



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**02<sup>nd</sup> July - 08<sup>th</sup> July, 2025**

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**UPSC ESE, PSUs,  
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**Officer of the Order of the Star**

**PM Modi** conferred upon Ghana's  
National Honour



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2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2025

## National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025.

### Key Highlights

- National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025 replaced the 2001 policy and it outlines a strategic vision to make India a global sporting powerhouse and a strong contender in international events, including the 2036 Olympics.
- It is the outcome of extensive consultations involving Central Ministries, NITI Aayog, State Governments, National Sports Federations (NSFs), athletes, domain experts, and public stakeholders.
- It is anchored on five key pillars viz. Excellence on the Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement and Integration with Education (NEP 2020).
- National Sports Policy 2025 sets India on a transformative path toward becoming a leading sporting nation globally, while creating healthier, more engaged, and empowered citizens.
- It is a major initiative to transform India's sports landscape and empower citizens through sports.
- India's sports ecosystem faced several challenges — limited budget allocations, poor governance, lack of scientific coaching, and insufficient grassroots engagement.
- Sports being a State subject also led to fragmented efforts and inconsistent implementation.

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- **Context:** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) marks 50 years since it entered into force.

### Key Highlights

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a pioneering global agreement originally conceived in 1963 at a meeting of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- CITES is a voluntary international agreement between governments, aiming to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- It operates through a licensing system that regulates all import, export, and re-export of listed species and their parts or derivatives.
- The CITES Secretariat is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- As of 2024, there are 185 Parties (countries or regional organizations) to CITES; India ratified the Convention in 1976.
- While CITES is legally binding on its Parties, it does not replace national laws. Instead, each Party must implement CITES through its own domestic legislation.
- CITES was the first global agreement to address wildlife trade at an international level, providing a framework for cooperation to prevent over-exploitation and extinction due to trade.
- It remains a cornerstone of international efforts to protect biodiversity, with its effectiveness relying on the commitment and enforcement by its member Parties.

### Key Initiatives of CITES

- **Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme:** Adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> CoP Harare (1997), this site-based system monitors trends in the illegal killing of elephants across Africa and Asia.
- **International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC):** Launched in 2010, ICWC is a partnership between CITES and other organizations to support national law enforcement agencies in combating wildlife and forest crime.

- **Strategic Vision 2021–2030:** This framework guides CITES' efforts to ensure wildlife trade supports global biodiversity goals, sustainable development, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **CITES Tree Species Programme:** Launched in 2024, focuses on improving the management and sustainable use of tree species listed under CITES.

## Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet has approved the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme with a corpus of Rs. One lakh Crore.

### Key Objectives:

- Promote private sector investment in RDI, especially in areas of economic security and strategic relevance;
- Support transformative projects at higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs);
- Support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance;
- Facilitate creation of a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds (FoF) to support deep-tech innovations and startups.

### Institutional Framework:

- **Governing Board (Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** Chaired by the Prime Minister, provides overall strategic direction.
- **Executive Council (ANRF):** Approves scheme guidelines, identifies projects and fund managers.
- **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS):** Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, oversees implementation, reviews performance, and approves changes.
- **Nodal Department:** Department of Science and Technology (DST).

3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2025

## PM State visit to Ghana

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a five-nation tour, arrived in Ghana on a two-day State visit.

### Major Highlights

- This is the first visit by an Indian PM to Ghana in the last three decades.
- Four MoUs were signed following the talks, including in the areas of cultural exchange and traditional music.
- Prime Minister Modi announced that the leaders have decided to give the India-Ghana partnership the form of a Comprehensive Partnership.
- PM was also conferred with Ghana's highest state honour 'the Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana' in recognition of his distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership.

### India-Ghana Relations

- India and Ghana share historical ties rooted in anti-colonial solidarity and a shared vision for the Global South.
  - India established its representative office in Accra in 1953, four years before Ghana gained independence in 1957.
  - Diplomatic relations were formally established the same year, laying the foundation for a close and friendly partnership.
  - Both nations are founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- The Joint Commission was established in 1995 and reinforced in 2016, while a protocol for Foreign Office Consultations was signed in 2002.
  - Three rounds of consultations have been held since then, with the latest in 2022.
  - The Joint Trade Committee, operational since 1981, held its fourth meeting in 2024.
- India is among Ghana's top trading partners and the largest destination for Ghanaian exports.
  - Bilateral trade between India and Ghana stood at approximately USD 3 billion in 2023–24, with Ghana enjoying a positive trade balance due to substantial gold exports.
  - Imports of gold by India accounts for over 70% of total imports from Ghana.

- Ghana is a key destination for Indian pharmaceutical exports, which are critical to the country's healthcare system.
- India is among the top investors in Ghana, with more than \$1.2 billion channelled into sectors such as agro-processing, mining, manufacturing, construction, and ICT.
  - India holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> place for investments in 12 projects (after China) and 8<sup>th</sup> by value of FDIs in 2024.
- India has extended around 450 million US dollars in concessional credit and grants for infrastructure and capacity-building projects.
  - Landmark initiatives include the India-Ghana Kofi Annan ICT Centre of Excellence established in 2003, the Rural Electrification Project, the Jubilee House Presidential Complex which was rehabilitated in 2017, and the Komenda Sugar Plant and Elmina Fish Processing Plant inaugurated in 2016.
  - India supported the construction of the Tema-Mpakadan Standard Gauge Railway Line, which was inaugurated in 2024.
- Over 1,600 scholarships have been offered under the e-Vidya Bharati and e-Arogya Bharati digital network project.
  - Ghana has benefited from India's Pan-African e-Network initiative, enabling telemedicine and tele-education services through Indian institutions.
- Agreements have been signed to promote cooperation in areas like LPG distribution, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and standardisation through collaborations between India's Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority.
  - Air connectivity is facilitated through the Air Services Agreement signed in 1978 and updated through subsequent MoUs.
  - Cultural exchange remains a vibrant aspect of the partnership, anchored by a Cultural Agreement signed in 1981 and periodic Cultural Exchange Programmes.
- India also extended humanitarian support to Ghana during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing 50,000 vaccine doses as a grant and over 1.6 million doses through the COVAX facility.
- There is a sizable Indian community in Ghana numbering over 15,000. Some of them have been in Ghana for over 70 years.

## C-Flood

- **Context:** Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated C-Flood in New Delhi.

## About C-Flood

- It is a Unified Inundation Forecasting System developed collaboratively by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Pune and the Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It is a web-based platform offering two-day advance flood forecasts at the village level through inundation maps and water level predictions.
- It is part of the National Supercomputing Mission and aims to enhance India's flood management and disaster response capabilities.
- **Features:**
  - It integrates flood modeling from national and regional agencies, serving as a unified decision-support tool for disaster management.
  - Currently, it covers the Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi river basins, with plans to include more basins.
  - It employs advanced 2-D hydrodynamic modeling to simulate floods.
  - Simulations for the Mahanadi Basin run on High-Performance Computing at C-DAC Pune under the National Supercomputing Mission, while flood data for the Godavari and Tapi Basins, developed by the National Remote Sensing Centre under the National Hydrology Project, are integrated into the system.



4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

## "3 by 35" Initiative

- **Context:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the "3 by 35" Initiative, calling on countries globally to increase taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks.

### Key Facts

- The initiative urges a minimum 50% real price increase on the three targeted products by 2035, achieved through higher excise or health taxes.
- The world faces an urgent challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes now account for over 75% of global deaths.
- Simultaneously, shrinking development aid and rising public debt have strained health systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- Studies suggest a one-time 50% price hike could prevent up to 50 million premature deaths over the next 50 years and raise USD 1 trillion in public revenue over the next decade.
- From 2012 to 2022, nearly 140 countries raised tobacco taxes, with real prices rising over 50% on average, demonstrating that large-scale change is possible.

