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+91 8434931877



www.achieversiaspatna.co.in



achieversiaspatna@gmail.com

Top Stories of The Day

- Air India Appoints **Tewolde Gebremariam** as CEO to Lead Tata Group Airline Transformation Strategy.
- **ISRO** to Launch NVS-03, NVS-04 and NVS-05 Satellites Strengthening NavIC Navigation System.
- **Iran and Oman** Agree New Strait of Hormuz Shipping Route for Safer Trade.
- **T.V. Somanathan** and **Govind Mohan** Receive One-Year Extensions in Service Tenure.
- Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund Appoints **Madhu Nair** as CEO for Growth.
- **SUN Project** Enhances Solar Storm Monitoring for Satellites, GPS and Power Infrastructure Safety.
- **BRICS** Approves India's Law Enforcement Network Proposal for Anti-Corruption Cooperation.
- Boston and Massachusetts Declare **August 15 India Day** Honouring Indian Diaspora Contributions.
- Cabinet Approves **₹23,731 Crore GOBARDhan Scheme** Boosting Biogas Production and Farmers' Income.
- **FCRA Amendment Bill 2026** Strengthens Oversight of Foreign-Funded Organisations Through Transparency.
- Indian Railways Introduces Single **All-India Licence** for Container Train Operators Nationwide.

Air India Appoints Former Ethiopian Airlines Chief Tewolde Gebremariam as New CEO



About Air India

- Air India was founded in 1932 as Tata Airlines by J.R.D. Tata. It was nationalised in 1953 and returned to the Tata Group in 2022. Since then, the airline has been undertaking a major transformation through fleet expansion, service improvements, and network modernisation.

Significance

Why is it in News?

- Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam, the former Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD). He will lead the airline's next phase of transformation under the Tata Group.
- The appointment of Tewolde Gebremariam is expected to strengthen Air India's revival by bringing global aviation expertise, operational excellence, and strong leadership. His experience in transforming Ethiopian Airlines is expected to help Air India improve efficiency, customer service, and international competitiveness.

Key Highlights

- Tewolde Gebremariam has been appointed as the CEO & MD of Air India.
- He succeeds Campbell Wilson, who resigned earlier this year.
- Tewolde previously served as the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, where he transformed it into Africa's largest airline.
- Under his leadership, Ethiopian Airlines significantly expanded its fleet, global network, and revenues, while successfully managing major crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Boeing 737 MAX crisis.
- His appointment comes at a crucial time as Air India continues its modernisation and turnaround programme under the Tata Group.

Exam Focus Points

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|--|
| • Airline: Air India. |
| • New CEO & MD: Tewolde Gebremariam. |
| • Predecessor: Campbell Wilson. |
| • Previous Organisation: Ethiopian Airlines. |
| • Air India Owner: Tata Group. |
| • Returned to Tata Group: 2022. |
| • Founded As: Tata Airlines. |
| • Founder: J.R.D. Tata. |
| • Founded: 1932. |

ISRO to Launch Three More NavIC Satellites to Strengthen Navigation System and Support Future Space Missions

Why is it in News?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch three second-

generation NavIC satellites—NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05—to strengthen India's indigenous satellite navigation system. ISRO is also taking measures to reduce Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

collision risks and support future missions such as Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).



Key Highlights

- ISRO will launch NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05 to strengthen the NavIC constellation.
- The new satellites will improve positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services across India and nearby regions.
- ISRO is enhancing space situational awareness to minimise the risk of satellite collisions in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- These efforts will support upcoming missions, including Gaganyaan and the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).
- The second-generation NavIC satellites carry indigenous atomic clocks, improving the reliability and accuracy of navigation services.

What is NavIC?

- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is India's indigenous regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO. It provides accurate Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) services over India and up to 1,500 km beyond its borders.

What is Low Earth Orbit (LEO)?

- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is the region of space located about 160–2,000 km above Earth. Most Earth observation satellites, the International

Space Station, and future missions like Gaganyaan operate in this orbit.

Significance

- The launch of the new NavIC satellites will restore and strengthen India's navigation capabilities, reduce dependence on foreign systems such as GPS, improve national security, and support future human spaceflight and space station missions. Better monitoring of space debris will also enhance the safety of satellites operating in orbit.

Exam Focus Points

• Organisation: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
• Mission: Launch of NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05.
• Navigation System: NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
• Purpose: Strengthen Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) services.
• Coverage: India and up to 1,500 km beyond its borders.
• Orbit Discussed: Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
• Future Missions Supported: Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).
• Key Feature: Indigenous atomic clocks in second-generation NavIC satellites.

