

## Lok Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025

Replacing the **Indian Ports Act, 1908**, the bill seeks to consolidate the law relating to ports in India.

### Key Highlights of the Bill

- **Establishment of Maritime State Development Council Boards:** By the **Central Government** with **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways** as the **ex-officio Chairperson**.
- **Statutory Recognition to State Maritime Boards:** Constituted by the **State Government** responsible for effective administration and management of non-major ports.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Mandates **State Governments** to establish **Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs)** to adjudicate disputes involving non-major ports with appeals to the High Court.
  - ⊕ No civil court shall have jurisdiction in matters under DRC.
- **Port Tariff:** Fixed by the **Board of Major Port Authority** or **Board of Directors** (for ports under **Companies Act, 2013**) in case of major ports.
  - ⊕ In case of **non-major ports**, the same is done by **State Maritime Boards**.
- **Notification of New Ports and Altering of Port Limits:** By the **Central Government** in consultation with **State Government**.
- **Mega Ports:** Empowers **Central Government**, in consultation with the State Government, to specify the **criteria for classification** of one or more port as a mega port.
- **Environmental & Safety Compliance:** In Compliance with international obligations like **MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)** and **Ballast Water Management Convention**.

### About Ports In India

- **Major Ports:** 12 Major Ports governed by the **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** under the administrative control of **Ministry of Shipping**.
- **Non-Major Ports:** 213 non-major ports managed by the **State Maritime Board / State Government**.

## Union Government tightens rules for OCI Card for serious Charges or Convictions

Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued the notification under **Section 7D of the Citizenship Act, 1955**.

### Key Highlights of the Notification

- OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) registration **can be revoked if** –
  - ⊕ an individual is **sentenced to at least two years in prison**; or
  - ⊕ **if a charge sheet** is filed against them for an offense **carrying a sentence of seven or more years** of imprisonment.

### About OCI Cards

- Introduced in **2005** through an **amendment in the Citizenship Act, 1955**.
  - ⊕ In **2015**, **Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme** was merged with **OCI**, and all **PIO cardholders** were deemed to be **OCI cardholders**.
- OCI is **not to be misconstrued** as '**Dual Citizenship**'. It **does not confer political rights**.
- **Ground for Cancellation of OCI registration:** Registration obtained by fraud; shows disaffection towards the Constitution of India; it is necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interests of the general public, etc.
- **Benefits for OCI Cardholders:**

### Eligibility for Registration as OCI

- All Foreign Nationals who:
  - ⊕ were citizens of India on January 26, 1950 or thereafter; or
  - ⊕ were eligible to become citizens of India on January 26, 1950; or
  - ⊕ who belonged to a territory that became part of India after August 15, 1947; or
  - ⊕ who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or
  - ⊕ who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India; or
  - ⊕ spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an OCI Cardholder, whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a period of not less than two years.
  - ⊕ **Exception:** who is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.

- ⊕ Multiple entries, multipurpose, life-long visa for visiting India, exempted from registration with Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India.
- ⊕ Entitled to general '**parity with Non-Resident Indians** in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields **except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties**'.

## IBC (Amendment) Bill, 2025 referred to a Select Committee of the Parliament

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025** seeks to reduce delays, maximise value for all stakeholders, and introduce new provisions that follow global best practices for resolving insolvency.

### Key Highlights of the Bill

#### ➤ Expediting Resolution and Reducing Delays

- ⊕ **Mandatory NCLT Timelines:** Mandate National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to admit an insolvency case within 14 days and approve a resolution plan within 30 days.
- ⊕ **Out-of-Court Creditor-Initiated Resolution:** To facilitate faster and more cost-effective insolvency resolution, with minimal business disruption and help ease the burden on judicial systems.

#### ➤ Maximizing Value and Protecting Stakeholder Interests

- ⊕ **Restoring Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP):** NCLT can restore CIRP once in exceptional cases if no resolution plan is approved or if a plan is rejected, given a request from the **Committee of Creditors (CoC)**.

#### ➤ Enhancing Governance and Compliance

- ⊕ **Group Insolvency Framework:** Introduces a "voluntary group insolvency framework" to facilitate joint resolution of stressed entities within a domestic corporate group, recognizing their interconnected nature.
- ⊕ **Cross-Border Insolvency Framework:** Proposes a basic structure for cross-border insolvency enabling easier access for creditors to overseas assets of stressed companies and aligning with international best practices.
- ⊕ **Clean Slate Principle Reinforcement:** Explicitly reinforces the "clean-slate principle," stating that once a resolution plan is approved, claims against the corporate debtor are extinguished (unless specified otherwise).

#### About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

- It is an **umbrella legislation for insolvency resolution of all entities** in India—both corporate and individuals.
- It addresses the **market imperfections and plugs the information asymmetries**, enabling the "freedom to exit" for commercial entities (through corporate insolvency resolution regimes) and entrepreneurs.
- It replaced the "debtor in possession" approach with a "creditor in control" regime for insolvency resolution.

