



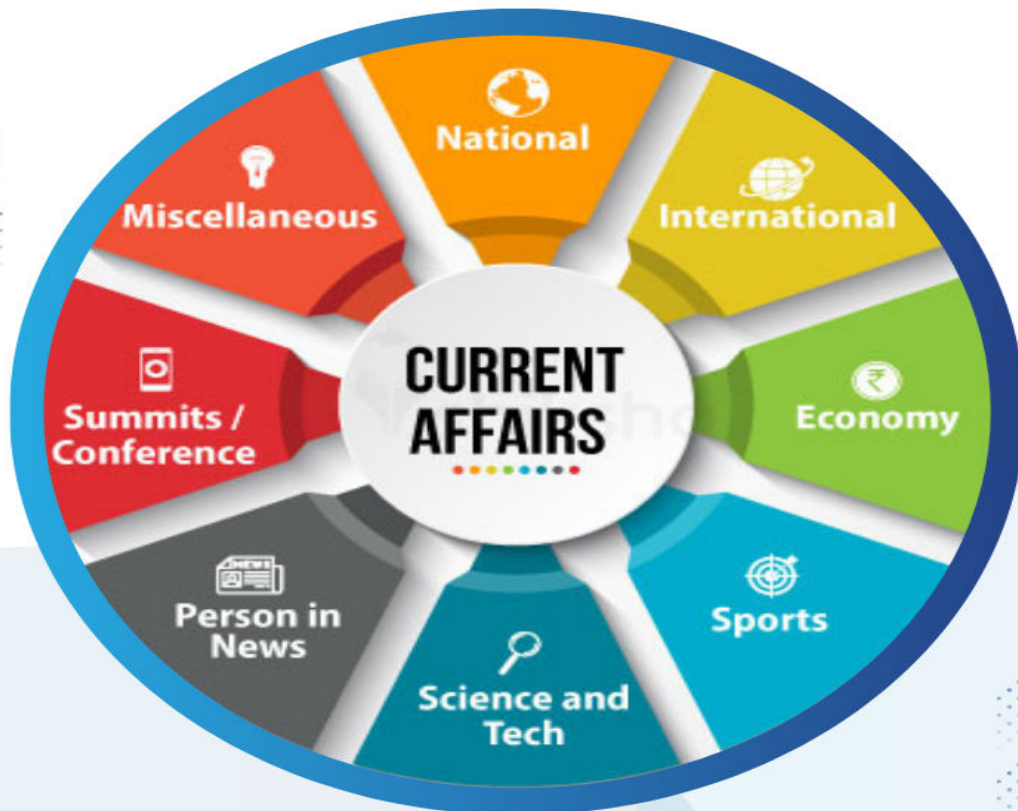
“ We help you reach for the star ”

VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY
&
STUDY CENTRE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 26/11/2025 (WEDNESDAY)



9972258970 & 9740702455

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



Table of Contents

1. Horticulture Production: Third Advance Estimates 2024–25	2
2. Assam Polygamy Prohibition Bill	4
3. Board of Trade Meeting: Strengthening Centre–State Partnership for Export Growth.....	5
4. U.S.–Saudi Relations Reset Under Trump–MbS	8
5. POSH Act Case in Chandigarh: Gaps, Challenges & Need for Reform	10
6. Sanchar Saathi Mobile Recovery Milestone – Key Summary.....	12
7. China’s Global Lending Footprint (2000–2023)	13
8. Draft Seeds Bill 2025 – Key Summary	16
9. Tamil Nadu DGP Appointment Controversy.....	18
10. Arunachal Pradesh is an Integral and Inalienable Part of India: MEA	20



1. Horticulture Production: Third Advance Estimates 2024–25

1. Major Highlights of the 3rd Advance Estimates

- India's horticulture area increased from **29.086 million ha** to **29.488 million ha** (+0.4 million ha).
- **Total horticulture production rose to 369.055 million tonnes**, an increase of **14.311 million tonnes** from the previous year.
- Growth recorded across almost all horticultural crops, especially **fruits, vegetables, spices, aromatic & medicinal plants**.
- Government attributes progress to **farmer-friendly schemes, modern technology adoption, and high-quality seeds**.
- Reflects **increasing diversification** toward high-value crops under the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

2. Key Growth Areas

- **Fruit Production:**
 - Grew by **5.12%** to reach **118.76 million tonnes**.
 - Major contributors: **banana, mango, papaya, watermelon, mandarin, guava, jackfruit**.
- **Vegetable Production:**
 - Increased by **4.09%** to **215.684 million tonnes**.
 - **Onion production** rose sharply by **26.88%** (to 30.789 million tonnes).
 - **Potato production** increased by **1.85%** (to 58.108 million tonnes).
 - **Tomato production** expected at **19.468 million tonnes**.
- **Spices & Medicinal Plants:**
 - **Spices production:** 12.503 million tonnes (notable rise in **garlic, ginger, turmeric**).
 - **Aromatic & medicinal plants:** Increased to **0.781 million tonnes**.

3. Government Interventions & Drivers of Growth

- **Modern technological adoption:** protected cultivation, micro-irrigation, precision farming.
- **High-quality seed development** and wider access to improved planting material.
- **Better market access:** e-NAM, FPOs, Agri-infrastructure creation.
- **Central Schemes Supporting Horticulture:**
 - **MIDH** – Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.
 - **PMKSY** – micro irrigation, watershed and water-use efficiency.
 - **PMFME** – value addition for fruits & vegetables.
 - **PM-KUSUM, PM-Kisan, Agri Infrastructure Fund**, etc.



4. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Agriculture & Horticulture:** State subject under **State List (List II), Entry 14**, but Union supports through funding & national programs.
- **Trade & Commerce of agricultural produce:** Union jurisdiction under **Union List (Entries 41, 42)**.
- **MSP & national schemes** operate through **Concurrent List Entry 33** (trade, commerce, production of foodstuffs).
- **Essential Commodities Act (1955):** regulates supply and distribution of key horticulture commodities during volatility.
- **e-NAM** derived from powers under **Inter-State Trade & Commerce**.

5. Important Definitions

- **Horticulture:** Branch of agriculture dealing with fruits, vegetables, spices, floriculture, medicinal & aromatic plants.
- **Advance Estimates:** Provisional assessments released before final production data, used for planning and policy decisions.
- **High-Value Crops:** Crops with higher returns per hectare—fruits, vegetables, spices—driving diversification away from cereals.

6. Significance of the Growth

- Supports **doubling farmer incomes** through high-value crop increase.
- Enhances India's **nutrition security**, especially in fruits & vegetables.
- Boosts **export potential** (spices, fruits, processed foods).
- Indicates shifting patterns from traditional to **commercial agriculture**.
- Strengthens India's aspiration to become a **global horticultural powerhouse**.

Conclusion

The Third Advance Estimates for 2024–25 demonstrate strong growth in India's horticulture sector, driven by farmer effort, technological integration, and supportive government schemes. With rising production in fruits, vegetables, spices, and medicinal plants, India is moving toward a more diversified, sustainable, and value-oriented agricultural ecosystem. This progress aligns with the broader goals of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, enhancing rural livelihoods while strengthening national agricultural resilience.

UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS-3 (Agriculture, Food Security, MSP, Technology in agriculture)**.
- Useful for **Prelims:** data on horticulture production, schemes like MIDH, PMKSY.
- Useful for **Mains:**
 - Role of diversification in agriculture.
 - Impact of technology on productivity.
 - Government interventions for farmer income enhancement.



- Challenges in horticulture supply chains & markets.
- Relevant for **Essay** on agriculture growth, Atmanirbhar Bharat, farmers' welfare, and rural development.

2. Assam Polygamy Prohibition Bill

1. Major Provisions of the Proposed Bill

- The Assam government has introduced a Bill criminalizing **polygamy**, proposing **imprisonment** and **heavy fines** for those entering into multiple marriages.
- The Bill aims to “**protect women, ensure social order, and streamline society**”, according to the State government.
- It applies to **residents of Assam even if they enter polygamous marriages outside the State**.
- **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and areas under the **Sixth Schedule** are **exempt** from the Bill, considering constitutional protections for tribal customs.

2. Objectives & Rationale

- Seeks to curb practices that **harm women's rights**, including exploitation and unequal marital arrangements.
- Aims to promote **gender justice**, monogamous marriage norms, and **uniform social order** across the State.
- Intended to prevent misuse of legal loopholes whereby individuals could solemnize polygamous marriages outside Assam and avoid prosecution.

Banning polygamy

Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** on Tuesday tabled the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 in the State Assembly. It prescribes imprisonment and heavy fines for people entering into or hiding a second marriage while the first continues to be valid

Here is a timeline of the new Bill:

- **August 21:** Assam government seeks public opinion by August 30, through email or by post, on a law to end polygamy in the State
- **November 9:** The Assam Cabinet approves a new legislation to outlaw polygamy
- **November 25:** The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, is tabled in the 126-member Assembly



3. Constitutional & Legal Context

- **Article 25 (Freedom of religion)** allows regulation of secular aspects of religious practices; marriage is considered a **secular activity**, allowing the State to legislate.
- **Directive Principles (Article 44)** promote a **Uniform Civil Code**, and the Bill aligns with the spirit of UCC-related reforms.
- Exemptions for STs and Sixth Schedule areas derive from:
 - **Sixth Schedule provisions** granting autonomy to tribal councils.
 - **Article 371B & 371C** (contextual protections for NE States) enabling preservation of tribal customs.
- India already criminalizes polygamy under **Section 494 IPC** for most communities, except those legally permitted under personal laws (e.g., Muslim personal law).

4. Key Definitions

- **Polygamy:** Practice of having more than one spouse at the same time.
- **Sixth Schedule Areas:** Constitutionally designated tribal autonomous regions in NE India governed by Autonomous District Councils.



- **Monogamy:** Marriage system where an individual has only one spouse at a time; legally recognized standard in India.

5. Wider Implications

- Strengthens legal protection for women from bigamy-induced discrimination, abandonment, or loss of inheritance rights.
- May trigger broader debates on **UCC, personal law reforms**, and **State vs individual religious autonomy**.
- Raises questions on **interplay between customary tribal laws** and State legislation in culturally diverse regions like the Northeast.

Additional Key Points

- Assam had already formed an **expert committee** to examine the constitutional feasibility of banning polygamy; the Bill reflects its recommendations.
- The move is part of a larger State agenda focusing on **women's welfare, population stabilization, and social reforms**.
- The Bill's extraterritorial element (applying outside Assam) draws from **Section 4 IPC**, permitting jurisdiction over offences committed abroad by Indian citizens under certain conditions.