Way Forward

- Launching the remaining NavIC satellites on schedule, strengthening space debris monitoring, and expanding indigenous space technologies will enhance India's navigation infrastructure, space safety, and preparedness for future human spaceflight missions.

Iran and Oman Agree on New Shipping Route Through the Strait of Hormuz

Why is it in News?

- Iran and Oman have reached an understanding on a new commercial shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most

important oil transit chokepoints. The agreement aims to restore safe navigation, reduce disruptions to global trade, and improve maritime security following months of regional tensions.



Key Highlights

- Iran and Oman have agreed on the geographical coordinates of a new shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The agreement seeks to ensure the safe movement of commercial vessels and revive normal maritime traffic.
- The arrangement is intended to reduce disruptions to global oil and cargo shipments caused by recent regional conflicts.
- The agreement does not automatically guarantee the security of the waterway, and discussions on implementation are still continuing.

About the Strait of Hormuz

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Around 20% of the world's oil trade passes through this strategic route, making it one of the most important maritime chokepoints in the world.

Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan and Home Secretary Govind Mohan Get One-Year Service Extension

Why is it in News?

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a one-year extension in the service of Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan. The

Significance

- The agreement could improve the flow of global energy supplies, reduce shipping delays and insurance costs, and strengthen regional maritime cooperation. Stable navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is crucial for energy-importing countries such as India, which depends heavily on oil imports from the Gulf region.

Exam Focus Points

• Agreement: New shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz.
• Countries: Iran and Oman.
• Waterway: Strait of Hormuz.
• Connects: Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
• Importance: Carries around 20% of global oil trade.
• Objective: Ensure safe commercial shipping and restore normal maritime traffic.
• Current Status: Geographic route agreed; implementation discussions continue.

Way Forward

- Successful implementation of the agreement, along with sustained regional cooperation and maritime security measures, will be essential to ensure uninterrupted global trade and energy supplies while maintaining stability in one of the world's most strategic sea lanes.

decision aims to ensure continuity in governance and the implementation of key government policies and administrative reforms.

Key Highlights

- Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan has been granted a one-year extension in service.
- Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan has also received a one-year extension.
- The extensions have been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- Both officers will continue to oversee important areas of governance, administration, and national security.



Who is the Cabinet Secretary?

- The Cabinet Secretary is the senior-most civil servant in the Government of India and heads the Cabinet Secretariat. The officer coordinates among ministries, assists the Cabinet in decision-making, and acts as the head of the Indian bureaucracy.

Who is the Home Secretary?

- The Union Home Secretary is the administrative head of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Home Secretary is responsible for matters related to internal security, law and order, border management, disaster management, and Centre–State relations.

Exam Focus Points

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| • Cabinet Secretary: T.V. Somanathan. |
| • Home Secretary: Govind Mohan. |
| • Extension Granted: One year. |
| • Approved By: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). |
| • Cabinet Secretary: Senior-most civil servant and head of the Cabinet Secretariat. |
| • Home Secretary: Administrative head of the Ministry of Home Affairs. |
| • Key Responsibilities: Governance, policy coordination, internal security, law and order, and Centre–State coordination. |

Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund Appoints Madhu Nair as New CEO



Why is it in News?

- Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund has appointed Madhu Nair as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will lead the asset management company with a focus on expanding its mutual fund business, strengthening investor services, and driving future growth.

Key Highlights

- Madhu Nair has been appointed as the CEO of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.
- He has over three decades of experience in the banking and financial services sector.
- Before this appointment, he served in senior leadership roles at Bank of Baroda.
- As CEO, he will focus on expanding the company's product offerings, improving customer experience, and increasing its presence in India's mutual fund industry.
- His appointment comes as the mutual fund industry continues to witness strong growth in retail participation and assets under management (AUM).

About Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund

- Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund is an Asset Management Company (AMC) formed through a partnership between Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management. It offers a wide range of equity, debt, hybrid, and solution-oriented mutual fund schemes to investors across India.

