



“ We help you reach for the star ”

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 07/06/2025 (SATURDAY)



 **9972258970 & 9740702455**

**#317/A SKB Arcade, D. Subbaiah Road,
Ramaswamy Circle, Mysuru-570004**



Table of Contents

1. RBI Cuts Repo Rate and CRR: Key Takeaways.....	2
2. PM Inaugurates World's Highest Rail Bridge & Major Infrastructure in J&K.....	3
3. 800-Year-Old Shiva Temple Unearthed in Madurai: Key Highlights	4
4. Kerala's Pallivasal Hydel Project Faces Delay Due to River Waste Blockage	5
5. Kerala Lab Develops Molecular Test Kits for Deadly Brain-Eating Amoeba: Key Points	6
6. Iran-China Ballistic Missile Deal: Strategic, Security & Diplomatic Implications.....	8
7. India-Canada Diplomatic Engagement Ahead of G7 Summit	9
8. Water Management in India Needs a New Course	10
9. Maintaining India's Progress in Food Safety Standards	12
10. Indian Navy Commissions 'Arnala' – First in Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Series	13
11. Citizen-Centric Engagement through "Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz" and MyGov Contests	15
12. Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA) Initiative: Promoting Indian Languages in Governance.....	16



1. RBI Cuts Repo Rate and CRR: Key Takeaways

1. Monetary Easing by RBI to Boost Growth

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 5:1 to **cut the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.50%**, signaling an accommodative stance to revive growth as inflation remains under control.
- This is the **third repo rate cut since February**, aimed at reducing borrowing costs and boosting credit demand.

2. CRR Reduction to Inject Liquidity

- RBI announced a **100 bps reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)**—the percentage of a bank's total deposits that must be maintained with the RBI.
- This move will be implemented in four **staggered 25 bps cuts**, starting from September to November 2025, reducing CRR to **3% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)**.
- The measure is expected to **release ₹2.5 lakh crore of primary liquidity** into the banking system by December 2025.

3. Impact on Borrowers and Depositors

- The **repo rate cut reduces lending rates**, easing the **interest burden for borrowers**, including businesses and households.
- However, it may also **lower interest income for depositors**, affecting savings returns, especially for fixed deposits.

4. Inflation Targeting Framework Intact

- Despite the easing measures, the RBI reiterated its commitment to the **medium-term CPI inflation target of 4%** within a **tolerance band of ±2%**, in line with the **monetary policy framework under Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- Current inflation is perceived to be under control, allowing policy space for growth support.

5. Growth Forecast Retained

- **Real GDP growth projection for 2025–26 remains at 6.5%**, based on domestic demand recovery, improved rural consumption, and global factors.
- The RBI aims to maintain a **balance between inflation control and supporting economic expansion**.

6. Legal and Institutional Framework

- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**, constituted under **Section 45ZB of the RBI Act**, is responsible for setting the repo rate.
- **Repo Rate** is the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks, and **CRR** is a tool under RBI's statutory liquidity management functions.





- These instruments are part of the **quantitative tools** of monetary policy to manage money supply and inflation.

Conclusion:

RBI's recent monetary easing through a significant repo rate cut and phased CRR reduction reflects a calibrated effort to stimulate economic growth while ensuring inflation remains within the target band. These decisions align with RBI's dual mandate of **price stability and growth promotion**, making it a critical development for UPSC aspirants to understand the working of monetary policy in India's macroeconomic framework.

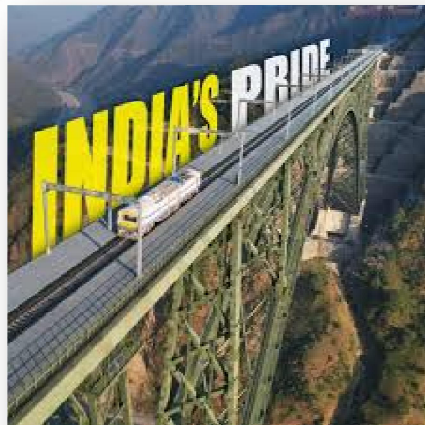
2. PM Inaugurates World's Highest Rail Bridge & Major Infrastructure in J&K

1. Chenab Rail Bridge: Engineering Marvel & Symbol of Integration

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Chenab Rail Bridge**, the **world's highest railway arch bridge**, located **359 meters above the Chenab River**.
- It is a **1,315m-long steel arch bridge**, designed to withstand seismic and wind conditions, signifying India's engineering capability in difficult terrain.
- The bridge is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** project and **reduces travel time between Katra and Srinagar by 2–3 hours**.

