



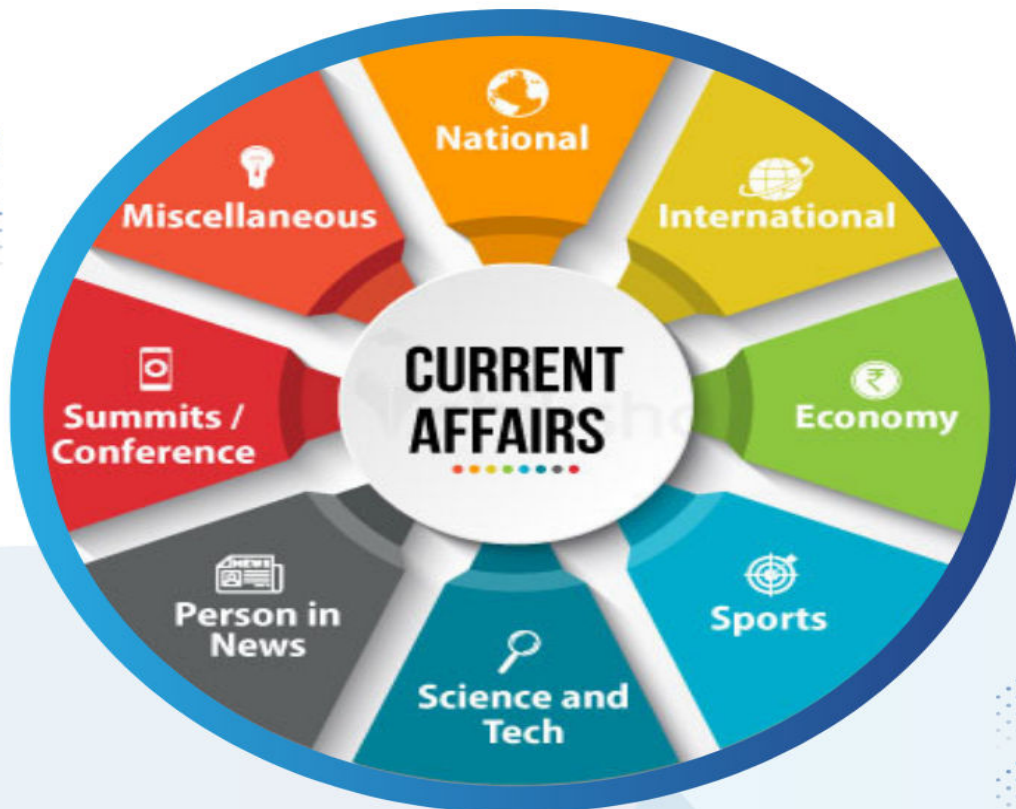
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**VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY**  
&  
**STUDY CENTRE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

**DATE: 25/08/2025 (MONDAY)**



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## 1. Ukraine at 34: Can US, Europe Steer it Towards Peace? – Key Summary

### 1. Status of Russia-Ukraine War

- Russia launched a full-scale invasion on **24 February 2022**, leading to massive casualties and destruction.
- Estimates suggest **1 million Russian casualties (250,000 deaths)** and **400,000 Ukrainian casualties (60,000–100,000 deaths)**.
- Despite heavy losses, Russia has gained **less than 1% of Ukrainian territory since Jan 2024**, highlighting the war's stalemate.
- **Key term – Invasion:** An act of entering another state's territory by force, violating **UN Charter Article 2(4)** (prohibition of use of force).

### 2. Funding Ukraine's War Effort

- Shift in funding: US President Donald Trump pushed for Ukraine to finance arms purchases, treating it as a **European responsibility**.
- The **EU overtook the US** as top supporter, with **€35.1 billion in defence aid till June 2025—€4.4 billion more than US**.
- Europe procures arms via NATO for Ukraine, showing collective burden-sharing in security.

### 3. Europe's Capacity to Sustain Support

- Despite economic slowdown—**Germany (-0.3%), UK (+0.3%), France (+0.3%) Q2 2025 growth**—public sentiment strongly supports Ukraine.
- Challenge is **not just finance but defence logistics and mobilization of weapons**.
- Sustaining aid may test Europe's **fiscal space vs security imperatives**.

### 4. US Role and Limitations

- US has supplied **air defence systems, Abrams tanks, MI-17 helicopters, anti-ship missiles**, etc.
- Ukraine seeks **security guarantees** and **aircraft/air defence systems** beyond just funds.
- However, **Russia warns that NATO boots on the ground = Act of War**, limiting US engagement.
- **Definition – Security Guarantees:** Formal commitments by a power to defend another nation, legally tied to alliances like **NATO (Article 5 – Collective Defence)**.

### 5. Overall Western Assistance

- **US:** \$66.9 billion in military aid since 2022, \$69.7 billion since Crimea (2014).
- **EU:** €168.9 billion (military + humanitarian aid) since 2022.
- **UK:** Also a major donor, reflecting a **tri-polar support structure (US–EU–UK)**.
- Western aid has kept Ukraine militarily and economically afloat but prolonged peace remains uncertain.

### 6. Constitutional, Legal & International Dimensions

- **UN Charter, Article 51:** Right to self-defence invoked by Ukraine.



- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** War crimes concerns due to civilian targeting.
- **Geopolitical principle:** US “burden-shifting” to EU reflects changing global power-sharing.
- **India’s stance:** Neutrality with calls for dialogue; linked to **Panchsheel Principles (1954)** – mutual respect for sovereignty and peaceful coexistence.

## Conclusion

The Ukraine war at 34 years of independence underscores a **prolonged geopolitical deadlock**. Europe has emerged as the main financial and military backer, while the US remains crucial for security guarantees. However, NATO’s direct involvement risks escalation. Without a credible peace framework, the conflict risks becoming a **frozen war**, draining Western resources and destabilizing global security.

## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (IR):** India’s foreign policy, UN Charter, NATO role, Europe–US dynamics.
- **GS Paper 3 (Security):** Global conflict impact on energy, economy, defence preparedness.
- **Essay Paper:** Themes on multipolarity, shifting alliances, peace vs power politics.
- **Prelims:** Data (dates, aid figures, institutions like Kiel Institute, EU, NATO).

## 2. Five Aviation Facts that Parliament Uncovered

### 1. Staffing Crisis in Aviation Regulators

- India’s aviation safety is overseen by **DGCA (regulation)**, **BCAS (security)**, and **AAI (air traffic control & airports)**.
- Severe **vacancies**: DGCA (nearly 50% vacant posts), BCAS (39%), AAI (37%) as of June 2025.
- Most critical shortage is in **technical posts**—DGCA had **546 technical vacancies (two-thirds of total 823 vacancies)**.
- **Definition – Regulator:** A government authority responsible for framing and enforcing rules for an industry. Weak staffing directly affects regulatory oversight and safety compliance.

**All entities tasked with air safety have hundreds of key posts vacant**

	Sanctioned posts	Vacancy (in %)
Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)	1,644	50.1
Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)	598	38.5
Airports Authority of India (AAI)	25,730	36.8

Data as of June 2025. Source: Civil aviation ministry

### 2. Tapering Budgets and Funding Issues

- All three regulators depend on central government funding, but allocations have declined.
- **DGCA’s budget fell from ₹351 crore (2023-24) to ₹301 crore (2024-25).**
- Recent restructuring created new posts (e.g., 426 technical posts in DGCA, 84 in BCAS, 840 ATC posts in AAI), but funding shortfall hinders recruitment.
- **Constitutional angle:** Aviation is a **Union List subject (Entry 29, Seventh Schedule)**; hence, the Union government is fully responsible for regulation and safety.

### 3. Elusive Profits in Airlines

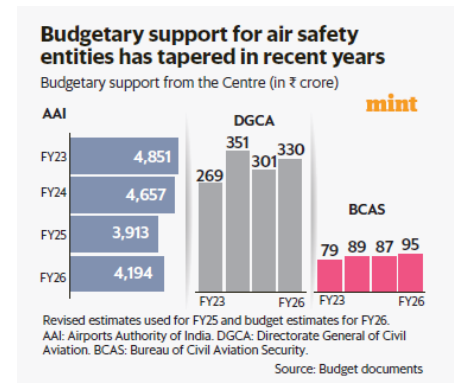
- Of the five airlines carrying 99% of passengers, only **IndiGo is consistently profitable**.
- Air India reduced pre-tax losses from **₹8,922 crore (FY23) → ₹5,025 crore (FY24) → ₹3,890 crore (FY25)** but remains in red.



- Most airlines face high operational costs, low margins, and dependence on volatile oil prices.
- **Key term – Financial Viability:** The ability of airlines to sustain operations without recurring losses; essential for long-term sector stability.

#### 4. Shrinking Technical Glitches and Safety Concerns

- Technical glitches declined: **448 (2023) → 421 (2024) → 183 (till July 2025).**
- **On-time performance (2025):** IndiGo (82.4%), Akasa (79.5%), Air India Group (76.1%).
- Airlines with higher delays and cancellations (SpiceJet, Alliance Air) highlight structural inefficiencies.
- Recent **Air India Boeing 787 crash (June 2025)** raised parliamentary scrutiny on pilot working hours, aircraft safety norms, and regulator staffing.



#### 5. Airports in Losses and Declining Regional Connectivity

- AAI operates **121 airports**, but **81 airports ran losses in 2024-25**, contributing only **6% of domestic passenger traffic**.
- Cumulative losses over the past decade: **₹10,852 crore**, with **45% from top 10 loss-making airports** (e.g., Dehradun, Bhopal, Vijayawada, Khajuraho).
- **UDAN-RCS scheme** (regional connectivity) is being scaled back due to low profitability in tier-2/3 airports.
- **Definition – Public Service Obligation (PSO):** Government subsidies to ensure services in non-profitable regions, balancing social equity with commercial viability.

#### Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 21 (Right to Life):** Safe air travel is linked to passenger rights.
- **Aircraft Act, 1934 & Aircraft Rules, 1937:** Provide the legal framework for DGCA's functioning.
- **Chicago Convention, 1944 & ICAO regulations:** India is bound by international aviation safety norms.
- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** Covers passenger rights in cases of delays, cancellations, and safety lapses.

#### Conclusion

India's aviation sector is expanding rapidly, but **regulatory vacancies, budgetary constraints, airline financial instability, and loss-making airports** threaten its long-term sustainability. While safety indicators (like glitches) show improvement, profitability and regional connectivity remain weak points. Strengthening staffing, ensuring financial viability, and aligning with international safety norms are crucial for future growth.

#### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Staffing crisis in regulators, role of Parliament in accountability.
- **GS Paper 3 (Infrastructure & Economy):** Aviation sector challenges, UDAN scheme, financial viability of airlines.





- **Essay Paper:** Infrastructure as a driver of inclusive growth vs financial sustainability.
- **Prelims:** Data (vacancy %, budget cuts, losses, UDAN, ICAO rules).

### 3. Group Insolvency Rules to Solve Complex Cases – Key Summary

#### 1. Background and Need for Group Insolvency

- India's **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016** deals with insolvency of individual companies but lacks a framework for **group insolvency** where multiple related entities are distressed.
- Proposed **IBC Amendment Bill, 2025** introduces **group insolvency rules** to ensure efficiency, minimize costs, preserve synergies, and maximize creditor recovery.
- **Definition – Insolvency:** A financial state where an entity is unable to repay its debts. **Bankruptcy:** A legal declaration of insolvency by a court/tribunal.

#### 2. Key Features of the New Framework

- A **single insolvency administrator** and **common NCLT bench** will handle bankruptcies of related group companies.
- Group companies will enter into a **coordination agreement** (binding on creditors and companies), enforceable by NCLT.
- The agreement will govern **information sharing, joint negotiations, claim management, and restructuring as one economic unit** while maintaining each entity's legal identity.



#### 3. Role of Creditors and Apex Committee

- Currently, a **Committee of Creditors (CoC)** exists for each company under IBC.
- New rules will establish a **joint panel of representatives from CoCs of all insolvent group companies**, functioning as an **apex CoC** to oversee consolidated debt resolution plans.
- This aims to avoid duplication, reduce litigation, and improve time-bound resolution.

#### 4. Legal and Constitutional Dimensions

- **NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal)** empowered under **Companies Act, 2013** and **IBC** will enforce group insolvency protocols.
- **Article 323B of the Constitution** allows Parliament to constitute tribunals for industrial and financial matters, forming the constitutional basis for NCLT.
- **IBC Objectives (Preamble):** Timely resolution of stressed assets, maximization of value, and balancing interests of stakeholders.

#### 5. Past Experience and Challenges

- The **Videocon case (2019)** was India's first attempt at group debt resolution (Videocon + 12 subsidiaries).



- The consolidated plan led to **95% haircut for creditors**, which was challenged, and subsequent plans faced promoter resistance—highlighting complexities.
- New framework seeks to codify procedures to prevent such delays and disputes.

## 6. Expected Benefits and Concerns

- **Benefits:** Faster resolution, cost efficiency, better creditor recovery, preservation of group business synergies, improved investor confidence.
- **Concerns:** Possible conflicts among creditors, promoter resistance, legal disputes over coordination agreements, and risk of excessive creditor haircuts.

## Conclusion

The proposed **Group Insolvency Rules under IBC Amendment 2025** represent a significant reform in India's insolvency regime, addressing a long-standing gap in handling **complex corporate group bankruptcies**. By streamlining processes through a coordination pact and empowering NCLT, the framework aims to strengthen India's insolvency ecosystem, align with global best practices, and safeguard creditor interests.

## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Role of Parliament, tribunals, and regulatory reforms.
- **GS Paper 3 (Economy):** Insolvency framework, stressed assets, financial sector reforms.
- **Essay Paper:** Economic governance and corporate accountability.
- **Prelims:** Key facts – IBC 2016, CoC, NCLT, Videocon case, IBC Amendment Bill 2025.

## 4. Govt Sets Sail on ₹70,000 Crore Financial Package for Shipbuilding

### 1. Background and Objective

- The Union Government is set to launch a **₹70,000 crore financial package** to boost **domestic shipbuilding, ship repair, and port infrastructure**.
- The package aligns with **Maritime Vision 2030 and Vision 2047**, aiming to make India a **top 10 shipbuilding nation by 2030** and **top 5 by 2047**.
- **Definition – Shipbuilding Cluster:** A designated coastal area with specialized infrastructure, logistics, and financial support for ship construction, maintenance, and related industries.

### 2. Structure of the Package

- **₹20,000 crore – Shipbuilding Cluster Programme:** To create 3 greenfield shipbuilding clusters (1–1.2 million GT each) with breakwaters, dredging, utilities, roads, sewage treatment, and 10-year rent holiday.
- **₹20,000 crore – Ship Building Financial Assistance (SBFA):** Financial aid to shipbuilders to enhance global competitiveness.
- **₹25,000–30,000 crore – Maritime Development Fund (MDF):** Long-term financing for shipbuilding, ports, and related logistics.
- Clusters proposed in **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra**; first cluster likely in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, or Odisha.



### 3. Strategic and Economic Importance

- India's current share of **Indian-built ships in domestic fleet is only 5%**, target is **7% by 2030 and 69% by 2047** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Partnership with **Japanese and Korean shipbuilding majors** for technology transfer and investment.
- Expected to strengthen **Make in India**, reduce dependence on foreign vessels, and create jobs in coastal regions.

### 4. Legal and Policy Framework

- Governed by **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958** and **Indian Ports Act, 1908** (amended).
- **Constitutional provision:** Shipping and navigation fall under the **Union List (Entry 25 & 27, Seventh Schedule)**, making it a central subject.
- Linked to **Blue Economy policy** and **Sagarmala Programme** for port-led development.
- **Maritime Vision 2030/2047** provides the long-term roadmap for sustainability and global competitiveness.

### 5. Challenges and Concerns

- High capital intensity and global competition from China, South Korea, and Japan.
- Profitability of clusters depends on global shipping demand and long-term financing.
- Environmental concerns: dredging, coastal land use, and ecological impact on fragile ecosystems.
- Need for skilled manpower and robust regulatory framework to ensure safety and compliance with **IMO (International Maritime Organization)** standards.

### 6. Expected Benefits

- Scale-up of Indian-built and Indian-owned ships in global cargo operations.
- Boost to **exports, ship-repair industry, and port efficiency**.
- Potential to attract **foreign direct investment (FDI)** in strategic maritime infrastructure.
- Enhances India's **maritime security and naval preparedness** by reducing foreign dependence.

### Conclusion

The ₹70,000 crore package reflects India's ambition to transform into a **global shipbuilding hub** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Maritime Vision 2047**. By providing infrastructure, financial support, and global partnerships, the government seeks to strengthen both commercial and strategic maritime capabilities. However, long-term viability will depend on global competitiveness, environmental safeguards, and effective implementation.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Governance):** Maritime policy, centre–state roles in infrastructure.
- **GS Paper 3 (Economy & Security):** Shipbuilding industry, Blue Economy, Sagarmala, Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Essay Paper:** Role of maritime power in India's rise as a global power.





- **Prelims:** Facts on SBFA, MDF, shipbuilding cluster programme, targets for 2030 & 2047, global ranking goals.

## 5. India Tests New Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)

### 1. Background and Test Details

- India has successfully conducted the **maiden flight test of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)** off the coast of Odisha at 1230 hours on Saturday.
- The system was developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in collaboration with the Indian Armed Forces.
- The test comes **3.5 months after Operation Sindoor**, reflecting India's push for advanced defence preparedness.
- **Definition – Air Defence System:** A network of weapons, sensors, and command systems designed to detect, track, and neutralize aerial threats such as aircraft, drones, and missiles.

### 2. Features of IADWS

- **Multi-layered system** providing defence at different ranges and altitudes.
- Components include:
  - **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAMs)** for medium-range threats.
  - **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** for low-altitude/short-range threats.
  - **Directed-Energy Weapons (DEWs)** – high-power laser-based technology for futuristic interception.
- Designed to defend against drones, aircraft, cruise missiles, and precision-guided munitions.



### 3. Strategic Importance

- Strengthens India's **air defence shield** amid evolving threats from China and Pakistan, including drones and stand-off weapons.
- Reduces reliance on imports by promoting **indigenization under Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Enhances **deterrence capability** in protecting critical infrastructure, borders, and strategic assets.
- Reflects India's entry into **next-generation defence technologies** like laser-based DEWs.

### 4. Legal and Policy Framework

- Development aligned with **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020** which promotes indigenous R&D.
- Backed by **Article 51A (d) of the Constitution**: duty of every citizen to defend the country.
- Linked to **Make in India** and **Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020**.



- India, as a member of **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**, ensures compliance with global norms while advancing its capabilities.

## 5. Role of DRDO and Armed Forces

- DRDO** spearheads research in QRSAM, VSHORADS, and DEWs.
- Joint testing with armed forces ensures operational viability and deployment readiness.
- Complements existing systems like **Akash, S-400 (imported from Russia), and Indigenous Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) programme.**

## 6. Future Outlook and Challenges

- Integration with **air command networks** for real-time threat detection and neutralization.
- Scaling up production, funding, and private industry participation will be crucial.
- International competition with advanced systems (e.g., US THAAD, Israel's Iron Dome, Russia's S-400) requires continuous technological upgrades.

## Conclusion

The successful test of **IADWS** marks a milestone in India's defence indigenization journey, showcasing the ability to develop **multi-layered, next-generation air defence** systems. It strengthens deterrence against regional threats and positions India as a rising defence technology hub, though challenges remain in scalability and integration with existing systems.

## UPSC Relevance

- GS Paper 2 (International Relations & Security):** Strategic preparedness, regional security dynamics.
- GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech, Security):** Indigenous defence technology, DRDO's role, laser-based directed-energy weapons.
- Essay Paper:** "Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence: Challenges and Opportunities."
- Prelims:** Facts – IADWS components (QRSAM, VSHORADS, DEW), DRDO, Operation Sindoor, Odisha test site.

## 6. ISRO Completes First Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan Mission

### 1. Background and Test Details

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted the **first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01)** to validate the **parachute-based deceleration system** for the upcoming **Gaganyaan Mission**.
- The test was carried out near **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**, in collaboration with the **Indian Air Force, DRDO, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard**.
- Definition – Air Drop Test (ADT):** A procedure where a mock crew module is dropped from an aircraft to evaluate its parachute deployment and landing safety systems.

### 2. Features of the Test and Objective

- Demonstrated the **end-to-end functioning** of parachute deployment for safe landing.



- Validated the **crew module recovery system**, crucial for astronauts' safe return to Earth.
- Part of **precursor unmanned missions**, testing safety mechanisms before actual human spaceflight.

### 3. Significance of Gaganyaan Mission

- India's **first human spaceflight programme**, aiming to send astronauts to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and return them safely.
- Establishes India as the **fourth nation** after the USA, Russia, and China to develop independent human spaceflight capability.
- Strengthens **national security, scientific research, and strategic space diplomacy**.



### 4. Institutional and Legal Framework

- Collaboration showcases **whole-of-nation approach** involving ISRO, DRDO, IAF, Navy, and Coast Guard.
- Supported under **Article 51A (h)** of the Constitution (duty to develop scientific temper).
- Backed by **Space Policy 2023**, which emphasizes indigenization and private participation.
- Linked to **Outer Space Treaty (1967)**, ensuring peaceful use of outer space while advancing national interests.

### 5. Technological and Strategic Importance

- Validates **parachute deceleration technology** for safe crew recovery.
- Enhances **indigenous capabilities** in space exploration under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Opens avenues for **future deep-space missions** (e.g., lunar and Mars crewed exploration).
- Strengthens India's position in the **global space economy** and collaboration platforms like Artemis Accords.

### 6. Challenges and Future Roadmap

- Ensuring **crew safety and reliability** across different mission phases (launch, orbital operations, re-entry, recovery).
- Scaling up **life support systems, crew training, and advanced testing**.
- Upcoming **unmanned missions** will further validate technologies before the manned launch.

### Conclusion

The successful **IADT-01 test** marks a critical milestone for the **Gaganyaan Mission**, demonstrating India's progress toward human spaceflight. It highlights India's growing technological maturity, strategic preparedness, and ambition to be a key space power, while ensuring safety and compliance with global space governance norms.

### UPSC Relevance

- GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech):** Indigenous space technology, human spaceflight, DRDO-ISRO collaboration.



- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** Strategic significance of space, Outer Space Treaty, space diplomacy.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Responsibility in ensuring crew safety and peaceful use of space.
- **Prelims:** Facts – Gaganyaan Mission, IADT-01, agencies involved, Sriharikota.
- **Essay Paper:** “Human Spaceflight and National Power: India’s Gaganyaan Journey.”

