

NEWS TODAY

Report on Domestic Migration released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

Report titled '400 Million Dreams' highlights the **changing patterns of migration in India since 2011 Census**.

- **Internal/Domestic migration** refers to movement of people within a country from one region to another.
 - ⊕ **Push factors:** Lack of job opportunities, natural disaster, lack of quality education and healthcare facilities, etc.
 - ⊕ **Pull factors:** Economic opportunities, higher standard of living, peace and stability, etc.

Key findings of report

- **Reduction in Domestic Migrant Numbers:** By about 12% from 45.57 crore to 40.20 crore in 2023 with migration rate dropping from ~38% to an estimated ~29% in 2023.
- **Migration Dynamics:**
 - ⊕ **Short-distance migration is predominant**, with distance negatively affecting labour mobility.
 - ⊕ Migration originates **primarily from areas around major urban centers like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, and Kolkata**
- **Major Migration Routes:** UP-Delhi, Gujarat-Maharashtra, Telangana-AP, Bihar-Delhi (state level).
- **Increase in Migrant Share:** West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Karnataka have seen an increase in percentage of arriving migrants.
- **Decrease in Migrant Share:** Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh experienced reduction in their share of total migrants.

Reasons for decline in migrant numbers

- **Improved infrastructure** (roads, education, healthcare, public transport), social security nets etc. at place of origin.
- **Localized economic growth** creating jobs closer to rural areas.

Steps taken for welfare of Domestic Migrants in India

- **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979** prevent human rights violations.
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** offers Rs.5 lakh health coverage for secondary and tertiary health benefits to migrant workers.
- **One Nation One Ration Card Scheme** enables ration card portability nationwide for migrants and their families.

Maharashtra passes Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services Bill 2024

Bill seeks to **consolidate laws relating to regulation of prisons and correctional services and prisoners in State**.

- It is based on **Model Prisons Act 2023**.

Key features of Model Prison Act 2023

- **Specialized Jails:** Establishes high-security, open, and semi-open jails.
- **Legal Aid & Incentives:** Provides parole, furlough, and early release for good conduct.
- **Rehabilitation:** Focuses on vocational training and skill development for reintegration.
- **Inclusive Accommodation:** Ensures separate facilities for women and transgender prisoners etc.

Prison System in India

- Prisons/ 'Persons detained therein' is a '**State**' subject (Entry 4).
- It is **governed by Prison Act 1894** and prison manuals of respective state governments. However, **Model Prisons Act 2023** replaced **Prison Act 1894**.

Need for Prison Reforms

- **Colonial Era Law:** Supreme Court in **Ramamurthy vs state of Karnataka case 1996 emphasised** need to enact new Prison law to replace Prisons Act, 1894.
- **Rising Prison Occupancy:** As per **Prisons in India 2024 report** by Supreme Court of India, total inmates reached 5.73 lakh as of December 31, 2022.
 - ⊕ Out of this, **75.8%** were reported as **undertrial prisoners**.
- **Inhumane Conditions:** Cramped cells, lack proper sanitation, and inadequate medical care.

Other measures taken for Prison Reform

- **Fast Track Courts** to expedite trial of pending cases.
- **National Human Rights Commission** to protect basic rights of prisoners.
- **Model Prison Manual 2016** provides detailed guidelines on facilities which may be provided to under trial inmates.
- **Justice Krishna Iyer Report 1987** studied condition of women prisoners in India.

55th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting was held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

The meeting resulted in several significant decisions aimed at tax rate changes, trade facilitation, and compliance streamlining under GST.

Key-recommendations by GST Council

- Full exemption of GST on **gene therapy**.
- Exemption of GST on contributions by general insurance companies from **third-party motor vehicle premiums for Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**.
- Reduction in the GST rate on **Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) to 5%**
- **Others**
 - ⊕ **Pepper (both fresh green and dried) and raisins when supplied by an agriculturist is not liable to GST.**
 - ⊕ **Popcorn:** when popcorn is mixed with sugar (e.g. caramel popcorn), it would **attract 18% GST**.

About GST Council

- It is a **constitutional body** responsible for making recommendations on issues related to the implementation of the GST in India.
- As per **Article 279A**, inserted by the Constitution (101st) Amendment Act, 2016, GST Council shall consist of:-
 - ⊕ Union Finance Minister (Chairperson).
 - ⊕ Union Minister of State, in-charge of Revenue or Finance (Member).
 - ⊕ The Minister In-charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government. (Members)
- **Decision of the GST Council:** It is taken by a **majority of not less than three-fourths of weighted votes (75%)** of the members present and voting.
 - ⊕ **Voting Weightage:** 1/3rd to the Centre and 2/3rd to the States.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified Draft Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2024

Rules will come into force from **1st October 2025** to address adverse effects of unmanaged solid waste, implement principles of circular economy, and strengthen monitoring of rules **covering both urban and rural areas**.

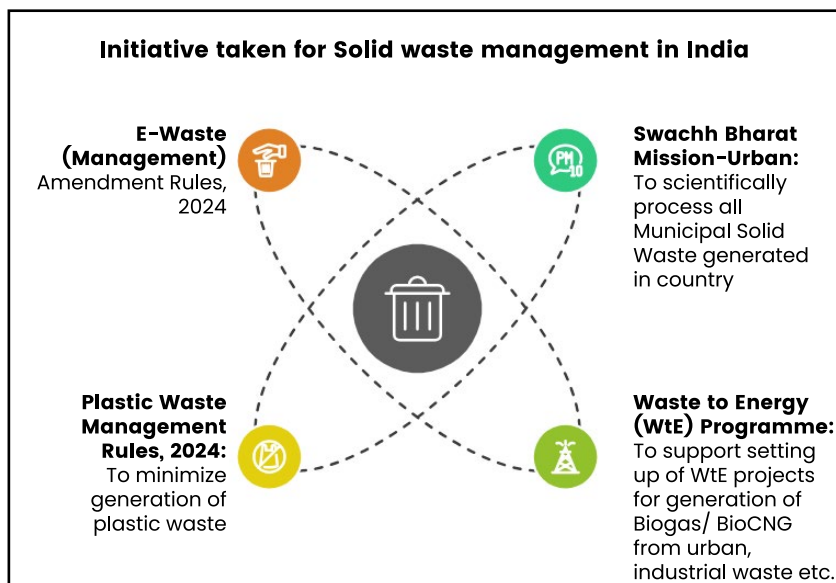
- SWM is the practice of controlling generation, collection, storage, transport, processing, and disposal of solid waste.

Key Highlights of SWM Rules, 2024

- **Every waste generator shall store separately construction and demolition waste** in their own premises and dispose-off as per Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- **Bulk waste generator shall procure Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility Certificates** from **local body** for environmentally sound collection and transportation of sanitary waste etc.
- **Non-recyclable waste** having calorific value of **1500 Kcal/kg or more shall not be disposed off in landfills**.
- **CPCB shall establish centralized online system for registration and filing annual returns** of all obligated entities under these rules.
- **Operator of each Treatment, Storage, Disposal Facility shall register on centralized online portal**.
- **Local body shall prevent agriculture & horticulture waste burning and levy heavy penalty** on persons involved in open burning of such waste.

Challenges associated with SWM

- Absence of proper collection and segregation at source; Indiscriminate dumping of electronic waste; Financial constraints on collection and transportation of waste, etc.



Ministry of Education scraps 'no detention' policy for Classes 5 and 8 for the schools under the Centre

The new policy allows schools to fail students who do not pass their year-end exams under the new **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) (Amendment) Rules, 2024**.

- **16 states and 2 Union Territories**, including Delhi, have already adopted this policy, as education is a State subject.

