

# NEWS TODAY

## India deserves permanent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat: Bhutan

Recently, US, France and UK have also supported for India's bid to become a permanent member of UNSC.

- Reforming UNSC would **require amendments in UN Charter**.
- Amendment would come into force for all Members of UN when it is **adopted by a vote of two thirds of members of General Assembly and ratified by two thirds of Members of UN, including all permanent members of UNSC**.

### About UNSC

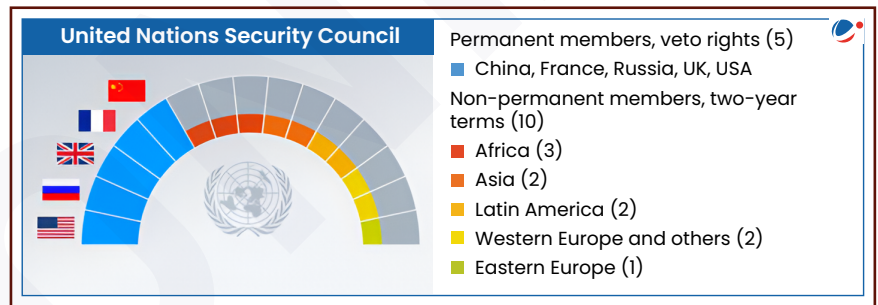
- **Established by UN Charter** in 1945, UNSC is **one of the six principal organs of UN** with primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.
- **UNSC is composed of 15 members** (refer infographic).
  - ⊕ UNSC has **power to make binding decisions** that member states are required to implement under Charter.

### Factors supporting India's Permanent Membership

- **Leader of Developing Countries**. E.g. Global South
- **Rapid Economic Growth** (5th largest economy in world).
- India is **most populous country** in world
- One of the largest contributors to **United Nation Peacekeeping Forces**.

### Hurdles in India's Permanent Candidature

- **China's Opposition:** All permanent members of UNSC have supported India's candidature except China.
- **Opposition from Various Groups:** E.g. **Uniting for Consensus/Coffee Club** opposes expansion of permanent seats in UNSC.
- **Self-interest** of Council's current permanent members.



## Karnataka Government Withdraws 'General Consent' to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Many other states, such as **West Bengal, Punjab, Tamil Nadu**, etc., have also withdrawn their general consent in the past.

- West Bengal had withdrawn its general consent in 2018, which was upheld by Supreme Court in the **State of West Bengal v. Union of India case (2024)**.

### Consent to the CBI

- **As per section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**, CBI must obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
  - ⊕ In this respect, CBI position is different from that of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, which is governed by **The NIA Act, 2008**, and has countrywide jurisdiction.

### Type of Consent

- ⊕ **General Consent:** The CBI is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with an investigation or for every case.
- ⊕ **Exception to General consent**
  - ◆ Cases ordered by the Supreme Court or High Court.
  - ◆ Cases registered in other states or union territories.
  - ◆ Cases registered before the withdrawal of the consent.
- ⊕ **Case-specific consent:** The CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case.

### About CBI

- **Genesis:** Established in 1963 on recommendation of **Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64).
- **Status:** **Non-statutory & non-constitutional body**. It is governed by Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.
- **Types of cases investigated:** Anti-corruption, Economic offences, sensational crime having inter-state/all-India ramifications etc.

## The European Organization for Nuclear Research celebrated 70th Anniversary

It is known by its French acronym, **CERN** and is an **international scientific organization** established for the purpose of **collaborative research into high-energy particle physics**.

### About CERN

- **Established:** in **1954**, as Europe's first joint venture after World War-II.
- **Location:** outside of **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Members:** 23 Member States (10 Associate Member States)
  - ⊕ **India** is an **Associate Member**.
- **Fundamental scientific character:** Its convention states that it shall have **no concern with work for military requirements**.

### Key Achievements:

- **Discovery of the Z Boson and W Boson Particles:** Fundamental in understanding the **weak force**.
- **The World Wide Web:** invented at CERN in 1989 by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee.
- **Study of Anti-Matter:** with the help of the **Antiproton Decelerator** aiding in the study of the origin of the universe.
- **The Higgs Boson Particle:** also known as the God Particle, it was discovered at CERN's **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**.
  - ⊕ The Higgs boson is the fundamental particle associated with the **Higgs field**, a field that **gives mass to other fundamental particles such as electrons**.
  - ⊕ CERN's LHC is the **world's largest particle accelerator**. It collides **protons** or **lead ions** at energies approaching the speed of light.

### India's contributions

- Indian physicists through institutions like **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)** are involved in CERN experiments like **L3 experiment, LHC etc**.
- **Department of Atomic Energy** cooperation with CERN on **Novel Accelerator Technologies (NAT)**.
- India operates two Tier-2 centres for the **Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG)**.

