



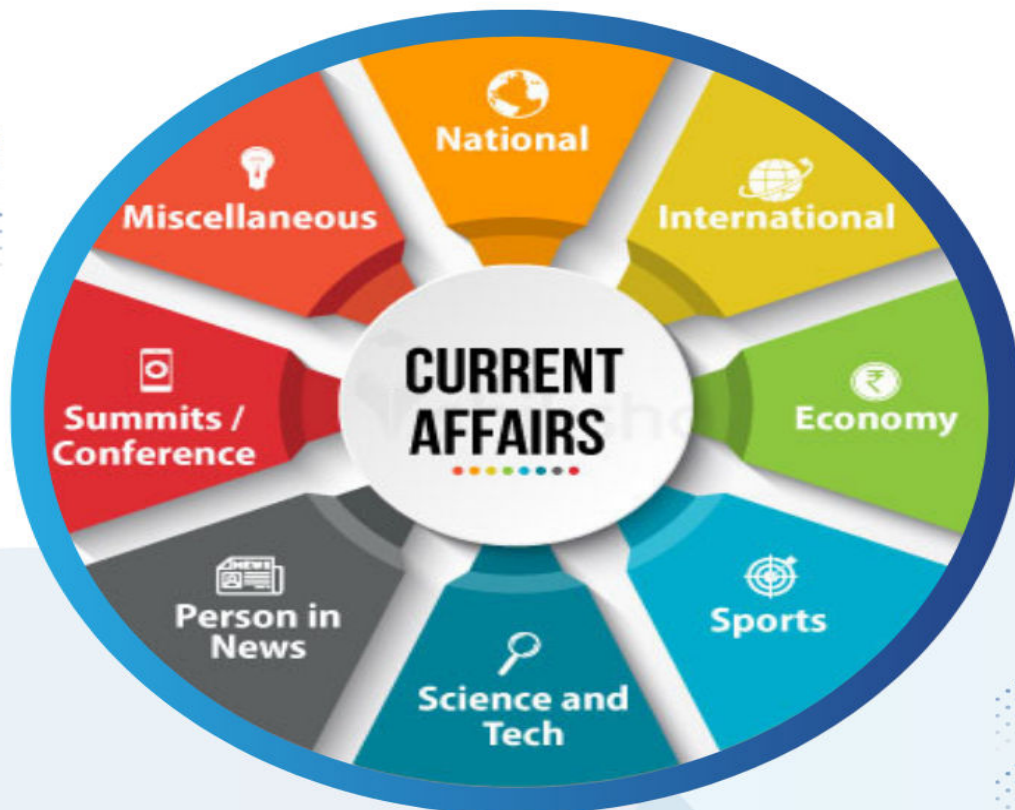
“ We help you reach for the star ”

**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

**DATE: 02/08/2025 ( SATURDAY )**



**9972258970 & 9740702455**

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



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## I. Election to the Office of the Vice-President of India, 2025 – Key Highlights

### • Constitutional and Legal Framework

- The election is governed by **Articles 66, 67, 68 & 324** of the Constitution and the **Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952** and **Rules, 1974**.
- As per **Article 67**, the Vice-President holds office for a term of 5 years.
- **Article 68(2)** mandates election to be held *as soon as possible* in case of vacancy due to death, resignation, or removal.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for conducting the election under **Article 324**.

### • Electoral Process and Voting System

- **Article 66(1)**: Vice-President is elected by members of both Houses of Parliament using **Proportional Representation with Single Transferable Vote (STV)** through secret ballot.
- The current **Electoral College** has **782 members** (543 Lok Sabha, 233 elected + 12 nominated Rajya Sabha; 6 seats vacant).
- Value of vote for each MP is **equal to 1**, unlike Presidential elections.



### • Nomination Procedure and Eligibility

- A candidate must file **Form-3 nomination**, subscribed by at least **20 proposers** and **20 seconders**, who must be electors.
- Maximum **four nomination papers** can be filed.
- A **security deposit of ₹15,000** is mandatory.
- Nominations cannot be filed on public holidays and must be submitted to the **Returning Officer (Secretary General, Rajya Sabha)**.