Key points regarding the new policy

- Although the no-detention policy was abolished from the **RTE Act in 2019**, the implementation was delayed waiting for the National Curriculum Framework, released in 2023.
 - ⊕ If a student fails to meet promotion criteria, they will receive **additional instruction and a chance for re-examination within two months** from result declaration.
 - ⊕ **No child can be expelled from school** until they complete elementary education.

Arguments for Detention

- **Decline in learning outcomes:** as >65 lakh students failed in classes 10 and 12 (2023)
- **Lack of incentives:** automatic promotion takes away motivation from students to work hard and **reduces accountability of teachers**.

Arguments for no Detention

- **Stigmatization and higher dropout rates:** due to **fear of failure and being forced to repeat** classes
- **Child centric learning:** promoting an educational system valuing holistic development of a child rather than just academic performance.

Background of No Detention Policy

- The no-detention policy was **part of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009** aiming to reduce dropout rates.

About RTE Act, 2009

- Every child **between the ages of 6 to 14 years** has the right to free and compulsory education as per **86th Constitution Amendment Act via Article 21A**.
- The government schools shall provide **free education to all the children and the schools will be managed by School Management Committees (SMC)**.

Forest fires Hotspot down in 2023-24 from 2021-22: India State of Forest Report 2023

- **MODIS** (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer) and **SNPP-VIIRS** (Suomi-National Polar-orbiting Partnership - Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) sensors have been used to detect forest fires.

Key Findings

- Total hotspots detected by the MODIS sensor were 26,390 & by the SNPP-VIIRS sensor were 2,03,544 in 2023-24.
 - ⊕ The number of hotspots detected by the MODIS sensor were 29,675 & those by the SNPP-VIIRS sensor were 2,23,333 in 2021-22.
- **Uttarakhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh** reported the highest fire incidences in 2023-24.
- **Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir** witnessed dramatic rises in forest fire incidents in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23 fire season
- **Goa and Karnataka** have witnessed steep declines in fire incidents

Impact of Forest Fires

- **Environmental Impact:**
 - ⊕ Globally, release of **greenhouse gases (emit 2.5 billion to 4.0 billion tons of CO₂ annually)** and stored carbon, contributing to **global warming**.
 - ⊕ **Loss of biodiversity and degradation of forest ecosystems**.
- **Human and Wildlife Health:**
 - ⊕ **Premature human and wildlife deaths** caused from smoke due to forest fires
 - ⊕ **Adversely impacts rural livelihoods** and national economies.

Initiatives taken

- **Van Agni Geo-portal** of Forest Survey of India acts as a single point of information on forest fire
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** No person shall set fire to a sanctuary, or kindle any fire, or leave any fire burning, in a sanctuary, in such manner as to endanger such sanctuary.
- **Community participation** through **Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)** and **Eco-Development Committees (EDCs)** is promoted in forest fire management and control.

Also in News



Asian Development Bank (ADB)

India and ADB signed **\$500 million loan** to aid sustainable infrastructure projects.

About ADB (HQ: Manila, Philippines)

- **Genesis:** Multilateral development **finance institution** established in **1966**.
- **Aim:** To achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- **Function:** Assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- **Members:** **69 members** (49 from within Asia and Pacific and 20 outside).
 - ⊕ India is **founding member**.
- **Board of Governors:** Highest policy-making body, which comprises one representative from each member.



Pangolin

Recent incidents in Telangana have brought attention to illegal smuggling of pangolins.

About Pangolin

- They are **only mammals wholly-covered in scales** and use those scales to protect themselves from predators in wild.
- They eat ants, termites and larvae and are often **known as the scaly anteater**.
- **Characteristics:** Solitary, primarily nocturnal animals; long, sticky tongues that are longer than their bodies, toothless.

Indian Pangolin (Manis crassicaudata)

- One of 8 such pangolin species available worldwide.
- **Found throughout country, south of Himalayas**, excluding north-eastern region.
 - ⊕ **Chinese Pangolin** ranges through **Assam and eastern Himalayas**.
- **Protection status:** Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Appendix 1 of CITES; Endangered (IUCN).



