

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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VIKSIT BHARAT - GUARANTEE FOR ROZGAR AND AJEEVIKA MISSION (GRAMIN): VB G RAM G BILL, 2025

Context

- The Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare introduced the **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB G RAM G Bill, 2025** in Lok Sabha.

About

- It will replace the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)**.
- The move will mark a shift from a “**demand-driven framework**” to a “**supply-driven scheme**”.

Key Statutory Provisions

- Enhanced Livelihood Guarantee:** It will enhance the statutory wage employment guarantee to **125 from 100 days per rural household in every financial year**, for adults who volunteer to undertake **unskilled manual work**.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** The scheme will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with shared responsibilities between the Centre and States.
 - The fund sharing pattern will be **90:10 for North-Eastern** and Himalayan States/UT and **60:40 for all other States**.
- Normative Allocation to States based:** States will ensure transparent and need-based intra-State distribution of funds across Districts and Gram Panchayats, taking into account the category of the Panchayats and local developmental needs.
- Wage rate specification:** Wage rates for unskilled manual work will be specified by the **Central Government**; until separate rates are notified, existing MGNREGA wage rates will apply.
- Securing peak agricultural seasons:** States will be empowered to notify in advance, a period aggregating to 60 days in a financial year covering peak sowing and harvesting during which works under the Bill will not be undertaken, **facilitating sufficient farm labour at critical times**.
- Unemployment allowance:** If eligible applicants are not provided work within the stipulated period, **State Governments will be obliged to pay unemployment allowance**.

- State schemes within six months:** Every State Government must notify its Scheme to operationalise the guarantee within six months of the Bill's commencement.
- VGPP based planning:** Planning will be undertaken through Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans, prepared by Gram Panchayats and integrated with national spatial planning systems.
- Institutional Oversight:** The Central Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Council and the State Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Councils shall be constituted for review, monitoring and effective implementation of the provisions of the legislation in their respective areas.

Concerns with the Bill

- Excessive burden on States:** Unlike MGNREGA, where the Centre bears 100% wage cost and 75% of material cost, the VB-G RAM G Bill mandates a **60:40 Centre–State funding pattern**, many states may struggle to mobilise their 40% share.
 - It increases the risk of uneven implementation across states, reinforcing regional disparities.
- Lessons from PMFBY:** Similar cost-sharing under PM Fasal Bima Yojana led to delays due to states' inability to pay their 50% premium subsidy, causing poor coverage and credibility loss.
- Shift from demand-driven to supply-driven allocation:** Earlier approach in MGNREGA was Bottom-up, demand-based estimation by states.
 - New Bill introduces Top-down “normative” allocation, with parameters decided unilaterally by the Centre.

Conclusion

- To cater to the changing aspirations, stronger convergence is required to establish an integrated, Whole-of-Government rural development framework covering several complementary Government schemes.
- As national development advances, rural development programs require periodical revision to remain aligned with emerging needs and further aspirations.

Source: **PIB**

DOWRY ERADICATION URGENT CONSTITUTIONAL, SOCIAL NECESSITY: SC

In News

- The Supreme Court issued systemic directions to strengthen enforcement of **anti-dowry laws**.
 - SC observed that dowry is a deep-rooted social evil cutting across communities and requires institutional accountability, not merely penal provisions.

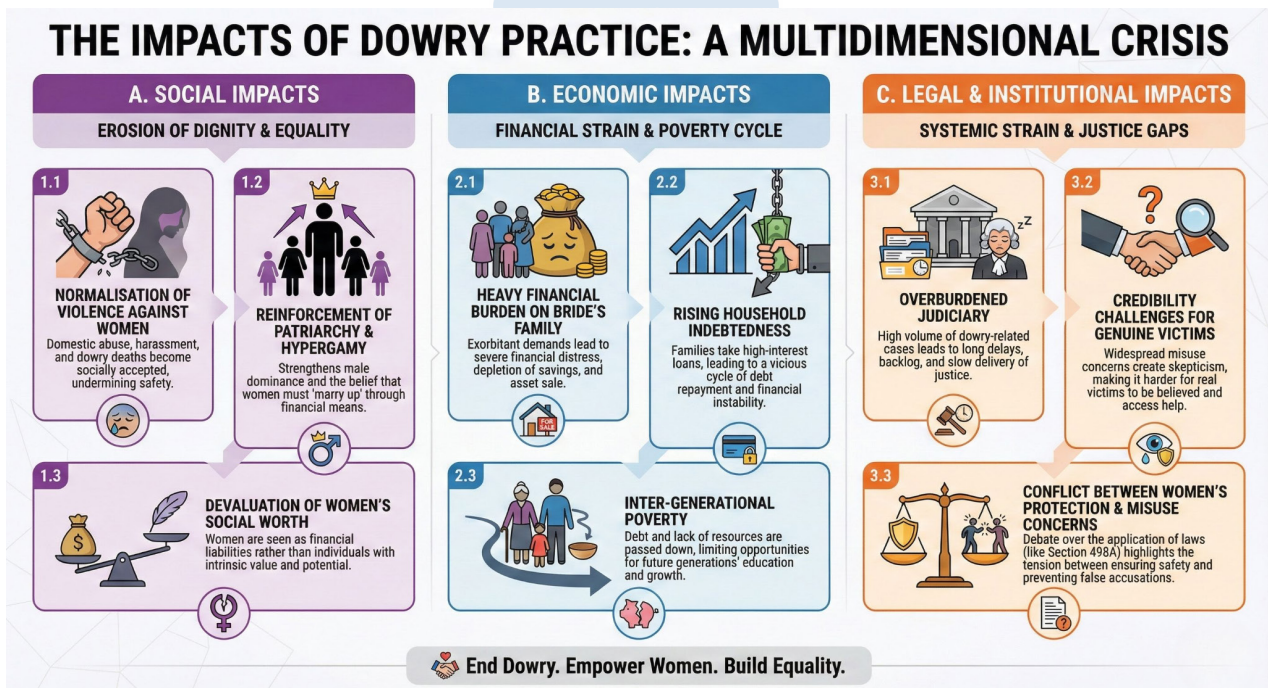
SC Directions

- Judicial Monitoring:** High Courts must monitor pending cases under **IPC Sections 304-B (dowry death) and 498-A (cruelty)** for expeditious disposal, with the judgment circulated for compliance review.
- Administrative Enforcement:** States must appoint and resource **Dowry Prohibition Officers (DPOs) under Section 9 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**, disseminating their contact details widely.

- Capacity Building & Sensitisation:** Police and judicial officers require periodic training on case sensitivity, distinguishing genuine claims from frivolous ones, while district administrations and Legal Services Authorities run grassroots awareness campaigns.

Dowry Cases In India

- NCRB's Crime in India 2023 report confirms a 14% rise in cases under the **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**, reaching 15,489 from 13,479 in 2022, alongside 6,156 dowry deaths nationwide.
- Uttar Pradesh topped** with 7,151 cases and 2,122 deaths, followed by **Bihar, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh**.
- Of 83,000+ pending dowry-related cases, conviction rates hovered at 11-17%, with 833 murders explicitly motivated by dowry; under-reporting persists due to social stigma and family pressures.



Related Laws and Constitutional Basis

- Dowry is **prohibited under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**, which criminalises the giving, taking and demanding of dowry and provides for the appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers.
- The current legal law reinforces this framework through **Section 498-A (Sections 85 and 86 of BNS)**, addressing cruelty against married women, and **Section 304-B (Section 80 of BNS)**,

which deals with dowry deaths occurring within seven years of marriage.

- Constitutionally, the fight against dowry draws legitimacy from **Articles 14 and 15**, which guarantee equality and prohibit discrimination, Article 21, which ensures the right to life with dignity, and Article 51A(e), which places a fundamental duty on citizens to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

Source: BS

APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Context

- The President of India administered the oath of office to Raj Kumar Goyal as the Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission.

About Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a **statutory body** in India, established under the provisions of the **Right to Information Act (2005)**.
- The Central Information Commission consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** and **not more than ten Information Commissioners (IC)**.
- The members are **appointed by the President** on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of:
 - The Prime Minister as the Chairperson,
 - The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and
 - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- Term of office:** The Chief Information Commissioner, or Information Commissioners, as the case may be, shall hold office for a period of **three years** from the date on which he enters upon his office.
- Jurisdiction:** It extends over all Central Public Authorities.

Eligibility Criteria

- Section 12(5) of the RTI Act 2005** provides that the CIC and IC shall be
 - Persons of eminence** in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
 - Shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature** of any State or Union Territory as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

Powers and Functions

- While inquiring, the Commission has the **powers of a civil court** in respect of the following matters:

- Summoning and enforcing attendance of persons and compelling them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or things;
- Requiring the discovery and inspection of documents;
- Receiving evidence on affidavit;
- Requisitioning any public record from any court or office;
- Issuing summons for examination of witnesses or documents; and
- Any other matter which may be prescribed.
- During the inquiry of a complaint, the Commission may **examine any record which is under the control of the public authority** and no such record may be withheld from it on any grounds.
- The decisions of the Commission are **final and binding**.

