



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**21 Nov. - 27 Nov., 2025**

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# G20

SOUTH AFRICA 2025



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21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## India-US Defence Ties

- **Context:** The US State Department has approved the sale of the FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missile system and the M982A1 Excalibur precision-guided artillery munitions worth \$93 million to India. This is being seen as a first in a series of defence deals to be signed after both countries signed a 10-year framework to deepen bilateral defence relations.

### About FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Missile System

- The Javelin missile system is a modern anti-tank guided missile system that is used extensively across the world.
- It is a single man-portable fire-and-forget medium-range anti-tank weapon system designed to defeat all known and projected threat armour.
- Javelin automatically guides itself to the target after the initial launch, allowing the operator to take cover, relocate or prepare to engage another threat.
- The combined packages, worth an estimated \$92.8 million, reflect the converging defence priorities between India and U.S., while also supporting India's long-term plans for self-reliance in advanced munitions.

### About India – US Defence Ties

- Defence ties have transformed from transactional to a Major Defense Partnership (2016).
- **Guided by mechanisms such as:**
  - 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue
  - Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) (2012)
  - Military Cooperation Group (MCG)
- India is designated as “Major Defense Partner” and given Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status (2018), easing high-tech exports.
- India has signed all four major foundational agreements with the U.S.:

- **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)** in 2002 and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.
- **COMCASA (2018):** Secure communications & interoperability.
- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA 2020)** for Geo-spatial intelligence and satellite data for precision targeting.
- **India-US Defence Exercises:**
  - **Yudh Abhyas:** Land forces.
  - **Malabar:** Naval quadrilateral with US, India, Japan, Australia.
  - **Cope India:** Air exercise.
  - **Tiger Triumph:** Tri-service HADR exercise.
  - **Vajra Prahar:** Special forces.

## Supreme Court's verdict on Timelines of Bill

- **Context:** The Supreme Court held that it cannot impose any timelines for decisions of the President and the governor on granting assent to Bills under Articles 200/201 of the constitution.

### Key Facts

- Recently, the Supreme Court verdict laid down a timeline for the President and governors to decide on state bills.
- The Governor is not bound by any time limit to act on a Bill. This creates a situation where the Governor can simply not act on a Bill indefinitely this is referred to as a “Pocket Veto”, although the term is not officially used in the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court ruled that Governors cannot delay or withhold assent to Bills indefinitely once they are passed or re-passed by the state Assembly.
- **The ruling set a timeline for the Governor to act on Bills:**
  - One month for re-passed Bills.
  - Three months if the Bill is withheld contrary to Cabinet advice.

- It raises questions about the scope of judicial authority under Article 142, and whether the courts can enforce accountability on constitutional functionaries like Governors and the President.

### SC Clarification

- **Imposition of Timelines:** The SC held that in the absence of constitutionally prescribed time limits, and the manner of exercise of power by the governor, it would not be appropriate for this Court to judicially prescribe timelines for the exercise of powers under Article 200.
- **Action on Laws not Bills:** The bench concluded that actions of the President or governor with respect to a bill cannot be agitated before the court; and that any action before the court or for judicial review will lie only when the bill becomes law.
- **Reaffirmation of constitutional boundaries:** The judgment emphasizes that each constitutional authority must act within its sphere.
- **Prolonged Delay:** In cases of prolonged delay, the top court said that the courts can issue a limited direction to the governor to decide on a bill.
- The court clarified that the President and Governors cannot resort to “prolonged and evasive inaction” by sitting endlessly on State Bills awaiting their approval.
- This would amount to a deliberate attempt to thwart the people’s will expressed through the proposed welfare laws passed by State legislatures.

### About Article 142

- Article 142 of the Indian constitution is a provision that empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it. It also makes such decree or order enforceable throughout the territory of India.
- The importance of Article 142 lies in the following aspects:
  - It enables the Supreme Court to exercise executive and legislative functions in certain situations, such

as issuing guidelines, directions, or orders to the government or other authorities.

- It allows the Supreme Court to intervene in matters of public interest, human rights, constitutional values, or fundamental rights, and to protect them from any violation or infringement.
- It enhances the Supreme Court’s role as the guardian of the constitution and the final arbiter of the law.
- It may encroach upon the principle of separation of powers and the domain of the executive and the legislature, and may invite criticism of judicial overreach or activism.

### Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

- **Context:** India described the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) as a key instrument for expanding equitable and technology-driven climate action at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

### Key Facts

- The JCM is a bilateral initiative that allows a partner country, such as India, to cooperate with Japan to implement low-carbon projects and receive carbon credits.
- These credits, generated from projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, can be used by both countries to help meet their national climate targets.
- The JCM facilitates technology transfer, mobilizes investment in green technologies, and promotes sustainable development in the partner country.
- The framework functions under Paris Agreement Article 6, ensuring transparent credit sharing, environmental integrity, and finance mobilization.

22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

### Labour Laws

- **Context:** The Government of India has announced the implementation of the four Labour Codes with effect from 21st November 2025 rationalising 29 existing labour laws.

## Key Highlights

- The four Labour Codes include the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.
- **The key reasons behind this reform include:**
  - **Simplifying compliance:** Multiplicity of laws leads to difficulty in compliance.
  - **Streamlining enforcement:** Multiplicity of authorities in different labour laws led to complexity and difficulty in enforcement.
  - **Modernizing outdated laws:** Most labour legislations were framed during the pre-Independence era, necessitating alignment with today's economic realities and technological advancements.

## The Four Labour Codes

### CODE 1: The Code of Wages, 2019

- **Subsumed Laws:** Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- **Universal Minimum Wages:** The Code establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organized and unorganized sectors.
- **Introduction of Floor Wage:** A statutory floor wage shall be set by the Government based on minimum living standards, with scope for regional variation. No state can fix minimum wages below this level, ensuring uniformity and adequacy nationwide.
- **Universal Coverage for Wage Payment:** Provisions ensuring timely payment and preventing unauthorized deductions will apply to all employees, irrespective of wage limits.
- **Overtime Compensation:** Employers must pay all employees overtime wages at least twice the normal rate for any work done beyond the regular working hours.

### CODE 2: The Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- **Subsumed Laws:** Trade Union Act, 1926; Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946; Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- **Fixed Term Employment (FTE):** Allows direct, time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits; gratuity eligibility after one year.

- **Permission During Layoff:** Raises the threshold for government approval for layoffs, retrenchment, and closure from 100 to 300 workers, with states allowed to increase further.

### CODE 3: The Code on Social Security, 2020

- **Subsumed Laws:** 9 laws including Employees' Compensation Act, 1923; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.
- **Expanded ESIC (Employees' State Insurance) Coverage:** ESIC now applies pan-India, eliminating the criteria of "notified areas."
- **Time-bound EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) Inquiries:** A five-year limit has been set for initiating EPF inquiries and recovery proceedings, to be completed within two years (extendable by one).
- **Inclusion of Gig and Platform Workers:** New definitions are included- "aggregator," "gig worker," and "platform worker" to enable social security coverage.
- **Social Security Fund:** A dedicated fund to finance schemes for unorganised, gig, and platform workers.
- **Commuting Accidents Covered:** Accidents during travel between home and workplace are now deemed employment-related, qualifying for compensation.

### CODE 4: The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

- **Subsumed Laws:** 13 laws including Factories Act, 1948; Plantation Labour Act, 1951; Mines Act, 1952.
- **Health Checkup:** Employers must provide free annual health check-ups for all workers aged above 40 years.
- **Expanded Provision:** Provisions can be extended to establishments with a single employee engaged in hazardous or life-threatening work.

## Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- **Context:** Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for seaports under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code. India has about 250 seaports, of which 65–68 handle active cargo operations.

## About Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- It was formed in 1968, has grown from 3,129 personnel to 2.2 lakh, making it a multi-faceted Central Armed Police Force deployed nationwide.
- It secures 361 critical installations, including 70 airports, nuclear and space facilities, seaports, power plants, Delhi Metro, Parliament House, government buildings, monuments, and VIPs.
- It is the only CAPF with a dedicated Fire Wing, equipped for advanced firefighting and rescue, and also provides consultancy services to institutions like SBI Data Centres, AIIMS, IIM Indore, and Kashi Vishwanath Temple.
- It is Known as the “Shield of Security” and has the largest number of women personnel among CAPFs, reflecting inclusivity.

**23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

## G20 Summit, 2025

- **Context:** The 2025 G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa is the first-ever G20 summit held on African soil under the theme “Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability.”

### Key Highlights

- Adoption of the G20 Leaders’ Declaration reaffirming commitments to climate action (focusing on adaptation finance and renewable energy), debt sustainability, and supporting vulnerable developing countries.
- Emphasis on institutional reforms including UN Security Council reform and stronger multilateral cooperation rooted in shared humanity (Ubuntu).
- Strong focus on empowerment of women and girls and condemning terrorism.
- Recognition of Africa’s developmental priorities, bolstered by the African Union’s permanent membership in the G20.

## India’s Initiatives

- Proposed the Global Traditional Knowledge Repository to harness collective human wisdom.
- Launched the G20-Africa Skills Multiplier to create one million certified trainers to skill African youth.
- Advocated for a Global Healthcare Response Team for rapid health crisis intervention.
- Initiated the Open Satellite Data Partnership for agriculture, fisheries, and disaster management data sharing.
- Pitched the Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative promoting recycling and sustainable supply chains.
- Proposed a global initiative to counter the Drug-Terror Nexus, focusing on combating narcotics financing terrorism.
- Launched the ACITI trilateral framework with Australia and Canada for cooperation in critical technologies, AI, supply chains, and clean energy.
- The 2025 Johannesburg G20 Summit marks a historic milestone by centring Africa and the Global South on the global economic agenda, showcasing new models of solidarity and sustainable development despite geopolitical divisions.
- India’s multifaceted initiatives underscore its growing role as a bridge between emerging economies and global governance, promoting inclusive growth, climate resilience, and technological cooperation.

## About G20 Grouping

- The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 individual countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA), the European Union, and since 2023, the African Union - a total of 21 members.
- These members represent the world’s major economies, accounting for about 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the global population.
- The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis to improve global economic governance.



## Article 240

- **Context:** The Union Home Ministry clarified that no Constitutional Amendment Bill in the upcoming winter session would bring Chandigarh under Article 240.

### About Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025

- It proposes to bring Chandigarh under Article 240, grouping it with Union Territories that lack legislatures, thereby empowering the President to frame regulations for it.
- It will open the door to an independent administrator in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- The Punjab Governor is currently the Administrator of Chandigarh.
- The move is aimed to simplify the Central Government's law-making process for Chandigarh.
- It aims to ensure uniformity in governance across Union Territories without legislatures.
- It aims to empower the President to frame regulations for Chandigarh, equivalent to Acts of Parliament.

### Opposition and Concerns

- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 has triggered sharp opposition in Punjab.
- Parties argue it undermines Punjab's claim over Chandigarh, which holds a unique status as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana under the 1966 Reorganisation Act.
- Critics fear it could allow an independent administrator, ending the tradition of the Punjab Governor overseeing Chandigarh.

### About Article 240

Article 240 of the Constitution grants the power to the President to make regulations for the peace, progress and effective governance of certain Union territories, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## Justice Surya Kant: 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- **Context:** Recently, Justice Surya Kant was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI), succeeding Justice B.R. Gavai. The oath of office was administered by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### About Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- The position of Chief Justice traces its lineage to the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William, established under the Regulating Act in 1774 by the British Parliament.
- It was headed by a Chief Justice, with Sir Elijah Impey as the first to hold the title in India.
- Over time, High Courts were established in Calcutta (1862), Bombay, and Madras, each led by a Chief Justice under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861.
- Post-Independence Constitutional Framework: The Constitution of India (1950) formally established the Supreme Court of India under Article 124, replacing the Federal Court of India (1937–1950).
- Justice Harilal Jekisundas Kania became the first Chief Justice of India on January 26, 1950, the day the Constitution came into effect.

### Constitutional Mandates of the CJI

- The Supreme Court of India is established under Part V, Chapter IV (Articles 124 to 147) of the Constitution of India. Key provisions include:
  - **Article 124:** Establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court.
    - **Article 124 (1):** There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and other Judges.
    - **Article 124 (2):** Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years.

- **Article 145:** It empowers the Supreme Court to make rules for regulating its practice and procedure, under the leadership of the CJI.
- **Article 146:** It grants the CJI authority over the appointment and service conditions of officers and servants of the Supreme Court.
- **Article 147:** It defines the term 'Supreme Court' to include the Chief Justice and other judges.

### Judicial Independence and Safeguards

- **Tenure Security:** The CJI can be removed through impeachment under Article 124(4) and (5). The removal requires proven misbehavior or incapacity.
- **Financial Autonomy:** Salaries and allowances are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
- **Post-Retirement Restrictions:** The CJI cannot plead or act in any court or before any authority in India after retirement.

### Key Responsibilities of the CJI

- **Oath of President of India:** Every President and every person acting as President or discharging the functions of the President shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation in the presence of the Chief Justice of India or, in his absence, the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court available.
- **Judicial Leadership:** Presides over Constitution Benches and allocates cases to other judges.
  - **Master of the Roster:** The term refers to the CJI's prerogative to decide which judge hears which case. It was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in 2018, declaring the CJI as the 'spokesperson of the court' and the sole authority over bench composition.
- **Administrative Head:** Oversees the functioning of the Supreme Court and its registry.
- **Collegium System:** Heads the collegium responsible for recommending appointments and transfers of judges in the higher judiciary.
- **Final Court of Appeal:** The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in civil, criminal, and constitutional matters.

- **Article 32:** It empowers the Court to enforce Fundamental Rights through writs like habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, and certiorari.
- **Article 136:** It grants the Court discretionary power to grant special leave to appeal from any judgment or order passed by any court or tribunal in India.
- **The Supreme Court, under the leadership of the CJI, has the power to:**
  - Strike down unconstitutional laws and executive actions.
  - Interpret constitutional provisions, especially in cases involving federal disputes, fundamental rights, and electoral laws.
  - Ensure checks and balances among the three branches of government.
- **Advisory Role:** Plays a consultative role in matters such as the appointment of Election Commissioners and Lokpal members.

### Exercise Suryakiran

- **Context:** India and Nepal have commenced the 19th edition of the joint military Exercise Suryakiran in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

### Key Facts

- Started in 2011, Exercise Suryakiran is conducted annually between the Indian Army and the Nepal Army on a reciprocal basis in both countries. The 18th edition was held in Saljhandi, Nepal.
- This joint military exercise focuses on counterterrorism and operations in challenging terrains, with troops engaging in rigorous drills such as jungle survival, combat first aid, ambush tactics, and heliborne operations.

### DO YOU KNOW:

The Indian Army has also been at the forefront of India's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations in Nepal, particularly during the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic.

25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## Volcano Hayli Gubbi

- **Context:** A long-dormant volcano in Ethiopia erupted after 12,000 years, causing ash plumes across the red sea towards Yemen, Oman, and even parts of India.

### About Volcano Hayli Gubbi

- The Hayli Gubbi volcano is located approximately 800 kilometers northeast of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia's Afar region.
- The Afar Depression, also known as the Danakil Depression, is a geological marvel where three tectonic plates meet: the African (Nubian) Plate, the Somalian Plate, and the Arabian Plate.
- This region is part of the broader East African Rift System (EARS), one of the most geologically active zones on Earth.
- Under the East African Rift System (EARS), the African Plate is divided into the Nubian Plate (western) and Somalian Plate (eastern).

### About Volcanism

- Volcanism (or volcanic activity) is the phenomenon where molten rock (magma), gases, and volcanic ash escape to the Earth's surface through vents or fissures in the crust.
- In the upper mantle, a weaker layer called the asthenosphere allows partially molten material to accumulate; buoyant magma then rises through cracks in the lithosphere. As pressure drops near the surface, dissolved gases (water vapour, carbon dioxide, sulphur gases, etc.) expand violently, driving magma upwards and producing an eruption.

## INS Mahe

- **Context:** INS Mahe, India's first Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft, was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard by the Chief of Army Staff.

## Key Facts

- INS Mahe is named after the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast. The ship has over 80% indigenous components.
- It has a twin-shaft diesel propulsion generating over 6 MW of power and this gives it a top speed of 25 knots, a range of 1,800 nautical miles at 14 knots, and an endurance of 14 days.
- The key indigenous elements in Mahi include propulsion and power management systems, integrated combat management suite, medium-frequency hull-mounted sonar, multi-function surveillance radar, torpedo and ASW rocket systems.

## Significance

- Once fully inducted, the Mahe-class will replace the Navy's older Abhay-class corvettes.
- INS Mahe will strengthen the anti-submarine warfare grid along the coastline and improve tracking of underwater threats in the littoral zone.
- It will also enhance monitoring of diesel-electric submarines operating in the Indian Ocean.

26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## Constitution Day

- **Context:** 26th November is being celebrated as Constitution Day to mark the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly (CA).

### About Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas, National Law Day)

- In 2015, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment notified the GOI's decision to celebrate the 26th November as Constitution Day.
- The day was celebrated as a tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.



## Key Facts about Constituent Assembly

- Took 2 years, 11 months & 17 days for drafting the Constitution of India.
- Dr Sachchidananda Sinha was appointed as 1st President of CA.
- Dr Rajendra Prasad was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly.
- Jawaharlal Nehru (PM) made the 'Objectives Resolution' on 13th December 1946, later adopted as Preamble on 22nd Jan 1947.
- The constituent assembly acted as the temporary legislature until a new one was to be constituted.

## Important Facts about Constitution of India

- The longest written constitution of the World (25 Parts & 12 Schedules)
- The Constitution of India wasn't typed or printed and is handwritten & stored in a Helium filled case.
- It was handcrafted by the artists of Shantiniketan under the guidance of Acharya Nandalal Bose.
- **Salient Features:**
  - Define India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic assuring its citizen's justice, equality, and liberty.
  - Parliamentary form, Federalism, Single Citizenship, Separation of Powers.
- **Key Amendments:**
  - **1st CAA:** Added Ninth Schedule laws that cannot be challenged in courts.
  - **42nd CAA:** Inserted Article 51-A (10 FDs), Socialist, Secular and Integrity added to the Preamble, & new DPSPs added (Article 39, 39A, 43 A, 48A)

## Historical Background:

- **1934:** Demand for the Constituent Assembly was made by M.N. Roy.
- **1940:** Demand was accepted by the British government.
- **1946:** 9th December, CA conducted the first session on Draft Constitution.
- **1949:** 26th November, CA finally adopted the Constitution of India.

- **1950:** 26th January, the Constitution of India came into force.

## Nayi Chetna 4.0

- **Context:** Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' national campaign for gender equality and women's empowerment.

## Key Facts

- It is a month-long campaign, organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Nayi Chetna 4.0 aims to strengthen community action against gender-based violence and promote women's safety, dignity and economic empowerment across rural India.
- The campaign focuses on enabling safe mobility, recognising women as key economic contributors, and addressing unpaid care work through shared community responsibility.

27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

## Commonwealth Games, 2030

- **Context:** India has been officially awarded the 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG), with Amdavad (Ahmedabad) declared the host city. India last hosted the CWG in Delhi in 2010.

## About Commonwealth Games (CWG)

- Started in 1930 (inaugural event in Hamilton, Canada) as the British Empire Games, the present-day Commonwealth Games is a multi-sport international event, modeled on the Olympics, involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations and their associated territories.
- The Commonwealth of Nations, or simply the Commonwealth, is a voluntary association of 54 sovereign countries, most of which were former colonies of the British Empire.

- The membership has evolved over time due to political changes and voluntary withdrawals or additions.
- Today, the Commonwealth Games is the world's second-largest multi-sport event and the fourth most-watched global broadcast sports event, featuring athletes from 71 nations and territories.

## Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025

- **Context:** Recently, the Assam government introduced the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 in the State Assembly seeking to criminalize polygamy.

### Key Provisions

- **Jurisdiction and Applicability:** The Bill, if become a law, is applicable across Assam, except in areas under the Sixth Schedule (the Bodoland Territorial Region and the hill districts of Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong) and among Scheduled Tribes under Article 342, who are governed by customary laws that permit multiple marriages.
  - The Bill extends beyond Assam's borders to include:
  - Residents of Assam entering into polygamous marriages outside the State, and;
  - Non-residents who own property in Assam or benefit from State-funded schemes or subsidies.
- **Punishment and Penalties: The Bill prescribes:**
  - Up to 7 years of imprisonment and a fine for engaging in polygamy.
  - Up to 10 years of imprisonment for those who conceal an existing marriage before entering another.
  - Double punishment for repeat offenders.
- **Penalties for Religious Officials:** Clerics or priests who knowingly solemnize polygamous marriages may

face fines up to 1.5 lakh, along with imprisonment. Similar penalties apply to other abettors. Additionally, the Bill brings under its ambit village heads, Qazis (Muslim clerics), and parents or guardians who assist in or conceal such marriages. They may face up to 2 years in jail and fines up to 1 lakh.

- **Safeguards and Exemptions:** The Bill does not apply retroactively i.e. marriages conducted before its enforcement under valid personal or customary laws will remain unaffected. Police officers are empowered to intervene proactively to prevent prohibited marriages. A designated authority aims to be established to process compensation claims from women affected by polygamous marriages to ensure support and justice for victims.

## Impact RISE Initiative for Societal Change

- **Context:** IIT Kharagpur launched Impact RISE (Research, Innovation, Skilling, and Entrepreneurship), an initiative that focuses on sustainable tech and management practices for societal transformation.

### Key Facts

- The Impact RISE initiative will have four pillars – research, innovation, skilling, and entrepreneurship.
- It will involve research aligned with sustainable development goals and India's climate and development priorities.
- The initiative will be activated through missions focusing on:
  - climate resilience in the Sundarbans
  - the use of IIT Kharagpur's AI health diagnostics
  - women's health with a focus on low-cost devices for screening of anaemia and oral cancer
  - the use of arsenic filters and smart soil scanners to provide safe water