EDITORIALS – 24TH JUN 2026

1. Reconnect public health with people's needs
(GS Paper I Society)

This editorial 'Reconnect public health with people's needs' was published in The Hindu on 24th Jun 2026, highlights the need to reorient public health policy from individualised wellness and digital data systems towards equitable access to care and stronger public institutions.

Public Health Policy Drift

- Public health policy claims universal coverage, yet rising care costs and weak services undermine real access.
- Populist ideas increasingly shape public health despite weak evidence, including publicly funded health insurance schemes.
- Renaming SCs, PHCs and CHCs as Health and Wellness Centres blurred institutional mandates and shifted focus to well-being.
- Wellness moved from absence of disease to holistic living, but remains subjective and difficult to measure.

Individualised Wellness and Measurement Gaps

- Health expanded beyond disease absence, but public health later prioritised measurable population outcomes and health promotion.
- Individual well-being places responsibility on people, underplaying structural, social and economic determinants shaping outcomes.
- Subjective well-being cannot systematically capture unmet needs in preventive, curative, rehabilitative and maternal-child care.
- Excessive wellness focus weakens evaluation of health systems and concrete deficits in service delivery and access.

Digital Health and Access Deficit

- Digital repositories through ABHA cards map individuals, facilities and professionals, but cannot ensure health care access.
- Inadequate care stems mainly from unaffordable private services and poor-quality public health infrastructure.

- Health records and registries cannot replace institutional mechanisms needed for actual provisioning of treatment and care.
- ABDM's scale and ₹300 crore budget remain weakly justified without measurable outcomes or stronger institutions.
- Curative care remains immediate for most citizens; preventive and promotive care matter only after basic needs are met.

Beyond Editorial

Public Health as a Rights-Based State Responsibility

- Legal accountability: Paschim Banga case linked health care with Article 21, making access enforceable beyond welfare discretion.
- Fiscal priority: Tamil Nadu's TNMSC model shows public financing must back hospitals, diagnostics, medicines and health personnel.
- Equity focus: COVID-19 exposed special vulnerabilities of rural citizens, women, migrants, elderly persons and informal workers.
- Primary-care foundation: NHM-backed sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs can reduce delayed treatment, tertiary overcrowding and out-of-pocket expenses.
- Community participation: ASHAs, VHSNCs and social audits can align public health delivery with actual community needs.
- Inter-sectoral linkage: POSHAN, Swachh Bharat and Jal Jeevan show health depends on nutrition, sanitation and clean water.
- Trust building: Jan Aushadhi, free diagnostics and staffed public facilities build trust through affordable everyday care.

2. India's next challenge — from invention to global scale (GS Paper III Science and Technology)

This editorial 'India's next challenge — from invention to global scale' was published in The Hindu on 24th Jun 2026, highlights the need to convert India's technological innovation and scientific capability into globally scalable industries and enterprises.

India's Innovation-Scale Gap

- India has repeatedly shown early technological vision and strong scientific capability, yet struggled to build globally dominant industries.
- As India advances in semiconductors, AI, quantum computing and space technologies, invention alone cannot ensure success.

- The true measure of technological leadership lies in transforming innovation into globally competitive enterprises.
- India's experience shows that weak capital, limited scale, inconsistent policy support and fragmented ecosystems constrain commercialisation.
- Several pioneering initiatives remained prototypes, pilots or public-sector achievements rather than globally dominant businesses and markets.

Lessons from Past Experiences

- The Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL) recognised semiconductor potential early, but failed to create a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem.
- ECIL strengthened technological self-reliance under embargoes, yet remained focused on strategic needs over commercial scalability.
- Simputer anticipated modern smartphone features, but lacked venture capital, supply chains and consumer markets needed for scale.
- Apple's success demonstrated that being first matters less than building powerful platforms and supporting ecosystems.

Models of Success and Future Opportunities

- India's pharmaceutical industry achieved global competitiveness by combining innovation with large-scale manufacturing capabilities.
- PARAM, Aadhaar and UPI showed that technologies designed for scale can create transformative national platforms.
- Scale generates ecosystems, ecosystems create industries, and industries ultimately produce global leadership.
- India possesses strong software engineering and digital infrastructure, but must now build globally scalable AI platforms.
- The DeepSeek experience suggests future AI leadership will depend on affordability, accessibility and efficient deployment, not merely model size.
- India should pursue low-cost, energy-efficient AI models that democratise intelligence for billions of users.
- In quantum computing, reducing infrastructure costs and developing practical applications may offer greater advantages than imitation.
- The success of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan demonstrates that frugal innovation can coexist with world-class technological ambition.

