



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 02-06-2026

Mapping Perspective

1. Mongolia

Prelims Perspective

2. Doctrine of Promissory Estoppel
3. Indopottia himalayensis

Mains Perspective

4. Right to Be Forgotten
5. Summer Air Pollution

Mongolia

Syllabus: GS-1: World Geography – Mapping.

Context:

In a significant milestone in India-Mongolia cultural and spiritual relations, the Holy Relics of Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana were ceremonially enshrined at the Gandantegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Location & Political Geography

- Landlocked country in north-central Asia.
- **Bordering Countries:** China (south) and Russia (north).
- **Capital City:** Ulaanbaatar.



Geographical Features

Climate

- Pronounced continental climate due to high latitude, high elevation, and distance from oceans.

Vegetation Zones

- Four main vegetation zones running from north to south and from mountains to basins:
 - Forest-steppe
 - Steppe
 - Semidesert
 - Desert

Major Mountains

- Khentii Mountains
- Khangai Mountains
- Altay Mountains

Highest Point

- Nayramadlin Orgil – 14,350 ft. (4,374 m).

Rivers

- **Orkhon River** – Orkhon River Valley is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Lakes

- **Hovsgol Nuur** – One of Asia's largest freshwater lakes; located near the border with the Russian Federation.

Natural Resources

- Large deposits of:
 - Coal
 - Fluorite (Fluorspar)
 - Copper
 - Gold
 - Silver
 - Other metallic ores

India–Mongolia Relations (Current Context)

- In a significant milestone in India–Mongolia cultural and spiritual relations, the Holy Relics of **Arhat Sariputra** and **Arhat Mahamoggallana** were ceremonially enshrined at the **Gandantegchenling Monastery**, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Reflects the shared Buddhist heritage and strengthening cultural-spiritual ties between India and Mongolia.

Prelims Pointers

- Mongolia is a **landlocked country**.
- Shares borders only with **China and Russia**.
- **Ulaanbaatar** is the capital.
- **Orkhon River Valley** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Hovsgol Nuur** is one of Asia’s largest freshwater lakes.
- **NayramadlinOrgil** is the highest point of Mongolia.

Doctrine of Promissory Estoppel

Syllabus: GS-2; Polity & Governance, Important Judicial Doctrines

Context

The Supreme Court recently held that the **Doctrine of Promissory Estoppel** cannot be invoked to claim benefits under a government policy that was never intended to benefit a particular category of industrial units.

About the Doctrine of Promissory Estoppel

- It is a legal principle that prevents a person or authority from **going back on a promise** when another party has relied upon that promise and suffered a disadvantage as a result.
- The doctrine ensures **fairness and justice** by protecting individuals who act based on a promise made to them.
- It can be invoked even in the absence of a formal contract in certain circumstances.

Essential Conditions

For the doctrine to apply, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. There must be a **clear, definite, and unambiguous promise**.
2. The promisee must have **reasonably relied** on the promise.
3. The promisee must have **altered their position or suffered a loss** based on such reliance.
4. Enforcing the promise must be necessary to **prevent injustice**.

Significance

- Prevents arbitrary withdrawal of commitments.
- Promotes **good faith and accountability**.
- Protects legitimate expectations arising from promises.
- Ensures equitable treatment of affected parties.

Illustration

- A shopkeeper promises to replace a garment if it does not fit the customer.
- Relying on this assurance, the customer purchases the garment.
- If the garment does not fit, the shopkeeper cannot later deny the promised replacement.
- The shopkeeper is therefore **estopped** from going back on the promise.

Important Supreme Court Guidelines

In **Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai (1981)**, the Supreme Court emphasized that:

- The promise must be **clear and unequivocal**.
- Reliance on the promise must be **reasonable**.
- The claimant must have suffered a **detriment or loss** due to such reliance.

Limitations

- The doctrine cannot be used to compel an authority to act **contrary to law**.
- It cannot be invoked where **public interest outweighs private claims**.
- It does not apply where the alleged promise is vague, conditional, or beyond the authority of the promisor.

- The capsule bears a **distinctive lid that bends sideways when dry**.
- Its leaves lack the **transparent, bulging cell patch** present in closely related species.

About Mosses

- Mosses are **small, non-vascular, spore-producing plants** belonging to the division **Bryophyta**.
- They are among the **earliest land plants** on Earth.
- Mosses can survive in extreme environments such as **Antarctica, deserts, and volcanic regions**.
- **Major Types:** Peat moss, Granite moss, and True moss.
- **Distribution:** Found worldwide except in **marine (saltwater) environments**.
- **Habitat:** Commonly occur in **moist, shaded areas** and play an important role in ecosystem functioning.

Right to Be Forgotten

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity and Constitution – Fundamental Rights.

Context:

- The Supreme Court agreed to hear a case by online legal chronicler **Indian Kanoon**, whose outcome will likely shape the contours of the “Right to be Forgotten”.
- The online portal challenged a Madras HC order which, after reversing a trial court judgment convicting a person of sexual assault charges, directed the portal to remove the conviction judgment.

What is the Right to be Forgotten?

- It is the right to have publicly available personal information removed from the internet, search engines, databases, websites, or any other public platforms.
- It can be sought when personal information is no longer necessary or relevant and the presence of a person’s digital footprint violates the right to privacy.
- Recognised as a statutory right in the European Union (EU) as the “**Right to Erasure**” under the GDPR and upheld by several courts in the UK and Europe.

Interpretation of the Right to be Forgotten in India

Position in India

- India currently has **no statutory framework** specifically prescribing the Right to be Forgotten.
- However, the right has been recognised through the **Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019** and various court rulings.

Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019

- Provided individuals the right to restrict or prevent continued disclosure of personal data when:
 - The data has served the purpose for which it was collected.
 - The data was disclosed with consent, which has subsequently been withdrawn.
 - The disclosure was contrary to the PDP Bill or any law in force.

Judicial Recognition

KS Puttaswamy Judgment (2017)

- The Supreme Court, in the landmark **Right to Privacy** judgment, recognised that the right to control one's life includes the right to control one's existence on the internet.

High Court Rulings

- **Delhi HC (2019)**: Held that the "Right to be Forgotten" and "Right to be Left Alone" are inherent aspects of the right to privacy.
- **Delhi HC (2021)**: Extended the right to a criminal case by directing removal of search results relating to an American law student acquitted in a customs case.
- **Orissa HC (2020)**: Observed that the Right to be Forgotten is a complex issue involving practical and technological challenges and requires wider debate.

When Can the Right to be Forgotten be Asserted?

- As clarified by the Supreme Court in the Right to Privacy judgment:
 - An individual should be able to remove personal data if it is no longer necessary, relevant, or correct and serves no legitimate interest.

Limitations

- The right cannot be exercised when information is:
 - Necessary for exercising the **Right to Freedom of Expression**.
 - Required for compliance with **legal obligations**.
 - Needed in the **public interest**.
 - Required for other legitimate purposes recognised by law.

Need for Balancing Rights

- Delhi HC noted that the right to privacy must be balanced with:
 - Public's **Right to Information**.
 - Maintenance of **transparency in judicial records**.
- Thus, the issue reflects the tension between:
 - An acquitted person's **Right to be Forgotten**, and
 - Citizens' **Right to be Informed**.

Questions Before the Supreme Court

Key Constitutional Issue

- Whether the **Right to be Forgotten** is a fundamental right and, if so, how it relates to other fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

Specific Questions

- Can a person, after reversal of conviction by a higher court, demand erasure of the earlier conviction judgment from websites?
- Can a higher court, while acquitting an accused by reversing an earlier conviction, direct a web portal to expunge the previous conviction judgment in order to protect the acquitted person's Right to be Forgotten?

Significance

- The case will determine the legal contours of the **Right to be Forgotten** in India.
- It raises important questions regarding the balance between **privacy, reputation, freedom of expression, transparency of judicial records, and the public's right to information**.

Summer Air Pollution

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Pollution.

Context:

- The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** revoked all **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** curbs in March 2026, signalling the end of winter pollution.
- However, with rising temperatures in April, **Stage 1 of GRAP** was reimposed to combat summer air pollution and again in May during North Indian heatwaves.

- Delhi recorded **54 days (April 1–May 31, 2026)** where **PM10 levels exceeded national standards**, highlighting that air pollution has become a **year-round crisis**, not merely a winter phenomenon.

Summer vs Winter Air Pollution: Key Differences

Winter Pollution

- Dominated by **PM2.5 (fine particulate matter)**.
- Pollutants get trapped near the ground due to:
 - Low temperatures
 - Low wind speeds
 - Basin-like topography of cities such as Delhi
- Results in severe winter smog episodes.

Summer Pollution

- Driven mainly by:
 - **PM10 (coarser dust particles)**
 - **Ground-level Ozone (O₃)**
- Stronger winds and thunderstorms disperse some pollutants.
- However, intense heat and sunlight create favourable conditions for ozone formation and dust pollution.

PM10 and Causes of Summer Spike

What is PM10?

- Particulate matter smaller than **10 micrometres** in diameter.
- Coarser dust particles capable of entering the respiratory tract and causing breathing problems.
- Unlike winter PM2.5, PM10 is primarily **dust-driven**.

Major Drivers of PM10 in Summer

1. Natural Dust Storms: Loo and Andhi

- Hot conditions over the Indian subcontinent create a **low-pressure area** extending toward Iran.
- Interaction with surrounding high-pressure systems generates hot, dusty winds.

Loo

- Hot, dry winds carrying dust from **West Asia and the Thar Desert** across northern India toward the Bay of Bengal.
- Can elevate PM10 levels for several days.

Andhi

- Short-duration, localised dust storms.
- Form when strong downward-moving air from thunderstorms strikes the ground and lifts loose dust.
- Common in North India; cities like Mumbai and Hyderabad experience similar dusty episodes due to local thunderstorms.

2. Human Activities

- Construction and demolition activities intensify dust pollution.
- Resumption of activities after winter GRAP restrictions often increases PM10 levels.
- Inadequate dust-control measures aggravate the problem.

Ground-Level Ozone and Summer Pollution

What is Ground-Level Ozone?

- A **secondary pollutant**; not emitted directly.
- Formed through chemical reactions involving:
 - **Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)** — mainly from vehicles
 - **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** — from industries, vehicle exhaust, paints, solvents, etc.
- Strong sunlight accelerates these reactions.

Why Does Ozone Rise in Summer?

- Hotter temperatures and intense sunlight provide ideal conditions for ozone formation.
- Summer therefore becomes the peak season for ozone pollution.

Health Impacts

- Causes respiratory illnesses.
- Particularly harmful for:
 - Children
 - Elderly persons
 - Individuals with pre-existing lung diseases

Scale of the Problem: Beyond Delhi

Delhi

- 54 days with PM10 levels above national standards (**100 µg/m³**).
- 40 days with hourly ozone breaches.

Mumbai

- Elevated PM10 and ozone levels due to:
 - Construction activity
 - Dust
 - Traffic emissions

Chennai

- Occasional PM10 breaches.
- Ozone hotspot owing to:
 - High vehicular density
 - Hot weather conditions

Other Cities

- **Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata** also recorded PM10 and ozone spikes driven by local pollution sources.

Solutions and Way Forward

1. Forecasting and Early Warning Systems

- Natural dust cannot be controlled but can be predicted.
- **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS):**
 - Developed after severe 2018 dust storms.
 - Operates year-round.
 - Extended to Jaipur and Mumbai.
 - Provides **3-day AQI forecasts for 140 Indian cities**.
- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** issues weather bulletins multiple times daily.
- Authorities should issue timely alerts regarding:
 - Dust storms
 - Ozone episodes

- Poor air quality

2. Construction Dust Control

- Dust management should continue throughout the year.
- Not limited to winter GRAP periods.
- **CEEW study** found that reducing heavy vehicle movement at construction sites can lower local particulate pollution.

3. Reducing Ozone: Cutting NO_x and VOC Emissions

- Requires:
 - Cleaner transport systems
 - Better industrial compliance
 - Regulation of solvents, paints and fuel combustion
- Behavioural initiatives such as '**Red Light On, Gaadi Off**' can reduce idling emissions and ozone formation.

4. Summer Action Plans for Cities

- Delhi has implemented a **Summer Action Plan since 2022**.
- Other cities require similar plans focusing on:
 - Forecasting and early warning
 - Public health advisories
 - Construction dust control
 - Road dust management
 - Reduction of ozone-forming emissions

Conclusion

- Air pollution in India is no longer solely a winter phenomenon.
- **Winter pollution is dominated by PM_{2.5}, whereas summer pollution is characterised by PM₁₀ and ground-level ozone.**
- Indian cities must adopt a **season-specific, year-round air quality management approach**, treating both winter and summer pollution with equal seriousness.