

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## LS PASSED INDIAN PORTS BILL, 2025

### Context

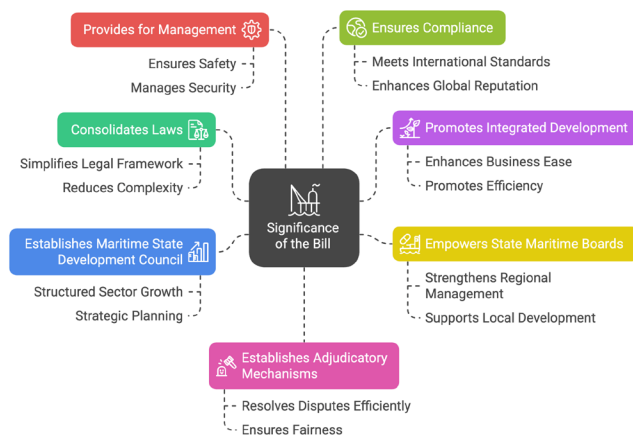
- The Lok Sabha has passed the **Indian Ports Bill, 2025**. It seeks to repeal and replace the **Indian Ports Act, 1908**.

### Key Features

- State Maritime Boards:** The Bill provides statutory recognition to all State Maritime Boards set up by coastal states.
  - State Maritime Boards will be responsible for the administration and regulation of non-major ports within their respective states.
- Maritime State Development Council:** It provides statutory recognition to the Maritime State Development Council.
  - The council will be chaired by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
  - It will issue guidelines in consultation with central and state governments and will also advise the central government on the formulation of a national perspective plan.
- Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC):** The Bill requires state governments to constitute a DRC to adjudicate upon disputes between non-major ports, concessionaires, users, and service providers within the state.
  - Appeals against orders of the DRC will lie before the High Court.
  - Civil courts are barred from matters entrusted to the DRC.
- Tariffs:** The tariff for a major port will be fixed by the: Board of Major Port Authority, or Board of Directors of a port registered as a company.
  - For non-major ports, the State Maritime Board or a concessionaire authorised by it will fix the tariff.
- Port officers:** The Act designates the conservator, appointed by the state government, as the chief port officer.
  - The Bill makes all other port officers (e.g., harbour master, health officer) subordinate to the conservator, who retains powers over vessel movements, obstruction removal, and fee recovery.
- Safety and conservation:** The Act penalises actions which endanger safety the Bill retains these provisions.
  - The Bill mandates compliance with MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) and Ballast Water Management Convention.
  - It also adds new obligations with regard to prevention and containment of pollution,

emergency preparedness, and disaster management.

- Penalties:** The offences under the Act are punishable with imprisonment, fine, or both, the Bill retains these offences.
  - It decriminalises certain offences and makes them punishable with a monetary penalty instead. It also introduces compounding for all first-time contraventions.



### Concerns

- Lack of Appeal mechanism:** The Bill does not provide a mechanism for appeal against the **levy of penalty by the conservator**.
- Penalty Against Supervising Authority:** The Bill lets the conservator penalise the Port Authority or concessionaires for not publishing tariffs online.
  - Since the conservator works under the Port Authority, this may require penalising their own supervising body, raising concerns about the appropriateness of the arrangement.
- Lack of Safeguards Against the Powers to Inspect:** Port officers such as the conservator and the health officer are granted powers of entry and inspection. However, the Bill lacks safeguards against such powers.
- Lack of clarity on 'mega ports':** The Bill allows the central government to designate a port as a 'mega port', while retaining its major or non-major status. With no further provisions, the purpose of this additional classification remains unclear.

Source: AIR

## NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE BILL, 2025 & BCCI

### Context

- Recently, the Parliament of India has passed the National Sports Governance Bill, aiming to overhaul India's sports administration.

### Key Provisions of the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025

- Creation of a **National Sports Board (NSB)** to regulate and recognize sports federations;
- Establishment of a **National Sports Tribunal** to resolve disputes;
- Mandatory compliance with international charters and ethical standards;
- **Inclusion of sports bodies** under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**, but with a caveat.

