



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**20<sup>th</sup> Aug. - 28<sup>th</sup> Aug., 2025**

★★ Useful for ★★

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

## Gaganyaan Mission

**ISRO** successfully accomplishes first  
Integrated **Air Drop Test**



20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025

## Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

- **Context:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, envisaged as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership programme. It aligns with the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebrations and contributes to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

### Key Components

- **Adi Sewa Kendra:** Proposed in every tribal-dominated village, where government officials and villagers dedicate a few hours fortnightly as "Adi Sewa Samay." These centres will address local problems, mentor youth, and support last-mile delivery of schemes.
- **Governance Lab Workshops:** Multi-departmental labs for collaborative problem-solving, ensuring convergence of welfare schemes.
- **Tribal Village Action Plan (Vision 2030):** Co-created by officers and villagers, aligning with national goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Role of Volunteers:**
  - **Adi Sahyogi:** Teachers, doctors, and professionals who mentor and mobilise communities.
  - **Adi Saathi:** SHGs, tribal elders, NRLM members, and local leaders aiding outreach and implementation.
- **Significance**
  - **Empowerment:** Moves beyond welfare to leadership creation.
  - **Trust Building:** Bridges the gap between tribal communities and government institutions.
  - **Conflict Mitigation:** Reduces alienation and strengthens social harmony.
  - **Sustainable Development:** Ensures grassroots action is aligned with Agenda 2030 and India's vision for 2047.

## Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in India

- **Context:** As per the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), India is currently home to three Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

### About Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

- They are dynamic, community-managed farming systems that integrate agrobiodiversity, traditional knowledge, and cultural heritage to ensure sustainable livelihoods and food security.
- They are recognised by the FAO, 99 such systems have been designated across 29 countries.
- Recently, a mountain agro-pastoral system in Tajikistan has become Central Asia's first inclusion in the GIAHS. Additionally, a pine tree agroforestry system and a traditional bamboo-fishery system in South Korea, and an agro-silvopastoral system in Portugal have also been recognized.

### Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in India

- **Koraput region, Odisha:** It is known for highland subsistence paddy farming and rich diversity of indigenous rice varieties, along with medicinal plant resources linked to tribal knowledge systems.
- **Kuttanad farming system, Kerala:** It is a unique below-sea-level agriculture model combining paddy fields, coconut gardens, inland fisheries, and shell collection in a wetland ecosystem.
- **Saffron Heritage of Kashmir:** It features traditional saffron cultivation using intercropping and organic practices, supporting biodiversity and soil health.

## Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2025

- **Context:** Parliament passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, aimed at promoting sustainable mining, and advancing the objectives of the National Critical Mineral Mission.

### Key Provisions of the Bill

- The bill will amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- The Bill provides that lease holders may apply to the state government for adding other minerals to an existing lease.

- For inclusion of critical and strategic minerals, and other specified minerals, no additional amount needs to be paid. These include minerals such as lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt, gold, and silver.
- The Bill expands the scope of the National Mineral Exploration Trust, renaming it as the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust.
- Captive mines are allowed to sell up to 50 per cent of minerals produced in a year, after meeting end-use requirements.
- The Bill removes the limit on sale of minerals and provides for establishing an authority to register and regulate mineral exchanges.
- The bill empowers the government to facilitate mineral trading through exchanges, allow the sale of mineral dumps to reduce environmental hazards, and promote extraction of deep-seated minerals.

21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2025

## Constitution (130<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2025

- **Context:** Recently, the Constitution (130<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha and subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) following intense opposition protests.

### Key Highlights

- The Bill seeks to amend Articles 75, 164, and 239AA dealing with the Union Council of Ministers, State Councils of Ministers, and special provisions for Delhi.
- The Bill introduces a mechanism to remove ministers who are in jail for serious offences:
  - If a minister is arrested and held in custody for 30 consecutive days for an offence punishable with five years or more imprisonment, they will lose their position.
  - The President, acting on the advice of the Chief Minister, must remove the minister by the 31<sup>st</sup> day of custody.