### About Health Tax

- A health tax is a levy imposed on products that have a negative impact on public health — primarily tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks. The dual purpose is to:
  - Reduce consumption of these harmful products.
  - Generate revenue for public health, education, and social protection programs.

## Green Climate Fund

- **Context:** The Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world's largest climate fund, has approved \$200 million for a new Asian Development Bank (ADB)-led programme.

### Key Facts

- This will support ADB's India Green Finance Facility (IGFF), a blended finance program that aims to crowd-in investment in emerging clean energy technologies from India's leading development finance institutions (DFIs) and from the private sector.

### About Green Climate Fund

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest dedicated climate fund.
- It was established in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Aims to support developing countries in:
  - Limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).
  - Adapting to the impacts of climate change (adaptation).
- GCF is mandated to invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation in grant equivalent.
- Headquarters: Songdo, Incheon, South Korea.
- A core GCF principle is to follow a country-driven approach, which means that developing countries lead GCF programming and implementation.

## Global Liveability Index 2025

- **Context:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Global Liveability Index 2025, assessing the quality of life across major cities worldwide.

### About Global Liveability Index

- It assesses 173 cities globally using 30 indicators grouped under five broad categories: Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education, and Infrastructure.
- The index scores each city on a scale of 1 to 100, where 100 indicates ideal liveability, and 1 means it is intolerable.

- **Most liveable cities:**
  - Copenhagen (Denmark) has claimed the top spot (98/100), Zurich (Switzerland) ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> (97.1/100), tied with Vienna (Austria).
  - Copenhagen has ended Vienna's three-year dominance by achieving perfect scores in stability, education, and infrastructure.
- Least liveable cities: Damascus (Syria) remains the least liveable city (30.7/100), followed by Tripoli (Libya) (40.1/100) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) (41.7/100).
- India's Performance: Delhi & Mumbai both scored 60.2, sharing 141st rank.

5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

## Trinidad & Tobago

- **Context:** PM Modi was conferred with 'The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago' – the country's highest civilian honour. Trinidad and Tobago has become the first country in the Caribbean region to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

### About Trinidad and Tobago

- **Location:** Trinidad and Tobago is situated in the Caribbean Sea, off the northern edge of the South American mainland, just off the coast of Venezuela.
  - It is part of the Lesser Antilles in the West Indies, geographically positioned between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.
  - The islands lie close to the continent of South America, separated by the Gulf of Paria.
- **Physical Features:** Trinidad, the larger of the two islands, is mostly flat with some low mountain ranges and fertile plains.
  - Tobago, the smaller island, is more rugged and mountainous.
  - The region lies close to the Orinoco River Delta and experiences tropical maritime climate.
- **Capital:** Port of Spain

- **Demographic Aspects:** Over 35% of the population is of Indian descent, largely tracing their roots to indentured labourers brought from India during British colonial rule.

## Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

- **Context:** The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar is a large-scale, legally mandated exercise initiated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure the accuracy and inclusiveness of the state's voter list.

### Key Facts

- SIR is authorized under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- The main aim is to ensure that every eligible citizen is included in the Electoral Roll (ER), and no ineligible voter remains, thereby upholding the integrity of the electoral process and enabling free and fair elections.
- Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conduct house-to-house verification to:
  - Enroll all eligible citizens.
  - Remove ineligible names (such as deceased persons or those who have moved away).
- Update details for accuracy

6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

## 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the BRICS Summit Plenary session on 'Strengthening Multilateralism, Economic-Financial Affairs, and Artificial Intelligence.'

### Major Highlights

- The BRICS Leaders' Declaration, adopted at the summit reflected India's key concerns, especially on cross-border terrorism and global governance reforms.

- PM Modi said that the majority of the world's population is not properly represented in key global institutions.
  - He called for a greater role for the developing world in international decision-making.
  - He also emphasizes the need for making BRICS more effective in an increasingly multipolar world.
- He put forward four key suggestions to enhance cooperation among BRICS nations:
  - **Improving Systems to Boost Credibility:** Highlighted the importance of demand-driven decision-making, long-term financial sustainability, and maintaining a healthy credit rating.
  - **Collaborative Initiatives:** Proposed creating a BRICS Science and Research Repository that can also benefit the countries of the Global South.
  - **Resilient supply chain:** He emphasised the need to secure and make the supply chain resilient, particularly for critical minerals and technology.
  - **Responsible AI:** Stressed the importance of Responsible AI, stating that India believes in artificial intelligence as a tool for enhancing human values and capabilities and is guided by the mantra of 'AI for All'.
- Initially, the grouping was termed BRIC as South Africa was inducted in 2010 and from there on it has been referred to as BRICS.
- **Summits:** The governments of the BRICS states have met annually at formal summits since 2009.
- BRICS countries have come together to deliberate on important issues under the three pillars of:
  1. Political and security,
  2. Economic and financial and
  3. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- **New Development Bank:** Formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states. The Bank shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.

## Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

- **Context:** Ethiopia has announced the completion of a c, Africa's largest hydro-electric power plant on the Blue Nile, a project that has long been a source of tension with Egypt and Sudan.

## About Blue Nile

- The Blue Nile originates in Lake Tana, located in the Ethiopian Highlands of eastern Africa.
- It joins the White Nile at Al-Muqrin in Khartoum (the capital of Sudan). From this confluence, the river flows north through Sudan and Egypt, eventually emptying into the Mediterranean Sea as the Nile.
- The Nile River is the longest river in the world, flowing through 11 countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan and Egypt.

7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

## About BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym that refers to a group of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members.
- The term was originally coined by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001.
- **Origin:** As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.
- The grouping was formalized during the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in 2006.

## World's Most Equal Societies

- **Context:** According to the World Bank, India's Gini Index stands at 25.5, making it the fourth most equal country in the world.

## Major Highlights

- India was placed after the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Belarus.
- India's score is much lower than China's 35.7 and far lower than the United States, which stands at 41.8.
- India falls into the "moderately low" inequality category, which includes Gini scores between 25 and 30.
- India has a better score than all of the other 167 countries for which the World Bank has released data.
- Poverty Reduction: Extreme poverty dropped to 2.3% in 2022-23. 171 million Indians moved out of extreme poverty between 2011–23.

## About Gini Index

- The Gini Index shows how equally income, wealth or consumption is distributed across households or individuals in a country.
- It ranges in value from 0 to 100. A score of 0 means perfect equality and a score of 100 means absolute inequality.
  - The higher the Gini Index the more unequal the country.
- Lorenz Curve: Graphically Gini Index can be explained by the Lorenz curve.
  - A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual or household.
  - A perfectly equal distribution will be shown by a diagonal line, while the actual distribution will be shown by the Lorenz curve.
  - The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality.
  - The bigger the gap, the more unequal the income.

## National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- **Context:** The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has been non-functional since April 2025 due to the retirement of its Chairperson.

## About National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- It is a statutory body established by the Government of India under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- Its primary mandate is to safeguard and protect the interests of India's notified religious minority communities, which currently include Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis (Zoroastrians), and Jains.
- The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and five Members, all nominated by the Central Government. At least five, including the Chairperson, must be from minority communities.
- Each member, including the Chairperson, holds office for three years and is eligible for reappointment.
- While investigating, the NCM has powers equivalent to a civil court, such as:
  - Summoning and enforcing the attendance of individuals.
  - Requiring the production of documents.
  - Receiving evidence on affidavits.
  - Requisitioning public records from courts or offices.

8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

## Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration

- **Context:** Recently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has officially approved the Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration (AQVD) to transform Amaravati into India's first Quantum Valley and a global hub for quantum technologies.

## About Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration (AQVD)

- It positions Amaravati as a deep-tech capital aligned with India's National Quantum Mission.
- It reflects a multi-stakeholder commitment involving the state government, global tech giants like IBM, TCS, and L&T, academia, and startups to build a vibrant quantum innovation ecosystem.



- It will attract \$1 billion in investments by January 1, 2029, with \$500 million targeted by 2027, focusing on quantum computing, chips, sensing, and communications.
- This fosters the creation of QChipIN, India's largest open quantum testbed, integrating quantum computers.
- **Significance:**
  - It aims to position Amaravati as a globally competitive quantum research hub.
  - It promotes public-private partnerships for innovation.
  - The initiative encourages skilling and research in cutting-edge science.
  - It aligns with India's broader quantum mission goals and tech-driven economic development.
- The project is entirely funded by India under its Grant in Aid Scheme, with the Inland Waterways Authority of India as the project development consultant
- Components:
  - **Sea Route:** Connects Kolkata Port (India) to Sittwe Port (Rakhine State, Myanmar) across the Bay of Bengal, covering about 539 km.
  - **River Route:** From Sittwe, cargo is transported via the Kaladan River to Paletwa (158 km).



## About Quantum Computer

- Quantum computers are a revolutionary class of machines that harness the principles of quantum mechanics — the physics of subatomic particles.
- It is exponentially faster than traditional systems, and allows quantum computers to solve problems like molecular simulations, optimization, and cryptography.
- Qubit is the basic unit of quantum information. Unlike classical bits (0 or 1), qubits can exist in a superposition of both states simultaneously.

## Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)

- **Context:** The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) between India and Myanmar would be operational by 2027.

## About Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)

- It is a major infrastructure initiative jointly developed by India and Myanmar to enhance connectivity between India's eastern seaboard and its landlocked northeastern states, using a combination of sea, river, and road transport.

## New Development Bank (NDB)

- **Context:** Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB), expanding the multilateral lender's membership to 11 countries.

## About New Development Bank (NDB)

- **Establishment:** The NDB was founded in July 2014 at the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, and became operational in July 2015.
- **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China
- **Mandate:** The bank's primary goal is to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects that contribute to economic growth and development in member countries and beyond.
- **Capitalization:** The initial authorized capital of the NDB is \$100 billion, with each founding member contributing an equal share.
- **Members:** India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria are members of NDB.

- **Governance:** The NDB is governed by a Board of Governors and a Board of Directors, with each member country having equal voting rights, reflecting the principle of equality among founding members.

## UAE'S Golden Visa Scheme

- **Context:** The United Arab Emirates government has introduced a pilot nomination-based golden visa programme for residents of India and Bangladesh.

### About Golden Visas

- They are immigration schemes that allow individuals to gain residency in a country by making significant financial investments, such as in real estate or government bonds, without meeting traditional requirements like job offers or educational qualifications.
- Some countries also offer golden passports, granting citizenship through investment.

## UAE's Golden Visa Scheme

- The UAE's golden visa offers long-term residency (5–10 years) without a sponsor, allowing individuals and their families to live, work, and study in the country.

- Under the “new nomination-based visa policy,” Indians can now enjoy lifetime residency in the UAE by paying a fee of AED 1,00,000 (approximately INR 23.30 lakh).
- It is aimed at enhancing business and economic growth.
- There are two main categories of eligibility:
  - **Investors and Entrepreneurs:** Must invest at least AED 2 million in business or real estate (approx ₹4.67 crore), or start a project worth at least AED 500,000 (approx ₹1.17 crore).
  - **Outstanding Special Talents:** Includes doctors, scientists, artists, inventors, executives, athletes, PhD holders in priority fields, and exceptional students.
- It will be managed by the Rayad Group and the process includes background checks (criminal records, anti-money laundering, social media activity) to assess the applicant's potential contribution to sectors like culture, finance, science, and business. Final approval lies with the UAE government, and applicants can apply remotely via OneVASCO centres without visiting Dubai.
- Once granted, the visa allows recipients to relocate with family, employ staff, and engage in business or professional work in the UAE.

