

**28 June 2025**

## **1. 'Voice of Global South Summit 2.0' Concludes; PM Modi Announces \$500 Million Fund for Tech Transfer**

**Source: PIB (Press Information Bureau)**

**News:** The second edition of the 'Voice of Global South Summit,' hosted virtually by India, concluded today with a strong call for a more inclusive and equitable global governance architecture. In his concluding address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the establishment of a \$500 million 'Global South Technology Transfer Fund' to facilitate the sharing of critical technologies in areas like renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, and healthcare. He emphasized that India's G20 Presidency in 2023 was a watershed moment that successfully integrated the priorities of the developing world into the global agenda.

### **Analysis**

- The summit, attended by leaders and ministers from over 130 countries, focused on key themes including sustainable development, climate finance, debt sustainability, and digital transformation.
- A 'New Delhi Leaders' Declaration' was adopted, urging international financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF to undertake long-pending reforms to better reflect contemporary global realities.
- The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to being a leading voice for the Global South, offering its developmental experience and technological capabilities, such as the UPI and Co-WIN platforms, as digital public goods.
- This initiative further solidifies India's role as a bridge between the developed and developing worlds.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-II:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

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## **2. Data Protection Board Imposes First Major Penalty on Social Media Firm for Breach**

**Source: The Indian Express**

**News:** In a landmark decision, the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹150 crore on a major global social media platform for a significant data breach that affected millions of Indian users. This is the first major enforcement action taken by the Board since it became fully operational early last year under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. The ruling sets a strong precedent for data fiduciaries operating in India, emphasizing the government's commitment to safeguarding citizens' digital privacy.

### **Analysis**

- The DPBI's investigation found the company guilty of failing to implement "reasonable security safeguards" to prevent the breach, which exposed personal information, including names, email addresses, and phone numbers.
- The Board also noted the firm's failure to provide timely and clear notification to the affected users as mandated by the Act. In its order, the Board stated, "The right to privacy is a fundamental right, and its protection in the digital realm is non-negotiable."
- The penalty amount was determined based on the nature, gravity, and duration of the non-compliance.
- The tech firm has been given 30 days to deposit the penalty and has the option to appeal the decision at the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-II:** Governance, Transparency and Accountability, E-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; Citizens Charters; Important aspects of governance.

**GS Paper-IV:** Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration.

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### **3. Government Launches National Portal for Registration of Gig and Platform Workers**

**Source: Hindustan Times**

**News:** The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment today officially launched a dedicated national portal for the registration of gig and platform workers, marking a significant step towards implementing the social security provisions outlined in the Code on Social Security, 2020. Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav, at the launch event, stated that the portal, named 'e-Shram Shakti,' aims to create a comprehensive database of the country's gig workforce, which is estimated to be over 15 million strong.

#### **Analysis**

- Registration on the portal will enable workers to access benefits such as life and disability insurance, health coverage under Ayushman Bharat, and old-age protection schemes.
- Aggregator platforms like ride-hailing and food delivery companies will be mandated to integrate their systems with the portal and contribute a specified percentage of their turnover towards a central social security fund, as stipulated by the Code.
- The move has been welcomed by trade unions and worker associations, who have long advocated for social security nets for this vulnerable segment of the workforce.
- However, they also caution that effective implementation and ensuring compliance from aggregator companies will be the real test of the policy's success.

#### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-II:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

**GS Paper-III:** Indian Economy; Employment.

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## **4. Panel on Uniform Civil Code Submits Report to Law Ministry; Recommends Gender-Just, Secular Framework**

**Source: The Indian Express**

**News:** The high-level expert committee, constituted by the Union Government to examine issues related to a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), submitted its comprehensive report to the Law Ministry today. The report, running into several volumes, is the culmination of two years of extensive consultations with religious leaders, legal experts, civil society organizations, and the general public across the country. While the full contents of the report are yet to be made public, sources indicate that the panel has recommended a common, gender-just legal framework for personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

### **Analysis**

- The committee, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, has reportedly proposed a "progressive and modern" code that aims to eliminate discriminatory practices prevalent in various personal laws, while also suggesting provisions to protect the cultural practices of tribal communities.
- The report is expected to form the basis for a draft bill on the UCC, a long-standing and constitutionally mandated goal under Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- The submission of the report is likely to trigger a nationwide debate, with political and social reactions expected from various quarters.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-I:** Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

**GS Paper-II:** Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure; Directive Principles of State Policy.

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## **5. Progress Review of National Logistics Policy: Turnaround Time at Ports Reduced by 20%**

**Source: PIB (Press Information Bureau)**

**News:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry today released a comprehensive progress report on the National Logistics Policy (NLP), launched in 2022. The report highlights significant improvements in India's logistics ecosystem, with the average container turnaround time at major ports reduced by nearly 20%, from 26 hours to approximately 21 hours. This enhanced efficiency is attributed to the successful implementation of the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), which has integrated data from various ministries and departments to provide a single-window view for all stakeholders.

### **Analysis**

- The report also noted a substantial increase in the modal share of railways and waterways in freight transport, a key objective of the NLP aimed at reducing logistics costs and carbon footprint.
- Under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, over 1,500 infrastructure projects have been mapped and synchronized, preventing time and cost overruns.
- The minister stated that these reforms have been instrumental in improving India's ranking in global indices like the Logistics Performance Index.
- The government's goal is to reduce logistics costs in India from the current 13-14% of GDP to the global benchmark of 8% by 2030, which will significantly boost the competitiveness of Indian exports.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-III:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.; Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth.

