



CURRENT AFFAIRS NOVEMBER 2025

LAND REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

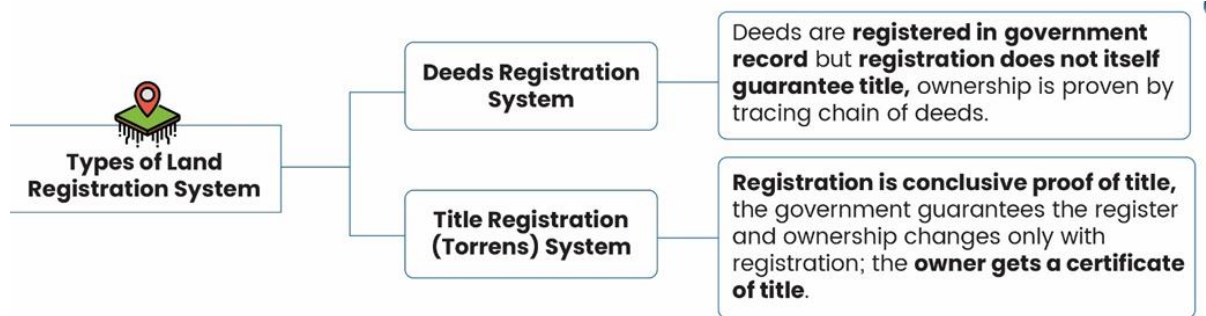
Recently, Supreme Court in *Samiullah v. State of Bihar* case has called for a fundamental reform in country's land registration and titling system.

K Gopi v Sub Registrar Case (2025)

- Supreme Court held that Registration Act, 1908 does not empower sub-registrars to check title or ownership and that their role is merely ministerial, with their only mandate being to verify that the paperwork is in order and the parties have signed it voluntarily.
- The Supreme Court of India struck down Bihar's rule making mutation proof mandatory for property registration, reaffirming that registration records transactions, not ownership.
 - It reiterated that document registration under the Registration Act, 1908, only records a transaction, while mutation (updating revenue records) is a separate process that doesn't confer title.
- The Court criticized the "bureaucratic loop" created by outdated land records in India and suggesting a national push for modern, digital, conclusive titling to establish clear ownership.

Land Registration System in India

- Land is a "State subject" and registration of deeds is a concurrent list subject under the Schedule VII of the Constitution.



Measures taken to improve Land Record System in India

- DILRMP: It aims to replace the manual presumptive land-title system with a digital conclusive land titling system.
- Initiatives under DILRMP
 - o Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhar: 14 digit Alpha-numeric unique ID for each land parcel based on Geo-coordinates to streamline real estate transactions, and resolve property disputes.
 - o NGDRS or E-Registration: It empowers citizens through online entry of deed, online payment, online appointment, online admission, document search and certified copy generation.
 - o Linkage of e-Court with Land Records / Registration Data base: It makes authentic first-hand information available to Courts resulting in speedy disposal of cases and reduction in land disputes.
 - o Transliteration of Land Records: To overcome language barrier, transliterate Records of Rights in local language to any 22 languages listed in Schedule VIII of Constitution.
- Digitalise Land Record System of different States
 - o Dharani portal/Bhubharati portal Telangana: To modernize land administration by digitizing land records and streamlining transactions.
 - o Kaveri portal, Karnataka: To reform land registration.



o Banglarbhumii platform, West Bengal: To provide easy access to land and property records.

LEGAL AID IN INDIA

Recently, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which was implemented on November 9, 1995 and annually observed as National Legal Services Day, completed 30 years of its implementation.

Constitutional Provisions for Legal Aid

Article 39A	Article 21	Article 22(1)	Article 14
Inserted by the 42nd Amendment (1976), mandates the State to secure free legal aid.	Right to free legal aid as a fundamental right implicit in the Right to Life and Personal Liberty .	Guarantees the right of an arrested person to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of his or her choice.	Ensures no person is denied equality before the law and equal protection of laws within India.

About Legal Services Act 1987

- The act established a three-tier system to provide free and competent legal services
 - o National Legal Services Authority (NALSA): Headed by the Chief Justice of India.
 - o State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA): Headed by the Chief Justice of High Court.
 - o District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA): Headed by the District Judge.
- Persons eligible for getting free legal services
 - o SC/ST members, women and children, victims of trafficking or disasters, the mentally ill or disabled, industrial workmen, persons in custody, and those with income below the prescribed limit (below ₹5 lakh for Supreme Court cases).
 - o States can decide the threshold for eligibility under the act, which varies from 1 Lakh to 3 Lakh.
- Establishment of Lok Adalats: An alternative dispute resolution mechanism that settles cases amicably, including pre-litigation matters.

LOK ADALAT

- **Lok Adalat** is an **ADR** (alternative dispute resolution) forum that settles **pending or pre-litigation** cases reducing judicial pendency
- First held in Gujarat (1982); given statutory status under **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** which was amended in 2002 to establish **Permanent Lok Adalats**
- **There are three types of Lok Adalats**
 - **State Lok adalats:** Created organised as per the local conditions and needs
 - **National Lok Adalats:** Conducted quarterly for settlements in all courts in 1 day.
 - **Permanent Lok Adalats:** Permanent establishments in most districts to provide compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for disputes related to Public Utility Services.
- Handles, compoundable criminal, or other disputes eg. labour disputes; **non-compoundable offences** (where settlement is not possible) **are excluded**.
 - India's legal aid system has reached **44.22 lakh people (2022-25)** and resolved 23.58 crore cases through Lok Adalats.
- Awards are **final and binding** with no appeal
- Has **civil court powers, can set its own procedure**, and charges **no court fee**.
- **Offers Procedural flexibility** (no strict application of the CPC and Evidence Act) and **direct interaction** with the judges.

SUPREME COURT ON ASSENT TO BILLS

A 5-Judge bench of the Supreme Court in the 16th Presidential Reference (under Article 143) held that Court cannot impose any timelines for decisions of the President and the Governor on granting assent to Bills under Articles 200/201 of the Constitution.

- Previously, in April 2025, the Supreme Court prescribed specific time-limits for the Governor and President to act on Bills under Article 200 and 201.
- Article 143 allows the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on significant legal or factual questions.

About article 200 & 201



Article 200: When a Bill passed by State Legislature is presented, the Governor has four options:

- Assent to the Bill.
- Withhold assent, effectively rejecting the Bill.
- Return the Bill for reconsideration by the State Legislature.
- Reserve the Bill for the President's consideration.



Article 201: When a Bill is reserved by a Governor for the consideration of the President,

- The President shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or withhold assent or return the Bill for the consideration of the Legislature.
- **No timeline is specified** for the President to decide on reserved Bills.

G20 SUMMIT 2025

The 20th G20 Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme of 'Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability'.

- It was the first ever G20 Summit held on African soil.
- South Africa's G20 Presidency was guided by the African philosophy of Ubuntu (I am because we are).



PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS (PPV&FR) ACT, 2001

Silver Jubilee of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 was celebrated.

- The PPV&FR Act was enacted to fulfil the enforcement of the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement of the WTO that India ratified.
 - o The TRIPS Agreement offer member countries the choice to protect plant varieties through patents, an effective sui generis system, or a combination of both patent and sui generis systems.



> A sui generis system refers to a customised, unique legal framework designed to protect something that doesn't fit neatly into existing categories, especially in intellectual property (IP) law.

o India opted not to grant patents for plants, instead choosing to safeguard plant varieties through the sui generis system.

Rights under the Act:

o **Breeders' Rights:** Breeders will have exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import or export the protected variety.

o **Researchers' Rights:** Researchers can use any of the registered varieties for conducting experiments or research.

> This includes the use of a variety as an initial source of variety for the purpose of developing another variety but repeated use needs prior permission of the registered breeder.

o **Farmers' Rights:** Entitled for registration of a new variety and protection in like manner as a breeder of variety.

> Farmers' variety can also be registered as an extant variety.

> Farmers are eligible for recognition and rewards for the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants.

> Farmers shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under this act.

URBAN AIR POLLUTION

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) implemented Stage-III Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the entire NCR highlighting the issue of urban air pollution in India.



Causes of Urban air pollution in India

- Meteorological Factors:

- o Winter weather conditions like temperature inversion and low wind speeds trap pollutants near the ground and prevent their dispersion in cities like Delhi.

- o Pre-Monsoon Dust Transport from Thar Desert and Middle East into Indian cities, in northern regions like Delhi.

- Urban and Industrial Factors: Pollution from Industries like cement, steel, refineries, brick kilns (e.g., refineries and chemical industries in Mumbai's Chembur area), Vehicles (Delhi's vehicles doubled since 2005), Construction and Demolition Activities (e.g., rapid construction along Gurugram's Golf Course Road) etc.

- Urban layout: Narrow streets with tall buildings (street-canyon effect) trapping pollutants; Shrinking green/blue spaces due to unplanned urban expansion reduces natural filtration etc.

- Transboundary pollution: Pollution in Delhi due to seasonal stubble burning in neighboring states; Worsened air quality over Chennai due to Aerosols transported from north India etc.

