

# NEWS TODAY

## Genius Act enacted in US to regulate Stablecoins

The Act will establish a **regulatory framework** for **stablecoins**.

- Stablecoins are a type of **cryptocurrency** whose value is linked to that of another **currency, commodity**, or financial instrument. E.g., **Tether (USDT)**, is pegged to the US dollar
- They have the potential to **bring efficiencies** to **payments**.

**Why has the use of Stablecoins increased?**

- **Linked to an underlying asset:** Due to this, they can maintain a **steadier value**, making them a **more reliable medium of exchange** than other **volatile cryptocurrencies** like bitcoins.
  - ⊕ Underlying assets are backed by an **identifiable issuer**, unlike many **unbacked crypto assets**.
  - ⊕ Issuers could be banks, nonbank financial entities, and large technology conglomerates.
- **Regulation:** Decisions for stablecoin arrangements are usually taken by a **governance body**.

**Regulation of Cryptocurrency or Crypto Assets in India**

- Currently, **Crypto Assets** are **unregulated in India**.
- However, **Government**, through the **Finance Act, 2022**, brought a comprehensive taxation regime for the **transfer of Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)**.
- It imposed a **30% tax** on **capital gains** from **VDAs**.
  - ⊕ The **Income Tax Act 1961** defines **VDA** as any information or code or number or token, generated through **cryptographic** means or otherwise; transferred, stored, or traded electronically. E.g. cryptocurrencies, Non-fungible token (NFT), etc.
- In 2023, VDAs were brought under the purview of the **Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002**.

**How does Cryptocurrency work?**

- It is based on a concept of a **distributed public ledger** called **blockchain**.
  - ⊕ **Public ledger** is a record of all transactions updated and held by **currency holders**.
- It is created through a process called **mining**.
  - ⊕ In **mining**, computer power is used to **solve complicated mathematical problems** that generate coins.
- Users can also buy the currencies from brokers, then store and spend them using **cryptographic** wallets.

## West Bengal Delivers First Conviction in Digital Arrest Scam

The convicts were part of a gang that scammed **>₹100 crore** from **>100 people** through a 'digital arrest' fraud.

**What is Digital Arrest?**

- It is a scam designed to **extort money** from victims using **fear, deceit, and intimidation**.
- **Method:** Victims receive a **phone call, email, or message** claiming they are under investigation for **illegal activities**, such as identity theft or money laundering.
- **Threats and Pressure:** Scammers use arrest threats to **create panic** and **prevent victims from thinking rationally**.
- **Demands for Payment:** Victims are tricked into transferring large amounts to fake accounts under pretenses like "**clearing their name**" or providing "**refundable security deposits**."
- **Administrative Aspects:-**
  - ⊕ **Role of State:** 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India**.
  - ⊕ **Role of Centre:** It supplements initiatives of the States/UTs through **advisories and financial assistance** under various schemes for capacity building.

**Steps taken to deal with digital arrest**

- **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre):** Established by the Ministry of Home Affairs as the **central coordinating body** for all cybercrimes.
  - ⊕ **Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC):** established at I4C where banks, telecom providers, and law enforcement work together.
- **Samanvaya Platform:** It acts as a **data repository and coordination system** for interstate crime linkages.
- **Suspect Registry:** Launched in collaboration with **banks** to **track cybercriminal identifiers**.
- **Report and Check Suspect:** New feature on **cybercrime.gov.in** allowing citizens to **search criminal databases**.
- **CERT-IN guidelines:** Verify the caller's identity, Do not panic or transfer money under pressure (take a moment to assess the situation calmly), Avoid sharing personal information, Do not share your device with strangers

## Quantum Cybersecurity: Preparing for the Post-Quantum Era

Whitepaper titled “Transitioning to Quantum Cyber Readiness” has been unveiled by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**, and cybersecurity firm **SISA**.

### Quantum Cybersecurity

- It encompasses two primary approaches: **Post-quantum Cryptography (PQC)** and **Quantum Cryptography** (also known as **quantum encryption**).
  - ⊕ **PQC** involves developing encryption methods that can withstand attacks from quantum computers while remaining compatible with classical systems.
  - ⊕ **Quantum cryptography** utilizes quantum mechanics principles, such as **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**, to create theoretically unbreakable encryption techniques.

#### Roadmap for Quantum Cyber Readiness

- **Foundational Assessment & Strategic Planning:** E.g., Identification of Quantum Vulnerable Assets
- **Technology Readiness & Capability Building:** E.g., Infrastructure Evaluation & Upgrade Planning
- **Phased Organizational Rollout:** Suggests multi-phase transformation that must be aligned with an organization's architecture, strategic priorities, resource availability and risk appetite.
- **Resilience, Monitoring & Futureproofing:** E.g., implantation of QKD

### Why there is a need of Quantum Cyber Readiness?

- **Harvest Now, Decrypt Later (HNDL) attacks**, involve storing encrypted data now to decrypt it in the future using quantum computers.
  - ⊕ It involved data breaches related to digital certificates, blockchains, cryptocurrencies, etc.
- **Encryption algorithms like Rivest–Shamir–Adleman (RSA)** that are foundational to today's digital security, are expected to be rendered obsolete within the next few years.

## Lok sabha Speaker emphasizes role of Social Organisations in development of Nation and Society

Social organization refers to the way individuals and groups are structured and interact within a society. It can be **formal** (e.g. religious institutions, educational organisation, labour union) or **informal** (e.g. family, friends, peer groups) in nature.

### Role of Social Organizations in Nation Building

Social Institutions	Role in Nation Building
<b>Family</b>	<b>Primary conduit of social norms and values, transfer good moral behaviours</b> , helps in creating a more harmonious and inclusive society
<b>Religious Institution</b>	Provides <b>moral framework</b> & strengthens values such as compassion, forgiveness and charity, <b>promotes social order and community cohesion, charitable and welfare activities can help alleviate poverty</b>
<b>Educational Institution</b>	<b>Transmission of knowledge and skills</b> , promotion of values such as hard work, discipline, team work, prepare individuals for various roles and responsibilities
<b>Non Government Organisations</b>	→ <b>Policy Advocacy and Influence.</b> E.g. Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan's (NGO) role in influencing the RTI act. → <b>Awareness &amp; Capacity-Building:</b> E.g. Role of SEWA's (trade Union) in gender related issues. → <b>Improved Service delivery:</b> E.g. Role of Pratham's in education sector → <b>Strengthening of Democracy:</b> E.g. Role of Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in decriminalisation of politics

Thus, each social institution plays a distinct and vital role in shaping lives of individuals as well as collective fabric of communities and moulds the social, economic, and cultural landscape of human societies. Recognizing and understanding the significance of these institutions is crucial for building sustainable, inclusive, and resilient societies capable of adapting to future challenges.

## Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Right Rules, 2025 Notified

These rules are notified in accordance with the provision of the **Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002**.

### About the Rules

- **Objective** - To regulate the exploration and mining of atomic minerals like uranium and thorium in offshore areas
- Rules will only apply if concentration of atomic minerals is above a **certain minimum level**
- Under the rules **entities nominated** by Govt can be granted exploration licences or production leases.
  - ⊕ In case of **foreign entities**, undertaking exploration operations, prior approval shall be obtained from the Government authorities.

### Key Atomic Minerals in India

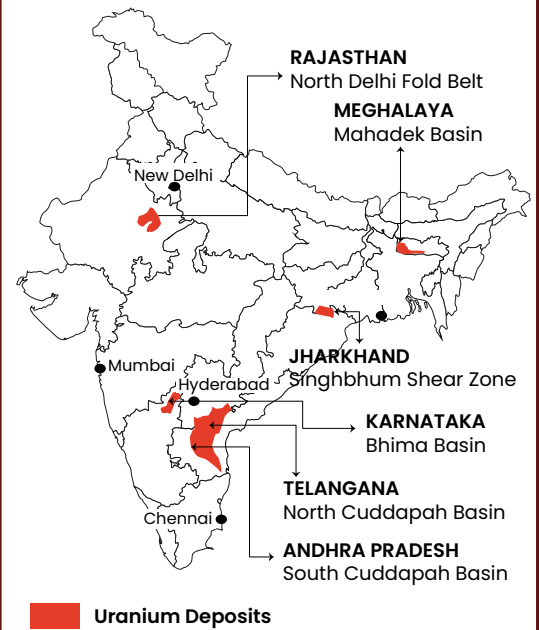
#### ➤ Uranium

- ⊕ **Key Reserves:** Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan etc.
  - ◆ **Jaduguda (Jharkhand)** is the **first mine** in the country to produce uranium ore on a commercial scale.
- ⊕ **Other Important Mines:** Lambapur-Peddagattu (AP), Bagjata mine (Jharkhand), etc.
- ⊕ Most of uranium deposits in India are small and of far lower grade compared to those in the leading uranium-producing countries in the world.

#### ➤ Thorium

- ⊕ India has a limited resource of uranium but a large resource of thorium.
- ⊕ Monazite contains about **8 – 10% thorium**.
- ⊕ The beach sands of **Kerala** and **Orissa** have rich reserves of monazite.

### Uranium Deposits in India



## Also In News



### International Criminal Court (ICC)

International Criminal Court welcomed Ukraine as 125th State Party to the Rome Statute.

#### About the ICC

- It is the **first international permanent court** to investigate and prosecute individuals accused of serious international crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.
- **Established** under the **Rome Statute (adopted in 1998 entered into force in 2002)**
- India is not party to the **Rome Statute**.
- **Hq:** The Hague, Netherlands.