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## **6. Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Summit Focuses on Countering Piracy and IUU Fishing**

**Source: The Hindu**

**News:** Naval chiefs and senior maritime officials from the Quad countries (India, USA, Japan, Australia) and several Southeast Asian nations gathered in Visakhapatnam for the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Summit. The two-day summit, hosted by the Indian Navy, centered on building collaborative frameworks to tackle non-traditional security threats, particularly piracy, armed robbery at sea, and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Indian Chief of Naval Staff, in his inaugural address, emphasized the need for a "rules-based, cooperative, and burden-sharing approach" to ensure the security and stability of the vital sea lanes of communication in the Indo-Pacific.

### **Analysis**

- A key outcome of the summit was the agreement to enhance the operational scope of the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located in Gurugram.
- Member nations pledged to post more International Liaison Officers and share real-time maritime domain awareness data more seamlessly.
- The summit also discussed the implementation of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), particularly its pillar on Maritime Security.
- This collaborative effort is seen as crucial for countering the region's shared maritime challenges and upholding the principle of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-II:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**GS Paper-III:** Security challenges and their management in border areas; various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

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## **7. Parliament Passes Constitution Amendment Bill for Increasing Supreme Court Judge Strength**

**Source: Hindustan Times**

**News:** The Parliament today passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2025, to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 37 (including the Chief Justice of India). The bill received overwhelming bipartisan support in the Rajya Sabha, having been passed by the Lok Sabha earlier this week. The Union Law Minister, piloting the bill, argued that the increase was necessitated by the mounting pendency of cases, which currently stands at over 80,000, and the increasing complexity of litigation involving constitutional and commercial matters.

### **Analysis**

- The last time the judge's strength was increased was in 2019. The minister stated that this measure, combined with other judicial reforms like the use of technology for e-filing and virtual hearings and the streamlining of tribunal systems, would help in the speedier delivery of justice. Several opposition members, while supporting the bill, urged the government to ensure that the collegium and the government work in tandem to fill judicial vacancies swiftly. The move is expected to help the judiciary manage its caseload more effectively and reduce the burden on individual judges, thereby improving the overall efficiency of the justice delivery system.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-II:** Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Parliament and State Legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges, and issues arising out of these.

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## **8. 'Heal in India' Initiative Attracts Over 1 Million Medical Tourists in 2024-25, Generates \$4 Billion in Forex**

**Source: PIB (Press Information Bureau)**

**News:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, has announced remarkable success for the 'Heal in India' initiative. As per the latest data, India hosted over one million foreign medical value travellers in the fiscal year 2024-25, generating an estimated \$4 billion in foreign exchange earnings. This marks a 40% increase in patient arrivals compared to the pre-pandemic levels, positioning India as a leading global destination for healthcare.

### **Analysis**

- The success is attributed to a multi-pronged strategy, including the launch of a dedicated 'Heal in India' portal that provides a one-stop shop for foreign patients to find accredited hospitals, compare treatment costs, and apply for medical visas.
- The government has also streamlined the medical visa process and established facilitation centres at major international airports.
- Patients primarily from the Middle East, Africa, and SAARC countries sought treatment in specialties like cardiology, oncology, organ transplants, and wellness therapies like Ayurveda.
- The Union Health Minister stated that the initiative not only boosts our economy but also showcases the world-class quality and affordability of Indian healthcare, reinforcing our soft power.
- The government aims to double these figures by 2028.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-II:** Issues relating to the development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

**GS Paper-III:** Indian Economy; Services Sector.

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## **9. National Quantum Mission's First Thematic Hub for Computing Inaugurated at IISc Bangalore**

**Source: The Hindu**

**News:** The Department of Science and Technology (DST) today inaugurated the first of four planned thematic hubs under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), focusing on Quantum Computing, at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The NQM, with an outlay of over ₹6,000 crore, was approved in 2023 to foster scientific and industrial R&D in Quantum Technologies. This hub, a collaborative effort between academia and industry, will work towards developing indigenous quantum processors and algorithms.

### **Analysis**

- The Secretary of DST, speaking at the event, said that this hub would serve as a national nucleus for fundamental and applied research in quantum computing, aiming to build an intermediate-scale quantum computer with 50-100 physical qubits in the next five years.
- The hub will also focus on developing a skilled workforce through doctoral and post-doctoral programs and will promote startups in the quantum space.
- Quantum technology is a strategic domain with transformative potential in fields like healthcare, communications, financial modeling, and national security.
- The establishment of this hub marks a concrete step towards achieving India's ambition of becoming a global leader in this disruptive technology area.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-III:** Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Achievements of Indians in science & technology; Indigenization of technology; Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics.

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## **10. Government Committee Recommends Sweeping Reforms in PLI Scheme to Boost MSME Participation**

**Source: Economic Times**

**News:** A high-level committee appointed to review the performance of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes has recommended significant reforms to enhance their effectiveness and broaden their impact, particularly for the MSME sector. The committee, headed by a former commerce secretary, submitted its report to the Ministry of Finance, suggesting that the current structure of the PLI schemes, while successful in attracting large-scale investments, has inadvertently sidelined smaller players.

### **Analysis**

- The report recommends creating a separate, dedicated window within the existing PLI schemes for MSMEs, with lower investment and turnover thresholds and simpler compliance requirements.
- It also proposes linking incentives not just to incremental sales, but also to metrics like job creation, R&D expenditure, and localization of the supply chain.
- For instance, companies sourcing a higher percentage of their components from domestic MSMEs could be offered an additional "localization bonus."
- The committee argues that integrating MSMEs more deeply into the value chains created by PLI beneficiaries is crucial for creating widespread employment and fostering a self-reliant industrial ecosystem.
- The government is expected to study the recommendations before announcing a revamped 'PLI 2.0' framework.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlation:**

**GS Paper-III:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment; Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy, and their effects on industrial growth.