
Today's Prelims Topics

India-Australia MRA For Organic Products

Context

India and Australia signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on organic products.

More in News

- Under this arrangement, **both countries will accept each other's organic certification systems**, thereby reducing duplication of compliance.

Significance of the MRA

- **Market Access Expansion.**
- **Reduced Compliance Costs:** Cuts down on double testing, paperwork, and regulatory delays.
- **Farmer Livelihoods:** Organic produce earns **30–40% higher prices** compared to conventional produce.
- **Consumer Trust & Transparency:** Recognition reflects confidence in India's **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** and strengthens credibility of Indian certifications globally.
- **Deepens India–Australia trade ties** under economic and agri-tech cooperation.

Status of India's Organic Sector

- **Global Standing** (Source: FIBL & IFOAM Yearbook, 2024): India ranks **2nd in the world** in organic agricultural land.
 - Ranks **1st globally in the number of organic producers.**
- **Production & Exports:** India produced **3.6 million tonnes** of certified organic products in FY24.
 - Exported **2.61 lakh tonnes**, earning **\$494.8 million**.
 - Major export destinations: **US, EU, Canada, UK, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, New Zealand, Thailand, Switzerland.**
 - Organic exports to **Australia** alone stood at **\$8.96 million in FY25** (2,781.58 MT).
 - Fibre crops form the **largest share** of organic output.
- **Cultivation Area:** **7.3 million hectares** under organic cultivation (FY24).
 - **4.5 million hectares** farm area.
 - **2.8 million hectares** wild collection area.
 - **Madhya Pradesh leads** in certified area, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, and others.

Source: [Live Mint](#)

CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification)

Context

The nomination of movie “Homebound” for Oscars 2026 comes amid growing controversies around CBFC, which has been accused of arbitrary cuts and excessive control over films.

About CBFC

- A **statutory body** established under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952** under the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)**, Government of India.
- **Functions:**
 - **Certifies films** under categories:
 - **U (Universal)** – suitable for all.
 - **UA (Parental Guidance)** – children below 12 require parental guidance.
 - **A (Adult)** – restricted to adults.
 - **S (Special Audience)** – restricted to professionals/groups like doctors, scientists, etc.
 - Suggests **cuts, modifications, or refuses certification** if a film violates guidelines.
 - Ensures films do not:
 - Undermine sovereignty and integrity of India.
 - Harm public order, morality, or decency.
 - Offend religious sentiments.
 - Glorify violence, drugs, or obscenity.
- **Structure:** Headed by a **Chairperson**, appointed by the Government.
 - Supported by:
 - **Examining Committees (ECs)**: first level of film review.
 - **Revising Committees (RCs)**: hear appeals when filmmakers contest EC decisions.
 - **Advisory Panels**: ~1,000 members across India, who assist in film certification.
- **Tenure:**
 - **Chairperson**: The tenure is **three years**, but the Government can extend or terminate it earlier.
 - **Member**: The CBFC is composed of up to **25 members** (including the chairperson).
 - Each member is appointed for a **period of three years**.
 - Members are **not automatically reappointed** after the end of tenure; fresh notification is required.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Pragati platform

Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 49th PRAGATI meeting.

About PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)

- It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform launched in 2015.
- It is aimed at addressing common man's grievances and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government (Both Centre & State).
- The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: **Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.**

Key Features

- It is a three-tier system (**PMO, Union Government Secretaries and Chief Secretaries of the States**)
- **Monthly PRAGATI Meetings** chaired by the **Prime Minister**.
- PM reviews progress of:
 - **Infrastructure projects** (railways, roads, power, oil & gas, coal, aviation, shipping, etc.).
 - **Flagship programmes** (Digital India, PMGSY, AMRUT, etc.).
 - **Public grievances** received on the **CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System)** portal.
- Uses **geo-tagged project data** and **satellite imagery** for real-time updates.
- **Citizen-centric focus** – ensures government services reach people without delay.

Source: [PIB](#)

World Food India 2025

Context

The 4th edition World Food India is being organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries on September 25-28, 2025.

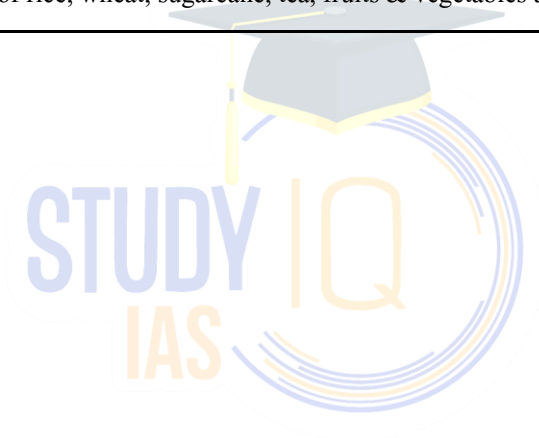
About World Food India

- **Introduced by:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
 - First edition in 2017, followed by 2nd in 2023, 3rd in 2024.
- **Objective:** Showcase **India's food processing strength**, attract **global investment**, promote **innovation & technology**, and project India as a **“Global Food Hub.”**
- **Format:** Exhibitions, B2B/B2G/G2G meetings, conferences, state & country sessions, food street, and start-up showcases.

Related Fact

- India is the **largest producer of milk, onions and pulses.**
- 2nd largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, fruits & vegetables and eggs.

Source: [PIB](#)



DSIR Scheme for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

Context

The Union Cabinet approved the scheme on “Capacity Building and Human Resource Development” for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 under the Fifteenth Finance Commission cycle.

About the Scheme on Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

- **Implemented by:** Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) / Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- **Coverage:**
 - All R&D institutions, national laboratories, Institutes of National Importance, Institutes of Eminence, and universities across India.
 - Provides a platform for young researchers, PhD & post-doctoral fellows, scientists, and faculty.
- **Objective:**
 - Build a **strong pool of skilled human resources** in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medical, and Mathematical (STEMM) fields.
 - Enhance India’s **researchers per million population**.
 - Support India’s progress in **SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)** linked to science & technology.
 - Position India as a **global leader in R&D and innovation**.
- **Sub-Schemes under CBHRD:**
 - **Doctoral & Postdoctoral Fellowships** – support to young researchers.
 - **Extramural Research Scheme, Emeritus Scientist Scheme & Bhatnagar Fellowship** – to encourage research excellence.
 - **Awards Scheme** – recognition and promotion of scientific achievements.
 - **Travel & Symposia Grant Scheme** – for knowledge sharing, conferences, and international exposure.

Source: [PIB](#)

Agni Prime Missile

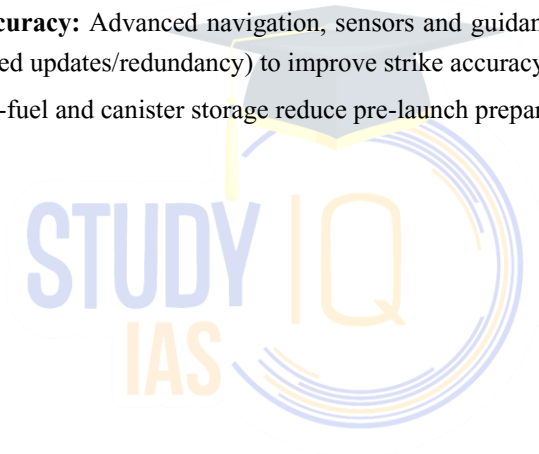
Context

India successfully tests Agni-Prime Missile from rail-based launcher.

About Agni Prime Missile

- It is an indigenously developed, **medium-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile**.
- **Developed by:** Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Range:** ~1,200–2,000 km (medium-range — not an ICBM).
 - **Propulsion:** Two-stage solid-propellant motor.
 - Designed to carry **conventional or nuclear** warheads.
 - **Canisterised** enabling rapid reaction, long storage life and easier road/rail mobility.
 - **Mobility:** Road-mobile launcher compatibility (improves survivability and second-strike posture).
 - **Materials & design:** Uses **composite materials** for a lightweight, compact structure — reported to be ~50% lighter than Agni-III.
 - **Guidance & accuracy:** Advanced navigation, sensors and guidance systems (inertial navigation with satellite-aided updates/redundancy) to improve strike accuracy.
 - **Handling:** Solid-fuel and canister storage reduce pre-launch preparations and maintenance needs.

Source: [Hindustan Times](#)



Chinese K- visa

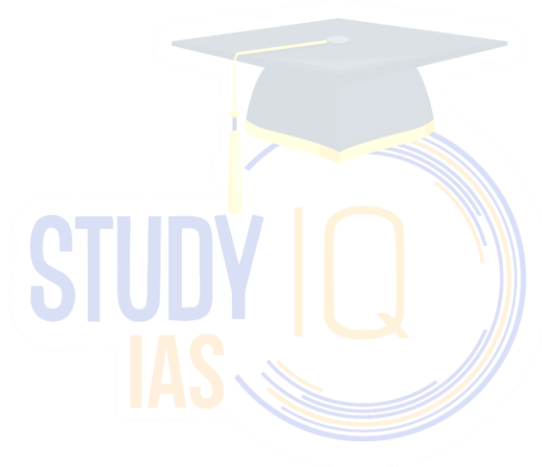
Context

China will introduce a new visa category called the K visa for global talent.

About China K-Visa

- **Target group:** Foreign youth with a **bachelor's degree or higher in STEM**, or those engaged in **research/teaching** in recognised institutions.
- **No employer sponsorship needed** – unlike traditional work visas.
- **Multiple purposes allowed:** Can be used for **research, academic exchange, entrepreneurship, cultural, and tech-related activities**.
- **Flexibility:** Expected to allow **longer stays, multiple entries, and easier renewals** compared to existing visas.

Source: [Indian Express](#)



Mains Topics

Personality Rights

Context

The **Delhi High Court** recently protected the **personality rights** of Bollywood actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, and filmmaker Karan Johar, after they flagged misuse of their **images and voices** through AI-generated content.

What are Personality Rights?

- **Definition:** Personality rights protect an individual's name, image, likeness, voice, signature, and other identifiable traits from unauthorised use.
- **Purpose:** Prevents others from commercially exploiting an individual's persona without consent, especially celebrities who build brand value around their identity.
- **Scope:** Extends beyond celebrities to **ordinary citizens**, especially in cases of misuse of private images, revenge pornography, or deepfakes.

Legal Basis for Personality Rights in India

- **Constitutional Basis:** Rooted in **Article 21** (Right to Privacy, Dignity, and Autonomy).
- **Statutory Protections:**
 - **Copyright Act, 1957:**
 - Section 38A – performers' exclusive rights.
 - Section 38B – performers' moral rights (prevent distortion or misuse).
- **Trade Marks Act, 1999:** Allows celebrities to trademark names, signatures, catchphrases (e.g., Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan).
 - **Section 27:** Common law tort of "passing off" prevents misrepresentation and false endorsement.

Judicial Evolution of Personality Rights

- **R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu (1994):** SC upheld privacy as part of Article 21; recognised control over identity use.
- **Rajinikanth case (Madras HC, 2015):** Unauthorised film use of name/image restrained even without proof of deception.
- **Anil Kapoor v. Various Entities (Delhi HC, 2023):** Protected voice, catchphrases, and persona; clarified free speech exception for satire & parody.
- **Jackie Shroff case (Delhi HC, 2024):** Prohibited misuse on e-commerce & AI chatbots; stressed on brand equity dilution.
- **Arijit Singh v. Codible Ventures (Bombay HC, 2024):** Voice cloning using AI ruled violation; highlighted generative AI risks.
- **Delhi High Court (Sept 2025):** Granted relief to Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan against AI-generated misuse of their images and voices.

Why Do We Need Personality Rights?

- **Safeguard Human Dignity:** Prevents misuse that strips individuals of autonomy over their identity.
- **Protect Economic Value:** Celebrities and influencers invest in building brand equity; misuse dilutes their marketability.
- **Counter AI & Digital Misuse:** Deepfakes, voice cloning, and manipulated content can cause reputational and financial damage.
- **Prevent Public Deception:** Protects consumers from being misled into believing false endorsements.
- **Extend Protection Beyond Celebrities:** Safeguards ordinary citizens, particularly women, from deepfakes, cyber-harassment, and revenge pornography.

Challenges, Concerns & Policy Gaps

- **Absence of Comprehensive Legislation:** Protections scattered across IP laws and judicial precedents; no unified statutory regime.
- **Overreach vs Free Speech:** Excessive protection risks chilling legitimate **satire, parody, and criticism** protected under Article 19(1)(a).
- **Enforcement Difficulties:** Online content spreads rapidly; tracking and takedown of infringements is slow and resource-intensive.
- **Ambiguity in Scope:** Courts recognise celebrity rights strongly, but protections for ordinary citizens remain weak and underdeveloped.
- **Global Dimension:** Misuse often originates abroad; lack of cross-border enforcement mechanisms makes protection harder.
- **Technology Gap:** AI-generated content evolves faster than regulatory or judicial responses.

Way Forward

- **Comprehensive Legislation:** Enact a dedicated Personality Rights Act defining scope, exceptions, and remedies.
- **Clear Exceptions:** Protect free speech by exempting satire, parody, criticism, news reporting, and academic use.
- **Stronger Enforcement Mechanisms:** Fast-track takedown procedures for online misuse. Collaboration with tech platforms for proactive detection of deepfakes.
- **Awareness:** Educate citizens, especially vulnerable groups, about their rights and remedies.
- **Capacity Building:** Train judiciary and law enforcement in digital rights protection.
- **Extension to Ordinary Citizens:** Ensure personality rights are not limited to celebrities but also address deepfake abuse and gender-based targeting.
- **Global Cooperation:** Work on treaties and bilateral agreements for cross-border enforcement of personality rights.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

IBC Amendment Bill 2025\

Context

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 seeks to address persistent delays, promoter resistance, and judicial ambiguities in India's insolvency framework while reinforcing creditor-driven, time-bound resolutions.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 – Overview

- Enacted in **2016** to consolidate and amend laws relating to reorganisation and insolvency resolution of companies, partnerships, and individuals.
- **Objective:** Provide a time-bound, creditor-driven process for insolvency resolution and maximise value of assets.
- **Key Features:**
 - Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) within 180 days (extendable to 270 days).
 - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) as the regulator.
 - National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as adjudicating authority.
 - Committee of Creditors (CoC) empowered to decide resolution plans.
 - Waterfall mechanism for distribution of proceeds.

Challenges Persisting After Adoption

- **Delays in Resolution:** Despite strict timelines, average resolution takes **600–700 days**, due to litigation and NCLT backlogs.
- **Promoter Resistance:** Suspended promoters often use litigation to delay the process, undermining the Code's creditor-driven intent.
- **Low Recovery Rates:** Initial recovery rates were 40–45%, but have since fallen to ~30% of admitted claims, raising concerns over effectiveness.
- **Judicial Ambiguity:** Conflicting rulings (e.g., *Vidarbha Power vs Innoventive Industries*) created uncertainty on admission and creditor rights.
- **Operational Creditors' Concerns:** MSMEs and suppliers often get sidelined in CoC-led decision-making.
- **High Liquidation Rate:** Nearly half of admitted cases end in liquidation, going against the “resolution-first” principle.

Major Provisions of IBC Amendment Bill, 2025

- **Faster Admission of Insolvency Cases:**
 - **Mandatory admission:** If default is proven and documents are in order, NCLT **must admit** cases (no more discretion).
 - **Proof of default:** Records from financial institutions will be treated as **conclusive evidence**.
 - **Timeline:** NCLT must decide in **14 days**; any delay must be explained.
- **Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP) – Out-of-Court Route**
 - Creditors holding **51% debt** can start insolvency directly.
 - Company management continues, but a resolution professional supervises with **veto powers**.

