

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## SUPREME COURT ON ROHINGYA DEPORTATION CASE

### In News

- The Supreme Court heard a habeas corpus petition by activists alleging disappearance of several Rohingya persons who were in Delhi Police custody since May.
  - ♦ The petitioner maintained that any deportation must still follow due legal process.

### Rohingya

- They are a **muslim ethnic group** living mainly in **Myanmar's Rakhine state**.
- They speak a dialect of **Bengali rather than Burmese**.
- Although they have lived in Myanmar for generations, the government regards them as descendants of colonial-era migrants and denies them full citizenship.
- Under Myanmar's 1982 citizenship law, Rohingya can obtain citizenship only by proving their ancestors lived in the country before 1823; otherwise, they are classified as resident foreigners or associate citizens, even if one parent is Myanmar-born.
  - ♦ As a result, they face restrictions on civil service employment and movement within Rakhine.

### Related Laws in India

- India has **no legal obligation to provide asylum or follow the principle of non-refoulement** because it is **not a party to the Refugee Convention**, the Convention Against Torture, or the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.
- Refugees are detained under older domestic laws — the **Foreigners Act, 1946, the Passport Act, 1967 & the Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- Refugee status operates via ad-hoc executive channels with **"strategic ambiguity"** like the Ministry of Home Affairs handles Sri Lankan Tamils and Tibetans.
- The **principle of non-refoulement** is accepted as customary international law, prohibiting return to persecution, though not statutorily binding.
  - ♦ **Article 21** offers basic protections to all persons but no right to reside for non-citizens.

### Supreme Court's recent Observations

- The Supreme Court of India recently observed that Rohingyas cannot be automatically classified

as refugees without an official government declaration, stressing that illegal entrants do not have legal rights within the country.

- The Court emphasized the need for a clear government stance on their status. It also recognized the baseline humanitarian treatment owed to all entrants but expressed skepticism about extending legal rights to non-citizens who enter illegally.
- It also highlighted India's sensitive northern borders, stressing that intruders cannot be given a "red carpet welcome" with facilities.

Source :TH

## BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025

### Context

- India's banking sector has undergone a remarkable transformation, and Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 is a step towards strengthening governance standards in the banking sector.

### Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025

- It contains a total of **19 amendments** across **five legislations**;
  - ♦ The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934,
  - ♦ Banking Regulation Act, 1949,
  - ♦ State Bank of India Act, 1955 and
  - ♦ Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980.

### Need for the Banking Amendment Act, 2025

- **Rising Unclaimed Deposits:** A substantial amount in banks remains unclaimed due to the absence of nominees. The Act addresses this challenge by establishing a structured, seamless succession mechanism.
- **Expanding Financial Inclusion:** As more households enter the formal banking system, the complexity of services rises.
  - ♦ Modern frameworks are needed to handle the scale, technology adoption, and increased transaction volumes.
- **Clarity and Uniformity in Banking Operations:** Establishes uniform terminology for smoother integration with emerging technologies.
  - ♦ Reduces disputes between banks and depositors by formalising asset succession rules.

