

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO DISABILITY RIGHTS

Context

- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed annually on December 3 to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.

About

- History:** IDPD was first celebrated in **1992**, following its proclamation through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/3.
- In 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** was adopted to ensure equality of opportunity for PwDs and to support the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Theme 2025:** "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress."

Disability Scenario in India

- A **"person with disability"** is someone who has a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society equally with others. (**According to The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**).
- According to **Census 2011**, there are **2.68 crore persons** with disabilities in India which constitute **2.21 percent** of the total population.

Constitutional Provisions

- Article 21:** Guarantees the right to **life and personal liberty**, which includes the right to live with dignity.
- Article 41 (DPSP):** Right to work, education, and public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disability.
- Seventh Schedule:** The subject of **"relief of the disabled and unemployable"** is listed under the state list, giving state governments jurisdiction over these matters.

India's Legal and Policy Framework for Disability Rights

- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** was enacted in **2016**, replacing the **Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995**.
 - It recognises **21 categories of disability**, and mandates reservation in education and employment.

- India, as a signatory to the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, is committed to building an accessible and inclusive society.
- The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999** establishes a national body dedicated to the welfare of individuals with **Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities**, along with related matters and incidental provisions.
- Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act, 1992:** RCI was initially established as a registered society in 1986 and later became a statutory body under an Act of Parliament in 1993.

Government Initiatives and Schemes

- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign):** Launched in **2015**, the Campaign addresses long-standing barriers faced by persons with disabilities.
 - It focuses on three key domains — **built infrastructure, transport systems and information and communication technology (ICT)** — ensuring equal access and participation for all.
- The Divyangjan Card**, also known as the **E-Ticketing Photo Identity Card (EPICS)**, is a railway identity card for people with disabilities that allows them to get concessions on train travel.
- The Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities project** is being implemented to create a national database of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and issue a **Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID)** to each individual.
- PM-DAKSH DEPwD** is the digital platform created by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**.
 - It is intended as a **one-stop hub** connecting persons with disabilities, training institutes, employers, and job aggregators under the national skill & employment ecosystem.
- Promotion of Indian Sign Language (ISL):** The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), set up in **2015** under DEPwD, serves as the nodal institution for advancing ISL across India.

- ♦ In 2024, Government launched **PM e-vidya Channel 31 on DTH**, exclusively dedicated to ISL training for hearing-impaired students, special educators, and interpreters.

Concerns

- Despite legal frameworks, many persons with disabilities (PwDs) **face limited access to education, healthcare, and employment**.
- Social stigma and discrimination continue to **hinder social inclusion and opportunities**.
- **Implementation of policies and schemes** is often **uneven across regions**, leading to gaps in service delivery.
- **Awareness** about rights and available support systems among PwDs and their families is still low, limiting effective utilization.

Concluding remarks

- The evolution of disability affairs in India shows increasing recognition of the rights and potential of persons with disabilities.
- Dedicated initiatives and platforms empower individuals, foster inclusivity, and create economic opportunities, contributing to a society where everyone can thrive with dignity.

Source: [PIB](#)

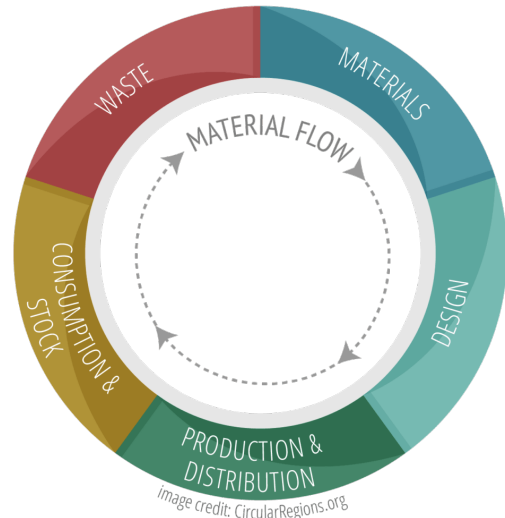
FINLAND TO HOLD ROAD SHOWS ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN INDIA

Context

- Ahead of India hosting the **World Circular Economy Forum 2026**, Finland will conduct roadshows in major Indian cities to promote circular economy awareness and explore business opportunities.

