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FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 22/08/2025 (FRIDAY)



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1. Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 – Key Summary

- **Definition & Objective of the Bill**

- The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 seeks to regulate online gaming activities, especially games involving monetary stakes.
- *Key definition:* **Money gaming** refers to online games where players stake or deposit real money to win monetary rewards.
- The Bill aims to curb illegal betting and protect users from financial losses while ensuring responsible gaming practices.

- **Current Status and Implementation Timeline**

- The Bill will become an **Act** only after the **President's assent** and government notification.
- Expected enforcement within **three months**, followed by framing of **implementation rules** by an inter-ministerial committee.
- Industry may receive **transition time** to comply or pivot business models.

- **Impact on Online Gaming Companies**

- Platforms like Probo and others have **stopped accepting funds** or **new registrations** in anticipation of restrictions.
- Companies may switch to **non-cash fantasy games** or **advertisement-based revenue models**, though these are less lucrative.
- Dream11's FY24 revenue (~~\$730 million~~) vs. ~~entire gaming ad revenue~~ (\$600 million) shows limited monetization potential without cash play.

- **Possible Industry Shifts and Global Relocation**

- Firms like MPL (Mobile Premier League) are **exploring overseas markets** (US, China, Japan) for better financial returns.
- *Challenge:* Online games are **hyper-localized**, requiring **years of investment** to penetrate foreign markets due to cultural and market differences.

- **Economic & Employment Impact**

- Money games contributed **\$2.4 billion (63% of gaming revenue)** in FY24.
- The Centre may lose **\$2 billion annually in GST revenue**.
- Industry warns of **2 lakh job losses**, though the government claims **esports promotion** could create alternative employment opportunities.

Constitutional & Legal Dimensions

- **Entry 34, List II (State List), Seventh Schedule:** States have power to legislate on betting and gambling.
- **Article 19(1)(g):** Freedom to practice trade/profession, but subject to **reasonable restrictions** under Article 19(6) for public interest.



- **Judicial Precedents:** Supreme Court in *Dr. K.R. Lakshmanan v. State of Tamil Nadu (1996)* differentiated **games of skill** (permissible) from **games of chance** (gambling, can be restricted).

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The Bill marks a **paradigm shift** in India's digital economy regulation, balancing **consumer protection** with **industry growth**.
- Key issues include **loss of revenue**, **employment impact**, **scope for esports**, and **jurisdictional challenges** between Centre and States.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (Government Policies & Regulation)**, **GS-3 (Economic Impact, Digital Economy, Employment)**, and **Current Affairs (Technology Governance, Federalism, Taxation Policy)**.
- Candidates should analyze **legal provisions**, **economic trade-offs**, and **policy implications** in framing balanced answers.

2. Supreme Court vs. Governor's Inaction on Bills – Key Summary

- **Issue Raised by CJI B.R. Gavai**
 - Questioned whether the Supreme Court, as the **custodian of the Constitution**, must remain powerless when **Governors indefinitely withhold Bills** passed by elected legislatures.
 - Highlighted the Tamil Nadu case, where crucial State Bills were kept pending for **nearly four years without explanation**, undermining legislative functioning and democratic will.
- **Union Government's Stand (Solicitor-General's Arguments)**
 - The April 8 judgment of SC, which **imposed time limits** on Governors and the President for assenting to Bills, was criticized as **judicial overreach** into the legislative/executive domain.
 - Inaction by Governors should be addressed **politically**, not judicially — courts are **not the sole problem-solvers** in a democracy.
 - Invoked *NJAC judgment* principle: **separation of powers**, where each organ of governance should operate within its sphere.
- **Judicial Review vs. Separation of Powers**
 - CJI emphasized that **judicial review is part of the Basic Structure** (Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973).
 - Noted that the SC had even **struck down the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)**, which attempted to curtail judicial review, proving courts can act against constitutional violations.
 - Raised the question: *If Governors indefinitely withhold Bills, is such inaction immune from judicial scrutiny?*
- **Relevant Constitutional Provisions**





