

# CT365

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**POLITY**

# PRELIMS 2026



## COVERAGE JUNE 2025 TO FEB2026

This file has month wise CA in compiled format.

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# POLITY & GOVERNANCE

## TOPICS COVERED –

- **Special Session of Parliament** – Article 85(1), procedural deviations, past examples.
- **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Crackdown** – Section 7D, eligibility, benefits, restrictions.
- **Right to Repair Movement in India** – Repairability Index, consumer rights, sectors, Nidhi Khare Committee.
- **Census of India 2027** – First digital census, caste enumeration, legal & historical context.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS)** – Digital birth/death registration, MHA & RGI role.
- **Registrar General of India (RGI)** – Census, CRS, SRS, NPR, advisory functions.
- **Delimitation Exercise** – Constitutional basis, past exercises, next delimitation post-2026.
- **Governor's Pardoning Powers** – Article 161, scope, limitations, judicial review.
- **Three Language Formula** – History, NEP 2020 flexibility, controversies.
- **NITI Aayog's Role** – Cooperative federalism, development indices, flagship programs, innovation hubs.
- **Waqf & Essential Religious Practices** – ERP doctrine, key cases, Articles 25 & 26.
- **Presidential Reference under Article 143** – Advisory opinions, precedents, SC role.
- **Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight Mechanism** – Tools, committee effectiveness, post-legislative scrutiny.
- **Election Commission – Voter Turnout Reporting (VTR) Upgrade** – ECINET App, real-time reporting.
- **Right to Digital Access under Article 21** – Inclusion, digital divide, SC directions.
- **Foreigners Tribunals & Detention in Assam** – NRC, Articles 21 & 22, indefinite detention issues.
- **Rohingyas & Deportation** – Legal status, Foreigners Act, Article 19(1)(e), non-refoulement.
- **Satellite Internet Service Rules – 2025** – Data localisation, security, NavIC integration, indigenisation.
- **50 Years of Emergency (1975–77)** – Causes, amendments (38th, 39th, 42nd, 44th), historical impact.
- **Personality Rights** – Definition, legal basis, right to publicity, AI threats, key judgments.
- **Constitutional Validity of Narco Tests** – Selvi v. Karnataka, involuntary vs voluntary tests, Articles 20 & 21.
- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** – Structure, PPP model, accreditation, Swachh Survekshan.
- **States Cannot Be Compelled to Adopt NEP** – Education in Concurrent List, SC ruling, state autonomy.
- **Safe Harbour under IT Act** – Section 79, intermediary liability, Digital India Act implications.
- **Adi Karmyogi Programme** – Tribal capacity building, grassroots transformation, training framework.
- **Trust-Based Regulation & Jan Vishwas Act, 2023** – Decriminalisation, ease of doing business, MSME focus.
- **Advancing SC/ST Welfare in India** – Legal protections, social challenges, implementation issues.
- **Goa as Fully Functionally Literate State** – ULLAS Programme, functional literacy definition, NEP alignment.

- **Regulation under Article 240 & Ladakh's 6th Schedule Demand** – Domicile-based quotas, cultural protections.
- **DPDP Act, 2023 & DPDP Rules, 2025** – Digital privacy, rights, obligations, cross-border transfers.
- **Zonal Councils** – Establishment, structure, objectives, Centre–State coordination.
- **Alcohol Regulation in India** – Consumption trends, health/economic impact, policy gaps, need for National Policy.
- **Reforming Subordinate Judiciary** – Vacancies, backlog, economic impact, recruitment, structure.
- **Promoting Foreign Universities in India** – NEP 2020 & UGC rules, benefits, challenges, global trend.
- **PM-WANI Scheme** – Public Wi-Fi, PDO/PDOA ecosystem, tariff caps, digital inclusion.
- **Bar Council of India Decision to Allow Foreign Lawyers** – International law practice, BCI amendments, implications.
- **Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)** – Delisting, definition, recognition criteria, reforms.
- **Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities** – RPWD Act, MoU (DEPwD-NIOS-NCERT), challenges & initiatives.
- **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** – Aviation security, legal powers, ICAO norms, airport expansion.



## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

SOURCE: THE HINDU  
Special Session of Parliament

### Recent Context

In June 2025, **Government announced a Special Session**, summoned by the President under **Article 85(1)**; Constitution omits term “special session”; **Question Hour, Zero Hour excluded.**

### About

1. **Article 85(1)**: President summons Parliament; six months max gap between sessions.
2. Term “**special session**” is not in the Constitution—used administratively.
3. Summoning done by President **on advice of Council of Ministers.**
4. Procedural devices like **Question Hour, Zero Hour** may be excluded.
5. Special sessions are for urgent, commemorative, or specific agenda items.
6. Distinct from emergency sessions or regular budget/monsoon/winter sessions.
7. Past uses: 1962 war debate, 2017 GST launch, Independence commemorations.

## Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Crackdown

### Recent Context :

Since **2014**, MHA cancelled **194 OCI registrations** (57 in 2024) under **Section 7D, Citizenship Act 1955**, citing grounds like **fraud, imprisonment, disaffection**, or ties with **enemy nations**.

### About:

1. **OCI** → Immigration status for **foreign citizens of Indian origin.**
2. **Eligibility** → Citizens of India after **26 Jan 1950**, descendants, certain spouses.
3. **Not Eligible** → Nationals of **Pakistan, Bangladesh** & notified countries.
4. **Benefits** → **Visa-free entry, indefinite stay, NRI parity** (except for agriculture land & voting).
5. **Launched** → To address demand for **dual citizenship** by overseas Indians.
6. **Section 7D, Citizenship Act 1955** → Allows **cancellation** for fraud, crimes, anti-India acts.
7. **Restrictions** → Cannot **vote**, hold **constitutional posts**, or buy **agricultural land.**

## Right to Repair Movement in India

### Recent Context :

**Department of Consumer Affairs** introduced a framework for a **Repairability Index (RI)** for **electronics**, advancing the **Right to Repair** campaign to reduce costs, e-waste, and boost **consumer rights.**

### About:

1. **Right to Repair** → Lets consumers **fix/modify products** without restrictions.
2. **Repairability Index (RI)** → Scores devices on **spare parts, repair cost, updates, manuals.**
3. **Sectors identified** → **Farming Equipment, Mobiles/Tablets, Consumer Durables, Automobiles.**
4. **Nidhi Khare Committee (2022)** → Set up for a **repair framework.**
5. **Right to Repair Portal (2022)** → Provides **manuals, authorised & third-party repairer details.**
6. **Consumer Rights** → Encourages **sustainability, affordability, circular economy.**
7. **Global Trend** → Similar initiatives in **EU, USA**, ensuring **longer product life.**

## Census of India

### Recent Context

**Government to conduct the delayed Census**, concluding by **March 2027** — **first digital Census and first post-independence caste enumeration**; conducted by **Office of the Registrar General under Ministry of Home Affairs.**

### About

1. **Nodal Agency**: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, under MHA.
2. **Reference Dates**:
  - **1 Oct 2026** – Ladakh, snowbound areas of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand.
  - **1 Mar 2027** – Rest of India.
3. **Two Phases**: (i) House Listing & Housing Census, (ii) Population Enumeration, with a 6–8 month gap.

4. **Purpose:** Collects demographic, cultural, and economic data for planning at local, state, and national levels.



5. **Special Features (2027):** First fully digital enumeration + first caste data collection in independent India.
6. **Historical Background:**
- 1830 – First city census (Dacca, Henry Walter).
  - 1872 – First non-synchronous census (Lord Mayo).
  - 1881 – First synchronous census (W.C. Plowden).
7. **Legal/Constitutional Basis:** Union subject (Seventh Schedule, Article 246); Census Act, 1948 mandates enumeration every 10 years.

### Civil Registration System (CRS)

#### Recent Context

**Union Home Minister launched the CRS mobile app to modernise and integrate technology in birth and death registration; 23 States and 6 UTs have adopted the system.**

#### About

1. **Meaning:** Continuous, permanent, and compulsory recording of vital events — births, deaths, and stillbirths.
2. **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
3. **Legal Basis:** Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969 — amended in 2023 for digital and real-time registration.
4. **National Coordination:** Registrar General of India (RGI) under MHA coordinates and unifies registration activities nationwide.

5. **Coverage:** As of 2025, implemented in 23 States and 6 UTs.
6. **Purpose:** Provides vital statistics for public health, population planning, and governance.
7. **Recent Development:** Mobile application launched to integrate technology, improve accessibility, and ensure real-time data entry.

### Registrar General of India (RGI)

#### Recent Context

RGI, under MHA, issued a Gazette notification under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948, initiating steps for the upcoming decennial Census and related enumeration activities.



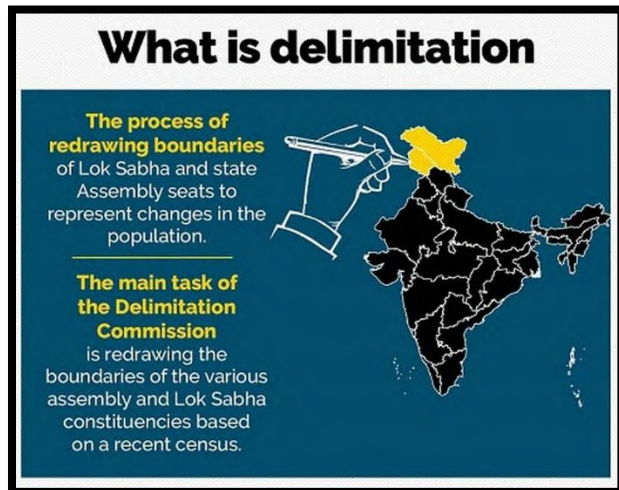
#### About

1. **Establishment:** Post formally created in 1961.
2. **Role:** Heads the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India.
3. **Functions:**
  - Conducts decennial Census (Census Act, 1948).
  - Maintains Civil Registration System (births, deaths, stillbirths).
  - Oversees Housing & Population Census, Sample Registration System (SRS), National Population Register (NPR), Mother Tongue Survey of India.
4. **Advisory Role:** Principal advisor to GoI on registration of births, deaths, marriages.
5. **Data Use:** Collects and analyses demographic & socio-economic data for policy-making.
6. **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.

## Delimitation Exercise

### Recent Context

The government indicated that the **next delimitation exercise** will be undertaken after the first Census post-2026, in accordance with constitutional provisions and the Delimitation Act.



### About

- Meaning:** Process of fixing the number of seats and redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha & State Legislative Assembly constituencies in each State.
- Authority:** Conducted by an independent **Delimitation Commission** set up under a Delimitation Act enacted by Parliament.
- Constitutional Basis:**
  - Article 82:** Parliament enacts Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - Article 170:** Division of State constituencies after every Census.
- Amendments:**
  - 42nd Amendment (1976):** Froze seat allocation & constituency boundaries at 1971 Census levels until 2000.
  - 87th Amendment (2003):** Allowed delimitation using 2001 Census data without changing total seats per State.
- Frequency:** Done 4 times — 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002 — under respective Delimitation Acts.
- Legal Finality:** Orders of Delimitation Commission are binding, not subject to court review; Legislatures cannot modify them; take effect from date notified by the President.

### 7. Notable Commissions:

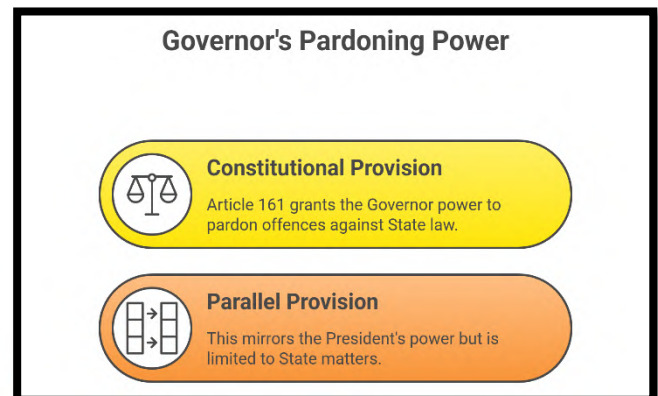
- 1st (1951 Census) — Justice N. Chandrasekhar Aiyar.
- 3rd (1971 Census) — Justice J.L. Kapur.

- Next Delimitation:** Will be based on the first Census after 2026.

## Governor's Pardoning Powers

### Recent Context

Several states have sought Governor's intervention to remit sentences of convicts under Article 161, prompting discussions on limits of the Governor's powers compared to the President's under Article 72.



### About

- Constitutional Provision:** Article 161 empowers the Governor to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, remissions, suspension, or commutation of sentences for offences against State law.
- Parallel Provision:** Mirrors Article 72 (President) but is limited to matters under the State's executive jurisdiction.
- Limitations:**
  - Cannot pardon a **death sentence** (can only suspend, remit, or commute it).
  - Cannot pardon sentences given by **court martial**.
- Nature:** Power is exercised **post-conviction only** (unlike US President).
- Aid & Advice:** Must act on the advice of the State Council of Ministers.
- Judicial Review:** Subject to review by courts to prevent arbitrariness or mala fide use.

7. **Purpose:** To correct judicial errors, show mercy in deserving cases, and provide a humanitarian check on the justice system.

### Three Language Formula

#### Recent Context

Debates resurfaced after several States reiterated their stand on the NEP 2020's flexible three-language formula, emphasising regional autonomy in language choice and resisting any language imposition

#### About

- Origin:** First suggested by **Radhakrishnan Committee (1948–49)**; formalised by **Kothari Commission (1964–66)**.
- Adoption:** Incorporated in **National Policy on Education (1968)**; revised in 1992.
- Objective:** Promote multilingualism, foster national integration, and enhance administrative efficiency.
- Structure:**
  - Regional language (mother tongue)**
  - Hindi**
  - English**
  - In Hindi-speaking States: third language should be a modern Indian language (preferably from the south).
- NEP 2020 Changes:**
  - No imposition of any language on any State.
  - Choice of languages left to States, regions, and students.
  - At least **two of the three** must be native to India.
- Special Provision:** Sanskrit encouraged as an optional language under the formula.
- Controversy:** Implementation varies; some States resist compulsory Hindi or oppose inclusion of a non-regional language.

### SOURCE-INDIAN EXPRESS

#### NITI Aayog's Role in Fostering Strong States, Strong Nation

#### Recent Context :

At the **10th Governing Council meeting (May 2025)**, **PM Modi emphasized Viksit Bharat @2047**, urging

every state, district, and village to become Viksit, with NITI Aayog driving cooperative federalism.

#### About:

- Constitution** – Formed in January 2015, replacing Planning Commission; functions as Government of India's premier policy think tank.
- Mandate** – Promotes cooperative & competitive federalism through partnership between Centre and States.
- Composition** – Governing Council includes PM (Chairman), CMs of States/UTs with legislature, Lt. Governors, Vice Chairman & members.
- Key Indices** – Health Outcomes Index, Composite Water Management Index, and SDG India Index to track development and foster competition.
- Flagship Programmes** – Aspirational Districts Programme (2018) & Aspirational Blocks Programme (2023) targeting regional disparities.
- Innovation Hub** – Atal Innovation Mission (2016) with ATIs, AICs, startups; AIM 2.0 (till 2028) expands innovation in 22 languages.
- Approach** – Bottom-up planning, real-time data-driven monitoring, stakeholder collaboration (States, civil society, private sector, technocrats).

### Waqf is not an Essential Religious Practice

#### Recent Context :

**Centre** argued in **SC** that **Waqf** is **charitable**, not an **essential practice** under **Islam**. Defended **Waqf Amendment Act, 2025**, saying no **fundamental right** exists to claim **public land** via Waqf.

#### About:

- Waqf** → Permanent **dedication of property** for **religious/charitable** purposes in Islam.
- ERP Doctrine** → Only practices whose **absence alters religion's character** qualify.
- Acharya Jagadisharananda Case (2004)** → **Tandava dance** not ERP of **Ananda Marga**.
- Shayara Bano Case (2017)** → **Triple Talaq** not ERP under Islam.

5. **Karnataka HC (2022)** → Wearing **Hijab** not ERP in Islam.
6. **Article 25** → **Freedom of conscience; individual right**; subject to **public order, morality, health**.
7. **Article 26** → **Collective right of religious denominations** to manage **affairs & property**.



### Presidential Reference under Article 143

#### Recent Context :

President referred **14 questions** to **SC** under **Article 143**, after its **2025 judgment** fixed **time limits** for **Governors/President** in granting **assent to bills** under **Articles 200 & 201**.

#### About:

1. **Article 143** → **President** may seek **SC's advisory opinion** on **law/public importance**.
2. **Article 145** → **Minimum 5 judges** hear reference.
3. **SC opinion** → **Not binding**, but has **persuasive value**.
4. **Delhi Laws Act Case (1951)** → **Limits on delegated legislation**.
5. **Berubari Case (1960)** → **Ceding territory** requires **constitutional amendment**.
6. **Third Judges Case (1998)** → **Collegium guidelines** for **judicial appointments**.
7. **Ram Janmabhoomi Case (1993)** → Only instance when **SC declined reference**.

### Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight Mechanism

#### Recent Context :

Debate on **accountability** highlights **weakening oversight** in **Parliament**—erosion of **Question Hour**, underutilised **committees**, lack of **post-legislative scrutiny**—despite **Constitutional checks & balances** ensuring **executive accountability** in **governance**.

#### About:

1. **Oversight tools** → **Question Hour, Zero Hour, Committees, No-confidence motions**.
2. **Financial Committees** → **Estimates Committee, PAC, COPU**.
3. **Question Hour (17th LS)** → Functioned only **60%** in **Lok Sabha**, **52%** in **Rajya Sabha**.
4. **Committees** → **Lack research/technical staff**, leading to **weak scrutiny**.
5. **PAC** → Exposed **CWG 2010 irregularities**; **DRSC** shaped **Motor Vehicles Act, 2019**.
6. **Way forward** → **Post-legislative scrutiny** (UK model: review laws after **3–5 years**).
7. **Tech-enabled oversight** → Use **AI, data analytics, transparency dashboards** for **participatory democracy**.

### SOURCE: PIB

### Election Commission – Voter Turnout Reporting (VTR) Upgrade

#### Recent Context

Election Commission of India announced a major upgrade to its Voter Turnout Reporting mechanism via the **ECINET App** to ensure faster, more accurate, and transparent turnout data sharing before the upcoming Bihar elections.

#### About

1. **Objective:** Improve accuracy, speed, transparency in voter turnout data; counter misinformation; enhance public trust.
2. **ECINET App:** PROs enter turnout every 2 hours; final entry after polls close.
3. **VTR App Auto-Aggregation:** Real-time constituency-level compilation & public display.
4. **Offline Mode:** Enables remote station reporting; syncs when network returns.
5. **Old vs New:** Replaces manual calls/SMS (4–5 hr delays) with real-time updates.
6. **Legal Context:** Rule 49S (Form 17C to polling agents) unchanged; VTR non-statutory.
7. **Rollout Goal:** Fully operational before Bihar polls; nationwide adoption planned.

### Right to Digital Access under Article 21

#### Recent Context

Supreme Court held that **digital access** is part of the

**Right to Life & Liberty (Article 21)**, stressing inclusive and equitable **digital governance**, especially for **disabled, marginalised and underprivileged** groups.

**About:**

1. **Article 21** → Protects **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**.
2. **Right to Digital Access** → Declared as an **instinctive component** of Article 21.
3. **Substantive Equality Principle** → Digital shift must be **inclusive & equitable**.
4. **State Obligation** → Provide **accessible digital ecosystems** for vulnerable groups.
5. **KYC Accessibility Issue** → Triggered petition for **disabled persons** facing barriers.
6. **Digital Divide** → Unequal **infrastructure, skills, content** affects rural, poor, disabled, linguistic minorities.
7. **SC Directions** → Government must **redesign KYC processes** to ensure accessibility.



### Foreigners Tribunals & Detention in Assam

**Recent Context :**

Concerns raised over **Assam's detention regime** where **Foreigners Tribunals** declare individuals as **illegal immigrants**, leading to **indefinite detention of stateless persons**, raising questions under **Articles 21 & 22** and **Rule of Law**.

**About:**

1. **Foreigners Tribunals** → Created under **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964**, backed by **Foreigners Act, 1946**.
2. **NRC 2019** → Excluded **19 lakh people**, many declared **foreigners**.
3. **Article 21** → Liberty can be curtailed only by **due legal process**.

4. **Article 22** → Allows **preventive detention** but with **safeguards**.
5. **Indefinite Detention** → Over **1.59 lakh declared foreigners**, but only **39 deported since 2017**.
6. **Rajubala Das Case (2020)** → Pending SC case on **arbitrary detention** of foreigners.
7. **Comparative Jurisprudence** → **Australia (2023)** held indefinite detention without deportation **unconstitutional**.

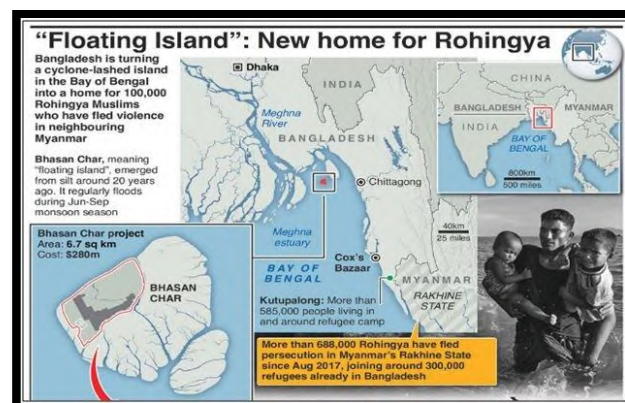
### Rohingyas and Deportation

**Recent Context :**

**Supreme Court** observed that **Rohingyas**, if found to be **foreigners** under **Foreigners Act, 1946**, can be **deported**, since **Article 19(1)(e)** (residence/settlement) is limited to **citizens only**.

**About:**

1. **Article 21 & 14** → Apply to **all persons** (citizens + non-citizens).
2. **Article 19(1)(e)** → Right to reside/settle only for **citizens**.
3. **Foreigners Act, 1946** → Regulates **entry, stay, deportation** of foreigners.
4. **Passport Act, 1967** → Governs **issuance/regulation** of passports.
5. **India's Position** → Categorises **Rohingyas** as **illegal migrants**.
6. **Not a Signatory** → To **UN Refugee Convention, CAT, or Enforced Disappearance Convention**.
7. **Non-Refoulement Principle** → India not legally bound, though it is a **customary international law norm**.



### Satellite Internet Service Rules – 2025

#### Recent Context :

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued new satellite internet rules mandating localisation, security compliance, interception capability, NavIC integration, and phased indigenisation, to tighten control over satellite-based internet services in India.

#### About:

1. **DoT Guidelines (2025)** → Mandatory for satellite internet operators like Starlink, OneWeb, Jio Satellite, Amazon Kuiper.
2. **Data Localisation** → Network Control Centres & data centres must be within India.
3. **Traffic Rules** → User traffic cannot be routed outside India; DNS resolution must be local.
4. **Security Mandates** → Operators must provide real-time monitoring, interception of communications, and block banned websites.
5. **NavIC Integration** → All terminals must support India's satellite navigation system; terminals cannot work outside India.
6. **Indigenisation Plan** → Operators must manufacture 20% of ground systems in India within 5 years.
7. **Geo-fencing & Coverage** → Must prevent signal spillover into neighbouring countries using geo-fencing technology.

#### SOURCE – VISION MONTHLY

#### 50 Years of Emergency (1975–77)

#### Recent Context

India marks 50 years since the declaration of the Internal Emergency on June 25, 1975, which lasted till March 21, 1977 — one of the most controversial periods in India's democratic history.

**About- Reason for Emergency (1975):** Declared due to political unrest (JP Movement), economic distress (inflation, unemployment), and a judicial verdict invalidating PM Indira Gandhi's election.

1. **38th Amendment (1975):** Made the President's satisfaction for declaring Emergency under Articles 352, 356, 360 final and beyond judicial review.
2. **39th Amendment (1975):** Removed judicial scrutiny over election disputes of President, Vice President, PM, and Lok Sabha Speaker.

3. **42nd Amendment (1976):** Gave primacy to Directive Principles over Fundamental Rights, curtailed judicial review, and extended Lok Sabha term from 5 to 6 years.



4. **44th Amendment (1978):** Emergency can now be declared only in case of "armed rebellion"; Fundamental Rights (Articles 20 & 21) cannot be suspended; Lok Sabha term restored to 5 years.
5. **National Emergency – Article 352:** Can be proclaimed for war, external aggression, or armed rebellion; requires President's proclamation and approval by special majority in Parliament within 1 month.

### Personality Rights

#### Recent Context

The Delhi High Court protected the personality rights of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, restraining websites and platforms from misusing his likeness and voice via AI tools, citing rising deepfake and voice-cloning threats.

#### About Personality Rights

1. **Definition:** Right to control commercial & non-commercial use of one's name, image, voice, likeness, and distinctive traits.
2. **Legal Basis:** Not codified; derived from Article 21 (Right to Privacy) & judicial precedents.
3. **Components:**
4. **Right to Publicity:** Prevents commercial exploitation without consent (partially under Trademarks Act, 1999 & Copyright Act, 1957).
5. **Right to Privacy:** Protects against unauthorised public representation (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case, 2017).
6. **Posthumous Rights:** No statutory protection after death; exception under Emblems & Names Act,

1950; rights end with life (Deepa Jayakumar case, 2019).

- Key Judgements:** ICC Development (2003), Arun Jaitley (2011), Rajinikanth (2015) — upheld persona protection.
- Current Threats:** AI deepfakes & voice cloning harm privacy, reputation, and commercial value

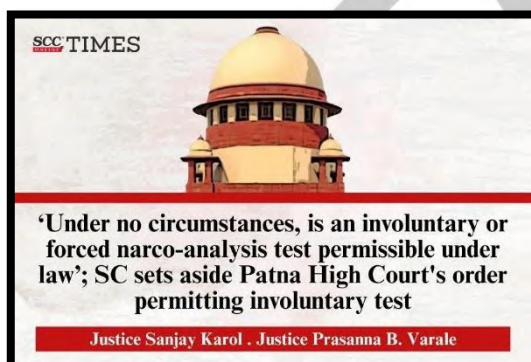
### Constitutional Validity of Narco Tests

#### Recent Context

- The **Supreme Court** struck down a Patna High Court order that allowed narco-tests on all accused and witnesses, reaffirming limits set in *Selvi v. State of Karnataka* (2010) regarding the constitutional validity of such tests.

#### About Narco-Analysis Test

- Definition:** An interrogation technique where the subject is administered a psychoactive drug (commonly **Sodium Pentothal**) under controlled conditions to lower their self-control and reasoning ability.
- Purpose:** Used to elicit information that the person may consciously choose to withhold.
- Medical Use:** Sodium Pentothal is also used as a general anesthetic in surgeries (in higher doses).



#### Key Judicial Principles & Highlights of the Judgment

- Involuntary Narco-Test:** Unconstitutional; violates Articles 20(3) & 21; results inadmissible.
- Voluntary Narco-Test:** Allowed with consent; cannot be sole basis for conviction; derivative evidence may be admissible.
- Accused's Right:** No absolute right; can be permitted to lead evidence at trial stage.
- Key Cases:** *Selvi v. Karnataka* (2010) — constitutional limits; *Vinobhai v. Kerala & Manoj*

*Kumar Soni v. MP* — involuntary tests illegal, voluntary tests limited.

### Quality Council of India (QCI)

#### Recent Context (2025)

- Minister of State for Commerce & Industry** inaugurated the new unified headquarters of the **QCI** at the **World Trade Centre, New Delhi**.

#### About QCI

- Genesis & Establishment:**
  - Established in **1996** as the **National body for Accreditation** in India.
  - Created to promote quality standards through a **nationwide quality movement**.
- Legal Status:**
  - Non-Profit Organization**
- Structure & Governance:**
  - Operates under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.
  - Supported by **Government of India** and three key industry bodies:
    - ASSOCHAM**
    - CII**
    - FICCI**
  - DPIIT**, Ministry of Commerce, acts as the **nodal agency** for QCI-related matters.
  - Chairman** appointed by the **Prime Minister** on the recommendation of industry.
- Major Functions:**
  - Accreditation and quality promotion across industries, education, healthcare etc.
  - Implementing Agency for Swachh Survekshan** under *Swachh Bharat Mission*
- Global Role:**
  - Observes **World Accreditation Day** (June 9) — global initiative by **ILAC & IAF** to spread awareness about accreditation value.

### States Cannot Be Compelled to Adopt NEP: SC

#### Recent Context :

**Supreme Court** dismissed a petition to implement **NEP 2020** in **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal**, ruling it cannot **compel states**; under **Article 32**, SC intervenes only on **fundamental rights violations**.

#### About:

1. **Education** → in **Concurrent List** (42nd Amendment, 1976).
2. **NEP 2020** → Fourth education policy, after **1968, 1986, 1992**.
3. **Guiding pillars** → **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, Accountability**.
4. **Article 21A** → Makes **education a fundamental right** (ages 6–14).
5. **Right to Education Act (2009)** → Sets **minimum norms** for schools.
6. **Article 32** → Allows SC intervention only for **fundamental rights** enforcement.
7. **State Autonomy** → States not bound to adopt **central policies** like NEP.

### Safe Harbour under IT Act

#### Recent Context :

The government is reconsidering **Safe Harbour** under **Section 79, IT Act 2000**, after controversies over **fake news, deepfakes**, and **slow action** by social media platforms; possible changes under **Digital India Act**.

#### About:

1. **Safe Harbour** → Protects **online intermediaries** from liability for **third-party content**.
2. **Section 79, IT Act 2000** → Grants **conditional immunity**.
3. **Actual Knowledge Rule** → Intermediary liable if content remains after **court order/government notice**.
4. **IT Rules 2021** → Added **grievance officer, compliance reports** obligations.
5. **2023 Amendment** → Attempted to strip Safe Harbour for **fake news** flagged by **PIB's Fact Check Unit**; struck down by **Bombay HC (2024)**.
6. **Significance** → Encourages **innovation & free expression** online.

7. **Digital India Act (DIA)** → Proposed law to **revamp intermediary liability**.

### Adi Karmyogi Programme

#### Launched by:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs

#### Aim:

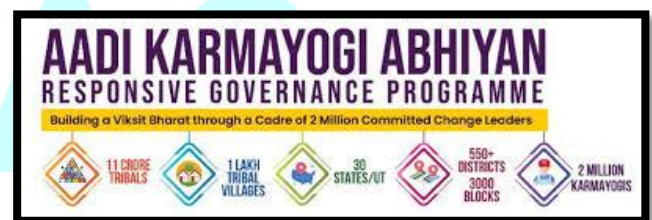
- To build a cadre of highly motivated officers and change makers focused on grassroots transformation.

#### Objectives:

- Capacity building for around **20 lakh field-level stakeholders**.
- Creation of a pool of **trainers and master trainers** at the State, district, and block levels.
- Foster a **fundamental shift in attitude and motivation** among field officials.
- Promote **citizen-centric ideation and service delivery**.

#### Target:

- Reach **1 lakh tribal villages and habitations** to ensure effective grassroots development.



### SOURCE – DRISHTI IAS

### Trust-Based Regulation & Jan Vishwas Act, 2023

#### Recent Context:

In **August 2023**, the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023** decriminalized **183 minor offenses** across **42 Central Acts** to promote **ease of doing business** through a **trust-based regulatory approach**.

#### About Jan Vishwas Act, 2023:

1. **Decriminalizes minor, non-malicious violations** by replacing **jail terms with fines**.
2. Covers laws under **19 ministries** including **Environment Protection Act, 1986** and **Corporate Affairs**.
3. Aims to reduce **fear, harassment**, and improve compliance, especially for **MSMEs** (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises).

4. Promotes a **trust-based regulatory approach**, focusing on **voluntary compliance** and **partnership between government and businesses**.
5. Enforces **strict penalties only for serious violations** like fraud or safety risks.
6. Simplifies compliance by **reducing bureaucratic red tape** and encouraging **self-declaration and transparency**.
7. Aligns with **India's vision of minimum government, maximum governance** and supports the **Viksit Bharat 2047** mission.

### Advancing SC/ST Welfare in India

#### Recent Context:

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment held the **28th Coordination Committee meeting** focusing on strategies to curb **untouchability offences** and **atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, emphasizing better implementation of the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** and **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.

#### About SCs and STs Welfare:

**Constitutional Recognition:** SCs – Art. 341; STs – Art. 342; defined under Art. 366 and notified by President.

#### Legal Protections:

- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955
- SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 & 2015 (sexual offences included)
- Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013

**Fundamental Rights & DPSP:** Arts. 14–17 (equality, no untouchability), Art. 46 (education/economic promotion), Art. 338 (National SC Commission)

#### Challenges:

- High poverty (34% SCs BPL)
- Social prejudice & regional concentration of atrocities
- Weak enforcement: limited special courts & police stations
- Poor implementation of welfare schemes (NAMASTE, PM Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana)

#### Political & Social Dynamics:

- Rise in SC political influence post **73rd and 74th CAA** has caused tension with dominant castes.
- Rejection of traditional roles historically performed by SCs has intensified conflicts.

### Goa as fully functionally literate state

#### Recent Context :

Goa has been declared **fully functionally literate** under the Ministry of Education's **ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, surpassing the **95% functional literacy benchmark**. Earlier, **Mizoram** and **Ladakh** achieved this milestone.

#### About Functional Literacy & ULLAS Programme (7 Points):

1. **Functional Literacy:** Ability to apply **reading, writing, and numeracy** skills in daily life for personal growth and community participation.
2. **ULLAS Scheme:** Centrally sponsored (2022–2027), aimed at adults **15+ years** who missed formal schooling; aligns with **NEP 2020** vision of *Education for All*.



3. **Target:** Achieve **Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN)** for **5 crore learners** (1 crore/year) during FY 2022–27.

4. **Five Components: Foundational Literacy & Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, Continuing Education.**
5. **Implementation: Volunteer-based** in hybrid (online & offline) mode; uses **DIKSHA platform & ULLAS portal in 22 Indian languages**; includes **FLNAT** twice a year for certification.
6. **Goa's Literacy: 93.60% literacy rate (PLFS 2023–24)**; state survey confirmed **>95% functional literacy.**
7. **Goa Facts:** Capital **Panaji**, liberated from Portugal in **1961** via *Operation Vijay*; **Goa Liberation Day** – 19 Dec; attained **statehood** – 30 May 1987.

### Regulation under Article 240 & Ladakh's Demand for 6th Schedule

#### Recent Context :

The Centre issued regulations under Article 240 for



Ladakh, introducing domicile-based reservations and cultural protections, but **did not grant Sixth Schedule status** despite strong local demands post-Article 370 abrogation.

#### About :

1. **Article 240:** Empowers the **President** to make regulations for certain UTs (**Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu, Chandigarh, Ladakh**), having the **force of Parliamentary law.**
2. **Ladakh's Demands:** Inclusion in the **Sixth Schedule, land ownership restrictions, creation of a Legislative Assembly, and**

**cultural identity safeguards** via Leh Apex Body & Kargil Democratic Alliance.

3. **Key Regulation – Domicile-Based Job Reservation:**
  - **15 years residency** or **7 years education + Class 10/12 from Ladakh** criteria.
  - **85% total quota** for SC, ST, OBC & socially backward classes; **10% EWS** remains.
4. **Education & Professional Seats:** Domicile rules extended to **medical and engineering colleges** for local student benefit.
5. **Language Preservation: English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, Purgi** – official languages; **Shina, Brokskat, Balti, Ladakhi** – promoted for cultural preservation.
6. **Women's Representation: 1/3rd reservation** in **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Leh & Kargil)** via amendment to **LAHDC Act, 1997.**
7. **Why 6th Schedule?:** Provides **constitutional protection, Autonomous District Councils** with powers over **land, forests, culture, education**, unlike Article 240 regulations that can be amended/revoked by the Centre.

### DPDP Act, 2023 and DPDP Rules, 2025

#### Recent Context

The **Ministry of Electronics and IT** sought public feedback on **Draft DPDP Rules, 2025** to operationalize the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**, India's **first comprehensive digital privacy law.**

#### About

1. **Enactment & Purpose – DPDP Act, 2023** protects **digital personal data**, balancing **individual privacy** and **lawful processing**, inspired by the **2017 Puttaswamy judgment** and global models like the **EU's GDPR.**
2. **Scope** – Applies to **digital personal data** processed in India or abroad for offering goods/services in India; excludes personal use or legally public data.
3. **Consent & Minors** – Requires **lawful consent** from Data Principals; **verifiable parental**

consent for those **under 18 years**; bans harmful processing and targeted ads to children.

4. **Rights & Duties** – Grants rights to **access, correct, delete** data and seek grievance redressal; imposes duties to avoid false information, with fines up to **₹10,000** for violations.
5. **Obligations on Entities** – Data Fiduciaries must ensure **accuracy, security**, breach reporting, and **data erasure** after purpose completion; **Significant Data Fiduciaries** face extra compliance like appointing a **Data Protection Officer**.
6. **Draft Rules 2025 Highlights** – Allow **certain cross-border transfers, 3-year retention limit, digital-first grievance redressal**, graded compliance for startups/MSMEs, and mandatory **₹2 crore net worth** for consent managers.

### Zonal Councils

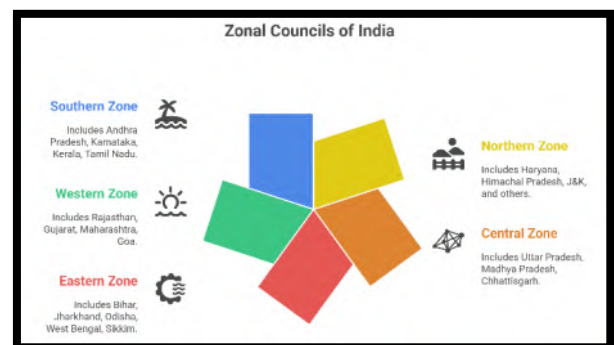
#### RECENT CONTEXT

The **25th Central Zonal Council** meeting, chaired by the **Union Home Minister**, was held in **Varanasi**, focusing on **Centre–State cooperation** and resolving inter-state issues under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.

#### ABOUT

1. **Nature & Establishment** – **Statutory bodies** under **Sections 15–22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956**; proposed by **Jawaharlal Nehru** to promote **cooperative federalism** and address inter-state matters.
2. **Number & Coverage** – **Five Zonal Councils**:
  - **Northern** – Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh
  - **Central** – Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand
  - **Eastern** – Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim
  - **Western** – Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu

- **Southern** – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry
3. **Special Case** – **North Eastern Council (NEC)** is separate, created under the **NEC Act, 1972**.
  4. **Organisational Structure** –
    - **Chairman**: Union Home Minister (also ex-officio NEC Chairman)
    - **Vice-Chairman**: Chief Minister of a member state (rotating annually)



- **Members**: CMs, LGs/Administrators, 2 ministers from each state (nominated by Governor)
  - **Advisors**: NITI Aayog nominee, Chief Secretaries, Development Commissioners
5. **Functioning Mechanism** – **Permanent Committee** of Chief Secretaries first discusses issues; unresolved matters go to the full council.
  6. **Objectives & Functions** – Serve as **high-level advisory forums** for inter-state and Centre–State coordination; discuss law & order, infrastructure, economic development, and social sector schemes.

### Alcohol Regulation in India

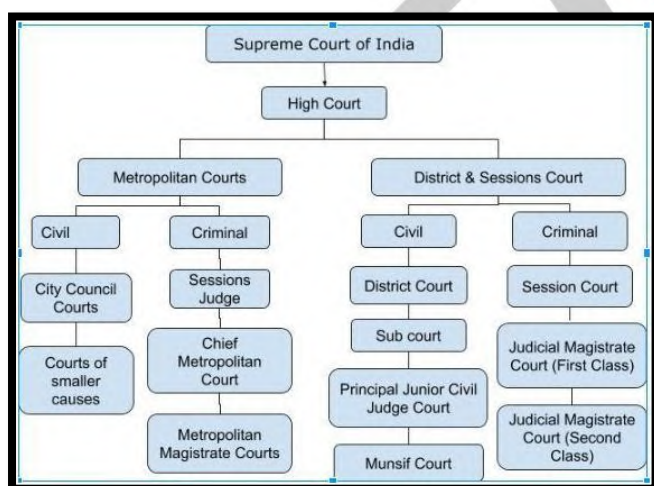
#### RECENT CONTEXT

India's **alcohol consumption** is rising, with **16 crore users** (NFHS-5), causing significant **health, social, and economic costs**, prompting calls for a **National Alcohol Control Policy** to unify fragmented State regulations.

#### ABOUT

- Prevalence & Impact:** 14.6% (age 10–75) consume alcohol; high heavy episodic drinking; societal cost ₹6.24 trillion (2021); 2.6M DALYs lost.
- High-Use States:** Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa; highest disorder prevalence (>10%) in Tripura, AP, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal.
- Driving Factors:** Genetic predisposition, stress, peer pressure, media glamorisation, surrogate ads, influencer marketing, flavoured drinks, easy availability, policy gaps.
- State Regulation:** Alcohol in State List; prohibition in Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland, Mizoram; legal age 18–25; online delivery emerging.
- National Regulation:** Article 47 DPSP; Excise Act 1944; Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan; National Mental Health Policy 2014; National Health Policy 2017; National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022.
- Challenges:** Fragmented policies, revenue dependency, regulatory evasion, illicit trade-political nexus, low health awareness.
- Policy Need:** Comprehensive **National Alcohol Control Policy** aligned with **WHO Global Alcohol Strategy**.

### Reforming Subordinate Judiciary



**RECENT CONTEXT** -India's subordinate judiciary, handling **87.5% of cases**, faces **5,388 vacancies**, 4.5 crore pending cases, and outdated systems, causing **0.5% GDP loss** annually and hurting **investment, business confidence, and economic growth**.

#### ABOUT

- Economic Impact of Backlogs** –
  - 4.5 crore pending cases** in district courts cause ₹1.5 trillion (**0.5% GDP**) annual loss.
  - World Bank:** Cutting vacancies from **25% to 15%** boosts business confidence.
  - IMF:** Efficient courts could raise GDP per capita growth by **0.28%**.
- Business & Fiscal Costs** – Land and contract disputes lock resources, deter MSMEs, weaken tax compliance, and push businesses to the **informal economy**.
- Key Challenges** –
  - Judicial Vacancies** – Judges handle **746 cases/year** vs global best of **200–300**.
  - Outdated Systems** – Limited e-Court use, hybrid filing, poor rural accessibility.
  - Recruitment Flaws** – 3-year practice rule limits women's entry (**only 15% lawyers are women**).
  - Digital Divide** – Risks excluding rural & less-educated litigants.
- Constitutional Basis** –
  - Articles 233–237 (Part VI)** – Organisation & independence of subordinate courts.
  - Article 233** – District Judges appointed by Governor in consultation with High Court.
- Structure** –
  - District & Sessions Court** – Highest district-level authority, can award **death penalty** (needs HC confirmation).
  - Civil & Criminal Courts** – Pecuniary jurisdiction varies; CJM can give up to **7 years** imprisonment.
  - Special Courts** – Metropolitan, small causes, and panchayat courts for local disputes.
- Recruitment & Eligibility** – District Judge: Must be advocate/pleader for **7 years**, not in

govt service, recommended by High Court; lower judges appointed via **State PSC** & High Court consultation.

### Promoting Foreign Universities in India

#### Recent Context:

Encouraged by the *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020* and *UGC (FHEI) Regulations, 2023*, foreign universities are entering India, aiming to boost global academic integration while raising concerns over equity, affordability, and alignment with national priorities.

#### About:

- Regulatory Framework:** UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023 allow top foreign universities to establish campuses in India.
- National Education Policy 2020:** Recommends opening doors to world-class foreign institutions to promote global exposure and research collaborations.
- Eligibility Criteria:** Only universities ranked among the top 500 globally are permitted to set up campuses.
- Global Trend Drivers:** Declining domestic enrolments and funding in countries like UK, Australia, Canada push them to explore new markets like India.
- India's Demographic Advantage:** Over 50% population under 30, GER <30%, English proficiency, and rising aspirations for international education.
- Potential Benefits:** Reduced brain drain, forex savings, enhanced research output, better industry-linked courses, and positioning India as an education hub.
- Challenges:** Risk of high tuition fees, limited immediate GER impact, quality dilution without regulation, and need for cultural adaptation in curricula.

### PM-WANI Scheme

#### Recent Context:

TRAI has capped tariffs charged by ISPs/TSPs to Public Data Offices (PDOs) under PM-WANI at no more than twice the retail broadband tariff (for plans up to 200 Mbps) to ensure affordable public Wi-Fi.

#### About:

- Full Form:** PM-WANI stands for *Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface*,

launched in 2020 by the Department of Telecommunications.

- Objective:** Expand affordable public Wi-Fi hotspots, especially in rural and underserved areas, to boost digital inclusion and entrepreneurship.
- Ecosystem Stakeholders:**
  - PDO:** Sets up Wi-Fi hotspots.
  - PDOA:** Handles authentication/accounting.
  - App Provider:** Lists hotspots for users.
  - Central Registry:** Managed by C-DoT.
- Access Mechanism:** Users connect via the PM-WANI app, select a hotspot, and pay digitally.
- Licensing Policy:** No licence or registration fee for PDOs, encouraging small vendors like shopkeepers and tea stall owners to participate.
- Key Benefits:** Reduces urban-rural digital divide, supports Digital India, generates local employment, and enables services in education, health, and governance.



- Supporting Initiatives:** Linked with *National Broadband Mission* and *Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal* for improved last-mile broadband infrastructure.

### SOURCE – INSIGHTS

#### Bar Council of India Decision to Allow Foreign Lawyers

#### RECENT CONTEXT

**CJI B.R. Gavai** lauded the **Bar Council of India (BCI)** for amending its **2022 rules** to allow **foreign lawyers and firms** to practice **international law and arbitration** in India.

**ABOUT - BCI Amendment (2024):** Foreign lawyers/firms can practice foreign & international law

and arbitration in India; cannot appear in Indian courts or practice Indian law.

1. **Legal Basis:** Amendment of BCI Rules 2022 under Advocates Act, 1961; preserves ban on practicing Indian law.
2. **Rationale:** India 5th in global arbitration cases (ICC 2024); expanding MCIA, DIAC, IIAC; fills gaps in niche areas like climate, tech, and commercial law.
3. **Challenges:** Job protectionism for Indian lawyers, reciprocity issues abroad, foreign firms' resource advantage, need to monitor non-litigious compliance.
4. **Significance:** Positions India as global arbitration hub, promotes bilateral cooperation, adoption of global best practices & legal tech.
5. **Sovereignty Safeguards:** Indian law remains exclusive to Indian advocates; Advocates Act integrity maintained.
6. **Opportunities:** Indian lawyers can register abroad under reciprocity without losing Indian practice rights; fosters cross-border careers.

### REGISTERED UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES (RUPPS)

#### RECENT CONTEXT

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has begun delisting **345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)** under **Section 29A of RPA, 1951** for being inactive since 2019 and physically untraceable.

#### ABOUT

1. **Definition:** Registered under Sec 29A, RPA 1951; not recognised as State/National party.
2. **Privileges:** IT Act Sec 13A tax exemption; eligible for donations without contesting elections.
3. **Scale:** 2,800+ in 2025; doubled from 1,112 (2010) to 2,301 (2019); 97% of parties unrecognised.
4. **Recognition – State Party:** Any one—6% votes + 2 Assembly seats; 6% votes + 1 LS seat; 3% Assembly seats (min 3); 1 in 25 LS seats; 8% votes in state.
5. **Recognition – National Party:** Any one—6% votes in 4 states + 4 LS seats; 2% LS seats (min 11) from 3 states; recognised State Party in 4+ states.
6. **Issues:** Dormant since 2019, opaque funding (<5% filed donation reports 2013–16), tax misuse, no verifiable presence.

7. **Reforms:** Delist dormant parties, stricter registration & disclosures, PPRTMS tracking, regular audits with public reports on State CEO websites.

### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

#### RECENT CONTEXT

The **Centre** signed a **tripartite MoU** between **DEPwD, NIOS, and NCERT (2025)** to strengthen **inclusive education** for children with disabilities through **curriculum reform, accessibility, and recognition of DDRS-run schools** as SAIEDs.

#### ABOUT

1. **Definition** – Inclusive education means **children with and without disabilities** learn together in the **same environment**, with adapted curricula & teaching methods — mandated under **RPWD Act, 2016**.  
**Key Data – Status:** 1.7% children (0–19 yrs) disabled; 0.98% in primary schools; 21 lakh under *Samagra Shiksha*; 27,774 special teachers.
- **Need:** RTE (Art. 21A), CRPD 2007, SDG 4, NEP 2020; reduce stigma, build human capital.
- **Initiatives:** MoU (2025) DEPwD–NIOS–NCERT; NEP 2020 inclusion; *Samagra Shiksha* grants/stipends; NCERT *Barkha Series*.
- **Challenges:** Data gaps, poor infrastructure, teacher shortage, low enrolment, social stigma.
- **Significance:** Ensures equality, dignity & inclusive growth.

### Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)

#### RECENT CONTEXT

The **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** cancelled **Celebi Aviation's** license citing **national security concerns**, following Turkey's support for Pakistan after **Operation Sindoor**, under **Aircraft Rules, 1937** and **Aircraft Security Rules, 2022**.

#### ABOUT

1. **BCAS:** National civil aviation security regulator, HQ Delhi, headed by DGP-rank officer; independent under MoCA since 1987.

2. **Legal Powers:** DG, BCAS can grant, suspend, or cancel security clearance under Aircraft Rules 1937 & Aircraft Security Rules 2022.
3. **Functions:** Sets security standards per ICAO Annex 17, conducts checks, drills, and oversees airport security training.
4. **ICAO & Chicago Convention (1944):** UN aviation regulator; defines airspace sovereignty, aircraft registration, 5 freedoms of the air; HQ Montreal; India a founding member.
5. **Key Aviation Initiatives:** National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, UDAN, 100% FDI in aviation sectors, Digi Yatra, NABH Nirman, green airports & carbon accreditation.
6. **India's Aviation Status (2024-25):** 3rd-largest domestic market, 69% of South Asia's traffic, 196.91M passengers, GDP contribution 1.5%, direct employment 3.69 lakh.
7. **Airport Expansion:** Operational airports 74 → 157 (2014–2024); target 350–400 by 2047



# POLITY & GOVERNANCE

## TOPICS COVERED –

- **Attorney-Client Privilege vs Investigative Scrutiny** – Balancing confidentiality of legal advice with enforcement under PMLA investigations.
- **Electoral Roll Revision in Bihar** – Updating voter lists with risk of accidental exclusion.
- **ECI's Powers and Legality** – Authority of Election Commission to revise rolls and its legal boundaries.
- **Democracy, Dissent, and Intellectual Freedom** – Protecting free expression within a democratic framework.
- **Supreme Court Advisory on Bill Assent** – Guidelines for timely legislative approval of bills.
- **Custodial Violence in India** – Need for accountability and democratic policing reforms.
- **Refugee Influx in Mizoram** – Managing cross-border migration challenges and local impact.
- **Three-Language Policy Rollback** – Maharashtra revises multilingual education mandate.
- **Aadi KARMAYOGI & TALASH** – Programs for tribal workforce training and development.
- **Legislative Productivity in India** – Measuring output and effectiveness of legislatures.
- **Legality of Phone Tapping** – Legal framework and privacy issues in India.
- **NER District SDG Index 2023–24** – Tracking sustainable development in North-East districts.
- **10 Years of Digital India** – Milestones in digital governance and connectivity initiatives.
- **NSP 2025** – National Sports Policy outlining talent promotion and infrastructure development.
- **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme** – Incentives to boost job creation across sectors.
- **Digital Colonialism** – Dominance of foreign platforms over Indian digital data and economy.
- **Online Content Regulation** – Policies to control misinformation and harmful digital content.
- **National Cooperative Policy 2025** – Strengthening governance and efficiency in cooperative sector.
- **PRI Finances** – Financial management and accountability of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- **Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD)** – Resolving conflicts over shared river resources.
- **Cost of Politics in India** – Financial burden of elections and governance on the state and parties.
- **Lowering of Voting Age** – Proposal to reduce electoral age for increased youth participation.
- **Removal of Judges in Higher Judiciary** – Legal procedure for removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges.
- **NSCSTI 2.0** – National standards for civil service training institutions.
- **Bills of Lading Bill 2025** – Modernizing shipping documentation and trade laws.
- **India's Literacy Drive** – Achieving universal literacy across states through focused programs.

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

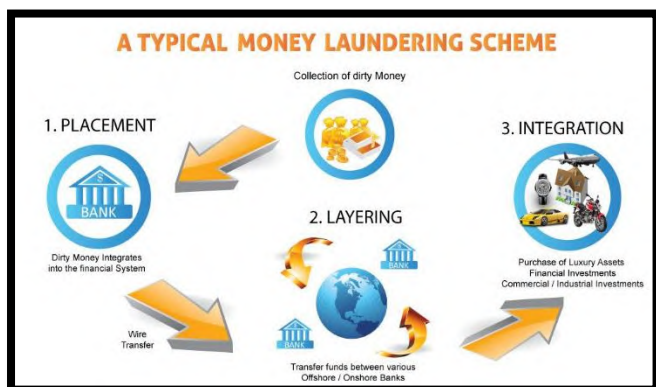
## SOURCE – THE HINDU

## Attorney-Client Privilege vs Investigative Scrutiny in PMLA Cases

**Recent Context:** ED's summons to senior advocates in the **Care Health Insurance probe** sparked debate on whether **legal privilege** shields lawyers from **investigative scrutiny** in **financial misconduct** cases.

## About -

1. **Attorney-client privilege** under the **Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023** excludes communications linked to **fraud** or **illegal acts**.
2. **Section 50 of PMLA** empowers **ED** to summon **"any person"**, including **lawyers**.
3. **International legal systems** allow exceptions to **privilege** to prevent misuse in shielding **wrongdoing**.
4. **Indian courts** uphold **privilege** as a **safeguard**, not immunity from **legitimate investigations**.
5. **Lawyers in dual roles** (legal + governance) may hold **non-privileged operational information**.
6. **ED's withdrawal of summons** raised concerns about **unequal treatment** and **institutional fairness**.
7. Debate highlights need for **balance** between **professional independence** and **accountability** in **financial investigations**.



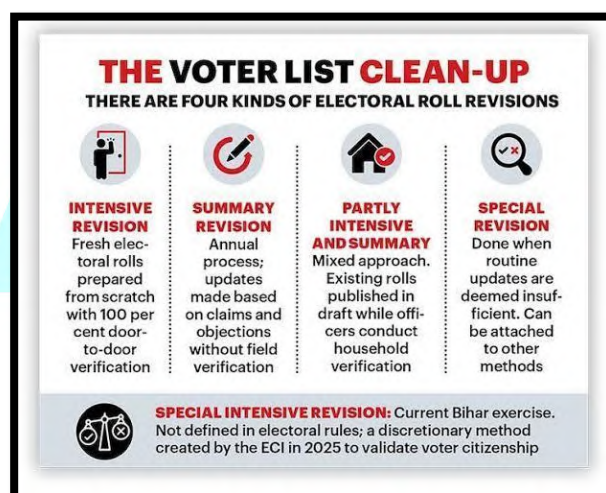
## Electoral Roll Revision in Bihar and Risk of Voter Exclusion

**Recent Context:** The **Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in Bihar, just weeks before polls, has raised fears of **mass disenfranchisement**,

particularly of the **poor, migrants, and vulnerable groups**.

## About -

1. **Last intensive revision** was in **2003**; the current one follows a **summary update** held **six months ago**.
2. For the first time, voters must prove **citizenship** using **11 prescribed documents**.
3. **Aadhaar** and **MGNREGA cards** excluded; alternatives like **family registers** demanded.
4. Rules differ by **birth year**; those born after **2004** must show both **self and parents' birth details**.
5. Exercise likened to a **backdoor NRC**, raising **public distrust**.
6. **Migration, floods, and weak state capacity** make timely verification impractical.
7. **Judiciary's role** becomes crucial to ensure **voting rights** and prevent **arbitrary exclusion**



## ECI's Powers and Legality of Electoral Roll Revision in Bihar

**Recent Context:** The **Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in Bihar faces legal challenge as it uses a **non-statutory qualifying date** and applies to the **entire state**, raising constitutional concerns.

## About -

1. **Article 326** ensures elections by **adult suffrage**; disqualifications must be **explicitly provided by law**.
2. **RPA 1950** disqualifies voters only on **unsound mind** or under **Section 11A of RPA 1951**.

3. **Section 19 (RPA 1950):** Voter must be **18+ years** and **ordinarily resident** in the constituency.
4. **Section 20:** Clarifies **ordinary residence**; **temporary absence** does not disqualify.
5. **Article 324:** Vests **ECI with broad powers**; but as per **Mohinder Singh Gill case (1978)**, ECI must act **within law**.
6. **Section 21 (RPA 1950):** Allows revision before elections, annually, or as **special revision for part of constituency**, not entire state.
7. **Rule 8 of Registration of Electors Rules:** Citizens only need to furnish info **“to the best of ability”**; excessive documentation is illegal.



### Democracy, Dissent, and Intellectual Freedom

**Recent Context:** Across the world, including India, **academic spaces, media, and universities** face growing restrictions on **free inquiry** and **dissent**, raising concerns of **democratic backsliding** and **erosion of pluralism**.

**About -**

1. **Article 19(1)(a):** Guarantees **freedom of speech and expression**; subject to **reasonable restrictions** under **Article 19(2)**.
2. **Dissent** is considered a **safety valve of democracy** (SC in **Romila Thapar case, 2018**).
3. **Universities** as spaces of **critical inquiry** are vital for **constitutional values** and **democratic culture**.
4. **Chilling effect** doctrine: Laws or actions that **discourage free expression** violate constitutional spirit.
5. **Media freedom** and **academic freedom** are often first casualties of **democratic backsliding**.

6. Thinkers like **Hannah Arendt** and **Noam Chomsky** highlight dangers of **fear, conformity, and manufactured consent**.
7. **Rosa Luxemburg’s principle:** *Freedom is always freedom for the dissenters—core to democratic resilience*.

