



GS Paper 1-Places in news

# Stalin announces special schemes for fishermen in districts near Gulf of Mannar

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday announced special livelihood schemes worth ₹216.73 crore, be-







## KEY POINTS

- The Chief Minister announced livelihood schemes and the development of deep-sea fishing harbours for fishermen in the Gulf of Mannar, a highly biodiverse region in Tamil Nadu.
- It is home to 4,223 species and is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and Southeast Asia, declared a Marine National Park in 1986 and a Biosphere Reserve in 1989.





THE HINDU



## GS Paper 2-IR

# Supreme Courts of India, Nepal sign deal for judicial cooperation and exchange

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Courts of India and Nepal on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for judicial cooperation, an occasion which Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna termed as the lighting of a new torch in the relationship between the two

judicial exchanges, joint research, training programmes, seminars, and visits. It would be crucial to better understand and resolve common challenges faced by the judiciary like lack of access to justice, judicial delays, digitisation and the "protection of constitutional rights in a rapidly changing world".

He recounted how the

tice Khanna said.

Likewise, the CJI said Nepal has incorporated Indian constitutional doctrines. "These include the celebrated doctrine of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. I am happy to note how some of the Indian constitutional principles have found a home in Nepal's jurisprudence!" the CJI noted.



## KEY POINTS

- The Supreme Courts of India and Nepal signed an MoU for judicial cooperation, aiming to enhance exchanges, research, training, and address common judicial challenges. Chief Justice Khanna highlighted the influence of Nepal's court on India's decriminalization of Section 377, Nepal's adoption of Indian constitutional doctrines, and its recognition of "ecocide" to protect the environment.







THE HINDU



## GS Paper 3-Economy

### *India's aviation arbitration cases will still fly off overseas*

**I**n 1934, India's skies were not its own. Under British colonial rule, the Aircraft Act of 1934 governed aviation in India, a law that was designed not to foster a burgeoning aviation sector but to ensure British control over airspace. The idea of ordinary Indians flying in commercial aircraft seemed like a far-fetched dream. Designed to control air traffic for military and administrative purposes, the Act soon showed that it was ill-equipped to handle rapid technological advancements, soaring passenger numbers, and the rise of private sector participation in aviation. Despite India's growing aviation industry over the decades, the legal framework has remained stuck in the past.

This legal inertia has led to significant challenges for India's aviation sector. Private and public airlines faced bureaucratic delays that hampered their growth. New ventures struggled to enter the market due to the cumbersome licensing process. Air traffic management was inefficient, and even fundamental issues such as passenger compensation for flight delays or cancellations were not adequately addressed. It became painfully clear that the old laws were no

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unaddressed: arbitration. While the Adhiniyam overhauls much of India's aviation infrastructure, it has done little to modernise the legal framework to resolve international disputes. So, with the lack of specialised aviation arbitration in India, will the country continue to lose aviation cases to global arbitration hubs?

India's current framework for commercial arbitration, governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996, does not address the unique needs of aviation disputes. These often involve specialised issues that range from technical matters to international treaties. India's courts and arbitration centres lack the expertise to handle such complex cases effectively without a dedicated aviation arbitration framework. This gap in expertise and specialisation means that aviation companies that deal with issues such as cross-border regulations, airline contracts, and aviation safety standards are unlikely to look to India as a preferred venue for dispute resolution.

#### **India versus overseas centres**

Despite establishing institutions such as the Delhi International Arbitration Centre and the Mumbai

Singapore and the United Kingdom, which have built strong and specialised arbitration systems catering to the aviation sector. India needs to adopt a similar approach by creating specialised arbitration panels, creating incentives for private sector involvement and focusing on building expertise in aviation law. Law schools can play an important role in this.

This arbitration exodus is a procedural economic and policy failure that affects India's global standing. Every case that moves abroad means lost revenue for Indian arbitrators, law firms and legal institutions. More importantly, it sends a troubling signal to foreign investors and aviation companies – that India lacks the confidence and the infrastructure to handle high-stakes disputes. However, with a robust aviation arbitration system, India could attract more aviation businesses, increasing investments, economic growth and having a more substantial global aviation presence.

India must ensure neutrality in arbitrator appointments. The government should appoint arbitrators only through mutual agreement or by an independent arbitration body. This is standard



## KEY POINTS

- India's aviation sector, once hindered by the outdated 1934 Aircraft Act, is being reformed by the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024. While the reforms improve procedures and passenger rights, they neglect the need for specialized aviation arbitration.
- To compete globally, India must establish an aviation-specific arbitration system with expert panels, enhancing credibility and attracting investment.







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## GS Paper 2-Governance

# A case for a fair seat allocation

Article 1 of the Constitution proclaims that India shall be a Union of States. The term Union implies that the arrangement or rearrangement of the component units should be on the basis of equity. There are serious apprehensions in the south on the question of readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha

### FULL CONTEXT

P.D.T. Achary

**T**he issue of readjustment of Lok Sabha seats in the context of the new Census is being hotly debated in the country. In fact, it is being wrongly referred to as delimitation in all public debates.

Delimitation is the act of fixing or refixing the boundaries of constituencies. This is done by the Delimitation Commission only after the Census is taken. Under Article 82 of the Constitution, on the completion of each Census, the seats in the Lok Sabha are required to be readjusted so as to reflect the increased population in the number



### THE GIST

Delimitation is the act of fixing or refixing the boundaries of constituencies. This is done by the Delimitation Commission only after the Census is taken.

The State of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has powerfully articulated the fears of the States in the southern region about losing political importance in the event of a readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha.



## KEY POINTS

- The debate over readjusting Lok Sabha seats, based on the new Census, is often confused with delimitation. Under Article 82, seats are adjusted after each Census to reflect population changes. The current seat allocation, frozen since 1971, has led to imbalances, especially between northern states with high population growth and southern states with lower growth. A fair solution would be to base seat adjustments on Kerala's population growth (68% since 1971), ensuring equity and maintaining the current balance of seats among states. This would raise the total seats to 912.





## GS 3-Space

# ESA's satellite to monitor forests: Everything you need to know about the upcoming Biomass mission

The mission will lift off on April 29 aboard the Vega C rocket from Europe's spaceport in French Guiana. It will be placed in a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO) — a type of orbit in which satellites are in sync with the Sun — at an altitude of around 666 km



## KEY POINTS

- The ESA's Biomass mission, launching on April 29, 2025, will map forests using P-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to measure biomass and carbon storage, aiding in tracking deforestation and climate change. It's part of the Earth Explorer program.





## GS3-Economy

**Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana Completes 10 Years Today,  
PM Modi To Interact With Beneficiaries**





## KEY POINTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with Mudra Yojana beneficiaries today to mark its 10th anniversary. Launched on April 8, 2015, the scheme provides loans up to ₹10 lakh to small and micro enterprises. The Union Budget 2024-25 increased the loan limit to ₹20 lakh, effective from October 24, 2024. It offers collateral-free credit through Member Lending Institutions like banks, NBFCs, and MFIs.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India

**प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना**

**Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**

*Self-employment:*  
**A new foundation for development**

**Increase in loan limit**

Loans of up to  
**₹20 lakh**

