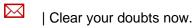


CONCEPTS IN NEWS

June 2024

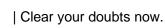


Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Pro tem Speaker	A temporary speaker appointed for the time being until the permanent speaker is elected in the lower house of parliament.	A temporary speaker chosen to oversee the proceedings in parliament until a permanent speaker is elected.
Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution	Contains provisions relating to disqualification of members on the grounds of defection.	The part of the Indian Constitution that deals with rules for preventing politicians from switching parties.
Anti-defection Law	A law that disqualifies elected members if they defect from one party to another.	A law that prevents politicians from changing parties after being elected.
Agnipath Scheme	A recruitment scheme for the Indian armed forces aimed at enrolling soldiers for a short duration.	A new plan to hire soldiers in India for a short-term period.
Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBOR)	Members of the armed forces who hold ranks below that of commissioned officers.	Soldiers and military personnel who are not officers.



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Seva Nidhi Fund	A fund established under the Agnipath Scheme to provide financial support to the recruited personnel after their service.	A savings fund for soldiers recruited under the Agnipath Scheme, given to them after their service period.
Notified Disasters	Disasters that are officially recognized by the government for the purpose of providing relief and rehabilitation.	Disasters officially declared by the government to qualify for emergency help and resources.
Disaster Management Act, 2005	An Act of the Indian Parliament enacted to provide for the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.	A law made to ensure proper handling and response to disasters in India.
National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)	A fund managed by the central government to meet the expenses for emergency response, relief, and rehabilitation in the event of a disaster.	A special fund set up by the government to provide money for emergency relief and recovery after disasters.
State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)	A fund established at the state level to deal with disasters and meet the cost of relief activities.	A fund that states use to cover the costs of disaster relief and recovery efforts.
Heatwaves	Prolonged periods of excessively hot weather, which may be accompanied by high humidity.	Long periods of very hot weather that can be dangerous to health and cause other problems.
Arbitration Clauses	Provisions in contracts that require disputes to be resolved through arbitration rather than litigation.	Parts of contracts that say any disagreements will be settled out of court through arbitration.
Vivad se Vishwas Scheme	A scheme introduced by the Indian government to settle pending tax disputes by providing a waiver on interest and penalties if the taxpayer pays the disputed tax amount.	A government plan to resolve tax disputes by allowing taxpayers to pay the owed tax without additional penalties.
Article 72 of the Constitution	Gives the President of India the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offense.	Allows the President of India to forgive or reduce the punishment for a person convicted of a crime.
Rarest of Rare Doctrine	A principle in Indian law used to justify the imposition of the death penalty in cases where the crime is exceptionally heinous.	A legal rule in India that allows the death penalty only for the most extreme crimes.
Lok Adalats	A system of alternative dispute resolution developed in India, where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre- litigation stage are settled amicably.	Public courts in India where people can resolve disputes quickly and peacefully without going to regular court.
Kafala System	A system used to monitor migrant laborers, working primarily in the construction and domestic sectors in Gulf Cooperation Council member states.	A system in Gulf countries where a local sponsor is responsible for migrant workers.



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Negotiable Instruments	A signed document that promises a sum of payment to a specified person or the assignee.	Documents like checks or promissory notes that guarantee payment of money.	
Twin Test (PMLA)	A legal test under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to ensure the accused's involvement in money laundering.	A legal check to prove someone's involvement in money laundering activities.	
Voice Vote	A voting method used in legislative assemblies where members vote orally.	A way of voting in assemblies by speaking out loud rather than using ballots.	
Trans Fats	A type of unsaturated fat that is harmful to health, found in processed foods.	Unhealthy fats found in many processed and fried foods.	
Negotiable Instruments	Documents guaranteeing the payment of a specific amount of money to the bearer on demand or at a set time.	Documents like checks that promise to pay a certain amount of money.	



International Relations

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
UNCLOS (United	An international agreement that defines the	An international treaty that sets the
Nations Convention	rights and responsibilities of nations with	rules for using the oceans and
on the Law of the	respect to their use of the world's oceans.	seas.
Sea)		
ITLOS (International	An independent judicial body established by	A court set up to resolve disputes
Tribunal for the Law	the UNCLOS to adjudicate disputes arising out	related to the laws of the sea.
of the Sea)	of the interpretation and application of the	
	Convention.	
Due Diligence	The obligation of states to ensure that activities	A country's responsibility to make
Obligation	within their jurisdiction or control do not cause	sure its actions do not harm other
	damage to the environment of other states.	countries' environments.
ICJ (International	The principal judicial organ of the United	The main court of the United
Court of Justice)	Nations, which settles disputes between states	Nations that handles disputes
	and gives advisory opinions on international	between countries and gives legal
	legal issues.	advice.



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BRICS Summit	An annual international relations conference	A yearly meeting of leaders from
	attended by the heads of state or government	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and
	of the five member states (Brazil, Russia, India,	South Africa to discuss important
	China, and South Africa).	issues.
Indo-Pacific Strategy	A strategy to ensure free and open navigation	A plan to keep the Indo-Pacific
	and security in the Indo-Pacific region.	region safe and ensure free
		movement through its waters.
Quad (Quadrilateral	A strategic dialogue between the United	A partnership between the US,
Security Dialogue)	States, India, Japan, and Australia that is	India, Japan, and Australia to
	maintained by talks between member	discuss security and cooperation in
	countries.	the Indo-Pacific.
Global South	A term often used to refer to countries in Africa,	Countries that are less wealthy and
	Latin America, Asia, and Oceania that are less	developed, typically in the southern
	economically developed.	hemisphere.
Grey-Zone Warfare	Activities by state and non-state actors that are	Aggressive actions by countries or
	coercive and aggressive in nature but that	groups that fall short of actual war.
	remain below the threshold of conventional	
	military conflict.	
United Self-Defense	A Colombian paramilitary and drug trafficking	A group in Colombia involved in
Forces of Colombia	group that has been involved in the country's	paramilitary activities and drug
(AUC)	internal conflict.	trafficking.
Economic	An agreement between countries to enhance	A deal between countries to work
Cooperation	economic cooperation and reduce tariffs and	together economically and lower
Framework	barriers to trade.	trade barriers.
Agreement (ECFA)		



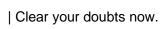
Environment

Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Emissions of greenhouse gases resulting	Greenhouse gases released into the
from human activities such as industry,	atmosphere because of human
agriculture, and transportation.	activities like factories, cars, and
	farming.
	Emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from human activities such as industry,

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Principle of Prevention or No Harm Rule	A principle in international environmental law that requires states to prevent significant harm to the environment of other states or areas beyond national jurisdiction.	A rule that says countries must prevent their actions from harming the environment of other countries.
Greenhouse Effect	The warming of Earth's surface due to the trapping of heat by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.	The process by which certain gases in the Earth's atmosphere trap heat, making the planet warmer.
El Niño and La Niña	Climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean that influence weather conditions around the world.	Natural phenomena in the Pacific Ocean that affect global weather patterns, causing various climatic changes.
Wet-bulb Temperature	A measure that combines air temperature and humidity to indicate the level of heat stress on the human body.	A temperature measure that shows how hot and humid it feels, important for understanding heat stress.
Paris Climate Agreement	An international treaty aimed at reducing carbon emissions and combating climate change, adopted in 2015.	A global agreement where countries promise to reduce carbon emissions to fight climate change.
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	A policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.	A rule that makes manufacturers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including disposal and recycling.
Circular Economy	An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources through recycling, reusing, and repairing.	An economy where everything is reused, recycled, or repaired to minimize waste.
Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.	Gases like carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to global warming.
Great Green Wall	An African-led initiative to grow an 8,000 km natural wonder of the world across the entire width of Africa to combat desertification.	A project to plant a huge strip of greenery across Africa to stop deserts from spreading.
Gas Flaring	The burning of natural gas that is associated with oil extraction processes.	Burning off natural gas that comes out when drilling for oil.
Biochar	Charcoal used as a soil amendment. It is created by pyrolysis of biomass.	A type of charcoal added to soil to improve its quality and capture carbon.
Polymetallic Nodules	Rock concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides.	Lumps of minerals found on the ocean floor containing valuable metals like manganese and iron.



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Persistent Organic Pollutants	Organic compounds that are resistant to environmental degradation and have harmful impacts on human health and the environment.	Dangerous chemicals that don't break down easily and can harm people and the environment.
Bioluminescence	The production and emission of light by a living organism.	When living organisms, like some jellyfish and insects, produce light.
Blue Hole	A large marine cavern or sinkhole, usually circular, that is open to the surface and has developed in a bank or island composed of a carbonate bedrock.	A deep underwater hole in the ocean, often with strikingly blue water.
Katabatic Winds	Winds that carry high-density air from a higher elevation down a slope under the force of gravity.	Strong, cold winds that flow downhill from high areas.
Mercury Island	An island that was historically used for the mining of mercury and is associated with environmental and health hazards due to mercury exposure.	An island known for mining mercury, which poses significant health and environmental risks.
Space Debris	Defunct human-made objects in space, such as old satellites and spent rocket stages.	Junk left in space from old satellites and rockets.
Carbon Farming	Agricultural methods that capture and store carbon dioxide in the soil.	Farming practices that help capture and store carbon dioxide in the ground.
Cloudburst	A sudden, intense rainfall that can lead to flash floods.	Very heavy rain that falls in a short time, causing floods.
Tree Canopy	The upper layer of trees and branches in a forest or urban area.	The top part of trees that form a cover in a forest or city.
Green Ammonia	Ammonia produced using renewable energy sources, typically for use as a fuel or fertilizer.	Ammonia made with clean energy, used as a fuel or fertilizer.
Polymetallic Nodules	Rock formations on the ocean floor rich in metals like manganese, nickel, and cobalt.	Metal-rich rocks found on the ocean floor.



