

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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Table of Content

SC States it cannot Impose Timelines on President and Governors

Pending Cases Before Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)

India-U.S. Defence Deal

National One Health Mission Assembly and Calls For Unified Response to Future Health Threats

News In Short

FSSAI orders immediate removal of misleading ORS-labelled beverages

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

Pharmacogenomics

Dark Patterns

CAFE-3 Norms

Acanthosis Nigricans

The India International Trade Fair

SC STATES IT CANNOT IMPOSE TIMELINES ON PRESIDENT AND GOVERNORS

Context

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

Background

- Recently, the Supreme Court verdict **laid down a timeline for the President and governors to decide on state bills**.
- Reason: The Governor is not bound by any time limit to act on a Bill.**
 - This creates a situation where the Governor can simply not act on a Bill indefinitely this is referred to as a **“Pocket Veto”**, although the term is not officially used in the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court ruled that **Governors cannot delay or withhold assent to Bills indefinitely** once they are passed or re-passed by the state Assembly.
- The ruling set a timeline for the Governor to act on Bills:**
 - One month for re-passed Bills.
 - Three months if the Bill is withheld contrary to Cabinet advice.
- It raises questions about the **scope of judicial authority under Article 142**, and whether the **courts can enforce accountability on constitutional functionaries like Governors and the President**.

SC Clarification

- Imposition of Timelines:** The SC held that in the **absence of constitutionally prescribed time limits**, and the manner of exercise of power by the governor, it would not be appropriate for this Court to **judicially prescribe timelines** for the exercise of powers under Article 200.
- Action on Laws not Bills:** The bench concluded that actions of the President or governor with respect to a bill **cannot be agitated before the court**; and that any action before the court or for judicial review will lie **only when the bill becomes law**.
- Reaffirmation of constitutional boundaries:** The judgment emphasizes that each constitutional authority must act within its sphere.

- Prolonged Delay:** In cases of prolonged delay, the top court said that the courts can issue a limited direction to the governor to decide on a bill.
- The court clarified that the President and Governors cannot resort to **“prolonged and evasive inaction”** by sitting endlessly on State Bills awaiting their approval.
 - This would amount to a deliberate attempt to thwart the people's will expressed through the proposed welfare laws passed by State legislatures.

What is Article 142?

- Article 142 of the Indian constitution** is a provision that empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.
 - It also makes such decree or order enforceable throughout the territory of India.
- The importance of Article 142 lies in the following aspects:**
 - It enables the Supreme Court to **exercise executive and legislative functions in certain situations**, such as issuing guidelines, directions, or orders to the government or other authorities.
 - It allows the Supreme Court to **intervene in matters of public interest, human rights, constitutional values, or fundamental rights**, and to protect them from any violation or infringement.
 - It enhances the Supreme Court's role as the **guardian of the constitution and the final arbiter of the law**.
- Criticism:** It may encroach upon the **principle of separation of powers** and the domain of the executive and the legislature, and may **invite criticism of judicial overreach or activism**.

How are the Bills Passed by the Governor?

- Article 200 of the Indian Constitution** stipulates that when a Bill passed by a State Legislature is presented to the Governor, the Governor has four options:
 - Assent to the Bill, making it law.
 - Withhold assent, effectively rejecting the Bill.
 - Return the Bill to the Legislature for reconsideration (except Money Bills).
 - Reserve the Bill for the President's consideration if the Governor deems it

necessary, such as in cases affecting constitutional matters or the powers of the High Court.

- If the Bill is returned and the Legislature passes it again (with or without amendments), the Governor must assent to the Bill and cannot withhold assent.
- **Article 201** provides that when a Bill is reserved by the Governor for the President's consideration, the President can:
 - ♦ Assent to the Bill, making it law.
 - ♦ Withhold assent, rejecting the Bill.
- Return the Bill (if not a Money Bill) to the Legislature with a message for reconsideration.

Concerns of the States

- **Interference in State Autonomy:** States argue that the Governor's role in reserving bills for the President undermines the autonomy of state legislatures, especially when the bills are in the State List.
- **Misuse of Discretion:** There are concerns that Governors reserve bills contrary to the advice of the State Council of Ministers, leading to misuse of discretionary powers.
- **Delays in Decision-Making:** Many states complain of delays in the President's decision on reserved bills, which affects the timely enactment of laws.
- **Lack of Clear Guidelines:** States suggest that there should be clear guidelines for the Governor and Union Government to prevent arbitrary use of discretion.
- **Impact on Federalism:** Some states believe that Articles 200 and 201, which allow the Governor to reserve bills, are inconsistent with the true federal structure of India.