Source: [PIB](#)

SILISERH LAKE AND KOPRA JALASHAY DESIGNATED AS NEW RAMSAR SITES

Context

- India designated Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay as its 95th and 96th Ramsar Sites, increasing the country's total to 96, up from 26 in 2014.

What are the Wetlands?

- The Ramsar Convention's definition for wetlands includes:**
 - "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres".
- Human-made wetlands:** Fish and shrimp ponds, farm ponds, irrigated agricultural land, salt pans, reservoirs, gravel pits, sewage farms and canals.

What is the Ramsar Convention?

- The Ramsar Convention is one of the oldest **inter-governmental accords** signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- It was signed on **February 2, 1971** in **Ramsar, Iran** and came into force in 1975.
- India became a signatory to the **Ramsar Convention in 1982**.

Newly Designated Ramsar Sites in Rajasthan

- **Siliserh Lake:** It is a **man-made freshwater lake**, constructed in 1845 by **Maharaja Vinay Singh of Alwar**.
 - ♦ It was originally built to meet the drinking water needs of Alwar city.
 - ♦ The lake is situated close to the **Sariska Tiger Reserve**, enhancing its ecological significance.
- **Kopra Jalashay:** Located near Bilaspur, this is the **first-ever Ramsar site in Chhattisgarh**.
 - ♦ It is a reservoir situated in the upper catchment of the **Mahanadi River** and serves as a **freshwater source** and biodiversity habitat.

Source: TOI

MANGROVES' CELLS HELP PLANTS SURVIVE IN SALTWATER

Context

- A new study published in **Current Biology** explains the cellular adaptations that enable mangrove species to tolerate extreme salt stress, offering insights for developing salt-tolerant crops in the future.

Key Highlights of the Study

- **Key cellular traits (not stomata-based):** Mangroves do not rely on smaller or more numerous stomata to increase photosynthesis.
 - ♦ Instead, they exhibit: unusually small leaf epidermal pavement cells and thicker cell walls, which together give them more mechanical strength to tolerate low osmotic potentials.
- **Salt management strategies**
 - ♦ **Salt exclusion:** Some mangroves have waxy root layers that filter out salt before water enters the plant.
 - ♦ **Salt secretion:** Other species absorb salt but **secrete it through specialised leaf tissues**.

Mangroves

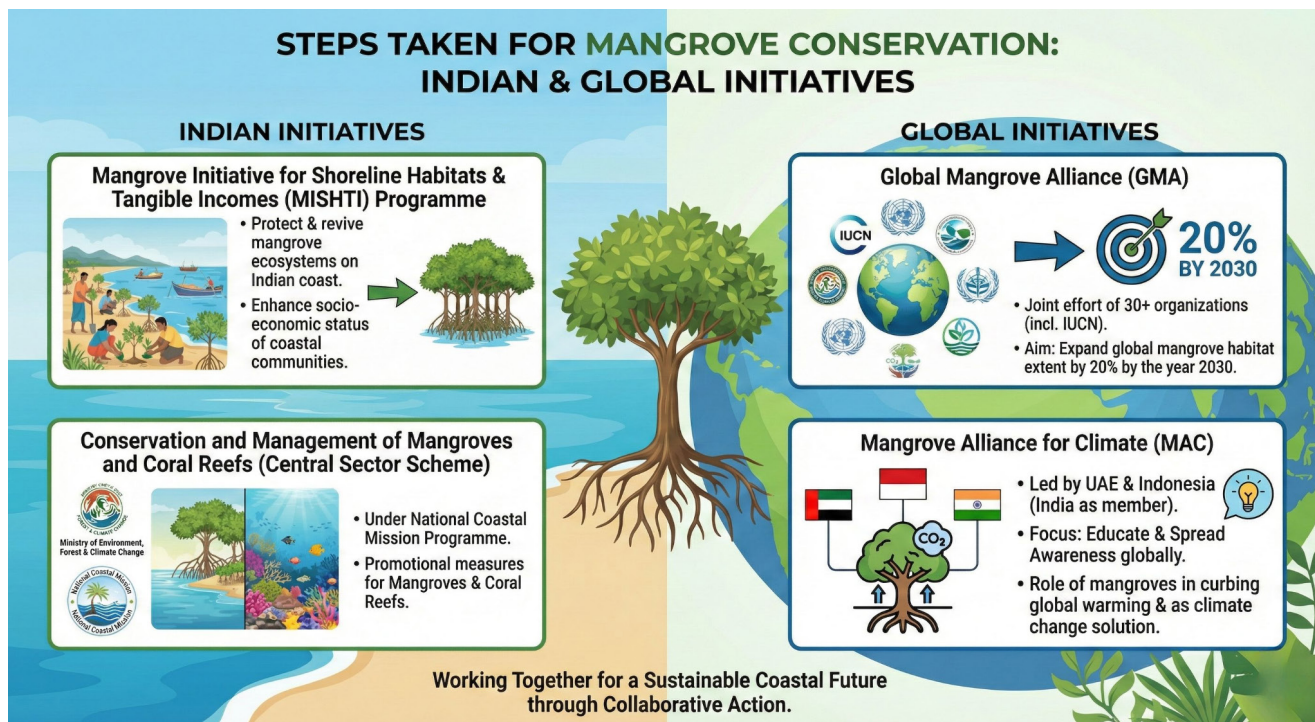
- A mangrove is a **small tree or shrub** that grows along coastlines, taking root in salty sediments, often underwater.
- Mangroves are flowering trees, belonging to the families **Rhizophoraceae, Acanthaceae, Lythraceae, Combretaceae, and Arecaceae**.

