



CONCEPTS IN NEWS

July 2024

Environment

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Climate jurisprudence	The body of law that addresses climate change and its impacts.	Laws and legal decisions related to climate change.
Low-carbon and climate-resilient futures	Development pathways that minimize carbon emissions and enhance resilience to climate impacts.	Ways of developing that reduce carbon pollution and can withstand climate changes.
Environmental Flows (EF)	The quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain freshwater ecosystems and the human livelihoods that depend on these ecosystems.	The amount and quality of water needed to keep rivers and lakes healthy.
1997 UN Watercourses Convention	An international treaty that aims to ensure the sustainable management of transboundary watercourses.	A global agreement to manage rivers and lakes that cross country borders.
2004 Berlin Rules on Water Resources	Guidelines for the sustainable management of freshwater resources, emphasizing the importance of environmental protection.	Rules for managing water resources in a way that protects the environment.
Carbon emissions	The release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from various sources, particularly from burning fossil fuels.	The release of carbon dioxide gas into the air, mostly from burning fuels.





Polar jet stream	A fast-flowing, narrow air current found in the atmosphere around the polar regions.	A strong wind current high up in the atmosphere near the poles.
Carbon emissions from wildfires	The release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases during wildfires.	Carbon dioxide and other gases released into the air when wildfires burn.
Permafrost thawing	The process of permafrost melting, which can release stored greenhouse gases.	When permanently frozen ground starts to melt, releasing trapped gases.
Environmental harm minimization	Strategies to reduce the negative impact of human activities on the environment.	Ways to reduce damage to the environment caused by human activities.
Equitable and reasonable use principle	A principle in international water law that promotes fair and reasonable utilization of shared water resources.	A rule that encourages fair use of shared water resources among countries.
Beneficial Insects	Insects that perform valuable services like pollination and pest control in ecosystems and agriculture.	Insects that help plants grow and control pests naturally.
Yellow Alert	A weather warning indicating the possibility of severe weather conditions that might disrupt daily activities.	A warning for possible bad weather that could affect daily life.
Disaster Resilience	The ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.	How well a community or system can handle and bounce back from disasters.
Climate Resilience	The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous climate events.	How well a system can handle and recover from climate-related challenges.
Hydration and Heatwave Management	Strategies to stay hydrated and prevent heat-related illnesses during heatwaves.	Tips and methods to keep hydrated and avoid getting sick during extreme heat.



Science and Technology

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)	A rare and often fatal brain infection caused by the amoeba <i>Naegleria fowleri</i> .	A deadly brain infection caused by a tiny amoeba.
<i>Naegleria fowleri</i>	A single-celled organism that can cause a brain infection called Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM).	A tiny organism that can cause a severe brain infection.





Cerebrospinal fluid	A clear fluid found in the brain and spinal cord that cushions and protects these organs.	The fluid surrounding and protecting the brain and spinal cord.
Azithromycin	An antibiotic used to treat a variety of bacterial infections.	A medicine used to treat infections caused by bacteria.
Amphotericin B	An antifungal medication used to treat serious fungal infections.	A drug used to treat serious infections caused by fungi.
Miltefosine	A medication used to treat parasitic infections, including leishmaniasis and PAM.	A drug used to treat certain parasitic infections.
Controlled digital lending	A system where libraries lend digitized copies of physical books in a controlled manner.	Libraries lending digital versions of physical books in a regulated way.
Real-time data-sharing mechanisms	Systems that allow the instant exchange of data between different entities.	Technology that enables instant sharing of information between parties.
Low-carbon development commission	A body established to promote development strategies that reduce carbon emissions.	A group set up to encourage development methods that lower carbon emissions.
Neutrino Oscillation	A quantum mechanical phenomenon whereby a neutrino created with a specific lepton flavor changes its flavor as it propagates through space.	The process by which neutrinos switch between different types as they travel.
Kamioka Observatory	A neutrino and cosmic ray physics laboratory located in Japan.	A research center in Japan that studies neutrinos and cosmic rays.
Super-Kamiokande	A neutrino observatory located in Japan designed to detect neutrinos from various sources.	A large detector in Japan used to observe neutrinos from space.
ServareGMP	A technology or product related to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) in pharmaceuticals.	A system ensuring that medicines are made safely and correctly.
Mapp Biopharmaceutical	A biotechnology company known for developing therapies for infectious diseases.	A company that makes medicines to treat infectious diseases.
Tropospheric Ozone and Insect Behavior	The study of how ozone in the lower atmosphere affects insect behavior.	Research on how the ozone layer near the Earth affects insects.
Super-Kamiokande Detector	A specific detector used in the Super-Kamiokande observatory to detect neutrinos.	A special device in the Super-Kamiokande lab used to find neutrinos.





