



## Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) prevented ₹660 Crore Cyber Fraud Losses

FRI was introduced by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to combat cyber fraud and financial crime.

### About Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

- A risk-assessment tool to identify mobile numbers potentially involved in financial fraud.
- It is a multi- dimensional analytical tool developed as part of the **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**.
- **Mechanism:** Classification of numbers into risk categories: **Medium, High, or Very High**, using inputs from banks, telecom service providers, law-enforcement agencies, and citizen reports.
- **Utility:** Enables banks and financial institutions to generate early alerts, apply enhanced due diligence and prevent fraudulent transactions.

### About Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)

- A secure, real-time data-sharing platform connecting telecom operators, banks, fintech entities and government agencies.
- **Coverage:** Onboarding of a large number of financial institutions for coordinated cyber fraud detection.
  - ⊕ It has about **1000+** organizations that include central security agencies, 36 State/UT Police, banks, financial institutions, Social media platforms like WhatsApp, etc.
- **Utility:** Faster intelligence exchange to detect and disrupt misuse of telecom identifiers.

### TYPES OF KEY CYBER FRAUDS



#### PIG BUTCHERING

Pig Butchering is a scam where victims are lured into fake relationships or job offers. Once trust is built, scammers defraud them through fake investments or financial requests.



#### PHANTOM HACKING

Phantom hacking is a cyber scam where fraudsters impersonate government or tech support officials and falsely claim that a victim's device or bank account has been hacked, tricking them into transferring money to a "safe" account - which is actually controlled by the scammer.



#### INSTANT LOAN APPS

Online instant loan scams trick users with quick loan offers via apps, then exploit their data and harass them for repayment through blackmail or threats - often without ever disbursing the promised loan.

### Other Key Initiatives taken to prevent Cyber Fraud

- **Legal Initiatives:** E.g., Information Technology Act, 2000
- **Institutional Initiatives:** E.g., Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C): Central platform under MHA for coordination, investigation support, and capacity building against cybercrime.
  - ⊕ I4C has launched **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System**.
- **Sanchar Sarrthi Initiative:** Empowers mobile subscribers and increase awareness with features like **Chakshu** (Report Suspected Fraud Communications).
- **Other:** Samanvaya Platform (strengthens cyber fraud investigations by providing analytics-based interstate linkages of criminals and crimes), etc.



## NITI Aayog Releases Report on 'Internationalisation of Higher Education in India'

A central pillar of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, internationalisation focuses on transforming India's domestic higher education ecosystem into a **globally integrated system** via;

- Enhanced **international students and faculty ratio** in Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs),
- Presence of **local campuses of top global institutions** in India,
- **Expansion of Indian HEIs** outside India, etc.

**Why India needs internationalisation of its higher education?**

- **Outward remittances:** Increased by over **2,000%** in a decade, reaching nearly **USD 3.4 billion** in 2023–24 (~ **53% of India's Union higher education budget**).
- **Democratization of Quality:** **97% of Indian student in domestic institutions** can avail **high-quality, world-class education** that aligns with global standards.
- **Global Readiness:** By embedding **international benchmarks, faculty exchanges, and global curricula** into Indian campuses, the country can prepare its **massive workforce to be "world-ready" and competitive** in the global talent pool.
- **Other:** **Countering brain drain, harnessing the diaspora, improving the global rankings** (e.g. higher international student and faculty ratios), **soft power projection** (e.g. offshore campuses like IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi), etc.

### Challenges in Internationalisation of Indian Higher Education



#### Resource Constraints

Limited capacity of Indian HEIs to raise budget for expansion.



#### Brain Drain

High percentage of top-tier Indian graduates choose to settle abroad, limiting domestic knowledge base.



#### Infrastructure Gaps

E.g. less than 15% of Indian HEIs currently meet international expectations for campus facilities, housing, and safety protocols.



#### Regulatory Bottlenecks

E.g. Complicated visa procedures, documentation burdens, and a lack of a fast-track academic visa category.

### Policy Recommendations by NITI Aayog

- **Governance:** Establish an **Inter-Ministerial Task Force** and designate **Country Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** in 54 Central Universities to serve as nodal points for specific nations.
- **Regulation:** Revise the **NIRF criteria** to include internationalization metrics and simplify the **visa documents**.
- **Finance:** Launch the **Bharat Vidya Kosh** (a \$10 billion sovereign research fund) and the **Vishwa Bandhu flagship scholarship** to attract global researchers and master's students.
- **Branding & Outreach:** Develop the **Bharat ki AAN (Alumni Ambassador Network)** to engage successful Indian-origin alumni as global brand ambassadors and revamp the **"Study in India"** portal into a one-stop digital solution.
- **Curriculum & Culture:** Integrate **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** with global academic standards and mandate industry-relevant internships and reflective writing modules in degree programmes.