Conclusion

The proposed Assam Polygamy Prohibition Bill represents a significant social reform initiative aimed at safeguarding women's rights, ensuring marital fairness, and promoting monogamy as a uniform marital standard. While reinforcing gender justice, the Bill also navigates constitutional sensitivities by exempting tribal communities protected under the Sixth Schedule. Its introduction marks an important step in ongoing national discussions on civil law reforms, uniformity, and personal law regulation.

UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS-2 (Governance, Constitution, Social Justice, Personal Laws, Women's Rights)**.
- Useful for **Prelims**: Sixth Schedule, Article 25, Article 44, bigamy provisions under IPC.
- Useful for **Mains**:
 - Debate on UCC and personal law reforms.
 - State's power to regulate marriage as a secular institution.
 - Rights of women and gender justice frameworks.
 - Autonomy of tribal areas and constitutional protections.
- Relevant for **Essay** topics on social reform, gender empowerment, and constitutional morality.

3. Board of Trade Meeting: Strengthening Centre–State Partnership for Export Growth

1. Key Announcements & Focus Areas

- Union Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal emphasized stronger **Centre–State collaboration** to expand exports, create jobs, and diversify markets.



- The government will offer **special export-boosting support to landlocked States** under the *Export Promotion Mission*.
- Stressed the need for **high-quality standards**, consistent product compliance, and strengthening India's reputation as a **reliable exporter**.
- Encouraged **best-practice sharing among States** to enhance trade facilitation and foster healthy competition in governance.

2. Export Promotion Mission & State-Level Role

- Mission to incorporate **targeted schemes** addressing unique challenges of inland States with limited port access.
- States urged to improve **Ease of Doing Business**, promote **single-window systems**, and streamline logistics.
- Emphasis on **sector-specific export strategies** developed jointly by government, industry, and academia.
- Ministry to work with States to provide timely, evidence-based solutions to emerging export-related bottlenecks.



3. Institutional Mechanisms & Digital Trade Infrastructure

- **Board of Trade (BoT)**: Reconstituted in 2019; apex advisory body on foreign trade policy.
- **Trade Connect ePlatform** (launched 2024) becoming a national digital gateway:
 - 62 lakh+ visits, 18 lakh+ users.
 - Integrated services of Missions abroad, DGFT, EPCs, Exim Bank.
 - 22 lakh+ digital Certificates of Origin issued.
 - Strong support for MSMEs via market intelligence & compliance tools.
- **Jan Sunwai module**: 96% grievance-redressal rate (3,377 cases resolved).
- DGFT initiatives focus on **complete digitization and paperless trade**, lowering costs and improving access for MSMEs.

4. Trade Policy Measures & FTAs

- **RoDTEP scheme extended till 31 March 2026**, providing predictability for exporters.
- India deepening trade diplomacy through landmark FTAs:
 - **India–EFTA TEPA (2024)**
 - **India–UK CEPA (2025)**
- Ongoing negotiations with multiple partners to expand market access and integrate India into **global value chains (GVCs)**.



- Export strategy now prioritizes **market diversification, logistics reforms, and technology adoption.**

5. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Foreign Trade** is under the **Union List (Entry 41)**—exclusive power of the Centre to regulate foreign trade.
- **Inter-State trade & commerce:** Union List Entry 42.
- **Industries and trade within States:** State List, but Centre may regulate via **Concurrent List Entry 33** when national interest is involved.
- Legal foundation: **Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992**—empowers the Centre to notify policies, control exports/imports, and facilitate trade.
- **DGFT** derives statutory authority from the FTDR Act to administer the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).**

6. Important Definitions

- **Exports:** Sale of domestic goods/services to foreign markets, contributing to GDP and foreign exchange earnings.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Measures improving ease of cross-border trade—digital documentation, faster clearances, efficient logistics.
- **RoDTEP:** Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products—refunds embedded taxes to improve export competitiveness.
- **FTA (Free Trade Agreement):** Agreement reducing or eliminating trade barriers like tariffs between partner countries.

Additional Key Points

- States showcased innovations in **industrial policy, logistics parks, EoDB, export clusters, and MSME support.**
- Focus on **last-mile connectivity**, especially linking small exporters with government support systems and digital platforms.
- Alignment with **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, promoting competitive, technology-enabled, and globally trusted Indian exports.

Conclusion

The fourth Board of Trade meeting reaffirmed India's strategic push to integrate with global markets through quality enhancement, digital trade systems, FTA expansion, and strong Centre–State coordination. With landlocked States receiving targeted support and MSME-friendly reforms accelerating, India aims to build a robust, resilient, and future-ready export ecosystem.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2: Centre–State cooperation**, inter-governmental mechanisms, digital governance.
- **GS-3: Indian economy**, exports, trade policy, industrial growth, MSMEs, logistics reforms.
- **Prelims:** BoT structure, DGFT functions, RoDTEP, FTDR Act 1992, Trade Connect ePlatform.



- Mains: Export diversification, quality standards, FTAs, digital public infrastructure for trade, role of States in economic governance.
- Essay: Trade reforms, cooperative federalism, Atmanirbhar Bharat and global competitiveness.

4. U.S.–Saudi Relations Reset Under Trump–MbS

1. Origins and Strategic Nature of the Alliance

- The U.S.–Saudi partnership, an **80-year-old “oil-for-security” pact**, began in 1945 between President Roosevelt and King Abdul Aziz aboard the USS Quincy; renewed in 2005.
- It predates the UN, NATO and Bretton Woods institutions, making it one of the **oldest transactional bilateral alliances** still active.
- Initially based on **Saudi oil supply** and **U.S. security guarantees**, the relationship evolved amidst regional conflicts, shifting energy markets and geopolitical changes.



2. Historical Tensions and Shifts

- Strains emerged during the **1973 Arab oil embargo**, Saudi purchase of **Chinese missiles** in the 1980s, and U.S. suspension of military support during the **Yemen war**.
- Assassination of **Jamal Khashoggi (2018)** and early Biden-era distancing pushed Saudi Arabia toward **China and Russia**.
- China’s diplomatic rise: **Xi Jinping’s 2022 Riyadh visit**, China-brokered **Saudi–Iran rapprochement**, and growing Gulf–China ties shifted Saudi strategic hedging.

3. New Contours Under Trump 2.0

- Trump’s 2025 visit resulted in major deals:
 - **\$142 billion U.S. military equipment package.**
 - **\$270 billion investment agreements.**
 - MbS pledged to increase Saudi investments in the U.S. to **\$1 trillion.**
- The **Strategic Defence Agreement** designated Saudi Arabia a **“major non-NATO ally”**, binding the U.S. to defend it if attacked.
- Cooperation expanded to **civil nuclear energy** and **AI chip supplies**; visit lacked a joint communiqué, reflecting unresolved differences on Iran, Israel, and oil markets.

4. Regional and Global Implications

- MbS has adopted a **more assertive regional role**, influencing issues in Syria, Sudan and Iran, positioning himself as a long-term U.S. interlocutor.
- U.S. sanctions on Iran, Russia and Venezuela help maintain a **moderate oil price**, benefiting both Washington and Riyadh.



- Renewed ties help counter **China and Russia's growing presence** in the Gulf, reinforcing elements of **Pax Americana**.

5. Implications for India

- Possible concerns:
 - Potential U.S.-enabled **Pakistan military upgrades** via Saudi cooperation.
 - Stable but moderate oil prices—beneficial for India amid diversification from Russian supplies.
- Opportunities:
 - Saudi **Vision 2030** projects (AI infrastructure, digital economy) open new economic avenues for India.
 - Offset to China's influence in Saudi Arabia enhances India's strategic space.
 - Supports progress on the **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.
 - Encourages India to pursue a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** with Saudi Arabia.

6. Constitutional & Legal Dimensions (UPSC Angle)

- **International relations** fall under **Union List Entry 10 & 13**—treaties, foreign affairs, war and peace.
- **Trade agreements and foreign policy** handled under **Union List Entries 41 & 42**.
- India's engagement with West Asia governed through MEA mandates under **Article 73 (Union executive power)**.
- Energy security, part of **national economic and strategic policy**, linked to **Article 246** (exclusive Union competence).

7. Key Definitions

- **Transactional Alliance:** Partnership based on mutual exchange of interests (oil for security), not values.
- **Pax Americana:** U.S.-led global order maintaining relative peace and stability in key regions.
- **Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA):** A U.S. designation offering military and financial privileges but not a collective security guarantee like NATO.

Conclusion

The Trump–MbS summit marks a **major reset in U.S.–Saudi ties**, shifting from traditional oil-for-security terms to a more diversified strategic partnership involving defence, investments, nuclear cooperation, and AI technologies. As Saudi Arabia asserts greater autonomy and the U.S. seeks to retain regional influence, the alliance enters an evolving phase. This geopolitical shift carries significant implications for regional stability, global energy markets, and India's strategic interests in West Asia.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2: India–West Asia relations**, global governance, U.S. foreign policy, strategic alliances.



- GS-3: **Energy security**, global oil markets, technology cooperation, defence geopolitics.
- Essay: Emerging world order, transactional diplomacy, multipolarity.
- Prelims: MNNA status, Saudi–Iran rapprochement (China-brokered), IMEC, major oil suppliers, Vision 2030.

5. POSH Act Case in Chandigarh: Gaps, Challenges & Need for Reform

1. Key Highlights of the Case

- A Chandigarh college professor was **dismissed** after the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) found allegations of **sexual harassment** proven under the **POSH Act, 2013**.
- Such decisive action is **rare**, highlighting the generally **low conviction rate** and major procedural challenges in implementing POSH.
- The case exposes persistent gaps in **institutional response**, especially in higher education settings with pronounced **power imbalances** between faculty and students.

2. Major Gaps in the POSH Act Identified

- **Consent vs. Informed Consent:** The Act acknowledges consent but ignores **informed consent**, missing situations where consent is influenced through **manipulation or power asymmetry**.
- **Emotional & Psychological Harassment:** Emotional manipulation, deceit, and coercion are **not explicitly covered**, allowing perpetrators to operate in legal grey zones.
- **Short Limitation Period:** A **three-month deadline** for complaints prevents survivors—especially students—from reporting misconduct in time.
- **Terminology Issues:** Referring to the accused as a “respondent” **downplays the gravity** of the offence, unlike criminal law.
- **Burden of Proof:** Vague definitions shift the burden heavily onto the survivor, while harassment is often **pattern-based** rather than a single event.



3. Structural & Procedural Weaknesses

- **Lack of Mechanism for Inter-Institutional Complaints:** Perpetrators moving across colleges remain unaccountable due to **absence of coordination** between institutions.
- **Risk of Punitive Action for “Malicious Complaints”:** Though meant to prevent misuse, it **deters genuine survivors** fearing counter-action.
- **Digital Evidence Challenges:** With disappearing messages, encrypted chats, and temporary media, ICCs lack **training and legal clarity** to evaluate digital proof.
- **Institutional Bias & Delays:** Survivors often face **procedural fatigue**, discouragement, and lack of sensitivity within institutions.



4. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 14 & 15:** Protect equality and prohibit discrimination against women.
- **Article 21:** Guarantees dignity and safe working conditions as part of the right to life.
- **Article 19(1)(g):** Safe workplace is integral to the freedom to practice any profession.
- **Vishaka Guidelines (1997):** Laid the foundation for workplace sexual harassment law; POSH Act operationalizes these principles.
- **POSH Act, 2013:** Mandates ICCs, defines sexual harassment, prescribes inquiry procedures, and requires employer responsibility to ensure a safe workplace.
- **Indian Penal Code (IPC):** Acts constituting harassment may also be prosecutable under Sections 354A, 354D, 509, etc., outside workplace contexts.

5. Important Definitions

- **Sexual Harassment:** Any unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature (POSH Act).
- **Informed Consent:** Consent given with full knowledge, free of manipulation, coercion, or unequal power dynamics.
- **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** Mandatory institutional body to inquire into POSH complaints.
- **Digital Harassment:** Abuse conducted through electronic communication—messages, images, calls, or online manipulation.

6. Key Reforms Needed (Expert Recommendations)

- Amend POSH to include **informed consent, emotional coercion, and digital harassment**.
- Extend limitation period beyond three months; allow delayed reporting with justifiable reasons.
- Create an **inter-institutional registry or mechanism** to track repeat offenders.
- Strengthen ICC capacity through **mandatory legal, psychological, and digital forensics training**.
- Improve clarity in definitions and incorporate **behavioural pattern assessment** rather than relying solely on direct evidence.

Conclusion

The Chandigarh case represents a rare instance of successful redressal under the POSH Act, but also exposes deep structural gaps that limit the law's effectiveness. For the Act to fulfil its purpose—ensuring safe, equal, and dignified workplaces—it must evolve to address modern forms of harassment, power asymmetry, digital abuse, and institutional shortcomings. A decade after its enactment, the POSH Act requires **substantive strengthening and clarity** to deliver consistent justice.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2:** Vulnerable sections, social justice, gender empowerment, constitutional safeguards, workplace rights.
- **GS-1:** Women's issues, societal norms, gender-based violence.



- **GS-3:** Ethical governance, institutional accountability, technology and harassment.
- **Essay:** Women's safety, institutional reforms, gender justice, law vs social norms.
- **Prelims:** POSH Act provisions, ICC structure, Vishaka Guidelines, digital evidence handling.

6. Sanchar Saathi Mobile Recovery Milestone – Key Summary

1. Major Achievements of Sanchar Saathi

- Over **50,000 lost/stolen mobile phones recovered in October 2025**—a first-time milestone.
- Total nationwide recoveries **cross 7 lakh**, showing sustained expansion of digital safety infrastructure.
- **Karnataka and Telangana** lead with **1 lakh+ recoveries each**; Maharashtra follows with 80,000+.
- **47% surge in recoveries** (June–October 2025) reflects improved efficiency, integration, and public adoption.
- India now **recovers one lost phone every minute**, demonstrating the platform's real-time responsiveness.

2. Key Features & Working Mechanism

- **Indigenously developed platform** with automated workflows and device traceability.
- When a SIM is inserted into a **blocked/lost device**, the system sends **instant alerts** to:
 - The registered user
 - The concerned police station
- Enables rapid recovery and prevents **illegal reuse, cloning, or resale** of handsets.
- Strong coordination between **DoT's Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)**, **License Service Areas (LSAs)**, and **State/UT Police** enables quick action.



3. Citizen Services Available on Sanchar Saathi

- **Report and block** stolen or lost mobile phones.
- **Check genuineness** of new or second-hand devices (using IMEI verification).
- **Report fraudulent calls/messages**, including financial scam attempts.
- Access **verified contact information** of banks and financial institutions to avoid spoofing.
- Supports **cyber hygiene** and public awareness under the Digital India vision.

4. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Right to Privacy (Article 21):** Includes protection of personal data stored in devices; Sanchar Saathi helps prevent misuse.
- **IT Act, 2000 & IT Rules:** Provide legal backing for digital service delivery, device identification, and cyber fraud reporting.



- **Telegraph Act, 1885:** Empowers DoT to regulate telecom networks, IMEI rules, and track illegal activities.
- **Cybercrime jurisdiction:** Cooperative federalism—police (State subject) + DoT (Union subject) work jointly.
- Supports **Digital India**, a constitutional governance mandate under **Article 73 (Union executive power)** and public service delivery obligations.

5. Important Definitions

- **IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity):** A unique 15-digit number used to identify and track mobile devices.
- **Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU):** DoT's unit handling coordination, fraud detection, and misuse monitoring.
- **Device Blocking:** Deactivation of handset functionality across networks, preventing misuse even if SIMs are changed.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Technology platforms enabling public services—Sanchar Saathi is part of India's DPI ecosystem.

6. Additional Key Points

- Capacity-building programs with police forces ensure better ground-level response.
- Enhances **digital trust**, which is critical for e-governance, fintech, and cybersecurity ecosystems.
- Supports national efforts to counter **mobile-based frauds**, cybercrime, and identity theft.
- Contributes to **law enforcement efficiency**, reducing time, manpower, and procedural delays.