Features:

- ♦ **Saline Environment:** A speciality of mangroves is that they can survive under extreme hostile environments such as high salt and low oxygen conditions.
 - The roots filter out 90% of the salt they come into contact with within the saline and brackish water.
- ♦ **Low oxygen:** Underground tissue of any plant needs oxygen for respiration. The mangrove root system absorbs oxygen from the atmosphere.
- ♦ **Store Freshwater:** Mangroves, like desert plants, store fresh water in thick succulent leaves.
- ♦ **Mangroves are viviparous:** Their seeds germinate while still attached to the parent tree. Once germinated, the seedling grows into a propagule.
- The **Sundarbans in West Bengal** are the largest mangrove region in the world and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- The second largest mangrove forest in India is **Bhitarkanika (Ramsar site)** in Odisha created by the two river deltas of **Rivers Brahmani and Baitarani**.

Importance of Mangroves

- **Natural Coastal Defence:** A mature mangrove belt (50 years old and 100–1,000 m wide) can reduce wave energy by 7–55%, significantly lowering the impact of cyclones, storm surges and coastal flooding compared to non-mangrove coastlines.
- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** India's mangroves support about 4,011 species, including 920 plant species and 3,091 animal species.
- **Climate Change Mitigation (Blue Carbon):** Mangroves store 7.5–10 times more carbon per acre than tropical forests.
- **Livelihood and Economic Security:** Mangrove ecosystems support millions of livelihoods globally through fisheries, aquaculture, eco-tourism and restoration activities, providing income security for vulnerable coastal communities.
- **Cost-effective Nature-based Solutions:** By combining disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration, mangroves offer a low-cost, high-impact solution compared to engineered coastal defences.



Source: [PIB](#)

NEWS IN SHORT

PERUMBIDUGU MUTHARAIYAR

Context

- A commemorative postage stamp in honour of the **king Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II (Suvaran Maran)** was released by Vice President C P Radhakrishnan.

About

- **Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar (705 AD-745 AD)**, also known as **Suvaran Maran**, was a ruler of the **Mutharaiyar lineage**, feudatories of the **Pallavas**.
 - ♦ He belonged to the illustrious **Mutharaiyar dynasty**, which ruled the central regions of Tamil Nadu between the **7th and 9th centuries CE**.
- He ruled from **Tiruchirappalli** for nearly four decades and that his reign was marked by administrative stability, territorial expansion, cultural patronage, and military prowess.
- Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar is believed to have fought bravely in several battles alongside the **Pallava king Nandivarman**, and is remembered as a **great administrator**.

- **Religious Policies:** The Pallava reign saw a religious revivalism of Hinduism amid the dominance of Jainism and Buddhism.
- ♦ As their feudatories, the **Mutharaiyars were great temple builders**.

Source: [IE](#)

PM VISIT TO JORDAN

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded **his two-day visit to Jordan**.

About

- The visit marks **India's first full bilateral engagement with Jordan** and comes as the two countries prepare to celebrate **75 years of diplomatic relations**.
- **Five memoranda of understanding were finalized** covering culture, renewable energy, water management, digital public infrastructure and a twinning arrangement between the historic sites of Petra and Ellora.
- India is **Jordan's third-largest trading partner**, Prime Minister Modi proposed **enhancing bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years**.