## India imposes Port restriction on Import of certain Goods from Bangladesh

**Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** notified the restrictions under **Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992** and **Foreign Trade Policy, 2023**. **Recent Trade restrictions imposed by India on Bangladesh**

- **Restriction on readymade garments and jute:** India banned the entry of a certain range of readymade garments and jute items through land ports, leaving the Nhava Sheva port in Maharashtra.
- It also banned export by Bangladesh of fruits, processed food items, etc., via **the land ports of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura and Land Customs Stations**.
- In March 2025, India **revoked the transshipment facility under the 2020 agreement** which facilitated export of Bangladeshi goods through Indian **Land Customs Stations (LCSs)** to third countries.

#### Other irritants in India-Bangladesh Relationship

- **Increasing influence of China:** China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh nexus with first trilateral meeting in Kunming.
- **Political instability:** No elected government in Bangladesh since resignation of PM of Bangladesh in 2024.
- **Rising Radicalization and ill treatment of minorities in Bangladesh:** It could impact security of Bangladesh and India.
- **Internal Security Issues:** Illegal migrations from Bangladesh as well as from Myanmar (E.g., Rohingyas) have been causing conflicts especially in the Northeastern region.
- **River Water Dispute:** Absence of proper mechanism for sharing of waters. E.g., **Teesta**.

## India's Retail Inflation moderated to 8 year low of 1.55% in July, 2025

Measured by the **All India Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, it shows the **lowest year-on-year Inflation Rate** after June, 2017.

- Further, Year-on-year inflation rate based on **All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFFPI)** or **Food Inflation** stood at -1.76% in July 2025, lowest after January 2019.

#### Reason for the Decline

- **Favourable base effect:** Refers to the **impact of the corresponding reference year on current growth estimates**.
- **Decline in inflation:** In Items like Pulses and Products, Transport and Communication, Vegetables, Cereal and Products, Education, etc.

#### About CPI

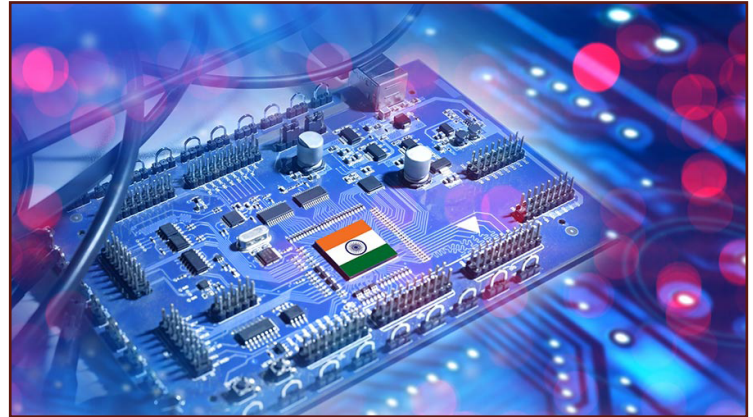
- **Meaning:** It is the **changes over time in general level of prices of goods and services** that households acquire for consumption.
- **Significance:** Widely used **macroeconomic indicator of inflation**, tool for **inflation targeting** by governments and central banks, **deflators in national accounts**, **indexing dearness allowance** to employees.
- **Published by:** **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** on **12th of every month**.
- **Components:** Includes 4 CPI numbers at the national level, namely:
  - ⊕ CPI for Industrial Workers (IW),
  - ⊕ CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL),
  - ⊕ CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and
  - ⊕ CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME).
- **Base Year for CPI:** 2012
- **Comparison with Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** WPI captures the inflation at the **wholesale level**, and differs with CPI in terms of their **weighting patterns**.
  - ⊕ **Food** has a larger weight in **CPI** while **fuel group** has greater weight in **WPI**.

## Union Cabinet approved Four Semiconductor Projects under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

Located in **Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh**, with the current approval, the total approved projects under ISM reaches **10 in 6 states**.

### About India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- **Approved:** In 2021 with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore.
- **Aim:** Provide **financial support** for investments in semiconductor fabrication, display manufacturing & chip design strengthening **India's integration into global electronics value chains**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **Mission focus of ISM**
  - ⊕ Set up **Chip Manufacturing Plants(fabs)**.
  - ⊕ **Create packaging and testing units**.
  - ⊕ **Supporting startups** in chip design.
  - ⊕ **Training young engineers**.
  - ⊕ Bring **Global companies** to Invest in India.
- **Key Schemes under ISM:**
  - ⊕ **Semiconductor Fabs Scheme:** Provides up to **50% fiscal support** for setting up semiconductor **Wafer Fabrication (fab) Units**.
  - ⊕ **Display Fabs Scheme:** Offers financial assistance of up to **50% of project cost** to set up display fabrication units.
  - ⊕ **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Promotes semiconductor **design startups and Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** by offering financial support across product development stages.
- **SEMICON India Programme:** Implemented through ISM, is a flagship event that brings together global industry leaders, policymakers, academia, startups and other stakeholders to drive **Innovation and Collaboration**.
- **Significance of the Mission:** Tap **India's rising Semiconductor Market** (Expected to reach **\$ 100-110\$ Billion by 2030**); **De-risk global supply chain and reduce dependence on countries** like Taiwan (producing more than 60% of world's semiconductors), China, USA, etc.



## Also in News



### Section 152 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

Supreme Court questioned if **"potential for abuse"** of **Section 152** of BNS can be used as a ground to declare the law unconstitutional.

- BNS, 2023 replaced the **Indian Penal Code, 1860**.

#### About Section 152 of BNS

- It covers acts **endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India**.
  - ⊕ As per this provision, if any person, **purposely or knowingly**, through **words, signs, visible representation**, etc., excites/ attempts to excite secession/armed rebellion/subversive activities shall be imprisoned for life or 7 years along with a fine.
- **Excludes:** Comments expressing **disapprobation of Government's measures** or **administrative action** to obtain their alteration by lawful means.



### Push and Pull Transactions

**National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** could shut down **'pull transactions'** in the future to curb frauds.

- Currently, **NPCI's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** allows both 'push' and 'pull' transactions.

#### About Push and Pull Transactions

- **Push Transactions:** Initiated by the **payer through scanning a QR code or entering beneficiary's UPI ID** to make a payment.
- **Pull Transactions:** Initiated by the **beneficiary**. Once the payer inputs the **personal identification number**, the transaction gets approved. E.g., Cheques, debit cards, etc.



### The Elders Group

The **Elders Group** of international stateswomen and statesmen, for the first time called the situation in Gaza an **"unfolding genocide"**.

#### About The Elders Group

- **Genesis:** Founded by **Nelson Mandela** in **2007** as an independent group of global leaders.
- **Vision:** A world where people live in **peace, enjoy justice, human rights and a sustainable planet**.
- **Mission:** Engage with global leaders through **private diplomacy and public advocacy**, to address existential threats, encourage ethical leadership.
- **The Advisory Council:** Comprises of donors and generous supporters of the group.
- **The Elder's Team:** Assists the group and is based in **London**.



### Ideonella sakaiensis

Researchers have identified bacteria **Ideonella sakaiensis**, which can degrade PET (**Polyethylene terephthalate**), most commonly used in bottles and food packaging.

#### About Ideonella Sakaiensis

- It is a **bacterium** which was discovered near a plastic bottle recycling facility in Japan.
- It **produces specialized enzymes** that break PET into its environmentally benign building blocks, which it then utilizes as a food source.
- **Significance:** It can be used for **developing efficient and scalable plastic biodegradation systems**, can help **promote circular economy**, etc.





### Short Transfer

CAG flags 'short transfer' of Rs 3.69 lakh cr in cess over decades by the government.

#### About Short transfer

- It refers to the failure to transfer the full amount of collected cess to designated reserve funds.
  - The largest transfer shortfall is of the **Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB)**, its purpose to develop the oil industry.
- Cesses are statutory levies** whose proceeds are earmarked for utilisation towards specific purposes.
- A number of cess/levy initially collected in the **Consolidated Fund of India** are transferred to designated funds specifically created for the purpose in the **Public Account**.



### APAAR ID

CBSE mandates schools to use 12-digit **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID** for Classes 9, 11 registration, and List of Candidates submission for 10, 12 ahead of 2026 board exams.

#### About APAAR ID

- Genesis:** Introduced in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** with an objective of 'One Nation, One Student ID'.
- Ministry:** Launched by the **Union Ministry of Education** for schools from the 2024-25 session.
- Aim:** To provide a unified and accessible academic experience for students across India, by assigning a unique and permanent **12-digit ID to every student**, consolidating their academic achievements in one place.



### Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive Zone (BESZ)

Supreme Court appointed panel warned against the **Char Dham all-weather road widening project** in the **Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone (BESZ)**.

#### About BESZ

- Notification:** By the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** in **2012** with subsequent amendment in **2018**.
- Coverage:** Area of 4179.59 sq. kilometre from **Gaumukh to Uttarakashi**.
- Zonal Master Plan (ZMP):** Mandates **Uttarakhand** Government, to prepare **ZMP** based on **watershed approach** and includes governance of key areas of forests and wildlife, etc.
- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ):** Notified by MoEF&CC under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** as "**Shock Absorber**" for the specialized Ecosystem like natural sites, protected areas, etc.



### SHRESTH Initiative

Union Health Ministry launched **State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH)**, a national initiative to benchmark and strengthen state Drug Regulatory Systems.

#### About SHRESTH

- Proposed by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**.
- Aim:** To drive **improvements in the performance of state Drug Regulatory Authorities** across India, **ensuring drug safety and quality standards** are consistently met.
- It will have Indices based on five key themes:** Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing Activities, Surveillance Activities and Responsiveness.



### Tato-II Hydroelectric Project

Recently, **Cabinet Committee** on Economic Affairs approved the construction of **Tato-II Hydro Electric Project (HEP)** in **Shi Yomi District** of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

#### About Tato-II Hydro Electric Project:

- Installed Capacity:** 700 MW (4 x 175 MW).
- Energy Produced:** 2738.06 MU of energy.
- Implemented through:** Joint Venture Company between **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO)** and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Other Hydroelectric Projects Of Arunachal Pradesh:** Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW), Kameng Hydro Power Station (600 MW), Heo Hydroelectric Project (240 MW), etc.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR