



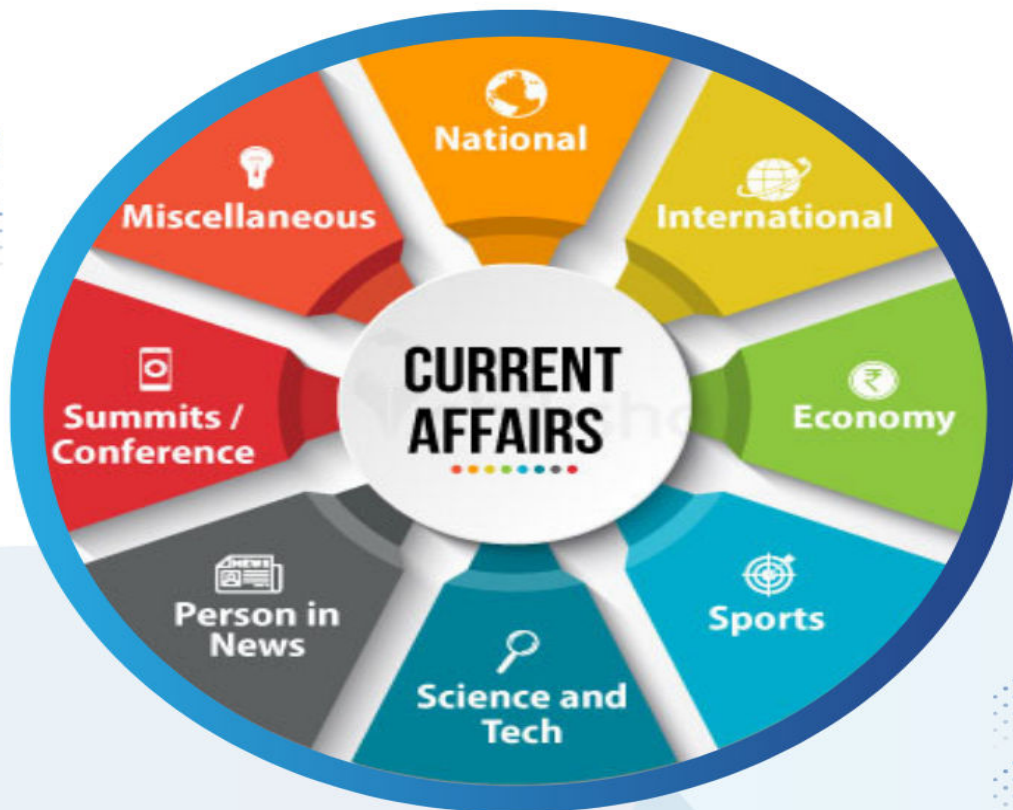
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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

**DATE: 19/08/2025 (TUESDAY)**



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## 1. De-escalation Process at LAC

- **Background and Context**

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar urged Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to advance the process of **troop withdrawal and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- Discussions took place in Delhi to **restore normalcy in bilateral ties** and prepare for PM Modi's upcoming visit to China for the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit**.

- **Current Status of LAC Disengagement**

- **Demobilisation and dismantling of military infrastructure** at the LAC remain incomplete nearly **10 months** after leaders met to discuss this.
- India's stance: **Peace and tranquillity at the border is a prerequisite** for any forward movement in bilateral trade and diplomatic relations.



- **24th Round of Special Representative Talks**

- Chinese FM Wang Yi will meet NSA Ajit Doval for talks **focused on resolving the boundary dispute**.
- This mechanism is a **high-level dialogue framework** to manage LAC tensions and avoid escalation.

- **Chinese Position and Global References**

- China highlighted **global challenges**, including “unilateral bullying” in **free trade and international order**—implicitly referring to **U.S. trade tariffs**.
- Both sides emphasized **strategic stability and economic cooperation**, though **border issues remain the core obstacle**.

- **Constitutional / Legal and Strategic Dimensions**

- **Article 51 of the Indian Constitution**: Encourages promotion of international peace and security.
- **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)**: Provides legal framework for peaceful dispute resolution.
- **Border agreements** (e.g., 1993, 1996, 2005, 2013) establish protocols for maintaining peace along LAC but require renewed implementation.
- India's policy aligns with **sovereignty, territorial integrity (Article 1)**, and **strategic autonomy** in foreign relations.