The Next Phase of Technological Leadership

- Future leadership requires building, scaling and commercialising technologies through globally competitive enterprises, not merely achieving inventions.

- India's challenge is to convert proven engineering excellence into industries that shape emerging technologies and global markets.
- Countries leading tomorrow may not be those that invent first, but those that achieve superior scale and commercialisation.

Beyond Editorial

Role of Strategic State Support in Deep-Tech Scaling

- Patient capital: India Semiconductor Mission and National Quantum Mission show deep-tech needs long finance before commercial returns.
- Public procurement: iDEX and ISRO vendor networks show government can become the first buyer for strategic innovations.
- Testing ecosystem: BIS, STQC and TEC certification help convert prototypes into trusted products for wider markets.
- Manufacturing depth: PLI electronics shows scaling needs component supply chains, skilled production and vendor networks beyond lab success.
- University-industry linkages: IIT Madras Research Park and BIRAC show how research, startups and manufacturers can move inventions to markets.
- Global integration: India's pharma and IT services success shows firms need export markets, value chains and global partnerships.
- Mission governance: ISM, IndiaAI Mission and National Quantum Mission need coordinated policy, predictable incentives and accountable execution.

3. India's patchy industrial climate strategy

(GS Paper III Environment, Economy)

This editorial 'India's patchy industrial climate strategy' was published in The Hindu on 24th Jun 2026, highlights the need for disaggregated industrial emissions data and targeted mitigation policies to align industrial growth with India's climate goals.

Industrial Growth and Emissions Challenge

- India's Make-in-India, Viksit Bharat 2047 and net-zero 2070 goals make industrial decarbonisation central.
- Expanding manufacturing will raise energy demand, requiring targeted policies that balance industrial growth with emission reduction.
- India's BTR1 to UNFCCC shows industry directly contributed over 20% of national emissions in 2022.

- Manufacturing and construction fuel use caused 13% of emissions, while industrial processes and product use added 9%.

Patchy Mitigation Coverage

- India relies mainly on PAT and CCTS to reduce energy consumption and emission intensity in major industries.
- PAT targets specific energy use across 13 energy-intensive sectors, while CCTS covers nine industrial sectors.
- CCTS covers aluminium, cement, fertilisers, steel, petrochemicals, refining, paper, textiles and chlor-alkali industries.
- Thermal power plants, railways, DISCOMs and commercial buildings will continue under PAT despite the CCTS transition.
- These schemes set benchmarks and promote efficiency, but remain designed for clearly identifiable heavy-emitting sectors.

Non-Specific Industries and Data Gaps

- India's emission inventory overlooks large fuel-use emissions grouped under vague non-specific industries.
- In 2020, specified sectors produced under 55% of manufacturing-construction emissions, while non-specific industries exceeded 40%.
- Similar patterns in 2014, 2016 and 2019 show persistent classification gaps in NITI Aayog emission data.
- Many industries in this grey zone remain outside PAT-CCTS mandates despite significant contributions to industrial emissions.
- The missing sub-sectoral definitions weaken India's climate strategy by excluding a large industrial base from green transition.

Need for Targeted Industrial Identification

- India must break down non-specific industries to identify sub-sectors, energy-use patterns and process-chain emission hotspots.
- Transparent, disaggregated reporting is needed not just for international obligations but for domestic policy clarity.

- Better data will help policymakers track interventions, locate policy gaps and enable timely course correction.
- Exact knowledge of passive industrial outliers is essential for building a credible low-carbon economy.

Beyond Editorial

Just Transition for MSMEs and Industrial Workers

- MSME inclusion: BEE-SME and ZED schemes show smaller firms need finance, technology and expertise for cleaner production.
- Employment security: Tiruppur textiles and Kanpur leather show compliance costs can threaten jobs without worker transition support.
- Green finance: SIDBI green finance and CGTMSE-style risk cover can help MSMEs adopt efficient machinery and cleaner fuels.
- Shared infrastructure: CETPs, MSE-CDP centres and renewable power access can reduce transition costs for industrial clusters.
- Skill transition: PMKVY and Green Skill Development Programme can reskill workers for low-carbon production and energy management.
- Regional equity: Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh need protection from unequal transition costs in carbon-intensive industrial belts.
- Development balance: India's LT-LEDS approach can align climate ambition with livelihoods, competitiveness and inclusive industrial growth.