

## 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit held in New Delhi

The Summit also marked the **25th anniversary of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership (2000)** between India and Russia.

- The partnership was formally elevated to a **"Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership"** in 2010.

### Key Outcomes of the Summit

- **Economic Programme 2030:** Leaders adopted the **"Programme for the Development of Strategic Areas of India-Russia Economic Cooperation till 2030"** to diversify trade beyond energy and defence.
- **Trade Target:** Both sides set a **goal of \$100 billion bilateral trade by 2030** (from \$68.7 billion in 2024-25).
  - ⊕ **Fast-tracked FTA negotiations** between **India and the Eurasian Economic Union** to ease goods and services flow.
- **Payment Mechanisms:** Agreed to **expand bilateral settlements in national currencies**, with **interoperability of payment systems and central bank digital currencies** to reduce reliance on Western systems.
- **Energy:** Russia committed to **uninterrupted oil and gas supplies and continued support for India's civil nuclear programme** (Kudankulam, small modular reactors).
- **Defence and Security:** Focus on **joint R&D, co-production** (supporting Make in India), **military exercises, and technology transfer**.
- **Connectivity and Logistics:** Enhanced cooperation on **INSTC, Chennai-Vladivostok Corridor, and Northern Sea Route**.
  - ⊕ Signed MoU on **Training of Specialists for Ships Operating in Polar Waters**, to boost Arctic collaboration.
- **Cooperation in International Fora:** Russia formally joined the **India-led International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**.
- **People to People Ties:** MoUs on **migration and mobility** for skilled Indian workers, **30-day visa-free e-tourist entry for Russian citizens**, etc.

## Delhi High Court rejected the patent infringement suit against Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL)

High court refused to grant Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk an interim injunction against DRL over semaglutide.

- Semaglutide, patented by Novo Nordisk in India, is an **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)** used in treating Type 2 diabetes and obesity.
  - ⊕ API is the chemical in a medicine that produces the intended therapeutic effect.
- Novo Nordisk markets its **anti-diabetic and weight-loss drugs** as **Ozempic and Wegovy**.
- Court highlighted that Novo Nordisk's two patents on minor variations of the semaglutide could amount to **evergreening**.

### About Evergreening of Patents

- Generally, patents have a maximum life of 20 years, and evergreening is a strategy used to **prolong patent monopolies by making minor changes** to existing patented compounds.
- **Not Medications:** Includes **new forms, salts, isomers, polymorphs, dosages**, or delivery systems in drugs that do not improve therapeutic value.
- **Legal Provisions:**
  - ⊕ **Patents Act, 1970 (Section 3(d)):** Expressly **prohibits patents on new forms or derivatives** of known substances unless they demonstrate **significantly enhanced therapeutic efficacy**, thereby limiting evergreening practices.
  - ⊕ **Patentability Standards:** Mandate **strict tests of novelty and inventive step**, under which trivial modifications or obvious variants of existing drugs are not eligible for patent protection.
  - ⊕ **TRIPS and Doha Declaration Flexibilities:** India's framework remains **TRIPS-compliant while using public-health flexibilities under the Doha Declaration** to curb unjustified secondary patents and ensure access to **affordable generics**.



## Private Members Bill on 'Right to Disconnect' moved in the Lok Sabha

The Bill aims to establish an **Employees' Welfare Authority** to confer the **right** on every **employee** to **disconnect** from work-related calls and e-mails **beyond work hours and on holidays**.

➤ A **Private Members' Bill** is a Bill introduced by a **Member of Parliament (MP)** other than a Minister.

**What is Right to Disconnect?**

- Right to Disconnect is a **legal protection** allowing **workers** to **disconnect** from **work** and ignore work-related electronic communications **during non-work hours**.
- **Based on Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):** 'Everyone has the **right to rest and leisure**, including **reasonable limitation of working hours** and **periodic holidays with pay**.'

**Need for Right to Disconnect**

- **Work-related stress:** Constant availability in the digital age **causes high stress, sleep deprivation, and mental exhaustion**.
- **Productivity Decline:** E.g. Studies show productivity drops when working **over 50 hours per week**.
- **Socio-psychological impact:** Overwork **harms work-life balance, social relationships** (e.g. isolation),
  - ⊕ E.g. Ernst & Young employee's death in Pune due to overwork in 2024.
- **Constitutional Basis:**
  - ⊕ **Article 21: Right to Life and Liberty and dignity.**
  - ⊕ **Article 39(e):** State to ensure that **health and strength of workers** are not abused.
  - ⊕ **Article 42:** State's responsibility to ensure **just and humane working conditions**.

### Global Case Studies

- **France's El Khomri Law (2017):** First country to formally recognise right to disconnect.
- **Australia's 2024 Amendment to Fair Work Legislation:** Allows employees to ignore after-hours communications without fear of being penalized, unless the refusal is deemed **unreasonable** (e.g., in an emergency).





## Artificial Intelligence will not take over the judicial administration process in India: Supreme Court

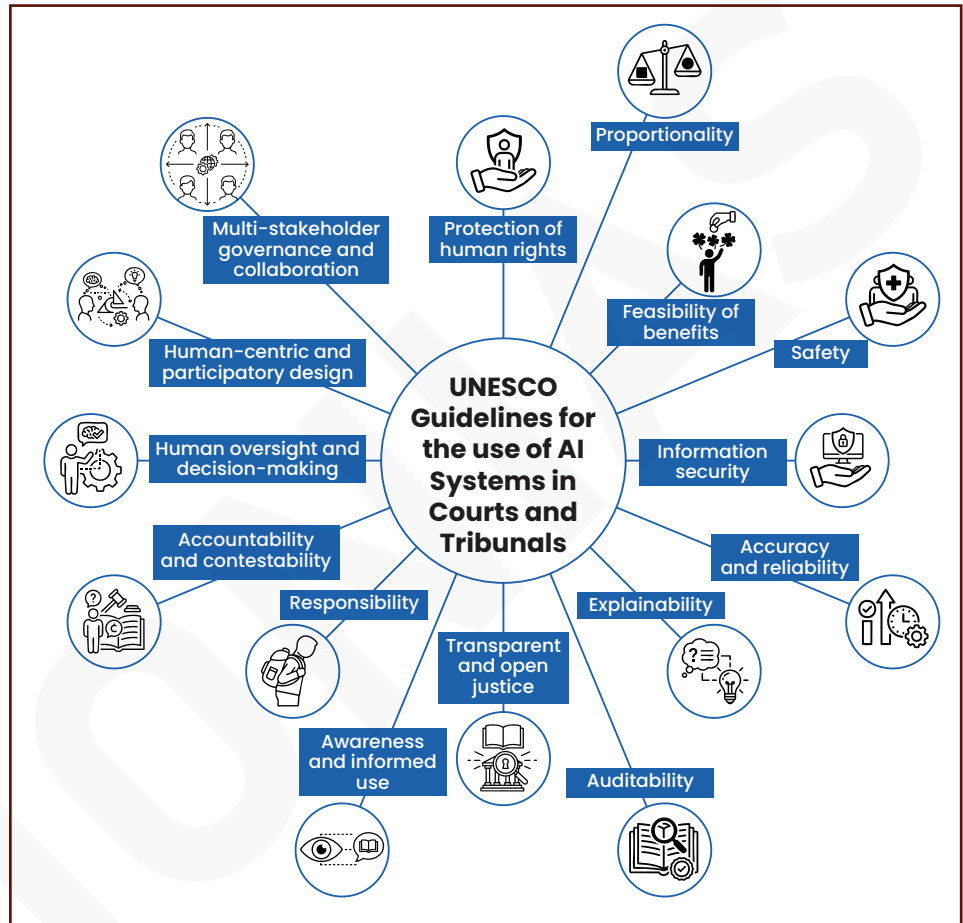
While hearing a PIL seeking guidelines to check misuse of AI in courts, Supreme Court observed that judges are very conscious about the risks emanating from the indiscriminate use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in judicial work.

### Concerns with AI use in Judiciary

- **Hallucinations:** GenAI could create hallucinations, resulting in fictitious judgments and research material.
  - ⌚ For instance, in UK's high court, lawyers submitted AI-generated legal arguments containing citations to non-existent cases.
- **Disparate Treatment:** Improper development or use of AI can result in disparate treatment between individuals or groups and may work to perpetuate bias.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Lack of algorithmic transparency may make it difficult in understanding rationale and fairness of decisions.

### Integration of AI in Judiciary

- **Access to Justice:** AI is supporting delivery of and access to legal services by facilitating initial consultations through chatbots and virtual assistants.
- **Improving Productivity:** AI facilitates judicial systems in identifying genuine appeal cases, provide automated transcription and helps in understanding case laws.
  - ⌚ For instance, Brazil's VICTOR AI system automates examination of appeals to Supreme Court.
- **Clearing Judicial Backlog:** AI automates routine administrative tasks related to case management, offers predictive analytics and supporting legal research.
  - ⌚ For instance, in Greece, AI facilitates automated document processing for faster case disposal.



### Also In News



#### UMEED Portal

The Union Minister informed that **delayed registration of Waqf properties on UMEED Portal** will not be penalized for the next 3 months.

#### About UMEED Portal (Ministry of Minority Affairs)

- UMEED stands for **Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995**.
- It is a **centralized digital platform** for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of **Waqf properties**.
- **Key Features:**
  - ⌚ Creation of a **digital inventory with geo-tagging** of all Waqf properties
  - ⌚ **Online grievance redressal** system.
  - ⌚ **Transparent leasing and usage** tracking.
  - ⌚ Integration with **GIS mapping and other e-Governance tools**.
  - ⌚ **Public access** to verified records and reports.



#### Health Security to National Security Cess Bill

Lok Sabha passes the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill 2025 to mobilise additional fiscal resources for strengthening defence preparedness, public-health systems, and national security.

#### Key Features of The Bill

- Introduced to create a **clear legal framework for a special excise cess**.
- Introduces a **capacity-based excise cess** on machinery/processes used to manufacture specified goods, initially **pan masala**.
- Cess proceeds will support **national security and public health** via the Consolidated Fund of India.



## Finfluencers

SEBI has barred a prominent finfluencer from securities markets for illegal gains from unregistered services.

### About Finfluencers

- They are a breed of social media influencers who act as financial advisors and post content on investment, personal finance, mutual funds etc. on various social media platforms.

### SEBI's Guidelines under 2013 Investment Advisers Regulations

- Mandatory registration:** Anyone providing investment advice must register with SEBI as a Research Analyst (RA) or Investment Advisor (IA).
- Unregistered finfluencers cannot provide investment advice or make performance claims about securities.



## Ex Harimau Shakti

The armies of India and Malaysia have commenced the 5th edition of joint military exercise 'Harimau Shakti' in Rajasthan.

### About Harimau Shakti Exercise

- It is an annual bilateral exercise, conducted alternately in India and Malaysia.
- The exercise aims to jointly rehearse Sub-Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate, with a focus on coordinated counter-terrorist operations.



## Goldilocks Economy

RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%, signalling a rare Goldilocks period in the economy.

### What is Goldilocks Economy?

- Definition:** A Goldilocks economy represents an ideal economic condition where there is balanced growth, low inflation, and full employment, without overheating or slipping into a recession.
- Indicators:** Latest data show projected GDP growth of 7.3%, paired with benign inflation around 2%, reflecting Goldilocks-like conditions.



## Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has provided relaxation in the Flight Duty Time Limit (FDTL) Regulations for IndiGo amidst widespread flight cancellations due to pilot shortages.

### About DGCA (HQ: New Delhi)

- It is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with
  - Safety issues, regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and
  - Enforcement of civil air regulations and airworthiness standards.
- Ministry:** It is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

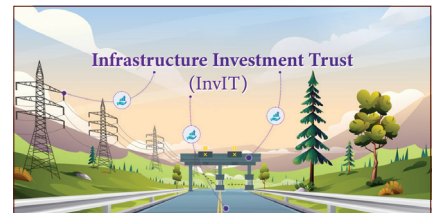


## Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) receives SEBI's In-Principle approval for registration of Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).

### About InvIT

- InvITs are Collective Investment Scheme similar to a mutual fund, that allow investors to invest in infrastructure projects (E.g. toll roads, power transmission lines etc.).
- InvITs are created by sponsors (infrastructure companies or private equity firms) who transfer ownership of underlying assets to a Trust.
- The Trust issues units to the investors.
- InvITs are regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.
- SEBI requires InvITs to distribute at least 90% of their income to investors.



## Place in News



## Oman (Capital: Muscat)

14th round of India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group meeting takes place in Muscat, Oman

### Political Features

- A member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), it is the oldest independent state in the Arab world.
- Bordering Countries:** It is bounded by Yemen (South-west), United Arab Emirates (North-west), and Saudi Arabia (West).
- Maritime Boundaries:** Arabian Sea (South and East) and Gulf of Oman (North).

### Geographical Features

- Desert:** Rub al-Khali (Empty Quarter) desert.
- Mountain Ranges:** Hajar and Dhofar.
- Natural Resources:** Petroleum, Copper, Asbestos, Limestone, Natural Gas etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI