

**ONLY COMPETITION IAS**

**DAILY**  
**Editorials &**  
**Articles**



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## UPSC 360°

**The Hindu Unwrapped** - Daily Current Affairs Mastery for UPSC CSE (Clear that it's based on The Hindu editorials / news analyses - very aspirant-friendly)

### Significance

AI in Internal Security India is rapidly deploying AI for predictive policing, cybercrime detection, dark web monitoring, and financial fraud prevention through tools like Mule Hunter and the proposed Surakshini system. While enhancing operational efficiency and proactive threat response, concerns remain over privacy, data security, algorithmic bias, and ethical use. Robust legal safeguards are essential to balance security with civil liberties.

### AI in Internal Security

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** is rapidly integrating **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** tools for **predictive policing**, real-time surveillance, cybercrime detection, dark web monitoring, and financial fraud prevention.
- Key initiatives include the **Mule Hunter** application (in collaboration with RBI Innovation Hub), the proposed **Surakshini** system for online harmful content, and AI upgrades to the cybercrime helpline (1930).
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee has highlighted AI as a “critical enabler” for enhancing operational capabilities of police and paramilitary forces.

### Role of AI in Internal Security

- **Predictive Policing**
  - AI analyses historical crime data, patterns, and hotspots to forecast potential crimes.

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- Enables proactive resource deployment and crime prevention.
- **Cybercrime & Dark Web Monitoring**
  - AI tools track phishing campaigns, fraud networks, and criminal discussions on the dark web.
  - Supports proactive threat detection instead of reactive response.
- **Financial Fraud Prevention**
  - **Mule Hunter** uses AI and machine learning to identify “mule accounts” through behavioural and transaction analysis.
  - Provides real-time suspect scoring and helps block fraudulent transactions.
- **Content Moderation & Online Safety**
  - **Surakshini** initiative aims to create a hash database for Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) and Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII).
  - Shifts from reactive takedown to preventive blocking of harmful content.
- **Immigration & Border Security**
  - Upcoming **IVFRT 3.0** system (April 2026) will integrate AI and blockchain for intelligent traveller profiling and secure record-keeping.

## Key Initiatives & Institutional Collaboration

- **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre)** – Central agency for AI deployment in cybercrime monitoring.
- **Collaboration with IIT Bombay** for AI model development.
- **RBI Innovation Hub** for financial fraud detection tools like Mule Hunter.

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- AI-assisted complaint registration at cybercrime helpline (1930) with support for regional languages.

## Significance

- **Force Multiplier**
  - AI enhances speed, accuracy, and coordination among law enforcement agencies.
  - Enables data-driven decision-making in internal security.
- **National Priorities**
  - Aligns with goals of **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, and Smart Policing.**
  - Supports India's fight against cyber fraud, financial scams, and online exploitation.
- **Broader Impact**
  - Improves citizen safety, reduces response time, and strengthens overall internal security architecture.

## Challenges & Concerns

- **Privacy & Civil Liberties** – Risk of mass surveillance and infringement on individual privacy.
- **Data Security** – Possibility of data breaches or misuse of sensitive information.
- **Algorithmic Bias** – AI systems may perpetuate biases present in training data.
- **Technological Gaps** – Some applications (e.g., advanced document forgery detection) are still evolving.
- **Ethical & Legal Framework** – Need for robust guidelines on AI use in policing and surveillance.



## UPSC CSE & State PCS Relevance

### Prelims

- Key terms: Predictive Policing, Mule Hunter, Surakshini, I4C, IVFRT 3.0, AI in Internal Security
- Related: Cybercrime, Financial Fraud, Dark Web Monitoring

### GS-3 (Internal Security & Science & Technology)

- Use of emerging technologies in internal security, cyber threats, and smart policing.

### GS-2 (Governance)

- Inter-ministerial and institutional collaboration (MHA, IITs, RBI) for security solutions.

### Essay / Interview

- “Artificial Intelligence as a Double-Edged Sword in Internal Security: Opportunities and Ethical Challenges”
- “Technology-Driven Policing: Balancing Security, Privacy and Civil Liberties in Democratic India.”

## MCQs

1. With reference to AI in internal security, consider the following statements:
2. Mule Hunter is an AI-based tool to detect mule accounts used in financial fraud.
3. Surakshini initiative focuses on preventive monitoring of Child Sexual Exploitative Material.
4. IVFRT 3.0 will integrate AI and blockchain for immigration purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)**

2. The Mule Hunter application has been developed in collaboration with:

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) RBI Innovation Hub
- (c) ISRO
- (d) NITI Aayog

**Answer: (b)**

3. Which of the following is NOT a major concern associated with the use of AI in internal security?

- (a) Predictive policing
- (b) Algorithmic bias
- (c) Privacy infringement
- (d) Data security risks

**Answer: (a)**

4. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre is known as:

- (a) I4C
- (b) CERT-In



(c) NCII

(d) IVFRT

**Answer: (a)**

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## Mains Questions

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1. "Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a critical enabler in India's internal security architecture." Discuss the key applications of AI in predictive policing and cybercrime control, along with associated challenges. (15 marks / 250 words)
2. Examine the role of initiatives like Mule Hunter and Surakshini in strengthening India's fight against financial fraud and online harmful content. (10 marks / 150 words)
3. "Use of AI in policing must be balanced with robust safeguards for privacy and civil liberties." Analyse this statement in the Indian context. (15 marks / 250 words)
4. **Essay (250 marks)** "Technology as a Force Multiplier in Internal Security: Opportunities, Risks and the Road Ahead for India."

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## Supreme Court Rules Scheduled Caste Status Limited to Hindus, Buddhists & Sikhs

### Why in News?

- ❖ On **18 March 2026**, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising **Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **Manmohan** delivered a landmark judgment clarifying that **Scheduled Caste (SC) status is available only to persons professing Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism**.
- ❖ Conversion to any other religion results in **immediate and complete loss of Scheduled Caste status** and all associated benefits, including reservation in education/jobs and protection under the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.
- ❖ The ruling came in the case of **Chinthada Anand**, a Hindu-Madiga (Scheduled Caste) who converted to Christianity and became a pastor. He had claimed protection under the SC/ST Atrocities Act after alleging caste-based atrocities.
- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the Andhra Pradesh High Court's decision that he could no longer claim SC benefits as a Christian. The judgment has sparked



nationwide debate on religion-based reservations, conversion, reconversion, and social justice policy.

## Key Details of the Supreme Court Judgment

### • Core Ruling

- Clause 3 of the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** is “categorical and absolute”.
- A person who professes a religion different from Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism **cannot** be deemed a member of a Scheduled Caste.
- Conversion leads to **immediate and complete loss** of SC status from the moment of conversion, irrespective of birth.

### • Interpretation of “Profess”

- The term “profess” means publicly declaring or practising a religion.
- It is not merely a question of private belief but requires an outward manifestation.

### • Reconversion Clause

- A person who converts back to Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism can claim SC benefits **only if** they provide “credible and unimpeachable evidence” of bona fide reconversion **and** acceptance back into the original caste community.

### • Scheduled Tribes Order, 1950

- The Court also clarified that a person who completely renounces tribal customs, rituals, and practices and assimilates into another religion cannot claim Scheduled Tribe benefits.



## Background: Legal Framework on SC Status & Religion

- **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**
  - Originally limited SC status to Hindus.
  - Amended in **1956** to include Sikhs.
  - Amended in **1990** to include Buddhists.
  - No provision for Christians or Muslims.
- **Judicial Precedents**
  - **Soosai v. Union of India (1985)**: SC status is not purely based on caste but also on social and religious identity.
  - **Punjabrao v. Meshram (1965)**: Conversion to Buddhism does not automatically lead to loss of SC status (later incorporated by amendment).
- **Current Case**
  - Chinthada Anand (born Hindu-Madiga SC) converted to Christianity → claimed protection under SC/ST Atrocities Act → High Court rejected → Supreme Court upheld.

## Implications

- **Legal & Constitutional**
  - Reinforces that SC status is **religion-specific** under the 1950 Order.
  - Strengthens the link between SC benefits and Hindu/Sikh/Buddhist identity.
  - May encourage “Ghar Wapsi” (reconversion) movements.
- **Social Justice**



- Affects millions of SC converts (especially in South India and among Dalit Christians).
- Raises questions on equality, religious freedom (Article 25), and substantive equality (Article 14).

## • Political & Policy

- May intensify demands for extending SC benefits to Dalit Christians and Muslims.
- Impacts reservation in jobs, education, and political representation.

## • For India

- Deepens the ongoing debate on caste vs. religion in reservation policy.
- Highlights tension between secularism and protective discrimination.

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## UPSC CSE & State Relevance

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### Prelims

- Key terms: Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, Clause 3, SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Reconversion
- Data: Amendments (1956 for Sikhs, 1990 for Buddhists)
- Related: Articles 14, 15, 16, 25; Fifth Schedule (contrast with Sixth)

### GS-1 (Society)

- Caste, religion, and social justice
- Dalit rights and conversion issues

### GS-2 (Polity & Governance)

- Judicial interpretation of constitutional orders

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- Reservation policy and affirmative action

## GS-2 (Social Justice)

- Rights of marginalised communities and religion-based exclusions

## Essay / Interview

- “Scheduled Caste Status and Religious Conversion: Balancing Social Justice with Constitutional Identity”
- “From NALSA to SC Status Judgment: Evolving Jurisprudence on Religion and Reservation in India”

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### MCQs

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1. With reference to the Supreme Court judgment on Scheduled Caste status (March 2026), consider the following statements:
2. Scheduled Caste status is available only to persons professing Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism.
3. Conversion to Christianity or Islam leads to immediate loss of SC benefits.
4. The judgment was delivered in the case of Chinthada Anand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)**



2. Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 was amended in 1990 to include:

- (a) Sikhs
- (b) Buddhists
- (c) Christians
- (d) Jains

**Answer: (b)**

3. Which Article of the Constitution guarantees the right to equality that was invoked in the judgment?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 14
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article

**Answer: (b)**

4. The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 provides protection to:

- (a) Only Hindus
- (b) Members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- (c) Only religious minorities
- (d) All citizens

**Answer: (b)**



## Mains Questions

1. "The Supreme Court's March 2026 judgment on Scheduled Caste status reaffirms the religion-specific nature of reservation benefits." Critically examine its constitutional basis and social implications. (15 marks / 250 words)
2. Discuss the tension between religious freedom (Article 25) and protective discrimination under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 in light of the recent Supreme Court verdict. (10 marks / 150 words)
3. "Reservation policy in India must balance social justice with constitutional identity." Analyse this statement with reference to the Supreme Court ruling on SC status and conversion. (15 marks / 250 words)
4. **Essay (250 marks)** "Religion, Caste and Reservation: The Supreme Court's Verdict and the Future of Social Justice in India."

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