- **Article 200:** Governor can assent, withhold, or reserve a Bill for the President's consideration — but no explicit timeline is prescribed.
- **Article 163:** Governor must act on **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, except where discretion is explicitly provided.
- **Article 361:** Grants immunity to Governors from being answerable in court, but **actions can be subject to judicial review** indirectly.
- **Basic Structure Doctrine:** Prevents any organ from undermining **judicial review, democracy, or federalism**.
- **Implications of Governor's Inaction**
 - Prolonged withholding of Bills **paralyzes State legislatures**, erodes **federal principles**, and **thwarts democratic mandate**.
 - Raises **turf conflicts** between executive authority (Governor), legislature (State government), and judiciary (SC intervention).
 - Could trigger **Centre-State tensions**, particularly in opposition-ruled States.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The debate highlights the **balance between separation of powers and judicial activism** in safeguarding constitutional governance.
- The Supreme Court is reasserting its role as the **ultimate interpreter of the Constitution**, while the Union stresses **political remedies** over judicial directions.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (Polity, Federalism, Separation of Powers, Governor's Role), Judiciary vs. Executive debates**, and **Constitutional provisions (Articles 163, 200, 361)**.
- Key takeaway: *The unresolved question is whether judicial review can ensure accountability of constitutional authorities like Governors without disturbing the separation of powers.*

3. Simplified Two-Rate GST Structure – Key Summary

- **Key Proposal by the Centre**
 - The **Group of Ministers (GoM)** has approved the Centre's plan to **merge 12% and 28% GST slabs**, recommending only **5% and 18% slabs** remain.
 - Around **99% of goods under the 12% slab would shift to 5%**, and **90% of goods under 28% would shift to 18%**.
 - 'Sin goods' (tobacco, cigarettes, online real-money gaming) would move to a **new 40% slab**, replacing the current 28% slab plus compensation cess.
- **Implementation Process & Timeline**
 - This is the **first step**—final approval rests with the **GST Council**, expected to meet in **early September**.
 - The reform aligns with the PM's announcement of **"next-generation GST reforms"** aimed at lowering the **tax burden on the common man**.



- **Concerns of States & Revenue Impact**

- **States fear revenue loss** from lowering tax rates, particularly from high-yield goods previously in 28% and 12% slabs.
- GoM suggested creating a **compensation mechanism** to ensure States are not financially weakened post-restructuring.
- The existing **compensation cess** will be discontinued under the new structure.

- **Definition & Rationale**

- **GST (Goods and Services Tax):** A destination-based indirect tax on supply of goods and services, subsuming multiple indirect taxes (Articles 246A & 279A).
- **Rationalisation:** Simplification of tax rates to **reduce complexity**, improve **compliance**, and **curb litigation** while making GST more predictable.

Effective rate

After the rationalisation, the weighted average GST rate (effective rate) is expected to decline from the notional rate of 14.4% in May 2017 to 9.5% in FY26-27*, according to the SBI Research

May 2017	14.4%
Nov. 2017	12.6%
Jan. 2018	12.2%
July 2018	11.8%
Dec. 2018	11.6%
Sept. 2019	11.6%
FY26-27	9.5%*

* based on SBI estimates



- **Constitutional & Legal Provisions**

- **Article 279A:** GST Council formed to recommend tax rates, exemptions, and reforms.
- **Article 246A:** Provides concurrent powers to Centre and States to legislate on GST.
- **GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017:** Provides for compensating States for revenue loss due to GST implementation, now under debate with rate changes.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The proposed **two-rate GST structure** is a significant step toward **tax simplification**, **ease of doing business**, and **consumer relief**, but raises concerns over **state revenues** and **fiscal federalism**.
- The **40% slab for sin goods** reflects an attempt to balance **public health objectives** with **revenue needs**.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Crucial for **GS-3 (Indian Economy, Tax Reforms)** and **GS-2 (Federalism, Centre-State Relations)**, with implications for **fiscal policy**, **cooperative federalism**, and **tax governance**.
- Key focus for aspirants: *Impact on revenue, federal relations, economic growth, and policy trade-offs in GST rationalisation.*

4. U.S. Asked India to Buy Oil from Russia – Key Summary

- **India's Energy Policy Defence by EAM S. Jaishankar**

- During his visit to Moscow, Jaishankar stated that **the U.S. earlier encouraged India to stabilise global energy markets, even by buying oil from Russia**, contradicting recent U.S. criticism.
- Highlighted India's **diversified oil imports**, including increased oil purchases from the U.S. alongside Russian supplies.



- Expressed India's **perplexity at U.S. accusations**, given its past guidance on global energy stability.
- **Strategic Engagement with Russia**
 - Jaishankar met **President Vladimir Putin** and **Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov** to discuss **India-Russia trade, energy cooperation, and geopolitical alignment**.
 - Sought **faster processing of cases involving Indians fraudulently recruited to fight in Ukraine**, underlining a humanitarian concern.
 - Emphasized **access to Russian markets** and deepening bilateral economic ties despite Western sanctions.
- **Context of U.S.-India Trade Tensions**
 - India is still managing the impact of **penalty tariffs imposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump** on Indian goods.
 - U.S. criticism over Russian oil purchases appears **inconsistent with its earlier position**, revealing broader **geopolitical pressures post-Ukraine war**.
- **Key Definitions and Economic Implications**
 - **Energy security**: Ensuring reliable and affordable access to energy sources to sustain economic growth.
 - **Sanctions vs. Strategic Autonomy**: India's stance reflects its policy of **strategic autonomy**, prioritizing national interest over alignment with sanction regimes.
 - Russian oil imports help India **control inflation** and **maintain supply stability**, critical for a large developing economy.
- **Constitutional & Policy Dimensions**
 - **Article 73 & 246**: Give the Union Government exclusive power over foreign trade and diplomacy.
 - **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)**: Allows India to secure energy imports from diverse sources to protect economic interests.
 - **Strategic Autonomy Doctrine**: Rooted in India's non-aligned approach, enabling engagement with multiple powers without bloc politics.



Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- India's energy choices highlight **balancing diplomacy** between global powers, **economic pragmatism**, and **domestic energy security**.
- The episode reflects **contradictions in U.S. foreign policy** and **India's assertion of independent decision-making** in global trade and energy.
- **UPSC Relevance**: Important for **GS-2 (International Relations, India-U.S. and India-Russia Relations)** and **GS-3 (Energy Security, Economic Diplomacy)**.



- Key takeaway for aspirants: *India's foreign policy is shaped by strategic autonomy, economic imperatives, and the need to navigate great-power rivalries while securing vital resources.*

5. Assam Govt. to Stop Issuing First-Time Aadhaar to Adults – Key Summary

- **Decision and Rationale**

- From **October 2025**, first-time Aadhaar enrolment for individuals **above 18 years** in Assam will be stopped.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated this is to **prevent illegal immigrants, especially from Bangladesh, from obtaining Aadhaar cards to claim Indian citizenship.**

- **Exceptions and Special Provisions**

- **Relaxation for one year** for **Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and tea garden (Adivasi) workers**, who may still apply for Aadhaar.
- Adults from other communities left out in exceptional cases can apply through the **District Commissioner**, with applications verified by **Special Branch police, Foreigners' Tribunals, and other agencies.**

- **Aadhaar Saturation and NRC Link**

- Assam claims **103% Aadhaar saturation**, meaning almost all adults already have Aadhaar except certain marginalized groups.
- This move is aligned with the government's earlier stance (April 2024) **barring those excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) from obtaining Aadhaar.**

