



## CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST` 2025

### THE CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

Union Home Minister introduced the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

- Bill seeks to provide for removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Minister or any other Minister in central and state governments, and the Union Territory (UT) of Delhi who is held in custody for 30 consecutive days for a serious criminal offense.

- o The Bills propose significant amendments to Articles 75, 164, and 239AA of the Indian Constitution.

- The same provisions are extended to UT of Puducherry through the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025 empowering the president to act similarly.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2025 also applies the same provisions to Jammu & Kashmir, allowing the LG to remove the CM/Ministers.
- All three bills have been referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for detailed examination and discussion.

#### Key provisions of Constitution Amendment Bill, 2025:

- **Grounds for Removal:** A Union Minister, Chief Minister (CM), or State Minister will be removed from office if they are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for an offense punishable with five or more years of imprisonment.

- o This also applies to the Prime Minister.

- **Procedure for Removal:**

- o For Union Ministers (excluding PM): The President must remove the Minister on the Prime Minister's advice, to be tendered by the 31st day of detention. If no advice is given, the Minister will automatically cease to hold office from the 31st day.

o For State Ministers (excluding CM): A similar provision applies, with the Governor acting on the advice of the Chief Minister. If the CM does not advise by the 31st day, the Minister automatically loses office.

o For Delhi Ministers (excluding CM): The President removes the Minister on the advice of Delhi's Chief Minister. If no advice is tendered, the Minister automatically ceases to hold office.

o For Prime Minister or Chief Ministers (Union/State/Delhi): The Prime Minister or Chief Minister must tender their resignation by the 31st consecutive day of custody. If they fail to resign, they will automatically cease to hold office from the day thereafter.

- No bar on Reappointment: Reappointment of a Minister, Prime Minister, or Chief Minister is allowed after their release from custody.

## THE PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING ACT, 2025

The Parliament has passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 effectively banning online money games while promoting and regulating other kinds of online games.

- Act aims to establish a robust legal framework and regulate, promote and encourage the online gaming sector for innovation and economic growth and ensure a developed, safe and responsible digital environment for all citizens.
- It was introduced in the House as a Finance bill under Article 117(1) and 117(3) of the Constitution of India with the due recommendation of the President.

### Article 117: Special provisions as to financial Bills

- **Article 117(1):** Covers matters, in addition to other legislative provisions, related to Article 110 (Money Bill) which requires President's recommendation and can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

- **Article 117(3):** States that a Bill involving expenditure from Consolidated Fund of India shall not be passed by either House of Parliament unless the President has recommended to that House the consideration of the Bill.

## Key Provisions of the Act

- **Key Definitions:**

- o **Online Games:** Any game, which is played on an electronic or a digital device and is managed and operated as a software through the internet or any other kind of technology facilitating electronic communication.

- **Categorization of the Online Games**

- o **E-Sport:** Competitive digital sports where teams or individuals participate in organised tournaments, requiring strategy, coordination, and advanced decision-making skills.

- > E.g., Ved “Beelzeboy” Bamb became the first Indian player to win the Pokémon GO World Championship 2025.

- o **Online Social Games:** Games that form part of everyday recreation, primarily skill-based and designed for entertainment, learning, or social interaction. E.g., Wordle online word game, Kahoot!, etc.

- o **Online Money Games:** Online games, whether based on chance, skill, or both, where financial stakes are involved. Financial stakes include paying fees or depositing money for playing in expectation of winning linked to monetary or other gains. E.g. Dream11, Rummy, Poker, WinZO, etc.

- **Applicability:** It will apply to the whole of India and to online money gaming service offered within the territory of India or operated from outside the territory of India.

- **Absolute prohibition of online money games:** Online money games, also called real money games and related services to be prohibited.

- o Further, advertisements and financial transactions by banks or financial institutions towards payment for any online money gaming service are also prohibited.



o Authorities have also been empowered to block access to unlawful platforms under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

- **Promotion of E-Sports:** Recognized as a "legitimate competitive sport." The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will develop guidelines, and infrastructure like training academies and research centers will be established.
- **Promotion of Social and Educational Games:** Union Government empowered to recognise and register social games that are safe and age-appropriate with dedicated platforms for content distribution.
- **Online Gaming Authority:** Establishment of a national-level regulatory authority to categorize and register games, determine if a game is a "money game," and address grievances.
- **Offences and Penalties:** Offences under key provisions are cognisable and non-bailable.
  - o Imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to 1 crore rupees for offering online money games. Advertising such games shall attract imprisonment up to 2 years and a fine of up to 50 lakh rupees.
- **Corporate and Institutional Liability:** Companies and their officers can be held accountable, with specific safeguards for independent and non-executive directors who act with due diligence.
- **Investigation and Enforcement Powers:** Central Government can authorize officers for investigation, search, and seizure, including arrests without a warrant in certain cases.