- Other sources: Ground-level ozone (forms when NO_x and VOCs react under strong sunlight); Burning firecrackers during festivals; open waste burning, frequent landfill fires (e.g., Delhi, Ghaziabad, Bhalswa–Ghaziipur landfills) etc.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA

The recently released report "Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law: A Study of Capacity at the Frontlines" by the India Justice Report evaluated the functioning of the Indian Juvenile Justice System ten years after enactment of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 (JJ Act, 2015). System of Juvenile Justice in India

- It is based upon Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015 (replaced JJ Act, 2000). It was amended by JJ (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021.

- JJ Act, 2015 consolidates and amends law relating to children found to be in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection by catering to their basic needs through proper care, development and treatment.



o It defines Child as a person who has not completed 18 years of age, and Juvenile as a child below age of 18 years.

o Child in conflict with law means a child below 18 years of age who is alleged/ found to have committed an offense.

Key provisions of JJ Act, 2015

- **Juvenile Justice Board (JJB):** It mandates **setting up JJBs in every district** to deal with cases of Children in conflict with law.
- **Monitoring of Implementation of Act:** By National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (National level) and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (State level).
- **Preliminary Assessment into heinous offences:** In case of heinous offences alleged to have been committed by a child above 16 years of age, JJB shall conduct a preliminary assessment to assess capacity of the child.
 - o After preliminary assessment, **Children's Court may decide** whether the child can be tried as an adult.
- **Child Welfare Committee (CWC):** Constituted for every district by State Government to conduct inquiry for declaring fit persons for care of children in need of protection; direct placement of a child in foster care etc.

150 YEARS OF ARYA SAMAJ

Recently, Prime Minister addressed the International Arya Summit 2025 as a part of Jyāna Jyoti Festival commemorating 200th Birth anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati and 150 years of Arya Samaj.

About Arya Samaj

- **Foundation:** Founded by Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati in 1875, Bombay.
 - o A Branch of Arya Samaj at Lahore was established in 1877.
- **Nature:** A Revivalist movement aiming to bring religious and social reforms in Hindu with the conviction that reform was to come through revival of Vedic religion.
 - o The goal of the Arya Samaj has always been, Krinvanto Vishvam Aryam– Make This World Noble.



Key Contributions of Arya Samaj

- **Religious Reforms:** It promoted the monotheistic Hindu order rejecting the ritualistic excesses and social dogmas of orthodox Hinduism promoting a united Hindu society based on Vedic teachings.
 - o It helped Moplas of Malabars to reconvert into Hinduism (1923), promoted Vedic Teachings through 'Kumbh Ved Abhiyaan, where Vedic Knowledge was disseminated during Kumbh Melas, etc.
- **Social Reforms:** Arya Samaj tried to get untouchables 90rganizati as equal members of Hindu Society before Mahatma Gandhi took up the cause of untouchables.
- **Emancipation of Women:** It established a network of educational institutions to equip girls with intellectual knowledge and practical skills.

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Recently, Prime Minister paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary. Since 2014, the day is observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day).

Key Contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):** Sardar Patel's political journey began with his association with Mahatma Gandhi during the Kheda satyagraha.
 - o He led the peasants in refusing to pay taxes due to famine-induced hardships, marking his first major victory against colonial authorities.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1919-20):** Sardar Patel was given the task of leading the movement in Gujarat.
 - o He, along with Shankarlal Banker, Umar Sobani, Sarojini Devi, and Indulal Yajnik, popularised the movement in Gujarat by founding the Satyagraha Sabha.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):** He led the landowners of Bardoli in their resistance against increased taxes.
 - o His role elevated him to the pinnacle of national glory and his efficient leadership earned him the title sardar ("leader").



- **Builder and Consolidator of Modern India:** After Independence, he was tasked with unifying over 560 princely states, covering nearly 40% of India's territory and population, into the Union of India.
 - o Under the Indian Independence Act, rulers of the Princely States were given the option to decide whether they wanted to accede to India or Pakistan or neither.
 - o Sardar Patel employed a combination of diplomatic negotiations, persuasion, and, where necessary, firm administrative measures to prevent balkanisation.
 - o It earned him the reputation of 'Iron Man' because of the manner in which he brought about and maintained internal stability.
- **Creation of All India Services:** He envisioned these services as 'Steel frame of India' considering officers in administration as service partners working with integrity and honesty.
- **Cooperative Movement:** He led Gujarat's cooperative movements and was instrumental in formation of the Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union.

GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI

November 24, 2025 marks the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

About Guru Tegh Bahadur ji (1621 - 1675)

- He was born in Amritsar (Punjab).
- He was the youngest child of Guru Hargobind Ji (sixth Sikh Guru)
- He was the 9th Sikh Guru.

Key Contributions

- He founded the town of Chak Nanki in Punjab, later enlarged into the city of Shri Anandpur Sahib.
- He was crowned with the honour of 'Hind Di Chadar'.



- He propagated the message of universal brotherhood and religious freedom.
 - He fought against superstitions, caste- based discrimination, and untouchability.
- His hymns featured in the Guru Granth Sahib stress equality, peace, and courage.

ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP

In a historic feat, the Indian women's Cricket Team clinched their first-ever ODI World Cup title after defeating the South Africa in the final.

About ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025

- First Edition: 1973 (in England) and won by England.
- 2025 Host Country: India hosted the current 13th edition.
- Most number of titles won by: Australia (7 times)
- It was India's 3rd final after 2005 & 2017.

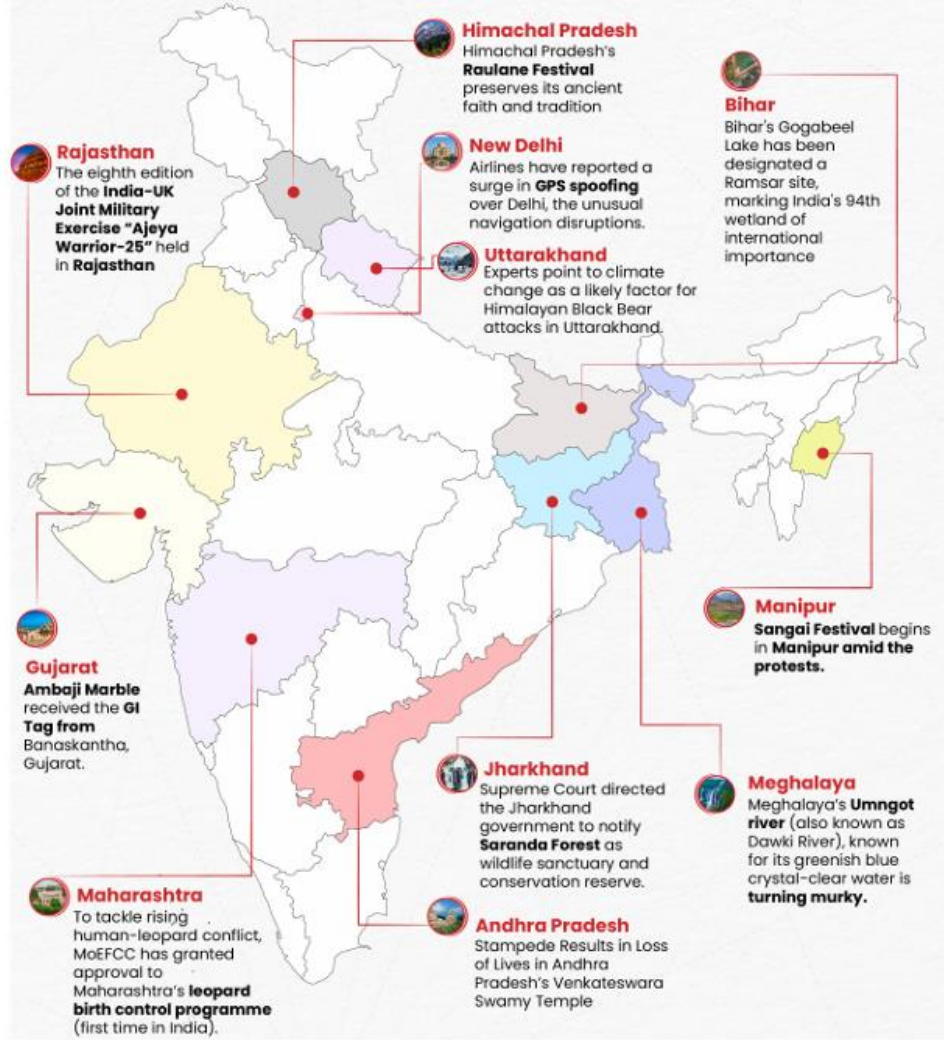
INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

Ex. president of Chile Michelle Bachelet, was conferred with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024.

About Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is awarded annually.
 - Instituted by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust
- It is awarded to a person or organization without any distinction of nationality, race or religion, in recognition of creative efforts towards: Promoting racial equality, and goodwill and harmony among nations, etc.

Places in News India



Places in News World