ELIGIBILITY & PROCEDURE	
FOR APPLICANTS BORN AFTER AUG 31, 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ NRC ARN of parents will suffice for processing their applications as per UIDAI guidelines	FOR CENTRAL GOVT EMPLOYEES WORKING IN STATE <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Circle officers will verify proof of residence and origin of the state and Aadhaar cards will then be issued accordingly
FOR APPLICANTS ABOVE 18 YEARS OF AGE <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Compulsory verification of application for NRC inclusion➤ If the applicant's status is shown as applied, their application will be processed for further verification➤ If the status is not applied, it will not be processed further	STAGES OF VERIFICATION State level <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Verification of Aadhaar enrolments and their effective disposal will be overseen and monitored by the general administration department of
District level <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Additional district commissioners will monitor and ensure the lawful disposal of Aadhaar enrolment verifications at the level of the district➤ Verification will be carried out at the level of the revenue circle by the circle officer, who will have to dispose of all applications within 30 days from receipt of the application on the portal	

- **Key Definitions and Constitutional/Legal Context**

- **Aadhaar:** A 12-digit unique identity number issued by UIDAI under the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.**
- **NRC (National Register of Citizens):** A register to verify Indian citizenship under **Citizenship Act, 1955** and related rules.
- **Article 5-11 (Indian Citizenship):** Define citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution and Parliament's power to regulate it.
- **Foreigners Act, 1946:** Provides legal framework to detect and deport illegal immigrants.

- **Security and Citizenship Concerns**

- Assam's border vulnerability with Bangladesh has led to **continuous interception of illegal migrants**; Aadhaar misuse is seen as a loophole in identity verification.



- The state government is working on “**plugging Aadhaar vulnerabilities**” to prevent illegal citizenship claims.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- This decision reflects **tension between welfare identity tools (Aadhaar) and national security concerns in border states**.
- It raises questions on **federalism, rights of genuine citizens, and misuse of welfare databases**.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (Governance, Citizenship Issues, Federalism, Border Security)** and **GS-3 (Internal Security Challenges)**.
- Key takeaway: *Identity systems like Aadhaar, while designed for welfare delivery, intersect with citizenship verification in politically sensitive states, demanding careful legal and constitutional balancing.*

6. Dal Lake Hosts First-Ever Khelo India Water Games – Key Summary

• Event Highlights

- Dal Lake, Srinagar, hosted the **first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival**, featuring **rowing, kayaking, and canoeing** competitions.
- **409 athletes** from **36 States/UTs**, including **202 female athletes**, are competing for **24 gold medals** over three days.

• Objective and Olympic Focus

- The festival aims to **identify and nurture water sports talent** to improve India’s **Olympic medal prospects** in rowing, kayaking, and canoeing, which together have **16 medal events in the Olympics**.
- It is the **first consolidated open-age championship**, ensuring national-level exposure to athletes in **all Olympic water-sport disciplines**.



• Regional and National Participation

- **Madhya Pradesh (44 athletes), Haryana (37), Odisha (34), and Kerala (33)** sent the largest contingents.
- The venue is expected to **promote J&K as a hub for water sports** owing to Dal Lake’s European-like setting.

• Key Definitions and Context

- **Khelo India Programme:** A government initiative under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**, launched in 2018 to promote grassroots sports, talent identification, and infrastructure development.
- **Rowing, Kayaking, Canoeing:** Olympic disciplines requiring endurance, speed, and technical skills; potential medal sources for India with proper training and exposure.



- **Sports as State Subject:** Under the **State List (7th Schedule, Constitution)**, but the **Centre** plays a role via schemes, funding, and national policy under Entry 33 of the Concurrent List.
- **Significance for Sports Policy**
 - The event **integrates talent scouting with international-standard infrastructure**, in line with **India's National Sports Policy** and Olympic preparation roadmap.
 - Representation of women (almost **50%**) reflects a push for **gender inclusivity in sports**.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The Khelo India Water Sports Festival at Dal Lake is **strategic for boosting India's Olympic performance** and **developing J&K as a sports destination**.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (Government Policies for Sports Development)**, **GS-3 (Youth, Women Empowerment)**, and **Essay (Sports as Soft Power)**.
- Key takeaway: *Sports policy aligned with infrastructure, talent mapping, and international exposure can convert untapped potential into Olympic success.*

7. Kerala Declared India's First Fully Digitally Literate State – Key Summary

- **Major Achievement**
 - Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the State as **India's first fully digitally literate State**, marking the completion of Phase I of the **Digi Kerala Project**.
 - The project is a **grassroots initiative across all local bodies** to bridge the digital divide and ensure universal access to digital skills.
- **Implementation and Statistics**
 - Survey covered **1.5 crore people** from **83.46 lakh families**.
 - **21.88 lakh people** identified as **digitally illiterate**, of which **21.87 lakh (99.98%)** successfully trained and evaluated under the project.
- **Digi Kerala Project Features**
 - Focus on **universal digital literacy at household level**.
 - Training modules covered **basic digital skills**, online services, e-payments, and cyber awareness.
 - Special outreach to **elderly participants**, symbolized by training of **104-year-old M.A. Abdullah Moulavi Baqavi**.
- **Key Definitions and Context**
 - **Digital Literacy:** Ability to use digital devices, applications, and internet services safely and effectively for communication, access to information, and essential services.





- **Constitutional Backing:** Linked to **Right to Education (Article 21A)**, **Directive Principles (Article 38 – reducing inequalities)**, and **Right to Information (Article 19)** through access to e-governance services.
- **Digital India Programme (2015):** Central government initiative to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Kerala's project complements this national mission.
- **Significance for Governance and Society**
 - Enhances **e-governance delivery**, **financial inclusion**, and **citizen participation** in welfare schemes.
 - Positions Kerala as a **model for other States** in implementing **technology-driven literacy campaigns** at scale.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- Kerala's achievement represents **effective State-led policy implementation** in sync with national digital transformation goals.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (Governance, e-Governance initiatives, Digital India)**, **GS-3 (Technology and Development)**, and Essay topics on digital empowerment and inclusive growth.
- Key takeaway: *Grassroots digital literacy is essential to ensure inclusive access to governance, services, and opportunities in a rapidly digitizing India.*

8. Conservation of Lion-Tailed Macaques – Key Summary

- **Species Status and Habitat**
 - **Lion-tailed macaques (*Macaca silenus*)** were reassessed in **2020** and classified as '**Endangered**' in the IUCN Red List.
 - Population estimate: **~2,500 mature individuals**, primarily distributed across **Western Ghats** from **Kalakkad Hills (Tamil Nadu)** to **Sirsi-Honnavaara (Karnataka)**.
- **Legal Protection in India**
 - Listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, granting **highest protection status**.
 - Hunting, capture, trade, or harm to the species is strictly prohibited, with stringent penalties.
- **Key Threats**
 - **Habitat fragmentation** due to roads, plantations, and human settlements in Western Ghats.
 - **Roadkills and vehicle disturbances**, requiring mitigation like wildlife corridors and awareness campaigns.
 - **Declining genetic diversity** due to isolated sub-populations.





- **Conservation Efforts**

- **Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) initiatives** assist macaques in safely crossing roads in Valparai and other sensitive regions.
- **Wildlife overpasses, canopy bridges, and eco-restoration projects** are being promoted to connect fragmented habitats.
- Collaboration with **local communities** to reduce human–wildlife conflict.

- **Key Definitions and Provisions**

- **Endangered species (IUCN):** Species facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Schedule I (Wildlife Protection Act):** Provides absolute protection; offenses attract highest penalties.
- **Article 48A (Directive Principles)** and **Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duty)** of the Constitution obligate both the State and citizens to protect wildlife.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- Lion-tailed macaques are a **flagship species for Western Ghats conservation**, highlighting the need for **habitat connectivity** and **community-driven wildlife protection**.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Useful for **GS-3 (Environment, Biodiversity, Conservation Acts)**, **Prelims (IUCN Red List categories, Wildlife Protection Schedules)**, and **Essay topics on ecological sustainability and species protection laws**.
- **Key takeaway:** *Effective conservation requires integration of legal protection, scientific planning, and local participation to prevent extinction of endemic species.*

9. Militarisation in Sri Lanka's North and East – Key Summary

- **Trigger for Hartal and Protests**

- On **August 18, 2024**, Sri Lanka's Tamil party **Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi (ITAK)** called a symbolic **hartal** across Tamil-majority northern and eastern provinces to protest continued militarisation.
- The protest followed the **killing of 32-year-old Ethirmanasingham Kapilraj**, allegedly by soldiers in Mullaitivu district. Three soldiers have been arrested, and the President promised a thorough investigation.

- **Extent of Militarisation**

- Although **official troop data is unavailable**, military presence remains **visibly high** in north and east compared to other regions, despite 16 years since the civil war ended.
- **2017 ACPR–PEARL report:** Mullaitivu district had **60,000 soldiers for just over 1.3 lakh civilians**.





- Armed personnel man checkpoints and also run **businesses (hotels, farms, restaurants)**, creating **economic competition with locals** and controlling large tracts of land.
- **Government Position and Reforms**
 - **President Anura Kumara Dissanayake** plans to **downsize the military by 2030** and return **91% of military-held land** to civilians; exact troop numbers are undisclosed.
 - Defence budget remains **high at LKR 442 billion (~\$1.5 billion)**, exceeding allocations for education. Military expenses rose **258% from 2022 to 2024**, despite no major external threat.
- **Rights Concerns and UN Observations**
 - **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report (2024):** Meaningful security sector reform **has not occurred**; surveillance apparatus remains largely intact with minimal oversight.
 - UN urged Sri Lanka to **reduce military presence in north and east**, end **military involvement in law enforcement, commerce, and civil affairs**, and ensure **accountability for rights violations**.
 - Tamil MPs have also alleged **military links to drug trafficking** among Tamil youth.
- **Key Definitions and Legal Context**
 - **Militarisation:** The excessive presence or influence of armed forces in civilian, economic, or administrative affairs.
 - **Hartal:** A form of protest involving closure of shops and institutions to signal dissent.
 - **International Human Rights Law:** Under **UN Human Rights Council resolutions**, Sri Lanka is obliged to ensure **accountability, demilitarisation, and reconciliation** post-conflict.
 - **Constitutional Context in India (for comparison):** **Article 21 (Right to Life)** and **Article 51 (International Peace obligations)** provide reference points for discussing demilitarisation and protection of civil liberties.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The situation highlights **ethnic tensions, post-conflict governance failures, and economic distortions caused by militarisation** in Sri Lanka.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Useful for **GS-2 (International Relations – India–Sri Lanka ties, Human Rights, UN recommendations)**, **GS-3 (Security issues in South Asia, Defence economics)**, and **Essay topics on post-war reconciliation, militarisation, and governance reforms**.
- Key takeaway: *Persistent militarisation undermines reconciliation, development, and human rights, requiring credible reforms and international oversight for long-term stability.*

10. Gender Disparity in Organ Donation and NOTTO Advisory – Key Summary

- **Recent Advisory by NOTTO**
 - The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** has issued a directive giving **priority to women patients and relatives of deceased donors in organ allocation**.



- This is part of a **10-point advisory** to reduce gender disparity in organ transplants and to encourage donations.

- **Gender Disparity in Organ Transplantation**

- **Data (2019–2023):** 63.8% of all living organ donors in India were women (36,038 out of 56,509), yet 69.8% of organ recipients were men (39,447 men vs. 17,041 women).
- Highlights a **paradox** where women donate more but receive fewer transplants, as noted in a **British Medical Journal** article.

- **Legal and Institutional Framework**

- **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (amended in 2011):** Regulates organ donation, bans commercial trade, and allows donation by live and brain-stem dead donors.
- **NOTTO:** Apex body coordinating organ allocation and ensuring transparency. All hospitals performing retrieval or transplantation must be linked with NOTTO.
- Advisory calls for **permanent transplant coordinator posts, trauma centres as retrieval centres, and training emergency staff** to identify potential donors, especially among accident and stroke victims.



- **Status of Organ Donation in India and Globally**

- **WHO:** Over 1.3 lakh solid organ transplants annually worldwide, meeting only 10% of demand.
- In India, 1.8 lakh people develop end-stage kidney disease annually, but only ~12,000 kidney transplants occur.
- A single deceased donor can save up to 8 lives via organ donation and benefit many more via tissue donation (corneas, skin).

- **Key Definitions and Provisions**

- **Organ Donation:** Voluntary transfer of healthy organs from a living or deceased donor to save patients in organ failure.
- **Brain-stem Death:** Legal recognition of death permitting deceased organ donation under the 1994 Act.
- **Constitutional Relevance:** *Article 21 (Right to Life)* indirectly supports policies that promote organ donation as life-saving measures. *Article 47* obligates the state to improve public health.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The NOTTO directive addresses **systemic gender inequity in organ allocation** and emphasizes **ethical, transparent, and inclusive organ donation practices**.



- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for GS-2 (Health policies, Governance, Gender justice), GS-3 (Science and Technology – medical advances, public health), and Ethics (donation, altruism, social justice).
- **Key takeaway:** *Institutional reforms, legal safeguards, and public awareness are crucial to bridge gender disparity and enhance India's organ donation ecosystem.*

11. Universal Registration of Births and Deaths – RGI's Directive

- **Directive by Registrar General of India (RGI)**
 - RGI has urged States to ensure **universal registration of births and deaths** in line with Supreme Court directives.
 - All **government hospitals are now declared “registrars”**; medical officers in charge must report events within **21 days** under **Section 8(1)(B) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
- **Amendment to Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (2023)**
 - **Online registration made compulsory** on the RGI portal; States no longer maintain separate databases.
 - From **October 1, 2023**, a **digital birth certificate** is now the *single valid document* to prove date of birth for education, government jobs, marriage registration, and other services.
- **Integration with National Databases**
 - Centralized records under RGI can be used to **update electoral rolls, National Population Register (NPR), and ration cards**, improving administrative efficiency.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions**
 - **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969:** Mandates compulsory registration; penalizes non-compliance.
 - **Article 21 (Right to Life):** Implies the state's obligation to provide legal identity to every individual from birth.
 - **SC Directives:** Reinforce the **right to identity** as an integral part of fundamental rights.
- **Key Definitions**
 - **Birth Registration:** Official recording of a child's birth, providing legal proof of identity, age, and nationality.
 - **Death Registration:** Recording a person's death for legal purposes, enabling settlement of inheritance, insurance, and updating population records.

REVAMPING THE SYSTEM

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ All the state governments will be mandated to share the database with the office of the Registrar General of India➤ The database will be linked to other government schemes, which will enable automatic addition and deletion➤ Rigorous penalty clause on registrars who fail to register births and deaths as per the	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Real-time data of both births and deaths to be shared in the public domain by all state governments➤ Maharashtra is among the 24 states, besides Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, which will maintain real-time data of births and deaths
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Conclusion & UPSC Relevance



- The move ensures **accurate population data, improved delivery of services, and enhanced governance through digital integration.**
- **UPSC Relevance:** Crucial for **GS-2 (Governance, e-Governance initiatives, Right to Identity), GS-3 (Digital India, administrative reforms), and Social Justice (birth registration as a basic right).**
- *Key takeaway: Universal registration strengthens legal identity, streamlines welfare delivery, and upholds constitutional rights.*

12. India–Russia Trade and Energy Cooperation

- **Focus on Balanced Trade and Energy Security**
 - India and Russia discussed **correcting trade imbalance**, ensuring **long-term supply of key commodities like fertilizers**, and **strengthening energy ties.**
 - India raised concerns regarding **massive trade deficit, non-tariff barriers**, and **regulatory hurdles** impacting Indian exports.
- **Strategic Stability of Bilateral Ties**
 - External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar described India–Russia relations as “**among the steadiest major power relationships**”, citing **geopolitical convergence and historical trust.**
 - Meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed **high-level political engagement**; summit with PM Modi planned later this year.
- **Broader Geopolitical Context**
 - Visit followed Jaishankar’s meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to **ease India–China tensions.**
 - Occurred amid **India–US trade frictions**, including **punitive tariffs on Indian goods**, highlighting India’s multi-alignment strategy in foreign policy.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions Relevant to Trade Policy**
 - **Article 51(c):** Promotes international peace and cooperation.
 - **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:** Governs India’s export-import policies.
 - **Customs Act, 1962 & Tariff Acts:** Regulate trade barriers and duties.
- **Key Definitions**
 - **Trade Deficit:** When a country imports more than it exports, leading to foreign exchange outflow.
 - **Non-Tariff Barriers:** Regulatory measures (quality standards, licensing requirements, quotas) that restrict imports indirectly.





Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- India–Russia engagement reflects **strategic autonomy**, balancing ties with major powers while securing **energy and trade interests**.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (International Relations, India–Russia relations, multi-alignment foreign policy)**, **GS-3 (Economy, energy security, trade deficit management)**.
- *Key takeaway: India seeks deeper energy security, diversified trade, and reduced economic asymmetry while maintaining time-tested strategic ties with Russia.*

13. China–Pakistan Economic Cooperation under CPEC

- **Expansion of CPEC under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**
 - China and Pakistan agreed to launch **new projects under the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, a flagship BRI program.
 - CPEC aims to connect **China's Xinjiang region to Gwadar port in Pakistan**, facilitating trade and energy transport.
- **Strategic and Economic Significance**
 - CPEC includes **power plants, roads, railways, and port infrastructure**, boosting Pakistan's economy and enhancing China's access to the Arabian Sea.
 - The partnership strengthens **China–Pakistan strategic ties** and deepens Beijing's geopolitical footprint in South Asia.
- **Security Concerns Highlighted by China**
 - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged Pakistan to **ensure safety of Chinese workers and engineers**, targeted by **insurgents and separatists in Balochistan and elsewhere**.
 - Security threats pose challenges to **project implementation and foreign investment confidence**.
- **Key Definitions and Legal Aspects**
 - **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** China's global infrastructure and connectivity project launched in 2013.
 - **Economic Corridor:** A network of infrastructure projects that enhance trade connectivity and economic growth.
 - **International Law Note:** Investments and trade projects fall under **bilateral agreements**, supported by principles of **sovereign equality and non-interference** under the UN Charter (Article 2).
- **Geopolitical Implications for India**
 - CPEC passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, which India opposes on sovereignty grounds.





- India views BRI and CPEC as **strategic encirclement** in South Asia, impacting **regional security and diplomacy**.

Conclusion & UPSC Relevance

- The China–Pakistan push for deeper CPEC ties reflects **economic cooperation aligned with strategic objectives**, but security risks remain a major challenge.
- **UPSC Relevance:** Important for **GS-2 (International Relations – India’s neighborhood, BRI, CPEC implications)** and **GS-3 (Economic corridors, infrastructure development, security issues)**.
- *Key takeaway: CPEC is both an economic opportunity for Pakistan and a strategic concern for India, combining trade, infrastructure, and regional geopolitics.*