Psilocybin	A naturally occurring psychedelic compound produced by certain types of mushrooms.	A chemical found in some mushrooms that causes hallucinations.
Circadian Rhythm	The natural, internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle and repeats roughly every 24 hours.	The body's internal clock that controls the sleep-wake cycle.
Photoentrainment	The process by which light synchronizes the circadian rhythm to the 24-hour day.	How light helps set the body's internal clock to the daily cycle.
Intrinsically Photosensitive Retinal Ganglion Cells (ipRGC)	A type of retinal cell that is sensitive to light and helps regulate circadian rhythms.	Special cells in the eye that detect light and help control the body's internal clock.
Melanopsin	A photopigment found in ipRGCs that is sensitive to blue light and helps regulate circadian rhythms.	A light-sensitive protein in the eye that helps regulate the body's internal clock.
Falcon (Endpoint Detection and Response software)	A cybersecurity solution by CrowdStrike for detecting and responding to threats on endpoints.	Software that helps detect and respond to cyber threats on computers and devices.
CrowdStrike	A cybersecurity technology company known for its endpoint protection software.	A company that provides cybersecurity solutions to protect against online threats.
Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)	The national agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents in India.	The government agency in India that handles cybersecurity threats and incidents.
National Informatics Centre (NIC)	An Indian government organization that provides IT services and infrastructure to support government activities.	The government body that provides IT support and services to other government departments in India.
Waxy Maize Hybrid	A type of corn hybrid that is high in amylopectin, making it useful for certain industrial and food applications.	A special type of corn used in industry and food because of its high amylopectin content.
Amylopectin	A component of starch that is highly branched and makes up most of the structure of plant starch.	Part of the starch in plants that has a branched structure.
Doubled Haploid (DH) technology	A plant breeding technique that produces plants that are genetically identical to the parent plant.	A method used in plant breeding to create plants that are exact genetic copies of their parent.
Digital Vaccination Registry (U-Win)	A digital platform to register and track vaccinations to ensure universal immunization coverage.	An online system to keep track of who has been vaccinated.





Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)	A program by the Government of India to provide free vaccines to all children across the country.	A government program in India that provides free vaccines to all children.
Green Revolution	A series of research, development, and technology transfer initiatives that increased agricultural production worldwide, especially in developing countries.	A period when new technology and methods greatly increased food production in many countries.
Greatest Elongation (Astronomy)	The maximum angle between the Sun and a planet as viewed from Earth, making the planet most visible in the sky.	When a planet is farthest from the Sun in the sky, making it easier to see.
Ecliptic (Astronomy)	The apparent path of the Sun on the celestial sphere, along which eclipses occur.	The path that the Sun appears to follow in the sky over the year.
Mercury and Venus Visibility	The times when Mercury and Venus are visible from Earth, typically near sunrise or sunset.	When you can see the planets Mercury and Venus in the sky, usually at dawn or dusk.
Rare Sensory Hearing Loss	Hearing loss due to rare conditions that affect the sensory organs or the nerves.	Hearing loss caused by uncommon problems with the ears or nerves.



Economy

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Balance of Payments (BoP)	A statement that summarizes a country's economic transactions with the rest of the world over a specific period.	A record of all the money a country receives from and spends with other countries.
Current Account	A component of the Balance of Payments that includes the trade balance, net primary income, and net secondary income.	Part of a country's financial records that includes trade and income transactions with other countries.
Capital Account	A component of the Balance of Payments that records all transactions made between entities in one country with entities in the rest of the world.	Part of a country's financial records that includes investments and other transactions with foreign entities.
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	Investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.	When a company or person invests money in businesses in another country.





