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The Hindu & The Indian express

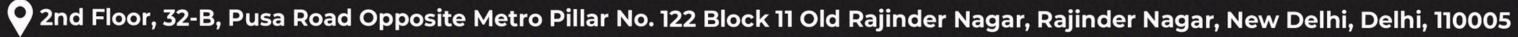| Headline	Source
SC modifies 'harsh' order, says stray dogs to be released after sterilisation	The Indian Express, Page 1
Draft UGC curriculum puts focus on 'ancient wisdom'	The Hindu, Page 10

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Headline	Source
Enabler, Not Disruptor: India's policy challenge is to ensure AI supports small businesses, workers	The Indian Express (Editorial), Page 12
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DELHI-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SC modifies 'harsh' order, says stray dogs to be released after sterilisation

Only aggressive dogs or those with rabies to be kept in shelters: Bench

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

TERMING ITS earlier order on confining stray dogs in Delhi-NCR to dedicated shelters instead of releasing them as "too harsh", the Supreme Court on Friday directed that these dogs should be returned to the area from where they were picked up after sterilisation, deworming and vaccination, in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

The court, however, "clarified that this relocation shall not apply to dogs infected with rabies or suspected to be infected with rabies, and those that display aggressive behaviour". "Such dogs shall be sterilised and immunised, but under no circumstances should they be released back onto the streets. Furthermore, as far as possible, such stray dogs shall be kept in a separate pound/shelter after sterilisation and immunisation," a three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria said.

Expanding the scope of the case beyond the confines of Delhi-NCR, the court directed that all States and Union Territories be impleaded in the matter. It also said that all related cases pending before various High Courts CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DOG LOVERS TOLD TO PAY FOR INFRA

THE BENCH asked individual "dog lovers" and NGOs, who approached the court against the earlier order, to deposit Rs 25,000 and Rs 2 lakh, respectively, within a week to continue being heard in the matter.

"THE AMOUNTS so deposited shall be utilised in the creation of infrastructure and facilities for the stray dogs under the aegis of the respective municipal bodies," the bench said.

CITY

ANIMAL LOVERS CELEBRATE; MCD TO MARK FEEDING SPOTS SOON PAGE 4

SC modifies 'harsh' order, says stray dogs to be released after sterilisation

Source: The Indian Express Page No.: 1

GS Paper

- **GS-2: Health (Public health, zoonotic diseases)**
- **GS-3: Environment & Conservation (Animal welfare, human–animal conflict, biodiversity ethics)**

Context of the Article

The issue of stray dog management in India has long been debated due to rising concerns over dog bites, rabies cases, and public safety. A previous Supreme Court directive had ordered that stray dogs in Delhi-NCR be confined to shelters instead of being released back on the streets. This order faced criticism as being "too harsh" and impractical, sparking petitions from NGOs and dog lovers.

The new ruling modifies this earlier stance, balancing public health, animal rights, and humane treatment of strays within the framework of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

Summary of the Supreme Court Judgment Modification of Earlier Order:

The SC termed its earlier order of keeping stray dogs confined in shelters as "too harsh."

New Directive:

- Stray dogs should be returned to the area from where they were picked up after:
  - Sterilisation
  - Deworming
  - Vaccination (especially against rabies)
  - This is in line with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

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Exception:

- Dogs infected with rabies, suspected rabid dogs, and aggressive dogs should not be released.
- Such dogs should be kept in shelters/pounds even after sterilisation and immunisation.

Role of Dog Lovers/NGOs:

- Petitioners opposing the earlier order must deposit ₹25,000 (individuals) and ₹2 lakh (NGOs).
- The money will be used to create infrastructure and facilities for stray dogs under municipal authorities.

Wider Scope:

- The order now applies beyond Delhi-NCR to all States and Union Territories.

Rule 11 of ABC Rules, 2023
Deals with capture, sterilisation, immunisation, and release of street dogs.

- Capture allowed on two grounds:
1. Population control programme initiated by local bodies.
2. Complaints of aggression/dog bites/rabies suspicion reported to an Animal Complaint Cell.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (Parent Act)
Background & Aim

- First comprehensive law in India on animal welfare.

Objective: Prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to animals.

- Reflects Article 51A(g) – Fundamental Duty to show compassion to all living creatures.

Key Provisions

- Defines cruelty: beating, overloading, mutilating, neglect, killing, abandonment.
- Exemptions: Food, regulated scientific experiments, religious practices.

- Establishes Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) (first chairperson: Rukmini Devi Arundale).