### Netra MkII

The government has given a go-ahead to the production of next generation **airborne early warning and control system (Awacs)** India programme also referred to as the **Netra MkII**.

- It will be mounted on the **Airbus A321 platform**.
- **Features**
  - ⊕ **detect, track, and monitor threats across vast distances.**
  - ⊕ **Much more than an aircraft as it is a flying command centre which will extend our national vigilance.**
  - ⊕ **Has Active Electronically Scanned Array) radars and mission control systems.**



### NSCSTI 2.0

Union Minister unveiled **National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0 (NSCSTI 2.0) Framework**.

#### About the framework

- **Developed by:** Capacity Building Commission (CBC)
- **Objective:** To build future-ready civil services Training Institutes.
- **Key Features:** Streamlined evaluation metrics, Inclusive design, Digitally aligned with hybrid learning models, etc.

#### About Capacity Building Commission (2021)

- It Plays a key role in implementing the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), also known as Mission Karmayogi.
- It works as an **independent body with full executive power**.



### Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs)

India has submitted a letter of request to the **United States** for co-production of **Javelin ATGMs** in the country.

#### About Javelin ATGMs

- World's premier **single man-portable medium-range anti-tank weapon system**.
- **Missile automatically guides** itself to the target after launch (**fire-and-forget principle**)



## 'Pact for Future'

India reaffirms commitment to 'Pact for Future' at UN dialogue.

### About 'Pact for Future'

- It was adopted at Summit of the Future in 2024
- **Pact for the Future** includes:-
  - ⊕ **Global Digital Compact** ( It is the 1st comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation) and
  - ⊕ **Declaration on Future Generations**
- **Feature:** It makes **clear commitments** and achieves concrete deliverables on a range of issues, with strong attention to human rights, gender and sustainable development.
- It formulates **various commitments** in the areas of:-
  - ⊕ Sustainable development and financing for development,
  - ⊕ International peace and security,
  - ⊕ Science, technology, and innovation and digital cooperation,
  - ⊕ Youth and future generations and
  - ⊕ Transforming global governance.



## National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App

MoRD has highlighted instances of misuse or manipulation of the NMMS raising concerns about transparency and accountability in the implementation of MGNREGA.

### About NMMS App:

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- **Use:** to capture the attendance of MGNREGS workers with geo-tagged time stamped photographs of the worker in a day.
- **Objective:** to reduce instances of fake attendance and ghost beneficiaries
- **Languages:** It is presently available in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam etc.

### Concerns:

- **Accountability and potential financial irregularities:** Irrelevant photo uploads and repeated worker photos.
- **Internet connectivity and software glitches** resulting in exclusion.



## INVICTUS

The **European Space Agency (ESA)** and UK-based **Frazer-Nash** have kicked off INVICTUS to develop hypersonic technologies.

### About INVICTUS:

- It is a fully reusable experimental aerospace vehicle capable of flying at Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound).
- **Funding:** **ESA's General Support Technology Programme (GSTP) and Technology Development Element (TDE)**
- **Key Features:**
  - ⊕ Sustained hypersonic flight in the atmosphere
  - ⊕ Upgradable, allowing for the exchange of materials, software and propulsion systems between flight test campaigns.
- **Significance:** prove suitability of a hydrogen-fuelled precooled air-breathing propulsion system for horizontal take-off and hypersonic flight in reusable vehicles.



## Consumer Price Index (CPI) for AL/RL

The Labour Bureau has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers (CPI – AL & RL) to 2019=100.

### CPI-AL & RL

- It replaces the CPI – AL/RL (Base: 1986-87=100) series.
- **Compiled by :** **Labour Bureau (Ministry of Labour and Employment).**
- **Consumer Price Indices (CPI)** measure changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire for the purpose of consumption.
  - ⊕ **A person is treated as an agricultural labourer if he or she follows one or more of the agricultural occupations in the capacity of a labourer on hire, whether paid in cash or kind or partly in cash and partly in kind.**
  - ⊕ **A rural labourer is defined as one who does manual work in rural areas in agricultural and non-agricultural occupations in return for wages in cash or kind, or partly in cash and partly in kind.**

## Place in news



## Sudan (Capital: Khartoum)

Recently, numerous people lost their lives in clashes between rival military factions in Sudan's Kordofan region.

### Political Features

- Located at the crossroads of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, facing the Red Sea.
- **Land Borders:** Egypt (north), Eritrea and Ethiopia (East), South Sudan (South), Central African Republic and Chad (West), and Libya (Northwest).
- **Maritime Boundary:** Red Sea

### Geographic Features

- **Highest peak:** Jebel Marra (also known as the Marrah Mountains)
- The White Nile and Blue Nile converge at Khartoum, to form the Nile River.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI