

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 22-07-2025

### Table of Content

Vice-President Submits Resignation

Parliamentary Panel on Income Tax Bill Provisions

National Sports Policy 2025

Synthetic Biology in Conservation

India-EU Trade Deal Negotiations: Differences over Food Safety Rules Persist

### NEWS IN SHORT

Bima Sakhi Scheme

Kamchatka Peninsula

“Meri Panchayat” App Wins WSIS Champion Award

Parliament Passes ‘Bills of Lading, 2025’ Bill

Legal Status of Right to Vote

ICMR recommends Tests for TB and Hepatitis at Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs)

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)

In Vitro Biotransformation (ivBT) System

Bharat NCX

India to Host Chess World Cup

## VICE-PRESIDENT SUBMITS RESIGNATION

### Context

- The Vice-President of India, 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.

### 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.
- Constitutional Provisions for Removal: 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.

Source: IE

## PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON INCOME TAX BILL PROVISIONS

### Context

- Recently, the **Select Committee of Parliament (31-Member)** tabled its report on the **new Income Tax Bill, 2025** in the Lok Sabha.
  - The **Income Tax Bill, 2025** seeks to **replace the Income Tax Act of 1961**, aims to simplify tax laws, reduce litigation, and enhance taxpayer clarity.

### Key Recommendations of the Parliamentary Panel

- TDS Refunds:** Proposed removal of strict penalty clauses against late refund claims when the taxpayer is otherwise compliant.
- Trust Taxation:** Relief for religious-cum-charitable trusts from flat 30% tax on anonymous donations.
- GAAR Safeguards:** Supports restoration of zero-tax withholding certificates for non-residents, facilitating smoother cross-border compliance.
- Beneficial Ownership:** Clearer definitions to avoid ambiguity in corporate taxation.
- Discretion on Penalties:** Recommends making penalties for non-maintenance of account books discretionary, not automatic, to avoid punishing honest mistakes by genuine taxpayers.

### Key Features of the Income Tax Bill, 2025

- Tax Year Concept:** Replaces 'Assessment Year' with a uniform 'Tax Year' aligned to the financial year (April 1–March 31).

- **Digital Asset Taxation:** Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) like crypto and NFTs classified as capital assets, subject to capital gains tax.
- **Simplified Drafting:** Dense legal language replaced with concise clauses, tables, and schedules for better readability.
- **Presumptive Taxation Limits:** Thresholds raised for small businesses (₹2 crore to ₹3 crore) and professionals (₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh).
- **Faceless Appeals:** Mandatory video hearings and second-level review panels introduced to strengthen natural justice.
- **Search & Seizure Powers:** Tax officials can override passwords and access digital platforms like emails and social media.

#### Impact on Taxpayers

- **Salaried Individuals:** Minimal changes; improved filing interface
- **Small Businesses:** Easier compliance via higher presumptive limits
- **Crypto Traders:** Clearer tax treatment of digital assets
- **Startups & Freelancers:** Eligible for simplified presumptive taxation
- **Tax Professionals:** Need to update SOPs and retrain on new definitions

#### Major Issues of Bill

- **Privacy Concerns:** The bill lacks judicial oversight or warrant requirements for accessing personal digital data.
  - ♦ It may violate the **Right to Privacy**, upheld by the Supreme Court in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India**.
  - ♦ The **open-ended definition of digital space** could lead to overreach, exposing unrelated personal information.
- **Overriding Power:** Under **Section 247 of Bill**, tax authorities are empowered to access digital platforms like emails, social media, cloud servers, and online trading accounts; override passwords and encryption if access credentials are not provided;
  - ♦ The bill defines '**virtual digital space**' broadly, covering nearly all online environments where financial or personal data may reside.
- **Legal Ambiguities:** Despite structural simplification, many undefined terms (e.g., 'risk management strategy') remain, risking increased litigation.

- ♦ Some definitions still reference the 1961 Act, undermining the goal of a self-contained statute.
- **Compliance Burden:** While the Bill is shorter in word count, the core tax architecture remains unchanged, offering little relief to small taxpayers.
  - ♦ Refunds for excess TDS still require manual follow-up; no provision for automatic system-driven refunds.
- **Judicial Delays:** Appeals timelines remain discretionary ("may" dispose within a year), perpetuating delays of 4–5 years.

#### What's Next?

- Following the tabling of the report in Parliament, the **Lok Sabha will deliberate** on the Committee's recommendations and proceed toward the Bill's **finalisation and enactment**.
- If approved, the new law is expected to come into force on April 1, 2026.

Source: TH

## NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY 2025

#### Context

- India, a country with immense talent and growing ambitions in the global sporting arena, is poised for a strategic transformation with the introduction of the **National Sports Policy 2025**.

#### About

- The new policy supersedes the existing **National Sports Policy, 2001**.
- It lays out a **visionary and strategic roadmap** to establish India as a global sporting powerhouse and a strong contender for including the **2036 Olympic Games**.

#### Policy is Anchored on Five Key Pillars

- **Excellence on the Global Stage:** Strengthen sports programs from the grassroots to elite levels.
  - ♦ Build world-class systems for training, coaching, and holistic athlete support.
- **Sports for Economic Development:** It seeks to promote sports tourism and attract major international events to India.
  - ♦ Encourage private sector participation.
- **Sports for Social Development:** Promoting participation among women, economically weaker sections, tribal communities, and persons with disabilities through focused programs.



- **Sports as a People's Movement:** The policy aims to drive mass participation and a culture of fitness through nationwide campaigns and community-based events.
- **Integration with Education (NEP 2020):** In alignment with the National Education Policy 2020, the NSP 2025 proposes to integrate sports into school curricula.

#### Strategic Framework:

- **Governance:** Establish a robust regulatory framework for sports governance, including legal framework.
- **Private Sector Funding & support:** Develop innovative financing mechanisms and engage private sector participation through PPPs and CSR.
- **Technology & Innovation:** Leverage emerging technologies, including AI and data analytics, for performance tracking, research, and program implementation.
- **National Monitoring Framework:** Create a national framework with well-defined benchmarks, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and time-bound targets.
- **Model Policy for States:** The NSP 2025 will serve as a model for States and Union Territories, encouraging them to revise or formulate their own policies in alignment with national objectives.
- **Whole-of-Government Approach:** The policy calls for integration of sports promotion into the activities, schemes, and programs of all Ministries and Departments to achieve a holistic impact.

#### Need for the Policy

- The **Paris Olympics** ended with India securing **six medals** — one silver and five bronze — to place **71st in the medals tally**.
  - ♦ It was ranked below nations with much smaller populations including **Georgia, Kazakhstan and North Korea**.
  - ♦ **The United States**, with less than a quarter of India's population, topped the charts with **126 medals followed by China with 91**.
- India has now won just **41 Olympic medals** in total since its debut in **1900**, all at the Summer Games.
- The country's performance led to **many questions about the need for a sporting culture**.

#### Significance of the Policy

- Focuses on **identifying and nurturing talent** from a young age **through structured pathways**.

- **Advocates for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** in infrastructure development.
- **Recognizes the economic potential** of sports—including job creation, tourism, and manufacturing.
- **Integrates sports science, medicine, psychology, and nutrition** for athlete development.
- **Aligns with** Fit India Movement, Khelo India, and Viksit Bharat @2047 goals.

Source: IE

## SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY IN CONSERVATION

#### Context

- With global biodiversity facing critical threats due to habitat loss, climate change, and species extinction, the 2025 IUCN Congress debate over Motion 133 has brought synthetic biology's role in conservation science into sharp focus.

#### About Synthetic biology

- Synthetic biology refers to the design and construction of new biological entities or the redesign of existing biological systems using engineering principles.
- **Genetic technologies** involve the manipulation, analysis, and application of DNA, RNA, and proteins to understand and conserve biological diversity.
  - ♦ These tools are increasingly being used to monitor, protect, and even revive endangered and extinct species.

#### Potential Benefits of Synthetic Biology in Conservation

- **Rescuing Endangered Species (De-extinction & Genetic Rescue):** Synthetic biology tools like CRISPR-Cas9 can help correct deleterious genes or even bring back extinct species (e.g., woolly mammoth or northern white rhino) through genetic resurrection techniques.
  - ♦ Can aid in increasing genetic diversity in small populations, enhancing their survival and adaptability.
- **Controlling Invasive Species and Disease Vectors:** Gene drives (a synthetic biology tool) can be used to suppress or eradicate invasive species (e.g., mosquitoes causing malaria) that threaten native flora and fauna.

- ♦ **Synthetic modification of *Aedes aegypti*** has already shown promise in controlling vector-borne diseases.
- **Ecosystem Restoration and Stress Response:** Engineered microbes or plants can be introduced to detoxify polluted environments or restore degraded land.
- **Customized Biomanufacturing for Conservation:** Synthetic biology allows for biosynthesis of scarce or threatened wildlife products (e.g., rhino horn substitutes or lab-grown ivory), reducing poaching pressure.
- **Environmental DNA (eDNA):** Detects presence of species in an ecosystem by analyzing genetic material shed into the environment (water, soil).

### Challenges and Concerns

- **Ethical concerns** especially around cloning and genetic modification.
- **Risk of Genetic Homogenization:** Translocation or gene rescue efforts may lead to loss of local adaptations.
  - ♦ Introducing individuals from genetically different populations may reduce evolutionary fitness in the long term.
- **Regulatory and Legal Gaps:** Lack of clear guidelines on the use of advanced genetic tools (e.g., CRISPR) in wildlife.
  - ♦ International lack of consensus on legal and ethical boundaries of gene editing or synthetic biology.
- **Data Ownership and Biosecurity:** Sovereignty issues over genetic data of native species (concerns over biopiracy).
  - ♦ Risk of misuse of genetic data, including synthetic recreation of harmful organisms.
- **Ecological Risks of Intervention:** Unforeseen ecological consequences of reintroducing genetically altered or cloned species.
  - ♦ Risk of invasive traits or disrupting food webs.

### Way Forward

- While genetic technologies offer **promising tools for conservation**, their application must be guided by scientific rigor, ethical considerations, robust regulation, and ecological sensitivity.
- A balanced, interdisciplinary approach is key to ensuring their responsible and effective use.

Source: DTE

## INDIA-EU TRADE DEAL NEGOTIATIONS: DIFFERENCES OVER FOOD SAFETY RULES PERSIST

### In News

- India and EU have exchanged offers on goods and services in the 12th round of FTA talks, marking key progress on risk assessment and regionalization, but harmonization and dispute resolution remain unresolved.

### Background

- The India-EU relationship can be traced back to the early **1960s**, with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community.
  - ♦ Relationships developed over the years, culminating in a formal Strategic Partnership in **2004** and the start of talks for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, or India-EU FTA, in 2007.
- FTA talks stalled in 2013 after 15 rounds due to a "gap in ambition."
  - ♦ The EU sought market access in sensitive sectors like wine, cheese, and spirits, while India prioritized liberalization of services trade and visa access.
- India and the European Union (EU) resumed negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in June 2022.

### Coverage

- The India-EU trade pact negotiations cover 23 policy areas or chapters, including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade Defence, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, Intellectual Property Rights, Geographical Indications, and Sustainable Development.

### Present status of Trade Relations and Relevance for India

- India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was \$137.41 billion in 2023-24 (exports - \$75.92 billion, imports - \$61.48 billion), making it the largest trading partner for goods.
- The EU market accounts for about 17% of India's total exports, while exports to India make up 9% of its total exports.

- In addition, the bilateral trade in services, in 2023, between India and the EU was estimated at \$51.45 billion.
- The two sides are negotiating a free trade agreement, an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications (GIs).
  - ♦ The trade agreement with the EU would help India in further expanding and diversifying its exports of goods and services while securing the value chains. India is seeking to forge balanced agreements with major world economies to increase its market share in global trade.

### Key Issues

- **Agriculture & Dairy:** India imposes high tariffs (39%) to protect small-scale farmers, while the EU pushes for access to its dairy and agricultural products.
  - ♦ The EU has proposed excluding agriculture from the FTA to advance other sectors.
- **Services & Mobility:** India seeks Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for qualifications and relaxation in visa rules.
  - ♦ The EU's restrictive policies and refusal to grant India 'data secure' status under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) pose hurdles for digital services trade.
- **Sustainability & CBAM:** The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)—a levy on carbon-intensive imports—has raised concerns in India, especially from MSMEs.
  - ♦ India criticizes CBAM as unfair to developing countries and burdensome due to excessive data requirements.
- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures** : Despite progress in several areas, differences over food safety regulations—specifically SPS measures—continue to hinder the deal's finalization
- **EU's Stringent Standards:** The EU enforces pesticide residue limits and aflatoxin thresholds that are stricter than WHO Codex norms.

### Impact on Indian Exports

- India's exports of coffee, tea, spices, and rice face frequent rejections due to these standards.
- Growth in agri-exports to the EU has been modest—from \$3.02 billion in FY2019 to \$4.54 billion in FY2025.

### Future Outlook

- India and the EU are planning to conclude the FTA in two phases, with the first phase targeting areas of convergence by the end of 2025.
- Successful finalisation of the India-EU FTA will depend on mutual flexibility, phased compromises, and pragmatic approaches, especially in sensitive areas like agriculture, services, and sustainability.
  - ♦ India and the EU could adopt flexible models, as seen in EU's FTAs with Singapore and Vietnam—phased liberalisation or sectoral exemptions.

Source: IE

## NEWS IN SHORT

### BIMA SAKHI SCHEME

#### In News

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** paid 62.36 crore as stipend to women under '**Bima Sakhi Scheme**' during FY 2024–25.
  - ♦ Currently, there are 2,05,896 Bima Sakhis across the country.

#### The 'Bima Sakhi Scheme'

- It is an initiative of **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** designed to empower women **aged 18-70 years, who are Class X pass**.
- They will receive specialized training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.
  - ♦ The stipend scheme is in addition to their commission pay-outs and is subject to certain performance parameters.
  - ♦ The amount of the stipend ranges from Rs 7000/- per month in the first year to Rs 5000/- in the third year.
- After training, they **can serve as LIC agents** and the graduate Bima Sakhis would have the opportunity to qualify for being considered for **Development Officer roles in LIC**.

Source :PIB

### KAMCHATKA PENINSULA

#### Context

- A series of earthquakes struck Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula**.

### About Kamchatka Peninsula

- Located in **far eastern Russia**, the peninsula lies between the **Sea of Okhotsk (west)** and the **Pacific Ocean & Bering Sea (east)**.
- The peninsula is dominated by two major mountain ranges:
  - ♦ **Sredinny (Central) Range**
  - ♦ **Vostochny (Eastern) Range**
- It is home to the **Volcanoes of Kamchatka**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and a key segment of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.



- The Kamchatka peninsula is the centre point of the **Pacific and North American tectonic plates** where they meet, making it a **hot zone for seismic activity**.

Source: AIR

### “MERI PANCHAYAT” APP WINS WSIS CHAMPION AWARD

#### In News

- 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.

#### The Meri Panchayat Web Application

- 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.

#### Progress

- It empowers over 25 lakh elected representatives and approximately 950 million rural residents across India's 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats, transforming rural governance through digital inclusion and transparency.

Source :PIB

### PARLIAMENT PASSES ‘BILLS OF LADING, 2025’ BILL

#### In News

- The Bill of Lading Bill, 2025 was passed by the Rajya Sabha.

#### Bills of Lading Bill, 2025

- It replaced the 169-year-old Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856 with a modern legal framework for shipping documents.
  - ♦ The bill had earlier been cleared by the Lok Sabha in March 2025 and will now be sent to the President for assent.
- It aims to support India's growing shipping sector by simplifying and updating maritime laws.
  - ♦ It reorganizes the old Act's provisions, introduces clearer language, and aligns with global trade practices.
- It also **empowers the Central Government** to issue implementation directions and includes repeal provisions to eliminate colonial-era laws.

#### Importance

- The bill supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and reflects India's commitment to reform outdated colonial-era laws.
- It streamlines legal language, clarifies rights and responsibilities of shipping stakeholders, reduces litigation risks, and aligns with international trade norms—boosting India's Ease of Doing Business.

Source: PIB

### LEGAL STATUS OF RIGHT TO VOTE

#### Context

- The Supreme Court is examining the legality of **Bihar's Special Intensive Revision** of electoral rolls, raising questions about the legal status of the right to vote.

#### India's Commitment to Universal Adult Suffrage

- India after independence adopted universal adult suffrage regardless of gender, caste, religion, education, or property.



- **Article 326** of the Constitution guarantees voting rights to all citizens aged 18 and above, following the **61st Constitutional Amendment, 1989**.
- **Status of the Right to Vote in India:**
  - ♦ In the **N.P.Ponnuswami case (1952)**, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the right to vote is a statutory right.
  - ♦ The Supreme Court in **Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006)** held that the 'right to elect' is a **statutory right** under **Section 62 of the RPA, 1951**, and not a fundamental or constitutional right.
  - ♦ In **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023)**, the Supreme Court declined to reopen the settled position.
  - ♦ In the **Jyoti Basu case (1982)**, the court reiterated that the right to vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right but a **statutory right**.

Source: TH

## ICMR RECOMMENDS TESTS FOR TB AND HEPATITIS AT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRES (PHCS)

### Context

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the updated National List of Essential Diagnostics (NLED) 2025, expanding the scope of diagnostic services at the grassroots level.

### Key Highlights of the NLED 2025

- Inclusion of rapid diagnostic tests for diseases like **Hepatitis B, syphilis, sickle cell anaemia, and thalassaemia** at sub-centre level.
- **Molecular testing for TB** recommended from the sub-centre level onwards; sputum samples to be collected and sent to higher centres.
- **Biochemical tests** like blood glucose, liver enzymes, and cholesterol to be conducted at PHCs using semi-auto analyzers.
- Addition of **TB skin test and dental X-rays** at community healthcare centres (CHCs).
  - ♦ TB skin test can detect the presence of the pathogen even in people who do not have an active infection.
- **Merger of diagnostic lists** for sub-district and district hospitals reflecting infrastructure upgrades.

Source: IE

## INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY (ISA)

### Context

- The **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** is negotiating a global **"mining code"** to regulate the exploitation of mineral resources (nickel, cobalt, manganese) on the ocean floor in international waters.
- These minerals are critical for electric vehicles and emerging technologies.

### The International Seabed Authority (ISA)

- It is an **autonomous international organization** established under the **1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- **Objective:** ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
  - ♦ It has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities.
- **Headquarters:** Kingston, Jamaica.
- **Members:** All States Parties to UNCLOS are ipso facto members of ISA.
  - ♦ As of 2024, ISA has 170 Members, including 169 Member States and the European Union.

Source: TH

## PRIME MINISTER INTERNSHIP SCHEME (PMIS)

### Context

- Despite over 1.53 lakh internship offers made under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS), merely **8,700 candidates**, about **6%**, have joined their internships so far, according to data shared in the Lok Sabha.

### Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS Scheme)

- The PMIS Scheme announced in the **Budget 2024-25**, aims to provide internship opportunities to **one crore youth** in top 500 companies in **five years**.
- **Salient features** of the Scheme are:
  - ♦ **12-month paid internships** in top companies of India,



- ♦ The scheme targets individuals aged 21 to 24 who are currently **not enrolled in any full-time academic program** or not in full-time employment,
- ♦ Each intern will be supported with monthly financial assistance of **₹5,000**, supplemented by **one-time financial assistance of ₹6,000**.
- ♦ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
- ♦ The scheme offers youth six months of real-world training to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry needs, enhancing their employability.

Source: TH

## IN VITRO BIOTRANSFORMATION (IVBT) SYSTEM

### Context

- Chinese researchers have developed a method to convert **methanol into white sugar**, bypassing the need to grow sugar cane or sugar beets.

### About

- The team has developed an **in vitro biotransformation (ivBT) system** that **synthesises sucrose from methanol**, a low-carbon chemical that is derived from industrial waste or carbon dioxide.
- By utilising enzymes to convert methanol, researchers have presented a **sustainable alternative to traditional agriculture**.
- **Significance:** In vitro biotransformation (ivBT) has emerged as a highly promising platform for sustainable biomanufacturing.
- ♦ Artificial conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into food and chemicals offers a promising strategy to address both **environmental and population-related challenges** while contributing to **carbon neutrality**.

Source: NDTV

## BHARAT NCX

### In News

- 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.

Source: PIB

## INDIA TO HOST CHESS WORLD CUP

### 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.

### About

- 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 in India 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.

Source: AIR