

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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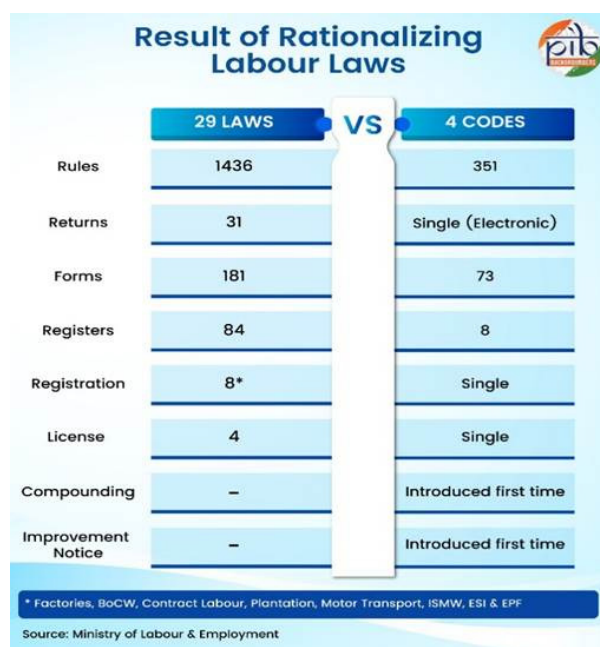
## CENTRE NOTIFIES FOUR NEW LABOUR CODES

### Context

- The **Government of India** has announced the **implementation** of the **four Labour Codes** with effect from 21st November 2025 **rationalising 29 existing labour laws**.

### About

- The **four Labour Codes** include the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.



- The **key reasons behind this reform** include:
  - ♦ **Simplifying compliance:** Multiplicity of laws leads to difficulty in compliance.
  - ♦ **Streamlining enforcement:** Multiplicity of authorities in different labour laws led to complexity and difficulty in enforcement.
  - ♦ **Modernizing outdated laws:** Most labour legislations were framed during the pre-Independence era, necessitating alignment with today's economic realities and technological advancements.

### The Four Labour Codes

#### Code 1: The Code of Wages, 2019

- Subsumed Laws:** Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

- Universal Minimum Wages:** The Code establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both organized and unorganized sectors.
- Introduction of Floor Wage:** A statutory floor wage shall be set by the Government based on minimum living standards, with scope for regional variation.
  - ♦ No state can fix minimum wages below this level, ensuring uniformity and adequacy nationwide.
- Universal Coverage for Wage Payment:** Provisions ensuring timely payment and preventing un-authorized deductions will apply to all employees, irrespective of wage limits.
- Overtime Compensation:** Employers must pay all employees overtime wages at least twice the normal rate for any work done beyond the regular working hours.

#### Code 2: The Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- Subsumed Laws:** Trade Union Act, 1926; Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946; Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- Fixed Term Employment (FTE):** Allows direct, time-bound contracts with full parity in wages and benefits; gratuity eligibility after one year.
- Permission During Layoff:** Raises the threshold for government approval for layoffs, retrenchment, and closure from 100 to 300 workers, with states allowed to increase further.

#### Code 3: The Code on Social Security, 2020

- Subsumed Laws:** 9 laws including Employees' Compensation Act, 1923; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.
- Expanded ESIC (Employees' State Insurance) Coverage:** ESIC now applies pan-India, eliminating the criteria of "notified areas."
- Time-bound EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) Inquiries:** A five-year limit has been set for initiating EPF inquiries and recovery proceedings, to be completed within two years (extendable by one).
- Inclusion of Gig and Platform Workers:** New definitions are included- "aggregator," "gig worker," and "platform worker" to enable social security coverage.
- Social Security Fund:** A dedicated fund to finance schemes for unorganised, gig, and platform workers.

- **Commuting Accidents Covered:** Accidents during travel between home and workplace are now deemed employment-related, qualifying for compensation.

#### Code 4: The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020

- **Subsumed Laws:** 13 laws including Factories Act, 1948; Plantation Labour Act, 1951; Mines Act, 1952.
- **Health Checkup:** Employers must provide free annual **health check-ups for all workers aged above 40 years.**
- **Expanded Provision:** Provisions can be extended to establishments with a **single employee engaged in hazardous or life-threatening work.**

Source: PIB

## UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER NEED REFORM

### In News

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, at the International Conference of Chief Justices in Lucknow, urged the need for reform of the UN and international order to effectively address global conflicts and humanitarian crises.

### Need For Reform

- **Outdated Power Structures:** The UN Security Council (UNSC) still reflects the **power distribution of 1945:**
  - ♦ Five permanent members (P5) with veto power (The veto has repeatedly stalled the UNSC's ability to act on Ukraine war, Israel-Palestine conflict, Syrian humanitarian crisis & Myanmar crisis)
  - ♦ No representation for major developing countries
  - ♦ Africa and Latin America entirely unrepresented in permanent seats
- **Emergence of New Threats:** The UN was not conceived to handle modern challenges such as cyber warfare, AI weaponization, global terrorism, energy supply disruptions, climate-induced displacement, and pandemic-scale health emergencies. These threats require updated multilateral rules, norms, and institutional capacities.
- **Declining Credibility of Multilateral Institutions:** Organizations such as the WHO, WTO, IMF,

and UNSC face accusations of bias, political interference, inefficient responses, funding shortfalls, and slow decision-making, which harm the credibility of the global rules-based order and encourage unilateral actions by dominant states.

- **Marginalization of the Global South:** Developing countries argue that their essential priorities—development finance, climate justice, debt relief, and equitable technology access—are sidelined in current global governance.

### India's Position on Reform

- **Expansion of UNSC:** India supports the G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) proposal for increasing the number of permanent members to include major developing countries and ensuring better representation of regions underrepresented today. There is also a call to restrict misuse of veto power.
- **Advocacy for Global South:** Through leadership in forums like the G20 Presidency, Global South Summit, IBSA, and BRICS+, India pushes for an inclusive international order.
- **Reformed Multilateralism:** India emphasizes predictable development financing, fair trade protocols, climate equity, and technology sharing as pillars of a reformed system.

### Way Forward

- The call for a new United Nations and international order is not about discarding the existing system but about revitalising multilateralism to meet 21st-century challenges.
- Developing frameworks to manage emerging domains like cyber, AI, space, pandemics, and climate-induced migration.
- Strengthening multilateral institutions with transparent governance mechanisms.
- Enhancing the role of regional organizations such as the African Union, ASEAN, European Union, IORA, and QUAD.

Source: TH

## ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD SALES SURGE IN INDIA CAUSING HEALTH CONCERNS: LANCET REPORT

### In News

- India is seeing the fastest ultra-processed food (UPF) sales growth, which is surging obesity and diabetes cases, according to The Lancet.



- ♦ India surged from **\$0.9 billion in 2006 to nearly \$38 billion in 2019 -- a forty-fold rise.**

### What is Ultra-processed Food (UPF)?

- Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are industrially manufactured food products that go through multiple processing steps and contain ingredients not typically used in home cooking, such as preservatives, emulsifiers, colorants, flavorings, and synthetic additives.
- They are designed to be highly palatable, convenient, and profitable but usually have low nutritional value, being high in calories, added sugars, salt, and unhealthy fats.
- Diets high in UPFs are linked to **obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, and certain cancers.**

### Reasons for Rise in Consumption

- Urbanization and busier lifestyles have increased **demand for convenience and quick meals.**
- **Higher disposable incomes and aggressive marketing campaigns** by food companies promote UPFs.
- **Increased employment**, particularly of women outside the home, reduces time available for home cooking.
- Globalization and mass production make UPFs widely available and **affordable compared to traditional foods.**

### Suggestions

- **Regulatory Measures:** Governments need to adopt strong regulations targeting UPF production, marketing, and public disclosure of ingredients.
- **Taxation:** Imposing higher taxes on UPFs is recommended to discourage their purchase and consumption.
- **Public Awareness and Education:** Increasing nutritional literacy among consumers to enable informed food choices and reduce misinformation caused by aggressive UPF marketing.
- **Restrict UPFs in Public Institutions:** Ban UPFs in schools, anganwadis, hostels, hospitals, government offices, and military establishments. Replace them with freshly prepared, minimally processed meals.

### Government Initiatives to Curb UPF

- **FSSAI's Eat Right India Movement:** Promotes minimal processing, hygiene, and local foods.
- **Public Health Campaigns:** "Swasth Bharat Yatra," "Poshan Maah" focusing on nutrition literacy.
- **Trans Fat Regulation:** FSSAI limited industrial trans fats to 2% in oils/fats. Aligned with WHO's REPLACE strategy to eliminate trans fats globally.
- **Research & Dietary Guidelines:** ICMR-NIN revised dietary guidelines (2024) emphasize cutting down UPFs.
- **PDS & Mid-Day Meal Improvements:** Push for fresh, minimally processed foods in ICDS, Anganwadi, and PM-POSHAN schemes.

Source: TOI

## INDIA- AUSTRALIA DISCUSSES COOPERATION IN TRADE, DEFENCE AND SECURITY

### Context

- PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with the Australian Prime Minister on the **sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg.**

### About

- The two leaders reviewed the **steady expansion of the India–Australia partnership** and identified sectors for deeper collaboration.
- They emphasised on **three key sectors—**defence and security, nuclear energy and trade.

### Brief on India-Australia Ties

- India and Australia upgraded their bilateral relationship from a '**strategic partnership**' in 2009 to a '**Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**' in 2020.
- **Bilateral mechanisms include:** 2+2 Defence and Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, Joint Trade & Commerce Ministerial Commission, Defence Policy Talks, Australia-India Education Council, Defence Services Staff Talks, Energy Dialogue, JWG on different issues etc.
- **Bilateral Trade:** Bilateral trade reached \$24.1 billion in FY25, with India's exports valued at \$8.58 billion and imports at \$15.52 billion. India ranks as Australia's 8th largest trading partner, while Australia is India's 14th largest.

- ♦ **The Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)**, implemented in 2022, has led to about **\$30 billion worth** of Australian exports entering India tariff-free, with Australians saving around \$225 million on goods from India.
- ♦ Negotiations are underway for a more **comprehensive Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** to further deepen trade relations.
- **Defence and Security:** The ‘**Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**’ (QSD) is an **informal strategic forum** comprising four nations-- **United States of America (USA), India, Australia and Japan**.
  - ♦ Two Navies had signed the ‘**Joint Guidance for the India – Australia Navy to Navy Relationship**’ document in 2021.
  - ♦ **Bilateral Exercises:** In 2020, Australia participated in the MALABAR naval exercise and thus **joined India, the U S and Japan**.
    - **AUSINDEX:** It is a naval exercise between the Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy
    - **The Pitch Black exercise:** The Indian Air Force joined Exercise Pitch Black in Darwin in 2018.
  - ♦ **Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement and Defence Science & Technology Implementing Arrangement 2020:** The pact enables complex military engagement and excellent collective receptiveness to regional disasters.
- **Critical Minerals and Technology:** Australia-India Critical Minerals Investment Partnership was signed in 2022, establishing the Australia-India Critical Minerals Research Hub in late 2023.
  - ♦ The Hub aims to drive innovation in sustainable mining and processing, with government-approved funding of \$5 million for collaborative research and scholarships.
- In 2023, Australia and India entered into a **Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA)**.
  - ♦ It is a bilateral framework that supports migration and mobility between the two countries, while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration.
- **New Roadmap for Australia’s Economic Engagement with India:** Australia launched it in 2025, identifying nearly 50 targeted opportunities

across defence, sports, culture, space, and technology.

- ♦ **Clean Energy:** Leveraging Australia’s renewable energy expertise to support India’s sustainability goals, including the establishment of the India-Australia Rooftop Solar Training Academy in 2025 to train 2,000 women and young people as solar technicians.
- ♦ **Education and Skills:** Strengthening academic partnerships and vocational training programs for knowledge exchange and workforce development.
- ♦ **Agribusiness:** Expanding agricultural trade to meet India’s increasing demand and improve food security.
- ♦ **Tourism:** Promoting cultural exchanges and simplifying visa processes to strengthen people-to-people ties.

#### Significance of Australia for India

- **Strategic Partner in the Indo-Pacific:** Australia is crucial for maintaining a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific, aligning with India’s maritime and regional security interests.



- **Key Source of Critical Minerals & Energy:** Australia supplies lithium, cobalt, rare earths, coal, and LNG, strengthening India’s energy and industrial security.
- **Trade & Economic Partner:** Under the India–Australia ECTA (2022), bilateral trade is expanding with reduced tariffs, and negotiations toward a broader CECA are underway.
- **Education and Research Hub:** Australia is a major destination for Indian students, with growing collaboration in STEM, innovation, and mutual recognition of qualifications.
- **Geopolitical Convergence:** Close cooperation in QUAD, IORA, EAS, and other multilateral forums helps India diversify partnerships and balance China’s regional influence.

### Areas of Concerns

- **Trade Imbalance & Limited Diversification:** India's exports remain limited compared to Australia's resource-heavy exports, creating a persistent trade imbalance and slow progress on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
- **Attacks on Indian Diaspora & Safety Concerns:** Occasional incidents involving Indian students and community tensions raise concerns about safety and societal integration.
- **Visa, Mobility & Skill Recognition Issues:** Despite progress, challenges remain in mutual recognition of skills, work visas, and post-study opportunities for Indian students.
- **Agricultural Market Access Issues:** India faces barriers in exporting agricultural products due to Australia's stringent sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards.
- **Slow Progress in Defence Tech Collaboration:** While exercises are strong, cooperation in defence manufacturing, technology transfer, and joint R&D remains underdeveloped.

### Way Ahead

- **Deepen Strategic & Defence Cooperation:** Expand collaboration in maritime security, intelligence sharing, joint defence production, and strengthen QUAD-driven initiatives in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Fast-Track CECA & Diversify Trade:** Conclude the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and promote diversification in goods, services, critical minerals, and digital trade.
- **Strengthen Critical Minerals & Clean Energy Ties:** Build long-term supply chains for lithium, rare earths, and collaborate on green hydrogen, renewable energy, and climate resilience projects.

Source: TH

address the ongoing Kuki-Zo–Meitei ethnic conflict before holding tourism events.

### Sangai Festival

- It is a grand celebration of Manipur's rich tradition and culture held annually from 21–30 November in Manipur since 2010.
- It is named after the **rare Sangai deer**.
- The festival showcases a wide range of activities including Manipuri arts and classical dance forms such as **Ras Leela, folk dances like the Kabui Naga dance and Bamboo dance**, indigenous martial arts including **Thang-Ta**, and **traditional sports like Yubi Lakpi and Sagol Kangjei (modern polo)**.

Source :TH

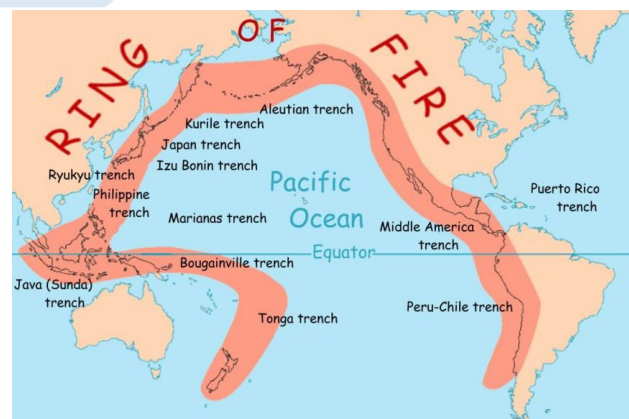
## MOUNT SEMERU

### In News

- Mount Semeru, located in eastern Java (Indonesia), erupted recently.

### Why is Indonesia Prone to Volcanic Eruptions?

- Indonesia sits on the convergent boundary where the Indo-Australian Plate subducts under the Eurasian Plate
- This process forms a **chain of stratovolcanoes across** Java, Sumatra, and the Sunda Arc.
- It lies at the **heart of the Ring of Fire**, which accounts for 75% of the world's volcanoes and 90% of earthquakes.



Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### SANGAI FESTIVAL

#### In News

- The **Sangai Festival in Manipur** opened amid protests by internally displaced persons and NGOs, who argued that the government should

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (GSI)

### In News

- The International Seminar titled **"Unearthing the Past, Shaping the Future: 175 Years of GSI"** was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Coal & Mines as part of the **Geological Survey of India's (GSI) 175th Foundation Year celebrations**.

### About Geological Survey of India

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is India's premier national geoscientific organization under the **Ministry of Mines**, established formally in **1851 by Sir Thomas Oldham**.
- Historically, geological work in India began in the early 1800s with surveys by the Survey of India and army officers.
- The term **"Geological Survey of India" was first used in 1848** during coal investigations led by **John McClelland**.
- Under Oldham's leadership, GSI expanded its focus beyond coal to systematic geological mapping of India's surface and subsurface rock formations, employing techniques such as fossil index identification before radiometric dating was available.

### Key Functions

- **Geological Mapping and Surveys:** Comprehensive mapping of surface and subsurface geology, including ground, airborne, and marine surveys.
- **Mineral Exploration:** Scientific exploration and assessment of mineral, energy (including coal, oil), and water resources.
- **Geohazard Studies:** Conducting seismotectonic research, glaciology, climate-related geostudies, and hazard risk analysis.
- **Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Studies:** Supporting infrastructure planning, groundwater studies, land stability analysis, and environmental assessments.

Source: PIB

## PROTECTED AREA PERMIT

### In News

- Nagaland Chief Minister has urged the Union Home Minister to urgently review the re-imposition of the **Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime** in the state.

