



# Yojna IAS

योजना है तो सफलता है

## APRIL 2023

### WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**YOJNA IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**17/4/2023 TO 23/4/2023**

**Delhi Office**

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Near Batra Cinema Delhi – 110009

**Contact No. :** +91 8595390705

**Noida Office**

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2  
Uttar Pradesh 201301

**website :** [www.yojnaias.com](http://www.yojnaias.com)



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENTS

S.No.	Topics	Pg No.
1.	SUDAN CRISIS	1 - 3
2.	JUDICIAL REFORMS	3 - 5
3.	PM KISAN (PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI)	6 - 9
4.	NEW IT RULES	10 - 12



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## APRIL 2023

### SUDAN CRISIS

*This article covers “Daily current events” and the topic is about ‘SUDAN CRISIS’ which is in news, it covers “International Relations” In GS-2; the following content has relevance for UPSC.*

**For Prelims:** SUDAN

**For Mains:** GS-2, International Relations

**Why in news:**

After days of tension between a notorious paramilitary force and the country’s Army, explosions and shooting rocked the Sudanese capital Khartoum on 15 April. Sudan paramilitaries claimed that they have seized the presidential palace.

**Context:**

- After weeks of heightened tensions, clashes erupted between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo — commonly known as Hemedti — and the military, led by Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.
- The two generals disagree on Sudan’s projected transition to civilian administration.

**SUDAN CRISIS:**

Sudan has experienced several crises in recent years, including political, economic, and humanitarian challenges.

**Political Crisis:**

- Sudan began its slow transition to democracy in April 2019, when the generals deposed strong-man President Omar al-Bashir amid a popular rebellion.
- Al-Bashir, long ignored by the West, had ruled Sudan for nearly 30 years.
- The military agreed to share power with civilians ahead of elections in an August 2019 deal.

- A coup in October 2021 abruptly ended the arrangement, sparking new huge pro-democracy marches across Sudan.
- Sudan's military has been a dominant power since its independence in 1956. During the 2019-2021 power-sharing agreement, there was a lot of mistrust between the military and the civilian parties.
- The civilian side received credibility from a tenacious protest campaign and international support. The military was supported by rebel factions that benefited from a 2020 peace agreement, as well as veterans of al-Bashir's regime who returned to civil service following the coup.
- The army regained control after the coup, but it was met with weekly protests, repeated isolation, and worsening economic hardships.
- A major source of contention since the revolt has been a civilian demand for military oversight and the incorporation of the formidable RSF into the regular army. Civilians have also demanded the return of profitable military assets in agriculture, trade, and other industries, which serve as a vital source of power for the army.
- Another area of dispute is the pursuit of justice for charges of war crimes committed by the military and its allies during the Darfur War in 2003.

#### **Economic Crisis:**

- Sudan has been grappling with a severe economic crisis, including high inflation, a currency devaluation, and widespread poverty. Economic challenges have been compounded by decades of mismanagement, corruption, and economic sanctions, which have had a detrimental impact on Sudan's economy and its ability to provide basic services to its population.
- A growing economic crisis that sent the currency plummeting and caused frequent bread and fuel shortages was a major catalyst for al-Bashir's demise.
- In a successful appeal for debt relief and foreign financing, the 2019-2021 transitional government launched dramatic measures monitored by the International Monetary Fund.
- However, after the 2021 coup, billions of dollars in international aid and debt relief were stopped, stalling development projects, straining the national budget, and aggravating an already grave humanitarian situation.

#### **Humanitarian Crisis:**

- Sudan has also faced significant humanitarian challenges, particularly in conflict-affected regions such as Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. These areas have experienced long-standing conflicts, resulting in displacement of populations, loss of lives, and limited access to basic services such as food, clean water, and healthcare.
- Humanitarian organizations have been working to provide assistance, but challenges persist due to insecurity, lack of access, and resource constraints.

#### **Tribal Conflicts:**

- Sudan has also experienced tribal conflicts in various parts of the country, which are often



driven by ethnic, cultural, and resource-based tensions. These conflicts can arise from disputes over land, water, grazing rights, or other resources, and can lead to violence, displacement, and loss of lives.

### **Intercommunal Violence:**

- Sudan has also witnessed intercommunal violence between different ethnic or tribal groups, particularly in areas where there are unresolved disputes over land, resources, or political power. These conflicts can result in clashes, attacks on communities, and displacement of populations.

### **Regional picture of Sudan**

- Sudan borders the Red Sea, the Sahel, and the Horn of Africa, all of which are volatile regions.
- Strategic location and agricultural richness: Sudan has attracted regional power players, complicating the possibilities of a successful transition.
- Several of Sudan's neighbours have been affected by political changes and violence, notably Ethiopia, Chad, and South Sudan.
- Sudan's relationship with Ethiopia has been strained in recent years due to disputed farmland along their border, unrest in the Tigray region that has driven tens of thousands of refugees into Sudan, and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.
- Egypt, which has significant historical ties with Sudan and a tight relationship with its military, has taken a different path with coup supporters.
- The "Quad" of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States has funded mediation in Sudan alongside the African Union and the United Nations.
- Western nations are concerned about the possibility of a Russian base on the Red Sea, which Sudanese military commanders have expressed interest in.

**Source:**

Mint

## **JUDICIAL REFORMS**

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Judicial Reforms". The topic "Judicial Reforms" has relevance in the "Polity and Governance" section for the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **Judicial Reforms**

#### **For Prelims:**

*What are Judicial Reforms?*

*What are the important Supreme Court cases?*

## For Mains:

### GS 2: Polity and Governance

*What are the issues with Collegium?*

*What are the steps that can be taken to resolve the issues in the Collegium system?*  
*Way Forward*

### Why in the news?

On Wednesday, the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud-led Supreme Court Collegium decided to retract its previous recommendation to transfer S. Muralidhar, the current Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, to the position of Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

### What is Supreme Court Collegium?

- The Supreme Court Collegium is a group of the top five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court of India, including the Chief Justice of India.
- The Collegium is responsible for making recommendations for appointments and transfers of judges in the higher judiciary, including the Supreme Court and High Courts of India.

### What are the important Supreme Court cases?

The “Three Judges Case” refers to a series of landmark judgments delivered by the Supreme Court of India in 1998, which had significant implications for the process of appointment of judges to the higher judiciary in India.

Following are the three cases:

- **The First Judges Case (1981)** upheld the “primacy” of the Chief Justice of India’s recommendations for judicial appointments and transfers, but also established that the Executive could refuse such recommendations for “cogent reasons.” This decision resulted in the Executive having greater influence over the Judiciary in the matter of judicial appointments for the next 12 years.
- **The Second Judges Case (1993)** introduced the Collegium system and clarified that “consultation” meant “concurrence.” It also ruled that the CJI’s recommendations must reflect the institutional opinion of the Supreme Court, formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges.
- **The Third Judges Case (1998)** expanded the Collegium to a five-member body comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues. The case arose on a reference from the President, and the judgment further strengthened the Collegium system, giving it greater power in the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary.

### What are the issues with Collegium?

There have been several criticisms of the Supreme Court Collegium system over the years. Some of the main issues with the system are:

1. **Lack of transparency:** The Collegium system operates in a largely opaque manner, with no clear criteria or guidelines for the selection of judges. The process of selecting judges is not open to public scrutiny, and there is no way for the public to know how decisions are made.

2. **Lack of diversity:** Critics argue that the Collegium system lacks diversity and perpetuates the dominance of a few powerful judges within the judiciary. There have been concerns that the system does not do enough to address issues of caste, gender, and regional representation in the selection of judges.
3. **Questionable appointments:** There have been instances where the Collegium has recommended the appointment of judges who have been accused of serious misconduct or have questionable backgrounds. This has raised concerns about the lack of accountability in the system.
4. **Delay in appointments:** The Collegium system has also been criticized for delays in the appointment of judges, which can lead to a backlog of cases and affect the functioning of the judiciary.
5. **Lack of checks and balances:** The Collegium system operates without any external checks or balances, which can create the potential for abuse of power. The system does not have any formal mechanism for review or accountability, and decisions made by the Collegium are often final.

### What are the steps that can be taken to resolve the issues in the Collegium system?

There are several steps that can be taken to address the issues with the Supreme Court Collegium system. Some of these include:

1. **Transparency:** There should be greater transparency in the Collegium system, with clear guidelines and criteria for the selection of judges. The process of selecting judges should be made public, with information on the qualifications, experience, and other relevant details of the candidates made available to the public.
2. **Diversity:** The Collegium should make a conscious effort to promote diversity in the selection of judges, taking into account factors such as gender, caste, and regional representation. There should be greater efforts to ensure that the judiciary is representative of the diversity of the country.
3. **Accountability:** The Collegium system should have a mechanism for review and accountability, with checks and balances to prevent abuse of power. This could include an external oversight body or a system for public feedback on appointments.
4. **Timeliness:** The process of selecting and appointing judges should be streamlined to minimize delays, ensuring that vacancies are filled promptly and the judiciary is functioning effectively.
5. **Reform:** There should be a broader discussion on the future of the Collegium system and the possibility of reform. This could involve considering alternative models for the appointment of judges or introducing more formal checks and balances to the existing system.

### Way Forward

The Supreme Court Collegium system has faced criticism over the years, but it remains an important mechanism for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary in India. To ensure that the system functions effectively and meets the needs of the country's legal system, appropriate reforms are needed.

**Sources:**

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1294854/>

# PM KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi)

*This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details about the PM KISAN scheme.*

*The topic is important about how government support is needed because farmers are facing an agrarian crisis. Erroneous monsoons, non-remunerative incomes, and fragmented land holdings are some causes of agrarian distress.*

## **For Prelims:**

**About PM KISAN** – Features, and comparison with similar schemes

**For Mains: GS 3, Agriculture.**

1. Scheme Features: Past Performance and future possibilities
2. Role of income support measures in Indian agriculture.
3. Role of Government initiatives to augment farmers' incomes.

## **Content of the Article:**

- **Why in news**
- **Status of Scheme:**
- **Objectives of the Scheme**
- **Origin of the Scheme**
- **Features of the scheme**
- **Issues related to the scheme**
- **Way Forward**

## **Why in news:**

Recently, PM released the 13th installment amount amounting Rs. 16,800 crores to more than 8 crore beneficiary farmers.

## **Status of Scheme:**

More than 11 crore farmer families, primarily the small and marginal, have received over 2.25 lakh crores of funds through the PM-KISAN initiative. During the Covid lockdown, multiple installments of Rs. 1.75 lakh crores were distributed to support these needy farmers. The Scheme has been beneficial for more than three crore women beneficiaries who have collectively received over Rs. 53,600 crores.

The funds provided through the initiative have spurred rural economic growth, eased credit constraints for farmers, and boosted agricultural investments. It has also led to an increase in farmers' risk-taking capacity, resulting in more investments. IFPRI has reported that the PM-KISAN funds are helping recipients meet their agricultural needs and other expenses such as education, medical care,

and marriage.

### Objectives of the Scheme:

PM-Kisan is a scheme launched by the Government of India to provide income assistance to farmers across the country. The primary objective of PM-Kisan is to supplement the income of small and marginal farmers and to ensure that they have enough money to meet their agricultural needs and household expenses.

Some of the specific objectives of PM-Kisan are:

1. **Providing direct income support to farmers:** PM-Kisan provides direct support of Rs. 6,000 per year to eligible farmers, which is paid in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.
2. **Ensuring timely availability of inputs:** The scheme aims to ensure the timely availability of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, by providing additional funds to farmers.
3. **Increasing agricultural productivity:** By providing financial assistance to farmers, PM-Kisan aims to increase agricultural productivity and improve the overall economic condition of farmers.
4. **Reducing farm distress:** The scheme seeks to reduce farm distress and alleviate the financial burden on farmers, thereby reducing the incidence of farmer suicides.
5. **Promoting inclusive growth:** PM-Kisan aims to promote inclusive growth by ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach all farmers, especially those who are financially weaker and do not have access to formal credit.

### Origin of the Scheme

The Rythu Bandhu Scheme is a precursor to the PM KISAN scheme. The Government of Telangana started the Rythu Bandhu scheme under which it disbursed a certain sum twice a year to augment farmers' investments in agriculture. The scheme was widely recognized and appreciated for its direct support to farmers.

Building on Rythu Bandhu's success, the Indian Government launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM KISAN) a similar farmer's investment support scheme to offer financial assistance to farmers nationwide.

While the Rythu Bandhu scheme of Telangana and the PM-Kisan scheme share similarities in their objective of providing direct income support to farmers, they differ in their implementation and scope.

- **Eligibility criteria:** The eligibility criteria for the two schemes are different. Rythu Bandhu is a state-level scheme that is available to all farmers in Telangana, regardless of their landholding size, while PM-KISAN is a central scheme that provides income support to small and marginal farmers all across the country.
- **Mode of assistance:** Under the Rythu Bandhu scheme, farmers receive a fixed amount of money per acre of land that they own, while under PM-KISAN, eligible farmers receive direct cash transfers of Rs. 6000 per annum, payable in three installments.



- **Timing of disbursement:** The Rythu Bandhu scheme provides assistance to farmers before the sowing season, while PM-KISAN provides assistance throughout the year in three installments.
- **Funding:** While Rythu Bandhu is entirely funded by the Telangana state government, PM-KISAN is funded by the central government.

### Features of PM-KISAN

Some of the key features of this scheme have been discussed below:

1. **Income Support:** The primary feature of this scheme is the income support it provides to the eligible farmers.
2. **Eligibility Criteria:** All landholding farmer households in the country are eligible under PM KISAN but they are subject to certain exclusion criteria.
3. **Direct Transfer:** The scheme provides direct benefit transfer (DBT) to the farmers' bank accounts. The funds are transferred in three installments of Rs. 2000 each, every four months.
4. **Central Sector Scheme:** The funds for the scheme are allocated to the states and Union Territories by the Central Government.
5. **Role of States:** The state governments are responsible for identifying the eligible beneficiaries and transferring the funds to their bank accounts.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The scheme is monitored and evaluated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. A Grievance Redressal Mechanism has also been established to address any issues faced by the farmers.

### Issues related to the scheme

Undoubtedly, the PM-KISAN scheme has been successful in providing financial support to farmers and their families, there are some issues related to the scheme that has been identified.

- **Identification of beneficiaries:** There have been reports of errors in the beneficiary list, with some eligible farmers being excluded, while others who do not meet the eligibility criteria have received the benefits. This has resulted in a lack of transparency and accountability in the selection process.
- **Delay in the disbursement of funds:** Some farmers have reported that they have not received the funds on time, which has affected their ability to invest in their crops and purchase necessary inputs. This delay can be attributed to various factors such as inadequate infrastructure, technical glitches, and bureaucratic procedures.
- **Inadequate coverage:** The scheme's coverage is limited to small and marginal farmers, and the support provided may not be sufficient to address the challenges faced by larger farmers. This has resulted in some farmers being left out of the scheme's ambit.
- **Sustainability of the scheme:** The PM-KISAN scheme provides income support to farmers, but it does not address the structural issues that affect agriculture, such as low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of access to credit.
- **Verification process:** Some farmers have reported that the verification process to avail of the

benefits under the scheme is cumbersome and time-consuming, which has discouraged many eligible farmers from applying.

### Way Forward:

PM KISAN has been a great initiative to provide timely income support to farmers. This enables them to purchase inputs through the money disbursement thrice a year. To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the PM-KISAN scheme, the following steps can be taken:

- **Strengthening the identification process:** The government should take steps to strengthen the identification process to ensure that all eligible farmers are included in the scheme. This can be done through the use of technology such as satellite imagery and Aadhaar-based verification.
- **Timely disbursement of funds:** The government should ensure that the funds are disbursed on time to avoid delays that affect farmers' ability to invest in their crops and purchase necessary inputs.
- **Increasing the coverage:** The scheme's coverage can be expanded to include more farmers and provide them with sufficient support to meet their needs.
- **Addressing sustainability concerns:** The government should take steps to address the structural issues that affect agriculture, such as low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of access to credit. This can be done through measures such as investing in agriculture research, improving irrigation facilities, and providing credit to farmers.
- **Creating awareness:** The government should create awareness about the scheme among farmers to ensure that all eligible farmers apply for and receive the benefits.
- **Regular monitoring and evaluation:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of the scheme can help identify gaps and areas for improvement, leading to better implementation of the scheme.

In conclusion, the PM-KISAN scheme has the potential to provide much-needed support to farmers and their families. By addressing the concerns and taking the necessary steps, the government can ensure the scheme's effectiveness and sustainability in the long run.

### Sources:

<https://pmkisan.gov.in/>

<http://rythubandhu.telangana.gov.in/>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1902564>

<https://groww.in/p/savings-schemes/pm-kisan-samman-nidhi-yojana>

<https://www.grainmart.in/news/challenges-pm-kisan-samman-nidhi-scheme/>

# NEW IT RULES

*This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “New IT Rules”. The topic “New IT Rules” has relevance in the Governance section for the UPSC CSE exam.*

## **Relevance of IT Rules**

### **For Prelims:**

*What are the new IT rules?*

### **For Mains: GS 2: Governance**

*What is the significance of New IT rules?*

*What are the issues related to the New IT Rules?*



#CabinetDecisions

## The Information Technology

(Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code)  
Rules 2021 Announced by the Government of India

Salient Features related to Social Media 1/2

- Due Diligence to be Followed by Intermediaries
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- Ensuring Online Safety and Dignity of Users, Specially Women Users
- Two Categories of Social Media Intermediaries
- Additional Due Diligence to be Followed by Significant Social Media Intermediaries
- Removal of Unlawful Information

## **Why in the news?**

The Indian government has recently implemented a new amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, or IT Rules, which grants the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) the authority to establish a “**fact check unit**” with the aim of identifying and combating false or misleading online content.

## What are Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021?

### What are the new IT rules?

The new regulations introduced in April 2023 have granted the Indian government sweeping powers to censor content on social media platforms that it deems fake or false, raising concerns about freedom of speech and civil liberties in the country.

These regulations are an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which were already in place to regulate intermediaries and digital news media.

1. **First Originator:** Social media platforms are required to provide technological solutions to identify the first originator of any information, which risks compromising privacy.
2. **Fact Check Unit:** The Fact Check Unit, which has been given unlimited power to decide what information is false, can now compel intermediaries to remove posts deemed fake or false.

### What are the concerns related to the amendments made?

The recent amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, has raised concerns due to several reasons.

1. The new regulations potentially violate the Supreme Court's judgement in the **Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (2015) case**, which held that a law that limits speech cannot be vague or overbroad.
2. The new regulations lack clear definitions for fake news, which gives the government's fact-check unit unchecked power to determine what content people can access online.
  - The lack of definition of terms such as "any business" leaves it open to the government's interpretation, which raises concerns about censorship and potential misuse of power.
3. The new regulation does not follow the standard practice of enacting comprehensive parliamentary legislation on fake news, grounded in Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution.
4. The new regulations provide that the intermediaries are now required to remove information deemed false by the Fact Check Unit, which leaves only the state to determine what is true.
  - This grants the government the power to exercise censorship and decide what information is bogus, which can curtail civil liberties and restrict the press and individuals' right to question authority.

Revised:

### What is the Way Forward?

Moving forward, there are several approaches that can be taken to address the problem of misinformation and fake news. Rather than relying solely on censorship, a multi-pronged approach involving technology solutions, self-regulation, public awareness, and collaboration between stakeholders can be adopted.

1. Investment in technology: One potential solution is to invest in technology to identify false information. This can involve developing processes that are capable of detecting fake news.
2. Self-Regulation: Social media platforms can also adopt self-regulatory measures to prevent the spread of misinformation.
3. Awareness generation: There is a need to create awareness among the public about the dangers of misinformation and the importance of free speech is crucial.
4. Multi-stakeholder approach: There is a need to involve government, intermediaries, and civil society organisations to effectively tackle misinformation.

**Sources:**

<https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-information-technology-intermediary-guidelines-and-digital-media-ethics-code-rules-2021>