- **Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- **Conclusion:** India–China relations are at a crossroads, requiring **simultaneous management of border security and economic diplomacy**. Progress in disengagement will set the tone for future cooperation.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS Paper 2 (International Relations)** – India-China boundary issue, mechanisms for dispute resolution, role of diplomacy in de-escalation.
  - **GS Paper 3 (Internal Security)** – LAC tensions, military infrastructure buildup, impact on strategic stability.
  - **Current Affairs** – Links to SCO summit, India's foreign policy priorities, and implications for regional geopolitics.

## 2. Supreme Court Remarks on Enforcement Directorate: Key Points

- **Background of the Case**

- The Supreme Court heard a petition by **Tamil Nadu challenging ED raids** on the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac).
- The **Madras High Court earlier refused to stay ED's investigation**, prompting the State to approach the Supreme Court.
- CJI B.R. Gavai clarified that any adverse remarks made against the ED were **fact-based and not personal**.

- **Key Judicial Observations**

- **Oral remark on May 22:** ED was “crossing all limits” by investigating a State corporation and violating **India's federal structure**.
- Question raised: “**How can a corporation commit an offence?**” indicating concerns about jurisdiction and overreach.
- Issues flagged: **Cloning of employees' phones**, raising concerns over **right to privacy (Article 21)**.



- **Federalism and Separation of Powers**

- Supreme Court emphasized that **law enforcement by central agencies must respect the federal distribution of powers (Article 246 and 7th Schedule)**.
- Overreach by central agencies may undermine **State autonomy**, a **basic feature of the Constitution** as upheld in *S.R. Bommai vs Union of India (1994)*.

- **Arguments Presented**

- **Kapil Sibal (for Tamil Nadu):** Public perception of ED's misuse exists irrespective of court comments; State already filed **41 FIRs** against liquor outlet operators.





- **Mukul Rohatgi (for Tasmac):** Alleged privacy breaches due to device cloning during raids.
- **ASG S.V. Raju (for ED):** Objected to adverse oral comments creating **negative perceptions** about ED within judiciary and public.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions Involved**
  - **Article 21** – Right to Privacy (reinforced in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India*, 2017).
  - **Article 246 & 7th Schedule** – Distribution of legislative and executive powers between Union and States.
  - **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** – Governs ED's powers; its scope and misuse have been questioned in multiple cases.
- **Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**
  - **Conclusion:** The case highlights the **tension between central investigative authority and State autonomy**, raising issues of privacy, perception of agency misuse, and cooperative federalism.
  - **UPSC Relevance:**
    - **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance)** – Federal structure, separation of powers, role of central agencies.
    - **GS Paper 3 (Internal Security)** – Oversight and accountability of investigative agencies like ED.
    - **Current Affairs** – Judicial observations on enforcement mechanisms, privacy, and balance of power between Union and States.

### 3. Cryonics: Freezing the Dead to Revive Later – Key Points

- **What is Cryonics?**
  - **Definition:** A process of preserving humans or animals at **ultra-low temperatures (-196°C)** immediately after death, aiming to **revive them when future technology permits**.
  - **Process:**
    - Water in tissues is replaced by cryoprotective chemicals to prevent ice crystal damage.
    - Bodies or brains are stored in vacuum-insulated steel containers filled with liquid nitrogen, requiring no electricity.
  - **First Case:** James Hiram Bedford (1967), cryonically preserved by Alcor Life Extension Foundation in 1991.
- **Major Cryonics Providers**
  - **Tomorrow Bio (Berlin):** 20 people and 10 pets preserved, 800+ members.





- **Alcor (USA):** 248 patients stored, 1,442 members.
- **Cryonics Institute (Michigan):** 240 patients stored, 2,200 members.
- **KrioRus (Russia):** Over 100 people and 77 pets preserved.
- **Shandong Yinfeng Institute (China):** About a dozen individuals preserved.
- **Scientific Feasibility**
  - **Current Status:** No full mammal has been revived after cooling to cryogenic temperatures.
  - **Advocates' Argument:** Brain's information remains intact; future **nanomedicine, biotech, and AI** may allow revival.
  - **Supporters:** Tech leaders like Peter Thiel and Sam Altman invest in **longevity and brain-preservation ventures**.
- **Ethical and Legal Issues**
  - **Controversies:** Allegations of mishandling (e.g., “Frozen Larry” case, Ted Williams’s head case).
  - **Key Concerns:**
    - Valid consent and ethical treatment of patients.
    - Financial sustainability of long-term preservation.
    - Legal status and rights of revived persons or animals.
    - Fears of misuse, commercialization, and labeling as **pseudoscience**.
  - **Related Principles:**
    - **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)** – Could be debated for post-death bodily autonomy.
    - **International Bioethics Guidelines (UNESCO, WHO)** – Stress informed consent and human dignity.
- **Cost of Cryopreservation**
  - **Tomorrow Bio:** €200,000 (whole body), €75,000 (brain).
  - **Alcor:** \$200,000 (whole body), \$80,000 (head-only).
  - **Cryonics Institute:** \$28,000 body + \$60,000 additional fees.
  - **KrioRus:** \$36,000 body, \$15,000–18,000 brain.
- **Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**
  - **Conclusion:** Cryonics remains speculative and scientifically unproven but reflects **human ambition to defeat death**, raising profound ethical, legal, and technological questions.
  - **UPSC Relevance:**
    - **GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech):** Emerging biotechnology, nanomedicine, and AI applications.



- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Moral dilemmas around life, death, consent, and human dignity.
- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Need for **bioethical regulations**, international legal frameworks, and policy debates.

#### 4. Government Incubator Programmes for Startups – Key Points

- **Background and Objective**

- Government incubator schemes provide **financial, technical, and mentorship support** to startups in early stages to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Major schemes include:
  - **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (2021)**
  - **TIDE 2.0 (Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs, 2019)**
  - **Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (2022)**
  - **Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development Programme (2018-19)**
  - **Atal Innovation Mission (2016)**
  - **Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (2022)**
  - **National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations – NIDHI (2016)**

- **State-wise Performance (as per Ministry of Commerce and Industry)**

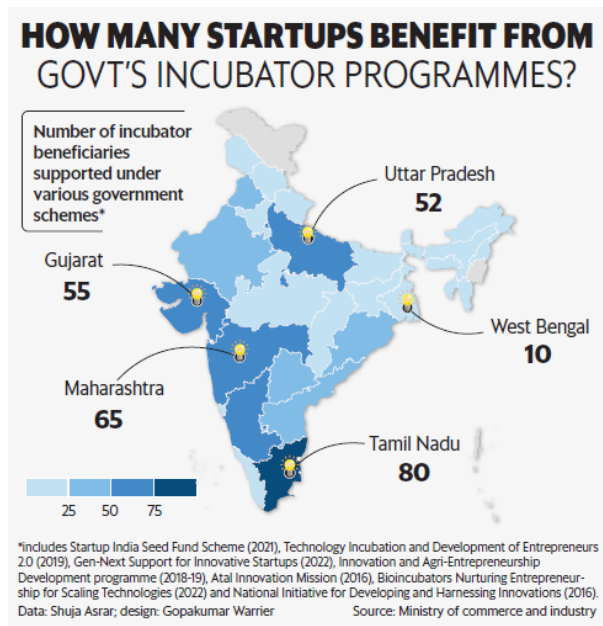
- **Tamil Nadu – 80 incubator beneficiaries**
- **Maharashtra – 65**
- **Gujarat – 55**
- **Uttar Pradesh – 52**
- **West Bengal – 10**

- **Key Features of Incubation Support**

- **Seed funding** for prototype development and market entry.
- **Mentorship and networking opportunities** with industry leaders.
- **Access to labs, research facilities, and technology support** in collaboration with academic and R&D institutions.
- **Focus sectors:** Agri-tech, biotech, AI, deep-tech, manufacturing, and clean energy.

- **Legal and Policy Framework**

- **Startup India Action Plan (2016)** – provides tax incentives, easier compliance norms, and funding support.