2. USBRL Project: Strategic and Economic Importance

- The USBRL is a **272 km railway project** worth **₹43,780 crore**, comprising **36 tunnels (119 km)** and **943 bridges**.
- It connects the **Kashmir Valley** with the rest of **India**, ensuring **all-weather, seamless rail connectivity**, which is crucial for national integration, regional mobility, and socio-economic development.



3. Other Major Rail and Road Projects

- PM also inaugurated the **Anji Bridge**, **India's first cable-stayed railway bridge**, enhancing connectivity through challenging topography.
- Two **Vande Bharat Express** trains between **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar** were flagged off, alongside road projects aimed at **boosting last-mile connectivity in border areas**.

4. Boost to Education and Health Infrastructure in J&K

- A **new medical college in Jammu** was inaugurated. The PM highlighted the presence of premier institutions like **IIT, IIM, AIIMS, NIT, and Central Universities** in the region.
- This reflects the government's commitment to making J&K a hub of education, research, and healthcare.



5. National Security and Operation Sindoor Context

- These inaugurations follow **Operation Sindoor**, an anti-terror operation from **7–10 May**, underlining the strategic and security dimensions of infrastructure development in J&K.
- Enhanced transport and healthcare infrastructure also improve **response capabilities and civilian resilience** in sensitive border regions.

6. Constitutional & Legal Framework

- Infrastructure development in J&K is aligned with the **reorganization under the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**, post abrogation of **Article 370**, allowing full application of central laws and developmental schemes.
- The projects are supported under **national infrastructure pipelines and centrally sponsored schemes** promoting inclusive development.

Conclusion:

The inauguration of the **world's highest rail bridge** and associated infrastructure projects in Jammu & Kashmir marks a milestone in engineering, connectivity, and national integration. It reflects India's focus on **border area development, strategic connectivity, and regional empowerment** post Article 370 reforms. These developments are not only critical from the perspective of national security and economic inclusion but also demonstrate the transformative potential of infrastructure in unifying diverse regions of India.

3. 800-Year-Old Shiva Temple Unearthed in Madurai: Key Highlights

1. Significant Archaeological Discovery from the Later Pandya Period

- An **800-year-old Shiva temple**, dating back to **1217–1218 CE**, was unearthed in **Udampatti village (formerly Attur) in Melur taluk, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu**.
- The temple remains were found accidentally by children and later investigated by researchers and the Village Administrative Officer (VAO).
- The temple, identified using **Silpa Shastram** and inscriptions, is known as **Thennavanisvaram**, a name associated with the Pandya royal title "Thennavan."

2. Evidence from Inscriptions: Socio-Economic and Cultural Insights

- Two **Tamil inscriptions** on the temple foundation provide insights into **land ownership, taxation, and temple autonomy**.
- A **sale deed** from a local chieftain, Alagaperumal of Kalavalinadu, describes the sale of a **waterbody (Nagankudi)** and adjacent lands for **64 kasu (ancient coins)** to another local figure.
- The deed states that **taxes from this land were to be given to the temple deity**, indicating the temple's **financial independence and endowment system**.





3. Architectural and Historical Significance

- The remaining **stone base structure** on the northern and southern sides shows typical Pandya period architecture, confirming the **temple's design principles** as per **Silpa Sastras**.
- Although much of the temple is now in ruins, its **cultural continuity, religious patronage**, and administrative systems are evident from the engravings.

4. Context of Pandya Rule and Cultural Heritage

- The temple dates back to the reign of **Maravarman Sundara Pandya**, a significant ruler of the **Later Pandya dynasty**, known for **temple patronage, agrarian economy**, and inscriptions.
- The discovery highlights the **rich temple-building tradition** of the Pandyas and how temples acted as **centers of religion, economy, and local governance**.

5. Importance of Village and Panchayat-level Discoveries

- This discovery, initiated by villagers and supported by the local **VAO and researchers**, underscores the role of **community engagement in heritage preservation**.
- The site was also referred to in earlier documents by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (1974–75)**, confirming the historical presence of temples in this region.

6. Legal and Institutional Framework for Heritage Protection

- Such sites fall under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**, which mandates their protection and possible **declaration as monuments of national importance**.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and **State Departments of Archaeology** are empowered to conserve and document such findings.

Conclusion:

The unearthing of the **Thennavanisvaram Shiva temple** in Madurai district is a testament to India's deep-rooted **temple culture, local economic networks**, and **historical continuity**. It sheds light on the **autonomy of temple institutions**, use of **Tamil inscriptions for legal and economic transactions**, and the **socio-political fabric of the Later Pandya period**. For UPSC aspirants, it serves as an important example of how archaeological discoveries enhance our understanding of **regional history, heritage conservation**, and the **interaction between religion and economy** in medieval India.

4. Kerala's Pallivasal Hydel Project Faces Delay Due to River Waste Blockage

1. Pallivasal Extension Project: Strategic Energy Infrastructure

- The **Pallivasal Extension Hydel Project** in **Idukki district, Kerala**, is a **60-MW hydropower project**, currently in its **final commissioning stage**.
- Initially planned for inauguration in **June**, the project has been **delayed to September 2025** due to **trash accumulation** blocking water flow at the intake point.

2. Environmental Negligence: Urban Waste Dumping



- **Waste from Munnar town and nearby areas** has been **dumped into the river**, leading to clogging of the **trash rack gate** (a structure that filters debris before water enters the turbines).
- This blockage has hampered **full-scale power generation** despite successful **trial production contributing over 100 million units (mu)** to the grid.

3. Immediate and Long-Term Solutions

- **Manual waste removal** is currently being undertaken to restore flow.
- A **fully-automated trash gate cleaner** is being installed as a short-term measure.
- **Long-term solution** involves linking the intake pool of the **new extension project** with the intake channel of the **older Pallivasal hydel project**, work on which has begun.

4. Broader Implications: Urban Waste and Infrastructure Projects

- The incident highlights the **negative impact of unregulated solid waste disposal** on major **infrastructure and renewable energy** projects.
- Points to the **need for integrated waste management policies**, especially near ecologically sensitive and hydropower zones.

5. Legal and Environmental Frameworks Involved

- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016** under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**, mandate scientific disposal of municipal waste and prohibit dumping into water bodies.
- Violations may also attract penal provisions under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974** and directions from **State Pollution Control Boards**.

6. Relevance for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The issue links to **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**, **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**, and **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**.
- It underscores the importance of **community participation, local governance, and inter-departmental coordination** in infrastructure sustainability.

Conclusion:

The delay in Kerala's Pallivasal hydel project due to river pollution demonstrates the **interconnectedness of urban planning, environmental governance, and infrastructure development**. For UPSC aspirants, it is a key example of how **lack of solid waste management** can disrupt **renewable energy goals** and emphasizes the urgent need for **eco-sensitive urban governance**, especially in areas with high-value public infrastructure and natural ecosystems.

5. Kerala Lab Develops Molecular Test Kits for Deadly Brain-Eating Amoeba: Key Points

1. Breakthrough in Public Health Diagnostics

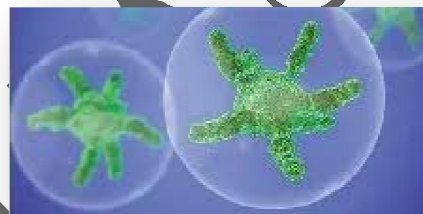
- The **State Public Health Laboratory (PHL), Kerala**, has successfully developed **molecular diagnostic (PCR) test kits** to identify *five* species of **free-living amoeba (FLA)** known to cause **amoebic meningoencephalitis** – a rare but fatal brain infection.



- This makes Kerala the **first Indian state** with in-house capacity for early, confirmatory diagnosis of this disease without depending on central institutions like **PGI Chandigarh**.

2. Free-Living Amoeba and Its Health Impact

- **Free-living amoeba (FLA)** are unicellular protozoa found in soil and water; only **6 out of 400+** species are **pathogenic to humans**.
- The five amoeba identified through Kerala's new kits include:
 - *Naegleria fowleri* (most fatal, aka "brain-eating amoeba")
 - *Acanthamoeba spp.*
 - *Vermamoebavermiformis*
 - *Balamuthia mandrillaris*
 - *Paravahlkampfi*



3. Significance of Early Diagnosis

- Previously, only **presumptive diagnosis** was possible based on **CSF sample microscopy**, prompting empirical treatment using broad drug cocktails.
- The new **PCR-based diagnosis** enables **pathogen-specific identification**, allowing for **targeted treatment** and improved patient outcomes.