### Supreme Court’s Advisory Role on Bill Assent Timelines

**Recent Context:** The **Supreme Court** is examining a **Presidential Reference** on whether **President** and **Governors** can be judicially compelled to act within **timelines** on State Bills after its **April 8, 2025 ruling**.

**About -**

1. **Article 143(1):** President can seek **Supreme Court’s advisory opinion** on law or matters of public importance.
2. **April 8, 2025 judgment:** Court held **delays by Governors/President** on Bills unconstitutional, imposed **timelines**.
3. **Advisory opinion** under Article 143 is **not binding** (unlike **Article 141** rulings).
4. **Supreme Court discretion:** May refuse **Reference** (e.g., **Ayodhya case 1993, 1978 dispute**).
5. **Cauvery Reference:** Court clarified Article 143 cannot **overturn settled judgments**; only review/curative petitions can.
6. **1998 Judicial Appointments Reference:** Court refined earlier ruling without reversing it—advisory opinions may **clarify, not negate**.
7. **Tamil Nadu case trigger:** Governor R.N. Ravi’s delay on **10 re-passed Bills** led to this constitutional question.

### Custodial Violence in India and the Case for Democratic Policing

**Recent Context:** The **custodial death of Ajith Kumar in Tamil Nadu** reignited debate on **torture in policing**, with calls for India to adopt **rights-based models** like the **PEACE framework** over coercion.

**About -**

1. **687 custodial deaths (2018–23);** highest in **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu**.

2. **D.K. Basu guidelines (1996)** and **Puttaswamy judgment (2017)** safeguard dignity, but are often ignored.
3. **No standalone anti-torture law**; India has not ratified the **UN Convention Against Torture**.
4. **Global Torture Index (2025)**: India labelled “high-risk country”.
5. **Scientific evidence**: Torture causes **false confessions**, weakens cognition (Shane O’Mara’s research).
6. **PEACE model (UK, 1974)** and adoption by **Norway, Canada, New Zealand** show effective non-coercive policing.
7. **Reforms needed**: Ratify **UNCAT**, enact **anti-torture law**, adopt **Holmes-style investigative policing** over violent **Dirty Harry tactics**.

#### SOURCE – DRISHTI

#### Refugee Influx in Mizoram

**Recent Context:** In early 2025, around **4,000 refugees** from Myanmar’s **Chin State** entered **Mizoram**, worsening the humanitarian strain since the **2021 Myanmar coup**.

#### About -

1. India is **not a signatory** to the **1951 UN Refugee Convention** or **1967 Protocol**.
2. Refugees are governed under the **Foreigners Act, 1946**, and related laws (e.g., **Passport Act, 1920**).
3. **Free Movement Regime (1968)** allows border tribes to travel **10 km** without visas, with **QR-based passes**.
4. Mizoram’s **Mizo community** shares ethnic ties with Myanmar’s **Chin**, Bangladesh’s **Bawm**, and Manipur’s **Kuki-Zo**.
5. Refugee support is led by **Young Mizo Association (YMA)**, church groups, and locals.
6. The Centre released **₹8 crore** as aid, but Mizoram deems it **insufficient**.
7. **Mizoram Household Registers Bill, 2019** aims to identify **foreign nationals**, refugees, and illegal migrants.

### RISING INFLUX OF MYANMAR REFUGEES

Here are the nine districts of Mizoram where refugees from the neighbouring country are taking shelter



#### Three-Language Policy and Maharashtra’s Rollback

**Recent Context:** In 2025, Maharashtra **withdrew Hindi** as a compulsory third language in schools (Grades 1–5), citing **linguistic identity concerns**, despite **NEP 2020** promoting multilingualism.

#### About -

1. **Three-language formula** introduced by **Kothari Commission (1964–66)**, adopted in **NPE 1968**.
2. **NEP 2020**: Medium of instruction in **mother tongue** till at least **Class 5**; flexible 3-language formula with **no imposition**.
3. **Articles 29, 343, 346–351** provide language-related constitutional safeguards.
4. **Tamil Nadu** follows a **two-language policy (Tamil + English)** since 1968, rejecting Hindi imposition.
5. **AISES survey**: Schools using mother tongue as medium dropped from **92% (2002)** to **86% (2009)**.
6. Federal issue: Education is in **Concurrent List**; compulsory Hindi seen as **central interference**.
7. **Eighth Schedule** of Constitution recognizes **22 scheduled languages**.

#### Aadi KARMAYOGI Mission and TALASH Programme

**Recent Context:** The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched the **first Regional Process Lab (RPL)** under **Aadi KARMAYOGI** to strengthen local governance. At the same time, **NESTS (National Education Society for**

**Tribal Students)** launched **TALASH** to support holistic growth of **tribal students**.

**About -**

1. **Aadi KARMAYOGI** – a **National Mission for Responsive Governance** to build **20 lakh tribal grassroots functionaries** and **village-level leaders**.
2. Aligned with **PM JANMAN** and **DAJGUA**, focusing on **community participation** and **last-mile service delivery**.
3. **Trainers' Structure:** State Master Trainers (SMTs) → District Master Trainers (DMTs) → Block Trainers.
4. First **Regional Process Lab (RPL)** set up in **Bengaluru**, covering **five southern states** (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana).
5. Involves **civil society organisations** for **participatory learning** and **localised training models**.
6. **TALASH (by NESTS + UNICEF India):** for **1.38 lakh students** in **EMRSs (Eklavya Model Residential Schools)** – includes **aptitude tests, career counselling, life skills & self-esteem building**.

**INITIATIVE IN NEWS** **TALASH INITIATIVE**

Empowering Tribal Futures  
Eklavya Model Schools Rise  
Bridging Gaps, Building Dreams



Expanded EMRS from 123 (2013-14) to 477 (2024-25)  
341 EMRSs gained CBSE affiliation  
Launched AadiKarmayogi Project Engineers for Coding & AI  
Multi-TALASH platforms with UNICEF for career & life skills

जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त संगठन, राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय छात्र शिक्षा सोसायटी (एनईएसटीएस) ने तलाश पहल शुरू की है।

- Full Name: **Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and Self-Esteem Hub**
- Type: **National digital programme** for students of **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)**
- Launched by: **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** in collaboration with **UNICEF India**
- Aim: To support the **academic, emotional, and career development** of tribal students.
- Coverage: Benefits over **1,38,336 students** in **EMRSs** and Covers **28 States and 8 Union Territories**.
- **Key Features:** **Psychometric Assessment**, provides personalized **Career Cards** with **suitable career suggestions** and offers guidance for informed **career decisions**.

### Legislative Productivity in India

**Recent Context:** The **Lok Sabha Speaker**, at the National Conference of **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** Chairpersons, highlighted the urgent need to **enhance legislative productivity** and improve the **quality of parliamentary discourse**.

1. **Sitting Days Decline:** From **135 days/year (1st Lok Sabha)** to just **55 days/year (17th Lok Sabha)**.
2. **Low Functioning:** 2023 Budget Session – Lok Sabha **33%**, Rajya Sabha **24%** of scheduled time.
3. **Disruptions:** 15th Lok Sabha lost **30% time** to slogan shouting & walkouts.
4. **Committee Referrals Decline:** Only **10% Bills** referred to committees in 17th LS vs **60–71% earlier**.
5. **Private Member Bills:** Only **14 passed since Independence**, last in **1970**.
6. **Vacant Deputy Speaker Post: Article 93** violated; post vacant entire **17th Lok Sabha**.
7. **Implication:** Weak **executive oversight**, poor-quality laws, erosion of **parliamentary trust**.

### Legality of Phone Tapping in India

**Recent Context:** **Delhi HC** and **Madras HC** gave **contrasting rulings** on whether the government can legally tap phones in cases involving **economic offences**.

1. **Governing Laws:** **Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (Sec 5(2))**, **IT Act 2000**, **Post Office Act 1898**.
2. **Safeguards:** **Rule 419A (1951)**, **PUCL v. Union of India (1997)** – only **Home Secretary** can authorise.
3. **Delhi HC (2020):** Upheld tapping in corruption case, citing **economic security = public safety**.
4. **Madras HC (2018):** Quashed order; ruled no **public emergency** & procedures not followed.
5. **Supreme Court 1997 Guidelines:** Review committees at **Centre & State** must examine orders every **2 months**.
6. **Puttaswamy Judgment (2017):** Right to **privacy a fundamental right** under **Article 21**.
7. **Admissibility:** Illegally tapped evidence **not valid** in court.

### NER District SDG Index (2nd Edition, 2023-24)

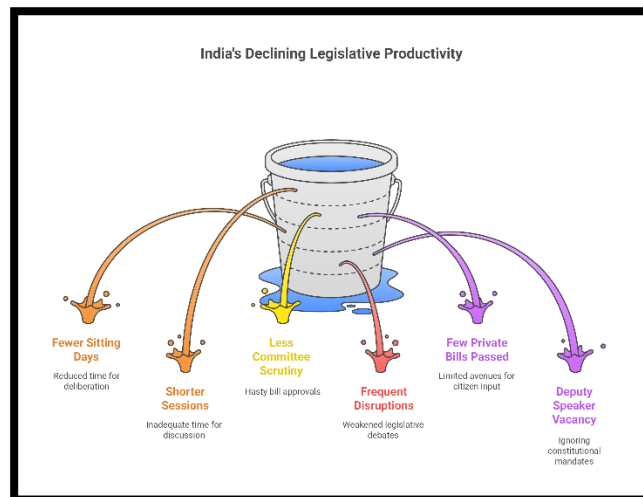
**Recent Context:** **NITI Aayog**, with **MoDoNER** and **UNDP**, launched the **2nd edition** of the **NER District SDG Index**, covering **121 districts across 8 NE states**.

1. **Coverage:** 92% of NE districts assessed, ranked as **Achiever, Front Runner, Performer, Aspirant**.
2. **Improvement:** 85% districts **Front Runner** (vs 62% earlier); none in **Achiever/Aspirant** categories.
3. **State Highlights:** All districts in **Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura = Front Runner**.
4. **Top District:** **Hnahthial (Mizoram, 81.43)**; Lowest: **Longding (Arunachal, 58.71)**.
5. **Consistency:** **Sikkim** showed narrowest range (**5.5 points**), most balanced performance.
6. **Importance:** Enables **evidence-based planning**, targeted interventions, efficient **resource allocation**.
7. **National Context:** Linked with **SDG India Index 2023-24** – India's score **71** (Kerala & Uttarakhand top, Bihar lowest).

### Legislative Productivity in India

**Recent Context:** The Lok Sabha Speaker at the National Conference of ULBs Chairpersons stressed enhancing legislative productivity and improving the quality of parliamentary discourse.

1. **Decline in Sitting Days:** From **135 days/year (1st Lok Sabha)** to **~55 days/year (17th LS)**.
2. **Shorter Sessions:** **Budget 2023** saw LS & RS function only **33% & 24%** of scheduled time.
3. **Committee Scrutiny:** Only **10% Bills** sent to committees (**17th LS**) vs **60–71%** earlier.
4. **Disruptions:** 15th LS lost **30% time** to protests; weakening debates.
5. **Private Members' Bills:** Only **14** passed since **Independence**, last in **1970**.
6. **Deputy Speaker Vacancy:** Article **93** mandate ignored throughout 17th LS.
7. **Implications:** Weak oversight, **executive overreach**, poor-quality laws, and **erosion of public trust**.



### Legality of Phone Tapping in India

**Recent Context:** **Delhi HC** upheld phone tapping in bribery cases, while **Madras HC** quashed an interception order — showing **judicial divergence** on surveillance and **privacy rights**.

1. **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 – Sec 5(2):** Permits interception during **public emergency/safety**.
2. **IT Act, 2000:** Governs **digital surveillance** (emails, WhatsApp, etc.).
3. **Safeguards:** Rule **419A of Telegraph Rules, 1951**, plus **Articles 19 & 21** (Puttaswamy 2017).
4. **SC Judgment (PUCL, 1997):** Only **Home Secretary** can authorise; review within **2 months**.
5. **Delhi HC (2020):** Phone tapping allowed in **economic offences** as they affect **public safety**.
6. **Madras HC (2018):** Quashed tap order — no **emergency/safety threat**, failed **procedural norms**.
7. **Evidence Rule:** **Illegally tapped data** inadmissible in courts.

### 10 Years of Digital India

**Recent Context:** On **1 July 2025**, India celebrated **10 years of Digital India**, launched in **2015** to bridge the **digital divide** and transform governance, economy, and citizen empowerment.

1. **Digital Infrastructure:** **Tele-density** rose to **84.49%**, internet users up **285%**, broadband

- up 1,452%; 4.74 lakh 5G towers cover 99.6% districts; BharatNet connected 2.18 lakh GPs.
- Digital Finance:** UPI handles 49% of global real-time transactions, operational in 7+ countries; DBT transferred ₹44 lakh crore via Aadhaar, removing crores of fake beneficiaries.
  - E-Commerce Platforms:** ONDC onboarded lakhs of sellers; GeM has 22.5 lakh sellers and 1.6 lakh govt buyers.
  - AI & Semiconductors:** IndiaAI Mission (2024-29) deployed 34,000 GPUs; India Semiconductor Mission approved ₹1.55 lakh crore projects with 50% capital support.
  - Citizen Empowerment:** Karmayogi Bharat trained 1.21 crore officials; DigiLocker has 53.92 crore users; UMANG offers 2,300+ services in 23 languages; BHASHINI promotes linguistic inclusivity.
  - Nine Pillars:** Broadband Highways, Mobile Access, Public Internet, E-Governance, e-Kranti, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs, Early Harvest Programs.

#### SOURCE – INSIGHTS

#### Supreme Court & Bill Timelines

**Recent Context:** In July 2025, the Supreme Court is examining a **Presidential Reference** on whether the **President and Governors** can be judicially compelled to act within **fixed timelines** on State Bills.

- Presidential Reference Trigger** – Originated from **Tamil Nadu's challenge** to Governor's delay in assenting to Bills; SC (April 8, 2025) imposed timelines.
- Article 143(1)** – President can seek **SC's advisory opinion** on matters of public importance.
- Non-Binding Nature** – Advisory opinions are **persuasive, not binding** under **Article 141**.
- Court's Limits** – SC cannot **expand questions** beyond the President's reference.
- Past Precedents** – 1978 & 1993 Presidential References were **declined** (Ayodhya case example).

- Review vs. Reference** – Article 143 cannot **overturn judgments**; only **review/curative petitions** can.
- April 8 Ruling Prevails** – The **binding judgment** under Article 141 remains until modified via judicial process.

#### Custodial Violence in India

**Recent Context:** The **custodial death of Ajith Kumar in Tamil Nadu (2025)** revived debate over **democratic policing vs impunity-driven policing** in India.

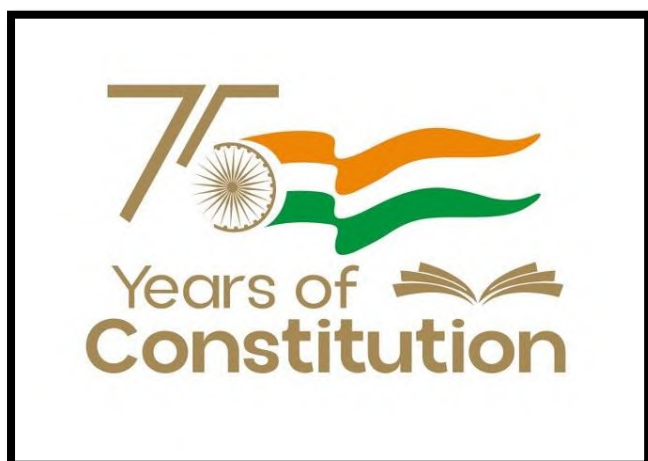
- High Death Rates** – 687 custodial deaths (2018–23), with **Gujarat (81), Maharashtra (80), Tamil Nadu (36)** leading.
- Marginalised Victims** – Mostly **Dalits, tribals, migrants, daily wagers**.
- Legal Safeguards Ignored** – Despite **D.K. Basu (1996) & K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)**, torture continues.
- No Anti-Torture Law** – **Law Commission's 273rd Report** unimplemented; **UN Convention Against Torture not ratified**.
- Ineffectiveness of Torture** – Neuroscience & global studies show it produces **false confessions**.
- Global Alternatives** – **PEACE model (UK)**, adopted in **Norway, Canada, NZ** shows success.
- Democratic Imperative** – India must **ratify UNCAT, enact anti-torture law**, and train police in rights-based methods.

#### Constitutional Dreams Before 1950

**Recent Context:** With **75 years of the Constitution (2025)**, focus is on **pre-1950 constitutional debates** that shaped India's democracy.

- Pre-Independence Documents** – **Nehru Report (1928), Sapru Committee (1945)** proposed rights & federalism.
- Karachi Resolution (1931)** – Declared **fundamental rights, labor welfare, equality**.
- Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)** – Laid base for **Constituent Assembly formation**.

4. **Influence of World Constitutions** – Borrowed from **UK, USA, Ireland, Canada, USSR, South Africa**.
5. **Social Justice Concerns** – Pre-1950 debates focused on **untouchability, caste, minority rights**.
6. **Economic Vision** – Gandhian self-reliance vs Nehruvian state-led planning.
7. **Continuity in 1950 Constitution** – Many **pre-1950 demands** like **fundamental rights & directive principles** were incorporated.



#### TV Rating Guidelines 2025

**Recent Context:** In 2025, the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** released a draft policy on **TV Rating Guidelines**, proposing multiple agencies to improve TRP accuracy, transparency, and capture digital viewership trends.

1. **What is TRP?** – Television Rating Point measures **popularity and reach** of programs; helps broadcasters, advertisers, and regulators make data-driven decisions.
2. **Administering Authority** – Governed by **Ministry of I&B**; operationally handled by **BARC** since 2014.
3. **Objective** – Ensure **scientific, transparent, and reliable** measurement of TV and digital viewership.
4. **Existing Issues** – Monopoly by **BARC**, **small sample size (0.025% of TV homes)**, and exclusion of **connected devices** like smart TVs & OTT platforms.
5. **Proposed Reforms** – Allow **multiple rating agencies**, integrate **modern technology**, and

remove restrictive clauses (1.5 & 1.7) to encourage innovation.

6. **Democratising Investment** – Broadcasters and advertisers can now invest in rating infrastructure under **regulated norms**.
7. **Transparent & Inclusive Ratings** – Aim to **reflect India's diverse content consumption**, including regional and digital domains.

#### PAC Review of UIDAI Functioning

**Recent Context:** The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** recommended a **comprehensive review of UIDAI** after **biometric failures** led to exclusion from welfare schemes and data security concerns.

1. **PAC Overview** – Parliamentary committee auditing Union Government accounts based on **CAG reports**; 22 MPs, chaired by **opposition leader**, term reconstituted annually.
2. **Key Issues Highlighted** – Biometric failures (fingerprints/iris mismatch), **data breaches**, duplicate/inactive Aadhaar IDs, and gaps in grievance redressal.
3. **Social & Governance Implications** – **Exclusion from welfare**, security threats, identity theft, loss of public trust, and inefficiency in service delivery.
4. **Technological Gaps** – Slow deactivation of deceased, weak enrolment centre protocols, and limited authentication alternatives.
5. **Inclusive Verification** – Introduce **facial recognition, OTP-based verification**, and assisted verification for marginalised groups.
6. **Ensuring Citizenship** – Review Aadhaar issuance to **suspected non-citizens**, prevent welfare misuse, and maintain **trust in digital governance**.

#### SOURCE – PIB

#### NSP 2025

India's roadmap to **global sporting excellence, social inclusion, and economic growth via sports**.

**Recent Context:** **Approved by Union Cabinet**; replaces **NSP 2001**; aligns with **NEP 2020** and **Khelo India**.

**About -**

1. Goal: **Top-10 Olympic finish by 2036.**
2. Focus: **Grassroots talent → elite athletes.**
3. Economic boost: **Sports tourism, manufacturing, startups.**
4. Social inclusion: **Women, tribals, PwDs, traditional games.**
5. Education link: **Embed sports in school curricula (NEP 2020).**
6. Governance: **Strengthen NSFs, AI/data analytics for performance.**
7. People's movement: **Fitness campaigns, universal sports access.**

**Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme**

**Topic: ELI Scheme** – Government incentive for **first-time employees & employers** to create **formal jobs**, boost **manufacturing & youth employment**.

**Recent Context: Approved by Union Cabinet**; targets **3.5 crore jobs** (Aug 2025–July 2027); **₹99,446 cr** outlay.

**About -**

1. Employee incentive: **1-month EPF wage** (up to **₹15,000**) in **2 installments**.
2. Employer incentive: **₹1,000–₹3,000/month** per new hire.
3. Coverage: **1.92 crore first-time employees**; all **sectors**.
4. Tenure: **2 years** (all sectors), **4 years** (manufacturing).
5. Payment via **DBT (Aadhaar)** and **PAN-linked accounts**.
6. Boosts **formal employment & EPF coverage**.
7. Linked to **Skill India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, PM Gati Shakti**.

**SOURCE – VISION MONTHLY****DIGITAL COLONIALISM**

**Recent Context:** Former Indian Vice President highlighted **digital colonialism** as a threat to **sovereignty** due to dependence on **foreign digital infrastructure**.

**About -**

- **Meaning:** Big tech companies extract, analyse, own **user data** for profit, influencing global **digital ecosystem**.
- **Key Pillars:** **Economic domination, tech hegemony, global surveillance, cultural imperialism, proprietary architecture, benevolence framing.**
- **Issues:** Threats to **national security, privacy, local business, economic losses, regulation challenges, network effect, North-South digital divide.**
- **India Measures:** **DPDP Act 2023, Competition Act, ONDC, India Stack, G20 advocacy for data sovereignty.**
- **Other Nations:** **EU (GDPR, AI Act), China (Digital Silk Road), Russia (Sovereign Internet Law).**
- **Way Forward:** **Digital sovereignty, data localization, governance frameworks, cross-border data management, inclusive digital future.**
- **Conclusion:** Fragmented internet (**splinternet**) calls for **global digital solidarity** while ensuring **digital rights**.

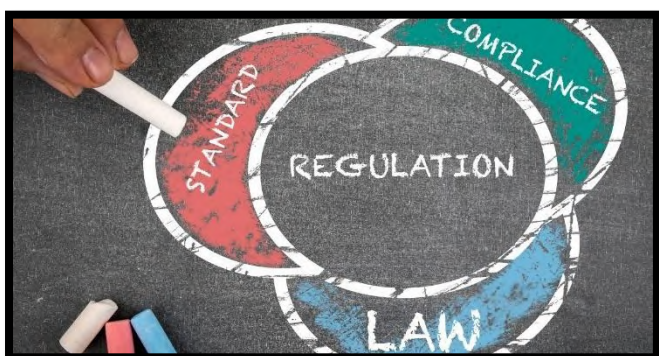
**Topic: ONLINE CONTENT REGULATION**

**Recent Context:** Ministry of I&B banned access to **OTT platforms** for **obscene content**, citing **IT Act 2000 & 2021 Rules**.

**About -**

- **Need:** Protect **society, children, women, minorities** from harmful digital content; curb **violence, gender inequality**.
- **Legal Framework:** **IT Act 2000 (Sections 67, 69A, 79), IT Rules 2021, POSCO Act, IRW Act 1986, BNS 2023.**

- **Challenges:** Regulatory overlap, subjectivity in obscenity, technological bypass (VPN, encryption), creative freedom vs censorship.
- **Recent Examples:** Bulli Bai app, Fire movie ban.
- **Way Forward:** Multi-stakeholder consultations, AI-based content moderation, self-regulation, learn from EU practices (GDPR, AVMSD).
- **Objective:** Balance freedom of expression with social sensitivities.
- **Tools:** Automated filters, user reports, AI analytics for compliance.



### Topic: NATIONAL COOPERATIVE POLICY 2025

**Recent Context:** Union Minister launched **National Cooperative Policy 2025** to enhance cooperative participation and GDP contribution.

**About -**

- **Vision:** Sahkar-se-Samriddhi; cooperatives as drivers of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Objectives:** Activate **50 crore citizens**, strengthen **cooperative governance and inclusivity**.
- **Policy Pillars:** Legislative reforms, financial empowerment, business ecosystem, technology readiness, new sectors, inclusivity.
- **Cooperative Status:** **8 lakh societies, 30 crore members**, top sectors – Housing, Dairy, PACS, constitutional recognition via **97th Amendment**.
- **Governance:** Multi-State Cooperatives (Union List), State Cooperatives (State List).
- **Significance:** Boosts rural economy, farmers' income, women empowerment, sustainable growth, community ties.

### Topic: PRI Finances

**Recent Context:** Standing Committee highlighted **partial devolution** of 3Fs and financial issues in PRIs despite 3 decades of the **73rd Constitutional Amendment**.

**About -**

1. **3Fs: Functions, Funds, Functionaries**—full devolution still lacking.
2. **Declining budgetary allocations** threaten fiscal decentralisation.
3. **15th Finance Commission grants:** 40% untied, 60% tied → underutilisation.
4. **Weak own-source revenue (OSR):** Panchayats' OSR only **1.1%** of total revenue.
5. **Delays in Panchayat elections** hinder fund utilisation.
6. **GPDP upload compliance** on eGramSwaraj affects fund release.
7. Recommendations: **Flexible fund use**, timely **SFCs**, strengthen **OSR**, **election continuity**, and **adequate devolution**.

### Topic: Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD)

**Recent Context:** **Ravi-Beas Tribunal** extended; **Polavaram Banakacherla Link Project** and **Mahanadi dispute** under discussion; **Centre** to facilitate amicable resolution.

**About -**

1. **Article 262:** Parliament adjudicates **inter-state water disputes**, can bar courts.
2. Key laws: **River Boards Act, 1956; Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
3. Causes: **Asymmetric access, population growth, urbanisation, development projects, fragmented governance**.
4. Challenges: **Delays, politicisation**, lack of stakeholder participation, **Supreme Court interventions**.
5. Amendments: **ISWD Amendment Bill 2019, Draft River Basin Management Bill 2018**.
6. Measures: **National River Linking Project, AI-based river data, River Basin Authorities**.
7. Way forward: **Cooperative federalism, policy intervention, data transparency, stakeholder engagement**.

### Topic: Cost of Politics in India

**Recent Context:** ORF study reveals rising campaign costs, vote buying, and wealthy candidates' advantage, affecting democratic integrity.

**About – 1. Campaign costs:** ₹5–10 crore for Lok Sabha candidates; higher in competitive states.

2. **Routine political expenditure:** community events, party activities, media.
3. **Vote buying** rising; pressures candidates to participate.
4. **Funding sources:** personal wealth, family/friends, loans, crowdfunding.
5. Governance implications: **business-politics nexus, corruption risk, fundraising focus.**
6. Democratic impact: **power capture, barrier for underprivileged, erosion of public trust.**

### Topic: Lowering of Voting Age

**Recent Context:** Globally, countries like Germany, Austria, Malta, Estonia, Argentina, Nicaragua reduced voting age to 16. UK recently announced plans. In India, a **Private Member's Bill 2020** proposed lowering voting age from 18 to 17.

**About -**

1. **Article 326:** Provides **universal adult suffrage** for citizens 18+; voting age reduced from 21 → 18 via **61st Constitutional Amendment 1988.**
2. **Right to Vote:** **Statutory**, can be amended by **ordinary Parliament law.**
3. **Arguments in favour:**
  - **Cognitive Maturity:** 16-year-olds have **critical thinking capacity.**
  - **Intergenerational Equity:** Current system favors **older electorate**, reduces **forward-looking policies.**
  - **Broadens Manifestos:** Focus on **child rights, quality education, gender justice.**
4. **Arguments against:**
  - **Perceived Lack of Maturity:** Adolescents may be **uninformed/manipulable.**

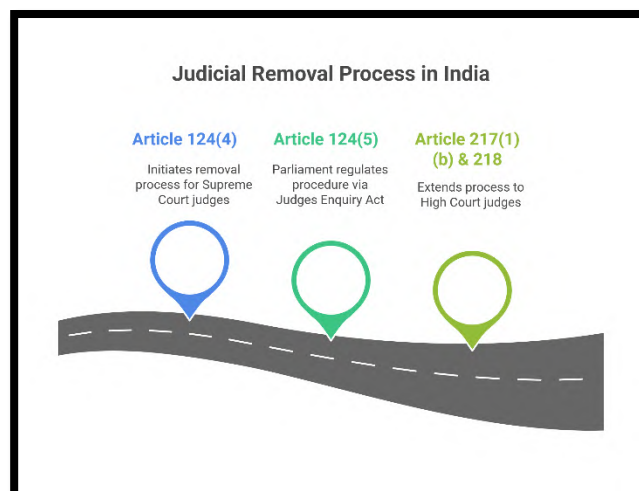
- **Low Turnout:** In 2024 LS elections, under **40% of 18–19-year-olds** registered.
- **Legal Inconsistencies:** May trigger debates on **marriage, alcohol, military service ages.**

### Topic: Removal of Judges in Higher Judiciary

**Recent Context:** 145 Lok Sabha and 50+ Rajya Sabha members submitted motions for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma under **Articles 124, 217, 218** of the Constitution.

**About -**

1. **Article 124(4):** Removal of **Supreme Court judges** for **misbehavior or incapacity.**
2. **Article 124(5):** Parliament regulates **procedure**, via **Judges Enquiry Act 1968.**
3. **Article 217(1)(b) & Article 218:** Extend **Supreme Court removal process** to **High Court judges.**
4. **Initiation:** Motion signed by **100 LS members / 50 RS members** submitted to **Speaker/Chairman.**
5. **Committee Investigation:** Three-member committee (**SC judge, HC Chief Justice, distinguished jurist**) investigates allegations.
6. **Parliamentary Approval:** Both Houses pass motion with **special majority** (2/3 of members present & voting).
7. **Presidential Order:** President issues **removal**; note: **"impeachment" not mentioned** in Constitution.



### Topic: National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes (NSCSTI 2.0)

**Recent Context:** NSCSTI 2.0 framework launched by **Minister of State for Personnel** to standardize and modernize **civil service training**, aligning with **Mission Karmayogi** goals.

**About -**

1. Developed by **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)** under **Mission Karmayogi**.
2. Objective: **Baseline capacities**, enhance **management**, and **standardize civil service training**.
3. Introduces **hybrid and AI-driven learning models**.
4. Inclusive design for **all government training institutes**.
5. Promotes **best practices**, removing barriers between **public and private sectors**.

### Topic: Bills of Lading Bill 2025

**Recent Context:** Parliament passed Bills of Lading Bill 2025 to **update and simplify shipping documents**, replacing **Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856**.

**About -**

1. Replaces **Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856**.
2. Modernizes **legal framework** for shipping documents.
3. **Bill of Lading:** Document by **freight carrier to shipper**.
4. Includes **type, quantity, condition, destination** of goods.
5. Ensures **clarity, legal certainty, and simplified trade procedures**.
6. Facilitates **domestic and international shipping compliance**.
7. Strengthens **shipping sector governance** and **export-import trade efficiency**.

### SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS

### Topic: India's Literacy Drive and Fully Literate States

**Recent Context:** Tripura achieved **"fully literate"** status with **95.6% literacy**, while **Mizoram** leads nationally. Literacy is measured via **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0**, targeting **100% literacy**.

**About -**

1. **Literacy Rate:** % of population aged **7+** who can **read and write with understanding** in any language.
2. **Fully Literate State:** State/UT achieving **≥95% literacy**.
3. **PGI 2.0 (2023-24):** Measures **learning outcomes, access, infrastructure, equity, governance, teacher training**. Grade **"Daksh"** for **>90%** score.
4. **ULLAS Scheme:** Promotes **foundational literacy and numeracy**; includes **local-language content** and **mobile app support**.
5. **Saakshar Bharat (2009):** Functional literacy for **15+ age group**, linked to **skill development**.
6. **Key Policies:** **RTE Act 2009, NEP 2020, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PM SHRI, Digital India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme**.
7. Objective: Improve **access, equity, quality, and digital learning**, reduce disparities, and support **socio-economic development**.

# POLITY & GOVERNANCE

## TOPICS COVERED-

1. **Vice President of India – Mid-Term Resignation** – VP Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned mid-term, becoming the third to do so in history.
2. **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls – Bihar 2025** – ECI launched citizenship-proof-based roll revision, raising exclusion and legal basis concerns.
3. **Right to Vote in India – Nature & Issues** – Debate revived on whether voting is statutory, constitutional, or fundamental after SC's directions on voter ID documents.
4. **Delimitation & States' Demand for Parity with J&K** – SC upheld freeze on delimitation until post-2026 Census, denying parity to AP and Telangana.
5. **Linguistic Secularism in India** – Violence against non-Marathi speakers reignited debates on linguistic pluralism as a facet of Indian secularism.
6. **Custodial Violence in India** – A custodial death in Tamil Nadu highlighted weak safeguards despite SC guidelines and pending anti-torture law.
7. **India's Aviation Sector – Safety Reforms Needed** – Inconclusive crash probe exposed systemic flaws in DGCA oversight and safety culture.
8. **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023** – New rules mandate sterilisation, vaccination, and feeding spots for community animals, upholding animal dignity.
9. **National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025** – New policy aims to make India a top sports nation by 2047 with five-pillar strategy.
10. **Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025** – Proposes automatic removal of PM/CM/Ministers held in custody for 30 days on serious charges.
11. **Promotion & Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025** – Bans money games while regulating/promoting e-sports and social/educational games.
12. **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** – Establishes National Sports Board, Tribunal, and governance reforms for sports bodies.
13. **Ministry Blocks 25 OTT Platforms – Obscenity Content** – Govt blocked OTTs under IT Act citing obscene content, raising free speech concerns.
14. **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025** – Expands decriminalisation and rationalisation of minor offences across 16 Acts.
15. **Commercial & Prohibited Speeches not Fundamental Rights: SC** – SC held that ads and hate/inciting speech fall outside Article 19(1)(a) protection.
16. **Rules for OCI Cards Tightened (2025)** – MHA empowered to revoke OCI on conviction or charge-sheet for serious offences.
17. **Vice-Presidential Election (17th, 2025)** – ECI announced election under Articles 66–68 with PR-STV voting by MPs of both Houses.
18. **Ninth Schedule** – Introduced by the First Amendment (1951) to shield land reforms, later contested for undermining fundamental rights and judicial review.

19. **Creamy Layer Equivalence in OBC Quota** – Govt considering uniform rules to remove anomalies in creamy layer exclusion for fairer OBC reservation.
20. **SC Guidelines on Social Media Conduct** – Supreme Court directed govt to frame rules balancing free speech with dignity amid rising online hate and misinformation.
21. **Migrant Citizen Crisis in Democracy** – Millions of migrant workers face disenfranchisement due to India's sedentary electoral framework.
22. **ECI Voter Roll Allegations** – Opposition claims large-scale voter list manipulation, raising concerns about electoral integrity.
23. **SC Strikes Down Army JAG Gender Quota** – Court invalidated male reservation, ordering a common merit list for equal opportunity.
24. **Transformative Reforms for Viksit Bharat@2047** – Roadmap for India's \$30 trillion economy with reforms in governance, economy, industry, agriculture, health, and education.
25. **Transforming India's Electoral Landscape** – ECI adopts digital tools and reforms to improve transparency, inclusivity, and electoral credibility.
26. **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)** – Special courts for speedy rape and POCSO trials face disposal delays despite high pendency.
27. **ESG Oversight in India** – Parliamentary panel recommends ESG watchdog to curb greenwashing and strengthen corporate sustainability compliance.
28. **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)** – Given statutory status under Disaster Management Act (2025) to coordinate central–state disaster responses.
29. **Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025** – NALSA's nationwide legal aid scheme for vulnerable groups, enhancing access to justice.
30. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** – Agro-processing scheme modernising supply chains and boosting food safety, exports, and jobs.
31. **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) Subsidy** – Extended LPG subsidy to ensure affordable clean cooking fuel, with migrant-friendly provisions.
32. **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** – MPs get ₹5 crore annually to fund community-centric and durable local development projects.
33. **Cess and Union Finance** – CAG flagged lapses in transferring ₹3.69 lakh crore from cess, highlighting poor utilisation of earmarked levies.
34. **Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill, 2025** – Promotes critical mineral production and sustainable mining under the National Critical Mineral Mission.
35. **SabhaSaar AI Tool** – AI-enabled tool for auto-transcribing Gram Sabha minutes, integrated with Bhashini for multilingual support.
36. **National Sports Governance & Anti-Doping Bills, 2025** – Strengthen sports ethics, transparency, athlete representation, and anti-doping compliance.
37. **Bills to Modernise Maritime Laws** – New Merchant Shipping, Coastal Shipping, and Carriage of Goods laws replace colonial-era legislations, aligning with global standards.
38. **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025** – Regulates online gaming, bans money games, promotes esports, and sets penalties for violations.
39. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** – India's largest digital procurement platform promoting transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in government purchases.
40. **Financial Inclusion in India** – Index at 67 (2025), driven by PMJDY, PMSBY, APY, MUDRA, UPI, and women-focused schemes enhancing access and usage.

41. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** – Provides universal banking access, RuPay cards, insurance, pensions, and DBTs, reaching 56.2 crore accounts.
42. **Navigating the New Techno-Capitalist World Order** – India faces AI disruption, low R&D, and regulatory gaps amid global techno-capitalism by the US and China.
43. **Legal Aid and NALSA** – Statutory body providing free legal services; reach limited to 15.5 lakh beneficiaries due to funding and operational gaps.
44. **Reforming India's Justice Delivery System** – Over 5 crore pending cases; reforms focus on technology, appointments, ADR, e-Courts, and procedural efficiency.
45. **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** – Ensures tap water access to rural households, promotes women's participation, technology-driven monitoring, and sustainable management.
46. **Funding to Rural Local Bodies (PRIs)** – PRIs rely on grants (~95% of revenue); reforms needed for transparency, performance-linked funds, and local empowerment.
47. **Polavaram–Banakacherla Project Dispute** – Centre forms committee to resolve AP–Telangana water-sharing conflicts via constitutional, statutory, and tribunal mechanisms.
48. **Nominations to UT Assemblies** – LG of J&K can nominate MLAs without CM's advice, differing from Delhi and Puducherry norms; highlights central-local governance nuances.
49. **Enhancing Northeast Connectivity – Act East Policy** – Boosts rail, road, digital, and waterway links in Northeast India, enhancing trade, strategic ties, and socio-economic growth.
50. **Dismantling Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** – Red Corridor reduced to 18 districts through security, development, and rehabilitation; goal to eradicate Naxalism by 2026.



## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

SOURCE – THE HINDU

## Vice President of India – Mid-Term Resignation

**Recent Context** - Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** resigned mid-term citing health issues. He became the third VP to resign before completing tenure, after **V.V. Giri** and **R. Venkataraman**.

## ABOUT-

1. **VP = Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha (Art. 64).**
2. Elected by **MPs of both Houses**, incl. **nominated members**.
3. Electoral system = **Proportional representation by single transferable vote**.
4. No role of **state legislatures** in VP election.
5. **Eligibility: ≥35 years, Indian citizen, RS qualification.**
6. **VP vacancy** filled “as soon as possible” (no 6-month limit unlike **President**).
7. **Deputy Chairman** presides over **Rajya Sabha** in VP’s absence.

## Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls – Bihar 2025

**Recent Context** - ECI launched **Special Intensive Revision** of Bihar rolls, demanding **citizenship proof**; raised criticism over **weak legal basis**, **exclusion risk**, and **overburdening electors**.

## ABOUT-

1. **Legal basis: Art. 324, 326 + RPA 1950 (Sec. 21, 15).**
2. **Electoral rolls** supervised by ECI; prepared **constituency-wise**.
3. “**Intensive revision**” not defined in **RPA 1950** or **1960 Rules**.
4. **Qualifying date** for 2025 SIR = **1 July 2025**.
5. **Aadhaar excluded** as proof (**not citizenship document**).
6. Last nationwide **SIR for Bihar** held in **2003**.
7. **Issues: duplicate entries, migrants, arbitrary 2003 roll reliance.**

## Right to Vote in India – Nature &amp; Issues

**Recent Context** - SC directed ECI to accept **Aadhaar**, **voter ID**, and **ration cards** in Bihar’s SIR; ECI contested their reliability, reigniting debate on **voting rights**.

## ABOUT-

1. **Art. 326: Universal Adult Suffrage (≥18 years).**
2. **61st CAA, 1989** lowered voting age from **21** → **18**.
3. **RPA 1950: electoral roll preparation & revision.**
4. **RPA 1951: conduct of elections, candidature, offences.**
5. **SC in Kuldip Nayar (2006): Right to vote = statutory, not fundamental.**
6. **Rajbala (2016):** called it **constitutional right**, but **smaller bench** → less weight.
7. **Accuracy of rolls** essential for “**one person, one vote**” principle.



## Delimitation &amp; States’ Demand for Parity with J&amp;K

**Recent Context** - SC dismissed a petition by **Andhra Pradesh & Telangana** seeking **delimitation on parity with J&K**. Court upheld **freeze on state assembly delimitation** until **post-2026 Census**.

## ABOUT-

1. **Delimitation = redrawing constituency boundaries** for equal population.
2. **Art. 82** → Lok Sabha; **Art. 170** → State Assemblies.
3. **Delimitation** done post-**1951, 1961, 1971** censuses.
4. **42nd CAA (1976)** froze till **2001**; **84th CAA (2001)** extended till **post-2026 Census**.
5. **Art. 170(3):** no change in **seats/territorial division** until **post-2026 Census**.
6. **J&K exception: Union Territory** → not bound by **Art. 170(3)**.

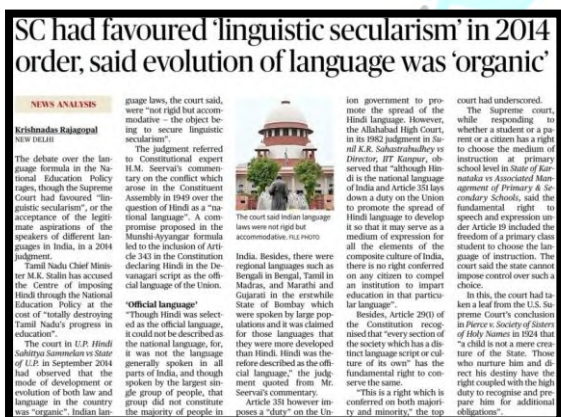
7. **Delimitation Commission** works under **Delimitation Act**, not ECI alone.

### Linguistic Secularism in India

**Recent Context - Violence in Maharashtra** against **non-Marathi speakers** reignited debates on **linguistic identity politics** and the **constitutional duty** to protect India's **linguistic pluralism** as part of **secularism**.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Indian secularism = tolerance & equality**, not strict separation.
2. **Eighth Schedule: 22 languages** recognised.
3. **Art. 29** → protection of **language, script & culture**.
4. **Art. 343** → **Hindi in Devanagari = official Union language**; states free to choose.
5. **Linguistic States Reorganisation: States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.
6. **Census 2011: 121 languages, 270 mother tongues**.
7. **Language movements: Anti-Hindi agitation (TN), linguistic violence (Maharashtra)**.



### Custodial Violence in India

**Recent Context - Death of a security guard in Tamil Nadu police custody** highlighted India's **weak safeguards** against **custodial violence** despite **constitutional protections** and **SC guidelines**.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Art. 20(3), 21, 22** → rights against **arbitrary arrest & torture**.
2. **CrPC Sec. 41A, 176(1)** → **arrest safeguards, magisterial inquiry**.

3. **Evidence Act Sec. 25** → **confessions to police inadmissible**.
4. **SC cases: D.K. Basu (1997), Prakash Singh (2006), Paramvir Singh Saini (2020)**.
5. **India signed but not ratified UNCAT (1984)**.
6. **NHRC 2021** → **Police Complaints Authorities, Sec. 114B Evidence Act**.
7. **Law Commission 273rd Report (2017)** → called for **Anti-Torture Law**.

### India's Aviation Sector – Safety Reforms Needed

**Recent Context - Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's report on Air India crash in Ahmedabad** remained **inconclusive**, exposing **systemic weaknesses** in India's **aviation safety ecosystem** and **regulatory failures**.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Aviation structure: Airlines (ops), AAI (airports, ATC), DGCA (regulator), MoCA (policy)**.
2. **DGCA** relies on **FAA (US) & EASA (EU)** for **airworthiness certification**.
3. **Duty-time limits for AMEs & ATCOs** (post-2010 Mangaluru crash) still **unimplemented**.
4. **DGCA** allows **delegation of AME tasks** → **less qualified technicians**.
5. **Pilot stress: FTDTL rules violated; DGCA** gives **exemptions; NOC rule restricts mobility**.
6. **IHS violations: Unsafe buildings** approved by **non-statutory MoCA-DGCA-AAI panel**.
7. **Whistle-blowers face retaliation** → **weak safety culture**.

### Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023

**Recent Context - SC** observed **citizens feeding stray dogs** should do so **responsibly**; **Bombay HC** upheld validity of **ABC Rules 2023**, mandating **feeding spots** and **protecting feeders**.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Notified under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
2. **Replace ABC (Dog) Rules, 2001**.
3. **Aim: control population via sterilisation & vaccination (rabies prevention)**.

4. Use term “**community animals**” instead of “**stray dogs.**”
5. **Rule 20: RWAs/local bodies** must designate **feeding spots.**
6. **Art. 51A(g): Fundamental duty** to show **compassion to living beings.**
7. **Jallikattu case (2014): SC** held **animals have dignity & right to life** under **Art. 21.**

#### SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS

#### National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

**Recent Context**—Cabinet approved NSP 2025 (Khelo Bharat Niti–2025), aiming to make India a global sporting power and top-5 sports nation by 2047; focus also on 2036 Olympics.

#### ABOUT-

1. Sports = State subject (Seventh Schedule).
2. **First National Sports Policy: 1984 → integrated sports with education (NEP 1986).**
3. NSP 2001: mass participation + international excellence.
4. **NSP 2025 replaces NSP 2001; aligns with NEP 2020.**
5. **Five pillars** → Excellence on global stage, Economic development, Social development, People’s movement, Integration with education.
6. Strategic framework: governance reforms, private sector/CSR funding, tech use (AI, analytics), KPIs, model policy for states.
7. Key schemes before NSP 2025: **TOPS (2014), Khelo India (2017), Fit India (2019).**

#### Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025

**Why in News?** Introduced in Lok Sabha to ensure removal of PM/CM/Ministers held in custody for **30 consecutive days** for serious criminal offence.

#### ABOUT-

1. Amends **Articles 75, 164, 239AA** (Union, States, Delhi).
2. Extends to **Puducherry** (Govt. of UTs Bill 2025) & **J&K** (Reorganisation Amendment Bill 2025).
3. Grounds: Custody  $\geq 30$  days for offence punishable with  $\geq 5$  years imprisonment.
4. Procedure:

- Union Ministers → President on PM’s advice (auto removal if no advice).
  - State Ministers → Governor on CM’s advice (auto removal if no advice).
  - Delhi Ministers → President on CM’s advice.
  - PM/CM → Must resign; else auto removal after 31 days.
5. Reappointment allowed post-release.

#### Arguments For:

- Upholds **constitutional morality** (Manoj Narula 2014).
- Public trust & good governance.
- Fills **legal gap** (RPA 1951 disqualifies only post-conviction).
- Aligns Ministers with rules for govt employees (suspended after 48 hrs custody).

**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**

<p><b>AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 75</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates to Council of Ministers at the Union level</li> </ul> <p><b>PROCEDURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal within 31 days of detention by the President (Union level) or Governor (State level), based on PM/CM’s advice</li> <li>• Ministers can be re-appointed once released from custody</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUND FOR REMOVAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any minister detained in custody for 30 days must be removed from office</li> </ul> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen good governance and ensure ministers uphold moral and constitutional integrity</li> </ul>
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**GOVERNMENT’S STAND**  
 Ensures that ministers facing prolonged detention on serious charges do not continue in office  
 Promotes trust, accountability and ethical governance

#### Arguments Against:

- Threat to **federalism**; risk of misuse by central agencies.
- Violates **presumption of innocence** (Lily Thomas 2013 → disqualification only on conviction).
- Creates **inconsistency**: MPs/MLAs disqualified only post-conviction, Ministers on mere detention.
- “**Revolving door**” risk (resign–reappoint cycle).
- No safeguards for **malicious arrests.**

### Promotion & Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025

**Why in News?** Passed by Parliament; bans **online money games** while regulating/promoting other online games.

#### ABOUT-

1. Introduced as **Finance Bill** (Articles **117(1), 117(3)**).
2. Definitions:
  - **E-sport** = competitive digital sport.
  - **Online Social Games** = recreational/educational (e.g. Wordle, Kahoot).
  - **Online Money Games** = stake-based (Dream11, Rummy, Poker).
3. Applicability: India + offshore platforms targeting India.
4. Provisions:
  - **Complete ban** on online money games + related ads & payments.
  - **National Online Gaming Authority** → categorization, registration, grievance redressal.
  - **E-sports** recognised as legitimate sport; infra & training academies to be developed.
  - **Social/Educational games** recognised by Gol.
  - Penalties: Upto **3 yrs jail + ₹1 crore fine** (money games); **2 yrs jail + ₹50 lakh** (advertising).
  - Companies/officers liable.

#### Existing Initiatives:

- IT Act Sec. 69A (blocking).
- IT Rules 2021 (self-reg bodies).
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 (Sections 111–112).
- Consumer Protection Act 2019 (ban surrogate ads).
- 1,524 illegal sites blocked (2022–25).

### National Sports Governance Act, 2025

**Why in News?** President gave assent; establishes legal framework for sports governance.

#### ABOUT-

1. Sports = **State subject** (Entry 33, List II).
2. Earlier: **National Sports Policy 1984 & 2001**, Broadcasting Act 2007.
3. New NSP 2025 approved → 5 pillars: global excellence, economic + social dev., people's movement, education integration.

#### Key Provisions:

- **National sports bodies:**
  - NOC, NPC, National & Regional Federations (affiliated with int'l bodies).
  - State/district affiliates under them.
- **National Sports Board (NSB):**
  - Grants recognition, registers affiliates, funds only recognised bodies.
  - Must adopt **Code of Ethics**; considered **RTI public authority**.
  - Members appointed by govt on recommendations of selection panel.
- **National Sports Tribunal:** Adjudicates disputes (excludes intl-body disputes & internal NSF disputes).
- **Election Oversight:** National electoral officers' panel for NSF elections.
- **Govt Powers:** May exempt any body in public interest.

### Ministry Blocks 25 OTT Platforms – Obscenity Content

**Recent Context-**I&B Ministry blocked 25 OTT platforms for obscene/pornographic content, using IT Act provisions; NCPCR flagged content on Ullu & ALTT.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Sec. 69A IT Act, 2000:** Govt power to block content in interest of state, security, public order.
2. **Sec. 67 IT Act:** Ban on lascivious content; Sec. 67A: sexually explicit content in electronic form.
3. **Sec. 292 IPC:** Sale/distribution of obscene matter.
4. **Sec. 4 Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986.**
5. **Art. 19(2): Reasonable restrictions on free speech → security, public order, morality.**
6. **IT Rules 2021:** OTTs must self-classify content, set grievance redressal, follow code of ethics.
7. Criticism: **Sec. 69A grounds exclude** “decency & morality,” raising constitutional concerns.

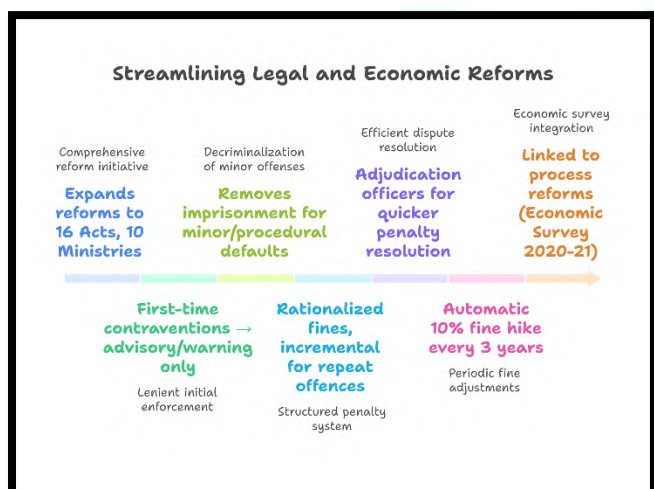
## SOURCE – VISION MONTHLY

## Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025

**Recent Context** - Introduced in Lok Sabha to decriminalize and rationalize offences under 16 Central Acts, building on Jan Vishwas Act 2023 to promote trust-based governance, ease of living and business.

## ABOUT-

1. Expands reforms to **16 Acts, 10 Ministries**.
2. First-time contraventions → **advisory/warning only**.
3. Removes imprisonment for **minor/procedural defaults**.
4. **Rationalized fines**, incremental for repeat offences.
5. **Adjudication officers** for quicker penalty resolution.
6. **Automatic 10% fine hike** every 3 years.
7. Linked to **process reforms** (Economic Survey 2020-21).



## Commercial &amp; Prohibited Speeches not Fundamental Rights: SC

**Recent Context** - SC held commercial speech (advertisements) and prohibited speech (hate, inciting violence) fall outside Article 19(1)(a) protection; stressed influencer accountability and proportionate penalties under IT and Cinematograph laws.

## ABOUT-

1. **Art. 19(1)(a)** protects free speech, not hate/ads.
2. **Hate speech** = enmity/violence on religion, caste, etc.
3. **Commercial speech** = economic intent (ads).

4. Influencers → **responsible conduct required**.
5. Penal action under **IT Rules, Cinematograph Act**.
6. Related cases: **Amish Devgan (2020), Shreya Singhal (2015)**.
7. Court asked govt for **social media guidelines**.

## Rules for OCI Cards Tightened (2025)

**Recent Context** - MHA issued notification under Citizenship Act, 1955 enabling revocation of OCI if sentenced  $\geq 2$  years or charge-sheeted for offences punishable with  $\geq 7$  years imprisonment.

## ABOUT-

1. **OCI introduced 2005** (Citizenship Act amendment).
2. **PIO merged with OCI** in 2015.
3. OCI  $\neq$  **dual citizenship** (no political rights).
4. Grounds: fraud, disaffection, threat to **sovereignty/security**.
5. New rules: revocation if  $\geq 2$  yrs sentence or charge-sheet  $\geq 7$  yrs offence.
6. Benefits: **lifelong multipurpose visa**, NRI parity (except land/agriculture).
7. Not required to register with **FRRO/FRO** for any stay length.

## Vice-Presidential Election (17th, 2025)

**Recent Context** - ECI announced schedule for 17th Vice-Presidential election; conducted under Articles 66–68, using proportional representation by single transferable vote and secret ballot by both Houses of Parliament.

## ABOUT-

1. **Art. 66(1)**: Election by MPs (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha, incl. nominated).
2. Current strength: **782 MPs**.
3. **Art. 67**: Term = 5 years.
4. **Art. 68(2)**: Vacancy → prompt election.
5. Nomination: **20 proposers + 20 seconders**, ₹15k deposit.
6. Voting: **PR-STV, secret ballot**, no whip allowed.
7. Supervision: **ECI**, Returning Officer = Sec-Gen, Rajya Sabha.

### Constitution's Ninth Schedule

**Recent Context** - Introduced via First Amendment (1951) to shield land reforms, the Ninth Schedule has evolved into a contested space balancing social justice goals with risks of undermining fundamental rights and judicial review.

#### ABOUT-

1. Created by **Art. 31B + Ninth Schedule** (First Amendment).
2. Initially **13 zamindari abolition laws**; now 280+ laws.
3. Supported **Directive Principles** (Arts. 38, 39(b), 39(c)).
4. **Sankari Prasad (1951)**: Upheld validity.
5. **Waman Rao (1981)**: Pre-1973 laws safe; later subject to scrutiny.
6. **I.R. Coelho (2007)**: Post-1973 laws reviewable if violative of **basic structure**.
7. Misuse: e.g. **TN 69% reservation law** placed here.

### Creamy Layer Equivalence in OBC Quota

**Recent Context** - Govt considering uniform "equivalence" rules for creamy layer exclusion across universities, PSUs, and aided bodies to remove anomalies and ensure fairness in OBC reservation implementation.

#### ABOUT-

1. Origin: **Indra Sawhney (1992)** judgment.
2. **DoPT Circular 1993** → excluded affluent OBCs.
3. Threshold revised: now **₹8 lakh income limit**.
4. Anomaly: aided-college teachers vs university professors treated differently.
5. Proposal: equate posts with **Group A entry level**.
6. State PSUs: executive posts = creamy layer.
7. Private sector: only **income/wealth criteria** apply.

### Supreme Court Directive on Social Media Conduct Guidelines

**Recent Context** - SC directed Union govt to frame guidelines regulating social media conduct—balancing

free speech with dignity—amid rising hate speech, misinformation, and derogatory humour online.

#### ABOUT-

1. India: **800+ million internet users**.
2. Existing rules: **IT Rules 2021, IT Act, IPC, NBSA**.
3. SC: Free speech not absolute; must protect dignity.
4. Humour protected but not **hate/prohibited speech**.
5. Guidelines: consult NBSA + stakeholders.
6. Must include **penalties + accountability**.
7. Focus on protecting **vulnerable groups** (PWDs, women, children, minorities).

### India's Democracy and the Migrant Citizen Crisis

**Recent Context** - Nearly 3.5 million Bihar voters, mostly migrants, deleted from electoral rolls during Special Intensive Revision, highlighting systemic migrant disenfranchisement and democratic deficits in India's sedentary voter framework.

#### ABOUT-

1. Migrant disenfranchisement = excluded from voting at origin or destination.
2. Safeguards: **RPA 1950/51, ERONET, ECI special provisions**.
3. Causes: sedentary framework, circular migration, administrative barriers, regionalism.
4. Poor, seasonal workers most affected → creates **two-tier democracy**.
5. Consequences: lower turnout in migrant-heavy states; gendered & border impact.
6. Way Forward: **portable voter ID**, Aadhaar linkage, cross-state roll coordination.
7. Civil society outreach: replicate **Kerala migration surveys** for enrolment drives.