- Process must finish in **150 days**; if it fails, it converts to the normal CIRP.
- **Group Insolvency Framework:**
 - Allows **joint resolution** of companies within the same group.
 - Common resolution professional and committee of creditors (CoC) possible.
 - Prevents value loss from fragmented proceedings (e.g., Videocon case).
- **Cross-Border Insolvency:**
 - Provides a framework to recognise Indian insolvency abroad.
 - Helps lenders recover **overseas assets**.
 - Aligns with **UNCITRAL Model Law** and global practices.
- **Other Key Changes:**
 - **Pre-Packaged Insolvency (PPIRP)** expanded, especially for MSMEs, keeping businesses running during restructuring.
 - More **NCLT benches** and extended claim timelines to speed up cases.

Issues Not Fully Addressed by the Amendment

- **Statutory Dues under Other Laws:** No clarity on treatment of PMLA and EPFO claims, leading to uncertainty for insolvency professionals.
- **NCLT Capacity Constraints:** Bill strengthens timelines but doesn't address infrastructure and manpower shortages in tribunals.
- **Cross-Border Insolvency:** No progress on adopting a comprehensive cross-border insolvency framework (UNCITRAL model law).
- **Operational Creditors' Rights:** Concerns about limited say of MSME suppliers and operational creditors in CoC remain.
- **Resolution vs Liquidation Balance:** High liquidation rates (over 45% of admitted cases end in liquidation) not adequately tackled.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Institutional Capacity:** Expand NCLT benches, hire more judges and insolvency professionals, adopt digital case management systems.
- **Comprehensive Clarifications:** Address pending ambiguities around PMLA, EPFO dues, and tax authorities' claims.
- **Adopt Cross-Border Insolvency Law:** Critical for globalised business operations and foreign investor confidence.
- **Empower Operational Creditors:** Reform CoC voting structures to ensure balanced treatment of MSME suppliers.
- **Encourage Pre-Pack Models:** Streamline pre-packaged insolvency for MSMEs and startups to ensure faster resolution.
- **Strengthen Recovery Framework:** Develop industry-specific resolution templates for real estate, NBFCs, and infrastructure.

Source: [The Hindu Business Line](#)

Case Study

Dairy Queens of Gujarat – Women-led Dairy Revolution in Banaskantha

Context

Gujarat's dairy cooperatives, particularly **Banas Dairy** (a member of GCMMF–Amul), are transforming rural economies. Women farmers, once confined to household duties, are now leading high-income dairy enterprises.

Key Highlights

- **Scale of Women's Participation:** Out of 4.72 lakh farmers supplying milk to Banas Dairy, 1.68 lakh (36%) are women.
 - Women manage between **200–300 cattle** and supply **1,000–1,500 litres of milk daily**.
- **Economic Empowerment:** 14 women farmers earned ₹1 crore+ in FY 2024–25.
 - **Top earners:** Navalben Chaudhary – ₹2.04 crore, Dariyanben Rajput – ₹1.85 crore, Taslimben Zaveri – ₹1.93 crore.
 - Average monthly earnings of top producers: ₹15–20 lakh.
 - Families now own **modern houses, tractors, and vehicles**.
- **Government support:**
 - 4,986 women-led milk societies in Gujarat.
 - Women beneficiaries of animal husbandry schemes grew from **805 (2014–15) to 42,337 (2024–25)**.
 - Cumulatively, **2.14 lakh women benefitted** in 10 years.

Socio-Economic Impact

- **Women Empowerment:** Women, once confined to household duties, now lead cooperatives and manage large herds.
 - Greater control over finances and decision-making within families.
- **Economic Transformation:** Rural families upgrading from kaccha houses to modern bungalows; rise in ownership of two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and tractors.
 - Monthly direct deposits of ₹1,200 crore into farmers' accounts.
- **Education and Social Mobility:** Increased household incomes invested in children's education, improving literacy in a previously backward district.
- **Employment Generation:** Each successful dairy farm employs several support workers for cleaning, feeding, and milking cattle.
 - **Eg:** Taslimben's farm supports 22 families apart from her own.
- **Inclusivity:** Women across communities (Hindu, Muslim) participating equally, breaking social barriers.

Source: [The Hindu Business Line](#)