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CURRENT ISSUES

(AUGUST - 2025)



Sarnath to become a
UNESCO
World Heritage Site



India's 1st AI solution

KRIHI 24/7



Useful for ESE, SSC, RRB & Other Competitive Examinations



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1. Constitution, Polity and Governance

1. Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025:

Context: Union Home Minister introduced the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

More about:

- Bill mandates removal of PM, CM, or Ministers if in custody for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges.
- Proposes amendments to Articles 75, 164, and 239AA of the Constitution.



CONSTITUTION (130TH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025



Why in the NEWS?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to introduce the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to disallow any Central or State Minister from continuing in office if they are detained in custody for 30 days or more on corruption or serious offence charges.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 75 • Relates to Council of Ministers at the Union level	GROUND FOR REMOVAL • Any minister detained in custody for 30 days must be removed from office
GROUND FOR REMOVAL • Any minister detained in custody for 30 days must be removed from office	OBJECTIVE • To strengthen good governance and ensure ministers uphold moral and constitutional integrity
PROCEDURE • Removal within 31 days of detention by the President (Union level) or Governor (State level), based on PM/CM's advice • Ministers can be re-appointed once released from custody	GOVERNMENT'S STAND Ensures that ministers facing prolonged detention on serious charges do not continue in office Promotes trust, accountability and ethical governance



- Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025 extends provisions to Puducherry, empowering the President.
- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2025 empowers the LG to remove CM/Ministers under the same rule.
- All three bills referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for examination and debate.

Key provisions of the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2025:

- **Grounds for Removal:** PM, CM, or Ministers removed if in custody 30 consecutive days for an offense punishable with ≥ 5 years imprisonment.
- **Union Ministers:** President must act on PM's advice by 31st day; if no advice, Minister automatically loses office.
- **State Ministers:** Governor must act on CM's advice by 31st day; if no advice, Minister automatically loses office.
- **Delhi Ministers:** President acts on Delhi CM's advice; if no advice, Minister automatically ceases office.
- **PM/CMs:** Must resign by 31st day of custody, else automatically removed from the next day.
- Reappointment allowed after release from custody.

Existing legal framework and judgments:



- **RPA, 1951 (Sec 8(3)):** Legislators disqualified on conviction with ≥ 2 years imprisonment.
- **Lily Thomas (2013):** Supreme Court struck down Section 8(4) RPA, immediate disqualification even if appeal is filed.
- **Manoj Narula (2014):** No bar on appointing Ministers with criminal records, but PM should avoid tainted individuals.
- **Public Interest Foundation (2018):** Courts cannot create new disqualifications; urged Parliament to act against serious criminals in politics.

2. Online Gaming Act, 2025:

Context: The Parliament has passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 effectively banning online money games and also promoting and regulating other kinds of online games.



Key Provisions of the Act:



- **Online Games:** Defined as digital/electronic games operated via internet/technology.
- **E-Sports:** Recognized competitive digital sports (e.g., Pokemon GO World Championship 2025).
- **Social Games:** Skill-based, recreational/educational.
- **Money Games:** Involving financial stakes (e.g., Dream11, Rummy, Poker) — prohibited nationwide.
- **Applicability:** Extends to all of India, including foreign-operated services targeting India.
- **Ban Enforcement:** Prohibits money games, ads, bank transactions, and enables blocking under IT Act, 2000.
- **E-Sports Promotion:** To be developed as a legitimate sport with training centers and guidelines by Youth Affairs Ministry.
- **Social/Edu Games Promotion:** Government may register and support safe, age-appropriate games.



- **Regulatory Authority:** National-level body to categorize/register games, check money games, and resolve grievances.
- **Penalties:** 3 years jail + ₹1 crore fine for offering money games; 2 years jail + ₹50 lakh fine for advertising them.
- **Corporate Liability:** Companies and officers accountable; safeguards for diligent independent directors.
- **Enforcement:** Government officers empowered for investigation, search, seizure, and arrest without warrant.



3. National Sports Governance Act, 2025:



Context: Recently, the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025, was given assent by the President.

Key provisions under the act:

- **National Sports Bodies:** Establish National Olympic Committee, Paralympic Committee, and National/Regional Federations for each sport, aligned with international bodies and charters.
- **National Sports Board (NSB):** Grants recognition, registers affiliates, and only recognised bodies get central funds.
- **Code of Ethics:** Mandatory for recognised sports bodies; ensures ethical conduct.
- **RTI Coverage:** Recognised organizations treated as public authorities under RTI Act, 2005.
- **NSB Membership:** Government decides composition; members need expertise in sports governance, law, or public administration.
- **National Sports Tribunal:** Adjudicates sports disputes (excluding international events and internal body matters).
- **Election Oversight:** National electoral panel to oversee elections; every sports body must form its own electoral panel for affiliates.
- **Central Government Powers:** May exempt sports bodies/affiliates from Act's provisions in public interest for sport promotion.



Sports regulation in India:

- Sports regulation falls within the jurisdiction of the states, as per Entry 33 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS):	Sports Authority of India (SAI):	Indian Olympic Association (IOA):	National Sports Federations (NSFs):
- Formulates national sports policy. - Provides funding. - Implements development programmes.	- Lays down policies. - Provides guidelines for sports delivery systems.	- Responsible for India's participation in the Olympic Games. - Handles other international and multi-sport events.	Over 50 NSFs administer their respective sports.

4. Overseas Citizens of India:

Context: Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued the notification to tighten benefits of OCI card holders under Section 7D of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Who are Overseas citizens of India?



- Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) are foreign nationals who were either citizens of India on or after January 26, 1950, or were eligible to become citizens, excluding those from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and certain other specified countries.
- It was introduced in 2005 through an amendment in the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- In 2015, Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme was merged with OCI, and all PIO cardholders were deemed to be OCI cardholders.

Eligibility:

- Foreign nationals (except Pakistan & Bangladesh) with Indian origin post-26 Jan 1950 or linked through lineage.
- Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren of eligible persons; minors with one Indian parent.
- **Spouse eligibility:** Foreign-origin spouse of Indian/OCI, if marriage registered & subsisted ≥ 2 years.
- **Ineligible:** Current/retired members of foreign military services.

Benefits:

- **Visa Privilege:** Lifelong multiple-entry, multi-purpose visa for India.
- **Parity with NRIs:** Allowed in financial, economic, educational fields (but cannot buy agricultural/plantation land or adopt children abroad).
- **Citizenship Path:** Eligible for Indian citizenship after 5 years as OCI (with 1 year residence in India).
- **Pension Scheme:** Eligible for NPS like NRIs.

Limitations & Restrictions:

- **No Dual Citizenship:** OCI is not dual nationality.
- **No Political Rights:** Cannot vote, contest elections, or hold top constitutional posts.
- **Legislative Ineligibility:** Cannot be MP/MLA.
- **Public Jobs:** Cannot hold regular government jobs (unless notified by Centre).
- **Special Permissions:** Required for research, mountaineering, missionary/journalist work, and visiting Protected/Restricted Areas.



Changes made:

- Registration can be revoked
- if an individual is sentenced to at least two years in prison; or
- if a charge sheet is filed against them for an offense carrying a sentence of seven or more years of imprisonment.

5. Vice President election:

Context: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the election date for the 17th Vice-Presidential Election.

Constitutional Provisions on Vice President:

- **Term:** 5 years (Article 67).
- **Vacancy:** Election must be held promptly if vacancy arises (Article 68(2)).
- **Electoral College:** All MPs of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, including nominated members. Presently 782 MPs vote.
- **Voting System:** Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote (STV) and secret ballot (Article 66(1)).
- **Authority:** ECI conducts elections under Article 324 and Presidential & Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.