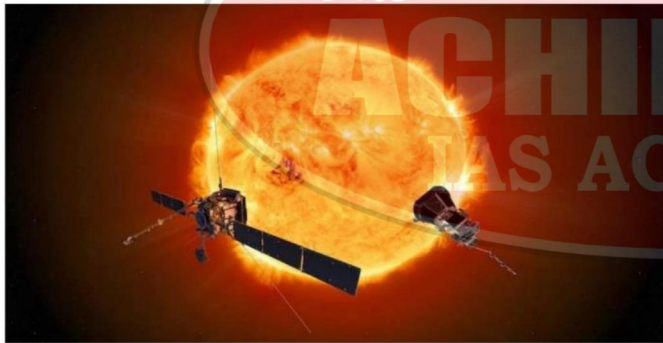
What is a Mutual Fund?

- A Mutual Fund is an investment vehicle that pools money from many investors and invests it in assets such as shares, bonds, government securities, and money market instruments. These investments are managed by professional fund managers, allowing investors to diversify their portfolios and reduce investment risk.

Exam Focus Points

• Organisation: Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.
• New CEO: Madhu Nair.
• Industry: Mutual Funds / Asset Management.
• Joint Venture: Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management.
• Purpose: Investment management through mutual fund schemes.
• Products Offered: Equity, debt, hybrid, and solution-oriented funds.
• Managed By: Professional fund managers.

SUN Project in Hawaii Enhances Global Monitoring of Solar Storms



Why is it in News?

- Scientists are using a telescope located on the island of Maui, Hawaii, under the SUN (Sun Underwatch Network) Project, to improve the monitoring and prediction of solar storms. These storms can disrupt GPS, satellite communications, radio signals, and power grids, while also producing spectacular auroras near the Earth's polar regions.

Key Highlights

- The SUN (Sun Underwatch Network) Project is improving the tracking and forecasting of solar storms.
- The project uses a solar telescope on Maui Island, Hawaii, to continuously observe the Sun.

- It helps scientists detect solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) before they reach Earth.
- Better forecasting can reduce disruptions to GPS, satellite navigation, communication systems, aviation, and electricity networks.
- Solar storms are also responsible for creating Auroras (Northern and Southern Lights) when charged particles interact with Earth's atmosphere.

What are Solar Storms?

- Solar storms are disturbances caused by intense activity on the Sun, such as solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). These release large amounts of charged particles and electromagnetic radiation into space. When they reach Earth, they can interfere with satellites, communication systems, navigation networks, and power infrastructure.

What are Auroras?

- Auroras are colourful natural light displays produced when charged particles from the Sun collide with gases in the Earth's upper atmosphere near the North Pole (Aurora Borealis) and South Pole (Aurora Australis).

Significance

- Improved monitoring of solar storms will help governments, airlines, satellite operators, and power utilities take preventive measures before severe space weather events occur. This will enhance the safety and reliability of communication, navigation, and power systems worldwide.

Exam Focus Points

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| • Project: SUN (Sun Underwatch Network). |
| • Location of Telescope: Maui Island, Hawaii (USA). |
| • Purpose: Track and forecast solar storms. |

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|---|
| • Observed Events: Solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). |
| • Affected Systems: GPS, satellite communication, radio signals, aviation, and power grids. |
| • Natural Phenomenon: Auroras (Aurora Borealis & Aurora Australis). |

Way Forward

- Expanding global space weather monitoring networks and improving international cooperation in solar observation will strengthen early warning systems, protect critical infrastructure, and reduce the impact of future solar storms on modern technology.

BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Agrees on India's Proposal for Law-Enforcement Network



- The Second Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery, held in Hyderabad, reached an in-principle agreement on India's proposal to establish a BRICS Network of Law-Enforcement Practitioners.
- The proposed network aims to strengthen international cooperation in tracing fugitive offenders wanted in corruption cases and supporting extradition, while complementing existing legal mechanisms.
- The meeting was organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.

- Strengthen informal cooperation among law-enforcement agencies.
- Improve tracing of fugitive economic offenders.
- Facilitate extradition and asset recovery.
- Enhance timely information sharing among BRICS countries.
- Complement formal Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) mechanisms.

Other Key Outcomes:

The meeting also:

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|--|
| • Welcomed the BRICS Repository on Informal Cooperation for tracing fugitive offenders. |
| • Approved standardised information-sharing formats for asset recovery investigations. |
| • Emphasised the use of technology, transparency, and good governance in combating corruption. |
| • Promoted practitioner-level cooperation among anti-corruption and financial intelligence agencies. |

The proposed BRICS network will:

About BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG):

- The BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group serves as a platform for cooperation among BRICS countries to:
- Prevent and combat corruption.
- Strengthen asset recovery mechanisms.
- Improve international legal cooperation.
- Exchange best practices in anti-corruption governance.
- Promote transparency and accountability.

