



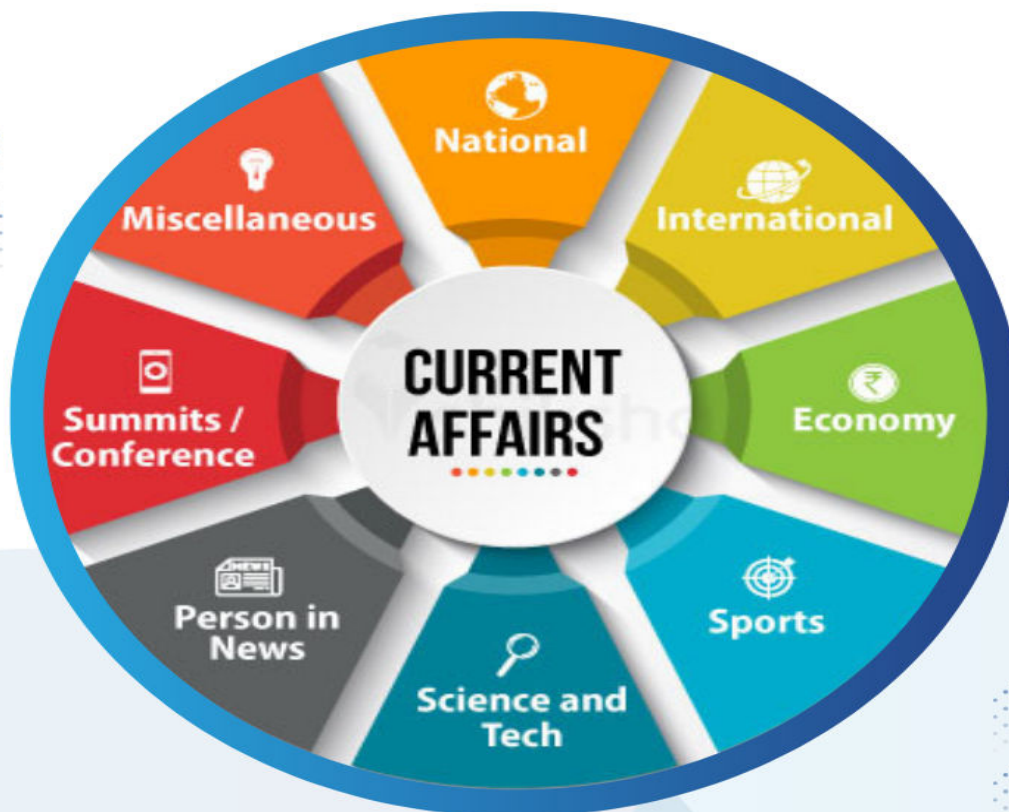
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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

**DATE: 21/08/2025 (THURSDAY)**



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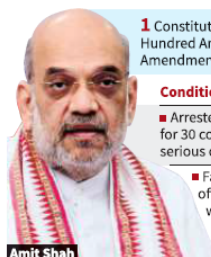


## 1. Bills to Remove Arrested PMs/CMs Trigger House Uproar

- **Context and Key Proposal:** The Union Government introduced three Bills enabling the removal of elected representatives, including the Prime Minister or Chief Ministers, if arrested on serious criminal charges. The government claims this is to restore *political morality*, while the Opposition calls it *unconstitutional* and *anti-federal*.
- **Parliamentary Proceedings:**
  - Bills referred to a **Joint Committee of Parliament** (21 Lok Sabha + 10 Rajya Sabha members) to submit a report by the Winter Session.
  - Lok Sabha witnessed protests—Trinamool MPs tore copies of the Bills, and opposition MPs raised slogans.
  - A sharp exchange occurred between **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** and **Congress leader K.C. Venugopal** over Mr. Shah's 2010 arrest.
- **Major Arguments – Government vs Opposition:**
  - **Government stand:** Amit Shah stated leaders must resign when facing serious allegations; cited his own resignation in 2010 to uphold morality.
  - **Opposition stand:** Rahul Gandhi termed the Bills “medieval”, warning of misuse by agencies (e.g., ED) to disqualify elected representatives within 30 days. Asaduddin Owaisi and Manish Tewari called the Bills a threat to **federalism, parliamentary democracy, and criminal justice safeguards**.
- **Legal & Constitutional Concerns:**
  - Critics argue the Bills violate **Article 14 (Equality before law), Article 21 (Due process), and the basic structure of federalism**.
  - Fear of bypassing **due judicial process**—arrest alone (not conviction) could lead to removal, undermining **Articles 75 and 164**, which govern the tenure of PM and CMs based on legislative majority.
  - *Jurisprudence of criminal justice* requires **presumption of innocence until proven guilty**, which may be compromised.
- **Procedural Objections in Parliament:**
  - Opposition claims Bills introduced in *undue haste*, without prior circulation or detailed scrutiny.
  - Allegation that the amendment process circumvents proper **legislative procedure and parliamentary conventions**.
- **Key Definitions & Concepts:**
  - *Political Morality*: Ethical standards expected of public officials, beyond mere legal compliance.

**Bills in focus** | The three Bills tabled by the Home Minister propose the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers under certain conditions

<b>1</b> Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025	<b>2</b> Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025	<b>3</b> Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025
<b>Conditions for removal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges</li><li>■ Facing charges of offences punishable with imprisonment of five years or more</li></ul>	<b>Removal authority:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The President (for PM and Union Ministers)</li><li>■ Governors (for CMs and State Ministers)</li><li>■ Lieutenant-Governors (for Ministers in Union Territories)</li></ul>	<b>Additional provision:</b> The legislation allows for the possibility of reappointment once the detained Minister or Chief Minister is released



Amit Shah



- *Federalism*: Division of powers between Union and States, protected as part of Constitution's basic structure (as per **SR Bommai vs Union of India, 1994**).
- *Joint Committee of Parliament*: A special committee drawn from both Houses to examine Bills in detail before passage.

**Conclusion:** The Bills aim to enforce political accountability but raise concerns of *central overreach, misuse of investigative agencies, and erosion of constitutional safeguards*. The debate underscores tension between **ethical governance** and **democratic checks and balances**.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- *GS-2*: Indian Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, criminal justice reforms.
- *GS-3*: Governance and role of institutions like ED/CBI.
- *Polity and Current Affairs*: Questions on **legislative procedure, basic structure doctrine**, and **political ethics vs rule of law**.
- *Ethics (GS-4)*: Discussion on political morality vs legal accountability.

## 2. Uttarakhand Assembly Clears Amendments to UCC, Anti-Conversion and Minority Education Bills

- **Context and Legislative Action:** In a two-day stormy Monsoon Session at Gairsain (August 19–20), the Uttarakhand Assembly passed nine major Bills including amendments to the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2025, Freedom of Religion and Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, and **Minority Education Bill, 2025**. The House was adjourned *sine die* amid Opposition protests demanding debates on disaster management (Dharali flash floods, 68 missing) and law-and-order concerns under Rule 310.
- **Key UCC Amendments:**
  - Punishment for illegal live-in relationships enhanced.
  - Marriage registration period extended from **6 months to 1 year**.
  - UCC, implemented earlier this year, continues to regulate uniform personal laws on marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships across communities in the State.
- **Freedom of Religion (Anti-Conversion) Amendments:**
  - Jail terms for forced religious conversions increased from **10 years to life imprisonment**, depending on severity.
  - “Allurement” redefined as *any gift, material benefit, employment, or invoking divine displeasure* to induce conversion.
  - Human trafficking and threats to life linked with conversion attract **20 years to life imprisonment**.







- **Minority Education Bill Provisions:**

- Extends **minority educational status** to Sikh, Jain, Christian, Parsi, and Buddhist institutions.
- All madrasas must affiliate with the Uttarakhand Education Board by **July 1, 2026**, and apply for minority status through the State Authority for Minority Education.
- Non-compliant or unrecognised madrasas to be shut down.

- **Other Bills Passed:** Supplementary Appropriation Bill (₹5,315.37 crore grants for FY 2025–26 passed without discussion), amendments to Shri Badrinath and Shri Kedarnath Temples Act, Uttarakhand Private Universities Act, Panchayati Raj Act, and repeal of Witness Protection Act. A Loktantra Senani Samman Bill was also cleared.

- **Constitutional & Legal Dimensions:**

- UCC relates to **Article 44 (Directive Principle)** seeking uniform personal laws; potential conflicts with **Articles 25-28 (religious freedom)**.
- Anti-conversion provisions must balance **freedom of conscience (Article 25)** with prevention of coercion or fraud, as upheld in **Rev. Stanislaus v. State of MP (1977)**.
- Minority education rights under **Article 30(1)** ensure that minorities can establish and administer institutions; State regulation must not destroy autonomy.
- Procedural objections on bypassing debate raise questions on **legislative conventions and Rule 310 of Assembly procedures**.

**Conclusion:** Uttarakhand's legislative push signals assertive governance on personal law uniformity, religious conversion control, and regulation of minority education institutions. However, concerns remain over federal balance, freedom of religion, minority rights, and procedural transparency.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- *GS-2:* Constitution (Articles 25–30, 44), federalism, minority rights.
- *GS-1:* Indian society, religion and social reforms.
- *GS-3:* Governance issues in disaster management, financial legislation.
- *Current Affairs:* State-level UCC implementation and its national implications.
- *Ethics (GS-4):* Balancing social morality with individual rights.

### 3. No Delay in Treating Amoebic Meningoencephalitis

- **Context and Clarification:** Kerala Health Department dismissed allegations of delayed diagnosis of **amoebic meningoencephalitis**, a rare but fatal brain infection caused by free-living amoebae. The department clarified that treatment begins immediately after presumptive diagnosis at Kozhikode Medical College Hospital.
- **Diagnostic Process:**
  - **Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples** are examined at the hospital microbiology lab to identify *trophozoites* (active amoeba stage).



- Samples are sent to the **State Public Health Lab** only for *confirmatory diagnosis* and species identification, not to initiate treatment.
- Repeat tests are required only when detecting amoeba in **environmental water sources**.
- **Laboratory Capabilities:** Since June 2025, the State Public Health Laboratory has **molecular diagnostic facilities** to identify **five major free-living amoeba species** pathogenic to humans, ensuring faster confirmation.
- **Key Definitions:**
  - *Amoebic Meningoencephalitis*: A rare brain infection, often caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, *Acanthamoeba* spp., or *Balamuthia mandrillaris*, with high mortality if untreated.
  - *Trophozoite*: The active, feeding stage of amoeba responsible for tissue invasion.
  - *Molecular diagnostics*: Techniques like PCR used to detect pathogens rapidly and accurately at the genetic level.
- **Constitutional & Legal Aspects:**
  - Falls under **Right to Health (Article 21)** as interpreted by the Supreme Court in *Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity vs State of West Bengal (1996)*, requiring prompt diagnosis and treatment.
  - Related to **public health governance** under the State List (Entry 6, Seventh Schedule), but disease surveillance and epidemic control also invoke Union support (Entry 29, Concurrent List).
- **Conclusion:** Kerala's prompt treatment protocol and advanced molecular facilities ensure that suspected amoebic infections are addressed without delay. The focus remains on timely diagnosis, rapid therapy, and surveillance of water sources to prevent outbreaks.



#### UPSC Relevance:

- *GS-2*: Health policy, federal role in disease control, constitutional right to health.
- *GS-3*: Science and Technology in medical diagnostics, epidemic preparedness.
- *Current Affairs*: Public health response to emerging infections.
- *Prelims*: Pathogens causing meningoencephalitis, molecular diagnostic techniques.

## 4. India's Democracy is Failing the Migrant Citizen – Key Summary

- **Context and Issue:** Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has led to deletion of nearly **3.5 million migrant voters (4.4% of total voters)**, labelling them as "permanently migrated" for being absent during verification. This results in **de facto disenfranchisement**, both in origin and destination States.
- **Structural Challenges in Electoral System:** India's voter registration remains **residence-based and sedentary**, requiring in-person verification and fixed address proof. Migrant workers — living in informal settlements, rented rooms, or work sites — lack such documentation, leading to exclusion. Regionalism and political fears in host States further discourage migrant voter enrolment.



- **Key Definitions and Concepts:**

- *Circular migration*: Recurrent movement between home and work locations, often seasonal.
- *Disenfranchisement*: Denial of voting rights through legal or administrative actions.
- *Portable identity systems*: Mechanisms allowing citizens to vote irrespective of location through linked and verifiable digital credentials.

- **Supporting Data and Studies:**

- TISS–ECI study (2015): Identified a **triple burden** of administrative barriers, digital illiteracy, and social exclusion reducing migrant electoral participation.
- Turnout correlation: States with **higher out-migration (Bihar – 53.2%)** show lower voter turnout versus **low-migration States (Gujarat – 66.4%, Karnataka – 70.7%)**.
- Mobile visitor data: **7 million annual migrants from Bihar**, half returning seasonally during festivals, but now struck off rolls.

- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions:**

- **Article 326** – universal adult suffrage as the basis of elections.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950 & 1951** – governs preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections.
- **Article 14 & 21** – right to equality and right to life interpreted to include *meaningful political participation*.
- Supreme Court observations: *PUCL vs Union of India (2003)* – right to vote is a constitutional right, though not a fundamental right.



- **Way Forward:**

- Develop **portable and mobile voter ID systems** linked with Aadhaar (with privacy safeguards).
- Stop blanket deletions; use **cross-verification with destination State voter rolls**.
- Empower **panchayats and civil society** for migrant voter outreach.
- Replicate **Kerala's migration surveys** in high-migration States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

- **Conclusion:** Mass disenfranchisement of migrant workers threatens **India's representative democracy** by erasing millions of citizens from the electoral process. Electoral reforms must recognize mobility, ensure inclusion, and prevent a “silent purge” of the working poor.

**UPSC Relevance:**

- *GS-2*: Electoral reforms, federalism, role of Election Commission, migrant rights.
- *GS-1*: Population migration patterns, regionalism, social exclusion.
- *GS-3*: Use of digital governance for inclusive electoral systems.
- *Prelims*: Constitutional provisions (Articles 14, 21, 326), RPA 1950/1951, schemes like *One Nation One Ration Card*.



## 5. Nuclear Laws and the Role of Opposition

- **Context and Legislative Background:** The government plans to amend the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA), 2010**, to reduce supplier liability, and the **Atomic Energy Act (AEA), 1962**, to allow private participation in nuclear energy. These laws earlier emerged from debates after the **India–U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement (2008)** and memories of disasters like **Bhopal (1984)** and **Fukushima (2011)**.
  - **Key Issues with CLNDA and AEA:** The CLNDA's **supplier liability clause** discouraged foreign suppliers, rendering projects stagnant. Proposed amendments seek alignment with **international conventions (Convention on Supplementary Compensation)** to attract investment. Amending the AEA could open nuclear power generation to private entities, including building **small modular reactors (SMRs)**.
  - **Definitions and Key Concepts:**
    - *Civil Liability:* Legal responsibility to compensate victims for harm caused by an activity, in this case nuclear accidents.
    - *Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):* Advanced nuclear reactors designed for scalable, safer, and cost-efficient power generation.
    - *Nuclear Energy Target:* Current installed capacity ~8.8 GW; target **22.48 GW by 2031–32** and **100 GW by 2047**.
  - **Political and Constitutional Dimensions:**
    - *Parliamentary Role:* Opposition's stand crucial to ensure **debate on safety, accountability, and national interest**. Past examples (Patents Act 1970 amendment, Insurance FDI ceiling, Land Border Agreement) show eventual bipartisan consensus.
    - *Article 21 (Right to Life)* – implies citizens' right to safety from hazardous activities.
    - *Article 73 & 246* – Union control over atomic energy as part of national interest.
    - *Atomic Energy Act, 1962:* Central government monopoly over nuclear research, production, and safety.
  - **Concerns Raised by Opposition:** The Congress argues the move **dilutes supplier accountability, raises domestic safety risks, and appeases foreign suppliers** (U.S., France), compromising citizen protection. It also highlights lack of transparency in aligning with global conventions.
  - **Need for Informed Discussion:** Nuclear energy contributes only **~3% of India's power generation**, yet it is vital for **energy security, climate change mitigation, and reducing carbon intensity**. A **comprehensive debate on waste disposal, safety norms, and technology adoption (SMRs)** is essential before amending laws.
- Conclusion:** Amending nuclear laws will have far-reaching implications for India's energy security, international cooperation, and citizen safety. The Opposition must ensure balanced scrutiny, rather than opportunistic shifts in stance, to safeguard public interest.



### UPSC Relevance:

- **GS-2:** Role of Parliament, Opposition, legislative process, India–U.S. relations, liability laws.





- GS-3: Energy security, nuclear technology, climate change commitments.
- Prelims: Key provisions of CLNDA 2010, AEA 1962, Convention on Supplementary Compensation, Articles 21, 73, 246.
- Essay/Interview: Ethical dimensions of nuclear energy vs. public safety, lessons from industrial disasters.

## 6. Need for a National Space Law in India

- **Global Framework and Obligations:** The *Outer Space Treaty (OST)*, 1967 declares space as the “province of all mankind,” prohibits national appropriation, and places *responsibility on states for activities by government or private actors*. However, OST is not self-executing — nations must enact *domestic laws* to authorize, regulate, and ensure liability compliance under *Article VI*. Companion agreements (Liability Convention 1972, Registration Convention 1976) provide binding frameworks on liability and safety.
- **India’s Current Approach:** India has ratified major UN space treaties but lacks a comprehensive *Space Activities Law*. Progress has been *methodical and incremental* — e.g., **Indian Space Policy 2023, IN-SPACE Norms, Guidelines and Procedures (NPG), and Catalogue of Indian Standards for Space Industry** — but only the *technical authorisation process* is in place. The overarching *regulatory text* aligning with OST principles remains pending.
- **Industry Concerns and Operational Challenges:** Absence of a *statutory authority* for IN-SPACE leads to delays from multiple clearances. Private players seek **predictable licensing rules, single-window approvals, and clear FDI norms (e.g., 100% automatic FDI in satellite components)**. *Third-party insurance frameworks* are vital to meet international liability obligations and support startups managing high-value space assets.
- **Key Legal and Regulatory Needs:** National space legislation must:
  - Grant statutory backing to IN-SPACE as the central regulator.
  - Define licensing timelines, fees, and appellate mechanisms to avoid conflicts of interest.
  - Provide clear *liability sharing* and affordable insurance models.
  - Secure *intellectual property rights (IPR)* to prevent technology migration.
  - Mandate *space debris management* and *accident investigation protocols*.
- **Definitions and Constitutional Dimensions:**
  - *Space Law*: Domestic legal framework regulating exploration, innovation, and commercialization of outer space.
  - *Dual-use technology*: Tech serving both civilian and military purposes, requiring tighter export and licensing scrutiny.
  - *Article 51 & 253 of the Constitution*: Direct the State to foster respect for international law and enable Parliament to legislate for treaty implementation.





- **Global Practices and Lessons:** Nations like the U.S., Japan, and Luxembourg already have robust *national space laws* to provide legal certainty and attract investment by balancing liability, innovation protection, and safety norms.

**Conclusion:** A robust national space law is essential to transform India from a state-dominated space power into a globally competitive space economy while ensuring safety, sustainability, and compliance with international obligations.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- **GS-2:** International treaties, Parliament's role in enacting laws, regulatory bodies.
- **GS-3:** Science and Technology, space sector reforms, FDI in high-tech sectors, startups.
- **Prelims:** OST 1967, IN-SPACe, Indian Space Policy 2023, Article 51 & 253.
- **Essay/Interview:** Balancing innovation with international responsibility, commercialization of space, and India's global leadership in space governance.

## 7. Machine-Readable Electoral Rolls

- **Electoral Rolls – Definition and Preparation:** Electoral rolls are the *authoritative list of eligible voters* in India, maintained under the supervision of the Election Commission (EC) by district officials using **ERONET**. Rolls are updated for new voters, address changes, and deletions. Current format is mainly *image PDFs* or printouts, which are difficult to search and analyse at scale.
- **Demand for Machine-Readable Rolls:** Opposition parties, including Rahul Gandhi, argue for *searchable "text PDF" voter rolls* to easily detect duplicates or irregularities. *Machine-readable rolls* allow indexing and computer-based verification, unlike image PDFs that require manual scrutiny. Example: Congress found **11,965 duplicate entries** in Bengaluru's Mahadevapura constituency through intensive manual effort.
- **EC's Restrictions and Rationale:** In 2018–19, EC stopped uploading machine-readable rolls to prevent misuse of sensitive voter data (full names and addresses) by foreign actors. The **Supreme Court in Kamal Nath vs. ECI (2018)** upheld this restriction, noting that political parties can use *Optical Character Recognition (OCR)* on image files if needed. EC also cites privacy risks in fully searchable public voter rolls.
- **Technology and Challenges:** While *OCR* can convert PDFs to searchable text, voter lists are fragmented into lakhs of small files. Nationwide conversion could cost around **\$40,000 per revision cycle**, making large-scale verification resource-intensive.
- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**
  - **Article 324:** Empowers EC to supervise elections.
  - **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Governs preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
  - **SC Precedent (2018):** Refused to mandate machine-readable rolls despite EC manual suggesting draft rolls in text mode.





- **Privacy Concerns (Puttaswamy Judgment, 2017):** Voter data must be handled to protect personal information under the Right to Privacy.
- **Key Definitions:**
  - *Machine-readable roll:* A digital voter list in searchable or indexed format (e.g., text PDFs).
  - *OCR (Optical Character Recognition):* Technology that converts scanned documents or image-based PDFs into editable/searchable text.

**Conclusion:** While machine-readable electoral rolls could enhance transparency and allow faster detection of duplicate voters, they raise *privacy* and *data security* concerns. A balanced approach is needed to ensure free and fair elections without compromising voter confidentiality.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- *GS-2:* Election Commission powers, electoral reforms, privacy vs. transparency debate.
- *GS-3:* Use of ICT, data protection challenges, cybersecurity in governance.
- *Prelims:* ERONET, Article 324, RPA 1950, Kamal Nath vs. ECI case.
- *Essay/Interview:* Balancing transparency in democracy with data privacy; role of technology in electoral integrity.

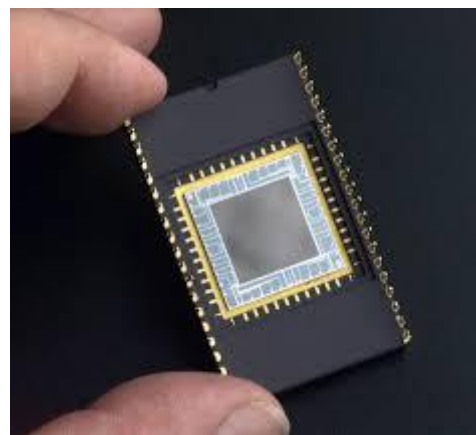
## 8. Charge-Coupled Devices (CCD) and Their Impact

### • Definition and Working Principle

- A *Charge-Coupled Device (CCD)* is an electronic component that converts light into electrical signals using an array of capacitors arranged as pixels.
- Each pixel collects photons (light particles), creating electrical charges proportional to light intensity; these charges are sequentially transferred and converted into a digital image.
- Based on the *photoelectric effect* — photons striking a semiconductor generate electron-hole pairs, which are read out as voltage signals.

### • Invention and Development

- Invented in 1969 by *Willard Boyle* and *George Smith* at Bell Labs, initially as a semiconductor memory experiment.
- The process of shifting stored charge between capacitors was termed “*charge coupling*.”
- Earned the **2009 Nobel Prize in Physics**; later refined by companies like Fairchild Semiconductor and Sony for mass production and camera applications.



### • Technological Impact

- Replaced photographic film in cameras, enabling instant viewing, storage, and editing of digital images.
- Used extensively in CCTV for security surveillance due to high image quality.



- Facilitated the rise of personal and professional digital photography, transforming media and information sharing globally.
- **Applications in Science and Medicine**
  - **Medical Imaging:** Used in X-rays, CT scans, and endoscopes for high-resolution, precise diagnostic images.
  - **Microscopy & Spectrometry:** Allows detailed analysis in research on cells, materials, and physical phenomena.
  - **Astronomy:** CCD-equipped telescopes detect faint celestial objects with high sensitivity, aiding discovery of galaxies, exoplanets, and cosmic events.
- **Key Technological Features**
  - High sensitivity to light and low noise levels make CCDs superior for scientific and precision applications.
  - Sequential readout allows accurate image reconstruction but requires precise control circuits.
  - Although CCDs have been partly replaced by CMOS sensors in consumer electronics for cost and power reasons, they remain critical where image quality is paramount.
- **Constitutional / Legal / UPSC Relevance**
  - **Article 51A (h):** Scientific temper, humanism, and spirit of inquiry — CCD exemplifies application of science in public welfare.
  - **Intellectual Property Rights:** Inventions like CCD are protected under *patent laws*, reflecting India's policy to encourage R&D.
  - **Space and Defence Use:** CCD-based sensors are integral to satellites, remote sensing, and defence surveillance, aligning with India's space program (ISRO).

#### Conclusion:

The CCD is a landmark invention that revolutionised imaging technology across diverse sectors — from personal photography to advanced scientific research and space exploration. Its precision, sensitivity, and impact embody how fundamental science leads to transformative technology.

#### UPSC Relevance:

- Important for **Science & Technology** segment (GS Paper III) under “Developments in Science and Technology and their Applications.”
- Linked with **Space, Defence, Medical Diagnostics**, and **Digital Revolution** topics.
- Useful for questions on *photoelectric effect, semiconductor devices, Nobel Prize-winning technologies, and indigenous R&D applications*.

## 9. Manipur Violence – Planned and Ethnically Targeted

- **Key Findings of the Report**
  - The Independent People's Tribunal (2024), chaired by former SC judge Kurian Joseph, concluded that the Manipur ethnic violence was *not spontaneous* but *planned* and *ethnically targeted*.





- Systematic hate campaigns through digital media and provocative political statements intensified mistrust between the *Meitei* and *Kuki-Zo* communities.
- State failures in preventing escalation and protecting citizens aggravated the crisis, leaving over **60,000 internally displaced people** in relief camps.

- **Historical and Immediate Triggers**

- Long-standing ethnic divisions, socio-political marginalisation, and land disputes formed the backdrop of tension.
- The **Manipur High Court directive (27 March 2023)** recommending *Scheduled Tribe (ST) status* for Meiteis was perceived as a threat to tribal constitutional protections (under **Article 342 & Fifth/Sixth Schedules**) by Kuki-Zo and Naga groups.
- This triggered statewide tribal protests on **3 May 2023**, which turned violent in certain areas and rapidly engulfed the state.

- **Role of Digital Media and Political Rhetoric**

- Coordinated online hate propaganda and polarising speeches deepened ethnic hostilities, pointing to *pre-meditated planning* rather than sporadic clashes.
- This aligns with broader concerns on misuse of social media in spreading fake news and inciting communal violence, highlighting the need for stronger regulatory mechanisms.



- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions Involved**

- **Article 19(1)(a)** – Freedom of speech versus reasonable restrictions to prevent hate speech.
- **Article 21** – Right to life and security violated by state inaction.
- **Article 355** – Duty of the Union to protect states against internal disturbances.
- **ST status provisions (Article 342)** – Ensure protections for tribal communities in terms of land and resources.

- **Humanitarian and Governance Crisis**

- Over 60,000 displaced persons in camps reflect a major *internal displacement crisis* and governance failure.
- Report calls for urgent rehabilitation, impartial investigation, and ensuring accountability of security and administrative apparatus.

- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**

- The Manipur violence underscores how ethnic fault lines, judicial directives, and unregulated digital propaganda can trigger large-scale conflict if not addressed by proactive governance.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper II (Governance, Polity)**, **GS Paper III (Internal Security, Role of Media)**, and **GS Paper I (Society – Communalism, Regionalism)**. Useful for topics on *federal relations*, *constitutional safeguards for tribals*, *hate speech regulation*, and *conflict resolution mechanisms*.



## 10. India Successfully Tests Agni-5 Missile

- **Key Features of Agni-5 Missile**

- *Agni-5* is an indigenously developed **intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)** by the DRDO with an operational range of around **5,000 km**, capable of carrying nuclear warheads.
- The missile has been designed to meet India's **long-term strategic security requirements** and strengthen its credible minimum deterrence posture under the **No First Use (NFU)** nuclear doctrine.

- **Recent Test Details**

- Successfully test-fired on **August 20, 2025**, from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha** under the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.
- Validated all operational and technical parameters, demonstrating readiness for deployment.
- A previous trial on **March 11, 2024**, tested the missile with **Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV)** technology, enabling it to strike multiple targets in one launch.



- **Strategic Significance**

- Enhances India's second-strike capability and strengthens nuclear deterrence under **Article 51A (defence of nation)** principles.
- Extends coverage to entire Asia, including key strategic regions, and parts of Europe and Africa.
- Reinforces India's position as a responsible nuclear power within the framework of the **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**, to which India is a member.

- **Constitutional and Legal Provisions**

- **Article 51A(d)**: Duty of every citizen to defend the country.
- **Article 73 & 246**: Empower the Union to legislate on defence and national security.
- **Strategic Forces Command (2003)**: Established to manage nuclear arsenal as part of India's Nuclear Command Authority.
- Consistent with India's **No First Use policy** and commitment to **credible minimum deterrence** under its nuclear doctrine.

- **Technological Milestones**

- Incorporates advanced navigation, guidance, and re-entry vehicle systems for accuracy.
- MIRV capability enhances survivability against missile defence systems and allows simultaneous targeting of multiple high-value installations.
- Demonstrates self-reliance in strategic defence technology under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.



- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**

- The successful test of Agni-5 reflects India's growing strategic deterrence capabilities, self-reliance in defence production, and adherence to a responsible nuclear doctrine.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper III (Internal Security, Defence Technology, Nuclear Doctrine)** and **GS Paper II (International Relations – Strategic Balance in Asia)**. Useful for topics on *indigenous defence production, MIRV technology, India's nuclear policy, and geostrategic implications of missile development*.

## 11. Lok Sabha Clears Bill Banning Real Money Gaming

- **Key Provisions of the Bill**

- The *Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025* prohibits offering, operating, facilitating, advertising, promoting, or participating in **online money games** where users deposit and risk money, such as **fantasy sports and card games**.
- Provides for the creation of a **central authority** to regulate online gaming and **promote e-sports** as a creative and recreational industry.

- **Government's Rationale**

- Aims to curb **social, financial, psychological, and public health harms** arising from addiction to money gaming platforms.
- IT Minister highlighted issues such as **fraud, cheating algorithms, loss of lifetime savings, and suicides**, calling the law a step in *national interest*.
- Addresses the **absence of a coherent regulatory framework**, ensuring structured growth of the sector while preventing harmful practices.



- **Possible Constitutional and Legal Issues**

- Could face **constitutional challenge** on grounds of:
  - **Article 19(1)(g):** Freedom to practice any profession, trade, or business (possible claim of trade restriction).
  - **Legislative competence dispute:** *Entry 34, List II (State List) – Betting and Gambling* vs. *Entry 31, List I (Union List) – Posts and telegraphs, telephones, wireless, broadcasting and other forms of communication* (central regulation of online activities).
- Parliament may justify the law under **Article 249 or 252** if states consent or under **public interest in national security and public order** (**Article 19(6) – reasonable restrictions**).

- **Policy Context and Key Definitions**

- **Online Money Games:** Digital games where monetary stakes are deposited for uncertain returns.



- **E-sports vs. Gambling:** The Bill distinguishes *e-sports* (skill-based, non-monetary) from *gambling platforms* (chance-based, monetary).
- Reflects India's global stance to encourage **digital creativity while curbing harmful gambling practices**, aligning with *National Policy on Online Gaming* proposals.
- **Industry Response and Concerns**
  - Real money gaming industry has expressed concerns about **lack of prior consultation** and **potential overreach**, warning of economic impacts and legal battles.
  - Government claims clarity has been provided after *years of engagement* with stakeholders, emphasizing **political unanimity on the problem**.
- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**
  - The Bill represents a decisive policy shift toward **prohibiting online gambling**, protecting citizens from financial exploitation while **promoting e-sports** as a regulated industry.
  - **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper II (Governance, Regulation, Constitutional Issues)** and **GS Paper III (Cybersecurity, Emerging Technologies, Social Issues)**. Useful for questions on *regulation of digital platforms, Centre-State legislative powers, reasonable trade restrictions, and balancing innovation with public welfare*.

## 12. Global Solar Alliance Plans to Establish Research Hub in India

- **Key Development**
  - The *International Solar Alliance (ISA)* will set up **17 Centres of Excellence** worldwide by the end of 2025 and establish a **Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India**, envisioned as a "Silicon Valley for solar."
  - These centres will provide **testing, lab training, startup incubation, and skill-building** in IIT-like institutions, aimed at enhancing global solar capacity and human resource development.
- **Role and Vision of ISA**
  - ISA, launched by **India and France at COP-21 (Paris, 2015)**, is a treaty-based international body with **~100 member countries**, headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.
  - The GCC in India will serve as a **hub linking all Centres of Excellence**, supporting collaboration, R&D, and technology transfer in solar energy.
- **India's Strategic Position**
  - India has **installed 119 GW of solar capacity (as of July 2025)**, making it a global leader in renewable energy deployment.
  - Many countries seek **Indian engineers and skilled professionals** to execute solar projects, including **digital tendering, operations, maintenance, and workforce reskilling**.







- **Constitutional & Policy Relevance**

- Solar energy promotion aligns with **Article 51(c)** (international cooperation), **Article 48A** (protection of the environment), and **Article 21** (clean environment as part of Right to Life).
- Supports India's **National Solar Mission** (under National Action Plan on Climate Change) and commitments under the **Paris Agreement (COP-21)** to increase renewable energy share.

- **Key Definitions**

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** A treaty-based intergovernmental organization to promote solar energy adoption globally.
- **Global Capability Centre (GCC):** A central hub facilitating R&D, skill development, and technology integration for global applications in solar and renewable energy.

- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**

- Establishing a solar “Silicon Valley” in India strengthens its **soft power**, promotes **green technology leadership**, and helps meet **global climate targets**.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper II (International Relations, Treaties)**, **GS Paper III (Environment, Energy, Science & Tech)**, and *topics on climate diplomacy, renewable energy policies, and India's global leadership in sustainable development.*

### 13. Global Uncertainty in External Demand a Major Drag on Growth

- **Key Concerns from RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**

- The minutes of the latest MPC meeting highlight **uncertainty in external demand** due to **tariffs and geopolitical tensions**, which is hindering **private investment sentiment** and overall growth.
- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra noted **urban consumption sluggishness** contrasted with **buoyant rural demand**, with policy support and favorable supply conditions likely to aid growth in the short term.



- **Impact of Global Trade Policies**

- **U.S. tariffs of 25% on Indian goods** have raised anxiety over export prospects, despite positive developments such as the signing of the **U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
- Trade policy uncertainty is negatively impacting **long-term private investment decisions**, particularly in export-driven sectors.

- **Sectoral Distress**

- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in **diamond and jewellery, textiles and apparel, and fisheries** sectors are showing **visible stress in growth and employment**, largely due to reliance on U.S. market demand.

- **Constitutional & Policy Context**



- **Article 19(1)(g):** Protects freedom to practice any profession or carry on trade/business, though subject to reasonable restrictions (relevant if tariffs or policies affect domestic business).
- **Article 301:** Guarantees freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse within India, though foreign trade is primarily regulated by the Union (Entry 41, Union List).
- Policies such as **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** are aimed at boosting resilience of Indian industries to external shocks.

- **Key Definitions**

- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** A six-member body of the RBI that decides India's repo rate and monetary stance to ensure inflation control and economic stability.
- **Tariff:** A tax imposed by a government on imports or exports, often used to protect domestic industries but may provoke retaliatory trade barriers.
- **MSMEs:** Enterprises with limited scale of investment and turnover, crucial for employment generation and exports in India.

- **Conclusion and UPSC Relevance**

- Global tariff measures and geopolitical uncertainties pose **significant risks to India's export-led sectors and private investment climate.**
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS Paper III (Economy – External Sector, Trade Policies, MSMEs, Monetary Policy)** and **GS Paper II (International Trade Relations, India-U.S. relations, WTO issues)**, especially in questions on **trade wars, protectionism, and India's growth outlook.**