

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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NATIONAL COOPERATIVE POLICY, 2025

Context

 The Union Ministry of Cooperation unveiled the National Cooperation Policy – 2025, marking a transformative moment in the history of India's cooperative movement.

About

- India's first National Cooperation Policy was introduced in 2002.
- The **second** cooperation policy in 2025, represents a renewed commitment to making cooperatives competitive, inclusive, and futureready.
- Pillars of the National Cooperation Policy, 2025:
 - Strengthening the Foundation
 - Promoting Vibrancy
 - Preparing Cooperatives for the Future
 - Enhancing Inclusivity and Expanding Reach
 - Expanding into New Sectors
 - Preparing the Younger Generation
- Objectives of the Policy:
 - Triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP by 2034.
 - Increase cooperative societies by 30% from the current 8.3 lakh.
 - Bring 50 crore new or inactive citizens into active cooperative participation.
 - Establishment of at least one cooperative unit in every village & set up 5 Model Cooperative Villages in every tehsil, supported by NABARD.
 - Establish PACS or primary cooperative units in every panchayat.

What are Cooperatives?

- A cooperative (or co-op) is an organization or business that is owned and operated by a group of individuals who share a common interest, goal, or need.
- These individuals, known as members, participate in the cooperative's activities and decision-making process, typically on a onemember, one-vote basis, regardless of the amount of capital or resources each member contributes.

 The main purpose of a cooperative is to meet the economic, social, or cultural needs of its members, rather than to maximize profits for external shareholders.

Cooperatives as India's Economic Backbone

- Cooperatives empower small farmers, artisans, fishermen, women, and labourers by giving them collective bargaining power.
 - **Example:** Amul has uplifted millions of dairy farmers, many of whom are landless or marginal farmers.
- Strengthening Rural Economy: Over 65% of India's population lives in rural areas. Cooperatives provide credit, inputs, marketing, and infrastructure support.
 - PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) are the first point of credit delivery in rural India.
- Promoting Self-Reliance: Cooperatives reduce dependence on middlemen and large corporations by pooling local resources for production, processing, and marketing.

97th Constitutional Amendment Act 2011

- It established the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right (Article 19).
- It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on the Promotion of Cooperative Societies (Article 43-B).
- It added a new Part IX-B to the Constitution titled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- It authorizes the Parliament to establish relevant laws in the case of multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS) and state legislatures in the case of other cooperative societies.

Initiatives taken by Government

- The government has laid the foundation stone for India's first national-level cooperative university, 'Tribhuvan Sahkari University' (TSU), in Anand, Guiarat.
- The Model Cooperative Village (MCV)
 programme, has been implemented by
 the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural
 Development (NABARD) in selected villages of
 Gujarat.
- The Ministry of Cooperation in India was established in 2021, to provide a renewed focus on the Cooperative Sector.
- Empowerment of Scheduled Cooperative Banks, treating them on par with commercial banks.



- Launch of 'Sahkar Taxi' to ensure profit-sharing with drivers.
- Establishment of three national-level multi-state cooperative societies for, Export promotion, Seed production and Branding and marketing of organic products.
- Initiatives like White Revolution 2.0, with a focus on women's participation.
- Expansion of PACS into Jan Aushadhi Kendras, fuel distribution, LPG delivery, and rural infrastructure services.

Concluding remarks

- The National Cooperation Policy, 2025 is a visionary step to mainstream cooperatives as engines of inclusive and sustainable development.
- As India approaches its centenary of independence in 2047, a reformed cooperative sector could be key to achieving the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Source: PIB

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE BILL, 2025

Context

 Recently, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports introduced the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

Rationale Behind the Bill

- Legacy of Governance Failures: India's sports governance has long relied on the Sports Code (2011), a non-statutory framework lacking enforceability.
 - It seeks to provide a legal backbone to governance, minimize judicial overreach, and bring administrative coherence. In its absence:
 - Courts frequently intervened in sports administration.
 - Numerous federation elections and decisions landed in prolonged litigation.
 - Several federations are now operated by ad hoc committees.
- Lessons from the Past: The Bill borrows major provisions from the Draft National Sports Policy 2007 and the National Sports Development Bills of the previous decade both of which failed to materialize into law.

Key Objectives of the Bill

- Establish a National Sports Board (NSB) to regulate and recognize National Sports Federations (NSFs).
- Create a National Sports Tribunal with civil court powers to resolve disputes involving athletes and federations.
- Ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical governance across all sports bodies.
- Promote athlete-centric policies, including representation in decision-making

Major Provisions of the Bill

- RTI Compliance: All recognized sports bodies, including the BCCI, will be subject to the Right to Information Act, enhancing public accountability.
- Athlete Representation: At least 10% of voting members in NSFs need to be sportspersons of outstanding merit, with gender balance mandated in executive committees.
 - Mandates that at least 25% of federation executives be former athletes.
 - **Safe Sport Policy:** Introduces safeguards against harassment and abuse, especially for women and minors, in line with the **POSH Act, 2013.**
 - **Term Limits:** Federation presidents and top officials face term caps to prevent entrenched power structures.
- Election Oversight: A National Sports Election
 Panel aims to ensure free and fair elections within federations.
- Athlete Rights and Dispute Resolution: The Bill formalizes a multi-tiered dispute resolution structure first, through internal dispute chambers within federations; then, to the National Sports Tribunal. The Supreme Court remains the final recourse.
 - This model is inspired by global precedents such as FIFA's Dispute Resolution Chamber and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Global Alignment and Olympic Aspirations

 The National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 draws from international charters such as the Olympic Charter and Paralympic Charter, and incorporates inputs from bodies like the IOC and FIFA.



- It directly responds to longstanding concerns about mismanagement, lack of oversight, and the need for reforms in bodies such as the **Indian** Olympic Association (IOA) and various National Sports Federations (NSFs).
- It is seen as a preparatory step for India's bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games, signaling a commitment to clean, fair, and professional sports governance.

Key Concerns Surrounding the Bill

- Age and Tenure: The Bill raises the upper age limit for administrators to 75 and removes tenure restrictions, ostensibly to help Indian administrators gain seniority in international sports bodies, and promote leadership continuity.
 - raises legitimate concerns entrenchment and institutional capture. and demands cautious implementation.
- Autonomy of Sports Bodies: The proposed Sports Regulatory Board could undermine the autonomy of the IOA and NSFs, risking suspension by the IOC for government interference.
 - The bill lacks clarity on the role of State Olympic Associations, potentially weakening decentralization efforts.
- Government Overreach: Bill replaces lower courts for sports disputes and allows final appeals in the Supreme Court of India.

Implications for Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

BCCI has historically functioned government control. This Bill intends to change that by:

- Bringing BCCI under the legal umbrella, despite it not being an NSF.
- Potentially aligning its governance norms with those of the NSFs.
- This would alter existing BCCI rules on age limits and term restrictions for office-bearers.

Source: IE

INDIA-U.K'S COMPREHENSIVE **ECONOMIC TRADE AGREEMENT** (CETA)

Context

India and the United Kingdom signed a Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.K.

About

- This marks India's first major FTA in over a decade and the UK's fourth since its exit from the European Union (EU) in 2020.
- India and the UK finalized the trade pact following over three years of negotiations.
- Aim: Making trade easier and more beneficial between India and the United Kingdom.
 - The bilateral trade between the two countries stands at nearly USD 56 billion, with a joint goal to double this figure by 2030.
- The agreement will come into effect once ratified by both countries.
 - While the Union Cabinet in India has approved the deal, it still requires approval from the UK Parliament.

Key Highlights and Benefits:

A win-win deal: Who gets what



pork, chicken, and eggs

UK gains ■India to cut or eliminate tariffs on machinery (22% to 0% or 90% of UK goods, covering 92% halved) of current UK exports; 64% tar-■ Whisky tariff to fall from 150% to iff-free from day one 75% immediately, then to 40% Average tariff drop from 15% over 10 years to 3% on UK goods "Legally guaranteed Steep tariff cuts: ' to bid for Aerospace (11% to 0%) 40,000 Indian government automotive (110% to 10% contracts worth under quota), electrical £38 billion annually

What it doesn't: No tariff cuts in sensitive Indian sectors like dairy, apples, oats, and edible oils

■ No access to India's legal services



For India:

- Duty-free access to the UK market for 99%
 of Indian products: This is a huge win for
 Indian exports, especially in labour-intensive
 sectors like textiles, footwear, gems and
 jewellery, and engineering goods, which
 previously faced duties of 4% to 16%.
- Easier entry for Indian professionals: The agreement provides assured temporary access to the UK market for Indian professionals like chefs, yoga instructors, and IT specialists.
- Exemption from social security contributions: Under the agreement on the Double Contribution Convention, Indian workers temporarily posted in the UK can be exempt from paying social security for up to three years, saving them and their employers significant money.
- Boost for Manufacturing: Sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food processing, and plastics are expected to see a boost in exports.
- Boost for Agriculture and Fisheries: Indian farmers and the fisheries sector will benefit from duty-free access for many agricultural and marine products, allowing them to compete better in the UK market.

For the UK:

- Reduced tariffs on nearly 90% of UK goods entering India: This will make British products more affordable in India.
- Big cuts on duties for British whisky and gin: Tariffs on popular British products like whisky and gin will drop significantly, from 150% to 75% immediately and then gradually to 40% within ten years. This gives UK distillers a significant advantage in the large Indian market.
- Lower tariffs on certain UK-made automobiles: Car duties will be reduced, improving the competitiveness of British car manufacturers in India.
- Access to Indian federal government procurement tenders: UK firms can bid for government contracts in India worth over a certain amount, opening up a large market.
- Benefits for financial and professional services: The agreement includes commitments that benefit UK companies in IT, financial services, and professional services like consulting and engineering.

UK-India Vision 2035 Roadmap

- Increased ambition: Since elevating the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, India and the UK have catalysed significant partnerships and growth across all sectors. The new vision builds on this momentum, setting ambitious goals to deepen and diversify bilateral cooperation.
- Strategic Vision: The India-UK Vision 2035 sets clear strategic goals and milestones, tracking a path for sustained future collaboration and innovation.

Source: IE

ICJ RULING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Context

 The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a landmark advisory opinion affirming that countries have a legal obligation under international law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Background

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was requested by the UN General Assembly in 2022, seeking the advisory opinion of the court on climate change.
 - The UNGA wanted the ICJ to address two very specific questions: (i) what are the obligations of countries under international law to protect the climate system and, (ii) what are the legal consequences for countries that do not fulfil their obligations.

Key takeaways of the recent ruling on climate change

- The court examined the provisions of the three climate treaties the 1994 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and the 2015 Paris Agreement and several other environment-related international laws that have a bearing on the climate system.
 - These include the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 1987 Montreal Protocol for protecting ozone, the 1992 Convention on Biodiversity and the 1994 Convention to Combat Desertification.

- It concluded that climate action is a legal obligation, not optional.
- It emphasized that countries must reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with developed nations (Annexure I of the UNFCCC) having a special duty to lead and support developing nations through technology and financial aid.
- The court stated that failure to meet these obligations constitutes an "internationally wrongful act" and could result in legal consequences, including liability for damages caused by climate change.
 - States could also be held accountable for the actions of private companies if they fail to regulate them properly.

About International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- The Court's role is to resolve legal disputes between states and provide advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorized UN bodies and agencies, based on international law.
- It is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
 - It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.

Significance

- The ruling puts renewed focus on climate accountability, particularly for developed nations that have historically failed to meet commitments.
- It supports the principle of "loss and damage," recognizing that countries harmed by climate change are entitled to full reparation, potentially opening the door for lawsuits seeking compensation from rich nations and corporate polluters.

Source: IE

CORAL COVER IN LAKSHADWEEP SAW A 50% REDUCTION: STUDY

Context

- A study revealed that corals in the Lakshadweep archipelago have declined to half of what they were in 1998.
 - Over 24 years, coral cover declined from **37.24% to 19.6%**, reflecting a roughly 50% reduction from the 1998 baseline.

What are Corals?

- Corals are invertebrates that belong to a large group of animals called Cnidaria.
 - Corals are formed by multiple small, soft organisms known as polyps.
 - They secrete a rocky chalk-like (calcium carbonate) exoskeleton around themselves for protection.
 - Coral reefs are therefore created by millions of tiny polyps forming large carbonate structures.
- Appearance: Corals range in colour from red to purple and even blue, but are most commonly shades of brown and green.
 - Coral are bright and colorful because of microscopic algae called zooxanthellae.
- There are three types of coral reefs fringing reefs, barrier reefs and atolls.
 - Fringing reefs form along shorelines, barrier reefs form in open water and atolls are circular reefs that have formed around sunken volcanoes.
- Coral reefs in India: Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep Island and Malvan.
- Significance: They provide food, shelter, resting and breeding grounds to a quarter of all marine life, acting as nurseries and refuges to protect critical biodiversity.
 - They also support more than 1 billion people living in coastal regions around the world by providing food, livelihoods and recreation.

Reasons for Coral Bleaching

- Marine Heatwaves & Climate Change: Rising sea surface temperatures disrupt the symbiotic relationship between corals and algae, causing mass bleaching and mortality.
- Ocean Acidification: Increased CO dissolving into oceans reduces water pH, making it harder for corals to grow skeletons.

- Pollution: Runoff from land—containing fertilizers, pesticides, and heavy metals like lead—damages coral health and resilience.
- **Physical Disturbance:** Coastal development, unsustainable fishing, sedimentation, and coral mining physically damage or smother reefs.
- Overfishing: Reduces fish populations that control algae growth on reefs, further degrading coral environments.

Can corals recover from bleaching?

- Corals can recover from bleaching over time, but only if temperatures drop and conditions return to normal.
- When this happens, the algae returns and the corals gradually regain their health.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

CHIKUNGUNYA

In News

 The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning about a potential global chikungunya epidemic, noting alarming similarities to a major 2004–2005 outbreak and urged early action.

Chikungunya

- Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the chikungunya virus (CHIKV), an RNA virus from the alphavirus genus.
- Symptoms: It causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating. In some cases it can be deadly.
 - The symptoms of chikungunya are similar to those of dengue fever and Zika virus disease, making it difficult to diagnose.
- It is transmitted to humans by the bites of infected female mosquitoes, most commonly Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes.
 - The latter, which is known as the tiger mosquito, is venturing farther north as the world warms because of human-driven climate change.
- **Outbreaks:** CHIKV was first identified in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1952 and subsequently in other countries in Africa and Asia.

- As of 2025, major outbreaks have been reported in Reunion, Mayotte, and Mauritius, with the virus spreading to Madagascar, Somalia, Kenya, and parts of South Asia. Imported cases have also appeared in Europe, with local transmission in France and suspected cases in Italy.
- **Treatment**: Symptoms can be managed but there is no specific antiviral treatment.

Source:TH

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT OF 1989

Context

 The Madras High Court has reaffirmed the legal obligation of the police to immediately register an FIR in cases of cognisable offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, without conducting a preliminary inquiry.

About the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989

- Objective: To prevent atrocities and hate crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- Scope: Covers offences ranging from castebased abuse to social and economic boycotts and violence.
- Special Provisions:
 - Creation of **Special Courts** for speedy trial.
 - Relief and rehabilitation for victims.
 - No anticipatory bail in certain cases.

Key Legal Provisions Cited in the Judgment

- The SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 was amended in 2018 to include Section 18A(1)(a), which mandates that no preliminary inquiry is required for registering an FIR under this Act.
- Rule 7(1) of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled
 Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995:
 According to it, only officers not below the rank
 of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) are
 authorised to investigate cases under this Act.

Source: TH

INDIA REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE AT UN

In News

 At the UN Security Council debate on the Middle East, India called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all hostages, highlighting the severe humanitarian crisis with damaged hospitals, food shortages, and disrupted education.

About

- The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is complex and longstanding.
 - The Israelis (the people who live mostly in Israel) and the Palestinians (the people who live mostly in the Gaza Strip and another area known as the West Bank)



- The Gaza Strip is a small sliver of land to the northeast of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula— which connects Asia and Africa— in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - It is surrounded by Egypt to the southwest, the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and Israel to the north and east.
 - The population is predominantly Sunni Muslim, with a Christian minority.
- The **West Bank** was part of the mandated former British territory of Palestine.
 - It is located to the west of the Jordan River, with Jordan and the Dead Sea to the east and Israel to the north, south, and west.
- In 1948 most of Palestine became part of the country of Israel.
 - Since then, the region has experienced bitter fighting between Palestinian Arabs, who are mostly Muslims, and Israelis, who are mostly Jews.

India's Stand of Palestine

- India maintains balanced relations—it has deepened ties with Israel but continues its diplomatic and developmental engagement with Palestine.
- India reiterated its "unwavering" support for the Palestinian cause and emphasized that dialogue and diplomacy are the solutions.
- India is committed to supporting a two-state solution where the Palestinian people are able to live freely in an independent country within secure borders, with due regard to the security needs of Israel.

Source:TH

WORLD FOOD INDIA 2025

In News

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is going to organise the 4th edition of World Food India 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
 - The theme of the four day event is Processing for Prosperity.

World Food India

- It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to showcase India's rich food culture and attract global investment.
- It serves as a premier platform for stakeholders from across the world to connect, collaborate, and explore opportunities in India's dynamic food processing landscape.
- World Food India 2025 aims to position India as a global hub for food processing and supply.

Brief overview of India's food processing sector

- It is a priority under the Make in India initiative, with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries implementing schemes to attract investment and develop infrastructure.
- Mega Food Parks with essential utilities and common processing facilities are being established in agriculturally rich areas, offering a plug-and-play model for entrepreneurs.



Source : Air



ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW (E-FLOW)

In Context

 Jal Shakti Minister held a comprehensive meeting focused on the environmental flow (e-flow) of the Ganga River and its tributaries in New Delhi.

About Environmental Flow (E-Flow)

- Definition: Any managed change in a river's flow pattern intended to maintain or improve river health. This includes both the amount and seasonal pattern of flow.
- **Components:** Encompasses not just the volume but also the timing and quality of flow, often aiming to mimic natural regimes.
- Purpose: Designed to sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species, maintain water quality, support estuarine productivity, and meet cultural, spiritual, and recreational needs.

Source: AIR

INDIA ACHIEVES 20% ETHANOL BLENDING IN PETROL

Context

 India has achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025, five years ahead of its original target set for 2030.

About

- Ethanol blending in petrol has risen from just
 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025- a nearly thirteenfold increase over 11 years.
- Ethanol production has surged from 38 crore litres in 2014 to 661.1 crore litres by June 2025.
- India has saved approximately I1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange by reducing its dependency on imported crude oil.

Ethanol blending

 The 'National Policy on Biofuels' notified by the government in 2018 envisaged an indicative target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2030. Given the encouraging performance and various interventions made by the government since 2014, the 20% target was advanced to 2025-26.

What is Ethanol?

- Ethanol is **99.9%** pure alcohol that can be blended with petrol.
- Alcohol production involves fermentation of sugar using yeast. In cane juice or molasses, sugar is present in the form of sucrose that is broken down into glucose and fructose.
- Also grains contain starch, a carbohydrate that
 has to first be extracted and converted into
 sucrose and simpler sugars, before their further
 fermentation, distillation and dehydration to
 ethanol.

Source: AIR

BAMBUSA TULDA

In News

 Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Researchers have developed an eco-friendly composite material made of 'Bambusa tulda', a fast-growing bamboo species in Northeast India, combined with biodegradable polymers.

About Bambusa Tulda

- Commonly known as Bengal Bamboo, Indian Timber Bamboo, or Spineless Indian Bamboo.
- It is a fast-growing, medium to large-sized, tropical clumping bamboo native to the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia (Indochina, Tibet, Yunnan).
- It is **monocarpic** (flowering once then dying) with an intermast interval typically of 15–60 years.
- Highly valued for its tensile strength and extensively used in paper pulp industry, construction, fencing, and various tools.

Source: TOI