Foreign Institutional Investments (FII)	Investments in financial assets from foreign investors.	Money invested in a country's financial markets by foreign investors.
Trade deficit	The amount by which the cost of a country's imports exceeds the value of its exports.	When a country buys more from other countries than it sells to them.
Gross National Product (GNP)	The total value of goods and services produced by a country's residents, regardless of the location of the production.	The total value of goods and services produced by a country's citizens, no matter where they are.
Seva Nidhi	A fund established for the benefit of soldiers as part of the Agnipath scheme.	A savings fund for soldiers, provided to them after their service.
Ex gratia	A payment made by the government or an organization voluntarily, not because of any legal obligation.	Money given by the government or an organization voluntarily, not because they have to.
Public Distribution System (PDS)	A government program in India aimed at providing food and non-food items to the disadvantaged at subsidized prices.	A government scheme to provide cheap food to poor people in India.
Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES): 2022-23	A survey conducted to gather data on the spending patterns of households.	A survey to find out how much families spend on different things.
Special Category Status (SCS)	A classification given to Indian states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.	A status given to some Indian states that need extra help because of their location and poverty.
Unincorporated Sector Employment	Employment in businesses that are not legally incorporated or registered as companies.	Jobs in businesses that are not officially registered as companies.
Gig Workers	Individuals who engage in short-term, flexible jobs or freelance work instead of traditional full-time employment.	People who work temporary or freelance jobs instead of regular full-time jobs.
Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)	The average monthly amount spent per person in a household.	The average amount of money each person in a family spends in a month.
India's Demographic Dynamics	The study of the population changes in India over time, including birth rates, death rates, and migration patterns.	Understanding how India's population changes over time in terms of births, deaths, and migration.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	A collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations to address issues like	Global goals set by the UN to tackle issues like poverty and climate change.





	poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability.	
Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM)	An Act of the Indian Parliament aimed at ensuring fiscal discipline by reducing fiscal deficits.	A law in India to help control government spending and reduce debt.
Food Inflation	The rate at which the price of food increases over time.	How quickly the prices of food items go up.
Ex-ante vs. Ex-post Framework	An analytical framework where ex-ante refers to forecasts or predictions before an event, and ex-post refers to analysis after the event has occurred.	Comparing predictions made before an event to the analysis done after it happens.
Household Sector Financial Savings	The savings accumulated by households, including deposits, investments, and other forms of savings.	Money saved by families in banks, investments, and other savings methods.
KLEMS Data	A dataset that breaks down the contributions to economic growth by capital (K), labor (L), energy (E), materials (M), and services (S).	Data that shows how different factors like labor and capital contribute to economic growth.
ASUSE Survey (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises)	A survey conducted to collect data on the performance of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises in India.	A yearly survey to gather information on small businesses in India that are not registered as companies.
Finance Commission	A constitutional body in India that makes recommendations on the distribution of tax revenues between the central and state governments.	A group in India that decides how tax money should be shared between the central and state governments.
Vertical Devolution	The distribution of tax revenues between the central government and state governments.	How tax money is divided between the central and state governments.
Horizontal Devolution	The distribution of tax revenues among the states based on various criteria like population, income, etc.	How tax money is shared among the states based on different factors like population.
Default Bail (Section 167, CrPC)	A type of bail granted when the police fail to complete the investigation within a specified period.	Bail given to an accused person if the police don't finish their investigation on time.
Current Account Surplus	A situation where a country's total exports of goods, services, and transfers exceed its total imports.	When a country earns more from exports and other sources than it spends on imports.
Intergenerational Fiscal Equity	The concept of ensuring that current fiscal policies do not unfairly burden future generations.	Making sure that today's financial decisions don't negatively impact future generations.





