

## The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 Comes Into Effect

The **act provides powers to Central Government** to regulate the immigration, entry, and stay of foreigners in India.

- It **replaces four laws** – The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000.

### Key Highlights of Act

- Immigration Posts:** It empowers central government to notify designated immigration posts for entry into and exit from India.
- Bureau of Immigration:** It provides for setting up of Bureau of Immigration for performing immigration functions including **visa issuance and regulation of entry, transit, stay and movement within India.**
- Registration of Foreigners:** It requires foreigners to register with a Registration Officer upon their arrival in India.
- Reporting Obligation:** It requires information of foreigners from carriers landing in India, educational institutions admitting foreign students, and medical institutions treating foreign patients.
- Offences:** It penalises foreigners entering without **valid passport** or other travel documents with **imprisonment of up to five years, fine up to five lakh rupees, or both.**
- Power of Arrest:** It empowers police officers not below the rank of a Head Constable to arrest without warrant.
- Controlling Places Frequented by Foreigners:** Civil authority may direct closure of such premises, or refuse admission to such premises to all foreigners.

## Supreme Court considers revision of its judgement exempting Minority Institutions from Right to Education Act (RTE)

Matter has been referred to the **Chief Justice of India** to decide for reconsideration of Supreme Court's constitution bench judgement in **Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust Case 2014.**

- Judgement in **Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust Case** held that **RTE Act cannot be applied to minority educational institutions, whether aided or unaided**, as it infringes upon their **Article 30(1)** rights.
  - Article 30(1)** protects linguistic and religious minorities by giving them the right to establish and administer their own educational institutions.

### Observations of Court

- Implementation of RTE Act does **not erode the minority character protected under Article 30(1)** of the Indian Constitution and **Article 21A and Article 30(1) can and must co-exist mutually.**
  - Article 21A** guarantees **free and compulsory elementary education for all children** between the ages of 6 and 14 years.
- Exemption of minority institutions from the RTE Act leads to fragmentation of the common schooling vision and **weakening of the idea of inclusivity and universality** envisioned by Article 21A.
  - Court stated that RTE act does not mandate that **25% reservation to disadvantaged children** must be applied to different religious or linguistic community but can be **provided to children from minority community itself.**

### About Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009

- It makes **free and compulsory education a fundamental right** for all children between the **ages of 6 and 14.**
- It mandates private schools to **reserve 25% of seats for economically & socially disadvantaged children.**
- It provides that appropriate government would ensure that child belonging to disadvantaged group and weaker sections are **not prevented from completing elementary education on any grounds.**



## 25th Council of Heads of State Summit of the SCO Adopted Tianjin Declaration

This year's **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) Summit** was held at **Tianjin, China**.

### Key points from the declaration

#### ➤ Regional Conflicts and Non-Proliferation.

- ⊕ Rejected double standards in **counterterrorism efforts** and emphasized the importance of **global cooperation** to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists.
- ⊕ Condemned the terrorist attack in **Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam ( but did not make any reference to Pakistan)**
- ⊕ Condemns **military strikes by Israel and the United States** on Iran.

#### ➤ UN Reform: Adapting the UN to modern realities by enhancing developing countries' representation in its governing bodies.

#### ➤ Sustainable Development and Social Agenda:

- ⊕ **Supported equal rights for all countries** in the development and use of Artificial Intelligence.
- ⊕ Recognized India's global vision of **"One Earth, One Family, One Future,"** reaffirming the country's leadership in promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

**China's Initiatives to Expand SCO Influence:** SCO members can now use **China's BeiDou satellite system (GPS alternative)**; China pledged \$1.4B in loans over three years and proposed creating an SCO development bank.

#### ➤ China chaired the SCO plus summit, bringing together member states, observers, dialogue partners, honoured guests, and heads of major international organisations.

### Indian PM Statement at the Summit

Stated that the SCO is built on three key pillars: **security (Security of the Region)**, **connectivity (Revolutionizing SCO as a 'connectivity' hub)**, and **opportunity (Nourishing Mutual Opportunities)**.

### About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **HQ:** Beijing, China
- **Genesis:** In 2001 at the Shanghai Summit by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Members:** 10 member countries, 2 observer states and 15 dialogue partners (Laos as latest).
- **Official Language:** Russian and Chinese.
- **Structure:**
  - ⊕ **The Council of Heads of States:** Apex decision-making body
  - ⊕ **Council of Heads of Governments:** Second-highest council
  - ⊕ **Two Permanent Bodies:** The Secretariat in Beijing (China) and the Regional AntiTerrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

## Centre Notifies Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2025

The central government has powers under **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980**, and amended existing 2023 rules.

### Key Highlights

- **Streamlined Approval Process:** Extended in-principle approval **validity from 2 to 5 years** with provisions for **offline applications** in defense, national importance, and emergency projects.
  - ⊕ **Clear definitions** for Stage-I (in-principle) and Stage-II (final) approvals.
- **Enhanced Compensatory Afforestation:** Introduced **land banking systems** and allowed existing **central scheme afforestation** to meet compensatory requirements.
  - ⊕ States can transfer forest land to **Forest Departments after Stage-I approval**.
- **Strategic Resource Management:** Added special provisions for **critical mineral mining with reduced minimum land use duration from 20 to 10 years**.
- **Strengthened Enforcement:** Expanded forest officers' authority to **initiate legal proceedings with enhanced monitoring** and reporting requirements.

### Evolution of the Forest (Conservation) Act

- **Pre-1980:** Forests were a State subject, thus **large-scale diversion of forest land** for agriculture, industry, mining, etc.
  - ⊕ **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)** shifted forests from the **State List to Concurrent List**,
- **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:** Check deforestation by **centralising the process** of forest land diversion.
- **1988 Amendment:** Regulated leasing of **forest land to private entities**.
- **Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023:** Aimed at balancing development, **ecological protection** and aligns with **climate goals**.

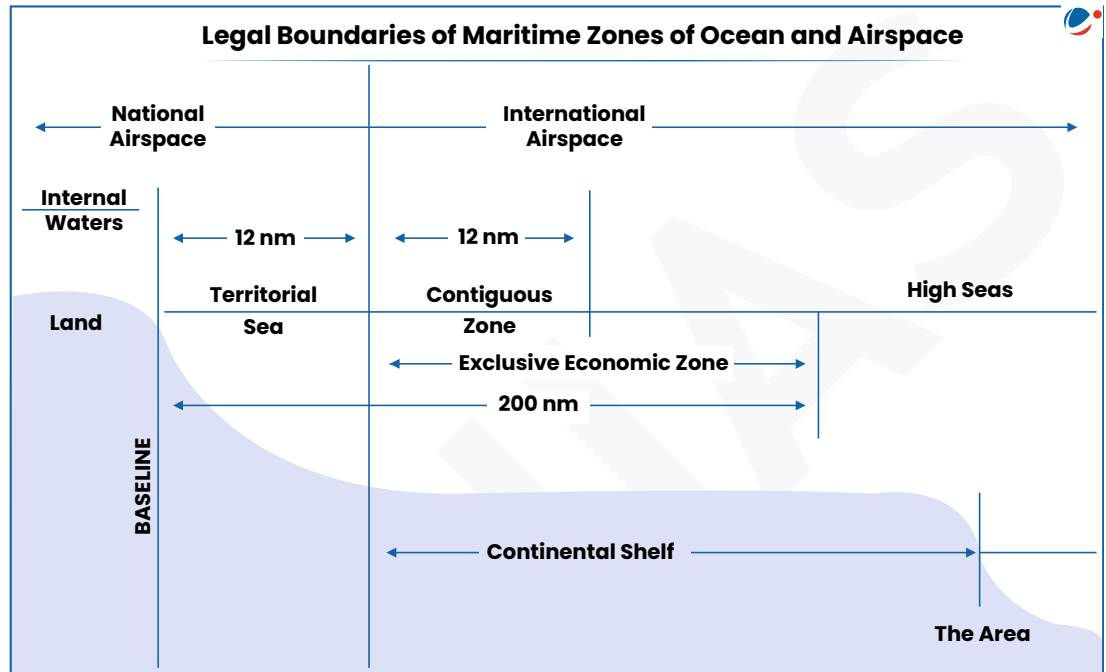


## Marine Biodiversity Treaty's Preparatory Commission concluded its Second Session

Marine Biodiversity Treaty is formally known as the **Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)**.

### About BBNJ Agreement

- **Adopted in 2023** by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction convened under the auspices of the United Nations.
  - ⊖ It becomes **third implementing agreement to UNCLOS**, in addition to 1994 Part XI Implementation Agreement and 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- **Objective:** Ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of **areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)**.
  - ⊖ ABNJ, **often referred to as the High Seas**, are global common oceans open to all for purposes such as navigation, overflight, laying submarine cables, pipelines, etc.
- Applicable to High Seas and the Area, it addresses **four main issues**:
  - ⊖ **Marine genetic resources**, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
  - ⊖ Measures such as **area-based management tools**, including marine protected areas.
  - ⊖ **Environmental impact assessments**.
  - ⊖ **Capacity-building** and the transfer of marine technology.
- It establishes a **funding mechanism** and sets up institutional arrangements, including a **Conference of the Parties**, a **Clearing-House Mechanism** and a **Secretariat**.
- **India signed the agreement** but is **yet to ratify**.



## Also in News



### PRATUSH

PRATUSH is being developed by a team from **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**.

- RRI is an autonomous institute funded by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

### About PRATUSH

- PRATUSH stands for **Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen**.
- It is a **future radiometer** in lunar orbit.
- **Purpose:** It will reveal, for the first time, the history of our Universe as it transformed after the Big Bang.
  - ⊖ This can help detect a faint radio signal emitted from hydrogen atoms, which carries imprints of several events of the Cosmic Dawn.



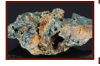
### Adi Vaani

The Beta version of Adi Vaani launched by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.

### About Adi Vaani

- It is India's first **AI-powered translation platform for tribal languages**.
- It is developed under **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh** to bridge communication gaps between tribal and non-tribal communities.
- At the Beta launch stage, it **supports Santali (Odisha), Bhili (Madhya Pradesh), Mundari (Jharkhand), and Gondi (Chhattisgarh)**, with Kui and Garo under development.
- The initiative will support **digitization of endangered languages**, improve access to education, healthcare and governance in native languages, facilitate tribal entrepreneurship, and serve as a knowledge resource for researchers.





### Jarosite

Researchers dated **Jarosite discovered in Matanomadh in Kutch, Gujarat**, to be around 55 million years old.

- Jarosite is a **yellow-coloured iron-rich sulphate mineral**, similar to those discovered on Mars in 2004, during **NASA's Opportunity mission** to Mars.
- **On Earth**, it is formed when some **minerals containing oxygen, iron, sulphur, and potassium interact** in the right quantities in the presence of water.
  - ⊕ Jarosite formation is **typically associated with volcanic activity**.
- Presence of jarosite on Earth offers clues on **evolution of chemicals and minerals on Mars**.



### Niveshak Didi

The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**, launched Phase II of its flagship financial literacy initiative – Niveshak Didi.

- The initiative is aimed at **deepening financial awareness and empowering rural communities**, particularly women.

#### About IEPFA

- It was established by the Government of India under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act, 2013**.
- It aims to promote **investor education, awareness, and protection**.
- **Its functions are** Administration of IEPF, make refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures, etc.



### Yudh Abhyas

Indian Army contingent is participating in the **21st edition of India-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas**.

- Since 2004, this Joint Military Exercise has been held annually between **India and USA militaries**.
- It will focus on UN peacekeeping operations and enhancing readiness for multi-domain challenges.



### Senna Spectabilis

Kerala carried out India's first science-based, community-driven eradication of **Senna Spectabilis in Wayanad**.

#### About Senna Spectabilis

- It is an **invasive species** and forms dense, sterile thickets, **choking out native plants, altering soil chemistry and depriving herbivores of food**.
- It is a tree with a very **dense, spreading crown** and can grow 7 - 18 metres tall.
- It resembles **Kerala's state flower** Cassia fistula, known locally as kanikkonna.
- It is **native to American tropics**.



### Solar Energetic Electrons (SEE)

Recently, Solar Orbiter (SO) space probe, a joint project **by NASA and European Space Agency** has traced the origin of Solar Energetic Electrons (SEE).

#### About SEE

- These are **electrons created in the Sun** before being thrown into space at nearly the speed of light.
- There are **two kinds of SEE** –
  - ⊕ one connected to **intense solar flares** (explosions from smaller patches of Sun's surface), and
  - ⊕ one to **Coronal Mass Ejections - CMEs** (larger eruptions of hot gas from the Sun's atmosphere).
- It helps in **understanding space weather**, which has Implications such as disrupting satellite communication and GPS navigation, and interrupting power supply.

## Place in News



### Afghanistan (Kabul)

Over 800 killed, 2,500 injured as strong earthquake strikes in **Kunar Province of Afghanistan**.

#### Political Features

- It is a **landlocked mountainous country in Southern Asia**.
- Often referred to as the **"Gateway to Asia"**.
- **Bordering Countries:** Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, Iran to west, Pakistan to the southeast, India and China to the northeast.

#### Geographical Features

- **Major Rivers:** Amu Darya, Helmand river, Kabul River
- **Highest Point:** Mt. Nowshak
- **Mountain Ranges:** Hindu Kush, Pamir Mountains in the Northeast and Safed Koh range in the South.
- **Climate:** The country experiences a continental climate, characterized by hot summers and cold winters.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



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