

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## INDIA'S NEW DEPORTATION POLICY

### In News

- Recently, the new deportation policy was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### What is Deportation?

- It is a **formal legal** process where foreigners suspected of **staying illegally in India** are detained, tried in court, and deported only after all legal steps are completed and their identity is confirmed with their home country.
  - ♦ **Pushbacks are informal and not legally** defined actions carried out at borders, where security forces may immediately send a foreigner back depending on circumstances or discretion.
- Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, an “**illegal migrant**” is defined as a foreigner who either entered India without valid travel documents, or entered legally but remained beyond the permitted period.
- Since citizenship matters fall under the Union List, the **Ministry of Home Affairs oversees deportation** and delegates responsibilities to state authorities.

### Key Features of the New Policy

- **30-Day Verification Deadline:** States and UTs must verify the credentials of suspected illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar within 30 days; failure to complete verification within this period results in automatic deportation proceedings. **District-Level STFs:** All state governments and UT administrations must set up a Special Task Force in each district under police supervision to detect, identify, and deport illegal immigrants, along with adequate holding centres in each district to detain individuals pending deportation.
- **Biometric & Demographic Data:** Once identified, the state government must immediately collect the biometric and demographic information of the individual and upload it to the Foreigners' Identification Portal.
- **Monthly Reporting:** All states and UTs must maintain records of individuals handed over to border forces and the Coast Guard, and mandatorily share reports with the Centre on the 15th of every month.

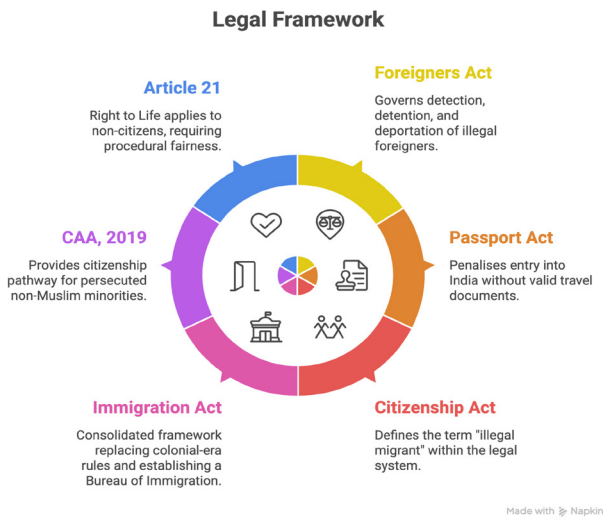
- **Data Sharing:** The Bureau of Immigration has been directed to publish a list of deportees on a public portal; this data will also be shared with UIDAI, the Election Commission, and MEA to prevent future issuance of Aadhaar IDs, voter cards, or passports to deported individuals.

### Challenges Created by Illegal Migrants

- **National Security Threat:** Illegal migrants particularly Rohingyas have been flagged in Supreme Court affidavits as having links to militant networks.
- **Demographic Pressure:** Large-scale undocumented influx particularly in border states like Assam, West Bengal, and Jharkhand alters local demographic composition, creating socio-political tensions with indigenous and tribal communities.
- **Strain on Public Resources:** Illegal migrants access subsidised food (PDS), healthcare, and housing placing undue burden on welfare systems meant exclusively for Indian citizens.
- **Electoral Integrity Concerns:** Possession of voter IDs by non-citizens raises serious questions about the sanctity of electoral rolls particularly in constituencies with high migrant concentrations along the Indo-Bangladesh border belt.
- **Law & Order:** Several high-profile crime cases and riots involved illegal migrants nationals, intensifying public concerns about crime and internal security.
- **Pressure on Urban Infrastructure:** Illegal migrants concentrated in metro cities add to slum proliferation, sanitation stress, and urban governance challenges.

### Challenges in Deportation

- **Statelessness Risk:** Deportees, especially Rohingyas may face the risk of being rendered stateless, as Myanmar does not recognise them as citizens.
- **Wrongful Detention:** Activists and rights groups have raised concerns over arbitrary detention, inadequate verification of citizenship documents, and mistreatment in custody.
- **Non-Refoulement Gap:** India is **not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention** yet international customary law prohibits returning individuals to places where they face persecution.



### Way Forward

- **Enact a Domestic Refugee Law:** Distinguish between genuine asylum seekers and illegal economic migrants; align with international humanitarian norms without formally ratifying the 1951 Convention.
- **Bilateral Repatriation Agreements:** Negotiate structured, time-bound repatriation frameworks with Bangladesh and Myanmar to ensure legally compliant and dignified returns.
- **Reform Foreigners Tribunals:** Standardise functioning with trained adjudicators, transparent procedures, and time-bound decisions — reducing the risk of wrongful classification.
- **Technology with Due Process:** Use biometric databases and the Foreigners Identification Portal to improve identification accuracy while guaranteeing minimum procedural safeguards under Article 21.

Source: TH

## DIGITAL PIRACY & LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

### Context

- Recently, the Vijay-starrer *Jana Nayagan* was leaked online in **high quality before theatrical release**, indicating **insider involvement or mishandling of authorised access**.

### About Piracy

- It refers to the **unauthorised use, reproduction, distribution, or sale of copyrighted material** such as films, music, software, books, and digital content.

- It is essentially a form of **copyright infringement**, and occurs when intellectual property is used **without permission of the rights holder**.

### Types of Piracy

- **Physical Piracy:** Illegal copying on CDs, DVDs, USB drives; common before the digital era.
- **Digital Piracy:** Downloading/streaming via torrent websites; telegram channels; and cloud links; most prevalent today.
  - ♦ It has expanded due to **internet penetration and low-cost data access**.
- **Film Piracy:** Camcording in theatres; leaks from OTT or production sources; and pre-release leaks (e.g., insider leaks).
- **Software Piracy:** Illegal copying of software programs; includes cracked versions and key generators.
- **Book/Academic Piracy:** Photocopying textbooks; and distribution of pirated PDFs (e.g., shadow libraries).

### Nature and Trends of Film Piracy in India

- India is among the **largest consumers of pirated content globally**. Piracy has shifted from **physical formats (CD/DVD)** to **digital ecosystems** like torrent, Telegram, cloud sharing.
- High-quality leaks often originate from OTT platforms (DRM bypass), and internal supply chains.
- Piracy ecosystems are **highly adaptive, decentralised, and technologically sophisticated**, making regulation difficult.

### Legal Framework in India

- **Copyright Act, 1957:** It governs protection of **cinematographic works**. It recognises **producers as first owners of copyright**. Key provisions include:
  - ♦ Section 63: Imprisonment up to 3 years and fine up to ₹2 lakh.
  - ♦ Section 63A: Enhanced penalties for repeat offences.
- **Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023:** It aims to address **camcording and pre-release leaks**. It introduced anti-piracy provisions like:
  - ♦ Criminalises **unauthorised recording/transmission**.
  - ♦ Penalty: **Up to 5% of production cost**.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000:** It enables blocking of pirated websites, and intermediary liability for hosting infringing content.

- **Judicial Mechanisms:**
  - ♦ **John Doe Orders:** Pre-emptive injunctions.
  - ♦ **Dynamic Injunctions:** Continuous blocking of piracy links.

#### Related Efforts & Initiatives

- **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting:** Oversees certification and anti-piracy awareness.
- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT):** Handles IPR policy and enforcement.
- **National IPR Policy, 2016:** Emphasises **strong enforcement and awareness generation**.
- **Cyber Crime Units (MHA):** Track online piracy networks.

#### Anti-Piracy Measures by Film Industry

- **Preventive Mechanisms:** **Restricted access** (encrypted hard drives for theatres); **Digital Rights Management (DRM); and watermarking (visible/invisible)** to trace leaks.
- **Post-Leak Measures:** Takedown notices to platforms; engagement with **anti-piracy firms (e.g., AiPlex); and court-ordered blocking of URLs.**

#### Key Challenges in Tackling Film Piracy

- **Weak Enforcement:** Low conviction rates; overburdened judiciary; and limited specialised IPR courts.
  - ♦ Judicial backlog and criminalisation issues weaken enforcement.
- **Technological Complexity:** Use of VPNs, torrents, encrypted messaging apps; and frequent domain shifting by piracy websites.
- **Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** Insider leaks, and multiple access points (editors, distributors, OTT platforms).
- **Consumer Behaviour:** High demand for **free/cheap content**; and low awareness of legal consequences.
  - ♦ Piracy persists due to **cultural acceptance and affordability issues.**

#### Way Forward

- **Strengthening Enforcement:** Need to establish **specialised IPR courts**; and faster investigation and prosecution.
- **Technological Measures:** Advanced DRM and **forensic watermarking**; and AI-based piracy detection.

- **Institutional Coordination:** Better synergy between MIB, DPIIT, Cyber Crime Units.
- **Public Awareness:** Campaigns on legal consequences, and ethical consumption.
- **Industry Reforms:** Tightening **access control systems**, and limiting pre-release exposure.

Source: TH

## INDIA'S FOOD WASTE PARADOX

### Context

- According to the United Nations Environment Programme, India wastes **78–80 million tonnes** of food annually, **valued at ₹1.55 lakh crore**, making it the **second-largest** food waste globally.

### Status of food wastage in India

- **As per UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024**, the estimated food wastage in India in 2022 is 55 kg/capita/year in India, lower than the global average of 79 kg/capita/year.
- **Concern:** India ranks **102 out of 123** countries in the **Global Hunger Index 2025**.
  - ♦ Around **12%** of India's population is **undernourished**, which is approximately **~170–175 million** people.
- Globally **1.05 billion tonnes** of food is wasted each year. Around **60%** of food waste occurs at the household level, followed by **food services (28%) and retail (12%)**.

### Key Drivers of Food Waste in India

- **Post-Harvest Losses:** Lack of scientific storage, grading, and packaging leads to significant losses.
- **Storage Infrastructure:** The absence of sufficient modern storage facilities leads to spoilage of food grains stored in traditional warehouses.
- **Supply Chain Inefficiencies:** Inefficient logistics, multiple intermediaries, and delays in transportation contribute significantly to food spoilage.
  - ♦ The **absence of integrated supply chains** leads to mismatches between supply and demand.
- **Social Practices:** Food wastage at weddings, social gatherings, and households is driven by over-preparation and lack of awareness.

### Government Initiatives to Reduce Food Waste

- **Food Security and Distribution:** The **Public Distribution System** ensures the distribution of subsidised food grains to vulnerable populations.

- ♦ The **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** has expanded food access during times of crisis and economic distress.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):** Provides medium-to-long-term debt financing for post-harvest management projects, including warehouses, silos, and cold storage.
- **The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana** aimed at creating modern infrastructure for food processing and preservation.
  - ♦ **Mega Food Parks:** Clusters that link agricultural production to markets through high-tech supply chains.
  - ♦ **Integrated Cold Chain:** Providing preservation facilities like refrigerated transport and cold storage to reduce spoilage of perishables.
- ♦ **Operation Greens:** Focused on stabilizing the supply and reducing waste of crops like Tomato, Onion, and Potato (TOP).
- **Market Reforms:** The **e-NAM** facilitates better price discovery and reduces inefficiencies in agricultural markets.

### Key Challenges in Reducing Food Waste

- India lacks a comprehensive national database to **track food waste across sectors.**
- The **cold chain infrastructure remains inadequate**, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.
- There is **no strong legal framework** mandating the redistribution of surplus food.
- **Behavioral and cultural factors** continue to encourage food wastage in social settings.

### Global Best Practices

## Action at scale is possible!

### Japan: 31% reduction

- Mandatory reporting of food waste from large businesses
- Industry reduction targets
- Effective animal feed diversion
- Public awareness ('No-foodloss')



See: <https://www.moff.go.jp/e/policies/env/recycle.html>

Per capita, 2008-2020, household, food service and retail.

### Netherlands: Reductions of 23% at consumer & 17% retail level

- A national consumer activation campaign with 150 partners (public and private). "Food waste free week" organized annually.
- Food Waste Free United Foundation - voluntary agreement initiated by the Dutch government, Wageningen University & Research (WUR), the Dutch Nutrition Centre and 25 private sector organisations in 2017.

### United Kingdom: 18% reduction

- Voluntary reporting and engagement through *Courtauld Commitment* Public-Private Partnership – **retail 26% reduction**  
**Manufacturers 34%**
- Product- and sector-specific best practice guidance
- Redistribution working group
- Public awareness ('Love Food, Hate Waste')



See: <https://wrap.org.uk/haking-action/food>

Per capita, 2007-2021, household, food service, retail, manufacture



### Way Ahead

- Food waste in India highlights **systemic inefficiencies in production, distribution, and consumption**, even as hunger persists.
- Addressing this issue is essential for **improving food security, resource efficiency, and sustainability.**
- It is also critical for achieving **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** and **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, making food waste reduction a key developmental priority.

Source: TH

## INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN INDIA'S MANUFACTURING HUBS

### Context

- The recent violent protests in Noida have highlighted a growing wave of labour unrest across India's industrial belts, including Manesar, Surat, Panipat, and Barauni.

### Nature and Spread of Protests

- The protests have involved **large-scale mobilisation of workers** across multiple industrial sectors, including **textiles, automobiles, refineries, and electronics**, across several industrial clusters in **North and Western India.**

- Initially began as peaceful demonstrations, it **gradually escalated into violent incidents** involving arson, vandalism, and clashes with law enforcement authorities.

### Underlying Causes of Labour Unrest

- Wage Stagnation:** Workers anticipated wage increases following implementation of labour reforms. However, expected benefits have not materialised on the ground, leading to frustration.
- Informalisation and Contractualisation:** A large proportion of industrial workers are employed on contractual terms causing **lack of job security, lower wages compared to permanent workers** and limited access to social protection.
  - This has **created a dual labour market structure**, increasing inequality within the workforce.
- Spillover Effect:** Protests in one industrial hub influenced others, especially between **Manesar and Noida**, indicates growing networked labour consciousness.
- Rising Cost of Living:** Global disruptions, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, have led to increased fuel and LPG prices and higher cost of essential commodities affecting migrant workers disproportionately.
- Uneven Minimum Wage Revisions:** Wage revisions have been infrequent and uneven across states. **Example:** Haryana revised wages after nearly a decade.
  - This has triggered comparative grievances among workers in neighbouring regions.

### Implications of the Unrest

- Economic Implications:** The unrest has disrupted industrial production and affected supply chains in key manufacturing sectors.
  - The instability may **adversely impact investor confidence** and India's position as a reliable manufacturing destination.
- Social Implications:** The unrest reflects growing economic insecurity among migrant and informal workers.
  - The situation may lead to **reverse migration and increased urban distress** among vulnerable populations.
- Governance Implications:** The protests highlight **gaps in** the implementation of labour laws and the effectiveness of **dispute resolution mechanisms**.

### Measures taken by Government for Workers Welfare

- The Government has introduced the **National Floor Minimum Wage**, which acts as a benchmark for states to set their minimum wages, reducing extreme wage disparities.
- The Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** provides unemployment relief and financial assistance to insured workers during job loss.
- The Government has launched the **e-Shram Portal** to create a national database of unorganised workers, enabling targeted delivery of welfare schemes.
- India's Labour Codes:** India has consolidated **29 labour laws** into four comprehensive labour codes to simplify regulations and improve labour market efficiency.
  - The Code on Wages, 2019** aims to standardise wage regulation through the introduction of a National Floor Wage.
  - The Industrial Relations Code, 2020** regulates trade unions, industrial disputes, layoffs and retrenchment.
  - The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** seeks to unify workplace safety and health standards.
  - The Code on Social Security, 2020** expands social security coverage to workers in both organised and unorganised sectors, including gig workers.

### Way Ahead

- Tripartite dialogue mechanisms** involving government, employers, and workers should be strengthened to prevent conflicts.
- The government should establish a **time-bound and inflation-indexed minimum wage revision mechanism** to ensure that workers' real incomes are protected against rising cost of living.
- The **effective implementation of labour reforms** such as the Code on Wages and the Code on Social Security should be prioritised to ensure that the intended benefits reach workers on the ground.
- The coverage of social security schemes** such as provident fund and health insurance should be expanded to include contractual and migrant workers.

Source: IE

## NEWS IN SHORT

### BRICS AND QUAD GROUPINGS

#### In News

- India is going to host major diplomatic meetings including the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting and the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting.

#### About BRICS

- History** : BRIC was formally launched at a Foreign Ministers' meeting during the UN General Assembly in New York in 2006, with its first summit held in Russia in 2009.
  - In 2010, South Africa was added, expanding the group to BRICS and joining its first summit in 2011.
- It brings together eleven major emerging markets and developing countries of the world.
- Members**: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and United Arab Emirates.
  - In 2025, several countries—including Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam—joined as BRICS partner countries.
- Purpose**: It serves as a useful platform for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues having global as well as regional significance, and issues of global political and economic governance.
- Pillars of Cooperation** :



- The **BRICS meeting** will be especially significant as it will bring together officials from Iran and the UAE face-to-face for the first time since the recent Iran-U.S.-Israel conflict began. India currently chairs BRICS, and the summit of leaders is expected in September 2026.

#### Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

- It is an informal strategic grouping of India, the US, Japan, and Australia aimed at supporting a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- Origin** : It began after the 2004 tsunami as a disaster relief coordination effort and was later formalised in 2007 by Japan's then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
  - However, it lost momentum due to limited cohesion and concerns it was anti-China.

- The grouping was revived in 2017 with broader goals beyond maritime security.
- Secretariat** : Unlike organisations such as NATO or the EU, the Quad has no secretariat or formal decision-making structure and does not include mutual defence commitments.

#### Various Developments linked to Quad

- Malabar naval exercises** : Quad cooperation deepened in 2020 when Australia joined the **Malabar naval exercises** with the other three members, marking renewed military collaboration.
- In 2021, Quad leaders held a virtual summit and issued "The Spirit of the Quad," outlining shared principles and objectives.
- QUAD Cancer Moonshot**: The Cancer Moonshot is a joint effort to reduce cancer deaths in the Indo-Pacific, especially cervical cancer, by mobilising public and private resources.
  - As part of this, India will supply \$7.5 million worth of HPV vaccines, screening kits, and diagnostic tools to partner countries.
- QUAD critical minerals initiative**: The Critical Minerals Initiative aims to strengthen and diversify global supply chains for essential minerals.
  - It highlights concerns about overdependence on a single country for processing and refining, which could lead to economic coercion, price manipulation, and supply disruptions affecting economic and national security.

Source :TH

### CANCER-FIGHTING HERBS OF KONYAK NAGA TRIBE

#### Context

- A recent study by Nagaland University has identified the anti-cancer potential of traditional herbal medicine used by the **Konyak Naga tribe**.

#### About

- The researchers analysed a **five-plant polyherbal formulation** traditionally used by Konyak tribal healers.
- The study found that **bioactive compounds** present in the formulation effectively target **VEGFR2 (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor 2)**, which is a key protein responsible for tumour angiogenesis.
  - The inhibition of VEGFR2 can **restrict the formation of blood vessels in tumours**, thereby limiting cancer growth.

**Konyak Naga Tribe**

- Konyak Naga Tribe is one of the largest Naga tribes of Nagaland, inhabits mainly the **Mon district** of Nagaland.
- Konyaks were **historically known for the practice of headhunting**, which was linked to warrior status and prestige.
- **The traditional political system** is headed by hereditary chiefs known as **Anghs**.
- **Konyak language** belongs to the **Tibeto-Burman language family**.
- **The primary occupation** is **jhum (shifting cultivation)**.
- **Major festival: Aoleang Festival**, celebrated in April to mark the New Year and sowing season.

Source: DTE

**GLUFOSINATE****In News**

- The government has imposed a six-month restriction on imports of glufosinate and its salts, a herbicide used in farming.

**Glufosinate-ammonium**

- It is a herbicide used to control a broad range of weeds.
- It is highly water-soluble and has low potential to leach into groundwater.
- It is considered highly hazardous, with risks including neurotoxicity, reproductive harm, cardiovascular effects, and fetal damage
- Its volatile nature exposes farmers and nearby populations through inhalation and skin contact.

Source :ET

**HUBBLE TENSION****In Context**

- Recently, a global astronomical collaboration achieved a 1% precision measurement of the Universe's local expansion rate.

**Hubble Tension**

- The **Hubble tension** refers to the **persistent discrepancy** in measuring the expansion rate of the universe, known as the Hubble constant, which indicates how fast galaxies are moving away from each other.

- Two primary methods yield conflicting results.
  - ♦ One method is the **Cosmic Microwave Background(CMB)** approach, which studies the afterglow of the Big Bang. Analysis of temperature fluctuations in this radiation suggests an expansion rate of about **68 km/s per megaparsec**.
  - ♦ The other method is the **Cosmic Distance Ladder**, which uses nearby astronomical objects such as Cepheid variable stars and supernovae to calculate how fast they are moving away from the earth. This "local" measurement gives a higher value of about **73 km/s per megaparsec**.
- The difference between these values is termed the **Hubble tension**. It is significant because it may indicate unknown physical processes in the universe or possible systematic errors in measurement techniques, making its resolution crucial for improving our understanding of cosmology and the universe's evolution.

Source: TH

**FRAILTY****Context**

- A study published in the **journal Cell Stem Cell** highlights the potential of **stem cell therapy to treat frailty**.

**What is Frailty?**

- Frailty is a state of **accelerated biological ageing** marked by lower endurance and slower recovery.
- It is **not a single disease** with a single cause, rather it arises from the cumulative effects of chronic inflammation, muscle loss, vascular ageing, immune dysfunction, and long-term stress.
- Because there is no single molecular target, most medical research has focused on managing the consequences of frailty rather than reversing the condition itself.

**Do you know?**

- Frailty affects up to one in four people over the age of 50 worldwide. In India, where the population aged 60 and over is projected to rise to nearly 20% by 2050, the condition is likely widespread but rarely diagnosed.

Source: TH

