



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

16th July - 22nd July, 2025

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**UPSC ESE, PSUs,
RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams**

Jagdeep Dhankhar

14th Vice-President of India Resigned



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16th JULY 2025

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- **Context:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for June 2025 has been released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Major Highlights

- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) among persons of age 15 years and above was 54.2 % during June 2025 as compared to 54.8% during May, 2025. LFPR in rural areas was 56.1% and LFPR in urban areas was 50.4%.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in rural areas among persons of age 15 years and above was 53.3% during June, 2025. WPR in urban areas among persons of the same age group was 46.8% with the overall WPR at the country level observed as 51.2%.
- The unemployment rate for females and males of all ages above 15 was 5.6%.
 - While for men, the rate remained same as of May, for females, there was a decrease in UR by 0.1 percentage point.
 - While the rural unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points, the urban unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points between May and June.
- The marginal decline in LFPR and WPR was largely influenced by seasonal agricultural patterns, intense summer heat limiting outdoor physical work, and a shift of some unpaid helpers, particularly from higher-income rural households, towards domestic chores.

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- The PLFS gives estimates of key employment and unemployment Indicators.
- These indicators are:
 - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** It is the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e., working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey.

Skill India Mission

- **Context:** Skill India Mission completed ten years.

About Skill India Mission (SIM)

- Launched on 15 July 2015, World Youth Skills Day, the Skill India Mission provides skill, re-skill, and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres and institutes under various schemes.
- In February 2025, the restructured 'Skill India Programme' was approved for 2022-23 to 2025-26, merging Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS), and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme into a single Central Sector Scheme.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Offers short-term skill training and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for youth nationwide, including rural areas.
 - **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** Promotes apprenticeship with financial support for stipends, providing both basic and on-the-job training.
 - **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS):** Provides vocational skills to non-literates, neo-literates, and school dropouts (up to 12th standard), focusing on women, SC/ST/OBC, and minorities in rural and low-income urban areas.

Major Achievements (2015–2025)

- Over 6 crore youth skilled: Across 38 sectors, including IT, manufacturing, services, construction, and agriculture.

- Women empowerment: Special initiatives increased female workforce participation in several sectors.
- Recognition: India ranked 11th in the WorldSkills Competition 2022.
- Sector-wise employment: Notable growth—manufacturing (15%), services (20%), construction (25%).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Appreciation Day

- **Context:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) Appreciation Day was observed in India on 16th July. The day celebrates the country's growing role in the global AI landscape.

Key Facts

- AI is transforming healthcare, education, agriculture, governance, and industry in the country.
- India's AI journey began in the 1960s with early computer science research.
- A major step came in 1986 with the Knowledge-Based Computer Systems project. In the 1990s, organisations like C-DAC advanced supercomputing and early AI work.
- By the 2000s, IT companies such as TCS, Infosys, and Wipro began investing in AI, while universities built a strong talent pool.
- The Digital India push in 2015 and NITI Aayog's 2018 AI strategy accelerated growth.

Progress in AI

- India's progress in AI is the result of years of planning and support.
- India has emerged as the fastest-growing developer population globally and ranks second in public generative AI projects on GitHub.
 - The country is home to 16% of the world's AI talent, showcasing its growing influence in AI innovation and adoption.
- India has made significant strides in AI, emerging as a key player in the global AI landscape. According to Stanford University's AI Index Report, 2024,

India ranks seventh globally in aggregate private AI investments between 2013 and 2023, with a total of USD 9.85 billion.

- Today, India is becoming a global AI leader. Its software talent and access to large data sets help create effective AI solutions.
- India's diverse needs also provide real-world testing for AI—from farming and healthcare to traffic control and public services.

17th JULY 2025

Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Agriculture Scheme

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet approved the "Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana" for a period of six years.

About PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- It is the first dedicated scheme focused on agriculture and allied sectors. It is inspired by the Aspirational Districts Programme of NITI Aayog.
- **Total outlay:** ₹ 24,000 crore per annum
- **Resource pool:** Convergence of 36 existing schemes from 11 Central Ministries /Departments, along with state schemes and private sector participation.
- **Coverage:** 100 districts, with at least one from every state/UT. It will be identified on the basis of three key indicators: low productivity, low cropping intensity and low credit disbursement.
- **Targeted beneficiaries:** 1.7 crore farmers
- **Implementation period:** 6 years (starting from 2025-26)
- **Objectives of the scheme:**
 - Enhance agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification and encourage sustainable agricultural practices,
 - Strengthen post-harvest storage at panchayat and block levels,
 - Improve irrigation infrastructure,
 - Provide long-term and short-term credit to farmers.

Implementation of the Scheme

- For effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme, committees will be formed at the district, state and national level.
- The District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan (DAAAP) will be finalized by the District Dhan Dhanya Committee.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Progress will be tracked monthly using a dashboard based on 117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
 - NITI Aayog will guide and review district plans.
 - Each district has a Central Nodal Officer for periodic review.

Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

- **Context:** Gujarat has become the first state in India to launch a Tribal Genome Sequencing Project.

Key Facts

- **Objectives:** Identify genetic markers associated with various hereditary and immunity-related conditions.
- **Key Implementation Agency:** Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC)
- **Sample Size & Scope:** The project will sequence the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts of Gujarat.
- **Target Population:** Focus includes major tribal groups such as Bamcha, Garasia Bhil, Chaudhar, Dubla, Gond, Nayaka, Warli, and the Sidi community.

India's first Digital Nomad Village

- **Context:** The country's first Digital Nomad Village was officially inaugurated at Yakten village, Pakyong district in Sikkim.

About Nomad Sikkim Initiative

- **Objective:** To develop Yakten as a sustainable remote work hub for digital professionals while supporting local tourism and rural livelihoods.
- **Facilities:**
 - Village-wide high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity through two dedicated internet lines.

- Provision of inverters to ensure uninterrupted power.
- Plans under Jal Jeevan Mission to address water scarcity.
- **Model:** Enables professionals to work remotely in a peaceful, eco-friendly setting, providing a year-round alternative to seasonal tourism.

18th JULY 2025

Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Rankings

- **Context:** The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2024-25 were presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Key Highlights

- Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai have once again secured the top spots in urban sanitation, emerging as the cleanest cities in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 rankings.
- The three cities were ranked first, second, and third, respectively, in the newly introduced "Super Swachh League," which recognises sustained excellence in cleanliness.
- Ahmedabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow were declared the new generation of top clean cities, emerging as India's leading Swachh Shehars.
- Prayagraj was honoured as the Best Ganga Town, while Secunderabad Cantonment Board was awarded for its strong sanitation efforts.
- Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, and Gorakhpur received recognition as the Best SafaiMitra Surakshit Shehars for prioritising the safety, dignity, and welfare of sanitation workers.
- A special award was conferred upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Prayagraj Mela Adhikari, and the Municipal Corporation of Prayagraj for successfully managing urban waste during the Mahakumbh, which saw a record footfall of approximately 66 crore people.

About Swachh Survekshan (SS)

- It is a flagship initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and has played a pivotal role in driving cleanliness in urban India—engaging communities, changing mindsets, and motivating action for the past nine years.
- Beginning with just 73 urban local bodies in 2016, the latest edition now covers over 4,500 cities.
- The SS 2024-25 awards emphasize the theme of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- In total, 78 awards were presented, recognising cities, cantonments, and institutions for their exemplary performance across a range of sanitation parameters.
- This year, Swachh Survekshan introduced a simplified, inclusive assessment framework allowing smaller cities to compete fairly with larger ones under the “One City, One Award” principle.

About Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U)

- It was launched on October 2, 2014, with the goal of eliminating open defecation and ensuring 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste in over 4,000 towns across India.
- Its second phase, SBM-U 2.0, began on October 1, 2021, and will run until 2026, aiming to make all cities “Garbage Free” and promote lasting cleanliness habits among citizens.
- It is being Implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through states and urban local bodies.
- It supports India’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 by improving urban living standards and driving urban transformation.

Prime Minister Professorships

- **Context:** The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has announced the Prime Minister Professorships.

Key Highlights

- The scheme facilitates structured mentorship engagements, wherein superannuated/retired, active experts will provide sustained academic and research support to faculty and students in institutions with emerging research capacity.
- **Duration:** Up to 5 years, based on performance evaluated by the expert committee constituted for the purpose.
- **Eligibility:** Open to overseas scientists, including Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin, and Overseas Citizens of India.
- Professionals from industry and experienced Professors of Practice with a “distinguished record” of research and innovation are eligible to apply.
- **Funding Support:** The PM Professor will receive a fellowship of Rs. 30 lakh plus Research Grant of ₹ 24 Lakh per annum. Additionally, ₹ 1.00 Lakh (fixed) is provided as overhead to the host institute per year.
- Eligible host institutions are the state universities which have been qualified/listed as spoke institutions, in Category A of recently awarded PAIR program of ANRF.

About Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

- It has been established with the ANRF 2023 Act, under the Department of Science and Technology.
- It aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India’s universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- It will act as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).
- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established in 2008 has been subsumed into ANRF.

19th JULY 2025

INS Nistar: India's First Indigenous Diving Support Vessel

- **Context:** INS Nistar was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth in Visakhapatnam on July 18, 2025.

About INS Nistar

- The original INS Nistar was a submarine rescue vessel acquired by the Indian Navy from the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1969, and commissioned in 1971.
- It remained in service till 1989, during which time it was the centrepiece of the Navy's diving and submarine rescue operations.
- The new INS Nistar has over 80% indigenous content and contributions from around 120 MSMEs
- It is the first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel.
- The ship, which is the first of the two Diving Support Vessels being built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
- It is designed to undertake complex deep sea saturation diving and rescue operations – a capability select Navies possess across the globe.
- It is installed with state-of-the-art Diving Equipment such as Remotely Operated Vehicles, Self-Propelled Hyperbaric Life Boat, Diving Compression Chambers.
- It can undertake diving and salvage operations upto 300 m depth.
- It would also serve as the 'Mother Ship' for deep submergence rescue vessels to rescue and evacuate personnel, from a dived submarine in distress well below the surface.
- It is a 118 m ship with over 10,000 tons displacement.
- It features a 15-tonne subsea crane, supports helicopter operations, and includes medical facilities such as an operation theatre, ICU, and an eight-bed hospital with hyperbaric capabilities, enabling it to fulfill its specialized operational roles.

Global Wetland Outlook for 2025

- **Context:** Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has released the Global Wetland Outlook for 2025.

Major Findings

- Since 1970, an estimated 411 million hectares of wetlands have been lost worldwide, representing a 22% decline in global extent. The average rate of wetland loss was -0.52% per annum (ranging from -1.80% to -0.01%, depending on wetland type).
- Recently, wetland declines are notable in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, however, the extent of degradation also increased in Europe, North America, and Oceania.
- Urbanisation, industrial and infrastructure development are the three most important drivers of wetland degradation and loss across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In North America and Oceania, invasive species were a larger concern, and in Europe drought was the main cause.
- The 1,425 million ha of remaining wetlands give an estimated \$7.98 trillion to \$39.01 trillion benefits to people, every year.
- If all remaining wetlands are effectively managed until 2050, they will provide a net present value (NPV) greater than \$205.25 trillion over this time period.
- Current estimates show that biodiversity conservation funding accounts for just 0.25% of global GDP, highlighting the significant underinvestment in nature, including wetlands.

About Global Wetland Outlook for 2025

- It offers the most current global evaluation of the condition, trends, value and policy responses concerning wetlands.
- Produced by: The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Convention on Wetlands.
- Eleven broad wetland types are evaluated encompassing: Seagrass, Kelp Forests, Coral Reefs, Estuarine Waters, Salt Marshes, Mangroves, Tidal Flats, Lakes, Rivers and Streams, Inland Marshes and Swamps, and Peatlands (Mires).

About Wetland

- A wetland is an ecosystem in which the land is covered by water — salt, fresh, or somewhere in between — either seasonally or permanently. It functions as its own distinct ecosystem.
- It includes water bodies such as lakes, rivers, underground aquifers, swamps, wet grasslands, peatlands, deltas, tidal flats, mangroves, coral reefs, and other coastal areas as well.
- These wetlands can be classified into three segments such as inland wetlands, coastal wetlands, and human-made wetlands.
- India includes high-altitude wetlands of the Himalayas, floodplains of rivers such as Ganges and Brahmaputra, lagoons and mangrove marshes on the coastline, and reefs in marine environments.
- India has around 4.6% of its land as wetlands, 91 Wetlands of India covering are under the List of Wetlands of International Importance.
- Presently, India stands first in South Asia and third in Asia in terms of number of designated sites.

About Ramsar Convention

- It is an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands around the world. It was adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and entered into force in 1975.
- Countries that are parties to the convention commit to designating wetlands of international importance within their territories. These sites are referred to as Ramsar Sites.
- **Criteria:**
 1. Supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or
 2. Threatened ecological communities or,
 3. If it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds or,
 4. It is an important source of food for fishes, spawning grounds, and nursery.
- India has been a party to the Convention since 1982.

20th JULY 2025

China's Mega-Dam on the Brahmaputra River

- **Context:** China officially commenced construction of a massive hydropower project on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, near the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Facts

- The project is being hailed as the largest infrastructure development of its kind globally.
- Project Details:
 - It comprises five cascade hydropower stations.
 - **Total estimated investment:** 1.2 trillion yuan (approx. USD 167.8 billion).
 - **Expected power generation:** 300 billion kilowatt-hours annually — enough to power 300 million people.
- **Location:** Situated in the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon (Brahmaputra in Tibet), where the river takes a U-turn near the India-China border before entering Arunachal Pradesh and eventually Bangladesh. The region is seismically active and ecologically sensitive.

Impact of the Project

- Geopolitical Concerns: India and Bangladesh are lower riparian states.
 - Both rely heavily on the uninterrupted flow of the Brahmaputra for agriculture, drinking water, and ecosystem stability.
 - Concerns centre around disruptions to water flow, blocking of nutrient-rich silt, and potential ecological damage.
 - It could also enable China to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities.
- **Ecological Risks:** Threat to biodiversity and river ecosystems, including aquatic species and wetlands.
- **Seismic and Structural Risks:** The Brahmaputra basin is seismically active, as evidenced by the 1950 Assam-Tibet earthquake.

- A mega-dam in this zone could trigger disasters like dam collapse and floods due to structural failure.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Control over water resources may heighten tensions between China and lower riparian countries (India, Bhutan, Bangladesh).
- **Disaster Vulnerability:** Increased risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), as seen in the 2023 Sikkim floods.

About Yarlung Tsangpo (Zangbo) River

- It originates from Chemayungdung Glacier in Tibet, and enters Arunachal Pradesh, where it is known as the Siang.
- In Assam, it is joined by tributaries such as Dibang and Lohit, and is called the Brahmaputra.
- The river then enters Bangladesh, and makes its way to the Bay of Bengal.
- The basin spreads approximately 5,80,000 square kilometers across China (50.5%), India (33.3%), Bangladesh (8.1%) and Bhutan (7.8%).

International Moon Day

- **Context:** International Moon Day was observed on 20 July to commemorate humankind's first landing on the moon, by the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

About International Moon Day

- On this day, Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin set foot on the Moon's surface as the first humans while Michael Collins awaited their return in the Columbia Command Module in Moon orbit.
- The UN General Assembly formally recognised it in 2021, following a proposal recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).
- The theme for 2025, 'One Moon, One Vision, One Future,' highlights the spirit of global unity and shared ambition in the continued exploration of the Moon.
- It celebrates global achievements in lunar exploration and promotes international cooperation, sustainable space practices, and the peaceful use of lunar resources.

21st JULY 2025

Kashi Declaration for Drug-Free India

- **Context:** The Kashi Declaration, outlining a five-year roadmap for a drug-free India was signed during the Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi.

About Kashi Declaration

- The Kashi Declaration affirms a national consensus to treat substance abuse as a multi-faceted public health and societal challenge, and calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- It emphasises the integration of spiritual, cultural, educational, and technological efforts to prevent addiction, support recovery, and foster a national culture of sobriety.
- It proposes institutional mechanisms for multi-ministerial coordination, including the formation of a Joint National Committee, annual progress reporting, and a national platform for linking affected individuals to support services.

Menace of Drug Abuse in India

- According to a 2019 report by AIIMS and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;
 - Over 16 crore Indians consume alcohol, with 5.7 crore requiring medical help.
 - More than 2.3 crore people use cannabis and opioids.
 - About 1.08% of 10–75-year-old Indians (approximately 1.18 crore people) use sedatives (non-medical, non-prescription use).
 - Inhalants are a concern, particularly among children and adolescents, with a higher prevalence of use (1.17%) compared to adults (0.58%).

Steps Taken

- **Indian Initiatives:**
 - **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act):** It prohibits the production, possession, sale, and consumption of illicit drugs and prescribes penalties for violations.

- **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan:** Launched in 2020, this campaign aims to create awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free India.
- **Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF):** Many states have established ANTFs to strengthen drug law enforcement at the state level.
- DarkNet Monitoring Cell under Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) tracks online drug sales.
- **Global Initiatives:**
 - **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** The UNODC is at the forefront of the global fight against illicit drugs. The UNODC-led campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.
 - **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB):** The INCB monitors the global drug situation and assesses countries' compliance with international drug control treaties.

AdFalcivax: India's Indigenous Malaria Vaccine

- **Context:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited vaccine manufacturers to partner in the commercialisation of a new indigenous malaria vaccine, AdFalcivax.

Key Facts

- The vaccine is developed by the ICMR Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.
- AdFalcivax is a recombinant malaria vaccine, made using genetic engineering techniques.
- It uses DNA from the malaria parasite to produce specific proteins in lab cells, which are then used in the vaccine to trigger an immune response without causing disease.

Key Features of the Vaccine

- **Whole CSP Protein Target:** It uses DNA for the complete Circumsporozoite Protein (CSP) found on the malaria parasite surface. It is expected to generate a stronger

immune response compared to existing vaccines that use only fragments of the CSP.

- **Transmission Blocking Component:** It targets proteins involved in the *P. falciparum* lifecycle inside the mosquito's midgut. This provides a dual effect:
 - **Individual Protection:** It prevents the disease in vaccinated individuals.
 - **Community Protection:** It halts the parasite's development inside mosquitoes that have picked up the pathogen, thereby blocking further transmission of malaria.

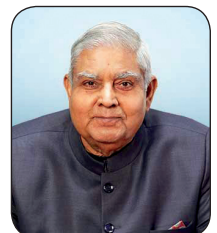
About Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening disease spread to humans by some types of mosquitoes. It is mostly found in tropical countries.
- It is caused by plasmodium protozoa. The plasmodium parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.
- **Types of parasites:** There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* – pose the greatest threat. The other malaria species which can infect humans are *P. malariae*, *P. ovale* and *P. knowlesi*.
- *P. falciparum* is the deadliest malaria parasite and the most prevalent on the African continent. *P. vivax* is the dominant malaria parasite in most countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Symptoms:** Fever and flu-like illness, including chills, headache, muscle ache and fatigue.

22nd JULY 2025

Jagdeep Dhankhar

- **Context:** Jagdeep Dhankhar becomes the third Vice-President in India's history to resign before completing his term, after V.V. Giri and R. Venkataraman in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution of India.



Key Facts

- Jagdeep Dhankhar becomes the third Vice-President in India's history to resign before completing his term, after V.V. Giri and R. Venkataraman in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution of India.
- Before becoming the 14th Vice President of India, he was the Governor of West Bengal from 2019 to 2022.

Election of Vice-President of India

- The Vice-President of India is elected by the method of indirect election, with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot (Article 66).
- Eligibility criteria:
 - He should be a citizen of India and have completed 35 years of age
 - He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
 - He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government.
- **Electoral college:**
 - It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament.
 - It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies.
- The nomination of a candidate for election to the office of Vice-President must be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and 20 electors as seconders.
- All doubts and disputes in connection with the election of the Vice President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court, whose decision is final (Article 71).

Term of Office

- The Vice-President holds office for a term of five years and can resign at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President. He is also eligible for reelection to that office.
- Under Article 67(b), the Vice President can be removed through a resolution passed by a majority in the Rajya Sabha and subsequently agreed upon by the Lok Sabha.

- A 14-day notice is mandatory before such a resolution can be moved.
- If the office falls vacant by resignation, removal, death or otherwise, then an election to fill the vacancy should be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy.
- The newly elected vice-president remains in office for a full term of five years from the date he assumes charge of his office.

Functions of Vice-President

- He acts as the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha (Article 64). In this capacity, his powers and functions are similar to those of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- He acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President due to his resignation, impeachment, death or otherwise (Article 65).
- When the Vice-President acts as President, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha takes over the Vice-President's duties as Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Chess World Cup, 2025

- **Context:** India has secured the rights to host the FIDE World Cup in 2025 after a 23-year gap, with the event scheduled from October 30 to November 27.

Key Facts

- The tournament will feature 206 players competing in a knockout format — a dynamic and unpredictable system where the losing player in each round is eliminated.
- The top three finishers will qualify for the 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament, which decides the challenger for the World Chess Championship.
- This will be the second time India hosts the FIDE World Cup, the last being in Hyderabad in 2002.

Origin of Chess

- The history of chess can be traced back to 1600 years ago during the Gupta dynasty. It was called 'Chaturanga' in earlier times.

- Chess, via India, reached many countries of the world and became very popular.
- Today, chess is being used in schools as an education tool for children.

Bharat NCX

- **Context:** The National Cybersecurity Exercise – Bharat NCX 2025 was officially inaugurated.

About Bharat NCX

- The exercise is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in collaboration with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).
- The exercise offers an immersive learning environment focused on cyber defense and incident response, featuring live-fire simulations that mirror real-world attacks on both IT and Operational Technology (OT) systems.

“Meri Panchayat” App

- **Context:** The mobile application “Meri Panchayat” has received the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2025 Champion Award under the category Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content.

About Meri Panchayat

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is designed to provide a unified digital governance platform for rural areas, catering to residents, functionaries, and stakeholders of the Panchayati Raj Institution system.
- It integrates and consolidates diverse functions and information currently dispersed across multiple government portals into a single, seamless web-based interface.

