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CHINA'S BEIJING TO BECOME 'SUPER-AGED' SOCIETY BY 2035

In News

- Beijing is projected to become a **super-aged society by 2035**, reflecting **China's rapidly ageing population**, declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy.

What is a Super-Aged Society?

- Under commonly used demographic classifications, a population is considered an **ageing society when people aged 60 and above account** for at least 10 per cent of the population.
  - The threshold rises to **20 per cent for an aged society and 30 per cent for a super-aged society.**
- An aging population increases **demand for healthcare, pensions, long-term care and age-friendly infrastructure.**

China's Wider Demographic Shift

- **As of end-2025:** Beijing had 5.288 million residents aged 60 and above, accounting for 24.3% of its population.
- **Low Fertility:** China's fertility rate is about 1.0 to 1.2, far below replacement level (2.1).
- **Projection for 2035**: More than 33% of Beijing's residents are expected to be aged 60 or above which is roughly one in three people.

Reasons Behind Population Ageing

- **Low birth rates & Shrinking workforce:** China's population has been declining since 2022. The one child policy (1979 to 2015) and urban living costs have locked in low births.
- **Rising Longevity:** Better healthcare has raised life expectancy to about 78 years, which enlarges the elderly base while the working age group shrinks.
- **Demographic transition:** Large older cohorts are moving into retirement age.

Implications of Ageing Society

- **Shrinking Labour Force:** A smaller workforce raises wages and weakens the manufacturing cost advantage. This pushes firms toward automation and relocation to cheaper economies like India and Vietnam.
- **Fiscal Pressure:** Pension and healthcare spending rise while the contributor base falls.
- **Lower Savings and Growth:** An older population saves less and consumes differently, reducing investment and potential GDP growth.
- **New Opportunities:** The silver economy covers healthcare, assisted living, insurance and geriatric technology, creating new markets.
- **Global Supply Chains:** China's ageing accelerates the "China plus one" strategy, which opens space for India in electronics and manufacturing.

India's Position

- **Window of Advantage:** India has a median age of about 28 years, and the demographic dividend will last till roughly the 2040s.
- **Ageing is Underway:** The 60+ population was about 10.5% in 2022 and is projected to reach about 20% by 2050 (India Ageing Report 2023). India's fertility rate (2.0 in NFHS 5) is already below replacement.
- **Regional Divergence**: Southern states are aging faster. Kerala's elderly share is projected to cross 20% by the mid 2030s, while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh remain young. This causes uneven fiscal burdens and migration pressures.
- **Existing Framework:** The National Policy for Older Persons (1999), Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (2007), NSAP pensions, Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (extended to all above 70 in 2024).

Challenges for India

- **Getting Old Before Getting Rich:** India's per capita income is far below China's, so it will age with less fiscal capacity and weaker social security.
- **Pension Gap:** Nearly 90% of workers are informal, and only a small share has pension coverage. Old age poverty is therefore a real risk, especially for women.
- **Healthcare Strain:** Non communicable diseases, dementia and weak geriatric care capacity add costs. Out of pocket spending remains high.
- **Skill and Jobs Mismatch:** The dividend is wasted if youth are not employable. Low female labour force participation compounds this.

Way Forward For India

- **Harvest the Dividend Now:** Invest in skilling, manufacturing and women's workforce participation under Skill India and PLI schemes.

- **Universal Social Security:** Expanding the Atal Pension Yojana, NPS and the Code on Social Security 2020 to gig and informal workers is a good move.
- **Geriatric Healthcare**: Build specialised geriatric units in district hospitals, and promote long term care insurance and home based care.
- **Silver Economy:** Encourage senior living, assistive technology and elderly employment through flexible work.
- **Decentralised Planning:** Use Finance Commission transfers and state specific strategies to address regional ageing gaps.
- **Learn from East Asia:** Avoid coercive population policies. Focus on supportive childcare, housing and workplace policies instead.

Conclusion

- While China's ageing may open space in global manufacturing and services, India must create productive jobs, improve skills, increase women's participation and prepare for its own ageing transition.

Source: Firstpost

INTERNET ACCESS AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Context

- The Supreme Court, while hearing applications concerning the circulation of child sexual exploitation and abuse material (CSEAM) on social media, recognised the right of children to access the Internet.

Key Observations of the Supreme Court

- The Court observed that the right to access and use the Internet is a fundamental right under **Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution.
- **Children enjoy constitutional rights irrespective of their age,** and their freedom of expression cannot be denied merely because they are minors.
- **Proposed Safeguards:**
  - The government was directed to create a **database of digital identifiers and URLs** associated with confirmed abusive material to facilitate its identification and removal.
  - The government was directed to frame guidelines and standard operating procedures for **perceptual hash-matching, URL listing and other technological measures** to detect and remove such material.
  - The Court stressed that **non-consensual, sexually exploitative and abusive material must have no place** on the Internet.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 21:** Protects the right to life and personal liberty, which the Court linked to Internet access.
- **Article 19(1)(a):** Guarantees freedom of speech and expression, including the constitutional interest in accessing and communicating information through digital platforms.
- **Article 19(2):** Permits reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression on specified grounds, subject to constitutional requirements.

Key Judgements of the Supreme Court

- **In Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India (2020),** the court held that freedom of speech and expression, and the freedom to carry on trade or business, through the internet are protected under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g).
- **In Pragya Prasun v Union of India (2025),** the court held that excluding persons with disabilities from digital KYC violated Article 21 and that "the right to digital access is an intrinsic component of the right to life."
- **In Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal (1995)** the cout held that Article 19(1)(a) includes "the right to know and to receive and impart information and ideas".

Benefits of Internet Use Among Children

- **Access to information:** Digital platforms provide children with educational resources and opportunities to explore subjects beyond the classroom.
- **Skill development:** Internet use supports digital skills, upskilling, creative expression and collaborative learning.
- **Social interaction:** Digital platforms facilitate communication, community-building and peer engagement.

Concerns Associated with Internet Use

- **Social Isolation:** Virtual connectivity replaces face-to-face communication, weakening real-world relationships and family bonds.
- **Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD):** Compulsive use leads to loss of control, withdrawal symptoms, and neglect of real-world duties.
- **Physical well-being:** Excessive or poorly regulated Internet use disrupt sleep, affect emotional regulation and interfere with children's daily routines.
- **Online exploitation:** Interactions with strangers, cyberbullying, impersonation and inappropriate content can expose children to harassment and other forms of harm.
- **Gender-based digital divide:** Boys' greater access and freedom increases exposure to online risks, while restrictions on girls' Internet access limits their digital literacy and ability to protect themselves online.

Australia's Social Media Minimum-Age Law

- **The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024** passed in 2025 **completely prohibited** children **under the age of 16** from creating or holding accounts on designated social media platforms.
- **Implementation:** The Australian eSafety Commissioner oversees the framework, while age-assurance methods raise questions about effectiveness, privacy and the possibility of circumvention.

Way Ahead

- Platforms should **include age-appropriate defaults**, restricted contact from unknown users and accessible reporting mechanisms.
- Children affected by **online abuse should receive confidential reporting channels,** counselling and timely legal assistance.
- **Schools should teach children** how to assess online information, recognise manipulation, protect personal data and respond safely to cyberbullying and suspicious interactions.

Source: IE

CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN INDIA

Context

- The Andhra Pradesh High Court (HC) ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the **alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna.**

Major Highlights of the HC Judgment

- The Andhra Pradesh High Court (HC) held that the **State has a duty to enforce the human rights of citizens** and provide for a **fair and impartial investigation** against any person accused of **committing a cognizable offence, including their own officers.**
  - In certain situations, **even a witness to a crime may seek protection**, and [they] should be granted protection by the State.
- **It suggested following steps to be effective preventive measures:**
  - reorientation of police training that brings in the mindset required to recognise and respect human rights,
  - continuous monitoring of the functioning of lower-level police officers to ensure adherence to lawful methods of investigation,
  - introduction of simple and foolproof procedures for prompt registration of FIRs relating to all crimes and equipping the police with modern methods of record maintenance to avoid manipulations,
  - insertions, substitutions and antedating in regard to FIRs, inquest proceedings, post-mortem reports and the like.

What is Custodial Death?

- **Custodial death** refers to the death of an individual **while in police or judicial custody.** This may occur **before trial, during police interrogation, or after conviction.**
  - The death may be caused by **torture, negligence, denial of medical aid,** or even under suspicious circumstances.
- **It Violates the Constitutional Rights of;**
  - **Article 20(1):** No person shall be punished beyond what is prescribed in law.
  - **Article 20(3):** Protection against self-incrimination; any confession made under duress is inadmissible.
  - **Article 21:** Ensures protection of life and personal liberty, including in police/judicial custody.
  - **Article 22:** Provides fundamental safeguards for individuals against arbitrary arrest and detention.
- **Custodial Deaths in India:** According to parliamentary data, **11,656 custodial deaths** were recorded between 2016-17 and 2021-22, across India.

- Uttar Pradesh topped the list with **2,630 deaths,** while **Tamil Nadu** reported the highest number among the southern States.
- As per the NCRB Data, A total of **170 custodial deaths** were reported across the country in the first 74 days of 2026, which has surpassed the previous year's figure of 140.
- **Bihar** topped the list followed by Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Reasons of Higher Custodial Deaths in India

- **Procedural Flaws and Delays:** Supreme Court of India, in **K Basu vs. State of West Bengal (1997) Case**, laid down guidelines to prevent custodial abuse. Despite the guidelines, courts often rely on magisterial inquiries and procedures leading to delays.
- **Weak Accountability:** Investigations into custodial deaths often lack independence, as they are conducted by the same police department implicated in the incident. Judicial inquiries are frequently delayed, lack transparency, and fail to deliver conclusive outcomes.
- **Marginalisation and Vulnerable Groups:** Most victims come from weaker socio-economic backgrounds, they lack legal literacy and resources preventing families from seeking justice.

Concerns

- **Erosion of Rule of Law:** It shows that constitutional safeguards that Article 21 Right to Life, Article 22 Protection against arbitrary arrest are being violated. This undermines public confidence in the justice system.
- **Human Rights Image:** Internationally, India faces criticism in UNHRC, Human Rights Watch reports. This weakens India's moral authority when it speaks about human rights issues in other countries.
- **Police-State Perception:** High custodial deaths may create a perception of India as a police state rather than a welfare-oriented democracy.
- **Weak Criminal Justice System**: This projects inefficiency in adopting modern policing, forensics, and technology-driven methods.

International Legal Frameworks for Protection

- **United Nations Charter (1945):** It sets out the purposes and principles of the UN, including the promotion of human rights.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):** It prohibits torture and ensures the presumption of innocence.
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966):** It protects right to life and prohibits torture.
- **The Nelson Mandela Rules,** officially known as the **UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 2015,** establish minimum standards for the humane treatment of all individuals deprived of their liberty.
- **European Convention on Human Rights (1950):** It recognises individual dignity and access to justice mechanisms.

Major SC Judgements and Recommendations for Reforms

SC Judgements:

- **Nilabati Behera v. State of Orissa (1993):** The Court established that the **State is under a strict liability to pay monetary compensation** to the families of victims whose fundamental right to life (Article 21) is violated via custodial violence.
- **D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997):** The Supreme Court issued **11 mandatory requirements for every arrest.** This includes displaying clear identification tags for interrogating officers, preparing a formal arrest memo signed by at least one witness, informing a relative within 8–12 hours, and performing medical examinations every 48 hours while in custody.
- **Prakash Singh vs. Union of India (2006) directives:** Directed the separation of investigation wings from regular law-and-order wings to avoid bias, and mandated the creation of Police Complaints Authorities (PCAs) at state and district levels to look into serious misconduct like custodial death.
- **Paramvir Singh Saini vs. Baljit Singh (2020): The Supreme Court explicitly directed mandatory Use of Technology,** CCTV coverage in interrogation rooms, digital records of questioning, and body cameras must become the norm.

Law Commission of India Reports & Recommendations:

- **69th Report (1977):** Proposed reforms to evidentiary rules regarding confessions made before senior officers to prevent the structural incentive for "third-degree" methods aimed at extraction.

- **273rd Report on Implementation of United Nations Convention Against Torture (2017):** Recommended that India enact a comprehensive, dedicated domestic law to criminalize and systematically eliminate custodial torture.
  - Urged the creation of fast-track courts specifically dedicated to trying custodial crimes to prevent cases from dragging on for years.
  - Advised harsh criminal penalties, up to life imprisonment, along with fine adjustments for complicit public officials to ensure direct institutional accountability.
- **Criminal Law Reforms (2023):** Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (replacing CrPC) introduces provisions for greater transparency in arrests, use of forensic methods, and citizen-centric procedures.
  - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023 modernise penal and evidentiary laws, reducing dependence on confession-based policing.

Conclusion

- Despite providing fundamental rights, legal safeguards and major judicial judgements the cases of custodial abuse and deaths in India are present.
  - India must uphold **its constitutional values along with aligning with its international obligations.**
- As mentioned in various Law Commission reports and pronouncements of SC judgements, the **Parliament must enact a comprehensive anti-torture law, strengthening institutions, and ensuring accountability.**

Source: TH

U.S.-RUSSIA DIESEL DEAL

Context

- The US President signed an executive order **waiving sanctions on Russia and holding off tariffs on countries such as India that buy Russian energy**.

About

- The US President used a **waiver authority** in the recently passed **Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act,** which was intended to **cripple Russia's energy sector**.
  - It included tariffs of up to **100% on the top five purchasers of Russian oil and gas,** which included India, China, Azerbaijan, Slovakia and Hungary.
  - In addition, tariffs of up to 500% were to be levied on Russian exports to the US, and up to 100% on countries helping Russia evade sanctions.
- **Russia-U.S. Energy Deal:** Russia would immediately supply over 300,000 tonnes of diesel to the U.S. and to the global market, another 500,000 tonnes in November, and 1 million tonnes immediately thereafter.
  - US reasoning for this move was that it would bring down fuel prices for the U.S. and the world.

Implications for India

- **Relief from tariff threats:** The temporary suspension of additional tariffs reduces the immediate risk of Indian exports to the US facing punitive measures because India purchases Russian oil.
- **Avoiding a difficult choice:** India can continue purchasing Russian crude without facing the same immediate dilemma of choosing between affordable energy supplies and protecting its exports to the US.
- **Greater flexibility for refiners:** Indian oil refineries can assess Russian crude based on price, availability and transportation costs rather than the additional tariff threat alone.
- **Reduced uncertainty in trade negotiations:** The waiver provides temporary relief from one source of friction while India and the US continue negotiating a bilateral trade agreement.

Way Ahead

- The waiver provides **temporary breathing space for bilateral trade negotiations** by reducing the immediate threat of another tariff-related dispute.
  - However, it does not eliminate the underlying differences between the two countries over India's purchases of Russian oil.
- India should treat the waiver **as a temporary strategic opportunity,** not a permanent assurance from the U.S.
- A **diversified import strategy, diplomatic engagement and stronger energy resilience** will help India safeguard both its energy security and its trade interests.

Source: TH

INDIA'S SPACE ECONOMY TO REACH USD 40-45 BILLION IN 7–8 YEARS

In News

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that India's space economy, currently valued at approximately **US$9 billion**, is **expected to reach US$40–45 billion** over the next seven to eight years.

Key Developments

- **Institutional Reform**: The creation of IN-SPACe (2020) as a single-window authorizer and NSIL as the commercial arm has opened the sector to private players. ISRO now focuses on research, exploration and capability building.
- **Policy Framework:** The Indian Space Policy 2023 defines roles for ISRO, NSIL and the private sector. The 100% FDI allowed in satellite manufacturing and launch services signals openness to global capital.
- **Private Ecosystem:** Start-ups have grown from a handful to 200+. Skyroot's Vikram-S (2022) and Agnikul's Agnibaan showed private launch capability.
- **Capital Support**: A 1,000 crore venture capital fund for space start-ups aims to ease early-stage financing.
- **Mission Credibility:** Chandrayaan-3's lunar south pole landing (2023) and Aditya-L1 have strengthened India's global standing as a cost-effective space power.
- **Global Collaboration:** India joined the Artemis Accords (2023) and works with agencies like NASA through missions such as NISAR.

Significance of India's Space Economy

- **Economic Multiplier:** Every dollar produced in India's space sector generates a $2.54 economic multiplier effect, and the sector's workforce is 2.5 times more productive than the broader national industrial average.
  - Space applications such as satellite communication, navigation and earth observation feed into agriculture, logistics, telecom and fintech.
- **Private-sector participation:** Encourages startups and private companies to develop launch vehicles, satellites and space technologies.
- **Strategic autonomy:** Strengthens India's capabilities in navigation, communication, weather forecasting and national security.
- **Employment generation:** Creates skilled jobs in aerospace engineering, software, electronics and advanced manufacturing.
- **Global Market Share:** India holds only about 2% of the global space economy. Cost advantage in launches positions it to capture a larger share of small satellite and rideshare markets.
- **Soft Power:** Space diplomacy, such as the South Asia Satellite and capacity building for Global South nations, enhances India's strategic influence.

Role of Space Technology in Nation-Building

- **Land Governance:** SVAMITVA uses drone mapping to establish property records in rural areas.
- **Agriculture:** Satellite data supports crop monitoring, drought assessment and crop insurance under PMFBY.
- **Disaster Management**: INSAT and remote sensing satellites support cyclone tracking, flood mapping and early warnings.
- **Women in Space:** Women scientists and engineers contribute to major ISRO missions, including Chandrayaan. Their participation promotes gender inclusion in STEM and strengthens India's scientific capabilities.
- **Navigation and Communication:** ISRO's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) provides regional positioning, navigation and timing services, supporting transportation, disaster management and strategic applications.

Challenges

- **Scale Gap:** The global space economy is estimated at USD 600 billion or more, dominated by the US and China. India's growth target is ambitious given the limited current base.
- **Financing Constraints:** Space ventures are capital-intensive with long gestation periods. Private investment remains thin and risk-averse compared to the US, where firms like SpaceX scaled with deep funding.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** A comprehensive Space Activities Bill is still pending. Issues of liability, licensing, spectrum allocation and insurance remain unclear.
- **Technological Dependence:** Critical components, advanced semiconductors and propulsion materials still rely on imports, constraining true self-reliance.

- **Space Debris and Sustainability:** Rising satellite congestion raises collision risks and demands responsible orbital management.
- **Dual-Use and Security Risks:** Private access to sensitive imagery and technology raises concerns about data security and export controls.

Way Forward

- **Legislative Clarity:** Enact the Space Activities Bill to provide legal certainty on licensing, liability and dispute resolution.
- **Deepen Financing:** Encourage long-term capital through sovereign funds, blended finance and tax incentives for R&D.
- **Domestic Supply Chains:** Promote component manufacturing under PLI-like incentives to cut import dependence.
- **Anchor Demand:** Use government procurement to guarantee early demand, reducing risk for start-ups.
- **Skill and Research Linkages:** Strengthen academia–industry–ISRO collaboration to build a talent pipeline.
- **Space Traffic Management:** Develop debris mitigation norms aligned with global best practices.

Source: PIB

NEWS IN SHORT

INDIA'S NUTRIENT-RICH PURPLE POTATO

Context

- An important outcome of **biofortification research** has been the development of **coloured potato varieties with enhanced nutritional value.**

About

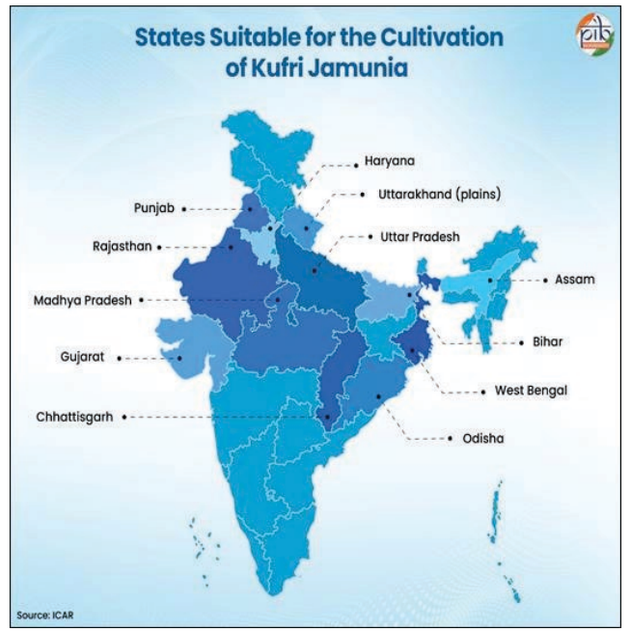
- **Hidden hunger** remains a **major public health challenge** despite adequate calorie intake.
  - It occurs when **people consume sufficient food** but **lack essential vitamins and minerals in their diet.**
- To address this challenge, **scientists are increasingly developing biofortified crops** with enhanced nutritional value.
  - **Biofortification improves** the nutrient content of crops through plant breeding, enabling food to naturally provide higher levels of essential nutrients.
- ICAR-CPRI (Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Central Potato Research Institute) developed nutrient-rich coloured potato varieties, **including Kufri neelkanth, Kufri manik, and Kufri jamunia.**
  - These varieties contain important antioxidants and micronutrients, such as **anthocyanins, iron, and zinc.**

About Kufri jamunia

- **Kufri jamunia** was released in **2024**, the variety contains higher levels of **ascorbic acid, anthocyanin, and carotenoids than Kufri manik and Kufri neelkanth.**
  - Its purple flesh indicates high antioxidant content and better nutritional quality including enhanced levels of zinc and iron.

Nutrient (per 100 gm)	Kufri Jamunia	Common Potato
Vitamin C	42.75 mg	23.15 mg
Zinc	2.28 mg	0.28 mg
Iron	3.22 mg	0.57 mg

- Kufri jamunia has demonstrated stable performance in multi-location trials and has been recommended for **cultivation in the North Indian plains.**



Source: PIB

GLOBAL RATE-HIKE CYCLE AS CENTRAL BANKS TACKLE INFLATION

Context

- Central banks around the world are raising borrowing costs as rising energy prices caused by the US-Iran war are increasing inflation.

Reasons for Increasing Interest Rates

- Higher crude oil prices trading at around $105 per barrel is a major concern, particularly for energy-importing economies such as India. It is increasing fuel, transportation and production costs.
- **Rising long-term bond yields:** Inflation uncertainty and higher government borrowing are pushing bond yields upwards.
    - As bond prices fall, yields rise, increasing borrowing costs for governments and businesses. Central banks face pressure to contain inflation expectations and maintain policy credibility, potentially prompting further rate hikes.

How Do Rate Hikes Control Inflation?

- **Demand management:** Higher policy rates increase borrowing costs for households and businesses, moderating consumption and investment.
    - **Lower aggregate demand** reduces the ability of businesses to raise prices, helping contain demand-driven inflation.
- **Exchange-rate channel:** Higher domestic returns may attract foreign capital and support the currency, potentially lowering the cost of imports.

Source: TH

ORGANIC PALMYRA JAGGERY POWDER EXPORT TO BULGARIA

In News

- India exported its first consignment of **organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder to Bulgaria.**

About

- It is a traditional natural sweetener prepared from the **nectar of Palmyra palm blossoms.**
- The recent export consignment originated from **Gobichettipalayam, Erode district, Tamil Nadu.**
- The exported product is certified under **India's National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** and European Union organic standards.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

(APEDA)

- **Established:** 1986 under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.
- **Nature:** Statutory authority.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi.

Source: PIB

CRPF CONSIDERS RESTORING LANCE NAIK AND NAIK RANKS

Context

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is reintroducing the **military ranks of lance naik and naik** to address delayed promotions and accommodate **Agniveers retiring from the Army.**

Background

- The **lance naik and naik ranks** were **abolished in the force in 1997** and merged with the police ranks of constable and head constable through a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order.
    - The two ranks are **still operational in the Army.**
- **Promotion structure:** According to the hierarchy, a jawan who joins the force as a constable gains the first promotion of lance naik in five years, followed by the promotion to **naik in 10 years** and subsequently **head constable in 20 years.**
    - Currently, the about 3.25 lakh personnel-strong CRPF is facing acute stagnation in promotions in these ranks, as a constable gets his first promotion in 22-25 years on average.

Reasons for Restorations

- Its aim is to provide **two more promotions to the constabulary** before they reach the head constable rank, which will help address their grievances along with boosting their morale.
- It also wants to make the **CRPF service attractive for the Agniveers from the Army,** whose first batch will begin retiring later this year, and will be eligible to join the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the CRPF.

- **Agniveers are short-term military personnel** recruited into the three forces for **four years** under the Centre's Agnipath scheme.

About Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- The Central Reserve Police Force, initially established as the **Crown Representatives Police in 1939,** assumed its current name under the **CRPF Act 1949.**
  - It operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Mission:** Empower the government to maintain the rule of Law, Public Order, and Internal Security. Safeguard the nation's integrity, while fostering Social Harmony and Development by upholding the supremacy of the Constitution.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Specialized Units:**
  - **CoBRA** (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) for guerrilla and anti-Naxal operations.
  - **Rapid Action Force (RAF)** for riot and crowd control.
  - **Mahila Battalions** (women's battalions).
  - **VIP Security** and Parliament Duty groups.

Source: TH

EXERCISE KONKA- 26

Context

- The India-UK bilateral maritime **exercise KONKAN-26** concluded off Plymouth, United Kingdom.

About Exercise KONKAN

- KONKAN, which began in **2004**, is an annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy.
- The Indian Navy was represented by the stealth frigate **INS Trishul**, while the Royal Navy deployed **HMS Sutherland**, a Duke-class anti-submarine warfare frigate.
- Exercise KONKAN reinforces the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the **India–UK Vision 2035**, highlighting a shared commitment to a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.

Other India-UK Bilateral Exercises

- AJEYA WARRIOR (Army), Exercise Indradhanush (Air Force), and Exercise Cobra Warrior (multinational air exercise hosted by the UK).

Source: PIB

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