

EDITORIALS – 18TH JUL 2026

1. India's Parliament must not stage its Cadaver Synod (GS Paper II Polity)

This editorial 'India's Parliament must not stage its Cadaver Synod' was published in The Hindu on 18th Jul 2026, highlights Parliament's lack of constitutional jurisdiction to pursue removal proceedings against Justice Yashwant Varma after his resignation.

Constitutional limits on judicial removal

- The Cadaver Synod of 897 CE, which prosecuted a dead Pope, illustrates how purposeless trials degrade institutions.
- Parliament proposes tabling the inquiry committee report on Justice Yashwant Varma, despite his resignation effective April 9, 2026.
- Article 121 prohibits parliamentary discussion of judicial conduct except during proceedings seeking a judge's removal.
- Articles 124(4) and 217(1)(b) envisage removal from an occupied office; the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 permits no lesser penalty.

Resignation extinguishes jurisdiction

- In *Union of India v. Gopal Chandra Misra* (1978), the Supreme Court recognised judicial resignation as a unilateral constitutional act.
- Justice Varma's immediate resignation severed his constitutional office, regardless of his continued listing on the High Court website.
- Resignations of P.D. Dinakaran and Soumitra Sen in 2011 ended pending removal proceedings and parliamentary action.
- The Varma committee unusually continued after resignation, but its sealed report creates neither necessity nor removal jurisdiction.
- The Lok Sabha Speaker may merely acknowledge receiving the report; further proceedings require members to seek the Attorney General's advice.

Accountability through appropriate forums

- Post-resignation debate could enable retrospective political trials of former judges, undermining judicial independence across changing majorities.
- Impeachment removes an unfit officeholder, whereas alleged offences require criminal investigation, prosecution and trial under ordinary law.
- Pension and terminal benefits raise separate statutory questions; Parliament cannot conduct a removal trial against someone holding no judicial office.

Beyond Editorial

The accountability vacuum after judicial resignation

- Enforcement gap: The Supreme Court's 2025 judgment describes the In-House Procedure as non-punitive, revealing the absence of enforceable consequences below constitutional removal.
- Institutional continuity: In C. Ravichandran Iyer, the judge resigned before judgment, yet the Court established an in-house accountability framework for future misconduct complaints.
- Transparent closure: The United Kingdom publishes statements following judicial disciplinary findings, offering a model for disclosure without conducting parliamentary trials.
- Graded accountability: England and Wales permit formal advice, warning, reprimand or removal, unlike India's constitutional framework centred overwhelmingly on removal.
- Criminal referral: K. Veeraswami v. Union of India required prior Chief Justice approval for investigating sitting judges, illustrating the need for status-sensitive referral procedures.
- Permanent mechanism: Law Commission Report 195 examined the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2005, demonstrating India's earlier consideration of statutory judicial oversight.

- Complaint safeguards: The United States permits anyone to file judicial misconduct complaints but excludes challenges concerning the correctness of judicial decisions.

2. A semiconductor vision beyond the shop floor (GS Paper III Economy)

This editorial 'A semiconductor vision beyond the shop floor' was published in The Indian Express on 18th Jul 2026, highlights India's shift from semiconductor fabrication incentives towards an integrated innovation, design and manufacturing ecosystem.

Strategic shift under the Semiconductor Mission

- India Semiconductor Mission Phase II shifts emphasis from factories towards design, equipment, materials, intellectual property and advanced research.
- The ₹1,27,500-crore outlay prioritises semiconductor design, where much of the industry's value creation occurs.
- Countries lacking advanced fabrication plants can still shape global supply chains through architecture, verification, software and intellectual property.
- Reduced fabrication support and 75% design subsidies redirect incentives towards research, raw materials, speciality chemicals and industrial gases.

Technology priorities and strategic relevance

- India initially targets mature-node chips of 28 nm or larger, while market leaders manufacture sub-10 nm chips.
- Mature nodes constitute nearly 70% of global demand, serving electronics, smartphones, power grids and medical devices.
- Pandemic disruptions and technological rivalries exposed supply-chain vulnerabilities, making semiconductor capacity a source of strategic leverage.

- India's five-year ambition for 7 nm and 2 nm chips is strategically significant, though presently largely aspirational.

Building a competitive ecosystem

- Semiconductor manufacturing requires uninterrupted power, precision logistics, predictable environmental clearances and abundant skilled technicians.
- India's engineers and design centres across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Noida provide a strong design advantage for manufacturing expansion.
- Converting this strength into world-class manufacturing requires a judicious combination of market forces and state support.
- India must make government an enabler while strengthening academia-industry linkages, following Taiwan, South Korea and the United States.

Beyond Editorial

Can India's semiconductor expansion remain sustainable?

- Water intensity: TSMC's Tainan fabs used 19.65 million cubic metres of reclaimed water, reducing tap-water consumption by 31% through recycling.
- Dry-region resilience: TSMC's Arizona project combines reclaimed water with near-zero liquid-discharge testing, reducing freshwater dependence in an arid region.
- Clean electricity: Intel sourced 99% renewable electricity globally in 2025, cutting its per-wafer carbon footprint by up to 70%.
- Process emissions: Semiconductor production uses high-warming fluorinated gases, requiring alternative chemicals, process optimisation and emissions-destruction technologies.
- Toxic wastewater: Etching, cleaning and grinding release fluoride, arsenic and organic compounds, requiring advanced treatment and continuous effluent monitoring.

- Circular manufacturing: Intel applied reuse, recovery or recycling across 69% of manufacturing waste streams in 2025, sending only 3% to landfills.
- Green incentives: India could link semiconductor subsidies with measurable standards for water management, material circularity and emissions reporting.

3. India now has the funds, the talent and the opening for a research leap (GS Paper III Science and Technology)

This editorial 'India now has the funds, the talent and the opening for a research leap' was published in The Indian Express on 18th Jul 2026, highlights how public funding and industry commitment can transform India into a global research and technology power.

Strategic need for research self-reliance

- The Strait of Hormuz disruption showed that oil can be rerouted, but dependence on critical technologies cannot be easily overcome.
- Fragile global supply chains increasingly serve as policy instruments through export controls, technological chokepoints and strategic denial.
- India spends only 0.64% of GDP on research and development, compared with China's 2.43%.
- Private firms finance barely two-fifths of Indian research, against three-fourths or more in China, Korea and the United States.

Emerging public funding architecture

- The statutory Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) connects academia, industry, start-ups, philanthropy and the Indian diaspora.
- The Research, Development and Innovation Fund provides ₹1 lakh crore over six years as patient capital for private-sector research.
- ANRF Core adds ₹50,000 crore over five years for foundational science, complementing commercially oriented research funding.

- Each rupee of partnered pre-commercial funding could mobilise ten private rupees for commercialisation and industrial scaling.
- Firms may participate through investment partnerships, eligible technology entities, start-up joint ventures, national missions or the ANRF Innovation Fund.

Industry responsibility and opportunity

- Public funding is a catalyst, not a substitute; firms must mobilise capital, prioritise strategic technologies and institutionalise long-term research.
- Dedicated research units, venture arms and planning insulated from quarterly pressures can build globally competitive technological capabilities.
- India's pharmaceutical industry demonstrated such capacity by mastering process chemistry and meeting strict standards after the WTO intellectual-property regime.
- India's talent, digital infrastructure and available capital create a rare research opportunity, requiring collaboration among government, laboratories, academia and industry.

Beyond Editorial

Democratising access to research opportunities

- Regional inclusion: The PAIR programme connects leading institutions with emerging universities through hub-and-spoke mentorship while explicitly seeking regional diversity.
- Shared infrastructure: Five SATHI centres provide advanced equipment to State universities, colleges, start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Knowledge access: One Nation One Subscription provides over 13,000 journals to 6,300 institutions, potentially benefiting nearly 1.8 crore users.

- Gender participation: WISE-KIRAN supports doctoral, postdoctoral and re-entry research, helping women overcome career breaks and institutional barriers.
- Young researchers: The INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship annually supports 100 young doctoral researchers for five years to establish independent scientific careers.
- Social representation: STI hubs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes promote locally appropriate technologies, sustainable livelihoods and community-level research capacity.
- Local problem-solving: Karnataka's Student Project Programme encourages engineering and science students to address local challenges through State-supported research.