- If no advice is given, the minister automatically ceases to hold office.
- The Bill allows reappointment once the minister is released from custody.
- It is expected that ministers accused of serious criminal offences may compromise constitutional morality, good governance, and public trust.

### About Constitution Amendment Bill

- It is a legislative proposal, introduced under Article 368, to modify provisions of the Indian Constitution, like changes in the structure of government, electoral processes, or fundamental rights.
- It requires a special majority: two-thirds of members present and voting in each House of Parliament.
- Some amendments require ratification by half of the state legislatures if they affect federal provisions (e.g., distribution of powers between Centre and States).

### About Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

- It is an ad hoc body formed to examine complex or controversial legislation and dissolve after submitting their report.  
It is composed of members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Typically includes 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha), though size may vary.
- It is tasked with scrutinizing bills clause-by-clause, gathering expert opinions, and submitting a report to Parliament. While its recommendations are influential, they are not binding on the government.

## Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025

- **Context:** The Lok Sabha has passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025. The Bill seeks to prohibit online money games, and promote and regulate certain other online games.



## Major Provisions

- An online game that involves a user paying money or other stakes in expectation of receiving monetary or other enrichment. This is irrespective of whether the game is based on skill, chance, or both. It also includes credits, coins, and tokens equivalent or convertible to money.
- The Bill prohibits offering or aiding online money games and related services. It also prohibits advertising, and facilitating financial transactions for such games.
- It empowers the central government to block any information related to online money gaming services from public access.
- e-sport is defined as an online game that is played as part of multi-sports events:
  - It is recognised under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.
  - It has outcome determined solely by factors such as physical dexterity, mental agility, strategic thinking, or similar skills.
  - It involves organised competitive events conducted in multiplayer format and governed by pre-defined rules.
  - It must not involve placing of bets or other stakes, or expectation of any winning out of such stakes.
- The Union government may constitute an Authority with powers to determine whether an online game qualifies as an online money game, and recognise, categorise, and register online games.
- The Bill empowers authorised officers to enter and search any place without a warrant.
  - Places include buildings, vehicles, electronic records, and virtual digital spaces (such as emails and social media).
  - They may also arrest a suspect found during the search without a warrant.
- Offering online money gaming services will be punishable with imprisonment for up to three years, a fine up to one crore rupees, or both.

## Agni-5 Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile

- **Context:** India recently carried out a successful launch of the Agni-5 ballistic missile under the authority of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

### About Agni-5 Missile

- It is a Nuclear-capable Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile (SSBM), which is powered by rockets initially, but follow an unpowered ballistic trajectory after burnout, arching upwards before descending onto the target.
- It has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It has range of over 5,000 km, placing it in the category of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM).
- It has three-stage solid-fuel engine.
- It is a part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), under which other missiles like Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, and Akash were also developed.
- It can be equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs), enabling a single missile to carry and deliver multiple warheads at different targets.
- It puts India in the elite club of nations like the US, Russia, China, and France, which possess similar missile technology.



### About Strategic Forces Command

- Strategic Forces Command (SFC) is a part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) responsible for the management, training, and operational deployment of India's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons arsenal.

22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2025

## S/2025 U: NASA discovers 29<sup>th</sup> Moon of Uranus

- **Context:** NASA announced that the James Webb Space Telescope has discovered a new, 29th satellite of Uranus, which was named S/2025 U1.

### Key Highlights

- The diameter of the Moon is estimated to be only some 10 kilometres. And orbits the planet at a distance of about 56,000 kilometres.
- S/2025 U1 will get an official name from the International Astronomical Union (IAU) sometime in the future.