### Also In News



#### Electoral Trusts

Recently, Election Commission released Annual Report of contributions received by the trust and donations given to political parties for the FY 2024-25,

#### About Electoral Trusts

- **Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013** provides for establishing Electoral Trusts (registered under the Companies Act).
- They receive donations from individuals, companies, etc. and distribute them to registered political parties.
- **Objective:** They aim to enhance **transparency and accountability** in political funding.
- **Mandate:** By law, trusts must distribute **95%** of total contributions received within a financial year to **registered** political parties.
- **Regulation:** They are required to report to the **Election Commission** contributions from individuals and companies, and are governed by the **Income Tax Act 1961**.
- **Disclosure:** Donors and amounts must be **mandatorily** reported, ensuring traceability.



#### Personality Rights

Recently, Delhi High Court passed an interim injunction order protecting the personality rights of a famous actor.

#### About Personality Rights

- **Personality rights** refer to the right of an individual to control the unauthorized use of their personal attributes like **Name, Image, voice, Likeness and Distinctive expressions or traits**. These rights include **both commercial and non-commercial** aspects.
- ⊖ Personality rights are **not expressly mentioned in any statute in India**.
- **Components of Personality Rights:** **Right to publicity** (protected under Trademarks Act, 1999 and Copyright Act, 1957) and **Right to privacy** (provided under Article 21 of the Constitution and K.S. Puttaswamy Case, 2017).







### United Nations Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents (Accra Convention), 2025

Recently, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution supporting the **United Nations Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents (Accra Convention), 2025**.

➤ **Negotiable Cargo Documents (NCDs)** are documents (both in paper and digital format) that represent **goods in transit**, and confer **rights over goods** to the holder which are transferrable.

**About Accra Convention, 2025**

➤ **Objective:** Establishes a **uniform legal framework** for NCDs and extends benefits of negotiable documents **beyond maritime transport** to **multimodal transport** (train, truck, plane, or ship).

⌚ It allows cargo to be **sold, rerouted, or used as collateral** for financing while it is mid-journey.

➤ **Legal Effect:** NCDs have the **same legal effect** as **physical delivery of goods**.

➤ **Significance:** facilitates **trade finance, digitalisation of global trade**, etc.



### Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

The Supreme Court held that forest lands cannot be used for non-forestry purposes, including agriculture, as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

**About the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

➤ **Objective:** Conservation of forests and regulation of forest land use for non-forest purposes.

➤ **Coverage:** Reserved forests, protected forests, and government-recorded forest land.

➤ **Approval Requirement:** State Government or other authority requires prior approval from the Central Government is required for the reservation or diversion of forest land.

➤ **Advisory Committee:** Provides for the establishment of an **Advisory Committee** by the Central Government to advise on granting approval for the use of forest land and on other matters related to forest conservation.



### SIRT6 Enzyme

Researchers have identified a critical molecular mechanism involving the enzyme **SIRT6** that **regulates brain aging and neurodegeneration**.

**About SIRT6 Enzyme**

➤ **SIRT6 or Sirtuin 6** enzyme is a **longevity-linked enzyme** that acts as an active **metabolic switch** and gatekeeper for **tryptophan metabolism**.

⌚ Tryptophan is an **essential amino acid** used in producing cellular energy or generating neurotransmitters like **serotonin and melatonin**, which regulate mood, sleep, and neural stability.

➤ **Function:**

⌚ When **SIRT6 activity is intact**, **tryptophan is properly distributed** between pathways that generate energy and those that produce serotonin and melatonin.

⌚ When **SIRT6 activity declines**, during aging, it **disturbs the tryptophan metabolism** and generates byproducts that are toxic to nerve cells.



### Composite Leading Indicator (CLI)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest **State of the Economy** report highlighted utility of proposed **Composite Leading Indicator for Gross Value Added (GVA)- Manufacturing** for India.

**About Composite Leading Indicator for GVA**

➤ **Frequency:** Quarterly

➤ **Objectives:** To anticipate shifts in the sector's business cycle and strengthen short-term economic assessment.

➤ **Indicators:** Set of variables capturing domestic demand, inflation dynamics, survey-based sentiments, industrial credit flows, uncertainty metrics, and global macroeconomic trends.



### Direct Firing Sight Navigation System

India and France signed an agreement to jointly produce the **Direct Firing Sight Navigation System** in India, which includes.

➤ **SIGMA 30N Navigation System**, enabling autonomous artillery engagement without GPS, and

➤ **CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight**, designed to enhance artillery and anti-drone accuracy.

**Key Features of Direct Firing Sight Navigation System**

➤ **Autonomy:** Functions **independently of GPS**, ensuring operational reliability in heavily jammed electronic warfare environments.

➤ **Versatility:** **Integrates seamlessly with diverse hardware**, from heavy artillery and radars to mobile air defense systems.

➤ **Direct-Fire:** Utilizes **advanced thermal and optical sights** for immediate engagement of visible targets, including drones.



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