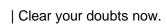
Science and Technology

ThermodynamicsThe branch of physical science that deals with the relations between heat and other forms of energy.The study of how heat and energy interact with each other.Carnot CycleA theoretical cycle that is the most efficient possible engine cycle.An ideal cycle in thermodynamics that describes the most efficient way an engine can work.Isentropic ProcessA thermodynamic process that is both adiabatic and reversible.A process where there is no heat transfer and it is perfectly reversible, meaning no energy is lost.Rankine CycleA thermodynamic cycle used as a model for steam engine operation.A cycle describing how steam engines convert heat into mechanical work.Heat EngineA device that converts heat energy into mechanical work.A machine that turns heat into movement or work.Reverse Carnot CycleA theoretical refrigeration cycle that is similar to the most efficient possible for a given temperature range.A cycle used in refrigerators to move heat from a cold area to a warm one.Reverse Rankine CycleA refrigeration cycle that is similar to the direction to move heat from a cold space to a warm space.A cycle used in refrigerators to move heat from a cold area to a warm one.Critical and EmergingTechnologies that are seen as crucial for tracted to the total tota
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Looppology u(- L) Lituture development and are currently at the Llooding the way in innevation and
Technology (iCET)future development and are currently at the forefront of innovation.leading the way in innovation and development.
Virus (AAV) other primate species and is commonly used deliver new genes to cells.
as a vector in gene therapy.
Gene Therapy A technique that uses genes to treat or A medical treatment where doctors
prevent disease by inserting them into a insert genes into a person's cells to cure
patient's cells. or prevent diseases.
Congenital Hearing Hearing loss that is present at birth due to Hearing impairment that a person is born
Loss genetic factors or conditions during with, often due to genetic reasons.
pregnancy.
Antimicrobial The ability of microbes to resist the effects of When bacteria and other germs become
Resistance (AMR) drugs, making infections harder to treat. resistant to medicines, making infections
harder to cure.
Urinary Tract Infection An infection in any part of the urinary system, An infection that affects parts of the
(UTI) including the kidneys, bladder, or urethra. urinary system, such as the bladder or





Deeptech Startups	Startups that are founded on scientific	New companies that use advanced
	discoveries or meaningful engineering	science and engineering to create
	innovations.	groundbreaking products.
Digital Twins	A digital replica of a living or non-living	A virtual model that exactly mirrors a
	physical entity.	real-world object or system.
Gene Therapy	A technique that uses genes to treat or	A medical treatment where doctors
	prevent disease by inserting them into a	insert genes into a person's cells to
	patient's cells.	cure or prevent diseases.
Speciation	The formation of new and distinct species in	The process by which new species of
	the course of evolution.	plants or animals develop.
Cyberspace Warfare	Internet-based conflict involving politically	Battles fought using the internet to
	motivated attacks on information and	attack a country's computer networks.
	information systems.	
Democratization of	The process by which access to technology	Making advanced technology available
Technology	rapidly continues to become more	to everyone, not just a few.
	accessible to more people.	
Neglected Tropical	A diverse group of tropical infections which	Diseases that affect many people in
Diseases	are especially common in low-income	poor tropical areas but don't get much
	populations in developing regions.	attention.
Deeptech Startups	Startups that are founded on scientific	New companies that use advanced
	discoveries or meaningful engineering	science and engineering to create
	innovations.	groundbreaking products.
Digital Twins	A digital replica of a living or non-living	A virtual model that exactly mirrors a
	ph <mark>ys</mark> ical entity.	real-world object or system.
Deep Web	Parts of the internet that are not indexed by	The hidden parts of the internet that
	standard search engines.	you can't find with regular search
		engines.
Dark Net	A part of the internet that requires specific	A hidden part of the internet often
	software to access and is often associated	used for illegal activities.
	with illegal activities.	
AI Washing	The practice of companies exaggerating the	When companies claim their products
	role of artificial intelligence in their products.	use AI to make them sound more
		advanced.
Biomass Briquettes	Compressed blocks of biomass material	Blocks made from organic waste used
	used as fuel.	for burning as fuel.
Syngas	A fuel gas mixture consisting of hydrogen,	A gas made from coal or biomass that