### About Uranus

- Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun, and the third-largest planet in the solar system.
- **Discovery:** First identified as a planet by Sir William Herschel in 1781 (previously mistaken for a star).
- **Composition:** An ice giant, made mostly of hydrogen, helium, water, methane, and ammonia.
- While Uranus now has a total of 29 moons, five of them are considered major moons: Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon.
- **Exploration:** Only visited once — by Voyager 2 in 1986.

## 'Sustainable Power 1404' Exercise

- **Context:** 'Sustainable Power 1404' Exercise was recently launched by Iran in the northern Indian Ocean and Sea of Oman.

### About Sustainable Power 1404 Exercise

- It is Iran's first large-scale military drill since the 12-day war with Israel in June 2025.
- It is a two-day missile drill which follows Iran's recent joint exercise named Casarex 2025 with Russia and comes in response to Israeli drills simulating strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

- It highlights Iran's naval and missile strengths amid escalating regional tensions, featuring warships, air units, missile defense systems, and electronic warfare brigades.
- Precision-strike cruise missiles such as Nasir and Qadir were deployed to enhance combat readiness and deterrence.

23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2025

## Supreme Court's Modified Order on Stray Dogs

- **Context:** The Supreme Court modified its earlier directive requiring all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR to be confined in shelters.

### Background

- The Supreme Court earlier ordered civic bodies in Delhi-NCR to round up stray dogs and **confine them in shelters within 6-8 weeks**, citing public safety concerns over dog bites and rabies.
- The order was challenged by animal welfare groups, who argued it violated **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023** that mandate relocation of strays to their original areas after sterilisation.

### Guidelines in Recent Ruling

- **Release of Strays:** Stray dogs will be sterilised, dewormed, vaccinated, and then released back into the locality from which they were picked up.
  - Rabid or aggressive dogs will be sterilised and vaccinated but housed in separate shelters/pounds.
- **Feeding Regulation:** Feeding strays on streets is prohibited.
  - Municipal bodies must set up dedicated feeding zones in every ward, with signboards indicating their location.
- **Adoption Option:** Animal lovers may adopt stray dogs via municipal authorities, provided the adopted dogs do not return to the streets.

- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** Civic bodies must create helplines for reporting violations. NGOs and individuals obstructing implementation will face punitive action.

## National Space Day 2025

- **Context:** India is celebrating its second National Space Day on August 23, 2025 with the theme “Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities”.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> was declared as “National Space Day” to honour the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved a safe and soft landing of the Vikram Lander at the ‘Shiv Shakti’ point and deployed the Pragyaan Rover on the lunar surface.

## Key Facts

- India’s space sector has benefitted from decades of consistent investment, with \$13 billion invested in the last decade, yielding around US \$60 billion in GDP contribution.
- **Potential of Space Sector:**
  - **Export Potential and Investment:** Currently, India’s export market share in space-related services stands at ₹2,400 crore (\$0.3 billion). The goal is to boost this to ₹88,000 crore (\$11 billion).
  - **Rise of Space Tourism:** In 2023, the space tourism market was valued at \$848.28 million. It is expected to grow to \$27,861.99 million by 2032.
  - The Space Sector has supported 96,000 jobs in the public and private sector.
  - For every dollar produced by the space sector, there was a multiplier effect of \$2.54 to the Indian economy and India’s space force was 2.5 times more productive than the country’s broader industrial workforce.

## India’s Recent Milestones in Space

- **Human Spaceflight Progress:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to visit the ISS as part of Axiom Mission-4.

- It is seen as a precursor to Gaganyaan, India’s maiden human space mission.
- The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
  - NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the L-band and the S-band.
- **Chandrayaan Programme:**
  - **Chandrayaan-1 (2008):** Confirmed water molecules on the Moon.
  - **Chandrayaan-2 (2019):** Valuable orbiter data despite lander failure.
  - **Chandrayaan-3 (2023):** Soft-landing near the south pole, first in the world.
- **Mars Orbiter Mission (2013–2021):**
  - First Asian mission to reach Martian orbit in the first attempt.
  - Provided atmospheric and terrain data for over 7 years.

## Major Reforms in Space Sector of India

- **Establishment of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, 2020):** Acts as a single-window regulator and facilitator for private companies, authorising and promoting their participation in space activities.
- **Corporatization via NewSpace India Limited (2019):** It was set up as ISRO’s commercial arm to transfer technology, manufacture satellites/launch vehicles through industry, and provide commercial satellite services.
- **Indian Space Policy (2023):** It laid down roles and responsibilities of organizations such as ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL) and private sector entities. It aims to enhance the participation of research, academia, startups and industry.
- **Liberalisation of FDI Norms (2024):** The government eased foreign direct investment rules in the space sector to attract global capital and technology, especially in satellite manufacturing and launch services.

24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025

## ISRO's Integrated Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan Mission

- **Context:** ISRO has successfully accomplished the first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) for end-to-end demonstration of parachute-based deceleration system for Gaganyaan missions.

### Key Highlights

- The test marks a critical milestone in validating safety mechanisms to ensure the secure return of astronauts to Earth.
- Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It aims to demonstrate India's capability to send humans to space, ensure safe return, and establish long-term capacity for human space exploration.
- **Objectives:**
  - **Human Spaceflight:** Send a crew of 2-3 astronauts to low-earth orbit (LEO) at an altitude of about 400 km.
  - **Mission Duration:** Around 3 days in orbit before safe return to Earth.
- India plans its first crewed Gaganyaan flight in the year 2027, followed by Chandrayaan-4 in 2028, a Venus mission, and the proposed Bharat Antariksh Station by 2035.



### Key Facts

- The Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) is a multi-layered air defence system developed indigenously.

- It integrates three advanced components:

#### 1. Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)

- **Range:** 25-30 km
- **Role:** Engages fast-moving, high-altitude threats like fighter jets, helicopters, and cruise missiles at the outermost defence layer.

#### 2. Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)

- A fourth-generation MANPAD for Army, Navy, and Air Force use.
- Neutralises targets such as drones and helicopters in the 300 m – 6 km range.
- Portable, miniaturised, and capable of engaging low-altitude threats.

#### 3. Directed Energy Weapon (DEW)

- Vehicle-mounted Laser DEW MK-II(A) demonstrated earlier this year, defeating UAVs and swarm drones.
- **Range:** less than 3 km.
- Places India among the few nations with operational directed energy weapon technology.
- It is operated and coordinated through a Centralised Command and Control Centre, developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.
- IADWS strengthens India's multi-layered air defence capability, covering aerial threats within a 30 km radius — from high-speed jets to slow-moving drones

## Indigenous Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWD)

- **Context:** India has successfully conducted the maiden flight-tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha.

## Export Promotion Mission

- **Context:** The Commerce and Industry Ministry has designed the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) with a total outlay of ₹25,000 crore (US\$ 2.85 billion) for six years.

## Objectives:

- To mitigate risks from tariffs, trade wars, and global demand slowdown.
- To diversify export markets and the export basket, reducing overdependence on a few sectors and destinations.
- To enhance the exportability of Indian products through branding, compliance, and quality upgradation.
- To focus on small exporters, easing their access to finance and markets.

## Pillars

### 1. Niryat Protsahan (Export Encouragement)

- The overall allocation for this component is expected to be ₹10,000 crore.
- **Components:** Interest equalisation support of over ₹5,000 crore, Export factoring and export credit insurance, Collateral-free loans and innovative financing tools for small exporters, Six new credit support schemes under consideration.

### 2. Niryat Disha (Export Direction)

The allocation for this component is ₹14,500 crore. It includes multiple sub-schemes aimed at addressing quality, logistics, and global integration challenges.

- **Export quality compliance:** Approx. ₹4,000 crore.
- **Overseas market development:** Approx. ₹4,000 crore.
- Branding and international positioning of Indian products
- Export warehousing and logistics support
- **Capacity building:** Integrating MSMEs into global value chains

## Major Provisions

- The Bill seeks to amend 17 central Acts to mainly decriminalise or rationalise certain offences and penalties. These include the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, the Apprentices Act, 1961, and the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994.
- The Bill revises the monetary value of fines and penalties for several offences.
- It further provides that fines and penalties specified by it will increase by 10% of the respective minimum amount every three years.
- The Bill amends some Acts to provide for warnings in the first instance of an offence.
- The Bill amends this to provide for issuance of a warning in case of the first offence, and levy of a monetary penalty for subsequent offences.
- The Bill amends certain Acts to provide for the appointment of adjudicating officers to hold inquiries and adjudicate penalties.
- The goal of Jan Vishwas is to create a more business-friendly environment and promote ease of living by eliminating unnecessary legal hurdles and simplifying the regulatory landscape.

## CISF's first All-Women Commando Unit

- **Context:** The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has introduced its first all-women commando unit.

## Key Highlights

- This initiative aims to enhance gender parity in frontline security roles. The unit is currently undergoing intensive training at the Regional Training Centre in Barwaha, Madhya Pradesh.
- Around 30 women personnel are enrolled in an eight-week advanced course designed to prepare them for specialised counter-terrorist operations.
- This marks development in India's security forces, promoting greater inclusion of women in high-risk and critical assignments.

25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025

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

- **Context:** The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 was introduced in Lok Sabha.



- The all-women commandos will serve in Quick Reaction Teams (QRT) and Special Task Forces (STF). They will be deployed at high-security installations such as civil airports, metro systems, and sensitive government and private sector sites.
- Currently, women constitute about 8% of CISF personnel, numbering 12,491. The force plans to recruit 2,400 more women by 2026 to meet the government's target of 10% female representation.
- CISF is the first central armed police force in India to establish a dedicated all-women commando wing.

## World Food Programme

- **Context:** The Government of India and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to collaborate in addressing global hunger. India will provide WFP fortified rice to support nutritional needs of vulnerable populations in food-insecure regions.

### About World Food Programme

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization, established in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN General Assembly.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.
- **Executive Board:** The Executive Board is WFP's supreme governing body. It consists of 36 Member States and provides intergovernmental support, direction and supervision of activities.
- WFP is headed by an Executive Director, appointed for fixed five-year terms and is responsible for the administration of WFP as well as the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities.
- The WFP operates in over 120 countries and territories, relying on voluntary contributions from governments, organizations, and individuals to fund its work.
  - The first development programme was launched in Sudan in 1963.
  - WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

## Ran Samwad-2025

- **Context:** 'Ran Samwad-2025', tri-service dialogue on war, warfare and warfighting commenced at the Army War College in Madhya Pradesh.

### Key Facts

- It aims to enhance interaction, communication and cooperation among military communities on issues critical to warfighting.
- It has been curated by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, under the guidance of CDS.
- A few Joint Doctrines and the Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap will also be released during the event.

26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025

## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- **Context:** Nepal recently officially joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

### Key Highlights

- The IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 April 2023 in Mysuru. It aims to conserve seven big cat species – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- The alliance includes over 90 countries, both range and non-range nations, united by a shared goal of big cat conservation. The Union Cabinet approved the IBCA's establishment in February 2024 with headquarters in India.
- IBCA seeks to create synergy among member countries and stakeholders. It consolidates conservation expertise and shares best practices globally.
- The alliance provides a common repository of technical knowledge and financial resources. It also strengthens existing intergovernmental platforms and networks focused on species-specific conservation.

- India has decades of experience in big cat conservation, especially with Project Tiger. It also leads conservation efforts for lions, snow leopards and leopards.
- Through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India coordinates the IBCA.

## National Youth Award (NYA), 2024

- **Context:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has invited nominations for the National Youth Award (NYA) 2024.

### Key Facts

- The Award is designed to inspire young individuals aged 15 to 29 to strive for excellence in national development and social service.
- The National Youth Award, usually conferred during the National Youth Festival, is given in two categories: Individual and organisation.
- The maximum number of awards given each year is 20 for individual categories and 5 for organisational categories. It may, however, vary at the discretion of the sanctioning authority in deserving cases.
- Award to individuals will comprise a medal, a certificate and award money of ₹1,00,000. Award to voluntary youth organisations will comprise a medal, a certificate and award money of ₹3,00,000.

## Sudarshan Chakra Mission

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of "Mission Sudarshan Chakra".

### Key Facts

- It is a new national security initiative which is aimed at protecting India's critical establishments over the next decade.
- It will be based entirely on indigenous research and technology, aligning with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- It is inspired by Lord Krishna's mythological act of shielding the sun.

- It will implement a multi-layered security framework, including advanced surveillance, cyber protection, and physical safeguards.
- The initiative responds to rising global threats like cyber warfare and hybrid attacks, signaling a shift towards proactive, self-reliant security planning for India's future.
- It is aimed at neutralising enemy defence infiltrations and enhancing India's offensive capabilities.

27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025

## National Biofoundry Network

- **Context:** Union Ministry of Science and Technology recently launched the National Biofoundry Network.

### Key Highlights

- This initiative aims to accelerate biotechnology innovation, scale up biomanufacturing, and create jobs.
- The move supports India's growing bioeconomy, which expanded from \$10 billion in 2014 to \$165.7 billion in 2024. The government targets \$300 billion by 2030.

### About National Biofoundry Network

- The National Biofoundry Network includes six institutions. Its purpose is to transform early-stage biotechnological ideas into scalable products.
- It supports indigenous biomanufacturing and employment generation.
- The network is a key part of the BioE3 Policy, which promotes biotechnology for economic growth, environment, and health.

### About BioE3 Policy

- BioE3 stands for Bioeconomy, Bioenergy, and Bioenvironment.
- The policy focuses on developing bio-based products and their commercialisation.

- It plans to establish BioEnablers such as Bio-Artificial Intelligence hubs, biofoundries, and biomanufacturing hubs.
- Six priority sectors include bio-based chemicals, functional foods, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, carbon capture, and marine and space research.

## Comprehensive Modular Survey (CMS)

- **Context:** The Comprehensive Modular Survey conducted under the 80<sup>th</sup> Round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), April–June 2025, has revealed that households spend nearly nine times more per child in private schools compared to government schools.

### Key Highlights

- Government schools accounting for 55.9% of total enrolments. It is higher in rural areas, where two-thirds (66.0%) of students are enrolled, in comparison to urban areas (30.1%).
- The average per student expenditure made by households on school education during the current academic year in government schools was estimated at ₹2,863, while it was significantly higher (₹25,002) in non-government schools.
- Only 26.7% of students enrolled in government schools reported paying course fees, in contrast to 95.7% of students in non-government schools.
- 95% of students in India reported that the first major source of their funding was from other household members.
- Nearly a third of all students (27.0%) were taking or had taken private coaching during the current academic year. This trend was more common in urban areas (30.7%) than in rural areas (25.5%).

### Government Initiatives Related to Education

- **Samagra Siksha Abhiyan (SSA):** It is an overarching scheme for the school education sector extending

from pre-school to class XII. The Scheme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

- **PM SHRI Schools:** Development of 14,500 schools as exemplary institutions with modern infrastructure and pedagogy.
- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14, with 25% reservation in private schools for disadvantaged groups.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** Focus on foundational literacy, teacher training, digital integration, and equitable access.
- **Digital Initiatives:** DIKSHA, SWAYAM, and PM e-Vidya to bridge resource gaps.

## Project Aarohan

- **Context:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched a Project Aarohan to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees.

### About Project Aarohan

- It aims to remove financial barriers and provide equal access to quality education for students from economically weaker sections.
- It will cover five hundred students from Class 11 to the final year of graduation.
- Each student will receive an annual scholarship of 12 thousand rupees during the financial year 2025-26.
- Additionally, fifty bright students aspiring for postgraduate and higher studies will be supported with scholarships of 50 thousand rupees each.

## Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)

- **Context:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation inaugurated a two-day workshop on the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) in New Delhi.

### About Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)

- It is a flagship initiative aimed at holistic development of remote and strategic villages located along India's land borders.
- The initial phase (VVP-I) covers 662 villages in the northern border districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh.
- The latest phase (VVP-II), launched in 2025 as a Central Sector Scheme, expands coverage to select villages along international borders in 17 States/UTs including Northeast, North, East, and West frontier areas.
- It will encourage tourism, skill development, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and cultivation of medicinal plants, while preserving local heritage and organizing community events.

28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025

### Commonwealth Games, 2030

- **Context:** India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games has been approved by the Union Cabinet, which hopes staging it will benefit local businesses and inspire a new generation of athletes.

#### Key Facts

- Ahmedabad has been chosen as the proposed host city due to its advanced sporting infrastructure and vibrant sports culture. This decision follows the Indian Olympic Association's endorsement and comes amid Canada's withdrawal from the bidding process.
- The final host will be decided by the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly later this year.
- The Indian Olympic Association completed the formalities after submitting an Expression of Interest in March.
- India's bid for the 2030 Commonwealth Games aligns with its ambition to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Ahmedabad is a front-runner for the Olympics as well, with ongoing infrastructure upgrades supporting this goal.

### About Commonwealth Games

- It is a quadrennial international multisport event contested by athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations.
- It is managed by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).
- It is the organisation responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.
- It is an organisation headquartered and incorporated in the UK, but working across 72 member nations and territories.
- The first Commonwealth Games were held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada in August 1930.

### Global Mechanism for Cyberspace Governance

- **Context:** The United Nations has recently launched the Global Mechanism (GM) for Cyberspace.

#### Key Facts

- This permanent international forum aims to promote responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. It focuses on norms, international law, capacity building and confidence-building measures.
- This GM was established after 27 years of complex diplomacy. It builds on the consensus reached by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) recently.
- Cyber diplomacy began with the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) from 2004 to 2017. The GGE made important progress but had limited membership and mandates.
- All 193 UN member states could participate. This openness allowed a wide-ranging consensus, including the creation of the GM. The shared threat of cybercrime crossing borders united even geopolitical rivals. This common vulnerability made cooperation possible.
- As the world's largest democracy and a major technology power, India has strong diplomatic and technical resources.



- India advocates for respecting national autonomy while encouraging international cooperation. Its domestic digital successes, like Digital India and the Aadhaar and UPI systems, add credibility. These initiatives demonstrate India's ability to manage large-scale digital governance.

## Exercise Bright Star, 2025

- **Context:** India is deploying over 700 personnel from its Armed Forces and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025.

### Key Highlights

- Held in Egypt from August 28 to September 10, this 19<sup>th</sup> edition is among the largest multinational military drills in the Middle East and North Africa.
- The event includes 43 countries, with 13 sending troops and 30 acting as observers. This exercise marks India's growing role in global military cooperation and regional security.

### Background:

- Initiated in 1980 as a bilateral drill between Egypt and the United States, Bright Star has evolved into a major multilateral event.
- It is hosted biennially by Egypt alongside the US. The exercise is conducted under the US Central Command's responsibility and aims to enhance regional stability, military cooperation, and interoperability among partner nations.
- India's contingent includes personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. They will participate in live firing exercises demonstrating operational capabilities.
- More than 7,900 troops from 43 countries are expected to participate. The exercise is held entirely on Egyptian soil and is considered one of the most extensive drills in the region.

