

CDSCO Bans 35 Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) Drugs

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), apex drugs regulatory body, has directed all states and Union Territories to stop the manufacture, sale, and distribution of 35 unapproved FDC drugs.

- This decision has been taken as many FDC drugs were violating provision of the **New Drugs and Clinical Trials (NDCT) Rules, 2019** under the **Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940**.

About Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) Drugs

- FDC refer to products **containing one or more active ingredients** used for a **particular indication(s)**.
 - ⊕ **Active Ingredient** is the **biologically active component** of a drug product (tablet, capsule, cream, injectable) that produces the intended effects.
- FDCs are classified into 4 broad categories.
- FDCs are considered **new drug** (under **NDCT) Rules, 2019**) when it meets two conditions:
 - ⊕ It combines two or more drugs already approved for individual use in a fixed ratio.
 - ⊕ It alters the ratio of drugs in an already approved FDC, along with making changes to its claims.

Why FDC drugs are Preferred?

- **Better Therapeutic Outcomes:** Enhanced synergistic effects between combined drugs (when rationally selected).
- **Improved Patient Compliance:** Reduces the **pill burden by combining multiple** drugs into a single tablet or capsule.
- **Reduced Cost of Therapy:** Combined products may lower costs compared to purchasing multiple individual drugs.

Parliamentary Standing Committee Presented Report Regarding MGNREGA in Lok Sabha

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) mandate to provide at least **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household.

Issues Highlighted by the committee

- **High Pendencies:** Total pending liabilities are ₹23,446.27 crore. It accounts for **27.26% of the current budget**.
- **Deletion of Job Cards:** Around 50.31 lakh job cards were deleted in 2021-22 due to **minor spelling errors or Aadhaar mismatches**.
- **Wage Issues:** MGNREGA wages have failed to **keep pace with inflation**, falling below subsistence levels.
- **Irregularities in Social Audit:** Around 67% of **planned gram panchayats** were audited in 2024-25.

Recommendations given by the committee

- **Survey:** Independent and transparent survey across the country to gain **valuable insights about the program's shortcomings**.
- **Increase in compensation:** The current compensation rate for **delayed wages (0.05% of unpaid wages)** should be increased to ensure timely remuneration for workers.
- **Aadhaar Implementation:** Aadhaar-Based Payment System can **remain optional** and alternative payment mechanisms should be made available.
- **Strengthening social audit:** Social Audit Calendar should be introduced by the **Department of Rural Development** to ensure regular audits.

New Initiatives under MGNREGA

- **Promoting livelihood activity:** An advisory to the States was issued on promotion of plantation work with Special emphasis on Horticulture plantation.
- **The Yuktdhara Portal:** It was developed in coordination with ISRO (NRSC) to enable GIS-based planning using remote/space technology.
- **NRLM-compliant Cluster Level Federations:** To improve individual beneficiary livelihoods by involving NRLM-compliant Cluster Level Federations as **implementing agencies for nurseries, plantations, and other individual beneficiary works**.



Justice B.R. Gavai recommended as next Chief Justice of India (CJI)

As per the established practice of the **senior-most judge** being named as the **successor**, the current CJI recommended the name to the **Union Law Ministry**.

- After receipt of the recommendation of the outgoing CJI, **the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs put up the recommendation to the Prime Minister** who advises the President for appointment.
- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under **clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution**.
- In case of any doubt about the fitness of the seniormost Judge to hold the office, **other judges are consulted as per Article 124(2)**.
- The process is based on the **Memorandum of Procedure of appointment of Supreme Court Judges**.

Appointment of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (SC) in UK and USA



UK

- ➔ The **UK's Supreme Court President** is chosen through a **statutory selection process** underlined in the **Constitutional Reform Act 2005**.
- ➔ An **independent Selection Commission** convened by the **Lord Chancellor** under Rules set by Parliament is responsible for evaluation of candidates.
- ➔ On selection, the **Lord Chancellor consults** with senior judges and government officials before submitting the **recommendation to the PM**.
- ➔ The PM **notifies The King** for formal appointment.



USA

- ➔ The **Executive** and **Legislative** of the federal government have a voice in the composition of the Supreme Court.
- ➔ The **President nominates** the Chief Justice, typically **consulting advisors** before making a nomination.
- ➔ It requires a **Senate confirmation** through a **simple majority vote**.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) not merely a trade route, but a modern-day Silk Route: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry

The Minister highlighted that IMEC will bring down **logistics costs by up to 30%**, reduce **transportation time by 40%**, and create seamless trade linkages across continents.

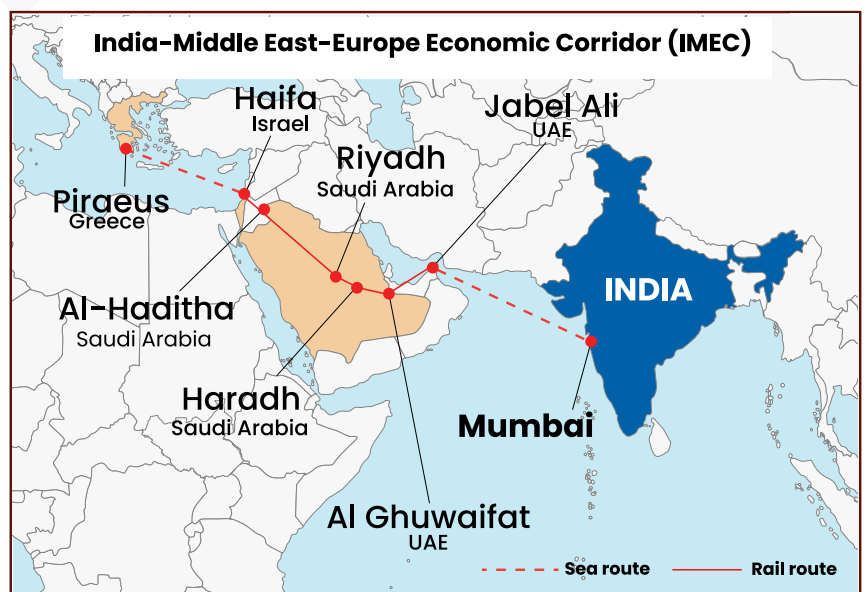
- The Minister also **suggested** ways for robust implementation of **IMEC projects**.
 - ⊕ It includes **collaboration** and active engagement of all **stakeholders** (industry, think tanks and academia), **Innovative Financing Models** (e.g. long-term **IMEC Bonds**), etc.
- **Silk Route** was a historic trade route that was used from the second century B.C. until the 14th-15th century A.D. It stretched from Asia to Europe.

About IMEC

- A multi-modal connectivity **project, formalized by MoU signed between** India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the US at the **G20 Summit (2023) in New Delhi**.
- **Aim:** Developing **infrastructure of ports, railways, roads, sea lines and pipelines** to enhance trade between India, the Arabian Peninsula, the Mediterranean region and Europe.

Strategic Importance of IMEC

- **Geostrategic:** Promotes trade resilience by providing alternatives to critical sea lines of communication, bypassing maritime chokepoints like **Suez Canal**.
- **Goeconomic:** Taps potential of **economic integration between India, Middle East and Europe**.
- **Other:** Offers an alternative approach to **China's Belt and Road Initiative**.



India's trade deficit with China widens to \$99.2 billion

The widening of **India's trade deficit** with China in the fiscal year 2024-25 is driven by a surge in import of **electronic goods (E.g. EV batteries, solar cells)** and **consumer durables**.

- Meanwhile, India's exports to China dropped to \$14.3 billion in the same period.

Key concerns associated with rising Trade Deficit/Import Dependence with/on China

- **Threat to Domestic Manufacturing:** Artificially **low-priced Chinese imports threaten** to undermine Indian domestic manufacturing, particularly in vulnerable sectors like steel, chemicals, and electronics.
- **Strategic Dependency Concerns:** The widening trade deficit signifies **structural dependence on Chinese goods**, creating **supply chain vulnerabilities**.
 - ⊕ **Poses threat over National security.**
 - ◆ E.g. **China may utilise benefit India's dependency during negotiations on border disputes** or during any other emergency.
- **US Trade Rule Bypass:** India could be used to sneak Chinese goods into US markets, risking damage to India-US relationship.
- **Market Diversion and Dumping Risk:** Chinese manufacturers may divert exports to India due to US tariffs, potentially engaging in price dumping.
- **Other:** Continuous outflow of foreign exchange, etc.

Key Initiative Taken by India to Check Rising Trade Deficit/Dependence

- **Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing:** E.g. PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme and Make in India
- **Localised Supply Chains for Critical Sectors:** E.g. Setting up Bulk drug parks to reduce dependency on China.
- **Export Incentives:** Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme, Interest equalization scheme (IES) (enhances competitiveness to exports)
- **Other: Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme,** using Trade Remedies and Safeguards (E.g. **Anti-dumping Duties**), etc.

Tamilnadu Sets Up committee to review the Centre-State relationship

The committee will be headed by former **Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph** and will suggest measures to reinforce the **constitutional rights of Indian states**.

Historical Parallel – Rajamannar Committee (1969)

- **Purpose:** To study the Constitution and recommend maximum state autonomy in legislative, executive, and judicial spheres.
- **Key findings:**
 - ⊕ Criticized Article 365 as a tool for unjustified central overreach and strongly recommended **repealing Article 356** (President's Rule).
 - ⊕ Suggested empowering the **Inter-State Council** under **Article 263**.
 - ⊕ Felt that the **Finance Commission's role was sidelined**.