4. Public Health Relevance

- Kerala has recently witnessed an **increase in Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** cases caused by FLAs.
- The lab's initiative was driven by the **urgent need for local diagnostic capabilities** in light of rising case numbers and limited time window for effective treatment.

5. Constitutional and Legal Frameworks Supporting Public Health Innovation

- Under **Article 47** of the Indian Constitution (Directive Principles), the **State is duty-bound to improve public health**.
- The **Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010** and the **National Health Policy** support the creation of **state-of-the-art diagnostics** in regional laboratories.

6. Alignment with India's Health Goals and SDGs

- The development strengthens India's progress toward **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)**.
- It also reflects the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** spirit in healthcare technology and decentralised public health capabilities.

Conclusion:

Kerala's indigenous development of PCR test kits for detecting deadly free-living amoeba represents a **landmark in public health diagnostics**. It ensures **early detection, timely treatment, and reduced mortality** from amoebic meningoencephalitis. The initiative highlights the importance of **localised**



scientific innovation in addressing emerging health threats and sets a model for other states to follow in developing **region-specific public health infrastructure**.

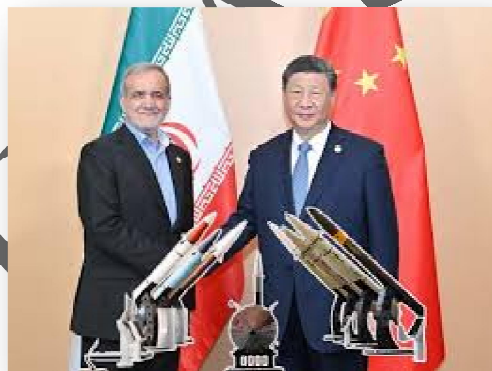
6. Iran-China Ballistic Missile Deal: Strategic, Security & Diplomatic Implications

1. Iran's Procurement of Missile Materials from China

- Iran has ordered **thousands of tons of ammonium perchlorate**, a critical oxidizer used in solid propellant for **ballistic missiles**, from **Chinese suppliers**, primarily **Lion Commodities Holdings Ltd.** in Hong Kong.
- The material is expected to aid Iran's efforts to **rebuild its missile arsenal**, with capacity to **produce around 800 ballistic missiles**, including **short-range** and **medium-range** categories

2. Dual-use Materials & Proliferation Risks

- Ammonium perchlorate** and **sodium perchlorate** are **dual-use chemicals** (used in civilian and military sectors) but are primarily used in **solid rocket propellants** for missiles.
- These imports raise concerns of **proliferation**, as some materials may be **transferred to regional proxy militias** such as the **Houthis (Yemen)**, **Shia militias in Iraq**, or **Hezbollah**, escalating regional instability.



3. U.S. Sanctions & Global Response

- The **U.S. Treasury** has sanctioned **multiple Chinese and Iranian entities** under **non-proliferation and terrorism financing laws** for aiding Iran's ballistic missile program.
- Iran's missile development is viewed by the U.S. and allies as a **violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231**, which endorses the **Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA)** and imposes restrictions on missile-related transfers.

4. Geopolitical Implications & Security Concerns

- Iran's missile build-up is occurring amid stalled **nuclear negotiations** with the U.S., and efforts to strengthen its **Axis of Resistance** (Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis, Syrian regime).
- Israel and U.S. forces in the region view this as a **direct threat**. Iran has previously used its missile arsenal for attacks on **U.S. bases in Iraq** and in support of proxies targeting Israel.

5. China's Export Control & Diplomatic Stand

- China claims to maintain **strict control** over export of dual-use materials under its **Export Control Law (2020)** and international obligations, but its enforcement mechanisms remain **opaque**.
- Despite official denials, several Chinese companies continue to be linked to **military material shipments** to Iran, complicating diplomatic ties with the U.S. and EU.



6. Safety & Environmental Risks

- Storage and handling of **combustible chemicals** like perchlorates in Iran have led to **accidents**. A recent explosion at **Shahid Rajaee Port** reportedly killed dozens due to **IRGC's mishandling** of explosive materials.
- This points to **poor industrial safety protocols** in Iran's defense sector, raising alarm over environmental hazards and potential civilian casualties.

Important Constitutional & Legal Contexts (India-relevant):

- **India's WMD Act, 2005**: Provides legal provisions for the prevention of unlawful transfer or proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.
- **UNSC Resolutions**: India, as a responsible global actor, adheres to **UNSC non-proliferation norms**, which prohibit aiding missile programs of sanctioned nations like Iran.
- **Article 51 of Indian Constitution** promotes international peace and encourages adherence to international law, including disarmament.

Conclusion

Iran's procurement of ballistic missile materials from China underscores a **renewed phase in regional militarization**, with serious implications for **West Asian stability**, **global non-proliferation frameworks**, and **India's strategic interests**. As Iran strengthens its **ballistic missile capabilities and proxy network**, tensions with Israel, the U.S., and Gulf countries are likely to rise. For UPSC, this development is crucial from the perspective of **international relations**, **internal security**, **WMD control**, and **India's foreign policy posture**.

7. India-Canada Diplomatic Engagement Ahead of G7 Summit

1. G7 Summit Invitation and Bilateral Diplomatic Communication

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** received a **congratulatory call and invitation** from the newly elected Canadian Prime Minister **Mr. Mark Carney** to attend the upcoming **G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada**.
- The conversation reflects ongoing **high-level diplomatic engagement** between India and G7 nations, even though India is **not a G7 member**.

2. Reaffirmation of India-Canada Ties

- Both leaders acknowledged **strong people-to-people ties**, reflecting the presence of a **large Indian diaspora** in Canada (approximately 1.4 million).
- They reiterated a commitment to **mutual respect and shared interests**, despite recent **diplomatic tensions** between the two countries.

3. India's Participation in G7: Strategic Significance

- India has frequently been invited as an **Outreach Partner** at G7 Summits to discuss **global economic, technological, and geopolitical challenges**.



- Participation enhances India's role in shaping decisions on **climate action, digital transformation, democratic values, and global governance**.

4. Diplomatic Reset After Strained Relations

- The conversation signals a **possible diplomatic thaw** following the recent diplomatic strain due to Canada's allegations regarding Indian involvement in the killing of a Khalistani separatist.
- High-level dialogue at global platforms like G7 can help **rebuild bilateral trust and cooperation**.

5. Key Constitutional & Legal Context (India-Relevant)

- **Article 51(c)** of the Indian Constitution: Encourages respect for international law and treaty obligations and promotion of international peace and security.
- India's participation in G7 reflects its **non-alignment with military blocs, yet active multilateral engagement** for global economic governance and democratic dialogue.

6. People-to-People Ties: Soft Power Diplomacy

- The Indo-Canadian community plays a **significant role in bilateral relations**, contributing to trade, education, and cultural exchange.
- Canada's universities are among the **top destinations for Indian students**, strengthening educational and economic linkages.



Conclusion

The call between PM Modi and PM Mark Carney signifies a **strategic diplomatic step** towards mending and reinforcing India-Canada ties amid global multilateral cooperation. India's continued engagement with the G7 is vital for addressing **shared global challenges** and enhancing India's **global stature**. For UPSC, this topic is relevant for **International Relations, Bilateral Relations, Diaspora Affairs, and India's Multilateral Diplomacy**.

8. Water Management in India Needs a New Course

Key Highlights:

1. **World Water Day 2025 & Global Cryosphere Action:**
 - Theme: *Glacier Preservation*.
 - UN declared 2025 as the *International Year of Glaciers' Preservation* and launched the *Decade of Action on Cryospheric Science (2025–34)*.





- The UN World Water Development Report 2025 emphasized the critical role of glaciers and mountain ecosystems in downstream water security and sustainable development.
- The cryosphere refers to Earth's frozen water parts like glaciers, snow, and permafrost.

2. Source-to-Sea (S2S) Approach:

- Recognizes that freshwater and marine water systems are interconnected in a single continuum.
- Emphasizes integrated water management “from ridge to reef”.
- Originated in the **Manila Declaration 2012** and promoted by the **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**.
- Supported by the *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*.
- Hosted since 2025 by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*.

3. Challenges in India's Water Management:

- **Spatial inequality**, groundwater overuse (60.5% average, >100% in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan), and declining water quality.
- CPCB (2022) identified **311 polluted river stretches** across 30 states/UTs.
- **NITI Aayog (2018)**: Water stress threatens 600 million Indians; potential GDP loss of 6%.
- Fragmented governance—across local, state, national, and global levels—creates jurisdictional challenges.

4. Policy Landscape and Gaps:

- India's **first National Water Policy (1987)**; subsequent updates yet limited integration of S2S.
- Attempts for reform include 2015 proposal for **National Water Commission**, and 2019 expert committee for new national policy.
- Despite state-level water policies and reforms, integrated S2S thinking remains marginal.

5. Need for Integrated & Social-Ecological Governance:

- India must link **SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** and **SDG-14 (Life Below Water)** through integrated planning.
- Emphasize **stakeholder inclusion**, science-policy coherence, and innovative water governance.
- Projects in Delhi and Indo-Gangetic plains are being piloted using the S2S lens.

6. Constitutional & Legal Backing:

- **Article 21**: Right to clean drinking water as part of the right to life.
- **Article 48A**: Duty of the state to protect the environment.
- **Article 51A(g)**: Duty of citizens to protect natural resources.



- **Water** is a State subject under **Entry 17** of the State List (Schedule VII) but also overlaps with environmental matters under Concurrent List (Entry 17A, 17B).

Conclusion:

India stands at a critical juncture in managing its water crisis. With increasing pollution, over-extraction, and climate impacts on the cryosphere, there is an urgent need for a paradigm shift from fragmented and sectoral approaches to **holistic, science-driven and socially inclusive frameworks** like **Source-to-Sea (S2S)**.

Institutional reforms, coordination across federal levels, stakeholder engagement, and policy alignment with international best practices are essential to safeguard India's freshwater and marine resources for the future.

9. Maintaining India's Progress in Food Safety Standards

Key Summary Points

1. Evolution of Food Safety Framework in India

- India's food safety journey began with the *Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954*, which treated food safety as a binary issue — adulterated or not.
- The paradigm shift came with the *Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006*, establishing the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, which embraced a **risk-based scientific approach**, aligned with *Codex Alimentarius* global standards.
- Introduction of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) values, and safety thresholds for contaminants were key developments.

2. Scientific Challenges in Risk Assessment

- **India lacks India-specific toxicological studies**; most standards rely on global data that may not suit Indian food patterns, agricultural practices, or climate.
- Absence of **Total Diet Studies (TDS)** means India cannot accurately estimate cumulative dietary exposure to various contaminants, weakening the scientific basis for safety norms.



3. Issues in Risk Communication and Public Perception

- Technical jargon like “MRL in ppm” or “ADI in ppb” creates **communication gaps with consumers**, leading to fear or misinformation.
- E.g., when MRL for a pesticide was relaxed from 0.01 mg/kg to 0.1 mg/kg for practicality, it sparked **unfounded public anxiety** over reduced safety.

4. Legacy Regulation and MSG Case Study



- MSG (Monosodium Glutamate), deemed safe globally since 1971 by JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives), is still labelled with **misleading warnings in India**.
- This contradicts scientific consensus, as glutamates occur naturally in foods like tomatoes, garlic, and even breast milk — exposing flaws in legacy regulatory attitudes and poor science communication.

5. Way Forward: Strengthening Scientific and Institutional Capacity

- India must invest in *localized research*, including TDS and toxicological studies.
- Risk communication should be simplified with **transparent, evidence-based labelling and public outreach**.
- FSSAI should continue *capacity-building of food regulators*, adopt periodic reviews, and **engage openly with industry and consumers** to build trust.

6. Constitutional and Legal Context

- Article **47 of the Indian Constitution** (Directive Principles of State Policy) mandates the State to raise the level of nutrition and public health.
- Food safety falls under the ambit of *concurrent list*, allowing both Centre and States to legislate on public health and food-related matters.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** is the comprehensive legal framework governing food safety regulation in India.

Conclusion

India has made significant progress in aligning food safety standards with global benchmarks. However, **sustaining this momentum** requires India-specific scientific studies, improved risk communication, elimination of outdated regulatory approaches, and **greater transparency in public engagement**. Regulatory bodies like FSSAI must balance scientific evidence with public awareness to ensure that consumers are not only **protected** but also **informed and empowered**.

10. Indian Navy Commissions 'Arnala' – First in Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Series

Key Highlights

1. Strategic Induction into Indian Navy

- 'Arnala', the **first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, will be commissioned on **18 June 2025** at Visakhapatnam.
- It is the **first of 16 planned ships** under the ASW-SWC project aimed at strengthening India's coastal defence.
- The commissioning ceremony will be led by **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan** and other senior naval officials.



2. Indigenous Development under Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- Arnala is a product of **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** between **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** and **L&T Shipbuilders**, under the **Directorate of Ship Production**.
- Over **80% of the ship's content is indigenous**, involving key defence firms like **BEL, L&T, Mahindra Defence**, and **MEIL**.
- The project has empowered **55+ MSMEs**, promoting defence industrialisation and local economic activity.

3. Advanced Capabilities & Strategic Features

- Arnala is **77.6 metres long**, weighs **1490+ tonnes**, and is India's largest naval warship using a **Diesel Engine-Waterjet propulsion system**.
- It is equipped for **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)**, **subsurface surveillance**, **search & rescue (SAR)**, and **low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO)**.
- Its design enables operations in **shallow waters**, making it ideal for securing India's **coastal zones** and **island territories**.

4. Cultural and Historical Significance

- Named after the **Arnala Fort** off Vasai, Maharashtra, symbolising India's **maritime legacy** and resistance against invaders.
- This naming convention reinforces India's focus on **heritage-driven defence symbolism** and national pride.

5. Constitutional, Strategic & Policy Context

- Falls within India's **Article 51(c)** mandate on fostering international peace and security, and **Article 73**, empowering the Union on defence.
- The ASW-SWC series supports the **Indian Maritime Security Strategy (IMSS)** and **Sagarmala Project**, enhancing security in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Aligned with **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**, promoting self-reliance and indigenous manufacturing under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.



6. **Prelims Tip:** INS Arnala is the first ASW-SWC built under PPP between GRSE and L&T; over 80% indigenous content.

Mains Angle: Evaluate the role of public-private partnerships and Aatmanirbhar Bharat in strengthening India's maritime security.

Key Definitions

- **ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare):** Naval operations designed to detect, track, and neutralize enemy submarines.



- **Shallow Water Craft (SWC):** Warships designed for operations in shallow coastal waters with agility and stealth.
- **Public-Private Partnership (PPP):** A model involving collaboration between government and private industry for public infrastructure or service delivery.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** A self-reliance campaign launched in 2020 to boost indigenous innovation, especially in defence and strategic sectors.

Conclusion

The commissioning of INS Arnala signifies a **critical leap in India's coastal and undersea warfare capabilities**, integrating indigenous technology with modern warfare needs. It showcases India's transition from defence import dependence to **domestic defence innovation**, strengthens **coastal security**, and enhances India's **strategic autonomy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. The Arnala-class reflects the synthesis of **heritage, modern science, and self-reliance**, aligning with national security and economic goals.

11. Citizen-Centric Engagement through “Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz” and MyGov Contests

Key Highlights for UPSC

1. Commemoration of 11 Years of Transformative Governance

- On the occasion of completing **11 years of transformative governance (2014–2025)**, **MyGov** has launched multiple contests to involve citizens in celebrating India's progress towards a **Viksit Bharat (Developed India)**.
- These initiatives aim to promote **janbhagidari (public participation)**, enhance awareness about governance milestones, and highlight citizen-government collaboration.

2. Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz – Knowledge-Based Participation

- Citizens are invited to test their knowledge on India's **development journey** via the *Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz*.
- The top three winners will receive cash prizes of ₹1,00,000, ₹75,000, and ₹50,000 respectively.
- 300 additional consolation prizes and **digital participation certificates** will be awarded, promoting large-scale civic engagement.

3. Multiple Thematic Contests under MyGov

- **Har Ghar Swadeshi – Photo Story Contest:** Citizens share stories about their use of ‘Made in India’ products; top 11 win ₹11,000.
- **Badalta Bharat – Mini Vlog Contest:** Showcases real changes in local infrastructure or digital access since 2014.
- **Bharat keBadhte Kadam – Janbhagidari Photo Contest:** Focuses on individual participation in national movements like *Swachh Bharat* and *Mission LiFE*.



- **Ek Bharat, Pragatisheel Bharat – Video Storytelling:** Highlights beneficiary impact from government schemes in a 1-minute narrative.

4. Role and Significance of MyGov Platform

- **MyGov**, launched on **26 July 2014**, is a **citizen-government interface** platform initiated by the **Prime Minister** to promote participatory governance.
- It encourages citizens to contribute ideas, feedback, and content for nation-building in line with the principle of **Sabka Prayas (everyone's effort)** under **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**.

5. Constitutional and Policy Relevance

- Aligns with **Directive Principles of State Policy** (Article 38 – welfare state, Article 43 – promotion of cottage industries, etc.).
- Promotes **digital democracy** and participative governance under **e-Governance goals** in the **Digital India Mission**.
- Enhances accountability and awareness about **flagship welfare schemes**, strengthening **Good Governance** (Surajya) principles.

6. **Prelims Tip:** MyGov was launched in 2014 as a citizen engagement platform for participatory governance.

Mains Angle: Critically evaluate the role of platforms like MyGov in fostering participatory democracy and enhancing transparency in India's governance structure.

Key Definitions

- **Janbhagidari:** Citizen participation in public decision-making and implementation of government schemes.
- **Swadeshi:** Promoting indigenous goods and self-reliance, rooted in Gandhian economic philosophy.
- **Digital Governance:** Use of digital tools and platforms like *MyGov* to facilitate transparency and collaboration between government and citizens.

Conclusion

The "Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz" and associated contests by **MyGov** are emblematic of India's evolving **democratic and participative governance model**, promoting **citizen ownership of national progress**. These initiatives not only celebrate 11 years of development but also bridge the gap between state and society through **interactive, inclusive, and innovative public engagement**. For UPSC aspirants, this exemplifies the practical application of governance theories, citizen-centric policy implementation, and **digital transformation of public administration**.

12. Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA) Initiative: Promoting Indian Languages in Governance

Key Highlights for UPSC

1. Launch of Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)



- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** launched the **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)**, i.e., *Indian Languages Section*, aiming to reduce the dominance of foreign languages in Indian governance.
- It is a **landmark step towards linguistic decentralisation**, promoting governance in **Indian mother tongues**.



2. Objective: Linguistic Inclusion in Administration

- The BBA seeks to promote **thinking, decision-making, and administration** in Indian languages, underlining that true national potential is realized when governance aligns with citizens' linguistic identities.
- The initiative is aimed at freeing the system from "**colonial language legacies**", especially English, and strengthening India's **cultural and civilizational roots**.

3. Budgetary Allocation and Scope

- The **Union Budget 2024–25** allocated **₹56 crore** to develop a platform that facilitates translation among Indian languages and between **Hindi and other regional languages**.
- The BBA will act as a **central hub for multilingual translation**, improving inter-state and centre-state communication and inclusivity.

4. Legal and Constitutional Framework

- **Article 343–351 (Part XVII of the Constitution)** deals with **Official Language** provisions:
 - Article 343: Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.
 - Article 345: States can adopt their own official languages.
 - Article 351: Duty of the Union to promote the spread of Hindi while respecting linguistic diversity.
- The **Official Languages Rules** divide states into **Region A, B, and C** for communication purposes. Region C (e.g., Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka) mandates English in correspondence, which is being revisited with BBA's translation mechanisms.

5. Addressing Federal Concerns and Inclusivity

- The BBA aims to empower states to use their **official regional languages** in communication with the Centre.
- If a CM of a Region C state (e.g., Tamil Nadu) sends communication in Tamil, the reply will now also be in Tamil — symbolizing **respect for state linguistic identity** and fostering cooperative federalism.

Key Definitions and Concepts



- **Linguistic Diversity:** India is home to 22 scheduled languages (as per the Eighth Schedule) and hundreds of dialects, representing a deeply multilingual society.
- **Official Languages Rules:** Legal rules guiding language use in government communications at the central and state levels.
- **Colonial Language Legacy:** The continued use of English in governance and education, inherited from British rule.

Conclusion

The **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)** is a significant step in making Indian governance **linguistically inclusive and culturally rooted**. By promoting administration in mother tongues and enabling effective **inter-lingual communication**, the initiative embodies the spirit of **constitutional federalism and cultural pluralism**. For UPSC aspirants, this move reflects the evolving dynamics of **language, identity, and governance** in India's democratic framework and opens debates on balancing **national unity and regional diversity**.