### • Voting Procedure and Secrecy Norms

- Voting takes place in **Room No. F-101, Parliament House**.
- **Designated pens** are provided; using any other pen invalidates the vote.
- Voting must be done in **voting compartments**, and ballots folded and inserted in the **ballot box** as per strict secrecy norms.
- **No whip** can be issued by political parties (Sec 18 of the 1952 Act). Any undue influence or bribery (under Sections 170/171 of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita) may lead to the election being declared **void by the Supreme Court**.

### • Administrative and Environmental Aspects

- **Returning Officer** and **Assistant Returning Officers** are appointed by the ECI.
- Senior Government Officers act as **Observers**.



- Emphasis on **eco-friendly** election materials and elimination of plastic, despite it being an indirect election with no campaigning.
- List of Electoral College is sold @ ₹100 and an **election information booklet** is available @ ₹50.

#### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

- This election reflects India's **parliamentary democracy**, the functioning of **indirect elections**, and **constitutional mechanisms** for filling high constitutional offices.
- Important for UPSC aspirants to understand **electoral systems**, **roles of constitutional bodies**, and **procedural safeguards** like secrecy of ballot and checks on political influence.
- Topics covered are relevant under **GS Paper 2** (Polity & Constitution) and **Prelims** (Indian Polity).

## 2. New CDSCO Guidelines for Drug Approval: Reforming India's Regulatory Framework

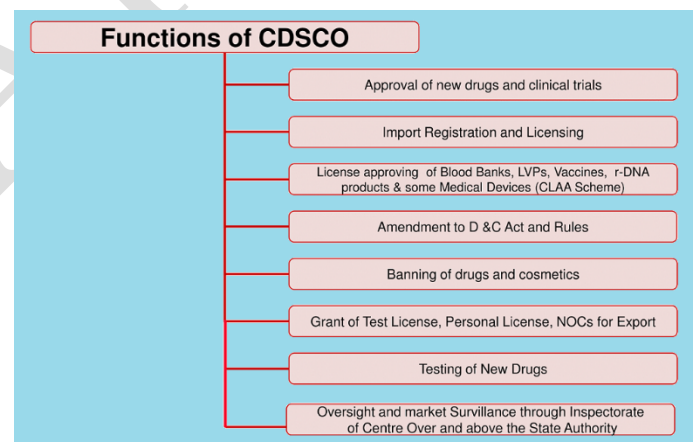
#### • Context and Objective of the Reform

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has issued formal guidelines standardizing how *Subject Expert Committees (SECs)* should vet new drugs, biologics, and medical devices.

The aim is to address long-standing concerns regarding *opacity*, *delays*, and *inconsistencies* in drug approvals and to build trust in India's regulatory system.

#### • Key Features of the New Guidelines

- SECs must follow **rigorous scientific evaluation** of safety, efficacy, and risk-benefit profile.
- All decisions must be backed by clear, written **justifications**, especially for clinical trial waivers.
- Guidelines strictly prohibit pricing discussions and mandate a focus on *scientific and regulatory criteria only*.
- Voting must be conducted with a **quorum of 4 members**, including one pharmacologist and seven domain experts.
- Emphasis on **transparency**, **predictability**, and **speed** in decision-making processes.



#### • Expert Selection and Functioning Norms

- Experts must have a **minimum of 10 peer-reviewed publications** and a **2:1 citation ratio**.
- Appointed for **three-year terms**; mandatory confidentiality, impartiality, and regular attendance.
- Non-compliant members can be removed.
- Ensures that SEC decisions are *uniform and science-based*, reducing subjectivity and delays.

#### • Background and WHO Recommendations





- WHO's 2023 review of CDSCO and DCGI emphasized need for better *transparency, data integrity, and global alignment*.
- It recommended stronger controls to detect *substandard or falsified drugs*, a market surveillance program, and restrictions on misleading advertising.
- The new CDSCO guidelines implement these reforms in line with international standards.

#### • Significance for Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

- India is the **third-largest pharmaceutical market by volume** and supplies over **20% of the world's generic drugs**.
- The new system improves **regulatory certainty**, boosts global confidence, and accelerates access to *critical medicines*.
- The move is welcomed by industry stakeholders for enabling **faster and predictable approvals**.

#### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The reform marks a *paradigm shift* in India's drug regulatory landscape by institutionalizing transparency, scientific rigour, and global best practices.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- Relevant for **GS Paper 2**: Governance, Regulatory Bodies, Health sector reforms.
- Useful for topics like **Regulatory Reforms, Transparency in Governance, and Role of WHO in national policy alignment**.
- Important for **Prelims**: CDSCO, DCGI, SECs, WHO recommendations.

### 3. New National Agriculture Policy – Key Highlights

#### Integrated Strategy for Agricultural Growth

The Ministry of Agriculture has outlined a multi-pronged approach to ensure **comprehensive development** of the agriculture sector through:

- Increasing **crop productivity** and **reducing input costs**
- Ensuring **remunerative prices** to enhance **farmers' incomes**
- Promoting **agricultural diversification** and **post-harvest value addition infrastructure**
- Strengthening **climate adaptation strategies** to mitigate crop losses and ensure **sustainability**



#### • Economic Indicators and Performance

- As per the **provisional estimates of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, the **Gross Value Added (GVA)** growth in the agriculture and allied sectors for 2024–25 is **4.6%** over 2023–24.
- This indicates a **moderate but stable growth** trajectory, underlining the need for **targeted interventions** in productivity, marketing, and climate resilience.



### • Federal Structure and Policy Coordination

- **Agriculture is a State Subject** under **Seventh Schedule, List II** of the Constitution, implying primary responsibility lies with State governments.
- The **central government's role** is to provide overarching policies and schemes to support and incentivize state-level implementation, especially under **cooperative federalism**.
- Diverse **agro-climatic zones** and farming systems across India demand **region-specific interventions** within a national framework.

### • National and Geopolitical Importance of Self-Sufficiency

- **Self-sufficiency in food production** is not just an economic imperative but also a **geopolitical necessity**, ensuring national food security and reduced import dependence.
- It is crucial for managing **global price volatility**, ensuring **agri-trade competitiveness**, and safeguarding **strategic autonomy** in times of international crises.

### • Current Policy Focus and Alignment with Global Goals

- Existing frameworks of the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** aim to tackle modern challenges such as **climate change**, **global trade fluctuations**, **export enhancement**, and **doubling farmers' income**, aligning with SDG targets like **Zero Hunger** and **Climate Action**.
- Emphasis on **sustainability**, **market linkages**, and **value chains** is part of the transition to a more **resilient and inclusive agricultural economy**.

### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

India's updated national agriculture policy reflects an evolving vision to make agriculture **economically viable**, **environmentally sustainable**, and **globally competitive**.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- Important for **GS Paper 3** (Agriculture, Economy, Environment), especially under topics like **Agricultural Reforms**, **Food Security**, and **Climate-Resilient Agriculture**
- Useful for **Essay**, **Mains**, and **Prelims**—focus on schemes, federal dimensions, and agri-policy reforms.
- Keywords: GVA, Remunerative Prices, Agricultural Diversification, Climate Resilience, Federalism in Agriculture.

## 4. Provisions under National Policy for Farmers and Agricultural Marketing (NPFAM)

### Agricultural Marketing and Federal Structure

Agricultural marketing is a **State Subject** under **List II of the Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution.

Accordingly, different states have set up **Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs)** based on local agricultural and infrastructural needs.

These APMCs regulate the sale, purchase, and pricing of agricultural produce, particularly to protect **small and marginal farmers** from market exploitation.





### • Minimum Support Price (MSP) Framework

The **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is fixed annually for **22 mandated crops** including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and commercial crops.

It is based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** and finalized after consultations with **State Governments** and **Central Ministries**.

Since **2018-19**, the MSP has been fixed to ensure a **minimum 50% return over the All-India weighted average cost of production**.

### • Procurement Performance (2014–2025)

From **2014-15 to 30 June 2025**, the Government procured **315.19 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT)** of crops like **oilseeds, pulses, and copra**.

This procurement was worth **₹1,69,980.90 crore**, indicating a significant commitment to **market intervention** and **price support** for farmers.

Procurement acts as a **price stabilizing mechanism** and incentivizes production of important food and commercial crops.

### • PM-AASHA: Ensuring Remunerative Prices

The **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** is a major policy initiative launched in 2018 to provide price support for pulses, oilseeds, and copra.

It includes two major components:

- **Price Support Scheme (PSS):** Government directly procures at MSP.
- **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):** Farmers are compensated for the difference between MSP and market price if they sell in open market.  
This scheme ensures **income security**, especially in cases where market prices fall below MSP.

### • Definition of Key Terms

- **APMCs:** Statutory market bodies that regulate agricultural trade and ensure transparency and fair prices for farmers.
- **MSP:** A pre-announced price at which the government commits to procure crops from farmers to safeguard them against price fluctuations.
- **CACP:** An expert body under the Ministry of Agriculture that recommends MSPs after analyzing cost structures and market trends.

### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The provisions under NPFAM and related schemes reflect India's focus on **agricultural income security, price support, and federal coordination** in agri-marketing.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- Important for **GS Paper 3** (Agriculture, Food Security, Farmer Welfare), and **GS Paper 2** (Federalism, Centre-State relations).
- Useful in **Essay** and **Prelims** for topics like **MSP system, PM-AASHA, APMC reforms, and agricultural pricing mechanisms**.
- Key themes include **agriculture policy, welfare economics, and market interventions** in India.

## 5. Space Technology in Agriculture – Key Highlights

### • Use of Space Technology in Key Agricultural Programs

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is extensively using **space-based tools and satellite data**



for improving agricultural planning, monitoring, and insurance.

Major initiatives include:

- **FASAL Project:** Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology, and Land-based observations
- **Drought Monitoring Geoportal** (in collaboration with ISRO's SAC, Ahmedabad)
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** Use of satellite data in crop yield estimation, smart sampling, and dispute resolution.

#### • FASAL Project and Crop Forecasting

The **FASAL** project enables **pre-harvest production forecasting** for major crops like **rice, wheat, tur, rapeseed & mustard, cotton, sugarcane, soybean, lentil, and gram.**

It uses satellite imagery and weather parameters to generate **timely, scientific, and evidence-based crop forecasts** which guide national planning and procurement decisions.

#### • Drought Monitoring and Geoportals

The Ministry has launched a **dedicated Geoportal for drought monitoring**, integrating **multiple drought indicators** such as rainfall, soil moisture, crop health via remote sensing, and water storage data.

This improves **early warning systems**, supports **drought declarations** by states, and enables targeted **relief interventions.**

#### • Technology Integration in Crop Insurance via PMFBY

Under PMFBY, **space tech** is being used for:

- **Smart Sampling for Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)**
- **Dispute resolution in yield and area disputes**
- **Accurate and fast claim settlements**

These steps help make PMFBY more **transparent, objective, and technology-driven.**

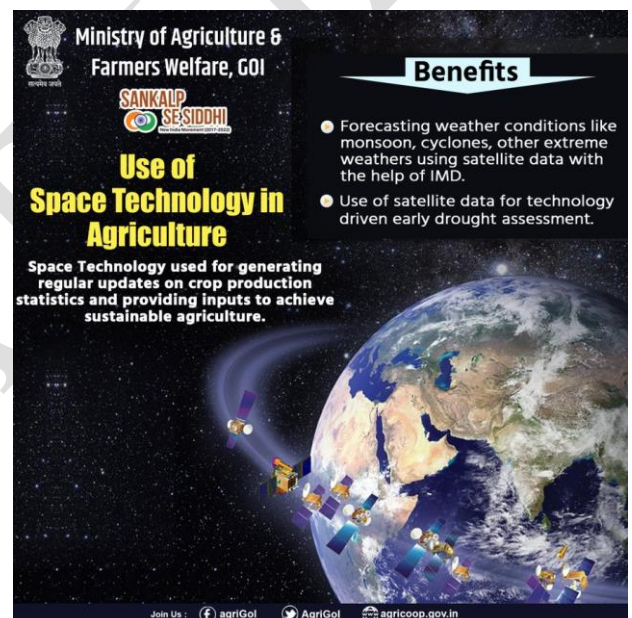
#### • Krishi Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS) and YESTECH

- **Krishi-DSS** is a **cloud-based geo-spatial platform** integrating data on weather, soil, water, and field conditions, aiding **real-time agricultural decision-making.**
- **YESTECH** (Yield Estimation System using Technology) uses **satellite imagery, UAVs, AI/ML, and simulation models** to estimate yield at the **Gram Panchayat level**, starting with **paddy (2023) and soybean (2024).**
- This ensures **timely and scientific yield assessments**, improving **efficiency of insurance payouts.**

#### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The integration of **space, AI, and geo-informatics** into agriculture signals a shift towards **precision farming, data-driven planning, and climate-resilient agriculture.**

**UPSC Relevance:**







- Crucial for **GS Paper 3** (Agriculture, Science and Technology, and Disaster Management).
- Useful in **Essay** and **Prelims** for terms like **FASAL**, **PMFBY**, **Krishi-DSS**, **YESTECH**, and **AI in agriculture**.
- Demonstrates synergy between **scientific innovation** and **rural development goals** under **Digital India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** visions.

## 6. Impact of Namo Drone Didi Scheme on Rural Women – Key Summary

### Overview of the Scheme

The **Namo Drone Didi** is a **Central Sector Scheme** approved by the Government with a total **outlay of ₹1261 crore** for the period **2023–24 to 2025–26**.

Its primary aim is to **provide drones to Women Self Help Groups (SHGs)** to enhance their participation in **modern agricultural services**.

Key objectives include:

- Promoting **advanced drone technology** in farming
- Enhancing **efficiency, crop yield**, and reducing input costs
- **Empowering rural women** economically by training them as **drone service providers**

### • Implementation and Reach

As of 2023–24, **1094 drones** were distributed to SHGs, out of which **500 drones** were funded under the Namo Drone Didi scheme.

The drones are primarily being used for the **application of Nano Fertilizers** across 22 states.

Top beneficiary states include **Karnataka (147)**, **Uttar Pradesh (135)**, **Andhra Pradesh (106)**, and **Haryana (102)**.

### • Women Empowerment through Drone Technology

According to a study by **Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC)**, Bangalore, the scheme has:

- Shifted rural women SHG activities from traditional agriculture to **tech-enabled services**
- **Improved income opportunities** and livelihood resilience
- **Expanded skillsets and leadership roles** for women in the agricultural sector
- Diversified SHG economic activities beyond farming to **aerial services, agro-spraying, and agri-consulting**

### • Institutional Role and Coordination

- **Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs)** have played a crucial role in **procurement, distribution**, and technical support for drones.
- LFCs used internal resources for initial drone deployment, reflecting **private-public synergy** in implementation.
- Drone usage promotes **Nano Urea and Nano DAP application**, aligning with sustainable and efficient fertilizer use.





### • Key Definitions and Legal Provisions

- **Central Sector Scheme:** Fully funded and implemented by the Union Government.
- **Self Help Group (SHG):** Informal association of people, especially women, to improve economic conditions through collective action.
- The scheme contributes to **Article 39(a) & 39(d)** (Directive Principles of State Policy) promoting **economic justice and livelihood opportunities for women**.

### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The **Namo Drone Didi** scheme represents a strategic intervention combining **gender empowerment with technological adoption** in agriculture.

It bridges the gap between **rural women and digital agriculture**, boosting **financial inclusion, skill development, and agrarian transformation**.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- Relevant for **GS Paper 2** (Governance, Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections), **GS Paper 3** (Agriculture, Technology, Rural Development)
- Useful in **Essay** (Women Empowerment, Rural Transformation)
- Topics like **SHGs, drone policy, Nano fertilizers, Central Sector Schemes, and Women in agriculture** are probable in **Prelims and Mains**.

## 7. BHASKAR Platform: Enabling Startup Collaboration in India

### Overview of BHASKAR Platform

The **Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR)** is a digital registry designed to **facilitate collaboration** among startups and stakeholders in India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

As of **30th June 2025**, a total of **1,97,932 entities** are registered under the 'startup' category.

It is currently in the **pilot phase**, where several features like **peer-to-peer interaction, partnership building, stakeholder ID generation, and microsite integration** for Startup India schemes are being tested.

### • Objectives and Core Features

- Enable **information exchange and networking** among startups, incubators, accelerators, and government bodies
- Generate **personalized stakeholder IDs** to track participation in schemes
- Allow **integration of microsites** for streamlined scheme implementation
- Foster **collaborative engagements** and partnerships across the ecosystem
- Serve as a **centralized data and knowledge repository** for the Indian startup landscape



### • Government Support and Outreach Initiatives

The government is undertaking **outreach and awareness campaigns** in collaboration with **State Startup Nodal Agencies** and institutions like **colleges, universities, incubators, and accelerators**.

Key actions include:



- **Workshops and events** to train and inform startups
- Use of **social media** for awareness propagation
- Tailored support for **small and micro-enterprises**, enhancing inclusivity

#### • State-wise Participation

Top 5 states with maximum startup registrations on BHASKAR:

- **Maharashtra (33,845)**
- **Karnataka (20,004)**
- **Uttar Pradesh (19,382)**
- **Delhi (18,972)**
- **Gujarat (17,370)**

This reflects regional hubs of innovation, while also highlighting emerging participation from smaller and Northeastern states.

#### • Definitions and Constitutional Backing

- **Startup:** As per DPIIT, an entity less than 10 years old with turnover < ₹100 crore and working on innovation or technology.
- **Central Sector Schemes:** Fully funded and implemented by the Central Government.
- **Article 19(1)(g)** of the Constitution ensures the right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business, supporting entrepreneurial rights.
- Promotion of innovation also aligns with **Directive Principles (Article 38, 39)** ensuring inclusive development and equal opportunity.

#### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The **BHASKAR platform** is a significant digital infrastructure initiative to boost India's startup ecosystem through **data-driven governance, collaboration, and inclusive innovation**. It supports ease of doing business, fosters **public-private-academic linkages**, and democratizes entrepreneurial access across regions.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- Relevant for **GS Paper 2** (Governance, e-Governance, Government Policies)
- Relevant for **GS Paper 3** (Economy – Startup Ecosystem, Innovation, MSME Support)
- Useful in **Essay** on themes like **Digital India, Innovation, and Federal Cooperation**
- Important for **Prelims** under schemes related to **Startup India, Digital Governance**, and related statistics.

## 8. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) to Launch Integrated Portal

### Introduction to IEPFA and Its Role

The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, is responsible for promoting investor awareness and enabling the return of **unclaimed dividends, shares, debentures**, etc.



IEPFA also plays a key role in **financial literacy** through initiatives like **Niveshak Didi**, **Niveshak Panchayat**, and **Niveshak Shivir**.

- **Launch of Integrated Portal for Claims and Grievances**

IEPFA is in the **final testing phase** of an **Integrated Digital Portal** that aims to simplify:

- **Claim settlement processes**
- **Investor grievance redressal**  
The portal will integrate with **Depositories** and **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** for seamless data exchange and faster service delivery.



- **Company Compliance and Data Accuracy Measures**

IEPFA has issued **public notices under Rule 1(A)** on its official website, urging companies to:

- Upload **IEPF-1/7 SRNs** with the prescribed Excel template
- Ensure **accurate and complete data submission** for smooth claim processing  
Non-compliance could result in delayed claim redressal and system inefficiencies.

- **Simplification of Low-Value Claims and Support Services**

IEPFA is reviewing documentation norms to **ease low-value claim processes** through:

- **Simplified claim requirements**
- **Faster claim settlement** mechanisms  
In addition, an **Integrated Call Center** will be established to enhance **stakeholder support** and offer real-time grievance resolution.

- **Definition and Legal Backing**

- **IEPF**: A fund established under **Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013**, for the promotion of investor awareness and return of unclaimed assets.
- **Rule 1(A)** under the **IEPF Authority Rules** governs the timely disclosure and submission of unclaimed financial assets by companies.
- **Article 38** of the Constitution (Directive Principles) supports the promotion of the welfare of people, including financial inclusion and protection.
- IEPFA also contributes to **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)** and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)**.

- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**

The IEPFA's integrated portal is a significant step toward building an **inclusive, transparent, and investor-friendly financial system**. It embodies the principles of **e-governance**, **ease of doing business**, and **financial empowerment**.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- **GS Paper 2**: Governance, Transparency, e-Governance
- **GS Paper 3**: Economic Development, Financial Inclusion
- Useful for **Essay** on topics like **Digital Governance**, **Financial Literacy**, and **Investor Protection**





- Important for **Prelims** under **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, **IEPF provisions**, and **key digital initiatives**.

## 9. NIFTEM-K Supports Start-ups under NSIP-4 and Expands Reach

### Support to Start-ups under NSIP-4 (NIFTEM Start-up Incubation Programme)

Under the **4th phase of NSIP**, **NIFTEM-Kundli** (National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Haryana) provided **financial and mentoring support** to **8 food processing start-ups** across **8 states**, with **total assistance exceeding ₹85 lakh**.

- **Tamil Nadu** received the **highest financial support** (₹13 lakh), followed by Odisha (₹12 lakh), and other states (₹10 lakh each) including Gujarat, Rajasthan, UP, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Karnataka.

### • Start-up Promotion in Food Processing Sector

The initiative supports innovation and entrepreneurship in **agri-food technology**, aiming to strengthen India's **food value chain**, promote **self-employment**, and align with **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India** missions.

Start-ups are supported through **financial grants**, **technical mentoring**, and **infrastructure** offered by NIFTEM.

### • Announcement of New NIFTEM Campus in Bihar

In the **Union Budget 2025–26**, the **establishment of a new NIFTEM in Bihar** was announced, expanding access to advanced education and research in food processing for Eastern India.

However, **no current proposal** exists to open additional regional campuses in other states.

### • Admission Statistics for Academic Year 2024–25

NIFTEM-K admitted a total of **296 students** across **B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA, and Ph.D. programmes** from various states and UTs.

- **Uttar Pradesh (52)**, **Bihar (36)**, **Haryana (35)**, and **Tamil Nadu (28)** had the **highest student enrollments**, indicating strong regional interest in food technology education.

### • Definition and Legal Provisions

- **NIFTEM** is a Deemed University under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India.
- It was set up to **foster innovation**, **incubate start-ups**, and **skill the workforce** in the food processing sector.
- Supports **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)** and **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** through food processing advancements.
- Linked to **Article 43** of the Constitution (Directive Principles) for promoting cottage industries and **employment through local resources**.

### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

NIFTEM-K's support to start-ups and the proposed Bihar campus reflect the government's commitment to **food security**, **employment generation**, and **rural entrepreneurship**. It strengthens the food processing ecosystem and supports inclusive regional development.

**UPSC Relevance:**



- **GS Paper 2:** Government schemes and institutions for development
- **GS Paper 3:** Economy (Food processing industry, Start-up ecosystem, Innovation)
- Useful for **Essay** on themes like **Rural Transformation through Innovation, Start-up India, and Agriculture-Industry linkages**
- Important for **Prelims:** MoFPI schemes, NSIP, NIFTEM locations and mandates.

## 10. Strengthening Arbitration and Mediation Infrastructure in India

### Establishment of India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC)

To strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms, the **India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019** was enacted, leading to the establishment of the **India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC)** in New Delhi.

- The Centre is declared an **institution of national importance** and functions as an **independent, autonomous** body.
- It aims to **enhance institutional arbitration** standards, offer an efficient platform for **commercial dispute resolution**, and promote India as a **global hub for arbitration**.

### • Promotion of Mediation through Mediation Act, 2023

The **Mediation Act, 2023** was introduced to promote **institutional mediation** and peaceful dispute settlement.

- **Section 31** of the Act provides for the creation of the **Mediation Council of India (MCI)** to regulate, promote, and accredit mediation service providers and professionals.
- It supports **community-level conflict resolution**, especially relevant for **civil, family, and commercial matters**.

### • Key National Conferences to Promote ADR Mechanisms

- A **National Mediation Conference** was held on **3rd May 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi, to raise awareness and institutionalise mediation.
- A **Conference on Institutional Arbitration** was held on **14th June 2025** to promote institutional arbitration, particularly in **Tier II and III cities**, with the objective of **decentralising access to justice**.

### • Definition and Importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

- **ADR** includes non-judicial mechanisms like **arbitration, mediation, conciliation**, etc., that provide **time-efficient, cost-effective, and amicable solutions** to disputes.
- ADR reduces pendency in courts and enhances access to justice.
- Arbitration is legally binding, while mediation is consensual and flexible.



### • Legal and Constitutional Backing

- Article **39A** of the Constitution (Directive Principles) promotes **equal justice and free legal aid**.



- The **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996** already provides a legal foundation for arbitration in India.
- The new laws seek to **institutionalise** and **standardise** ADR mechanisms, especially in commercial contexts.

#### • Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The strengthening of arbitration and mediation infrastructure reflects India's commitment to **judicial reforms, ease of doing business, and access to speedy justice**. Establishing IIAC and MCI marks a transformative step towards building world-class ADR mechanisms, reducing case backlogs, and enhancing investor confidence.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- **GS Paper 2:** Governance, judiciary reforms, dispute resolution mechanisms
- **GS Paper 3:** Economic development, investment climate, EODB
- **Essay:** Justice delivery in India, Institutional reforms
- Important for **Prelims:** India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019; Mediation Act, 2023; ADR tools and their features.

## II. A New Approach to Treatment of Liver Cirrhosis

### Breakthrough in Cirrhosis Treatment via Nanocarrier-based VEGF-C Delivery

A team of Indian scientists from **ILBS New Delhi** and **NIPER Guwahati** have developed **VEGF-C (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor-C)** based **nanocarriers** to restore lymphatic drainage and reduce complications in **advanced liver cirrhosis**, especially **ascites (fluid accumulation)**.

#### • Understanding Cirrhosis and Lymphatic Dysfunction

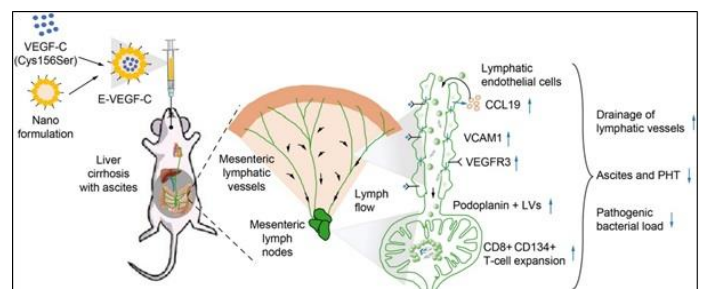
- **Liver cirrhosis** is the end stage of chronic liver disease, marked by **fibrosis and vascular distortion**.
- Lymphatic vessels, which drain interstitial fluid and immune cells, become **dilated and dysfunctional** in cirrhosis.
- Due to increased **portal pressure**, **lymph production increases 30-fold**, but its drainage fails, leading to **ascites** and inflammation.

#### • Role of VEGF-C and VEGFR-3 in Lymphangiogenesis

- **VEGF-C** is a **pro-lymphangiogenic protein** that binds to **VEGFR-3** receptors, stimulating the **growth of new lymphatic vessels**.
- It can potentially **repair fragmented lymphatic networks** and restore drainage and immune functions in gut lymphatics.

#### • Innovation in Drug Delivery: Nanocarrier Encapsulation

- To overcome the challenges of **VEGF-C's hydrophilicity, short half-life**, and systemic side effects, NIPER scientists developed **reverse micelle-based nanocarriers** that target **VEGFR-3 homodimers**.





- The **oral delivery** ensures uptake in the gut lymphatics, making it ideal for treating **mesenteric lymphatic dysfunction**.

• **Animal Trial Results and Key Outcomes**

- **ILBS team's animal trials** showed that VEGF-C nanocarriers:
  - Increased **mesenteric lymph drainage**
  - Reduced **ascites and portal pressure**
  - Improved **cytotoxic T-cell immunity** in gut lymph nodes
  - Lowered **systemic and local bacterial load**, thereby reducing inflammation

• **Legal, Institutional, and Scientific Significance**

- Research was funded under **DST's Nano Mission**.
- **Journal Publication:** Findings published in **JHEP Reports** (Hepatology journal).
- Demonstrates successful **integration of nanotechnology and biomedical science** to tackle a previously untreatable condition.

**Definition (for UPSC):**

- **Cirrhosis:** Irreversible scarring of the liver often caused by chronic liver disease, leading to compromised liver and vascular function.
- **Lymphangiogenesis:** Formation of new lymphatic vessels from pre-existing vessels, crucial for immune regulation and fluid balance.
- **Nanocarriers:** Nano-sized vehicles designed to deliver drugs to targeted tissues in a controlled and efficient manner.

**Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**

This innovation marks a **paradigm shift in liver disease treatment**, offering a **non-invasive and targeted therapy** for decompensated cirrhosis using **VEGF-C nanocarriers**. It is a landmark example of India's growing strength in **translational medical research** and nanomedicine.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- **GS Paper 2:** Issues related to health sector and government R&D policies
- **GS Paper 3:** Science & Technology – applications of nanotechnology in health
- **GS Paper 4 (Case Study relevance):** Scientific innovation improving public health outcomes
- Useful in **Essay:** "Science and human welfare", "Innovation for Inclusive Health"
- **Prelims:** VEGF-C, ILBS, NIPER, Nano Mission (DST), lymphangiogenesis, cirrhosis