



CONCEPTS IN NEWS

February 2025



Environment

Keyword	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Exosphere	The outermost layer of Earth's atmosphere, where air molecules are extremely sparse.	The highest layer of the atmosphere, close to space.
Faecal Coliform	Bacteria found in human and animal waste, used as an indicator of water contamination.	Germ in water that shows if it's dirty and unsafe to drink.
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	A measure of the amount of oxygen needed by microorganisms to break down organic matter in water.	How much pollution is in water based on how much oxygen it uses.
Greenland Ice Sheet	A massive layer of ice covering Greenland, crucial for global climate regulation.	A giant ice layer in Greenland that affects global sea levels.
Microalgae	Tiny plant-like organisms in water that produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.	Tiny water plants that clean the air and make oxygen.
Anthropocene	A proposed geological epoch where human activities significantly impact Earth's environment.	The "human era" where people are changing nature a lot.
Aquifers	Underground layers of rock or sand that store fresh water.	Natural underground water storage tanks.



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Science and Technology

Keyword	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
TrailGuard AI	An AI-powered camera system designed for anti-poaching efforts in wildlife conservation.	Smart cameras used to stop illegal hunting of animals.
Botnets	Networks of infected computers controlled remotely to carry out cyber attacks.	A group of hacked computers used to spread viruses or steal data.
EAST Reactor	China's experimental fusion reactor designed to replicate the sun's energy process.	A Chinese project trying to create energy like the sun.
Stellarator	A type of nuclear fusion reactor designed to confine hot plasma using twisted magnetic fields.	A machine that could create unlimited clean energy by copying the sun's power.
Laser Inertial Fusion	A nuclear fusion method where lasers compress and heat fuel to trigger a reaction.	A way of making energy using powerful lasers to smash atoms together.
Topological Qubits	A special type of qubit that is more stable for quantum computing.	A new kind of quantum computing unit that doesn't break easily.
Quantum State	A mathematical description of a system in quantum mechanics, describing properties like position and momentum.	The way tiny particles behave, which scientists use in quantum computers.
Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS)	A cyberattack that overwhelms a website with excessive traffic, making it inaccessible.	A hacker attack that crashes a website by flooding it with fake visitors.
Quantum Computing	A computing technology using quantum mechanics to process information at super-fast speeds.	A super-powerful future computer that works differently from today's computers.
Qubits	The basic unit of quantum information, capable of being in multiple states at once.	The smallest unit of data in quantum computers, like bits in normal computers.
AI Infrastructure Deficiency	The lack of adequate computational and data resources to support AI systems and research.	When there's not enough tech or data to properly use or develop AI.





Neural Networks	Computer systems modeled on the human brain that are designed to recognize patterns.	Computer systems that learn and recognize patterns like the human brain.
UAV Swarm Technology	The use of multiple drones working together to achieve a task.	Many drones used together to perform jobs.
Edge AI	AI technologies that process data at the edge of the network, near the source of the data.	AI that works right where data is collected.
Cryogenic Propulsion	Rocket propulsion technologies that use super-cooled liquid fuels.	Rocket technology that uses extremely cold liquid fuels.
Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)	Nuclear reactors that are smaller in size and can be built modularly for easier deployment.	Smaller, more easily built nuclear reactors.
Quantum Computing	A type of computing using quantum-mechanical phenomena, such as superposition and entanglement.	Computers that use quantum physics to work incredibly fast.
Digital Public Infrastructure	Core digital systems that serve as a foundation for digital services accessible to the public.	Basic digital systems that support public digital services.



Economy

Keyword	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
Cropping Intensity	The ratio of total cropped area to net sown area, indicating how intensively land is used for farming.	How many times a piece of land is used for growing crops in a year.
Gig Work	Short-term, flexible jobs where individuals work as independent contractors rather than full-time employees.	Freelance or part-time jobs, like food delivery or online work.
Deposit Insurance Cover	A guarantee that depositors will be compensated up to a certain limit if a bank fails.	If a bank shuts down, your money is safe up to a set amount.