## 7. Bihar Electoral Roll Revision – Key Summary

### 1. Background and Process

- The **Election Commission (EC)** announced that **98.2% of Bihar voters** (out of 7.24 crore electors) have submitted eligibility documents during the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls.
- Remaining **1.8% voters** have been given **8 days** to submit documents and correct errors in draft rolls (published on **1 August 2025**).
- **Definition – Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** A focused exercise undertaken by the EC to update, verify, and correct electoral rolls before elections to ensure accuracy and inclusivity.

### 2. Verification and Timeline

- Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant EROs will complete verification of **claims, objections, and eligibility documents** by **25 September 2025**.

### Status update

The Election Commission on Sunday said that the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar is on schedule

- From June 24 to August 24, 98.2% of the electors submitted their documents
- On an average, the EC received documents from about 1.64% electors per day
- Electoral registration officers will take a final call on the claims and objections received
- The final electoral roll will be published on September 30



**Ground zero:** Officers collecting forms from electors in Vaishali district of Bihar during the first phase of the SIR. ANI

- Final electoral rolls will be published on **30 September 2025**.
- EC reported that on average, **1.64% electors submitted documents per day** during the 60-day process.

### 3. Political and Governance Context

- Opposition parties have raised protests, alleging irregularities and possible exclusion in the revision process.
- EC maintains that the process is transparent, time-bound, and in compliance with electoral law.
- Ensuring a credible voter list is essential to **free and fair elections**, which form part of the **basic structure of the Constitution** (as held in Kesavananda Bharati case).

### 4. Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Article 324:** Empowers the EC to supervise, direct, and control elections.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950 & 1951:** Provides legal basis for preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls.
- **Article 326:** Guarantees **universal adult suffrage**, ensuring every citizen above 18 years has the right to vote.





- **Right to Information & Transparency Norms:** Strengthen citizen confidence in electoral processes.

## 5. Importance of Electoral Roll Accuracy

- Prevents **exclusion errors** (denial of voting rights) and **inclusion errors** (bogus or duplicate voters).
- Strengthens **democratic legitimacy and electoral participation**.
- Reduces chances of **electoral malpractice, impersonation, and fraud**.
- Ensures fair representation of **marginalized communities, migrants, and youth** who have newly attained voting rights.

## 6. Challenges and Way Forward

- Addressing **political allegations of bias** in voter roll revisions.
- Ensuring timely grievance redressal in claims and objections.
- Leveraging **digital voter services, Aadhaar seeding, and biometric tools** while balancing **privacy safeguards** under the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.

## Conclusion

The near-completion of Bihar's **Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls** reflects the EC's efforts to maintain **credible, transparent, and inclusive electoral processes**. While political contestation persists, adherence to legal provisions and constitutional mandates ensures the strengthening of democratic institutions.

## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance):** Role of Election Commission, electoral reforms, Representation of People Act.
- **GS Paper 2 (Democracy):** Issues of free and fair elections, voter rights, universal adult suffrage.
- **Prelims:** Articles 324, 326; EC powers; RPA provisions.
- **Essay/GS2 Mains:** "Electoral Roll Accuracy: The Foundation of Democratic Legitimacy."

## 8. My Vision of India 2047 – Key Takeaways from Prof. Pratap Bhanu Mehta

### 1. Focus on Pressing Challenges over Lofty Planning

- Prof. Mehta stressed that **poverty, authoritarianism, communalism, and ecological degradation** must be addressed on priority rather than only relying on abstract or "lofty" vision documents like Vision 2047.
- **Definition – Vision 2047:** A long-term national roadmap prepared by government institutions, think-tanks, and civil society to mark 100 years of India's Independence with goals of economic growth, social justice, and global leadership.

### 2. Guiding Perspectives for India's Future

- **Relieving human suffering** through inclusive policies.
- **Becoming a developed nation** via visionary and accountable leadership.





- **Upholding constitutional values** of liberty, equality, and fraternity (Preamble to the Constitution).

### 3. Criticism of Civic and Political Culture

- Decline in **reasoned debate, sincerity, and shared facts** in public life weakens democratic discourse.
- A warning against complacency in assuming that growth alone can solve India's systemic issues.

### 4. Hindutva Nationalism as a Key Concern

- Prof. Mehta called the rise of **Hindutva nationalism** the “single greatest assault” on India's identity.
- It reduces India's **civilisational pluralism and universal spiritual ethos** to an **ethnic-religious framework**, undermining secular and democratic values.
- **Constitutional Context:** Articles 14 (Equality), 15 (Prohibition of discrimination), 25–28 (Freedom of religion) uphold India's pluralist framework.

### 5. Ecological and Social Sustainability

- Without addressing **environmental degradation**, economic progress risks being unsustainable.
- Aligns with constitutional **Article 48A (Directive Principle: Protection of environment)** and **Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duty: Protect environment)**.

### 6. Way Forward and Democratic Safeguards

- Ensuring **rule of law, secularism, and democratic accountability** as core principles for India@100.
- Strengthening institutions like **Election Commission, Judiciary, CAG, and Media** to resist authoritarian tendencies.
- Promoting **inclusive development and social cohesion** as central to India's global leadership aspirations.

### Conclusion

Prof. Mehta's vision highlights that India@2047 must be rooted not only in economic ambitions but also in **social justice, pluralism, and ecological balance**. True progress requires confronting pressing issues directly, safeguarding constitutional values, and preserving India's democratic and civilisational ethos.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 1 (Society):** Communalism, pluralism, challenges to social harmony.
- **GS Paper 2 (Polity):** Constitutional values, secularism, authoritarianism, democratic institutions.
- **GS Paper 3 (Environment):** Ecological degradation, sustainability.
- **GS Paper 4 (Ethics):** Ethical governance, civic responsibility, integrity in public discourse.
- **Essay/Interview:** “India at 2047 – Beyond Growth to Justice, Liberty and Sustainability.”

## 9. Punjab Food Security Dispute – Key Summary

### 1. Background and Issue



- The Centre clarified that **no beneficiary has been removed** from Punjab's public distribution system (PDS) under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** and that **foodgrain allocation remains unchanged**.
- Punjab Chief Minister **Bhagwant Mann** claimed that over **8 lakh ration card holders** were at risk of deletion, affecting around **32 lakh people**.
- **Definition – National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Legislation ensuring subsidized food grains to **approximately two-thirds of India's population**, prioritizing vulnerable sections like the poor, women, and children.



## 2. Role of e-KYC and Data Cleanup

- In **April 2023**, the Centre directed all states to conduct **e-KYC for all NFSA beneficiaries**; Punjab has completed **90% of this process**.
- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** emphasized the need for Punjab to **clean up its data**: remove ineligible names, stop diversion of food grains to wrong beneficiaries, and ensure **targeted delivery to deserving poor**.
- **Definition – e-KYC (Electronic Know Your Customer):** Digital verification process to authenticate identity, reduce fraud, and improve transparency in government welfare schemes.

## 3. Allegations and Political Conflict

- Punjab government accused the Centre of attempting to **cancel ration cards** to harass poor citizens.
- Union Minister Joshi countered, claiming the **AAP government is deflecting responsibility**, alleging that diversion of grains for black marketing continues unchecked.
- The dispute reflects **federal tensions** in administering social welfare schemes.

## 4. Constitutional and Legal Framework

- **Article 21:** Right to life includes the right to **adequate food and nutrition**.
- **Article 246 and Seventh Schedule:** Centre-State responsibilities in social welfare and food distribution.
- **NFSA, 2013:** Provides legal entitlement to **subsidized foodgrains for eligible citizens**.
- Ensuring proper targeting aligns with **Articles 14 (Equality) and 38 (State to promote welfare of people)**.

## 5. Economic and Social Implications

- Punjab produces **40% of wheat and 26% of rice** in India; diversion or mismanagement affects **national food security**.
- Proper implementation of NFSA ensures **pro-poor welfare, prevents corruption, and strengthens the PDS system**.
- Mismanagement can lead to **social unrest, hunger, and political conflicts**.



## 6. Way Forward

- Complete **data cleanup** under e-KYC to eliminate fraudulent beneficiaries.
- Strengthen **monitoring and accountability mechanisms** in PDS to prevent black marketing.
- Encourage **Centre-State coordination** for effective implementation of food security laws.

## Conclusion

The Punjab foodgrain dispute highlights the importance of **accurate beneficiary data, federal cooperation, and efficient PDS management** under NFSA. Ensuring the **right to food for eligible citizens** while preventing diversion strengthens social justice, constitutional welfare obligations, and public trust in government schemes.

## UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity & Governance):** Federalism, Centre-State relations, welfare schemes, NFSA.
- **GS Paper 2/3 (Social Justice & Economy):** Food security, targeted delivery, corruption in public distribution.
- **Prelims:** NFSA 2013, e-KYC, Articles 21, 14, 38.
- **Essay/GS2 Mains:** “Ensuring Food Security in India: Challenges and Solutions.”

## 10. Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill 2025

### 1. Purpose and Scope of the Bill

- Introduced in Lok Sabha on **20 August 2025**, the Bill aims to enhance **moral integrity in the political class**.
- Requires **Ministers, Chief Ministers, and the Prime Minister** to resign or face automatic removal if detained for **30 consecutive days** in crimes punishable with **5+ years of imprisonment**.
- **Definition – Moral Integrity in Politics:** Adherence to ethical standards, honesty, and absence of criminality in public office, essential for democratic governance.

### What is the new Bill to remove PM, CM and Ministers? | Explained

What does the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill state? Is there scope for misuse?

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RANGARAJAN R.



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### 2. Constitutional Basis

- Draws from **Articles 75, 164, and 239AA**, which govern appointment and tenure of Union, State, and Delhi Ministers.
- Ministers hold office **at the pleasure of the President or Governor**, interpreted by courts within **constitutional morality and legal propriety**.
- **Judicial precedents:**
  - *S.R. Bommai vs Union of India*: Upholds **constitutional morality** as essential for democratic institutions.



- *Manoj Narula vs Union of India*: Ethical dimension of ministerial appointments; individuals with serious criminal charges should not hold executive power.

### 3. Conflict with Fundamental Rights

- Raises concerns under **Article 21 (Right to life and liberty)** and the **principle of presumption of innocence**, as arrest/detention is equated with grounds for removal without conviction.
- Contrasts with **Representation of People Act, 1951** (Section 8(3)) and *Lily Thomas vs Union of India*, where disqualification occurs **only upon conviction**.

### 4. Executive Discretion and Political Pitfalls

- The Bill allows **removal on advice of PM/CM**, with automatic removal if advice withheld, potentially politicising accountability.
- Risk of a **“revolving door” effect**: Ministers resign upon detention, then reinstated upon bail, creating **instability in governance**.
- Asymmetry arises: Ministers face stricter conditions than legislators, undermining consistency in treatment of public officials.

### 5. Need for Nuanced Implementation

- Suggested safeguards:
  - Link removal to **judicial milestones**, such as framing of charges, to avoid arbitrary dismissal.
  - Establish **independent review mechanisms** (tribunal/judicial panel) to ensure impartiality.
  - Apply only to **offences involving moral turpitude or corruption**, not minor crimes.
  - Consider **interim suspension** of ministerial functions rather than outright removal to maintain governance continuity.

### 6. Significance and Challenges

- Addresses the **rise of criminalisation in politics**: 46% of MPs in 2024 elections declared criminal cases (up from 30% in 2009).
- Balances ethical governance with **constitutional safeguards and democratic fairness**.
- Highlights the tension between **clean politics and due process**, emphasizing the importance of **integrity without compromising justice**.