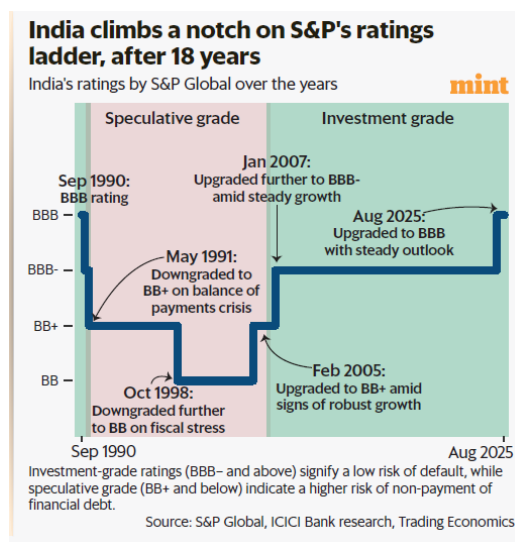




- **Companies Act, 2013** and **Limited Liability Partnership Act** – regulate startup incorporation.
- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016** – ensures patent support and IP protection for innovations.
- **Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution** – protects the right to practice any profession or trade, indirectly supporting entrepreneurship.
- **Challenges in Implementation**
  - **Uneven regional distribution** of incubators leading to concentration in industrially advanced states.
  - **Limited awareness** among rural entrepreneurs.
  - **Sustainability and scaling issues** after early-stage support ends.
  - **Monitoring and impact assessment gaps** in existing schemes.
- **Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**
  - **Conclusion:** Government incubator programmes are crucial in building a **self-reliant innovation ecosystem**, but require **better outreach, regional balance, and post-incubation support** to ensure sustainable startup growth.
  - **UPSC Relevance:**
    - **GS Paper 3 (Economy):** Government policies for innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.
    - **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Role of state and central initiatives in promoting economic development.
    - **Current Affairs:** Evaluation of Startup India and related incubation schemes in promoting **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

## 5. S&P Upgrade of India's Sovereign Rating – Key Highlights

- **What is a Sovereign Rating?**
  - A measure of a country's ability and willingness to repay its debt, similar to a credit score for nations.
  - S&P ratings scale: *AAA (highest) to D (default)*. *BBB– to AAA* is “investment grade,” while *BB+ and below* is “speculative grade.” India has been upgraded from **BBB– to BBB** (investment grade).
- **Reasons for the Upgrade**
  - **Resilient growth:** India's real GDP growth averaged **8.8% (FY22–FY24)** and is projected to sustain **6.8% annually** over the next three years.
  - **Inflation control:** Adoption of inflation targeting in 2015 has anchored retail inflation around **5.5%**, even during global energy shocks.







- **Gradual fiscal repair:** Fiscal deficit projected to decline from **7.8% (FY25)** to **6.6% (FY29)**; government capital expenditure increased to **3.1% of GDP**, improving infrastructure.
- **Key Concerns Identified by S&P**
  - **High debt levels:** General government debt remains **above 82% of GDP**, one of the highest among emerging markets.
  - **Low per capita GDP:** At **\$2,697**, India lags peers in the same rating bracket—Indonesia (\$4,925) and Mexico (\$14,158).
  - **Need for structural fiscal consolidation:** Further upgrades require **sustained deficit reduction and net change in public debt falling below 6% of GDP**.
- **India's Ratings Journey**
  - **1990:** First S&P rating at BBB;
  - **1991:** Downgrade due to BoP crisis;
  - **2007:** Upgrade to BBB—amid robust growth;
  - **2025:** Upgrade to BBB after 18 years of stagnation.
  - The path has been “**stop-start**” with improvements during liberalization and fiscal reforms but setbacks due to fiscal slippages, banking stress, and pandemic deficits.
- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions Linked to Fiscal Discipline**
  - **Art. 112:** Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget).
  - **Art. 292 & 293:** Borrowing powers of Union and States, subject to limits.
  - **FRBM Act (2003):** Mandates fiscal consolidation targets for deficit and debt control.
  - **Art. 265:** “No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law,” ensuring responsible resource mobilization.
- **Implications of the Upgrade**
  - Lower borrowing costs for government and corporates.
  - Broader access to **global institutional investors** who require investment-grade ratings (BBB— and above).
  - Boost to foreign investment sentiment, but continued reforms and fiscal prudence are essential to secure further upgrades.

### Conclusion:

The S&P rating upgrade acknowledges India's robust growth, improved inflation management, and fiscal consolidation efforts but warns of vulnerabilities from high debt and low per capita income. Future upgrades hinge on *structural deficit reduction, debt control, and sustained policy execution*.

### UPSC Relevance:

- Topics: *Indian Economy – Growth, Fiscal Policy, Public Debt; FRBM Act; Global Credit Rating Agencies; Investment Climate.*



- Prelims: Definitions (Sovereign Rating, Investment Grade, FRBM Act provisions).
- Mains GS-3: “What steps should India take to strengthen macroeconomic stability and attract global capital?”
- Essay/Interview: “Fiscal consolidation vs. growth stimulus – finding India’s balance.”

## 6. Local Push for Rare Earth Magnet Manufacturing – Key Highlights

### • What are Rare Earth Magnets and Why Are They Important?

- Rare earth magnets are **high-strength permanent magnets** made from rare earth elements such as neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium.
- They are critical for **semiconductors, renewable energy (wind turbines, EV motors), defense systems, and high-end electronics**.
- India’s demand is projected to **exceed 7,000 tonnes by 2030**, primarily driven by EV adoption.