Rat-hole Mining	A hazardous method of coal mining where narrow tunnels are dug to extract coal, mainly in northeastern India.	A dangerous way of mining coal using small tunnels, harming both workers and the environment.
Capital Expenditure (Capex)	Money spent by governments or businesses on long-term assets like infrastructure and equipment.	Big investments made by the government or companies, like building roads or factories.
Quality of Public Expenditure (QPE) Index	A measure of how efficiently and effectively a government spends its resources.	A score that tells how wisely the government is spending money.
Minimum Support Price (MSP)	A price set by the government to ensure farmers get a minimum profit for their crops.	A government-set price that guarantees farmers won't make a loss on crops.
High-Analysis Fertilisers	Fertilizers that have a high concentration of essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium.	Fertilizers that contain more nutrients to help plants grow better.
Aggregate Demand	The total demand for goods and services in an economy over a period.	The total money people spend on buying things in a country.
Torres Ponzi Scam	A fraudulent investment scheme where returns are paid from new investors' money instead of actual profits.	A fake investment plan where old investors are paid with new investors' money until it collapses.
Marginal Propensity to Consume	The proportion of an additional unit of income that is spent on consumption.	The fraction of extra income that people spend, not save.
Marginal Propensity to Save	The proportion of an additional unit of income that is saved rather than spent.	The fraction of extra income that people save, not spend.
Multiplier Effect	The increase in final income arising from any new injection of spending.	The effect where spending more leads to an even greater increase in income.
Fiscal Impulse	A measure of the change in fiscal policy and its effect on economic activity.	How changes in government spending or taxes affect the economy.
Crowding Out Effect	A situation where private investment decreases because of increases in government spending or borrowing.	When government spending reduces private sector investment.
Repo Rate Cut	A decrease in the rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks.	When the central bank reduces the rate at which banks can borrow money.





External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR)	The interest rate that banks use to set their lending rates, linked to an external benchmark.	The rate banks use to decide how much to charge on loans, based on an outside standard.
Consumption-Led Growth	Economic growth that is primarily driven by consumer spending rather than other components like exports or investments.	Growth that happens when consumers spend more.
Hydrogen Economy	A proposed system of delivering energy using hydrogen as a key energy carrier.	Using hydrogen to store and deliver energy efficiently.



International Relations

Keyword	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
'Dunki' Route	An illegal migration pathway used to enter developed countries, often involving human smuggling.	A risky, illegal way people take to move to another country without a visa.
Conservative Internationalism	A foreign policy approach that balances military strength with diplomatic engagement while promoting national sovereignty.	A way of dealing with other countries by using both military power and peaceful talks.
Free Movement Regime (FMR)	Agreements allowing people to travel, work, and reside across borders with minimal restrictions.	People from certain countries can move freely across borders, like in the EU.
Strategic Partnership	A formal agreement between nations to cooperate on key areas like defense, trade, and security.	Countries agree to work together on important issues like military or business.
Security Dilemma	A situation where one country's actions to strengthen its security make other countries feel threatened, leading to tensions.	If one country builds up its army, others feel unsafe and do the same, leading to possible conflicts.
Non-Alignment 2.0	A modernized version of India's Cold War-era policy of staying neutral in global power struggles while engaging in strategic partnerships.	India stays neutral in global conflicts but still works with powerful countries when needed.





Rapprochement	The reestablishment of harmonious relations, particularly between countries.	Countries fixing their relationships and getting along again.
Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	A broad agreement between nations to cooperate on multiple levels, including economic, security, and cultural exchanges.	A wide-ranging agreement between countries to work together in many areas.
Luxury Hub Proposal- Trump's Gaza Plan	A part of a broader proposal aiming to create a new economic reality in Gaza.	A plan to turn Gaza into a luxury destination as part of a larger peace and economic initiative.



Polity

Keyword	Official Definition	Easy Explanation
PIL (Public Interest Litigation)	A legal mechanism allowing individuals or organizations to file cases in the public interest, even if they are not directly affected.	Anyone can file a court case if it benefits the general public, like for environmental protection or human rights.
Constitutional Morality	The adherence to constitutional values and principles by individuals and institutions, ensuring justice, liberty, and equality.	Following the core values of the Constitution, like fairness and justice, in all laws and actions.
'Rarest of Rare' Doctrine	A legal principle used by courts to justify the death penalty only in extremely exceptional cases.	The death penalty is given only in extreme cases, like brutal crimes.
Demographic Transition	A model that explains the shift from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates due to economic and social development.	How a country's population changes as it develops—fewer deaths, then fewer births.
Suo Motu Cognizance	When courts take action on a matter without a formal petition being filed.	The court acts on its own if it sees an issue needing urgent attention.
Pocket Veto	The president's power to indirectly veto a bill by keeping it unsigned until it is too late for it to be dealt with during the legislative session.	When the president doesn't sign a bill into law, letting it die.





Cognizable Offences	Serious criminal offenses in which a police officer has the authority to make an arrest without a warrant and to start an investigation.	Serious crimes where police can arrest without needing to get a warrant first.
Doctrine of Pith and Substance	A principle used in constitutional law to determine under which jurisdiction (state or federal) a law falls.	A rule to decide if a law should be handled by state or national government.
Temporary Restraining Order (TRO)	A short-term court order issued to prohibit someone from doing an activity until a hearing can be held.	A temporary order by a court to stop someone from doing something until further notice.
Pocket Veto	The president's power to indirectly veto a bill by keeping it unsigned until it is too late for it to be dealt with during the legislative session.	When the president doesn't sign a bill into law, letting it die.
Executive Overreach	Actions taken by government officials that go beyond their legal powers.	When government officials do things they're not legally allowed to do.

