 - ➡ However, the British rejected him as the legitimate heir to Kittur, leading to the Kittur Revolt in 1824.
- **About Kittur Revolt:**
 - ➡ It is regarded as the first Indian armed rebellion against British EIC. Also, one of the earliest woman-led anti-colonial struggles.
 - ➡ Though British lost 1st battle in 1824, Rani Chennamma was later captured & imprisoned, till her death in 1829.
- **Values:** Courage, leadership, etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI