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INDIA'S CENTRAL ASIA STRATEGY NEEDS MORE REALISM

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **will travel to Central Asia** for a bilateral visit to Uzbekistan and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Kyrgyzstan.

Central Asia

- Central Asia is the **landlocked central region of Asia**, extending from the **Caspian Sea in the west to the border of western China in the east**.

- ♦ It is bounded on the **north by Russia** and on the **south by Iran, Afghanistan, and China**.

- The region consists of the former Soviet republics of **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan**.
- Central Asia's unique geographical position is deeply rooted in its historical ties to the "Silk Trade Routes," and has been **pivotal in the region's geopolitics and beyond**.



Evolving Central Asian Diplomacy:

- **Geopolitics of Central Asia:** They were long viewed as **five vulnerable landlocked states**, they are acquiring greater **internal coherence**.
 - ♦ Since 2018, the five have met regularly at the summit level in the consultative meetings of the heads of state of Central Asia.
 - ♦ They have now **signed a friendship treaty among themselves** and plan to give it some organisational substance and turn the region into a genuine Central Asian community.
 - ♦ The Central Asian Five invited Azerbaijan to form the C-6 that **links Central Asia more closely to the Caucasus and Türkiye**.
- **Diversification of Relations:** During 2025, Central Asian leaders held summits with the European Union, China, Russia, the United States and Japan.
 - ♦ The U.S. has new emphasis on commerce, critical minerals and energy corridors. Europe, Japan and others are also expanding their engagement.
 - ♦ Central Asia is observing a **"multi-vector" strategy** i.e. it engages all and commits exclusively to none.
- **Entanglement with the Middle East:** Kazakhstan has announced its accession to the Abraham Accords and Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed the charter Peace at Davos.

- ♦ The Iran war has complicated Central Asia's traditional southern access to the open seas and **increased the importance of alternative routes westward** across the Caspian towards Azerbaijan, Türkiye and the Mediterranean.

Significance of Region for India

- **Strategic and Geopolitical Significance:** Central Asia lies at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East, making it important for India's engagement with the wider Eurasian region.
 - ♦ Deeper engagement helps India maintain a strategic presence amid the growing influence of China, Russia, Turkey and other regional powers.
- **Energy Security:** The region possesses substantial reserves of oil, natural gas and uranium. Kazakhstan is particularly important for India's nuclear-energy ambitions because it is a major uranium producer.
- **Countering Terrorism and Extremism:** Instability in Afghanistan directly affects Central Asia and India's security interests. Cooperation with Central Asian states is important for combating terrorism, radicalisation, drug trafficking and organised crime.
- **Balancing China's Growing Influence:** China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has created extensive economic and infrastructure linkages with Central Asian countries.
 - ♦ Greater Indian engagement can provide the region with an alternative development and connectivity partner.

Way Ahead for India

- **Constraints Faced by India:** India enjoys considerable goodwill in Central Asia, but geography continues to constrain its ambitions.
 - ♦ India has **no direct land access to central Asia** as Pakistan blocks the obvious overland route, while Afghanistan remains unstable.
 - ♦ **Chabahar and the International North-South Transport Corridor** offered an alternative, but the growing conflict between Iran and the US has complicated their prospects.
- **Realism Based Approach:** The changing regional dynamic calls for a less romantic and more modest Indian approach.

- ♦ India cannot match China's infrastructure spending, Russia's geographic advantages, Europe's financial resources or Türkiye's direct access across the Caspian.
- ♦ Sustained political attention should be matched by a **practical economic agenda focused on areas where India can contribute.**
- **Understanding New Central Asia:** India must recognise the political character of the new Central Asia. Its states do not want another patron; they want multiple partnerships that expand their room for manoeuvre.

Source: IE

REIMAGINING SKILLING FOR VIKSIT BHARAT: NITI AAYOG

Context

- NITI Aayog's report, Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat, has renewed the policy debate on **educated unemployment** and the urgent need to align India's education and skilling ecosystem with labour-market demands.

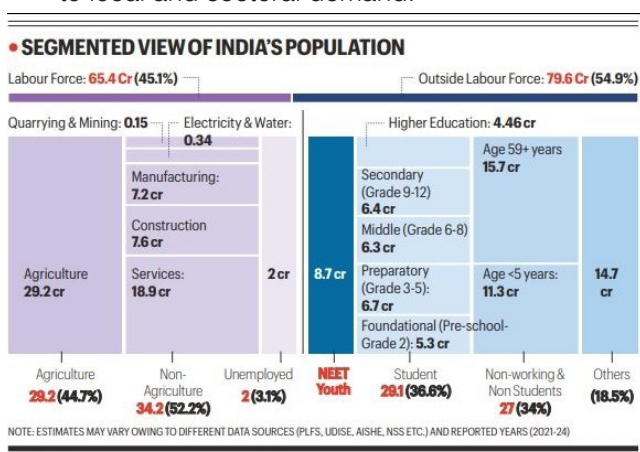
Key Findings of Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat By NITI Aayog

- **Severe skill-job mismatch:** Only about **8.25% of graduates** are employed in jobs aligned with their qualifications, indicating widespread underemployment and qualification mismatch.
- **High educated unemployment:** The unemployment rate is **13% among graduates** and **20.4% among graduate women**, significantly higher than the national unemployment rate of **3.2%**.
- **Over-reliance on generic degrees:** More than **2 crore of India's 3.4 crore undergraduate students** are enrolled in B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. programmes, many of which have relatively weak direct linkages with employment.
- **Large Youth Disengagement:** The report estimates a significant number of young people in the **NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)** category.
 - ♦ However, NITI Aayog clarified that NEET figures should **not be interpreted as unemployment figures.**

- **Skilling Improves Earnings:** Graduates with additional skilling have better earning prospects. The report cites evidence of a **₹7,000 higher average monthly starting salary** for skilled generic graduates compared to those without skilling.
- **Social Stigma Against Vocational Education:** ITIs, diploma courses and technical training are often perceived as 'second-tier' pathways, discouraging youth from pursuing vocational careers.
- **Information and awareness gaps:** Limited awareness of appropriate courses, apprenticeships, scholarships and government schemes prevents many potential beneficiaries from accessing skilling opportunities.
- **Weak outcome orientation:** Existing programmes often emphasise **enrolment and certification** rather than placement, income growth and long-term career progression.

Structural Barriers to Effective Skilling

- **Information and Gender Gaps:** Many learners lack reliable information about suitable courses and their economic returns.
 - ♦ Women face additional barriers of mobility, safety, social permission and time constraints.
- **Supply-Driven Architecture:** A one-size-fits-all approach and weak industry participation prevent skilling programmes from responding effectively to local and sectoral demand.



Why Does Skilling Matter?

- According to survey data cited by NITI Aayog, a generic graduate with additional skills earns an average starting salary of **₹29,000 per month**, compared to **₹22,000** for one without skilling.
 - ♦ It can translate into a substantial cumulative income difference over time.

- Therefore, skilling is essential for securing jobs along with improving **income mobility, entrepreneurship and workforce adaptability**, especially amid technological disruption and the green transition.



Way Forward

- India needs to move decisively towards **demand-driven, industry-backed and outcome-linked skilling**. Key reforms should include:
 - ♦ Redesigning B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. programmes into applied, industry-aligned specialisations.
 - ♦ Scaling **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes** and work-integrated learning.
 - ♦ Building skills for high-growth sectors such as **green industries and electric vehicles**.
 - ♦ Strengthening PPP-based skilling universities and giving ITIs greater academic and administrative autonomy.
 - ♦ Embedding digital literacy, financial literacy and workplace readiness in education.
 - ♦ Expanding career counselling and targeted support for women and disadvantaged youth.

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog:

- It is a premier **public policy think tank**, established on **1 January 2015**, replacing the Planning Commission.
- **Key Features:**
 - ♦ **Nature:** An **executive body/non-constitutional institution**, established through a Union Cabinet resolution.
 - ♦ **Chairperson:** The **Prime Minister of India**.
 - ♦ **Vice-Chairperson:** Appointed by the Prime Minister.
 - ♦ **Governing Council:** Comprises Chief Ministers of States and Union Territory representatives, fostering **cooperative and competitive federalism**.
 - ♦ **Role:** Provides strategic and technical policy advice to the Central and State Governments and promotes **evidence-based policymaking**.
- **Major Objectives:**
 - ♦ Promote **cooperative federalism** by involving States in policy formulation.
 - ♦ Develop a **bottom-up approach** to planning and development.
 - ♦ Foster innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.
 - ♦ Act as a knowledge and advisory platform rather than allocating funds like the erstwhile Planning Commission.

Source: IE

25TH ROUND OF INDIA-CHINA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES' DIALOGUE

Context

- India and China held the **25th round of Special Representatives (SR) talks**, focusing on advancing boundary delimitation and consolidating peace along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.

Key Outcomes of the Dialogue

- **Boundary Delimitation:** India and China discussed ways to advance negotiations for delimiting certain portions of the disputed boundary.

- **Revival of Institutional Mechanisms:** India and China have been working hard to revive bilateral institutional mechanisms and dialogue platforms that were derailed by the border tensions that started in **2020**.
- **Reaffirmation of the 2005 Framework:** Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the **2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question**, which provides broad principles for pursuing a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement.

Significance for India

- **Border-related risks Progress** on delimitation and improved border-management mechanisms can reduce the risk of unintended confrontations and escalation along the disputed boundary.
- **Strategic Stability:** Stability in the relationship between India and China is also important for the maintenance of strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific and wider Asian region, particularly in view of the economic and geopolitical significance of the two countries.

Brief on India-China Relations

- The **Panchsheel Agreement, signed in 1954**, emphasised the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, forming the foundation of India-China diplomatic relations.
- **Historical Tensions:** Strained since the **1962 Sino-Indian war**, deepened by recent clashes and mistrust.
 - ♦ In 2020, the clash between both armies in **Galwan Valley** further strained the relationship.
 - ♦ India restricted Chinese investments, banned Chinese apps (e.g., TikTok), and halted flights to China.
- **Trade Relations:** In 2025, bilateral trade between China and India reached a record high of **\$155.6 billion**, registering a year-on-year growth of over **12%**. Despite tensions, economic ties continue to grow.
- **Ongoing Mechanisms:** Despite tensions, mechanisms like the Special Representatives (SR) and **Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC)** have been in place to address the boundary issue.

Recent Developments:

- ♦ **2024 Disengagement:** India and China announced successful disengagement in eastern Ladakh.
- ♦ **October 2024 Meeting:** PM Modi and President Xi Jinping emphasized “mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual sensitivity.”
- ♦ **In 2025** both Nations resumed direct flights and the Indian PM also visited China for the SCO summit.

Concerns

- **Unresolved Boundary Dispute:** India and China have not achieved a comprehensive settlement of their disputed boundary, despite several rounds of negotiations.
- **Different Perceptions of the LAC:** The lack of a mutually accepted demarcation of the LAC creates areas of differing perceptions of the territoriality and thus increases the chances of patrol confrontations.
- **China–Pakistan Nexus:** Increasing strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan especially through **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, a part of Belt and Road Initiative passing through the Indian territory of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- **Trade Imbalance:** India has a large trade deficit with China and relies heavily on China for imports in sectors like **electronics, APIs (pharmaceuticals), telecom equipment and solar panels.**
- **China’s growing presence in the Indian Ocean Region:**
 - ♦ **Sri Lanka:** China’s presence at Hambantota Port and investments in an oil refinery cause concerns in India.
 - ♦ **Nepal:** China’s infrastructure investments (**Pokhara airport**) threaten India’s strategic position.
 - ♦ **Bangladesh:** China’s growing influence in loan agreements threatens India’s regional influence.

Way Ahead

- For India and China, incremental boundary delimitation, effective disengagement and de-escalation mechanisms, strengthened confidence-building measures and regular diplomatic and military communication are necessary to prevent the recurrence of border tensions.

- A fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable boundary settlement, based on the previously agreed political principles and sustained dialogue, remains essential for building lasting peace and stable India–China relations.

Source: [TH](#)

INDIA APPROVES TRANSFER OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO DEFENCE INDUSTRY

In News

- The Defence Minister has approved the transfer of technology (ToT) of all conventional missile systems developed by the DRDO to Indian defence manufacturers to promote indigenous production and further the Aatmanirbharta initiative in defence.

Missile Technology Transfer

- It is the transfer of design, production, operational and integration know-how between countries, or from research organisations to industrial partners.
- It has become one of the most important pillars of defence modernisation in view of rising geopolitical tensions and the reliance on precision attacks and stand-off weapons in contemporary combat.

Types of Missile Technology Transfer

- **Vertical Technology Transfer:** It is the transfer of technology with different levels of research, development, and production
 - ♦ For Example, DRDO transferring missile concepts to Indian military companies for mass manufacturing.
- **Horizontal Technology Transfer:** It is Transfer via joint ventures, licensing, or government agreements between foreign and domestic makers.
 - ♦ Between similar organisations or countries.
- **Expertise and knowledge:**
 - ♦ **Know-How:** Knowledge of production, e.g., blueprints, instructions for assembly and machinery.
 - ♦ **Know-Why:** Know design concepts, physics, and source codes for autonomous modification, upgrading, and inventing.

- **Dual-Use Technology Spin-Off & Spin-In:** The transfer of dual-use technologies between civilian and military uses, such as the adaptation of commercial navigation sensors for use in guided munitions (spin-in) or the conversion of military propulsion materials for use in civilian satellite launch vehicles (spin-off).

Significance and Need

- **Scale and mass production:** Research institutes like the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) are primarily focused on R&D.
 - ♦ Transfer of technologies to domestic private firms accelerates the manufacturing from low-volume prototypes up to industrial scales.
- **Managing Supply Chain Disruptions:** Over-reliance on foreign original equipment manufacturers is a danger in case of geopolitical crises or sanctions.
 - ♦ Local absorption of technology keeps operational preparedness up.
- **Defence Exports:** India can export indigenously created transferred technologies (e.g. BrahMos to foreign partners) as per international requirements like the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- **Ecosystem Development:** Technology Transfer introduces Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) into high-tech manufacturing chains, hence contributing local value and building a Defence Industrial Ecosystem
 - ♦ Transfer of technical know-how to local enterprises helps to build a self-sustaining industrial base

Challenges and Issues

- **Export controls:** Membership in the MTCR and other regimes limits access to critical missile technologies and foreign IP.
- **Manufacturing deficits:** Private enterprises may not have the new machinery, metallurgy, testing infrastructure, and finance to absorb high-end aviation technology.
- **IP and security threats:** The complexity and scale of supply chains also create more opportunities for IP theft, reverse engineering, trade secret leaks and cyber-espionage.

- **High expense & long gestation:** Missile manufacture involves significant up-front investment in testing, clean rooms and quality systems with returns tied to long-term procurement contracts.

Conclusion

- Missile technology transfer is important for India to move from a large importer of defence to an independent production center and long-term security deterrent.
- Achieving real strategic autonomy means going beyond licensed assembly to high-value joint ventures like BrahMos, with equal rights to intellectual property and the ability to export globally.
- To absorb these advanced technologies, commercial defence enterprises need to build up strong internal R&D infrastructure and master basic competencies such as solid-propellant chemistry, active radar seekers and thermal shielding.

Source: [TH](#)

INDIA CALLS FOR COMMUNITY-LED RESTORATION OF RANGELANDS AT UNCCD COP17

Context

- India has called for a community-led approach to restoring rangelands at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17).

About

- The 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** is being held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, under the theme **“Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”**.
- Key discussions at UNCCD COPs focus on setting national targets for **land degradation neutrality (LDN)**, **restoring degraded rangelands and dryland ecosystems**, **expanding green finance mechanisms**, and improving global cross-border data sharing for drought forecasting.

Rangelands: Ecological and Economic Assets

- Rangelands cover **54%** of the Earth's land surface, support **500 million** pastoralists and are home to **a third of the world's most important** biodiversity areas.

- They include grasslands, savannas, shrublands and open woodlands and provide food, livelihoods, biodiversity, carbon storage and water-regulation services.
- Rangelands generate an estimated **\$21tn-\$47tn** in benefits every year but remain largely overlooked in land and climate finance.
- The restoration returns **\$4-\$6 for every dollar spent**, rising to as much as \$36 when wider public benefits such as water supply are counted.

Rethinking the Role of Pastoralism

- Conventional approaches have treated pastoralism and livestock grazing as drivers of land degradation.
- However, many **rangeland ecosystems have evolved alongside grazing**, and well-managed pastoral systems can maintain biodiversity, nutrient cycling and ecosystem resilience.
- **Drought, cropland expansion, urbanisation and fragmentation of traditional grazing routes** increasingly drive rangeland degradation, rather than pastoralism alone.

Financing Gap in Land Restoration

- Land degradation affects up to **40% of the world's land surface**, threatening food security, water availability, biodiversity and livelihoods.
- **Land restoration** requires substantial and sustained investment because degraded land affects agriculture, water security, biodiversity and rural livelihoods.
 - ♦ However, land restoration has **historically received less financial attention** than other climate and development priorities.
- At COP17, this financing challenge has emerged as a key issue, particularly for rangelands and pastoral communities.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

- Land Degradation Neutrality aims to ensure that the amount and quality of land resources required to **support ecosystem functions and food security remain stable or improve**. Achieving LDN requires
 - ♦ Avoiding further land degradation.
 - ♦ Reducing ongoing degradation.
 - ♦ Restoring already degraded land.
- The focus should increasingly be on **preventing degradation before restoration becomes extremely costly**.

Challenges

- **Financing gap:** Public and private investment remains inadequate compared with the scale of land degradation.
- **Policy gap:** Rangelands receive less attention in national climate and restoration strategies than forests.
- **Knowledge gap:** Traditional ecological knowledge is insufficiently integrated into formal restoration planning.
- **Institutional fragmentation:** Land, water, agriculture, livestock, environment and disaster-management policies often operate separately.

Way Ahead

- **Bridge the financing gap:** Scale up public finance, blended finance, green bonds and innovative financial mechanisms to mobilise private investment for land restoration and drought resilience.
- **Prioritise prevention over restoration:** Invest in early-warning systems, drought forecasting and anticipatory action because preventing degradation and preparing for drought is more cost-effective than post-disaster relief and large-scale restoration.
- **Mainstream rangelands in climate policies:** Include rangelands and pastoralist systems more explicitly in **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, land-restoration targets and climate-finance frameworks.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- UNCCD was **established in 1994, following the 1992 Rio Earth Summit**, to protect and restore the land and ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future.
- It is the **only legally binding framework** set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.
- It is one of the three Rio Conventions, along with the **UNFCCC** and **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- There are **197 Parties** to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the **European Union**.
- The Convention's **2018-2030 Strategic Framework** is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land.

Source: [DD News](#), [DTE](#)

NEWS IN SHORT

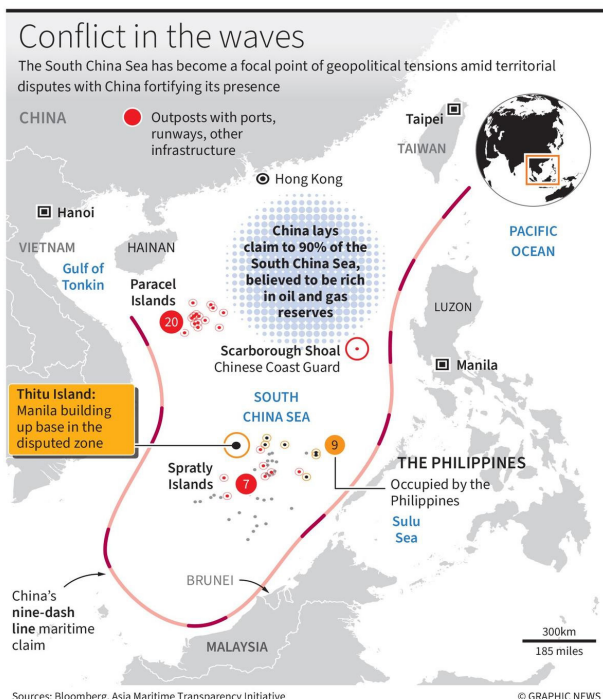
CHINA ACCELERATES SOUTH CHINA SEA BUILD-UP WITH NEW INSTALLATIONS

Context

- Satellite images show that China has built an **artificial island on the disputed Antelope Reef in the South China Sea** and constructed infrastructure that expands its control over the region.

Paracel Islands

- Antelope Reef is located in the **Paracel Islands** in the northern part of the South China Sea.
- Paracel Islands** are a group of about 130 small coral islands and reefs in the South China Sea.
 - They lie about 250 miles (400 km) east of central Vietnam and about 220 miles (350 km) southeast of Hainan Island, China.
- While China has controlled the Paracels **since the 1970s**, the archipelago is also **claimed by Vietnam**.
- The dispute over the Paracels forms part of the broader South China Sea dispute in which China claims waters around almost every maritime nation in the region.
- China is engaged in territorial disputes** with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia.



Source: ET

UN MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN

Context

- India has condemned the attack on peacekeepers deployed with the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.

Blue Helmets

- Blue Helmets are the **military personnel of the UN forces**.
- They wear distinctive light blue helmets or berets to **remain visible and neutral** while helping countries navigate conflict, monitor ceasefires, and protect civilians.

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**.
- The United Nations Security Council** establishes and defines UN peacekeeping missions by adopting formal Security Council Resolutions.
- 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).
 - UNMISET (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).
- In 2026, Uganda is the top contributor of military personnel**, followed by Nepal, Bangladesh and India.

- 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: [AIR](#)

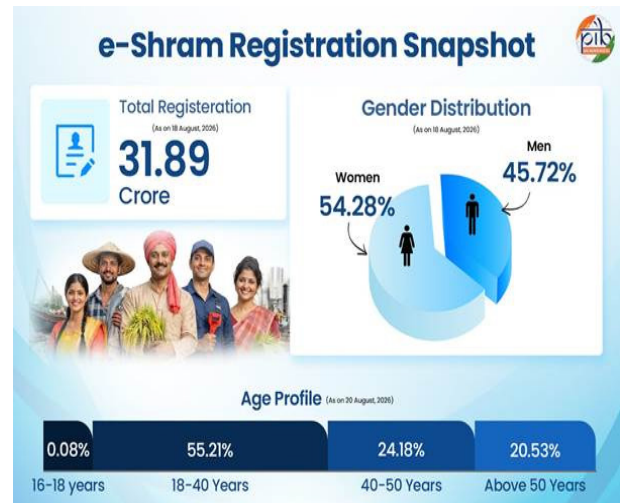
5 YEARS OF E-SHRAM PORTAL

In News

- The e-Shram Portal completed five years, marking a significant milestone in strengthening social security for India's unorganised workforce.

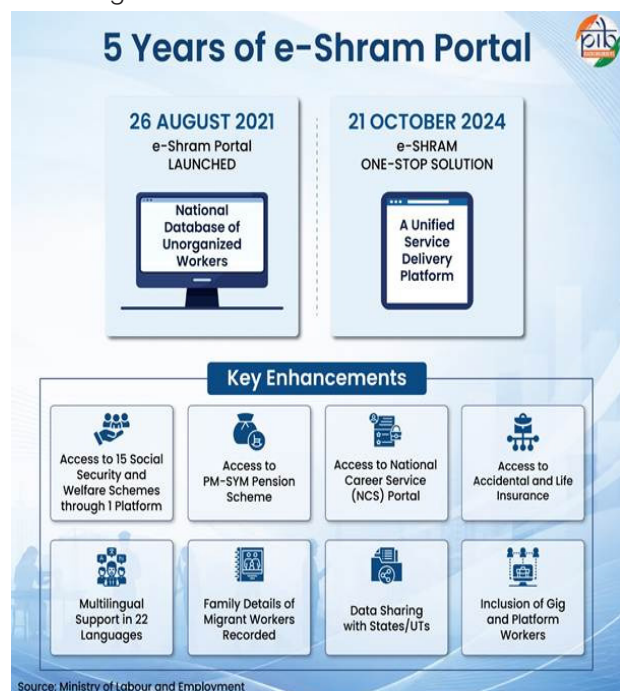
e-Shram Portal

- It was launched in **2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment** & developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- It created the country's **first-ever Aadhaar-seeded National Database of Unorganised Workers.**
- It provides every registered worker with a unique **12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN).**
- It has evolved into a one-stop digital platform integrating welfare, jobs, skilling, apprenticeship and pension services.
- Eligibility:** Any worker aged 16 years and above, engaged in the unorganised sector, is eligible to register on the e-Shram Portal. A worker must not be an income tax-payer or a member of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) or the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- Coverage:** The portal covers a wide range of unorganised workers. These include construction workers, migrant workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agricultural workers, and other unorganised workers.



Objectives

- Facilitate convergence of welfare schemes across the Ministries and Departments for better delivery of social security services.
- Securely share worker data with government agencies through APIs. This helps in effective execution of social services and data based policy making.
- Ensure the portability and national availability of social security and welfare benefits for construction and migrant workers.
- Build an extensive national database to enable prompt preparation and reaction in national emergencies and disasters.



Source: [PIB](#)

SEBI'S IT RESILIENCE INDEX (ITRI)

In News

- SEBI has introduced an IT Resilience Index framework for market infrastructure institutions to strengthen technology systems.

About

- It is a quantitative scorecard introduced by SEBI to measure the IT resilience, cybersecurity, reliability and disaster-recovery capabilities of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).
- It aims to ensure critical market systems can withstand cyberattacks, technical failures and sudden transaction surges, and quickly restore operations.

Key Features of SEBI's IT Resilience Index (ITRI)

- Shifts from periodic compliance checks to measurable, real-time resilience assessment.
- Uses **nine risk-based parameters**, with Availability and Cybersecurity carrying the highest weight (20% each).
- Covers Business Continuity, Reliability and Scalability to ensure systems can recover quickly and handle market stress.
- Requires an Early Warning System (EWS)** to detect performance issues before they trigger major outages.
- Follows a **"resilience-first" approach**—focuses not only on preventing failures but also on absorbing shocks and recovering quickly.

- Supports SEBI's wider technology agenda, including AI/ML, SupTech/RegTech and quantum-safe cybersecurity.

Source: [TH](#)

LITHIUM CARBONATE

In News

- Lithium carbonate prices and energy storage cell costs continued to decline in recent months as the battery supply chain adjusts to expectations of stronger supply and a possible market surplus in 2027.

Lithium Carbonate

- Lithium carbonate is a **lithium salt** with the chemical formula Li_2CO_3 .
- Battery-grade lithium carbonate is primarily used to **produce Li-ion battery cathode materials**, such as lithium cobalt oxide (LCO), lithium manganate oxide (LMO), lithium iron phosphate (LFP), NMC111, NMC442, NMC532, NMC622, as well as alkaline batteries.
- In the glass industry, lithium carbonate is used to reduce the melting point of silica used in ovenware glass.
- In the ceramics industry, lithium carbonate is used to render color and shine.

Source: [DTE](#)