Conclusion

- In essence, this development is not merely a legal inquiry but a crucial test of India's federal structure, with implications for the **balance of power between the Centre and the States, judicial oversight, and constitutional morality.**

Source: IE

PENDING CASES BEFORE JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARDS (JJBS)

Context

- The 'Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law: A Study of Capacity at the Frontlines',

released by the **India Justice Report (IJR)** revealed alarming gaps in India's juvenile justice system.

Key Findings of Study

- **High Pendency Across Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs):** About **55% of the cases** before **362 Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)** across the country remained **pending**.
 - ♦ Pendency **rates vary** significantly — from **83% in Odisha** to **35% in Karnataka**, although **92% of India's 765 districts** have constituted JJBs (as on October 2023).

Children in conflict with law

40,036

juveniles apprehended in 2023

31,365

cases registered

75%

of apprehended juveniles

aged 16-18

Pendency & boards

55%

pendency before 362 JJBs

Pendency spread:

Odisha 83%,

Karnataka 35%

92%

districts have a JJB

1 in 4

JJBs not fully constituted

305 of 437

JJBs have a legal

services clinic

142

LCPOs across 292 districts

(mandatory: 1 per district)

RTI & data gaps

250+

RTIs filed due to lack of

national database

500+

responses

11%

rejected

24%

no reply

29%

redirected to districts

- The findings highlight serious **inefficiencies in case management and delivery of justice** for **Children in Conflict with the Law (CCL)**.
- **Lack of Centralized Data and Transparency:** There is **no centralized public database** for JJBs, unlike the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** for regular courts.
 - ♦ RTI responses from **21 states**, filed by IJR, revealed that JJBs had **disposed of fewer than half** of the **1,00,904 cases** registered nationwide.

- ♦ Out of **500 RTI responses** from **28 states and two Union Territories**, **11%** were rejected, **24%** received no reply, **29%** were transferred to district offices, and only **36%** were provided by state-level nodal agencies.
- ♦ It reflects a **weak culture of data sharing and transparency** across the system.
- **Vacancies and Resource Constraints:** The study noted that **24% of JJBs were not fully constituted**, and **30%** lacked an attached **legal services clinic**, limiting access to legal aid.
 - ♦ On average, each JJB was managing **154 pending cases annually**, placing immense strain on existing personnel.
 - ♦ It is attributed to the backlog to **staff shortages, inadequate funding, and poor data monitoring**, all of which **undermine the implementation** of the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**.
- **Systemic Weaknesses:** The IJR study highlights persistent **systemic and structural weaknesses, even after a decade of the JJ Act, 2015**, that includes:
 - ♦ Poor **inter-agency coordination**;
 - ♦ Absence of **integrated data systems**;
 - ♦ Limited **oversight and supervision mechanisms**;
 - ♦ Weak **accountability structures**;
- The **decentralized framework** intended to deliver child-centric services often suffers from **fragmented implementation and lack of standardization** across states.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

- It provides a comprehensive legal framework for the care, protection, development, and rehabilitation of children in need, including those in conflict with the law.
- It **replaced the earlier 2000 legislation** to address emerging challenges in juvenile justice.

Two Categories of Children

- **Children in Conflict with Law (CCL):** Those alleged or found to have committed an offence under the law and are below 18 years of age.
- **Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP):** Those who are vulnerable or at risk, including orphans, abandoned children, and victims of abuse.

Key Features

- The JJA allows **children aged 16–18** to be tried as adults for heinous crimes, **subject to assessment** by the **Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)**.
- It emphasizes reformation and social reintegration through child care institutions, foster care, and adoption.
- **Amendment in 2021** put greater authority to **District Magistrates** to ensure effective implementation of the Act, including oversight of **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)** and **JJBs**.