### About Protected Area Permit (PAP)

- **Overview:** The Protected Area Permit (PAP) is a special permit required by foreign nationals to visit certain sensitive regions of India that lie close to international borders.
  - ♦ This system is mandated under the **Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958**.

- **Eligibility:** PAP is mandatory for foreign citizens (excluding Bhutanese nationals) to enter these areas. Indian citizens require an Inner Line Permit (ILP) for some overlapping regions.
  - ♦ Permits are usually granted for specific tourist circuits/routes and are time-bound; overstaying is prohibited.
  - ♦ Generally, only group tourists (minimum of two persons) traveling with registered tour operators are allowed.
- **States/Areas Under PAP (2025 Update):** Whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, & Nagaland.
  - ♦ Parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan.
- **Validity and Compliance:** PAP is valid only for the specified area, route, and time mentioned in the permit.
- **Difference from Restricted Area Permit (RAP):** The RAP regime applies mainly to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and parts of Sikkim; policies are similar but locations are different.

Source: AIR

## INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

### In News

- Integrated Child Development Services programme has expanded widely and improved nutrition, education, and early childhood care through anganwadis.

### Integrated Child Development Services programme

- **Overview:** Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is India's flagship early childhood care and development programme, providing a package of nutrition, health and pre-school education services to children under 6 years and their mothers through a nationwide network of Anganwadi centres.
- ICDS is a **centrally sponsored scheme** launched on 2 October 1975 in line with the National Policy for Children and is today one of the world's largest community-based child development programmes.
- Over time, ICDS has been restructured as Anganwadi Services and is now subsumed under the Saksham Anganwadi and **POSHAN 2.0 umbrella to integrate nutrition and early childhood care**.

Source :TH



## AMOEBC MENINGOENCEPHALITIS

### In News

- Karnataka has issued guidelines for Sabarimala pilgrims following cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis or brain fever.

### About

- The “brain-eating amoeba” refers to **Naegleria fowleri**, a free-living, thermophilic amoeba found in **warm freshwater**.
- It causes a rare but almost always fatal infection called **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
- It enters the human body typically through the nose, often during activities such as swimming, diving, or water sports in contaminated water.
- It travels via the **olfactory nerve** to the brain and destroys brain tissue.
- It **cannot infect** through drinking water and cannot spread **person-to-person**.

Source: IE

## MEERUT BUGLE

### In News

- Bugle, an instrument common with the drills of armed forces and used in wars, ceremonies, and parades for decades, has earned a GI tag.

### About Meerut Bugle

- Meerut's association with bugle-making dates back to the late 19th century. The instrument's journey has been parallel to the evolution of India's military culture.
- This was used as command tools during the British era, and as the armed forces evolved, the bugle retained its position of honour, becoming the lead instrument in most regimental bands.

### Geographical Indication Tag

- A Geographical Indication tag certifies that the product comes from a specific region and carries unique characteristics, craftsmanship, or reputation.
- The GI tag was associated with sustained government support—marketing assistance, online marketplace access, training for younger craftsmen, and easier credit facilities.

Source: IE

## G-SECS

### In News

- Recently, G-Sec yields have inched upward even though the RBI has cut the repo rate.

### About G-Secs

- Overview:** Government Securities, commonly known as G-Secs, are tradable debt instruments issued by the Central Government or State Governments of India to borrow funds from the public to finance fiscal deficits and public spending.
- Types:** G-Secs are broadly classified into **Treasury Bills (T-Bills)**, which are short-term securities with maturities less than one year, and **Dated Securities or Government Bonds** with maturities of one year or more. State Governments issue bonds called State Development Loans (SDLs).
- Issuance:** These securities are issued primarily through auctions conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on its electronic platform E-Kuber.

Source: BL

## CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE (CISF)

### In News

- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been designated as a **Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for seaports** under the **International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code**.
  - India has about 250 seaports, of which **65–68 handle active cargo operations**.

### About Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- It was formed in **1968**, has grown from 3,129 personnel to 2.2 lakh, making it a multi-faceted Central Armed Police Force deployed nationwide.
- It secures 361 critical installations, including 70 airports, nuclear and space facilities, seaports, power plants, Delhi Metro, Parliament House, government buildings, monuments, and VIPs.
- It is the **only CAPF with a dedicated Fire Wing**, equipped for advanced firefighting and rescue, and also provides consultancy services to institutions like SBI Data Centres, AIIMS, IIM Indore, and Kashi Vishwanath Temple.
- It is Known as the **“Shield of Security”** and has the **largest number of women personnel among CAPFs, reflecting inclusivity**.

Source: TH