About BRICS:

- Full Form: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (expanded grouping)
- Established: 2009
- India's Presidency: 2026
- 2026 Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

About DoPT:

- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions: Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
- Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions: Jitendra Singh,

Functions:

- Personnel administration.
- Civil services reforms.
- Training of civil servants.
- Vigilance and anti-corruption coordination.
- Administrative reforms.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- Established: 1964 (Statutory status in 2003)
- Act: Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003
- Role: Apex vigilance institution to combat corruption in Central Government organisations

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:

- Principal anti-corruption law in India.
- Amended in 2018 to strengthen accountability and anti-corruption measures.

Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:

- Enables confiscation of properties of economic offenders who evade Indian jurisdiction.
- Targets offenders involved in economic offences of ₹100 crore or more.

Exam Focus Points:

- BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Agrees on: India's Proposal for Law-Enforcement Network
- Venue: Hyderabad.
- Host: Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- Purpose: Trace fugitive offenders and support extradition.
- India's BRICS Theme (2026): Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.
- Related Law: Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- Related Institution: Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

Massachusetts and Boston Declare August 15 as 'India Day'

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston (USA) have officially declared

15 August 2026 as "India Day" to commemorate India's 79th Independence Day and recognise the significant contributions of the Indian-American community.

- The proclamations were issued by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.
- The announcement also coincides with the opening of the Indian Consulate in Boston and the visit of the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INS) Sudarshini during the SAILBOSTON-250 celebrations.



About the Indian Diaspora

- India has the largest diaspora in the world.

Key Facts

- Over 36 million people of Indian origin live abroad.
- More than 5 million people of Indian origin reside in the United States.
- The Indian diaspora contributes significantly to innovation, entrepreneurship, academia, healthcare, and public service worldwide.

About INS Sudarshini:

- INS Sudarshini is a Sail Training Ship of the Indian Navy.
- Built by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Commissioned in 2012.
- Used for training naval cadets, maritime diplomacy, and goodwill visits to friendly nations.

India–United States Relations

- India and the United States share a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

Key Areas of Cooperation:

- Defence and security.
- Trade and investment.
- Science and technology.
- Space cooperation.
- Clean energy.
- Education and people-to-people exchanges.

Indian Consulates in the United States:

India has diplomatic missions in:

- Washington, D.C. (Embassy)
- New York
- San Francisco
- Chicago
- Houston
- Atlanta
- Boston (newly opened)

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD):

- Observed: 9 January every year.
- Commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915.
- Celebrates the contribution of the Indian diaspora.

Exam Focus Points:

- US State: Massachusetts.
- City: Boston.
- Occasion: August 15 declared as India Day.
- Governor: Maura Healey.
- Mayor: Michelle Wu.
- Indian Naval Ship: INS Sudarshini.
- Indian Diaspora: Over 36 million globally.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: 9 January.



Why is it in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore. The scheme aims to promote the production of Compressed Biogas (CBG) from organic waste, improve waste management, increase farmers' income, and support India's clean energy transition.

Key Highlights

- The Union Cabinet approved the GOBARDhan Scheme with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore.
- The scheme will promote the establishment of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across the country.
- It focuses on converting cattle dung, agricultural residue, municipal solid waste, and other biodegradable waste into clean energy.
- The initiative aims to improve waste management, sanitation, and environmental sustainability.
- It will generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create employment opportunities in rural areas.
- Farmers will benefit through additional income by supplying organic waste to CBG plants.

What is the GOBARDhan Scheme?

- The GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme was launched in 2018 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). It promotes the scientific management of biodegradable waste by converting it into useful products such as

Compressed Biogas (CBG), biogas, bio-slurry, and organic manure.

What is Compressed Biogas (CBG)?

- Compressed Biogas (CBG) is a purified form of biogas produced from organic waste such as cattle dung, crop residue, food waste, and sewage. It has properties similar to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and can be used as a clean fuel for vehicles, industries, and households.

Significance

- The scheme will help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve rural livelihoods, strengthen waste management, promote a circular economy, and contribute to India's climate and clean energy goals. It also supports initiatives such as SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) and the National Bioenergy Programme.

Exam Focus Points

• Scheme: GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan).
• Approved By: Union Cabinet.
• Total Outlay: ₹23,731 crore.
• Launched: 2018.
• Implemented Under: Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
• Main Product: Compressed Biogas (CBG).
• Feedstock: Cattle dung, crop residue, municipal solid waste, and other biodegradable waste.
• Objective: Waste management, renewable energy production, and increasing farmers' income.