Role and Structure of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)

- JJBs are **quasi-judicial bodies** established in **every district** to handle cases involving children in conflict with the law.
- **Composition:**
 - ♦ One Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate First Class (serves as Chairperson);
 - ♦ Two social worker members, including at least one woman;
- **Key Functions:**
 - ♦ Conduct inquiries and trials for offences committed by juveniles;
 - ♦ Assess whether a child aged 16–18 should be tried as an adult for heinous offences;
 - ♦ Ensure legal aid, psychological support, and child-friendly procedures during proceedings;
 - ♦ Refer children to rehabilitation programs and monitor their progress;
- **Child-Centric Approach:**
 - ♦ Proceedings are conducted in a non-adversarial, informal setting;
 - ♦ Emphasis on the child's best interests, privacy, and dignity;
 - ♦ Rehabilitation and reintegration prioritized over punitive measures.

Suggestions Made in Study

- **Probation and Rehabilitation Should Be Central: India Justice Report (IJR)** emphasized that **probation** should be the **cornerstone of juvenile justice**, focusing on **rehabilitation rather than punishment**.
 - ♦ According to **Crime in India 2023** data, **40,036 juveniles** were apprehended in

31,365 cases under the Indian Penal Code and special laws, with **three out of four** aged between **16 and 18 years** — underscoring the need for reformatory rather than punitive approaches.

- **Fill Vacancies Promptly:** Expedite the appointment of social worker members to ensure all JJBs function with the full three-member panel.
- **Standardize Training and Capacity Building:** Implement regular, structured training for JJB members, police, and probation officers on child rights, trauma-informed care, and the Juvenile Justice Act.
- **Improve Infrastructure and Support Services:** Ensure JJBs have child-friendly spaces, dedicated courtrooms, and access to counselors, translators, and legal aid providers.
- **Strengthen Monitoring and Data Systems:** Develop real-time digital dashboards to track case pendency, board composition, and service delivery metrics.
- **Enhance Inter-agency Coordination:** Foster collaboration between JJBs, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), District Child Protection Units (DCPU), and police to streamline rehabilitation and reintegration.

Conclusion

- The IJR study exposes critical **gaps in capacity, coordination, and transparency** within India's juvenile justice framework.
- The system will continue to fall short of serving the **best interests of children**, undermining the very essence of juvenile justice, until a **National Data Grid** is established and regular **data publication** becomes mandatory.

Source: TH

INDIA-U.S. DEFENCE DEAL

Context

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

FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missile system

- The Javelin missile system is a **modern anti-tank guided missile system** that is used extensively

across the world.

- It is a **single man-portable fire-and-forget medium-range anti-tank weapon system** designed to defeat all known and projected threat armour.
- Javelin automatically guides itself to the target after the initial launch, allowing the **operator to take cover**, relocate or prepare to engage another threat.
- India has requested up to 216 of the **M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles** for purchase.
 - ♦ For the Indian Army, Excalibur offers an opportunity to significantly expand precision-strike capacity without adding new artillery platforms.
 - ♦ Precision-guided munitions also help conserve ammunition in high-altitude conflict zones, where logistics chains are often stretched.
- **Significance:** The combined packages, worth an estimated \$92.8 million, reflect the converging defence priorities between India and U.S., while also supporting India's long-term plans for self-reliance in advanced munitions.

India - US Defence Ties

- Defence ties have transformed from transactional to a Major Defense Partnership (2016).
- Guided by mechanisms such as:
 - ♦ 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue
 - ♦ Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) (2012)
 - ♦ Military Cooperation Group (MCG)
- India is designated as **"Major Defense Partner"** and given **Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status (2018)**, easing high-tech exports.
- **India has signed all four major foundational agreements with the U.S.:**
 - ♦ General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002 and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.
 - ♦ COMCASA (2018) – Secure communications & interoperability.
 - ♦ Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA 2020) for Geo-spatial intelligence & satellite data for precision targeting.
- **Military Exercises:** Among India's most extensive set of exercises with any country.
 - ♦ Yudh Abhyas: Land forces.

- ♦ Malabar: Naval quadrilateral with US, India, Japan, Australia.
- ♦ Cope India: Air exercise.
- ♦ Tiger Triumph: Tri-service HADR exercise.
- ♦ Vajra Prahar: Special forces.
- **The deals, pursued under emergency procurement powers**, allow the armed forces to bypass the long procurement process for contracts, with a maximum ceiling of Rs 300 crore under the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route**.

Significance of India-US Defence Ties

- **Enhances India's Defence Capabilities:** Access to advanced U.S. technologies improves India's surveillance, lift, and combat readiness.
 - ♦ Foundational agreements (LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA) boost interoperability, secure communications, real-time intelligence, and precision targeting.
- **Supports Defence Modernization & Indigenisation:** Technology cooperation through DTTI, jet engine collaboration, and defence innovation partnerships (DIU-iDEX) promote co-production and co-development.
- **Strengthens Maritime Security & Indo-Pacific Strategy:** Naval cooperation and exercises enhance India's ability to secure the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **Boosts Counter-Terrorism & Intelligence Cooperation:** Information-sharing mechanisms, designations of terrorist groups, and cooperation in UN & FATF strengthen India's global counter-terrorism efforts.
- **Contributes to Regional and Global Stability:** India-U.S. convergence in Afghanistan, West Asia, and Indo-Pacific contributes to broader strategic stability.
 - ♦ Helps maintain balance of power in Asia amid rising geopolitical competition.

Source: LM

NATIONAL ONE HEALTH MISSION ASSEMBLY AND CALLS FOR UNIFIED RESPONSE TO FUTURE HEALTH THREATS

In News

- The National One Health Mission Assembly 2025 showcased India's integrated approach to

health security under the theme **"One Earth, One Health, One Future."**

National One Health Assembly 2025

- It is being hosted by the Department of Health Research (DHR) under the aegis of the National One Health Mission.
- It brings together ministries, departments, academicians and experts to highlight India's leadership in the One Health approach.

One Health

- The 'One Health' approach integrates the health of people, animals and the environment
- It is crucial for addressing complex health challenges such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food safety.

Need and Objectives

- India has one of the world's largest livestock populations, diverse wildlife, and a dense human population, making it highly prone to cross-sectoral disease transmission.
- Outbreaks like COVID-19, Avian Influenza, and Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle highlight the interconnectedness of health sectors.
- One Health ensures holistic governance, collaboration, and communication, enabling better preparedness against pandemics and safeguarding food security, livelihoods, and biodiversity.

Key Challenges

- Health, agriculture, environment, and wildlife sectors often work in silos.
- Limited surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance.
- Resource constraints in rural and peri-urban areas where human-animal interactions are intense.
- Unilateral trade measures (e.g., carbon border mechanisms) and global inequities can undermine fairness in implementing One Health strategies.

Steps Taken in India

- National One Health Mission (2021) proposed to institutionalize cross-sectoral coordination for zoonotic disease prevention.
- Ayushman Bharat & eSanjeevani telemedicine platforms Expanding access to healthcare, including preventive services.

- Mission Indradhanush strengthening immunization campaigns to reduce disease burden.
- The government released the BSL-3 Laboratory Network SOP Compendium to standardize high-containment lab practices.

Way Ahead

- One Health is vital for India's resilience, requiring a national framework, stronger surveillance, and capacity-building across health sectors.
- It calls for community awareness, use of advanced technologies for outbreak prediction, and global cooperation to ensure equitable access to finance, technology, and resources for developing countries.

Source :DD

NEWS IN SHORT

FSSAI ORDERS IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF MISLEADING ORS-LABELLED BEVERAGES

In News

- The FSSAI has directed the authorities to immediately remove from sale all fruit-based beverages, ready-to-serve drinks, energy drinks, electrolyte beverages, and similar products that are being marketed using the term ORS.

About ORS

- **ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts)** denotes standardized, **WHO-UNICEF-recommended sachets** that are dissolved in clean water to make an Oral Rehydration Solution for oral rehydration therapy.
- Its primary purpose is to **prevent and treat dehydration from acute diarrhoea (including cholera)** in all age groups, especially children in low- and middle-income countries where diarrhoeal disease is a leading cause of under-5 mortality.
- The current WHO low-osmolality ORS formulation contains sodium chloride, anhydrous glucose, potassium chloride and trisodium citrate dihydrate in precise amounts.
- Glucose is included at a controlled concentration to exploit the sodium-glucose co-transport mechanism in the small intestine, thereby enhancing intestinal absorption of sodium and, consequently, water.

Source: TH

JOINT CREDITING MECHANISM (JCM)

In News

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

About

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

Source: AIR

PHARMACOGENOMICS

In News

- Pharmacogenomics is transforming medicine by tailoring drug prescriptions to a patient's genetic makeup.

Pharmacogenomics

- **Overview:** Pharmacogenomics is a field that combines pharmacology and genomics to understand how an individual's genetic makeup influences their response to drugs.
 - ♦ It aims to tailor drug prescriptions based on genetic profiles to achieve maximum safety and efficacy in treatment.
- **Purpose:** Pharmacogenomics helps predict which medications will be effective for a person, which ones may not work, and which could cause adverse drug reactions. This allows for personalized treatment plans.
- **Challenges:** Wider adoption faces hurdles such as limited access to genetic testing, lack of comprehensive data representing diverse populations, and the complexity of integrating pharmacogenomic information into routine clinical practice.

Source: TH

DARK PATTERNS

In News

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) announced that 26 digital storefronts, including Flipkart, Meesho, BlinkIt, Zomato, BigBasket, and Reliance Retail, declared compliance with the 2023 guidelines against “dark patterns”

“Dark patterns”

- Dark patterns are deceptive UI/UX (user interface/user experience) design practices that mislead users into actions they did not intend, undermining consumer autonomy, choice, and decision-making.
- They are treated as misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices, or violations of consumer rights.

Impacts

- Dark patterns undermine user autonomy, causing unintended purchases, overuse, privacy risks, and misleading ads that erode trust.

Measures

- Dark patterns fall under the category of “unfair trade practices” as defined in the Sub-section 47 under Section 2 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Central Consumer Protection Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, issued “Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023” for prevention and regulation of dark patterns listing 13 specified dark patterns identified in e-Commerce sector.

Source: TH

CAFE-3 NORMS

Context

- India's plan to **tighten fuel-efficiency rules** under the proposed **third phase of the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) rules** from **FY28** has opened a sharp divide within the auto industry.

About

- Carmakers split over how the next phase of norms **should treat small and large vehicles**.
- The framework sticks to a **weight-based formula** that steadily tightens through FY32, but its structure means **lighter cars face far steeper improvements** than heavier SUVs.

- The onus of reducing emissions is much higher on smaller cars than it is for bigger, heavier SUVs.
 - They feel that in bigger cars, there is a **greater scope of implementing emissions-reducing technologies**, such as hybrid or full electric powertrains.
 - But, in smaller cars, the scope is far less as these are built to a budget.

India's Current CAFE Norms

- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** introduced the **CAFE norms in 2017** to regulate **fuel consumption and carbon emissions from passenger vehicles**.
- These norms apply to** vehicles running on petrol, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrids, and electric vehicles (EVs) weighing less than 3,500 kg.
- The norms were tightened in the beginning of financial year 2022-23, with **increased penalties for non-compliance**.
- These norms are designed to **reduce oil dependency and curb air pollution**.

Source: IE

ACANTHOSIS NIGRICANS

Context

- Acanthosis Nigricans** can manifest in skin folds and creases on skin closely linked to the insulin resistance.

About

- Acanthosis Nigricans (AN)** is a skin condition characterised by dark, velvety patches on skin folds.
 - The skin changes associated with AN do not appear overnight, **but develop gradually over the course several months**.
- It is strongly linked to **insulin resistance**, which makes it an important early warning sign for **prediabetes and diabetes**.
 - In children and young adults, the presence of AN is often considered a **clinical marker of rising diabetes risk**.
- Causes for AN** can be obesity, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, diabetes mellitus and extremely rarely, in melanomas, stomach or liver malignancies.

- **Treatment:** In most cases related to obesity or insulin resistance, **improving metabolic health** can help lighten the skin discoloration.
 - ◆ People with obesity may be encouraged to lose weight by making dietary modifications and lifestyle changes.
 - ◆ Medications for insulin resistance and/or obesity may be used along with dietary and lifestyle modifications if the case profile mandates the same.

Source: TH

THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

Context

- **The India International Trade Fair (IITF)**, held at Bharat Mandapam, stands as one of India's largest and most culturally immersive exhibitions.

About

- It is organised by the **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- This annual event provides a common platform for the **manufacturers, traders, exporters and importers**.

- It is held every year at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- It is recognised as one of the largest integrated trade fairs in South Asia.
- It was first held in **1980**.
- **Theme:** 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- Each pavilion carries the distinct identity of its state — from handlooms and tribal art in Jharkhand, to the intricate metalwork displayed by Uttar Pradesh, to the vibrant block-prints of Rajasthan.

Significance

- Generates huge business footfalls and B2B deals.
- Boosts India's image as a major trading and investment destination.
- Showcases India's cultural diversity through state pavilions.
- Provides market linkages for artisans and handicraft sectors.
- Strengthens India's economic diplomacy through international participation.
- Helps build global value-chain linkages.

Source: PIB