## Union Cabinet Approves National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for AVGC-XR

Formation of NCoE for **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR)** follows the 2022-23 budget announcements, which proposed the creation of an AVGC task force.

- It will boost the **creative economy in India**.

### Features of NCoE

- It will be set up as a **Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013**.
- Provisionally named the **Indian Institute for Immersive Creators (IIIC)**.
- It will function as an **incubation center for nurturing startups** in the AVGC-XR field.

### Benefits

- **Exponential growth potential:** e.g. animation industry in India has a growth rate of 25% and has an estimated value of ₹46 billion (2023) (as per FICCI-EY Report 2023).
- **Playground of various immersive technologies.** e.g. Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality (MR) and 3D modeling.
- **Creation of indigenous intellectual property (IP):** for both domestic consumption and global outreach and nurturing of the future of **India's digital creative economy**.
- **Employment Opportunities:** It is expected to generate 5,00,000 jobs with an integrated focus on education, skilling industry, development, innovation.
- **Enhance India's soft power globally** and attract foreign investment.

### About Creative Economy

- It is an evolving concept based on **creative assets potentially generating economic growth and development**.
- Essentially it is **knowledge-based economic** activities upon which 'creative industries' are based.
  - ⊕ Creative industries are cycles of **creation, production and distribution of goods and services that use creativity and intellectual capital** as primary inputs.
- It is a **\$30 billion industry in India** and responsible for employment of nearly **8% of India's working population**.



## Expeditious trial required in PMLA and other laws with stringent threshold for bail: Supreme Court

In **V. Senthil Balaji vs. The Deputy Director case**, SC granted bail to accused in money laundering case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

### SC Observations

- Need for expeditious disposal of trial in cases under laws (PMLA, UAPA and NDPS Act) having a higher threshold for grant of bail.
  - ⊖ **Section 45 of PMLA** does not confer power on state to detain an accused for an unreasonably long time.
- **Bail is not to be withheld** as a punishment.
- Stringent bail conditions do not take away **power of Constitutional Courts to grant bail** on grounds of **violation of Part III** of Constitution of India. (**K.A. Najeeb case**)
- In cases of **clean acquittal** after prolonged incarceration as an undertrial, it may amount to **violation of rights under Article 21 (right to speedy trial and dignity)** and may give rise to a claim for **compensation**.

### About PMLA, 2002

- Act to **prevent money-laundering** and provide for **confiscation of property derived from**, or involved in, money-laundering and related matters.
- Under Section 45, bail can be granted to an accused only if conditions are satisfied:
  - ⊖ **Prima facie satisfaction** that accused has **not committed offence** and he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.

## Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released draft guidelines for Passive Euthanasia

It is titled as "Guidelines for Withdrawal of Life Support in Terminally ill Patients" (Passive Euthanasia).

### Key highlights

- **Withdrawing Life Sustaining Treatments (LST) conditions:**
  - ⊖ Any individual declared brainstem death as per Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.
  - ⊖ If Patient is not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions.
  - ⊖ Patient/surrogate documented informed refusal to LST.
- **Constitution of Primary Medical Board (PMB) and Secondary Medical Board (SMB).**
  - ⊖ Foregoing of LST proposals should be made by consensus by members of PMB. SMB must validate PMB decision.
- **Clinical Ethics Committee:** to be constituted by hospitals for **audit, oversight, & conflict resolution**.

### About Euthanasia

- An **act of deliberately ending a person's life** to relieve suffering from painful and incurable disease or disorder.
- **Passive Euthanasia:** Intentionally letting patient die by **withholding artificial life support** like ventilator/feeding tube. Allowed in Norway, etc.
  - ⊖ SC, in **Common Cause vs. Union of India & Anr. (2018) case**, recognised **right to die with dignity as a fundamental right under Article 21** and **upheld legal validity of passive euthanasia**.
- **Active Euthanasia:** Intentional **act of killing terminally ill patient on voluntary request** by direct intervention of doctor. Allowed in Belgium etc., and **illegal in India**.

## Also in News

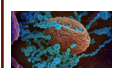


### International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** orders Israel to ensure immediate delivery of basic food supplies to the Palestinian population in Gaza.

### About ICJ

- It is the **principal judicial organ** of the UN established in 1945 by UN Charter and Successor to the **Permanent Court of International Justice**.
- **Seat:** Peace Palace in Hague (Netherlands).
- **Composition:** 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly & Security Council for 9-year terms.
  - ⊖ In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an **absolute majority of the votes in both bodies**.
- **Functions:**
  - ⊖ Settle legal disputes as per **International law and to provide advisory opinions**.