Way Forward

- Expanding CBG infrastructure, encouraging private investment, strengthening waste collection systems, and increasing public awareness will help India achieve cleaner

energy, better waste management, and sustainable rural development.

FCRA Amendment Bill 2026 Seeks Stricter Oversight of Foreign-Funded Organisations



Why is it in News?

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 has sparked political debate after the Central Government proposed new provisions to regulate the management of foreign-funded assets and strengthen oversight of organisations receiving foreign contributions. The government says the changes will improve transparency and accountability, while critics fear they could increase government control over NGOs.

Key Highlights

- The Bill amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.
- It introduces a mechanism to manage and safeguard foreign-funded assets when an organisation's FCRA registration expires, is cancelled, or is suspended.
- A designated authority can supervise the management and disposal of such assets.
- The government says the amendments will improve transparency, accountability, and regulatory clarity in the use of foreign funds.
- Opposition parties and several civil society organisations have opposed the Bill, arguing that it gives the government greater control over NGOs and charitable organisations.

What is FCRA?

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions and foreign hospitality by individuals, associations, and NGOs. Its objective is to ensure that foreign funding does not adversely affect national security, public interest, or the sovereignty and integrity of India.

What's New in the Amendment Bill?

- Earlier Provisions New Provisions (2026 Bill)
- No clear framework for handling foreign-funded assets after an NGO loses its FCRA registration. Introduces a designated authority to supervise, manage, and dispose of foreign-funded assets.
- Limited legal clarity regarding the custody of assets after registration lapses or is cancelled. Creates a formal legal mechanism for safeguarding and managing such assets.
- Focus mainly on regulating receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions. Expands oversight to include management of assets created using foreign contributions.

Significance

- The Bill seeks to strengthen governance of foreign-funded organisations by ensuring that assets created using foreign contributions remain protected and are used according to legal provisions. However, it has also triggered debate over balancing regulatory oversight with the operational autonomy of NGOs.

Exam Focus Points

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act Amended: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. |

- Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Main Objective: Strengthen transparency and regulation of foreign contributions.
- Key Provision: Designated authority to manage foreign-funded assets after FCRA registration lapses, is cancelled, or suspended.
- Regulates: Foreign contributions and foreign hospitality.
- Reason for Debate: Government cites transparency; critics raise concerns over increased control over NGOs.

Way Forward

- The effective implementation of the Bill will require transparent procedures, independent oversight, and a balance between national security and the legitimate functioning of civil society organisations. This can help ensure accountability while maintaining public trust in the regulation of foreign-funded entities.

Indian Railways Approves Single All-India Licence for Container Train Operators



- The Ministry of Railways has approved significant amendments to the Model Concession Agreement (MCA), introducing a Single All-India Licence for Container Train Operators (CTOs).
- Under the new policy, CTOs can operate container trains across the entire Indian Railways network with a uniform registration fee of ₹25 crore, replacing the earlier route-wise licensing system.
- The reforms aim to simplify regulations, encourage private sector participation, improve logistics efficiency, and promote a shift of freight traffic from road to rail.

What are Container Train Operators (CTOs)?

- Container Train Operators are private or public entities authorised by the Ministry of Railways to operate container trains on the Indian Railways network.

Functions:

- Transport export-import (EXIM) cargo.
- Move domestic containerised freight.
- Improve logistics efficiency.
- Provide end-to-end multimodal freight services.

About the Model Concession Agreement (MCA):

- The Model Concession Agreement (MCA) governs the licensing and operation of Container Train Operators.

Key Changes:

- Introduction of a Single All-India Licence.
- Uniform registration fee of ₹25 crore.
- Removal of route-category-based licences.
- No extension fee for licence renewal.
- Licence renewable for an additional 20 years based on satisfactory performance.

Benefits of Rail-Based Freight Transport:

- Lower logistics costs.
- Higher fuel efficiency.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Lower road congestion.
- Safer and more sustainable transportation.
- Improved supply chain reliability.

Additional Facts:

- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan - Launched: 2021. - Objective: Integrated planning of multimodal infrastructure. - Focuses on improving logistics efficiency through better connectivity.	- Established: 16 April 1853 - Headquarters: Rail Bhavan, New Delhi - Chairman & CEO: Satish Kumar
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Exam Focus Points:

Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs):

- India has two operational Dedicated Freight Corridors:
- Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC): Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Maharashtra).
- Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC): Ludhiana (Punjab) to Dankuni (West Bengal).
- These corridors are developed by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) to increase freight capacity and reduce transit time.