### ECI Voter Roll Allegations

**Recent Context** - Opposition alleges large-scale voter roll manipulation in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and other states, raising concerns over duplicate entries, fake addresses, and potential bias favouring the ruling party.

#### ABOUT-

1. **ECI:** Constitutional body (Art. 324), autonomous, supervises free and fair elections.
2. Structure: **CEC + 2 Election Commissioners**, appointed by President, 6-year tenure or 65 years max.
3. Powers: administrative (rolls, delimitation, symbols), quasi-judicial, advisory.
4. Allegations: duplicate/multiple entries, fake addresses, bulk voters at one place.
5. Misuse of **Form 6**, multiple-state enrolment.
6. Importance: ensures **legitimacy, citizen empowerment, political stability, rule of law**.
7. Way Forward: digital transparency, third-party audits, legal reforms, blockchain voting.

#### SOURCE - DRISHTI MONTHLY

#### Transformative Reforms for Viksit Bharat@2047

**Recent Context** - India aims to become a USD 30 trillion developed economy by 2047, necessitating sectoral reforms in governance, economy, industry, agriculture, education, health, environment, infrastructure, and technology.



#### ABOUT-

1. Governance: **Compliance, Lateral Entry, CSB, Judiciary, Elections, Cities, AI-DPI**
2. Economy: **Labour, Land, Inflation, Banking/IBC, Jan Vishwas, R&D 2%, PSU, GST**
3. Industry: **MSME, Defence, Single-Window, Energy/Exports, Hydrogen, Deregulation, Rare-Earth**

4. Agriculture: **Credit, Cash, Seeds, Loss, APMC, Livelihoods, MSP-Insurance, Land Records**
5. Education: **6% GDP, Regulators, Vocational, Foreign Univ., Top-100, Sports, Innovation, PARAKH**
6. Health: **UHC, Accreditation, ABHA, MedTech, Trauma, Consent, Security**
7. Env/Infra/Tech: **Green Mfg, Renewables, Carbon, Cities, Hyperloop, Bullet Trains, DPDP, AI, Cybersecurity, Crypto**

#### Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025

**Recent Context** - Nationwide legal aid scheme by **NALSA provides support to women, children, SC/ST, EWS, industrial workers, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals** under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.

#### ABOUT-

1. Implemented by **NALSA, statutory body (1995), monitors legal aid programs**.
2. Beneficiaries: Vulnerable sections—**SC/ST, women, children, EWS, industrial workers, disabled, transgender**.
3. Legal support includes representation, **compensation, and grievance redressal**.
4. Enhances access to **justice for marginalized and affected families**.
5. Integration with **state-level legal services authorities for outreach**.
6. Strengthens **rule of law, social justice, and equity**.
7. Promotes awareness of legal rights and entitlements.

#### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

**Recent Context** - **PMKSY approved ₹6,520 crore for 15th FC Cycle (2021–26) to modernize farm-to-retail supply chain, improve food safety, and develop agro-processing infrastructure**.

#### ABOUT-

1. Objective: Efficient **farm-to-retail supply chain, modern infrastructure**.
2. Key components: **Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition (ICCVAI), Agro-Processing Clusters**.

3. **Food safety:** 100 NABL-accredited Food Testing Labs under FSQAI.
4. **Backward & forward linkages** creation for agri-markets.
5. **Human Resource Development:** training for food processing professionals.
6. Enhances **food preservation**, reduces **post-harvest losses**, boosts exports.
7. Supports **rural employment**, **private investment** in agri-processing, and **value addition**.

### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) Subsidy Extension

**Recent Context** - FY 2025-26, PMUY LPG subsidy continues at ₹300 per cylinder (up to 9 refills/year) via PAHAL DBT; Ujjwala 2.0 enables migrant families to avail LPG connections.

#### ABOUT-

1. Launched in 2016, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
2. Objective: Provide clean cooking fuel (LPG) to rural & disadvantaged households.
3. Eligibility: Women 18+, SC/ST, MBC, AAY, tribal, forest dwellers, island residents, SECC-listed families.
4. Ujjwala 2.0: Self-declaration for migrant families; no address/ration card proof required.
5. Achievements: 10.33 crore+ connections till July 2025.
6. Average per capita LPG consumption ↑ 49% (2019–24).
7. Implemented via PAHAL DBT, promoting direct cash transfer for subsidy.

### Transforming India's Electoral Landscape (ECI Reforms)

**Recent Context** - Election Commission of India strengthens electoral process via digital tools, roll revisions, booth-level improvements, transparency, and monitoring to ensure free, fair, and inclusive elections.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Electoral Roll Management:** Delisted 476 inactive RUPPs; special summary revision in four states; duplicate EPICs removed.
2. **Technology-driven:** ECINET—40+ applications for electors, officials, parties; digital index cards, webcasting 100% polling stations.
3. **Booth-level improvements:** BLO photo IDs, polling limit 1,200 voters, extra booths in high-rises.
4. **Voter verification:** Mandatory VVPAT counting in case of EVM mismatch.
5. **Challenges:** Election expenditure, underreporting, black money, overspending.
6. **Criminalisation:** 46% MPs (2024) elected with criminal cases.
7. **Voter disenfranchisement:** Migrants, elderly, differently-abled face barriers; turnout & inclusivity remain issues.

### Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)

**Recent Context** - Delhi's FTSCs, under the 2019 Scheme via Nirbhaya Fund, aim for speedy rape/child abuse trials; only ~43% cases disposed (June 2025), affecting public confidence.



#### ABOUT-

1. **Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Ministry of Law & Justice;** funded via Nirbhaya Fund.
2. Target: Each FTSC disposes ≥165 cases annually; 790 courts planned, extension till 31 March 2026.
3. **Supreme Court (2019):** Districts with >100 pending POCSO cases must set up exclusive courts.

- Mandate: **POCSO Act, 2012**—trial completion within **1 year** of cognizance.
- Current operational: **725 FTSCs (392 POCSO)** across **29 States/UTs; 96% disposal (2024)**.
- Challenges:** Insufficient courts, quality concerns, lack of victim-friendly facilities, reallocation delays.
- Strengthening: **Special judges, female prosecutors, VWDCs, child psychologists, IT upgrades, forensic labs expansion.**

### ESG Oversight in India

**Recent Context - Parliamentary Committee** recommends **MCA** establish **ESG oversight body** to prevent **greenwashing**, strengthen **corporate sustainability compliance**, and ensure accurate **ESG disclosures**.

#### ABOUT-

- ESG: Environmental, Social, Governance** standards for **corporate impact**.
- Importance: Reduces **climate risks**, addresses **inequality**, improves **corporate governance**.
- Parliamentary recommendation: ESG oversight body** within **MCA; forensic experts** for **fraud detection**.
- Amend Companies Act, 2013:** make **ESG core director duty**; integrate **sustainability**.
- SEBI:** Top **1,000 listed companies** report **ESG** via **BRSR (GRI & SASB aligned)**.
- Greenwashing:** False/exaggerated **environmental claims**.
- Measures: **CCPA regulation, Green Rating Project (CSE), penalties.**

#### SOURCE – PIB

#### SabhaSaar AI Tool

**Recent Context - Ministry of Panchayati Raj** launched **SabhaSaar** to **automate Gram Sabha minutes** using **AI**, integrated with **Bhashini** for **multilingual transcription** in **13 languages**.

#### ABOUT-

- AI tool** converts **Gram Sabha videos/audio** into **minutes**.
- Integrated with **Bhashini (2022) – National Language Translation Mission**.

- Panchayat NIRNAY** – real-time monitoring of **Gram Sabha** meetings.
- eGramSwaraj** – **planning, finance, reporting, asset tracking**.
- Gram Manchitra** – **GIS mapping** of **village assets & infrastructure**.
- RGSA** – strengthens **Panchayati Raj governance**.
- AuditOnline & SVAMITVA** – **digital audits, land ownership**.

### SC Strikes Down Army's Gender-Based Quota for JAG Recruitment

**Recent Context - SC** invalidated **male reservation** for **JAG recruitment**, directing a **common merit list** and **equal opportunities** in **combat-support roles**, citing **legal equality** and **women's capability**.

#### ABOUT-

- JAG** – Army's **legal arm** under **Army Act, 1950**.
- Previous **reservation: 6/9 posts** for **men**.
- SC ruling: Merit list; women** eligible for all **combat-support roles**.
- Operational examples: **Shivangi Singh, Gopika Bhatti, Anshu Jamwal**.
- Past rulings: **Babita Puniya (2020), Kush Kalra (2021)**.
- Principle: **Gender discrimination** violates **Articles 14 & 16**.
- Enhances **women's representation & operational equality**.

### National Sports Governance & Anti-Doping Bills, 2025

**Recent Context - Parliament** passed **National Sports Governance Bill & National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, aiming to strengthen **ethics, transparency, federation regulation, and anti-doping compliance**.

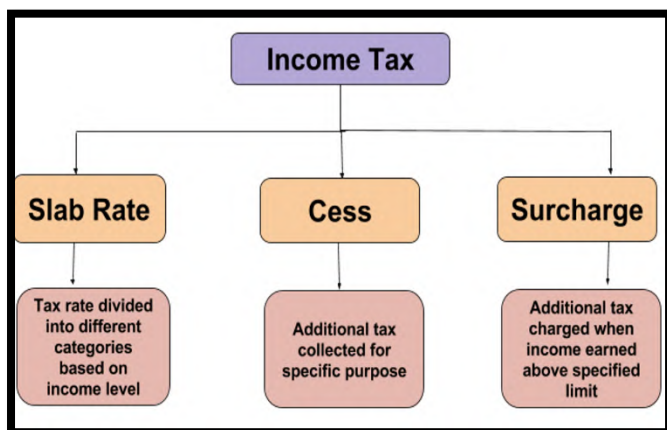
#### ABOUT-

- Sports – State subject;** Centre via **NSB, NOC, NPC, SFs**.
- NSB powers – recognition, suspension, Code of Ethics, Safe Sports Policy**.

3. **SFs: General Body + Executive (2 sportspersons, 4 women), ethics/dispute committees.**
4. **National Sports Tribunal – 3 members; SC/HC Judge; excludes doping/internal disputes.**
5. Recognised bodies receiving **govt aid = public authorities** under **RTI Act, 2005.**
6. **National Anti-Doping Bill** aligns with **UNESCO convention**; establishes **National Board for Anti-Doping.**
7. **NADA – testing, enforcement, compliance;** Bill strengthens **oversight.**

### Cess and its Role in Union Finance

**Recent Context - CAG flagged ₹3.69 lakh crore shortfall in cess transfers, exposing lapses in utilization of earmarked levies.**



#### ABOUT-

1. **Cess: Tax for specific purpose, via Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).**
2. **Surcharge: Additional tax; not earmarked; goes to CFI.**
3. **Constitutional basis – Article 265, Union/State/Concurrent lists.**
4. Examples of **cess: Education, Swachh Bharat, Krishi Kalyan.**
5. Examples of **surcharge: Income Surcharge on >₹50 lakh.**
6. Purpose: Fund **social/development programs, supplement revenue.**
7. **CAG concern – delayed/faulty transfers reduce efficacy.**

### National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)

**Recent Context - NCMC given statutory backing under Disaster Management Act, 2025** as apex body coordinating central-state disaster response, headed by Cabinet Secretary, ensuring preparedness, monitoring, and response efficiency.

#### ABOUT-

1. Statutory apex body under **Section 8A(2), Disaster Management Act, 2005**; amended 2025.
2. Headed by **Cabinet Secretary**; members include Union Home, Defence Secretaries, NDMA head.
3. Co-opt experts/officers from central/state/organizations as needed.
4. Functions: Assess disaster preparedness, issue directions, coordinate response.
5. Works with **NDMA, central/state agencies** to monitor disaster management.
6. Ensures real-time crisis management and inter-agency coordination.
7. Can advise government on policy, resource allocation, and operational response measures.

### Bills to Modernise India's Maritime Laws

**Recent Context - Parliament passed Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025, Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, and Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025** to replace outdated colonial-era maritime laws and align with global norms.

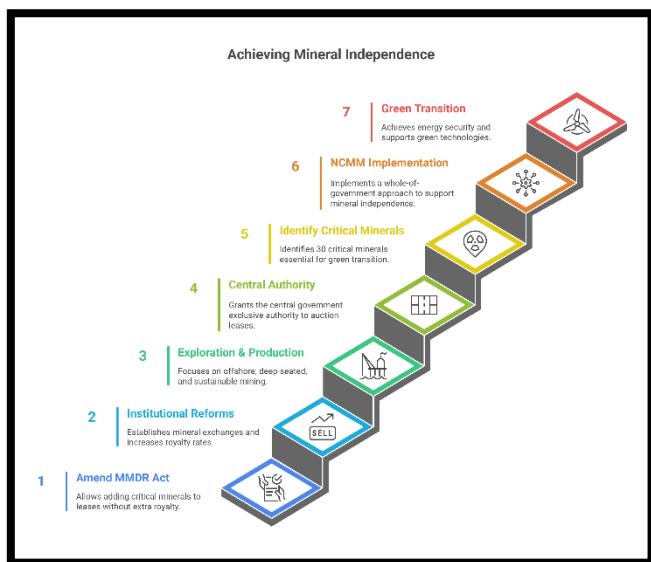
#### ABOUT-

1. **Coastal Shipping Bill –** Raises coastal cargo to 230 MT by 2030; simpler licensing; foreign vessel regulation; National Coastal & Inland Shipping Plan; national database mandated.
2. **Merchant Shipping Bill –** Enhances safety, emergency response, environment protection, seafarer welfare; aligns with **IMO conventions**; govt can detain vessels with no nationality/legal flag.
3. **Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill –** Updates Bills of Lading; adopts **Hague-Visby Rules (1924)**; Centre empowered to amend rules.

- India – 16th largest maritime nation; 12 major, 200 minor ports; 90% of global trade by volume, 70% by value.
- Cargo capacity (major ports) ↑ 87% (2014–24); 3rd largest ship recycler globally.**
- 100% FDI allowed under automatic route for ports & harbors (construction/maintenance).

### Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill, 2025

**Recent Context** - MMDR Amendment Bill, 2025 promotes critical mineral production, sustainable zero-waste mining, and advances the **National Critical Mineral Mission** to reduce import dependence and strengthen supply chains.



#### ABOUT-

- Amends **MMDR Act, 1957** – allows addition of critical/strategic minerals to existing leases without extra royalty.
- Institutional reforms – govt can establish **mineral exchanges**; NMET → NMEDT; royalty ↑ 2% → 3%.
- Exploration & production – **offshore, deep-seated, sustainable, zero-waste mining**; removed 50% sale cap on captive mines.
- Authority to auction leases/licenses – **Central government** exclusively.
- Critical minerals – 30 identified; largely import-dependent (Li, Co, Ni, Rare Earths).
- NCMM (2025)** – whole-of-government approach, fast-track approvals, stockpiles,

international partnerships; supports MSMEs/startups via PRISM.

- Applications – **solar panels, wind turbines, EV batteries; strategic for green transition and energy security.**

### Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

**Recent Context** - MoSPI released **Revised MPLADS Guidelines, 2023** to ensure MPs effectively utilize funds for constituency development, SC/ST welfare, national projects, and disaster relief.

#### ABOUT-

- Launched **1993**; **Central Sector Scheme**; **₹5 crore per MP annually in 2 installments; non-lapsable funds.**
- Rajya Sabha MPs** – recommend works in any district of their state; **nominated MPs** – any district in **one state.**
- 15% funds for SCs, 7.5% for STs**; up to **₹25 lakh** on **national unity projects** outside constituency; up to **₹1 crore** for **disaster relief** nationwide.
- Convergence** allowed with **Swachh Bharat, MGNREGS, Khelo India, other schemes.**
- Funds can create immovable assets on govt land, movable assets for govt-aided institutions, Bar Association buildings (non-recurring).**
- Objective** – empower **MPs** to create **durable, community-centric infrastructure** and improve **local development.**

### Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025

**Recent Context** - India sees \$8.6 bn online gaming growth by 2027, rising addiction, financial losses, and suicides linked to money games; government introduces Bill to regulate, promote esports, and ban exploitative games.

#### ABOUT-

- Triple Gaming Categories:** E-sports (skill/competitive), social/educational games, online money games (gambling-like).

- Legal Gap:** Betting prohibited under state laws & Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, but online platforms largely unregulated.
- Bill Applicability:** Covers entire India + offshore platforms serving Indian users.
- E-sports Promotion:** Recognised as competitive sport; Ministry to frame standards, tournaments, tech hubs, incentives.
- Money Games Ban:** Complete prohibition, includes advertisement, transactions; RBI/banks barred from processing payments.
- Online Gaming Authority:** Regulator for registration, categorisation, grievance redressal; issues guidelines and decides skill/social vs money games.
- Penalties:** Offering money games → up to 3 years jail + ₹1 cr fine; repeat offenders → 5 years + ₹2 cr; cognisable & non-bailable.

### Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

**Recent Context** - Launched in 2016, GeM has become India's largest digital procurement platform with ₹15 lakh crore GMV by 2025, promoting transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in public procurement.

#### ABOUT-

- Purpose & Nature:** Unified online marketplace for government procurement; paperless, cashless, contactless; removes intermediaries.
- Scale (2025):** 70,000+ buyer organizations; 65 lakh+ sellers; 11,000+ product & 320+ service categories.
- Procurement Efficiency:** Real-time price discovery, reverse e-auctions, direct govt-to-vendor contracts, integrated PFMS payments.
- Inclusivity:** 57% sellers are MSEs; 12 lakh+ women entrepreneurs; 1.5 lakh+ SC/ST vendors onboarded.
- Socio-Economic Impact:** 9–10% cost savings for govt; supports SHGs, rural entrepreneurship, startups; 12% orders for women/SC/ST enterprises.

- Policy Significance:** Aligns with Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, fiscal accountability, Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

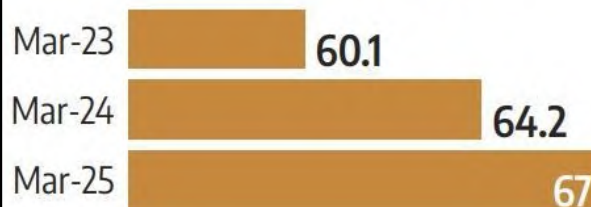


### Financial Inclusion in India

**Recent Context** - India's Financial Inclusion Index rises to 67 in 2025, supported by PMJDY, PMSBY, APY, MUDRA, KCC, UPI, and women-focused schemes, enhancing access, usage, quality, and digital empowerment.

### Improving parameters

#### RBI financial-inclusion index



Source: RBI

#### ABOUT-

- Definition & Importance:** Affordable access to banking, credit, insurance, pensions, investments; reduces poverty, supports entrepreneurship, economic resilience.
- FI-Index (2025):** 67.0; 0–100 scale; components—Access (35%), Usage (45%), Quality (20%).
- PMJDY:** 55.98 crore accounts; >55% women; benefits include no minimum balance, insurance cover, overdraft, Rupay card; 13.55 lakh Bank Mitras.
- Social Insurance & Pension:** PMSBY (50.54 crore), PMJJBY (23 crore), APY (7.65 crore);

financial security for poor, women, informal sector.

- Credit Support Schemes:** PMMY (₹35.13 lakh crore, 53.85 crore loans), Stand-Up India (₹61,020.41 crore) for women/SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Digital Empowerment:** UPI handles 85% of India’s digital payments (~50% global real-time payments); 107 DBUs operational; financial literacy drives ongoing.

**SOURCE – INSIGHTS**

**Navigating the New Techno-Capitalist World Order**

**Recent Context** - Global tech landscape shifts as US techno-capitalism merges AI, crypto, and fintech with state power. India faces AI disruption, R&D gaps, and strategic challenges in the emerging digital economy.

**ABOUT-**

- Techno-Capitalism:** Private tech monopolies enabled by state; deregulated AI/fintech; public-private investment; tech as geopolitical tool.
- US Model:** Private-sector-led innovation (SpaceX, AI, crypto); Peter Thiel’s techno-nationalist vision.
- China Model:** State-driven mission-oriented tech; focus on AI, surveillance, space, Digital Silk Road.
- India’s Position:** Hybrid model; strong IT services, UPI, ISRO; weak R&D, start-up scale, and regulatory clarity.
- Emerging Challenges:** AI job displacement, H-1B uncertainty, low R&D (<0.7% GDP), fragmented tech regulation, limited start-up capital.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

**Recent Context** - PMJDY completes 11 years in 2025 with 56.2 crore accounts, enhancing rural access, women’s financial inclusion, digital payments, and social security through insurance, pensions, and DBTs.

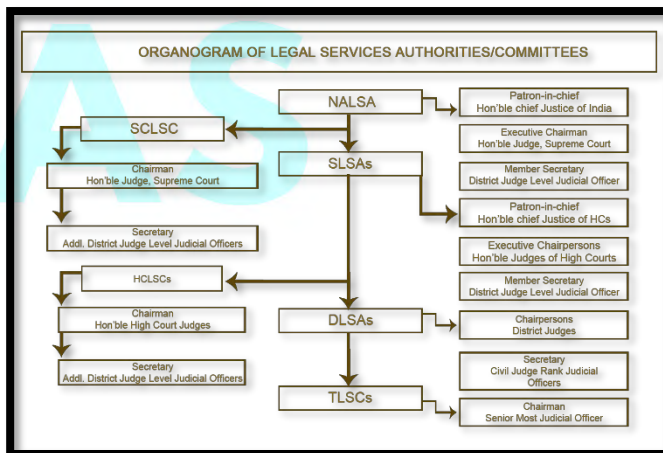
**ABOUT-**

- Objective:** Universal banking access, zero-balance accounts, RuPay cards, insurance, pensions, and DBTs.

- Scale:** 56.2 crore accounts; 56% women; 37.5 crore rural/semiurban; 16.2 lakh Bank Mitras.
- Deposits & Savings:** ₹2.68 lakh crore total balance; 17x growth since 2015.
- Digital Ecosystem:** 38.7 crore RuPay cards; surge in UPI transactions.
- Social Security Linkage:** PMSBY, PMJJBY, Atal Pension Yojana for informal sector protection.
- Challenges:** Dormant accounts, credit gap, digital divide, financial literacy deficit, over-reliance on DBTs.
- Way Forward:** Activate dormant accounts, expand credit linkages, promote financial literacy, leverage AI/voice tech, broaden social security coverage.

**Legal Aid and NALSA**

**Recent Context** - Despite eligibility for 80% of India’s population, only 15.5 lakh availed legal aid in 2023–24, highlighting gaps in NALSA’s reach, funding, and service quality.



**ABOUT-**

- NALSA Overview:** Statutory body under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987; Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief; ensures free legal services to weaker sections.
- Functions:** Policy framing, supervise SLSAs/DLSAs, organize Lok Adalats, legal awareness, ADR support, aid under Section 12.
- Key Initiatives:** Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Para-Legal Volunteers, Permanent Lok

Adalats, Legal Literacy Clubs, Jail Legal Aid Clinics, special schemes for vulnerable groups.

- Challenges:** Budget <1% of justice allocation; underutilization; PLV shortage; uneven access; service quality & trust deficit.
- Operational Gaps:** Centralized fund control; delays in staff hiring and outreach at DLSA level.

### Reforming India's Justice Delivery System

**Recent Context** - India faces over 5 crore pending cases; low judge-population ratio, adjournments, and infrastructure deficits hinder timely justice. Reforms focus on technology, appointments, ADR, and procedural efficiency.

#### ABOUT-

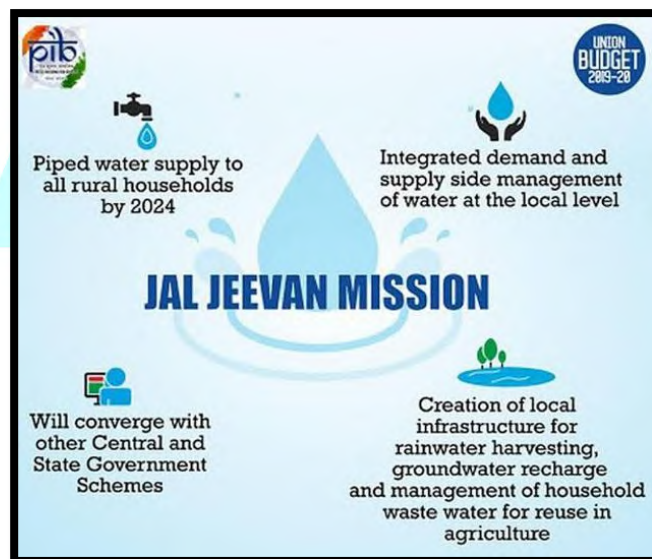
- Judicial Backlog:** 4.6 crore in district courts, 63.3 lakh in High Courts, 86,700 in Supreme Court; ~50% involve government departments.
- Low Judge-Population Ratio:** 15 judges per 10 lakh population; Law Commission recommends 50 per 10 lakh.
- Major Reforms:** National Mission for Justice Delivery, Fast Track Courts, Tele-Law, NJIA (proposed), e-Courts, Nyaya Bandhu (pro bono lawyers).
- Procedural Issues:** Frequent adjournments, underutilized ADR mechanisms, delayed witnesses/evidence, and rising PILs increase pendency.
- Infrastructure & Tech:** NJIA for uniform court facilities; expand e-Courts, integrate FASTER system, digital case management.
- ADR & Legal Aid:** Mediation Act 2023, Lok Adalats resolving 27.5 crore cases (2021–2025).

### Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

**Recent Context** - JJM provides tap water to 15 crore rural households by 2025; focuses on women's participation, technological solutions, awareness, and community-managed, demand-driven water supply.

#### ABOUT-

- Objective:** Tap water access for all rural households; 55 liters per person/day; focus on priority, drought-prone, and SAGY villages.
- Key Features:** Women representation in VWSC, awareness campaigns, technology-enabled monitoring (JJM-IMIS, IoT sensors), training for water quality testing.
- Public Places:** Schools, Anganwadi centers, community buildings included under scheme coverage.
- Challenges:** Data gaps, infrastructure quality, poor maintenance planning, sluggish execution.
- Implementation Tools:** Community engagement, voluntary contributions (shramdaan), dashboards, third-party audits.
- Strategic Significance:** Improves rural health, promotes gender equity, strengthens local governance, supports sustainable water management.



### Nominations to UT Assemblies

**Recent Context** - LG of J&K can nominate up to five members to the Legislative Assembly without consulting Council of Ministers; contrasts with Delhi and Puducherry norms.

#### ABOUT-

- J&K Provisions:** J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 (amended 2023) – 90 elected + 5 nominated MLAs.
- Delhi LA:** No nominated MLAs; LG must follow Council of Ministers' advice.

3. **Puducherry LA:** Up to 3 nominated MLAs permitted by Union government.
4. **Rajya Sabha (Article 80):** President nominates 12 experts; can debate, introduce bills, cannot vote for President.
5. **State LCs (Article 171):** Governor nominates 1/6th members on CM advice.
6. **Anglo-Indian Representation:** Abolished by 104th Amendment (2020).
7. **Judicial Precedents:** Puducherry case (2018), Delhi case (2023) clarified LG powers versus elected government.

### Funding to Rural Local Bodies (PRIs)

**Recent Context** - PRIs heavily rely on central/state grants (~95% of revenue); decline in allocation, low participation, poor audits, and infrastructure gaps affect local governance.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Sources of Funds:** Own Source Revenue, Shared/Assigned Revenue, Central/State grants, scheme-linked funds (MGNREGS, PMAY-G, SBM), MPLADS, BRGF.
2. **Revenue Composition:** PRIs generate 1% from taxes; central grants ~₹17 lakh/panchayat; state grants ~₹3.25 lakh.
3. **Issues:** Declining fund allocation, limited social audits, delayed SFC reports, inability to address local needs.
4. **Institutional Flaws:** Rotating reserved seats, poor training, inadequate digital infrastructure.
5. **Suggested Solutions:** Performance-linked funds, transparency via audits/RTI, timely SFC constitution, digital governance, capacity-building.
6. **Inter-State Disputes:** Example – Godavari-Krishna water sharing conflicts; highlights need for cooperative resource management.
7. **Strategic Significance:** Adequate funding ensures decentralization, local development, service delivery, and rural empowerment.

### Polavaram–Banakacherla Project Dispute

**Recent Context** - Centre to set up a high-level committee to resolve the AP–Telangana dispute over

the Polavaram–Banakacherla Link Project and Krishna-Godavari water sharing amid inter-state tensions.

#### ABOUT-

1. **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 262 – Parliament empowered to adjudicate inter-state river disputes; SC jurisdiction barred under Art. 262(2).
2. **State Powers:** Water subjects in State List (Entry 17); Centre can regulate rivers in public interest (Entry 56, Union List).
3. **Statutory Mechanism:** Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 – negotiation, tribunal, final binding award.
4. **River Boards:** River Boards Act, 1956 – Centre can set up boards for river management.
5. **Judicial Role:** SC can interpret/implement tribunal awards (e.g., Mahadayi dispute, 2018).
6. **Conflict Issues:** Water sharing disagreements, project clearances, submergence concerns, inter-state approvals.
7. **Way Forward:** High-level committee to mediate, coordinate with KRMB and CWC, ensure equitable sharing and consensus-based decision-making.



### Enhancing Northeast Connectivity – Act East Policy

**Recent Context** - India advances Northeast infrastructure under Act East Policy; commissioning of 51.38 km Bairabi–Sairang rail line in Mizoram boosts regional integration, economic growth, and strategic ties with Southeast Asia.

#### ABOUT-

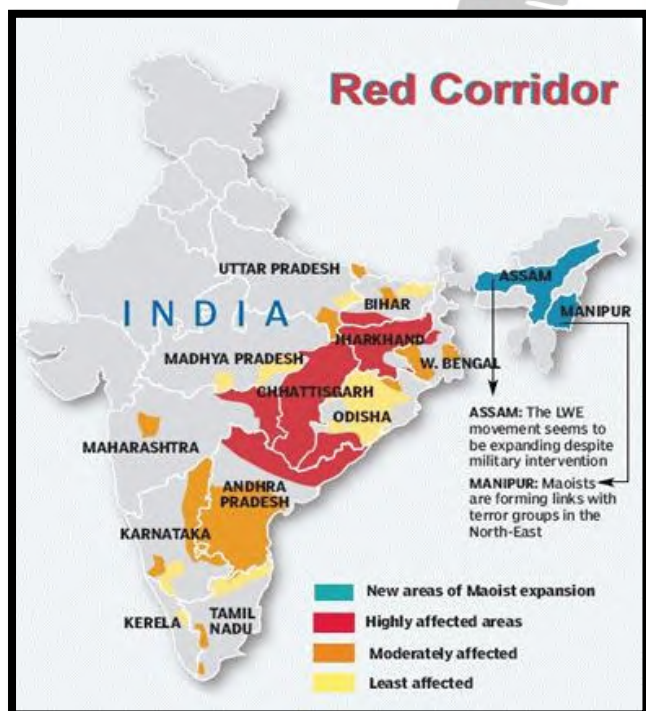
1. **Act East Policy:** Launched Nov 2014; strengthens economic, strategic, and people-to-people ties with ASEAN and Indo-Pacific nations.

2. **Bairabi–Sairang Rail Line:** 51.38 km, Mizoram’s first passenger train, 48 tunnels, 142 bridges; strategic rail connectivity.
3. **Northeast Infrastructure:** Roads, railways, airports, digital networks improved under NESIDS and SARDP-NE.
4. **Inland Waterways:** Revival of Ro-Ro ferry services on Brahmaputra for cargo transport.
5. **Digital Connectivity:** BharatNet and 4G expansion bridging the digital divide in remote areas.
6. **Transshipment Hub:** Sairang railhead linked to Myanmar’s Sittwe Port; supports regional trade.
7. **Socio-Economic Impact:** Job creation, improved access to education, healthcare, disaster response, and regional economic integration.

2. **Operations:** Karreguttalu Hill operation (Chhattisgarh 2025) eliminated key Maoist operatives.
3. **Development Programs:** Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (2024) focuses on tribal welfare.
4. **Rehabilitation Policy:** New Maoist Rehabilitation Policy implemented in Chhattisgarh.
5. **Geographical Reach:** Red Corridor now restricted to 18 districts from a peak of 180 districts.
6. **Integrated Approach:** Combines security, development, and local governance interventions.
7. **Target:** Complete eradication of left-wing extremism/Naxalism by 2026.

### Dismantling Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)

**Recent Context** - Red Corridor reduced from 180 to 18 districts due to development, targeted security operations, and rehabilitation efforts; India aims to eliminate Naxalism by March 2026.



### ABOUT-

1. **Incidents Drop:** Over 50% decline between 2004–14 and 2014–23.

# POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

SOURCE: THE HINDU

INDIA'S 15TH VICE PRESIDENT



## Recent Update:

On **September 9, 2025**, *CP Radhakrishnan*, ex-BJP Tamil Nadu chief & former Maharashtra Governor, was elected **India's 15th Vice President**, succeeding *Jagdeep Dhankhar*.

## About:

- **Election Results:** Radhakrishnan – **452 votes**, *Justice B. Sudershan Reddy* – **300 votes**; **15 invalid ballots**.
- **Turnout:** **98.2%** (767/781 MPs voted) — among the highest ever.
- **Political Insight:** Cross-voting hints at **internal opposition fractures** within the INDIA bloc.
- **Vacancy Reason:** Post vacant since *July 21, 2025*, after *Dhankhar's* resignation due to health.
- **Background:** Born *Oct 20, 1957, Tiruppur*; *BBA graduate*; RSS-BJP veteran with long organisational experience.
- **Significance:** Reflects **NDA's legislative strength** and focus on **institutional continuity**.

## INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATION BILL, 2024

**RECENT UPDATE:** The **Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2024**, has been passed, replacing three previous laws, including the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**.

## ABOUT:

1. **New Legislation:** The Bill replaces the **1885 Telegraph Act, 1933 Wireless Act**, and the **1950 Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act**.
2. **Key Provision (Spectrum):** It mandates spectrum allocation primarily through **auction**, with exceptions for government/security use (e.g., Satellite, Defense).
3. **Key Provision (Interception):** Empowers the government to intercept messages and **temporarily suspend services** in the interest of national security.
4. **New Entity:** Establishes the **Telecom Development Fund (TDF)**, replacing the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, to finance rural connectivity.
5. **Right of Way (RoW):** Provides a **unified framework** for RoW approvals to expedite telecom infrastructure deployment.
6. **User Protection:** Mandates the registration of all telecom users, protecting them from spam and **identity theft**.
7. **Harmful Provision:** Critics argue the Bill enables the **Centre to take control** of telecom networks in public emergencies, which may violate free speech.
8. **Regulatory Shift:** It gives **TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India)** primarily **advisory powers**, diminishing its independence on licensing/fees.

## SUSHILA KARKI BECOMES NEPAL'S FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER

### Recent Update:

On **12 September 2025**, *Sushila Karki*, Nepal's first female Chief Justice, was sworn in as **Nepal's first woman Prime Minister** following the *Gen-Z youth revolt* that ousted PM *K.P. Sharma Oli*.

### About:

- **Background:** 73-year-old reformist leader with strong *anti-corruption image*.
- **Trigger:** *Gen-Z protests* erupted after govt tried to **ban social media**, sparking violent unrest (30+ deaths, 1,000+ injuries).
- **Protest Essence:** Youth demand for *clean governance, digital freedom, and accountability*.
- **Selection:** Consensus choice among President *Paudel*, Army leadership, and Gen-Z representatives.
- **Alternatives Considered:** *Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah & Kulman Ghising* (NEA chief).
- **Education:** BA – Mahendra Morang Campus; MA (Pol. Sci.) – *BHU, India*; LLB – *Tribhuvan University*.
- **Legacy:** Marks **gender milestone** and **generational shift** in Nepalese politics.

## SUPREME COURT'S INTERIM ORDER ON THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025

### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Supreme Court (2025)** stayed key provisions of the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, citing violation of **Article 26** and excessive executive interference in community autonomy.

### ABOUT:

1. **Background:** The **Waqf Act, 1995** governs religious endowments under Muslim law; the **2025 Amendment (UMEED Act)** aimed at reforming management and transparency.
2. **Upheld Provisions:**

- **Application of Limitation Act:** Prevents indefinite property claims.
- **Abolition of "Waqf by Use":** Removed misuse of public land as Waqf.

### 3. Stayed Provisions:

- **Five-Year Rule:** Requirement of practising Islam for 5 years before creating Waqf.
- **Collector's Power (Section 3C):** Arbitrary authority to classify property as government-owned.
- **Non-Muslim Representation:** Restricted by SC to **≤4 (CWC)** and **≤3 (State Boards)**.

### 4. Key Reforms Introduced:

- **Women's Inheritance Protection** before declaring Waqf.
- **Audit for Waqf income > ₹1 lakh/year.**
- **Reduced contribution to boards (7% → 5%).**

5. **Judicial Observation:** SC upheld parts ensuring **accountability** but restrained **arbitrary intrusion** in religious management.
6. **Institutional Oversight:** **Central Waqf Council (CWC)** under **Ministry of Minority Affairs** to supervise State Boards.
7. **Constitutional Lens:** Court emphasized **autonomy of religious institutions under Articles 25–26**.
8. **Pending Outcome:** Awaiting final judgment post government clarification and guideline framing.

## QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS (QCOs)

### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has rapidly increased the number of **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** over the past 3 years, sparking debate among **MSMEs** over compliance burdens.

### ABOUT:

1. **Nature: QCOs make BIS certification mandatory** for specified products in the public interest (health, safety, environment).
2. **Legal Basis:** Enforced under **BIS Act, 2016** and **Conformity Assessment Regulations, 2018**.
3. **Objective:** Aligns with **WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)** norms—ensuring **safety, quality, and consumer protection**.
4. **Scope:** Post-QCO, no entity can **manufacture, sell, or import** without BIS standard mark.
5. **Challenges:**
  - **High compliance cost** for MSMEs.
  - **Delays** in certification and **testing bottlenecks**.
  - **Perception of non-tariff barriers** in trade negotiations.
6. **Coverage:** Out of 23,000 standards, only **187 under QCOs**, mainly in **steel and electronics**.
7. **BIS Measures:**
  - **Digitised certification process** (30-day turnaround).
  - **Jan Sunwai & Manak Manthan** platforms for MSME support.
8. **Way Forward:** Promote **cluster-based testing, technical training, export linkages**, and **real-time grievance redress** to enhance compliance and competitiveness.

### CURBING FAKE NEWS IN INDIA

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Standing Committee on Communications and IT (2025)** proposed strict measures to combat **fake news**, including **mandatory fact-checking** and **AI-content regulation**.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Fact-Checking Mandate:** All media outlets to have **in-house verification units** and **ombudsmen**.
2. **Penal Provisions:** Suggests **higher fines** and a **legal definition of fake news** without curbing free speech.

3. **Institutional Strengthening:** Revamp **Press Council of India** with complaint portal and independent monitoring.
4. **AI Regulation:** **Mandatory labelling** of AI-generated content and **licensing for creators** to ensure transparency.
5. **Need:** Fake news threatens **democracy, public order, and national security**; e.g., **2018 WhatsApp lynchings, CAA protests 2020, vaccine misinformation**.
6. **Challenges:** Subjectivity in definition, **rapid spread via social media**, and **jurisdictional hurdles**.
7. **Legal Framework:**
  - **IT Act 2000, Digital Media Ethics Code (2021)**, and **PIB Fact-Check Unit** in place.
  - **ECI's Myth vs Reality Register (2024)** tackles electoral misinformation.
8. **Way Forward:** Clear distinction between **news and opinion, AI-assisted detection, platform accountability**, and **digital literacy education**.

### PRESIDENT'S RULE IN INDIA

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **extension of President's Rule in Manipur (2025)** revived debate on **Article 356's misuse** and its impact on **federal balance** and **state autonomy**.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Definition:** Imposed under **Article 356** when state governance fails; also known as **State Emergency** or **Constitutional Emergency**.
2. **Constitutional Basis:** Articles **355, 356, and 365** empower the Centre to intervene in state functioning.
3. **Approval & Duration:**
  - Must be approved by **Parliament within 2 months**.
  - Initially valid for **6 months**, extendable up to **3 years**.

#### 4. Judicial Safeguards:

- *S.R. Bommai (1994)*: Judicial review, floor test mandatory.
- *Rameshwar Prasad (2006)*: Arbitrary dissolution unconstitutional.

5. **Positive Roles:** Restores **constitutional order**, ensures **national security**, and prevents governance collapse during crises.

6. **Concerns:** Overuse weakens **federalism** and promotes **political misuse** by the Union.

#### 7. Reform Suggestions:

- **Sarkaria Commission (1983)**: Use as last resort.
- **Punchhi Commission (2010)**: Allow localized emergency.
- **Inter-State Council**: Mandate **Governor's detailed report** and **floor test** before imposition.

#### 8. Way Forward:

- Require **special majority approval**, ensure **timely elections**, and **strengthen judicial oversight** to prevent abuse.

### FOREIGNERS TRIBUNALS

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Union Home Ministry** has empowered **Foreigners Tribunals (FTs)** under the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025** to **issue arrest warrants** and **send suspected illegal immigrants to detention centres**, replacing the 1964 order and giving FTs powers equal to a **first-class judicial magistrate**.

#### ABOUT FOREIGNERS TRIBUNALS:

##### 1. What It Is:

- **Quasi-judicial bodies** set up to determine whether a person is a **"foreigner"** under Indian law.
- **Unique to Assam**; elsewhere, illegal migrants are tried in **local courts**.

2. **Established In:** 1964 through the **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order** under the **Foreigners Act, 1946**.

3. **Act Powered:** Now governed by the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**, which **repealed older laws**.

#### 4. Aim:

- Decide **citizenship status** of suspected individuals.
- Provide **due process** before declaring anyone a **foreigner**.

### EVMS TO HAVE COLOUR PHOTOS OF CANDIDATES



#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has revised **EVM ballot paper norms** under **Rule 49B** of the **Conduct of Election Rules, 1961**; from **Bihar Assembly elections onward**, ballot papers will carry **colour photographs of candidates**, **larger serial numbers**, and **improved design for clarity**.

#### ABOUT EVMS WITH COLOUR PHOTOS:

##### 1. Aim of the Reform:

- Improve **clarity, transparency, and voter experience**.
- Reduce **voter confusion** where multiple candidates have similar names/symbols.
- Strengthen **free and fair elections** through better ballot design.

##### 2. Procedure & Governance:

- Governed by **Rule 49B, Conduct of Election Rules, 1961**.

- CEOs of all States/UTs directed to implement revised format.
- Printing at **government/semi-government presses**, private presses only if required, with strict **safety protocols**.

### 3. Key Features:

- **Colour Photographs:** Candidate face covers **75%** of allotted space.
- **International Numerals:** Candidate/NOTA serial numbers printed in **bold, size 30**.
- **Better Paper Quality:** Pink paper with **specified RGB values**.
- **Layout Standardization:** Max 15 candidates per sheet, NOTA placed last; remaining space blank if fewer than 16 candidates.
- **Uniform Font:** Names in same **bold typeface**.

## CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION (CIC)

### RECENT UPDATE:

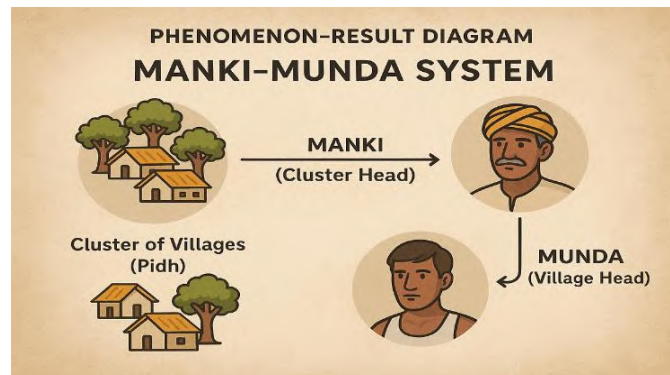
The **CIC** has been **headless for the 7th time in 11 years** after Chief Information Commissioner **Heeralal Samariya** retired.

### ABOUT CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION (CIC):

1. **What It Is:** Apex appellate body under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**, adjudicating **second appeals and complaints** regarding access to **public information**.
2. **Established In:** Constituted on **12 October 2005** under Section 12 of the RTI Act.
3. **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.
4. **Structure:** **CIC + up to 10 Information Commissioners (ICs)**.
5. **Aim:**
  - Appointment by committee: **PM (Chair), Leader of Opposition, Union Cabinet Minister nominated by PM**.

- Ensure **transparency and accountability** by enforcing citizens' **Right to Information**.
- Reduce **corruption** and promote **citizen participation** in democracy.

## MANKI-MUNDA SYSTEM



### RECENT UPDATE:

Ho tribals in Jharkhand's **Kolhan region** protested alleged interference in their traditional **Manki-Munda self-governance system** after some Mundas were removed.

### ABOUT MANKI-MUNDA SYSTEM:

1. **What It Is:** Traditional, **decentralised self-governance** followed by Ho tribe; village heads (**Mundas**) and pidh heads (**Mankis**) resolve disputes and maintain order.
2. **Origin & History:**
  - Pre-British: **Community-driven governance**, no land tax/external control.
  - British Era: **1833 codification by Captain Wilkinson**, implemented in **Kolhan Government Estate, 1837**; Mankis and Mundas acted as **intermediaries** preserving autonomy.
3. **How It Works:**
  - **Munda:** Head of single village, resolves local disputes.
  - **Manki:** Head of cluster of 8–15 villages, hears appeals beyond Munda level.
  - System relies on **customary law**, continues post-independence.

## SC GUIDELINES ON DNA

### RECENT UPDATE:

Supreme Court in **Kattavellai @ Devakar v. State of Tamil Nadu (2025)** issued **uniform guidelines** for **collection, preservation, and presentation of DNA samples** in criminal cases.

### ABOUT SC GUIDELINES ON DNA:

1. **What It Is:** Procedural guidelines to ensure **integrity, reliability, and timely handling** of DNA evidence.
2. **Case Name:** Kattavellai @ Devakar v. State of Tamil Nadu – involved **rape, murder, and robbery**.
3. **Key Features:**
  - **Proper Documentation:** Each DNA sample packaged with **FIR, case sections, IO, medical officer, witnesses** for traceability.
  - **Timely Dispatch (48-Hour Rule):** Samples sent to Forensic Lab within **48 hours**, delays explained in writing; proper **refrigeration/preservation** mandatory.
  - **No Tampering:** Once sealed, package cannot be opened, altered, or resealed without **trial court permission**.

## FRONTIER 50 INITIATIVE

### RECENT UPDATE:

**NITI Aayog** announced '**Frontier 50 Initiative**' to implement **frontier technology solutions** in 50 **Aspirational Districts/Blocks**, fast-tracking India's march towards **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

### ABOUT FRONTIER 50 INITIATIVE:

1. **What It Is:** Flagship program to deploy **AI, IoT, drones, blockchain** in 50 districts/blocks to improve **service delivery, productivity, and citizen well-being**.
2. **Launched By:** NITI Aayog Frontier Tech Hub.
3. **Objective:**

- Fast-track adoption of **proven frontier tech** use cases.
- Achieve **saturation of government services** (health, education, skilling, welfare).
- Bridge **digital and development divide** in under-served regions by 2047.

4. **Key Features:** 50 **pilot districts/blocks** selected from Aspirational District/Block Programme for **maximum impact**.

## THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT

### RECENT UPDATE:

**MHA cancelled the FCRA license** of climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk's NGO** after protests in **Leh**, citing statements that allegedly "**incited**" violence.

### ABOUT THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT (FCRA):

1. **What It Is:** FCRA, 2010, regulates **acceptance and utilisation of foreign donations** by individuals and associations.
2. **Historical Context:** First enacted in **1976** during Emergency to prevent **foreign interference** in India.
3. **Aim:**
  - Ensure foreign donations used for **intended purpose**.
  - Ensure recipient organisations function according to **sovereign democratic values**.

4. **Governing Institution:** **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** oversees registration, monitoring, and enforcement.

## SAHYOG PORTAL

### RECENT UPDATE:

**Karnataka High Court** upheld the **Union government's Sahyog portal**, dismissing X Corporation's plea calling it "**extra-legal**"

copyright.”

#### ABOUT SAHYOG PORTAL:

1. **What It Is:** Online regulatory platform for issuing **content takedown notices** to internet intermediaries under **Section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000**.
2. **Ministry:** Launched in **October 2024** by **Union Home Ministry**, operated via **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**.
3. **Aim:**
  - Streamline **takedown communication** between government and digital intermediaries.
  - Preserve **safe harbour protections** while ensuring **quick action against illegal content**.
  - Promote a **secure, accountable, lawful cyber ecosystem**.
4. **Key Features:**
  - **Centralised Channel:** Connects **65 intermediaries**, state/UT nodal officers, and 7 central agencies.
  - **Automated Notices:** Faster, documented communication of takedown orders.
  - **Legal Backing:** Non-compliance removes **safe harbour immunity**.

#### BEGGING IN INDIA

##### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Delhi High Court (2025)** reaffirmed that **criminalizing begging** is unconstitutional, following earlier rulings in **Harsh Mander v. Union of India (2018)**, urging states to adopt a **rehabilitative, not punitive** approach.

##### ABOUT:

1. **Legal Background:** Begging laws are derived from the **Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959**, adopted by many states.

2. **Constitutional Perspective:** Penalizing begging violates **Article 19(1)(a)** (expression), **Article 21** (right to life and dignity).
3. **Judicial Precedents:**
  - *Ram Lakhan v. State (1982)*: Arrest for begging illegal.
  - *Harsh Mander (2018)*: Delhi HC decriminalized begging.
  - *Gauri Mankekar (2021)*: Reiterated that poverty ≠ crime.
4. **Sociological Causes:** **Poverty, disability, migration, destitution, and child abandonment** are key drivers.
5. **Rehabilitation Focus:** Modern policies emphasize **vocational training, mental health care, and social reintegration**.
6. **Current Scenario:** Over **4 lakh beggars (Census 2011)**; 60% concentrated in **Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Bihar**.
7. **Government Measures:** **SMILE Scheme (2022)**—Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise for beggars and transgender persons.
8. **Way Forward:** Adopt **uniform model law**, integrate **social security**, and promote **urban shelters with skill-linkages**.

#### ANTI-DEFECTION LAW IN INDIA

##### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Supreme Court (2025)** questioned delays by Speakers in deciding **disqualification petitions** under the **Tenth Schedule**, proposing **time limits** and **independent tribunals**.

##### ABOUT:

1. **Legal Basis:** Inserted by **52nd Amendment Act (1985)**; later strengthened by **91st Amendment Act (2003)**.
2. **Objective:** Prevent **political instability** caused by floor-crossing for personal or monetary gains.
3. **Grounds of Disqualification:**
  - **Voluntarily giving up membership.**

- **Voting against party whip.**

#### 4. Exceptions:

- **Merger Clause:** Two-thirds members merging into another party not disqualified.
- **Presiding Officers:** Exempt when voluntarily giving up membership.

5. **Judicial Review:** *Kihoto Hollohan (1992)* upheld law's constitutionality but allowed **judicial review of Speaker's decisions.**

6. **Loopholes:** No **time-bound decisions**, **mass defections under merger clause**, and **bias of Speaker.**

#### 7. Reform Suggestions:

- *Law Commission (255th Report):* Shift power to **independent authority.**
- *Supreme Court (2024):* Fix **3-month decision deadline.**

8. **Way Forward:** Establish **independent tribunal**, tighten **merger provisions**, and ensure **real-time judicial oversight.**

### ROLE OF GOVERNOR IN INDIAN POLITY

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Supreme Court (2025)** issued fresh guidelines on **Governor's conduct**, emphasizing **timely assent to bills** and adherence to **constitutional conventions** after delays in multiple states.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Constitutional Role:** Defined under **Articles 153–162**; acts as **constitutional head of the state.**
2. **Dual Role:** Serves as **nominal head (state)** and **agent of the Centre.**
3. **Discretionary Powers:**
  - **Reserving bills for President** (Art. 200).
  - **Dismissing state government** (Art. 356).
  - **Appointing CM** when no clear majority.

#### 4. Issues:

- **Political bias, delayed bill assent**, and **interference in administration.**
- Instances in **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Punjab** highlight the tension.

#### 5. Judicial Guidelines:

- *S.R. Bommai (1994):* Role must be impartial.
- *Nabam Rebia (2016):* Governor cannot call assembly unilaterally.
- *SC (2025):* Governors must **act within "reasonable time"** on bills.

#### 6. Reform Commissions:

- **Sarkaria Commission (1988):** Consult CM before appointment.
- **Punchhi Commission (2010):** Fixed tenure and code of conduct.

7. **Recommendations:** Establish **Governor's Code**, **time-bound assent (4 weeks)**, and **neutral appointment process.**

8. **Way Forward:** Balance **federalism** and **accountability** by **restricting discretionary powers.**

### ELECTORAL BONDS AND POLITICAL FUNDING

#### RECENT UPDATE:

In **January 2025**, the **Supreme Court** delivered its final judgment **striking down the Electoral Bonds Scheme (2018)** for violating the **right to information under Article 19(1)(a).**

#### ABOUT:

1. **Objective:** Intended to bring **transparency** and **clean money** into political funding.
2. **Mechanism:** Donors purchased bonds from **SBI (₹1,000 to ₹1 crore)** and parties encashed them within 15 days.
3. **Court's Reasoning:**
  - Violated **citizens' right to know.**
  - Created **opacity**, enabling corporate-political nexus.

4. **Constitutional Violations:** Struck down **Finance Act 2017 amendments to RPA 1951, Companies Act, and Income Tax Act.**
5. **Key Findings:**
  - 95% of bonds went to ruling parties.
  - Allowed **anonymous unlimited corporate donations.**
6. **Consequences:** Scheme declared **unconstitutional**; SBI directed to **disclose donor data.**
7. **Way Forward:** Introduce **State Funding of Elections, cap corporate donations,** and ensure **real-time public disclosures.**
8. **Alternatives Proposed:** **National Electoral Fund, digital donation platforms,** and **enhanced audit transparency.**

**SOURCE: VISION MONTHLY**

**CRIMINALISATION OF POLITICS**

#### **Recent Update:**

According to the *Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR, 2024)*, **47% of ministers** in India, including those in the Union and State Cabinets, have **criminal cases**, with **27% being serious offences**, showing how deep criminalisation runs in Indian politics.

#### **About:**

1. **Meaning:** Entry of individuals with **criminal backgrounds** into the **political and electoral process.**
2. **Politico–Criminal Nexus:** Politicians rely on criminals for **funds and muscle**, while criminals gain **protection and legitimacy** (*Vohra Committee, 1993*).
3. **Winnability Factor:** ADR (2024) — **15.3% success rate** for tainted candidates vs **4.4%** for clean ones.
4. **High Election Costs:** Dependence on **black money and mafia networks** for campaign funding.

5. **Weak Justice System: Slow trials and poor conviction rates** — not a deterrent.
6. **Rising Trend: 55% rise** in MPs with criminal records since 2009 (ADR).
7. **Identity Politics:** Voters prioritise **caste or religion** over candidate integrity.
8. **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:**
  - a. **Representation of the People Act, 1951:**
    - i. *Section 8:* Disqualifies individuals convicted of heinous crimes or sentenced to **2+ years.**
    - ii. *Section 11:* Empowers the **Election Commission** to modify disqualification periods (*Prem Singh Tamang case, 2019*).
  - b. **Proposed 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill:**
    - i. Seeks amendment to *Articles 75 & 164* — mandates **removal of any Minister** detained for **30+ days** for offences punishable with **≥5 years imprisonment.**

**JUDICIAL PENDENCY**

#### **Recent Update:**

The *Supreme Court's case backlog* has reached an **all-time high of 88,417**, while *District Courts* face nearly **4.6 crore pending cases** and *High Courts* have about **63 lakh cases** (National Judicial Data Grid).

#### **About:**

1. **Judge–Population Ratio:** Only **21 judges per million**, far below the recommended **50 per million** (*120th Law Commission*).
2. **Weak ADR Mechanisms:** *Gram Nyayalayas* and mediation systems remain underutilised.
3. **Systemic Inefficiencies:** Frequent **adjournments, frivolous cases, poor case management** and lack of categorisation by urgency.

4. **Poor Infrastructure:** *Shortage of staff, digital tools and amenities* in lower courts.
5. **Government Initiatives:**
  - a. **NMJDLR (2011):** Focus on arrear reduction and judicial reforms.
  - b. **CSS for Judicial Infrastructure:** Builds court halls, residences, and digital facilities.
  - c. **e-Courts Project (Phase I–III):** *e-filing, virtual hearings, JustIS app, virtual courts.*
  - d. **Commercial Courts Act (2015):** Speedy settlement of business disputes.
  - e. **Fast Track Courts (FTCs):** For heinous and long-pending criminal cases.
  - f. **ADR Mechanisms:** Lok Adalats, Arbitration, Mediation to reduce court load.

#### NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION (NMC)



#### Recent Update:

The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** recently completed **five years** since its establishment in 2020.

#### About:

1. **Formation:** Created under the *National Medical Commission Act, 2019*, replacing the *Medical Council of India (MCI)*.
2. **Came into Force:** *25 September 2020.*
3. **Composition:** Appointed by the Centre — **1 Chairperson, 10 ex-officio members, 22 part-time members.**

4. **Four Autonomous Boards:**
  - a. *Undergraduate Medical Education Board*
  - b. *Postgraduate Medical Education Board*
  - c. *Medical Assessment & Rating Board*
  - d. *Ethics & Medical Registration Board*
5. **Objective:** Promote **transparency, accountability, and quality standards** in medical education and practice.

#### E-COURTS PROJECT

**RECENT UPDATE:** The **Phase-III of the e-Courts Project** was launched with a massive outlay of **₹7,210 crores** to integrate technology into the judicial system.

#### ABOUT:

1. The project aims to make the judicial system **more transparent, efficient, and cost-effective.**
2. Phase-III focuses on **digital case management** and seamless integration of **Digital Libraries** and **e-Filing.**
3. It introduces '**Justice as a Service (JaaS)**' using **AI-powered tools** for legal research and case summarization.
4. The project mandates **Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** integration with police records, prisons, and forensics.
5. It emphasizes the use of **Virtual Courts (VCs)** and **Video Conferencing (VC)** for testimony and hearings.
6. Challenges include a persistent **digital divide** and the need for adequate **training for judicial staff** on new technology.
7. The **Phase-I (2007)** focused on computerizing courts, while **Phase-II**

(2014) established the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**.

8. The **Way Forward** emphasizes the need for a **National Cloud Infrastructure** and a dedicated **National Tribunal Commission**.

## MANUAL SCAVENGING



**RECENT UPDATE:** The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** highlighted the need to distinguish between sanitation workers and manual scavengers and urged strict enforcement of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act**.

### ABOUT:

1. Manual Scavenging is defined as the practice of **manually cleaning** human excreta from dry latrines, sewers, or septic tanks.
2. The practice is explicitly banned by the **PEMSR Act, 2013**, which **prohibits both dry latrines and manual removal** of human waste.
3. The **Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)** offers concessional loans for sanitation workers to purchase cleaning equipment.
4. **NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem)** aims for **100% mechanization** of sewer and septic tank cleaning.

5. Technological solutions include the **Bandicoot Robot**, an autonomous system for sewer cleaning.
6. The **Way Forward** includes treating sewer deaths as **culpable homicide** and ensuring **adequate compensation** for victims.
7. It suggests expanding the **Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**.
8. It also calls for setting up **Sanitation Response Units (SRUs)** in each district, equipped with machines and skilled manpower.

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA

**RECENT UPDATE:** **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** are under focus for their role in **mobilising communities, protecting rights**, and filling gaps in governance<sup>28</sup>.

### ABOUT:

1. CSOs are **non-state, non-profit entities** that unite people voluntarily for shared social or ethical goals<sup>29</sup>.
2. They act as a **watchdog** for **Ensuring Accountability**, scrutinizing state actions and checking corruption<sup>30</sup>.
3. The **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan** was instrumental in the passage of the national **Right to Information (RTI) Act of 2005**<sup>31</sup>.
4. CSOs like **SEWA** empower women in the **informal sector**, helping them gain economic and social status<sup>32</sup>.
5. Challenges include **funding constraints** due to limited **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** funding and inadequate domestic philanthropy<sup>33</sup>.
6. A key measure is to enhance **Transparency** by creating a national

CSO database and implementing third-party audits<sup>34</sup>.

7. The government should **Simplify Regulatory Framework** through a **single-window digital system** for FCRA and registration<sup>35</sup>.
8. They also provide **Public Service Delivery**, filling gaps in healthcare, education, and disaster relief (e.g., **Goonj's 'Rahat' initiative** during Covid-19)<sup>36</sup>.

## VISAKHAPATNAM DECLARATION

### Recent Update:

Adopted at the **28th National Conference on e-Governance**, the declaration advocates a **whole-of-government approach** for digital civil service transformation.

### About:

1. **National Vision:** Citizen-centric, inclusive, transparent governance.
2. **Tech-Driven Governance:** Integration of **AI, ML, Blockchain, GIS, IoT, and Data Analytics** for real-time citizen services (e.g. *Digi Yatra, BHASHINI, NADRES V2*).
3. **Replication of Successful Models:** Expansion of **SAMPADA 2.0 (MP), eKhata (Bengaluru), DAMS (NHAI)**.
4. **Grassroots Focus:** Extend *digital reach to North East & Ladakh*, enhance *digital literacy for women and youth*.
5. **Cybersecurity:** Adoption of **Zero-Trust architecture** and **AI-enabled monitoring**.
6. **Agriculture & Sustainability:** Creation of **National Agri Stack** for data-driven credit and advisories.
7. **Regional Innovation Hubs:** Promotes *Visakhapatnam as an IT and innovation hub*.

## IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS (EXEMPTION) ORDER, 2025

### Recent Update:

The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** issued the *Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025* under the *Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025*.

### About:

1. **Exempted from Passport/Visa Requirements:**
  - *Indian Armed Forces on duty.*
  - *Indian, Nepali, and Bhutanese citizens* at designated borders.
  - *Tibetans* with valid registration and permits.
  - *Religious minorities* (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, Christians) from *Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan* entering before **Dec 31, 2024**, even without valid documents.
  - *Sri Lankan Tamil refugees* who arrived before **Jan 9, 2015**.
2. **Visa Exemptions Also Cover:**
  - *Diplomatic/official passport holders* (subject to agreements).
  - *Foreign military personnel* on naval visits.
  - *Those eligible for visa-on-arrival*.

## SOURCE: INSIGHTS MONTHLY

## MATERNITY REINTEGRATION IN INDIA

**RECENT UPDATE:** A recent article highlights that **maternity reintegration**, not just maternity leave, is the real test of **inclusion** in Indian workplaces.

### ABOUT:

1. **Reintegration** is the seamless transition of women employees back into the workforce after maternity leave.
2. Family expectations see **caregiving** as a woman's primary duty, reinforcing gender stereotypes.

3. Societal norms create guilt for mothers who don't conform to the **"always available caregiver"** stereotype.
4. Inner struggles like fatigue, self-doubt, and **emotional turmoil** make balancing work and home tougher.
5. Organisational systems with **inflexible roles** and **lack of childcare** often push women out.
6. Exiting women take away years of **institutional knowledge** and weaken the leadership funnel.
7. India's **female labour force participation** is only **~37%** (PLFS 2024), among the lowest in G20 economies.
8. Equal participation could **boost India's GDP by 27%** (~\$770 billion).

### THE DOMESTIC SPHERE IN INDIA

**RECENT UPDATE:** Recent debates on gender roles, domestic violence, and the **undervaluation of women's unpaid work** have reignited questions about the domestic sphere.

#### ABOUT:

1. **30% of women** face **intimate partner violence**, but only **14% lodge complaints** (NFHS-5).
2. **~7,000 dowry deaths annually** reflect the persistence of structural violence.
3. **93% of women** spend **~7 hours/day** on unpaid domestic services, while men average only **26 minutes**.
4. Unpaid domestic work by women is estimated to equal **7% of India's GDP** (~₹22.5 lakh crore) if monetized.
5. The current reality violates **Article 14 (Equality before Law)** and **Article 21 (Right to Life with Dignity)**.
6. **Economic Subsidy:** Women's unpaid labour **keeps subsistence wages low**, indirectly subsidizing the economy.

7. The **Way Forward** includes exploring mechanisms to account for **unpaid work in national accounts** and promoting **shared domestic responsibilities**.
8. Legal reforms should **recognise and criminalise marital rape** and strengthen the **Domestic Violence Act** implementation.

### AGEING AND HEALTH BURDEN IN INDIA

**RECENT UPDATE:** The **India Ageing Report 2023** highlights the mounting challenges of healthcare costs for senior citizens due to rising comorbidities and **low insurance coverage**.

#### ABOUT:

1. India's elderly population (**60+**) is projected to reach **347 million (20.8%) by 2050**.
2. The elderly face a **"double burden"** of multiple **comorbidities** (NCDs) and **financial insecurity**.
3. **Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE)** remains high at **~48%** of total health spending, causing distress financing.
4. **Only 20%** of the elderly are currently **insured**, with low coverage among women and rural populations.
5. **Exclusions** in insurance include key services like **palliative care**, rehabilitation, and **home oxygen support**.
6. **PM-JAY Expansion (2024)** provides universal health coverage for **all citizens above 70**, regardless of income.
7. There is a severe **workforce shortage**, with only **~6,000 trained geriatricians** for the rapidly ageing population.
8. The **Way Forward** is to **expand Ayushman Bharat** to include palliative and home-based care and to **establish**

geriatric departments in medical colleges.

## PERSONALITY RIGHTS IN INDIA

**RECENT UPDATE:** The **Delhi High Court** protected the personality rights of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan against **AI-generated misuse** of their images and voices.

### ABOUT:

1. **Definition:** Legal rights safeguarding a person's **name, image, likeness, signature, and voice** from unauthorised commercial exploitation.
2. **Constitutional Basis:** Rooted in **Article 21 (Right to Privacy & Dignity)**.
3. **Statutory Anchor 1: Copyright Act, 1957**, provides performers' rights under Sections 38A & 38B.
4. **Statutory Anchor 2: Trade Marks Act, 1999**, allows celebrities to trademark names and signatures.
5. **Judicial Evolution:** *R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu (1994)* recognized control over identity use as part of Article 21.
6. **Modern Protection:** The **Anil Kapoor v. Various Entities (Delhi HC, 2023)** case protected voice, catchphrases, and persona.
7. **Challenge:** Misuse through **deepfakes** and AI-generated content is a key concern.
8. **Way Ahead:** Mandate **watermarking** and enforce **accountability** of platforms for deepfake misuse.

## RESERVATION BEYOND 50%

**RECENT UPDATE:** The debate on raising reservations beyond the 50% ceiling continues, fueled by demographic realities and the **Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)** judgment.

### ABOUT:

1. **Historical Cap:** The **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)** case firmly capped total reservations at **50%**, except in extraordinary circumstances.
2. **Constitutional Basis: Article 16(4)** enables reservation in public employment for backward classes not adequately represented.
3. **EWS Breach:** The **Janhit Abhiyan** case upheld the **10% EWS** quota, ruling the 50% ceiling applies only to social/educational reservations, **effectively breaching the cap**.
4. **Pro-Increase Argument:** Backward classes constitute **well over 60%** of the population, and the current cap restricts proportional representation.
5. **Pro-Increase Argument:** The **Rohini Commission** found **97% of OBC benefits** are cornered by **25% sub-castes**, necessitating **sub-categorization** with higher quotas.
6. **Anti-Increase Argument:** Maintaining a balance between **merit and social justice** is key, supported by the formal equality principle.
7. **Way Ahead (Pro-Increase):** Implement **Rohini Commission recommendations** to distribute the OBC quota equitably and consider a **Caste Census**.
8. **Way Ahead (Balanced):** Focus on **education, skill development, and entrepreneurship** beyond just quotas.

## LADAKH PROTESTS



**RECENT UPDATE:** Peaceful protests by the **Leh Apex Body (LAB)** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)** have escalated due to perceived inaction by the Centre.

**ABOUT:**

1. **Background:** After the **abrogation of Article 370 in 2019**, Ladakh was bifurcated into a **UT without legislature**.
2. **Primary Demand 1: Full Statehood** for legislative powers, accountability, and stronger representation.
3. **Primary Demand 2: Sixth Schedule Inclusion** for constitutional safeguards to protect land, jobs, and culture for the **90% tribal population**.
4. **Democratic Deficit:** Without a legislature, Ladakhis are ruled by bureaucrats under the LG, leading to a **lack of accountability**.
5. **Geopolitical Concern:** Protests in a **border region** may be exploited by China and Pakistan.
6. **Way Ahead 1:** Continue talks with LAB & KDA through a **Structured Dialogue** and **Enhanced Autonomy** to Hill Councils.
7. **Way Ahead 2:** Consider **Partial Sixth Schedule** application to protect land and jobs while keeping the Centre's security role intact.
8. **Government Response:** Declared **Bhoti and Purgi** as official languages and initiated recruitment for **1,800 posts**.

**JUDICIAL EXPERIMENTALISM WITH SECTION 498A**

**RECENT UPDATE:** The Supreme Court endorsed the Allahabad High Court's mandatory "**cooling period**" before legal action on Section 498A complaints in the **Shivangi Bansal case**.

**ABOUT:**

1. **Definition of Experimentalism:** Courts go beyond traditional interpretation to create new **remedies, procedures, or institutional mechanisms** (like cooling periods).
2. **Purpose of 498A:** Enacted in **1983** to protect women from **cruelty** in matrimonial homes, especially **dowry harassment**.
3. **Judicial Innovation:** The Supreme Court's endorsement of the **2-month "cooling period"** (sent to a **Family Welfare Committee - FWC**) is aimed at preventing misuse.
4. **Past Attempt:** The **Rajesh Sharma Case (2017)** previously created FWCs to screen complaints, which was later **rolled back**.
5. **Concern 1 (Victim Access):** The cooling period may cause **delay in justice**, leaving victims waiting for relief while facing continued harassment.
6. **Concern 2 (Overreach):** FWCs have **no statutory recognition**, which bypasses the legal framework of BNS and CrPC.
7. **Statutory Safeguard:** The **Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014)** case issued a **checklist and "notice of appearance"** to curb arbitrary arrests in 498A cases.
8. **Way Ahead: Legislative Clarity** is needed to define procedures that balance the protection of the innocent and the rights of victims.

**TRANSGENDER PERSONS (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) ACT, 2019 AND BEYOND**

**RECENT UPDATE:** The **Supreme Court** is currently reviewing multiple petitions that challenge the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** for failing to fully uphold the spirit and directives of the **NALSA judgment**.

**ABOUT:**

1. The **NALSA v. Union of India (2014)** judgment recognized **transgender persons** as the "**third gender**" under the Constitution, ensuring rights under **Article 14, 15, 19, and 21**.
2. The **2019 Act** allows self-perceived gender identity but requires an **ID Certificate** from the **District Magistrate (DM)**.
3. A major criticism is that the Act **criminalizes begging** by transgender persons and **fails to provide reservations** in jobs/education.
4. The Act established the **National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP)**, which holds limited powers, mainly advisory.
5. **Affirmative action** is crucial, such as **Karnataka's 1% reservation** for transgender persons in public employment, which proves feasibility.
6. The **Way Forward** emphasizes making healthcare inclusive, including affordable **gender reassignment surgeries**, as modeled by **Kerala's policy**.
7. It calls for **political representation** via reserved seats in local bodies and nominations in legislatures.
8. It suggests **Social Sensitization** through mass campaigns and affirmative media narratives to dismantle harmful stereotypes.

**SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS**

## **INDIA VS FRENCH VOTE OF CONFIDENCE**

### **RECENT UPDATE:**

In **2025**, France's PM **François Bayrou** faced a major crisis amid a **confidence vote** triggered by unpopular austerity policies, drawing comparisons with India's parliamentary

accountability model.

### **ABOUT:**

1. **System Type:** France follows a **semi-presidential system** under the **1958 Fifth Republic Constitution** blending **presidential and parliamentary features**.
2. **Dual Executive:**
  - **President (Head of State):** Directly elected, handles **defence, foreign affairs, and Parliament dissolution**.
  - **Prime Minister (Head of Government):** Appointed by President, accountable to **National Assembly** for domestic policy.
3. **Cohabitation Phenomenon:** Occurs when **President and Assembly majority differ**, dividing powers between foreign and domestic affairs.
4. **Reforms (2000):** Reduced **Presidential term from 7 to 5 years** aligning elections, minimizing cohabitation.
5. **Reforms (2008):** Strengthened **Parliamentary control** and restricted **use of Article 49(3)** to prevent executive overreach.
6. **Indian Comparison:** India's **parliamentary system** allows **collective responsibility**; a PM losing confidence must resign—ensuring **direct accountability**.
7. **Governance Insight:** French semi-presidentialism ensures **stability with dual legitimacy**, while India's model secures **parliamentary supremacy**.
8. **Way Forward:** France may adopt **executive restraint and coalition dialogue** akin to India's **parliamentary practice** for balance.

## **INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC OFFICE**

### **RECENT UPDATE:**

In **2025**, Assam Civil Service officer **Nupur Bora** was arrested for possessing assets **400× her known income**, triggering a debate on **ethics and probity in governance**.

### **ABOUT:**

1. **Definition:** Integrity in public office means **moral, ethical, and legal consistency** in decision-making aligned with **public interest**.
2. **Probity:** Ensures **honesty, uprightness, and zero tolerance for corruption**.
3. **Accountability:** All actions must be **auditable, reviewable, and transparent**, promoting **responsible governance**.
4. **Impartiality:** Upholding **fairness and neutrality**; avoiding **conflict of interest** in official duties.
5. **Transparency:** Encourages **open decision-making** and **public scrutiny** to prevent misuse of authority.
6. **Rule of Law:** Mandates that all actions conform to **constitutional and legal norms** ensuring justice.
7. **Ethical Governance:** Promotes **public trust**, reduces arbitrariness, and enhances **institutional credibility**.
8. **Way Forward:** Strengthen **asset disclosure, vigilance audits, and ethics training** in civil services.

### EDUCATION EXEMPTION FOR MINORITY SCHOOLS AND THE RTE DEBATE

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Supreme Court (2025)** reopened the debate on the **2014 Pramati Judgment**, questioning why **minority schools are exempt** from the **RTE Act (2009)**.

#### ABOUT:

1. **RTE Act 2009:** Implements **Article 21A**—free and compulsory education for **6–14-year-olds**.
2. **Key Provisions:**
  - **Govt schools:** Free education for all.
  - **Aided schools:** Free seats equal to govt aid.

- **Private unaided schools: 25% seats for disadvantaged groups** (Sec 12(1)(c)).
3. **Regulatory Standards:** Defines **teacher–student ratio, infrastructure norms, and bans corporal punishment and capitation fees**.
  4. **2014 Pramati Judgment:** Exempted **minority institutions** (aided & unaided) from RTE citing **Article 30(1)** (minority rights).
  5. **Current Challenge:** Critics argue **RTE exemption reduces inclusivity**, especially in elite minority schools.
  6. **Legal Tension:** Balancing **minority autonomy vs child’s right to education**.
  7. **Judicial Re-examination:** SC may redefine **scope of minority protection vis-à-vis social equity obligations**.
  8. **Way Forward:** Introduce **uniform inclusion norms** while preserving **minority identity and autonomy**.

### MANA MITRA: ANDHRA PRADESH’S WHATSAPP GOVERNANCE MODEL

#### RECENT UPDATE:

In **2025**, Andhra Pradesh expanded its **Mana Mitra WhatsApp** platform to **738 citizen services** across **36 departments**, inspiring the **Centre** to adopt it nationally.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Definition:** Mana Mitra is India’s first **WhatsApp-based e-governance platform** integrating multiple departments into a **single digital window**.
2. **Ease of Access:** Reduces **physical visits**; users get services via simple WhatsApp prompts (“Hi”).
3. **Wide Coverage:** Offers **738 services**—education, health, revenue, tourism, endowments, transport, etc.
4. **Transparency Tools:** Uses **QR-coded certificates** and **blockchain verification** to eliminate forgery.

5. **Inclusivity Focus:** Empowers **rural and digitally limited citizens** through mobile-first governance.
6. **Meta Partnership:** Collaboration with **Meta** ensures **secure global backend infrastructure**.
7. **AI & Tech Upgrade:** Plans for **AI chatbots, voice assistance, and real-time dashboards** in Phase II.
8. **Way Forward:** National replication through **Digital India Mission** to build **citizen-centric governance ecosystems**.

### NITI AAYOG'S 'AI FOR VIKSIT BHARAT ROADMAP'

#### RECENT UPDATE:

In **2025**, NITI Aayog launched the **AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap** and **Frontier Tech Repository** under its **Frontier Tech Hub** to integrate AI in national growth.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Vision:** Blueprint to make AI a **growth catalyst**, adding **\$500–600 billion to GDP by 2035**.
2. **Sectoral Focus:** **Banking and manufacturing** to gain 20–25% of GDP share; **pharma and auto** prioritised for innovation.
3. **Data Infrastructure:** Creation of **AI Kosh** and **sectoral data grids** to make India a **trusted data capital**.
4. **AI Skilling:** Establish **AI Open University, AI Chairs, and national certification programs** for upskilling.
5. **Generative AI:** Reduces **drug discovery timelines by 60–80%**, boosts **automotive R&D efficiency**.
6. **Frontier Tech Repository:** Over **200 case studies** in **health, education, and national security** for states.
7. **Frontier 50 Initiative:** Implements **frontier tech pilots** in 50 aspirational districts.

8. **Way Forward:** Integrate **AI ethics, innovation funding, and governance reforms** for an **inclusive AI ecosystem**.

### THE RTI'S SHIFT TO A 'RIGHT TO DENY INFORMATION'

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP), 2023** amended **Section 8(1)(j)** of the RTI Act, allowing broader denial of “personal” information, weakening transparency.

#### ABOUT:

1. **RTI Act (2005):** Empowers citizens under **Article 19(1)(a)** to seek info from public authorities.
2. **Democratic Role:** Strengthens **transparency, accountability, and citizen participation** in governance.
3. **Section 8(1)(j) Before Amendment:** Denial allowed only when disclosure caused **unwarranted invasion of privacy** without public interest.
4. **After DPDP Amendment:** Broadens “personal information” exemption — allows **generic refusals** by authorities.
5. **Impact on Governance:** Converts RTI from a **Right to Know** into a **Right to Deny**, limiting **anti-corruption scrutiny**.
6. **Legal Contradiction:** Undermines the **2005 transparency ethos** and **RTI–privacy balance** set by SC in *Puttaswamy (2017)*.
7. **Public Concern:** NGOs warn it could **shield misconduct** and **reduce citizen empowerment**.
8. **Way Forward:** Redefine **personal information**, restore **public interest override**, and strengthen **data–transparency harmony**.

SOURCE: DRISHTI MONTHLY

BUILDING A RESILIENT CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK FOR INDIA

## RECENT UPDATE:

The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs (2025)** highlighted India's increasing exposure to cyber threats and recommended enhanced public awareness, stronger cyber safety measures, and upgraded digital infrastructure as digitalization accelerates.

## ABOUT:

1. **Rising Cybercrimes:** India registered **1.91 million cybercrime complaints (2024)**—a reflection of surging ransomware, phishing, and UPI-related frauds.
2. **Weak Legal Architecture:** The **IT Act (2000)** and **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023)** are outdated and lack clear provisions for **AI-enabled attacks** and **deepfakes**.
3. **Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability:** Power grids, telecom, and hospitals remain soft targets; incidents like **AIIMS cyberattack (2022)** and **Kudankulam (2019)** underscore risks.
4. **Skill Shortage:** According to **NASSCOM**, India needs **1 million cybersecurity professionals** but currently has less than half that number.
5. **Poor Cyber Hygiene:** Limited digital literacy, especially in rural India, heightens vulnerability to **phishing and fraud**.
6. **Fragmented Institutional Coordination:** Agencies like **CERT-In, NCIIPC, and I4C** operate in silos, slowing real-time responses.
7. **Government Initiatives:** **Cyber Swachhta Kendra, CERT-In, Digital Intelligence Platform, and Bharat Cybersecurity Exercise 2024** are key interventions.
8. **Way Ahead:** Introduce **Zero-Trust Architecture**, mandatory **cyber audits**, and integrate **cybersecurity education** at all levels to ensure resilience.

## SUPREME COURT CALLS FOR REGULATING SOCIAL MEDIA

### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Supreme Court (2025)** directed the government to frame **guidelines for social media**

**influencers and podcasters**, balancing free speech with protection of vulnerable groups.

## ABOUT:

1. **Legal Framework:** Governed by **IT Act (2000)**, **Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code (2021)**, and its **2023 Amendment**.
2. **Judicial Background:** *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)* struck down **Section 66A**; *Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)* recognized **privacy under Article 21**.
3. **Need for Regulation:** Protects women, minorities, and children from **cyberbullying, trolling, and hate campaigns**.
4. **Influencer Accountability:** Calls for **transparency in paid promotions** and action against **fake endorsements**.
5. **Curbing Misinformation:** Aims to limit **deepfakes, AI-driven propaganda, and hate speech** that disrupts democracy.
6. **Challenges:** Massive content volume, **anonymity, free speech vs censorship**, and **cross-border enforcement gaps**.
7. **SC Observations:** Free speech must not be a cover for hate; humour must not degrade dignity; influencers must issue **public apologies** for harmful content.
8. **Way Forward:** Update laws through **Digital India Act**, ensure **algorithmic transparency**, and enhance **AI-based monitoring systems**.

## COLLEGIUM SYSTEM OF JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS IN INDIA

### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Supreme Court (2025)** reached full sanctioned strength of 34 judges following new appointments under the **Collegium System**, reigniting debate on transparency and accountability in judicial appointments.

## ABOUT:

1. **Nature:** The **Collegium System** is a **judge-led mechanism** for appointing and transferring judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

2. **Constitutional Basis:** Articles **124, 217, and 222** outline appointment procedures, but the system evolved through **Judicial Precedent**—not explicit constitutional text.
3. **Evolution:**
  - *First Judges Case (1981)* – Executive primacy.
  - *Second Judges Case (1993)* – Judicial primacy established.
  - *Third Judges Case (1998)* – Expanded Collegium to **CJI + 4 senior-most judges**.
4. **Arguments For:** Ensures **judicial independence**, maintains **integrity**, and minimizes political interference (Art. 50).
5. **Arguments Against:** Lacks **transparency**, may promote **nepotism**, and shows **underrepresentation** (only 4% SC judges are women).
6. **NJAC Episode:** The **99th Constitutional Amendment (2014)** sought to replace it with **NJAC**, struck down in *Fourth Judges Case (2015)* for violating judicial independence.
7. **Current Challenge:** **331 HC vacancies (2024)** and slow appointments continue under the system.
8. **Reform Need:** Calls for **transparent criteria, diversity representation, and parliamentary oversight** without compromising independence.

### BAIL CONDITIONS IN INDIA

#### RECENT UPDATE:

Triggered by U.S. reforms against cashless bail, debates resurfaced in India over **bail equality**, especially after **BNSS 2023** replaced the **CrPC 1973** and introduced bail process reforms.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Definition:** Bail implies **conditional release** of an accused, balancing liberty and trial assurance.

2. **Legal Basis:** Defined under **Chapter 35, BNSS 2023**, replacing the CrPC's provisions on arrest and bail.
3. **Bail Bonds:** Can be **cash-based or surety-based**; PR (Personal Recognisance) Bonds encourage **non-monetary release** for minor offences.
4. **Concerns: Economic inequality**—poor undertrials unable to furnish bail remain in custody longer than actual sentence.
5. **Judicial Backlog: 70% of prison population** are undertrials due to procedural delays.
6. **Landmark Case:** *Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI (2022)* reaffirmed **“bail, not jail”** as a constitutional norm under Article 21.
7. **Measures Needed:** Enforce **time-bound bail disposal**, promote **digital bail records**, and provide **legal aid** through para-legal volunteers.
8. **Recent Scheme: Support to Poor Prisoners (2023)** provides financial aid for those unable to post bail.

### INDIA'S SUSPECT REGISTRY AND CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES

#### RECENT UPDATE:

India's **Suspect Registry (2024)**, launched under the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, blocked **13 lakh fraudulent transactions** and saved over **₹5,100 crore**.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Nature:** Developed by **I4C** under **MHA**, using data from the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)**.
2. **Objective:** Enables **banks and agencies** to flag suspected accounts and monitor real-time fraud.
3. **Impact:** **6.1 lakh fraud transactions blocked (₹1,800 crore); 8.67 lakh mule accounts and 7 lakh SIMs frozen**.
4. **Cybercrime Trends:** Losses of **₹33,165 crore (2021–24)**, with Tier-2 cities like **Nuh and Deoghar** emerging as hotspots.

5. **Policy Framework:** Guided by **IT Act 2000**, **BNSS 2023**, and **National Cyber Security Policy 2013**.
6. **Institutional Setup:** **CERT-In**, **I4C**, **CFMC**, and **CFCFRMS (helpline 1930)** ensure coordination and rapid fraud response.
7. **Digital Innovations:** **‘.bank.in’ domain**, **MuleHunter.AI**, **ASTR facial verification system**, and **e-Zero FIR** enhance detection.
8. **Global Cooperation:** India participates in **Interpol cyber networks** and the **G7 24/7 framework** for international data preservation.

## PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING ACT, 2025

### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025** was passed by Parliament to encourage **e-sports** and **social games**, while banning **online money gaming** and its associated financial transactions.

### ABOUT:

1. **Objective:** Establishes a comprehensive **legal framework** for regulating, promoting, and supporting the online gaming industry.
2. **Ban on Money Games:** Prohibits offering, advertising, or facilitating **real-money games**; banks are barred from processing related payments.
3. **Classification of Games:**
  - **E-Sports:** Recognized as legitimate sports requiring skill.
  - **Social Games:** Entertainment and educational in nature.
  - **Money Games:** Involving financial stakes; banned completely.
4. **Jurisdiction:** Applicable **throughout India**, including offshore platforms accessible domestically.

5. **Promotion Measures:** Establish **training academies**, **research centers**, and **safe gaming platforms** for youth.
6. **Regulatory Authority:** National-level regulator to **register, categorize, and monitor** online games; empowered for **search and seizure**.
7. **Penalties:** Offering banned games – **3 years imprisonment / ₹1 crore fine**; advertising such games – **2 years / ₹50 lakh fine**.
8. **Liability Clause:** Corporate officers held accountable; **non-executive directors exempt** if due diligence is proven.

## ONLINE GAMBLING

### RECENT UPDATE:

India emerged as the **largest gaming market in the world (2023)** with **568 million gamers** and **9.5 billion app downloads**, prompting calls for clearer regulation of online gambling and betting.

### ABOUT:

1. **Definition:** Includes games played digitally via the internet with real-time multiplayer engagement.
2. **Classification:**
  - **Skill-Based Games:** Legal (e.g., Dream11, MPL).
  - **Chance-Based Games:** Illegal (e.g., Roulette).
3. **Market Growth:** Valued at **USD 2.2 billion (2023)**, projected to reach **USD 8.6 billion by 2028**.
4. **Legal Framework:**
  - **IT Act, 2000 & Rules 2021/23:** Mandates registration and prohibits illegal content.
  - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:** Penalizes unauthorized betting (Sec 112).
  - **IGST Act, 2017:** Ensures taxation parity between physical and digital gaming.

- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** Restricts misleading ads by influencers.
5. **Regulatory Loopholes: State-level fragmentation** and lack of a **central authority** create inconsistencies.
  6. **Addictive Behaviour:** 23% youth affected; calls for **age-gating, mental health integration,** and **spending limits.**
  7. **Cybersecurity Risks:** Data breaches (11 million accounts, 2024) and misuse of VPNs underline security concerns.
  8. **Policy Need:** Establish **National Gaming Regulator,** enhance **data protection,** and curb **illegal offshore betting.**

### EXEMPTIONS FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION IN FORESTS

#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Forest Advisory Committee (2025)** approved expanded exemptions for **mineral exploration drilling** in forest areas under the **Forest (Conservation) Amendment, 2023.**

#### ABOUT:

1. **Policy Change:** Allows **62–80 boreholes per 10 sq km,** up from 25 earlier, for exploration of **critical minerals.**
2. **Rationale:** Boost domestic sourcing of **lithium, cobalt, and nickel,** crucial for **clean energy and defence.**
3. **Ease of Doing Business:** Reduces delay by bypassing repeated central clearances for temporary activities.
4. **Private Sector Role:** Encourages **private investment** and **FDI** in mineral exploration.
5. **Environmental Concerns:** Risk of **habitat fragmentation, tribal displacement,** and **biodiversity loss.**
6. **Legal Overlap:** Potential conflict with **Forest Rights Act (2006)** and **tribal autonomy** in Schedule V & VI areas.

7. **Mitigation Measures:** Mandate **eco-friendly drilling, cluster mining,** and **non-intrusive technologies** like drones & AI mapping.
8. **Suggested SOPs:** Restrict drilling in **wetlands/breeding zones,** enforce **time-bound operations,** and ensure **community consent.**

### CRITICAL MINERALS

#### RECENT UPDATE:

India released its first official **List of 30 Critical Minerals (2023),** identifying resources vital for **clean energy transition, national security,** and **supply chain resilience.**

1. Antimony	15. Nickel	iv. Neodymium	20. Rhenium
2. Beryllium	16. PGE	v. Promethium	21. Selenium
3. Bismuth	i. Platinum	vi. Samarium	22. Silicon
4. Cadmium	ii. Palladium	vii. Europium	23. Strontium
5. Cobalt	iii. Rhodium	viii. Gadolinium	24. Tantalum
6. Copper	iv. Ruthenium	ix. Terbium	25. Tellurium
7. Gallium	v. Iridium	x. Dysprosium	26. Tin
8. Germanium	vi. Osmium	xi. Holmium	27. Titanium
9. Graphite	17. Phosphorous	xii. Erbium	28. Tungsten
10. Hafnium	18. Potash	xiii. Thulium	29. Vanadium
11. Indium	19. REE	xiv. Ytterbium	30. Zirconium
12. Lithium	i. Lanthanum	xv. Lutetium	
13. Molybdenum	ii. Cerium	xvi. Scandium	
14. Niobium	iii. Praseodymium	xvii. Yttrium	

#### ABOUT:

1. **Definition:** Minerals essential for economic growth and strategic sectors, with **limited availability** or **geopolitical concentration** of supply.
2. **India's Status:** High **import dependence;** key minerals include **bismuth, cobalt, copper, tin, titanium,** and **REEs.**
3. **Policy Framework:** Guided by **National Mineral Policy (2019)** and **MMDR Amendment Act (2023).**
4. **Exploration Initiatives:** **GSI** exploring **1,200 deposits** by 2030; **lithium discovered (2023)** in Reasi, J&K.
5. **Trade & Collaboration:** Partnership through **KABIL (2019)** and **Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)** for supply diversification.
6. **Strategic Reserves:** India planning **stockpiles for lithium, cobalt,** and other high-demand minerals.

7. **Sustainability Measures:** Promote **green mining**, recycling, and reduced ecological footprint.
8. **Global Significance:** Aligns with India's **Net Zero 2070 goals**, boosting **EV battery and semiconductor industries**.

### SC ISSUES DNA EVIDENCE GUIDELINES IN CRIMINAL CASES

#### RECENT UPDATE:

In **Kattavellai @ Devakar v. State of Tamil Nadu (2025)**, the **Supreme Court** laid down comprehensive guidelines for handling **DNA evidence** to preserve its integrity in criminal cases.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Documentation Protocol:** Mandatory recording of **FIR number**, **investigating officer details**, and **signatures** of medical experts and witnesses at the collection stage.
2. **Sample Handling:** Samples must **not be opened or resealed** without court authorization to prevent tampering.
3. **Timely Transport:** Investigating officer must **send samples to the FSL within 48 hours**.
4. **Chain of Custody:** A **register documenting every stage** of DNA evidence movement must be maintained till case closure.
5. **Collection Challenges:** Issues like **contamination, degradation**, and **insufficient samples** affect credibility.
6. **Analytical Concerns:** Lack of **standardized lab protocols** and **human error** may compromise reliability.
7. **Privacy and Ethics:** DNA databases raise concerns of **genetic surveillance** and **discrimination**.
8. **Judicial Stand:**
  - *Kunhiraman (1991)*: First DNA use in India.

- *Sharda v. Dharmpal (2003)*: DNA use upheld under **Article 21**.
- *Rahul v. State (2022)*: Sample tampering led to rejection.
- *Devakar (2025)*: DNA evidence treated as **opinion evidence** under **Section 39, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**.

### UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)



#### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2024**, became India's **first implemented UCC**, reigniting the debate on **Article 44** and its national applicability.

#### ABOUT:

1. **Constitutional Provision: Article 44** (Directive Principles) urges the State to secure a **Uniform Civil Code** across India.
2. **Objective:** To replace **personal laws based on religion** with a **common set of civil laws** governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.
3. **Historical Background:** Debate since **Constituent Assembly (1948)**; opposed by minorities fearing erosion of religious freedom (Art. 25).
4. **Judicial Stand:**
  - *Shah Bano (1985)* – Advocated UCC for gender justice.
  - *Sarla Mudgal (1995)* – Urged Parliament to act.
  - *Paresh Rawal v. Union (2024)* – Upheld Uttarakhand UCC's validity.

5. **Uttarakhand Model:** Applies to all residents; bans **polygamy, instant divorce**, ensures **equal inheritance**, and mandates **marriage registration**.

6. **Arguments For:**

- Promotes **gender equality, national integration**, and **legal uniformity**.

7. **Arguments Against:**

- Perceived as **majoritarian**, may erode **cultural autonomy** and **diversity**.

8. **Way Forward:** Adopt **consultative, gradual approach**, ensure **inclusivity**, and frame **model UCC legislation** after nationwide debate.

## INDIA'S STRATEGY FOR COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### RECENT UPDATE:

The **Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care, and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025** has been finalized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, expanding definitions to cover **online exploitation** and **cross-border trafficking**.

### ABOUT:

1. **Magnitude:** India reported over **6,500 trafficking cases (NCRB 2024)**, with **women and children** forming 80% of victims.

2. **Root Causes:** **Poverty, migration, bonded labour**, and **lack of education** remain core factors.

3. **Legal Framework:**

- **Article 23:** Prohibits trafficking and forced labour.
- **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956** – key anti-trafficking law.
- **IPC Sections 370–370A** define trafficking offences.

4. **New Bill Provisions (2025):**

- Covers **sexual exploitation, forced labour, organ trade, and cyber trafficking**.
- Establishes **Anti-Trafficking Units and Rehabilitation Funds**.

5. **Institutional Mechanisms:**

- **NATGRID, AHTUs, and CCTNS** for intelligence coordination.
- **Ujjawala Scheme (MWCD):** Rehabilitation and counselling for survivors.

6. **Judicial Interventions:** *Bachpan Bachao Andolan (2011)* – directed stronger state monitoring.

7. **Challenges:** **Low conviction rate (13%)**, victim intimidation, and poor interstate coordination.

8. **Way Forward:** Adopt a **victim-centric approach**, strengthen **digital surveillance**, and promote **cross-border MoUs** with neighbouring nations.

# POLITY & GOVERNANCE

## TOPICS COVERED-

1. Prison Reforms — overcrowding, Model Prisons Act, speedy trial
2. Crime in India Report 2023 — cognizable rise, cybercrime spike, ST/children crimes
3. Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India 2023 — suicide trends, male-heavy, major causes
4. IT (Amendment) Rules 2025 — deepfakes, due diligence, safe harbour
5. Regulation of Pharmaceutical Sector — contaminated syrups, CDSCO—state roles, reform need
6. Tribal Governance — Adi Karmayogi, PESA—Schedules, Vision 2030
7. Online Gaming Rules 2025 — OGAI regulator, registration, penalties
8. Postal Ballot — service voters, e-postal, counting-first rule
9. Constitutional Morality — rule of law, propriety, anti-majoritarianism
10. UPSC at 100 — meritocracy, Articles 315–323, autonomy
11. Lokpal — anti-corruption body, complaint drop, investigative powers
12. RTI at 20 (Decline) — vacancies, DPDP conflict, weakening transparency
13. Digital Exams — tree-saving, cost-cutting, transparency boost
14. Defamation — civil vs criminal, Article 19(2), misuse debate
15. Simultaneous Elections — 1952–67 cycle, 129th Amendment, term alignment
16. Digital Governance in Panchayats — SabhaSaar, SVAMITVA, eGramSwaraj
17. India's Vaccination Drive — UIP, Indradhanush, 98% coverage
18. Provincial Citizenship — domicile debate, non-constitutional, FR conflict
19. People's Plan Campaign 2025–26 — PDPs, SDG localisation, convergence
20. Passive Euthanasia — Aruna Shanbaug, living wills, Article 21
21. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) — arbitration—mediation, Sec 89 CPC, Lok Adalats
22. India's Disaster Resilience — NDMA, PM's Agenda, tech-based DRR
23. National Red List Roadmap — ZSI—BSI, IUCN alignment, Red Data Books
24. Critical Mineral Recycling Scheme — ₹1500cr, lithium batteries, NCMR
25. Mission Digital ShramSetu — AI—blockchain, worker ID, smart contracts
26. Farmer Skill Development — KVKs, ATMA, FPOs
27. Labour Rights Strengthening — OSHWC Code, factories safety, enforcement gaps
28. OBCs & OBC List — Article 342A, central vs state lists, sub-categorisation
29. TRAI — 1997 Act, tariff regulation, not fully independent
30. Presidential Assent (Art. 111) — assent/return rules, money bills, 3-month limit
31. EVMs — BEL/ECIL, no network, 2000-vote capacity
32. ECINET Portal — unified platform, voter services, Aadhaar e-sign
33. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) — DMA head, tri-service advisor, no command
34. GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) — benches, judicial—technical mix, civil court powers
35. Communication Security Certification — telecom security, ITSAR, NCCS

36. DRAVYA Portal — AYUSH database, standardisation, research access
37. SPARSH Pension System — defence pensions, direct disbursal, digital services
38. CORE Programme — civil–military interface, strategic review
39. SAHYOG Portal — takedown orders, I4C, safe-harbour enforcement
40. RBI Deputy Governor Appointment — FSRASC, 3-year tenure, eligibility
41. MLAT (Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty) — cross-border evidence, MHA nodal, 45+ partners
42. Visakhapatnam Declaration 2025 — digital governance, AI adoption, civil service reform
43. NIRF Rankings 2025 — IITM #1, SDG category, TLR–research metrics
44. Frontier 50 Initiative — AI–IoT drones, 50 districts, governance tech
45. Moran Community — Assam tribe, ST demand, historical identity
46. Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) — Sixth Schedule, BTR autonomy, 46-member council
47. Project Vijayak — BRO, Kargil roads, strategic mobility
48. Sand Replenishment Study (SC Mandate) — replenishment compulsory, 3-year data, river safety
49. Local Govt Service Commission — devolution gaps, staffing shortages, Article 243I
50. Global Youth Uprising — inequality, climate anxiety, digital mobilisation

**Recent Update**

The NCRB released the **Prison Statistics India (PSI) 2023** report highlighting issues such as **overcrowding** and large **undertrial population**.

**About**

1. **State Subject** – Prisons fall under **State List Entry 4**, making states responsible for administration and prisoner management.
2. **Role of MHA** – The **Ministry of Home Affairs** provides guidance and support to improve prison administration.
3. **Colonial Framework Earlier** – Earlier governed by the **Prisons Act, 1894** and state manuals with limited focus on reform.
4. **Model Prisons & Correctional Services Act, 2023** – A modern law replacing outdated colonial prison legislation.
5. **Integration of Old Acts** – Includes provisions of the **Prisoners Act, 1900** and **Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950**.
6. **Judicial Push** – **Suhas Chakma (2024)** recommended **open prisons** to reduce overcrowding and aid rehabilitation.
7. **Speedy Trials** – **Hussainara Khatoon (1979)** affirmed **speedy trial** as a fundamental right under Article 21.
8. **Open Prison Model** – **Rajasthan** pioneered open prisons with minimal supervision and better reintegration outcomes.

## CRIME IN INDIA REPORT 2023

**Recent Update**

The NCRB published the **Crime in India 2023** report highlighting major changes in national crime patterns.

**About**

1. **Rise in Cognizable Crimes** – Increased by **7.2%**, equal to one crime every **5 seconds**.
2. **Cybercrime Spike** – Up by **31.2%**, dominated by **fraud** and **sexual exploitation**.
3. **Crimes Against STs** – Increased **28.8%** due to **ethnic violence in Manipur**.
4. **Crimes Against Children** – Increased **9.2%**, especially **kidnapping** and **POCSO** cases.

5. **Crimes Against Women** – Marginal rise of **0.7%**, showing continued vulnerability.
6. **Underreporting Issues** – Data reflects **reporting patterns**, not full crime burden.
7. **Hotspot Detection** – Enables better resource allocation for policing.
8. **Urban–Rural Pattern** – **Urban areas** show higher **cyber** and **economic crimes**.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS & SUICIDES IN INDIA 2023  
REPORT**Recent Update**

The NCRB released the **ADSI 2023** report indicating slight increase in suicides and key demographic insights.

**About**

1. **Suicides Increased** – Up by **0.3%** compared to 2022.
2. **Suicide Rate Decreased** – Down by **0.8%**.
3. **Highest Suicide Rate** – **A&N Islands, Sikkim, Kerala**; cities > national rate.
4. **State Share** – **Maharashtra, TN, MP, Karnataka, WB** contribute most.
5. **Gender Ratio** – **72.8% male, 27.2% female**.
6. **Major Causes** – **Family problems, illness, addiction, marital issues, love affairs, debt, unemployment, exam failure**.
7. **Farmer Suicides** – **10,786** cases; zero in **WB, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, HP, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa**.
8. **Govt Initiatives** – **National Suicide Prevention Strategy, Tele-MANAS, NMHP, Manodarpan**.

## IT (AMENDMENT) RULES 2025

**Recent Update**

MeitY proposed amendments to the **IT Rules 2021** to regulate **deepfakes** and **synthetic content**.

**About**

1. **Effective 15 Nov 2025** – Will be called **IT Amendment Rules 2025**.
2. **Due Diligence Strengthened** – More obligations for **SIMs** and **SSMIs**.
3. **Deepfake Controls** – Targets harmful **synthetic media**.
4. **IT Rules Origin** – Introduced in **2021**, amended in **2022 & 2023**.

5. **Content Regulation** – Covers **digital news, current affairs, OTT content**.
6. **SMI/SSMI Definitions** – SMI enables user interaction; **SSMI** crosses user thresholds.
7. **Safe Harbour Linked to Compliance** – Must follow due diligence to retain immunity.
8. **Grievance Redressal Strengthened** – Faster takedown of harmful content.

## REGULATION OF INDIA'S PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

### Recent Update

**WHO** raised concerns after deaths caused by **contaminated Indian cough syrups**.

### About

1. **Contaminated Products** – **Coldrif, Respifresh, ReLife** flagged.
2. **Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940** – Regulates **manufacture, import, sale, quality** of medicines.
3. **State Regulators** – Issue licences and inspect units.
4. **CDSCO** – Approves drugs, oversees **clinical trials** and **imports**.
5. **NPPA** – Enforces **Drug Price Control Order**.
6. **GMP Standards** – **Schedule M** aligned with **WHO-GMP**.
7. **Global Focus** – International incidents increased scrutiny of Indian pharma.
8. **Need for Reform** – Calls for stronger **testing labs** and **central licensing**.

## TRIBAL GOVERNANCE

### Recent Update

Special Gram Sabhas adopted the **Tribal Village Vision 2030** under **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**.



### About

1. **Village Priorities** – Education, health, livelihood, inclusion, infrastructure.

2. **Adi Sewa Kendras** – Single-window centres with **volunteer hours**.
3. **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan** – World's largest tribal leadership mission covering **11 crore** people.
4. **Objectives** – Train **20 lakh changemakers**, prepare **Vision 2030** plans.
5. **PESA Act 1996** – Empowers **Gram Sabhas** in Scheduled Areas.
6. **Fifth & Sixth Schedules** – Provide constitutional autonomy to tribal regions.
7. **Customary Institutions** – Maintain cultural authority and conflict resolution.
8. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** – Nodal body for ST development since **1999**.

## PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING RULES 2025

### Recent Update

MeitY notified rules to implement the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025**.

### About

1. **Game Categories** – **E-sports, online social games, online money games** (money games banned).
2. **OGAI** – Regulator for licensing, penalties, legality assessments.
3. **Authority Structure** – Chairperson + **five members**.
4. **Mandatory Registration** – Games must get **Certificate of Registration**.
5. **Three-Tier Grievance System** – Internal officer → **Appellate Committee** → **OGAI**.
6. **Strict Penalties** – Violations **non-bailable**, staff liable.
7. **User Protection** – Addresses **addiction, fair gameplay, minors' safety**.
8. **Industry Impact** – Major shift for **gaming** and **fantasy sports** sectors.

## POSTAL BALLOT

### Recent Update

ECI directed that **postal ballots must be fully counted** before starting the penultimate round of **EVM counting**.



### About

1. **Definition** – Voting through **electronically transmitted postal ballots** without visiting polling stations.
2. **Legal Basis** – Governed by **Conduct of Election Rules 1961** and **RPA 1951**.
3. **Eligible Groups** – **Service voters, absentee voters (85+ & PwDs), detainees, election staff**.
4. **Service Voters** – Includes **Armed Forces, CAPF, govt staff abroad**.
5. **Special Voters** – **President, VP, Governors, Union Ministers** etc.
6. **Ease of Voting** – Supports those unable to vote physically.
7. **E-Postal Ballot System** – Ensures secure transmission of ballots.
8. **Counting Protocol** – Postal ballots counted **first** to maintain accuracy.

**SOURCE: INSIGHTS MONTHLY**

### THE CONTOURS OF CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY

#### Recent Update

Debates have intensified as recent political actions and judicial decisions test the balance



between **constitutional morality, democratic conduct, and popular morality**.

#### About

1. **Definition** – Constitutional morality is the **ethical compass** guiding institutions and actors to uphold constitutional values over personal or political interests.
2. **Rule of Law** – Ensures all authority operates within **constitutional limits**, legality, and due process.
3. **Institutional Propriety** – Requires public officials to follow **constitutional conventions** that preserve institutional dignity.
4. **Respect for Dissent** – Encourages **tolerance, debate**, and protection of minority voices in democracy.
5. **Accountability** – Decisions must be **morally and legally justifiable**, ensuring responsible governance.
6. **Spirit over Text** – Emphasizes adherence to the **ethical intent** of constitutional provisions, not just literal interpretation.
7. **Judicial Application** – Courts use it to evaluate **executive conduct, legislative propriety**, and constitutional breaches.
8. **Safeguard Against Majoritarianism** – Prevents misuse of power driven by **popular sentiment** or **majority pressure**.

### UPSC AT 100: GUARDIAN OF MERITOCRACY AND NATION BUILDING

#### Recent Update

The **UPSC** marked **100 years** of establishment on **1 October 2025**, celebrating its legacy as India's guardian of **meritocracy** and **impartial civil service recruitment**.

#### About

1. **Colonial Origins** – Proposed under **GOI Act 1919**; established in **1926** following **Lee Commission (1924)** recommendations.
2. **First Chairman** – **Sir Ross Barker** headed the first Public Service Commission.
3. **1935 Expansion** – Under **GOI Act 1935**, it became the **Federal Public Service Commission**, increasing Indian participation.
4. **1950 Transition** – Articles **315–323** transformed it into the **Union Public Service Commission**, granting constitutional autonomy.

5. **Present Role** – Conducts exams for **civil, engineering, medical, defence, and forest services**, shaping governance.
6. **Meritocracy Principle** – Selection based solely on **ability and performance**; promotes inclusive success (e.g., **Ira Singhal**, 2014).
7. **Fairness & Accessibility** – Allows **22 scheduled languages** in Mains, ensuring linguistic equality and social justice.
8. **Integrity & Neutrality** – Uses **anonymous evaluation**, independent functioning, and strict confidentiality to maintain impartiality.

## LOKPAL

### Recent Update

Complaints to the **Lokpal** dropped sharply—from **2,469 (2022–23)** to **233 (2025)**—raising concerns, along with criticism over a tender for **BMW cars**.



### About

1. **What It Is** – An **independent statutory anti-corruption body** under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**, empowered to inquire into corruption involving high public officials.
2. **Origins** – Emerged from public movements like **India Against Corruption (2011)** led by **Anna Hazare**.
3. **Legal Establishment** – Act enforced on **16 January 2014**, fulfilling a decades-long demand for a national ombudsman.
4. **First Lokpal (2019)** – Marked a milestone in India's anti-corruption framework.
5. **Current Chairperson** – **Justice A.M. Khanwilkar** (former Supreme Court judge).
6. **Composition** – **7 members: 4 judicial & 3 non-judicial**, including ex-CJs and senior administrators.
7. **Appointment Process** – By President on recommendation of a committee including **PM, Speaker, LoP, CJI**, and an eminent jurist.

8. **Functions & Powers** – Can conduct **independent investigations** under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**, covering even the **Prime Minister** under prescribed conditions.

## RTI AT 20: TRANSPARENCY ON DECLINE

### Recent Update

After 20 years of the **RTI Act (2005)**, experts warn it is weakening due to **vacancies, institutional capture**, and the impact of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023)**.



### About

1. **About RTI Act** – Enacted in **2005**, it empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities for a **₹10 fee**, promoting transparency.
2. **Three-Tier Structure** – **PIOs, First Appellate Authorities, and CIC/SICs** ensure oversight and accountability.
3. **Mandatory Disclosure** – **Section 4** mandates proactive publication of budgets, decisions, and processes.
4. **Time-Bound Response** – Information must be given within **30 days**, or **48 hours** for life-or-liberty cases.
5. **Penalty Provision** – **Section 20** empowers Commissions to impose **₹25,000 fines** for delays or unjustified denial.
6. **Citizen–Legislator Parity** – No info denied to **Parliament** can be denied to **citizens**, ensuring democratic equality.
7. **Challenges at 20** – Backlogs, vacancies in Commissions, rising exemptions under new data laws.

8. **Impact on Transparency** – Weakening RTI undermines **participatory democracy** and **public accountability**.

## DIGITAL EXAMS

### Recent Update

A new analysis highlights digital exams as a **sustainable, cost-effective, and transparent** alternative aligned with **Digital India** and **NEP 2020**.

### About

1. **Scale of Exams** – Over **4.3 crore students** take nearly **100 crore exams** yearly, generating massive paper demand.
2. **Environmental Impact** – One tree yields **8,000 sheets**; current system leads to **millions of trees** being cut annually.
3. **Carbon Savings** – Moving **50%** of exams online saves **lakhs of trees** and prevents **thousands of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** emissions.
4. **Financial Efficiency** – Digital exams reduce costs by **30–40%**, improving logistics and faster result processing.
5. **Resource Savings** – Eliminates printing, transport, storage, and security costs.
6. **Environmental Imperative** – Reduces **deforestation, paper waste, and fuel-based logistics emissions**.
7. **Technological Alignment** – Supports **NEP 2020, Digital India**, and modern evaluation systems.
8. **Systemic Benefits** – Enhances **transparency**, reduces **malpractice**, ensures **real-time monitoring**, and supports large-scale evaluation.

SOURCE: DRISHTI MONTHLY

## DEFAMATION

### Recent Update

A Supreme Court judge recently called for the **decriminalisation of defamation**, citing its growing misuse for political and personal retaliation.

### About

1. **Definition** – Defamation means **speaking, writing, publishing or making signs** intended

to **harm a person's reputation**, including individuals, companies, groups, or even the deceased.

2. **Types of Defamation** – **Libel** (written/permanent) and **Slander**



(spoken/temporary), with courts assessing harm **subjectively**.

3. **Legal Basis** – Defined under **Sections 499–500 IPC**, now **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023**, prescribing criminal penalties.
4. **Civil vs Criminal Defamation** – Criminal defamation requires **high evidentiary standard** and acts as a **stronger deterrent** than civil liability.
5. **Purpose** – Protects **public reputation**, dignity, and vulnerable groups from **hate speech** or malicious attacks.
6. **Judicial Position** – In **Subramanian Swamy vs Union of India (2016)**, SC upheld criminal defamation, calling reputation a part of **Article 21**.
7. **Reasonable Restriction** – Criminal defamation is a permitted restriction under **Article 19(2)** on free speech.
8. **Current Debate** – Critics argue misuse by **politicians and private actors** suppresses dissent, demanding reform.

## SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS IN INDIA

### Recent Update

The Chairman of the **16th Finance Commission** stated that frequent elections hinder **economic reforms**, renewing debate on **One Nation, One Election**.

### About

1. **Definition** – Simultaneous elections mean holding polls for **Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies** at the same time (phased polling allowed).
2. **Historical Practice** – Followed during **1952–1967**, disrupted due to **premature dissolutions** of legislatures.
3. **Recent Push** – The **High-Level Committee (2023)** recommended steps to implement simultaneous elections nationwide.
4. **129th Constitution Amendment Bill (2024)** – Proposes **Article 82A** to align terms of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
5. **Term Adjustment** – If Lok Sabha is dissolved early, the new House serves **only the remaining term**; similar rule for State Assemblies.
6. **UTs Amendment Bill (2024)** – Introduced to synchronise election cycles of Union Territories.
7. **ECI Empowerment** – Grants the Election Commission authority to **declare end dates of assembly terms**.
8. **Parliamentary Scrutiny** – Both Bills are referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee** for examination.

## DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

### Recent Update

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched new **digital governance reforms** to enhance transparency and rural service delivery.

### About

1. **SabhaSaar** – An **AI tool** (2025) that generates structured meeting minutes in **14 Indian languages**, ensuring accurate Panchayat records.
2. **SVAMITVA Scheme** – Provides **property ownership cards**; **2.63 crore cards** issued across **1.73 lakh villages** (2025).
3. **BharatNet** – Expands rural broadband through **Wi-Fi hotspots** and **FTTH**, with **13 lakh+ FTTH connections** installed.

4. **eGramSwaraj** – Integrates **planning, budgeting, accounting, asset management, and online payments** for 2.7 lakh Panchayats.
5. **Meri Panchayat App** – Mobile governance platform enabling **transparency, accountability**, and participation of **95 crore rural residents**.
6. **Digital Inclusion Goals** – Part of **Digital India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** missions.
7. **Capacity Building** – Enhances digital literacy among **25 lakh elected representatives**.
8. **Impact** – Strengthens **efficient, transparent, people-centric rural governance**.

## INDIA'S VACCINATION DRIVE

### Recent Update

India's **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)** continues vaccinating crores yearly, but challenges remain in **remote areas** and **migrant populations**.

### About

1. **UIP Overview** – Largest immunisation programme globally, vaccinating **2.6 crore infants** and **2.9 crore pregnant women** annually.
2. **Origins** – Started as EPI (1978), renamed UIP (1985) to expand beyond urban areas.
3. **Mission Indradhanush (2014)** – Targets unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children.
4. **IMI 5.0 (2023)** – A catch-up campaign covering children up to **5 years** and pregnant women.
5. **Immunisation Coverage** – India reports **98% full immunisation** (2024-25).
6. **Polio-Free Status (2014)** – A landmark global public-health achievement.
7. **Persistent Challenges** – Access issues in **tribal, remote, migratory, and hesitant communities**.
8. **Digital Tools** – Use of **CoWIN**, real-time tracking, and supply-chain systems supports immunisation logistics.

## PROVINCIAL CITIZENSHIP

### Recent Update

Debates re-emerged after states like **Jharkhand, Assam, and J&K** advanced domicile-based preferential policies.

#### About

1. **Definition** – A **politically constructed notion** of belonging to a specific state based on being “native,” “local,” or “indigenous.”
2. **Not Constitutional** – Not recognised under **Articles 5–11**, which provide **single Indian citizenship**.
3. **Roots in Nativist Politics** – Used to justify **preferential policies** in jobs, land, or education.
4. **Domicile Policies** – States increasingly define “locals” for public employment and benefits.
5. **Risks** – May undermine **mobility, equal opportunity, and constitutional equality**.
6. **Conflict with Fundamental Rights** – Challenges **Article 14, 15, 16**, and national unity.
7. **Threat to Internal Migration** – Could disadvantage Indian citizens living outside their home state.
8. **Growing Trend** – Reflects rising **sub-nationalism** in India’s political landscape.

#### PEOPLE’S PLAN CAMPAIGN (PPC) 2025–26

##### Recent Update

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched **PPC 2025–26: Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas** to prepare Panchayat plans for FY **2026–27**.

##### About

1. **Origin** – Started on **2 October 2018** to institutionalise participatory planning in Panchayats.
2. **Objective** – Prepare **Gram, Block, and District Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs)**.
3. **SDG Localisation** – Integrates **9 thematic Localised SDGs** into planning.
4. **Village Prosperity Plans** – Includes **VPRPs** prepared by SHG federations.
5. **Transparency Measures** – Ensures **public information campaigns** and Gram Sabha disclosures.

6. **Women’s Participation** – Promotes **gender-responsive governance** via Women Elected Representatives.
7. **Convergence** – Aligns departmental schemes into **integrated development plans**.
8. **Outcome** – Strengthens **accountability**, data-driven decision-making, and decentralisation.

#### PASSIVE EUTHANASIA IN INDIA

##### Recent Update

The UK’s 2025 End-of-Life Bill revived debate on India’s limited framework for **passive euthanasia** and the right to **die with dignity**.

##### About

1. **Definition** – Euthanasia or “mercy killing” involves intentionally hastening death to reduce **terminal suffering**.
2. **Active Euthanasia** – Illegal; causing death directly is punishable under **Sections 100–101 BNS (2023)**.
3. **Passive Euthanasia** – Withdrawing life support for terminally ill patients; recognised by SC in **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)**.



4. **Forms** – **Voluntary, non-voluntary, and involuntary** euthanasia.
5. **Right to Die with Dignity** – Considered part of **Article 21** by Indian jurisprudence.
6. **Living Wills** – SC permitted advance directives through the **2018 Common Cause judgment**.
7. **Implementation Gaps** – Procedural complexity in hospitals and lack of clarity in guidelines.
8. **Global Influence** – International reforms push India to revisit its legal and ethical framework.

#### ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

##### Recent Update

India's Law Minister stressed expanding ADR through **global cooperation** and the traditional **Panch Parmeshwar** consensus model.

#### About

1. **Definition** – ADR offers **faster, cheaper, cooperative** alternatives to court litigation.
2. **Constitutional Basis** – Rooted in **Article 39A**, ensuring equal access to justice.
3. **Legal Basis** – Recognised under **Section 89 CPC**; governed by **Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 (amended 2021)**.
4. **Arbitration** – Neutral third party makes a **binding decision**, common in commercial disputes.
5. **Mediation** – Facilitated negotiation leading to **non-binding settlement**, protecting relationships.
6. **Conciliation** – Similar to mediation but mediator suggests **proposed solutions**.
7. **Negotiation** – Informal discussion where parties retain **full control** over outcomes.
8. **Lok Adalats** – Statutory bodies (Legal Services Authorities Act 1987) providing **final, non-appealable** settlements.

#### STRENGTHENING INDIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE

##### Recent Update

India is shifting from reactive relief to **anticipatory disaster governance**, supported by the **PM's 10-Point Agenda** and **15th Finance Commission** funding.

##### About

1. **Institutional Framework** – NDMA and MHA guide states via **multi-hazard planning frameworks**.
2. **Guidelines** – Includes **Landslide Guidelines 2023** and **Urban Flood Management Framework 2024**.
3. **PM's 10-Point Agenda** – Integrates **DRR into development**, promotes technology and local capacity.
4. **Financing** – **₹2.28 lakh crore** (2021–26) allocated for preparedness, mitigation, response, and reconstruction.



5. **Reconstruction Packages** – Over **₹5,000 crore** approved for disaster-hit states.
6. **Technology Use** – GIS, AI-based early warnings, and hazard modelling systems.
7. **Community Role** – Local institutions strengthened to ensure **resilience planning**.
8. **Outcome** – Moves India toward **proactive, climate-resilient preparedness**.

SOURCE: THE INDIAN EXPRESS

#### INDIA'S NATIONAL RED LIST ROADMAP

##### Recent Update

India launched its **National Red List Roadmap** at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025** in Abu Dhabi to strengthen biodiversity conservation.

##### About

1. **Definition** – A national initiative to create an integrated **Red List assessment system** for identifying and classifying threatened species.
2. **Scientific Alignment** – Designed to align India's species assessment with **IUCN global Red List standards**.
3. **Institutions Involved** – Implemented by **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** and **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** with **IUCN-India** and **Centre for Species Survival (CSS)**.
4. **Aim** – Establish a coordinated, science-based national mechanism for **accurate species assessment** and conservation prioritisation.
5. **International Commitments** – Supports India's obligations under **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**.

6. **Comprehensive Coverage** – Includes assessment of **flora, fauna, terrestrial and marine biodiversity** under one national platform.
7. **Knowledge Integration** – Incorporates **traditional ecological knowledge** for community-driven biodiversity documentation.
8. **Outcome Goal** – To publish national **Red Data Books** by **2030** and strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

### CRITICAL MINERAL RECYCLING INCENTIVE SCHEME

#### Recent Update

The Ministry of Mines issued guidelines for the **₹1,500 crore Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme** to boost domestic recycling capacity and reduce import dependence.

#### About

1. **Definition** – A centrally sponsored scheme promoting the recycling of **critical minerals** from **secondary sources**, including e-waste and spent lithium-ion batteries.
2. **Parent Mission** – Implemented under the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)**.
3. **Aim** – Reduce India's **import dependence** for minerals essential to **EVs, batteries, electronics, and renewable energy**.
4. **Financial Outlay** – Allocates **₹1,500 crore** as incentives for eligible recycling activities.
5. **Eligibility** – Covers **new plants, capacity expansions, and modernisation** of existing recycling facilities.
6. **Feedstock Sources** – Includes **e-waste, spent lithium-ion batteries, and other metal-rich scrap streams**.
7. **Beneficiaries** – Large recyclers eligible up to **₹50 crore**, start-ups up to **₹25 crore** covering CapEx + OpEx.
8. **Focus of Incentives** – Restricted to **actual mineral extraction**, excluding black-mass production stages.

### MISSION DIGITAL SHRAMSETU

#### Recent Update

NITI Aayog released its study on **AI for Inclusive Development**, proposing **Mission Digital ShramSetu** for formalising informal workers.

#### About

1. **Objective** – Use **AI, blockchain, robotics** to empower informal workers.
2. **Digital Identity** – Create verifiable worker IDs for **payments, skill certification, and social security**.
3. **Inclusive Skilling** – Multilingual, adaptive, offline-capable **training modules**.
4. **Federated Credentialing** – Decentralised system for real-time verification of worker credentials.
5. **Smart Contracts** – Ensures **transparent and timely payments**, reducing disputes.
6. **Grassroot Innovation** – State-level programmes to enhance digital literacy.
7. **Governance Structure** – Apex body chaired by **Prime Minister**; task forces for key sectors.
8. **State Units** – Local coordination ensures ground-level implementation.

### EMPOWERING FARMERS THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT

#### Recent Update

Government initiatives aim to upgrade farmer skills to meet the needs of **modern agriculture, sustainability, and rising productivity demands**.

#### About

1. **KVKs** – ICAR-run centres providing hands-on training; **58.02 lakh farmers** trained (2021–24).
2. **ATMA** – Decentralised extension reforms; **1.27 crore farmers** trained through demonstrations and exposure visits.
3. **STRY** – Vocational training for rural youth; **43,000 trained** (2021–24).
4. **SMAM** – Promotes mechanisation; **57,139 farmers** trained (2021–25).
5. **Soil Health Cards** – **25.17 crore cards** issued; promotes balanced nutrient management through **93,000+ trainings**.
6. **FPOs** – Over **10,000 registered**; support agri-business, digital marketing, and market access.

7. **Digital Platforms** – Farmers increasingly use **e-NAM, GeM**, and remote-sensing tools for decisions.
8. **Target Outcome** – Enhance farmer incomes through **skill development**, efficiency, and technology adoption.

### STRENGTHENING LABOUR RIGHTS IN INDIA

#### Recent Update

Industrial accidents in 2025, including the **Sigachi Industries blast**, reignited debate over weakened **labour protections** and safety enforcement.

#### About

1. **Factories Act 1948** – Regulates working conditions, **safety, working hours**, canteens, creches; strengthened post **Bhopal Gas Tragedy**.
2. **Workmen's Compensation Act 1923** – Ensures compensation for workplace injuries or death.
3. **ESI Act 1948** – Provides **health insurance, cash benefits**, maternity and injury benefits.
4. **Wage Laws – Payment of Wages Act 1936** and **Minimum Wages Act 1948** guarantee fair and timely payments.
5. **Industrial Disputes Act 1947** – Protects workers against **unlawful termination**, layoffs, and supports dispute resolution.
6. **OSHC Code 2020** – Consolidates 13 labour laws to regulate **safety, health, and working conditions** (implementation pending).
7. **Safety Concerns** – Rising industrial accidents reflect weak enforcement and **understaffed inspectorates**.
8. **Reform Need** – Stronger compliance monitoring and technology-enabled safety systems.

### OBCs & OBC LIST

**Recent Update:** Rising discussions after release of new sociological datasets on backward classes.

#### About:

1. **OBC = SEBCs**, socially & educationally backward groups under Indian constitutional framework.

2. India maintains **two lists: Central OBC List & State OBC List**.
3. **Article 342A(1)** empowers President (with Governor consultation) to notify the **Central OBC List**.
4. **Modifications** to the central list can only be made by **Parliament**.
5. Under **Article 342A(3)**, states prepare their **own SEBC/OBC lists** separately.
6. **Justice G. Rohini Commission** recommended **sub-categorisation** within OBC groups.
7. Key constitutional provisions include **Articles 15, 16, 338B, 340, 342A, and 366**.

### TRAI (TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA)

**Recent Update:** TRAI issued new recommendations on **spectrum management and telecom tariffs**.



#### About:

1. Established under the **TRAI Act, 1997** as a **statutory telecom regulator**.
2. Not fully independent — it is **funded by the Central Government**.
3. Recommendations are **not binding** on the Government.
4. Regulates **tariffs, service quality, interconnection**, and licensing recommendations.
5. Composition: **Chairperson + up to 2 full-time + up to 2 part-time members**.
6. Tenure: **3 years or age 65**; appointed by **Central Government**.
7. **TDSAT** (2000 amendment) handles disputes; appeals go to the **Supreme Court**.

### PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT (Art. 111)

**Recent Update:** SC (2023) mandated a **3-month limit** for the President to decide on Bills sent by Governors under Art. 201.

#### About:

1. Governed by **Article 111** of the Constitution.
2. President may **grant assent, withhold assent, or return the Bill** (except Money Bills).
3. If Parliament passes the Bill **again**, President **must** give assent.
4. **Money Bills** cannot be returned; only assent or withholding allowed.
5. **Constitutional Amendment Bills**: President is **bound** to give assent.
6. Assent converts a Bill into an **Act**.
7. Presidential action follows passage by **both Houses**.

### ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs)

**Recent Update:** ECI issued new guidelines for **colour photographs on ballot paper** (Rule 49B).



#### About:

1. Conceived by **Election Commission** in **1977**.
2. Enabled by **Section 61A**, Representation of People Act, 1951.
3. First used in **1982** (Paravur, Kerala).
4. Nationwide use began in **2004 Lok Sabha elections**.
5. Developed with **BEL (Bengaluru) & ECIL (Hyderabad)**.
6. Two units: **Control Unit + Balloting Unit**.
7. Capacity: **2000 votes**; operates on **battery**, no OS.
8. Uses **one-time programmable/masked microchip**; cannot be networked.

### ECINET PORTAL

**Recent Update:** ECI launched a new **e-sign feature** for voter addition, deletion and correction using Aadhaar-linked mobile numbers.

#### About:

1. A proposed **unified digital platform** of the Election Commission of India.
2. Integrates **40+ ECI apps** including Voter Helpline, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham.
3. Aims to provide **single-point access** for voters, officials, political parties & CSOs.
4. Enables **digital voter services** and real-time monitoring.
5. Streamlines **voter registration, roll revision, and complaint tracking**.
6. Enhances **transparency & efficiency** in election management.
7. Supports Aadhaar-based **identity authentication**.
8. Strengthens **electoral digital governance** nationwide.

### CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS)

**Recent Update:** ACC approved **extension of service** of the current CDS.

#### About:

1. Post created in **December 2019** to improve tri-service coordination.
2. CDS **does not exercise military command** over Service Chiefs.
3. Heads the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** in MoD.
4. Acts as **Principal Military Advisor** to Defence Minister.
5. Permanent Chairman of **Chiefs of Staff Committee**.
6. Oversees **tri-service agencies & commands**.
7. Member of **Defence Acquisition Council**.
8. Acts as **Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority**; President is Supreme Commander.

### SOURCE: THE HINDU

### GST APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (GSTAT)

**Recent Update:** GSTAT structure & benches finalised for nationwide rollout.

#### About:

1. Statutory body under **CGST Act, 2017** for hearing GST appeals.

2. Composition: **President + Judicial Member + Technical Members (Centre & State).**



3. President must be **SC Judge or Chief Justice of HC.**
4. Judicial/Technical members have defined **experience criteria.**
5. Tenure: 4 years; age limits **70 (President) & 67 (Members).**
6. Has **Civil Court powers** for adjudication.
7. Structure: **Principal Bench in Delhi + 31 State Benches.**
8. Ensures **uniform GST dispute resolution** across India.

### COMMUNICATION SECURITY CERTIFICATION SCHEME

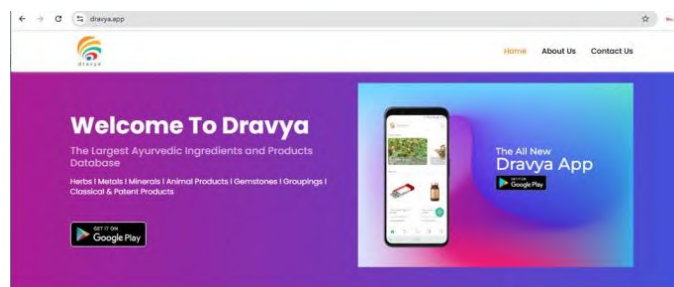
**Recent Update:** Implemented under **new telecom security rules (2025).**

**About:**

1. Mandatory certification for **telecom equipment security.**
2. Linked to **MTCTE** and new **Telecom Certification Rules 2025.**
3. Ensures compliance with **Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements (ITSAR).**
4. Testing done by **Telecom Security Testing Laboratories (TSTLs).**
5. Certification by **National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS).**
6. Applies to **OEMs, importers & dealers.**
7. Protects telecom networks from **cyber threats.**
8. Supports secure rollout of **5G & future technologies.**

### DRAVYA PORTAL

**Recent Update:** Launched on **National Ayurveda Day 2025** by Ministry of Ayush.



**About:**

1. Full form: **Digitized Retrieval Application for Versatile Yardstick of AYUSH Substances.**
2. India's **largest database** of Ayurvedic ingredients.
3. Open-access portal for **researchers, practitioners & industry.**
4. Integrates classical texts with **modern digital tools.**
5. Enhances standardization of **Ayurvedic formulations.**
6. Supports **drug discovery & quality assurance.**
7. Strengthens digital **AYUSH ecosystem.**
8. Promotes global access to **Indian traditional medicine data.**

### SPARSH PENSION SYSTEM

**Recent Update:** SPARSH crossed **record enrolment of defence pensioners** in 2025.

**About:**

1. Full form: **System for Pension Administration Raksha.**
2. Launched in **2020** by Ministry of Defence.
3. World's **largest defence pension platform.**
4. Covers **Army, Navy, Air Force & Defence Civilians.**
5. Managed by **Defence Accounts Department.**
6. Ensures **direct pension disbursement** without middlemen.
7. Enables digital services: **verification, grievance, PPO access.**
8. Enhances transparency & reduces **pension fraud.**

### CORE PROGRAMME

**Recent Update:** Latest edition conducted by **HQ Integrated Defence Staff** in New Delhi.

**About:**

1. Full form: **Combined Operational Review & Evaluation.**

2. Platform for **civil-military strategic engagement**.
3. Includes officers from **MoD, MEA, MHA & Armed Forces**.
4. Focus on **national security coordination**.
5. Enhances understanding of **joint operational issues**.
6. Facilitates **policy–operations alignment**.
7. Encourages inter-agency cooperation.
8. Helps refine **security preparedness frameworks**.

#### SAHYOG PORTAL

**Recent Update:** Operational as India's unified platform for **takedown orders** to intermediaries.

#### About:

1. Launched by **MHA (2024)** to regulate online content compliance.
2. Centralised system for issuing orders to **telecom operators**, ISPs, social media platforms, etc.
3. Implemented by **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**.
4. Supports enforcement of **Section 79 of the IT Act**, governing safe-harbour protections.
5. Connects all **authorised agencies** and intermediaries on one platform.
6. Enhances transparency and speed in digital law-enforcement actions.
7. Strengthens India's cyber-governance and misinformation control mechanisms.
8. Facilitates coordinated response to illegal or harmful online content.

#### RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT

**Recent Update:** Process continues under **FSRASC** guidelines for new appointments.

#### About:

1. RBI can have **up to 4 Deputy Governors**.
2. Appointed by the **Central Government** on recommendation of **FSRASC**.
3. FSRASC is chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**.
4. Eligibility: **25+ years** in public administration or financial institutions.
5. Tenure: **3 years**, eligible for reappointment.
6. May attend Central Board meetings **without voting rights**.

7. Salary and allowances set by Central Board with Government approval.
8. Can be **removed by the Central Government**.

#### MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY (MLAT)

**Recent Update:** India and Nepal finalised their **MLAT pact** in August 2025.

#### About:

1. MLATs are **legally binding agreements** enabling cooperation in **criminal matters**.
2. Cover areas such as **evidence collection, asset tracing, and information exchange**.
3. Section **105 of the CrPC** provides for reciprocal arrangements with foreign countries.
4. In India, **Ministry of Home Affairs** acts as the Central Authority.
5. India has MLATs with **45+ countries**, including USA, UK, and France.
6. Strengthens cross-border action against terrorism, money laundering, and cybercrime.
7. Ensures lawful sharing of information while safeguarding sovereignty.
8. Integral to India's international **law-enforcement cooperation** framework.

#### VISAKHAPATNAM DECLARATION (2025)

**Recent Update:** Adopted at **28th National Conference on e-Governance**.

#### About:

1. Held in **Visakhapatnam**, theme: *Viksit Bharat: Civil Service & Digital Transformation*.
2. Focus on **Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**.
3. Calls for **agile, data-driven civil services**.
4. Promotes **whole-of-government digital approach**.
5. Strengthens **capacity building & digital skills** of officials.
6. Hosted by **DARPG, MeitY & Govt of Andhra Pradesh**.
7. Enhances adoption of **AI, automation & digital public services**.
8. Aligns with national **digital governance reforms**.

## SOURCE: PIB

### NIRF RANKINGS 2025

**Recent Update:** MoE released the **10th edition of NIRF Rankings** with a new **SDG-based sustainability category**.

#### About:

1. **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** launched in **2015**; first rankings released in **2016**.
2. Implemented by **NBA** with **INFLIBNET Centre, Gujarat**.
3. Ranks institutions using five parameters: **TLR (30%), Research (30%), Graduation Outcomes (20%), Inclusivity (10%), Perception (10%)**.
4. **IIT Madras** topped overall category for the **7th consecutive year**.
5. **IISc Bengaluru** ranked #1 in **Universities and Research** categories.
6. **IIM Ahmedabad** remains top in **Management**, while **AIIMS Delhi** leads in **Medical Education**.
7. Ranking promotes **competition, accountability, and transparency** in higher education.

### FRONTIER 50 INITIATIVE

**Recent Update:** NITI Aayog launched the **Frontier 50 Initiative** to deploy frontier tech across Aspirational Districts.

#### About:

1. Launched under **NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub**.
2. Purpose: Scale **AI, IoT, drones, blockchain** for governance improvement.
3. Implemented in **50 Aspirational Districts/Blocks**.
4. Uses the **Frontier Tech Repository** of 200+ proven tech use cases.



5. Sectors targeted: **Agriculture, Healthcare, Education, National Security**.
6. Aims to improve service delivery, transparency, and productivity.
7. Strengthens **digital public infrastructure** at grassroots level.

8. Supports India's transition to **tech-driven governance**.

### MORAN COMMUNITY

**Recent Update:** Moran community renewed demand for **ST status**.



#### About:

1. Indigenous tribe of **Assam**.
2. Historically led the **Moamoria Rebellion** against Ahom rule.
3. Linguistic links to **Dimasa** language group.
4. Traditionally forest-dwelling and agrarian.
5. Known for distinct cultural identity.
6. Seeking inclusion in **Scheduled Tribes list**.
7. Recognised as a backward community but not ST yet.
8. Important socio-political group in Upper Assam.

### BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL (BTC)

**Recent Update:** Discussions renewed on BTC administration after recent political developments.

#### About:

1. BTC established under **Sixth Schedule** (special provision).
2. Formed via **Bodo Accord 2003**.
3. Governs **Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri** districts.
4. Unique council with **46 members** (40 elected + 6 nominated).
5. 35 seats reserved for **STs & non-tribal communities**, 5 unreserved.
6. Administers the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**.
7. Autonomy over **legislative, administrative & financial matters**.
8. Bodos = **largest ST group in Assam**, core population of the area.

### PROJECT VIJAYAK

**Recent Update:** BRO celebrated **15th Raising Day** of Project Vijayak in Kargil.

#### About:

1. Launched in **2010** by Border Roads Organisation.
2. Named after **Operation Vijay** (Kargil War, 1999).
3. Responsible for roads in **Kargil & Zaskar** areas.
4. Took over Western Indus Corridor lines from **Project Himank**.
5. Key routes: **Zojila–Kargil–K Leh axis & Nimmu–Padam–Darcha axis**.
6. Enhances connectivity for **defence & civilians**.
7. Crucial for **all-weather strategic mobility**.
8. Supports Ladakh’s **infrastructure expansion**.

### SAND REPLENISHMENT STUDY: SUPREME COURT MANDATE

**Recent Update:** SC (2025) upheld NGT’s order mandating replenishment studies as a legal requirement for sand mining clearances.

#### About:

1. Court ruled that any Environmental Clearance issued **without a replenishment study** is legally invalid.
2. The case arose from J&K sand mining linked to NHA’s Srinagar ring-road project, where ECs were granted despite EAC objections.
3. The Court emphasized strict compliance with **EIA 2016** and **Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2016 & 2020**.
4. Scientific replenishment assessments require **minimum three years** of pre- and post-monsoon data.
5. Excessive extraction (often **5x permitted limits**) has degraded riverbeds, destabilized banks, and reduced groundwater recharge.
6. No-mining zones near embankments (25 m rule) must be strictly enforced under **Minor Mineral Concession Rules**.
7. The Court recognized that both over-mining and zero-mining increase flood risks due to altered sediment load.
8. The judgment strengthens environmental governance, ensuring **sustainable river management and legal accountability**.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION FOR PANCHAYATS

**Recent Update:** The 2025 Devolution Report proposes a new Local Government Service Commission to address staffing shortages.

#### About:

1. Panchayati Raj institutions derive authority from the **73rd Constitutional Amendment**, emphasizing decentralized governance.

2. The 2025 Status of Devolution Report evaluates states across **six dimensions**—Functions, Finance, Functionaries, Framework, Accountability, Capacity.
3. Financial devolution carries highest weight (30%), as revenue autonomy determines service delivery capacity.
4. **Article 243I** mandates SFCs every five years, while **Article 280(3)(b)** empowers UFCs to support local bodies.
5. Many panchayats lack permanent staff; in Uttarakhand one gram sachiv serves **17 panchayats** on average.
6. Weak Own Source Revenue due to poor tax powers under **Article 243H** increases dependence on higher governments.
7. Proposed LGSC would recruit subordinate staff, while PSCs handle senior positions, ensuring professionalized administration.
8. Constitutional amendments to **Articles 266 and 243I** are suggested to safeguard predictable, statutory fund transfers.

### GLOBAL YOUTH UPRISING: A NEW WAVE OF PROTESTS

**Recent Update:** Carnegie Tracker recorded a surge from 30 to 159 anti-government protests across 71 countries within a year.

#### About:

1. Youth-led protests today are decentralized, digitally coordinated, and globally connected across issues and regions.
2. Key triggers include climate anxiety, unemployment, cost-of-living crises, and political exclusion.
3. Over **12,500 protests** (2021–22) were related to inflation and inequality; students led ~10%.
4. Despite economic gains since 1995, inequality persists—UN DESA finds 60% people “struggling” and 12% “suffering.”
5. Two-thirds of nations have seen inequality worsen since 1990, fueling disillusionment.
6. Youth face uncertain futures due to climate risks; 1 in 5 globally is exposed to climate-linked disasters.
7. Declining trust in institutions (>50% have low trust) accelerates mobilization and polarization.
8. Civil society, media literacy, and political reforms are needed to convert unrest into democratic renewal.

# **POLITY & GOVERNANCE**

## **TOPICS COVERED**

- 1. Indian Constitution at 76: Why It Still Outpaces Western Models**
- 2. Strengthening Legal Aid Mechanism in India**
- 3. CJI Calls for National Judicial Policy**
- 4. Supreme Court Struck Down Key Provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021**
- 5. Indian Lower Judiciary**
- 6. Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**
- 7. India AI Governance Guidelines**
- 8. Transgender Rights in India**
- 9. Redraw Welfare Architecture: Place a UBI in the Centre**
- 10. Structural Gaps Between UPSC and State PSCs**
- 11. Bridging the Gender Gap in Civil Services**
- 12. EPF New Withdrawal Rules 2025**
- 13. Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)**
- 14. Towards Fiscal Empowerment of Municipal Bodies**
- 15. Internationalisation of Indian Higher Education**
- 16. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme**
- 17. Constitutional Morality in India**
- 18. Curriculum on AI and Computational Thinking for Class 3 Onwards**
- 19. Contempt of Court in India**
- 20. Reforming Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**
- 21. Reimagining Agriculture: A Roadmap for Frontier Technology**
- 22. Need for Early Warning Systems in the Himalayas**
- 23. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**
- 24. Right to Vote vs Freedom of Voting**
- 25. Information Technology (IT) Amendment Rules, 2025**
- 26. Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)**
- 27. Shah Bano Case (1985) & Muslim Women's Rights**
- 28. Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone**

29. Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Rules, 2025
30. Gati Shakti Transport Planning and Research Organisation (GTPRO)
31. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)
32. Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001
33. Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)
34. PMFBY Expansion to Cover Wildlife Damage and Paddy Inundation
35. Unlocking India's Green Hydrogen Production Potential
36. Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Initiative
37. Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025
38. Revisiting Gender Neutrality in POCSO Act, 2012
39. Efficient Water Management in Agriculture
40. SC Recall of Verdict Blocking Retrospective Environmental Clearances
41. Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 – Supreme Court Judgment
42. First-Ever Individual Entitlement Survey for PVTGs
43. Gaps in Juvenile Justice System in India
44. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
45. PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)
46. State/UTs Formation Day and Constitutional Provisions
47. Countering Terrorism and Internal Security
48. Restoring Fiscal Power for the States
49. Self-Reliance in Defence Sector
50. Women Soldiers in Territorial Army
51. Land Registration System in India
52. Tribunals in India
53. Legal Aid in India
54. Artificial Intelligence and the Judiciary
55. Prisons in India – 2025 Report
56. Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)
57. First Fully Digitised National Marine Fisheries Census 2025
58. Powering the AVGC–XR Revolution
59. Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025
60. CAG's Plan for Two New Audit Cadres
61. Supreme Court on Governor's Assent Powers
62. YUVA AI for All Initiative
63. Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Awards
64. e-Jagriti Platform

- 65. Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak**
- 66. Aadhaar Vision 2032**
- 67. Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021**
- 68. Live Cases Dashboard of LIMBS**
- 69. Public Trust Doctrine**
- 70. Doctrine of Lis Pendens**
- 71. Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)**
- 72. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**
- 73. National Culture Fund (NCF)**
- 74. Central Electronics Limited (CEL)**
- 75. National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)**
- 76. National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)**
- 77. Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**

## SOURCE: INSIGHTS MONTHLY

### NEED FOR EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN THE HIMALAYAS

**Recent Update:** Frequent Himalayan disasters underline the need for **multi-hazard early warning systems**.

**About:**

1. **Early Warning Systems (EWS)** detect, predict, and communicate hazard risks in advance.
2. Multi-hazard systems handle **simultaneous or sequential disasters**.
3. Supported under the **Sendai Framework 2015–2030**.
4. Components include **risk knowledge, monitoring, dissemination, and response capability**.
5. Himalayas saw **240 disasters** between 1900–2022.
6. Region is prone to **landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts, GLOFs, and earthquakes**.
7. Climate change accelerates **glacial melt and slope instability**.
8. High **tectonic activity** increases vulnerability.

### PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA (PMKVY)

**Recent Update:** **178 PMKVY training partners/centres** were blacklisted for **fake trainees and forged documents**.

**About:**

1. PMKVY is the **flagship skill-development scheme** launched in **2015**.
2. Provides **free short-term training** and **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.
3. Training aligned to **NSQF** through accredited centres.
4. Certified candidates receive **Rs 500** reward.
5. Covers domains including **AI, drones, robotics, IoT**, manufacturing, construction, healthcare, and IT.
6. Ensures inclusivity with **45% women participation** and strong **SC/ST/OBC** representation.

7. Over **1.63 crore candidates** trained across PMKVY phases.
8. Special projects include training for **Bru youths, inmates, and artisans**.

### RIGHT TO VOTE DIFFERENT FROM FREEDOM OF VOTING

**Recent Update:** Union government informed SC that **right to vote is statutory** while **freedom of voting is a constitutional expression**.

**About:**

1. **Right to vote** arises from the **Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1951**.
2. **Freedom of voting** is part of **Article 19(1)(a)**.
3. Freedom applies only when an **actual poll** occurs.
4. Under **Section 53(2) RPA 1951**, uncontested elections have **no polling**.
5. Voters cannot exercise **NOTA** without polling.
6. Centre stated **NOTA is not a candidate** under **Section 79(b)**.
7. ECI said making **NOTA** a contestant requires **legal amendments**.
8. SC in **PUCL (2003)** held that casting a vote becomes **expression**.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AMENDMENT RULES, 2025

**Recent Update:** MeitY revised **IT Rules 2021** to tighten **content takedown procedures**.

**About:**

1. Updates **Rule 3(1)(d)** of IT Rules 2021.
2. Requires **senior-level authorisation** for takedown orders.
3. For police, only a **DIG-level officer** may issue directions.
4. Orders must specify **legal basis, violation type, and exact URL**.
5. Aligns with **Section 79(3)(b)** on loss of safe harbour.
6. Works alongside **Section 69A** content-blocking powers.
7. Requires **monthly review** by a Secretary-level officer.

8. Ensures **transparency** and **procedural fairness**.

### GENERATIVE AI (GENAI)

**Recent Update:** Government restricted **foreign GenAI tools** on official systems over **data privacy concerns**.

#### About:

1. GenAI is a form of **artificial intelligence** that generates **original content**.
2. Unlike traditional AI, it goes beyond analysis to **content creation**.
3. Learns patterns from **large datasets**.
4. Uses **Transformer architecture** powering **LLMs** like ChatGPT and Gemini.
5. Tools include **DALL-E, Midjourney, Copilot, Runway, Suno**.
6. Government restricted foreign GenAI tools to safeguard **confidential data**.
7. Ministries evaluating **inference risks** and potential **air-gapped systems**.
8. India investing **₹10,372 crore** under the **India AI Mission**.

### SHAH BANO CASE 1985 & MUSLIM WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** A new film reignited debate on the **Shah Bano verdict** and Muslim women's rights.

#### About:

1. In **1978**, Shah Bano sought maintenance under **Section 125 CrPC**.
2. SC in **1985** upheld maintenance beyond **iddat** and criticised failure to implement **Article 44**.
3. Court cited **Quranic principles** supporting post-divorce maintenance.
4. Backlash led to the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986**.
5. The 1986 Act limited liability to **iddat period**.
6. In **Daniel Latifi (2001)**, SC mandated a **fair one-time settlement**.
7. In **2024**, SC held the 1986 Act does not override **Section 125 CrPC**.

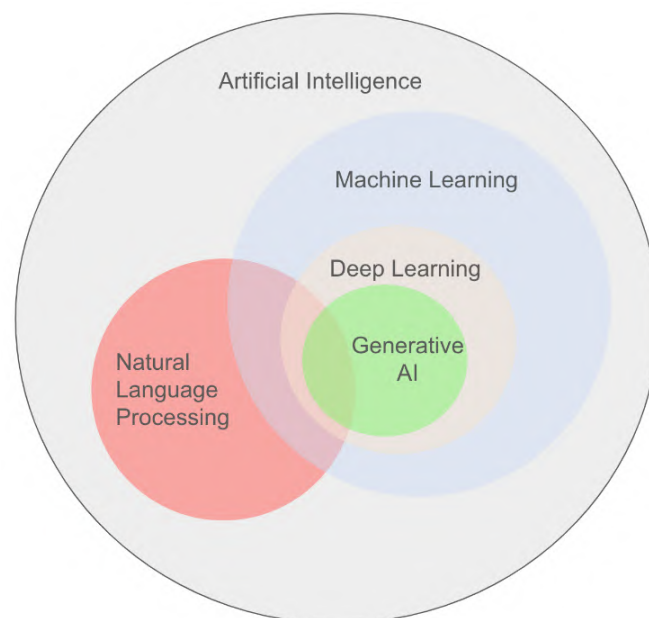
8. Muslim women may seek maintenance under **either or both laws**.

### RULES FOR SUSTAINABLE HARNESSING OF FISHERIES IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

**Recent Update:** India notified new EEZ rules to promote **sustainable deep-sea fishing** under the **Blue Economy** vision.

#### About:

1. Prioritises **Fishermen Cooperatives** and **FFPOs** for deep-sea fishing operations.
2. Encourages **mother-child vessel model** for mid-sea trans-shipment under **RBI-monitored protocols**.
3. Supports India as the **second-largest fish producer** with rising **seafood exports**.



4. Prohibits harmful practices like **LED fishing, pair trawling, and bull trawling**.
5. Mandates **Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)** with states to protect **biodiversity**.
6. Promotes **mariculture** such as **sea-cage farming** and **seaweed cultivation**.
7. Introduces **digital Access Pass** via the **ReALCRaft portal** for mechanised vessels.
8. Bars **foreign vessels** while exempting **traditional small-scale fishers**.

### TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN ORGANS AND TISSUES (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2025

**Recent Update:** Govt eased corneal transplantation rules by removing the mandatory **specular**

**microscope** requirement.

**About:**

1. Eliminates costly **clinical specular microscope** to help smaller centres.
2. Expands access to **corneal transplantation** across India.
3. Aligns with **National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP)** goals.
4. Encourages broader participation in **eye donation** and **tissue retrieval**.
5. Addresses India's high burden of **corneal blindness**.
6. Based on **THOTA, 1994**, which regulates organ **retrieval, storage, and transplantation**.
7. Prevents **commercial organ trade** and reinforces **ethical governance**.
8. Originated from **Dr. L. M. Singhvi Committee (1991)** recommendations.

### GATI SHAKTI TRANSPORT PLANNING AND RESEARCH ORGANISATION (GTPRO)

**Recent Update:** Govt decided to replace the **Network Planning Group (NPG)** with a new high-level **GTPRO** body.



**About:**

1. Serves as a specialised organisation for **transport planning** and **research**.
2. Addresses coordination gaps under the previous **NPG** framework.
3. Integrates all transport modes through **PM Gati Shakti**.
4. Strengthens **geo-intelligent planning** using centralised data.
5. Linked with **National Master Plan (NMP)** containing **550+ GIS layers**.

6. Entire **National Highway network (1.46 lakh km)** mapped on NMP.
7. Helps avoid **project delays, cost overruns, and environmental conflicts**.
8. Lays foundation for **modern, data-driven transport governance**.

### PM GATI SHAKTI NATIONAL MASTER PLAN (NMP)

**Recent Update:** The full **National Highway network** has been integrated into the **NMP GIS platform**.

**About:**

1. Acts as a **digital command centre** for infrastructure planning.
2. Hosts **550+ live GIS layers**, including **forests, rivers, and logistics hubs**.
3. Enables **real-time, data-driven decision-making**.
4. National Highways expanded **60%** between 2014–2025.
5. **FASTag/NETC** ensures **98% electronic tolling**.
6. **MLFF tolling** piloted for barrier-less movement.
7. **Rajmargyatra** and **NHAI One App** strengthen citizen services.
8. **ITS technologies** deployed across major expressways for safer transport.

### PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS (PPV&FRA) ACT, 2001

**Recent Update:** India celebrated the **Silver Jubilee** of the Act and awarded **Plant Genome Saviour Awards**.



**About:**

1. Creates a **sui generis system** for plant variety protection.
2. Aligns with **TRIPS** and **UPOV**, while protecting **farmers' rights**.

3. Grants **breeders exclusive rights** for commercialisation.
4. Allows **researchers' use** of registered varieties with conditions.
5. Farmers may **save, use, and sell** produce (not as **branded seed**).
6. Preserves **biodiversity** and **traditional knowledge**.
7. Maintains the **National Register of Plant Varieties**.
8. Encourages **innovation, conservation, and equitable benefit sharing**.

### PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY (PPV&FRA)

**Recent Update:** Authority marked its **21st Foundation Day** with national awards to biodiversity conservers.

**About:**

1. Established in **2005** as a **statutory body** under the Act.
2. Functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
3. Headquartered in **New Delhi** with a **Chairperson + 15 members**.
4. **Registrar General** serves as Member Secretary.
5. Registers plant varieties in the **National Register**.
6. Recognises farmers conserving **indigenous varieties**.
7. Protects **breeders' intellectual property rights**.
8. Promotes **research, innovation, and biodiversity conservation**.

SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS

### PMFBY EXPANSION TO COVER WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND PADDY INUNDATION

**Recent Update:** Govt expanded **PMFBY** to include **wildlife attacks** and **paddy inundation** from **Kharif 2026**.

**About:**

1. Launched in **2016** as a **Central Sector crop insurance scheme**.
2. Protects against **natural disasters, pests, and diseases**.
3. Coverage includes **loanee and non-loanee farmers**.
4. Significant rise in **voluntary participation**, especially non-loanee farmers.
5. Covers **prevented sowing** up to 25% of sum insured.
6. Provides **post-harvest loss** protection.
7. Covers **localised calamities** like hailstorms and landslides.
8. Re-includes **paddy inundation** and adds **wild animal damage**.

### UNLOCKING INDIA'S GREEN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

**Recent Update:** New **green hydrogen pilots** launched across transport, steel, and ports under **NGHM**.

**About:**

1. Green hydrogen produced using **renewable-energy electrolysis**.
2. Classified as "green" if **emissions  $\leq 2$  kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub>**.
3. Supports **Net Zero 2070** and **energy security**.
4. **Steel industry** piloting hydrogen-based iron reduction.
5. **Transport pilots** involve **37 hydrogen buses and trucks**.
6. Ports building GH<sub>2</sub> facilities at **Tuticorin** and **Kandla**.
7. **Leh hydrogen mobility project** launched at 3,650 m altitude.
8. Allows **biomass-based hydrogen** within emission limits.

### JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI (JSJB) INITIATIVE

**Recent Update:** Telangana topped the **first JSJB Awards** with **5.2 lakh** water conservation structures.

**About:**

1. Launched in 2024 under **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**.

- Promotes **community-driven water conservation**.
- Encourages **rooftop harvesting** and revival of **traditional water bodies**.
- Based on **3Cs approach** – Community, CSR, Cost.
- States divided into **five zones** for implementation.
- District target: **10,000 structures** (3,000 in hilly districts).
- Partnered with **MoHUA** for urban water conservation.
- Achieved **27.6 lakh structures** against 10 lakh target.

### DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION (DPDP) RULES, 2025

**Recent Update:** India operationalised the **DPDP Act 2023** through detailed **DPDP Rules 2025**.



**About:**

- Establish framework for **responsible data processing**.
- Strengthen **citizen rights** over personal data.
- Mandate **simple consent notices** and **India-based Consent Managers**.
- Require **timely breach notification** to individuals.
- Impose stricter compliance on **Significant Data Fiduciaries**.
- Establish **digital Data Protection Board** for grievances.
- Appeals routed through **TDSAT**.
- Promote **secure, transparent, and accountable** data governance.

### REVISITING GENDER NEUTRALITY IN POCSO ACT, 2012

**Recent Update:** SC notice in a case involving a **female perpetrator** revived debate on **POCSO's gender neutrality**.

**About:**

- POCSO enacted in **2012** to protect children from **sexual offences**.
- Gender-neutral** law covering all children under 18.
- Includes **penetrative, non-penetrative assault, harassment, and pornography**.
- Defines **aggravated offences** for abuse by persons in authority.
- Provides **graded punishments** up to life imprisonment.
- 2019 amendment** increased penalties including death penalty.
- Mandates **Special Courts** and **child-friendly procedures**.
- Has **overriding effect** over conflicting laws.

### EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

**Recent Update:** At the **6th National Water Awards**, the President called for urgent innovation in **agricultural water use**.

**About:**

- National Water Awards (2018)** honour excellence in **water conservation** and efficiency.
- Aim to build a **Jal Samridh Bharat** through sustainable and community-led initiatives.
- Highlight mismatch between **irrigation schedules** and **cropping cycles**.
- Ageing canal networks lose up to **40% water** due to seepage and poor maintenance.
- Water-intensive crops (**paddy, sugarcane**) increase pressure on **groundwater aquifers**.
- Limited use of **real-time weather, soil moisture, and crop models** affects decisions.
- Micro-irrigation** adoption remains low at **12%** of irrigated area.

8. States like **Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Haryana** lead in efficient water practices.

### SC RECALLS VERDICT BLOCKING RETROSPECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

**Recent Update:** The SC struck down the **Vanashakti (2025)** ruling to avoid severe economic disruption while tightening **environmental compliance**.

**About:**

1. **Ex post facto ECs** grant approval **after** a project has begun construction or operation.
2. Originally meant for **rare exceptions** but widely misused for regularising violations.
3. **EIA 1994** and **EIA 2006** require **prior environmental clearance** before any major project.
4. **Vanashakti judgment** invalidated 2017 and 2021 notifications allowing retrospective ECs.
5. SC reasoned that absolute prohibition could harm **public investments** and **livelihoods**.
6. Reinforces the **precautionary principle** but adds a balanced, pragmatic approach.
7. Allows limited retrospective ECs under **stricter scrutiny**.
8. Emphasises **environmental governance** while preventing irrational economic impact.

### SC STRUCK DOWN KEY PROVISIONS OF THE TRIBUNAL REFORMS ACT, 2021

**Recent Update:** SC invalidated several provisions granting the **executive excessive control** over tribunals.

**About:**

1. Struck down minimum **50-year age limit** as arbitrary and exclusionary.
2. Invalidated **four-year tenure**, reinstating minimum **five-year terms** for independence.
3. Removed **panel of two names** per vacancy; only **one recommended name** allowed.
4. Held that tribunal members cannot have **civil-service-like service conditions**.
5. Criticised legislative override of earlier **SC rulings**, calling it unconstitutional.
6. Reaffirmed **judicial review** as part of the **Basic Structure**.

7. Mandated that Parliament must **remedy defects**, not reenact struck-down laws.
8. Tribunals operate under **Articles 323A and 323B** to reduce court burden.

### FIRST-EVER INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENT SURVEY FOR PVTGs

**Recent Update:** Centre launched India's first survey to track **PVTG access** to **39 welfare schemes**.



**About:**

1. Covers **10 lakh PVTG households** nationwide.
2. Overseen by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** across **18 departments**.
3. Evaluates scheme reach and **delivery gaps** at household level.
4. Supports interventions under the **PM PVTG Mission**.
5. PVTGs are the most vulnerable subgroup among **Scheduled Tribes**.
6. Face deficits in **healthcare, education, and infrastructure**.
7. **Odisha** has the highest number of PVTGs (13 groups).
8. Recognised through **Article 342(1)** provisions.

### GAPS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** The **India Justice Report (IJR)** exposed critical gaps in **Juvenile Justice Boards** and overall JJ administration.

**About:**

1. Over **55% of cases** before JJBs remain pending.
2. Pendency highest in **Odisha (83%)**, lowest in **Karnataka (35%)**.

3. **24% of JJBs** are not fully constituted, affecting decisions.



4. **30% of JJBs** lack legal services clinics for children.
5. High rejection and non-response under RTI reveal weak transparency.
6. Poor **inter-agency coordination** affects JJ Act implementation.
7. Weak **data sharing** and monitoring systems hinder efficiency.
8. Highlights urgent need for **systemic reforms** under JJ Act 2015.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015

**Recent Update:** Implementation reviewed after IJR exposed major **structural and procedural gaps**.

**About:**

1. Replaced **JJ Act 2000** to establish a modern, **child-centric justice system**.
2. Covers **Children in Conflict with Law (CICL)** and **Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP)**.
3. **JJBs** composed of a Magistrate + two social workers (one woman).
4. Allows **16–18-year-olds** to be tried as adults for **heinous offences**.
5. Made **CARA** a statutory authority for adoption.
6. Requires **Child Care Institutions (CCIs)** to register within six months.
7. Child's evidence must be recorded within **30 days**.
8. Trials to be ideally completed within **one year**.

### PM-AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION (PM-ABHIM)

**Recent Update:** Govt reviewed mission progress on **critical care blocks** and **surveillance systems**.

**About:**

1. Launched in **2021** to strengthen India's **public health infrastructure**.
2. Bridges rural–urban gaps in **health service delivery**.
3. Implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
4. Upgrades centres into **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs)**.
5. Establishes **Block Public Health Units (BPHUs)** for local health governance.
6. Sets up **Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs)** for diagnostics.
7. Builds **Critical Care Hospital Blocks (CCBs)** in key districts.
8. Promotes the **One Health approach**, integrating human, animal and environmental health.

**SOURCE: THE HINDU**

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AMENDMENT RULES, 2025

**Recent Update:** MeitY issued amendments tightening **takedown safeguards** under **Rule 3(1)(d)**.

**About:**

1. Only senior officers (**Joint Secretary** or **DIG**) may issue takedown orders.
2. Orders must state **legal basis, reason, and specific URLs**.
3. Ensures greater **transparency** and **accountability**.
4. Aligns with **Section 79(3)(b)** on intermediary liability.
5. Complements **Section 69A** content-blocking powers.
6. Requires **monthly Secretary-level review** of takedown orders.

7. Reduces vague or over-broad takedown demands.
8. Strengthens **procedural fairness** in digital governance.

### CELEBRATING STATE/UTS FORMATION DAY

**Recent Update:** On 1st November, eight States and five UTs celebrated their Formation Day marking major administrative milestones.

**About:**

1. On **1st November**, eight Indian states and five UTs celebrate their **Formation Day**.
2. This marks a major milestone shaped by the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, and later **state bifurcations**.
3. **Part I** of the Constitution defines **The Union and Its Territory**, covering Articles **1–4**.
4. **Article 1:** Declares India a **Union of States** including all States, UTs, and future acquired territories.
5. **Article 2:** Empowers Parliament to **admit or establish new States**.
6. **Article 3:** Allows Parliament to **form new States**, alter **boundaries**, or change **names** of States, with prior **Presidential recommendation**.
7. The State Legislature's view is **not binding** on Parliament; not required for UT changes.
8. Enabled major reorganisations such as **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand (2000)** and **Telangana (2014)**.

### COUNTERING TERRORISM AND PROTECTING INDIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY

**Recent Update:** A car blast near Delhi's Red Fort triggered renewed concerns about terrorism and internal security.

**About:**

1. A deadly **car blast near Red Fort** has renewed concerns over India's **internal security**.
2. FIR filed under **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**, underscoring need for a robust **counterterrorism strategy**.
3. **Cross-border terrorism:** Pakistan-backed groups like **LeT** and **JeM** continue proxy warfare.

4. Past attacks include **2001 Parliament Attack**, **2016 Uri Attack**, and **2025 Pahalgam attack**.
5. **ISI** uses **religious extremism** to radicalize youth, especially in Kashmir.
6. **China–Pakistan nexus** poses hybrid-warfare strategic threats.
7. **Urban terrorism** rising with increased vulnerability of **urban centers** (e.g., **26/11 Mumbai attacks**).
8. **White-collar terrorism** shows need for stronger frameworks against tech-enabled extremist activity.

### RESTORING FISCAL POWER FOR THE STATES

**Recent Update:** GST slab restructuring and removal of GST compensation cess are reshaping Centre–State fiscal dynamics.

**About:**

1. The **GST regime** enters a new phase with **restructured tax slabs** and abolition of the **compensation cess**.
2. End of compensation increases challenges for states with low manufacturing capacity.
3. GST shifted taxation power from **states to the GST Council**, reducing fiscal autonomy.
4. Though devolution was set at **41%**, actual transfers declined as share of **Gross Tax Revenue**.
5. **Cesses and surcharges** (Rs **4.23 lakh crore** in 2025–26) lie outside the divisible pool, reducing state revenues.
6. States depend on the Centre for **44% of revenue**, with Bihar depending up to **72%**.
7. **Vertical Fiscal Imbalance:** States bear **52% of expenditure** but generate only **33% of taxes**.
8. Political concerns persist over transparency and fairness of **FC grants** and **CSS allocations**.

### SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENCE SECTOR

**Recent Update:** India recorded its highest-ever defence production: Rs 1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024–25.

**About:**

1. India achieved record **defence production** of **Rs 1.54 lakh crore**.

2. Projected to reach **Rs 1.75 lakh crore**, aiming for **Rs 3 lakh crore** by 2029.
3. **DAP 2020** and **DPM 2025** improved procurement speed and transparency.
4. **65%** of defence equipment now produced domestically.
5. Defence exports reached **Rs 23,622 crore**, exported to **100+ countries**.
6. **Defence Industrial Corridors** in UP & TN attracted **Rs 9,000 crore** investment.
7. **16,000 MSMEs** active in defence manufacturing.
8. Technology advancements through **IDDM, AI, robotics, cyber, space, and advanced warfare systems**.

### WOMEN SOLDIERS TO JOIN TERRITORIAL ARMY BATTALIONS

**Recent Update:** Territorial Army will induct women soldiers into Home & Hearth battalions for the first time.

#### About:

1. The TA decided to induct **women soldiers** in **TA Home & Hearth battalions**—a historic expansion.
2. **Territorial Army (TA):** A **part-time voluntary force** supporting the Indian Army.
3. Based on **Citizen Soldiers' Army** concept; officers undergo **Annual Training**.
4. Functions under **Territorial Army Act, 1948**.
5. Traces origin to **Volunteer Forces (1857)** and **Indian Defence Force Act (1917)**.
6. **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** and **Jawaharlal Nehru** served in early university corps.
7. TA formally inaugurated on **9 October 1949** by **C. Rajagopalachari**.
8. Now includes **Infantry Battalions, Home & Hearth units, Ecological Battalions, Engineer units**, etc.

### LAND REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court in *Samiullah v. State of Bihar* and *K. Gopi v. Sub-Registrar (2025)* highlighted the urgent need to reform India's land

registration framework.

#### About:

1. Land governance in India operates under a complex framework where **land is a State subject**, while registration of deeds falls under the **Concurrent List**.
2. The **Registration Act, 1908** limits registrars to verifying documents and signatures without examining ownership rights.
3. Registration of property provides only **presumptive evidence** and not conclusive proof of ownership.
4. Colonial laws like the **Transfer of Property Act, 1882** remain outdated for modern property transactions.
5. A large share of civil litigation arises from **fake titles, encroachments and disputed land records**.
6. Procedural requirements such as physical verification increase transaction time and costs.
7. Digital initiatives like **DILRMP and NGDRS** have improved access but failed to resolve title defects.
8. The Supreme Court has emphasized the need for **conclusive and technology-driven land titling systems**.

### TRIBUNALS IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court struck down key provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 for violating constitutional principles.

#### About:

1. The judgment reaffirmed that legislative override of judicial directions undermines **judicial independence**.
2. Re-enactment of invalid provisions violated the principle of **constitutional supremacy**.
3. Tribunal appointments and tenures must follow earlier binding judicial standards.
4. Interim continuation of previous frameworks was directed until valid legislation is enacted.
5. Tribunals function as specialised bodies for **speedy and expert adjudication**.

- Articles **323A and 323B** provide constitutional backing for tribunal establishment.
- A National Tribunal Commission was recommended for administrative autonomy and efficiency.

### LEGAL AID IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 completed thirty years of nationwide implementation.

**About:**

- Legal aid is a constitutional mandate under **Article 39A** ensuring access to justice.
- A three-tier structure operates through **NALSA, SLSA and DLSA** institutions.
- Vulnerable sections including women, SCs, STs and workers are eligible beneficiaries.
- Lok Adalats provide affordable and speedy dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Legal aid systems reduce procedural barriers and litigation costs.
- Judicial oversight ensures accountability and effective service delivery.
- Legal aid strengthens inclusive and rights-based justice delivery.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE JUDICIARY

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court released a white paper on ethical and responsible use of AI in courts.

**About:**

- Excessive reliance on AI can weaken judicial discretion and reasoning.
- Algorithmic hallucinations pose risks of inaccurate legal outcomes.
- Biased training data may reinforce systemic discrimination.
- Cybersecurity threats can compromise judicial data integrity.
- Ethical use requires transparency, explainability and accountability.
- Institutional AI ethics committees are necessary for oversight.
- Capacity building is essential for informed judicial use of AI.

### PRISONS IN INDIA – 2025 REPORT

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court's research wing released a report highlighting systemic issues in prisons.

**About:**

- Overcrowding remains severe with prison occupancy exceeding sanctioned capacity.
- A large proportion of inmates are undertrials awaiting judicial decisions.
- Discriminatory labour practices persist within prison systems.
- Inadequate healthcare and mental health support affect inmates.
- Wage disparities undermine dignity and rehabilitation prospects.
- Women prisoners face restricted access to healthcare and vocational work.
- Legal aid deficiencies persist due to infrastructure and manpower gaps.

### MODEL YOUTH GRAM SABHA (MYGS)

**Recent Update:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched MYGS to promote youth participation in governance.

**About:**

- The initiative familiarises students with grassroots democratic functioning.
- Simulated Gram Sabha sessions encourage civic awareness and leadership.
- Implementation covers Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and EMRS institutions.
- The programme aligns with the vision of the **National Education Policy 2020**.
- Special focus is placed on empowering tribal and rural youth.
- Experiential learning strengthens democratic values and participation.
- The initiative nurtures informed, responsible future citizens.

SOURCE: PIB

FIRST FULLY DIGITISED NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES CENSUS 2025

**Recent Update:** The Government launched India's first fully digitised Marine Fisheries Census on 31 October 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, marking a major shift towards data-driven fisheries governance.

**About:**

1. The census represents India's first fully digital enumeration of marine fisheries using mobile-based, geo-tagged data collection systems.
2. It covers over **1.2 million fisher households** across **4,000 marine fishing villages** in nine coastal states and four Union Territories.
3. The initiative is implemented by **ICAR-CMFRI** in coordination with the Department of Fisheries to strengthen evidence-based policymaking.
4. The exercise captures detailed socio-economic, livelihood, and occupational data of marine fishing communities.
5. Integration with the **National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)** enables real-time data access and policy linkage.
6. It supports targeted delivery of welfare schemes, subsidies, insurance, and disaster relief to fishers.
7. The census enhances transparency, planning efficiency, and sustainable management of marine resources under the Blue Economy framework.

**POWERING THE AVGC-XR REVOLUTION**

**Recent Update:** The Government highlighted India's expanding AVGC-XR ecosystem through policy reforms, institutional support, and global partnerships to strengthen the creative economy.

**About:**

1. The AVGC-XR sector covers animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and extended reality technologies driving India's creative economy.
2. India aims to position the sector as a **USD 100 billion industry** by 2030, generating large-scale employment and exports.
3. The ecosystem is supported through institutions like **IICT**, AVGC Task Force, and sector-specific policy reforms.
4. Strong growth is driven by global demand for animation, gaming, virtual production, and immersive content.

5. India enjoys a cost advantage of 40–60 percent in VFX and animation services compared to global competitors.
6. Strategic focus areas include skill development, innovation hubs, content creation, and technology-driven storytelling.
7. The sector strengthens India's soft power by exporting creative content and expanding global digital influence.

**CONSTITUTION (131ST AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

**Recent Update:** The Union Government introduced the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 proposing to bring Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution.

**About:**

1. The Bill seeks to place Chandigarh under Article 240, allowing the President to directly frame laws for its administration.
2. It aims to align Chandigarh's governance model with other Union Territories lacking legislative assemblies.
3. The proposal intends to simplify law-making by reducing dependency on Parliament for local legislation.
4. It alters the post-1966 federal arrangement where Punjab exercised limited administrative influence over Chandigarh.
5. The amendment enables appointment of a separate Administrator instead of the Punjab Governor.
6. It has raised federalism concerns due to dilution of state-linked administrative influence.
7. The move is justified as a step toward uniform governance and administrative efficiency.

**POWERING THE AVGC-XR REVOLUTION**

**Recent Update:** The Government highlighted rapid growth of the AVGC-XR ecosystem as a pillar of India's creative economy.

**About:**

1. The AVGC-XR sector covers animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and immersive technologies.

2. India aims to build a USD 100 billion creative economy by 2030.
3. Policy support includes IICT establishment, AVGC task force, and state-level incentives.
4. The sector benefits from India's cost competitiveness and skilled digital workforce.
5. It supports employment generation, export growth, and cultural soft power.
6. Integration of AR/VR and real-time rendering strengthens global competitiveness.
7. The ecosystem aligns with Digital India and Make in India strategies.

### CAG'S PLAN FOR TWO NEW CADRES

**Recent Update:** The Comptroller and Auditor General approved creation of two specialised audit cadres from 2026.

#### About:

1. The Central Revenue Audit cadre will focus on auditing tax and non-tax revenues.
2. The Central Expenditure Audit cadre will specialise in auditing government expenditure.
3. The reform aims to improve domain expertise and audit quality.
4. It addresses inefficiencies caused by fragmented cadre structures.
5. Over 4,000 officers will be reorganised under the new system.
6. The reform strengthens financial accountability and audit professionalism.
7. It enhances institutional capacity to oversee complex public finances.

### SUPREME COURT ON GOVERNOR'S ASSENT POWERS

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court clarified constitutional limits on Governors' powers to withhold assent to state Bills.

#### About:

1. The Court ruled that Governors cannot indefinitely delay assent to Bills.
2. Article 200 provides only limited discretionary powers to the Governor.

3. Courts cannot presume assent or impose artificial timelines.
4. Judicial review applies only to procedural misuse, not legislative wisdom.
5. The President's role under Article 201 is similarly bound by constitutional principles.
6. The ruling reinforces federal balance and constitutional morality.
7. It prevents misuse of office to obstruct elected legislatures.

### YUVA AI FOR ALL INITIATIVE

**Recent Update:** MeitY launched "YUVA AI for All" to build foundational AI literacy across India.

#### About:

1. The programme offers a free, self-paced AI course accessible nationwide.
2. It aims to train one crore citizens in ethical and responsible AI use.
3. The course is hosted on platforms like FutureSkills Prime and iGOT.
4. It focuses on practical AI understanding rather than advanced technical coding.
5. The initiative promotes inclusive access to digital skills.
6. It supports India's AI ecosystem and workforce readiness.
7. It aligns with the IndiaAI Mission and digital inclusion goals.

### JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI (JSJB) AWARDS

**Recent Update:** The first JSJB Awards were announced to recognise community-led water conservation efforts.

#### About:

1. The initiative promotes community participation in water conservation under Jal Shakti Abhiyan.
2. It encourages creation and revival of local water harvesting structures.
3. Awards recognise states, districts, local bodies, and NGOs for water stewardship.
4. Evaluation is based on sustainability, innovation, and community participation.

5. The programme strengthens decentralised water governance.
6. It supports long-term water security amid climate stress.
7. The initiative aligns with the vision of “Jal Samridh Bharat”.

### E-JAGRITI PLATFORM

**Recent Update:** The e-Jagruti platform recorded record grievance redressal and user engagement in 2025.



#### About:

1. It is a unified digital grievance redressal system under the Department of Consumer Affairs.
2. The platform integrates filing, tracking, and resolution of consumer complaints.
3. AI tools enable faster processing and real-time tracking.
4. It allows NRIs to access consumer justice digitally.
5. The system improves transparency, accountability, and trust.
6. It reduces pendency through automated workflows.
7. The platform strengthens consumer rights in the digital economy.

### KENDRIYA GRIHMANTRI DAKSHATA PADAK

**Recent Update:** The Ministry of Home Affairs instituted the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak to honour policing excellence.

#### About:

1. The award recognises exceptional professionalism and integrity in policing.
2. It honours personnel from police, CAPFs, and central agencies.

3. The award promotes excellence in investigation, intelligence, and field operations.
4. It is presented annually on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
5. The initiative encourages ethical policing and service excellence.
6. It boosts morale and institutional pride within law enforcement agencies.
7. The award strengthens public trust in internal security institutions.

### AADHAAR VISION 2032

**Recent Update:** UIDAI launched Aadhaar Vision 2032 to modernise India’s digital identity ecosystem.

#### About:

1. The roadmap aims to future-proof Aadhaar using advanced digital technologies.
2. Artificial Intelligence will enhance authentication accuracy and fraud detection.
3. Blockchain will strengthen transparency and data integrity.
4. Quantum-resistant cryptography will protect against future cyber threats.
5. Privacy-by-design principles will ensure compliance with DPDP Act, 2023.
6. The framework supports secure digital public infrastructure expansion.
7. It reinforces Aadhaar’s role as the backbone of India’s digital economy.

### SOURCE: DOWN TO EARTH

### SURROGACY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021

#### Recent Update:

The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that statutory age limits under the Act will not apply to couples who had frozen embryos and initiated the surrogacy process before 25 January 2022.

#### About:

1. The Act provides a comprehensive legal framework to regulate surrogacy in India with the objective of preventing exploitation of women and unethical reproductive practices.

2. It imposes a complete prohibition on **commercial surrogacy**, thereby disallowing any profit-based arrangements involving surrogate motherhood.
3. Only **altruistic surrogacy** is permitted, where the surrogate mother receives no monetary compensation except medical expenses and insurance coverage.
4. The law mandates compulsory **registration and regulation of surrogacy clinics** to ensure transparency, accountability and ethical compliance.
5. It prohibits abortion during the surrogacy process unless there is **written consent of the surrogate mother** and approval of a registered medical practitioner.
6. Surrogacy can be undertaken only after the intended couple obtains a **certificate of essentiality** from the appropriate authority.
7. The surrogate must be a **married woman aged 25–35 years**, have at least one biological child, cannot donate her own gametes, and is permitted to act as a surrogate only once in her lifetime.
8. The intended couple must be **married Indian nationals** within the prescribed age limits, with no surviving children except in specified medical circumstances, and the child born is legally deemed their biological child with full rights.

#### LIVE CASES DASHBOARD OF LIMBS

##### Recent Update:

The Live Cases Dashboard has enhanced real-time tracking and coordination of litigation involving Union ministries.

##### About:

1. It is a **real-time data visualisation platform** developed under the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS).
2. The dashboard tracks and displays **upcoming court hearings** involving various ministries of the Government of India.
3. It provides a consolidated **seven-day advance view** of cases listed before the Supreme Court, High Courts and other courts.

4. The platform supports **proactive legal decision-making** and improves inter-ministerial coordination.
5. LIMBS itself is a **web-based case monitoring system** for all matters where the Union of India is a party.
6. The system was initially created in **2016 and upgraded in 2020** to improve functionality and accessibility.
7. It operates under the **Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice**.
8. It provides **24×7 access** to officials, nodal officers, advocates and arbitrators for uploading, reviewing and monitoring case information.

#### PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

##### Recent Update:

The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Public Trust Doctrine applies to both natural and man-made ecological assets.

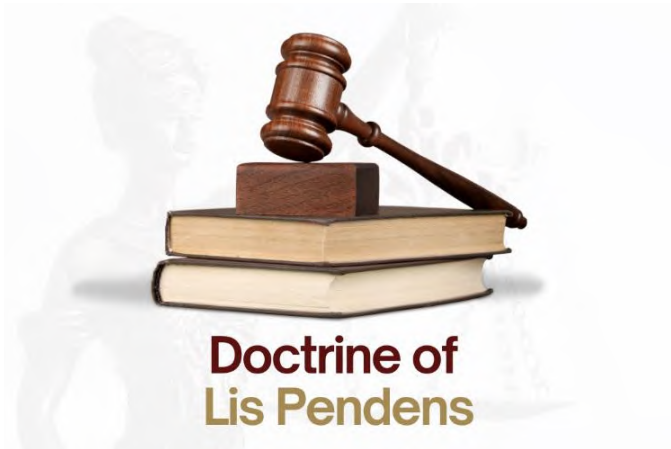
##### About:

1. The doctrine is a legal principle that mandates preservation of **natural and cultural resources of public importance** for collective use.
2. It originates from **Roman law** and was further developed through **English common law traditions**.
3. The doctrine covers essential resources such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, tidal waters and ecological systems.
4. It recognises that the **public is the real owner** of such resources, while the government functions only as a trustee.
5. The State has a fiduciary duty to **protect, maintain and regulate** these resources in the public interest.
6. Such assets cannot be transferred to private ownership or sold even for fair market value.
7. They must be preserved strictly for their **designated public purpose**.
8. Indian courts have extended the doctrine to **man-made ecological assets** that perform significant environmental or public functions.

#### DOCTRINE OF LIS PENDENS

### Recent Update:

Courts continue to strictly enforce Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act to prevent abuse of pending litigation.



### About:

1. The doctrine of Lis Pendens literally means “**pending litigation**” and is codified in Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882.
2. It applies specifically to disputes involving **immovable property**.
3. Any transfer of property during the pendency of a suit does not affect the legal rights of the parties involved in the litigation.
4. A purchaser who acquires property during litigation remains **bound by the final judicial outcome**.
5. The doctrine aims to prevent parties from defeating judicial proceedings through strategic transfers.
6. Such transfers are not void but remain **subordinate to the court’s final decision**.
7. Applicability requires a pending suit before a competent court involving a direct dispute over property rights and non-collusive proceedings.
8. It does not apply to situations such as mortgagee sales under statutory powers or cases without direct title disputes.

### NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM)

### Recent Update:

NOTAM systems have been strengthened in response to increased air traffic and aviation safety requirements.



### About:

1. NOTAMs are **official aviation notices** containing time-critical information affecting flight safety.
2. They are issued by **national aviation authorities** to inform airspace users.
3. NOTAMs communicate changes in aeronautical facilities, services, procedures or potential hazards.
4. They include information on runway closures, navigation aid failures, airspace restrictions and military exercises.
5. The notices are **encoded for brevity** while remaining operationally clear.
6. They are disseminated through the **fastest available channels** when advance notice is not possible.
7. Pilots can access NOTAMs via **flight-planning and aviation weather systems**.
8. Reviewing NOTAMs before flight is mandatory as failure to do so can seriously compromise safety.

### INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)

### Recent Update:

ITBP continues to strengthen infrastructure and surveillance along the India–China border.

### About:

1. ITBP is a **Central Armed Police Force** functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

2. It guards the **3,488-km India–China border** from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.



3. The force was raised in **1962 following the Sino-Indian War**.
4. Initially governed under the CRPF Act, it later came under the **ITBPF Act, 1992**.
5. It was declared a **full-fledged CAPF in 2004**.
6. ITBP operates in extreme high-altitude conditions ranging from **9,000 to 18,750 feet**.
7. Personnel are specially trained in mountaineering, skiing, tactical operations and disaster response.
8. Its motto **“Shaurya – Dridhata – Karma Nishtha”** reflects courage, determination and dedication to duty.

### NATIONAL CULTURE FUND (NCF)

#### Recent Update:

NCF continues to mobilise CSR and private funding for heritage conservation initiatives.



#### About:

1. NCF was established in **1996 as a Trust** under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.

2. It aims to mobilise **extra-budgetary resources**, particularly through public-private partnerships.
3. The Fund supports conservation and promotion of **India’s tangible and intangible cultural heritage**.
4. It undertakes training of cultural professionals and development of museums and galleries.
5. It is managed by a **Governing Council chaired by the Union Culture Minister**.
6. Donations to NCF enjoy **100% tax exemption under Section 80G**.
7. Its activities qualify for **CSR funding under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013**.
8. Accounts of the Fund are audited by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India**.

### CENTRAL ELECTRONICS LIMITED (CEL)

#### Recent Update:

CEL continues to supply strategic electronic and solar components for national priority sectors.

#### About:

1. CEL is a Government of India enterprise under the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**.
2. It was established in **1974** to commercially exploit indigenous technologies.
3. The enterprise focuses on **solar energy systems and strategic electronics manufacturing**.
4. It is a pioneer in solar photovoltaics, ferrites and piezo-ceramics.
5. CEL manufactures solar cells, modules and complete photovoltaic systems.
6. It produces specialised electronic systems including railway signalling and VSAT equipment.
7. The company supplies **critical components for defence and strategic applications**.
8. CEL has earned global recognition for crystalline silicon solar cell production.

### NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NCMC)

**Recent Update:**

NCMC has been activated to enhance coordination during major disaster situations.

**About:**

1. NCMC is the **apex body for disaster response coordination** under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. It is chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary of India**.
3. Its members include senior secretaries from home, defence and coordination departments.
4. Experts and state officials may be co-opted depending on the nature of the crisis.
5. It evaluates national preparedness for **threatening or emerging disasters**.
6. The committee issues directions to enhance readiness across ministries and states.
7. It coordinates actions of central ministries, state governments and voluntary organisations.
8. It ensures effective nationwide monitoring and response implementation.

**NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AUTHORITY (NDSA)****Recent Update:**

The government decided to repair Kaleshwaram project barrages based on NDSA recommendations.

**About:**

1. NDSA is a **statutory authority** established under the Dam Safety Act, 2021.
2. It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
3. The authority is headed by a Chairperson supported by five functional members.
4. It implements policies framed by the National Committee on Dam Safety.
5. NDSA resolves disputes between State Dam Safety Organisations and dam owners.
6. It frames regulations for inspection, investigation and accreditation of agencies.
7. The authority enforces safety standards covering structural stability and environmental risks.

8. It promotes dam-safety awareness and ensures operational emergency response plans.

**CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA)****Recent Update:**

CCPA has increased enforcement actions against misleading advertisements and unsafe products.

**About:**

1. CCPA was established in **2020 under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
2. The nodal ministry is the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**.
3. It is headed by a Chief Commissioner assisted by two Commissioners.
4. It has an Investigation Wing headed by a Director General.
5. District Collectors are empowered to investigate consumer-law violations.
6. The authority protects consumer rights **collectively rather than individually**.
7. It can order recall of unsafe goods and discontinuation of unfair trade practices.
8. It can impose penalties on manufacturers, endorsers and publishers of misleading advertisements.

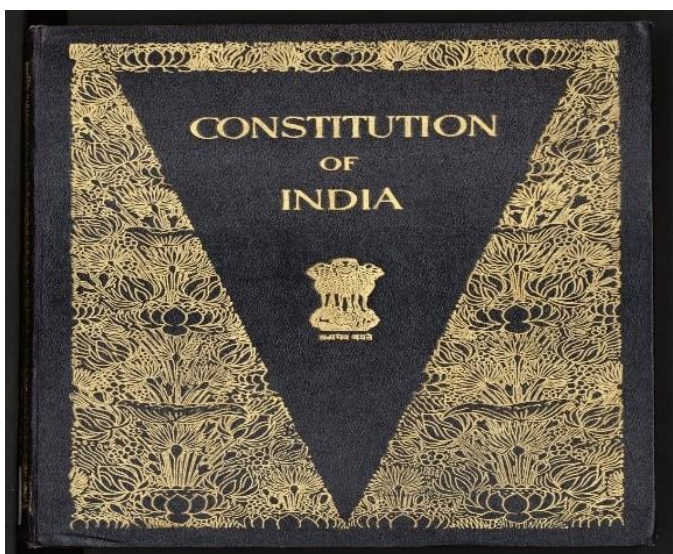
**SOURCE: VISION MONTHLY****INDIAN CONSTITUTION AT 76: WHY IT STILL OUTPACES WESTERN MODELS**

**Recent Update:** India marked 76 years of adopting the Constitution, prompting renewed reflection on its evolution and relevance.

**About:**

1. India adopted **universal adult franchise** in 1950 when countries like the US and Australia still denied voting rights to many groups.
2. It confronted caste hierarchy through Articles 15(2), 17 and 23 targeting discrimination, untouchability and bonded labour.
3. It institutionalised **affirmative action** for SC/STs decades before similar measures in the US or South Africa.

4. It recognised that social power is embedded in caste and community structures requiring



constitutional checks.

5. Unlike Western constitutions limiting only state power, it shielded citizens from societal oppression.
6. It guaranteed minority cultural and educational rights (**Articles 29–30**) from inception.
7. Anti-discrimination protections (Articles 14–17) were part of the original text, unlike Western democracies which added them later.
8. It combined **liberal rights** with transformative goals through DPSPs, affirmative action and socio-economic reform.

#### STRENGTHENING LEGAL AID MECHANISM IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** The Prime Minister highlighted the need for accessible and inclusive legal services at the National Conference on Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms.

##### About:

1. Legal aid means free legal assistance for those who cannot afford representation.
2. Institutionalised through the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (in force from 1995)**.
3. Ensures justice is not denied due to economic or social disadvantage under Article 39A.
4. Provides free representation for EWS and marginalised groups.
5. Offers legal advice, mediation and awareness via **NALSA, SLSA and DLSA**.
6. Uses Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu for digital access.

7. Conducts legal literacy programmes with volunteers and institutions.
8. Crucial due to rural justice gaps, pendency, undertrial vulnerability and low awareness.

#### CJI CALLS FOR NATIONAL JUDICIAL POLICY

**Recent Update:** The Chief Justice of India called for a national judicial policy to harmonise judicial standards and reduce inconsistent rulings.

##### About:

1. A national judicial policy provides uniform standards for all courts.
2. Ensures consistent interpretation across 25 **High Courts and Supreme Court** benches.
3. Addresses conflicting rulings that create legal uncertainty.
4. Reduces inconsistency among Supreme Court benches.
5. Helps **manage over 5 crore** pending cases through standardised case management.
6. Improves access to justice by reducing cost, distance and procedural barriers.
7. **Encourages mediation**, digitisation, arbitration reforms and modern judicial infrastructure.

#### SUPREME COURT STRUCK DOWN KEY PROVISIONS OF THE TRIBUNAL REFORMS ACT, 2021

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court ruled several provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act unconstitutional for violating judicial independence.



##### About:

1. The Act (2021) aimed to restructure and rationalise tribunals.
2. Replaced the Tribunal Reforms Ordinance, 2021.

3. Sought to reduce delays by shifting appeals to High Courts.
4. Standardised appointments and service conditions.
5. Increased Centre's administrative role over tribunals.
6. Abolished bodies like FCAT and IPAB, shifting jurisdiction to courts.
7. Introduced centralised appointments via a Search-cum-Selection Committee.
8. Struck down for undermining judicial independence and separation of powers.

### INDIAN LOWER JUDICIARY

**Recent Update:** A Supreme Court Constitution Bench linked stagnation in the lower judiciary to massive pendency of 4.69 crore cases.

**About:**

1. Articles 233–237 govern recruitment, appointments and control of the subordinate judiciary.
2. It consists of District & Sessions Courts, intermediate courts and entry-level courts.
3. District Judges supervise judicial work across districts.
4. Intermediate courts handle mid-level civil and criminal cases.
5. Entry-level courts manage routine criminal and low-value civil matters.
6. High Courts oversee postings, inspections, promotions and disciplinary control.
7. State governments manage infrastructure, budgeting and staffing.
8. Forms the foundational tier of India's justice system.

### MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (MCC)

**Recent Update:** Debates resurfaced during the Bihar elections over MCC violations linked to welfare cash transfers.

**About:**

1. MCC is a set of ECI guidelines ensuring free and fair elections.

2. Maintains a level playing field by restricting misuse of state machinery.
3. Originated in Kerala in 1960; adopted nationally in 1962.
4. Institutionalised post-1991 due to electoral misuse concerns.
5. Revised in 2013 after the Balaji judgment to regulate manifestos.
6. Regulates speeches, campaigns, government announcements and conduct.
7. Restricts bribery, intimidation and liquor distribution before polls.
8. Prevents partisan use of government transport, media and facilities.

### INDIA AI GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

**Recent Update:** MeitY released national AI governance guidelines focusing on innovation with safety.

**About:**

1. A four-part governance blueprint balancing innovation, trust and accountability.
2. Prepared by a MeitY-appointed committee (2025).
3. Supports Viksit Bharat 2047 through safe AI adoption.
4. Lists Seven Sutras covering trust, fairness and safety.
5. Identifies six pillars including infrastructure, regulation and capacity building.
6. Provides time-bound action plan for AI governance.
7. Establishes AIGG, TPEC and AISI as institutional anchors.
8. Follows a sector-led regulatory model instead of heavy central legislation.

### TRANSGENDER RIGHTS IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** India expanded welfare reforms for transgender persons as global rollback trends emerged.

**About:**

1. Census 2011 recorded 4.87 lakh transgender persons, though actual numbers are higher.

- India legally recognises a third gender with constitutional protections.
- Social acceptance, healthcare access and employment remain limited.
- Demand for gender-affirming healthcare is rising.
- Digital inclusion improving through the National Portal.
- Articles 14, 15, 16, 19, 21 protect transgender rights.
- NALSA (2014) affirmed self-identification and mandated affirmative action.
- Key initiatives include the 2019 Act, 2020 Rules, National Council, SMILE scheme and TG Portal.

### REDRAW WELFARE ARCHITECTURE: PLACE A UBI IN THE CENTRE

**Recent Update:** Debates around Universal Basic Income intensified amid rising inequality and welfare inefficiencies.

**About:**

- UBI is an unconditional periodic cash transfer ensuring basic financial security.
- Universal and unconditional in design.
- Delivered via Aadhaar-linked DBT.
- Treats income security as a citizenship right.
- Simplifies India's fragmented welfare system.
- Needed due to high wealth inequality (Gini 75).
- Automation may threaten nearly 69% of jobs.
- Reduces leakage and duplication across 400+ schemes.

### STRUCTURAL GAPS BETWEEN UPSC AND STATE PSCS

**Recent Update:** The 2025 National Conference of State PSC Chairpersons discussed recruitment challenges and systemic gaps.

**About:**

- PSCs originate from the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms (1918).
- First PSC was established in 1926 for merit-based recruitment.

- GOI Act 1935 mandated provincial PSCs, forming a federal recruitment system.
- Constitution retained PSCs under Articles 315–323.
- Many PSCs rarely update their syllabus.
- Limited expert pools affect question quality.
- Weak moderation leads to inconsistent evaluation.
- Reservation complexities often create disputes.

### BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP IN CIVIL SERVICES

**Recent Update:** UPSC data (2010–2021) showed persistent gender gaps and extremely low transgender participation.

**About:**

- Female participation rose from 23.4% (2010) to 32.98% (2021).
- Only 14.75% of women who appeared in prelims cleared it in 2021.
- Only 201 women made it to the final merit list.
- Transgender participation remains negligible, with only 4 candidates in 2021.
- Patriarchy, societal expectations and safety concerns restrict women's preparation time.
- Coaching costs limit access for women, especially from rural areas.
- Low mentorship and institutional support affect representation.
- Requires gender-sensitive reforms in recruitment and training.

### SOURCE: DRISHTI MONTHLY

### EPF NEW WITHDRAWAL RULES 2025

**Recent Update:** The CBT of EPFO approved new PF withdrawal guidelines to simplify rules and improve ease of living.

**About:**

- The **Central Board of Trustees (CBT)** of the **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** approved new guidelines for **partial** and **premature withdrawal** of **Provident Fund**

(PF) funds, aiming to enhance the **ease of living** for subscribers.

2. **13 complex withdrawal provisions** merged into **three categories** – **essential needs** (illness, education, marriage), **housing**, and **special circumstances**.
3. Members can now withdraw from both **employee and employer contributions**.
4. Members must maintain at least **25%** of their contribution balance at all times, ensuring a **financial cushion** and **long-term security**.
5. **75% of PF** can be withdrawn immediately after leaving a job.
6. Full **100% withdrawal** allowed if unemployed for **12 months** (previously 2 months).
7. The final **pension amount** can be withdrawn only after **36 months**, instead of **2 months** earlier.
8. The change aims to help members accumulate a **sufficient pension corpus**, as about **50% of members** had less than **Rs 20,000** at final settlement.
9. Withdrawals for **marriage, house purchase, education, illness, or emergencies** can now be made **earlier and more frequently**.

#### EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND (EPF)

**Recent Update:** Reforms were introduced to strengthen **social security** and long-term savings under EPF.

**About:**

1. EPF is a **social security** and **retirement savings scheme** for salaried employees in India.
2. It is administered by the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
3. It is governed by the **Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**.
4. The PF account benefits extend to establishments employing **20 or more persons**.
5. Membership provides access to **Provident Fund (PF) savings, Pension benefits, and Insurance benefits**.

6. Members must submit a **nomination** at the time of joining.
7. Employers and employees both contribute around **12% of wages** to contribution accounts.

#### TOWARDS FISCAL EMPOWERMENT OF MUNICIPAL BODIES

**Recent Update:** Debate intensified as urban India contributes two-thirds of GDP but controls less than 1% of national tax revenue.

**About:**

1. Urban finance now depends heavily on **State and Central government grants**, many of which are **tied or discretionary**.
2. Intergovernmental transfers often **bypass municipal accounts** or are **delayed**, disrupting planning and execution.
3. Introduction of **GST (2017)** subsumed key municipal taxes like **octroi, entry tax, and local surcharges**, causing nearly **19% revenue loss**.
4. Cities face an **"unequal contract"**, bearing critical service burdens but lacking **adequate fiscal tools**.
5. Weak **fiscal capacity** limits municipalities' ability to invest in **infrastructure** or meet **sustainability goals**.
6. **Credit rating mechanisms** focus narrowly on **own revenue**, ignoring state/central transfers.
7. **Political hesitation** prevents local bodies from imposing new taxes.
8. **Weak institutional capacity**, poor data systems, and fragmented governance hinder reform.

#### INTERNATIONALISATION OF INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

**Recent Update:** **17 foreign universities** received approval to set up Indian campuses under **UGC 2023 regulations**.

**About:**

1. **NEP 2020** promotes Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability to make India a **global education hub**.

2. It allows **top 100 global universities** to operate in India with **international collaboration, credit transfer, and mobility**.
3. **UGC Regulations 2023** permit **Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs)** to establish campuses in India.
4. Eligible FHEIs must be ranked within the **top 500 QS World Rankings**.
5. Institutions must maintain the **same academic standards** and **degree equivalence** as parent campuses.
6. They have **operational autonomy**, including **faculty recruitment flexibility**.
7. They are not bound by Indian **fee caps**, allowing global pricing.
8. India's **youth population** and **GER below 30%** make it a major attractor for foreign universities.

#### NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY (NBS) SCHEME

**Recent Update:** Union Cabinet approved **NBS rates for Rabi 2025–26** to ensure affordable **P&K fertilizers**.

**About:**

1. The NBS Scheme is a **central sector scheme** launched in **2010**.
2. It aims to make **Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers** available at **affordable prices** while promoting **balanced nutrient application**.
3. It covers **28 grades** of P&K fertilizers, including **DAP** and **NPKS** grades.
4. Provides a fixed subsidy per kg of **N, P, K, and S** nutrients.
5. Subsidy is provided to **manufacturers/importers** based on nutrient content.
6. Government may give **additional subsidy** to stabilize prices during global volatility.
7. P&K fertilizers are **decontrolled**, companies fix **MRP** under government monitoring.
8. **Urea** remains outside NBS with a fixed MRP of **Rs 242 per 45-kg bag**.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** Discussions on institutional independence revived focus on **constitutional morality**.

**About:**

1. It is defined as **paramount reverence for the forms of the Constitution** ensuring obedience to lawful authority.
2. It refers to adherence to the Constitution in both **letter and spirit**.
3. The idea was introduced by **George Grote**, balancing **freedom** with **constitutional restraint**.
4. **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** emphasised that constitutional morality must be **cultivated**, not assumed.
5. It upholds **justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, and secularism**.
6. Reinforces **rule of law**, accountability, and democratic checks.
7. Ensures **transparency** and **ethical governance**.
8. Applied in landmark cases including the **Puttaswamy privacy judgment**.

#### CURRICULUM ON AI AND COMPUTATIONAL THINKING (CT) FOR CLASS 3 ONWARDS

**Recent Update:** Ministry of Education announced rollout of **AI and CT curriculum** for Class 3 onwards from **2026–27**.

**About:**

1. The curriculum aims to make **AI** a **universal foundational skill**.
2. It is aligned to **NEP 2020** and **NCF-SE 2023**.
3. Promotes **problem-solving, creativity, and ethical technology use**.
4. Enhances **logical reasoning, critical thinking, and innovation**.
5. Developed by **CBSE** with support from **NCERT, KVS, NVS, and State/UT Boards**.
6. Coordinated by the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L)**.
7. Implemented through **NISHTHA teacher-training programmes**.

8. Strengthens India's long-term goal of becoming an **AI-driven knowledge economy**.

### CONTEMPT OF COURT IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** Public debate intensified after **derogatory remarks** against the **CJI** prompted calls for contempt action.

**About:**

1. Defined under the **Contempt of Court Act, 1971**.
2. Includes **civil contempt** for wilful disobedience of court orders.
3. Includes **criminal contempt** for acts that scandalize courts or obstruct justice.
4. Constitutional basis under **Articles 129 and 215**, designating SC and HCs as **courts of record**.
5. Objective is to preserve **judicial independence** and effective functioning.
6. Proceedings can begin **suo motu** or through petitions with **AG/Advocate-General consent**.
7. Punishable with up to **six months' imprisonment** or **Rs 2,000 fine**.
8. Court may discharge the accused upon **satisfactory apology**.

### REFORMING CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES (CSS)

**Recent Update:** **CAG** formed a committee to improve **budgeting, accounting, and transparency** in CSS.

**About:**

1. CSS are **jointly funded** by Centre and States.
2. Implemented by States to supplement their development efforts, especially in State and Concurrent List subjects.
3. Funds flow through the **Consolidated Fund of the State**.
4. India runs **54 CSS** and **260 Central Sector Schemes**.
5. CSS includes **Core of the Core, Core**, and **Optional** categories.
6. Funding ratios include **60:40, 80:20**, and **90:10** for NE and special category states.

7. Core schemes include **MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**, and **Mid-Day Meal**.
8. CSS aim to align **state actions** with **national priorities**.

### REIMAGINING AGRICULTURE: A ROADMAP FOR FRONTIER TECHNOLOGY

**Recent Update:** **NITI Aayog** released a report showcasing **AI, IoT, drones, and biotechnology** for agricultural transformation.

**About:**

1. Frontier technologies aim to shift agriculture from **input-intensive** to **innovation-driven**.
2. Includes **AI, IoT, drones, GIS, genomics, blockchain, robotics**.
3. Strengthens **climate resilience, food security, and farmer income diversification**.
4. Defines three farmer archetypes: **aspiring, transitioning, and advanced**.
5. **Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM)** integrates ICT and data.
6. **AgriStack** creates **Farmer IDs** linked to land, crop, and livestock data.
7. **Decision Support System (DSS)** uses geospatial intelligence for **crop mapping** and **risk monitoring**.
8. DAM includes **soil mapping** and **digital crop estimation**.

# **POLITY & GOVERNANCE**

## **TOPICS COVERED**

- 1. Parliament Disruptions**
- 2. Courts as Guardians, Not Regulators – Preserving Free Speech**
- 3. Law on Suspension of Sentence**
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- 37. Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025**
- 38. SabhaSaar Initiative**
- 39. First-ever Santhali Translation of the Constitution**
- 40. Inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe List**
- 41. National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)**
- 42. Zonal Councils**
- 43. Constitution Day**
- 44. Digital Constitutionalism**
- 45. Balancing AI Innovation and Copyright**
- 46. Lokpal in India**

- 47. RFCTLARR Act, 2013 (Land Acquisition Law)**
- 48. Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)**
- 49. Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, 2013**
- 50. AMRUT 2.0**
- 51. Aviation Governance in India**
- 52. UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)**
- 53. Private Member's Bill to Amend the 10th Schedule**

**Recent Update** The **2025 Winter Session** began amid protests over **electoral roll revision** and a **reduced sitting schedule**, leading to repeated adjournments.

#### About

1. Parliament is the **supreme legislative institution** of India, consisting of the **President, Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha**, as provided under **Article 79 of the Constitution**.
2. It performs **core democratic responsibilities**, including **law-making, budget approval, executive accountability, and representation of citizens' concerns**.
3. **Articles 79–122** lay down a comprehensive **constitutional framework** governing the **composition, powers, privileges, and procedures** of Parliament.
4. India follows a **bicameral structure**, with **Article 80** governing the Rajya Sabha and **Article 81** defining the representative character of the Lok Sabha.
5. Under **Article 107**, a Bill becomes law only when **both Houses agree**, ensuring internal checks and deliberation.
6. **Article 118** grants **procedural autonomy** to each House to frame its own rules regarding conduct and discipline.
7. Parliamentary sittings have **declined sharply** from **120–130 days annually** in earlier decades to around **55–70 days**, weakening deliberative democracy.
8. A growing **culture of disruption**, curtailed **Question Hour**, declining **committee scrutiny**, and **Bills passed without debate** have eroded legislative oversight.

#### COURTS AS GUARDIANS, NOT REGULATORS: PRESERVING FREE SPEECH IN INDIA

**Recent Update** Supreme Court observations in **Ranveer Allahbadia vs Union of India (2025)** revived debate on judicial boundaries in regulating online speech.

#### About

1. **Freedom of speech and expression** is a **democratic cornerstone**, enabling dissent, accountability, informed choice, and free exchange of ideas.

2. It is guaranteed as a **fundamental right** under **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution.
3. **Article 19(2)** permits only **reasonable and exhaustive restrictions**, preventing arbitrary or excessive curbs on speech.
4. Courts function as **constitutional umpires**, examining the validity of restrictions rather than designing regulatory frameworks.
5. Judicial scrutiny must protect against **prior restraint and pre-censorship**, allowing restrictions only after demonstrable harm.
6. The **separation of powers doctrine** mandates that policy-making remains with the legislature and executive.
7. Any balancing of free speech with competing interests must occur **strictly within Article 19(2)** limits.

#### LAW ON SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE

**Recent Update** The Supreme Court stayed the Delhi High Court order suspending the **life sentence of Kuldeep Singh Sengar** in the Unnao rape case.

#### About

1. **Suspension of sentence** refers to the **temporary halt in execution of punishment** while an appeal is pending.
2. Its primary purpose is to **protect the statutory right to appeal** from being rendered illusory by delay.
3. In **short-term sentences**, suspension is usually granted to avoid completion of punishment before appeal disposal.
4. In **heinous offences** such as rape or life imprisonment, suspension is an **exception requiring heightened judicial caution**.
5. Courts assess the **gravity of offence, societal impact, and likelihood of acquittal** before granting relief.
6. **Serious legal or procedural infirmities** in the trial judgment may justify suspension.
7. **Humanitarian grounds** like terminal illness or extreme age may be considered in exceptional cases.
8. Indiscriminate suspension risks **weakening deterrence and public confidence** in the justice system.

#### CORPORATE POLITICAL FUNDING IN INDIA

**Recent Update** After the **Electoral Bond Scheme** was struck down in **February 2024**, corporate funding shifted sharply towards **electoral trusts**.

#### About

1. Corporate political funding refers to **financial contributions by companies** to political parties through legally permitted channels.
2. Such funding significantly influences **campaign scale, media outreach, and organisational capacity** of political parties.
3. In **FY25**, more than **80% of reported corporate donations** went to the ruling party, indicating high concentration.
4. **Electoral trust donations** increased sharply post-bonds but remained **unevenly distributed**.
5. The **pre-2017 phase** relied heavily on cash donations below disclosure limits, encouraging opacity.
6. The **Electoral Bonds era (2018–2024)** enabled anonymous and unlimited donations, reducing voter transparency.
7. The **post-2024 scenario** shows named funding channels but rising **political pressure and donor risk-aversion**.

#### SUPREME COURT STAY ON ARAVALLIS JUDGMENT

**Recent Update** The Supreme Court stayed its earlier acceptance of the **100-metre elevation criterion** for defining the Aravalli hills.

#### About

1. The interim stay restores **status quo ante**, preventing immediate dilution of environmental regulation.
2. A **height-based definition** risks excluding low-relief hills and ridges with critical ecological functions.
3. The **Godavarman line of cases** expanded forest protection based on ecological characteristics rather than records alone.
4. The **M.C. Mehta cases** led to mining bans, construction controls, and demolition of illegal structures.
5. Earlier jurisprudence relied on **functional ecology**, not narrow numerical thresholds.
6. **Article 21** has been interpreted to include the **right to a healthy environment**.

7. The **precautionary principle** requires environmental decisions to avoid irreversible harm.

#### VIKSIT BHARAT – GUARANTEE FOR ROZGAR AND AJEEVIKA MISSION (GRAMIN) BILL, 2025

**Recent Update** The Union government plans to replace **MGNREGA** with the proposed **VB-G RaM G Bill, 2025**.

#### About

1. The Bill introduces a **new rural employment guarantee framework** aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047**.
2. It expands assured wage employment from **100 to 125 days** per rural household.
3. Public works are limited to **water security, infrastructure, livelihoods, and climate resilience**.
4. It emphasises **digital governance** through Aadhaar-linked payments, biometrics, GPS tagging, and AI monitoring.
5. **Agricultural safeguards** allow a 60-day pause during peak sowing and harvesting seasons.
6. Planning is **decentralised**, anchored in **Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans**.
7. Works are integrated with the **National Rural Infrastructure Stack** for convergence.

#### RIGHT TO DISCONNECT BILL, 2025: RE-DEFINING WORK–LIFE BOUNDARIES

**Recent Update** A Private Member's Bill introduced by **Supriya Sule** revived debate on digital work culture.

#### About

1. The Bill provides **statutory protection** by granting employees the right to disconnect after office hours.
2. It clearly defines **out-of-work hours**, reducing ambiguity and employer overreach.
3. Employees enjoy **immunity from disciplinary action** for non-response after hours.
4. It mandates **employer–employee charters** on communication protocols.
5. **Overtime safeguards** ensure compensation for voluntary after-hours work.
6. The Bill promotes **digital well-being** through counselling and awareness programmes.
7. **Deterrent penalties** are imposed on organisations violating provisions.

## GENERATIVE AI & COPYRIGHT – ONE NATION, ONE LICENSE, ONE PAYMENT

**Recent Update** The government released a **working paper** proposing India's first structured framework on GenAI and copyright.

### About

1. The core concern is **unlicensed scraping of Indian creative works** for AI training without consent.
2. Indian copyright law lacks a **Text and Data Mining exception**, creating legal ambiguity.
3. **Creators remain excluded** from remuneration despite contributing value to AI models.
4. AI outputs risk **marginalising indigenous art, music, and storytelling traditions**.
5. There exists a **power imbalance** between big-tech firms and individual creators.
6. The proposal suggests a **single national licence** with centralised royalty distribution.
7. The objective is to **balance innovation, creator rights, and cultural protection**.

## CHILD CARE IN INDIA

**Recent Update** National analyses now recognise childcare as a **critical enabler of economic growth**, not just welfare.

### About

1. Childcare includes **early learning, nutrition, safety, and developmental support**.
2. Despite **1.4 million Anganwadis**, urban and migrant children remain underserved.
3. Women spend **nearly three times more hours** on unpaid care work than men.
4. Only about **10% of Anganwadis** function fully in urban areas.
5. Care workers remain **underpaid, undervalued, and under-trained**.
6. Reliable childcare boosts **female labour force participation and productivity**.
7. Early childcare significantly shapes **long-term cognitive and emotional development**.

## CHILD MARRIAGES IN INDIA

**Recent Update** High incidence in **Andhra Pradesh** highlights gaps in enforcement of **PCMA, 2006**.

### About

1. Child marriage involves **formal or informal unions below 18 years of age**.
2. Girls face **early pregnancy, health risks, violence, and school dropout**.
3. The **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** makes such marriages voidable and punishable.
4. India records about **1.5 million child marriages annually**, the highest globally.
5. Higher prevalence persists in **economically vulnerable regions**.
6. **Poverty and economic distress** remain major drivers of the practice.
7. **Patriarchal norms and low legal awareness** perpetuate child marriage.

## INDIA'S RESEARCH DEFICIT

**Recent Update** Renewed debate has emerged over India's low **R&D spending of around 0.7% of GDP**.

### About

1. India suffers from **chronic underinvestment in research and development**.
2. It contributes only around **3% of global research output** despite scale.
3. **Resident patent filings** remain weak even with recent growth.
4. **Researcher density** is significantly lower than global leaders.
5. The **public sector dominates R&D funding**, with limited private participation.
6. Strategic dependence persists in **semiconductors, defence, and aero-engines**.
7. A weak deep-tech ecosystem fuels **brain drain among STEM talent**.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION

**Recent Update** The Vice President emphasised AI integration in curricula at the **National AI Mahakumbh**.

### About

1. AI in education involves using **machine learning and data systems** to support teaching and learning.
2. India's education system serves over **250 million learners** with vast diversity.
3. AI supports teachers in **lesson planning, assessment, and doubt resolution**.

4. **Personalised learning** adapts content to learner pace and performance.
5. AI enhances **equity** through multilingual and inclusive delivery.
6. It supports **digital, analytical, and problem-solving skill development**.
7. Policy backing is provided by **NEP-2020 and national AI initiatives**.

## HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

**Recent Update** NITI Aayog released a roadmap on **internationalisation of higher education** aligned with NEP-2020.

### About

1. **Internationalisation at home** embeds global exposure within Indian campuses.
2. **Academic mobility** promotes two-way student and faculty exchanges.
3. **Cross-border presence** enables foreign universities in India and Indian campuses abroad.
4. Emphasis is placed on **joint research, shared laboratories, and co-authored publications**.
5. Higher education serves as a **soft power instrument** in global diplomacy.
6. India's **young demographic profile** offers long-term academic potential.
7. A strong **cost-quality edge** makes Indian education globally competitive.

SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS

## CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

**Recent Update** India marked **79 years of the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly on 9 December 2025**, commemorating the beginning of Constitution-making.



### About

1. The Constituent Assembly functioned as the **supreme constitution-making body**, entrusted with drafting the Constitution while also acting as a **provisional legislature**.
2. After the **Mountbatten Plan (June 1947)** and **Partition**, Pakistan formed a separate assembly and India's membership was reduced to **299 members**.
3. The Constitution was drafted in **2 years, 11 months and 17 days**, adopted on **26 November 1949**, and enforced on **26 January 1950**.
4. The Assembly met for **11 sessions over 165 days**, with **114 days devoted to clause-by-clause debate**, reflecting deliberative depth.
5. Key committees included the **Drafting Committee (B.R. Ambedkar)**, **Union Powers Committee (Jawaharlal Nehru)**, **Provincial Constitution Committee (Sardar Patel)**, and **Rules Committee (Rajendra Prasad)**.
6. Members represented **diverse ideological, regional, caste, religious, and professional backgrounds**, ensuring inclusiveness.
7. The Constitution balanced **unity and federalism, liberty and social justice**, and **rights with duties**.
8. Its enduring legacy lies in embedding **constitutional morality, fundamental rights, directive principles, separation of powers, and strong institutions**.

## QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA (QCI)

**Recent Update** QCI announced **next-generation quality reforms** ahead of **Sushasan Divas 2025** to strengthen India's quality ecosystem.



Quality Council of India

### About

1. The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** is an **autonomous, non-profit national accreditation body** operating on a **public-private partnership model**.

2. It was established in **1996** under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**, following Cabinet approval.
3. Its core objective is to build a **robust national quality infrastructure** aligned with **international standards**.
4. QCI accredits **laboratories, certification bodies, inspection agencies, medical labs, and testing facilities**.
5. It develops quality frameworks for **education, healthcare, governance, environment, infrastructure, and skill training**.
6. QCI supports **trade facilitation** by addressing **WTO TBT and SPS barriers** through accepted conformity assessment.
7. It maintains global recognition with **ILAC, IAF, OECD, ISQua, APLAC, and PAC**, enhancing export credibility.
8. Initiatives like **Q Mark – Desh ka Haq** and **Quality Setu** promote **trust-based regulation** over inspection-heavy systems.

### NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID (NATGRID)

**Recent Update** NATGRID is processing nearly **45,000 data requests per month**, indicating growing operational reliance.



#### About

1. **NATGRID** is an **integrated, real-time intelligence-sharing platform** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
2. It was conceptualised in **2009** after the **26/11 Mumbai attacks** to overcome intelligence silos.
3. NATGRID became **fully operational in 2023**, expanding access to multiple agencies.
4. Its core purpose is to enable **seamless, real-time access to diverse datasets** for faster investigations.

5. It integrates databases such as **Aadhaar, banking records, telecom data, PNRs, immigration logs, and licences**.
6. **Authorised officers**, including those of **SP rank**, can securely access sensitive information.
7. It supports **predictive policing**, enabling pattern analysis and pre-emptive intelligence without an FIR.
8. NATGRID strengthens **federal policing** by empowering State agencies with advanced intelligence access.

### CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019

**Recent Update** CCPA imposed an **₹11 lakh penalty** on a coaching institute for misleading UPSC advertisements.

#### About

1. The Act modernised consumer law for a **digital and service-driven economy**, replacing the 1986 law.
2. It explicitly recognises **six consumer rights**, including information and redressal.
3. **CCPA** can investigate, penalise, and order discontinuation of misleading advertisements.
4. It introduces **product liability** for manufacturers, sellers, and service providers.
5. **E-commerce platforms and digital advertisements** fall within its ambit.
6. Redressal is simplified through **e-filing, mediation cells, and revised jurisdiction**.
7. The Act protects **students and parents** from exploitative coaching practices.
8. It promotes **truthful advertising and market transparency**.

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

**Recent Update** PMGSY completed **25 years in December 2025**, marking a milestone in rural connectivity.

#### About

1. **PMGSY** is a centrally sponsored scheme providing **all-weather road connectivity** to rural habitations.
2. It was launched on **25 December 2000**, commemorating **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary**.

3. The scheme evolved through **PMGSY-I to PMGSY-IV**, expanding and upgrading road networks.
4. Over **8.25 lakh km of roads** have been sanctioned, with nearly **95% completed**.
5. Implementation is monitored using **OMMAS, e-MARG, GPS tracking, and geo-tagging**.
6. A **three-tier quality monitoring system** ensures construction standards.
7. Eco-friendly materials like **plastic waste and fly ash** enhance sustainability.
8. PMGSY improves **market access, healthcare reach, and educational connectivity**.

### SHAKTI SCHOLARS – NCW YOUNG RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

**Recent Update** NCW launched **SHAKTI Scholars Fellowship** to promote women-centric policy research.

#### About

1. It is a **six-month, grant-based research fellowship** for young scholars.
2. The programme is implemented by the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**.
3. Its objective is to promote **evidence-based research on women-related challenges**.
4. Eligible candidates are **Indian citizens aged 21–30 years** with graduation.
5. Research themes include **women’s safety, health, legal rights, cyber safety, and empowerment**.
6. Fellows receive a **₹1 lakh research grant** in phased disbursement.
7. Outputs aim to inform **laws, schemes, and institutional reforms**.
8. The programme builds a pipeline of **gender-responsive policy researchers**.

### SHILP DIDI PROGRAMME

**Recent Update** The programme enabled some women artisans to earn **over ₹5 lakh annually**.

#### About

1. The programme aims to **economically empower women artisans** through skills and market access.
2. It was launched in **2024** with an initial **100-day pilot phase**.

3. Implementation is led by the **Ministry of Textiles** through the **Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)**.
4. It provides training in **entrepreneurship, digital skills, and e-commerce onboarding**.
5. Artisans are linked to **Dilli Haat, craft fairs, and online platforms**.
6. The programme covers **100 women artisans from 72 districts across 23 states**, spanning 30 crafts.
7. It follows a **cluster-based approach** linked with **NHDP clusters**.
8. The initiative boosts **non-farm rural incomes and women-led micro-entrepreneurship**.

### SOURCE: INSIGHTS MONTHLY

### PMLA, 2002 AND ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

**Recent Update** A Delhi court declined cognisance in the **National Herald case**, spotlighting **PMLA, 2002** and ED powers amid recent Supreme Court scrutiny.

#### About

1. The **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**, enforced since **2005**, aims to prevent money laundering and enable **attachment and confiscation of proceeds of crime**.
2. The Act empowers the **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)** to **investigate, arrest, attach assets, and prosecute offenders** involved in laundering activities.
3. PMLA applies broadly to **individuals, companies, financial institutions, and intermediaries**, whether directly or indirectly involved.
4. All offences under PMLA are **cognisable and non-bailable**, carrying **rigorous imprisonment and monetary penalties**.
5. **Proceeds of crime** include property derived directly or indirectly from scheduled offences, including **equivalent property held abroad**.
6. Banks and financial institutions have **mandatory reporting obligations** to **FIU-IND** for suspicious transactions.
7. The Act establishes an **Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal** to ensure procedural oversight.
8. In **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary (2022)**, the Supreme Court upheld PMLA’s constitutionality, while **Arvind Kejriwal v. ED**

(2024) mandated a high “reason to believe” threshold for arrests under Section 19.

## DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT (ED)

**Recent Update** ED’s investigative powers remain under judicial scrutiny following recent PMLA-related rulings.

### About

1. The **Directorate of Enforcement** was established in **1956** and is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
2. It enforces key economic laws including **PMLA, 2002, FEMA, 1999**, and the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**.
3. The ED is headed by a **Director of Additional Secretary rank or above**.
4. It has a nationwide footprint with **10 Zonal Offices and 11 Sub-Zonal Offices**.



5. Operationally, ED functions under the **Department of Revenue**, while FEMA policy lies with the **Department of Economic Affairs**.
6. It conducts **search, seizure, arrest, attachment, and prosecution** in money laundering cases.
7. ED also investigates **hawala transactions, forex violations, and non-repatriation of export proceeds**.
8. It acts as a **sponsoring agency under COFEPOSA, 1974**, and facilitates **mutual legal assistance** with foreign jurisdictions.

## JUDICIARY CANNOT IMPOSE TIMELINES ON PRESIDENT AND GOVERNORS

**Recent Update** A 5-judge Constitution Bench answered the **16th Presidential Reference (Article 143)**, rejecting court-imposed assent timelines.

### About

1. The Supreme Court held that **Articles 200 and 201** do not permit **judicially imposed timelines** for assent to Bills.

2. Imposing deadlines would violate **federalism** and the **doctrine of separation of powers**.
3. The phrase “**as soon as possible**” cannot be interpreted as a strict, enforceable deadline.
4. However, **prolonged and unexplained inaction** by Governors may be subject to **limited judicial review**.
5. The Court categorically rejected the doctrine of “**deemed assent**” as unconstitutional.
6. Use of **Article 142** to create deemed assent was held impermissible.
7. The President is **not mandatorily required** to seek SC advice under Article 143 for every reserved Bill.
8. Decisions under Article 201 rest on the **President’s constitutional satisfaction**, not judicial compulsion.

## SUPREME COURT REVIEW OF ANONYMOUS POLITICAL DONATIONS

**Recent Update** Supreme Court agreed to review the legality of **anonymous cash donations below ₹2,000** to political parties.

### About

1. The petition challenges **Section 13A(d) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**, which permits anonymous cash donations.
2. Petitioners argue this violates **Article 19(1)(a)** by denying voters the **right to information**.
3. The **Companies Act, 2013** allows companies to donate up to **7.5% of average net profits**.
4. **Sections 80GGB and 80GGC** provide tax deductions for political donations.
5. Amendments to **FCRA, 2010** permit Indian companies with foreign shareholding to donate within FEMA caps.
6. The petition seeks stricter scrutiny of **Form 24A** by the **Election Commission of India**.
7. **Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013** mandates 95% fund distribution and prohibits cash donations.
8. Transparency in funding strengthens **institutional probity, national sovereignty, and market fairness**.

## INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS) PROGRAMME

**Recent Update** ICDS marked **50 years** as the world's largest early childhood development initiative.

#### About

1. Launched on **2 October 1975**, ICDS focuses on **nutrition, health, and early learning** for children and mothers.
2. It targets **children (0–6 years)** and **pregnant and lactating women**.
3. The programme aims to reduce **malnutrition, child mortality, and school dropouts**.
4. ICDS integrates **nutrition, health, and education services** through Anganwadi centres.
5. It is now subsumed under **Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0**.
6. The mission emphasises **ECCE, supplementary nutrition, and infrastructure upgradation**.
7. **Poshan Tracker** enables real-time nutrition monitoring.
8. ICDS strengthens **human capital formation and poverty reduction**.

### CUSTODIAL VIOLENCE IN INDIA

**Recent Update** Supreme Court revisited custodial torture due to poor compliance with **CCTV installation orders**.

#### About

1. Custodial violence involves **unlawful physical or psychological harm** inflicted during police or judicial custody.
2. Under **BNSS, 2023**, custody includes **police custody (15 days)** and **judicial custody**.
3. NHRC reported **2,346 judicial custody deaths** and **160 police custody deaths** in 2023–24.
4. **Articles 20 and 21** constitutionally protect against torture and self-incrimination.
5. **BNS and BNSS, 2023** penalise coercive confessions and mandate arrest safeguards.
6. **DK Basu (1997)** laid down arrest guidelines and state accountability.
7. India has not ratified **UNCAT**, despite Law Commission recommendations.
8. Colonial policing culture and weak accountability hinder effective reform.

### PASSIVE EUTHANASIA AND RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

**Recent Update** Supreme Court directed constitution of a medical board in a **persistent vegetative state** case.

#### About

1. **Passive euthanasia** involves withdrawal or withholding of life support and is legally permitted in India.
2. **Active euthanasia** remains prohibited under **BNS, 2023**.
3. In **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)**, SC permitted passive euthanasia under safeguards.
4. **Common Cause (2018)** recognised the **right to die with dignity** under Article 21.
5. The Court validated **living wills and advance medical directives**.
6. Two-tier medical board review ensures ethical decision-making.
7. **2023 modifications** reduced experience requirements and set a 48-hour decision timeline.
8. India aligns cautiously with global practices prioritising dignity and consent.

### SUPREME COURT DIRECTIONS ON DIGITAL-ARREST SCAMS

**Recent Update** SC authorised **CBI-led nationwide investigation** into digital-arrest scams siphoning ₹3,000 crore.

#### About

1. Digital arrest scams involve **impersonation of law enforcement** to extort money online.
2. SC granted **CBI jurisdiction under DSPE Act, 1946** with state consent.
3. RBI was asked to explore **AI and ML tools** for financial tracking.
4. Digital intermediaries must cooperate under **IT Rules, 2021**.
5. States were directed to strengthen **cybercrime coordination centres**.
6. Telecom authorities were asked to tighten **SIM and KYC norms**.
7. I4C has blocked **59,000 WhatsApp accounts** linked to such scams.
8. The directions reflect a shift toward **technology-driven cyber governance**.

### PM SURYA GHAR: MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

**Recent Update** Parliamentary panel flagged **slow progress** in rooftop solar installation targets.

#### About

1. Launched in **February 2024**, it is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative.
2. It aims to provide **free electricity up to 300 units/month** to **1 crore households**.
3. Implementation involves **NPIA** and **State Implementation Agencies**.



4. Provides **up to 40% subsidy** and low-interest loans.
5. Includes **Model Solar Village** in each district.
6. Adds **30 GW solar capacity** and creates **17 lakh jobs**.
7. Reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and government power subsidies.
8. DISCOMs play a central role in **net metering and commissioning**.

#### DHRUVA FRAMEWORK

**Recent Update** Draft amendments to the **Post Office Act, 2023** proposed to enable nationwide rollout of DHRUVA.

#### About

1. **DHRUVA** is a Digital Public Infrastructure like **Aadhaar and UPI**.
2. It enables use of **digital address labels** instead of physical addresses.
3. Uses **DIGIPIN** for geo-coded address accuracy.
4. Operates through **ASPs, AVAs, and AIAs**.
5. Ensures **user consent and privacy control**.
6. Reduces delivery failures and operational costs.

7. Allows seamless address updates across platforms.
8. Enhances logistics and e-commerce efficiency.

#### MERCY PETITION

**Recent Update** President rejected a mercy petition in a **heinous child rape-murder case**, reaffirming constitutional process.

#### About

1. A mercy petition seeks **pardon, commutation, remission, or suspension** of sentence.
2. Powers lie with the **President (Article 72)** and **Governor (Article 161)**.
3. The President's power extends to **court-martial cases**.
4. **BNSS, 2023** prescribes a **time-bound filing process**.
5. The Centre examines records and advises the President.
6. The President's decision is **final and largely non-justiciable**.
7. **Maru Ram (1981)** clarified aid and advice of Council of Ministers.
8. **Kehar Singh (1988)** allowed limited judicial review for procedural fairness.

#### SHANTI ACT, 2025

**Recent Update** President assented to the **SHANTI Act, 2025**, overhauling India's nuclear governance framework.



#### About

1. The Act repeals **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and **CLND Act, 2010**.
2. It allows **private and foreign participation** in nuclear power generation.
3. Strategic areas remain under **state control**.
4. Grants statutory status to **AERB**, enhancing regulatory independence.

5. Removes **supplier liability**, aligning with global conventions.
6. Caps operator liability based on **installed capacity**.
7. Establishes a **dedicated Atomic Disputes Tribunal**.
8. Supports **SMRs and clean energy transition** under net-zero goals.

### DIGITAL TRADECRAFT IN TERRORISM

**Recent Update** NIA investigation near **Red Fort blast** exposed advanced digital terror methods.

#### About

1. Digital tradecraft involves **encrypted, anonymous, decentralised online methods** used by terror groups.
2. Use of **end-to-end encrypted apps** evades interception.
3. VPNs, Tor, and burner devices mask identities.
4. Dead-drop techniques minimise digital footprints.
5. Cryptocurrencies and hawala aid financial concealment.
6. Legal frameworks lag behind emerging technologies.
7. Cyber-forensic and manpower gaps weaken response.
8. Weak international coordination delays counter-terror action.

### INDIAN MARITIME DOCTRINE 2025

**Recent Update** Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025 was released on **Navy Day** by the Chief of Naval Staff.

#### About

1. It is the Navy's **apex doctrinal guidance document**.
2. Recognises **"no-war, no-peace" grey-zone conflicts**.
3. Emphasises **jointness and interoperability**.
4. Integrates **hybrid and multi-domain warfare lessons**.
5. Highlights space, cyber, and cognitive domains.
6. Promotes **uncrewed and autonomous systems**.

7. Aligns with **Sagarmala, Gati Shakti, MAHASAGAR**, and Indo-Pacific vision.
8. Positions maritime power as a pillar of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

SOURCE: PIB

### SABHASAAR INITIATIVE

**Recent Update** The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** reported rapid nationwide adoption of **SabhaSaar** in Gram Panchayats by December 2025.

#### About

1. **SabhaSaar** is an **AI-enabled voice-to-text automated meeting summarisation tool** designed for Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings.
2. It was **launched on 14 August 2025** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** as part of grassroots digital governance reforms.
3. The tool automatically generates **Minutes of Meeting (MoM)**, reducing reliance on manual recording and clerical staff.
4. SabhaSaar supports **vernacular and local languages**, enabling inclusive digitisation across diverse rural settings.
5. It aims to enhance **transparency, accountability, and record-keeping in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
6. The initiative reduces **paperwork and administrative burden**, improving efficiency at the village level.
7. It promotes **data-driven local governance**, aligned with **Digital India** and evidence-based policymaking.
8. As of **3 December 2025**, over **92,000 Gram Panchayats (~34.5%)** have adopted SabhaSaar, indicating rapid scale-up.

### FIRST-EVER SANTHALI TRANSLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

**Recent Update** The **first-ever Santhali translation of the Constitution** was released on **25 December 2025 (Good Governance Day)** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

#### About

1. The Constitution was translated into **Santhali** and published by the **Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice**.
2. It was released by the **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, marking a milestone in constitutional accessibility.

- The release coincides with the **birth centenary of the Ol Chiki script (1925)** developed by **Pandit Raghunath Murmu**.
- Santhali** is included in the **Eighth Schedule** through the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**.
- The language is written in the **Ol Chiki script**, a **distinct and indigenous tribal script**.
- Santhali is widely spoken in **Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar**, and across eastern and central tribal belts.
- The translation enhances **constitutional literacy** and strengthens **linguistic justice and cultural dignity** under **Article 29**.
- It advances **inclusive governance, participatory citizenship, and decentralised constitutional awareness** for tribal communities.

**SOURCE: THE HINDU**

#### **INCLUSION IN THE SCHEDULED TRIBE LIST**

**Recent Update** Assam government added six communities to the Scheduled Tribe list

##### **About**

- The **Indian Constitution does not define criteria** for identifying **Scheduled Tribes**.
- Article 366(25)** provides the **constitutional definition** of Scheduled Tribes.
- Article 342** lays down the **procedure for inclusion** in the ST list.
- The process begins with a **recommendation by the State government**.
- Proposals are examined by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**.
- Approval is also required from the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**.
- Final inclusion occurs through a **Presidential notification after Cabinet approval**.

#### **NATIONAL JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (NJAC)**

**Recent Update** Supreme Court sought reconsideration of the NJAC framework



##### **About**

- NJAC** was created by the **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**.
- It aimed to **replace the Collegium system** for higher judiciary appointments.
- The commission included the **CJI, two senior Supreme Court judges, the Law Minister, and two eminent persons**.
- One eminent person had to be from **SC/ST/OBC, women, or minority communities**.
- In the **Fourth Judges Case (2015)**, the **Supreme Court struck down NJAC**.
- The Court held that **judicial primacy** in appointments is part of the **basic structure**.
- The debate continues between **judicial independence and accountability**.

#### **ZONAL COUNCILS**

**Recent Update** 32nd Northern Zonal Council meeting held in Faridabad

##### **About**

- Zonal Councils** are **statutory but non-constitutional bodies** under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.
- India is divided into **five zones**—Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern.
- They provide a platform for **Centre–State and inter-State coordination**.
- The **Union Home Minister** acts as the **Chairperson** of all Zonal Councils.
- Members include **Chief Ministers**, two nominated ministers from each state, and **UT representatives**.
- Recommendations of Zonal Councils are **advisory in nature**.

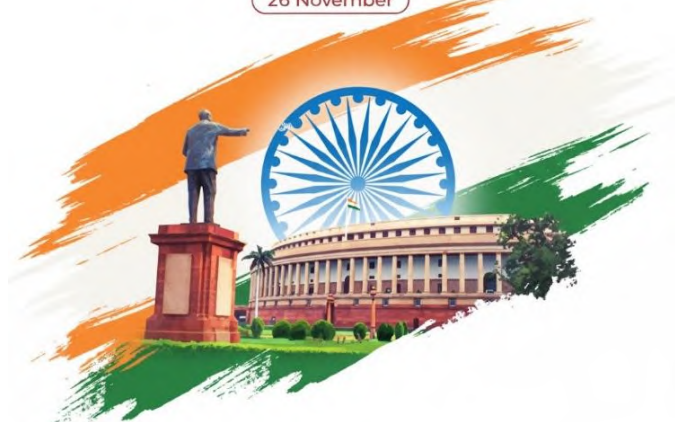
7. A separate **North-Eastern Council (NEC)** was created under the **NEC Act, 1971**.

## CONSTITUTION DAY 2025

**Recent Update** Indian Constitution launched in nine Indian languages

# National CONSTITUTION DAY

26 November



## About

1. **Constitution Day** is observed annually on **26 November**.
2. It commemorates the **adoption of the Constitution in 1949**.
3. The day was officially declared in **2015**.
4. Earlier, it was observed as **Law Day**.
5. The **Constituent Assembly signed the Constitution** on 26 November 1949.
6. The Constitution came into force on **26 January 1950**.
7. Constitution Day promotes **constitutional values, rights awareness, and democratic ethos**.

## DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA)

**Recent Update** DGCA granted a **one-time exemption from new FDTL rules** following IndiGo's mass flight cancellations.

## About

1. The **DGCA** is India's **statutory civil aviation safety regulator**, ensuring compliance with global standards.
2. Originally created in **1927**, it became a **statutory body in 2020** under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act**.



3. It functions under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)**.
4. DGCA frames and enforces **Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs)** and conducts audits and inspections.
5. It registers aircraft, issues **Certificates of Airworthiness**, and certifies aerodromes.
6. DGCA licenses **pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers, cabin crew, and dispatchers**.
7. It investigates aviation incidents and implements **safety management programmes**.
8. DGCA balances **passenger safety** with **operational feasibility** for airlines.

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES (NCBC)

**Recent Update** NCBC recommended excluding **35 communities from West Bengal** from the Central OBC list.

## About

1. **NCBC** is a **constitutional body under Article 338B**, safeguarding the interests of **SEBCs**.
2. Initially statutory under the **NCBC Act, 1993**, it gained constitutional status via the **102nd Amendment (2018)**.
3. It comprises a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three Members**, appointed by the President.
4. NCBC advises governments on **inclusion or exclusion in the Central OBC List** under **Article 342A**.
5. It monitors implementation of **constitutional safeguards and welfare measures**.
6. The Commission enjoys **civil court powers**, including summoning witnesses and examining evidence.

7. It submits **annual and special reports** to the President, tabled in legislatures.
8. Mandatory consultation enhances its **federal relevance** in backward class policymaking.

### CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

**Recent Update** Supreme Court held that **environmental protection** is an intrinsic CSR obligation under **Article 51A(g)**.

#### About

1. **CSR** refers to integrating **social, environmental, and ethical concerns** into corporate operations.
2. India became the **first country to mandate CSR** through the **Companies Act, 2013**.
3. CSR applies to companies meeting specified **net worth, turnover, or profit thresholds**.
4. Firms must spend at least **2% of average net profits of the last three years**.
5. A **Board-level CSR Committee** plans and monitors implementation.
6. Permissible activities align with **Schedule VII**, including education, health, and environment.
7. **Mandatory disclosures** are required in the Board's Report.
8. CSR operationalises **Fundamental Duties**, especially environmental responsibility.

SOURCE: VISION MONTHLY

### DIGITAL CONSTITUTIONALISM

**Recent Update:** Centre's proposed **mandatory Sanchar Saathi app** raised consent, surveillance and privacy concerns

#### About

1. **Digital Constitutionalism** means applying **constitutional values like liberty, dignity, equality, privacy and rule of law** to the **digital sphere** including data, AI and surveillance.
2. It ensures **digital power of the State** remains subject to **constitutional limitations**, just like traditional governance authority.
3. Rapid **expansion of digital state tools** such as facial recognition, predictive policing and mass databases risks violating **Article 14 and Article 21 rights**.
4. **Big Tech platforms act as quasi-sovereign powers**, regulating speech, access to markets

and information flows through opaque algorithms.

5. Lack of **democratic accountability of private platforms** creates a parallel **private constitutional order** affecting citizens' rights.
6. Digital ecosystems influence **elections and democracy** through misinformation, deepfakes, echo chambers and micro-targeted political ads.
7. Courts increasingly recognise **digital rights**, with cases like **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** affirming **internet access under Article 19(1)(a)**.
8. Overall aim is to establish **accountability, transparency and rights-protection in cyberspace governance**.

### BALANCING AI INNOVATION AND COPYRIGHT

**Recent Update:** DPIIT released **Working Paper on AI-Copyright framework**

#### About

1. A **government committee under DPIIT** proposed a framework to balance **creator rights and AI innovation**.
2. Objective is to ensure **responsible generative AI development** while protecting **intellectual property owners**.
3. First concern relates to **use of copyrighted content for AI training datasets** without permission.
4. Second concern deals with **ownership and copyrightability of AI-generated outputs**.
5. Current focus of the paper is mainly on **training-stage data usage**, with output rights to be examined later.
6. Under the **Copyright Act, 1957**, exclusive rights of reproduction, storage and adaptation lie with the **copyright holder**.
7. **Fair dealing provisions** allow limited use for research, criticism, review and reporting of current events.
8. India lacks a **specific exception for Text and Data Mining (TDM)**, creating legal ambiguity for AI training.

### LOKPAL IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** Parliamentary panel urged **operationalising Lokpal's inquiry and prosecution wings**



### About

1. Lokpal is a **statutory and autonomous anti-corruption ombudsman** established under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.
2. Composition includes **Chairperson plus up to 8 Members**, with equal **judicial and non-judicial representation**.
3. At least **50% members must belong to SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women**, ensuring **social diversity**.
4. Appointment is made by the **President** on recommendation of a **Selection Committee led by PM**.
5. Tenure is **5 years or until 70 years of age**, whichever is earlier.
6. Jurisdiction covers **Prime Minister, Ministers, MPs and all central government officials (Group A–D)**.
7. Functions include **inquiry, investigation and prosecution of corruption cases**.
8. Strengthens **accountability and transparency in public administration**.

### RFCTLARR ACT, 2013

**Recent Update:** Standing Committee reviewed implementation gaps in land acquisition law

### About

1. The Act ensures **fair compensation, transparency and rehabilitation** during land acquisition.
2. It replaced the **colonial Land Acquisition Act, 1894**, correcting historical injustices.
3. Provides **Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SIA/EIA)** before acquisition decisions.
4. Mandates **consent of affected families** and safeguards for **Scheduled Areas and vulnerable groups**.

5. Implementation suffers due to **superficial SIAs and pre-designed reports favouring acquisition**.
6. **National Monitoring Committee inefficiencies** weaken grievance redressal in mega projects like Ken-Betwa.
7. Violations of **PESA and Forest Rights Act (FRA)** occur through poor consultation and unsettled forest rights.
8. Issues like **land reclassification manipulation and undervaluation** dilute compensation justice.

### PANCHAYATS (EXTENSION TO SCHEDULED AREAS) ACT, 1996 (PESA)

**Recent Update:** Ministry celebrated **30 years of tribal self-governance framework**

### About

1. PESA operationalises **Article 243M(4)(b)** extending Panchayati Raj to **Fifth Schedule Areas**.
2. Applies to **10 states with Scheduled Areas**, empowering tribal self-rule.
3. Recognises **customary laws, traditions and community resource management systems**.
4. Ensures **proportional reservation** for STs, SCs and others in Panchayat representation.
5. Guarantees **minimum 50% seats and all chairperson posts for STs**.
6. Provides **Gram Sabha authority over land, minor forest produce and local resources**.
7. Allows **nomination of unrepresented tribes** to ensure inclusiveness.
8. Strengthens **grassroots democracy and tribal autonomy**.

### PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT (POSH) ACT, 2013

**Recent Update:** Supreme Court expanded **ICC jurisdiction in workplace harassment cases (2025)**

### About

1. POSH Act originates from **Vishaka Guidelines (1997)** ensuring **safe workplaces for women**.
2. Allows complaints before **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** even if harasser belongs to another organisation.

3. Section 16 ensures **confidentiality of complainant and inquiry proceedings**.
4. Many workplaces fail to **constitute ICCs properly**, weakening enforcement.
5. **Informal sector workers (~80%)** face difficulty accessing protections.
6. **Procedural ambiguity and low awareness** reduce effective grievance redressal.
7. Social stigma and fear lead to **severe under-reporting of harassment**.
8. Requires **awareness, compliance and institutional accountability** for meaningful implementation.

### ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0)

**Recent Update:** Parliamentary panel reviewed **urban drinking water and wastewater management gaps**

#### About

1. Launched on **1 October 2021** as successor to **AMRUT (2015–21)**.
2. Implemented by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
3. Focuses on **universal water supply and sewerage coverage** in cities.
4. Promotes **septage management and wastewater recycling systems**.
5. Supports **storm-water drainage to reduce urban flooding risks**.
6. Encourages **green spaces, parks and non-motorised transport infrastructure**.
7. Seeks convergence with **SBM and Jal Shakti Abhiyan** for sustainable outcomes.
8. Goal is creation of **water-secure and climate-resilient cities**.

### AVIATION GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** Flight disruptions triggered **DGCA regulatory interventions and reforms debate**

#### About

1. Ministry of Civil Aviation formulates **policy and overall sector regulation**.
2. **DGCA** acts as the **primary safety regulator** for civil aviation.

3. Responsible for **airworthiness, licensing, safety audits and regulatory enforcement**.
4. Coordinates standards with **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)**.
5. Recent disruptions exposed **weaknesses in crew rostering and contingency planning**.
6. Regulatory actions included **temporary relaxation of pilot rest norms**.
7. Concerns exist over **industry concentration, slot allocation and crisis management capacity**.
8. Highlights need for **institutional strengthening and proactive oversight**.

### UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

**Recent Update:** COP-11 adopted **Doha Declaration 2025 promoting digital tools for anti-corruption**

#### About

1. UNCAC is the **only legally binding universal anti-corruption treaty**.
2. Adopted in **2003** and enforced in **2005**.
3. Aims to **prevent corruption, promote integrity and enhance accountability**.
4. Encourages **international cooperation and asset recovery mechanisms**.
5. Covers **criminalisation, preventive measures and law enforcement cooperation**.
6. **UNODC** functions as the **secretariat of the Conference**.
7. Has **192 parties globally**, showing near-universal acceptance.
8. India is a **State Party**, aligning domestic anti-corruption reforms with global norms.

### PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO AMEND THE 10TH SCHEDULE

**Recent Update:** Proposal seeks **greater voting independence for MPs**

#### About

1. The Bill aims to reduce **strict whip enforcement** to promote **free legislative deliberation**.
2. Original Tenth Schedule (1985) targeted **unprincipled defections or "Aaya Ram–Gaya Ram" politics**.

3. Prevents **political horse trading and monetary inducements**.
4. Ensures **government stability and party discipline** on critical votes.
5. Critics argue it weakens **representative democracy and conscience voting**.
6. MPs become "**rubber stamps**", reducing meaningful debate.
7. May infringe **Article 19(1)(a) freedom of expression** of legislators.
8. Despite whips, **defections and instability persist**, questioning effectiveness.

# POLITY & GOVERNANCE

## TOPICS COVERED-

1. State-Led Capital Spending
2. NATGRID and the Architecture of Surveillance
3. Top Court's Green Governance
4. SIR Verification Needs to be Digitised
5. AI in Police Operations
6. India's Demographic Dividend is Turning into a Divide
7. PESA Act Implemented in Jharkhand
8. Global Cooperative Powerhouse
9. Judicial Removal — Tough Law with a Loophole
10. Foundation Day of Lokpal of India
11. Euthanasia Debate in India
12. WEF Global Risks Report 2026
13. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
14. MHA's New SOP on Cyber Financial Frauds
15. MS Sahoo Committee for NPS Reforms
16. NPS Vatsalya Scheme
17. Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS)
18. India's Maritime Strategy
19. Age of Consent and Adolescent Autonomy
20. Department of Rural Development – Year End Review 2025
21. National Youth Day 2026
22. Year End Review 2025 – Department of Justice
23. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025
24. Good Governance Day
25. Citizen-Centred Universal Health Coverage
26. National Consumer Day and Consumer Commissions
27. Supreme Court Verdict on DTAA and GAAR
28. UGC Regulations Against Caste Discrimination, 2026
29. Governor's Rule in Chakma Autonomous District Council
30. Strengthening State Public Service Commissions
31. Constitutional Duty of the Election Commission of India
32. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)
33. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
34. Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
35. Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention
36. PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners & LED Lights)
37. District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan
38. PANKHUDI Portal
39. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) – PLI Scheme
40. National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)
41. Chips to Start-Up (C2S) Programme
42. Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS)
43. Export Promotion Mission (EPM)
44. Digital Constitutionalism

45. Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955
46. Census Act, 1948
47. National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025
48. Anti-Defection Law
49. Fugitive Economic Offender Act, 2018
50. Legal Provisions Related to Refugees
51. Constitutional Basis for Appointment of Judges
52. NITI Aayog Roadmap for MSME Scheme Convergence
53. Central Information Commission (CIC)
54. NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)
55. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)
56. Delimitation
57. Urban Water Governance
58. Sports Administration
59. PRAGATI Platform
60. Census 2027

**Recent Update:** In January 2026, concerns intensified as multiple States breached the **3% fiscal deficit norm** after utilising enhanced borrowing space during FY2021–FY2025.

#### About

1. Capital expenditure of 28 States nearly doubled to **₹8.4 trillion** between FY2021 and FY2025.
2. Growth was supported by **GST compensation loans** and 50-year interest-free capital loans from the Union.
3. Borrowing limits were relaxed under recommendations of the **15th Finance Commission**.
4. Additional borrowing space was linked to implementation of **power sector reforms**.
5. States expanded **women-centric income transfer schemes**, shifting welfare expenditure composition.
6. Several States attempted containing the **revenue deficit near 0.5% of GSDP**.
7. Industrial States sustained higher **Capex-to-GSDP ratios** than fiscally weaker States.
8. Borrowing autonomy remains constrained under **Article 293(3)** requiring Union approval.

#### NATGRID AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF SURVEILLANCE

**Recent Update:** In January 2026, NATGRID expanded integration with the **National Population Register** and extended access to State police, reviving debates over privacy safeguards and absence of statutory oversight.

#### About

1. **NATGRID** was established after the 2008 Mumbai attacks to eliminate intelligence silos.
2. It enables authorised agencies to query multiple databases in real time.
3. The system connects **21 categories of datasets**, including travel and financial records.
4. It operates through **executive orders**, without a dedicated parliamentary statute.
5. Queries are classified into **non-sensitive, sensitive, and highly sensitive** categories.

6. AI tools such as **GANDIVA** enhance entity resolution and suspect identification.
7. Integration with **NPR data covering 119 crore residents** strengthens identity verification.
8. Access extended up to **Superintendent of Police rank** has raised surveillance concerns.

#### TOP COURT'S GREEN GOVERNANCE

**Recent Update:** In 2025, multiple Supreme Court environmental rulings triggered debate over judicial activism, policy reversals, and increasing monitoring of executive environmental governance.

#### About

1. The Court expanded **Article 21** to include environmental protection within the Right to Life.
2. It adopted principles like **Precautionary Principle, Polluter Pays, and Public Trust Doctrine**.
3. Judicial directions strengthened functioning of **State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities**.
4. Certain rulings blurred lines between **adjudication and administrative policymaking**.
5. Frequent reversals created uncertainty in **environmental regulatory frameworks**.
6. Direct intervention sometimes bypassed the **National Green Tribunal**.
7. Continuing mandamus orders risk prolonged **judicial micromanagement**.
8. Greater emphasis is needed on **due process and statutory compliance**.

#### SIR VERIFICATION NEEDS TO BE DIGITISED

**Recent Update:** In January 2026, implementation of **SIR 2.0** led to widespread voter distress due to manual verification delays despite availability of digital infrastructure under ECINet.

#### About

1. Digitisation aims to replace manual hearings with an **automated digital workflow**.
2. The **ECINet platform** enables backend verification of identity documents.
3. Real-time updates through **SMS and email alerts** improve transparency.

4. The revision seeks to ensure **'One Citizen, One Vote'**.
5. Over **10 million non-mapped voters** can be verified digitally.
6. Digital systems reduce repeated physical hearings and procedural hardship.
7. It minimises legal risks from forced filing of **Form 6 declarations**.
8. Digital integration strengthens **accuracy, integrity, and inclusiveness** of rolls.

### AI IN POLICE OPERATIONS

**Recent Update:** In January 2026, Delhi's **Safe City Project** and Maharashtra's **MahaCrime OS AI** marked significant expansion of AI-driven surveillance and predictive policing practices.

#### About

1. Delhi Police deployed nearly **10,000 AI-enabled cameras** with facial recognition features.
2. Maharashtra's **MahaCrime OS AI** uses predictive analytics to identify crime hotspots.
3. Integration with **CCTNS database** enables algorithm training on historical crime records.
4. Surveillance drones assist in crowd control and traffic monitoring operations.
5. Algorithm-driven policing may weaken **human discretion in decision-making**.
6. Biased datasets risk reinforcing **institutional discrimination** through AI systems.
7. The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** grants exemptions to law enforcement.
8. Expansive surveillance may impact **privacy rights and freedom of dissent**.

### PESA ACT IMPLEMENTED IN JHARKHAND

**Recent Update:** In January 2026, Jharkhand notified the **PESA Rules**, extending effective tribal self-governance to Fifth Schedule areas after a 25-year delay.

#### About

1. The **PESA Act, 1996** extends Panchayati Raj provisions to Scheduled Areas.
2. It recognises the **Gram Sabha as the primary decision-making authority**.

3. The Act protects **customary laws and tribal cultural practices**.
4. Gram Sabhas control **minor forest produce and community resources**.
5. Land acquisition requires prior **consultation and consent of Gram Sabha**.
6. Ownership of forest produce enhances **economic sovereignty of tribes**.
7. PESA institutionalises **participatory and inclusive local governance**.
8. It strengthens regulation of markets, liquor sales, and beneficiary selection.

### GLOBAL COOPERATIVE POWERHOUSE

**Recent Update:** With 2025 declared the **International Year of Cooperatives**, India's network of over 8.5 lakh cooperatives gained renewed global recognition.

#### About

1. India hosts one of the world's largest **cooperative ecosystems**.
2. Digitised **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies** expand rural financial inclusion.
3. Cooperative models like **Amul** integrate small producers into global markets.
4. Nationwide **ERP-based digitalisation** improves transparency and auditing.
5. Initiatives such as **White Revolution 2.0** aim to raise dairy incomes.
6. Apex bodies like **National Co-operative Exports Limited** support exports.
7. Cooperatives promote **women and marginalised group participation**.
8. Regional concentration reflects persistent **inter-state disparities**.

### SOURCE: DRISHTI MONTHLY

### FOUNDATION DAY OF LOKPAL OF INDIA

**Recent Update:** On 16 January 2026, the **Lokpal of India** observed its Foundation Day, marking enforcement of Section 3 of the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.

#### About

1. The idea of Lokpal was first proposed in 1963, inspired by the **Ombudsman model**.
2. It was recommended by the **First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)**.

3. India ratified the **UN Convention Against Corruption (2011)** before passing the Act.
4. The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson and up to **eight members**.
5. At least 50% members must be **Judicial Members** with social representation requirements.
6. Members serve five years or until **70 years of age**, whichever is earlier.
7. The Selection Committee includes the **Prime Minister, Speaker, LoP, CJI nominee, and jurist**.
8. Lokpal strengthens accountability by overseeing corruption cases involving high public officials.

### EUTHANASIA DEBATE IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** In 2025, the Supreme Court is hearing **Harish Rana vs Union of India**, seeking passive euthanasia through withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

#### About

1. Euthanasia refers to deliberately hastening death to prevent suffering from terminal illness.
2. **Active euthanasia** remains illegal under provisions of the **BNS, 2023**.
3. **Passive euthanasia** allows withdrawal of life-support under judicial safeguards.
4. In **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)**, the Court permitted passive euthanasia under strict conditions.
5. In **Common Cause (2018)**, the Court recognised the right to die with dignity.
6. The 2023 modifications simplified procedures and reduced medical board experience requirements.
7. Ethical debates balance **individual autonomy** against sanctity of life principles.
8. Strengthening palliative care and legal clarity remains essential for end-of-life dignity.

### WEF GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2026

**Recent Update:** The **World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2026** identified cybersecurity as India's top risk and geoeconomic confrontation as the most severe global risk.

#### About

1. **Geoeconomic confrontation** ranks as the biggest immediate global risk in 2026.
2. State-based armed conflict remains the second most severe global threat.
3. Climate risks such as extreme weather dominate long-term global outlook.
4. Cybersecurity is identified as India's most pressing near-term vulnerability.
5. Income and wealth inequality rank among India's top societal risks.
6. India recorded over **369 million malware detections in 2025**.
7. Rising digital dependence increases systemic risks to governance and finance.
8. Strengthening cyber resilience and inclusive growth is critical for risk mitigation.

### CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION (CVC)

**Recent Update:** In January 2026, **Shri Praveen Vashista** was appointed as Vigilance Commissioner under Section 4(1) of the **CVC Act, 2003** by the President.

#### About

1. The **Central Vigilance Commission** is the apex statutory body combating corruption in the Central Government.
2. It was established in 1964 on **Santhanam Committee** recommendations and gained statutory status in 2003.
3. The Commission comprises one **Central Vigilance Commissioner** and up to two Vigilance Commissioners.
4. Members are appointed by the President on recommendation of a committee led by the **Prime Minister**.
5. The tenure is four years or until attaining **65 years of age**, whichever is earlier.
6. It supervises **CBI investigations** in corruption cases and reviews prosecution sanctions.
7. It handles whistle-blower complaints under the **PIDPI Resolution**.
8. Expenses are charged to the **Consolidated Fund of India**, ensuring institutional independence.

### MHA'S NEW SOP ON CYBER FINANCIAL FRAUDS

**Recent Update:** The Ministry of Home Affairs approved a new SOP under the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal** to ensure faster refunds in small-value cyber fraud cases.

#### About

1. The SOP operates under the **Cyber Financial Crime Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS)**.
2. It enables quick freezing of fraudulent transactions and faster restoration of funds.
3. Fraud cases below **₹50,000** can be refunded without requiring a court order.
4. Banks must lift transaction freezes within **90 days** if no court order exists.
5. India has lost over **₹52,000 crore** to cyber frauds in six years.
6. The framework standardises procedures across banks, NBFCs, and fintech platforms.
7. Two new digital modules will support grievance redressal and money restoration.
8. A high-level committee under MHA addresses emerging **digital arrest scams**.

#### MS SAHOO COMMITTEE FOR NPS REFORMS

**Recent Update:** In 2026, PFRDA constituted a 15-member committee led by **MS Sahoo** to design assured payout frameworks under the National Pension System.

#### About

1. The **National Pension System (NPS)** was introduced in 2004 as a contributory, market-linked scheme.
2. It is administered by **PFRDA** under the PFRDA Act, 2013.
3. Employees contribute 10% salary while the government contributes **14%** for central employees.
4. NPS replaced the fiscally unsustainable **Old Pension System (OPS)**.
5. Pension liabilities under OPS rose to over **₹1.9 lakh crore by 2020–21**.
6. The committee will design legally enforceable **market-based payout guarantees**.
7. It will examine risk management norms and capital requirements.

8. The reform signals a shift toward greater **retirement income certainty**.

#### NPS VATSALYA SCHEME

**Recent Update:** PFRDA issued the **NPS Vatsalya Scheme Guidelines 2025**, introducing a dedicated contributory pension product for minors.

#### About

1. **NPS Vatsalya** is a long-term contributory savings scheme for minors under NPS.
2. It is open to all Indian citizens, including **NRI and OCI**, below 18 years.
3. The account is opened in the minor's name but operated by a guardian.
4. Minimum contribution is **₹250 annually**, with no upper contribution limit.
5. Partial withdrawals up to 25% are allowed for education or medical needs.
6. Upon attaining majority, subscribers may shift to **NPS Tier I**.
7. At exit, at least 20% corpus must purchase an **annuity**.
8. The scheme promotes early financial literacy and long-term savings culture.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S INTERNSHIP SCHEME (PMIS)

**Recent Update:** Data from the Controller General of Accounts in 2026 revealed severe underutilisation of funds under the **Prime Minister's Internship Scheme**.

#### About

1. PMIS aims to provide **one crore internships** over five years in top companies.
2. It targets youth aged **21–24 years** to enhance employability.
3. Interns receive a monthly stipend of **₹5,000** and a one-time grant of ₹6,000.
4. Insurance coverage is provided under **PMJJBY and PMSBY** schemes.
5. The internship duration is 12 months with workplace-based experience.
6. Applicants must not be engaged in full-time employment or regular education.
7. Graduates from premier institutions like **IITs and IIMs** are ineligible.
8. Fund utilisation remains below 5%, reflecting implementation and demand challenges.

## INDIA'S MARITIME STRATEGY

**Recent Update:** Insights from *The Routledge Handbook of Maritime India* emphasise India's transition from a largely land-centric outlook to a comprehensive **Indo-Pacific maritime strategy**.

### About

1. India's geography, bounded by the **Himalayas and the Indian Ocean**, creates simultaneous continental and maritime strategic imperatives.
2. Ancient maritime networks connected India with **Southeast Asia, the Arab world, and East Africa** through trade and cultural exchanges.
3. After Independence, security priorities remained predominantly **land-centric** due to Partition, wars with China, and tensions with Pakistan.
4. The mid-1980s marked reorientation as rising **energy imports and seaborne trade dependence** reshaped strategic thinking.
5. The Indian Navy evolved into a **net security provider**, undertaking anti-piracy missions and regional humanitarian assistance operations.
6. India's strategy now integrates **maritime security, Blue Economy, coastal resilience, and underwater domain awareness**.
7. Legal modernisation through the **Merchant Shipping Act, 2025** strengthens maritime governance and global regulatory alignment.
8. The vision is guided by **SAGAR and MAHASAGAR**, promoting collective security, sustainable growth, and Indo-Pacific partnerships.

## AGE OF CONSENT AND ADOLESCENT AUTONOMY

**Recent Update:** In *State of Uttar Pradesh vs Anurudh (2026)*, the Supreme Court highlighted concerns over misuse of the **POCSO Act** in consensual adolescent relationships.

### About

1. The **age of consent in India is fixed at 18 years** under the gender-neutral POCSO Act, 2012.
2. Any sexual activity involving a person below 18 years is automatically classified as **statutory rape**, irrespective of consent.

3. Section 19 of POCSO mandates compulsory reporting of suspected offences, increasing criminalisation of adolescent relationships.
4. Historically, the age of consent evolved from **10 years in 1860 to 18 years** today.
5. The **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013** aligned rape provisions in IPC with POCSO standards.
6. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 continues to retain **18 years as the legal benchmark**.
7. Courts increasingly observe misuse of POCSO in cases involving consensual teenage relationships.
8. The debate balances **child protection objectives with adolescent autonomy and evolving decision-making capacity**.

## DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT – YEAR ENDER 2025

**Recent Update:** The Department reported major achievements in infrastructure, livelihoods, employment security, and enactment of the **VB–G RAM G Act, 2025**.

### About

1. **PMGSY** completed nearly 95% of sanctioned rural roads, strengthening connectivity and economic integration.
2. **MGNREGS** generated 161.6 crore person-days in FY 2025–26 with significant women participation.
3. Digital tools like **GeoMGNREGA and Direct Benefit Transfer** enhanced transparency and minimised fund leakages.
4. **DDU-GKY** trained approximately 82,000 rural youth in 2025 through placement-linked skill development programmes.
5. Rural Self Employment Training Institutes trained 59 lakh youth, promoting entrepreneurship and credit linkage.
6. The **VB–G RAM G Act, 2025** expanded statutory employment guarantees from 100 to 125 days.
7. Gram Sabha-led planning strengthened decentralised and participatory rural governance mechanisms.
8. Digital platforms improved beneficiary targeting and promoted disaster-resilient rural housing design.

## NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2026

**Recent Update:** National Youth Day 2026 commemorated **Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary**, reinforcing youth empowerment for Viksit Bharat 2047.

### About

1. National Youth Day is observed annually on **12 January** to honour Swami Vivekananda's ideals.
2. With over 65% population below 35 years, youth empowerment is central to India's development trajectory.
3. **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** promotes volunteering, leadership, digital skilling, and career services integration.
4. The **Agnipath Scheme** provides structured four-year military service with skill development opportunities.
5. **Skill India Mission** integrates vocational training, apprenticeships, and lifelong learning initiatives nationwide.
6. Startup India and **PM MUDRA Yojana** support youth entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.
7. **Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram** addresses adolescent health, nutrition, and mental well-being.
8. Vivekananda emphasised **character-building education and service to humanity as nation-building principles**.

## YEAR END REVIEW 2025 – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Recent Update:** The Department of Justice reported significant progress in judicial appointments, digital courts expansion, and infrastructure development in 2025.

### About

1. In 2025, **157 High Court judges** were appointed to enhance judicial capacity.
2. Over 3.91 crore virtual hearings positioned India as a global leader in digital justice delivery.
3. Tele-Law covered 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, benefiting more than 1.12 crore citizens.
4. **774 Fast Track Special Courts** improved case disposal efficiency, particularly in sensitive cases.

5. e-Courts Phase-III enabled electronic filing of over 92 lakh cases nationwide.
6. Legal aid initiatives expanded under **NALSA**, marking three decades of statutory functioning.
7. Infrastructure upgrades increased court halls and residential units compared to 2014 baselines.
8. Real-time monitoring through **Nyaya Vikas Portal 2.0** strengthened transparency and accountability.

## VIKSIT BHARAT SHIKSHA ADHISHTHAN BILL, 2025

**Recent Update:** The **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025** was introduced in the Winter Session and referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

### About

1. The Bill proposes a unified regulatory framework for higher education under **Entry 66 of the Union List**.
2. It aims to align higher education governance with the transformative vision of **NEP 2020**.
3. It establishes the **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan** as the overarching apex regulatory authority.
4. Three independent councils will handle regulation, accreditation, and academic standards separately.
5. The Bill repeals the **UGC, AICTE, and NCTE Acts**, ending fragmented regulatory control.
6. A digital public disclosure system promotes transparency and trust-based institutional governance.
7. The framework emphasises autonomy, multidisciplinary, and integration of **Indian Knowledge Systems**.
8. It seeks to enhance global competitiveness and boost India's **Gross Enrolment Ratio**.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY

**Recent Update:** Good Governance Day 2025 commemorated **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary**, reinforcing accountability and citizen-centric governance ideals.

### About

1. Good Governance refers to effective, transparent, and accountable exercise of power in public interest.

2. According to **UNESCAP**, governance involves decision-making processes and their effective implementation.
3. It encompasses legislature, judiciary, civil society, media, and private sector participation.
4. Core principles include **transparency, accountability, rule of law, and responsiveness**.
5. The **Good Governance Index (GGI)** evaluates state performance across multiple governance indicators.
6. GGI encourages inter-state competition and data-driven policy improvements.
7. Digital governance tools strengthen service delivery and reduce bureaucratic opacity.
8. Good governance underpins inclusive development and strengthens democratic legitimacy.

#### CITIZEN-CENTRED UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

**Recent Update:** A Lancet report proposed reforms for citizen-centred **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

##### About

1. Public health expenditure remains below **2% of GDP**, falling short of policy targets.
2. Fragmented healthcare delivery forces patients to navigate multiple providers for single conditions.
3. Out-of-pocket expenditure constitutes nearly **50% of total health spending**.
4. Insurance schemes remain hospital-centric, leaving primary and outpatient care under-protected.
5. Recommendations include shifting to **global district budgets** based on health outcomes.
6. Empowering PRIs and ULBs enhances decentralised accountability in healthcare delivery.
7. Strengthening ASHAs and Community Health Officers improves frontline service effectiveness.
8. Technology integration through **ABDM and federated data systems** enables secure patient data sharing.

#### NATIONAL CONSUMER DAY AND CONSUMER COMMISSIONS

**Recent Update:** National Consumer Day 2025 emphasised “Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice” amid rising case backlogs in commissions.

##### About

1. National Consumer Day marks the President’s assent to the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986**.
2. Consumer Commissions are quasi-judicial bodies under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
3. A three-tier mechanism includes District, State, and National Consumer Commissions.
4. These bodies address unfair trade practices, defective goods, and deficient services.
5. Judicial rulings expanded scope, including medical services under consumer law.
6. Commissions provide alternative dispute resolution without replacing civil courts.
7. Rising backlogs highlight structural and staffing constraints in dispute resolution.
8. Digitalisation aims to improve transparency, efficiency, and access to justice.

#### SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON DTAA AND GAAR

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court ruled that Tiger Global’s Flipkart stake sale is taxable in India, invoking **GAAR** over DTAA benefits.

##### About

1. A **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** prevents double taxation of cross-border income.
2. India–Mauritius DTAA earlier allowed capital gains exemption for certain investments.
3. The ruling denied treaty benefits due to lack of genuine **economic substance**.
4. GAAR empowers authorities to disregard arrangements primarily aimed at tax avoidance.
5. GAAR overrides treaty provisions where abusive tax planning is established.
6. Investors must now demonstrate commercial rationale beyond mere residency certificates.
7. The decision increases litigation risks and scrutiny of treaty-based investments.

8. It reflects India's commitment to curbing aggressive tax planning practices.

### UGC REGULATIONS AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION, 2026

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court stayed the **UGC Promotion of Equity Regulations, 2026**, citing concerns over societal division and campus harmony.

#### About

1. The regulations broadened protection against caste-based discrimination to include **OBC communities**.
2. Discrimination was defined to include explicit and implicit bias impairing equality.
3. Mandatory **Equal Opportunity Centres (EOCs)** were proposed in all higher education institutions.
4. Equity Committees required representation from SCs, STs, OBCs, women, and persons with disabilities.
5. Institutions were mandated to submit annual equity compliance reports to UGC.
6. A national monitoring committee would oversee grievance redressal mechanisms.
7. Heads of institutions were made directly accountable for effective implementation.
8. The regulations aimed to strengthen inclusion while ensuring campus unity.

### DEMOGRAPHIC WINTER AND INDIA'S NARROWING DIVIDEND

**Recent Update:** China's continued population decline intensified debates on India's declining **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** and demographic transition.

#### About

1. India's national **TFR has declined to around 1.9**, below replacement level.
2. Southern states exhibit TFRs comparable to developed nations, facing ageing challenges.
3. Northern states maintain higher fertility, contributing significantly to the workforce supply.
4. The working-age population is projected to peak around **2041**.
5. Elderly population may rise to 20% by 2050, increasing dependency burdens.

6. Migration from North to South may address regional labour imbalances.
7. Without job creation, the demographic dividend may convert into demographic stress.
8. Skill development and human capital investment remain crucial for sustained growth.

### GOVERNOR'S RULE IN CHAKMA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Recent Update:** The Governor of Mizoram extended **Governor's Rule in CADC** citing persistent political instability.

#### About

1. The **Chakma Autonomous District Council** was constituted under the Sixth Schedule in 1972.
2. ADCs are established under **Article 244(2)** to ensure tribal self-governance.
3. Councils possess legislative powers over land, forests, customs, and local governance.
4. Central and State laws require gubernatorial or presidential notification for applicability.
5. The Governor may dissolve councils and assume functions after inquiry.
6. ADCs embody India's model of **asymmetric federalism**.
7. Each ADC has up to 30 members, mostly elected representatives.
8. The framework protects tribal land, culture, and customary institutions.

### STRENGTHENING STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONS

**Recent Update:** The Vice-President emphasised urgent reforms in **State Public Service Commissions (SPSCs)** amid concerns over delays and integrity issues.

#### About

1. SPSCs are constitutional bodies under **Articles 315–323** ensuring merit-based recruitment.
2. The Chairman and members are appointed by the Governor for six years or until 62 years.
3. Half the members must possess at least ten years of government service experience.

4. Removal requires Presidential action and Supreme Court inquiry in cases of misbehaviour.
5. Salaries are charged to the **Consolidated Fund of the State**, ensuring independence.
6. SPSCs conduct examinations and advise on promotions and disciplinary matters.
7. Annual reports are submitted to the Governor and laid before the State Legislature.
8. Reforms aim to restore credibility, transparency, and efficiency in state-level recruitment.

**SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

**Recent Update:** The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** informed the **Supreme Court** that **Article 324** empowers it to control **electoral rolls** and conduct **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**.

#### **About**

1. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is a **constitutional authority** ensuring **free, fair, and credible elections**.
2. **Article 324** vests the **superintendence, direction, and control of elections** in the Commission.
3. A core duty is maintaining the **purity and integrity** of the **electoral process**.
4. It ensures only **eligible Indian citizens** are enrolled in the **electoral rolls**.
5. The Commission conducts periodic revisions, including **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** exercises.
6. It safeguards **democratic legitimacy** by preventing **duplication, ineligible entries, and electoral fraud**.
7. Its authority over **electoral rolls** is **constitutional**, not merely statutory.
8. These powers reinforce **institutional independence** and strengthen **electoral democracy**.

### **DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES SAFETY (DGMS)**

**Recent Update:** The **Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)** marked its **125th Foundation Day** in

**2026**, reaffirming commitment to mine workers' safety.

#### **About**

1. The **DGMS** is the **statutory regulatory authority** under the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**.
2. It was established in **1902**, making it one of India's oldest **labour safety institutions**.
3. It enforces the **Mines Act, 1952** and related **safety regulations**.
4. The Directorate conducts **inspections and audits** to ensure uniform safety standards.
5. It investigates **mining accidents** and prescribes **preventive and corrective measures**.
6. DGMS monitors **occupational health** and workplace exposure risks among miners.
7. It promotes **capacity building, training, and adoption of modern technologies**.
8. Its guiding vision emphasises **"First Safety"** and **risk-free working conditions**.

### **BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS)**

**Recent Update:** The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** celebrated its **79th Foundation Day**, highlighting its shift toward a **facilitative regulatory approach**.



#### **About**

1. The **BIS** is India's **National Standards Body** responsible for **standardisation and certification**.
2. It was established in **1987** and is governed by the **BIS Act, 2016**.
3. BIS formulates over **23,000 Indian Standards** across traditional and emerging sectors.
4. It undertakes **product certification, hallmarking, and laboratory testing services**.

5. The organisation operates **Compulsory Registration Scheme** and **Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme**.
6. The **BIS Standardisation Portal** enables end-to-end digital lifecycle of standards.
7. The **SHINE initiative** promotes women's participation in quality awareness programmes.
8. BIS strengthens **consumer protection, global competitiveness, and ease of doing business**.

### MARKET ACCESS SUPPORT (MAS) INTERVENTION

**Recent Update:** The Government launched the **Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention** under the **Export Promotion Mission** to expand global outreach.

#### About

1. MAS provides **financial and institutional assistance** for international market access activities.
2. It is implemented under the **NIRYAT DISHA sub-scheme** within the Export Promotion framework.
3. The initiative prioritises **MSMEs and first-time exporters** in global trade.
4. It supports **Buyer-Seller Meets, trade fairs, exhibitions, and delegations**.
5. A **3–5 year rolling calendar** ensures continuity and predictability in export promotion.
6. At least **35% MSME participation** is mandated in supported events.
7. Digital governance via **trade.gov.in portal** enables transparent approvals and monitoring.
8. The scheme tracks outcomes through **buyer feedback and measurable export leads**.

### PLI SCHEME FOR WHITE GOODS (AIR CONDITIONERS & LED LIGHTS)

**Recent Update:** The Government selected five companies in the fourth round of the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods**.

#### About

1. The **PLI Scheme for White Goods** provides **performance-linked financial incentives on incremental domestic sales** of AC and LED components.
2. It was launched in **FY 2021–22** with implementation scheduled until **FY 2028–29**.

3. The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and monitored by the **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)**.
4. It covers high-value intermediates like **compressors, copper tubes, and aluminium foils** to reduce import dependence.
5. LED segment support includes **chip packaging, ICs, drivers, and modules** to strengthen domestic electronics manufacturing.
6. Companies receive **4–6% incentive** on incremental sales over the **base year FY 2019–20**.
7. Eligibility requires **greenfield or brownfield investments** with mandatory investment and sales thresholds.
8. The scheme deepens **value-chain integration**, promotes localisation, and ensures fiscal discipline through a capped outlay.

### DISTRICT-LED TEXTILES TRANSFORMATION (DLTT) PLAN

**Recent Update:** The Ministry of Textiles announced the **DLTT Plan** to transform 100 districts into **Global Export Champions**.

#### About

1. The **DLTT Plan** is a district-level, data-driven strategy to strengthen India's textile ecosystem.
2. It is implemented by the **Ministry of Textiles** to decentralise textile policy execution.
3. Districts are categorised based on **export performance, MSME ecosystem, and workforce presence**.
4. **Champion Districts** receive Mega CFCs, Industry 4.0 adoption, and advanced logistics linkages.
5. **Aspirational Districts** focus on skilling, Raw Material Banks, and SHG formalisation.
6. The plan integrates **Purvodaya convergence** for Eastern and North-Eastern textile clusters.
7. GI tagging and cluster development enhance **regional competitiveness and brand identity**.
8. The model promotes **inclusive, sustainable, and export-oriented growth** in textiles.

### PANKHUDI PORTAL

**Recent Update:** The Union Minister launched **PANKHUDI**, an integrated digital portal to streamline **CSR partnerships** for women and children.

#### About

1. **PANKHUDI** is a single-window digital platform for **CSR and voluntary partnerships**.
2. It is implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
3. The portal strengthens coordination among **government, NGOs, corporates, NRIs, and citizens**.
4. Priority themes include **nutrition, ECCE, child protection, and women's empowerment**.
5. It supports flagship schemes like **Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0** and **Mission Shakti**.
6. The system ensures **end-to-end transparency** through online registration and real-time tracking.
7. Only **non-cash contributions** are permitted to ensure financial traceability and accountability.
8. The portal enhances service delivery across **Anganwadi Centres, One Stop Centres, and Child Care Institutions**.

#### ADVANCED CHEMISTRY CELL (ACC) – PLI SCHEME

**Recent Update:** The **ACC-PLI Scheme** has lagged behind targets, with only **1.4 GWh** commissioned against the planned 50 GWh.

#### About

1. The **ACC-PLI Scheme** promotes domestic manufacturing of **advanced battery cells** for EVs and energy storage.
2. It was announced in **October 2021** and is implemented by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
3. The scheme targets creation of **50 GWh manufacturing capacity** in India.
4. It offers **performance-linked incentives** capped at approximately ₹2,000 per kWh.
5. A minimum investment of **₹1,100 crore** ensures participation of serious manufacturers.
6. Domestic value addition mandates require **25% localisation in two years** and 60% in five years.

7. Selected beneficiaries include **Ola Electric, Reliance New Energy, and Rajesh Exports**.
8. The scheme aims to reduce **strategic dependence on imported lithium-ion batteries**.

#### NATIONAL IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIDMS)

**Recent Update:** The Union Home Minister inaugurated **NIDMS** at the NSG garrison, calling it a next-generation shield against terrorism.

#### About

1. **NIDMS** is a secure national digital repository of **IED and bomb-blast data** since 1999.
2. It operates under oversight of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
3. The system is hosted by the **National Security Guard (NSG)** and supported by the **National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC)**.
4. It enables real-time uploading and access to **blast signatures and forensic data**.
5. AI-enabled analytics detect **modus operandi patterns and inter-linkages** between incidents.
6. It integrates with databases like **CCTNS, ICJS-2, NAFIS, and e-Prisons**.
7. The platform ensures **uniform data formats and secure evidence tagging**.
8. It strengthens predictive and scientific **counter-terror investigation capabilities**.

#### CHIPS TO START-UP (C2S) PROGRAMME

**Recent Update:** The **C2S Programme** showcased fabrication of 56 student-designed chips and filing of 75+ patents.

#### About

1. The **C2S Programme** is a national initiative to build India's semiconductor design capabilities.
2. It was launched in **2022** and implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**.
3. The programme aims to create industry-ready **chip design talent and IP generation**.
4. It targets training of **PhDs, M.Tech, and B.Tech students** in VLSI and related fields.
5. Infrastructure access includes **EDA tools, HPC systems, FPGA boards, and SMART labs**.

6. Shared wafer fabrication is enabled through the **Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali**.
7. The **National ChipIN Centre** supports design enablement and ecosystem integration.
8. The initiative promotes start-ups, patents, and **technological self-reliance in semiconductors**.

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE INTERNSHIP & CAPACITY BUILDING SCHEME (IGICBS)

**Recent Update:** NIXI marked one year of the **IGICBS Programme**, celebrating youth participation in internet governance.

#### About

1. **IGICBS** is a national internship programme to train youth in **internet governance and policy**.
2. It is implemented by the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** under **MeitY**.
3. The scheme builds India's representation in **global internet decision-making forums**.
4. Internships span **3–6 months** combining research and outreach activities.
5. Each intern is mentored by experts from **government, academia, or global IG bodies**.
6. Participants conduct awareness programmes in **colleges, NGOs, and communities**.
7. The programme promotes interdisciplinary focus on **cybersecurity, digital identity, and public policy**.
8. High-performing interns become **NIXI Internet Influencers** representing India globally.

### EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION (EPM)

**Recent Update:** RBI issued operational guidelines for **interest subvention** under Niryat Protsahan within the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**.

#### About

1. The **EPM** is a unified national framework to strengthen **India's export competitiveness**.
2. It was established in the **Union Budget 2025–26** for implementation till FY 2030–31.
3. The mission is implemented by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**.
4. It integrates financial and non-financial enablers under **Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha**.

5. Interest subvention reduces cost of **pre- and post-shipment export credit**.
6. A ₹20,000 crore **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE)** supports collateral-free credit.
7. Digital processing ensures transparent and paperless approvals through the **DGFT portal**.
8. The mission prioritises MSMEs, labour-intensive sectors, and **low-export districts**.

### SOURCE: THE HINDU

### DIGITAL CONSTITUTIONALISM

**Recent Update:** The concept gained renewed relevance after the **Puttaswamy (2017) privacy judgment** and the **EU's GDPR (2018)** strengthened digital rights jurisprudence.

#### About

1. **Digital Constitutionalism** applies core **constitutional principles** like liberty, dignity, and equality to digital spaces.
2. It extends safeguards of **privacy, due process, proportionality, and rule of law** to technology governance.
3. The doctrine ensures **state accountability** in data collection, surveillance, and algorithmic decision-making.
4. It emphasises individual control over **personal data and informational autonomy**.
5. The **Puttaswamy judgment (2017)** recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.
6. The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), 2018** strengthened global standards on digital rights.
7. It addresses concerns around **platform monopolies, AI governance, and digital surveillance**.
8. The framework aims to constitutionalise cyberspace while balancing innovation and civil liberties.

### SECTION 9 OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT, 1955

**Recent Update:** Debates on electoral eligibility revived focus on **Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955** and citizenship termination provisions.

#### About

1. **Section 9** deals with termination of citizenship upon **voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship**.
2. It vests authority in the **Central Government** to determine when and how foreign citizenship was acquired.
3. Acquisition of foreign citizenship results in automatic cessation of **Indian citizenship**.
4. Section 16 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** disqualifies non-citizens from electoral rolls.
5. Only persons who are **ordinarily resident** in a constituency may register as electors.
6. Electoral roll integrity depends upon accurate determination of **citizenship status**.
7. The provisions reinforce the constitutional link between **citizenship and political rights**.
8. These safeguards protect democratic participation from ineligible enrolments.

#### CENSUS ACT, 1948

**Recent Update:** Preparations for **Census 2027** have renewed attention on the legal framework under the Census Act, 1948.

#### About

1. The **Census Act, 1948** provides the legal framework for conducting population censuses in India.
2. The Act applies to the **whole of India** and authorises appointment of census officers.
3. Citizens are legally required to provide **accurate and truthful information** during enumeration.
4. All census data is strictly **confidential** and cannot be used for non-census purposes.
5. Census information is not accessible even to **courts of law**.
6. The government may requisition **premises, vehicles, or animals** for census operations with compensation.
7. Penalties are prescribed for **refusal, obstruction, or furnishing false information**.
8. Census officials are deemed **public servants** and receive statutory legal protection.

#### NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION BILL, 2025

**Recent Update:** A **Private Member's Bill** proposed establishing a statutory framework for blood regulation through the NBAT.

#### About

1. The Bill proposes creation of a **National Blood Transfusion Authority (NBAT)**.
2. It seeks to enforce uniform and statutory **blood management standards** nationwide.
3. Currently, blood regulation operates under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
4. The **National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC)** issues only non-statutory guidelines.
5. The proposed authority would ensure regulatory clarity and legal accountability.
6. It aims to standardise safety, storage, and distribution protocols.
7. The reform addresses gaps in monitoring and compliance mechanisms.
8. The Bill highlights need for a comprehensive statutory regime for blood services.

#### ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

**Recent Update:** A **Private Member's Bill** was introduced seeking amendments to the **Tenth Schedule**.

#### About

1. The Anti-defection Law was added by the **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**.
2. It is incorporated under the **Tenth Schedule** of the Constitution.
3. Members are disqualified for voluntarily giving up party membership.
4. Voting against the **party whip** without permission attracts disqualification.
5. Independent members are disqualified if they join a political party after election.
6. Decisions on disqualification are taken by the **Presiding Officer** and subject to judicial review.
7. In **Kihoto Hollohan (1992)**, the Supreme Court upheld judicial review of such decisions.
8. The law aims to ensure **political stability and party discipline**.

#### FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDER ACT, 2018

**Recent Update:** Enforcement agencies continue invoking the **FEO Act, 2018** against high-value economic offenders.

#### About

1. The Act targets economic offenders who evade prosecution by leaving India.
2. An offence must involve a value of at least **₹100 crore** to qualify.
3. Special Courts under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** declare FEO status.
4. The Act allows confiscation of all assets, including **benami properties**.
5. Confiscated assets vest in the **Central Government free from encumbrances**.
6. Declared FEOs are barred from filing or defending civil claims in Indian courts.
7. Vijay Mallya was the first person declared a **Fugitive Economic Offender**.
8. The law strengthens deterrence against large-scale financial fraud.

#### LEGAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO REFUGEES

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court recently ruled that **illegal immigrants have no legal right to remain in India**.

#### About

1. India is not a signatory to the **1951 Refugee Convention** or its 1967 Protocol.
2. It follows the principle of **Non-Refoulement** under customary international law.
3. Refugees are regulated through laws like the **Foreigners Act, 1946** and **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
4. India adopts an ad-hoc executive approach often termed **strategic ambiguity**.
5. The **Ministry of Home Affairs** directly handles certain refugee groups.
6. The **UNHCR** manages refugee status for specific communities like Rohingya and Afghans.
7. India has granted refuge to **Tibetan, Sri Lankan Tamil, and Chakma refugees**.
8. The framework balances humanitarian considerations with national security concerns.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS FOR APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

**Recent Update:** Ongoing judicial appointments have renewed focus on **Articles 124 and 217** governing constitutional procedures.

#### About

1. **Article 124** provides that Supreme Court judges are appointed by the **President** after consultation with the **Chief Justice of India**.
2. **Article 217** states that High Court judges are appointed by the **President** in consultation with the CJI and Governor.
3. Under Article 217, consultation also includes the **Chief Justice of the concerned High Court**.
4. **Article 127** permits appointment of an **ad hoc Supreme Court judge** when quorum is insufficient.
5. **Article 126** allows appointment of the **senior-most judge as Acting CJI** when vacancy arises.
6. **Article 128** enables retired Supreme Court judges to sit and act temporarily.
7. These provisions ensure **judicial continuity, independence, and functional efficiency**.
8. The constitutional scheme balances **executive appointment power with judicial consultation** safeguards.

#### REMOVAL OF HIGH COURT JUDGE

**Recent Update:** Discussions on judicial accountability have revived debate on the **impeachment mechanism under Articles 124 and 217**.

#### About

1. Judges can be removed only for **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
2. Removal requires an order of the **President** after parliamentary approval.
3. The procedure under **Article 124(4)** applies equally to Supreme and High Court judges.
4. A motion must pass with a **special majority in both Houses of Parliament**.
5. Special majority means majority of total membership and **two-thirds present and voting**.
6. Grounds for removal are not defined in the Constitution.

7. The **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** regulates investigation and parliamentary procedure.
8. The process safeguards **judicial independence while ensuring accountability**.

**SOURCE: PIB**

### **NITI AAYOG ROADMAP FOR MSME SCHEME CONVERGENCE**

**Recent Update:** NITI Aayog released a comprehensive roadmap to streamline **MSME schemes** through convergence and improved outreach, launched by **Dr. Arvind Virmani** and **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**.

#### **About**

1. The roadmap proposes **information convergence** by integrating Centre and State government data systems.
2. It promotes **evidence-based policymaking, real-time monitoring, and coordinated governance** for MSME development.
3. The framework recommends **process convergence** by aligning and merging schemes with similar objectives.
4. It suggests unified workflows and shared implementation platforms to reduce administrative fragmentation.
5. A proposed **AI-powered single-window digital portal** will integrate scheme discovery, compliance, finance, and skilling support.
6. It recommends merging **SFURTI with MSE-CDP** under unified governance while preserving traditional industries.
7. Skill programmes will be rationalised into **entrepreneurship, technical, and rural artisan training tiers**.
8. The roadmap proposes a dedicated **Marketing Assistance Wing** and integration of **ASPIRE into MSME Innovative** to strengthen innovation and global market access.

### **JUDGES (INQUIRY) ACT, 1968**

**Recent Update:** The Act remains the statutory framework governing impeachment of higher judiciary judges.

#### **About**

1. A removal motion requires signatures of **100 Lok Sabha or 50 Rajya Sabha members**.

2. The Speaker or Chairman may admit or reject the motion after consultation.
3. On admission, a **three-member Inquiry Committee** is constituted.
4. The Committee includes a Supreme Court judge, High Court Chief Justice, and jurist.
5. The Committee investigates allegations of **misbehaviour or incapacity**.
6. If charges are proved, both Houses must pass the motion in the same session.
7. The motion must secure a **special majority in each House**.
8. Upon approval, an address is sent to the President for removal.

### **CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION (CIC)**

**Recent Update:** Raj Goyal recently assumed charge as the **Chief Information Commissioner**.

#### **About**

1. The CIC is a statutory body established under the **RTI Act, 2005**.
2. It consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner and up to 10 Information Commissioners**.
3. They are appointed by the President on recommendation of a committee led by the Prime Minister.
4. The **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019** reduced tenure from five years to three years.
5. Commissioners are not eligible for **reappointment**.
6. CIC possesses powers equivalent to a **civil court** during inquiry.
7. It adjudicates appeals and complaints under the Right to Information regime.
8. The Commission strengthens **transparency and accountability in governance**.

### **NEWSPACE INDIA LIMITED (NSIL)**

**Recent Update:** NSIL signed **70 Technology Transfer Agreements** to commercialise ISRO innovations.

#### **About**

1. **NSIL** was incorporated in 2019 as a wholly owned Government company.
2. It functions as the **commercial arm of ISRO** under the Department of Space.

3. It replaced the earlier commercial entity **Antrix Corporation**.
4. NSIL enables industry participation in **PSLV and SSLV production**.
5. It builds and markets communication and **earth-observation satellites**.
6. The company provides launch services and **transponder leasing** solutions.
7. It promotes commercial use of ISRO's technologies and consultancy services.
8. NSIL strengthens India's **space economy and private sector participation**.

### NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH (NCPOR)

**Recent Update:** India celebrated **Antarctica Day** and marked 25 years of NCPOR's establishment.

#### About

1. **NCPOR** was established in 1998 as an autonomous research institute.
2. It operates under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
3. Headquarters are located at **Vasco da Gama, Goa**.
4. It plans and executes polar expeditions in **Antarctica, Arctic, and Himalayas**.
5. India's research stations include **Maitri, Bharati, Himadri, and Himansh**.
6. It undertakes research on the **Deep Ocean Mission and EEZ mapping**.
7. Antarctica Day commemorates the **Antarctic Treaty (1959)**.
8. NCPOR strengthens India's scientific presence in polar research domains.

SOURCE: VISION MONTHLY

### DELIMITATION

**Recent Update:** Southern states have raised concerns that **population-based delimitation of Lok Sabha seats and Finance Commission allocations** may disadvantage them.

#### About

1. **Delimitation** refers to the **process of fixing the number of seats and defining territorial boundaries of constituencies** for the Lok

**Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies** to ensure balanced political representation.

2. The responsibility of delimitation is entrusted to an **independent high-power body called the Delimitation Commission (Boundary Commission)** which functions under the authority of Parliament.
3. **Delimitation Commissions have been constituted four times in India** in **1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002**, generally after each decennial census to adjust representation according to population changes.
4. The **Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission (2022)** reorganized the Union Territory into **90 Assembly constituencies (43 in Jammu and 47 in Kashmir)** and **5 Parliamentary constituencies**.
5. **Article 82 of the Constitution** empowers Parliament to enact laws for **readjustment of Lok Sabha seats after every Census** through delimitation exercises.
6. **Article 170** provides for **readjustment and division of States into territorial constituencies for State Legislative Assemblies** based on population data.
7. **Articles 330 and 332** mandate **re-fixing the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** in Parliament and State Legislatures after delimitation.
8. **Orders of the Delimitation Commission have the force of law**, cannot be modified by Parliament or State Legislatures, and come into force on a **date notified by the President of India**.

### PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

**Recent Update:** In **Centre for Public Interest Litigation v. Union of India (2026)**, the **Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the constitutionality of Section 17A** of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

#### About

1. The **Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988** is the principal legislation enacted to **combat corruption among public servants and ensure accountability in public administration**.
2. The Act was strengthened through the **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018**, which introduced provisions relating to **corporate liability and prior sanction for investigation**.

3. **Section 17A**, introduced in 2018, mandates **prior approval from the competent government authority before initiating investigation against a public servant for offences under the Act.**
4. In the **2026 Supreme Court split verdict, Justice Viswanathan upheld Section 17A with the condition that sanction must be granted by Lokpal or Lokayukta**, while **Justice B.V. Nagarathna held it violative of Article 14** for protecting only a specific class of officials.
5. Earlier landmark judgments such as **Vineet Narain v. Union of India (1997)** emphasized the **independence of investigative agencies in corruption cases involving public officials.**
6. In **Dr. Subramanian Swamy v. Director, CBI (2014)**, the Supreme Court struck down provisions requiring **prior sanction for investigation against senior public servants**, reinforcing the principle of equality before law.
7. The Act defines **public servant broadly**, including **government employees, judges, local authority officials, and individuals performing public duties with government remuneration.**
8. **Corruption under the Act includes accepting or soliciting gratification other than legal remuneration** in exchange for performing or abstaining from an official act.

### URBAN WATER GOVERNANCE

**Recent Update:** A health crisis in Indore caused by **contaminated municipal tap water** exposed serious vulnerabilities in **urban water governance systems.**

#### About

1. **Urban water governance refers to the planning, management and regulation of water supply, sanitation and water quality systems in cities** to ensure safe drinking water and sustainable resource use.
2. **Water supply is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution**, and **State Governments along with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** are responsible for planning, funding and maintaining water infrastructure.
3. The **74th Constitutional Amendment Act strengthened municipal governance**, assigning responsibilities related to **urban planning, water supply, sanitation and environmental protection** to local governments.

4. At the national level, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs implements programmes such as AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0** to improve urban water infrastructure and service delivery.
5. The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** recently took **suo motu cognizance of contaminated water supply in Indore**, highlighting public health risks from infrastructure failures.
6. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** prescribes drinking water quality norms under **IS 10500:2012**, which defines acceptable levels for various chemical and biological parameters.
7. Water is considered **unsafe for consumption if bacteriological contamination exists**, including pathogens like **E. coli, Salmonella, Vibrio cholerae, viruses and protozoa.**
8. Chemical contamination exceeding permissible limits such as **fluoride above 1.5 mg/l, TDS above 2000 mg/l, iron above 0.3 mg/l, arsenic above 0.05 mg/l or nitrates above 45 mg/l** renders water unfit for drinking.

### SPORTS ADMINISTRATION

**Recent Update:** The **Task Force on Capacity Building of Sports Administrators**, chaired by **Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra**, submitted its report under **Khelo Bharat NITI 2025.**

#### About

1. **Sports administration refers to governance, management and policy implementation in the sports ecosystem**, covering athlete development, infrastructure, governance standards and institutional coordination.
2. The task force aims to **strengthen sports governance to help India become a Top-10 sporting nation by 2036 and potentially host the 2036 Olympic Games.**
3. The report identified the **absence of a professional cadre of trained sports administrators**, resulting in weak institutional continuity and inefficient governance structures.
4. Existing **sports education and training opportunities remain fragmented and outdated**, with limited emphasis on competencies or continuous professional development.

5. There is **limited integration between athletes and administrative pathways**, leaving many retired sportspersons ill-equipped to transition into governance roles.
6. The report recommended creation of a **National Council for Sports Education and Capacity Building** as an autonomous statutory body to regulate and accredit sports administration training.
7. It proposed a **National Training and Development Cell** and **e-Khel Pathshala digital platform** to deliver standardized training programmes for sports administrators and grassroots coaches.
8. The recommendations include **Unique Administrator ID (UAID), a Five-Level Capability Maturity Model, performance monitoring systems and global partnerships with institutions like IOC and FIFA.**

### PRAGATI PLATFORM

**Recent Update:** The **50th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)** highlighted its role in accelerating infrastructure and governance reforms.

#### About

1. **PRAGATI is a technology-enabled governance platform launched in 2015** to ensure **timely implementation of projects and effective grievance redressal across government levels.**
2. It functions as a **multi-purpose and multi-modal platform integrating video conferencing, data management and geospatial technologies** for real-time decision making.
3. **PRAGATI meetings are chaired by the Prime Minister**, enabling direct interaction with **central ministries and state governments under the "Team India" cooperative federalism framework.**
4. The platform integrates important governance tools such as **PM Gati Shakti, PARIVESH environmental clearance system and PM Reference Portal.**
5. PRAGATI has enabled **cross-departmental coordination and problem solving**, breaking administrative silos that often delay project execution.
6. Since its launch, **around 500 secretaries of the Government of India and chief**

**secretaries of states** have participated in PRAGATI review meetings.

7. The platform has achieved a **high resolution rate of approximately 94% of issues related to infrastructure and governance projects**, significantly reducing time delays and cost overruns.
8. Major projects unlocked through PRAGATI include the **Jammu–Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla rail link, Navi Mumbai International Airport and the Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra.**

### CENSUS 2027

**Recent Update:** **India's 16th Census will begin with house-listing operations between April and September 2026**, followed by population enumeration in February 2027.

#### About

1. **Census is the official decennial population enumeration exercise conducted by the Government of India**, providing comprehensive demographic, socio-economic and housing data.
2. The **2027 Census will be India's first fully digital census**, where enumerators will primarily collect data using **mobile applications and digital platforms.**
3. The **first phase called House Listing Operations** will collect data on **housing conditions, assets, amenities and infrastructure** across all states and union territories.
4. The **second phase called Population Enumeration** will gather **demographic information such as age, sex, occupation, education and migration details.**
5. For **snow-bound and difficult regions such as Ladakh, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**, enumeration will be conducted earlier in **September 2026.**
6. The Census will include **India's first nationwide caste enumeration since 1931**, covering all communities beyond just Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
7. Citizens will be able to participate through a **Self-Enumeration Portal**, allowing individuals to independently fill out census questionnaires online.
8. New digital tools such as the **Census Management and Monitoring System**

(CMMS) and **Houselisting Block Creator** using **satellite mapping** will enable real-time monitoring and accurate enumeration.

## **“ROMEO–JULIET” CLAUSE IN POCSO ACT**

**Recent Update:** The **Supreme Court** suggested introducing a **“Romeo–Juliet clause”** in the **POCSO Act** to address misuse in consensual adolescent relationships.

### **About**

1. The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012** is a comprehensive law enacted to **protect children from sexual assault, harassment and exploitation**.
2. The Act defines a **child as any person below the age of 18 years** and prescribes stringent punishments for offences against minors.
3. Courts have observed that **POCSO provisions are sometimes misused in cases involving consensual relationships between adolescents**, particularly when families oppose such relationships.
4. The **Supreme Court highlighted instances where the victim’s age is misrepresented** to bring consensual relationships under the strict provisions of the POCSO Act.
5. The proposed **Romeo–Juliet clause aims to exempt consensual romantic relationships between adolescents with a minimal age difference** from harsh criminal penalties.
6. Such provisions exist in several countries to **balance child protection with personal liberty and adolescent autonomy**.
7. The Court emphasized that **ignoring the consensual nature of adolescent relationships can lead to wrongful criminalization and imprisonment**.
8. The Centre has been urged to **examine legal reforms that protect minors from exploitation while preventing misuse of the law in consensual cases**.

# POLITY & GOVERNANCE

SOURCE: INSIGHTS MONTHLY

## INDIA'S FEDERALISM IS IN NEED OF A STRUCTURAL RESET

**Recent Update:** Justice Kurian Joseph Committee Report (Part I) submitted

**About:**

1. **Structural reset** implies a **fundamental recalibration of Union–State power balance**, moving away from excessive centralisation toward cooperative federalism.
2. **Fiscal autonomy erosion** is evident as rising **cesses and surcharges** reduce States' share in divisible taxes under **Article 270**, weakening their financial independence.
3. **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** impose **uniform policy templates**, often ignoring regional diversity, local priorities, and administrative capacities of States.
4. Increasing **encroachment on Concurrent List** through **delegated legislation** dilutes States' legislative authority and autonomy.
5. **Overburdened Union executive** leads to inefficiency, as central bodies like **NITI Aayog** intervene even in local governance issues.
6. **Political maturity of States** is reflected in innovative welfare models like **Tamil Nadu's Noon Meal Scheme**, showing readiness for greater autonomy.
7. **Delimitation concerns (2026)** may reduce representation of population-stabilising States, raising issues of **federal fairness and equity**.
8. **Governor's discretionary powers misuse**, especially delays in assent to Bills, strains Centre–State relations and triggers judicial intervention.

## INDEPENDENCE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION

**Recent Update:** February 2026 debates on voter roll revision and CEC removal

**About:**

1. **Independence of ECI** ensures elections are conducted **free from executive, political, or**

**external interference**, preserving democratic integrity.

2. It guarantees a **level playing field** by strictly enforcing the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** and preventing misuse of state machinery.
3. Maintains **public trust and legitimacy** of elections through transparency, fairness, and institutional credibility.
4. Ensures **accuracy of electoral rolls**, preventing wrongful deletions, duplication, and targeted voter exclusion.
5. Acts as a safeguard against **executive overreach**, particularly in manipulating election timing or processes.
6. Functions as a **quasi-judicial authority**, resolving disputes related to party symbols, splits, and recognition.
7. **Appointment process imbalance** allows executive dominance, raising concerns about impartiality in leadership selection.
8. **Financial dependence and unequal removal safeguards** weaken autonomy, especially for Election Commissioners other than the CEC.

## BRIDGING A DIVIDE WITH AN INDIAN SCIENTIFIC SERVICE

**Recent Update:** Economic Survey 2025-26 highlights need for Indian Scientific Service

**About:**

1. **Indian Scientific Service (ISS)** is proposed as a **specialised all-India cadre of scientists and technocrats** to support evidence-based governance.
2. It integrates **domain expertise directly into policymaking**, unlike the generalist approach of the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)**.
3. Addresses **complex governance challenges** such as Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, and data governance requiring specialised knowledge.
4. Helps bridge the **"Valley of Death" in innovation**, enabling smooth transition from research stages to market-ready technologies.
5. Ensures **scientific integrity and independence**, allowing experts to provide candid advice without bureaucratic constraints.

6. Strengthens **global competitiveness** through expert-led negotiations in sectors like semiconductors and advanced technologies.
7. Enables **long-term policy continuity**, crucial for missions like supercomputing, green hydrogen, and climate innovation.
8. Faces challenges like **generalist vs specialist conflict**, administrative resistance, and issues of hierarchy and coordination.

### DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

**Recent Update:** February 2026 debate on deepfakes and AI content regulation

#### About:

1. **Digital governance** involves the use of **technologies like AI, blockchain, and cloud computing** to enhance public service delivery and governance.
2. Ensures **democratic integrity** by combating deepfakes, misinformation, and manipulation of public discourse during elections.
3. Addresses **gendered cyber-abuse**, especially the rise of non-consensual AI-generated explicit content targeting women.
4. Enhances **financial security** by preventing identity theft, biometric fraud, and cyber-enabled financial crimes.
5. Promotes **inclusive service delivery** by overcoming language barriers through platforms like **BHASHINI**.
6. Improves **administrative efficiency and transparency**, reducing leakages and enhancing accountability in governance.
7. Requires **content provenance mechanisms**, such as watermarking and traceability for AI-generated content.
8. Represents a shift toward **citizen-centric, technology-driven, and future-ready governance systems**.

### NITI AAYOG STUDY: VIKSIT BHARAT & NET ZERO (WASTE SECTOR)

**Recent Update:** NITI Aayog releases Volume 8 roadmap on waste sector transformation

#### About:

1. The study aligns **Viksit Bharat 2047 vision** with India's **Net Zero 2070 climate commitments** through sectoral strategies.

2. Highlights **limited waste processing capacity**, with a large portion of waste managed informally and inefficiently.
3. Identifies **poor source segregation practices** as a key constraint reducing recycling efficiency and increasing costs.
4. Recommends achieving **100% waste collection and wastewater treatment** across urban and rural areas by 2047.
5. Promotes a **waste-to-resource model**, converting waste into valuable outputs like Bio-CNG, compost, and recycled materials.
6. Calls for **policy reforms**, including regulating polluting recycling practices and strengthening compliance frameworks.
7. Advocates a **circular economy approach**, formalising informal workers and enforcing **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**.
8. Emphasises **behavioural change through Mission LiFE**, encouraging citizens to adopt sustainable waste management practices.

### IT RULES AMENDMENT 2026

**Recent Update:** IT Rules Amendment notified on February 10, 2026

#### About:

1. The amendment targets **deepfakes and digital misinformation**, addressing emerging risks from AI-generated content.
2. Introduces a **3-hour takedown rule** for harmful or misleading synthetic content to prevent rapid viral spread.
3. Defines **Synthetically Generated Information (SGI)** as AI-created or altered content that mimics real individuals or events.
4. Strengthens **electoral integrity**, particularly during the Model Code of Conduct period, by curbing AI-based manipulation.
5. Protects **individual dignity and privacy** by enabling quick removal of non-consensual AI-generated media.
6. Enhances **accountability of digital platforms** like Meta and X through stricter compliance and grievance mechanisms.
7. Aligns legal framework with **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**, replacing the colonial-era IPC.

8. Strengthens India's **cyber governance architecture** to deal with evolving technological threats.

#### 50TH YEAR OF ENDING BONDED LABOUR

**Recent Update:** 50 years of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976

#### About:

1. Despite legal abolition, **bonded labour persists** due to deep-rooted socio-economic vulnerabilities and weak enforcement.
2. **Relapse into bondage** is common when rescued workers do not receive timely financial rehabilitation support.
3. **Bureaucratic delays and coordination failures** hinder issuance of Release Certificates and delivery of benefits.
4. Lack of **updated surveys and reliable data** weakens identification and monitoring of bonded labour cases.
5. **Caste-based bondage practices** continue in disguised forms, reflecting structural inequalities in society.
6. **Debt traps and lack of livelihood options** force workers to re-enter exploitative labour arrangements.
7. Weak **inter-state coordination** affects migrant labour rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration processes.
8. Highlights urgent need for **sustainable livelihood opportunities, awareness, and stronger institutional mechanisms**.

#### THE NEED FOR DIVERSITY IN THE JUDICIARY

**Recent Update:** Ongoing debate on judicial appointments and inclusivity

#### About:

1. **Judicial diversity** ensures representation of **social, gender, regional, and marginalized groups**, reflecting India's plural society.
2. Enhances **public trust and institutional legitimacy**, as people see themselves represented in the justice system.
3. Improves **quality of judicial interpretation**, as diverse lived experiences enrich constitutional reasoning.

4. Addresses **historical under-representation**, particularly of women, SC/STs, and minorities in higher judiciary.
5. Encourages **democratisation of the legal profession**, inspiring aspirants from diverse backgrounds to join.
6. **Opaque collegium system** lacks transparency, often reinforcing elite networks and limiting inclusivity.
7. **"Old boys' club" culture** and informal biases hinder advancement of women and marginalized candidates.
8. Absence of **formal reservation mechanisms** makes diversity dependent on discretion rather than structured policy.

#### SOURCE: DRISHTI MONTHLY

#### INDIA'S M.A.N.A.V. VISION FOR AI

**Recent Update:** India-AI Impact Summit 2026 unveils human-centric AI framework

#### About:

1. **M.A.N.A.V. vision** redefines Artificial Intelligence as an **extension of human aspirations**, rather than an autonomous disruptive force.
2. Emphasises **Moral & Ethical Systems**, ensuring AI development follows **strict ethical guidelines, accountability, and constitutional values**.
3. Promotes **accountable governance** through initiatives like the **IndiaAI Mission** and **AI Governance Guidelines 2025**, ensuring transparency and trust.
4. Focuses on **digital sovereignty**, strengthening control over **data, algorithms, and digital infrastructure** through initiatives like **India Semiconductor Mission**.
5. Ensures **inclusive AI access** via **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, democratising computing through platforms like **MeghRaj Cloud**.
6. Builds **grassroots innovation ecosystems** through **IndiaAI Kosh, AI Data Labs, and National Supercomputing Mission**.
7. Strengthens **AI regulation** through IT Rules Amendment 2026 and focus on tackling **deepfakes and misinformation**.

- Promotes **global AI cooperation**, with future AI Impact Summits focusing on **international AI governance and ethics frameworks**.

### HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIME

**Recent Update:** Supreme Court raises concerns and urges legal framework for hate crimes

**About:**

- Hate speech** refers to **expressions inciting hatred or violence** against groups based on identity such as religion, caste, gender, or ethnicity.
- It is recognised under the **267th Law Commission Report (2017)** as speech that creates **fear, hostility, or discrimination**.
- Article 19(1)(a)** guarantees **freedom of speech**, while **Article 19(2)** allows **reasonable restrictions** for public order and dignity.
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** criminalises acts promoting **enmity between groups** and social disharmony.
- Representation of People Act, 1951** disqualifies candidates convicted for **communal hate speech during elections**.
- SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** protects marginalized communities from **verbal and symbolic humiliation**.
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** penalises practices promoting **untouchability and discrimination**.
- Growing concerns highlight the need for a **comprehensive legal framework to distinguish hate speech from free speech**.

### DEATH PENALTY IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** NALSAR report shows zero Supreme Court confirmations in last 3 years

**About:**

- Recent data highlights a **disconnect between trial courts and appellate courts**, raising concerns over fairness in capital punishment.
- Zero confirmations by Supreme Court** in recent years indicate increasing scrutiny of **death penalty convictions**.
- High number of **acquittals and reversals** suggests **procedural lapses and wrongful convictions** at trial stage.

- Death row population surge** reflects delays, with prisoners spending **years awaiting final verdicts**.
- Frequent **non-compliance with safeguards** like psychological evaluation and mitigation hearings undermines fair trial rights.
- Judicial rulings** mandate consideration of **reform potential, background, and circumstances of accused** before sentencing.
- Emergence of **alternative punishments** like life imprisonment without remission reflects evolving penal philosophy.
- Raises critical debate on **fairness, arbitrariness, and constitutional validity of capital punishment in India**.

### INDIA'S EXPANDING DRONE ECOSYSTEM

**Recent Update:** Government data shows rapid growth in drone registrations and usage

**About:**

- Drone ecosystem expansion** is driven by liberalised **Drone Rules, 2021 (amended 2022–23)** simplifying approvals and reducing compliance burden.
- Digital Sky platform** provides a **single-window system** for drone registration, certification, and airspace permissions.
- Significant growth with **thousands of registered drones and certified pilots**, indicating increased adoption.
- PLI Scheme support** promotes domestic manufacturing of drones and components, boosting **start-ups and MSMEs**.
- GST reduction to 5%** lowers cost barriers, encouraging commercial and training infrastructure expansion.
- SwaYaan Programme** enhances **human resource capacity** through skill development in unmanned aircraft systems.
- Innovation initiatives like NIDAR** promote research, autonomous drone applications, and startup incubation.
- Strengthens applications in **agriculture, infrastructure monitoring, disaster management, and national security**.

### RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS

**Recent Update:** ECI announces biennial elections for 37 Rajya Sabha seats

## About:

1. **Rajya Sabha** is the **Upper House of Parliament**, representing States and Union Territories in the federal structure.
2. Governed by **Article 80**, with a maximum strength of **250 members including nominated members**.
3. Members are elected through **indirect elections by MLAs** using **Proportional Representation and Single Transferable Vote (STV)** system.
4. It is a **permanent House**, with **one-third members retiring every two years** ensuring continuity.
5. **Vice President of India** acts as the **ex-officio Chairperson** of the Rajya Sabha.
6. Has **special powers under Article 249 and 312** to allow Parliament to legislate on State List and create All India Services.
7. Plays a crucial role during **Emergency provisions**, especially when Lok Sabha is dissolved.
8. Reflects federal balance by ensuring **State representation in national law-making process**.

## TRIBAL PROTESTS OVER FOREST RIGHTS ACT

**Recent Update:** Tribal protests in Maharashtra demand effective implementation of FRA

## About:

1. **Forest dwelling communities historically enjoyed customary rights** over forest resources before colonial interventions.
2. **Colonial forest policies (Indian Forest Act, 1878)** dispossessed communities using the principle of **eminent domain**.
3. Restrictions like **ban on shifting cultivation and creation of forest villages** institutionalised exploitation and forced labour.
4. Post-independence laws like **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980** continued exclusionary practices.
5. **Lack of recognition of land rights** led to displacement and marginalisation of tribal populations.

6. Inadequate **compensation and participation in decision-making** worsened socio-economic conditions.
7. Continued protests highlight gaps in **Forest Rights Act (FRA) implementation** and governance failures.
8. Emphasises need for **community participation, livelihood security, and rights-based forest governance**.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DAM SAFETY 2026

**Recent Update:** ICDS 2026 held in Bengaluru strengthens dam safety framework

## About:

1. Focuses on implementation of **Dam Safety Act, 2021** to ensure structural and operational safety of dams.
2. Highlights **reservoir sedimentation** as a major threat to long-term water security.
3. Promotes **advanced monitoring tools** like remote sensing and risk assessment mechanisms.
4. Emphasises **flood management strategies** using real-time data and basin-level planning.
5. Strengthens **Emergency Action Plans (EAPs)** and early warning systems to prevent disasters.
6. Linked with **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** supported by World Bank and AIIB.
7. Recognises India's large dam network, making **maintenance and safety critical for development**.
8. Encourages **institutional coordination between Centre and States** for effective dam governance.

## INDIA-AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

**Recent Update:** First Global South AI summit held at Bharat Mandapam

## About:

1. The summit marks India's leadership in **inclusive and development-oriented Artificial Intelligence governance**.
2. Focus shifts from **AI safety to AI for development and societal impact**.

3. Based on philosophy of “**Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya**”, emphasising welfare for all.
4. Built around **Three Sutras – People, Planet, Progress**, aligning AI with human development goals.
5. Features **Seven Chakras (working groups)** covering sectors like health, agriculture, and safe AI.
6. Anchored by institutions like **MeitY, IndiaAI Mission, and Digital India initiative**.
7. Aims to deliver **policy frameworks, innovation support, and global cooperation mechanisms**.
8. Strengthens India’s role in **global AI governance, ethics, and semiconductor supply chains**.

### INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

**Recent Update:** UNESCO SoER 2025 highlights importance of multilingual education

#### About:

1. **International Mother Language Day** is observed on **21st February**, declared by **UNESCO (1999)** to promote linguistic and cultural diversity.
2. The **theme for 2026 – “Youth Voices on Multilingual Education”** emphasises the role of young people in preserving languages.
3. It commemorates the **Bangla Language Movement (1952, Dhaka)**, where students sacrificed their lives for linguistic rights.
4. Aims to **protect linguistic heritage, cultural diversity, and intellectual traditions** in an increasingly globalised world.
5. Highlights the **crisis of language loss**, with one language disappearing every two weeks globally.
6. **UNESCO SoER 2025 (India)** stresses strengthening **Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE)** for inclusive learning.
7. Encourages **integration of local languages in education**, improving cognitive ability and conceptual clarity.
8. Supports **policy alignment with NEP 2020** and promotes multilingualism for equitable and quality education.

### SANKALP SCHEME

**Recent Update:** PAC raises concerns over low utilisation of World Bank funds

#### About:

1. **SANKALP Scheme** was launched in **2018 by MSDE** to operationalise the **National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)**.
2. It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** focused on strengthening institutional capacity for skill development.
3. Aims to improve **short-term skill training systems** and expand access for **marginalised sections**.
4. Backed by **₹4,455 crore outlay**, including significant **World Bank assistance**.
5. Focuses on **institutional strengthening** at national, state, and district levels through capacity building.
6. Promotes **quality assurance mechanisms** like standardised certification and **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)**.
7. Supports initiatives like **District Skill Committees (DSCs)** and **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)**.
8. Emphasises **inclusive participation** of women, SC/STs, and persons with disabilities in skill ecosystem.

### EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION – NEW INTERVENTIONS

**Recent Update:** 7 new interventions launched to boost MSME exports

#### About:

1. The **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** aims to enhance **India’s global export competitiveness**, especially for MSMEs.
2. Introduces **financial enablers** like **export factoring**, providing working capital through discounted receivables.
3. Offers **credit support for e-commerce exporters** with high guarantee coverage and interest subvention benefits.
4. Encourages **entry into new and high-risk markets** through risk-sharing financial instruments.

- Includes **TRACE initiative** to help exporters meet global **testing, inspection, and certification standards**.
- FLOW scheme** supports overseas warehousing and logistics infrastructure for exporters.
- LIFT initiative** mitigates geographical disadvantages by subsidising freight and transport costs.
- INSIGHT programme** strengthens capacity building and district-level export facilitation under **Districts as Export Hubs**.

#### PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL ON JUDICIAL DIVERSITY

**Recent Update:** Bill proposes proportional representation and regional benches

##### About:

- The bill seeks to ensure **social diversity in higher judiciary**, including SC, ST, OBC, minorities, and women.
- Advocates **proportional representation based on population**, addressing under-representation in judiciary.
- Proposes **time-bound appointments**, mandating notification of collegium recommendations within 90 days.
- Suggests **regional benches of Supreme Court** to improve accessibility for litigants across India.
- Retains **Constitution Bench in Delhi** for handling major constitutional matters.
- Highlights limitations of current system where **Supreme Court functions only from Delhi**.
- Based on constitutional provisions like **Articles 124, 130, and 217** governing judicial appointments and seat.
- Aims to improve **access to justice, inclusivity, and transparency** in judicial functioning.

#### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (NCST)

**Recent Update:** 23rd Foundation Day celebrated by Ministry of Tribal Affairs

##### About:

- NCST** is a **constitutional body under Article 338-A**, established by the **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**.

- Created to address **distinct issues of Scheduled Tribes**, separate from SC-focused commission.
- Comprises **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three members**, appointed by the President.
- Holds **civil court powers** to investigate complaints, summon individuals, and access records.
- Monitors implementation of **constitutional safeguards and welfare schemes for STs**.
- Plays a role in **socio-economic planning and evaluation of tribal development programmes**.
- Must be **consulted on policies affecting tribal communities**, ensuring participatory governance.
- Additional functions include safeguarding **forest rights, land ownership, and preventing displacement**.

#### ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

**Recent Update:** SC sets deadline for Speaker to decide disqualification petitions

##### About:

- The **Anti-Defection Law** was introduced by the **52nd Constitutional Amendment (1985)** under the **Tenth Schedule**.
- Strengthened by the **91st Amendment (2003)**, removing split provision and retaining **2/3rd merger rule**.
- Aims to prevent **political defections and horse-trading**, ensuring party discipline in legislatures.
- Grounds include **voluntarily giving up membership**, defying party whip, or joining another party.
- Speaker/Chairman decides disqualification**, though decisions are subject to judicial review.
- Criticised for **delays and bias**, as Speaker often belongs to ruling party.
- Judicial rulings emphasise **time-bound decisions and transparency** in defection cases.
- Suggested reforms include **independent tribunal or Election Commission oversight** for neutrality and fairness.

## CURBING FREEBIES CULTURE

**Recent Update:** Supreme Court raises concerns over pre-election freebies and cash transfers

### About:

1. **Freebies** refer to **welfare benefits or promises** offered by governments or political parties to attract voter support.
2. They are often **populist and fiscally distortionary**, diverting public funds from long-term investments like infrastructure and human capital.
3. **S. Subramaniam Balaji case (2013)** held freebies as a matter of **legislative policy**, placing them largely beyond judicial review.
4. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** under MCC advises against promises that **distort electoral fairness**, though not illegal under RPA, 1951.
5. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** distinguishes **merit goods** (education, health) from distortionary freebies like loan waivers and free power.
6. Leads to **crowding out of productive capital**, reducing funds for infrastructure and long-term economic growth.
7. Creates a **dependency culture**, where excessive cash transfers may reduce incentives for work and self-reliance.
8. Raises **ethical and democratic concerns**, as pre-election freebies can influence voters and undermine level playing field.

## JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES IN INDIA

**Recent Update:** Madras High Court rulings revive debate on Essential Religious Practices test

### About:

1. Judicial oversight in religion is guided by **Articles 25 and 26**, which guarantee religious freedom subject to **public order, morality, and health**.
2. The **Essential Religious Practices (ERP) test** is used to determine which practices are **integral to a religion and constitutionally protected**.
3. **Shirur Mutt case (1954)** established that essential practices must be determined from **religious doctrines themselves**.

4. **Durgah Committee case (1961)** clarified that **superstitious or non-essential practices** are not protected under the Constitution.
5. **Shayara Bano (2017)** held that practices merely permitted but not mandatory (like triple talaq) are **not essential religious practices**.
6. Courts distinguish between **religious and secular aspects**, allowing the State to regulate economic or administrative activities of religious institutions.
7. Criticism includes **judicial overreach into theological matters** and lack of domain expertise in interpreting religious doctrines.
8. The ERP doctrine faces issues of **inconsistency, politicisation, and implementation challenges**, affecting judicial credibility and neutrality.

## SOURCE: THE HINDU

## CENTRAL EXCISE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025

**Recent Update:** Notified in January 2026; revised tobacco taxation effective from 1 February 2026

### About:

1. The Act amends the **Central Excise Act, 1944** to revise taxation on **tobacco and related products**.
2. It removes the **GST compensation cess on tobacco**, restructuring the indirect tax framework.
3. Revises **central excise duty rates** to maintain and even increase the **overall tax burden on tobacco**.
4. Ensures that tobacco products, which are **partially outside GST**, continue to be taxed effectively.
5. Aims to **discourage consumption of harmful products** through higher taxation.
6. Supports **public health objectives** by making tobacco products less affordable.
7. Balances **revenue considerations** with regulatory intent after withdrawal of cess.
8. Reflects India's broader strategy of **sin taxation to curb harmful consumption patterns**.

## DRAFT PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT BILL, 2025

**Recent Update:** Proposed in January 2026 to replace outdated pesticide regulation laws

**About:**

1. The Bill seeks to replace the **Insecticides Act, 1968** and modernise India's pesticide regulation framework.
2. Proposes establishment of a **Central Pesticides Board** to advise on safety standards and approvals.
3. Introduces a **digital registration process** through a Registration Committee for transparency and efficiency.
4. Creates a **National Register of Pesticides** for tracking manufacture, sale, and usage.
5. Provides for **deemed registration** if decisions are not taken within 18 months, reducing delays.
6. Mandates **accreditation of testing laboratories** to ensure quality and safety standards.
7. Includes **worker welfare provisions**, focusing on training and safe handling conditions.
8. Aims to ensure **scientific regulation, farmer safety, and environmental sustainability**.

### RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT, 2009

**Recent Update:** Supreme Court directs effective implementation of 25% reservation in private schools

**About:**

1. The Act operationalises **Article 21A**, making **free and compulsory education a fundamental right**.
2. Covers children aged **6–14 years** for elementary education in neighbourhood schools.
3. Mandates **25% reservation** in private unaided schools for **economically weaker sections**.
4. Ensures compliance with **pupil-teacher ratio norms** to maintain quality of education.
5. Based on constitutional principles under **Articles 45 and 51A**, emphasising State and parental responsibility.
6. Earlier included **No Detention Policy**, which was modified by the **2019 Amendment Act**.
7. Excludes **minority institutions under Article 30(1)** from its provisions.

8. Strengthens oversight through bodies like **NCPCR**, ensuring protection of children's educational rights.

### UGC EQUITY REGULATIONS, 2026

**Recent Update:** Supreme Court stayed implementation of UGC Equity Regulations 2026

**About:**

1. Introduced to address **caste-based discrimination in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)**.
2. Replaces earlier **UGC Equity Regulations, 2012** with stronger enforcement mechanisms.
3. Clearly distinguishes **general discrimination from caste-based discrimination** affecting SC, ST, and OBC groups.
4. Mandates establishment of **Equal Opportunity Centres (EOC)** in all institutions.
5. Requires appointment of **Equity Ambassadors and Equity Squads** for monitoring inclusion.
6. Provides **24-hour response and 15-day investigation timeline** for complaints.
7. Imposes strict penalties like **de-recognition and withdrawal of grants** for non-compliance.
8. Holds **Heads of Institutions personally accountable** for maintaining discrimination-free campuses.

### SECTION 17A OF PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

**Recent Update:** Supreme Court delivers split verdict on constitutionality

**About:**

1. Introduced via **2018 Amendment** to the Prevention of Corruption Act.
2. Requires **prior government approval** before investigating public servants for official acts.
3. Aims to protect **honest officers from frivolous or vexatious complaints**.
4. Distinguishes between **official decision-making and criminal misconduct**.
5. Seen as a safeguard to ensure **fearless administrative functioning**.
6. Criticised for potentially **shielding corrupt officials from timely investigation**.

- Judicial debate centres on **balance between accountability and protection**.
- Recent split verdict highlights **constitutional concerns under Article 14**.

### PRIOR SANCTION FOR PROSECUTION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

**Recent Update:** Continued relevance under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

#### About:

- Prior sanction** under **Section 197 CrPC (now Section 218 BNSS, 2023)** is required to prosecute public servants.
- Provides protection for acts done **in discharge of official duties**.
- Ensures **administrative efficiency** by preventing frivolous litigation against officials.
- Not absolute, as prosecution can proceed with **government approval**.
- Supported by **Articles 311(1) and 311(2)** ensuring safeguards to civil servants.
- Applies to laws like **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** in certain cases.
- Linked with **principles of natural justice** under Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850.
- Balances **accountability with protection of honest governance**.

### PAROLE AND FURLOUGH

**Recent Update:** Continued emphasis under Model Prison Manual 2016

#### About:

- Both are **reformatory measures** under the **Prisons Act, 1894** aimed at prisoner rehabilitation.
- Parole** is conditional release for specific reasons like family emergencies and is **not a right**.
- Period of parole **does not count toward sentence duration** and usually lasts about one month.
- Furlough** is a periodic leave granted as a **matter of right**, promoting reintegration with society.
- Furlough period **counts toward total sentence**, unlike parole.

- Helps maintain **family and social ties**, reducing chances of reoffending.
- Governed by guidelines under **Model Prison Manual 2016**.
- Reflects shift from punitive to **reformatory justice approach**.

### FORM 7 (ELECTORAL ROLL)

**Recent Update:** Used for deletion and correction in electoral rolls

#### About:

- Form 7** is used to request **deletion of a name from electoral rolls**.
- Filed before the **Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)**.
- Can be used to object to **wrongful inclusion of voters**.
- Common reasons include **death, migration, or ineligibility**.
- Can be submitted by **any registered elector** in the constituency.
- Ensures **accuracy and integrity of voter lists**.
- Important for maintaining **free and fair elections**.
- Part of continuous **electoral roll revision process** by ECI.

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

**Recent Update:** President addressed Parliament at beginning of Budget Session

#### About:

- Governed by **Articles 86 and 87** of the Constitution.
- Article 87** mandates special address at beginning of first session each year and after general elections.
- Outlines **government's policy priorities and legislative agenda**.
- Delivered in a **joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament**.
- Reflects the **vision and achievements of the government**.
- Provides **framework for parliamentary discussions and debates**.

7. Symbolises **executive-legislative interface in democracy**.
8. Mandatory constitutional duty, not discretionary in nature.

### GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

**Recent Update:** Tamil Nadu Governor controversy over refusal to read address

#### About:

1. Governed by **Article 176**, requiring Governor to address State Legislature.
2. Address is delivered at **beginning of first session of year and after elections**.
3. Content is prepared by the **Council of Ministers**, not the Governor personally.
4. Reflects **government's policies, programmes, and achievements**.
5. Governor acts on **aid and advice under Articles 163 and 74 principles**.
6. Considered a **constitutional obligation**, not discretionary power.
7. Serves as a **policy statement for legislative functioning**.
8. Recent controversies highlight issues of **federal relations and constitutional propriety**.

### COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM – INDIA (CERT-In)

**Recent Update:** Continues to play central role in cybersecurity compliance and incident response

#### About:

1. **CERT-In** was established in **2004 under Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000** as India's national cybersecurity agency.
2. It functions as the **nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents**, including hacking, phishing, and malware attacks.
3. Operates under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** as its functional organisation.
4. Responsible for issuing **cybersecurity advisories, vulnerability notes, and incident response protocols**.

5. Supervises compliance with **data protection, storage norms, and cybersecurity provisions** under the IT framework.
6. Strengthened by the **IT (Amendment) Act, 2008**, which formally designated its national role in cybersecurity.
7. Plays a crucial role in **protecting critical information infrastructure and ensuring digital resilience**.
8. Acts as a key institution in India's **cyber governance ecosystem amid rising digital threats**.

### NATIONAL SPORTS BOARD

**Recent Update:** National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026 notified

#### About:

1. The **National Sports Board (NSB)** is established under the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**.
2. Acts as the **central authority for recognition and regulation of National Sports Bodies** in India.
3. Ensures **compliance with governance norms, transparency, and accountability** in sports administration.
4. Comprises a **Chairperson and two members**, serving for **3 years or until 65 years of age**.
5. Supported by a **Search-cum-Selection Committee** chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary**.
6. Committee includes **Sports Secretary, sports administration experts, and national award winners**.
7. Aims to bring **professionalism and integrity in sports governance framework**.
8. Strengthens India's institutional capacity for **sports development and global competitiveness**.

### NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE STANDARDS (NQAS)

**Recent Update:** Continued expansion of quality framework across public health facilities

#### About:

1. **NQAS** was launched in **2015 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** to improve healthcare quality.

2. Provides a **comprehensive framework for standardising public healthcare services**.
3. Covers facilities like **District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs, and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs**.
4. Focuses on **patient safety, service delivery, infrastructure, and clinical protocols**.
5. Introduces **measurable indicators and certification mechanisms** for quality assurance.
6. Encourages **continuous quality improvement through periodic assessments and audits**.
7. Supports flagship programmes like **Ayushman Bharat by ensuring reliable primary healthcare**.
8. Plays a vital role in strengthening **public health systems and trust in government healthcare services**.

**SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS**

#### **FORM 7 CONTROVERSY**

**Recent Update:** Allegations of large-scale fraudulent deletions during Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have raised serious concerns

**About:**

1. **Form 7** is a **statutory form** used to object to inclusion or request deletion of names from **electoral rolls** on valid grounds.
2. It is governed by the Election Commission of India under **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960** framed under **RP Act, 1950**.
3. It can be filed by any **registered voter** including **Booth Level Agents (BLAs)** ensuring participatory electoral scrutiny.
4. Grounds include **death, duplication, migration, underage status, non-citizenship, misrepresentation** in records.
5. The objective is to ensure **accuracy, purity, and credibility of electoral rolls** which are essential for **free and fair elections**.
6. Process includes **physical verification (BLO), notice to voter, hearing by ERO, and appeal mechanism**.
7. **2022 amendment** expanded scope allowing **any voter in constituency** to file objections.

8. Controversy arises due to **bulk filings, possible voter disenfranchisement, and misuse**, affecting **electoral integrity**.

#### **FRONTIER NAGALAND TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY (FNTA)**

**Recent Update:** Tripartite agreement signed to address long-standing regional aspirations of Eastern Nagaland

**About:**

1. **FNTA** is an **autonomous territorial governance structure** within Nagaland providing **enhanced administrative autonomy**.
2. Agreement involves **Government of India, Nagaland Government, and ENPO** representing tribal interests.
3. Covers six districts: **Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, Shamator** with historical underdevelopment.
4. Provides **devolution of powers over 46 subjects**, enabling **localized governance and decision-making**.
5. Ensures **financial autonomy** through **central funding, proportional state allocation, and fixed grants**.
6. Administrative setup includes **mini-secretariat** headed by **senior bureaucratic officer**.
7. Protects **Article 371(A)** ensuring safeguards for **Naga customary laws, land, and resources**.
8. Aims at **inclusive development, regional equity, peace, and stability in Northeast India**.

#### **REMOVAL OF CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER (CEC)**

**Recent Update:** Debate highlights importance of safeguarding institutional independence of election authorities

**About:**

1. **CEC** heads the Election Commission of India under **Article 324** ensuring **free and fair elections**.
2. Appointed by **President** based on recommendation of **PM, LoP, and Cabinet Minister committee**.
3. Tenure is **6 years or 65 years**, ensuring **stability and continuity**.

4. Removal governed by **Article 324(5)** similar to **SC judge removal (Article 124(4))**.
5. Grounds include **proved misbehaviour and incapacity**, ensuring protection from **arbitrary removal**.
6. Process involves **inquiry, parliamentary debate, and special majority in both Houses**.
7. Final removal through **Presidential order**, based on **Parliament's decision**.
8. Ensures **independence, neutrality, and credibility of electoral machinery**.

### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (NCST)

**Recent Update:** Continued focus on safeguarding tribal rights and addressing developmental disparities  
**About:**

1. **NCST is a constitutional body** under **Article 338A** protecting **Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.
2. Established via **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** separating it from **SC/ST combined commission**.
3. Functions include **monitoring safeguards, protecting rights, promoting socio-economic development**.
4. Composition: **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three Members** appointed by President.
5. Investigates **land alienation, rights violations, denial of benefits** to tribal communities.
6. Possesses **civil court powers** like **summoning, evidence collection, document requisition**.
7. Submits **annual reports to President**, ensuring **parliamentary accountability**.
8. Plays role in **policy consultation** in laws like **FRA, PESA, tribal welfare schemes**.

### MOTION OF THANKS

**Recent Update:** Parliamentary debates reflect increasing scrutiny of government policies

**About:**

1. **Motion of Thanks** is a **formal parliamentary resolution** expressing gratitude for **President's Address**.
2. Based on **Articles 86 and 87**, mandating **special address at beginning of sessions**.
3. Provides opportunity for **discussion on policies, governance, and national issues**.

4. Members can move **amendments highlighting omissions or criticism**.
5. Debate concludes with **Prime Minister's reply**, addressing key concerns.
6. Motion is passed by **simple majority in Parliament**.
7. Adoption of amendments reflects **political dissent and accountability**.
8. Acts as a key mechanism for **executive accountability and legislative oversight**.

### PRIVILEGE NOTICE

**Recent Update:** Increasing invocation indicates rising political contestation within Parliament

**About:**

1. **Privilege Notice** is a **formal complaint** alleging **breach of parliamentary privilege**.
2. Rooted in **Articles 105 and 194**, ensuring **freedom and immunity of legislators**.
3. Protects members from **obstruction, intimidation, or external interference**.
4. Invoked in cases of **misleading House, defamation, obstruction, distortion of proceedings**.
5. **Speaker/Chairman** decides admissibility ensuring **procedural control**.
6. May be referred to **Privileges Committee** for detailed inquiry.
7. Punishments include **reprimand, suspension, imprisonment, expulsion**.
8. Ensures **dignity, authority, and smooth functioning of Parliament**.

### NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST SPEAKER

**Recent Update:** Highlights debates around neutrality and accountability of presiding officers

**About:**

1. Motion seeks removal of **Speaker under Article 94(c)** before completion of tenure.
2. Requires **absolute majority of total membership**, ensuring **strict procedural threshold**.
3. Requires **14-day prior notice**, preventing **sudden political misuse**.
4. Needs support of **minimum 50 members** for admission.

5. Debate restricted to **specific charges**, ensuring **focused discussion**.
6. Speaker can **participate and vote**, but **no casting vote allowed**.
7. No Speaker has been removed till date, reflecting **institutional stability**.
8. Ensures **accountability while prese**

### RENAMING OF KERALA AS "KERALAM"

**Recent Update:** Union Cabinet approved proposal to rename Kerala as "Keralam" reflecting linguistic identity

**About:**

1. Proposal aims to replace **English constitutional name "Kerala"** with **native Malayalam term "Keralam"**.
2. Governed by **Article 3 of the Constitution**, which empowers Parliament to **alter names, areas, and boundaries of states**.
3. As per **Proviso to Article 3**, such a Bill requires **President's recommendation and reference to State Legislature**.
4. Requires amendment to the **First Schedule of the Constitution**, which lists names of **States and UTs**.
5. Process begins with **State Assembly resolution**, followed by **Union Government scrutiny and Cabinet approval**.
6. Bill is then introduced in Parliament and passed by **simple majority in both Houses**.
7. Final step includes **Presidential assent and official notification**, making the new name legally valid.
8. The change reflects **linguistic identity, cultural assertion, and legacy of Aikya Kerala Movement**.

### SPEAKER OF THE KNESSET MEDAL

**Recent Update:** Israel honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi for strengthening India–Israel strategic ties

**About:**

1. The **Speaker of the Knesset Medal** is the **highest parliamentary honour of Israel** awarded by the Knesset.
2. It recognises individuals for **exceptional contributions to Israel and the Jewish people**.

3. The award highlights **parliamentary-level recognition**, beyond executive or diplomatic honours.
4. It is given for contributions in **strategic, political, technological, cultural, or security cooperation**.
5. Symbolises strengthening of **bilateral relations and global partnerships**.
6. Recently instituted as a **formal legislative honour by the Knesset**.
7. Reflects the role of legislature in **foreign relations and diplomatic outreach**.
8. Reinforces India–Israel ties in areas like **defence, technology, and innovation**.

### KNESSET (ISRAEL PARLIAMENT)

**Recent Update:** Increased global focus due to parliamentary diplomacy and international honours

**About:**

1. The **Knesset** is the **unicameral legislature of Israel**, exercising **sovereign law-making authority**.
2. It performs **legislative, supervisory, and constitutional functions** in governance.
3. Members are elected through **proportional representation based on party lists**.
4. This system leads to **coalition governments and multi-party participation**.
5. The normal tenure is **4 years**, though early elections may be called.
6. It represents the **democratic will of the people of Israel**.
7. Plays a key role in **policy-making, executive oversight, and constitutional amendments**.
8. Acts as a platform for **international parliamentary diplomacy and recognition**.

### OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, 1923

**Recent Update:** Continues to be debated in context of transparency vs national security

**About:**

1. The **Official Secrets Act, 1923** is a **colonial-era law** aimed at protecting **official information and state security**.
2. It seeks to safeguard **sovereignty, integrity, and national security of India**.

3. Applies to **government officials, defence personnel, private individuals, and companies**, including those abroad.
4. **Section 3** criminalises **spying, approaching prohibited places, and aiding enemy**, punishable up to 14 years.
5. **Section 5** penalises **unauthorised communication of official information or documents**.
6. Covers **prohibited places** like defence establishments and sensitive installations.
7. Provides **search and seizure powers (Section 11)** to authorities in national security cases.
8. Criticised for **vagueness, misuse, and conflict with Right to Information (RTI) principles**.

### SABHASAAR INITIATIVE

**Recent Update:** Adopted by over 1.11 lakh Gram Panchayats for AI-based meeting documentation

**About:**

1. **SabhaSaar** is an **AI-powered platform** for generating **Minutes of Meetings (MoM)** from Gram Sabha discussions.
2. Launched by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** with support from **IndiaAI Mission**.
3. Uses **AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP)** for **voice-to-text transcription and summarisation**.
4. Supports **multilingual functionality** via **Bhashini platform**.
5. Ensures **secure data governance** aligned with **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2025**.
6. Tracks governance metrics like **attendance, decisions, action points, and follow-ups**.
7. Enhances **transparency, accountability, and participatory democracy** at grassroots level.
8. Represents digital transformation of **local self-governance institutions**.

### BHARAT TAXI (COOPERATIVE RIDE-HAILING)

**Recent Update:** Emerging as an indigenous alternative to private aggregators like Ola and Uber

**About:**

1. **Bharat Taxi** is a **driver-owned cooperative ride-hailing platform** under **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
2. Promoted by **Ministry of Cooperation** and operated by **Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited**.

3. Based on principle **"Sarathi hi Malik"**, ensuring **drivers are owners and stakeholders**.
4. Features **zero-commission and no surge pricing**, ensuring **fair income distribution**.
5. Provides **social security benefits** like insurance, health cover, and retirement support.
6. Encourages **women participation** through initiatives like **Sarathi Didi**.
7. Integrates **digital safety features, real-time tracking, and multilingual apps**.
8. Promotes **inclusive mobility, cooperative economy, and platform decentralisation**.

### PM RAHAT SCHEME

**Recent Update:** Strengthening emergency healthcare response for road accident victims

**About:**

1. **PM RAHAT** provides **cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh** for road accident victims for 7 days.
2. Focuses on **Golden Hour intervention** to reduce fatalities due to delayed medical care.
3. Implemented by **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** and **National Health Authority (NHA)**.
4. Integrated with **eDAR platform** and **TMS 2.0** for digital claim processing.
5. Ensures **police verification within 24–48 hours** for transparency and accountability.
6. Funded through **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAf)**.
7. Claims are settled within **10 days**, ensuring hospital participation.
8. Strengthens **emergency healthcare ecosystem and road safety framework**.

### STARTUP INDIA FUND OF FUNDS 2.0

**Recent Update:** ₹10,000 crore fund approved to boost startup ecosystem and innovation

**About:**

1. **FoF 2.0** is a **government-backed fund** investing in **SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**.
2. Builds on earlier **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0)** launched in 2016.

3. Aims to **mobilise domestic capital and strengthen venture ecosystem**.
4. Focuses on **deep-tech, innovation, and advanced manufacturing sectors**.
5. Addresses **early-stage funding gaps and high-risk capital constraints**.
6. Promotes **pan-India startup growth beyond metro cities**.
7. Strengthens **domestic venture capital base and financial markets**.
8. Supports **innovation-led economic growth and job creation**.

SOURCE: PIB

### RENAMING OF KERALA TO "KERALAM"

**Recent Update:** Union Cabinet approved proposal to rename Kerala as "Keralam" (Feb 2026)

#### About

1. The proposal seeks to change the name of **Kerala to "Keralam"**, reflecting the **authentic Malayalam linguistic identity** of the state.
2. Under **Article 3 of the Constitution**, Parliament has the power to **alter the name, boundaries, or area of states** through legislation.
3. Such a Bill requires **President's recommendation** and must be referred to the **State Legislature for its views**, although these are **not binding**.
4. **Article 4** clarifies that such changes are **not constitutional amendments under Article 368** and require only a **simple majority**.
5. The Kerala Assembly had earlier passed a **unanimous resolution in June 2024** requesting the change.
6. The move highlights India's **quasi-federal structure**, where **Parliament retains final authority** despite state consultation.
7. Similar precedents include **Odisha (2011), Karnataka (1973), and Tamil Nadu (1969)**, showing continuity in linguistic assertion.
8. The renaming has **cultural significance**, strengthening **regional identity, tourism branding, and diaspora connection**.

### CAQM AND DELHI AIR POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

**Recent Update:** CAQM reviewed SC-mandated report identifying PM2.5 as dominant pollutant

#### About

1. **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** reviewed a report highlighting **PM2.5 as the key pollutant driving AQI deterioration in Delhi-NCR**.
2. The study shows pollution is due to both **local emissions and transboundary airshed transport**, indicating a **regional problem**.
3. **46 new monitoring stations (CAAQMS)** were approved, increasing total to **157 stations**, improving **real-time pollution tracking**.
4. Winter pollution is dominated by **secondary particulates (27%)**, followed by **transport and biomass burning**.
5. In summer, **dust becomes the major contributor (27%)**, showing **seasonal variation in pollution sources**.
6. Measures include **stricter emission norms, better waste management, and industrial regulation**.
7. CAQM operates under the **2021 Act with overriding powers over NCR states**, ensuring **inter-state coordination**.
8. The issue highlights need for **regional airshed management and cooperative environmental federalism**.

### PM RAHAT SCHEME

**Recent Update:** Government launched PM RAHAT for cashless road accident treatment

#### About

1. **PM RAHAT** is a nationwide scheme providing **cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims**.
2. It focuses on the **Golden Hour**, where timely treatment significantly **improves survival chances**.
3. The scheme addresses India's high burden of **road accidents (4.6 lakh accidents, 1.68 lakh deaths annually)**.
4. It integrates with **ERSS 112 emergency system**, ensuring **quick response and hospital access**.
5. Uses **digital platforms (eDAR, TMS 2.0)** for seamless **claim processing and monitoring**.

6. Aligns with **Article 21 (Right to Life)** ensuring **timely medical care as a fundamental right**.
7. Reduces **financial burden on families** and prevents **poverty due to medical expenses**.
8. Strengthens **governance through coordination between police, hospitals, insurers, and government agencies**.

### DIGITIZATION OF COURTS (e-COURTS PROJECT)

**Recent Update:** e-Courts Phase III expands digital judiciary infrastructure

#### About

1. **Digitization of courts** involves use of **ICT tools for filing, hearings, records, and payments**, improving efficiency.
2. The **e-Courts project** started in 2007 and Phase III (2023–27) aims for **paperless judiciary**.
3. Over **637 crore pages digitised and 3.93 crore virtual hearings conducted**, indicating massive scale adoption.
4. Supports **Article 21 (speedy trial)** and **Article 39A (access to justice)** through digital access.
5. Tools like **NJDG dashboards, e-filing, and virtual courts** enhance **transparency and case management**.
6. Enables **cost reduction and faster disposal**, reducing pendency in courts.
7. Promotes **inclusivity** by helping remote, elderly, and disabled litigants access justice easily.
8. Challenges include **digital divide, cybersecurity risks, and resistance to technological adoption**.

### MANDATORY BIOMETRIC UPDATES (MBU) UNDER AADHAAR

**Recent Update:** UIDAI completed 1 crore biometric updates for schoolchildren

#### About

1. **Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU)** requires updating **fingerprints and iris data at ages 5 and 15**.
2. It ensures **accurate authentication and lifelong identity reliability** in Aadhaar system.
3. Implemented by **UIDAI under Aadhaar Act, 2016**, ensuring **secure digital identity framework**.

4. Integration with **UDISE+ database** enables **tracking of schoolchildren needing updates**.
5. Free updates for children (7–15 years) reduce **financial barriers and exclusion risks**.
6. Supports **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** by eliminating duplicates and leakages.
7. Raises concerns related to **data privacy, security, and child rights protections**.
8. Strengthens **data-driven governance and digital inclusion in education sector**.

### ARBITRATION COUNCIL OF INDIA (ACI)

**Recent Update:** ACI yet to be constituted despite 2019 amendment

#### About

1. **Arbitration Council of India (ACI)** is a proposed **statutory body under Arbitration Act amendments (2019)**.
2. It aims to promote **institutional arbitration and standardize dispute resolution mechanisms**.
3. Functions include **grading arbitral institutions and accrediting arbitrators**.
4. Seeks to improve **ease of doing business and contract enforcement in India**.
5. Linked with **India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC)** to develop global arbitration hub.
6. Helps reduce **judicial burden and pendency of cases** through alternative dispute resolution.
7. Concerns exist over **government control affecting arbitral independence**.
8. Strengthening ACI is key for **legal reforms, investor confidence, and economic growth**.