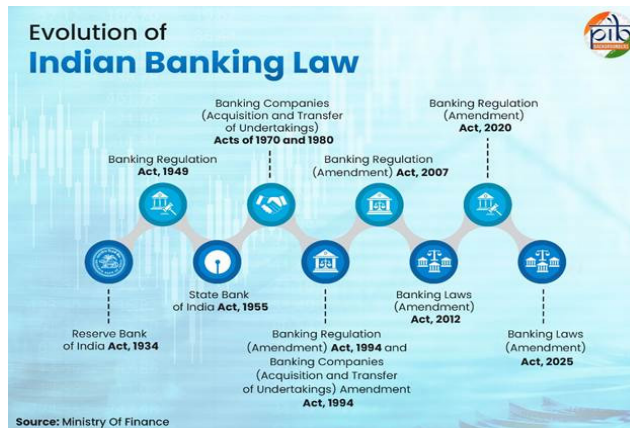


### Key reforms under Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025

- **Modernised Nomination Framework (Sections 10 - 13):** Depositors can nominate up to four persons for their bank accounts via either simultaneous or successive nominations
  - ♦ Simultaneous nominations allow percentage-wise allocation totalling to 100%.
  - ♦ Successive nominations ensure seamless succession in case of a nominee's death for articles in safe custody and safety lockers
- **Redefinition of 'Substantial Interest' (Section 3):** Threshold increased from ₹ 5 lakh (1968 limit) to ₹ 2 crore. This regulatory change is designed to revamp governance standards.
- **Governance in Co-operative Banks (Section 4 & 14):** Align director tenures in cooperative banks with the **97th Constitutional Amendment** by increasing the maximum tenure from 8 years to **10 years** (excluding the chairperson and whole-time director). Tenure for directors in other banking companies remains unchanged.
- **Audit Reforms in PSBs (Sections 15-20):** Empower PSBs to fix the auditors remuneration.
  - ♦ **PSBs will now be permitted** to transfer unclaimed shares, interest, and bond redemption amounts to the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)**, bringing them in line with practices followed by companies under the Companies Act.

### Impact of the Banking Reforms with National Vision

- **Depositor-centric:** The Act includes robust measures to safeguard public trust in banking institutions by simplified claim settlement for their families.
- **Improved Financial Transparency:** Transfer to the Investor Education and Protection Fund aims at creating a more transparent system for fund management.
- **Enhanced Audit Quality:** The PSBs will now be able to attract more qualified professionals and improve audit quality by paying better auditor remuneration.
- **Improved Operational Efficiency:** The Act simplifies certain procedures, such as updating certain operational definitions.



Source: PIB

## INDIA COMMITTED TO IDEA OF OPEN AND RULES-BASED OCEANS

### Context

- President Droupadi Murmu said that India is committed to the idea of the oceans remaining **“open, stable and rules-based”** drawing attention to the **strategic and critical importance** of the **Indian Ocean Region as a maritime space**.
- About**
- The Indian Ocean Region is a **conduit for global energy supplies and trade**. Being positioned at its centre, India bears a special responsibility.
  - **By securing sea routes, protecting marine resources, preventing illegal activities, and supporting maritime research**, the Navy strengthens the vision of safe, prosperous, and sustainable oceans.”.
  - The President observed that **modernisation** is crucial for the combat readiness of the armed force.

### Indian Ocean Region

The Indian Ocean covers approximately **one-fifth of the total ocean area of the world**.



- The Indian Ocean is bounded by Iran, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh to the **north**; the Malay Peninsula, the Sunda Islands of Indonesia, and Australia to the **east**; the Southern Ocean to the **south**; and Africa and the Arabian Peninsula to the **west**.
- The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) comprises 36 countries and has a population of approximately 2.5 billion, accounting for 35% of the global population and 40% of the world's coastline.

### Significance of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- **Geostrategic Importance:** The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean, linking the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.
  - ♦ It is home to **crucial maritime chokepoints** — Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Malacca Strait, Lombok Strait — which together handle a bulk of global energy and trade flows.
  - ♦ The IOR acts as a **bridge between the East and the West**, making it a central theatre for power competition among India, China, the U.S., and other major players.
- **Economic Significance:** The region carries nearly 50% of global container traffic and 80% of seaborne oil trade.
  - ♦ It is a hub of blue economy activities: shipping, fisheries, seabed mining, and tourism.
- **Energy Security:** The IOR is the lifeline of global energy flows: oil and gas from West Asia transit to East Asia via its sea lanes.
  - ♦ Countries like India, China, Japan, and South Korea are energy-import dependent, making stability of the IOR vital.
- **Blue Economy and Resource Potential:** Beyond energy and trade, the Indian Ocean Region represents an untapped frontier for sustainable ocean-based economic development.
  - ♦ The Indian Ocean supports approximately 15% of the world's total fish catch, with the fishing industry providing critical employment and nutrition for millions of people across the region.

### Why has the focus on IOR been increased recently?

- **Rise of New Economies:** India and China's emergence has revived trade networks in IOR and the region is becoming a new economic growth centre.
- **Maritime Security Threats:** Piracy (especially near Somalia) threatened global shipping lanes and led to increased efforts to secure Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).

- **Indo-Pacific Construct:** The Indo-Pacific combines the Indian and Pacific Oceans into one strategic theatre and highlights the centrality of IOR in shaping new global maritime order.
  - ♦ This geographical reimagination enhances IOR's visibility in global diplomacy and security.
- **Implications for Global Order:** Control over the IOR can shape:
  - ♦ Trade flows (especially oil & gas),
  - ♦ Strategic maritime chokepoints (like the Strait of Hormuz, Malacca, Bab el-Mandeb),
  - ♦ Military posturing and base logistics.

### Challenges in IOR

- **Expansion of Chinese Naval Power in IOR:** Increased naval vessel deployments in the region in terms of both number and duration.
- **Maritime Domain Awareness Activities:** Deployment of Chinese research and survey vessels to gather sensitive oceanographic and marine data under the guise of scientific research.
- **Piracy hotspots** near the Horn of Africa and in the Malacca Strait threaten shipping.
- **Terrorism, arms smuggling, and trafficking networks** exploit porous maritime borders.
- **Strategic Port Development Near India:** China is actively involved in developing ports and infrastructure in littoral states of the IOR, including those close to India's maritime boundaries.
  - ♦ The objective aligns with China's long-term goal of becoming a maritime power.

### India's Strategic Responses

- **Diplomatic and Security Leadership:** India positions itself as first responder in disasters.
  - ♦ India is a preferred security partner in HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief), Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), and development.
- **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), 2019:** India-led initiative announced at the East Asia Summit.
  - ♦ **Focus Areas:** maritime security, ecology, resource sharing, disaster management, connectivity, and trade.
- **Launch of MAHASAGAR** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth for All in the Region) reflects India's strategic rebranding in the IOR.

- **Naval Modernisation and Indigenous Development:** India is modernising naval capabilities:
  - ♦ Commissioning indigenous warships (e.g., INS Vikrant, INS Visakhapatnam).
  - ♦ Boosting maritime domain awareness and power projection.
  - ♦ This strengthens India's force posture and maritime deterrence in the IOR.
- **India's Response and Regional Diplomacy:** India is working with regional partners to raise awareness about the long-term implications of Chinese infrastructure projects.
  - ♦ Emphasize the risks to internal and regional security from China's military use of these assets.
- **Multilateral Engagements:**
  - ♦ **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):** India is a founding member (1997). Focus areas: maritime security, disaster management, blue economy, trade & investment facilitation.
  - ♦ **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):** Initiated by the Indian Navy in 2008. Activities include: Information exchange, Joint exercises, HADR cooperation, Anti-piracy coordination.
  - ♦ **QUAD (India–US–Japan–Australia):** Central focus on maritime security, freedom of navigation, and a rules-based Indo-Pacific.
  - ♦ **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC):** India, Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are members. **Focus:** Maritime security, Counter-narcotics, Cyber security, HADR, Illegal fishing control, and strengthening Indian Ocean island states' capacities.
- **India on Militarisation of the IOR:** India asserts that Militarisation of the Indian Ocean Region is not desirable and will adversely impact security in the Indian Ocean and the wider Indo-Pacific.
  - ♦ This reflects India's stance against military usage of Chinese-funded infrastructure in the IOR.

### Conclusion

- For India, the IOR is not merely a neighbourhood but a strategic imperative central to its national security, economic growth, and global leadership ambitions.
- Initiatives such as Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific Vision, and Blue Economy strategy reinforce India's centrality in the IOR.

Source: TH

## 'PERSISTENT & SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES' UNDERMINE IBC'S FULL POTENTIAL: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

### Context

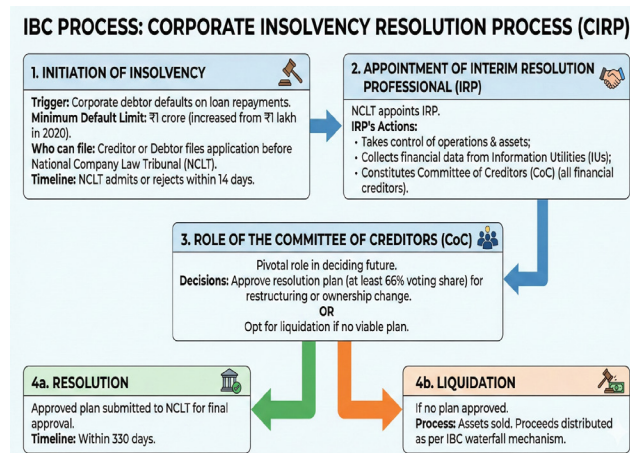
- Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, in its report 'Review of Working of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Emerging Issues', warned that **systemic inefficiencies and structural delays** are undermining **India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** effectiveness.

### About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

- It was enacted in 2016, at a time when **mounting non-performing assets (NPAs)** and **ineffective recovery mechanisms** — such as **SARFAESI, Lok Adalats, and Debt Recovery Tribunals** — were weakening the banking system.
- It **replaced the older debtor-in-possession model** like the **Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA)** with a **creditor-in-control approach**, ensuring that financial creditors lead the resolution process.

### Purpose and Objectives of the IBC

- The IBC serves as a **time-bound mechanism** to resolve insolvency and bankruptcy cases in a structured manner. Its key objectives, as outlined by the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, are:
  - ♦ **Resolution:** Revive viable businesses through restructuring or ownership change.
  - ♦ **Maximization of Asset Value:** Prevent further value erosion.
  - ♦ **Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Credit Flow:** Encourage risk-taking by providing an efficient exit mechanism.





### IBC's Achievements Since Its Enactment

- IBC has resolved **1,194 companies** through the **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**.
  - ♦ Creditors have recovered **over 170% of the liquidation value** and **93% of the fair value** of these companies, reflecting the Code's impact on financial discipline and creditor confidence.
- **Pre-Packaged Insolvency for MSMEs:** The IBC was **amended in 2021** to introduce the **Pre-Packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP)**, specifically for **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
  - ♦ It allows out-of-court settlements between debtors and creditors.
  - ♦ The debtor retains control of business operations.
  - ♦ Applicable to defaults **not exceeding ₹ 1 crore**.

### Concerns & Issues Highlighted in Parliamentary Standing Committee's Report

- **Slow Processes and Delayed Resolutions:** The report underscored that **slow admission of insolvency applications** has become a major barrier to quick value realisation, resulting in asset deterioration.
  - ♦ The average duration for completing CIRP stands at **713 days**, more than **double the mandated 330 days** under the Code.
- **Key Reasons Behind the Delays:** The Committee attributed the delay in resolution to several structural issues:
  - **Shortage of NCLT benches and vacant judicial positions.**
  - **Administrative staff gaps** hampering tribunal efficiency.
  - **Frequent and frivolous litigation**, often initiated by promoters or unsuccessful bidders, eroding asset value.
- **Concerns Over Low Recovery Rates:** The **overall recovery** remains at **32.8% of admitted claims**, revealing a substantial shortfall, while creditors recover **about 170% of liquidation value**.
  - ♦ According to the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, the average recovery rate has dropped to around 32% from over 43% in 2019.
  - ♦ It is largely due to companies entering the IBC process **too late**, when their assets are already heavily stressed.

- **Issues in Asset Valuation and Resolution:** The Committee found that asset valuation often reflects **liquidation potential** rather than **enterprise value**, leading to lower recovery.
  - ♦ It cited concerns about a **limited pool of quality resolution applicants** and a **lack of transparency and accountability** in the valuation process.
- **Excessive Haircuts:** Creditors face massive losses in many cases. Average **haircut** is **80%** of claims in over **70% of cases**.
  - ♦ Example: **Videocon Group** resolution saw a **95.3% haircut**, meaning creditors recovered less than 5% of their dues.
- **Capacity Constraints:** The NCLT and the IBBI are under-resourced. The committee emphasized the need for more benches, better infrastructure, and enhanced training for insolvency professionals.

### Recommendations to Improve Efficiency

- **Expedite establishment of additional NCLT benches** to reduce case backlogs.
  - ♦ NCLT should admit insolvency cases within **30 days**.
- **Accelerate operationalisation of the Integrated Technology Platform (iPIE)** for centralised digital case management.
- **Introduce deterrents for frivolous appeals**, including:
  - ♦ **Mandatory upfront deposits** by unsuccessful resolution applicants filing appeals.
  - ♦ Substantially **increased penalties** for vexatious or frivolous applications.
- **Strengthening Institutional and Judicial Capacity:** Expanding the NCLT's bench strength and improving case management systems to expedite admissions and hearings.
  - ♦ Address **50% vacancy** in NCLT benches and recruit proactively.
- **Pre-Pack Framework for All Sectors:** Encouraging the use of pre-packaged insolvency resolutions beyond MSMEs to reduce litigation and improve efficiency.
- **Improved Monitoring and Transparency:** Enhancing oversight of resolution professionals and Committee of Creditors (CoC) to ensure fair and transparent decision-making.
  - ♦ Specialized **IBC Benches** can handle insolvency cases efficiently.
- **Revised Haircut Metrics:** IBBI suggests measuring haircuts based on **actual asset value at entry**, not on the original loan value, to present a more realistic picture of recoveries.

- **Data-Driven Oversight:** Leveraging technology and data analytics to monitor delays, identify bottlenecks, and improve accountability.

Source: TH

## R&D ROADMAP FOR CCUS TO ACHIEVE INDIA'S NET-ZERO TARGETS LAUNCHED

### Context

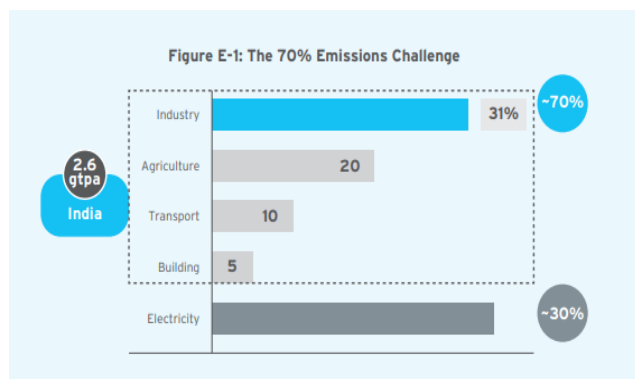
- The first of its kind R&D Roadmap to Enable **India's Net Zero Targets through Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)** was launched.

### About

- It is prepared by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- The roadmap highlights the need for **supportive frameworks**—including skilled human capital, regulatory and safety standards, and early-shared infrastructure.
- It also **provides strategic guidance on thematic priorities and funding pathways** needed to accelerate CCUS development.

### India's Emissions

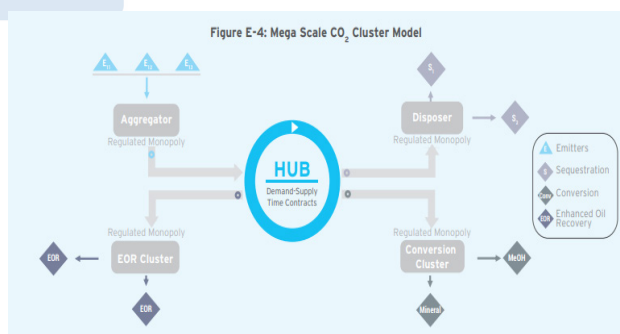
- India is the **3rd largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>** in the world after China and the US, with estimated annual emissions of about 2.6 gigatonne per annum (gtpa).
- The Government of India has committed to **reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50%** by 2050 and reaching **net zero by 2070**.
- Even though **renewable energy growth is strong**, power sector emissions are only one third of total emissions; **the rest are from “hard-to-abate” industrial and process sectors**.
  - ♦ India **still depends heavily on fossil energy** (coal, oil, gas) to meet industrial and baseload energy needs — phasing them out will take time.



- Hence, to meet long-term climate goals (e.g. net-zero by 2070), **merely scaling renewables isn't enough:** carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) becomes crucial.

### What is CCUS & How can it Help?

- **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS):** Capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from industrial plants/power plants or emission sources; then either using the CO<sub>2</sub> (utilization) or storing it permanently (storage, e.g. geological storage).
- **Utilization Pathways Envisaged:** Converting CO<sub>2</sub> into value-added products — such as green urea (fertilizer), building materials (concrete, aggregates), chemicals (methanol, ethanol), polymers/bioplastics, aggregates for construction, etc.
  - ♦ Also, CO<sub>2</sub> could be used for enhanced oil recovery (EOR).
- **For Storage:** India potentially has very large CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity — report estimates up to 600 gigatonnes (Gt) of storage capacity across geological formations, giving sufficient headroom for large-scale CCUS deployment.
- **The report advocates a “cluster model”:** Creating CCUS hubs/clusters where multiple industrial plants capture CO<sub>2</sub>, and share common transport and storage infrastructure. This can improve economies of scale and cost-effectiveness.



### Sectors and Emissions Sources Priority for CCUS in India

- Steel and iron manufacturing.
- Cement production.
- Petrochemicals, oil & gas, fertilisers and chemical industries.
- Fossil-fuel power generation (especially coal-based thermal plants) — to manage baseload power demand while reducing emissions.
- These sectors are emission-intensive and not easily replaced by renewables or electrification alone.

### Projection For India's Future with CCUS

- The report estimates that India could potentially capture **up to ~750 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050 via CCUS.**
- It argues that **widespread CCUS adoption could also contribute to** economic growth, self-reliance (less import dependence), industrial competitiveness, and a circular carbon economy by turning waste CO<sub>2</sub> into useful products.
- **Potential for Job Creation:** Large-scale CCUS deployment could generate significant employment (full-time equivalent jobs) over time.
- CCUS is positioned as a **key enabler for India to meet its climate commitments** (like installing non-fossil capacity, reducing emission intensity, and eventual net-zero by 2070) without sacrificing industrial growth or baseload power needs.

### Key policy Recommendations

- **Suggests public-private partnerships**, financing mechanisms (possibly via clean-energy cess, bonds, government support), and frameworks to manage large infrastructure (transport pipelines for CO<sub>2</sub>, storage sites, monitoring).
- **Promotes the idea of CCUS clusters/hubs region-wise** — leveraging shared infrastructure (capture, transport, storage) to reduce costs and improve feasibility.
- **Encourages value-added utilisation of captured CO<sub>2</sub>** (not just storage) to create economic value e.g. building materials, chemicals, fertilizers, etc. This helps integrate CCUS into a circular carbon economy.

### Conclusion

- The CCUS Report smartly acknowledges India's dual challenge: need for rapid industrial & economic growth, and imperative to decarbonize.
- CCUS offers a pragmatic, transitional tool helping decarbonize "hard" sectors and coal-based power over the medium-to-long term, while renewable deployment and clean alternatives scale up.
- If India pushes CCUS along with supportive policy, financing, and value-added CO<sub>2</sub> utilization, it could emerge as a major strategy for a circular carbon economy.

Source: PIB

## NEWS IN SHORT

### WHO BACKS USE OF GLP-1 DRUGS FOR WEIGHT LOSS

#### In News

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its first guideline on the use of **Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) therapies** for treating obesity.
  - ♦ The WHO added GLP-1 therapies to its **Essential Medicines List** for managing type 2 diabetes in high-risk groups.

#### GLP-1 therapies

- GLP-1 therapies (glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists) are a class of medications that **mimic the natural GLP-1 hormone**, which helps regulate **blood sugar and appetite.**
- They were originally used for **managing type 2 diabetes**, but are now also approved for **treating obesity and weight loss.**
- **Some GLP-1 drugs (liraglutide, semaglutide and tirzepatide)** lower the risk of heart attack, stroke, and heart failure, and reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes, kidney and liver disease among other outcomes.
- However, the global demand for GLP-1 therapies has fueled the spread of falsified and substandard products, threatening patient safety and trust.

#### Obesity

- It is a chronic complex disease defined by excessive fat deposits that can impair health.
- It can lead to increased risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease, it can affect bone health and reproduction.
- It increases the risk of certain cancers and influences the quality of living, such as sleeping or moving.
- It is a chronic disease affecting over **1 billion people and causing 3.7 million deaths in 2024.**
- Obesity rates are **rising rapidly and could double by 2030**, with global economic costs projected to reach US\$3 trillion annually.
  - ♦ As per NFHS-5, 24% of Indian women and 23% of Indian men are obese.

Source :TH



## SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME

### In News

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan reiterated that States must meet the Samagra Shiksha scheme's conditions to receive Central funds.

### Samagra Shiksha

- The Department of School Education and Literacy has implemented an Integrated **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for School Education-Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19
- It is an integrated centrally sponsored programme to provide equitable, inclusive, and quality education from **pre-school to class 12**.
- It supports States and UTs through interventions such as composite school grants, libraries, sports, free uniforms and textbooks, ICT initiatives, remedial teaching, and leadership development.
- Financial assistance is extended for expanding access, including Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, and hostels under PM-JANMAN, with special provisions for children with disabilities (aids, Braille kits, stipends, etc.).

### Importance

- The scheme is aligned with NEP 2020, focusing on new curricular structures, Early Childhood Care and Education, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, competency-based learning, and improved student assessment to enhance overall quality of education.

Source :TH

## INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

### Context

- Academics held demonstrations in Kolkata to protest a Central government plan to repeal the **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Act, 1959** and replace it with a Bill.
  - It will significantly alter the functioning of the institute "severely stripping it of its academic autonomy".

### About

- The **Indian Statistical Institute** was founded by **Professor P.C. Mahalanobis** in **Kolkata on 17th December, 1931**.
- The institute gained the **status of an Institution of National Importance** by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1959.

- It is **headquartered in Kolkata** with centres in **Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, and Tezpur**.
  - The institute offers courses including those in statistics and math, and has several research divisions.
- Its highest decision-making body is the 33-member council** — including an elected chairman, six representatives of the Centre, scientists not employed at the institute, a representative of the University Grants Commission, and ex-officio members including the director and heads of academic divisions and centres.
- Some of India's leading **statisticians, mathematicians, and economists** have been on its faculty, and its training programs enjoy worldwide repute.

Source: TH

## MALARIA PARASITES CORKSCREW THEIR WAY THROUGH SKIN

### Context

- A recent Nature Physics study reveals that malaria sporozoites, the infectious forms injected by mosquitoes, move through human skin using **right-handed helical (corkscrew) paths**.
  - This corkscrew motion helps them **travel long distances** in a noisy biological environment to locate a blood capillary leading to the liver.

### What is Malaria?

- Malaria** is a life-threatening disease spread to humans by some types of mosquitoes. It is mostly found in tropical countries.
- Transmission:** It is caused by **plasmodium protozoa**. The plasmodium parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.
- Types of parasites:** There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – **P. falciparum** and **P. vivax** – pose the greatest threat. The other malaria species which can infect humans are **P. malariae, P. ovale** and **P. knowlesi**.
  - P. falciparum** is the **deadliest malaria parasite** and the most prevalent on the African continent. **P. vivax** is the dominant malaria parasite in most countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Symptoms:** Fever and flu-like illness, including chills, headache, muscle ache and fatigue.

Source: TH

## PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME

### Context

- The PM Internship Scheme's pilot project has exceeded its target of providing **1.25 lakh internship opportunities** in a year but **only one in five** candidates accepted PM Internship Scheme offers, and **20% of them quit early**.
  - ♦ Candidates cited locations, roles, and duration as reasons for declining offers.

### PM Internship Scheme

- **Announced in:** Union Budget 2024-25.
- **Aim:** To provide 12-month internships for one crore candidates in the age group of 21 to 24 years, for five years.
  - ♦ To provide real-life work experience to job seekers in top companies.
- **Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Vacancies:** 1,25,000 positions in 500 top companies for FY - 2024-25.
- **The top companies** have been identified based on the average Corporate Social Responsibility expenditure of the last three years.
  - ♦ Participation of the companies in the scheme is **voluntary**.
- **Eligibility:**
  - ♦ Do not have a family member earning over ₹ 8 lakh per annum.
  - ♦ 18 to 24 years (relaxation for OBC/SC/ST).
  - ♦ ITI: Matriculation + ITI in relevant trade.
  - ♦ Diploma: Intermediate + AICTE-recognized diploma.
  - ♦ Degree: Bachelor's degree from UGC/AICTE-recognized university.
- **Stipended:**
  - ♦ ₹5,000 monthly stipend.
  - ♦ One-time payment of ₹ 6,000.

Source: TH

## NUMALIGARH REFINERY LIMITED (NRL) GETS NAVRATNA STATUS

### Context

- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) has been accorded '**Navratna**' status.

- It becomes the **27th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** to be accorded the status.

### About

- **The 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity** petroleum refinery is situated at Numaligarh in Golaghat district of **Assam**.
- It had an **annual turnover of ₹ 25,147 crores**, housing net profits of ₹ 1,608 crores for FY 2024-25.
- India's central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) are classified into **three major categories - Miniratna, Navratna and Maharatna CPSEs**.
- The main **aim of assigning the "ratna" statuses** was to give **operational freedom and decision-making power to the state-run entities**.

### Classification

- **Miniratna Status:** CPSEs are put in two sub-categories under the Miniratna status - Miniratna-I and Miniratna - II.
  - ♦ **Category-I status:** CPSEs which reported profits in three consecutive years, have a pre-tax profit of ₹ 30 crore or more in at least one of the three years, and have a positive net worth are classified as a Miniratna-I PSU.
  - ♦ **Category-II status:** PSUs with a profit for the last three successive years and have a positive net worth are classified as Miniratna-II companies.
- **Navratna status:** PSUs that have a Miniratna-I status and have obtained an "Excellent" or "Very Good" MoU rating in three out of the last five years and have a composite score of 60 or more in six selected performance indicators are eligible.
- **Maharatna status:** A PSU is eligible for being granted a "Maharatna" status, in case it meets the following criteria:
  - ♦ Should have a "Navratna" status
  - ♦ Should be listed on the Indian stock exchanges
  - ♦ Should be compliant with minimum shareholding norms
  - ♦ Average annual turnover of more than ₹ 25,000 crore and average annual net worth of over ₹ 15,000 crore in the last three years
  - ♦ Average annual net profit of over ₹ 5,000 crore in the last three years along with significant global presence.
  - ♦ BHEL, BPCL, Coal India, GAIL, HPCL, Indian Oil, NTPC, ONGC are some of the Maharatna PSUs.

Source: TH

## INDIAN NAVY DAY

### Context

- Navy Day is celebrated on the 4th of December every year to recognise the achievements and role of the Indian Navy.

### About

- It was on this day in 1971, during **Operation Trident**, that the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar.
- This year, the Navy Day is being celebrated with a spectacular Operational Demonstration at **Shangumugham beach** in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

### Do you know?

- The Indian Navy operates as a modern blue-water force with over **67,000 personnel** and about **150 ships and submarines**.
- Before **1972**, Navy Day shifted **multiple times**, first observed on the Royal Navy's Trafalgar Day (October 21), then on 1 December, and later on 15 December.

Source: AIR

## STATE OF THE WORLD'S LAND AND WATER RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SOLAW 2025)

### In News

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations recently released The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW 2025).

### The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW)

- It is FAO's flagship report on land and water management, aimed at promoting sustainable use to achieve food security and rural development.
- First published in 2011, it bridges scientific knowledge with communication and outreach to guide coherent national and international policymaking.
- By examining trends in sustainable land, soil, and water management at the landscape level, SOLAW strengthens FAO's work on natural resource management.

### Latest Findings

- The report warns that agriculture must produce 50% more food by 2050 to meet global demand,

but this will intensify pressure on already strained land, soil, and water resources.

- Since 1964, production has tripled mainly through intensification—higher-yield crops, irrigation, and technology—while farmland expanded only 8%.
- Agriculture now covers one-third of Earth's land and uses 72% of global freshwater, leading to water scarcity, groundwater overuse, and degradation of over 1.6 billion hectares of land, much of it farmland.
- This cycle of degraded soils, declining water, and deforestation is undermining agriculture's foundations and weakening food system resilience.

### Suggestions

- The report stresses that expansion is no longer viable; future gains must come from sustainable intensification—closing yield gaps, diversifying into resilient crops, and adopting resource-efficient, locally tailored practices.
- Integrated systems such as agroforestry, rotational grazing, forage improvement, and rice-fish farming are highlighted as pathways to feed up to 10.3 billion people by 2085 while safeguarding ecosystems.

Source :DTE

## DR RAJENDRA PRASAD

### Context

- The President of India, paid tributes to Dr Rajendra Prasad, the **first President of India**, on his birth anniversary.

### Early Life and Education

- Birth:** He was born in **1884** in the Siwan district of **Bihar**.
- Education:** He joined Presidency College, Calcutta, where he pursued his undergraduate studies. In **1915**, he completed his **Master of Law (LLM)** with Honours.

### Role in the Freedom Movement

- Champaran Satyagraha (1917):** Gandhiji's call brought him to **Champaran**. This marked a turning point, inspiring him towards national service.



- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22):** Gave up his successful law practice and founded the **National College in Patna (1921)**.
  - ♦ Stood firmly with Gandhiji after the **Chauri Chaura** incident.
- **Salt Satyagraha (1930):** Led the Salt Satyagraha in Bihar at **Patna's Nakhas Ponds**, where volunteers made salt and courted arrest.
- **Congress President:** He presided over the Bombay session of the INC in **1934**. Following the resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose as the President of the Congress in **1939**, He was elected as President.
  - ♦ In July 1946, when the **Constituent Assembly** was established to frame the Constitution of India, he was elected its **President**.
- He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1962** for his exemplary service.

#### **Committees of Constituent Assembly chaired by Rajendra Prasad**

- Committee on the Rules of Procedure
- Steering Committee
- Finance and Staff Committee
- Ad hoc Committee on the National Flag

#### **Literary Contributions**

- He documented his experiences and political insights in several influential works:
  - ♦ Satyagraha at Champaran (1922)
  - ♦ India Divided (1946)
  - ♦ Atmakatha (1946)
  - ♦ Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences (1949)
  - ♦ Babu Ke Kadmon Mein (1954)

Source: PIB

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