



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 29-01-2025**

### **GS-1**

- 1. Declining Population of the Koraga Tribe**

### **GS-2**

- 2. At 75, constitutional justice and personal liberty**

### **GS-3**

- 3. Social media pollution**
- 4. Deepseek**
- 5. Missiles on Republic day display**

## **Declining Population of the Koraga Tribe**

**Syllabus: GS-1: Population Geography – Tribes in India.**

### **Context:**

- The Koraga tribe, classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), is experiencing a worrying decline in population and continues to face significant socio-economic and cultural challenges. Here's an organized overview of the key points:

### **Demographics and Challenges**

- **Population Decline:**
  - Two decades ago: ~20,000 members.
  - Current population: ~16,000.
  - Projected population: ~12,000 in the near future if trends persist.
- **Contributing Factors:**
  - Decreasing birth rates.
  - High infant mortality rates.
  - Malnutrition and poor healthcare access.
  - Limited education opportunities.
  - Historical injustices and ongoing violations of constitutional rights.

### **Constitutional Rights and Social Issues**

- **Untouchability and Discrimination:**
  - Despite constitutional safeguards, Koragas face untouchability and marginalization.
  - Practices like *ajalu* reinforce their social exclusion.
- **Calls for Action:**
  - Political leaders advocate for compensation for historical injustices.
  - Implementation of pro-tribal laws to protect their rights and dignity is demanded.

### Government Initiatives

➤ **Kerala Government Programmes:**

- Nutritious food distribution to tribal households.
- Late 2024: Land grants to 530 Koraga families in Kasaragod district.

➤ **Need for Further Support:**

- More comprehensive initiatives for healthcare, education, and employment.
- Greater recognition and enforcement of tribal rights.

### Culture and Economy

➤ **Livelihood:**

- Agrarian lifestyle with reliance on forest produce.
- Traditional crafts like basket-making.

➤ **Cultural Practices:**

- Rich heritage of folk dances and rituals.
- Matrilineal family structure and clan system (*bali*).
- Drumming and music, such as *dholu*, are integral to their identity.

### Religious Beliefs and Practices

➤ **Hindu Influence with Tribal Practices:**

- Worship of spirits (*Bhutas*).
- Belief in magic and rituals.
- Drum-beating as a spiritual practice to ward off evil.

### Key Takeaways

While some government initiatives aim to improve living conditions for the Koraga tribe, sustained efforts are crucial. Holistic interventions in healthcare, education, and socio-economic empowerment, coupled with legal enforcement of tribal rights, can help address their challenges and preserve their cultural identity.

## **At 75, constitutional justice and personal liberty**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – interpretation of constitutional values.**

### **Context:**

- **Celebration and Reflection:** 75 years of the Constitution mark a time for celebration and introspection.
- **Ethical and Moral Crisis:** Personal liberty and human dignity face challenges due to mechanical interpretations of constitutional values.

### **Reinstating Dissent as a Constitutional Ethic**

- **Key Judicial Developments:**
  - **A.K. Gopalan Case (1950):** Majority ruling upheld preventive detention but was later recognized as a judicial error.
  - **Puttaswamy Case (2017):**
    - Affirmed Justice S. Fazl Ali's dissent in the Gopalan case.
    - Emphasized Article 21's role in safeguarding dignity and liberty.
- **Constitutional Ethics:**
  - Personal liberty viewed as integral to justice.
  - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of a Constitution that is **workable, flexible, and strong** to unify the nation.
- **Challenges to Constitutional Values:**
  - Preventive detention and anti-terror laws restrict dissent.
  - Arbitrary arrests and denial of fair trials create systemic injustice.

### **Personal Liberty and Contemporary Paradoxes**

- **Dissent Criminalized:** Anti-CAA protesters face prolonged detention under anti-terror laws.
- **Process as Punishment:** Escalation in arrests highlights procedural opacity and delayed justice.
- **Judicial Role:** Courts must reconcile the paradox of reinstating dissent while criminalizing it.

### A.K. Gopalan and Modern Parallels

➤ **Historical Account:**

- A.K. Gopalan's imprisonment (1947-1951) under colonial-era laws.
- His persistent legal battles and eventual release reflect the struggle for liberty.

➤ **Contemporary Resisters:**

- Anti-CAA protesters like Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam face similar systemic challenges.
- Courts exhibit less urgency in securing their release compared to Gopalan's time.

