

# NEXT IAS

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 08-06-2026

### Table of Content

8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting

Reforms to Expand Foreign Participation in G-Secs

India's Cotton Mission and Challenges

Ease of Doing Business: Strengthening India's Business Framework

#### News In Short

Supreme Court's Victim Protection Plan for Human Trafficking Survivors

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

PM E-DRIVE

Pyroprocessing

Major Abhilasha Barak Conferred UN Award

Department of Consumer Affairs Prescribes Standard Pack Sizes for Edible Oils

Food Planet Prize 2026

## 8TH INDIA-INDONESIA JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

### Context

- EAM Dr. Jaishankar **co-chaired the 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting with Foreign Minister of Indonesia.**

### About

- The two nations agreed to **advance cooperation in defence, maritime security, digital connectivity and infrastructure.**
- Both Nations also **exchanged perspectives on regional developments, advancing our multilateral coordination and deepening India – ASEAN ties.**
- The two sides exchanged views **on regional and global developments of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to closer cooperation.**

### India-Indonesia Relation: A Brief Overview

- **Foundation of Relations:** The shared experience of colonialism, and common post-colonial goals drove India's friendly bilateral relationship with Indonesia in the late 1940s and 1950s.
  - ♦ In 1951, India and Indonesia signed a **Treaty of Friendship** which aimed at perpetual peace and unalterable friendship.
- **Founding NAM:** India and Indonesia became the voice of independence of Asian and African countries in the UN, which led to **Bandung Conference of 1955**, and the subsequent formation of **Non-Aligned Movement in 1961**.
  - ♦ India and Indonesia were among the five founding leaders of NAM along with Yugoslavia, Egypt, and Ghana.
- **Look East:** Since the adoption of India's 'Look East Policy' in 1991, and its upgradation to 'Act East' in 2014, there has been a rapid development of bilateral relations.
- **Trade Relations:** Indonesia is the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region (after Singapore).
  - ♦ Bilateral trade increased from \$4.3 billion in 2005-06 to \$38.84 billion in 2022-23 and \$29.40 billion in 2023-24.
  - ♦ India-Indonesia bilateral ties were elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018**. The Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific was also adopted.

- **Shared Platforms:** Both nations actively participate in major international forums like BRICS, G20, IORA, and the East Asia Summit, fostering cooperation on global issues.

### Significance of Indonesia for India

- **Policy Alignment:** India's "Act East Policy" and "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" align well with Indonesia's "Global Maritime Fulcrum" vision, creating synergies for regional cooperation in areas like maritime security, connectivity, and economic development.
- **Counterbalancing Influence:** Indonesia's strategic location and growing influence can help counterbalance China's growing dominance in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with India's strategic interests.



- **Maritime Security:** Indonesia's strategic location between the Indian and Pacific Oceans makes it a crucial partner for maintaining maritime security and stability in the region.
- **Counter-terrorism:** Cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts is essential, given the shared challenges posed by extremism and transnational crime.
- **Deep-rooted Cultural Ties:** Historical and cultural ties, particularly the influence of Hindu traditions and epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, foster strong people-to-people connections between the two nations.
- **Tourism Potential:** These shared cultural roots can be leveraged to boost tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

### Challenges

- **Trade Imbalance:** The trade balance is often skewed in favor of Indonesia, mainly due to high imports of palm oil and coal. Both nations are looking for ways to diversify trade to reduce this imbalance.
- **Regional Tensions:** There are challenges posed by regional tensions and the changing dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, particularly with the rise of China. Both countries are navigating these pressures while maintaining their strategic partnership.

### Conclusion

- India and Indonesia enjoy a multi-faceted and growing relationship, underpinned by historical ties, economic collaboration, and shared security concerns.
- Both countries have great potential to further deepen their partnership in the coming years, with a focus on regional stability, economic growth, and cultural exchange.

Source: MEA

## REFORMS TO EXPAND FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN G-SECS

### Context

- The Government of India has introduced tax exemptions and investment-related reforms for **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** investing in **Government Securities (G-Secs)**.

### About FIIs and FPIs

- **Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)** is a category of FPI that refers specifically to investments made by **foreign institutional investors** such as mutual funds, pension funds, insurance companies, and hedge funds. These institutions invest pooled funds in financial markets and typically play a more active role in investment research and decision-making.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments made by **foreign individuals, institutional investors, or funds** in financial instruments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and government securities. FPIs do not participate in the management or decision-making of the companies in which they invest and are generally considered passive investors.

### What are Government Securities (G-Secs)?

- Government Securities (G-Secs) are **tradable debt instruments** issued by the Central or State Governments to borrow funds and meet their expenditure requirements.
- They represent the government's debt obligation and are generally considered **risk-free** as they carry a sovereign guarantee.
- G-Secs are broadly classified into:
  - ♦ **Treasury Bills (T-Bills):** Short-term securities with a maturity of less than one year.
  - ♦ **Government Bonds/Dated Securities:** Long-term securities with a maturity of one year or more.
- In India, the Central Government issues both Treasury Bills and Government Bonds, while State Governments issue long-term securities known as **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.

### What changes have been introduced?

- Prior to the latest reform, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), including SEBI-registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), were taxed under **Section 210 of the Income-tax Act, 2025**.
- Any income earned from investments in Government Securities (G-Secs) was subject to tax. Specifically:
  - ♦ Interest income earned on G-Secs was taxed at **20%** for FIIs/FPIs.
  - ♦ **Short-term capital gains** arising from the sale of G-Secs were taxed at **30%**, depending on the nature of the transaction.
  - ♦ **Long-term capital gains** were taxed at **12.5%**.
  - ♦ As a result, a portion of the returns earned by foreign investors from holding or trading G-Secs was payable as tax in India.
- Under the **new regime**, FPIs/FIIs will be exempt from:
  - ♦ Interest income earned from G-Secs; and
  - ♦ Capital gains arising from the sale, transfer, exchange or redemption of G-Secs.

Income Type	Previous Tax Rate	New Tax Rate
Interest Income from Securities	20%	NIL
Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG)	30%	NIL
Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG)	12.5%	NIL

Source: Ministry of Finance

- The exemption will apply to income arising on or after **1 April 2026** under the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

### Significance of the Reforms

- **Attracting Long-Term Foreign Capital:** Experts estimate that the measures could bring **\$45–50 billion** in additional foreign inflows over the next two years.
- **Deepening the Bond Market:** As of May 2026, FPIs held Government Securities worth about 3.75 lakh crore, accounting for 3.34% of the total outstanding G-Sec stock. Greater participation can improve market liquidity, price discovery, and trading activity.
- **Lowering Government Borrowing Costs:** Increased demand for Government Securities can reduce yields and lower borrowing costs for the government.
- **Supporting Infrastructure and Development Financing:** Additional capital can support infrastructure, manufacturing, renewable energy, and urban development projects.
- **Strengthening External Sector Stability:** Higher foreign inflows can support the Balance of Payments (BoP), strengthen foreign exchange reserves, and reduce pressure on the rupee.

### Potential Challenges

- **Volatility of Portfolio Flows:** Unlike Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), FPI investments are highly sensitive to global interest rates, geopolitical tensions, and risk sentiment. A rise in US interest rates or global financial uncertainty can trigger sudden withdrawals from emerging markets, including India.
- **Risk of Capital Flight:** While increased foreign participation can deepen the bond market, sudden outflows may lead to sharp movements in bond yields and exchange rates. This could increase borrowing costs and put pressure on the rupee.
- **Limited Impact on Structural Issues:** Tax exemptions may improve the attractiveness of Indian Government Securities, but they may not fully address concerns related to currency volatility, fiscal deficits, or broader investor confidence.

### Conclusion

- The reforms mark a significant step towards **deepening India's debt market and enhancing its attractiveness** to global investors.

- By simplifying market access, expanding investment opportunities, and improving tax competitiveness, the Government aims to attract stable long-term capital while strengthening the resilience and efficiency of India's financial system.
- This could support economic growth, improve market development, and further integrate India with global capital markets.

Source: PIB

## INDIA'S COTTON MISSION AND CHALLENGES

### Context

- In 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the **Mission for Cotton Productivity** with an outlay of Rs 5,659 crore, **to run from 2026-27 to 2030-31**.

### About

- The intent of the Mission for Cotton Productivity is **to raise lint productivity from 441 kg per hectare (in triennium ending (TE) 2025-26) to 755 kg/ha by 2031**.
- Experts argue that India's Mission for Cotton Productivity may struggle to revive yields and exports **unless next-generation genetic technologies and science-led reforms are adopted**.

### Introduction of BT Cotton in India

- In 2002, the government approved the **commercial cultivation of Bt cotton** as cleared by the **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)**.
  - ♦ The **first Bt hybrids** incorporating the **cry1Ac gene** were approved to resist the **bollworm complex**.
  - ♦ By 2006, GEAC had approved **Bollgard II**, a second-generation hybrid with two stacked genes.

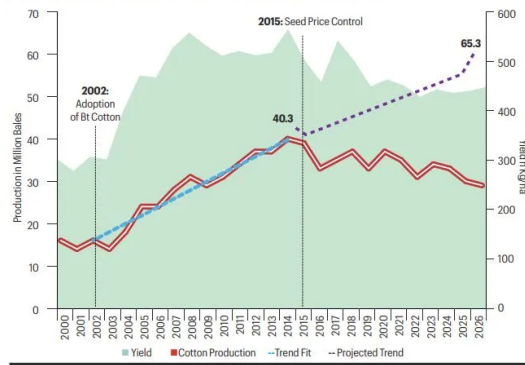
### Bt Cotton

- **Bt cotton** has two alien genes from the **soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)** that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest **pink bollworm**.
- Till now, it is the **only Genetically Modified (GM) crop that is allowed in India**.

**Impact on Cotton production:** It rose from 13.6 million bales in 2002-03 to 39.8 million bales in 2013-14, a **193% increase**.

- ◆ Annual output grew at 10%, and area expanded by 56%, from 7.6 million hectares (mha) to 11.9 mha.
- ◆ India became the largest producer and second-largest exporter of cotton.

#### • PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF COTTON IN INDIA



- **Further Hybrids:** After Bollgard II, India developed the next generation: Bollgard II with Roundup Ready Flex, and Bollgard III.
  - ◆ These variants incorporate three stacked genes with herbicide-tolerant traits designed to address evolving pest resistance and rising weed-management costs. **But they were not released.**
- **Decline in Production:** Since 2014-15, production has declined at an average annual rate of 2%. India went from a net cotton exporter to importing 4 million bales in 2025-26.

#### Reasons for Decline in Cotton Production and Related concerns

- **Regulatory hurdles for GM technology:** New-generation cotton technologies were not commercialized due to regulatory uncertainties and delays.
- **Price controls on cotton seeds:** Government-imposed seed price caps and reduction of trait fees reduced incentives for private-sector R&D and innovation.
- **Declining productivity:** Cotton yields have stagnated due to pest resistance, climate stress, and lack of access to advanced technologies.
- **Increasing imports:** India has shifted from being a major exporter to importing cotton because domestic production growth has slowed.

#### Way Ahead

- **Develop Climate-Resilient Cotton Varieties:** Invest in research for drought-tolerant, pest-resistant, and high-yielding cotton varieties suited to changing climatic conditions.

- **Strengthen Public-Private R&D Partnerships:** Encourage collaboration between research institutions, universities, and the private sector to accelerate the development and dissemination of advanced technologies.
- **Enhance Seed Quality and Availability:** Ensure timely access to certified, high-quality seeds through robust seed production and distribution systems.
- **Strengthen Extension Services:** Improve last-mile delivery of scientific knowledge, best practices, and weather advisories to cotton farmers.
- **Improve Cotton Value Chains:** Modernise ginning, processing, storage, and marketing infrastructure to enhance cotton quality and global competitiveness.
- **Implement the Cotton Productivity Mission Effectively:** Focus on outcome-based implementation, regular monitoring, and convergence with existing agricultural schemes to achieve productivity and income gains.

#### Conclusion

- A combination of technological innovation, supportive regulation, climate resilience, and efficient value chains is essential to restore India's cotton productivity and strengthen its position in the global textile economy.

Source: IE

## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: STRENGTHENING INDIA'S BUSINESS FRAMEWORK

#### Context

- India has undertaken wide-ranging reforms to create a transparent, technology-driven, and trust-based business ecosystem, improving investor confidence and enhancing its global competitiveness.

#### India's Progress in Ease of Doing Business

- India improved its rank in the **World Bank's Doing Business Report** from **142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019**, reflecting significant improvements in the regulatory environment.
- India's position in the **IMD World Competitiveness Ranking** improved from 43 in 2021 to 41 in 2025.
- India has consistently been placed in **Group A of the World Bank's GovTech Maturity Index**, indicating advanced digital governance capabilities.

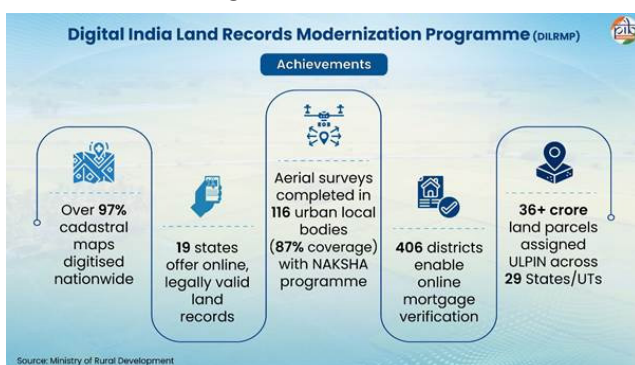
- **The United Nations E-Government Survey** has recognized India's progress in online public services, digital infrastructure, and technology-enabled governance.

### Reforms in Business Entry and Formalisation

- **Startup Ecosystem Development:** The Startup India initiative has promoted innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation through **financial support, incubation facilities, and regulatory incentives**.
  - ♦ The number of recognised startups increased from 502 in 2016 to more than **2.23 lakh by March 2026**.
- **Simplification of Company Incorporation:** The **SPICe+ platform** has integrated multiple registrations such as **PAN, TAN, GST, EPFO, ESIC, and bank account opening** into a single online application.
- **MSME Formalisation:** The Udyam Registration Portal has enabled paperless and self-declaration-based registration of MSMEs.

### Reforms in Land and Property Administration

- **The Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)** has digitised land records and cadastral maps, reducing disputes and improving transparency.
  - ♦ **The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)** has created a unique digital identity for land parcels, enabling accurate land management.



- **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)** has streamlined property transactions, promoting EoDB by offering a complete user interface for property and document registration.

### Streamlining Regulatory Approvals

- **Labour Reforms:** The Labour Codes have consolidated multiple labour laws into simplified legal frameworks.

- ♦ Single registration, single returns, and all-India licences have reduced compliance costs for businesses.

- **The National Single Window System (NSWS)** provides a unified platform for obtaining approvals and clearances from multiple ministries and states.
- **Environmental Clearances:** The PARIVESH portal has digitised environmental, forest, wildlife, and coastal regulation clearances.

### Improving Market Access and Logistics

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** has expanded procurement opportunities for MSMEs, startups, women entrepreneurs, and self-help groups through a transparent digital platform. It has promoted inclusive participation in public procurement.
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** has created an open and interoperable digital commerce ecosystem that enables small businesses to compete on equal terms with large e-commerce platforms.
- **PM GatiShakti** has improved multimodal connectivity through integrated infrastructure planning.

### Facilitating Access to Credit

- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana:** PM Mudra Yojana has expanded financial inclusion by providing collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises.
- **The Credit Assessment Model** utilises digital financial data for automated loan appraisal, reducing processing time and improving credit delivery.
- **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** has improved liquidity for MSMEs by enabling faster realisation of payments from corporate buyers and government entities.

### Tax Reforms and Compliance Simplification

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST):** It has replaced multiple indirect taxes with a unified tax structure, creating a common national market.
  - ♦ It has reduced tax cascading, improved transparency, and facilitated interstate trade.
- **The E-Way Bill system** has streamlined the movement of goods across states by replacing multiple permits with a single electronic document.

### Enhancing Cross-Border Trade

- **The Districts as Export Hubs (DEH)** initiative aims to promote exports, manufacturing, and employment at the grassroots level.
- **ICEGATE (Indian Customs Electronic Gateway)** serves as a centralized hub for all electronic interactions between Indian customs and the trading community.
  - ♦ It offers a range of services including e-filing, online amendment submission, online duty payment, query resolution.
- **Trade Connect e-Platform** provides comprehensive international trade information and services to all exporters, including MSMEs, enabling them easy access to global markets.

### Expanding Digital Public Infrastructure

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has transformed digital payments by enabling instant, secure, and low-cost transactions.
- **EntityLocker** a digital locker for the entities empowers organizations by providing a secure, cloud-based platform for storing, sharing, and verifying digital documents and certificates.

### Building a Trust-Based Governance Framework

- **Jan Vishwas Reforms** have decriminalised hundreds of minor business-related offences. These reforms have reduced the fear of criminal prosecution for procedural violations and encouraged voluntary compliance.
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016** established a time-bound framework for insolvency resolution.
  - ♦ Subsequent amendments have improved procedural efficiency, strengthened creditor rights, and enhanced investor confidence.

### Challenges

- **Land acquisition and contract enforcement** continue to face delays due to disputes, procedural complexities, and judicial backlogs.
- **Implementation of reforms varies across States and districts**, leading to an uneven business environment.
- **Logistics costs remain relatively high** compared to competing economies, affecting industrial competitiveness.
- **MSMEs continue to face constraints** in accessing finance, technology, skilled manpower, and global markets.

- **Commercial dispute resolution remains time-consuming**, despite improvements in insolvency and regulatory frameworks.
- **Global economic uncertainties and supply chain disruptions** continue to pose risks to investment and trade growth.

### Way Ahead

- **Reduce logistics costs** by expanding multimodal connectivity, improving warehousing infrastructure, and enhancing last-mile connectivity.
- **Enhance MSME competitiveness** through easier access to finance, technology adoption, skill development, and integration into global value chains.
- **Accelerate land and judicial reforms** to ensure faster land acquisition, contract enforcement, and commercial dispute resolution.
- **Promote innovation and digital transformation** to improve productivity, attract investments, and support India's transition towards a globally competitive economy.

Source: PIB

## NEWS IN SHORT

### SUPREME COURT'S VICTIM PROTECTION PLAN FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

#### Context

- The Supreme Court of India in the **Prajwala vs. The Union of India** case framed a comprehensive **Victim Protection Plan** for survivors of trafficking for commercial and sexual exploitation (CSE), citing a legislative vacuum and inadequate rehabilitation.

#### Key Elements of the Victim Protection Plan

- **Fundamental Right to Rehabilitation:** The Court affirmed that the right to rehabilitation is an integral component of **Article 21** (Right to Life with Dignity) and **Article 23** (Right against Exploitation).
  - ♦ Relying on **Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India** and **Neerja Chaudhary v. State of Madhya Pradesh**, the Court held that rescue alone is insufficient; rehabilitation is an essential part of justice.

- **Consent-Centered Approach:** The court drew a strict distinction between victims of coercive trafficking and consenting adult sex workers, holding that the latter cannot be detained or rehabilitated against their will.
- **Institutional Coordination:** The ruling integrates provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO into a uniform protocol.
  - ◆ It should improve coordination between Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).
- **Systemic Support Infrastructure:** The Centre and State governments must establish standardized **safehouses, legal aid, medical and psychological care** facilities, and vocational training programmes.

Source: IE

## ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER (EAC-PM)

### Context

- The Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** during which members discussed measures to sustain and accelerate India's economic growth amid an uncertain global environment.

### Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

- The EAC-PM, an **independent body** constituted to advise the Prime Minister on economic and related issues, is currently chaired by **S. Mahendra Dev**.
- **Members:** At present, there are a Chairman, 3 Full-Time Members and 11 Part-Time Members in the EAC-PM.
- **Functions:** Analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon, addressing issues of macroeconomic importance.
  - ◆ These could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else.
  - ◆ They also include attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.

Source: PIB

## PM E-DRIVE

### Context

- The Delhi Government has announced the induction of **2,800** new low-floor electric buses under the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme to strengthen public transport and accelerate the transition towards sustainable urban mobility.

### About the Scheme

- The PM E-DRIVE Scheme was launched by the Government of India in **2024** to accelerate the transition towards electric mobility.
  - ◆ The scheme has a total financial outlay of **₹10,900 crore**.
- **Duration:** Initially approved for **two years (2024–26)**, its duration has now been extended to **31 March 2028**, while retaining the same outlay.
- **Objectives:**
  - ◆ To accelerate the **adoption of electric vehicles (EVs)** across the country.
  - ◆ To **develop a robust EV charging infrastructure**.
  - ◆ To strengthen the **domestic EV manufacturing ecosystem**.
  - ◆ To **reduce dependence on fossil fuels** and lower vehicular emissions.
  - ◆ To promote the **Make in India initiative** through the **Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)**.
- The scheme supports the procurement of **14,028 electric buses** across **nine major cities** with populations exceeding **40 lakh**.

Source: IE

## PYROPROCESSING

### Context

- Pyroprocessing has been the subject of study in Japan, South Korea, and the United States and is being explored as part of advanced fast reactor programmes.

### What is pyroprocessing?

- Pyroprocessing is a high-temperature process used to bring about physical or chemical changes in materials.
- It is a dry and energy-intensive process widely used in industries such as cement manufacturing, metallurgy, and nuclear energy.

### Applications of Pyroprocessing

- **Cement Industry:** Used to convert limestone and other raw materials into clinker, the key ingredient in cement.
- **Metallurgy:** Employed in processes such as roasting, smelting, and calcination to extract metals from ores.
- **Nuclear Sector:** Used for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel through electrochemical separation in molten salts, enabling the recovery of valuable materials for reuse.

Source: TH

## MAJOR ABHILASHA BARAK CONFERRED UN AWARD

### Context

- Prime Minister congratulated **Major Abhilasha Barak** on being **conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award**.

### About

- Major Barak is currently serving with the **United Nations mission in Lebanon**, has been honoured with the award **for her outreach efforts** with women and girls during her **deployment in the West Asian nation**.
  - ♦ She is also the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army**.
- Each year, the awardee is selected from **among candidates nominated by force commanders and heads of mission** from all peace operations.
- **India** is among the **largest troop and police contributing countries** to UN peacekeeping missions.

### United Nations Peacekeeping Missions

- The United Nations Peacekeeping Missions are **operations deployed by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security** in conflict-affected regions.
- **First peacekeeping mission** was established in **1948**, to monitor the armistice between **Israel and its Arab neighbors**.
  - ♦ It was established and tasked by the **UN Security Council**.
- **It serves as an important instrument of collective security** and aims to prevent conflicts, protect civilians, support political processes, and assist countries in transitioning from conflict to peace.

### Key UN Peacekeeping Missions:

- ♦ **MINUSTAH (Haiti):** Worked for political stabilisation, security and humanitarian assistance in Haiti (2004–2017).
- ♦ **UNMISSET (East Timor):** Supported stability, governance and security in East Timor (2002–2005).
- ♦ **UNMIL (Liberia):** Assisted peacebuilding, disarmament and post-conflict recovery in Liberia (2003–2018).
- ♦ **MINURCAT (Central African Republic & Chad):** Focused on civilian protection and regional stability (2007–2010).
- ♦ **UNMOGIP (India–Pakistan):** Monitors the ceasefire situation between India and Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir (since 1949).
- The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces **were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988**.

### Principles of UN Peacekeeping

- **Consent of the Parties:** Peacekeeping operations require acceptance from major conflicting parties to operate effectively.
- **Impartiality:** Peacekeepers must remain neutral and unbiased among parties.
- **Non-use of Force Except in Self-defence and Defence of Mandate:** Force may be used only in self-defence, to protect civilians, and to implement the mission mandate.

Source: TH

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS PRESCRIBES STANDARD PACK SIZES FOR EDIBLE OILS

### Context

- The Centre has introduced **standard pack sizes for edible oils** under the **Legal Metrology framework**, bringing greater transparency and uniformity to the marketplace.

### About

- **Under the revised rules**, standard pack sizes have been prescribed for major edible oils, including palm oil, palmolein, soyabean oil, sunflower oil, mustard oil, groundnut oil, sesame oil, rice bran oil, cotton seed oil and corn oil.
- The **approved pack sizes** are 200 g, 500 g, 1 to 5 kg, 15 kg, and 20 kg.
- The initiative seeks to address the **growing proliferation of varying package sizes in**

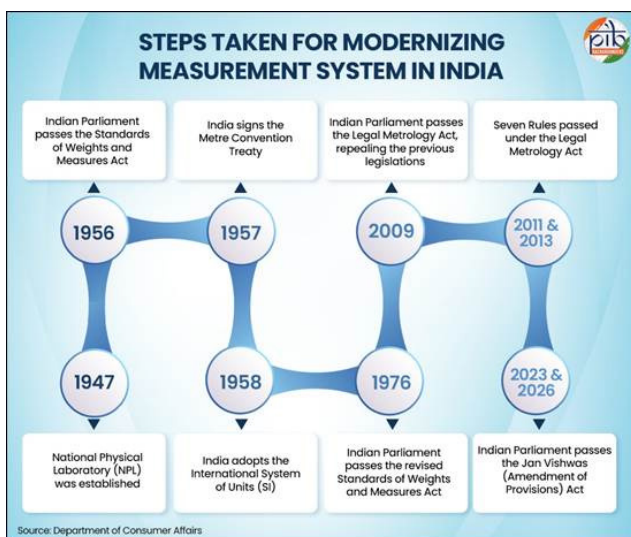
the market, which often makes it difficult for consumers to compare prices and make informed purchasing decisions.

- **Significance:**

- ♦ This will also help consumers make more informed and transparent purchasing decisions.
- ♦ The initiative will also benefit the edible oil industry by bringing greater uniformity in packaging practices.

### Legal Metrology

- Legal Metrology is the application of **legal requirements to measurements and measuring instruments**.
- The objective of Legal Metrology is to **ensure public guarantee from the point of view of security and accuracy of the weightments and measurements**.



- India became a member of the **International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)** in **1956**.
- In 2023, it became the **13th country globally authorized to issue internationally accepted OIML approval certificates** for weighing and measuring instruments.

- ♦ **This recognition enables Indian manufacturers to export instruments worldwide** without additional international testing costs, while also strengthening India's role in global trade, standard-setting, and Legal Metrology governance.

Source: AIR

## FOOD PLANET PRIZE 2026

### Context

- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme has won the Food Planet Prize 2026.

### About the Prize

- The **Food Planet Prize** was established in **2019** by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation, Sweden**.
- It is regarded as the world's largest environmental award dedicated to transforming global food systems.
- The award carries a prize of **US\$ 1.5 million (about ₹14 crore)**.
- APCNF's selection marks the **first time an Indian initiative has won the award**.

### APCNF Programme

- Launched in **2016** through **Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)**, the programme promotes natural farming by reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
- Today, it covers over **8,000 villages** and nearly **18 lakh farmer families**, making it one of the world's largest community-led agroecology initiatives.
- The programme works through women's self-help groups and a network of more than **10,000 community resource persons**, helping farmers reduce cultivation costs and improve incomes.
- The Andhra Pradesh model is now being studied and replicated in several Indian states, as well as countries like **Sri Lanka** and **Zambia**.

Source: TH