## COMMERCIAL, PROHIBITED SPEECHES NOT PART OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: SC

The court was hearing a case against social media comedians for "abusing freedom of speech and expression" by making insensitive jokes about persons with disabilities.

### Key Judicial Observations

- **Commercial & Prohibited Speech Not Protected:** Freedom of speech (Art. 19(1)(a)) does not cover commercial speech or prohibited speech.



o Hate speech/Prohibited speech: Expressions that promote or incite enmity, hatred, or violence against a group based on inherent characteristics such as religion, race, caste, or ethnicity.

o Commercial speech: Advertising and related forms of speech with economic intent.

- Accountability of Influencers: Influencers with a large following must act responsibly.
- Penal Action & Compensation: Suggested proportionate punitive measures under IT Rules and Cinematograph Act.
- Social Media Guidelines: Court asked government to draft comprehensive guidelines for regulating online content.

### **SC Judgement related to free speech**

- **Amish Devgan v. Union of India** (2020): It differentiated between free speech and hate/prohibited speech and emphasised the responsibility of influencers with wide reach.
- **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India** (2015): SC held that legitimate online expression cannot be curtailed in the absence of imminent harm.

### **ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the election date for the 17th Vice-Presidential Election.

### **Constitutional Provisions related to Vice President:**

- Term & Vacancy: As per Article 67, the Vice President serves for five years. Article 68(2) mandates a prompt election in case of vacancy.
- Electoral College: Comprises members of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (elected + nominated).

o Present strength: 782 MPs.



- Voting System: Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote and secret ballot (Article 66(1)).
- Authority: Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324 and through powers under Presidential and VicePresidential Elections Act, 1952.

## **Election Procedure of Vice President:**

- Nomination: Requires 20 proposers and 20 seconders; ₹15,000 deposit is mandatory.
- Voting: Conducted in Parliament House using special ECI-supplied pens. First preference vote is compulsory.
- Supervision: ECI appoints the Returning Officer (Secretary General, Rajya Sabha) and observers.

## **Key Safeguards Followed in Elections:**

- No party whip allowed.
- Violation of secrecy or use of unauthorized pen invalidates the vote.
- Bribery or undue influence is grounds for election challenge under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.


## **ALASKA SUMMIT**

The President of USA and Russia met in Alaska regarding Ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war.

- About Alaska
  - o It is a non-contiguous U.S. state on the northwest extremity of the North American continent.
  - o It was bought by the USA from Russia as per Alaska Treaty 1867.
  - o Maritime Boundaries: Beaufort Sea and Arctic Ocean (North), Gulf of Alaska and Pacific Ocean (South), Bering Sea (West), Chukchi Sea (Northwest)



- The Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis, are visible across much of Alaska
- Nearly one-third of the state lies within the Arctic Circle, and about 85% of Alaska is underlain by permafrost.

Areas In Conflict	Reason	Key Geographical Features	Map
<b>Gaza</b> (Khan Yonis, Rafah, Jabalia, Dier al-Balah).	UN officially <b>declared famine</b> in August 2025, with <b>half a million people</b> at risk of starvation due to <b>Israel's prolonged blockade</b> and restricted aid entry <b>post Hamas attack on Israel</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small coastal strip</b> along the <b>eastern Mediterranean Sea</b>.</li> <li>• It <b>borders Israel</b> on the north and east, and <b>Egypt</b> on the southwest.</li> <li>• With nearly <b>2.2 million people</b>, it is among the most <b>crowded places</b> in the world.</li> </ul>	

## DE-DOLLARIZATION

RBI's push for internationalization of INR through SRVAs, UPI linkages, currency swap agreements etc., aims to reduce dependence on foreign currencies and contributes to global de-dollarization.

- It aims to reverse dollarization (historical domination of US dollar in global market) causing a significant reduction of its use in world trade, reserves and financial transactions.

## Recent Initiatives for De-dollarisation



**mBridge Project:**  
Cross-border CBDC payment system backed by China, Thailand etc.



**BRICS Pay:**  
Digital platform for faster, cheaper cross-border trade in local currencies.



**China's Digital Yuan:** Push for global use of e-CNY (Digital renminbi) and yuan-backed stablecoins despite capital controls



**Pan-African Payment & Settlement System (PAPSS):** Enables direct transactions in African local currencies, bypassing the dollar.



**Russia's System for Transfer of Financial Messages:** For secure transmission of financial messages across banks, within Russia and participating foreign entities.

## 10 YEARS OF SAGARMALA PROGRAMME

Sagarmala Programme has achieved 118% growth in coastal shipping over the last decade, reducing logistics costs and emissions.