Intragenerational Equity	The concept of ensuring fair distribution of resources and opportunities within the current generation.	Ensuring fair sharing of resources and opportunities among people living today.
GVA (Gross Value Added)	The measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry, or sector of an economy.	The total value of goods and services produced in a specific area, industry, or sector.
IPO Allotment	The process of distributing shares of an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to investors.	How shares from a company's first public stock sale are given out to investors.
GDP Growth Rate	The annual percentage increase in the value of all goods and services produced in an economy.	How much the economy has grown in a year.
Inflation	The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising, leading to a decrease in purchasing power.	How much prices for things like food and clothes are increasing.
Fiscal Deficit	The difference when a government's total expenditures exceed the revenue that it generates, excluding money from borrowings.	When the government spends more money than it earns.
Current Account Deficit	When a country's total imports of goods, services, and transfers exceed its total exports.	When a country buys more from other countries than it sells to them.
Public Debt	The total amount of money that a government owes to creditors.	The money a government has borrowed and needs to repay.
Economic Reforms	Changes implemented to improve economic efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness.	Changes made to make the economy work better and grow faster.
IPO Calendar	A schedule of upcoming Initial Public Offerings, where companies offer shares to the public for the first time.	A list of dates when companies will start selling their shares to the public.
Stock Market Indices (Sensex, Nifty)	Benchmarks that measure the performance of a group of stocks representing the market or a sector.	Measures that show how the stock market or a part of it is performing.
Options Trading Basics	The fundamentals of buying and selling options, which are contracts giving the right to buy or sell assets at a future date.	Basic knowledge about trading contracts that allow you to buy or sell assets later.



Polity

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
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| Clear your doubts now.



National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)	The executive arm of the National Security Council responsible for coordinating national security and strategic policies.	The department that helps manage a country's national security strategies.
National Security Advisor (NSA)	The senior official in the government responsible for advising on national security issues.	The top advisor to the government on matters of national security.
Strategic Policy Group	A group that assists in formulating national security policies in coordination with various stakeholders.	A team that helps create national security policies by working with different groups.
Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	The senior-most military officer in the country, overseeing and coordinating the three branches of the armed forces.	The highest-ranking military officer responsible for managing the army, navy, and air force.
Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects	Hydroelectric power projects on the Kishenganga and Ratle rivers in India, part of the Indus River System.	Power projects on rivers in India that are part of the larger Indus River System.
Neutral Expert proceedings	A dispute resolution mechanism under the Indus Waters Treaty involving a neutral third-party expert.	A way to resolve disputes under the Indus Waters Treaty using an independent expert.
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.
One Rank One Pay (OROP)	A policy ensuring that military personnel of the same rank and length of service receive the same pension, regardless of their retirement date.	A rule that makes sure military veterans get the same pension if they have the same rank and service duration, no matter when they retired.
National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013	An Act to provide for food and nutritional security by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices.	A law to make sure people in India have enough good-quality food at low prices.
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Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)	A water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank.	A treaty between India and Pakistan to share river water.
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International Relations

Concepts	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Controlled digital lending	A system where libraries lend digitized copies of physical books in a controlled manner.	Libraries lending digital versions of physical books in a regulated way.
Strategic autonomy	The ability of a state to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without being constrained by other states.	A country's ability to make its own decisions and policies without outside interference.
G7 leaders meeting	An annual summit attended by the leaders of seven major advanced economies to discuss global issues.	A yearly meeting of leaders from seven rich countries to talk about important global matters.
Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)	A global development strategy adopted by China involving infrastructure development and investments in various countries.	China's plan to build infrastructure and invest in many countries around the world.
Pan-Asian railway network	A proposed network of railways connecting various countries in Asia to enhance connectivity and trade.	A planned railway system to link Asian countries and improve trade and travel.
Eastern Economic Forum	An international forum held in Russia to encourage foreign investment in the Russian Far East.	A meeting in Russia to attract investment to the eastern part of the country.
Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)	A water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank.	A treaty between India and Pakistan to share river water.
Mineral Security Partnership	An international partnership to secure and manage access to critical minerals.	A global agreement to ensure countries can get important minerals safely and reliably.





Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)	A global partnership launched to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.	A group formed to create vaccines and prevent future disease outbreaks.
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Naval Refit	The process of repairing and upgrading naval ships.	Fixing and improving naval ships.
Multi-role Frigate	A type of warship designed for multiple purposes, such as anti-submarine warfare, air defense, and surface combat.	A versatile warship that can perform many different military tasks.

