

Today's Prelims Topics

Blood Money

Context

The Delhi High Court refused to quash an FIR against a man accused of negligently causing the death of a five-year-old, stating that no civilized society can approve blood money.

What is 'Blood Money'?

- It is known as **diya in Islamic Sharia law**, it involves compensation paid by the perpetrator of a crime to the victim or their family.
- **Purpose:** To alleviate the suffering of the victim's family and potential loss of income rather than putting a monetary value on life.
- **Applicability:**
 - Common in cases of unintentional murder or culpable homicide.
 - Also used in intentional murder cases where the victim's family chooses reconciliation instead of **qisas (retribution)**.
- **State Involvement:** Even after reconciliation, the state or community retains the right to impose additional penalties.

Contemporary Applications in Islamic Countries

- **Saudi Arabia:** Used in road accidents and workplace incidents. Sharia courts determine compensation, while police decide culpability.
- **Iran:** Compensation varies by gender and religion. Women's compensation is half of men's.
- **Yemen:** Consensus for compensation can be arrived at by parties and there can be a judicial oversight over the fairness of the compensation.

Historical practices similar to Blood Money

- **Ireland:** System of *Éraic* (body price) and *Log nEnech* (honor price) under Brehon law of the 7th century AD.
- **Wales:** *Galanas* - Determined compensation based on the victim's status.
- **Germany:** *Wergeld* - Formalized in early medieval Germany.

India's Stand on 'Blood Money'

- No direct provision for 'blood money' in India's legal system.
- **Comparable Concept:**
 - **Plea bargaining**, introduced via the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005.
 - Allows defendants to plead guilty for lesser charges or reduced sentences in return for concessions.
 - **Limitations of Plea Bargaining:**
 - Applies only to offenses with imprisonment less than **7** years.
 - Not applicable for crimes against women, children, heinous crimes or socio-economic offenses.
 - Victims may receive compensation under **Section 265E**.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Mansa Devi Temple

Context

A tragic stampede near the **Mansa Devi temple** in **Haridwar** recently resulted in the loss of **eight lives** and left **28 others injured**.

About Mansa Devi Temple

- **Mansa Devi Temple** is a revered **Hindu shrine** dedicated to **Goddess Mansa Devi**, a manifestation of **Shakti (Goddess Durga)**.
- It is situated in **Haridwar**, in the Indian state of **Uttarakhand**.
- The temple stands atop **Bilwa Parvat**, part of the **Shivalik Hills**, which are the southernmost range of the **Himalayas**.
- Also known as **Bilwa Tirth**, the temple is one of the **Panch Tirth (Five Pilgrimage Sites)** in Haridwar.
- It represents the **age-old tradition of Shakti worship** prevalent in **North India**.
- The present main structure was built between **1811 and 1815** by **Maharaja Gopal Singh of Manimajra**.
- The **temple complex spans 100 acres** and features traditional **North Indian architecture**.
- Apart from Mansa Devi, the temple also houses an idol of her sister, **Goddess Chandi Devi**, making it a dual shrine.

Source: [IndiaTVNews](https://www.indiatvnews.com)



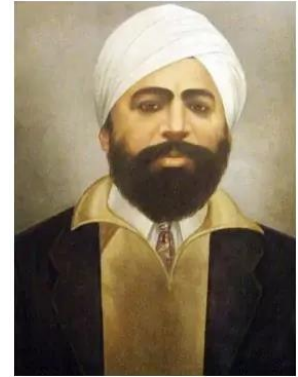
Udham Singh

Context

Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day 2025 was observed on July 31 to commemorate the sacrifice of Udham Singh for India's struggle against British colonial rule.

Who was Udham Singh?

- Born on **26 December 1899** in **Sunam, Punjab**, Udham Singh was a prominent **Indian revolutionary**.
- He was profoundly influenced by the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** and the **Nankana Sahib tragedy**.
- Became an active member of the **Ghadar Party**, a revolutionary group of overseas Indians.
- Later, he founded his own group called the **Azad Party**.
- He was known for **smuggling arms** to aid Indian revolutionaries and was ideologically influenced by **Bhagat Singh**.



Impact of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- The massacre on **13 April 1919** left a deep impression on him.
- It became a driving force behind his **determination to avenge British brutality**.

Act of Revenge

- On **13 March 1940**, in **London**, Udham Singh **assassinated Michael O'Dwyer**, former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.
- O'Dwyer had defended **General Reginald Dyer's actions** during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Aftermath and Execution

- Udham Singh was **arrested, tried, and later executed by hanging** on **31 July 1940** at **Pentonville Prison, London**.

Symbolism of His Identity

- He used various aliases, notably '**Mohammed Singh Azad**', to represent communal unity—Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs—against **British imperialism**.

Source: [PIB](#)

Judges Protection Act, 198

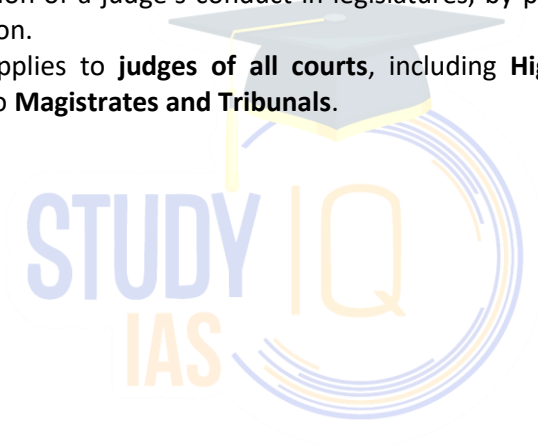
Context

Supreme Court reserved verdict on Justice Yashwant Varma's plea challenging the in-house inquiry, citing Judges Protection Act, 1985.

About the Act

- **Aim:** To safeguard judicial independence by providing immunity to judges from legal action for acts done in their official capacity.
- **Objective:** To protect judges of civil, criminal, and constitutional courts from unwarranted litigation for judicial acts done in the course of their duty.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Immunity from Civil and Criminal Proceedings- Section 3:** No court shall entertain or continue any suit or legal proceeding against a judge for any act done or ordered to be done by him in the discharge of his judicial duty, even if done in excess of jurisdiction, **provided it was done in good faith.**
 - **Extension to Officers Acting Under Judicial Orders:** The protection extends to **court staff or officers** acting in pursuance of a judge's order.
 - **Protection Beyond the Constitution:** Goes beyond **Article 121 and Article 211**, which restrict discussion of a judge's conduct in legislatures, by providing statutory immunity from prosecution.
 - **Application:** Applies to **judges of all courts**, including **High Courts and subordinate courts**, and also **Magistrates and Tribunals.**

Source: [Indian Express](#)



Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme

Context

23 chip design projects approved for financial assistance under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

About the Scheme

- **Aim:** To promote domestic innovation and self-reliance in semiconductor design by offering **financial incentives and infrastructure support** at various stages of design and deployment.
 - **Objective:** To support and nurture at least **20 Indian companies** involved in semiconductor design and help them achieve a **turnover of over ₹1,500 crore within five years**.
 - To enable significant **indigenisation of semiconductor content**, reducing import dependence and enhancing value addition in the electronics sector.
 - **Target Areas:** Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores, Semiconductor-linked designs
 - **Nodal Agency:** The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, is the implementing body.
 - **Eligibility Criteria:** Open to **Indian startups, MSMEs, and domestic companies** engaged in semiconductor design.
 - Applicants must maintain **domestic ownership status** for a minimum of three years.
 - To claim annual incentives, companies must meet specified **threshold sales criteria**.
 - If an applicant fails to meet the **net sales threshold** in a given year, they won't be eligible for incentive for that year.
 - However, they can requalify for subsequent years during the scheme's tenure if the threshold is met.
- **Domestic Ownership:** More than **50% capital** should be owned by **resident Indian citizens and Indian companies** ultimately controlled by them.
- **Key Components**
 - **Chip Design Infrastructure Support:** Establishment of the **India Chip Centre** by C-DAC to provide access to EDA tools and design infrastructure.
 - **Product Design Linked Incentive:** Financial support tied to milestones in product development.
 - **Deployment Linked Incentive:** Incentive based on successful deployment and commercialization of designed semiconductor products.

Source: [PIB](#)

News in Short

Piprahwa relics

News? Jewels forming a portion of the sacred Piprahwa relics of the Buddha, which had recently come up for auction at Sotheby's Hong Kong, were repatriated to India.

About it

- Earlier the Indian ministry posted a letter it sent to Sotheby's and Chris Peppé, the **great-grandson of William Claxton Peppé**.
- **William Claxton Peppé** was an English estate manager who excavated a **stupa at Piprahwa (present day Uttar Pradesh)**, just south of **Lumbini in 1898**, the believed birthplace of Buddha.
 - The findings included nearly 1,800 gems, including rubies, topaz, sapphires and patterned gold sheets, stored inside a brick chamber.
 - The **bone relics** were gifted to the **Buddhist King of Siam (Rama V)**.
 - 5 **relic urns**, a **stone chest**, and most other items were sent to the **Indian Museum in Kolkata**, then known as the **Imperial Museum of Calcutta**.



Source: [Indian Express](#)

SIMBEX-25

News? Indian Naval Ship Satpura has arrived at Singapore to participate in 32nd edition of SIMBEX.

About SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise)

Origin: Initiated in 1994, SIMBEX is the longest uninterrupted naval exercise India has with any country.

- **Objective:** To enhance interoperability, strengthen mutual trust, and exchange best practices in naval operations between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- **Format:** Conducted annually in two phases:
 - **Harbour Phase:** Involves Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), operational-level discussions, professional interactions, and ship visits.
 - **Sea Phase:** Includes complex maritime drills such as air defence, cross-deck helicopter operations, VBSS (Visit, Board, Search & Seizure), precision targeting, and tactical maneuvering.
- **Significance:**
 - Reflects deepening maritime cooperation and shared commitment to regional stability and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.
 - Aligns with India's *Act East Policy* and maritime vision *MAHASAGAR*.
 - Demonstrates mutual respect, professionalism, and adherence to a rules-based maritime order.

Source: [PIB](#)

Exercise Divya Drishti

News? The Indian Army recently carried out 'Exercise Divya Drishti'.

About Exercise Divya Drishti

- It is a high-altitude technology demonstration exercise conducted by the **Indian Army** in the **East**

Sikkim region.

- The objective was to **test advanced technologies** aimed at enhancing **battlefield awareness, real-time surveillance, and rapid decision-making**.
- The exercise aimed to assess the Indian Army's **combat readiness** and proficiency in employing **AI and emerging technologies** in practical battlefield conditions.

Source: [IndianExpress](#)

Ring of Fire

News? The epicentre of the recent 8.8 magnitude earthquake in the Russian far east side was on the Circum-Pacific belt (or Ring of fire).

About Ring of Fire

- It is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- Roughly **80% of all earthquakes occur along the Ring of Fire** (2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake or Northern Sumatra earthquake, the Alaska earthquake of 1964, and the Japan earthquake of 2011), and the ring is dotted with **75% of all active volcanoes on Earth**.
- Many volcanoes in the Ring of Fire were created through a process of subduction



Recently Erupted Volcanoes in this Belt

- Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki (Indonesia).
- Klyuchevskoy (Russia, Kamchatka Peninsula)
- Shinmoedake (Kirishima cluster, Japan)
- Mount Marapi (Sumatra, Indonesia)

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Editorial Summary

Key takeaways from IMF's latest World Economic Outlook

Context

International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the latest update of its World Economic Outlook (WEO) and in it raised India's growth forecast to 6.4% for 2025 and 2026.

Key Features of the WEO

- **Publisher:** Released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, which has **191 member countries**.
- **Release Frequency:** Published **twice a year: April and October**.
 - **Updates** are provided in **January and July**.
- **Purpose:** Offers comprehensive **economic analysis and forecasts** for global, regional, and national economies.
 - Helps policymakers, economists, and investors assess **economic trends and risks**.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Global GDP growth projections**
 - **Inflation and unemployment trends**
 - **Monetary and fiscal policy outlook**
 - **Debt levels and trade flows**
 - **Emerging risks**, such as geopolitical tensions, climate change, or commodity shocks.

Key Takeaways from IMF's July 2025 World Economic Outlook (WEO)

- **Global Economy Shows Fragile Resilience:** Despite multiple shocks — pandemic, Ukraine war, trade tensions, and tariff hikes — the global economy continues to grow.
 - **Global growth forecast** for 2025 is **3.0%**, slightly up from the April projection.
- **Persistent Uncertainty Looms:** The global recovery is **tenuous** due to:
 - Possible escalation in US-led **tariffs**.
 - **Geopolitical tensions** (Russia-Ukraine, Middle East).
 - **Rising government debt** leading to higher global interest rates.
- **Uneven Growth Across Regions:**
 - **US growth** is expected to slow to **1.9%** in 2025 due to policy uncertainty.
 - **China's growth** remains stable at **4.8%**, with the biggest upgrade among major economies.
 - **Europe and Japan** show sluggish but recovering growth.
 - **India stands out** with one of the highest growth rates globally at **6.4%**.

Implications for India

Positive Outlook

- **High Growth Momentum:** At **6.4%**, India remains a key driver of global growth despite a global slowdown.
- **Global Supply Chain Diversification:** Uncertainty around China and tariff disruptions can benefit India as firms look to diversify supply chains.
- **Capital Inflows Potential:** India's relative macroeconomic stability and growth make it an attractive destination for **foreign investment**.

Challenges and Risks

- **External Risks:** High global interest rates may affect **capital flows** and increase India's **borrowing costs**.
 - **Geopolitical instability** may drive up **imported inflation** via higher oil and commodity prices.
- **Export Slowdown:** Weak demand in developed economies could hurt India's **merchandise and services exports**.
- **Debt Spillovers:** Global debt concerns and tightening by developed economies' central banks can impact **fiscal space** and financing of India's infrastructure push.

Way Forward for India

- Continue **supply-side reforms**, infrastructure investment, and ease of doing business.
- Focus on **manufacturing and export diversification** (PLI schemes, FTAs).
- Maintain **macroeconomic stability** (inflation control, fiscal prudence) to navigate global headwinds.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