### About Sagarmala Programme

- Ministry: Launched in 2015 by Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW).
- Aim: To accelerate economic development in the country by harnessing the potential of India's 11,098 km long coastline and 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways.
- Key Objective:
  - o Reduce logistics cost for Export-Import (EXIM) and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment,
  - o Enhanced domestic waterways (inland and coastal) in the multi-modal transport,
  - o Create jobs and develop skills in ports and maritime sector.
- Funding Structure: Public-Private Partnership, Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources by MoPSW, Grant-in-Aid for projects with high social impact and Equity through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs).
- Sagarmala 2.0: Launched in 2025 with Focus Areas including Shipbuilding, repair, breaking, and recycling and port modernization.



## SUDARSHAN CHAKRA MISSION

Prime Minister announced the launch of Mission Sudarshan Chakra during the 79th Independence Day celebrations.

- The mission seeks to develop Air Defence system aimed at neutralising enemy defence infiltrations and enhancing India's offensive capabilities.
- Additionally, The Indian Air Force is pressing for rapid progress on Project Kusha, an indigenous initiative led by DRDO to develop a long-range air defense missile system.

### About Sudarshan Chakra Mission

- Objectives:
  - o To strengthen India's deterrent and offensive capabilities by expanding, strengthening and modernising national security shield.
  - o It will be part of Multi-Layered Missile Defence System of India.
- Features:
  - o Timeline: Mission to be completed by 2035.
  - o Comprehensive Protection: It will safeguard India's strategic, civilian, and religious sites/assets (e.g. hospitals, railways).
  - o It will cover all public places with an expanded nationwide security shield across air, land and sea.

## KERALA BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST 100% DIGITALLY LITERATE STATE

The achievement stems from the "Digi Keralam" programme, launched in 2023, with the goal of extending the digital revolution and e-services to all residents, irrespective of age.

- It also builds upon Kerala's earlier Akshaya project, which made Malappuram the first e-literate district in India.



## Digital Literacy

- It is "the ability of individuals and communities to understand and use digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations".
- Digitally Literate Household means at least one member (of 5 years of age or older) can operate a computer and use the internet.

## 100 YEARS OF KAKORI TRAIN ACTION

2025 marks the centenary year of the Kakori Train action.

### About Kakori Train Action

- The train action was executed on August 9, 1925, at Kakori, a village near Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- It was orchestrated by ten revolutionaries of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), to seize collection money from the British Indian railways.
- They stopped the 8-down train travelling from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow near Kakori station, which was transporting treasury funds intended for the British government in Lucknow.
- Key leaders: Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Thakur Roshan Singh, Rajendra Lahiri, among others.
  - o Chandrashekhar Azad continued revolutionary activities across India until his death in a police encounter in 1931 at Alfred Park, Allahabad.

## GALLANTRY AWARDS

President approved 127 Gallantry awards & 40 Distinguished Service awards on eve of 79th Independence Day.



Category	Name	Features	Eligibility
<b>Wartime</b> (For acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether of land or at sea or in the air)	<b>Param Vir Chakra</b>	India's highest military decoration, similar to the British Victoria Cross, US Medal of Honor, or French Legion of Honor	<b>All ranks of the Naval, Military, Air, Reserve, and Territorial Forces, including medical and nursing staff, and civilians serving under their direction.</b>
	<b>Mahavir Chakra</b>	Second highest military decoration in India	
	<b>Vir Chakra</b>	Third highest military decoration in India	
<b>Peacetime</b> (Awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle)	<b>Ashoka Chakra</b>	Peace time equivalent of the Param Vir Chakra	<b>All ranks of the Armed Forces, Reserve and Territorial Forces, Nursing Services, Police, Central Para-Military Forces, Railway Protection Force, and civilian citizens.</b>
	<b>Kirti Chakra</b>	Peacetime equivalent of the Maha Vir Chakra	
	<b>Shaurya Chakra</b>	Peacetime equivalent of the Vir Chakra	

## Other Distinguished Service Awards:

- Param Vishisht Seva Medal: For distinguished service of the most exceptional order.
- Ati Vishisht Seva Medal: For distinguished service of an exceptional order.
- Vishisht Seva Medal: For distinguished service of a high order.
- Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal: For distinguished service of the most exceptional order during War/conflict/hostilities.
- Uttam Yudh Seva Medal: For distinguished service of an exceptional order during war/conflict/hostilities.
- Yuddh Seva Medal: For distinguished service of a high order during war/conflict/hostilities.
- Sena/Nao Sena/Vayu Sena Medal: Awarded for both i.e. courageous acts as well as Sena Medal for devotion to duty.