Election Procedure of Vice President:



Single Transferable Vote

PROPORTIONALITY: ★★★★★★
VOTER CHOICE: ★★★★★★
LOCAL REPRESENTATION: ★★★★★★

BALLOT PAPER
PLACE THE CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE (1, 2, 3 ETC.).
RANK AS MANY CANDIDATES AS YOU WISH

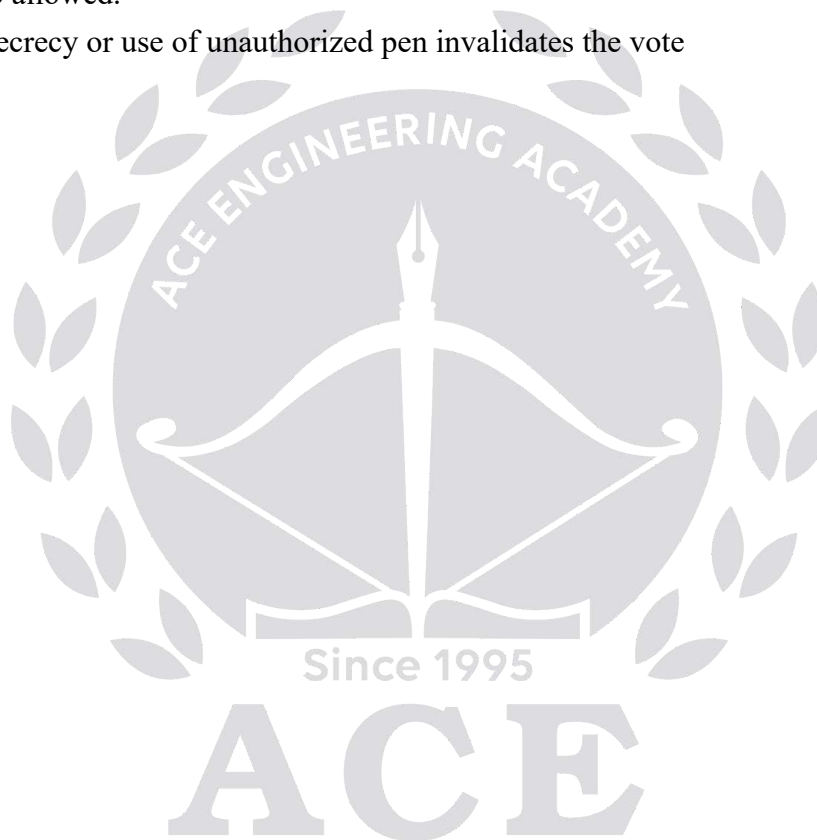
CANDIDATE	PARTY	PREFERENCE
JONES ALAN	PINK PARTY	4
FOTHERINGTON JAMES	PINK PARTY	1
SMITH EMILY	PURPLE PARTY	3
ANDERSON RITA	PURPLE PARTY	2
HEPWORTH BARBARA	TEAL PARTY	5



- Nomination requires 20 proposers and 20 seconders; ₹15,000 deposit is mandatory.
- Voting is conducted in Parliament House using special ECI-supplied pens.
- First preference vote is compulsory.
- ECI appoints the Returning Officer (Secretary General, Rajya Sabha) and observers.

Key Safeguards:

- No party whip allowed.
- Violation of secrecy or use of unauthorized pen invalidates the vote



2. International Relations

1. Global Capacity Building Initiative:



Context: India launched various projects with the UN under Global Capacity Building Initiative for Asia, Africa and Caribbean countries.

About Global Capacity Building Initiative:

- The project was launched by India and the United Nations jointly in September 2023.
- It aims to share India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with Global South nations through capacity-building and training programs for accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Implemented through the new UN India SDG Country Fund as well as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme:

- **ITEC Programme:** It was instituted in 1964 as a bilateral assistance programme run by the Government of India.
- **Purpose:** It is a demand-driven, response-oriented programme that focuses on addressing the needs of developing countries through innovative technological cooperation between India and the partnering nation.





- **Administered by:** Ministry of External Affairs and is fully funded by the Government of India.
- **Coverage:** The programme covers around 158 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and several Pacific and Caribbean nations.

2. **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty:**

Context: Russia officially end commitment to 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

- Russia cited recent US military actions as key reason including the US order of repositioning two nuclear submarines closer to Russian shores and deployment of Typhon missile system in Philippines.

About INF Treaty

- Signed in 1987 between the US and Soviet Union.
- Required destruction of all ground-launched ballistic & cruise missiles (range 500–5,500 km).
- First treaty to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons.
- Introduced on-site inspections for verification.
- Effectively ended after US withdrawal in 2019, weakening the treaty.

3. **Nagorno-Karabakh region:**

Context: Armenia and Azerbaijan peace deal aims to bring an end to decades of conflict between the two South Caucasus countries. What is Nagorno-Karabakh region?





- Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked, mountainous and forested region falling within the boundaries of Azerbaijan.
- It is located in the South Caucasus region, which straddles the border between Eastern Europe and western Asia.
- It is roughly made up of modern-day Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

What is the dispute?



- Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan in a conflict that broke out as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.



- A ceasefire was agreed in 1994 after thousands of people were killed and many more displaced.
- Azerbaijan and Armenia frequently accuse each other of attacks around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the separate Azeri-Armenian frontier.
- Nagorno-Karabakh, is inside Azerbaijan but is run by ethnic Armenians, declared martial law and mobilized their male populations.
- Armenia said Azerbaijan had carried out an air and artillery attack on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Key provisions under the agreement:

- **Cessation of Hostilities:** Both nations agreed to end armed conflict and establish diplomatic ties.
- **TRIPP (Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity):** New transit corridor linking Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan via Armenia.
- **Exclusive Rights:** US granted exclusive development rights for TRIPP.
- **US Cooperation Deals:** Separate pacts signed with the US on energy, technology, and economic cooperation.

4. Conflict areas in news:

Area / Country	Key Conflict / Reason	Key Geographical Features
Gaza (Khan Yonnis, Rafah, Jabalia, Dier al-Balah)	UN declared famine (Aug 2025); ~ 0.5 million at risk due to Israel's prolonged blockade and restricted aid after Hamas attack	Small coastal strip along eastern Mediterranean; borders Israel (north/east) & Egypt (southwest); population ~ 2.2 million, extremely densely populated
Sudan (Darfur, Khartoum, South Kordofan, Blue Nile States)	Civil war since April 2023 due to power struggle between Army and Rapid Support Force (RSF)	Northeast Africa; bordered by Egypt (north) & Red Sea (northeast); third-largest African country; Nile River system (White & Blue Nile) flows through
Ukraine (Kyiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Kharkiv)	Worsening humanitarian crisis amid Russian missile & drone strikes	Borders Russia (east), Black Sea & Sea of Azov (south); Dnieper River flows through Kyiv to Black Sea; Carpathian Mountains (west), Crimean Mountains (south)





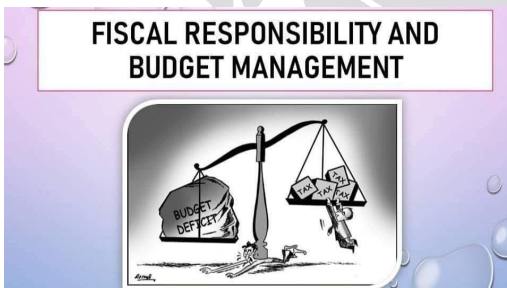
3. Economy and Development

1. Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003:



Context: Recently, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG's) report has highlighted several fiscal inconsistencies and transparency issues in the government's compliance with the FRBM Act.

FRBM Act 2003:



- It is the statute to induce discipline and restrictions on expenditure and debt-related things on government.
- It sets a bar for the government to lay a foundation of monetary limitations in the Indian Economy.
- It contributes to the improvement of the management of public funds and lowers the fiscal deficit rate as well.



Objectives of the FRBM Act



- The primary objective of the said act was to strike out of revenue deficit and bring the fiscal deficit down.
- It was the first acquaintance of transparency in the fiscal management system in the country, ascertaining the ethical dispensation of debt with the passing years.
- The act is also purposeful in terms of giving necessary modifications to the Central Bank while overseeing the expanding economy of India.

FRBM Act mandates the following statements to be laid before the Parliament along with the Budget:

- Macro-economic Framework Statement.
- Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
- Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.

Key Targets under FRBM Act:

Parameter	Target	Deadline	Current Ratio (2023-24, CAG Report)
Fiscal Deficit (Original FRBM)	3% of GDP	31 st March 2021	5.32%
Debt Limits – General Govt (Centre + States)	$\leq 60\%$ of GDP	End of FY 2024-25	81.3%
Debt Limits – Central Government	$\leq 40\%$ of GDP	End of FY 2024-25	57%
Revised Fiscal Consolidation Path	$< 4.5\%$ of GDP (fiscal deficit)	FY 2025-26	-



Additional Guarantees (against CFI)	$\leq 0.5\%$ of GDP in any year	Annual cap	-
Revenue Effective Revenue Deficit Targets	Removed by 2018 Amendment	-	-

2. Sagarmala Programme:

Context: It's been 10 years since the launch of Sagarmala Programme.

About Sagarmala Programme:

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (2015).
- **Aim:** Harness India's 11,098 km coastline & 14,500 km waterways for economic growth.
- **Funding:** PPP, MoPSW resources, grant-in-aid for social projects, SPV equity.
- **Sagarmala 2.0 (2025):** Focus on shipbuilding, repair, recycling, and port modernization.



KEY COMPONENTS OF SAGARMALA

- Port Modernization & New Port Development
- Port Connectivity Enhancement
- Port-linked Industrialization
- Coastal Community Development
- Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport

Objectives:

- Reduce logistics cost for EXIM & domestic trade with minimal infra investment.
- Promote inland & coastal waterways in multi-modal transport.
- Generate employment & skill development in maritime sector.





3. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

Context: Parliamentary Standing Committee in its report has flagged slow progress of work under PMGSY in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):



- **Launch (2000):** 100% centrally sponsored scheme to provide all-weather rural road connectivity.
- **Ministry:** Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Eligibility:** Villages with population >500 (plains) and >250 (hills/difficult areas).
- **Funding Pattern:** Changed in 2015–16 to 60:40 (Centre:States), 90:10 for NE & Himalayan States.
- **PMGSY-I (2000):** Rural connectivity to eligible habitations as per Census 2001.
- **PMGSY-II (2013):** Upgradation of 50,000 km rural roads across States/UTs.
- **RCPLWEA (2016):** Road construction/upgradation in Left-Wing Extremism affected areas.
- **PMGSY-III (2019):** Consolidation of 1,25,000 km to connect rural links with markets, schools & hospitals.

Salient features:

- National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) provides technical and managerial support at the national level.
- State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs), state-level agencies for implementation of the scheme.
- **Decentralized Planning:** Involves Panchayati Raj Institutions, MLAs, and MPs.
- **Online Management, Monitoring, and Accounting System (OMMAS):** Web-based monitoring & accounting system developed by C-DAC.
- **eMARG:** Geo-tagged mobile app platform to verify maintenance work and monitor contractors.
- **Meri Sadak App:** Grievance redressal tool for public complaints on pace, quality, or abandoned works.

4. **M.S. Swaminathan:**

Context: Prime Minister addressed the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi.

More about:

- **Theme of Conference:** “Evergreen Revolution: The Pathway to Biohappiness.”
- **Award:** M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace instituted in his honor.
- **Purpose:** To recognize individuals from developing countries for contributions to food security.
- **First Recipient:** Prof. Ademola A. Adenle (Nigeria).



Key contribution of MS Swaminathan:



- **Green Revolution Architect:** Introduced dwarf wheat, HYV rice, and Pusa Basmati (1989).
- **Evergreen Revolution:** Advocated sustainable productivity with ecological balance.
- **Ecological Practices:** Promoted IPM, INM, rainwater harvesting, renewable energy, and climate-resilient crops.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Influenced PPV&FR Act (2001) and Biological Diversity Act (2002).
- **Biohappiness Concept:** Linked biodiversity conservation to human health, nutrition, and livelihoods.
- **Women in Agriculture:** Introduced Women Farmers' Entitlements Bill, 2011.
- **Nutritional Security:** Pushed shift from food to nutrition security through bio-fortified crops.

5. Retail inflation:



Context: India's retail inflation moderated to 8 year low of 1.55% in July, 2025.

Reason for the Decline:

- **Favourable base effect:** Refers to the impact of the corresponding reference year on current growth estimates.



- **Decline in inflation:** In items like Pulses and Products, Transport and communication, Vegetables, Cereal and products, Education, etc.

Consumer Price Index:

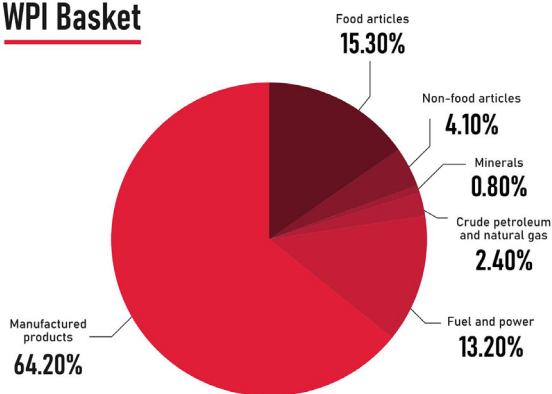
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a statistic used to assess changes in the average price level of goods and services purchased by households over time.
- In 2014, during the tenure of Raghuram Rajan as the Governor of RBI, CPI was chosen as an inflation indicator and policy making.



- The CPI basket comprises 448 items in rural and 460 items in urban.
- The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the index.

Wholesale Price Index

WPI Basket

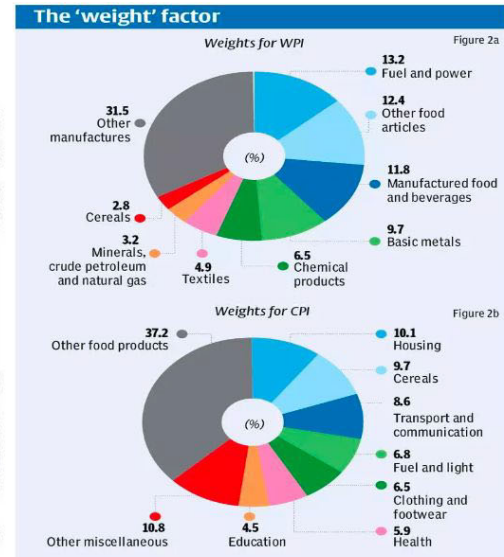
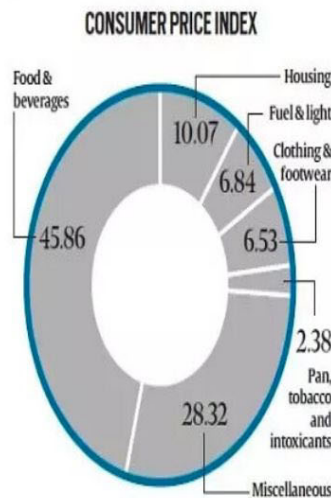
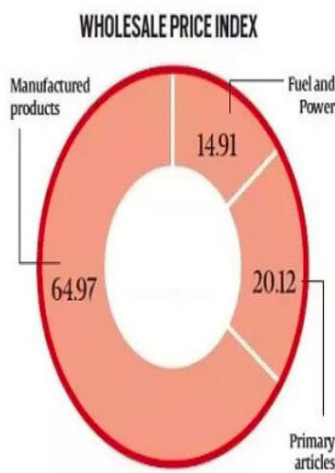


Source: BloombergQuint



- This rate of inflation is commonly referred to as headline inflation.
- The Office of Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce and Industry publishes the WPI.
- WPI displays the total price of a commodity basket of 697 items.

CPI vs WPI comparison



Parameter	CPI	WPI
Meaning	It reflects the average change in prices paid by consumers at the retail level.	It reflects changes in average wholesale prices for goods sold in bulk.
Frequency of Publishing	Monthly (14 th of every month)	Primary articles, fuel, and power on a Weekly basis (Generally Thursdays) Overall index on monthly basis.
Source	The CPI's item weights are based on average household expenditures gathered from consumer expenditure surveys.	The WPI's item weights are based on production values.
Status of services	Services are included in the CPI (like housing, education, medical care etc)	Services are not included in the WPI.



6. AU Small Finance Bank:

Context: RBI granted 'in-principle' approval to AU Small Finance Bank for transitioning from a small finance bank (SFB) to a universal bank, for the first time in a decade.

More about:

- Universal Banking Licence permits a financial institution to offer a wide array of banking services, including commercial and investment banking, under a single umbrella.
- Universal banking licences were granted in 2014 to Bandhan Bank and IDFC Bank, which later became IDFC First Bank.

For Big League



Listed and profitable SFBs with gross NPA ratio less than 3% for last two fiscals **can apply for universal banking licence**

SFBs need to have a net NPA ratio less than 1% **for the last two financial years**

They also need to be **profitable for the last two fiscals**



SMALL
FINANCE
BANK



About Small Finance Banks:

- They are RBI-licensed specialized banks for low-income and underserved communities.
- **Status:** Granted scheduled bank status under Section 42 of RBI Act, 1934 after operational suitability.
- **Objective:** Promote financial inclusion via small loans, savings, insurance, and basic banking services.
- **Eligibility (Individuals):** Resident professionals with 10+ years senior-level banking/finance experience.



- **Eligibility (Institutions):** Resident-owned companies, societies, NBFCs, MFIs, and LABs with 5+ years track record.
- **Capital Norm:** Minimum paid-up equity capital of ₹200 crore.
- Maintain minimum 15% Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio.
- **Priority Sector Lending:** 75% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit must go to PSL.
- **Branch Rule:** At least 25% branches in unbanked rural areas.



4. Defence

1. Mission Sudarshan Chakra:



Context: Prime Minister announced the launch of Mission Sudarshan Chakra during the 79th Independence Day celebrations.

- The mission seeks to develop Air Defence system aimed at neutralizing enemy defence infiltrations and enhancing India's offensive capabilities.

About Sudarshan Chakra Mission:



- **Timeline:** Mission targeted for completion by 2035.
- **Comprehensive Protection:** Safeguards strategic, civilian, and religious sites/assets.
- **Coverage:** Security shield across air, land, and sea, including all public places.
- **Integration:** Combines advanced surveillance, cyber protection, and physical safeguards.
- **Precision:** Enables targeted and precise defensive action.



- **Indigenous Technology:** Fully researched, developed, and manufactured in India.
- **Air Superiority:** Provides protective aerial cover for ground forces.
- **Deterrence Effect:** Acts as a strong deterrent against enemy aggression.

2. Project Kusha:



Context: The Indian Air Force is pressing for rapid progress on Project Kusha, an indigenous initiative led by DRDO to develop a long-range air defense missile system.

About Project Kusha:

- **Purpose:** Indigenous long-range air defence system for IAF, comparable to Israel's Iron Dome.
- **Timeline:** Deployment targeted for 2028–29.
- **Developer:** DRDO with an estimated budget of ₹21,700 crore.
- **Targets:** Capable of intercepting cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones.
- **Radars:** Equipped with advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars.
- **Interceptor Missiles:** Ranges of 150 km, 200 km, and 350 km for layered defence.
- **Effectiveness:** 80% single-shot kill chance; over 90% with dual-fire.
- **Coverage:** Provides both strategic and tactical air defence cover.
- **Integration:** Seamlessly connects with IAF's air command and military radar network.

3. Agni-5:

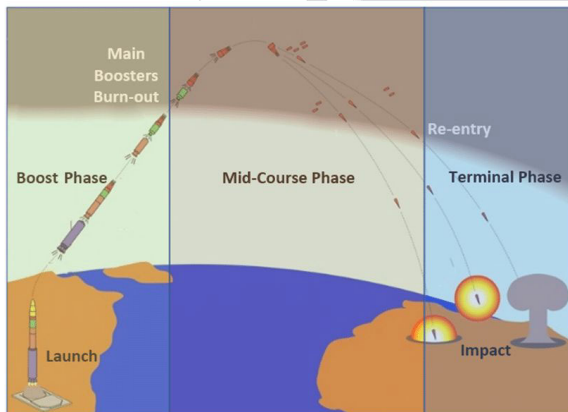
Context: India successfully test-fired Agni-5 Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM).





What are ballistic missiles?

- Ballistic missiles are rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.
- They are launched directly into the upper layers of the earth's atmosphere.



- They travel outside the atmosphere, where the warhead detaches from the missile and falls towards a predetermined target.
- They can be launched from aircraft, ships and submarines, and land.

About Agni-5 missile:

- Agni-5 is an ingeniously built advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptor missile.
- Agni-1 to 5 missiles are designed & developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

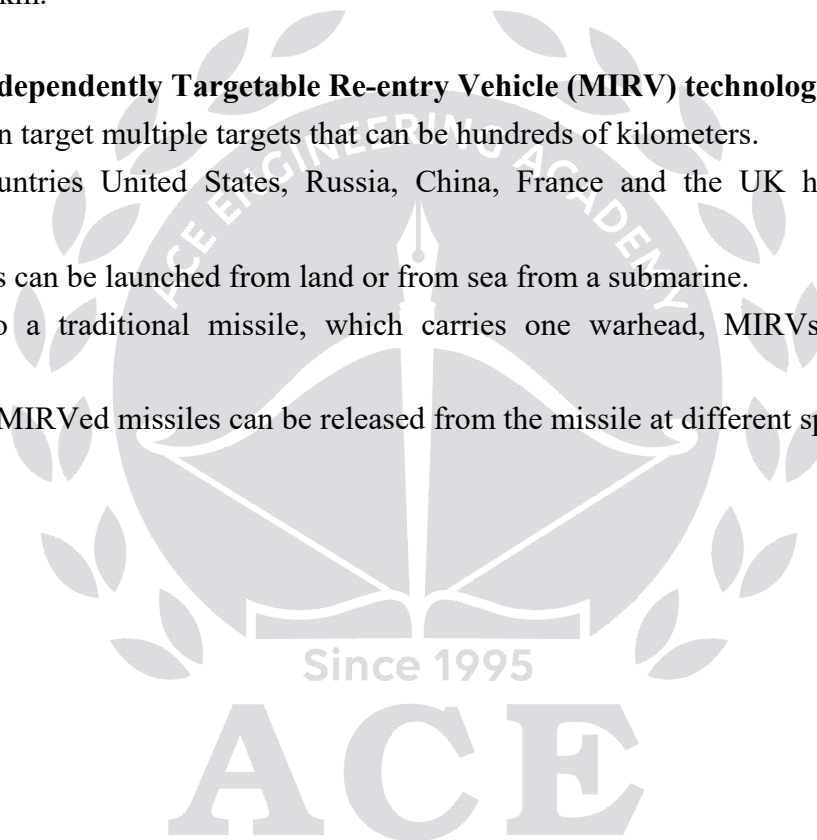


Other Ranges of Agni Missiles:

- **Agni I:** Range of 700-800 km.
- **Agni II:** Range more than 2000 km.
- **Agni III:** Range of more than 2,500 Km
- **Agni IV:** Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
- **Agni-V:** The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

About Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology:

- The MIRV can target multiple targets that can be hundreds of kilometers.
- Only five countries United States, Russia, China, France and the UK have MIRV-equipped missiles.
- These missiles can be launched from land or from sea from a submarine.
- In contrast to a traditional missile, which carries one warhead, MIRVs can carry multiple warheads.
- Warheads on MIRVed missiles can be released from the missile at different speeds and in different directions.



5. Environment and Disaster Management

1. Cloudbursts:

Context: Recently, several regions in India, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir, have been impacted by cloudbursts.



About Cloudburst:

- Cloudburst: Sudden, extreme rainfall in a short span, often with hail and thunder, causing floods.
- IMD Definition: Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour at a station qualifies as a cloudburst.
- Recent Cases: Kishtwar (J&K), Chamoli (Uttarakhand, 2025), Himachal Pradesh (2020).
- Occurrence: More frequent in mountains due to orographic lift, but can occur in plains too.
- Consequences: Trigger flash floods, dam breaks, landslides, destruction of infrastructure, biodiversity loss, and human casualties.

2. Equator Initiative Award:

Context: The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group (SHG) from a village in Dharwad district was among the winners of the prestigious 'Equator Initiative Award'.

- Bibi Fatima SHG introduced millet-based mixed cropping on rainfed farms, promoted climate-resilient farming, practiced livestock rearing and horticulture, and popularised millets.