Other committees on centre-state relations

- **Sarkaria Commission(1983)**
 - ⊕ **Key recommendations**
 - ◆ It did not favor disbanding **all-India services in the interest of the country's integrity. Instead, it selected new all-India services.**
 - ◆ President's Rule should be a **last resort**.
 - ◆ Suggested that **active politicians should not be appointed governors**.
 - ◆ Suggested that the **three-language formula should be implemented in its true spirit** in all the states.
- **Punchhi Commission(2007)**
 - ⊕ **Key recommendations**
 - ◆ Proposed a formal **impeachment mechanism** for the Governor, similar to the President's impeachment under Article 61.
 - ◆ Centre can **Consult with States** while legislating on matters in **Concurrent List**.
 - ◆ Avoid blanket application of **Article 356 and minimize misuse**.

Also In News



National Critical Mineral Mission

The Ministry of Mines has today issued the guidelines for setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).

About National Critical Mineral Mission

- **Launch:** In January 2025.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Mines
- **Objective:**
 - ⊕ To secure India's **critical mineral supply chain by ensuring mineral availability** from domestic and foreign sources.
 - ⊕ **Strengthening the value chains** by enhancing technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystems to foster innovation, skill development, and global competitiveness in mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recycling.



Clinidium lalitae

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have identified a **new species of beetle named Clinidium lalitae**.

About the New Species

- The newly found species was discovered in the **Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It belongs to the **subfamily Rhysodinae**.
- It is characterised by its **unique morphology and belongs to a rare group of ground beetles that inhabit forest floors**.
- These **beetles play a significant ecological role in nutrient cycling and soil health**





The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)

NADA India Hosts a National Conference on Building Together a Clean Sport Ecosystem.

About NADA

- **Ministry:** It is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- **Aim:** Creating a **dope-free environment and promoting fair play** in sports in India.
- **NADA India implements** the anti-doping programme in India, in line with the **World Anti-doping Code 2021**.
- The key areas of functioning include **Sample Collection (SC), Results Management (RM), Anti-Doping Education & Awareness, Research and Intelligence & Investigations (I&I)**.



Wet-bulb temperature

Harvard researchers question the **wet-bulb temperature survival threshold**, suggesting it may be closer to **31°C** instead of the widely accepted **35°C**.

About Wet-bulb temperature

- It is a **meteorological term used to describe the lowest temperature that can be reached by evaporating water into the air at constant pressure**.
- It is measured by **covering a thermometer bulb with a wet cloth and letting the water evaporate**.
- This temperature helps measure humidity and understand **how much water can evaporate into the air, affecting things like comfort, farming and weather patterns**.



Urdu language

Supreme Court upholds **Urdu signage in Maharashtra**.

- SC also observed that language belongs to a community, to a region, to people; and not to a religion.

About Urdu language

- It is an **Indo-Aryan language**.
- Linguists consider Standard Urdu and Standard Hindi to be different formal registers both derived from the **Khari Boli dialect, which is also known as Hindustani**.
- It originated and developed in the **Indian sub-continent**.
- It is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.



Government-e-Marketplace(GeM)

Over **1.3 crore individuals** were insured via **GeM platform** in FY 2024–25.

About GeM (2016)

- It is **Public Procurement Portal for goods and services for all Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units etc.**
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **Key Advantages of GeM:** Ease of procurement through an open and transparent procurement platform.



Kailash Mansarovar

India and China are working towards restarting the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**, which has remained **suspended since 2019**.

About Kailash Mansarovar

- It is **holy pilgrimage** in the South-west corner of **Tibet in the Himalayan Mountains**.
- It involves **Mount Kailash (highest peak in Kailash Ranges) and Lake Mansarovar (world's highest freshwater lake)**.
- **Religious and Cultural significance:** Considered holy in **Hindu, Jain, Buddhist religions**.
- The Yatra was accessible through 2 different routes - **Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim)**.



World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

Indian Navy Hosted **Meghayan-25 Symposium** to commemorate **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) formation and WMO Day 2025**.

About WMO

- **Genesis:** Established on **23rd March 1950** as an specialized agency of the United Nations.
- **Member:** 193 Member States and Territories including India
- **Mandate:** Provides the framework for international cooperation to advance meteorological, climatological, hydrological, and related environmental services, to improve well-being of all.
- **Reports:** State of the global climate report
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.



Global Trade Outlook and Statistics-2025

It is released by the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**.

Major findings

- Under current conditions, the volume of world merchandise trade is likely to **fall by 0.2% in 2025**.
 - ⊖ The decline is expected to be particularly **steep in North America**, where exports are forecasted to drop by 12.6%.
- Severe downside risks exist, including the application of **"reciprocal" tariffs and broader spillover of policy uncertainty**.
- The report contains for the **first time a forecast for services trade** to complement its projections for merchandise trade.
 - ⊖ The **volume of services trade** is forecasted to grow by 4.0% in 2025.



Tuti Island

Tuti Island has been devastated by two years of war between the **Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**.

About Tuti Island

- It is located at the confluence of the **Blue and White Niles in Khartoum, Sudan**.
 - ⊖ It is a historic oasis and **one of the city's oldest settlements**.
- It is a **crescent-shaped island and formed by silt deposition**.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI