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## CITIZENSHIP UNDER CAA ONLY AFTER SCRUTINY: SC

### Context

- The Supreme Court of India has recently clarified that citizenship under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) is not automatic.**
  - Applicants must meet all conditions of naturalisation, and the Union government must examine each case individually.

### Key Features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

- Purpose and Objective:** The CAA amends the Citizenship Act of 1955 to provide **Indian citizenship to certain persecuted minorities** from neighboring countries of **Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh.**
- Eligible Communities:** The Act specifically covers **six non-Muslim religious communities** of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians.
  - Individuals from these communities who **entered India on or before December 31, 2014**, without valid travel documents or whose documents expired, are eligible for citizenship.
- Exemption from 'Illegal Migrant' Status:** Such persons shall **not be treated as illegal migrants** under the Act, enabling them to apply for **citizenship through naturalization.**
  - The required period of residence in India for naturalization has been **reduced from 11 years to 5 years** for these groups.
- Applicability Exceptions:** The Act does **not apply to:**
  - Tribal areas of **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura** (as included in the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**).
  - Areas under the 'Inner Line Permit' system** (Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur).

### Related Concerns & Issues

- Legal and Constitutional Challenges:** Over 230 petitions are pending before the Supreme Court challenging the CAA's constitutionality. Petitioners argue that it violates **Article 14** (Right to Equality), **Article 15** (Prohibition of discrimination) and **Basic structure doctrine of secularism.**
- Violation of the Assam Accord, 1985:** Assam Accord, 1985 set **March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date** for identifying illegal immigrants (Section 6A CAA, 2019).

- The CAA **alters the demographic balance** and stokes fears of cultural erosion by **extending the date to 2014** for certain communities.
- Link to NRC and Electoral Rolls:** CAA could be used to selectively grant citizenship, while NRC and SIR could be used to disenfranchise minorities, especially Muslims.
- Discriminatory Exclusion of Groups:** Many other groups in the **South Asia region** such as **Rohingya Muslims, Bhutanese, Hazaras, Shias and Ahmadis** face exclusion.
  - These groups too have suffered due to their religious identities and seek refuge in India.

### Pathways to Indian Citizenship

- Constitutional Foundations: Articles 5–11 of Constitution of India (Part II)** lays down the initial framework for citizenship at the time of its commencement:
  - Article 5:** Grants citizenship to persons domiciled in India at the commencement of the Constitution.
  - Article 6:** Covers migrants from Pakistan, granting citizenship under certain conditions.
  - Article 7:** Addresses those who migrated to Pakistan but later returned.
  - Article 8:** Provides for citizenship of Indians residing abroad.
  - Article 9:** Bars dual citizenship, if a person voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country, they forfeit Indian citizenship.
  - Article 10:** Ensures that existing citizens continue to enjoy rights unless terminated under law.
  - Article 11:** Empowers Parliament to regulate citizenship by law.
- Statutory Provisions: The Citizenship Act, 1955:** It provides the legal framework for acquiring and terminating Indian citizenship. Key modes of acquisition include:
  - By Birth (Section 3)
  - By Descent (Section 4)
  - By Registration (Section 5)
  - By Naturalization (Section 6)
  - By Incorporation of Territory (Section 7).

Source: TH

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025

### Context

- Human Rights Day is observed annually around the world on **10th December**.

### About Human Rights Day

- The day marks the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** by the United Nations General Assembly in **1948**.
  - Human Rights Day has been observed every year since **1950**.
- Theme for 2025:** "Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials".

### What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)?

- The document, consisting of a **preamble and 30 articles** setting out fundamental rights and freedoms.
- This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of **race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth** or other status.
- The declaration **is not a treaty** and **is not legally binding** in itself, but the principles it sets out have been incorporated into many countries' laws and is viewed as the **basis for international human rights law**.

### What are Human Rights?

- Human rights** are fundamental rights and freedoms that are inherent to all human beings, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, or any other status.
- These rights are considered **universal, inalienable, and indivisible**, forming the foundation for **human dignity, equality, and justice**.
- Human rights are different from the Civil rights** that are created and defined by laws within a specific nation.
  - Civil rights** are legal rights granted and protected by a government, and they may change over time as laws are amended or updated.

### Significance of Human Rights

- Inherent Dignity:** Human rights affirm the inherent dignity of every individual.
- Equality and Non-Discrimination:** They strive to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities and are treated with fairness and without prejudice.
- Protection from Abuse:** Human rights provide a framework for holding governments, institutions, and individuals accountable for actions that violate these rights, promoting justice and accountability.



### National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India

- It is a **statutory body established in 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act** for promoting and protecting human rights in India.

- It consists of a **Chairperson (a former CJI or Supreme Court judge), judicial members, human rights experts, and ex-officio members from national commissions.**
- NHRC investigates human rights violations**, issues recommendations, intervenes in court cases, reviews safeguards, promotes awareness, and advises the government on policy reforms. Although it has civil court powers, its recommendations are not binding.

Source: DD NEWS

## HOUSE PANEL ON EDUCATION RECOMMENDS REFORMS ACROSS TESTING, ACCREDITATION

### Context

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports tabled its **371st report on the autonomous bodies under the Department of Higher Education.**

### Major Highlights of the Report

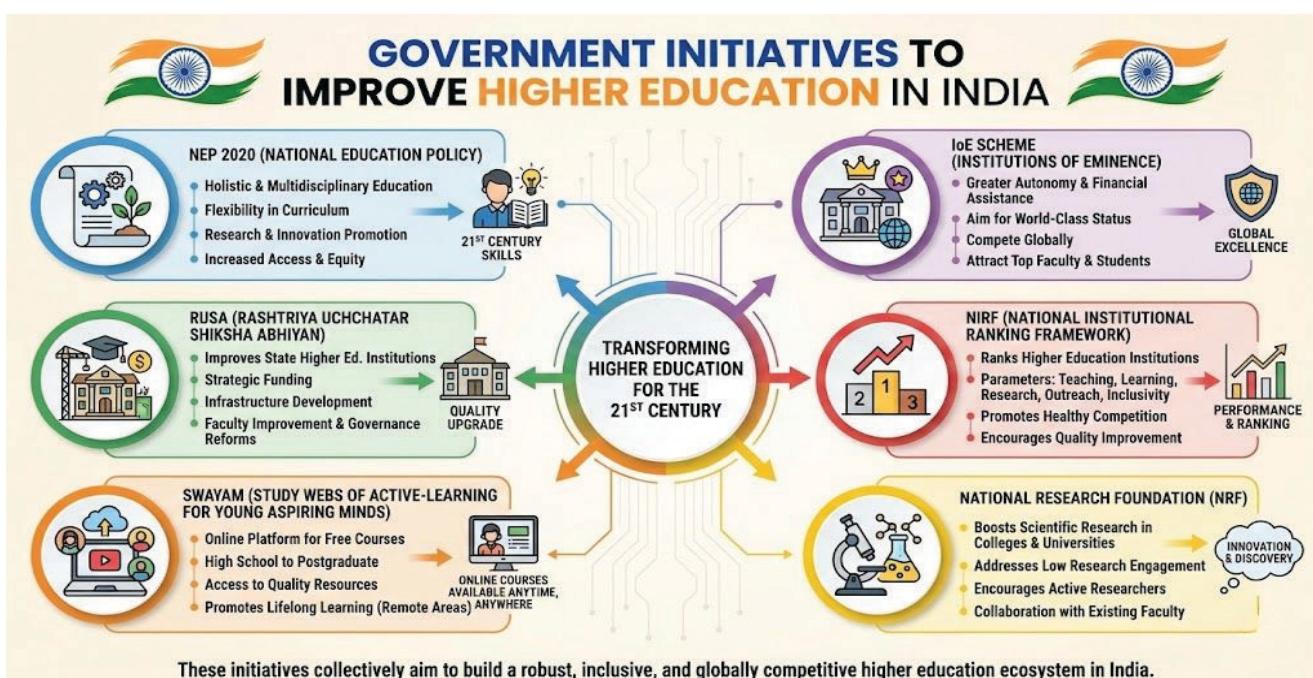
- Performance of NTA:** It highlighted the performance of the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**, noting recent irregularities in examinations.
  - Repeated delays and errors in major examinations**, including NEET-UG, UGC-NET, CUET, and JEE (Main).
  - It urged that such avoidable errors must not recur.
- Infrastructure Gaps:** Persistent gaps in faculty recruitment and infrastructure, including lack of seed grants for new faculty in central universities

and UGC-funded institutions, and constraints in implementing Multiple Entry Multiple Exit programs.

- Delays in Online Education:** It flagged delays in online and distance education approvals for institutions with lower NAAC accreditation scores, urging the UGC to reconsider these restrictions.
- On Accreditation:** It highlighted concerns with the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**, which evaluates higher education institutions.
  - It called for detailing the extent of irregularities uncovered and the corrective steps taken.
  - Reforms needed** such as the Basic Accreditation Framework (BAF) and Maturity Based Graded Levels (MBGL) to ensure a more objective, transparent process with limited scope for discretion.
- On Draft UGC Regulations:** It recommends that the draft UGC regulations of January 2025 be referred to the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) for wider stakeholder consultation.
  - The Committee emphasised that these regulations should uphold both national standards and state autonomy.

### Recommendations

- Digital Examinations Held by NTA:** It recommended NTA to build greater in-house capacity and place renewed emphasis on pen-and-paper testing to reduce the vulnerabilities associated with digital and outsourced exams.
  - It also recommended a nationwide list of blacklisted firms involved in paper-setting and administration to prevent recurrence of lapses.



- Remunerations:** It recommends extending the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to faculty and non-teaching staff in centrally funded institutions, increasing Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) amounts, and implementing the 7th Pay Commission in ICSSR research institutes.
- Fill Vacancies:** It also called for immediate filling of vacancies, implementation of promotions, and appointment of leadership positions across ICSSR research institutions.
- On Governance:** The Committee urged greater participatory decision-making in bodies to preserve its autonomous character.
- Accreditation:** Highlighting the challenges of implementing NEP 2020, the Committee stressed the need for faster, streamlined accreditation and evaluation processes.
- It also recommended **measures to regulate the proliferation of private coaching centres** and ensure that examination papers reinforce school curricula rather than parallel coaching syllabi.

**Source:** HT

## US UNVEILS NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY 2025

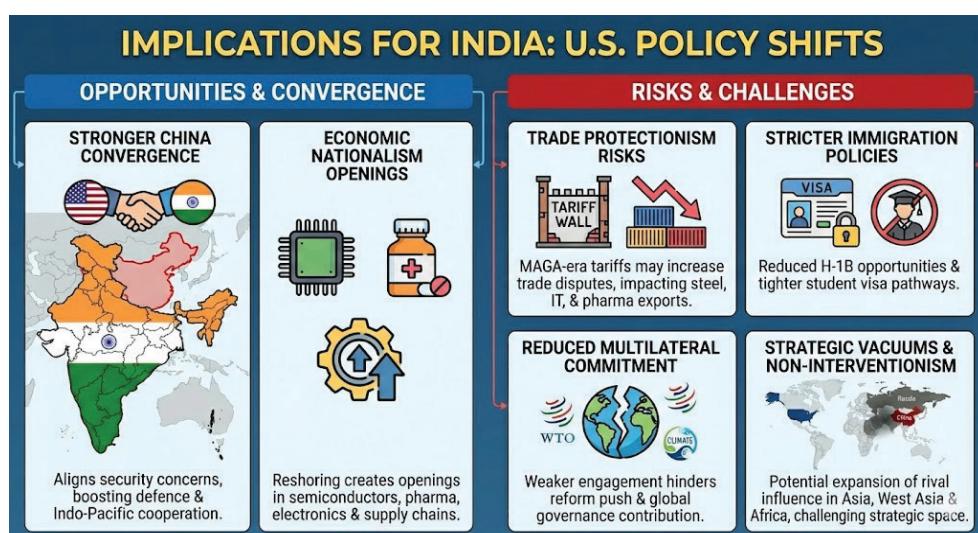
### In News

- The US has released the **National Security Strategy (NSS) 2025**, marking a decisive departure from post-Cold War American foreign policy frameworks to the **“Make America Great Again (MAGA)” agenda** at the heart of U.S. global strategy.

### How does MAGA shape the new NSS?

- Focused national interest:** Only issues directly affecting core US security and prosperity are treated as strategic; the document explicitly criticises earlier “global domination” ambitions.