### Stem Cell

Type 1 diabetic woman was treated by using cells extracted from her own body after reprogrammed stem cell transplant.

### Stem Cells

- Undifferentiated and unspecialised cells and have **capacity to self-renew**.
- Major sources of stem cells are **embryos and adult tissues** (adult stem cells).
- **Three types** depending on their potency:
  - ⊖ **Totipotent cells:** Able to differentiate into all possible cell types in an organism. E.g. zygote formed after fertilization and asexual spore.
  - ⊖ **Pluripotent cells:** Differentiated into most tissues of body but are unable to produce all tissue.
  - ⊖ **Multi-potent cells:** Cells have limited range of tissues into which they can differentiate.

**National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)**

Prime Minister dedicated **Bidkin Industrial Area** developed under NICDP as part of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor to nation.

**About NICDP**

- It began with the **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) launch.**
- It aims to **develop India as a global manufacturing and investment destination** using a high-capacity transportation network.
  - ⊖ This will **generate employment and enhance economic growth** leading to overall socio-economic development.

**Paryatan Mitra And Paryatan Didi Initiative**

Ministry of Tourism launched **Paryatan Mitra & Paryatan Didi** as a national responsible tourism initiative.

**About initiative**

- Aims to **elevate overall experience for tourists in destinations**, by having them meet 'tourist-friendly' people who are proud Ambassadors and Storytellers for their destination.
  - ⊖ This is being done by **providing tourism related training and awareness to all individuals** who interact and engage with tourists in a destination.
- It places special emphasis on **training of women and youth** to develop new tourism-related products and experiences like food tours, craft tours etc.

**Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)**

An outbreak of Marburg Viral Disease in **Rwanda** has claimed multiple lives.

**About MVD**

- It is a rare but **highly infectious viral hemorrhagic fever** which affects both **humans and primates** (apes, monkeys) with **high mortality rate.**
- Marburg and Ebola viruses are both members of **Filoviridae family (filovirus)**. Though **caused by different viruses**, the two diseases are clinically similar.
- Spreads through **human-to-human transmission** and also from **bats to people.**
- Initially detected in 1967 in Marburg and Frankfurt (Germany); and in Belgrade (Serbia).
- Most commonly found in **Sub-Saharan Africa** and there is **no antiviral treatment or vaccine** for disease.

**Poumai Naga tribe**

The Poumai Naga tribe of Purul village of Senapati District, Manipur has **banned hunting, trapping and killing of wild animals and birds** within their territory.

**About the Poumai Naga tribe**

- It is one of the oldest and largest **Naga tribes in Manipur.**
- They are geographically located in **Manipur and Nagaland.**
- They are known for their **Pouli (Pottery) and Poutai (Pou salt) production.**
- **Language:** Poula

**Revamped Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (RPTUAS)**

Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) modified **Revamped Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (RPTUAS).**

- It has increased incentive for **pharmaceutical companies to Rs 2 crore** (from Rs 1 crore).
- **Added "production equipment,"** a new category to the list of eligible expenses for subsidy calculation.

**About RPTUAS**

- **Objective:** To support the pharmaceutical industry's **upgradation to Revised Schedule-M & WHO's** good manufacturing practices standards.
- **Introduced more flexible financing options,** emphasizing subsidies on a reimbursement basis.

**Santhal Revolt**

Jharkhand High Court directs constitution of fact-finding committee on infiltration in 'Santhal Parganas' which were created after santhal revolt.

**About Santhal Revolt (1855-56)**

- One of the first expressions of revolt against British colonial regime.
- It is **attributed to Permanent Settlement in 1793** that led to their displacement from Birbhum and Manbhum regions (present day Bengal) and subsequent exploitation by Zamindars, and British. Santhals referred them as **Dikus (outsiders).**
- **Led by four brothers,** Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu who used **Guerilla Warfare.**
- **Hul Diwas** is celebrated in Jharkhand to remember martyr of santhal revolt.

**Place in News** **Ukraine (Capital: Kyiv)**

Russian missiles attacked **Ukraine's Snake Island**, also known as **Zmiinyi Island**, located in the Black Sea.

**Political Features**

- **Location:** **Eastern Europe** and is the **2nd largest country** in Europe after Russia.
- **Bordering Countries:** Belarus (north), Russia (east), Moldova & Romania (southwest), Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland (west).
  - ⊖ **The Sea of Azov & Black Sea** are located to the south of Ukraine.

**Geographical Features**

- **Mountain Ranges:** Carpathians, Crimean Mountains, etc.
- **Highest Point:** Mount Hoverla.
- **Climate:** Temperate
- **Major Rivers:** Dnieper, Danube, Dniester, etc.