Conclusion

Sanchar Saathi reflects India's growing capabilities in digital governance and cybersecurity. By enabling rapid mobile recovery, preventing fraud, and integrating police–DoT coordination, it strengthens citizen safety and enhances trust in the digital ecosystem. The October 2025 milestone demonstrates the power of Digital Public Infrastructure in delivering real-world public service outcomes. It stands as a model for technology-led governance under the Digital India vision.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2:** Governance, e-governance, Digital India, centre–state coordination.
- **GS-3:** Cybersecurity, cybercrime prevention, digital public infrastructure, technology in internal security.
- **Prelims:** Sanchar Saathi features, IMEI tracking, DIU, IT Act provisions.
- **Mains:** Role of technology in public service delivery, cybersecurity challenges, cooperative federalism in policing.
- **Essay:** Digital governance, citizen-centric technology, and national security.

7. China's Global Lending Footprint (2000–2023)

1. Scale and Distribution of China's Global Lending



- China provided **over \$2 trillion** in loans and grants to **179 of 217 countries/territories** (80% of the world) between 2000–2023.
- The **U.S. was the largest beneficiary**, receiving nearly **\$200 billion** for ~2,500 projects, mostly through Chinese state-owned institutions.
- Other major recipients: **Russia (\$172 billion)**, **EU companies (\$161 billion)**, and **Australia (\$130 billion)**.
- China was the **world's largest creditor** in 2023 alone, lending **\$140 billion** globally.

2. Shift from Developmental to Commercial Lending

- China is moving away from lending to poorer developing countries toward **commercial lending to high-income economies**.
- Of \$943 billion lent to high-income countries, over **20% of China's total global lending** went to just six rich nations.
- Lending to the U.S. rose from **\$320 million (2000)** to **\$19 billion (2023)**—reflecting a major **commercial turn**.
- Only **7%** of Chinese transactions with the U.S. were developmental; **75%+** of global lending is commercial in nature.



3. Decline of BRI and Development Assistance

- China's initial focus: infrastructure building in low-income countries via the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** (launched 2013).
- **BRI share dropped from 75% to 25%** of China's lending portfolio, signaling strategic pullback amid debt crises in partner nations.
- China's **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** fell from an average **\$5.7 billion/year** to **\$1.9 billion in 2023**.
- Beijing's developmental role is shrinking as it pivots toward **profit-oriented global financial engagement**.

4. Lending Strategy & Global Finance Mechanism

- **95%** of loans are issued by China's **state-owned banks, enterprises, and the People's Bank of China**.
- China has an **80% approval rate** for overseas mergers and acquisitions due to weak foreign investment screening in recipient countries.
- A significant part of lending is channeled through **offshore shell companies** and **international bank syndicates**, enhancing opacity.
- China is increasingly seen as a **global debt collector**, raising concerns over **debt traps**, sovereignty erosion, and strategic leverage.

5. India's Position in China's Lending Architecture

- Indian entities have borrowed **\$11.1 billion** from China as of 2023.



- Major sectors receiving funds: **energy, banking, and financial services.**
- Lending to India combines **commercial** and **developmental** intent—lower exposure than many Asian neighbours.
- India maintains cautious engagement due to concerns over strategic dependencies and BRI-linked regional geopolitics.

6. Constitutional & Legal Provisions (UPSC Angle)

- **Foreign loans & external borrowing** fall under **Union List Entry 36 & 37** (External Affairs; foreign loans).
- **Article 246** empowers the Union Government to negotiate and regulate foreign economic relations.
- **Fiscal Responsibility norms** and **External Debt management policy** guide India's borrowing strategies.
- India avoids BRI due to sovereignty concerns related to **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).**
- Engagement with China's lending ecosystem is shaped by **national security considerations under Article 73** (executive powers).

7. Important Definitions

- **Commercial Lending:** Loans extended at market rates with commercial returns as the primary objective.
- **ODA (Official Development Assistance):** Concessional loans/grants aimed at economic development in poorer countries.
- **BRI (Belt and Road Initiative):** China's global connectivity and infrastructure project spanning Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- **Debt-Trap Diplomacy:** Situation where excessive external debt enables a creditor nation to gain strategic influence over the borrower.

Conclusion

China's global lending between 2000–2023 marks a dramatic transformation: from a development-oriented lender for poorer nations to a **commercial financial powerhouse** targeting high-income economies. While China remains the world's top creditor, its decreasing developmental footprint and rising opaque lending mechanisms raise geopolitical, economic, and sovereignty concerns globally. India's limited exposure highlights its strategic caution, even as China's financial influence reshapes global economic and political landscapes.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2:** India–China relations, global governance, development partnerships, debt diplomacy.
- **GS-3:** External debt, global financial markets, BRI, infrastructure financing, economic security.
- **Prelims:** ODA, BRI features, AidData insights, China as global creditor.
- **Essay:** Emerging multipolar financial order, China's rise, global economic power shifts.



8. Draft Seeds Bill 2025 – Key Summary

1. Purpose and Context of the Draft Seeds Bill

- Released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on **12 November 2025**, inviting public comments until **11 December**.
- Aims to **replace the Seeds Act, 1966** and the **Seeds (Control) Order, 1983** to reflect **technological advances**, changing trade patterns, and modern seed industry needs.
- Seeks to ensure **quality seeds**, reduce compliance burden, and promote **ease of doing business**, while strengthening punitive provisions.
- India had a **surplus of 46.29 lakh quintals** of seeds in 2023–24, highlighting the scale of regulatory responsibility.

2. Major Provisions of the Draft Bill

- Farmers retain the right to **grow, sow, re-sow, save, exchange, or sell** unbranded farm seeds; only **branded seed sales** are regulated.
- Introduces clear definitions for **farmer, dealer, distributor, and producer**, improving accountability in the seed value chain.
- Establishes **Central (27 members)** and **State Seed Committees (15 members)** for standard-setting, registration, and regulatory oversight.
- Mandatory **registration of all seed processing units**; Central Accreditation System proposed to simplify multi-state operations.
- Provides for **National Register of Seed Varieties**, field trials for **Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU)** assessment, and creation of **seed testing laboratories**.



3. Enforcement and Penalties

- Detailed role of **Seed Inspectors**, empowered under the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** to search and seize.
- New penalty structure significantly enhanced:
 - Fines between **₹50,000 and ₹30 lakh**.
 - Up to 3 years imprisonment** for major violations.
- Stronger enforcement compared to the **2019 draft**, which had lower fines (₹25,000–₹5 lakh) and one-year maximum imprisonment.

4. Key Changes from the 2019 Draft

- Tougher punishments**, improved quality norms, and stronger regulatory architecture.
- Integration of farmers' rights with the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act, 2001**.
- More liberal approach to **seed imports**, aligning with modern biotechnology and global seed trade standards.



- Enhanced oversight through **centralised accreditation**, aiming to harmonise quality standards across states.

5. Concerns Raised by Farmer Groups

- Farmer unions (such as **AIKS** and **SKM**) fear **corporate dominance** and **predatory pricing**, making cultivation costlier.
- Concern that the Bill may undermine **seed sovereignty**, enabling monopoly of multinational seed companies.
- Risk of conflict with **PPVFR Act, 2001**, and India's obligations under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and **ITPGRFA**.
- Criticism that the Bill promotes a **centralised, corporatised regulatory system**, possibly diluting farmers' traditional rights and biodiversity protections.

6. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- Union List Entry 33**: Central regulation of trade and commerce in seeds, foodstuffs, and agricultural products.
- Union List Entry 82 & 83**: Powers for national taxation affecting agricultural trade.
- Article 246 & 73**: Provide the Union authority to legislate on seed quality, imports, and agricultural markets.
- PPVFR Act, 2001**: Safeguards **farmers' rights to seeds**, benefit-sharing, and protection of plant varieties.
- BNSS, 2023**: Provides legal grounding for search and seizure powers of seed inspectors.

7. Important Definitions

- Seed Processing Unit**: Facility where seeds are cleaned, graded, treated, or packed for sale.
- Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU)**: Field-based performance evaluation to assess yield, disease resistance, and suitability.
- Seed Testing Laboratory**: Accredited centre for analysing purity, germination rate, and genetic quality.
- Branded Seed**: Seeds sold under a **label or brand name**, subject to strict regulatory compliance.

Conclusion

The Draft Seeds Bill 2025 seeks to modernise India's seed regulatory ecosystem, strengthen quality control, and incorporate scientific advancements while promoting ease of business. However, apprehensions persist among farmer groups regarding corporatisation, rising cultivation costs, and the weakening of biodiversity and farmers' rights protections. Balancing innovation, seed quality, and farmer autonomy will determine the success and acceptance of the new framework.

UPSC Relevance

- GS-2**: Government policies, regulatory reforms, centre–state relations, farmers' rights, international treaties on biodiversity.
- GS-3**: Agriculture, seed technology, biotechnology regulations, food security, farm economics.



- **Prelims:** PPVFR Act, Seed Act 1966, seed committees, VCU trials, BNSS powers.
- **Mains:** Agricultural reforms, corporatisation concerns, balancing innovation and farmer welfare, trade liberalisation in seeds.

9. Tamil Nadu DGP Appointment Controversy

1. Background of the Issue

- Tamil Nadu failed to appoint a **regular Director-General of Police (DGP)/Head of Police Force (HoPF)** in time after the previous DGP retired on **30 August 2025**.
- In a rare situation, a junior officer, **G. Venkatraman (1994 batch)**, sixth in seniority, was appointed as **in-charge DGP**.
- The State rejected the **UPSC-panel of three officers**, claiming they were “not acceptable,” leading to a dispute with the Centre.
- The controversy triggered **contempt petitions** alleging violation of Supreme Court guidelines on DGP appointments.

2. Supreme Court’s Prakash Singh Guidelines (2006)

- DGP must be selected from a **panel of three seniormost IPS officers empanelled by UPSC**.
- Empanelment based on **length of service, outstanding record, and experience** suitable for heading the police force.
- The selected DGP must receive a **minimum two-year tenure**, irrespective of superannuation.
- States must **send proposals to UPSC at least 3 months before vacancy**; TN sent its proposal just a day before retirement (29 August), violating this requirement.
- Guidelines aim to shield the police leadership from **political interference**, ensuring stability and professionalism.



3. Contempt Plea and Legal Developments

- A petitioner alleged **wilful contempt** for the appointment of an in-charge rather than a regular DGP.
- The State argued delay was caused by a CAT case filed by an officer seeking panel inclusion, but the CAT had dismissed this months earlier (April 30, 2025).
- The Supreme Court directed UPSC to proceed “expeditiously” and instructed the State to appoint a DGP “forthwith” upon receiving recommendations.
- Despite this, TN **withdrew integrity certificates** for certain officers and expressed unwillingness to accept three names, escalating the dispute.

4. UPSC–State Dynamics

- UPSC held an **Empanelment Committee Meeting** on 26 September 2025 with the Chief Secretary present.



- UPSC finalized the panel of senior-most candidates despite TN's objections and reaffirmed its decision when the State sought reconsideration.
- The State's refusal raises constitutional questions about **federal balance and adherence to SC directives**.
- Case pending before the Supreme Court; TN must respond within three weeks.

5. Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 141:** SC judgments are binding; Prakash Singh guidelines must be implemented strictly.
- **Article 144:** All authorities, civil and judicial, must act in aid of the Supreme Court.
- **Article 309:** Gives the State power to regulate service conditions but subject to court directions.
- **Separation of Powers & Rule of Law:** The State's actions are being scrutinized for possible executive overreach.
- UPSC's involvement is rooted in **Article 320**, which mandates its advisory role in public service matters.
- Preventing arbitrary DGP appointments ensures **police autonomy**, a key element in India's democracy.

6. Important Definitions

- **DGP (Director-General of Police):** The highest-ranking police officer in a State.
- **HoPF (Head of Police Force):** Official term used by SC for the administrative and operational head of the State police.
- **Empanelment Committee:** Body constituted by UPSC to shortlist eligible senior IPS officers based on merit and record.
- **Integrity Certificate:** Certification of service conduct, essential for empanelment to top posts.

Conclusion

The Tamil Nadu DGP controversy underscores the importance of adhering to the **Prakash Singh reforms**, aimed at insulating the police from political interference. The State's rejection of the UPSC panel and delay in appointment highlight tensions in Centre–State relations and raise serious questions about compliance with judicial mandates. The resolution will influence future governance standards and reaffirm the principle that administrative appointments must balance federal autonomy with constitutional discipline.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2:** Constitutional governance, Centre–State relations, police reforms, role of UPSC, federalism.
- **GS-3:** Internal security management, police administration, institutional reforms.
- **Prelims:** Prakash Singh judgment, UPSC functions under Article 320, tenure security for DGPs.
- **Mains:** Challenges in implementing SC-mandated reforms, politicization of police, rule of law, administrative federalism.



10. Arunachal Pradesh is an Integral and Inalienable Part of India: MEA

1. Core Issue: Detention of an Indian Citizen at Shanghai Airport

- Indian national **Prema Wangjom Thongdok**, born in Arunachal Pradesh, was detained for over **18 hours** at Shanghai airport when Chinese authorities refused to recognise her **valid Indian passport**.
- China claimed her birthplace (Arunachal Pradesh) is “Chinese territory”, treating her documentation as “invalid”.
- India issued a **strong demarche** to China and condemned the incident as violating **international air travel conventions** and **China’s own 24-hour visa-free transit rule**.

2. India’s Official Position

- MEA reiterated that **Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India**, an “indisputable and self-evident fact”.
- India rejected China’s justification and said Beijing has “**failed to explain**” its actions legally or procedurally.
- Incident viewed as consistent with China’s political tactics to reinforce its territorial claims through **administrative harassment**.

3. China’s Response

- Chinese Foreign Ministry claimed the authorities acted “**as per law**”, denied allegations of harassment, and insisted that her “rights were protected”.
- China again asserted its claim over Arunachal Pradesh, calling it “**Zangnan/South Tibet**”.
- China Eastern Airlines also denied wrongdoing and highlighted that the traveller received food and rest.



4. Constitutional & Legal Provisions (UPSC Angle)

- Article 1**: Defines India as a Union of States, including all territories such as Arunachal Pradesh.
- Seventh Schedule – Union List**: External affairs, borders, and citizenship fall exclusively under the Union’s domain.
- Article 51(a)**: Promotes respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- Vienna Convention on Civil Aviation & International Air Transit Agreements**: Ensure safe, non-discriminatory transit rights for passengers.
- Passport Act, 1967**: Recognises Indian passport as valid for international travel; refusal by another country invites diplomatic protest.

5. Key Definitions

- Demarche**: A formal diplomatic protest issued by one government to another.
- Visa-Free Transit**: A policy allowing passengers in international transit zones to stay without a visa for a defined period (24 hours in China’s case).



- **Territorial Dispute:** Conflict over land ownership between states; here involving China's longstanding claim over Arunachal.
- **Consular Protection:** Duty of a nation to assist citizens abroad under international law.

6. Geopolitical Significance

- Incident reflects China's **assertive territorial posturing** in the India-China boundary dispute.
- Comes amid China's renewed claims on Arunachal and its pattern of **issuing stapled visas**, renaming places, and political signalling.
- Occurs shortly after China Eastern Airlines resumed its **Shanghai–Delhi route**, highlighting tension even during revived connectivity.
- Raises concerns of **racial profiling** and **political coercion** against Indian citizens born in border states.

Conclusion

The detention of an Arunachal-born Indian woman at Shanghai airport underscores China's continued use of administrative tools to advance its territorial claims. India's strong diplomatic pushback reiterates its sovereign position that Arunachal Pradesh is a legitimate and inseparable part of India. The incident highlights the intersection of geopolitics, citizen rights, and international civil aviation norms—and the need for robust consular vigilance.

UPSC Relevance

- **GS-2:** India–China relations, boundary disputes, consular protection, diplomatic mechanisms, international conventions.
- **GS-1:** Regional identity issues, political geography of India.
- **GS-3:** Internal security implications of border disputes.
- **Prelims:** Passport Act, demarche, visa-free transit rules, Zangnan, McMahon Line.
- **Essay:** Sovereignty, border disputes, citizen dignity, international law and diplomacy.