### • Proposed Government Incentive Scheme

- A **₹1,345-crore scheme** is being framed by the Ministries of Heavy Industries and Mines.
- Incentives will be **linked to local sourcing of rare earth oxides**—a *cascading localization provision* (more domestic content = higher incentive).
- The scheme aims to **develop full domestic value chains**, reducing reliance on imports for strategic sectors.



### • Geopolitical Context – China’s Dominance

- China controls **~60% of global rare earth mining** and **~90% of refined supply**, and has imposed **export restrictions (April 2025)**.
- This creates vulnerabilities for India in **EVs, defense production, renewable energy**, and advanced electronics.
- The scheme is part of India’s strategy to **counter China’s supply weaponization** and strengthen Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### • Key Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Art. 297:** Union control over offshore minerals.
- **MMDR Act (1957):** Governs mining and mineral development, including strategic minerals.
- **Art. 246 & Seventh Schedule (Union List):** Central government’s power to legislate on atomic and rare earth minerals.
- **National Mineral Policy (2019):** Emphasizes domestic processing and private investment in strategic minerals.



- **Strategic Implications**

- **Industrial Security:** Reduced import dependence for high-tech manufacturing.
- **Economic Impact:** Boost to domestic processing industries, job creation, and export competitiveness.
- **Defense Readiness:** Ensures reliable material supply for missiles, radars, and aerospace.

**Conclusion:**

India is moving to tie rare earth magnet incentives to domestic material sourcing to counter China's dominance, secure critical supply chains, and support emerging sectors like EVs and defense. The cascading localization approach is expected to attract investment and enhance self-reliance.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- **Prelims:** Rare earth elements, MMDR Act, National Mineral Policy.
- **Mains GS-3:** "Discuss the strategic importance of rare earth elements and India's measures to reduce external dependency."
- **Essay/Interview:** "Resource security as a pillar of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

## 7. India's Jobless Rate Eases in July – Key Highlights

- **Current Employment Trends**

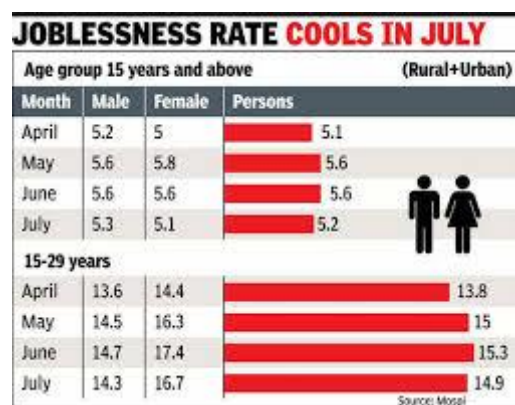
- India's **unemployment rate (age 15+)** fell to **5.2% in July (from 5.6% in June)** as per the latest **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**.
- **Rural unemployment declined to 4.4% (from 4.9%),** while **urban unemployment slightly rose to 7.2% (from 7.1%),** highlighting uneven recovery.

- **Gender and Urban Gaps**

- Persistent **gender disparities** remain, with female participation in the workforce lower than males.
- Urban women face **higher unemployment rates** due to fewer job opportunities, skills mismatch, and social barriers.

- **Key Definitions**

- **Unemployment Rate:** Percentage of persons in the labour force who are willing to work but do not have a job.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Proportion of working-age population (15+) either employed or seeking employment.
- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** Conducted by NSO to provide quarterly urban and annual rural-urban employment data.





- **Structural Concerns**

- **Urban job creation lags** despite overall improvement in rural areas, largely due to agriculture-linked seasonal demand.
- **Youth and women remain disproportionately affected**, reflecting a mismatch between skills and available jobs.
- Slow growth in **manufacturing and formal sector employment** continues to limit sustainable job opportunities.

- **Legal and Policy Framework**

- **Directive Principles (Art. 38, 39):** Obligate the state to ensure adequate means of livelihood.
- **Art. 41:** Right to work within state capacity.
- **Labour Codes (2020):** Aim to simplify labour laws, improve compliance, and expand social security.
- **Schemes:** MGNREGA (for rural employment), PMKVY (skill development), and Startup India (entrepreneurship-driven jobs).

**Conclusion:**

The fall in India's unemployment rate to 5.2% offers relief, but persistent **gender gaps, urban joblessness, and informal sector vulnerabilities** call for targeted reforms in skilling, urban job creation, and female workforce participation.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- **Prelims:** PLFS, unemployment definitions, labour codes.
- **Mains GS-3:** "Discuss the structural issues in India's labour market despite falling unemployment rates."
- **Essay/Interview:** "Jobless growth and gender inequality in India's employment landscape."

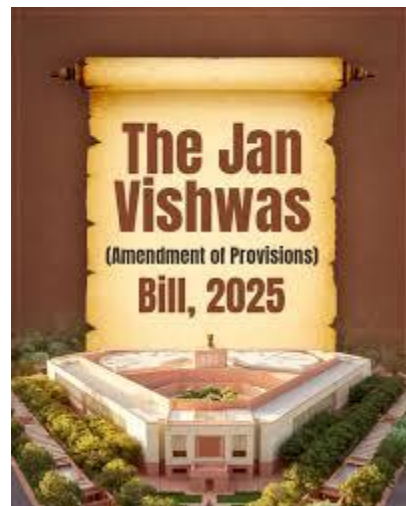
## 8. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 – Key Highlights

- **Objective and Scope**

- Seeks to amend **355 provisions across 16 central Acts** under **10 ministries**, continuing the government's push for **ease of doing business and ease of living**.
- Proposes **decriminalization of 288 provisions** and **rationalization of penalties in 67 cases**, following the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 (which decriminalized 183 provisions in 42 Acts).

- **Major Provisions**

- **Motor Vehicles Act:**
  - Vehicle registration to be valid across entire state (not jurisdiction-specific).





- **30-day grace period after license expiry** and extended time (14 to 30 days) for reporting registration cancellations.
- **Delhi Municipal Corporation & NDMC Acts:** Shift from **Rateable Value Method to Unit Area Method** for property tax, simplifying compliance and reducing discretion.
- **MSME Development Act:** First violation to attract **warning instead of penalty**.
- **Animal Control:** Fine for **unleashed dogs in Delhi** raised from ₹50 to ₹1,000 after first warning.
- **Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950:** Fixed penalty of ₹500 for breach of state rules instead of variable fines.
- **Key Features**
  - **Advisories or warnings for first-time contraventions (76 cases).**
  - **Minor, technical, or procedural defaults** will attract monetary penalties instead of imprisonment.
  - **Administrative adjudication:** Empowering designated officers to impose penalties, thereby **reducing judicial burden**.
- **Definitions and Context**
  - **Decriminalization:** Removal of imprisonment provisions for minor offences, replacing them with fines or warnings.
  - **Ease of Compliance:** Legal simplification to reduce harassment, promote voluntary adherence, and attract investment.
  - **Unit Area Method (Property Tax):** Tax calculation based on a fixed per-unit area rate, ensuring **objectivity and transparency**.
- **Legal & Constitutional Backing**
  - **Art. 14 (Equality before Law):** Ensures penalties are rational and non-arbitrary.
  - **Art. 19(1)(g):** Freedom to practice any trade or business, supported by reducing regulatory burdens.
  - **Art. 21 (Due Process):** Proportionality in punishment aligns with fundamental rights.
  - **Directive Principles (Art. 38, 39):** Encourage laws fostering economic welfare and reducing state-citizen friction.

#### Conclusion:

The Jan Vishwas Bill, 2025 reinforces India's shift toward **decriminalizing minor offences, improving compliance, and enhancing administrative efficiency**. It balances enforcement with citizen-centric governance while supporting business and investment growth.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- **Prelims:** Key features of the Bill, Unit Area Method, difference between decriminalization and deregulation.





- **Mains GS-2:** “Critically evaluate the role of legal reforms in improving ease of doing business and reducing judicial backlog.”
- **Essay/Interview:** “From punishment to compliance – India’s evolving regulatory philosophy.”

## 9. Indian Ports Bill, 2025 – Key Highlights

- **Objective and Legislative Progress**

- The **Indian Ports Bill, 2025** has been passed by both Houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha on 12 August, Rajya Sabha by voice vote) and now awaits **Presidential assent**.
- It seeks to **replace the Indian Ports Act, 1908**, modernizing port governance and aligning it with present-day trade and logistics needs.

- **Key Provisions and Expected Changes**

- Establishes **uniform regulation** of major and non-major ports under a single framework.
- Enhances **coordination between the Centre and States** in port planning, security, and environmental compliance.
- Promotes **private sector participation, investment, and technology adoption** in port operations.
- Strengthens provisions for **safety, pollution control, and maritime security** in line with global standards.

- **Definitions and Context**

- **Port:** A facility where ships dock for loading/unloading cargo or passengers; crucial nodes in India’s trade network.
- **Voice Vote:** A parliamentary method where members verbally express approval or disapproval, used when there is clear majority support.
- **Major vs. Non-Major Ports:** Major ports fall under Union control, while non-major ports are administered by states—this Bill aims to harmonize their regulation.



- **Legal and Constitutional Backing**

- **Union List, Entry 27 (Ports declared by law to be major ports):** Gives Parliament power to legislate on ports of national importance.
- **Concurrent List, Entry 31:** Allows both Centre and States to legislate on ports other than major ones, ensuring cooperative federalism.
- **Art. 368 (Legislative reform):** Demonstrates Parliament’s role in updating outdated colonial laws to meet contemporary economic needs.

- **Significance for Economy and Governance**

- Modern ports will reduce **logistics costs** and improve **export competitiveness** under initiatives like *PM Gati Shakti* and *Sagarmala*.



- Aligns with India's ambition to become a **global manufacturing hub and maritime power** by boosting trade infrastructure.

### Conclusion:

The Indian Ports Bill, 2025 modernizes a century-old legal framework, creating a **unified, investment-friendly, and secure port governance system** to support India's growing trade needs and maritime strategy.

### UPSC Relevance:

- **Prelims:** Provisions of Indian Ports Bill, difference between major and non-major ports, Union and Concurrent List entries.
- **Mains GS-3:** *"Discuss the role of modern port infrastructure in reducing logistics costs and boosting India's exports."*
- **Essay/Interview:** *"Updating colonial-era laws for a \$5 trillion economy – India's legislative reforms."*

## 10. India's First Astronaut on ISS and Roadmap for Viksit Bharat – Key Highlights

- **Historic Milestone – India as "Vishwabandhu" Bharat**
  - Group Captain **Subhanshu Shukla** became the **first Indian astronaut on the International Space Station (ISS)**.
  - Conducted **life sciences and plant physiology experiments using indigenous kits**, demonstrating India's philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (world is one family) — benefits extend to all humanity.
- **Growth of India's Space Economy and Reforms**
  - India's **space economy now at \$8 billion**, supported by **over 300 space startups**.
  - **Space sector reforms** allowed private participation, international collaborations (NASA, Axiom Space, SpaceX), and cost-effective missions.
  - Mission undertaken **at a fraction of global costs**, showcasing India's capability in **frugal innovation and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance)**.
- **Key Future Milestones in Space Programme**
  - **Vyommitra humanoid mission – 2026**.
  - **First Indian astronaut under Gaganyaan – 2027**.
  - **Indian Space Station – 2035**.
  - **Indian Moon Landing – 2040**, symbolizing technological self-reliance and global stature.
- **Applications and Broader Impact of ISS Experiments**
  - Experiments have **applications in health, agriculture, disaster management, and urban planning**.





- Reinforces **India's indigenous R&D capabilities** and its role as a **global scientific contributor**.
- **Legal and Constitutional Backing**
  - **Article 51 & 51A (Promotion of International Peace and Scientific Temper):** Supports India's vision of peaceful space exploration.
  - **Space Activities Bill (proposed):** Provides regulatory framework for private participation in space activities.
  - **International Treaties:** India is a signatory to the **Outer Space Treaty, 1967** ensuring peaceful use of space.

#### Conclusion:

India's first astronaut on the ISS marks a **technological leap, international collaboration, and indigenous innovation**, positioning India as a **"Vishwabandhu Bharat"** (global partner) and paving the way for **Viksit Bharat by 2047** through a robust space roadmap.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- **Prelims:** Names of missions (Vyommitra, Gaganyaan), international collaborations, treaties related to space.
- **Mains GS-3:** *"Discuss the role of India's space programme in national development, self-reliance, and global leadership."*
- **Essay/Interview:** *"From Earth to Moon: India's space journey and vision for 2047."*

## 11. Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY) – Key Points

- **About the Scheme**
  - Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY) is a *Central Sector Scheme* under the Ministry of Culture to promote performing arts, traditional, folk, and tribal arts by providing financial assistance to eligible individuals and cultural organizations.
  - It subsumes several cultural promotion components, including *Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant)*, to preserve and propagate India's intangible cultural heritage.
- **Fund Allocation and Utilization Trends (FY 2020–26)**
  - Allocation and utilization have steadily grown: e.g., Rs. 139.77 Cr allocated and Rs. 122.40 Cr utilized in 2020–21, rising to Rs. 218.65 Cr allocated and Rs. 218.36 Cr utilized in 2023–24.
  - For FY 2025–26 (till Aug 2025): Rs. 198.50 Cr allocated, Rs. 107.31 Cr utilized.
  - *High utilization rate (~90%+)* reflects active implementation.





- **Implementation and Oversight Mechanisms**

- *Third-party evaluations* before every Finance Commission cycle under NITI Aayog's Output–Outcome Monitoring Framework.
- *General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017* compliance: physical inspections, verification of Utilization Certificates, and evidentiary proofs (photos, videos, bills).
- Funds released through *Central Nodal Agency Module* for transparency.

- **Key Beneficiary Data**

- Thousands of artists and organizations have benefitted across States/UTs — West Bengal, Manipur, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh are major recipients.
- Example: In *Guru-Shishya Parampara*, 1,882 organizations were assisted with Rs. 10,147.6 lakh in FY 2023–24.

- **Definitions and Constitutional/Legal Provisions**

- *Guru-Shishya Parampara*: Traditional mentorship system where a master (guru) trains disciples (shishya) in art forms.
- *Central Sector Scheme*: Fully funded by the Union Government, implemented directly through concerned ministries.
- *Constitutional Backing*:
  - **Article 29 & 30** – Protection of cultural and educational rights of minorities.
  - **Article 49** – State obligation to protect monuments, places, and objects of national importance.
  - **Article 51A(f)** – Fundamental duty to value and preserve rich heritage of India's composite culture.

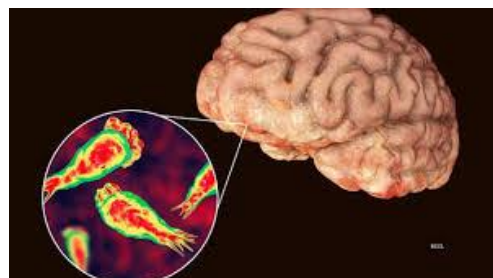
- **Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**

- KSVY reflects India's cultural policy framework focusing on *cultural preservation, livelihood generation for artists, and heritage promotion*.
- Relevant for **GS-I (Indian Culture)**, **GS-II (Government Policies)**, **GS-III (Inclusive Growth & Livelihoods)**, and **GS-IV (Value Preservation)**.
- Illustrates government efforts in *intangible cultural heritage conservation and performance-linked fund monitoring*.

## 12. Alert on Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) in Kozhikode – Key Points

- **About the Disease**

- *Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)* is a rare but fatal brain infection caused by **Naegleria fowleri**, a free-living amoeba found in warm stagnant water.





- The amoeba enters the body through the **nose** or sometimes **eardrum**, travels to the brain, and destroys brain tissue.
- **Recent Outbreak and Vulnerable Groups**
  - Kerala's Kozhikode district reported **three cases and one death**, prompting a health alert.
  - Children are more vulnerable due to a *more porous cribriform plate* (between nasal cavity and brain), facilitating amoeba entry.
- **Symptoms and Diagnosis**
  - Symptoms develop within **5–10 days**: severe headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, light sensitivity, and in severe cases, memory loss, epilepsy, fainting.
  - Early diagnosis is critical, but mortality rate remains **very high** due to rapid disease progression.
- **Transmission and Prevention**
  - *Not a person-to-person disease*; infection occurs during swimming or bathing in **stagnant or unhygienic water sources**.
  - Preventive measures: avoid stagnant water, use **nose clips**, and people with **ear/nose surgeries** should stay out of water.
  - Public awareness programs are being conducted, especially in *Thamarassery* where a 9-year-old child died.
- **Definitions and Constitutional/Legal Provisions**
  - **Naegleria fowleri**: A thermophilic amoeba that causes PAM; also called “brain-eating amoeba.”
  - **Public Health Responsibility:**
    - *Article 47* – Duty of the State to improve public health and standards of living.
    - *Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 & Disaster Management Act, 2005* – Legal basis for health alerts and containment measures.
- **Conclusion & UPSC Relevance**
  - The Kozhikode alert highlights the need for *early surveillance, public health awareness, and safe water practices* in preventing rare but deadly infections.
  - Relevant for **GS-II (Governance – Health Policies)**, **GS-III (Science & Tech – Disease Control, Biotechnology)**, and **GS-IV (Public Service Ethics – Preventive Care)**.
  - Demonstrates the importance of **health infrastructure, citizen awareness, and constitutional duties of the State** in combating emerging public health threats.