- Regional Priorities:** It puts the Western Hemisphere at the top, announcing a “Trump Corollary” to the **Monroe Doctrine** to re-assert US pre-eminence in the Americas, curb Chinese and other extra-regional influence.
  - The **Monroe Doctrine** was a foreign policy principle declared by US President James Monroe in 1823, asserting that the Western Hemisphere was closed to future European colonization, the US would oppose any European intervention in independent American states.
- Primacy of nations and sovereignty:** It asserts the nation-state as the fundamental unit, defends US sovereignty against international institutions and “transnationalism”, and encourages all states to put their own interests first.
- Predisposition to non-interventionism:** It sets a high bar for interventions abroad, criticising “forever wars”, while still insisting the US maintain overwhelming military strength (“peace through strength”).
- Economic nationalism:** It elevates reindustrialisation, reshoring, tariffs, balanced trade, and “energy dominance” (including rejection of Net Zero/climate agendas) to central security objectives, aligning directly with MAGA economic themes.
- End of mass migration:** It declares that “the era of mass migration is over”, treats border security as the primary element of national security, and links migration, drugs, and crime as core threats—again mirroring MAGA domestic politics in the external strategy.
- Stronger China Convergence:** The 2025 US National Security Strategy explicitly positions China as America’s primary strategic challenge, representing a sharpened focus on containment and competition in the Indo-Pacific.



**Source:** TOI

## AI-COPYRIGHT OVERHAUL WITH 'ONE NATION, ONE LICENCE, ONE PAYMENT' MODEL

### Context

- The DPIIT-led committee has released a working paper titled '**One Nation, One License, One Payment: Balancing AI Innovation and Copyright**'.

### About

- The DPIIT-led committee has recommended a "**hybrid model**" of **compensation for use of copyrighted content in AI training**.
- If implemented, India would become the **only country to prescribe a statutory licensing regime for AI developers**, with royalty rates prescribed by a government-appointed committee.

### Its Key Features

- Aim:** To protect the rights of IP holders (by having a compensatory model) and at the same time ensuring mandatory licensed access to quality datasets for AI developers.
- Mandatory Blanket Licence:** All AI developers will be required to obtain a statutory blanket licence to use all lawfully accessed copyright-protected works for training AI systems.
- Statutory Remuneration Right for Creators:** Creators and copyright holders will receive royalties mandated by law, instead of individually negotiated licensing deals.
- Creation of CRCAT (Copyright Royalties Collective for AI Training):** A new umbrella body designated under the Copyright Act, 1957 will:
  - Collect royalties from AI developers.
  - Distribute them among classes of copyright holders.
  - Act as a centralised facilitator for the blanket licence.
- The Centre will constitute a committee to determine the royalty rate.**
  - It will consist of senior government officers, senior legal experts, financial or economic experts, and technical experts with expertise in emerging technologies.
  - A CRCAT member from and AI developers' representative will also be part of the committee.
- Royalty Rates:** The panel will set royalty rates, while ensuring that they are fair, predictable, and transparent.

- It will also review and adjust rates every 3 years, to reflect technological and market developments.
- Legal Relief:** The rates set by the rate setting committee may be challenged before the court and would be subject to judicial review.
- Rejection of Voluntary Licensing:** The committee rejects private, voluntary licensing agreements (e.g., OpenAI-AP deal) due to:
  - High transaction costs,
  - Unequal bargaining power,
  - Risk of big companies monopolising licensing,
  - Inadequate access to diverse training data.
- Prerequisite of Lawful Access:** AI companies cannot bypass paywalls or technological protection measures using the mandatory licence. They must have lawful access to data.
- Retroactive Payments:** It suggests retroactive payment of royalties in cases where copyrighted data has already been ingested into AI systems and also lays a framework for establishing burden of proof in related lawsuits.

### Need for Such Model

- Infringement of Copyright Act:** The AI training involves multiple acts of reproduction from downloading and storing works to generating temporary copies that raise clear infringement questions under India's Copyright Act.
- Compensation to Copyright Holders:** AI companies have non-discriminatory access to copyrighted work, there is a need that all copyright holders are compensated in an equitable way.
- Growing Scepticism:** It comes amid growing scepticism of news publishers in several jurisdictions over concerns of copyrighted material being used for training foundational models, without permission or payment.
- Court Cases:** Infringement has led to court cases where publishers have mounted a legal challenge against OpenAI over the unlawful utilisation of copyrighted material.
- Commercialised Use by AI Developers:** Many AI Developers have built AI Systems which are commercially successful and generate huge revenues.
  - In order to ensure fairness and accountability, such AI Developers must be required to pay royalties to copyright owners for past usage of their works.

### Concerns Raised by Industry

- Concerns are being raised over the royalty rates fixed by a government-appointed panel.

- Companies argue that they should be allowed to discuss mutually beneficial licensing rates among themselves.
- It could lead to slowdown in AI development which ultimately harms India's ambitions to build and scale indigenous AI capabilities.
- The implementation must be fair and scale-dependent; otherwise, it risks becoming an entry barrier for startups and further strengthening incumbents.

### Conclusion

- It comes in the wake of soaring AI adoption, mushrooming AI startups and conflicts over the use of copyrighted content by AI developers.
- The government argues that a licensing framework allows domestic AI firms access to rich, copyright-protected datasets, reduces barriers to innovation and aligns with India's broader goal of building sovereign AI capabilities.

Source: IE

## NEWS IN SHORT

### C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

#### In News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to **C. Rajagopalachari** popularly known as **Rajaji** on his birth anniversary (10th December).

#### C. Rajagopalachari

##### • Early Life and Education:

- He was a close associate of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Completed Bachelor of Law (1899) and began practicing law in Salem.
- Early political consciousness was shaped by **Curzon's Partition of Bengal (1905)** and **Tilak's call for Swaraj**.

##### • Contributions to Freedom's Struggle:

- He left his legal career in **1919** and went on to play a leading role in several major movements, including the protests against the Rowlatt Act, the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Vaikom Satyagraha, and the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Led the **Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930)** in the Madras region, parallel to Gandhi's Dandi March.
- He was imprisoned five times between 1912 and 1941 for his role in the freedom struggle.
- After Quit India Movement, **published "The Way Out**", proposing the C. R. Formula to

resolve the constitutional deadlock with the Muslim League over Pakistan.

#### • Post-Independence Contributions:

- Appointed Governor of West Bengal and later became the first Indian Governor-General of India (1947–1950) after independence.
- Worked to protect India's secular fabric and integrate Muslims into the national mainstream.
- Served as Union Home Minister after Sardar Patel's death; contributed to national integration & early planning processes, including the First Five-Year Plan.

#### • Legacy:

- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954 for his contributions to politics, literature and public service.

Source :DD

## 'YOUR MONEY, YOUR RIGHT' MOVEMENT

#### In News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to participate in the '**Your Money, Your Right**' movement.

#### 'Your Money, Your Right' movement

- It is an initiative, launched in October 2025, was designed to **ensure citizens can reclaim their rightful assets**.
- It aimed at helping people **recover unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, dividends and other financial assets**.
- It offers individuals a chance to convert **forgotten financial assets into usable funds**.

#### Do you know?

- Indian banks currently hold about **₹78,000 crore in unclaimed deposits**. Insurance companies have nearly ₹14,000 crore lying unclaimed, mutual fund companies around 3,000 crore, and unclaimed dividends amount to roughly 9,000 crore.

#### Various Steps

- Dedicated online portals have been created to enable easy **tracking and claiming of funds**:
  - RBI UDGAM Portal for unclaimed bank deposits
  - IRDAI Bima Bharosa Portal for unclaimed insurance proceeds
  - SEBI MITRA Portal for unclaimed mutual fund amounts; and

- IEPFA Portal for unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares.
- Facilitation camps have been held in 477 districts across the country, with a focus on rural and remote areas.

Source :DD

## MEPHEDRONE

### In News

- The **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** successfully dismantled a **clandestine Mephedrone** manufacturing facility in Wardha, Maharashtra, during a strategic operation codenamed "**Operation Hinterland Brew.**"

### What is Mephedrone?

- Mephedrone, also known as **4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC)** or **4-methylephedrone**, is a synthetic stimulant drug belonging to the **amphetamine and cathinone family**.
- It is classified as a **New Psychoactive Substance (NPS)** and is colloquially known as "meow meow," "bath salts," or "research chemicals" in illicit drug markets.
- Mephedrone is prohibited under the **NDPS Act, 1985**.

### National Drug Control Framework

- The Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), meaning "**Drug-Free India Campaign**," was launched by the Government of India on August 15, 2020, as a key initiative under the **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)** formulated in 2018.

Source: PIB

## YELLOW LINE DEFINING NEW GAZA BORDER

### Context

- The Israeli military has described the "Yellow Line", a temporary withdrawal line agreed during Phase-1 of the 2025 U.S.-brokered ceasefire, as a "**new border**".

### About Yellow Line

- The Yellow Line is a **temporary military demarcation** line inside the Gaza Strip.
- Territory east of the line remains under direct **Israeli operational control**.
- **Territory Controlled by Israel:** More than half of Gaza (53-58%) remains under Israeli control. It includes most agricultural land and Rafah border crossing with Egypt.



Source: IE

## TRUMP THREATENS TARIFFS ON INDIAN RICE

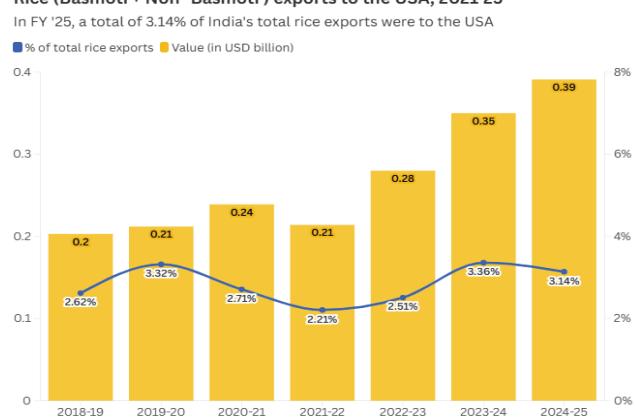
### Context

- The US President warned of **new tariffs on agricultural imports, especially on rice imports from India** as trade talks continue without major progress.

### About

- The U.S. makes up about **3% of India's total rice exports**, whereas Indian rice comprises more than **one-fourth of the rice imported into the U.S.**
  - The U.S. is **not a major export destination for India**, but India is a major import source for the U.S. when it comes to rice.
  - India's rice exports to the USA constituted **26.1%** of the latter's total rice imports in 2024.

### Rice (Basmoti + Non - Basmoti ) exports to the USA, 2021-25



### India's Rice Exports

- **China** is the largest producer of rice in the world, followed by **India, Bangladesh and Indonesia**.
  - ◆ India, along with China, accounts for **over half of the world's rice production**.
  - ◆ China, however, is also the **biggest consumer of rice**, leaving little for exports.
- **India is the world's largest exporter of rice**, accounting for **33 percent** of the world's total rice exports during 2023.
  - ◆ India exports rice to 179 other countries.
  - ◆ A major chunk of basmati exports go to **West Asia**, with the likes of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates being bigger markets than the US.
  - ◆ In the case of non-basmati rice, the biggest market for Indian grain is Africa — especially countries in the western part of the continent.
- Two east Asian countries—**Thailand and Vietnam**—are the two main competitors of India in the global rice market.
  - ◆ In 2023, the combined rice export of these two countries was almost equal to Indian exports.

Source: TH

### BLUE CORNER NOTICE

#### In News

- Interpol has issued a **Blue Corner Notice** to track owners of nightclubs in Goa, after a fire at the club killed 25 people.
  - ◆ The Goa Police had requested the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** to seek the notice from Interpol.

#### INTERPOL Notices

- They are **international alerts** used by police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- They are issued by **INTERPOL's General Secretariat** at the request of a member country, international tribunals, the International Criminal Court, or the UN.
- They can seek individuals wanted for crimes such as genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity, or aid in implementing UN sanctions.
- Most Notices are for police use only, though public extracts may be released if requested by the issuing authority.
  - ◆ All UN Special Notices are public.

#### Types of Notice

- **Red Notice:** To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.



- **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- **Green Notice:** To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- **Purple Notice:** To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.
- **Silver Notice (pilot phase):** To identify and trace criminal assets
- **INTERPOL—United Nations Security Council Special Notice:** Issued for entities and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

Source :IE

### BHARAT 6G ALLIANCE (B6GA)

#### In News

- The Union Minister of Communications, chaired the meeting of the apex council under the **Bharat 6G Mission** and reviewed the progress of the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**.

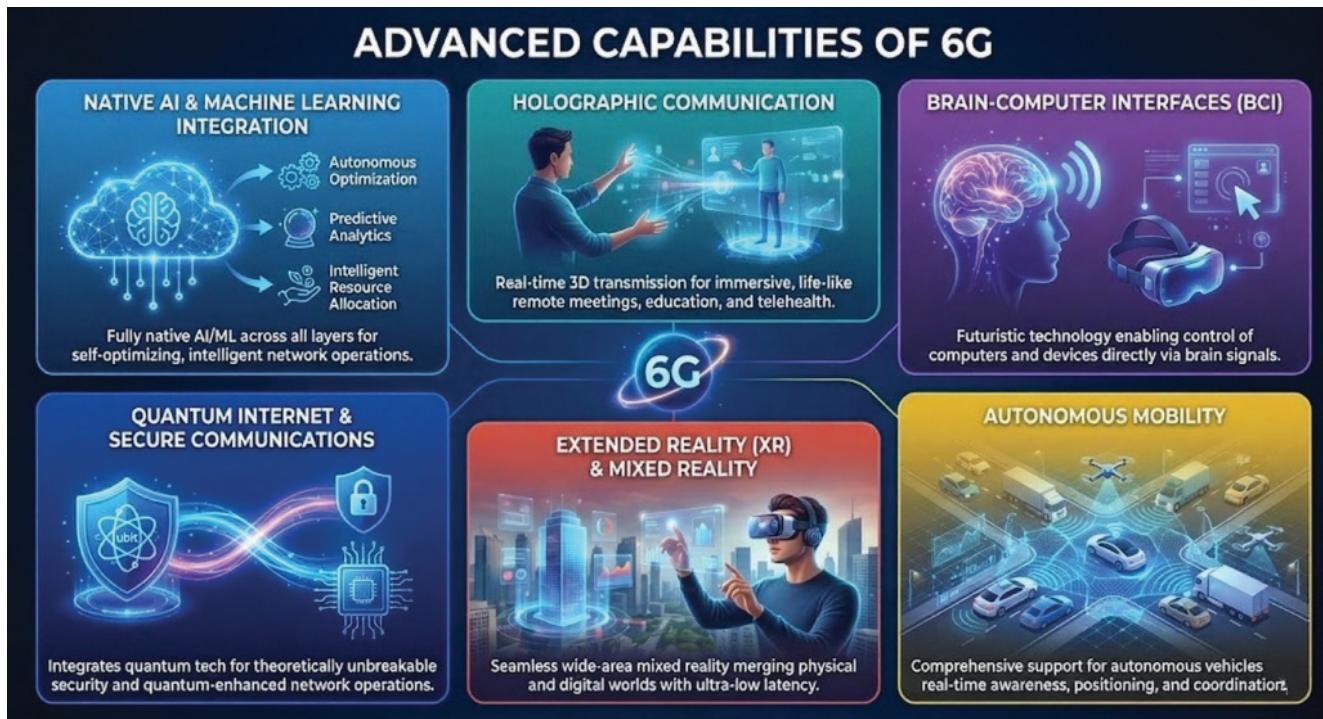
#### Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)

- It is a collaborative multi-stakeholder platform bringing together academic institutions, domestic industries, research and development entities.
- It functions as the implementation arm of the **Bharat 6G Vision**, which India unveiled in March 2023 to position the nation as a global leader in **6G technology by 2030**.

### About 6G Technology

- 6G represents the next frontier of wireless communication technology, succeeding 5G as the sixth generation of mobile networks.

- 6G will deliver peak data rates of 1 terabit per second (1 Tbps), approximately 100 times faster than 5G, which offers 10 Gbps.
- 6G will achieve ultra-low latency of 0.1 milliseconds (compared to 5G's 1 millisecond).



Source: PIB

### AFRICAN PENGUINS

#### Context

- A new study finds that excessive sardine fishing off southern Africa led to the deaths of over **60,000 African penguins** between 2004 and 2011, especially around **Dassen and Robben Islands**.

#### About African Penguins

- Scientific name:** *Spheniscus demersus*
- Among the **smallest penguin species**, fast swimmers, living along the coasts of **South Africa and Namibia**.
- Unlike Antarctic penguins, they live on **sandy beaches and rocky shores**, not ice.

- Have a **bare pink patch above the eyes** to regulate body temperature.
- Each penguin has a **unique chest-spot pattern**, like human fingerprints.
- Reclassified from “Endangered” to “**Critically Endangered**” (IUCN, 2024).

#### Do You Know?

- There are 18 penguin species globally — with **King, emperor and rockhopper among the most familiar**.

Source: DTE

