

## The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith

**Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1  
Current events of national and international importance

**Mains:** General Studies - 2

Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

### 1. Context

- **Janjati Sanskritik Samagam was organized by Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (VKA)**, organizations affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.
- The **event commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, who led the Ulgulan (Great Tumult) against British rule in 1899–1900.**
- It was **attended by thousands of Adivasis** from across India.
- The event had **significant political implications beyond being a cultural programme.**

### 2. Demand to Delist Christian Adivasis

- JSM demands removal of ST benefits from Adivasis who convert to Christianity.
- It **argues that converted Adivasis no longer follow traditional tribal beliefs.**
- The **demand seeks to apply principles similar to those governing Scheduled Castes (SCs) under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.**
- ST status in India is **based on tribal identity rather than religious affiliation.**
- **Delisting could affect reservation benefits, scholarships, and legal protections** available to tribal communities.
- The issue has significant constitutional and social implications.

### 3. Constitutional and Legal Position

- **Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience** and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion.
- The **Constitution does not link ST identity to any particular religion.**
- A 1963 Patna High Court judgment involving Kartik Oraon held **that tribal identity is based on ethnicity, kinship, and community ties.**
- Adivasis **retain their tribal identity irrespective of whether they are Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, or followers of other faiths.**
- This judgment remains an important legal precedent regarding tribal status.

### 4. Tribal Religion and Cultural Identity

- Many Adivasi **communities follow indigenous, animist, and nature-based belief systems.**
- **Tribal traditions involve the worship of forests, rivers, mountains, and ancestral spirits.**
- There have been **demands for a separate Census category for Adivasi religions.**
- The **Jharkhand Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution supporting recognition of a separate tribal religious code.**
- This highlights efforts to preserve distinct Adivasi cultural and religious identities.

### 5. Key Challenges Facing Adivasis

- **Effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 remains a major concern.**
- The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996 seeks to empower Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas, but **faces implementation challenges.**

- Mining projects in Hasdeo (Chhattisgarh) and Sijimali (Odisha) **have raised concerns over land, forest, and livelihood rights.**
- **Tribal communities continue to face issues such as unemployment, scholarship delays, inadequate hostels, healthcare gaps,** and poor infrastructure.
- **Protection of jal, jangal, zameen (water, forests, and land) remains a key demand** of many Adivasi movements.

### Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations

**Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1  
Current events of national and international importance

**Mains:** General Studies - 2  
India and its neighborhood- relations

#### 1. Context

- India and Canada **are strengthening bilateral ties through high-level visits by Prime Minister Mark Carney and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.**
- The **relationship is based on four pillars: economic cooperation, technology, energy security, and people-to-people ties.**
- Both countries seek closer collaboration in an evolving global order.

#### 2. Economic Cooperation and CEPA

- **Negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) have resumed,** with a target of completion by 2026.
- Both nations **aim to increase bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.**
- **India’s demand for energy, infrastructure, and technology complements Canada’s strengths in natural resources,** clean energy, critical minerals, and innovation.
- Cooperation is **expanding in uranium, critical minerals, and supply-chain resilience.**

#### 3. Business and Investment Relations

- Piyush Goyal’s visit, **accompanied by over 100 Indian business leaders, aimed to boost trade and investment.**

- Indian companies **have invested significantly in Canada’s technology, manufacturing, mining, and life sciences sectors, generating employment.**
- **Canadian pension funds are major investors in India’s infrastructure, logistics,** clean energy, financial services, and digital economy.

#### 4. Indian Diaspora as a Strategic Bridge

- The **Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in connecting the two countries.**
- **Indian-origin entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, and students contribute significantly to Canada’s economy** and society.
- The **diaspora promotes trade, investment, innovation, talent exchange, and cultural understanding.**

#### 5. Indo-Pacific Cooperation and Future Outlook

- Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy **identifies India as a key strategic partner.**
- Both countries **support a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.**
- Cooperation is growing in maritime security, artificial intelligence, advanced technologies, climate action, and clean energy.
- **Greater participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and sustained engagement can help transform the partnership** into a major economic alliance.

### The apex court rings its own chain

**Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1  
Current events of national and international importance

**Mains:** General Studies - 2  
Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

#### 1. Context

- The article begins with **Jahangir’s “chain of justice” (1605)** as a symbol of direct access against administrative failure.

- It compares this with the **Supreme Court's(SC) increasing use of suo motu cognisance**, especially in the **Twisha Sharma death case(2026)**.
- The case title alleged **"institutional bias" without prior judicial finding**, raising concerns of prejudgment.

## 2. Suo Motu and Media Contradiction

- Case registered based on **media reports**, yet Court later **warned media against influencing witnesses**, showing inconsistency.
- Multiple institutions were already active before Supreme Court intervention:
  - ➔ Magistrate in **Bhopal** granted **7-day police custody**.
  - ➔ **Madhya Pradesh High Court** ordered a **second autopsy by AIIMS Delhi**.
  - ➔ **The Bar Council of India** suspended the husband's licence.
  - ➔ State proposed **CBI transfer** of investigation.
- Scholars **Marc Galanter and Vasujith Ram (A Qualified Hope, 2019)** question why higher judiciary prefers **"heroic interventions" instead of systemic reform**.
- They argue this reflects **institutional disdain for lower judiciary** and avoids deeper structural reform.

## 3. Institutional Issues and Judicial Approach

- Suo motu is the **easier path**, unlike reforms requiring coordination (HCs, States, executive, training bodies).
- The court used **requests instead of legal tools** despite precedent in **Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI (2012)**.
- Case outcomes show limited impact of apex intervention:
  - ➔ **R.G. Kar (2024-25)**: conviction by trial court
  - ➔ **Hathras (2020)**: SC returned monitoring to HC
  - ➔ **Lakhimpur Kheri(2021–2024)** : slow trial (44/131 witnesses by 2026)
  - ➔ **Manipur (2023)**: no conviction yet

## 4. Trends and Concerns

- Rising suo motu cases: **35 (2020–24) vs 31 (previous 15 years)**
- 2025: **10 civil + 3 criminal**; by May 2026: **4 civil + 4 criminal**
- Pattern: **media attention → suo motu action** (confirmed by Solicitor General)
- **National Crime Records Bureau 2022**: 6,450 dowry deaths; **11-17% conviction rate** → limited judicial attention
- Twisha case disposed quickly despite seriousness (lawyer husband, judge mother)
- Over-reliance on suo motu leads to **visibility over structural reform**.
- **Trial courts continue to do the substantive work**, while apex intervention remains symbolic.
- **Therefore, a shift towards strengthening lower judiciary capacity and prioritising systemic reforms over frequent suo motu interventions is needed.**

## From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy

**Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1  
Current events of national and international importance

**Mains:** General Studies - 3  
Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

## 1. Context

- Since **ChatGPT (2022)**, large-scale generation of **human-like AI content** has increased.
- A **May 2026 report by Graphite** claimed that **AI-generated articles equal human-written content online** (methodology debated).
- Rising demand for **transparency in authorship** across domains: government circulars, emails, social media, academic papers, books, etc.
- Growth of **AI text detection tools** claiming to verify authenticity of content.

## 2. Use and Features of AI Text Detectors

- Widely used by **students, educators, businesses, and content creators**.
- Tools allow users to **paste text and analyse for AI involvement**; advanced features require **paid subscriptions**.
- Many tools combine **AI detection + plagiarism checks + “humanisers”** to rewrite AI text.
- Popular tools: **Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly, Turnitin**.
- Challenge: As **AI models (OpenAI, Google, Anthropic)** improve, detectors must evolve to keep pace.

## 3. Accuracy Issues and Limitations

- Prone to **false negatives** (AI text marked human) and **false positives** (human text marked AI).
- **False positives are critical** → may lead to **academic penalties, reputational damage, social media backlash**.
- **Turnitin** acknowledged the tool is **“powerful but not infallible”**.
- Unusual **literary or scholarly writing styles** can confuse detectors.
- **Pangram claims 99.98% accuracy**, but:
  - ⊖ Less reliable for **texts under 75 words**
  - ⊖ Promoted actively by CEO **Max Spero**
- Business concern: tools incentivised to push **paid plans and rewriting tools**, raising **credibility questions**.

## 4. Controversies and Ethical Concerns

- **March 2026**: Author **Mia Ballard’s novel Shy Girl** cancelled by **Hachette** over AI allegations.
- **2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize**:
  - ⊖ Writer **Jamir Nazir** accused of AI use.
  - ⊖ Allegations largely based on **AI detector outputs (especially Pangram)**.
- **Commonwealth Foundation** clarified:
  - ⊖ **No AI detectors used in judging**
  - ⊖ All shortlisted authors **denied AI use**

- Director-General **Razmi Farook**:
  - ⊖ AI detectors are **“not infallible”**
  - ⊖ Ethical issue in submitting **unpublished work to AI tools**
  - ⊖ Competitions must rely on **trust until reliable systems exist**
- Broader concern: **Premature reliance on flawed AI detectors can damage careers of authors and academics**.
- There is a need to **develop transparent standards, improve detection accuracy** through regulation and research, and **prioritise human oversight over automated judgments**.

## KEYWORDS

### Birsa Munda



- Birsa Munda (1875–1900), popularly known as **Dharti Aba (Father of the Earth)**, emerged as a prominent tribal leader from the Munda community of the Chotanagpur region.

- He **opposed the British-imposed zamindari system that dismantled the traditional Khuntkatti land tenure system**, leading to widespread tribal land alienation, forced labour, and economic exploitation.
- Birsa **founded the Birsait faith, advocating a revival of indigenous tribal traditions, social reform, and resistance against colonial rule**, missionary influence, and feudal oppression.
- He **led the Ulgulan (Great Tumult) or Munda Rebellion (1899–1900)**, mobilising tribal communities against oppressive land settlements, forest laws, and colonial administration.
- His **movement popularised the slogan “Abua Raj seter jana, Maharani Raj tundu jana”** (“Let our rule come, let the Queen’s rule end”) and inspired later tribal rights movements; its **legacy influenced the enactment of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908**.
- The **Government of India observes Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas every year on 15 November, Birsa Munda’s birth anniversary**, to recognise the contributions of tribal communities and tribal freedom fighters to India’s history and independence movement.

#### World Milk Day

- World Milk Day is **observed annually on 1 June and was initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2001** to recognize the importance of milk and the dairy sector.
- **India has been the world’s largest milk producer since 1998**, contributing about 24–25% of global milk production.
- The day recognizes the dairy sector’s role in nutrition, rural livelihoods, economic development, and sustainable agriculture.
- The **2026 theme, “Celebrating Women Farmers,”** honours the significant contribution of women in dairy farming and global food security.
- **In India, National Milk Day is celebrated on 26 November to commemorate Verghese Kurien, known as the Father of the White Revolution and architect of Operation Flood.**

#### WASP-94A b

- **WASP-94A b is a massive gaseous exoplanet** located approximately **700 light-years away from Earth** that is classified as a **“hot Jupiter”** because it is **nearly twice the size of Jupiter but contains only half its mass**.
- The planet **orbits exceptionally close to its parent star**, requiring just **four days** to complete a full revolution, which has left it **tidally locked with one side permanently in darkness and the other exposed to extreme heat**.
- Scientists recently used the **NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to map the exoplanet**, achieving a **direct measurement of an extreme weather cycle** on a distant world.
- The telescope’s observations revealed a **dynamic, asymmetric weather system** where the **morning side is covered with clouds of iron, magnesium silicate, and magnesium sulphide**, while the **evening side remains completely clear**.
- This atmospheric characterization was achieved using the **astronomical transit method**, where researchers analyzed **how starlight is absorbed by the planet’s atmosphere as it passes in front of its host star**.

## Species in News

### Humboldtia nairiana

- Humboldtia nairiana is a **newly discovered evergreen tree species** belonging to the genus **Humboldtia**, identified in the riparian forests of the **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- It is a **medium-sized tree** that grows up to **5–8 metres tall** and is characterized by its **unique warty pale-brown bark** with a creamy-white blaze.
- The species has **angled, hairless branchlets, shorter stipules, larger flowers with longer stalks, and elliptic-oblong fruits** with a short beak.
- It is **strictly endemic to Kerala** and has so far **been recorded only from the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve** at an elevation of around 300 metres.
- As per the **IUCN Red List**, **Humboldtia nairiana** is **currently classified as Data Deficient (DD)** due to limited information on its population and distribution.