- Reform: Single All-India Licence for Container Train Operators.
- Registration Fee: ₹25 crore.
- Licence Validity Extension: Additional 20 years.
- Related Agreement: Model Concession Agreement.
- Objective: Ease of doing business and promotion of rail freight.
- Related Initiative: PM Gati Shakti.
- Freight Corridor Agency: DFCCIL.

About Indian Railways:

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Lets Revise

- ❖ Who has been appointed as the new CEO and Managing Director of Air India?
Tewolde Gebremariam.
- ❖ Which airline did Tewolde Gebremariam lead before joining Air India? **Ethiopian Airlines.**
- ❖ Whom has Tewolde Gebremariam succeeded as the CEO of Air India? **Campbell Wilson.**
- ❖ Which business group owns Air India? **Tata Group.**
- ❖ Which organisation is planning to launch three more second-generation NavIC satellites? **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- ❖ What does NavIC stand for? **Navigation with Indian Constellation.**
- ❖ Which organisation developed the NavIC system? **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).**
- ❖ What is the coverage area of NavIC? **India and up to 1,500 km beyond its borders.**
- ❖ What is the full form of PNT in satellite navigation? **Positioning, Navigation, and Timing.**
- ❖ Which two countries have agreed on a new shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz? **Iran and Oman.**
- ❖ Which strategic waterway is at the centre of the Iran–Oman agreement? **Strait of Hormuz.**
- ❖ Who is the current Cabinet Secretary of India? **T.V. Somanathan.**
- ❖ Who is the current Union Home Secretary of India? **Govind Mohan.**
- ❖ Which body approved the one-year extension of T.V. Somanathan and Govind Mohan? **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).**
- ❖ Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund?
Madhu Nair.
- ❖ Which organisation has appointed Madhu Nair as its CEO? **Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.**

- ❖ What is the primary business of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund? **Asset management through mutual fund schemes.**
- ❖ Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund is a joint venture between which two organisations? **Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management.**
- ❖ What is the primary objective of the SUN (Sun Underwatch Network) Project? **To monitor and forecast solar storms for better space weather prediction.**
- ❖ Where is the telescope used under the SUN Project located? **Maui Island, Hawaii (USA).**
- ❖ What are solar storms? **Disturbances caused by solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) that release charged particles and radiation into space.**
- ❖ Which two major solar phenomena are monitored under the SUN Project? **Solar Flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).**
- ❖ Which city hosted the Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in 2026? **Hyderabad.**
- ❖ Which US state has declared 15 August as "India Day" in 2026? **Massachusetts.**
- ❖ Which scheme has been approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore? **GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme.**
- ❖ What is the total financial outlay approved for the GOBARDhan Scheme? **₹23,731 crore.**
- ❖ What does GOBARDhan stand for? **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan.**
- ❖ When was the GOBARDhan Scheme launched? **2018.**
- ❖ What does SATAT stand for? **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation.**
- ❖ Which Bill has recently been introduced to strengthen the regulation of foreign-funded organisations? **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.**
- ❖ Which Act does the FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 seek to amend? **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.**
- ❖ What is the full form of FCRA? **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.**
- ❖ When was the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act enacted? **2010.**



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IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS IN UPSC EXAMINATIONS

Current Affairs hold a crucial place in the preparation for the UPSC Civil Services Examination. A comprehensive understanding of recent national and international developments helps aspirants strengthen their General Studies foundation and develop a well-rounded perspective on important issues. Topics such as government policies, schemes, economy, international relations, science and technology, environment, defence, social justice, governance, reports, indices, appointments, awards, and major global events are highly relevant for both the Prelims and Mains examinations. Regular study of current affairs not only enhances factual knowledge but also improves analytical ability, critical thinking, answer-writing skills, and decision-making aptitude. Since UPSC questions often connect contemporary developments with static subjects, consistent preparation of current affairs enables aspirants to understand issues in depth and present balanced, informed, and relevant answers. It also plays an important role in Essay writing, Ethics, and the Personality Test, giving candidates a strong edge throughout the examination process.

CONTACT US



+91 8434931877



achievers_ias_patna



PATLIPUTRA GOLAMBAR



ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY (UPSC/BPSC)



achieversiaspatna@gmail.com



Achievers IAS Academy



www.achieversiaspatna.co.in



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