About UNDP Equator Initiative Award:



- **Equator Initiative Award:** Presented every two years under UNDP's Equator Initiative.
- **Purpose:** Recognizes efforts of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in tackling land degradation, conserving biodiversity, and improving livelihoods.
- **Nickname:** Often called the "Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation."

3. **Awaza programme of action:**

Context: The Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) opened in Awaza, Turkmenistan.





About Awaza programme of action:

- **Adoption:** APoA was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly in December 2024.
- **Framework:** Provides a comprehensive roadmap to address development challenges of LLDCs.
- **Agriculture:** Calls for Regional Agricultural Research Hubs to boost food security.
- **Infrastructure:** Proposes an Infrastructure Investment Finance Facility for critical funding.
- **Climate & Trade:** Establishes a UNFCCC Negotiating Body to advance trade and climate resilience.

4. Sundarbans Tiger Reserve:



Context: Sundarbans Tiger Reserve became India's second-largest after NBWL approved West Bengal's proposal to expand its area.

STR is now India's second-largest tiger reserve, behind Nagarjuna Sagar - Srisailem, rising from seventh to second place among 58 reserves.



About Sundarbans Tiger Reserve:



- **Location:** Coastal districts of West Bengal, southernmost part of the Gangetic delta, bordering the Bay of Bengal.
- **Delta:** Part of the world's largest delta, formed by the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.
- **Status:** National Park, Biosphere Reserve, and only mangrove forest (besides Bangladesh) with significant tiger population.
- **Borders:** East – Bangladesh (Harinbanga, Raimangal, Kalindi rivers); South – Bay of Bengal; West – Matla river; Northwest – Bidya and Gomdi rivers.
- **Flora:** True mangroves, mangrove associates, shrubs, halophytic herbs, epiphytes, and parasitic plants.
- **Fauna:** Tiger, fishing cat, estuarine crocodile, Gangetic & Irrawaddy dolphins, king cobra, water monitor lizard, among others.

5. Matri Van Initiative:

Context: Matri Van Initiative is launched in Gurugram to develop a 750-acre urban forest in the Aravalli hills.

About Matri Van Initiative:



- The initiative is part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' programme.
- It seeks to promote ecological conservation and encourage community participation, advancing urban sustainability.
- Ecological restoration activities include removing invasive species, planting native trees, and restoring Aravalli-specific biodiversity.

6. Etalin hydroelectric project:

Context: Union Environment Ministry has recommended environmental clearance for the Etalin hydroelectric project.



About Etalin hydroelectric project:



- **Location:** Etalin Hydroelectric Project is in Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.
- **Rivers:** Involves concrete gravity dams on the Dri and Tangon rivers; the Dri joins Tangon near Etalin village to form the Dibang River downstream.



6. Social Development

1. **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan:**

Context: Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan was officially launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.



Features:

- **Purpose:** Tribal grassroots leadership programme to empower communities, strengthen governance, and create local leadership.
- **Target:** Build a cadre of 20 lakh operating in over 1 lakh tribal villages across 30 States/UTs, 550+ districts, and 3,000 blocks, reaching 10.5 crore tribal citizens.
- **Vision:** Aadi Karmayogi cadre as a “Tribal Seva Path”, guided by Seva (Service), Samarpan (Dedication), and Sankalp (Resolve) for responsive governance and last-mile service in tribal areas.

Key Objectives:

- Promote governance that is responsive, transparent, and accountable.
- Facilitate participatory planning through bottom-up visioning.
- Institutionalize grievance redressal and feedback mechanisms.
- Ensure last-mile delivery via convergence of flagship tribal initiatives



2. MERITE Scheme:

Context: Cabinet approved Budgetary Support for Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme.

CABINET DECISION

CABINET APPROVES BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR MERITE SCHEME

OUTLAY OF RS 4,200 CRORE

Aim
To improve the quality, equity and governance in technical education covering all States/UTs by implementing interventions aligned with the National Educational Policy-2020.

Major outcomes expected

- Enhancement of students' learning and employability skills.
- Strengthened research and innovation environment.
- Development of guidelines for multidisciplinary programs among technical courses.

MERITE: Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education

Source: GoI

Cabinet Approves MERITE
(Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education)
For the next 5 years (2025-2030)
Aligned to the vision of NEP-2020

Highlights:

- ₹4200 Crore** Outlay
- 275** Govt. Engineering Colleges & Polytechnics
- Benefit 7.5 lakh+ Students** across the country

Cabinet Decisions
09 August 2025

About MERITE Scheme:

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education.
- **Objective:** Improve quality, equity, and governance in technical education across all States/UTs, aligned with NEP 2020.
- **Budget:** Rs. 4,200 crore (2025-26 to 2029-30), including Rs. 2,100 crore World Bank loan.
- **Beneficiaries:** 275 technical institutions (175 engineering colleges and 100 polytechnics)



7. Science and Technology

1. Space Programme in India:

Context: Lok Sabha held a special discussion on Critical Role of the Space Programme for Viksit Bharat by 2047 highlighting that Space experiments conducted by Subhanshu Shukla personify India as Vishwabandhu Bharat.



Shubhanshu shukla:



- He travelled to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) Mission.



- He is India's first astronaut aboard the ISS and only the second Indian to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma in 1984.

About Axiom-4 (Ax-4) Mission:

- **Mission:** 4th private astronaut mission to ISS by Axiom Space, with NASA & SpaceX.
- **Launch:** 14-day mission aboard SpaceX Dragon on Falcon 9 from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida.
- **Crew:** Shubhanshu Shukla (India), Peggy Whitson (USA), Slawosz Uznanski (Poland), Tibor Kapu (Hungary).
- **Aim:** First ISS mission for India, Poland, Hungary; revival of government-backed spaceflights after 40+ years.
- **Research Scope:** 60+ studies from 31 countries – microgravity, human physiology, Earth imaging, etc.

About International Space Station (ISS):



- It is a habitable artificial satellite, in Low Earth orbit (LEO) (altitude of 370–460 km).
- **Key partners for ISS:** Europe (ESA), the USA (NASA), Japan (JAXA), Canada (CSA) and Russia (Roscosmos)
- It orbits the Earth at a speed of approximately 28,000 kilometres per hour, completing one orbit every 90 minutes.
- It is the largest artificial body in orbit providing a laboratory in space, having an orbit such that it can fly over 90% of inhabited Earth.



- Its first component was launched into orbit in 1998 and it will continue to be a working laboratory and outpost in orbit until at least 2030.

Critical Role of Indian Space Programme/Technology:

Space Programme / Technology	Objective
INSAT-3D/3DR	Weather forecasting and crop yield estimation for agriculture
Resourcesat	Crop monitoring and productivity assessment.
PM Gati Shakti (with ISRO imagery & spatial tools)	Integrated planning and monitoring of infrastructure projects (Bharatmala, Sagarmala, railways).
Disaster Management Support (DMS)	Real-time disaster monitoring, early warning, and damage assessment.
GSAT-7 & RISAT	Strengthening secure communication and border surveillance.
Mission Shakti (2019)	Demonstrated India's anti-satellite capability for defence.
NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)	Indigenous satellite navigation reducing dependence on foreign GPS.
NISAR (NASA-ISRO mission)	Studying land deformation, glaciers, ecosystems, and oceans to address climate change.
ISRO's Telemedicine Project	Delivering healthcare services to remote areas.
EDUSAT	Providing distance learning and educational broadcasting.
Geo-tagging of MGNREGA assets	Ensuring transparency and accountability in welfare schemes.
Bhuvan-SRISHTI Geoportal	Monitoring watershed projects and groundwater management.

India's Space Milestones:

- 1962 – INCOSPAR formed under Department of Atomic Energy.
- 1969 – ISRO established.
- 1975 – Aryabhata, India's first satellite, launched.
- 1980 – SLV-3 successfully places Rohini RS-1 in orbit.
- 2008 – Chandrayaan-1 launched.
- 2013 – Mars Orbiter Mission launched.
- 2023 – Chandrayaan-3 lands successfully on the Moon.
- 2025 – Indian astronaut reached ISS (Axiom Mission-4).



2. Earth Observation Satellite System:

Context: PixxelSpace India-led Consortium has won the IN-SPACe proposal to build India's first fully indigenous commercial Earth Observation Satellite System (EOSS) under PPP model.

More about:



- PixxelSpace India Consortium includes Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space.
- The project follows a Public-Private Partnership (EO-PPP) model, with private sector building and operating the EOSS, and government providing support.
- The consortium placed a “zero-cost” bid, investing ₹1,200+ crore on its own, foregoing government support of up to ₹350 crore.

About the proposed Earth Observation Satellite System (EOSS):

- EOSS will be a constellation of 12 EO satellites launched over 5 years.
- The satellites will carry panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral, and SAR sensors.
- **Applications:** Provide Analysis Ready Data (ARD) and value-added services for climate monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, national security, and geospatial intelligence.

Government Initiatives to promote Private sector participation in Space:

- **IN-SPACe (2020):** Set up to authorize and promote private participation in space activities.
- **Indian Space Policy 2023:** Provides regulatory clarity and long-term policy stability.
- **Venture Capital Fund:** ₹1,000 crore funds approved for space startups across the supply chain.
- **Technology Transfer:** ISRO transferred 10 advanced technologies to 6 Indian industries.



- **Liberalized FDI Policy:** Allows up to 100% FDI in the space sector to attract global investment and collaboration.

3. **Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE):**

Context: ISRO organizes Space Analog Mission in Tso Kar Valley, Ladakh



About HOPE Mission:

- **HOPE (Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration):** A habitat-utility module complex simulating space-like conditions on Earth.
- **Led by:** ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) with industry and academic partners.
- **Objective:** Test human survival, health protocols, and equipment for Moon/Mars missions.
- **Research Areas:** Epigenetics, genomics, physiology, psychology studies.
- **Techniques:** Microbial sampling, health monitoring validation, planetary surface operation protocols.
- **Reasons for choosing Tso Kar Valley:** Mars-like environment: High UV radiation, low air pressure, extreme cold, and saline permafrost.
- **Dual purpose:** Suitable for both technological testing and astrobiology research.
- **Global trend:** Part of analog missions like US's Mars Desert Research Station, Canada's Flashline Mars Arctic Station, and Russia's BIOS-3.

4. **Lunar Module launch Vehicle:**

Context: ISRO's heaviest rocket Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV) to be ready by 2035





Key Features of LMLV:

Design: Advanced version



- **Design:** Advanced version of NGLV, height comparable to a 40-storey building.
- **Purpose:** Built for lunar missions, including India's first crewed Moon mission by 2040.
- **Payload Capacity:** 80 tonnes to LEO and ~27 tonnes to the Moon.
- **Stages:** Three-stage rocket with liquid propellants (first two) and cryogenic propellant (third).

ISRO's Key Launch Vehicles and Capabilities:

Launch Vehicle	Key Features / Capabilities
PSLV	Workhorse rocket; 3 rd generation; solid + liquid stages; launches to Sun-Synchronous Orbit, LEO, GTO; used for Chandrayaan-1 & MOM.



GSLV	4 th gen; 3-stage with cryogenic upper stage; launches ~2-ton satellites to GTO; mainly for communication satellites.
LVM 3	Heavy-lift, 3-stage; ~4 tons to GTO, ~10 tons to LEO; used in Chandrayaan-2 & 3; proposed for Bharatiya Antariksh Station.
SSLV	3-stage all-solid; designed for 10-500 kg Mini/Micro/Nano satellites; mainly for LEO launches

5. The General-Purpose AI Code of Practice:

Context: Tech companies, including Amazon and Google have voluntarily signed the EU Commission's AI Code of Practice on GPAI.

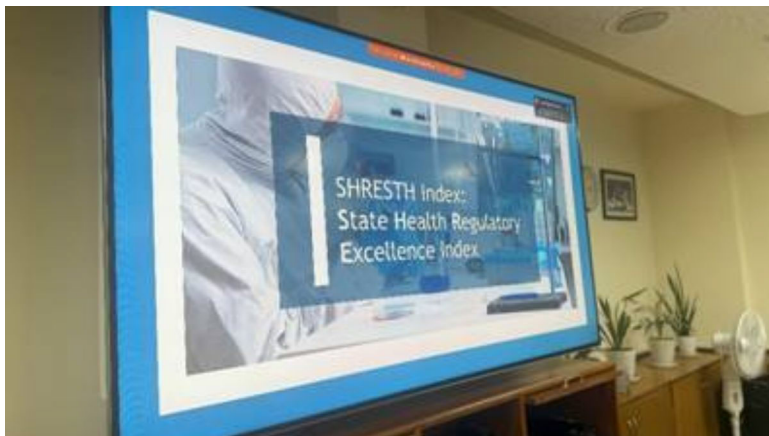
About AI Code of Practice on GPAI:



- **EU AI Act:** First comprehensive AI law with a risk-based regulatory approach.
- **Accountability:** Imposes clear responsibilities on AI providers and businesses using generative AI.
- **Global Impact:** Expected to become a global standard, similar to GDPR.
- **Penalties:** Non-compliance can attract fines up to 7% of global turnover.
- **Concerns:** Legal uncertainties for developers, regulatory burden, and competitiveness risks.
- **Voluntary Code:** Provides smoother transition into binding AI Act within 2 years.
- **Focus Areas:** Transparency, Copyright, and Safety & Security.



6. State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH):



Context: Union Health Ministry launched State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH), a national initiative to benchmark and strengthens state drug regulatory systems.

About SHRESTH:

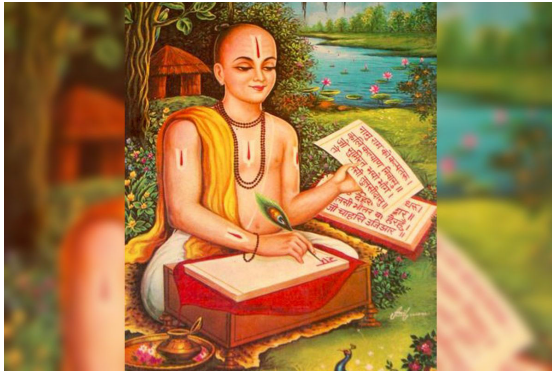


- **Proposed by:** Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- **Aim:** Enhance performance of state drug regulatory authorities to ensure drug safety and quality.
- **Framework:** Evaluation through indices based on five themes—Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing, Surveillance, and Responsiveness.



8. Miscellaneous

1. Goswami Tulsidas:



Context: Recently, the 500th birth anniversary of Goswami Tulsidas was celebrated in Chitrakoot. He is believed to be born in Rajapur Village, Banda District, Uttar Pradesh

Key Contributions:

- **Ramcharitmanas:** Written in Awadhi on the banks of Ganga at Assi, Varanasi; listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.
- **Other Works:** Vinay Patrika, Kavitavali (in Braj), Gitavali, Dohavali, Janaki Mangal, Parvati Mangal, Hanuman Chalisa, etc.
- **Bhakti Movement:** Ramanandi saint of the Saguna Bhakti tradition; emphasized complementarity of Saguna and Nirguna devotion.
- **Promotion of Dialects:** Popularized Awadhi and Braj through his literary works.
- **Temple Building:** Founded the Sankatmochan Temple in Varanasi dedicated to Hanuman.
- **Ramlila Tradition:** Inspired the theatrical enactment of Ramayana; now inscribed in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Teachings of Tulsidas:

- **Navavidha Bhakti:** Nine fold devotion—company of saints, serving Guru, and deep interest in the Lord's life.
- **Social Equality:** Birth is irrelevant; devotion alone makes one dear to God.



- **Unity of Shaivism & Vaishnavism:** Saw Lord Shiva and Lord Rama as one.
- **Advaita Philosophy:** Supreme reality is formless; Rama can be worshipped beyond bodily form.
- **Taxation Principle:** Taxes should return to people like rain returns water, ensuring prosperity.

2. Kakori Train action:

Context: 2025 marks the centenary year of the Kakori Train action.



Kakori Train action:

- **Date & Place:** August 9, 1925, near Kakori village, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Organizers:** Ten revolutionaries of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
- **Objective:** Loot treasury funds from the 8-down train (Shahjahanpur–Lucknow) carrying British government money.
- **Key Leaders:** Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Thakur Roshan Singh, Rajendra Lahiri.
- **Aftermath:** Chandrashekhar Azad evaded capture and led revolutionary activities until his death in 1931 at Alfred Park, Allahabad.

3. Gallantry Awards:



Context: President approved 127 Gallantry awards & 40 Distinguished Service awards on eve of 79th Independence Day. What are Gallantry awards?



- Gallantry Awards have been instituted to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.
- These gallantry awards are announced twice a year - first on the occasion of Republic Day and then on the occasion of Independence Day.

Categorisation of awards:

Gallantry Awards are classified into two categories



1. Gallantry in the Face of Enemy.
2. Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy.

Gallantry in the Face of Enemy:

1. Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
2. Mahavir Chakra (MVC)
3. Vir Chakra



Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy:

1. Ashok Chakra
2. Kirti Chakra
3. Shaurya Chakra



History of the awards:

- The first three gallantry awards namely the Param Vir Chakra, the Maha Vir Chakra and the Vir Chakra were instituted by the Government of India on 26th January 1950.
- Other three gallantry awards i.e., the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III were instituted by the Government of India on 4th January 1952.
- These awards were renamed the Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra respectively in January 1967.

4. 71st National Film Awards:

Context: Recently, the 71st National Film Awards were announced.

About National Film Awards:

- **Established:** 1954 by the Government of India.
- **Presentation:** Conferred annually by the President of India.
- **Sections:** Feature Films, Non-Feature Films, Best Writing on Cinema, and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Highest honor in Indian cinema, instituted in 1969, with Golden Lotus, shawl, and ₹10 lakh cash prize.



- **Categories:** Best Feature Film, Direction, Actor, Actress, Cinematography, Screenplay, Music Direction, etc.

Category	Winner(s)	Film(s)
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan, Vikrant Massey	Jawan, 12 th Fail
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji	Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Supporting Actor	Vijayaraghavan, Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar	Pookkalam, Parking
Best Supporting Actress	Urvashi, Janaki Bodiwala	Ullozhukku, Vash
Best Feature Film	-	12 th Fail
Best Film in Hindi	-	Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery
Best Film in Telugu	-	Bhagavanth Kesari
Best Film in Tamil	-	Parking
Best Film in Punjabi	-	Godday Godday Chaa
Best Film in Odia	-	Pushkara
Best Film in Marathi	-	Shyamchi Aai
Best Film in Malayalam	-	Ullozhukku
Best Film in Kannada	-	Kandeelu: The Ray of Hope
Best Film in Gujarati	-	Vash
Best Film in Bengali	-	Deep Fridge
Best Film in Assamese	-	Rongatapu 1982
Best Direction	Sudipto Sen	The Kerala Story
Best Choreography	Vaibhavi Merchant	Rocky Aur Ranki Kii Prem Kahaani
Best Action Direction	Nandu and Prudhvi	Hanu-Man
Best Lyrics	Kasarla Shyam	Balagam
Best Music Direction	G.V. Prakash Kumar (Songs), Harshavardhan Rameshwar (BGM)	Vaathi, Animal
Best Male Playback Singer	P.V.N.S. Rohit	Baby
Best Female Playback Singer	Shilpa Rao	Jawan
Best Cinematography	Prasanthanu Mohapatra	The Kerala Story



Best Editing	Midhun Murali	Pookkaalam
Best Sound Design	Mohandas	2018 Everyone is a Hero
Best Make-up	Shrikanth Desai	Sam Bahadur
Best Costume Designer	Sachin, Divya, Nidhhi	Sam Bahadur
Special Mention	M.R. Radhakrishnan (Re-recording mixer)	Animal

5. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the targeted subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Consumers for 2025-26 at Rs 12,000 crore.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1st May, 2016 with the slogan of “Clean Fuel, Better Life”.
- It aims to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG, so that they don’t have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens.
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is the implementing Agency.
- Budget: Rs 8,000 crore.

Features of the scheme:

- 5 crore LPG connections were to be provided to BPL (Below Poverty Line) families with a support of Rs 1600 per connection in the next 3 years (2016-19).
- Subsequently, the target was revised to 8 crore LPG connections in April 2018.
- Connections are issued in the name of women of the households.
- The identification of the BPL families is done through Socio Economic Caste Census Data 2011.

Government extension measures:

- Government approved the continuation of targeted subsidy of Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg cylinder) for up to 12 refills per year during FY 2024-25.
- As on 1st March, 2024 there are more than 10.27 crore PMUY beneficiaries.



More about:

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Launch:** 2016, targeting 8 crore deposit-free LPG connections for rural poor.
- **Ujjwala 2.0 (2021):** Added 1.6 crore connections with facility for migrant households.
- **Expansion:** Additional 75 lakh connections approved (FY 2023–24 to 2025–26); overall target 10.35 crore.
- **Implementation:** By MoPNG with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) & state governments.
- **Eligibility:** Adult woman (18+) from BPL family without LPG connection.
- **For Migrants:** Self-declaration sufficient; no ration card or address proof needed.
- **Enrolment:** Apply via KYC form with Aadhaar, bank details, and ration card (if applicable).
- **Benefits:** ₹1600 (14.2 kg) / ₹1150 (5 kg) assistance, free first refill & stove, deposit-free connection.
- **Targeted Subsidy:** ₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills annually.
- **Exclusions:** Households with existing LPG connection or without an adult female member.
- **LPG Panchayat:** Awareness platform for safe LPG use and health benefits.
- **Achievements:** 10.33 crore connections (as of March 2025); praised by IEA & WHO for improving health and environment.

Important days:

Date	Recognition Day	Theme
August 1	World Wide Web Day	“Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe and Open Web”
August 1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	“Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems”
August 6	Hiroshima Day	-
August 7	National Handloom Day	“Weaving Innovation into Tradition” and “Handlooms – Empowering Women, Empowering the Nation”
August 9	International Day of World’s Indigenous People	“Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures”
August 9	Nagasaki Day	-



August 10	World Biofuel Day	“Biofuels: a sustainable pathway to net zero”
August 10	World Lion Day	“Community-Led Conservation”
August 12	International Youth Day	“Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond”
August 12	World Elephant Day	-
August 13	International Lefthanders Day	-
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	“Answering the Call”
August 19	World Photography Day	“MY FAVORITE PHOTO”
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	“Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities”
August 20	World Mosquito Day	“Accelerating the Fight Against Malaria for a More Equitable World”
August 20	Sadbhavana Diwas	Commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
August 21	World Entrepreneur’s Day	“3D: Dream, Dare, Develop India”
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism	“United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism”
August 21	World Senior Citizens’ Day	“Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future”
August 22	Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief Day	-
August 23	Remembrance of Slave Trade and Abolition Day	-
August 26	International Dog Day	-
August 26	Women’s Equality Day	“For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.”
August 27	World Lake Day	“Lakes: the lifeblood of our planet”.
August 29	National Sports Day (India)	“Ek Ghanta, Khel Ke Maidan Main”
August 30	Small Industry Day	“Enhancing the role of MSMEs as drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation”



August 30	Victims of Enforced Disappearances Day	-
September 1 – 7	National Nutrition Week	“Eat Right for a Better Life”
September 23 (from 2025)	Ayurveda Day	“Ayurveda for People & Planet”

Other important national news:

News About	Details
Indian Railways – Kavach 4.0	Commissioned on Mathura-Kota section (Delhi-Mumbai route); Indigenous Automatic Train Protection system; prevents collisions, supports loco pilots; approved by RDSO in July 2024; India achieved in a short time vs 20-30 yrs globally.
‘Apna Ghar’ Initiative for Truckers	Launched by MoPNG; implemented by OMCs at Retail Outlets along highways; provides essential facilities for truck drivers.
PM MITRA Parks	Approved at 7 locations – Virudhnagar (TN), Warangal (TS), Navasari (GJ), Kalaburagi (KA), Dhar (MP), Lucknow (UP), Amravati (MH).
FIFA Talent Academy for Girls	Launched at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad (MoU between AIFF & Telangana Govt, Aug 2, 2025); AIFF & FIFA handle operations and scouting; Telangana manages infra and welfare.
Odisha – ‘Shaktisree’ Programme	Launched for safety of girl students in colleges & universities; covers 16 universities and 730 colleges.
India – 5 th Largest Aviation Market (2024)	Handled 241M passengers; ahead of Japan (205M): top 4: USA (876M), China (741M), UK (261M), Spain (241 M); Mumbai-Delhi route is among the world’s busiest.
Odisha – ‘Shaktisree’ Programme	Launched for safety of girl students in colleges & universities; covers 16 universities and 730 colleges.
India – 5 th Largest Aviation Market (2024)	Handled 241 M passengers; ahead of Japan (205M); top 4: USA (876M), China (741M), UK (261M), Spain (241M); Mumbai – Delhi route is among the world’s busiest.



Pariksha Pe Charcha – Guinness Record	53 crore registrations on MyGov platform; record for most citizen engagement in a month; initiative led by PM Modi for interaction with students, teachers & parents.
Green Hydrogen Plant at Kandla Port	India's 1 st megawatt-scale Make-in-India green hydrogen plant; commissioned at Deendayal Port, Gujarat; first in the Indian port sector.
Drone-Based Artificial Rain – Rajasthan	1 st drone-based cloud seeding at Ramgarh Dam; 60 drones dispersing chemicals; project by Rajasthan Gove & GenX AI (US & Bengaluru).
National Anubhav Awards 2025	10 th anniversary; honours memoirs of retired employees; launched in 2015 by DoPPW under vision of PM Modi.
'Rudrastra' Freight Train	Asia's longest freight train (4.5 km); trial run between Ganjkhwaja (UP) AND Garhwa (Jharkhand); 209 km in 5 h 10 m; average speed 40.5 km/h.
Animal Stem Cell BioBank – Hyderabad	Inagurated at NIAB by Jitendra Singh; 1 st of its kind in India; 9,300 sq.ft facility costing Rs.1.85 cr; includes 3D bioprinter, cryostorage, biosafety labs.
'Disha Abhiyan' – Maharashtra	Standard syllabus for 453 special schools for intellectually disabled students; designed by Jai Vakil Foundation, validated by NIEPID.
'Garuda Drishti' – Maharashtra	Social Media Monitoring & Cyber Intelligence Project launched in Nagpur; aims to track hate speech, fake news, cybercrime; Rs.10 cr distributed to fraud victims.
India – 3 rd Largest Solar Producer	Generated 1,08,494 GWh (2025), surpassing Japan; installed capacity 119.02 GW; total renewable 227 GW; 4000% solar growth in 10 years; Palli (J & K) = first carbon-neutral panchayat.
National Space Day 2025	Celebrated on Aug 23; marks Chandrayaan-3's success (2023); India 4 th nation to land on Moon, 1 st at south pole; site named Shiv Shakti Point; Theme 2025 – "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities".

Defence news:

Event/Exercise/Acquisiton	Key Details
SIMBEX-25 Naval Exercise	INS Satpura reached Singapore; Harbour phase with SMEEs, operational discussions, deck visits with RSN ships.



INS Himgiri Delivered	Third Nilgiri-class frigate (Project 17A) built at GRSE, Kolkata; milestone in Aatmanirbhar shipbuilding.
Exercise Divya Drishti	High-altitude tech demonstration in East Sikkim; used UAVs/drones for surveillance & battlefield awareness.
India's Defence Production 2024-25	Record Rs. 1.51 lakh crore; 18% growth YoY; DPSUs/PSUs 77%, private sector share 23%.
INS Udaygiri & INS Himgiri Commissioned	Both Project 17A frigates were commissioned together on 25 Aug 2025 at Vizag; first such dual commissioning.
SLINEX-25 (India-Sri Lanka)	12 th edition in Colombo (Aug 14-18); India: INS Rana & INS Jyoti; Sri Lanka: SLNS Gajabahu & Vijayabahu.
INS Ikshak Delivered	Third Survey Vessel (Large), built by GRSE; first with women's accommodation.
Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025	Military-Civil Integration drill (Aug 20-30) in Assam & Manipur.
Exercise Bright Star 2025	Tri-service exercise in Egypt (Aug 28-Sep 10); 700+ Indian personnel; biennial with US & Egypt since 1980.
MILMEDICON-2025	Military medical conference launched Aug 28 by RRM Sanjay Seth; theme: trauma in military settings.
Exercise Maitree 2025	14 th edition (Sep 1-14) at Umroi, Meghalaya; India's Ladakh Scouts & Thailand's 14 th Infantry Regiment.
Exercise Aarogya Setu	First-ever civil-military medical fusion exercise in Tinsukia, Assam.
RAN SAMWAD-2025	Tri-service dialogue at Army War College, MP (Aug26-27); organized by HQ IDS & CENJOWS.

Sports news:

Event/Update	Key Details
Archery League	India's 1 st franchise-based league; Oct 2025, Delhi; supported by World Archery & Sports Ministry.
FIFA Talent Academy (Girls)	First in India launched at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad under FIFA TDS.



Annu Rani – Javelin	Won Gold at Wiesław Maniak Memorial, Poland with 62.59m throw.
Minerva Academy FC	Won U-14 Norway Cup 2025; record 130 goals; also completed European treble (Gothia, Dana, Norway Cups).
ICC Player of the Month (July)	Shubman Gill (Men's); Sophia Dunkeley (Women's).
Chess-Quantbox Chennai GM	German GM Vincent Keymer won; entered the world Top 10.
Khelo India Water Sports Festival	First edition in Srinagar; mascot: Himalayan Kingfisher; MP topped medal tally (18 medals).
Real Madrid – Brand Finance	World's most valuable football club (€1.921 bn) for 4 th year.
Asian Open Speed Skating Trophy	To be hosted in Dehradun (Aug 20-23, 2025).
Devika Sihag – Badminton	Won Malaysia International Challenge 2025 (Women's Singles).
World U20 Wrestling	India's Sumit Malik (57 kg) won silver; Tapasya (57kg) secured the medal.
Ahmedabad Sports Hub	Hosting 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting & Asian Aquatics Championships.
Durand Cup 2025	North-East United FC retained the title; beat Diamond Harbour FC 6-1.
Cheteshwar Pujara	Retired from all forms of cricket; 103 Tests, 7,195 runs.
Ravichandran Ashwin	Retired from IPL after CSK stint in 2025.
FIDE World Cup 2025	To be hosted in Goa (Oct-Nove 2025), prize pool \$2M.
Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025	To be held in Bihar (Aug 29-Sep 7, 2025).
Mirabai Chanu – Weightlifting	Won Gold (48 kg) at CW Weightlifting Championship, Ahmedabad.
Neeraj Chopra Javelin	Finished 2 nd at Zurich Diamond League Final (85.01m); 26 th straight top-two finish.
Ajaya Babu Valluri Weightlifting	Won Gold (79kg) at CW Championship, Ahmedabad; qualified for CWG 2026.



Obituaries:

Name	Details
T.N. Manoharan	Padma Shri awardee, Former ICAI President (2006-07); also served in IRDAI Board; died July 30, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra).
M. K. Sanoo	Renowned Malayalam critic, biographer, orator, ex-Professor & MLA; born Oct 27, 1928, Alappusha (Kerala); died at 96.
Shibu Soren	Veteran tribal leader, 3-time CM of Jharkhand, co-founder of JMM, died Aug 4, 2025, aged 81.
Jim Lovell	Apollo 13 Commander, veteran of 4 spaceflights (Gemini VII & XII, Apollo 8 & 13); first to journey to Moon twice without landing; died at 97.
L. Ganesan	Governor of Nagaland, senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu; also held charges of Manipur & West Bengal; died at 80 in Chennai.
Bob Simpson	Australian cricket legend (player, captain, coach); played 62 Tests, 2 ODIs (1957-78); scored Test triple century; inducted in Sport & Cricket Halls of Fame; died at 89.
Lord Swraj Paul	India-born industrialist, Caparo Group Chairman (founded 1968 in UK); Padma Bhushan (1983); died in London at 94.

Since 1995

ACE



Head Office:

3rd Floor, Suryalok Complex, Rosary Convent School, Road,
Gun Foundry, Hyderabad, Telangana 500001, India



Phone

7799996602