

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 27-05-2026

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## GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE BOARD RULES AND NATIONAL SPORTS TRIBUNAL RULES, 2026

### Context

- The Union Government has notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026** and the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026** under the provisions of the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**.

### Major Highlights

- **Aim:** To make sports administration more transparent, professional and digitally organised.
- **The National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026** provide for the composition of the Board, term of office of the Chairperson and Members, salary, allowances and other conditions of service.
  - ♦ **National Sports Board:** It shall consist of a Chairperson and two Members to be appointed by the Central Government from a panel of names recommended by the **Search-cum-Selection Committee**.
  - ♦ It will function as the **central authority** for granting recognition to National Sports Bodies and ensuring compliance with governance, financial and ethical standards.
- **The National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026** provide for the term of office of the Chairperson and Members of the Tribunal, their appointment and re-appointment process, salary and allowances, service conditions and powers of the Tribunal.
  - ♦ **Dedicated Portal:** It provides a dedicated portal for submission of disputes, notices, responses, documents and clarifications.
  - ♦ **The National Sports Tribunal** will serve as a dedicated adjudicatory body for sports-related disputes in the country.
  - ♦ It is aimed at reducing reliance on civil courts and ensuring independent, speedy, effective and cost-efficient disposal of disputes.
  - ♦ The NST members will have a fixed five-year term.

### The National Sports Governance Act, 2025

- The Act seeks to provide for **recognition of national sports bodies and regulate their functioning**.

- **National Sports Governing Bodies:** The Act provides for establishing: National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, and National and Regional Sports Federations for each designated sport.
  - ♦ These bodies will establish certain committees for their functioning, a code of ethics to govern conduct of persons, and a grievance redressal mechanism for complaints from such persons.
- **Administrative structure of national bodies:** Every national sports body will have a general body and an executive committee consisting of up to 15 members, with at least two outstanding sportspersons and four women.
  - ♦ Every national body will have a **President, a Secretary General, and a Treasurer**.
    - To be appointed a person must be a sportsperson of outstanding merit or must have served as a member of the executive committee for at least two full terms.
    - A person in these positions **cannot serve for more than three consecutive terms**.
- **National Sports Board:** NSB will grant recognition to the national sports bodies and register their affiliate units.
  - ♦ Only recognised bodies will be eligible to receive funds from the central government.
- **National Sports Tribunal:** It will consist of a chairperson who is a sitting or former Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court, and two members with experience in sports, public administration, and law.
  - ♦ A search-cum-selection committee will recommend appointments to the tribunal.
  - ♦ The tribunal will have powers of a civil court. Appeals against its decisions will lie before the Supreme Court, unless international rules require appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland.
- **Oversight of elections:** The central government will establish a national panel of electoral officers to oversee elections of national sports bodies.
  - ♦ Every national sports body must also constitute an electoral panel to oversee elections of its affiliates.
- **Powers of the central government:** The central government may exempt a national body or its affiliates from any or all provisions of the act, if necessary in public interest for promotion of that sport.

### Significance

- **Provides a Statutory Framework for Sports Governance:** The Act establishes a legally enforceable framework for regulating sports bodies, replacing the earlier system based mainly on executive guidelines and sports codes.
- **Enhances Transparency and Accountability:** It introduces transparent elections, financial audits, ethical standards, and accountability mechanisms to reduce corruption and mismanagement in sports federations.
- **Promotes Professional and Democratic Administration:** Provisions such as tenure limits, cooling-off periods, and inclusion of professionals help reduce concentration of power and improve institutional efficiency.
- **Strengthens Athlete Representation and Welfare:** The Act ensures greater participation of athletes in decision-making bodies and improves mechanisms for grievance redressal and athlete welfare.
- **Improves Dispute Resolution and Regulatory Oversight:** Specialized institutions and regulatory mechanisms help in faster settlement of disputes related to selections, governance, and disciplinary issues.
- **Supports India's Global Sporting Ambitions:** By aligning Indian sports governance with international standards, the Act can improve India's sporting performance, global credibility, and preparedness for major international events.
- The four nations also expanded the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative** and announced plans to develop a comprehensive Common Operating Picture (COP) to improve real-time maritime information sharing across the region.
- **Counter-terrorism cooperation:** Australia will host a **Quad Counterterrorism Tabletop Exercise in June 2026** focusing on state-sponsored terrorism threats and the misuse of unmanned aerial vehicles and emerging technologies.
- **Critical Minerals: Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework** was unveiled aimed at strengthening resilient and diversified supply chains for critical minerals through coordinated investments, mining, processing and recycling cooperation.
- **Energy Resilience: Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security** will focus on cooperation in energy technology, policy, market analysis and emergency response exercises.
- **Infrastructure Cooperation:** It announced plans to work with the Government of Fiji on port infrastructure development following discussions under the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership initiative.
- **Under the AI-ENGAGE initiative**, the Quad partners announced more than USD 6 million in funding for six international research projects focused on improving crop yields, pest management and food security using artificial intelligence, robotics and sensing technologies.

Source: PIB

## QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

### Context

- The Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the Secretary of State of the United States met in New Delhi, for the **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.

### Major Highlights

- The Quad partners launched the **first-ever Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC) initiative**.
  - ♦ The programme aims to **enhance maritime domain awareness and information sharing in the Indo-Pacific**, with an initial focus on the Indian Ocean Region through surveillance cooperation, expert exchanges and tabletop exercises.
- **India will host the next edition of the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission** to strengthen interoperability and coordination in addressing unlawful maritime activities.

### Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)

- It is an **informal multilateral grouping of India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan** aimed at cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific region.
- **Origin:** The Quad began as a loose partnership after the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami** when the four countries joined together to provide humanitarian and disaster assistance to the affected region.
  - ♦ It was formalized by former Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe in 2007**, but then fell dormant.

- After a decade it was **resurrected in 2017**, reflecting changing attitudes in the region toward China's growing influence.

### Strategic Significance of Quad

- **Act East policy:** India's participation in the Quad emphasizing deeper engagement with East Asian nations and strengthening maritime security cooperation.
- **Military cooperation:** It provides a platform for military cooperation, intelligence sharing, and joint exercises aimed at maintaining maritime security and ensuring the rule of law.
- **Counterbalancing China's Influence:** QUAD is crucial for India's interests in safeguarding its maritime trade routes and ensuring freedom of navigation in international waters.
- India has supported a **rule-based multipolar world** and QUAD can help it in achieving its ambition of becoming a regional superpower.

Source: DD

## SAFEGUARDING INDIA'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

### Context

- India's critical infrastructure is increasingly dependent on digital technologies which have improved efficiency but also increased vulnerabilities to cyberattacks and remote disruptions.

### What is Critical National Infrastructure?

- Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) refers to **assets, systems, networks and services whose disruption or destruction** can severely impact national security, economic stability, public safety and governance.
- **Critical infrastructure includes:**
  - ◆ Power generation and electricity transmission systems.
  - ◆ Oil refineries, fuel pipelines and LPG distribution networks.
  - ◆ Railway networks, airports and ports.
  - ◆ Banking and payment systems.
  - ◆ Telecommunications and internet infrastructure.
  - ◆ Water supply and sanitation systems.
  - ◆ Healthcare institutions and emergency services.
  - ◆ Defence installations and strategic assets.

### Importance of Critical Infrastructure Security

- **National Security:** Disruption of power grids, communication systems or fuel supply can weaken defence preparedness and internal security.
- **Economic Stability:** Critical infrastructure supports industrial production, logistics, banking and trade. Disruptions can severely affect economic growth.
- **Public Safety and Governance:** Breakdown of healthcare, transport or water supply systems can directly threaten citizens' lives and governance mechanisms.
- **Strategic Sovereignty:** Reliance on untrusted technologies may expose India to strategic vulnerabilities during geopolitical conflicts.

### Digital Transformation of Critical Infrastructure

- **Role of Automation and IoT:** Industrial systems increasingly use automation and remote monitoring technologies.
  - ◆ **IoT-enabled sensors collect real-time information** regarding pressure, temperature, fuel levels, traffic movement and industrial operations.
  - ◆ **AI and predictive analytics** help improve efficiency, maintenance and resource management.
- **Integration of SCADA Systems:** Earlier, many industrial systems operated through isolated SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems.
  - ◆ These systems are now increasingly connected to internet-based platforms for centralised control and predictive maintenance.
- **The IT-OT-IoT Convergence:** Modern infrastructure operates through the interaction of three major technological domains:
  - ◆ **Information Technology (IT):** IT systems manage data processing, software, communication networks and digital services.
  - ◆ **Operational Technology (OT):** OT systems control physical processes such as machinery, industrial plants, transportation systems and power grids.
  - ◆ **Internet of Things (IoT):** IoT connects physical devices and sensors to digital systems, enabling real-time data collection and remote operation of infrastructure.

### What are the Security Concerns?

- **Expansion of the Cyberattack Surface:** The increasing use of internet-connected devices has **expanded opportunities for cyberattacks**.
  - ♦ Vulnerabilities in **sensors, controllers and communication systems** can provide attackers access to critical infrastructure networks.
- **Risks from Imported Devices:** Many IoT devices used in critical infrastructure are imported from foreign manufacturers. These devices may contain;
  - ♦ Hidden vulnerabilities.
  - ♦ Unauthorised data-sharing mechanisms.
  - ♦ Malicious software or embedded backdoors.
- **Weak Procurement Practices:** Government departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) often rely on **template-based compliance checks** during procurement.
  - ♦ Tender conditions do not always insist on trusted indigenous technologies or detailed security audits.
- **Inadequate Security Certification:** Security certification mechanisms are not uniformly enforced for many IoT devices used in critical infrastructure.

### Global Incidents Highlighting Risks

- **Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack:** The ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline in the United States disrupted fuel supplies and demonstrated how cyberattacks on critical infrastructure can create large-scale economic and social disruption.
- **Attacks on Gas Station Monitoring Systems:** Recently, cyber intrusions targeting Automatic Tank Gauge (ATG) systems at gas stations in multiple U.S. states exposed vulnerabilities in internet-connected fuel monitoring infrastructure.

### India's Critical Infrastructure Protection Ecosystem

- **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In):** CERT-In functions as the national nodal agency for responding to cyber-security incidents. It issues alerts, advisories and security guidelines.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC):** NCIIPC is responsible for protecting critical information infrastructure in sectors such as energy, banking, telecom and transport.

- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra:** A botnet cleaning and malware analysis center that monitors networks and helps citizens and organizations safely remediate compromised devices.
- **Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC):** It conducts security testing and certification for electronic and digital devices.
  - ♦ It has recently strengthened testing mechanisms for surveillance cameras and related equipment.
- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):** The CISF provides physical security to critical infrastructure installations such as **airports, seaports, nuclear facilities, metro networks, power plants**, space establishments and major industrial complexes.

### Way Ahead

- **Strengthen Security Certification:** India should establish mandatory and rigorous certification mechanisms for all IoT devices used in critical infrastructure.
- **Promote Trusted Indigenous Technologies:** Government procurement should prioritise secure indigenous technologies under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Auditing:** Critical infrastructure systems should undergo regular vulnerability assessments, penetration testing and real-time monitoring.

Source: TH

## WHY IS THE INDIAN RUPEE FALLING?

### Context

- The Indian rupee has depreciated sharply against the U.S. dollar, with the rupee-dollar exchange rate rising from around 85 per dollar in 2025 to beyond 96 per dollar in 2026.

### What is the Exchange Rate?

- The exchange rate refers to the **value of one currency in comparison to another currency**. It determines how many units of domestic currency are required to purchase one unit of foreign currency.
  - ♦ In India, the rupee-dollar exchange rate indicates the number of rupees required to buy one U.S. dollar.
- Exchange rates are largely **determined by the demand and supply** of currencies in international markets.

### Why is the Indian Rupee Falling?

- **Persistent Trade Deficit:** India imports more goods than it exports, leading to a **persistent merchandise trade deficit**.
  - ♦ Indian importers **exchange rupees for dollars** to pay foreign suppliers, increasing demand for dollars. The increased demand for dollars weakens the rupee.
- **Rising Crude Oil Prices:** India imports a large share of its crude oil requirements from abroad and the rising global crude oil prices significantly increase India's import bill.
  - ♦ Higher oil imports increase dollar demand and **exert downward pressure on the rupee**.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** India consistently records a Current Account Deficit because imports exceed exports.
  - ♦ Although India earns **foreign exchange through software exports and remittances**, these inflows are often insufficient to offset the trade deficit fully.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) Outflows:** FPI includes investments in stocks and bonds by foreign investors.
  - ♦ FPI remains highly volatile because investors shift funds quickly based on global financial conditions.
- **Rising U.S. Interest Rates:** Higher interest rates in the United States attract global investors towards U.S. financial assets.
  - ♦ **Investors withdraw funds from emerging economies** like India and invest in safer U.S. assets.
  - ♦ Capital outflows from India increase pressure on the rupee.
- **Global Geopolitical Uncertainty:** Geopolitical tensions increase uncertainty in global financial markets. Investors prefer **safe-haven assets** such as the U.S. dollar during periods of instability. This strengthens the dollar globally.

### How Does a Falling Rupee Affect India's Economy?

- **Inflationary Pressures Rise:** Rising import costs increase domestic prices of fuel and essential commodities, eventually leading to increased transportation and logistics costs.
  - ♦ This contributes to **imported inflation** in the economy.
- **External Debt Burden Increases:** Indian firms with dollar-denominated loans must repay more rupees after depreciation.

- ♦ This increases debt-servicing costs and affects corporate profitability.
- **Financial Market Volatility Increases:** Large FPI outflows trigger stock market declines and **financial market instability** weaken investor confidence in the Indian economy.
- **Export Competitiveness:** A weaker rupee makes Indian goods cheaper in international markets as foreign buyers can purchase Indian products at lower dollar prices. However in the case of India the **benefit remains limited** due to high import dependence.

### Role of the RBI in Stabilising the Rupee

- **Forex Market Operations:** The RBI intervenes in both the spot and forward markets. When the rupee faces sharp declines due to sudden capital outflows, it sells US dollars to absorb excess demand, and buys dollars during periods of heavy inflows.
- **Monetary Measures:** The Reserve Bank of India uses **interest rate and monetary policy measures** to maintain exchange rate stability.
  - ♦ Higher interest rates **help attract foreign capital inflows** and support demand for the rupee.
  - ♦ The RBI also **controls inflation and maintains investor confidence** through monetary policy measures.
- **Liquidity Measures:** The RBI manages liquidity conditions in the banking system to reduce excessive volatility in financial markets.
  - ♦ The RBI injects or absorbs liquidity through instruments such as **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), and Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**.

### Way Ahead

- **Reducing Oil Dependence:** India should expand renewable energy capacity and promote electric mobility.
- **Maintaining Adequate Forex Reserves:** The RBI should continue maintaining strong foreign exchange reserve buffers to manage external shocks effectively.
- **Ensuring Macroeconomic Stability:** India should maintain fiscal discipline, moderate inflation, and stable economic growth to strengthen investor confidence.

Source: TH

## GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTES COMMITTEE TO STUDY DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

### Context

- The Union Government has constituted a high-level committee to study demographic changes chaired by **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar**.

### Objectives of the Committee

- Assessment of Demographic Changes:** The committee will conduct a comprehensive **assessment of demographic changes** occurring across India with identifying regions experiencing unusual population shifts and analyse changes at the level of religious and social communities.
- Identification of Causes:** The committee will examine the possible causes of demographic changes, including;
  - Illegal cross-border migration.
  - Abnormal settlement patterns.
  - Orchestrated migration.
  - Economic opportunities attract migration.
  - Socio-environmental factors.
- Population Stabilisation:** The committee will recommend an institutional mechanism for population stabilisation and long-term demographic monitoring.
- Illegal Immigration Management:** The committee will recommend a streamlined and time-bound mechanism for;
  - Identification of illegal immigrants.
  - Detention procedures.
  - Deportation processes.
- Strengthening Border Management:** The committee will propose measures to strengthen border management through better surveillance systems, improved identification mechanisms and enhanced coordination among agencies.

### Demographic Trends in India

- Declining Fertility Rate:** According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to around **2.0**, which is below the replacement level of 2.1.
  - This indicates that India is gradually moving towards population stabilisation at the national level.

- Declining Birth Rate:** According to the **Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2024:**

- India's birth rate declined **from 21 per 1,000 population** in 2014 to **18.3** in 2024.
- The decline reflects changing demographic patterns, rising urbanisation, increasing literacy, and improved access to healthcare and family planning.

### Border-Related Demographic Challenges

- India–Bangladesh Border:** India shares a **4,096 km border** with Bangladesh across West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
  - The Assam Movement (1979-1985)** was a popular movement against illegal immigrants in Assam. The movement, led by All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP).
- India–Myanmar Border:** India shares a **1,643 km border** with Myanmar across Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.
  - Political instability after the **2021 Myanmar military coup** increased the inflow of **Chin refugees and Rohingya** migrants into Manipur and Mizoram.
- India–Pakistan Border:** India shares a **3,323 km border** with Pakistan.
  - In Jammu and Kashmir, cross-border infiltration from Pakistan has long been associated with **terrorism, militancy**, and internal security challenges.

### Concerns Regarding Demographic Change

- National security and sovereignty:** Illegal immigration may create security challenges by increasing risks of infiltration, organised crime, and border instability.
- Social harmony:** Demographic changes linked to religion, ethnicity, or language may increase social tensions, identity politics, and conflicts over land and employment.
  - Ethnic violence** in Manipur between **Kuki and Meitei** highlighted tensions between communities over land, identity, and demographic concerns.
- Resource distribution:** Large-scale migration may increase pressure on housing, healthcare, education, welfare schemes, and employment opportunities.

- ◆ Border districts in **Assam and Tripura** have witnessed concerns regarding land encroachment, competition for jobs, and pressure on public resources due to undocumented migration.
- **Protection of indigenous and tribal communities:** Indigenous and tribal communities, especially in the North-East region, fear loss of cultural identity, land rights, and political representation due to demographic changes.

### Challenges

- **Lack of Updated Census Data:** The last Census in India was conducted in **2011**, while the next Census is scheduled for 2027.
  - ◆ The absence of updated Census data may affect the accuracy of demographic assessments and policymaking.
- **Human Rights Concerns:** There are concerns regarding the possibility of discrimination, social polarisation, and wrongful exclusion.
- **Federal and Administrative Challenges:** Different States may have varying political, administrative, and social responses to migration-related issues.
- **Border Management Challenges:** India shares long and porous international borders with neighbouring countries and effective border management requires advanced surveillance technology, infrastructure development, and better inter-agency coordination.

### Way Ahead

- **Strengthen Border Infrastructure:** India should improve border fencing, surveillance systems, and technological monitoring mechanisms to prevent illegal infiltration.
- **Conduct Timely Census:** The government should ensure timely conduct of the Census and strengthen civil registration systems to enable evidence-based policymaking.
- **Ensure Constitutional Safeguards:** Any action related to identification or deportation must follow due process and protect constitutional rights.
- **Inclusive Population Policies:** Population stabilisation measures should focus on; women's education, healthcare access, awareness programmes, voluntary family planning measures. Coercive population control measures should be avoided.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### ALGOZA

#### Context

- Taga Ram Bheel of Jaisalmer was honoured with the **Padma Shri 2026** for preserving and promoting traditional Rajasthani folk music through the ancient instrument called the **Algoza**.

#### What Is Algoza?

- The Algoza is a traditional folk wind instrument associated with **Rajasthan, Punjab, Sindh, and parts of western India and Pakistan**.
- It consists of **two wooden flutes** played simultaneously — one creates the melody while the other provides a rhythmic base.
- What makes the instrument unique is the use of circular breathing, a difficult technique that allows musicians to produce continuous music without stopping for breath.
- Often called the **soul of Thar Desert folk music**, the Algoza has traditionally been played during festivals, weddings, storytelling sessions, and devotional gatherings.

Source: News18

### KHAJURAHO HOSTS 25-DAY IDY COUNTDOWN

#### In News

- World Heritage Site Khajuraho, is set to host the 25-day countdown event for the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026.

#### More about the News

- The 25-day countdown to the IDY is observed every year as an important outreach phase to build awareness and encourage public participation through Yoga demonstrations, awareness campaigns, and community-based activities across the country.

#### International Day of Yoga (IDY)

- On India's insistence, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed **21st June** as the International Day of Yoga (IDY) in a resolution adopted in December **2014 during the 69th session**.
- The first International Yoga Day was celebrated in **New Delhi in 2015**.

- The date of 21 June was chosen as it is the **Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere** and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

### About Khajuraho

- The Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a group of **Hindu and Jain temples** located in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh, was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in **1986**.
- The temples are famous for their **nagara-style architectural** symbolism and their erotic sculptures.
- **Historical records:**
  - ♦ Most Khajuraho temples were built between 950 and 1050 CE by the **Chandela dynasty**.
  - ♦ Historical records note that the Khajuraho temple complex once had 85 temples spread across 20 square kilometres.
  - ♦ At present, only about 25 temples have survived, spread over six square kilometres.

Source: PIB

## COMPLETE JUSTICE: ARTICLE 142

### Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court declared that the **safety of commuters against road accidents and the right to safe passage on highways are part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution**.
  - ♦ The SC exercised its inherent power under **Article 142 of the Constitution which talks about complete justice**.

### What is Article 142?

- **Article 142** empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.
  - ♦ It also makes such decree or order enforceable throughout the territory of India.
- **The importance of Article 142 lies in the following aspects:**
  - ♦ It enables the Supreme Court to **exercise executive and legislative functions in certain situations**, such as issuing guidelines, directions, or orders to the government or other authorities.
  - ♦ It allows the Supreme Court to **intervene in matters of public interest, human rights, constitutional values, or fundamental**

**rights**, and to protect them from any violation or infringement.

- ♦ It enhances the Supreme Court's role as the **guardian of the constitution and the final arbiter of the law**.
- **Criticism:** It may encroach upon the **principle of separation of powers** and the domain of the executive and the legislature, and may **invite criticism of judicial overreach or activism**.

### Important Cases Related to Article 142

- **Bhopal Gas Tragedy Case (1989):** Compensation settlement for victims was facilitated using Article 142 powers.
- **Coal Block Allocation Case (2014):** Supreme Court cancelled illegal coal block allocations to ensure accountability.
- **Divorce and Matrimonial Cases:** The Court has used Article 142 to dissolve irretrievably broken marriages and settle prolonged disputes.

Source: TH

## ABRAHAM ACCORDS

### Context

- Pakistan's Defence Minister has said that he is not in favour of **Pakistan joining the Abraham Accords to normalise relations with Israel**.

### About Abraham Accords

- The Abraham Accords refer to a series of normalisation agreements signed in 2020 between **Israel and several Arab countries**, brokered by the **United States under the Trump administration**.
- For decades, **most Arab nations refused to recognise Israel** until the Palestinian issue was resolved.
- The Abraham Accords marked a major shift in Middle East diplomacy by establishing **open relations between Israel and certain Arab states** without prior resolution of the Israel–Palestine conflict.
- **UAE became the first Gulf country** to normalise relations with Israel in 2020 as part of the Abraham Accords.
- **Countries:** USA, Israel, UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and Kazakhstan.

### Main Objectives

- **Normalisation of diplomatic relations** (embassies, direct flights, trade, tourism, and technology cooperation).

- **Security and intelligence cooperation**, especially against Iran's regional influence.
- **Economic collaboration** in sectors like innovation, agriculture, defence, and renewable energy.
- **Promotion of interfaith understanding** named after Abraham, the patriarch revered in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

#### Significance

- Marked a breakthrough in **Arab–Israeli relations** after decades of hostility.
- **Reduced Israel's regional isolation** and expanded its diplomatic presence in the Arab world.
- **Strengthened U.S. strategic influence** in the Middle East.
- Created **new economic and technological partnerships** across the region.

Source: TH

## 150-YEAR CELEBRATIONS OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE (IACS)

#### Context

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh participated in the 150-year celebrations of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS).

#### About the IACS

- Founded in **1876** by Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, IACS became the cradle of some of India's greatest scientific minds, including Jagadish Chandra Bose, Meghnad Saha, Satyendra Nath Bose, and Sir C.V. Raman.
  - ♦ Professor C. V. Raman worked at IACS from 1907 to 1933, where he discovered the celebrated Raman Effect in 1928.
  - ♦ For this discovery, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, becoming the first Asian to receive a Nobel Prize in any branch of science.

#### Raman Effect

- The Raman Effect is the phenomenon where light gets scattered when passed through a transparent material, leading to changes in wavelength and energy.
- Every year, 28 February is observed as National Science Day to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect.

Source: PIB

