

## Dowry eradication urgent constitutional, social necessity: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court passed a slew of directions in the case of State Of U.P. V. Ajmal Beg to tackle dowry evil & enforce prohibition through the Dowry Prohibition Act (DPA).

### Directions of Supreme Court

- **Appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers (DPOs):** Provide them necessary resources and disseminate DPO contact details.
  - ⌚ DPOs are government officials appointed by State Governments **under India's Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.**
- **Expeditious Disposal of Pending Cases:** High Courts are requested to **take stock of the number of cases** dealing with **Section 304-B (dowry death)** and **Section 498-A (cruelty)** of IPC for disposal.
- **Training for Officials:** Police and judicial officers should **periodically receive training** ensuring sensitivity toward genuine cases while identifying those that may be frivolous.
- **Other:** Running of Grassroots Awareness Programs by district administration, change in education curriculum for awareness about this evil practice etc.

### Dowry in India

- **Definition:** As per the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, dowry is "any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly, by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage, at or before or any time after the marriage".
- **Cases registered under dowry related crimes:** Saw a 14% increase in 2023, with more than 15,000 cases recorded across the country and over 6,100 deaths reported through the year (NCRB).

#### Steps taken to curb dowry

- **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** Provides for punishment of imprisonment for not less than 5 years and fine for giving/taking dowry.
- **National Commission for Women (NCW):** Reviews laws to make them more stringent and Investigates complaints of dowry harassment.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS):** Section 304-B of IPC or (Section 80 of BNS) covers Dowry death.
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Enacted to protect women from domestic violence.

## Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 introduced in Lok Sabha

The purpose of the Bill is to empower Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) of India to achieve excellence through effective coordination and advancing NEP 2020 vision.

### Key Provisions of the Bill

- It provides for repealing University Grants Commission(UGC) Act, 1956, All India Council for Technical Education(AICTE) Act, 1987 and National Council for Teacher Education(NCTE) Act, 1993.
- **Constitution of Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA):** New umbrella commission to regulate higher education in India, replacing existing bodies like the UGC, AICTE, and NCTE.
  - ⌚ President and Members of the Commission (not more than 12), other than the ex officio Members and Member Secretary of the Commission, shall be **appointed by President of India.**
- **Coverage:** All higher educational institutions under the purview of the Ministry of Education, UGC, AICTE, NCTE etc. will be under the purview of VBSA for determination of standards.
- **Formation of three Councils under VBSA:** Viksit Bharat Shiksha Viniyaman Parishad (Regulatory Council), Viksit Bharat Shiksha Gunvatta Parishad (Accreditation Council) and Viksit Bharat Shiksha Manak Parishad (Standards Council).
- **Council of Architecture (CoA):** Established under the Architects Act, 1972 shall function as a Professional Standard Setting Body (PSSB) as envisioned in the NEP, 2020.
- **Funding:** It is proposed to keep the funding to the centrally funded higher educational institutes out of the purview of the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan.
- **Significant enhancement of enforcement powers:** Regulatory Council can impose penalties for violations ranging from not less than ₹10 lakh to up to ₹2 crore.

## India's Imperative to Fortify Biosecurity

Biosecurity refers to the **set of practices and systems** designed to deter the intentional misuse of **biological agents, toxins or technologies**.

### Why India needs Biosecurity?

- **Agriculture & Food Security Risk:** Dependence on agriculture and livestock makes India vulnerable to agro-terrorism and bio-sabotage.
- **Geographical:** Porous and maritime borders risk cross-border movement of pathogens and invasive species.
- **Non-State Actor Threats:** Access to low-cost toxins (like ricin) increase risk of asymmetric biological warfare.
- **Biotechnology Proliferation:** New-age biotech tools increase the risk of misuse and accidental leaks.
- **Public Health:** Biosecurity incidents can cripple healthcare systems. E.g. Zoonotic spill-over of diseases

### Way Forward

#### ➤ **Legislative and Regulatory Framework:**

- ⌚ India needs a **dedicated biosecurity law** addressing modern threats E.g. dual-use dilemma
- ⌚ **Global models** integrate health, defence, and biotech oversight. E.g. US National Biodefense Strategy, Australia's Biosecurity Act.
- **Nodal biosecurity agency:** Streamline Interagency coordination across health, agriculture, and defence ministries.
- **Research and Development:** Focus on defence-oriented virology, vaccines, and bio-threat mitigation.
- **New-age Biodefence technologies:** E.g. Microbial forensics, social media surveillance.

#### Initiatives

##### Global

- **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) (1975):** Legally binding international treaty banning biological weapons.
- **Australia Group:** Informal international forum to coordinate export controls, preventing spread of chemical and biological weapons.

##### India

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** Governs hazardous microorganisms and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- **Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005:** Criminalizes biological weapons.
- **Others:** Biosafety Rules (1989), National Disaster Management Authority Guidelines on Biological disasters.

## Global Value Chain (GVC) Development Report 2025

The report titled '**Rewiring GVCs in a Changing Global Economy**' is a joint publication of Asian Development Bank (ADB), WTO, World Economic Forum etc.

- **GVCs** refers to a **production sequence** for a final consumer good, with each stage **adding value** and at least 2 stages taking place in **different countries**.

### Key Highlights of the Report

- **Globalization Rewiring, Not Reversal:** Due to factors like technological change, green transition and shifting geopolitical conditions, showing **resilience** of GVCs.
  - ⌚ **Global Share of GVC** in trade is **46.3%**, declining marginally from 2022 peak of 48%.
- **Rise of services and Digital trade:** **Services surpassed goods** in GVC participation, accounting for more than **one-third** of the value added in manufacturing exports.
  - ⌚ **India** strengthened its integration in GVCs due to its robust growth in **digital services exports**.
- **Dominance of Regional Hubs:** **Asia, Europe, and North America** account for majority of GVC trade while, **Latin America and Africa lag** in GVC and trade integration.
- **Emerging trends:**
  - ⌚ **Reshoring** in China, US, EU reduced their **dependence on foreign value addition**.
  - ⌚ **Diversification** of manufacturing despite **China's dominance**. E.g. China accounts for 76.9% of global EV production.
- **India:** Among **top 10 value adding economies** and accounts for **2.8% of global domestic value added in exports (2024)**.

#### Significance of GVCs

- **Reduced Poverty:** 1% increase in GVC participation is estimated to boost per capita income levels by twice as much as conventional trade. (World Bank)
- **Employment Creation:** Especially Labour intensive and female-driven jobs. E.g. GVC-oriented export apparel sector in Bangladesh.
- **Others:** Economic growth, increased productivity and specialization, promotes trade competitiveness and market access.

## Also In News



### Ekam AI and SAMBHAV

The Indian Army showcased Ekam AI and SAMBHAV as part of the Vijay Diwas.

#### About Ekam AI

- A fully indigenous and **secure artificial intelligence platform** designed for sensitive environments.
- It enables users to **analyse information, manage documents, and support decision-making** without dependence on foreign software or external cloud systems.

#### About SAMBHAV

- A portable communication system that **provides mobile connectivity using satellite support**.
- The system can be **deployed quickly in remote or disaster-affected areas**, improving communication for both soldiers and civilians.



### UN Alliance of Civilization

UN Alliance of Civilizations marks two decades of bridging divides.

#### About UN Alliance of Civilization

- **Secretariat:** New York.
- **Origin:** Launched in 2005 together by the Republic of Türkiye, and Spain.
- **Objective:** Maintains a global network of partners including states, international and regional organizations, civil society groups etc. **to improve cross-cultural relations between diverse nations and communities** to reduce polarization and conflict.



### Exercise Ekatha 2025

Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff is on an official visit to Maldives to attend the closing ceremony of 8th edition of Exercise Ekatha 2025.

#### About Exercise Ekatha 2025

- Established in 2017, it is an **annual bilateral maritime exercise** between **Indian Navy and Maldives National Defence Force**.
- 8th edition of the exercise witnessed extensive professional interactions aimed at enhancing interoperability and operational synergy.



### Petra & Ellora Caves

**India and Jordan** signed a twinning agreement between **UNESCO Heritage sites of Petra & Ellora Caves** renowned for their rock cut architecture.

#### About Ellora caves

- **Location** - Charanandri hills, Maharashtra near Elaganga river.
- **Origin** - Carved between **600-1000 CE** predominantly by the Rashtrakuta and yadava dynasty.
- **Architecture** - **Rock cut** caves carved into basalt cliffs from top to down.
- **Religion** - Houses Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain monuments side-by-side, illustrating the religious tolerance.
  - ⊕ It also houses mural paintings related to all 3 religions.

#### About Petra caves

- Petra also known as **Rose City** due to its **pink sandstone cliffs** was the capital of the **Nabataean Kingdom** starting around 4th century BCE.
- It is half-built, half-carved into the rock, and is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges.



### Central Information Commission (CIC)

Recently, Raj Goyal assumed the charge as Chief Information Commissioner.

#### About CIC

- **Genesis:** Statutory body under Right to Information Act, 2005.
- **Composition:** Headed by a Chief Information Commissioner and can have up to 10 ICs.
- **Function:** To receive and inquire into complaints from any citizen regarding RTI act, etc.
- **Appointment:** CICs And ICs are appointed by President on recommendation of a committee consisting of
  - ⊕ PM (Chairperson),
  - ⊕ Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha,
  - ⊕ Union Cabinet Minister nominated by PM.
- **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019:** Terms of office, salaries, allowances, and other conditions of service shall be determined by the central **government**.





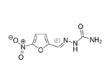


## National Energy Conservation Award

**Chandigarh** secured first position in the National Energy Conservation Award (NECA) 2025 for efforts in **energy conservation and efficiency**.

### About National Energy Conservation Award

- The awards are given annually by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** under the **Ministry of Power** to recognise outstanding achievements in energy efficiency.
- Conferred based on the **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)**.
  - ⊕ **SEEI** is a comprehensive national assessment framework developed by **BEE** in collaboration with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (**AEEE**).
  - ⊕ It evaluates **state/UT's energy efficiency** across buildings, industry, transport, and municipal sectors through policy implementation and outcomes.



## Nitrofurans

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) directed its regional offices to collect samples of **eggs** for testing the presence of **nitrofurans residues**.

### About Nitrofurans

- Nitrofurans are a class of **broad-spectrum antibiotics**. E.g. furazolidone, nitrofurazone.
- They commonly used as **veterinary drugs** for **antibacterial and anti-inflammatory** purposes.
- However, they are **banned for use in food-producing animals** in India.
- **Concerns:** Genotoxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic, residues may persist even after cooking.



## Cho La and Dok La Passes

**Chola and Dok La passes in Sikkim** are opened for **battlefield tourism** under the **Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan initiative**.

- Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan is a joint initiative of **Indian Army** and **Ministry of Tourism**, for citizens to visit **historic war zones and sites of military significance**.

### About the Passes

#### ➤ Cho La Pass:

- ⊕ **Location:** **Chola range** of Eastern Himalayas, 17782 ft. above the sea.
  - **Nathu La and Jelep La** passes are also situated in Chola range.
- ⊕ Connects **Sikkim and Chumbi Valley**.
- ⊕ It was site of **1967 Indo-China skirmishes**.

#### ➤ Doka La (Doklam) Pass:

- ⊕ **Location:** East Sikkim, on the edge of the **Doklam plateau**, near the **tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China**.
- ⊕ It was the site of the **2017 border standoff** between India and China.



## DHRUV64

India launches **DHRUV64 microprocessor**.

### About DHRUV64

- It is **first 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core first fully indigenous** microprocessor.
- ⊕ **Microprocessors** are the brains of modern electronic devices such as mobiles, computers, etc.
- **Developed by:** The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**) under the **Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP)**.
- **Other microprocessors developed by India:** SHAKTI (2018, IIT Madras), AJIT (2018, IIT Bombay), VIKRAM (2025, ISRO-SCL), and THEJAS64 (2025, C-DAC).
  - ⊕ The next-generation **Dhanush and Dhanush+** processors are under development.
- **Significance:** India consumes around 20% of all the microprocessors manufactured globally.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



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