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ROLE OF ETHICS & EMOTIONS IN WORLD POLITICS

Context

- Recent events in the **geopolitics of West Asia, the Israel– Hamas conflict**, and disputes **around India's strategic autonomy** have reignited questions about whether IR is governed simply by national interest or also by **ethics, emotions, and moral legitimacy**.

About International Relations (IR): Beyond National Interest

- Traditionally, the study of International Relations (IR) has been conceptualised as a field which is primarily concerned with issues of **power, security and national interest**.
 - Diplomacy is full of words like deterrence, balance of power, strategic autonomy and security.
- But the current global crises prove that foreign policy is not just driven by strategic interests but also by **ethics, emotion, identity and public opinion**.

Evolution of International Relations

- Western Intellectual Influence:** Modern IR grew mainly under the impact of Western research, especially after the Second World War.
- International Relations (IR) has been famously described by **Stanley Hoffmann** as '**an American Social Science**'.
- Modern theories, institutions, and diplomatic conventions were formed by European colonial supremacy and subsequent American intellectual leadership.
- Hans J. Morgenthau**, the father of **Classical Realism**, argued that foreign policy was based on national interest and power.

Key Concepts & Meanings

- Realism:** Power and national interest drive state behaviour.
- Anarchy:** Absence of a global sovereign authority.
- National Interest:** Primary objective guiding foreign policy.
- Moral Legitimacy:** Acceptance of actions based on ethical standards.
- Strategic Autonomy:** Independent foreign policy without alignment to power blocs.
- Soft Power:** Ability to influence through culture, values, and diplomacy.

Growing Importance of Ethics and Emotions

- Ethics** refers to moral principles and values that guide the behavior of states, leaders and institutions in world politics.
- Emotions** refers to feelings such as empathy, fear, pride, anger and compassion that influence the perceptions and decisions of leaders and societies.
- Recent scholars have argued that **reason and emotion should be compatible, not antagonistic**.
- According to **Neta Crawford**, emotions like fear, grief, wrath, embarrassment, empathy and pride are hugely influential in political decision-making.
 - These feelings help to construct perceptions of threat, national identity, policy choices, and popular support for conflicts.
- Brent Sasley** contends that leaders make decisions within a **social and political environment**, in which identity and collective emotions shape state behaviour.

Why Ethics & Emotions Matter?

- Shape Foreign Policy:** Ethics have been part of world politics throughout history. Values and feelings influence how states choose friends, resolve conflicts and build cooperation.
 - During the **Cold War**, the United States presented itself as the champion of democracy, human rights and individual liberty.
 - The **Soviet Union** was portrayed as representing **authoritarianism**.
- Drive Public Opinion:** Emotions of people (e.g., anger, sympathy, pride) can influence governments and international outcomes.
- Promote Peace & Justice:** Ethics encourage respect for human rights, dignity and international law.
- Build Trust & Solidarity:** Empathy and moral responsibility foster global partnerships on shared challenges.

How Ethics & Emotions Influence World Politics?

- Decision-Making:** Leaders' ethical beliefs and emotional reactions affect choices in crises, wars and negotiations.
- Conflict & Cooperation:** Emotions like fear, or hatred can fuel conflicts, while empathy and forgiveness can help in reconciliation.

- **Global Norms:** Ethical ideas shape international laws, treaties and institutions (e.g., Human Rights, Climate Justice, Responsibility to Protect).
- **Soft Power:** Moral values and emotional appeal enhance a country's image and influence (e.g., non-violence, humanitarian help, cultural diplomacy).

Ethical Perspective on Globalisation

- Globalisation promised economic interdependence, shared prosperity, and international cooperation.
 - ♦ It helped in expansion of trade, technological advancement, and poverty reduction in several regions.
- However, lingering inequalities between the Global North and the Global South, unequal distribution of the gains and unfulfilled ethical promises of inclusive development.

Why Ethics Matter in the Digital Age

- Modern conflicts unfold under unprecedented global observation because of artificial intelligence, social media, digital journalism, citizen reporting, transnational activism and immediate communication.
- It results in the direct visibility of civilian suffering, increased influence of public opinion on diplomacy and higher accountability of governments.

Contemporary Challenges in International Relations

- **National Interest vs. Ethics:** States are often in the difficult position of having to balance strategic goals with humanitarian principles and international law.
- **Strategic Autonomy and Global Expectations:** Countries like India have to make independent decisions on foreign policy, but they also have to respond to global crises and to pressure from the great powers.
- **Humanitarian Crisis and Public Opinion:** Global public opinion is increasingly judging conflicts (e.g. Gaza, Ukraine) through real time media coverage.
- **Escalating Power Rivalries:** As great powers become increasingly rivals (e.g. US - China, Russia - West) it becomes more difficult for the world to work together.
- **Technology and Information Warfare:** Artificial Intelligence, cyberattack, misinformation and digital monitoring are transforming diplomacy and security.

- **Reforming Global Governance:** The UN and WTO are facing pressure to restructure to better represent the Global South and tackle current concerns.
- **Climate Change and Non-Traditional Security Threats:** Collective international action beyond traditional military responses is needed for climate change, pandemics, terrorism and energy instability.

India's Perspective

- **Indian Foreign Policy:** India has always emphasised **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (taken from Maha Upanishad)**, strategic autonomy, democratic principles, pluralism and anti-colonial legacy.
- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** It was more than just a geopolitical option in the Cold War. It stood for sovereign equality, peaceful co-existence, non-alignment and the desire for an equitable international order.
- **Moral Capital of India:** India's worldwide image is enhanced by its stature as the world's largest democracy, its constitutional principles, cultural diversity, rule of law, peaceful coexistence and responsible involvement in the world.

Constitutional Link

- **Article 51:** Maintenance of international peace and security.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** It promotes peaceful settlement of international problems.

Real World Example

- **Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Violence:** India's freedom struggle used ethical principles of truth and non-violence, inspiring global movements for civil rights.
- **Nelson Mandela's Reconciliation:** Forgiveness and empathy helped South Africa heal after apartheid and build a democratic nation.
- **'Never Again' - Holocaust Memory:** Moral responsibility and collective memory shaped global norms on human rights and prevention of genocide.
- **Climate Change Justice Movement:** Emotions like concern, anger and hope mobilize youth and nations to demand climate action and equity.

Way Forward

- Balance **Realism** with ethical diplomacy.
- Promote **India's soft power** through democratic values and inclusive development.
- Maintain **strategic autonomy**, yet stay committed to international humanitarian values.
- Through fair and rules-based global governance, strengthen India's leadership of the **Global South**.
- Support the reform of international institutions to make them more representative and fair.

Source: TH

CBDT ISSUES CRYPTO-ASSET REPORTING GUIDANCE ALIGNED WITH OECD FRAMEWORK

Context

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes has released a guidance note on **crypto-asset reporting obligations**, under the Income-tax Act, 2025, aligning India's tax reporting framework with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF).

Need for Guidance Note

- The rapid growth of crypto-assets has made it easier to transfer and hold assets outside the traditional financial system, making **tax evasion more difficult to detect**.
- Existing global tax reporting standards, such as the **Common Reporting Standard (CRS)**, do not adequately cover crypto-assets.
- Therefore, India has aligned its reporting framework with the OECD Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) to **improve tax compliance and international cooperation**.

What are Crypto Assets?

- The CARF defines "Crypto-Assets" as "**a digital representation of value** that relies on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or a similar technology to validate and secure transactions", which includes **cryptocurrencies**, as well as **cryptophybased tokens**.
- A "digital representation of value" means that a **Crypto-Asset must represent a right to value**, and that the ownership of, or right to, such value can be traded or transferred to other individuals or entities in a digital manner.

What is the OECD Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF)?

- The Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) is a global tax transparency framework developed by the OECD in 2022, and it was endorsed by the **G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration (2022)**.
 - ♦ **The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes** is monitoring its implementation.
- **Objective:** To ensure that tax authorities receive information on crypto transactions similar to the information they already receive for bank accounts under the **Common Reporting Standard (CRS)**.
- **The framework applies to:**
 - ♦ **Relevant Crypto-Assets**, including cryptocurrencies and other crypto-assets that can be used for payment or investment purposes.
 - ♦ **Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers (RCASPs)**, such as crypto exchanges, brokers, dealers, and other intermediaries that facilitate crypto transactions.
 - ♦ **Both domestic and cross-border crypto transactions** undertaken through reporting service providers.

Key Provisions of the Guidance Note

- **Reporting obligations of Crypto-Asset Service Providers are as;**
 - ♦ Conduct Know Your Customer (KYC) verification.
 - ♦ Determine the tax residency of every customer.
 - ♦ Collect the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and self-certification from users.
 - ♦ Maintain records of all reportable crypto transactions.
 - ♦ File annual reports through Form 167.
 - ♦ Preserve records for verification and comply with reporting timelines.

Significance

- **Curbs Tax Evasion:** It reduces the possibility of concealing crypto income and offshore crypto holdings.
- **Promotes Data-Driven Tax Administration:** Tax authorities will have access to verified transaction-level information, improving risk assessment and tax enforcement.

- **Aligns India with Global Standards:** It harmonises India's reporting framework with internationally accepted OECD standards.

Source: [IE](#)

THE NEXT FRONTIER IN INDIA'S INNOVATION STRATEGY

Context

- India's rise in the **Global Innovation Index** must now be matched by **stronger home-grown R&D, business sophistication, and emphasis on domestic intellectual property ownership.**

About

- **Global Innovation Index (GII)** is a metric of **R&D output** maintained by the **World Intellectual Property Organization.**
- India **was ranked 81st globally** in the **GII 2015**, and **rose to 38th rank in 2025.**
 - ♦ India also holds the **top position among lower-middle-income countries** and within the Central and Southern Asian region.
 - ♦ **Since 2015**, the Indian government's sustained encouragement of the research and development (R&D) ecosystem, along with new science-backed policies.

Table 1: India's Ranking in 7 Categories of GI 2025

Category	Rank in 7 Categories of GI 2025
Knowledge and Technology Output	22nd
Overall Global Innovation Index	38th
Creative Outputs	42nd
Human Capital and Research	54th
Institutions	58th
Infrastructure	61st
Business Sophistication	64th

- **India's Ambitions:** The Indian government **aims to ascend among the leading nations in the GI.**
 - ♦ Govt. is investing in **venture stakes in strategic technology sectors** such as **semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and space.**
 - ♦ The **approximately US\$10 billion Anusandhan National Research Foundation Fund** is expected to propel R&D financing across various academic and scientific disciplines.

Areas India Needs to Improve in

- The six other categories in the GI country rankings suggest **considerable scope for improvement.**

- ♦ **These are:** Knowledge and Technology, Creative Outputs, Human Capital and Research, Institutions, Infrastructure, and Business Sophistication.
- ♦ India ranks below its overall position of 38th in five of these six categories.
- The key to improving performance across these categories lies in **strengthening the 'Business Sophistication' of the country's R&D ecosystem.**
- The metrics within the GI's Business Sophistication category **are subdivided into three distinct sub-categories:**
 - ♦ **Knowledge Workers**, which measures the share of employment engaged in knowledge-intensive activities;
 - ♦ **Innovation Linkages**, which assesses collaboration between the public and private research sectors;
 - ♦ **and Knowledge Absorption**, which includes indicators such as foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, high-technology imports, information and communication technology (ICT) services imports, and payments for intellectual property, expressed as proportions of total trade.

Concerns Needs to be Addressed

- **Patent Filing:** The quantity of patents filed should not be regarded as the sole objective, despite its influence on India's overall GI ranking.
 - ♦ An increase in the number of patents granted in India, as well as in high-impact patents, should become the next shared objective.
- **Technological Innovation:** The technological interventions needed must emerge from India's own R&D ecosystem, foreign innovation will not solve India's challenges and security threats.
- **Funding Constraints:** Despite robust government support, private sector investment in R&D in India remains limited compared to global benchmarks, constraining large-scale innovation.
- **Talent Retention Challenges:** The **brain drain persists**, as skilled researchers are often drawn abroad by better infrastructure, funding, and career advancement opportunities.
- **Limited University-Industry Collaboration:** Weak links between academia and industry hinder commercialization of research.

- **Skilled Workforce Deficit:** Shortage of trained R&D professionals in deep-tech and interdisciplinary fields.

Major Initiatives taken by the Government

- **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme:** Approved with a ₹1 lakh crore corpus, this scheme aims to energise private-sector R&D and deep-tech startups.
 - ♦ It offers long-term, low- or zero-interest loans, equity investments, and funds a new Deep-Tech Fund of Funds via the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** The ANRF established in 2023, provides high-level strategic direction for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in science and technology.
 - ♦ The Foundation aims to mobilise funds amounting to ₹50,000 crore during 2023–28 through multiple streams, including the ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, Science and Engineering Research Fund, and Special Purpose Funds.
- **National Geospatial Policy, 2022:** It seeks to position India as a global leader in the geospatial sector by 2035.
 - ♦ The policy liberalises access to geospatial data, encouraging its use in governance, business, and research.
- **Indian Space Policy, 2023:** It builds on the space reforms introduced in 2020, which opened the domain to non-governmental entities for end-to-end participation.
 - ♦ It aims to enhance space capabilities, promote a flourishing commercial space industry, and foster collaboration between public and private entities.
- **National Quantum Mission:** Allocated ₹6,003.65 crore for 2023–31, to advance quantum technologies through scientific and industrial R&D.
- **BioE3 Policy, 2024:** It encourages the creation of Biomanufacturing and Bio-AI hubs, along with a national Biofoundry network, to accelerate technology development and commercialisation.
- **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM):** Launched in 2015, the initiative empowers universities, research institutions, and government agencies with state-of-the-art supercomputing systems connected through the National Knowledge Network.

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** Established in 2021, the mission seeks to build a robust ecosystem for semiconductor and display manufacturing.
 - ♦ India has already approved 10 semiconductor projects across six states, including the first commercial Silicon Carbide fabrication facility in Odisha.
- **India AI Mission:** The IndiaAI Mission embodies the vision of “Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India.”
 - ♦ It is advancing rapidly, having already increased computing capacity from an initial target of 10,000 GPUs to 38,000 GPUs, ensuring accessible AI infrastructure for startups, researchers, and industries.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** To foster innovation at the grassroots level by providing support to students, startups, and entrepreneurs.
- **The National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds** will focus on strengthening the research ecosystem and developing high-yielding, pest-resistant, and climate-resilient seeds, aligning with DBT’s efforts in agricultural biotechnology.
- **The Seaweed Mission and Learn & Earn Program** empower women entrepreneurs, supporting economic inclusion.

Way Ahead

- **For India to enter the top 10 of the GII,** its science and technology (S&T) policymakers **must make fundamental changes to the country’s approach to innovation.**
- India must improve its performance **across the individual indicators underpinning the overall GII ranking.**
- India should **strengthen business sophistication within its innovation ecosystem.**
- Ensure that domestic and indigenous intellectual property applicants fare better.

Source: ORF

SPACE TECH FUNDING IN INDIA

Context

- According to the Tracxn Space Tech in India Report, India’s space-tech startups raised a record **\$200 million in 2025**, with Bengaluru accounting for **57%** of the sector’s total funding, reaffirming its position as India’s leading space innovation hub.

Private Sector Powering India's Space Transformation

- India's space economy is currently valued at **\$8 billion** with a share of **2–3%** in the global space economy.
- Companies** such as **Pixxel, Dhruva Space, Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos, and Bellatrix Aerospace** have emerged as pioneers of a new space era.
- Skyroot Aerospace became **India's first space-tech unicorn**. Its Vikram-1 became the **first privately developed Indian orbital-class rocket** to successfully place a payload into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.



Significance of Privatization of Space Sector

- Private companies operate with a profit motive, which drives them to **reduced costs** in space missions and satellite launches.
- Privatisation introduces **competition into the space industry**, which can drive efficiency and innovation.

- Private players facilitate the **commercialisation of space applications** and services in agriculture, disaster management, urban planning, navigation, and communication, as well as in other sectors.
- Private companies have a **greater degree of autonomy** in making decisions, which enables them to take up new projects.
- It helps to generate employment, enable modern technology absorption and make the sector self-reliant.

Major Reforms In Space Sector of India

- Establishment of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, 2020):** Acts as a single-window regulator and facilitator for private companies, authorising and promoting their participation in space activities.
- Corporatisation via NewSpace India Limited (2019):** It was set up as ISRO's commercial arm to transfer technology, manufacture satellites/launch vehicles through industry, and provide commercial satellite services.
 - Schemes to encourage the private sector have been implemented by IN-SPACe:** Seed Fund Scheme, Pricing Support Policy, Mentorship Support, Design Lab for NGEs, Skill Development in Space Sector, ISRO facility utilization support, Technology Transfer to Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs).
- Indian Space Policy 2023:** It laid down roles and responsibilities of organisations such as ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL) and private sector entities.
 - It aims to enhance the participation of research, academia, startups and industry.
- Liberalisation of FDI Norms (2024):** The government eased foreign direct investment rules in the space sector to attract global capital and technology, especially in satellite manufacturing and launch services.
- SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN):** SpIN is a one-of-its-kind public-private collaboration for start-ups and SMEs in the space industry.

Challenges

- Space technology is expensive and needs heavy investment. This kind of lucrative power is available only with selected rich corporates and thus can lead to **monopolisation of the sector**.

- Building and operating space technology and infrastructure **requires specialised technical expertise** and resources.
- **Protecting intellectual property rights (IPR)** is crucial for incentivising innovation and investment in the space sector.
- Indian private companies in the space sector have to face stiff **competition from the established players** such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, etc. in the international market.

Way Ahead

- India's space sector stands at the threshold of a new era, driven by Government-led reforms and a vibrant private ecosystem.
- The Indian Space Policy 2023, liberalised FDI norms, and dedicated funding initiatives have opened the entire space value chain to any potential players.
- These reforms have fostered a dynamic ecosystem marked by growing startups, indigenous innovation, and expanding commercial activities.

Source: [TH](#)

ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) IN THE WESTERN GHATS

In News

- The Centre has issued the seventh draft notification to notify 56,825.7 sq km of Western Ghats across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).

Western Ghats

- They stretch along the western coast of the Indian peninsula, spanning six states – Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- They are among the four of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots located in India.
 - ♦ They are Older than the Himalaya mountains, the 1,600 km long Western Ghats mountain chain was recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as one of the world's eight hotspots of biological diversity in 2018.

- The other three biodiversity hotspots are the Himalayas, the Indo-Burma region, and Sundaland.

Ecological significance of Western Ghats

- The Western Ghats, also known as the **Shayadari hills**, hold immense ecological and biodiversity value, making them one of the most critical natural assets of India and the World.
- The region has outstanding universal value due to its exceptional **biodiversity, endemism, and its role in maintaining vital ecological** and climatic processes.
- They serve as a **crucial climatic regulator for peninsular India**. Acting as a barrier to the South-West monsoon, the range supports lush forests and numerous rivers that sustain millions of people.
- They are also home to diverse ecosystems, including tropical evergreen forests, grasslands, Myristica swamps, and the distinctive shola forest. These ecosystems harbour a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic.
- They are the habitat for several threatened species, such as the lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Tahr, and tiger.
- They are the **source of several major rivers** such as Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery, Mandovi, Periyar, and Sharavathi, giving it the tag of the water tower of peninsular India.

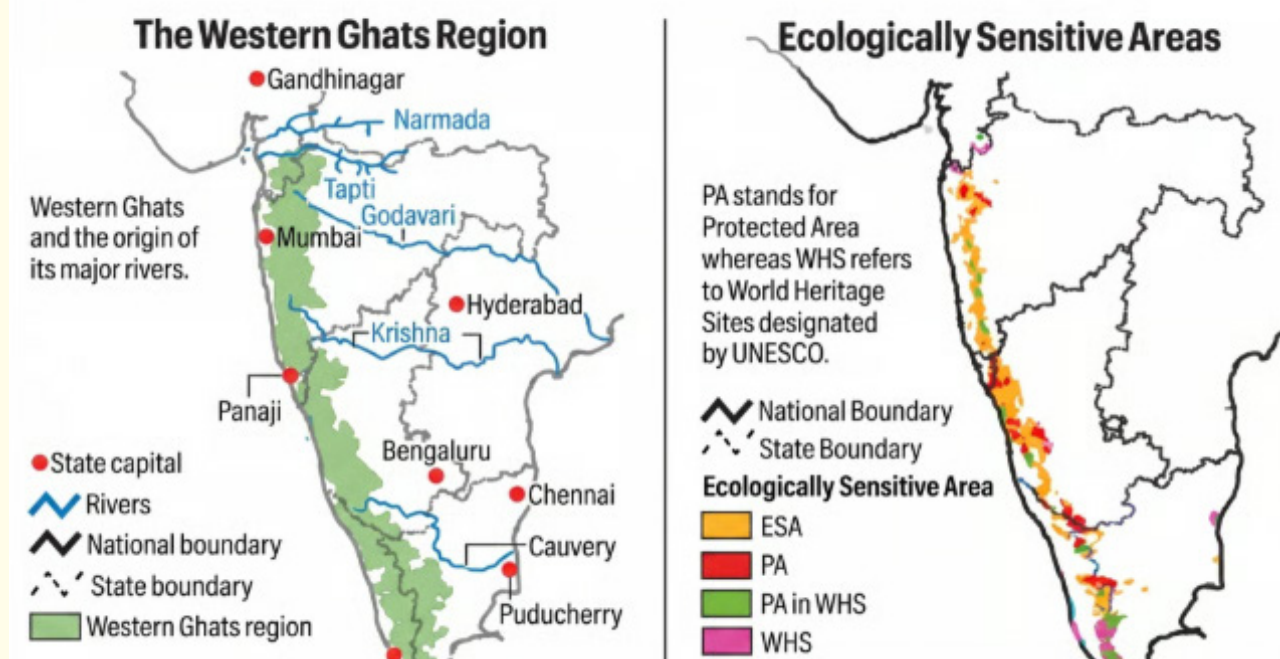
Major Threats to the Western Ghats

- Large dams, roads and railway expansion fragment habitats, change river ecosystems and threaten biodiversity.
- Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and shifting habitats are disrupting ecosystems and forcing many species into higher altitudes.
- As tourism increases there is more waste, disturbance to wildlife and more conflict between people and animals.
- Non-native plants like eucalyptus and acacia can displace native vegetation, resulting in a decrease in biodiversity and affecting forest regeneration.
- Natural habitats are degraded by plantations, agriculture, logging, encroachment and waste disposal.

Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) for Western Ghats

- The ESA is buffer areas demarcated around protected areas to minimise the negative impact of anthropogenic activities such as mining, hydropower projects, etc.
- Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra are the states where the areas to be demarcated are almost agreed upon.
- Tamil Nadu, the sixth affected state, does not have any major divergences on this issue.

• THE EXTENT OF DEMARCATION



• Activities:

- ♦ **Prohibited:** Mining, polluting industries, major hydropower projects, hazardous substances, and waste disposal.
- ♦ **Regulated:** Tree felling, hotels, road widening, groundwater use, night traffic, and introduction of exotic species.
- ♦ **Permitted:** Traditional agriculture and horticulture, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, renewable energy, and green technologies.

Recommendations of Various Committees

- Efforts to demarcate ecologically sensitive areas within the Western Ghats began in 2010 with the formation of the **Madhav Gadgil committee**. **Gadgil**, one of India's best-known ecologists, submitted his committee's report in August 2011
 - ♦ It recommended that the entire area of the Western Ghats, a total of 129,037 square km of land, be declared as ESA, with varying degrees of restrictions on activities based on relative fragility.
- Following protests by every affected state, the Centre referred the report to a high-level working group led by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan in August 2012.
 - ♦ The Kasturirangan panel suggested that an area of about 60,000 square km be declared as ESA.
 - ♦ This was based on the categorisation of 'natural landscapes' which largely represented a contiguous band of vegetation over 1,500 km of the Ghats, as opposed to 'cultural landscapes' which were already dominated by human settlements, agriculture, and plantations.
 - ♦ The draft notification declaring ESAs in the Western Ghats was first issued in March 2014, based on recommendations by the High-Level Working Group (HLWG), headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman K Kasturirangan.

Criticism of States

- The ESA proposal has faced **resistance from state governments, local communities, plantation owners** and political groups who fear restrictions on development, construction, infrastructure projects and livelihoods.
- **Kerala** wants the ESA area reduced from 9,993.7 sq km to 8,805 sq km by excluding 31 villages (mainly in Idukki and Wayanad). The Centre's expert committee has not accepted the request.
- **Karnataka** continues to oppose the current ESA proposal and has questioned the implementation of the Kasturirangan recommendations. The Centre has asked the state to suggest an alternative conservation framework.
- **Goa** seeks to exclude 21 villages in Sattari taluka from the proposed ESA list.

Conclusion

- The Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) project in the Western Ghats seeks to strike a balance between conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development.
- A scientific plan, inclusive governance, stakeholder consultation and community participation are essential for an effective implementation of the plan to protect the livelihoods and preserve this ecologically fragile region.
- Improving GIS and remote sensing based monitoring and effective communication on permissible activities can improve transparency, mitigate public concerns and ensure long term water security, ecological balance and resilience against floods, landslides and climate change.

Source: [IE](#)

NEWS IN SHORT

GURU RAVIDAS

Context

- The 650th birth anniversary year of Sant Guru Ravidas commenced on Guru Purnima.

About

- Guru Ravidas was a **15th–16th century Bhakti saint, poet and social reformer**, known for his message of equality, devotion and social justice.
- He is considered the founder of the **Ravidassia religion**.

Life and Teachings

- He strongly opposed **caste-based discrimination** and worked for the upliftment of marginalised communities.
- He envisioned a society called '**Beghumpura**' (a city without sorrow), where there is no suffering, no fear, and no discrimination.
- He gave a very broad message of '**karma**' to society by coining in the popular Hindi saying '**Mann Changa to Kathauti Mein Ganga**' (If your mind is pure, the Ganges is in your tub).

Legacy

- His devotional verses are included in the **Guru Granth Sahib**, the holy scripture of Sikhism.
- **The Panch Vani text** of the **Dadu Panthi tradition** within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Saint Ravidas.
- The Chief Architect of Constitution, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** embodied the Constitutional principles around the values expressed by Guru Ravidasji.

Source: [AIR](#)

E-ZERO FIR SYSTEM

Context

- The government has introduced the system of registering e-Zero FIRs in cybercrime cases across eighteen states and Union Territories.

About

- The e-Zero FIR system is a digital law enforcement framework designed to automatically generate a **First Information Report (e-Zero FIR)** for reported cyber financial crimes regardless of territorial police jurisdiction.
- The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the Ministry of Home Affairs developed the system.
- Runs on **Section 173(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023** — the law that replaced the old CrPC — which clearly says information about a cognisable offence can be given electronically, no matter where the crime happened.

How It Actually Plays Out?

- You report a fraud on NCRP or call 1930.
- If the loss crosses the state's set threshold, an e-Zero FIR is generated automatically at the state's e-Crime Police Station, no visit needed at this stage.

- This FIR is instantly forwarded to whichever police station actually has territorial jurisdiction over the case.
- You're expected to visit that local station within **3 days** to get it converted into a regular, fully investigated FIR.

Significance

- **Federal structure tension:** Police and Public Order are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule. This system works by getting states to voluntarily adopt a Centre-built platform.
- **BNSS as an enabler:** This is a concrete, real-world example of how the new criminal law reforms (BNSS replacing CrPC) are being used to modernise policing, not just relabel old provisions.
- **Digital governance as crime-fighting infrastructure:** NCRP, CCTNS, and I4C linking up shows how India is trying to build integrated digital backbones for law enforcement.

Source: TH

DWEEPTI YOJANA (DECENTRALISED WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON ENERGY AND POLICY FOR TRANSFORMATIVE INCLUSION)

Context

- Chhattisgarh has launched the DWEEPTI Yojana (Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion).

About

- It is the first state-level policy in India to formally **integrate women-led SHGs into the distributed renewable energy value chain.**
- The scheme is a collective effort of the **department of panchayat and rural development of Chhattisgarh** and Transform Rural India under the Green Economy Transition Mission.
- The scheme is aimed at creating **5,000 enterprises in the sector of women-led renewable energy in five years**, along with **50,000 jobs**, while extending energy to 5 lakh families and 10,000 public institutions across the state.
- The scheme helps women acquire technical skills for the installation of roof top solar power systems, their maintenance, operation, and interactions with communities through a cluster of skilled **"Solar Didis"** for decentralized renewable energy systems deployment.

Source: IE

ATMANIRBHAR PANCHAYAT PROGRAMME, SAMARTH PORTAL AND MODEL OSR (OWN SOURCE OF REVENUE) RULES

Context

- Union Minister of Panchayati Raj launched the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, the SAMARTH Panchayat Portal and released the Model OSR (Own Source of Revenue) Rules for Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** that enables Gram Panchayats and Block Panchayats to **identify local assets and opportunities** and develop them, with **dedicated technical support** from the Ministry, into bankable, revenue-generating projects that build sustainable OSR.
- Financing is facilitated through **Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility contributions**, convergence with other schemes and bank finance, with NABARD and HUDCO as institutional partners.
- Gram Panchayats with a **minimum OSR of Rs. 50 lakh** and **Block Panchayats with a minimum OSR of Rs. 1 crore**, each with **at least three years** of tenure remaining, are eligible to apply, with relaxed thresholds for special category States.

SAMARTH Panchayat Portal

- The Portal is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** designed to strengthen the financial capacity of Gram Panchayats through technology-enabled management of OSR.
- SAMARTH enables Gram Panchayats to **digitally manage the complete OSR lifecycle**, from taxpayer registration and demand generation to online payments, collection and real-time monitoring.

Model OSR Rules for Panchayati Raj Institutions

- To strengthen the financial independence of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has prepared **Model OSR (Own Sources of Revenue) Rules** as a guiding framework for States and Union Territories.

- Building on the recommendations of the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**, the Model Rules aim to support States in creating a **transparent, uniform and efficient system for the assessment, collection and management** of Panchayat revenues such as property tax, user charges, fees and other non-tax revenues.

Source: [PIB](#)

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST SUPPLIER OF SEAFARERS

Context

- According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India has emerged as the **world's second-largest supplier of seafarers**.

About

- India contributes 311,936 maritime professionals to the global shipping industry.
- It accounts for **12.16% of the global seafaring workforce**, ranking behind only the **Philippines** and **ahead of China, the Russian Federation and Indonesia**.
- **India's strength is particularly evident in the officer cadre**, accounting for **13.41%** of the world's officer workforce.
- **The global supply of seafarers** at 2.57 million, while demand has reached 2.55 million, highlighting an **increasingly tight global labour market**.
- **India's Target:** India has an ambitious national vision to increase **India's share of the global seafaring workforce from 12.16% to 20%**.
- **Significance:** With the global shipping industry continuing to face a shortage of qualified officers, **India's expanding maritime education ecosystem**, internationally recognised training standards and progressive policy framework place the country in a strong position to meet future global demand.

Source: [AIR](#)

PM SURYA GHAR: MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

In News

- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana received over 75 lakh applications, with 39.7 lakh rooftop solar systems installed, benefiting 48 lakh households through ₹27,343.9 crore in Central Financial Assistance.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- It was launched in 2024 with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore.
- It has become the world's largest domestic rooftop solar programme.
- Its easy financing options, including collateral-free loans up to ₹2 lakh at a 6.75% subsidized interest rate through 12 Public Sector Banks, have further accelerated adoption.
- Over 1 crore households have registered on the National Portal, with more than 33 lakh rooftop systems installed as of May 2026, adding over 12 GW capacity.
 - ♦ Rooftop solar now accounts for nearly 45% of residential solar capacity, with deployment growth rising to 85% during 2024–2026.
 - ♦ India's installed solar power capacity, comprising utility-scale, rooftop and off-grid projects, was 162.15 GW at the end of June.
- The scheme contributes to India's progress towards its 500 GW non-fossil capacity target by 2030, with total solar capacity crossing 150 GW as of March 2026, while enhancing energy access and reducing subsidy burden on DISCOMs.

Source: [TH](#)

ANDROMEDA GALAXY

In News

- Astronomers used data from the Hubble Space Telescope to create the most detailed map of star formation in the Andromeda Galaxy over the past 500 million years.

Andromeda Galaxy

- It is also known as Messier 31 (M31) and is a spiral galaxy & is located about 2.5 million light-years away from Earth.
- It is the **closest spiral galaxy to the Milky Way**.
- It is the most distant object visible to the naked eye under dark skies.
- It has an apparent magnitude of 3.1, meaning it is visible to the naked eye in dark or moderately light-polluted skies.
- The first written description of the galaxy was by Persian astronomer Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi in his 964 CE book The Book of Fixed Stars.

Source: [TH](#)

BOOKER PRIZE 2026

Context

- The **Booker Prize 2026 longlist**, comprising **13 books** across genres ranging from thrillers and dystopian science fiction to love stories, has been announced.

About the Booker Prize

- The Booker Prize is awarded each year to an author for a book published in English in the U.K. and/or Ireland between 1 October and 30 September.
- The six shortlisted authors each receive **£2,500**, while the winner receives **£50,000**.
- The **2025 Booker Prize** was awarded to **David Szalay** for his novel *Flesh*.

- Past Indian Booker Prize winners:** Arundhati Roy (*God of Small Things*), Kiran Desai (*Inheritance of Loss*), and Aravind Adiga (*White Tiger*).

International Booker Prize

- Formerly known as the **Man Booker International Prize**, this honor is presented annually for a work of fiction, either a novel or a collection of short stories that was originally written in a **language other than English**, then translated into English and published in the U.K. and/or Ireland.
- The prize highlights the crucial role of translators, with **£50,000 shared equally between the author and translator**.

Source: [IE](#)