- ♦ He also encouraged collaboration between **Jordan's digital payment system and India's Unified Payments Interface.**
- ♦ In the financial year 2023–24, total India-Jordan **trade reached US\$ 2.875 billion**, with India's exports to Jordan amounting to US\$ 1,465 billion.
- **Jordan is a leading supplier of phosphates and potash fertilizers for India.**
 - ♦ Both sides also discussed **investments in fertilizer production** to meet India's growing demand, with Jordan being an important supplier of phosphates to India.

About Jordan

- West Asian country in the **Middle East.**
- **Borders:** Israel & Palestine (West), Saudi Arabia (South & East), Iraq (East), Syria (North).
 - ♦ **Dead Sea** is a landlocked salt lake between Israel and Jordan in southwestern Asia.
- **Landlocked** except for a short coastline at Aqaba (Red Sea).
- **Head of State:** King Abdullah II (since 1999).
- **The main ethnic groups in Jordan** are Arabs, primarily Jordanians and Palestinians.



Source: [DD](#)

INDIA-ADB SIGN OVER \$2.2 BILLION LOAN AGREEMENTS

Context

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed agreements for five loans totaling over \$2.2 billion to support various development projects.

About Asian Development Bank

- ADB is a regional development bank established in **1966** for Social and Economic Development.
- **Members:** It has **69 members including India as a founding member.**
- It is a **multilateral development bank**, which seeks to help its developing member countries to reduce poverty and improve their people's quality of life through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration.
- ADB uses a **weighted voting system** based on members' capital subscriptions. The current top five shareholders and their approximate share percentages are;
 - ♦ Japan (15.6%), United States (15.6%), People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%) and Australia (5.8%).
- **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.

Source: [PIB](#)

UN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (UNAOC)

In News

- The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) has completed two decades of efforts aimed at bridging divides, reducing polarization, and promoting intercultural dialogue.

About UNAOC

- **Secretariat:** New York
- **Launched:** 2005
- **Initiated by:** Republic of Türkiye & Spain, under the auspices of the United Nations.
- **Objectives:** Improve cross-cultural and inter-religious relations between nations and communities.
 - ♦ Counter polarisation, extremism, xenophobia and hate speech.
 - ♦ Promote mutual understanding, inclusion, and peaceful coexistence.

Relevance for India

- Aligns with India's civilisational ethos of pluralism and "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".
- Supports India's engagement with interfaith harmony, south-South cooperation & multilateral peace initiatives.

Source: [DD News](#)

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION BILL 2025

Context

- The National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025 was introduced in Parliament to establish a dedicated legal and institutional framework for blood transfusion services in India.

About

- Blood transfusion services are regulated under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, which is considered inadequate for managing blood as a life-saving public resource.
- The Bill seeks to move blood transfusion services out of **regulatory grey zones** into a clear, safety-first national framework.

Key Provisions of the National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025

- Establishment of a **National Blood Transfusion Authority (NBTA)** as a statutory body.
- NBTA to prescribe uniform national standards for:**
 - Collection, testing and processing of blood
 - Storage, distribution, issuance and transfusion of blood and blood components.
- Mandatory registration** of all blood centres across the country.
- Introduction of **strict penalties** for unsafe, unethical or non-compliant practices.
- Promotion of voluntary blood donation** through coordinated national programmes.
- Creation of a **national haemovigilance system** to monitor transfusion-related adverse events.

Source: [TH](#)

DHRUV64

In News

- India has launched the DHRUV64 microprocessor.

About

- Type:** General-purpose microprocessor
- Developed By:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP) of the Government of India.
- Architecture:** 64-bit, dual-core
- Clock Speed:** 1.0 GHz

- Status:** Fully indigenous (design and development in India)
- Function:** Acts as the “brain” of electronic devices such as computers, mobiles, embedded systems and control units.

Significance

- Suitable for 5G infrastructure, automotive, consumer electronics, industrial automation, IoT, and strategic uses, it reduces import dependence amid India's 20% global microprocessor consumption.

Source: TH

NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION AWARD

In News

- Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has won the **National Energy Conservation Awards 2025** under the **State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1)** category.
- Under the SDA Group-1 Category, awards are given to the states with large energy consumption and advanced energy ecosystems.

About National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA)

- Instituted by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- Ministry:** Ministry of Power, Government of India
- Objective:** Recognise exemplary performance in energy efficiency and conservation
 - Encourage States, industries and institutions to reduce energy intensity
- First instituted:** 1991 (as National Energy Conservation Award scheme)

Source: [TH](#)

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