National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

President of India appointed former Supreme Court Judge V. Ramasubramanian as NHRC chairman.

About NHRC (HQ: New Delhi)

- **Genesis:** Statutory body established under Protection of Human Rights (PHR) Act, 1993 and later amended by PHR (Amendment) Act 2006, further amended in 2019.
- **Composition:** Chairperson (former CJI or former Judge of SC); 5 full time members and 7 deemed members.
- **Tenure of Chairperson and members:** 3 years or till age of seventy years, whichever is earlier and eligible for reappointment.
- **Functions:** Inquire into human rights violation on its own or on a petition by a victim; Review law and procedure for protection of human rights; etc.



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting held in Thailand.

About BIMSTEC

- **Genesis:** It is a regional organization that was established in 1997 with signing of Bangkok Declaration.
- **Aim:** Promotion of economic cooperation between countries bordering Bay of Bengal.
- **Secretariat:** Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **7 Members:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- **First Summit** in Bangkok (Thailand) in 2004.



Automated & Intelligent Machine-aided Construction (AIMC) system

MoRTH has expedited use of AIMC system on National Highway projects across country.

About AIMC System

- It will give **real-time data on state of each project**, with a survey conducted alongside work at every stage of road-building process.
- **Benefits:** Time efficient and reduces wastage; Enhanced performance durability and longevity; Better transparency and minimum human interventions etc.
- Under AIMC system,
 - ⊕ **GPS-aided motor grader (3D machine control technology):** Used for earthworks, sub-base & base layers.
 - ◆ It will process data from Global Navigation Satellite System.
 - ⊕ **Intelligent compaction roller (IC roller) and Single Drum/Tandem Vibratory Roller:** Used for soil, sub-base and base layer compaction.



Bru Tribe

Government spent Rs 900 cr to resettle Bru inhabitants in different districts of Tripura

About Bru (or Reang) Tribe

- Indigenous to Northeast India, primarily in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam.
- Recognized as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in Tripura**.
- **Settlement:** Live in hilly regions and narrow valleys, in bamboo houses.
- **Occupation:** Practice Jhum cultivation.
- **Belief:** Follow a blend of traditional Hinduism and Animism.



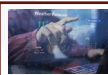
Agro-Textile

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the Climate Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Center at Navsari (Gujarat).

- The initiative aligns with the vision of promotion of technical textiles under the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**.

About Agro Textiles

- Agrotexiles refers to the **application of technical textile materials in the agriculture field**.
 - ⊖ Technical textiles are materials made primarily for their **technical and performance qualities**, rather than for their appearance or decoration.
- **Types of Agrotexiles:** Includes woven, nonwoven, and knitted fabrics for agricultural and horticultural uses.
- **Use:** For protection, collection and storage of agricultural products.



GenCast AI

Google DeepMind Unveils GenCast AI Model for Advanced Weather Forecasting.

About GenCast AI

- It is a **weather forecasting model** that claims better accuracy and extended forecasting range compared to existing tools.
- It uses **ensemble forecasting**, similar to traditional numerical weather prediction (NWP), but is powered by AI rather than simulations.
 - ⊖ Ensemble forecasts use a NWP model with different starting conditions to **predict a range of possible weather outcomes**.

Places in News



France (Capital: Paris)

Recently, the French President announced the fourth government of the year.

Political Features

- **Neighbouring countries:** Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Spain and Andorra
- **Location:** Western edge of Europe
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Bay of Biscay (West), English Channel (Northwest), Mediterranean Sea (South) and the North Sea (North).

Geographical Features

- **Mountains:** The Alps (highest peak: Mont Blanc at 4,808 meters), the Pyrenees, etc.
- **Plains:** broad & fertile plains (in north west) like the Paris Basin.
- **Major Rivers:** Seine (flows through Paris), Loire (longest river in France)

