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THE HINDU



The Indian EXPRESS

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS

25th April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. The moral eclipse of politics in the modern age**
(GS Paper IV Ethics)
- 2. Mythos challenge: Delhi needs say in AI regulation**
(GS Paper III Science and Technology)
- 3. Three pathways for energy diversification**
(GS Paper III Economy)

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1. THE MORAL ECLIPSE OF POLITICS IN THE MODERN AGE

(GS Paper IV Ethics)

This editorial 'The moral eclipse of politics in the modern age' was published in **The Hindu** on 25th Apr 2026, highlights the **erosion of ethical foundations** in modern **politics**, public morality and war.

Ethics as the Foundation of Political Legitimacy

- Aristotle linked **politics** with **ethics**, making legitimacy dependent on human flourishing, not mere authority or survival.
- Detaching **power** from **morality** converts politics into organised domination, where authority loses ethical purpose.
- Modern politics often replaces **ethical judgement** with **expediency**, presenting moral critique as interference or weakness.

The Pope-Trump Episode and Moral Anxiety

- Pope Leo XIV's call for **peace** and **restraint** exposed how ethical appeals are dismissed as political intrusion.
- Trump's self-representation through **sacred imagery** and humour masked vulnerability while trivialising moral criticism.
- Allegations around **misconduct** and **Epstein** deepened the gap between public authority and moral seriousness.
- The broader issue is not one leader, but politics where **legitimacy** is replaced by spectacle, strategy and power consolidation.

War, Dehumanisation and Ethical Collapse

- War represents politics' sharpest **moral failure**, reducing the enemy's humanity into abstraction and tactical data.
- Rawls's **veil of ignorance** shows justice requires suspending privilege, identity and advantage while designing social principles.
- Russell's view of **human impulses** warns that power, rivalry and vanity become destructive without ethical restraint.
- Historical examples from **Julius Caesar** to modern wars show freedom and justice repeatedly subordinated to calculation.
- Dresden, Hiroshima and **Nagasaki** reveal how modern states rationalise mass civilian deaths through necessity and wartime logic.

- Gaza, Ukraine, Iran and **Lebanon** show how conflict language converts human suffering into collateral or inevitable costs.
- Unlike Homeric warfare, **modern warfare** makes the enemy remote, turning bodies and grief into statistics on screens.

Restoring Ethics to Public Life

- The challenge is not moral sermonising, but rebuilding **ethical foundations** through critical thought and moral imagination.
- Public life must privilege **truth** and **deliberation** over spectacle, obedience, viral outrage and cynical political performance.
- Intellectual traditions that reject the separation of **ethics** and **politics** remain vital for democratic renewal.
- The Pope's intervention serves as a **moral reminder**, questioning whether politics can remain legitimate when power justifies itself.

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Institutionalising Ethics Beyond Individual Morality

- **Ethics commissions** - Democracies need independent ethics bodies like India's Lokpal to examine conflicts of interest, misuse of public office and abuse of authority.
- **Code of conduct** - Political parties should internalise enforceable norms like the Model Code of Conduct for candidate selection, campaign conduct and public communication.
- **Constitutional morality** - Public morality must rest on dignity, equality and accountability, as affirmed in Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India.
- **Civic education** - Ethical politics requires constitutional literacy among citizens to question propaganda, spectacle, hate speech and personality cults.
- **Media responsibility** - Public discourse must resist outrage cycles, as seen in trial-by-media distortions, misinformation and partisan amplification.
- **Democratic accountability** - Electoral success cannot replace ethical legitimacy, especially when public leaders face serious misconduct, corruption or abuse-of-power allegations.
- **Means-end ethics** - Gandhian thought remains relevant because Satyagraha rejected the idea that noble political goals can justify immoral methods.

2. MYTHOS CHALLENGE: DELHI NEEDS SAY IN AI REGULATION

(GS Paper III Science and Technology)

This editorial ‘**Mythos challenge: Delhi needs say in AI regulation**’ was published in **Indian Express** on 25th Apr 2026, highlights the need for **global AI governance** with India’s active role in shaping regulation.

AI Risks and Governance Urgency

- Anthropic’s **Mythos** shows AI capabilities now create major opportunities but also clear, present and scalable risks.
- Mythos can exploit **zero-day** vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, including flaws unknown to developers and firms.
- The UK’s **AI Security Institute** says Mythos can autonomously execute multi-stage attacks and exploit vulnerable networks.
- Reported **unauthorised access** to Mythos raises concerns over model development, deployment, transparency and accountability.

Deployment, Oversight and Cross-Border Regulation

- Anthropic’s early access to around **50 companies**, including Google, Microsoft, Amazon and JPMorgan Chase, may help fortify systems.
- The deeper question is whether **early access** to disruptive models should rest with one company, individual or future AI leaders.
- China developing its own **Mythos-like model** would intensify concerns over deployment rules, access control and strategic misuse.
- Since even **non-state actors** can exploit such technologies, deployment must follow oversight and border-crossing regulation.

India’s Strategic Stake in AI Governance

- Nirmala Sitharaman’s meeting on **financial-system risks** from Mythos is crucial, but threats extend beyond banking to critical sectors.
- India’s large **AI market** and consumer data base make it necessary for Delhi to shape global regulatory frameworks.
- War and tariff tensions make **consensus** difficult, but Mythos has alarmed governments enough to revive global negotiations.

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Building India's Domestic AI Safety Architecture

- **AI safety body** - India needs an IndiaAI Safety Institute-style body to test frontier models before use in finance, energy, defence and public services.
- **Critical infrastructure audits** - AI-linked risks require NCIIPC-led vulnerability audits across banking, power grids, telecom, transport and health systems.
- **Incident reporting** - Firms using high-risk AI should disclose breaches and misuse attempts under CERT-In's six-hour cyber incident reporting norm.
- **Compute governance** - Advanced AI systems need IndiaAI Mission-linked oversight of compute access, model release, red-teaming and dual-use testing.
- **Data protection** - AI regulation must align innovation with privacy, consent and accountability under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- **Public procurement standards** - Government AI adoption should follow GeM-style procurement checks requiring explainability, safety testing and liability clauses.
- **Capacity building** - Regulators, courts and cyber agencies need expertise through bodies like C-DAC and IIT Kanpur's C3iHub.

3. THREE PATHWAYS FOR ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION

(GS Paper III Economy)

This editorial 'Three pathways for energy diversification' was published in Indian Express on 25th Apr 2026, highlights India's need to diversify energy sources through electrification, biofuels and wider natural gas distribution.

Energy Security and Domestic Alternatives

- Strait of **Hormuz** disruption highlights India's vulnerability to external energy shocks and import-dependent supply chains.
- Domestic **oil exploration** near Andaman and Nicobar may be costly, uncertain and slow to commercialise.
- India needs viable **fossil-fuel alternatives** based on local resources, resilient supply chains and LNG distribution.

Electrification and Non-Fossil Expansion

- India's **non-fossil electricity** targets include 500 GW by 2030 and 1,800 GW plus 100 GW nuclear by 2047.
- Scaling non-fossil power requires **energy storage** using Internet of Things and AI to reduce capital costs.
- Wider electrification in **transport** and cooking can reduce petroleum dependence through EVs and electric cookers.
- Domestic **rare-earth extraction** is essential because India has significant deposits needed for clean-energy technologies.

Biofuels, Biomass and Biomethane Potential

- India has nearly **950 mt** crop residues, but about 400 mt net surplus is mostly wasted inefficiently or polluting.
- Forest **biomass** of about 260 mt annually remains underused, though it can support pellets, briquettes and biochar.
- Biomass can produce **syngas**, enabling hydrocarbon production through the established Fischer-Tropsch process.
- India's cattle and poultry generate nearly **300 mmt** dry manure, enabling large biogas and biomethane potential.
- Biomethane could replace **LNG imports** by meeting gas demand, producing high-value biofuels and supporting industrial feedstock.

Natural Gas Distribution and Market Design

- Natural **gas sourcing** is globally dispersed, making it less vulnerable to cartelisation than oil.
- India should negotiate **long-term contracts** with diversified gas suppliers less exposed to disruption.
- India's 25,000 km **gas pipelines** need SSLNG support for city gas, dispersed industries and trucking.
- Biomass and manure face **logistical challenges**, requiring aggregation, transport and processing into concentrated intermediates.
- Entrepreneurs need support through **carbon credits**, environmental-service payments and finance similar to priority-sector lending.

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Demand-Side Energy Efficiency as the Fourth Pillar

- **Energy efficiency** - Diversification must reduce demand intensity through BEE star-rated appliances, efficient motors, industrial processes and urban systems.
- **Behavioural transition** - Public campaigns like LiFE can reduce wasteful cooling, transport and electricity use without hurting living standards.
- **Industrial efficiency** - Sectors like steel, cement and chemicals need PAT scheme-linked cleaner processes, waste-heat recovery and energy audits.
- **Building design** - ECBC-compliant buildings, passive cooling and efficient urban planning can reduce future electricity and cooling demand.
- **Public transport** - Metro systems, FAME-supported electric buses and walkable cities reduce oil dependence beyond vehicle-level fuel substitution.
- **Grid discipline** - Smart meters under RDSS, demand-response systems and time-of-day pricing can reduce peak-load stress and storage costs.
- **Just transition** - Energy diversification must protect coal workers, farmers and MSMEs through reskilling, credit and decentralised livelihood support.