

## Today's Prelims Topics

### Bill allowing the removal of elected representatives

#### Context

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tabled 3 bills that will allow removal of PM, CMs, Union and State Ministers facing serious criminal charges.

#### Related Legislative Measures

- **Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025** → Union + States.
- **Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025** → Modifies **1963 Act** (covers Delhi, Puducherry).
- **J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025** → Alters **2019 Act**, Section 54.

#### Key Provisions of the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025

- **Amendments proposed:** Articles **75, 164, 239AA**.
  - **Article 75** → Council of Ministers at Union level (incl. PM).
  - **Article 164** → Council of Ministers in States (incl. CM).
  - **Article 239AA** → Special provisions for NCT of Delhi.
- **Removal Clause:** If a PM/CM/Minister is **arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days** on charges carrying punishment of **5+ years** imprisonment:
  - **Union Level** → President removes PM/Union Ministers.
  - **State Level** → Governor removes Ministers (on CM's advice); removes CM directly.
  - **UTs & J&K** → Similar provisions through UT/J&K-specific amendments.
- **Reappointment:** Ministers can return to office after release.

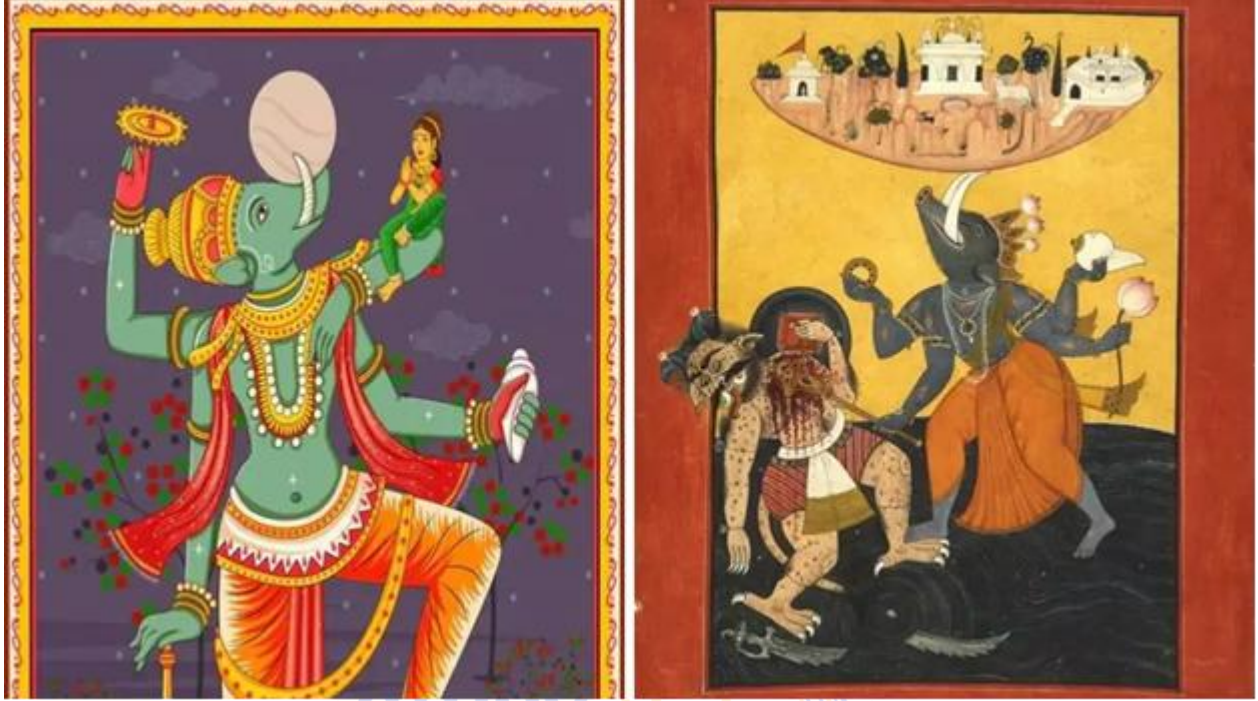
Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)

## Varaha Jayanti

### Context

Maharashtra Minister **Nitesh Rane** urged the State government to **celebrate August 25 as 'Varaha Jayanti'** with cultural and religious events, lectures in schools, and inclusion in textbooks.

### What is Varaha Jayanti?



- **Incarnation:** Marks the birth of **Varaha**, the **third avatar of Lord Vishnu** (boar form).
- **Mythological significance:** Vishnu as Varaha lifted the Earth (Bhudevi) from the cosmic ocean after it was submerged by demon **Hiranyaksha**.
- **Symbolism:** Represents **victory of good over evil** and **restoration of cosmic order**.
- **Celebration:** Involves **pujas, bhajans, discourses**, and rituals dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
- **Date:** Observed on **Shukla Paksha Tritiya** (third day of the bright fortnight) in the month of **Bhadrapada** (usually August/September).

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)

## International Solar Alliance

### Context

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) plans to establish a global research hub in India and set up 17 centers of excellence worldwide.

### About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Launched in: 2015** at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris by India and France.
- **Aim:** To support the addition of 1,000 gigawatts of solar capacity and mobilise over \$1 trillion in investments by 2030.
  - It focuses on overcoming political, regulatory, technical, and financial barriers to solar energy deployment by leveraging expertise from technical and financial institutions.
- **Members:** At present, 120 countries are Signatories and 102 countries have submitted the necessary instruments of ratification to become full members of the ISA.
- **Governance Structure**



- **Assembly: Apex decision-making body.**
  - Comprises representatives from all member countries.
  - It **meets annually** at the ministerial level to discuss and make decisions on key issues such as:
    - Selection of the Director General
    - Approval of the operational budget
    - Evaluation of programs and initiatives aimed at promoting solar energy deployment.
- **Standing Committee:** This includes the **President, Co-President, and 8 regional Vice Presidents.**
  - It serves as a **bridge between the Assembly and Regional Committees** as it facilitates discussions and decisions that inform the Assembly's deliberations.
- **Regional Committees:** 4 regional groups—Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Others, and Latin America-Caribbean.
  - Each region has its own committee that meets annually to assess progress, challenges, and opportunities specific to solar energy initiatives in their areas.
- **Decision-Making Process:** The discussions held in the Regional Committees inform the Standing Committee's deliberations. These, in turn, provide insights and recommendations to the Assembly.

- **Each member country has one vote** in the Assembly. This ensures equitable representation in decision-making processes.
- **Programs and Support:** The ISA provides various forms of support to its member countries, including:
  - Training local stakeholders on solar technology.
  - Facilitating financing for solar projects through mechanisms like viability gap funding (VGF), which has recently been increased from 10% to up to 35% of project costs for developing countries.
  - Establishing training centres across regions to build capacity in solar energy applications.

**Fact**

- India elected as president and France as co-president for a two-year term from 2024 to 2026.

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)



## Outer Space Treaty of 1967

### Context

India is pushing for a national space law to regulate its growing public and private space activities, as it currently lacks comprehensive domestic legislation to enforce international treaties.

### Outer Space Treaty

- The **Outer Space Treaty (OST), 1967** is the foundational international law regulating the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.
- It was shaped by **Cold War diplomacy**, during the intense rivalry between the **USA and USSR** in the "space race."
- The **launch of Sputnik in 1957** by the Soviet Union raised fears of space becoming a military battleground.
- To ensure peaceful utilisation, countries negotiated and signed the treaty in **1967**, with **115 signatories**, including India.

### Key Provisions of the OST

- **Peaceful Use of Space** – Outer space, including the Moon and celestial bodies, can only be used for peaceful purposes; arms race is to be avoided.
- **Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction** – Deployment of nuclear or other WMDs in orbit or on celestial bodies is forbidden.
- **No Sovereignty Claims** – No government can claim ownership of outer space or celestial bodies; space remains a **global common**.
- **Non-Exclusive Exploration** – No country has exclusive rights over any particular region in space (e.g., USA cannot claim the Moon despite landing first).
- **State Responsibility** – Nations are responsible for both governmental and private space activities and liable for any damages caused by their space objects.
- **Astronauts as Envoys of Mankind** – Astronauts are considered representatives of humanity; nations must assist them in distress and ensure safe return regardless of nationality.
- **Environmental Protection** – Activities should avoid contamination of celestial bodies and protect Earth's biosphere.