Draft UGC curriculum puts focus on 'ancient wisdom'

Framework suggests exploring contributions of Indian mathematicians, and inclusion of 'Bharatiya philosophy' in commerce, traditional beverages in chemistry, and *dharmic* thought in economics

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) for anthropology, chemistry, commerce, economics, geography, home science, mathematics, physical education, and political science.

The LOCF lays stress on the inclusion of Indian knowledge systems in each subject. The UGC has invited feedback from stakeholders on the LOCF. This new curriculum comes at a time when the non-BJP-ruled States are protesting against the focus on these systems on grounds of alleged 'saffronisation' of the curriculum.

While the LOCF on chemistry starts with a salutation to Saraswati, the commerce curriculum suggests colleges to teach Kautilya's *Arthshastra*. V.D. Savarkar's *Indian War of Independence* has found a place in the reading list for the course on 'Bharatiya Struggle for Independence'.

Though the National Education Policy promotes multidisciplinary courses and holistic education, the LOCF prioritises single-major pathways and most credits are allocated to discipline-specific courses, leaving limited room for multidisciplinary exploration.

Every LOCF speaks in detail about how Indian systems should be added in the studies.

Mandala geometry and *yantras, rangoli,* and *kolam* as algorithmic art forms, temple architecture and *āyādi* ratios will be included in courses on mathematics.

The objectives include exploring the foundational contributions of Indian mathematicians to arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and calculus, and analysing key mathematical concepts and techniques developed in India and their applications.

'Bharatiya philosophy' will be added in commerce education. "Commerce education must incorporate the holistic learning approach derived from Bharatiya philosophy. The ancient Gurukul system emphasised the all-round development of individuals, encompassing physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth. These values, when applied to commerce, promote ethical decision-making, responsible leadership, and sustainable business practices," the LOCF said, adding that Kautilya's *Arthashastra* provides insights into trade regulations, governance, and financial management,

which remain relevant today.

Indian concepts of wealth and prosperity in *dharmic* thought; role of the king in economy; trade and labour ethics; guild codes and collective enterprise; ecological and agrarian values; principles of *dana* and indigenous exchange systems will be taught in economics courses.

In chemistry, in a module on "Chemistry of Alcoholic Beverages", traditional Indian fermented beverages and preparation methods for *kanji, mahua,* toddy and chemical reactions involved in the conversion of sugars to ethanol during fermentation will be taught. Chemistry will have a brief idea of ancient Indian knowledge of *Parmanu*. In a unit on atomic structure, recapitulation of concept of atom in ancient India will be taught along with Bohr's theory and its limitations.

On anthropology, the curriculum says ancient thinkers like Charaka, Sushruta, Buddha, and Mahavira have long discussed the symbiotic relationship between nature and culture, offering indigenous perspectives on concepts central to anthropology.

The University Grants Commission has sought feedback from stakeholders on the draft curriculum framework. S. MAHINSHA

Draft UGC curriculum puts focus on 'ancient wisdom'
Source: The Hindu, Page No. 10

GS Paper Mapping: GS-2 – Education (Higher Education Reforms)

Context of the Article

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released a draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) for various subjects.

- It stresses the inclusion of Indian knowledge systems and ancient wisdom (mathematics, philosophy, commerce, economics, chemistry, anthropology, etc.).
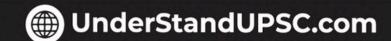- Some states oppose this, calling it "saffronisation" of education.

Summary

Draft LOCF integrates Indian knowledge systems into mainstream curriculum.
Examples:

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- **Mathematics:** mandala geometry, rangoli, kolam as algorithmic art.
- **Economics:** dharmic thought, Kautilya's Arthashastra, dana principles, indigenous trade systems.
- **Chemistry:** traditional beverages, Indian knowledge of parmanu (atoms).
- **Anthropology:** Indian thinkers like Charaka, Sushruta, Buddha.

LOCF focuses on single-major, discipline-specific courses, limiting multidisciplinary exploration.
 UGC seeks feedback from stakeholders before finalising.

- Opposition from some non-BJP ruled states → fear of ideological bias.

1. LOCF (Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework)

- **Focus:** Subject-specific learning outcomes.
- **Approach:** Defines what a student should know, understand, and be able to do after completing a course.
- **Nature:** More discipline–centric (e.g., anthropology, chemistry, economics separately).
- **Flexibility:** Prioritises single–major, credit–specific courses, less space for multidisciplinary choice.
- **Knowledge Inclusion:** Recently, UGC LOCF draft stresses Indian knowledge systems & ancient wisdom (e.g., Arthashastra in economics, rangoli in mathematics, traditional beverages in chemistry).
- **Goal:** Ensure measurable, outcome–based education within a subject framework.

2. NEP 2020 (National Education Policy)

- **Focus:** Holistic, multidisciplinary, and flexible education system.
- **Approach:** Encourages choice–based learning, multiple entry–exit, and credit transfer.
- **Nature:** Broader education philosophy, not just subject outcomes.
- **Flexibility:** Emphasises multidisciplinary learning (e.g., a student can study economics with music or chemistry with history).
- **Knowledge Inclusion:** Promotes global exposure + Indian knowledge traditions, but within a broad flexible framework.
- **Goal:** Transform India into a knowledge society, align with 21st–century skills, employability, and innovation.

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What is UGC?

- Statutory body under UGC Act, 1956.
- Regulates, coordinates, and maintains standards of higher education in India.

    - Grants recognition to universities & allocates funds.
    - HQ: New Delhi, under Ministry of Education.

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ENABLER, NOT DISRUPTOR

India's policy challenge is to ensure AI supports small businesses, workers

PAYAL MALIK, NIKITA JAIN AND SHAILLY GUPTA

BEHIND THE HEADLINES of layoffs, attributed partly to the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI), there is a more fundamental question: How will India shape the trajectory of AI in ways that its impact on jobs, productivity, and economy is inclusive?

Estimates from the ServiceNow–Pearson AI Skills Research 2025 report indicate that agentic AI could reshape over 10.35 million jobs and create 3 million new tech roles in India by 2030, placing the country ahead of Singapore and Australia in AI transformation. A 2025 ILO study highlights that, as new tasks emerge in AI deployment, jobs are likely to evolve rather than disappear. This optimism must be tempered with a clear-eyed view of India's structural challenges. The farm sector, which employs the most people in India, has limited exposure to AI. Labour-intensive sectors, especially services, which contributed 55 per cent to GDP and 31 per cent to employment in FY24, could, however, be impacted. Compounding this is the slow pace of skilling and low adoption of evolving competencies, especially among informal workers. How these structural gaps interact with AI adoption in India will determine whether technology exacerbates existing employment gaps or helps close them.

Economist and Nobel Laureate Daron Acemoglu has argued that AI's impact is not destiny but a choice. The central dilemma lies between two distinct AI pathways — automation and augmentation. Automation entails using AI to replace human workers, boosting efficiency but risking job losses. Augmentation involves using AI to complement human effort, enhancing productivity while preserving or expanding employment. India must avoid

India's digital public infrastructure model should be anchored in shared infrastructure, open standards, and interoperability to make sure that innovators are not locked out. Public investment in incubators, accelerators, and mentorship should not be limited to scaling a few unicorns but to building an ecosystem of sustainable enterprises. When empowered with the right digital tools, computing access, and tailored skilling, MSMEs can become powerful engines of employment-rich growth.

the automation trap and prioritise three interlinked pillars — skilling workers, reducing inequality through inclusive, non-extractive infrastructure, and fostering entrepreneurship through support for innovation.

These shifts are underway in some sectors. Tata Steel uses AI co-pilots to support engineers rather than displacing workers. Infosys has launched large-scale reskilling efforts. Siemens is deploying generative AI to enhance productivity and worker well-being. These examples point to a path where AI acts as a charioteer (saarthi) and not a destroyer (vinashak).

To scale such models, a focus on lifelong learning is essential. Digital and AI-related competencies should be embedded across schools, universities, industrial training institutes, and vocational centres. Strengthening academia-industry-government partnerships is equally vital. Flagship programmes such as the Atal Innovation Mission, Startup India, Future Skills PRIME, Youth for Unnati, and Vikas with AI must be scaled up.

Emerging evidence shows that generative AI tools can help narrow skill gaps, particularly for workers with low skills, by serving as collaborative tools. With AI transforming both low- and high-skill jobs, success increasingly hinges on developing the cognitive and social-emotional skills that machines cannot replicate.

To realise AI's augmenting potential, India must ensure markets remain open and competitive. As highlighted in the ICRIER AI Markets and Competition report, the growing dominance of vertically integrated firms risks replicating platform-era distortions. Infrastructure lock-in, bundling of services, self-preferencing and proprietary standards could

restrict smaller players from participating in the AI economy. If unchecked, these structures will place critical decisions about AI deployment in the hands of a few firms. Employers, driven by cost efficiencies, may default to automation-first approaches. AI infrastructure providers, be they foundational models, storage, or computing, may shape AI's trajectory.

The policy challenge, therefore, is not merely enabling AI access but also ensuring that AI ecosystems remain contestable and worker-supportive. This will require competitive access to cloud and edge computing, open APIs, and interoperable systems, and supporting indigenous development of Small Language Models, domain-optimised AI models or domain-specific agents, and vernacular tools to democratise AI innovation.

Computing, storage, and access to datasets should be treated as public goods. India's digital public infrastructure model should be anchored in shared infrastructure, open standards, and interoperability to make sure that innovators are not locked out. Public investment in incubators, accelerators, and mentorship should not be limited to scaling a few unicorns but to building an ecosystem of sustainable enterprises. When empowered with the right digital tools, computing access, and tailored skilling, MSMEs can become powerful engines of employment-rich growth.

AI may displace some jobs. But with the right policy choices, institutional support, and infrastructure, it can become a driver for inclusive growth.

The writers are at the ICRIER Prosus Centre (IPCIDE)

Enabler, Not Disruptor: India's policy challenge is to ensure AI supports small businesses, workers

Source: The Indian Express (Editorial)
Page Number: 12

Subject: GS3 – Environment and Economy

Context

The article analyzes the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on employment, productivity, and inclusive growth in India, focusing on policy challenges for balancing AI augmentation (enabling and evolving jobs) rather than displacement.

Summary

- India is facing the challenge of managing AI's effects on jobs, productivity, and economic inclusivity.

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- Estimates show AI could create over 10.3 million jobs and 3 million tech roles by 2030.
- As new tasks emerge with AI, most jobs are likely to evolve and be augmented, rather than eliminated.
- This positive outlook is tempered by India's structural labour challenges—farm and labour–intensive sectors, which dominate employment and GDP, have limited exposure to AI and could be affected.
- The article emphasizes avoiding the automation trap by prioritizing three pillars: skilling workers, reducing inequality through inclusive infrastructure, and fostering entrepreneurship.

- Corporate examples (Tata Steel, Infosys) show AI is used to augment productivity and enhance worker well–being, not merely cut jobs.
- Government flagship schemes like the Atal Innovation Mission and Future Skills PRIME aim to scale up lifelong AI skills and support workforce augmentation.
- The need for open, interoperable digital infrastructure is highlighted so innovators and MSMEs are not locked out and augmentation benefits all, not just major players.
- The article cautions against restricting access to core AI technologies, warning this could harm small businesses and breed economic inequality.

- Concludes that India's AI policy must aim for augmentation—empowering and evolving jobs—rather than job destruction, promoting inclusive growth.

1. Automation
- **Definition:** Automation uses AI systems to perform tasks without human involvement, often replacing human work entirely.
- **Impact on Humans:** Reduces the need for manual labour, potentially leading to job displacement, especially in repetitive and routine roles. Humans may be relieved from monotonous work but could face unemployment if their skills are not upgraded.
- **Example:** Robots in factories assembling products, AI chatbots handling customer queries without human intervention.
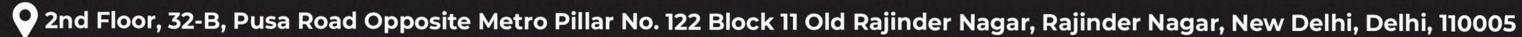
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2. Augmentation

- **Definition:** Augmentation uses AI systems to assist and enhance human capabilities, allowing people to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

- **Impact on Humans:** Empowers workers by supporting decision–making, boosting productivity, and enabling more focus on complex, creative, or high–value tasks. It helps humans adapt to new roles and responsibilities, thereby reducing the risk of job loss and enhancing employment quality.

- **Example:** AI tools that help doctors diagnose diseases faster, or software that assists lawyers by analyzing large volumes of legal documents.

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WHY NOT ALL VIRUSES LEAD TO A PANDEMIC AFTER TRANSMISSION

WHEN A disease-causing virus jumps from one species to another, most often, the infection fails to establish sustained transmission in its new environment. On the rare occasion, however, it can trigger a pandemic.

A new study has now identified some key factors which determine whether a pathogen will persist after it spills over to a new population. These are: the fraction of the exposed population that's infected (or infection prevalence); the ability to release copies of the virus into the environment (or viral shedding); and how vulnerable the hosts are to the virus (or infection susceptibility).

The study was published in the journal *PLOS Biology* on Thursday.

David Kennedy, researcher at the Pennsylvania State University and senior author on the paper, in a statement, said, "This work helps us figure out which out-

PAPER CLIP
NEW RESEARCH

breaks to worry about so that we can direct our public health resources where they need to go to prevent and respond to disease emergence."

For their study, researchers induced a spillover among a species of worms by exposing them to the Orsas virus. The worms were seen to reproduce and grow for five to 13 days, after which 20 adult worms were transferred to a new, virus-free Petri dish where they could multiply and grow again. This was repeated until no trace of the virus could be detected.

Specific traits among worms remaining from the initial lot were studied including what fraction of the worms were infected and how much virus each worm shed into the air. This helped scientists determine that infection prevalence, viral shedding, and infection susceptibility play a substantial role in explaining the outcome of a spillover event. **ENS**

WHY NOT ALL VIRUSES LEAD TO A PANDEMIC AFTER TRANSMISSION

Source: The Indian Express Page Number: 14

Subject: GS Paper 3 – Science and Technology

Context

The article explains why most viruses that jump from one species to another fail to sustain transmission and cause pandemics, outlining the key factors influencing virus persistence and spillover outcomes.

Characteristics of Viruses:

They lack cellular machinery for metabolism and reproduction, so they can only replicate inside living host cells, making them obligate parasites.

Viruses exhibit traits of both living and non–living entities: they can replicate and evolve inside hosts but remain inert outside.

They do not grow, metabolize, or generate energy independently.

- Viruses are highly diverse in structure, genetic material (DNA or RNA, single or double–stranded), and replication methods.

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23th AUG, 2025

Summary:

Most viruses fail to establish sustained transmission after species spillover.

Key determinants of persistence are infection prevalence, viral shedding, and host susceptibility.

A study using Orsas virus in worms demonstrated these factors influence spillover success and pandemic potential, aiding public health resource targeting for disease emergence prevention.

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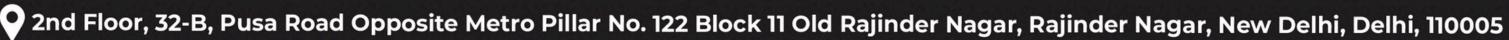understand.upsc | UnderStandUPSC.com | UnderStand UPSC | UnderStand UPSC

40% of Chief Ministers face criminal cases: ADR report

Of the 30 Chief Ministers in the country, 12 of them, or 40%, declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a new report by poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms. Telangana CM Revanth Reddy has declared 89 cases against him, the highest, followed by Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin, who declared 47. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis declared four cases, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan declared two, and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann declared one case. According to the report by the ADR, 10, or 33%, of the CMs have declared serious criminal cases, including cases related to attempt to murder, kidnapping, bribery, and criminal intimidation against them. PTI

- Out of 30 Chief Ministers in India, 12 (40%) have declared criminal cases against themselves.

- According to the ADR report, 10 Chief Ministers (33%) have declared serious criminal cases, which include charges like attempt to murder, kidnapping, bribery, and criminal intimidation.

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DAILY MCQs FOR PRACTICE

Q1. The Supreme Court's recent modification regarding stray dogs in Delhi-NCR directs that:

A) All stray dogs must be confined indefinitely in dedicated shelters
B) Only aggressive or rabies-infected dogs must be kept in shelters, others to be sterilised and released
C) Stray dogs should be relocated to other states after sterilisation
D) Sterilisation of stray dogs is no longer mandatory

Q2. The draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework by UGC emphasizes the inclusion of:

A) Western economic theories and philosophy only
B) Indigenous Indian knowledge systems including Bharatiya philosophy and traditional chemistry
C) A purely scientific curriculum with no cultural references
D) Modern political theories exclusively

Q3. Which government initiative primarily promotes innovation and entrepreneurship in India?

A) Atal Innovation Mission
B) National Health Mission
C) Digital India Program
D) Make in India

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DAILY MCQs FOR PRACTICE

Q4.Which of the following combinations correctly identifies key factors that determine if a virus initiates a sustained spillover transmission to a new host species?

A) Virus size, Host age, Transmission mode
B) Infection prevalence, Viral shedding, Host susceptibility
C) Climate, Host diet, Viral RNA type
D) Viral load, Transmission frequency, Host genetics

Q5.According to the latest ADR report, what percentage of Indian Chief Ministers have declared serious criminal cases such as kidnapping, bribery, or intimidation against themselves?

A) 15%
B) 33%
C) 50%
D) 66%

Answers

1.**B**
2.**B**
3.**A**
4.**B**
5.**B**

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