Economy

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Seva Nidhi	A fund established under the Agnipath Scheme to	A savings fund for soldiers recruited under
Fund	provide financial support to the recruited personnel	the Agnipath Scheme, given to them after
	after their service.	their service period.
Gross	The total value of goods produced and services	The total amount of money made from
Domestic	provided in a country during one year.	goods and services in a country in one
Product (GDP)		year.
Fiscal	Policies aimed at reducing government deficits and	Efforts to reduce government debt and
Consolidation	debt accumulation.	spending.
Private	The value of goods and services consumed by	The amount of money households spend
Consumption	households.	on goods and services.
Union Budget	The annual financial statement presented by the	The government's yearly plan on how it
	government of India, detailing its revenues and	will earn and spend money.
	expenditures.	
Goods and	An indirect tax used in India on the supply of goods	A tax on most goods and services sold in
Services Tax	and services.	India.
(GST)		
Foreign Direct	An investment made by a firm or individual in one	When companies or individuals from one
Investment	country into business interests located in another	country invest in businesses in another
(FDI)	country.	country.
Inflation	The rate at which the general level of prices for goods	The increase in prices of goods and
	and services rises, causing purchasing power to fall.	services over time, making money worth
		less.
Monetary	The process by which the central bank controls the	How the central bank manages money
Policy	supply of money, often targeting an inflation rate or	supply and interest rates to keep the
	interest rate to ensure stability and growth.	economy stable and growing.
Economic	An agreement between countries to enhance	A deal between countries to work together
Cooperation	economic cooperation and reduce tariffs and barriers	economically and lower trade barriers.
Framework	to trade.	
Agreement		
(ECFA)		
Catastrophic	Costs that are extremely high and can lead to	Very high expenses that can cause
Costs	significant financial hardship.	serious financial trouble for people or
		businesses.

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Public Capex	Capital expenditures by the government for	Government spending on building
	developing infrastructure and other long-term assets.	infrastructure and long-term projects.
Gross Value	The measure of the value of goods and services	The total value of goods and services
Added	produced in an area, industry or sector of an	produced in a specific area, industry, or
	economy.	sector.
Viability Gap	A government grant to support projects that are	Government money given to projects
Funding	economically justified but fall short of financial	that are worthwhile but don't have
	viability.	enough funding.
Non	Banks which are not listed in the Second Schedule	Smaller banks in India that are not
Scheduled	of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.	regulated as strictly as major banks.
Banks		
Minimum	A price at which the government buys crops from	The lowest price that the government
Support	the farmers, irrespective of the price for the crops.	pays farmers for their crops to ensure
Prices		they make a profit.
Revenue	A model in which revenue generated by a business	A business arrangement where
Sharing	or product is shared between stakeholders or	earnings are split among partners or
Model	contributors.	participants.
Angel Tax	A tax levied on funding received by startups from	Tax imposed on the investment that
	an external investor.	startups receive from individual
		investors.
Limited	A partnership in which some or all partners have	A business structure where the partners
Liability	limited liabilities.	have limited personal liability for the
Partnership		company's debts.
Gross Value	The measure of the value of goods and services	The total value of goods and services
Added	produced in an area, industry or sector of an	produced in a specific area, industry, or
	economy.	sector.
Ways and	Temporary advances given by the Reserve Bank	Short-term loans given by the central
Means	of India to the government to meet short-term	bank to the government.
Advances	financial needs.	
Special	A line of credit provided to member countries by	A special loan that countries can use
Drawing	the International Monetary Fund (IMF).	from the IMF.
Facility		
Wilful Defaults	When a borrower does not repay a loan despite	Borrowers who refuse to repay loans
	having the ability to pay.	even though they can.
Plug and Play	Ready-to-use facilities provided to businesses,	Fully prepared facilities that businesses
Infrastructure	often with the necessary infrastructure already in	can start using immediately.
	place.	can start using inimediately.
Insider	The illegal practice of trading on the stock	Buying or selling stocks using
Trading	exchange to one's own advantage through having	confidential information not available to
Î.	access to confidential information.	the public.

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	Mini Ratna	A status given to certain public sector enterprises	Public companies in India that get
		in India that gives them greater autonomy and	special privileges for being financially
		financial powers.	stable.
	Water Credit	A microfinance tool used to provide loans for water	Loans given to communities to improve
		and sanitation solutions to communities.	their water and sanitation facilities.
ľ	Functional	The ability to read, write, and do basic math	Being able to read, write, and do math
	Literacy	necessary for everyday life.	well enough to manage daily tasks.



