



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 17-04-2026

Mapping Perspective

1. Sudan

Prelims Perspective

2. Whole-Exome
3. e-SafeHER

Mains Perspective

4. Right to Vote v/s Right to Contest
5. Minimum Wage Crisis

Sudan

Syllabus: GS-1: World Geography – Mapping.

Context:

Ongoing conflict in Sudan has led to increased sexual violence against women and girls (as per UN Women report), highlighting intersection of **geopolitics + humanitarian crisis + gender issues**.

Sudan: Key Facts

Location & Political Geography

- Sudan is a Northeast African country.
- Bordering Countries: South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt, Libya, Chad, and Central African Republic.
- Maritime Border: Shares its border with the Red Sea.
- Capital City: Khartoum.



Geographical Features of Sudan

1. Terrain

- Mainly composed of vast plains and plateaus drained by the Nile River and its tributaries.

2. Climate

- Climate varies from north to south: northern part desert climate with little rainfall → shifts to semi-arid → tropical savannah towards the South.

3. Highest Point

- Jabal Marrah.

4. River System

- The Nile River system is the dominant geographical feature, running from south to north and draining all streams and rivers of Sudan.

5. Natural Resources

- Petroleum; small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold; hydropower.

Whole-Exome

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Biotechnology.

Context:

- Scientists recently used a genetic sequencing technique called **whole exome sequencing** to discover a new rare genetic disease.

About Whole-Exome Sequencing (WES)

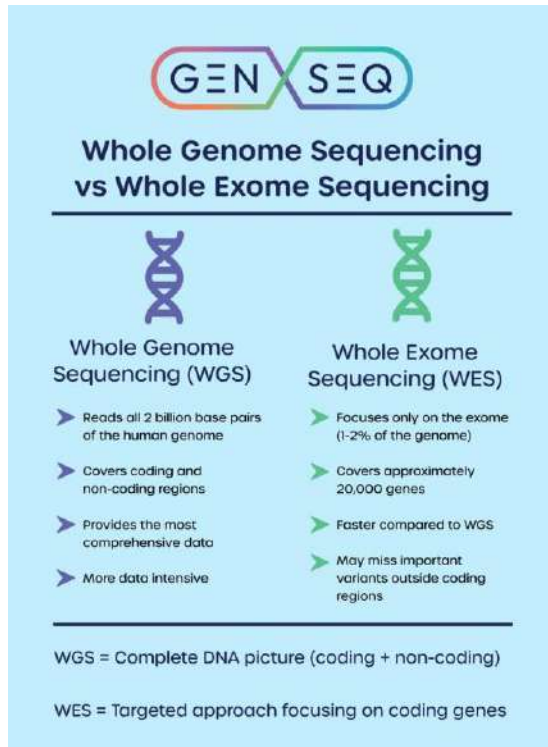
- WES is the approach used to sequence only the **protein-coding regions of the human genome**.
- These protein-coding regions within the genome are known as **exons**; they make up **less than 2% of the entire genome**, but are very important as they contain about **85% of genetic variants linked to diseases**.
- Together, all the exons in a genome are known as the **exome**.

Key Features

- WES focuses on the **exome**, providing a **targeted approach** compared to whole-genome sequencing (WGS), which sequences the entire genome including non-coding regions.
- Since most disease-related mutations are found in the exome, WES is an **effective tool for diagnosing genetic conditions and understanding disease mechanisms**.
- WES is a **faster and cost-effective alternative** to WGS and also **simplifies the data analysis process**.

Applications

- Useful in **research and clinical settings** to identify both **common and rare genetic variants**.



e-SafeHER

Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Cyber security measures.

Context:

- Recently, **C-DAC, Hyderabad**, a scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and **Reliance Foundation** announced the launch of **e-SafeHER initiative**.

About the Initiative

- It is a **cyber-security awareness training programme** to enable **one million women across rural India**.
- It aims to strengthen **last mile cybersecurity awareness**, particularly among women in rural India, who are increasingly engaging with digital platforms for **financial transactions, livelihoods and access to essential services**.
- This initiative is anchored under **MeitY's Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) programme** through **C-DAC Hyderabad**.

Target and Duration

- To empower **one million Cyber Sakhis in rural India over the next three years.**

Implementation Strategy

- **C-DAC** will lead the **development, localization, and continuous enhancement of cybersecurity training content** under the ISEA Project.
- **Reliance Foundation** will leverage its **extensive grassroots presence and women's empowerment platforms** across rural India, for delivery through a **peer-led, community-based model.**
- The initiative will be started first in **Madhya Pradesh and Odisha** and expanded nationwide in a **phased manner.**

Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Programme

Overview

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.**

Timeline

- It was started in **2005** and is currently in its **third phase since October 2023 onwards.**

Purpose

- Generating **human resources in the area of Information Security** and creating **general awareness on cyber hygiene/cyber security among the masses.**

Aim

- It is aimed at **human resources development for safe, trusted, and secure cyber space.**

Right to Vote v/s Right to Contest

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Elections – Voting.

Context:

- The Supreme Court of India denied interim relief to over 34 lakh individuals removed from electoral rolls in West Bengal after SIR exercise, barring them from voting.
- Issue highlights tension between procedural integrity and individual electoral rights, impacting democratic participation and candidacy.

Background: Contrasting Case Outcomes

(a) Case of C. Geetha (Tamil Nadu)

- Filed nomination (April 2, 2026) and began campaigning as independent candidate.
- Name deleted from electoral roll (alleged SIR omission).
- Election Commission of India rejected late challenge: nominations closed, rolls frozen.
- Inclusion only via supplementary list requiring tribunal order; SC rejected plea (April 10).

(b) Case of Motab Shaikh (West Bengal)

- INC candidate; name deleted due to record inconsistencies.
- Prompt appeal; tribunal verified identity (Aadhaar, passport, DL, family records).
- Name restored via supplementary list same day.

Insight

- Delay in appeal + rigid procedures determine eligibility → raises concerns on fairness and due process.

Court's Position on Voting Rights

- Right to vote described as key expression of citizenship and patriotism.
- No permission for excluded individuals to vote during pending appeals (procedural consistency).

Reasoning

- Allowing voting may create precedent complications.
- Could trigger similar demands from inclusion disputes → disrupt electoral integrity.
- Emphasis on uniformity in electoral processes.

Broader Electoral Implications

- Strict linkage: inclusion in electoral rolls ↔ right to vote.
- Excluded individuals lose immediate participation even if appeals pending.
- Pending appeals do not restore voting rights → legal limbo for voters and candidates.

Impact on Candidates

- Deletion from voter rolls creates uncertainty in contesting elections.

- Right to vote directly affects right to contest → democratic dilemma of fairness, timing, due process.

Legal & Procedural Constraints

(a) Supplementary List Requirement

- Under Rule 23(5), Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 → names added only after tribunal approval.

(b) No Interim Relief

- Rule 23(3): no temporary restoration during appeals; courts cannot order mid-process inclusion.

(c) Procedural Deviations in SIR

- Violations of Rules 19 & 20: lack of prior notice and opportunity of hearing before deletion.

Right to Vote vs Right to Contest

(a) Nature of Rights

- Not Fundamental Rights → statutory rights (as reaffirmed in *Ram Chandra Choudhary v Roop Nagar DugdhUtpadak Sahakari Samiti Ltd (2024)*).

(b) Key Distinction

- Right to vote → exercise of franchise under statutory framework.
- Right to contest → separate right subject to qualifications/disqualifications.

(c) Eligibility vs Disqualification

- Eligibility → threshold condition; absence delays participation.
- Disqualification → punitive with legal consequences.

Implications for Candidates in SIR Deletions

- Loss of elector status (not disqualification) → cannot contest elections.
- Under Representation of the People Act → candidate must be registered voter in any constituency of the State.

Judicial Precedents

- *Jyoti Basu v Debi Ghosal* → right to contest is purely statutory.
- *K Krishna Murthy v Union of India* → political participation subject to statutory limitations.

Emerging Concern: Scale of Administrative Impact

- Large-scale deletions under SIR → unusual administrative impact.

- Candidates unaware of exclusion → loss of voter registration effectively bars contesting.
- Raises concerns on procedural fairness, due process, and electoral participation.

Analytical Takeaway

- Conflict between procedural rigidity vs substantive democratic rights.
- Electoral integrity vs inclusiveness debate.
- Need for balancing due process safeguards with administrative efficiency in electoral roll management.

Minimum Wage Crisis

Syllabus: Indian Economy –Employment and Wages.

Context:

- Thousands of factory workers in Noida protested—turning violent—over demands for minimum wage hikes, better working conditions, and overtime pay amid rising living costs
- Immediate trigger: 35% minimum wage hike in Haryana after Manesar protests → workers in neighbouring regions demanded similar revisions
- Reflects growing distress due to rising living expenses, especially amid West Asia war-induced inflation

Structure & Delay in Minimum Wage Revisions

- Minimum wage has two components:
 - **Base wage** – revision supposed every five years
 - **Cost of living allowance (CPI-IW linked)** – revised twice a year
- Delays in base wage revisions:
 - Haryana revised after 10 years
 - Uttar Pradesh last revised in 2012 (only interim hikes)
- Most states continued half-yearly revisions but missed base revisions, especially post-Covid-19
- Result: widening gap between inflation-driven expenses and delayed wage revisions → structural issue in wage policy

Rising Cost of Living & Declining Real Income

- CPI-IW inflation (2016 base): ↑ 24.8% nationally (Feb 2021–Feb 2026)

- Higher inflation in industrial regions: Gurugram (27.9%), Faridabad (27.2%), Ghaziabad/Noida/Delhi (~27.4%)
- Wage growth vs inflation mismatch:
 - Haryana: 15%
 - Uttar Pradesh: 24.6%
 - Delhi: 20.6%
- Indicates **decline in real incomes**, especially in Delhi-NCR

Industrial & Global Factors Intensifying Distress

- Rising input costs due to US tariffs and disruptions (e.g., Strait of Hormuz crisis)
- Consequences: delayed wage payments + job insecurity
- Workers (mostly migrants) face rising household expenses:
 - LPG cylinders in black markets up to ₹4,000
 - Rising rents and food prices
- Combined effect: economic stress → labour unrest

Labour Codes & Worker Expectations

- Workers expected higher wages after notification of four Labour Codes (Nov 2025)
- No uniform wage increase materialised
- Misinterpretation of ₹20,000 minimum wage:
 - Based on ₹783/day (₹20,358/month) for unskilled workers in **central sphere establishments**
 - Not applicable universally; wages determined by states
- Result: confusion and unmet expectations

Uncertainty in Implementation of Labour Codes

- Four codes:
 - Code on Wages
 - Code on Social Security
 - Industrial Relations Code
 - OSH (Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions) Code
- Came into effect (Nov 2025), but:
 - Final rules yet to be notified by Centre and most states

- Draft rules issued in Dec 2025 → uncertainty persists

Working Hours & Flexibility Debate

- Codes define: 8 hours/day, 48 hours/week (aligned with international norms)
- However, daily hours, rest intervals, spread-over limits not clearly specified
- Enables flexible models (e.g., 12-hour shifts + longer weekly breaks)
- Leads to confusion and potential overwork

Shift from Earlier Legal Framework

- Under Factories Act, 1948:
 - Daily hours capped at 9 hours
 - Spread-over limit: 10.5 hours (extendable to 12)
- New codes: shift regulatory power from Parliament → executive (states decide via rules)

Key Concerns Raised

- **Risk of Exploitation** – flexibility without safeguards → longer working hours
- **Lack of Uniformity Across States** – regional disparities in wages & working conditions
- **Weakening of Collective Bargaining** – trade union recognition left to states → absence of uniform process

Conclusion

- Labour Codes aim at simplification and standardisation
- However: delayed implementation + lack of clarity + excessive flexibility → confusion, unmet expectations, and concerns over worker protection
- Core issue: **structural mismatch between inflation, wage policy, and institutional enforcement** → driving labour unrest