### Challenges & Contemporary Issues

- **Rise of Private Companies** – Firms like **SpaceX, Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic** are leading space missions, but regulations lag behind.
- **Article VI Accountability** – Governments remain accountable for private actors, yet national regulatory frameworks are weak.
- **Space Debris** – The growing number of satellites and missions increases risks of collisions and long-term orbital debris.
- **Militarization Concerns** – Ensuring peaceful use of space is difficult as nations expand defense-oriented space capabilities.
- **Resource Exploitation** – Uncertainty exists over whether mining celestial bodies (e.g., for minerals) violates the non-ownership clause, since exploration is allowed but ownership is prohibited.

Source: [TheHindu](#)

## Charge Coupled Devices (CCDs)

### Context

Willard Boyle and George Smith, inventors of the **charge-coupled device (CCD)**, are being remembered (Smith passed away on **May 28, 2025**).

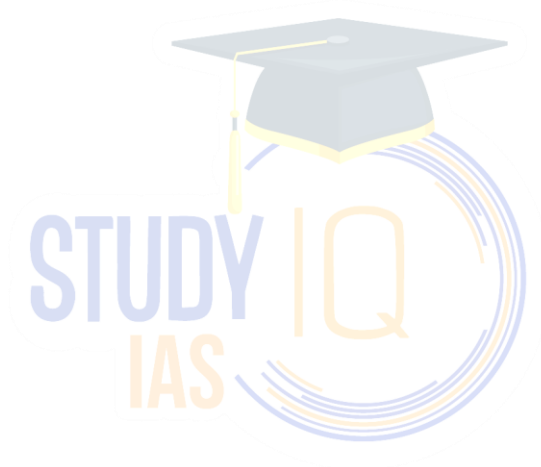
### What are Charge Coupled Devices (CCDs)?

- Light photons hit semiconductor → release **electron-hole pairs**.
- Each pixel stores charge proportional to light intensity.
- Charges transferred sequentially → converted into voltage → digital image created.

### Significance

- Revolutionized **digital photography** (replaced film).
- Widely used in:
  - **Astronomy** → high-resolution telescopes.
  - **Medicine** → X-ray, CT scan, endoscopy.
  - **Security** → CCTV, surveillance.
  - **Media & daily life** → digital cameras, smartphones.

Source: [TheHindu](#)



## International Criminal Court (ICC)

### Context

The **U.S. Trump administration** imposed **new sanctions on International Criminal Court (ICC) officials** for investigating alleged **war crimes by Israeli leaders and past U.S. officials**, which the ICC called an attack on its independence.

### About International Criminal Court (ICC)

- **Established:** 2002, as the world's first permanent international criminal tribunal.
- **Legal Basis:** Created by the **Rome Statute (1998)**, which entered into force on **1 July 2002**.
- **Mandate:** Tries individuals for the most serious international crimes –
  - Genocide
  - War crimes
  - Crimes against humanity
  - Crime of aggression
- **Role:** Court of last resort → complements, not replaces, national courts.

### Membership

- **States Parties:** 125 countries.
- **Non-Members:** Major countries like **China, India, Israel, Russia, and the USA** are not members.

### Funding

- Contributions from **States Parties**.
- **Voluntary contributions** from governments, international organizations, individuals, and corporations.

### Composition of ICC

- **Judges:** 18 judges (each from a different member state), elected for non-renewable **9-year terms**.
- **Presidency:** 3 judges (President + 2 Vice Presidents) elected from among the judges; manage court's work and represent ICC externally.
- **Judicial Divisions:**
  - Pre-Trial Division
  - Trial Division
  - Appeals Division
- **Office of the Prosecutor (OTP):** Receives referrals, conducts investigations, and prosecutes cases.
- **Registry:** Provides administrative and operational support to chambers and the OTP.

### Jurisdiction

- Prosecutes **individuals** (not states), unlike the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**.
- ICC can act if:
  1. The crime occurred in a State Party to the Rome Statute, OR
  2. The perpetrator's nationality belongs to a State Party.
- Can only intervene if **national courts are unwilling or unable** to prosecute.
- Jurisdiction applies only to crimes committed **after 1 July 2002**.

### Relation with the United Nations

- ICC is **not a UN body**, but has a cooperation agreement with the UN (Article 2 of the Rome Statute).

- **UN Security Council** can refer cases outside ICC jurisdiction (e.g., situations in non-member states).

Source: [TheHindu](https://www.thehindu.com)