### Retrospective Reflections and the Road Ahead

➤ **Modern Instances of Injustice:**

- Bhima Koregaon and Delhi riots cases illustrate systemic targeting of dissenters.
- Many arrests involve intellectuals, community leaders, and activists, often from marginalized groups.

➤ **Need for Judicial Creativity:**

- Emphasis on '**creative constitutionalism**' to uphold personal liberty.
- Urgent judicial interventions required to prevent historical errors from repeating.

➤ **Ethical Responsibility:**

- Uphold constitutional values of dissent and dignity as justice.
- Avoid retrospective regret by ensuring timely and just application of laws.

### Conclusion

- **Reaffirming Constitutional Spirit:** The right to personal liberty must remain central to justice.
- **Role of Judiciary:** Essential to safeguard dissent and dignity as fundamental values of the Constitution.

## **Social media pollution**

**Syllabus: GS-3: social media and its impact on internal security.**

**Context:**

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar emphasized the need for measures to address "social media pollution," similar to efforts in combating air pollution.
- **Event:** Valedictory address at the international conference of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of 13 countries, culminating in the adoption of the "Delhi Declaration 2025."

### **Key Concerns Regarding Social Media Pollution**

- **Fake News:**
  - Disrupts the social fabric using new technologies.
  - Threatens the fairness and purity of democratic processes.
- **Business Interests:**
  - Social media platforms prioritize profits, likened to spreading diseases and selling medicines.
  - Results in biased algorithms that reinforce specific perspectives and amplify misinformation.

### **Observations by CEC Rajiv Kumar**

- **Role of Social Media Companies:**
  - Platforms provide critical space for free expression but risk being overshadowed by fake, misleading, and disruptive narratives.
  - Algorithms should aim to present balanced perspectives instead of reinforcing biases.
- **Challenges with Fact-Checking:**
  - Sole reliance on fact-checkers is insufficient.
  - Easily detectable fakes pass unchecked, leaving Election Management Bodies (EMBs) to bear the burden of corrections.

### **Proposed Solutions**

- **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):**

- A structured strategy akin to air pollution measures to address social media pollution.
- **Algorithmic Changes:**
  - Design algorithms to identify and curb the spread of detectable fake news effectively.
- **Collaboration:**
  - EMBs agreed to form a working group to collectively tackle misinformation and false narratives.

### "Delhi Declaration 2025"

- Reflects the commitment of 13 participating countries to uphold the principles of:
  - Free, fair, and inclusive elections.
  - Combating misinformation and ensuring transparency in electoral processes.

### Quote by Home Minister

- "Fake news has the power to disrupt the social fabric of society with the help of new technology."

### About Social Media Pollution:

#### Introduction

- **Definition:** Social media pollution refers to the dissemination of harmful, misleading, or disruptive content on social media platforms, affecting societal harmony, individual well-being, and democratic processes.

#### Types of Social Media Pollution

- **Misinformation and Fake News**
  - Spreads rumors and false narratives.
  - Impacts elections, public health, and social stability.
- **Hate Speech and Cyberbullying**
  - Promotes communal tension and mental health issues.
- **Data Pollution**
  - Overload of irrelevant or excessive information.
  - Reduces the ability to discern credible sources.

➤ **Trolling and Toxic Comments**

- Erodes constructive dialogue and trust.

➤ **Addiction and Overuse**

- Contributes to reduced productivity and social isolation.

**Causes of Social Media Pollution**

- Lack of content regulation and accountability.
- Algorithmic biases promoting sensationalism over accuracy.
- Anonymity encouraging unethical behavior.
- Propaganda by vested interests or foreign entities.

**Impacts of Social Media Pollution**

➤ **Social Impacts**

- Divisive ideologies and polarization.
- Mental health issues like anxiety and depression.

➤ **Political Impacts**

- Manipulation of public opinion.
- Threats to democratic processes.

➤ **Economic Impacts**

- Damage to brand reputation.
- Cybercrime and financial fraud.

**Solutions to Address Social Media Pollution**

➤ **Policy Interventions:**

- Stricter content moderation laws.
- Enforcement of IT regulations like the **IT Rules, 2021** in India.

➤ **Technological Measures:**

- AI tools to detect fake news and hate speech.

➤ **Awareness and Education:**

- Digital literacy campaigns.



- Promoting critical thinking skills.
- **Platform Accountability:**
  - Transparency in algorithms.
  - Fact-checking partnerships.

### Conclusion

- Tackling social media pollution requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, tech platforms, and civil society. Ensuring ethical and responsible usage of social media is critical for safeguarding societal harmony and democracy.

## **Deepseek**

### Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology –Artificial Intelligence.

#### Context:

- High-flyer, a little-known Zhenjiang-based hedge fund that used AI for trading, has developed a language model that has upended the world of AI.

#### OpenAI's Dominance in AI

- San Francisco-based OpenAI leads AI development with its generative pre-trained language models.
- Key achievements:
  - ChatGPT: Generated poems, stories, debugged code, and assisted in internet searches.
  - 'O' series introduced inference-time scaling for handling increasing data efficiently.

#### China's AI Initiatives

- **Ernie Bot:**
  - Launched by Baidu in March 2023 with over 30 million user sign-ups on day one.
  - Struggled due to:
    - Chinese censorship (dodged sensitive topics like Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Muslims).

- Lack of open-source ideas and training data.

### ➤ **Challenges:**

- Eric Schmidt highlighted China's late entry into the AI race and limited experience with open-source frameworks.

## **Emergence of DeepSeek**

### ➤ **DeepSeek's AI Models:**

- **DeepSeek-v3** (December 2024):
  - Mixture-of-Expert (MoE) model with 14.8 trillion tokens and 671 billion parameters.
  - Efficient processing with task-specific sub-models ("experts").
- **DeepSeek-R1:**
  - Cost-efficient model, reducing API call costs by 93% compared to OpenAI's o1.
  - Designed for local deployment, reducing reliance on costly cloud infrastructure.
  - Memory-efficient, accessible for businesses and developers.

## **Future of AI Competition**

### ➤ **AI Advancements:**

- Growing demand for GPUs to build advanced models.
- U.S. companies lead due to access to better chips and larger-scale compute power.

### ➤ **AI Leadership:**

- OpenAI and DeepSeek models are pioneers in reasoning AI.
- America retains a competitive edge with superior infrastructure and training resources.

## **Key Takeaways for the AI Race**

### ➤ **Global Trends:**

- U.S. companies dominate AI development with efficient training and scaling capabilities.

- China faces challenges due to censorship and lack of open-source practices.
- **Innovation and Infrastructure:**
  - Cost-efficient, memory-optimized models like DeepSeek-R1 redefine AI accessibility.
  - Future innovations hinge on compute power and new training methodologies.

## **Missiles on Republic day display**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Defence & Security**

### **Context**

- The 76th Republic Day parade showcased India's evolving missile systems and advanced artillery, reflecting the nation's tactical and strategic advancements.



### **Missile Systems and Artillery Showcased**

#### **1. BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile**

- Displayed by the 344 Missile Regiment, demonstrating mobility and deployment capabilities in extreme conditions like Eastern Ladakh.
- 2. **Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile**
  - India's first conventional ballistic missile with a twin launcher system.
  - Flexible range and capability to deploy various warheads.
  - Development trials completed, with acceptance for procurement by the Army and Air Force.
- 3. **Upgraded Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch System (MRLS)**
  - Fully automated system delivering 72 rockets up to 75 km in 44 seconds.
  - Enhanced to 75 km from 37 km, with plans to increase range to 120 km and 300 km.
  - Specialized ammunition like Area Denial Munition (ADM) and High-Explosive Pre-Fragmented rockets tested.
- 4. **BM-21 Grad Rocket System**
  - Proven system from the 1999 Kargil War, upgraded with Ashok Leyland super stallion platforms for improved mobility and maintenance.
- 5. **Smerch Rocket Regiments**
  - Extended range to 90 km.
- 6. **Nirbhay Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile**
  - Longest-range option under development, with recent trials showcasing indigenous engines.

### Key Additions

- **Sanjay Battlefield Surveillance System**
  - Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited for phased induction in Army units.
- **Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)**
  - Indigenous artillery showcased as part of DRDO's advancements.

### Strategic Insights

- The war in Ukraine underscored the importance of long-range tactical capabilities, driving developments in India's missile and artillery programs.
- The Pinaka system's enhancement represents a significant leap in long-range rocket artillery, with its specialized ammunition further augmenting battlefield effectiveness.

### Future Outlook

- The Nirbhay missile is anticipated to be featured in upcoming parades, symbolizing India's progress in sub-sonic cruise missile technology.

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- Continuous efforts to extend ranges and improve tactical capabilities of systems like Pinaka reflect India's commitment to self-reliance in defense.

These advancements underline India's growing focus on strengthening conventional and long-range strike options, ensuring preparedness for modern warfare scenarios.