### National Sports Governance Bill & BCCI

- BCCI falls under the provisions of the National Sports Governance Bill, except Right to Information (RTI) Act, such as:
  - ♦ Forming an Ethics Commission;
  - ♦ Implementing a Safe Sports Policy;
  - ♦ Complying with governance norms if it receives any form of government assistance (e.g., use of public infrastructure).

### BCCI Exemption From RTI Act

- **The Original Draft of the National Sports Governance Bill (Clause 15(2))** stated that **all recognised sports bodies** would be considered public authorities under RTI.
- However, the **original clause was tweaked** to apply **only to bodies receiving government financial assistance**.

### BCCI and Its RTI Resistance

- **BCCI** is legally an autonomous charitable society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- It claims financial and organisational independence, operating outside the government's regulatory framework.
  - ♦ It has consistently **resisted being labeled a 'public authority'** under the RTI Act.
- **Indirect State Support:** Despite no direct grants, the BCCI has historically benefited from:
  - ♦ Tax exemptions as a charitable institution.
  - ♦ Land allocations at nominal rates (e.g., Re 1/month stadium lease in Himachal Pradesh).
  - ♦ Use of national symbols and monopoly over cricket with **tacit government approval**.

### Judicial Pronouncement

- **Supreme Court (2015):** Held BCCI performs public functions akin to a state body.
- **Justice Lodha Committee:** Urged bringing BCCI under RTI for transparency.
- **Law Commission (275th Report, 2018):** Recommended RTI coverage, citing indirect

state benefits like tax exemptions (2,100+ crore between 1997–2007) and subsidised land leases.

- **CIC Order (2018):** Declared BCCI a public authority; stayed by Madras High Court.

### Implications if BCCI Were Under RTI

- Inclusion under RTI would allow the public to request **team selection criteria; contract details** for broadcasting and infrastructure; **appointment processes** for officials and coaches; and **minutes of meetings** and decision-making records.
- **Olympic Implications:** With **cricket set to debut at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**, BCCI's inclusion in the Olympic movement raises questions about its accountability.
  - ♦ It is argued that its exemption from RTI undermines the Bill's goal of transparency and could conflict with international governance standards.

Source: IE

## CBSE'S PLAN FOR OPEN-BOOK EXAMS

### In News

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is going to introduce **open-book assessments (OBE)** in Class 9 from 2026-27, after a pilot study showed strong "teacher support" for the idea.
  - ♦ The CBSE Governing Body cleared the plan in June 2025.

### What are open-book exams?

- It allows students to use approved resources like textbooks, class notes, or other specified material during an assessment, rather than mainly testing memory.
- The main challenge is finding relevant information, understanding it, and applying it to solve problems.
  - ♦ Such exams assess students' ability to interpret and connect ideas, rather than just memorize facts.

### Benefits

- It shifts focus from rote memorization to critical thinking, analysis, and application
- It reduces Exam Stress by allowing access to reference materials and alleviates anxiety and encourages deeper engagement with content.
- It simulates professional scenarios where problem-solving involves consulting resources, fostering lifelong learning skills.



### Challenges

- Many students assume OBEs are easier, but success demands preparation and analytical ability.
- Crafting questions that test application rather than recall is time-intensive and requires pedagogical shifts.
- Students in rural or under-resourced settings may lack access to quality reference materials, **risking inequity**.
- Conducting OBEs requires spacious halls and logistical planning for material access.

### Global Scenario

- Open-book exams have existed for decades, with Hong Kong introducing them in 1953. Studies from the US and UK between 1951 and 1978 showed that open-book exams helped students internalize knowledge rather than just memorize, benefiting weaker students and measuring different skills.
- The COVID-19 pandemic prompted wider use of open-book formats as exams moved online, though many students initially struggled with the unfamiliar format.

### Status In India

- In 2014, CBSE launched the **Open Text-Based Assessment (OTBA)** to steer students away from rote learning.
- It applied to Class 9 for Hindi, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science, and to Class 11 final exams for subjects like Economics, Biology and Geography. Students were given reference material four months in advance.
  - ♦ However, by 2017-18, the initiative was discontinued as it failed to effectively develop the intended critical thinking skills.
- **Open-book formats have a stronger presence in collegiate education.**
  - ♦ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved their use in engineering colleges in 2019 after an expert panel's recommendation. During the pandemic, Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Aligarh Muslim University used OBEs, while IIT Delhi, IIT Indore and IIT Bombay ran them online.

### Conclusion and Way Forward

- CBSE is approving open-book exams as part of a broader shift towards competency-based learning encouraged by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework.

- These reforms aim to move away from rote memorization, promote conceptual understanding, and use assessments that cater to diverse learning styles while reducing fear and improving learning outcomes.

Source :IE

## LOK SABHA PASSES INCOME TAX (NO. 2) AND TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILLS

### Context

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Income-Tax (No.2) Bill, 2025.

### About The Income-Tax (No.2) Bill, 2025

- The Bill **seeks to replace the Income-tax Act, 1961**. It simplifies tax language, clarifies deductions, and strengthens cross-referencing across provisions.
- Tax rates and regimes for individuals and corporations remain unchanged. There are no changes in offences and penalties.
- **Power to Frame Schemes:** The Act provided specific provisions for a faceless mechanism in areas such as inquiries, valuations, revision of orders, and tax recovery.
  - ♦ **New Change:** The Bill grants general powers to the central government to frame schemes for; Eliminating interface with taxpayers via technology and Optimising resource use through economies of scale and functional specialisation.
- **Virtual digital space:** The Act allows income tax authorities to enter and search buildings and break open locks. The Act also empowers the authorities to inspect electronic documents.
  - ♦ **New Change:** Authorities can now also gain access to virtual digital spaces, including by overriding access codes, during search and seizure operations.
  - ♦ **The Bill defines virtual digital space** as an environment, area, or realm that is constructed and experienced through computer technology. It includes email servers, social media accounts, online investment and trading accounts, and websites for storing details of asset ownership.
- **Interpretation of tax treaties:** The Act allows the central government to enter into agreements with other countries to provide relief in cases of double taxation.

- ♦ **The Bill retains these provisions** and adds that if a term is not defined in the treaty, the Act, or a notification by the central government, its meaning will be as assigned in any other central law.
- **Dispute resolution panel:** The Act allows certain eligible assesseees to refer draft orders passed by assessing officers to a dispute resolution panel.
- ♦ **The Bill retains these provisions** and adds that the panel must issue directions along with the points of determination and the reasons for arriving at the decision.

### The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- The Bill seeks to amend the **Income-Tax Act, 1961** and the **Finance Act, 2025**. The 1961 Act provides for the framework to levy income tax on individuals and companies.
- **Exemptions for the Unified Pension Scheme:** The 1961 Act specifies income categories which are exempt from income tax. The Bill adds exemptions for;
  - ♦ payments under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) upon superannuation, voluntary retirement, or retirement (up to 60% of the pension corpus), and
  - ♦ lump sum amounts received under UPS.
- **The transfers** from individual corpus to pool corpus will **not be treated as income** and will not be taxed.
- **Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund (PIF) Exemption:** Tax exemption extended to PIF of Saudi Arabia and its wholly owned subsidiaries investing funds of the Saudi government in India.
- **Block assessment in search cases:** The 1961 Act specifies a procedure for the assessment of total undisclosed income as a result of a search. It provides for assessment for a block period.
  - ♦ **The Bill adds** that if a notice for such an assessment is issued after a search has begun but before the search is completed,

that assessment will stop on the date of the notice.

Source: DD News, PRS, PRS

## INDIA PRODUCES 239.30 MILLION TONNES OF MILK

### Context

- According to data presented in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, India's total milk production stands at **239.30 million tonnes**.

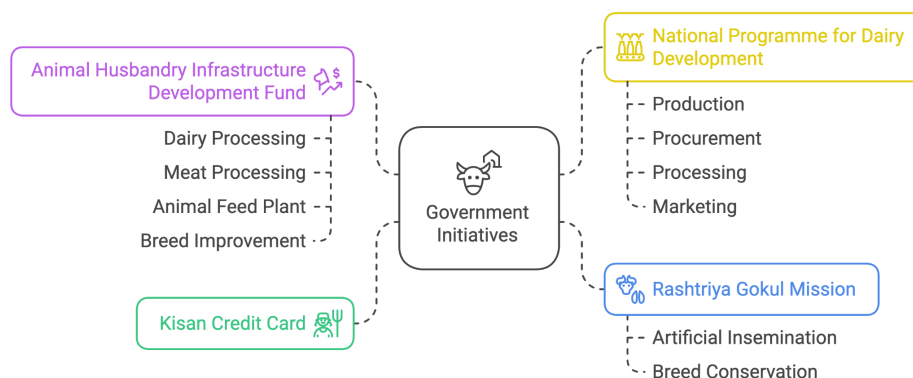
### Milk Production in India

- **Global Leadership:** India has been the world's largest milk producer since 1998, currently accounting for **25%** of global output.
- **Decadal Growth:** From 2014–15 to 2023–24, production jumped by **63.56%**, from 146.3 to 239.2 million tonnes, averaging an annual growth of around **5.7%**, well above the global 2%.
- **Per Capita Availability:** Rose to **471 g/day in 2023–24**, substantially above the world average of 322 g/day.
- **Top Producing states:** Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

### Significance

- **Economic Contribution:** India's dairy is the single largest agricultural commodity, contributing **5 percent** to the national economy and directly employing more than 8 crore farmers.
- **Nutritional Security:** Milk is a major source of protein, calcium, and vitamins, improving dietary diversity.
- **Export Potential:** India is emerging as a supplier of dairy products like skimmed milk powder, butter, and ghee to Asia and Africa.
- **Women's Participation:** **35%** of members in dairy cooperatives are women, highlighting the sector's role in gender-inclusive growth.

### Government Initiatives for Livestock and Dairy Development



### Challenges

- **Breed Productivity Gaps:** Yields still lag behind advanced dairy nations, especially among indigenous breeds.
- **Pricing Volatility:** Inconsistent procurement prices reduce incentive for farmers to invest in feed and breed improvement
- **Climate Impact & Market Volatility:** Extreme heat reduces yields and drives up prices.
- **Slowing Growth:** Production growth has slowed, from ~6% in earlier years to 3.78% in 2023–24, with buffalo milk output declining **16%**.
- **Post-Harvest Losses:** Inadequate cold-chain and processing infrastructure cause wastage.

### Way Ahead

- **Boost Productivity:** Intensify breed improvement (AI, IVF, indigenous genetics), nutrition reforms.
- **Strengthen Infrastructure:** Develop cold chains, chilling centres, and organized collection systems.
- **Expand Cooperative Reach:** Bring more farmers into organized frameworks; local-level cooperatives can cut inefficiencies.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Promote climate-resilient breeds, improve animal health (vaccination drives), and stable pricing frameworks.
- **Enhance Inclusivity:** Empower women through targeted interventions and enhanced participation.

Source: TH

## NASA PLANS TO PUT A NUCLEAR REACTOR ON THE MOON

### Context

- The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) is expected to fast-track plans to build a **nuclear reactor on the moon by 2030**.

### About

- The reactor is said to be part of the country's **broader ambitions** to set up a permanent base for humans to live on the lunar surface.
- It is a **100-kilowatt reactor**, smaller than on-shore wind turbines that typically generate 2-3 megawatts.
- Nasa's accelerated push to build a nuclear reactor on the moon comes after **similar announcements from China and Russia**.
  - ♦ China and Russia aim to build automated nuclear power stations on the moon **by 2035**.

- ♦ Several other nations, including India and Japan, are also racing to explore the lunar surface with plans to establish **permanent human settlements**.

### International Legal Framework

- **Outer Space Treaty (1967):**
  - ♦ **Permissible:** It permits peaceful purposes on the Moon and other celestial bodies and bans nuclear weapons/WMD anywhere in space or on celestial bodies.
  - ♦ **Article IX:** States must act with due regard to interests of others, hence, no territorial claims can be made.
- **Liability Convention (1972):** Launching State is absolutely liable for damage on Earth/aircraft; fault-based liability for damage in space/on the Moon. It also provides claims/settlement machinery.
- **Moon Agreement (1979) (few parties; not widely accepted):** It adds environmental and rescue duties on the Moon; recognizes the Moon's resources as the "**common heritage**". Applies only to its Parties.
- **1992 UN Principles:** Non-binding resolution recognising the role of nuclear power in missions where solar is insufficient; lays down safety, transparency, and consultation guidelines.
- **India is a signatory to the outer space treaty**, but not to the Moon Agreement. India is also a signatory to the Artemis Accords (2023) in which parties commit to transparency, safety zones and data sharing.

### Why the New Race?

- **First mover in building nuclear reactors on Moon could:**
  - ♦ Shape norms, behaviours, and legal interpretations.
  - ♦ Control access to strategic areas (e.g., lunar south pole with water ice).
  - ♦ Gain geopolitical leverage by anchoring long-term facilities.

### Why Nuclear over Solar?

- The Moon has little atmosphere and experiences **14-day** stretches of darkness, this makes **solar energy unreliable** in some of the most critical regions.
- **A small lunar reactor** could operate continuously for a decade or more, powering habitats, rovers, 3D printers and life-support systems.
- **Developing this capability is essential for missions to Mars**, where solar power is even more constrained.

### Concerns

- There is a lack of legally binding global rules for nuclear waste disposal on the Moon.
- Risk of radioactive contamination if accidents occur during launch or lunar operations.
- Possible conflicts over safety zones and site access in resource-rich areas.
- Challenges in verifying compliance due to difficulty in on-site inspection.
- Potential geopolitical tensions over technology transfer and reactor deployment.

### Way Forward

- Develop national space nuclear safety law aligned with OST and 1992 UN Safety Framework.
- Strengthen inter-agency coordination between space and nuclear regulators.
- Promote transparency and consultation through Artemis Accords.
- Invest in research for safer, smaller reactors with minimal environmental impact.
- Plan international cooperation for emergency response, waste management, and long-term stewardship of nuclear sites on the Moon.

Source: IE

## FIGHT AGAINST ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

### Context

- Researchers from the IIT Roorkee, have developed a novel drug candidate, **Compound 3b**, that can restore the effectiveness of the antibiotic **Meropenem** against deadly, drug-resistant bacteria.

### What is Antibiotic Resistance?

- **Antibiotics are medicines** used to **prevent and treat bacterial infections**.

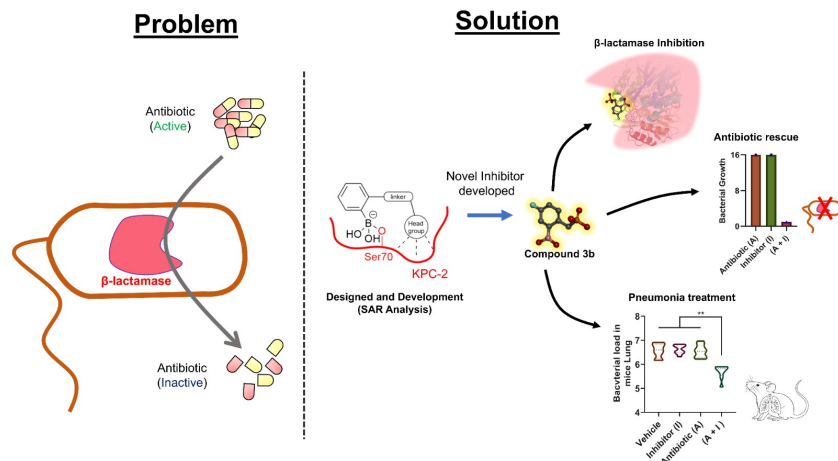
- Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change in response to the use of these medicines. These bacteria may then infect humans and are harder to treat than non-resistant bacteria.

### Causes for Antimicrobial Resistance

- **Misuse of Antibiotics:** The excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics in humans and animals is a major driver of antimicrobial resistance.
- **Inadequate Dosage:** When antibiotics are not taken in the correct dosage and for the recommended duration, it can lead to incomplete eradication of the targeted microorganisms, allowing the surviving bacteria to develop resistance.
- **Self-Medication:** Self-prescription without proper medical guidance contributes to the misuse of antibiotics.
- **Antibiotics Consumption in Food-Animals:** Use of antibiotics as growth promoters in food animals and poultry is a common practice and later it evolves in the food chain.
- **Unavailability of laboratory facilities:** Over 50-70% of doctor-prescribed antibiotics are unnecessary due to lack of accurate infection diagnosis.
  - ♦ Limited access to affordable rapid diagnostic tests contributes to this issue.

### About the New Drug Candidate

- **Purpose:** Targets infections caused by **KPC-2-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae***, a superbug listed among the WHO's top-priority threats.
- **Mechanism:** The newly discovered molecule belongs to a **class of  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor drugs** that prevent bacterial enzymes from breaking down life-saving antibiotics.
  - ♦ Compound 3b is highly specific, **safe to human cells**, and works synergistically with Meropenem to **kill resistant bacteria**.





### Efforts against Antibiotic Resistance

- **India's Red Line campaign:** Which demands that prescription-only antibiotics be marked with a red line, to discourage the over-the-counter sale of antibiotics— is a step forward.
- **National Antibiotic Consumption Network (NAC-NET):** The network sites compile data on antibiotic consumption in their respective health facilities and send it to National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).
- **Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP):** A joint initiative of WHO and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi), GARDP encourages research and development through public-private partnerships.

### Way Ahead

- **Enhance Diagnostics:** Ensure affordable and accessible rapid diagnostic kits to reduce empirical antibiotic use.
- **Enforce Prescription Regulations:** Strict penalties for non-prescription sales and overuse in livestock.
- **Public Awareness:** Integrate AMR education into public health campaigns and school curricula.

Source: PIB

## NEWS IN SHORT

### MANDOVI RIVER

#### Context

- The Union Government has extended the tenure of the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal by one year.

#### About the Mandovi River

- **Names:** Known as *Mahadayi* in Karnataka and *Mhadei* in Goa.
- **Origin:** Rises in the **Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary**, of Karnataka's Belagavi district.
- **Course:** Flows westward, entering Goa via Sattari taluk (North Goa), before joining the **Arabian Sea** at Panaji.
- **Basin Coverage:** Spans **Goa, Karnataka, and Maharashtra**.
- **Length:** **111 km** total; about **76 km** lies within Goa.

Source: TOI

### STATE HEALTH REGULATORY EXCELLENCE INDEX (SHRESTH)

#### In News

- The Union Health Ministry launched the **State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH)**.

#### State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH)

- It is an initiative aimed at **benchmarking and strengthening state drug regulatory systems** through a transparent, data-driven framework.
- It will assess states on parameters such as lab testing capacity, digitisation of approvals, inspection rigour, and responsiveness to public grievances.
- It is developed by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**.
- It will rank manufacturing states (on 27 parameters) and distribution states/UTs (on 23 parameters) across themes like licensing, surveillance, and responsiveness.
  - ♦ States will submit monthly data, and best practices will be shared to promote uniform standards.

DD News

### COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG)

#### Context

- In its report tabled in Parliament, the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** found the Centre had failed to transfer 3.69 lakh crore worth cess collections to the relevant funds for which they were levied.

#### Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- The CAG is the **supreme audit authority** of India, responsible for auditing government accounts and ensuring accountability in public finance management.
- **Articles 148 to 151** of the Indian Constitution provide the framework for the appointment, duties, and reporting structure of the CAG.
- **Appointed by:** President of India.
- **Tenure:** 6 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- **Removal:** By President on the basis of a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- **Oath:** Administered by the President.



## CAG's Duties and Functions



### Consolidated Fund Audits

Audits expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, states, and union territories with Legislative Assemblies.



### Contingency Fund Audits

Audits expenditure from the Contingency Fund and Public Account of India and those of the states.



### Debt Transaction Audits

Audits transactions related to debt, sinking funds, deposits, advances, suspense accounts, and remittance business with Presidential approval.



### Authority Account Audits

Audits accounts of any authority if requested by the President or Governor.



### Report Submissions

To the President or Governor, who lays them before Parliament/State Legislature.

Source: TH

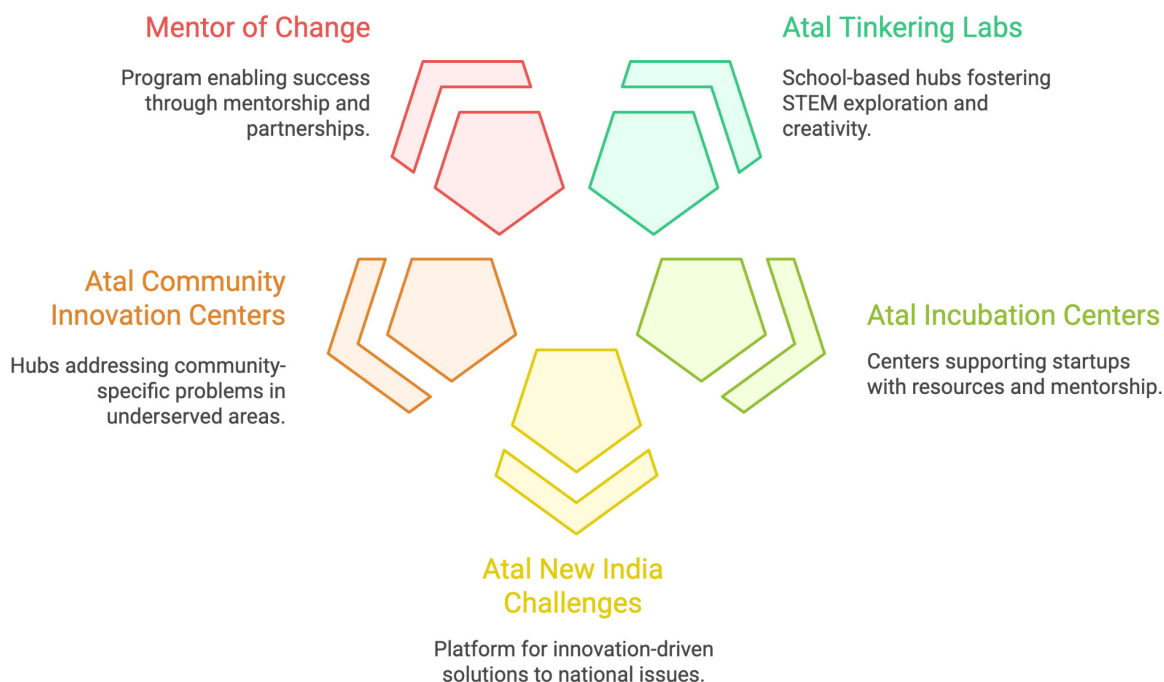
## ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)

### Context

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, hosted “Mega Tinkering Day 2025,” bringing together over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) from all 35 states and Union Territories.

### About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

## AIM's Innovation Ecosystem



- AIM is an initiative under NITI Aayog **launched in 2016**.
- **Aim:** To foster innovation at the grassroots level by providing support to students, startups, and entrepreneurs.
- **AIM 2.0** is a step towards Viksit Bharat that aims to expand, strengthen, and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
  - ♦ It aims to **break the language barrier** through the Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI) and 30 vernacular innovation centres.

Source: PIB

## RETAIL INFLATION HITS 8-YEAR LOW

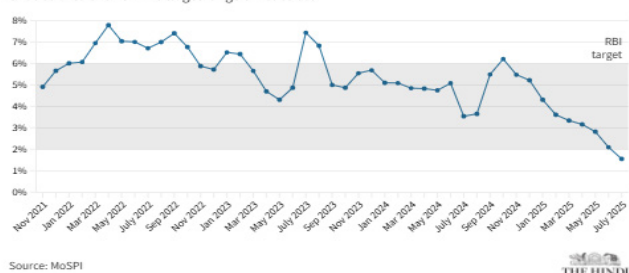
### In News

- **Retail inflation in India** fell to 1.55% in July 2025, the lowest since June 2017 and below the RBI's 2–6% target band, driven by a sharp decline in food prices.

### Retail inflation (Consumer Price Index (CPI))

- It measures changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire for the purpose of consumption.
- It is widely used as a **macroeconomic indicator of inflation**, as a tool by governments and central banks for inflation targeting and for monitoring price stability, and as deflators in the national accounts.
- It is also used for indexing dearness allowance to employees for increase in prices.
- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has revised the **Base Year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2010=100 to 2012=100** with effect from the release of indices for the month of January, 2015.

India's retail inflation rate  
Shaded area shows RBI's target range of 2% to 6%



Source :TH

## ONEWEB LEO SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY ACROSS INDIA

### Context

- Nelco Limited, the Tata Group's satellite communication arm, has signed an agreement

with Eutelsat to roll out OneWeb low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite connectivity services across India.

### About

- **The partnership aims** to bridge digital gaps, enhance secure communications, and expand access to **high-speed internet** in remote, maritime, and aviation sectors.
- **Extensive Coverage:** The service will blanket India's entire landmass, territorial waters, and remote regions—reaching into maritime zones and aerial routes.
- **Targeted Sectors:** The focus is on government, defence, enterprise, maritime, and aviation customers who require secure, low-latency communication channels.
- **Competitive Edge:** The LEO service complements other satellite offerings (like VSAT and GEO SATCOM), fitting into Tata's expanding "multi-orbit" connectivity strategy.

Source: BS

## UNDP EQUATOR INITIATIVE AWARD

### Context

- The **Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group (SHG)** from **Teertha village** in Dharwad district, Karnataka, has won the Equator Prize 2025, awarded by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

### About Equator Initiative Award

- **Launched:** In 2002
- The award is **presented annually** to honor nature-based solutions led by **Indigenous Peoples and local communities** that promote sustainable development and ecological resilience.
- The award is also referred to as the **Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation**.

### Bibi fathima Swa Sahaya Sangha (Bibi Fatima SHG)

- **Founded in Karnataka**, this women-led initiative supports over **5,000 farmers** across **30 villages** through **millet-based multi-cropping, seed banks, and solar-powered processing**.
- Combining traditional knowledge with regenerative agriculture and renewable energy, it **restores biodiversity, boosts food security, and empowers marginalized women** and youth as agripreneurs, advancing climate resilience and equity.

Source: TH

## NATIONAL ANUBHAV AWARDS

### Context

- The National Anubhav Awards 2025 is going to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, marking the 10th anniversary of the awards.

### About the Awards

- **Launch Year:** 2015
- **Purpose:** To **incentivise and encourage retired government employees** to share their work experiences and administrative insights.
- **Eligibility:**

- ♦ Employees who are retiring within the next **8 months**, or who have retired within the past **3 years**, can submit their write-ups on the **Anubhav Portal**, which are then evaluated by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW).
- **Evolution**
  - ♦ **2015:** Started with **5 National Anubhav Awards**.
  - ♦ **2023:** Introduced **10 Anubhav Jury Awards**, increasing total awards to **15 annually** for wider participation.

**Source:** PIB