### Conclusion

The Bill represents a **normative push for ethical governance**, aiming to curb criminality in executive offices. Its successful implementation depends on balancing **accountability, judicial fairness, and political neutrality**, ensuring that constitutional safeguards are strengthened rather than subverted.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper 2 (Polity)**: Articles 75, 164, 239AA; criminalisation in politics; Representation of People Act.
- **GS Paper 2/4 (Ethics & Governance)**: Integrity in public life, constitutional morality, ethical dilemmas in governance.



- **Prelims:** 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2025, key judicial precedents (S.R. Bommai, Manoj Narula, Lily Thomas).
- **Essay/GS2 Mains:** “Balancing Integrity and Due Process in Indian Politics” or “Criminalisation of Politics: Constitutional and Ethical Challenges.”

## 11. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Credibility Crisis

- **Key Issue of Credibility:** The ASI has faced criticism due to political interference and lack of transparency in archaeological projects. The transfer of archaeologist K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, who led the **Keeladi excavations** (2014), raised suspicion of attempts to suppress findings about the **Vaigai Valley Civilization**, which indicated a literate, secular, and urban Tamil society (6th–2nd century BCE).
- **Politics in Archaeology:** The abrupt halting of Keeladi’s third phase and ASI’s denial of significant findings reflected political tensions between the Union and Tamil Nadu governments. Similar neglect occurred in **Adichanallur** and **Sivagalai** excavations, while in Rajasthan, ASI controversially linked findings to the **Saraswati River** and **Mahabharata period**, showing inconsistency and bias.
- **Methodological and Institutional Problems:** ASI has been accused of following outdated excavation techniques (e.g., **Wheeler method**), limited peer review, lack of global academic engagement, and arbitrary bureaucratic practices (delayed promotions, arbitrary transfers, inadequate infrastructure). This reflects “**methodological nationalism**”, where state-sanctioned narratives dominate over objective scientific analysis.
- **Scholarly Criticism & Comparison:** Scholars like Supriya Verma, Jaya Menon, Ashish Avikunthak, and others criticized ASI for lack of scientific integrity, poor work culture, and closed reporting systems. In contrast, international institutions such as **Germany’s Deutsches Archäologisches Institut** and **France’s INRAP** ensure global scholarly scrutiny and accountability through regular academic publications.
- **Legal and Constitutional Provisions:**
  - ASI functions under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**.
  - Protection of heritage is also linked with **Article 49** (obligation of the State to protect monuments) and **Article 51A(f)** (Fundamental Duty of citizens to value and preserve heritage).
  - The issue raises concerns of **federalism** (State vs Union role in excavations) and **scientific temper** (Article 51A(h)).
- **Way Forward:** Structural reforms are needed to ensure **institutional autonomy**, **scientific rigour**, and **transparency**. Publishing findings in global academic platforms, encouraging peer review, adopting modern excavation methods, and ensuring financial and functional autonomy can restore ASI’s credibility.



**Conclusion:** The ASI is facing a serious **credibility and autonomy crisis**, where political influence and nationalistic agendas compromise its scientific mandate. For India to project its cultural heritage globally





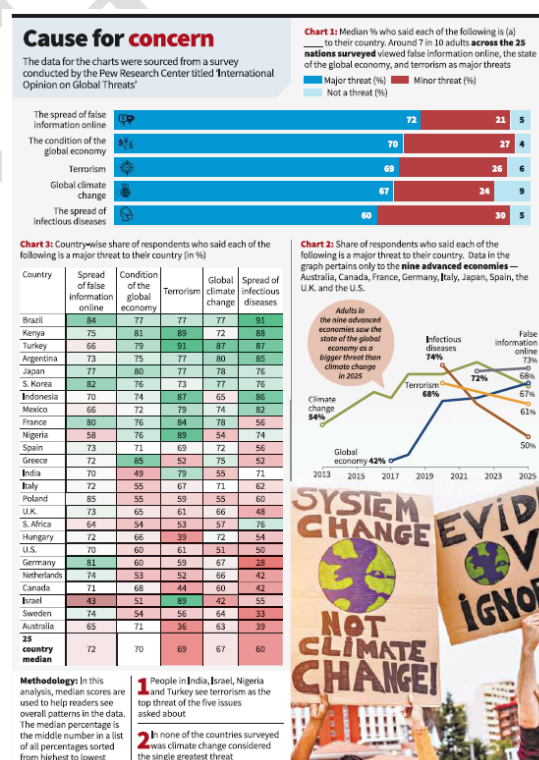
with authenticity, it needs reforms that align archaeological practice with transparency, academic freedom, and constitutional values.

### UPSC Relevance:

- **GS1** – Indian Culture, Archaeology, and Heritage preservation.
- **GS2** – Issues of Federalism, Autonomy of Institutions.
- **GS3** – Scientific temper, Research methodology.
- **GS4** – Ethics in knowledge production, Integrity in public institutions.
- **Essay** – Topics on “Heritage and Scientific Integrity”, “Politics and Knowledge Systems”.

## 12. Indians Least Concerned About the Global Economy – PEW Survey 2025

- **Key Findings of the Survey:** The Pew Research Center’s 2025 survey across 25 countries revealed that only **49% of Indians** see the global economy as a major threat — the lowest among surveyed nations. By contrast, **79% of Indians consider terrorism the biggest threat**, while **55% expressed concern about climate change**, showing India’s relatively low perception of global economic and environmental risks.
- **Global Concerns and Shifts:** Across nations, the **spread of false information online** emerged as the most widely perceived threat (median 72%), overtaking climate change and global economy. In nine advanced economies, for the first time since 2017, the **global economy is seen as a bigger threat than climate change**, reflecting anxieties over slowing growth, U.S. tariff policies, and geopolitical conflicts.
- **Terrorism and Security Threats:** A median of **69% respondents** across countries considered terrorism a major threat. In India, Israel, Nigeria, and Turkey, it ranked as the **top concern**, highlighting how middle-income countries are more security-sensitive compared to high-income nations (79% vs 60%).
- **Climate Change Perception:** Globally, **67% adults** identified climate change as a major threat, though in no country it was considered the single greatest one. In India, only 55% expressed serious concern, reflecting lower environmental sensitivity compared to advanced economies. Ideological divides persist — the left is more concerned about climate change than the right.
- **Key Definitions:**
  - **Global Economy Threat** – Perceptions of instability caused by inflation, trade disputes, tariff wars, and geopolitical tensions.
  - **False Information (Misinformation/Disinformation)** – Online spread of incorrect or misleading content, either unintentionally (misinformation) or deliberately (disinformation).





- **Perceived Threats** – Psychological and socio-political assessment of issues seen as risks to national or global stability.
- **Constitutional & Legal Dimensions:**
  - **Article 51(c)** – India shall foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, linking global economic stability to domestic policy.
  - **Article 51A(h)** – Fundamental Duty to develop scientific temper, humanism, and spirit of inquiry, relevant for countering misinformation online.
  - **National Security Act, 1980 and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967** provide frameworks to deal with terrorism, aligning with India's high perception of terrorism as a threat.
- **Conclusion:** The survey shows a **unique Indian perception bias** — greater concern for terrorism than for the global economy or climate change. While this reflects real security challenges, it also suggests **underestimation of structural economic and environmental risks** that have long-term implications. Bridging this gap requires strengthening public awareness, enhancing digital literacy, and aligning domestic policies with global sustainability and economic resilience goals.
- **UPSC Relevance:**
  - **GS1** – Society, awareness and public perceptions.
  - **GS2** – Governance, misinformation regulation, global institutions.
  - **GS3** – Economy, terrorism, climate change, cyber threats.
  - **GS4** – Ethics of misinformation, public trust, responsible citizenship.
  - **Essay** – “Perception versus Reality in Global Threats”, “Misinformation as the New Global Challenge.”

## 13. Deception and Decoys in Contemporary Warfare

### 1. Evolution of Deception in Modern Warfare

- **Definition:** *Military deception* refers to techniques designed to mislead, confuse, or overwhelm enemy forces, diverting their attacks away from real targets.
- With advancements in precision-guided weaponry, deception has evolved from traditional battlefield trickery to high-tech electronic warfare, decoys, and AI-enabled systems.
- **Purpose:** To create doubt, waste enemy munitions, and buy time for counterattack/escape, making deception as important as firepower.

### 2. India's Deployment of Decoys (Operation Sindoor)

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is believed to have used the **X-Guard Fibre-Optic Towed Decoy (FOTD)** on Rafale fighters.
- Developed by Israel's Rafael, X-Guard mimics the Rafale's radar, spectral, and electronic signature, misleading enemy missiles.





- Reports suggest Pakistan Air Force's J-10C fighters locked missiles onto decoys instead of real Rafales, showing India's successful integration of deception into combat.
- The Ministry of Defence has fast-tracked procurement of more such systems.

### 3. AI-Enabled X-Guard FOTD System

- Lightweight (30kg), retractable, reusable system trailing ~100m behind aircraft.
- Mimics Radar Cross-Section (RCS), doppler velocity, and electronic countermeasures.
- Works with Rafale's **SPECTRA EW suite** to create a **multi-layered defensive shield**.
- Comparable global systems: Leonardo BriteCloud (Eurofighter, Gripen, F-16), AN/ALE-50/55 (F/A-18), adaptable to drones (Heron, MQ-9 Reaper).

### 4. Land & Naval Deception Techniques

- **Army Decoys:** Inflatable, radar-reflective, and heat-emitting dummies simulate tanks, artillery, or missile batteries.
  - Examples: Russia's Inflatach (fake armored formations), Ukraine's 3D-printed decoys, U.S. decoy vehicles, India's request for T-90 decoys (thermal + acoustic simulation).
- **Naval Countermeasures:** Warships use chaff, acoustic decoys, and offboard systems. The most advanced is **Nulka (Australia-U.S.)**, mimicking a larger vessel to divert radar-guided missiles.
- Example: India's **INS Karanj submarine** uses torpedo decoys and can deploy marine commandos for deception-led operations.

### 5. Ukraine-Russia War Example

- Ukraine has effectively used **wooden and 3D-printed decoys** to mislead Russian drones and missiles, forcing wastage of costly precision munitions.
- Demonstrates how cost-effective deception can neutralize advanced weapon systems.

### 6. Legal, Strategic & Constitutional Relevance

- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** Deception (ruses of war) is legal if it doesn't involve perfidy (e.g., misuse of Red Cross/flag of truce).
- **National Security Imperative:** Article 51A(d) of the Indian Constitution obligates citizens to defend the nation, indirectly supporting investment in military preparedness, including deception technologies.
- **Defence Procurement Policy:** Emergency procurement provisions allow India to acquire such systems rapidly in times of conflict.

### Conclusion

Deception has moved from simple battlefield trickery to AI-enabled, multi-domain warfare strategies across air, land, and sea. For India, systems like **X-Guard FOTD** significantly enhance survivability of high-value assets like Rafale fighters. Globally, low-cost decoys have proved invaluable in conflicts like Ukraine-Russia, where they neutralize expensive enemy weapons.

### UPSC Relevance

- **GS Paper II:** Defence policy, India's security preparedness, international humanitarian law.



- **GS Paper III:** Science & Technology in warfare, indigenization of defence, cyber & electronic warfare.
  - **Essay/Interview:** “Deception in the Digital Age: An Invisible Force Multiplier in Modern Warfare.”
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VIDHVATH IAS