What is Circular Economy?

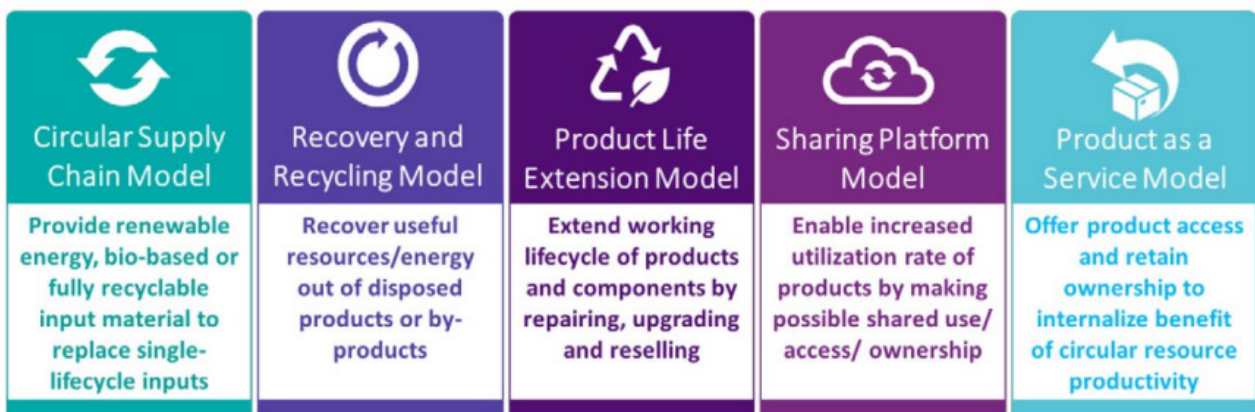
- The circular economy (CE) is a model of production that **prioritises waste reduction or elimination at all stages** of the product life cycle, from raw materials extraction and manufacturing to disposal and reuse.



- **India's circular economy** is expected to have a **market value of \$2 trillion** and create **10 million jobs** by the year **2050**.

Significance of Circular Economy

- **Economic Opportunities:** The **UNDP** estimates that a global switch to circular economy models could generate **\$4.5 trillion** in economic benefits by **2030**, while also **reducing emissions** and creating stable green jobs.
- **Job Creation:** Expands employment opportunities in recycling, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and sustainable product design.
- **Competitive Advantage:** Businesses adopting circular models gain a market edge as consumers increasingly prefer sustainable products.



India's Leadership in Circular Economy

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-U):** Strengthening urban waste management with **3R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) principles**.
- **GOBAR-Dhan Scheme:** Promoting waste-to-wealth initiatives through biogas and organic waste processing.
 - ♦ This scheme currently covers **67.8%** of the total number of districts in India, with 1008 biogas plants being fully operational as of February 2025.
- **E-Waste Management Rules (2022):** Strengthening circular economy practices in electronic waste disposal.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Plastic:** Encouraging industries to take accountability for plastic waste.
 - ♦ India banned single use plastic in **2022**.
- **The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific** was held in Jaipur, India, in March 2025, marking a significant milestone in regional cooperation for sustainable waste management and circular economy initiatives.

Challenges in Implementing Circular Economy

- **Technical expertise:** Many businesses, municipalities, and citizens are unfamiliar with circular economy principles and lack the technical knowledge to implement them effectively.
- **High initial investment costs:** Setting up circular systems, such as recycling infrastructure or sustainable product design, requires significant upfront capital.
- **Uneven corporate Adoption:** SMEs, which form a large part of India's economy, are largely not onboard, making the transition non-uniform across sectors.
- **Insufficient enforcement policy:** While policies exist, weak enforcement and limited incentives slow down adoption.

Way Ahead

- There is a **need for a trickle-down effect** where circular economy concepts reach all levels of industry, beyond large corporations.
- **Promote repair and reuse** of products to extend their lifecycle and reduce resource consumption.
- Improve recycling processes to prevent accumulation and environmental pollution through **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives**.

Source: [TH](#)

NEEDS OF BIOREMEDIATION IN INDIA

Context

- India urgently needs bioremediation to restore polluted ecosystems, and ensure sustainable urban development, as **over 16 lakh tonnes of legacy waste**.

What is Bioremediation?

- It means 'restoring life through biology'. It **uses living organisms** — bacteria, fungi, algae, and plants — to break down or neutralize pollutants such as **oil, plastics, and heavy metals**.
- These microorganisms **feed on toxic substances**, metabolizing them into **harmless by-products** like water, carbon dioxide, or organic acids.
- In some cases, they **can transform hazardous metals into stable, non-toxic forms** that no longer leach into soil or groundwater.

Types of Bioremediation

- **In-situ Bioremediation:** Treatment occurs directly at the contaminated site.
 - ♦ For instance, oil-eating bacteria can be sprayed on ocean spills to break down petroleum residues.
- **Ex-situ Bioremediation:** Contaminated material is removed and treated in controlled facilities before being returned to the environment.

Modern Advances in Bioremediation

- The field now blends **traditional microbiology** with **biotechnology**:
 - ♦ **Genetically Modified (GM) Microbes:** These are engineered to degrade resistant pollutants like plastics or petroleum byproducts.
 - ♦ **Synthetic Biology:** It has introduced biosensing organisms that signal the presence of toxins through fluorescence or color changes.
 - ♦ **Molecular Tools:** These enable scientists to identify, replicate, and optimize biomolecules for specific applications in sewage plants, industrial sites, or farms.

Why India Needs Bioremediation?

- **Industrial Growth:** India's industrial growth has come at the expense of its ecosystems.
 - ♦ Rivers such as the **Ganga** and **Yamuna** remain burdened with untreated sewage and industrial effluents.
 - ♦ Oil spills, pesticide residues, and heavy metals endanger both nature and human health.

- **Sustainable & Low-cost Alternative:** Conventional cleanup methods are **costly**, **energy-intensive**, and **inefficient**, often creating secondary pollution.
 - ♦ Bioremediation offers a **sustainable, low-cost** alternative that can be applied at scale.
- India's **rich biodiversity** provides an advantage: native microbes adapted to extreme local conditions (like high salinity or temperature) can outperform imported species in restoring contaminated environments.

India's Bioremediation Push: Current Efforts

- **Department of Biotechnology (DBT):** It promotes research through its Clean Technology Programme, fostering collaborations among universities, industries, and public labs.
- **CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI):** It leads national efforts in designing and testing bioremediation projects.
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has issued guidelines for scientific remediation of legacy waste.
- The **Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0** mandates cities to clear all legacy waste using bioremediation or biomining.
- **IIT Researchers** have developed cotton-based nanocomposites to absorb oil spills and discovered bacteria capable of breaking down industrial pollutants.
- **Startups** such as Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) and Econormal Biotech are offering microbial formulations for wastewater and soil remediation.

Related Challenges

- Lack of **site-specific data**, **complex pollutant mixtures**, and **fragmented regulations** without unified national standards.
- Uncontrolled release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could disrupt ecosystems.
- Weak biosafety and containment systems may lead to new environmental hazards.
- Public resistance may emerge without awareness and transparent monitoring

Way Forward

- India needs to establish **robust biosafety guidelines**, **certification systems**, and **training programs** for personnel, to mitigate the risks. It includes:

- ♦ **National Standards:** Establish clear, science-based protocols for microbial use and site management.
- ♦ **Regional Hubs:** Link universities, industries, and local governments to address area-specific contamination issues.
- ♦ **Startup Support:** Encourage innovation through DBT-BIRAC and local community initiatives.
- ♦ **Public Awareness:** Educate citizens about microbes as allies in environmental restoration, not threats.

Other Effective Methods Used To Restore Polluted Ecosystems

- **Phytoremediation:** It involves using plants to absorb or neutralize contaminants, especially in heavy metal-laden soils and wetlands.
- **Mycoremediation:** It employs fungi to break down organic pollutants, especially in oil-contaminated soils.
- **Vermiremediation:** It uses earthworms to detoxify and stabilize contaminated soils, improving fertility and structure.
- **Bioaugmentation:** It involves adding specific strains of microbes to accelerate the degradation of pollutants.
- **Electrokinetic Remediation:** It uses electric fields to mobilize and extract heavy metals or organic pollutants from soil.
- **Nanoremediation:** It applies nanoparticles to degrade or immobilize contaminants, especially in groundwater.
- **Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA):** It relies on natural processes (e.g., microbial activity, dilution) to reduce pollution over time, with regular monitoring.

[Source: TH](#)

SC TASKS CBI TO TACKLE 'DIGITAL ARRESTS'

In News

- The Supreme Court directed the CBI to lead a pan-India probe into **'digital arrest' scams**.

What Are Digital Arrests?

- Digital arrest is a cyber scam where fraudsters impersonate law enforcement officials to extort money by instilling fear and panic.

- It usually begins with a seemingly harmless phone call—such as a parcel delivery claim or KYC verification—which quickly escalates into threats of arrest, frozen bank accounts, or passport cancellation.

Reasons Behind the Rise

- Exploiting public confidence in law enforcement through fear and intimidation.
 - ♦ **Digital Vulnerability:** Easy access to SIM cards, mule bank accounts, and spoofed IDs.
 - ♦ **Target Groups:** Elderly citizens, women, and professionals unfamiliar with cybercrime safeguards.
 - ♦ **Cross-Border Syndicates:** Organized networks operating like “Jamtara-style” scams, with international links.

Supreme court’s Recent Directions

- The court gave CBI full authority to investigate bankers involved in mule accounts and coordinate with States, Interpol, and online intermediaries.
- It emphasized urgent action against cyber frauds, including investment and part-time job scams.
- States were ordered to grant CBI consent under the Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, and regional cybercrime coordination centres were mandated to link with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre.
- The Court also criticized telecom operators for negligent SIM issuance and tasked the Telecom Department with proposals to prevent SIM misuse, stressing the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response to safeguard victims.

Governments Steps

- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):** Established by the Ministry of Home Affairs, this center coordinates national efforts to combat cybercrime and provide cybercrime prevention resources.
- **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal:** A dedicated portal allows the public to report cybercrimes, with a focus on cases involving women and children, enabling swift action by law enforcement.
- **Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting System:** Launched in 2021, this platform has successfully saved over 3431 Crore across 9.94 lakh complaints by allowing immediate reporting of financial frauds.

- **Cyber Forensic Labs:** The National Cyber Forensic Laboratory in Delhi and the Evidence Lab in Hyderabad have significantly improved the ability of police to manage and analyze digital evidence.

Way Ahead

- Digital arrests, combining cyber fraud with psychological coercion, pose a serious threat in India.
- To combat them, authorities are focusing on public awareness campaigns, stronger technological safeguards like secure SIM issuance and AI-driven fraud detection.
- There is a need for legal reforms to address impersonation and digital intimidation, international cooperation to tackle cross-border cybercrime
- Community vigilance is also needed to encourage citizens to report suspicious activity and preserve evidence.

Source : [TH](#)

NEWS IN SHORT

JIYO PARSI SCHEME

Context

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), organised a comprehensive Advocacy and Outreach Workshop in Mumbai to promote and **amplify the Jiyo Parsi Scheme**.

Parsi Community in India

- According to the **2011 Census** of India, the Parsi population in the country was **57,264**.
- This represented a significant decrease of approximately **22%** from the **2001** census figure of **69,601**.

About the scheme

- The Jiyo Parsi scheme was launched in **2013-14** with the objective to **reverse the declining trend of Parsi population** by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and to increase the population of Parsis in India.
- **The scheme has three components:**
 - ♦ **Medical Assistance:** Provides financial aid for infertility treatments such as IVF, ICSI, surrogacy, and post-conception care.

- ♦ **Advocacy:** Provides for counselling of couples with fertility issues and publicity including workshops; and
- ♦ **Health of the Community:** Offers monthly financial support to Parsi couples with children as well as to dependent elderly members.

Source: [PIB](#)

GLOBAL INDICES FOR REFORMS AND GROWTH (GIRG) FRAMEWORK

Context

- The Government of India has undertaken the Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG) initiative to benchmark national performance against international indices and guide evidence-based policy reforms.

About

- **The Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG)** is an inter-ministerial mechanism for monitoring progress across **26 global indices** published by **16 international agencies**.
 - ♦ These Indices are spanning **four broad themes:** economy, development, governance, and industry.
- **Each index** has been assigned to a **specific nodal ministry**, responsible for reviewing methodologies, engaging with publishing organisations and ensuring that India's latest official data is used in the computations.
- **The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) at NITI Aayog** will serve as the central coordinating body for this exercise.

Why Is GIRG Needed?

- India's national indicators such as GDP, CPI, and IIP already follow internationally aligned methodologies and undergo base-year revisions to reflect economic changes.
- However, global ranking ecosystems often suffer from opaque methodologies, inconsistent data use, and lack of country-specific contextualisation. Hence the GIRG aims to,
 - ♦ Ensure use of accurate and updated government data in global indices.
 - ♦ Enhance India's global competitiveness and credibility.

Source: [PIB](#)

U.P. REPORTED MAXIMUM COMPLAINTS OVER JAL JEEVAN MISSION PROJECTS

In News

- **Uttar Pradesh reported** the highest number of complaints and constituted about 84% of the total complaints received over **financial irregularities and poor quality of work** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- **Launch Year:** 2019
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Background:** The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was restructured and subsumed into JJM.
- **Objective:** Ensure Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household with 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of potable water.
- **Funding Pattern:** 90:10 (Himalayan States (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) & North-Eastern States)
 - 100% (Union Territories) & 50:50 (other states)
- **Progress:** Tap water access in rural India has expanded rapidly, rising from 3.23 crore households (16.7%) to an additional 12.48 crore households connected since then.

Source : [TH](#)

DOMESTIC SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS (D-SIBS)

In News

- RBI's 2025 list confirms that State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank continue as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**.

About D-SIBs

- D-SIBs are banks considered **"too big to fail."**
- Their collapse can trigger system-wide financial instability, so they are placed under special regulation and higher supervision.
- Concept introduced globally after the **2008 Global Financial Crisis**.

- **Based on Basel-III guidelines**, RBI released the D-SIB framework in 2014, it identifies banks based on: Size (Total exposures), interconnectedness, substitutability (difficulty of replacing services) & complexity.
- Banks are placed in different buckets (0 to 4) depending on systemic importance.
- Higher the bucket means higher **additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET-1) capital requirement**.

Source: TH

DRDO CONDUCTS HIGH SPEED TEST OF INDIGENOUS FIGHTER ESCAPE SYSTEM

Context

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a high-speed test of a fighter aircraft escape system, validating a critical safety capability for combat pilots.

About

- The rocket-sled trial achieved a precisely controlled velocity of **800 km/h** at DRDO's **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility** at the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) in Chandigarh.
- The test was conducted in collaboration with **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** and **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The test validated **three key elements** of the emergency escape chain: canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew recovery.
- This complex **dynamic test places India in an elite club** of nations with advanced in-house escape system testing capability.
 - ♦ **Dynamic ejection tests** are more complex than static tests (e.g., Net Test, Zero-Zero Test) because they replicate real-flight conditions.

Source: [PIB](#)

NAVY'S NEW CATEGORY IN INDIAN MARITIME DOCTRINE 2025

In News

- The Indian Navy's Maritime Doctrine 2025, released by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi.

Indian Maritime Doctrine

- It is the Navy's apex guidance document, laying down the principles that govern its strategy, roles and employment across the full spectrum of conflict.
- It was First released in 2004, revised in 2009 and amended in 2015.

Features of 2025 edition

- It reflects major shifts in India's maritime environment and strategic outlook over the past decade.
- It formally recognises "no-war, no-peace" as a distinct operational category for the first time, reflecting modern grey-zone maritime challenges like coercion and hybrid tactics.
- It prioritises jointmanship by aligning with tri-service joint doctrines towards ensuring interoperability across the armed forces.

Relevance

- The updated doctrine incorporates major shifts in India's maritime environment since 2015 .
- It aligns with national visions such as Viksit Bharat 2047, Sagarmala, PM Gati Shakti, Maritime India Vision 2030, Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and MAHASAGAR.

Source : [IE](#)

