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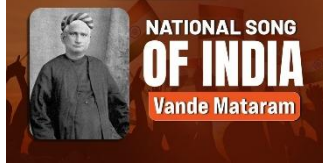
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## Current Affairs - 07 November 2025

### VANDE MATARAM-150 YEARS CELEBRATION



• “Vande Mataram,” written by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in a blend of Sanskrit and Bengali, is the **National Song of India**.

- It was first featured in his novel **Anand Math** in **1882**, with its tune composed by **Yadunath Bhattacharya**.
- It became a **symbol of patriotism** during India’s freedom struggle.
- **Historical Background:**
  - It was initially composed independently and later included in **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s** novel “**Anandamath**” (published in 1882).
  - It was first sung by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **1896** Congress Session in Calcutta.
  - Vande Mataram, as a **political slogan**, was first used on **7 August 1905**.
  - In 1907, **Madam Bhikaji Cama** raised the **tricolour flag** for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words **Vande Mataram** were written on the flag.
  - On **24 January 1950**, the Constituent Assembly adopted Vande Mataram as the **National Song of India**.
- The National Song is held in equal reverence to the national anthem, but it is not mandatory to sing it at any given occasion.

### UN WATER CONVENTION



- It is also known as the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** which was adopted in **Helsinki** in **1992** and entered into force in 1996.



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- **History of UN Water Convention**
    - It was originally negotiated as a regional framework for the **pan-European region**.
    - Following an amendment procedure, **since March 2016 all UN Member States can accede** to it.
  - **Features of UN Water Convention**
    - It is a unique **legally binding** instrument promoting the sustainable management of shared water resources, the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals**, the prevention of conflicts, and the promotion of peace and regional integration.
    - It requires **Parties to prevent, control** and reduce transboundary impact, use **transboundary waters in a reasonable** and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.
    - Parties bordering the same transboundary waters have to cooperate by entering into **specific agreements and establishing joint bodies**.
    - As a framework agreement, the Convention **does not replace bilateral and multilateral agreements for specific basins** or aquifers; instead, it fosters their establishment and implementation, as well as further development.
  - The **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe(UNECE)**, which services the UN Water Convention.
  - **Significance:** It is a powerful tool to promote and operationalize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.
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### WHY THE 8TH PAY COMMISSION MUST RETHINK INFLATION CALCULATION

#### Flaws in Measuring Housing Inflation in India

- Housing carries a 10.07% weight in India's Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- To compute this, the Statistics Ministry (MoSPI) surveys 13,000+ houses across 300 towns, including a significant share of government and PSU accommodation.



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- **The Core Problem: Use of HRA as a Proxy for Rent**
  - For government-provided homes, MoSPI uses the House Rent Allowance (HRA) foregone—along with a small licence fee—as a substitute for rent to measure housing inflation.
  - However, HRA doesn't reflect market rent; it depends on the occupant's position and pay grade, not on demand-supply dynamics.
  - If a senior employee vacates a surveyed house and a junior employee replaces them, the HRA component falls, showing an artificial dip in inflation, even though actual housing conditions remain unchanged.
- **Pay Revisions Distort the Inflation Trend**
  - Whenever government salaries are revised, such as under the upcoming 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), **HRA values rise automatically**, inflating the housing component of CPI — irrespective of real market trends.
  - A similar distortion occurred eight years ago after a previous Pay Commission revision, confusing both investors and policymakers about the true inflation trajectory.
- **Why Reform Is Needed?**
  - This outdated method causes artificial spikes or drops in housing inflation, undermining the accuracy of CPI and complicating monetary policy decisions.
  - Revising the approach to reflect real rental values is crucial to ensure credible inflation measurement before the 8th CPC recommendations take effect.

### How the 7th Pay Commission Distorted India's Inflation Data?

- When the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations took effect in July 2017, they included a 105.6% hike in House Rent Allowance (HRA) for Central government employees.
  - This administrative change triggered a **sharp, artificial surge in housing inflation** — from 4.7% in June 2017 to 8.45% in June 2018 — pushing headline CPI inflation up to 4.92%, despite no real increase in housing costs.
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### COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (CAG)

CAG of India is the supreme audit authority of the country, responsible for ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.

- The CAG audits receipts and expenditure of the Central and State Governments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and autonomous bodies, presenting reports to the President or Governor, which are then laid before Parliament or State Legislatures.
- The CAG is often called the “Guardian of the Public Purse.”
- **Constitutional Provision**
  - The CAG’s office is established under Article 148 of the Constitution of India.
  - Articles 149–151 outline the duties, powers, and reporting responsibilities of the CAG.
- **Functions and Powers**
  - Audits all receipts and expenditure of the Union and States.
  - Examines financial propriety, efficiency, and performance in government operations.
  - Audits government-owned corporations, autonomous bodies, and projects funded by public money.
  - Submits reports to Parliament and State Legislatures through the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- **Notable Works Across the Globe**
  - The CAG of India is a member of international audit bodies such as:
    - INTOSAI (International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions)
    - ASOSAI (Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions)
  - UN Board of Auditors, where India has audited key UN entities like:
    - World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNESCO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
    - United Nations Headquarters (New York)



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### KARNI MATA TEMPLE



Karni Mata  
Temple

- Karni Mata Temple, also known as the **Madh Deshnoke**, is a prominent **Hindu shrine** located in the town of **Deshnoke**, 30 km south of **Bikaner**, in **Rajasthan**.
- The temple is dedicated to **Karni Mata**, who the **locals** believe is an **incarnation of Goddess Durga**.
  - Karni Mata was a **Hindu warrior sage** from the **Charan** caste who lived in the **fourteenth century**.
  - **Living the life of an ascetic**, Karni Mata was highly **revered by the locals** and earned many followers too.
  - **Having received requests from the Maharajas of Jodhpur and Bikaner**, she even **laid the foundation stones of the Mehrangarh and Bikaner Forts**.
- Although there are **many temples** dedicated to her, **this temple** in the town of **Deshnoke** is the **most widely recognized**.
- It is also known as the **Temple of Rats**.
  - It is home to over **20,000 revered rats**, called **kaba**, making it one of the most unique spiritual landmarks in India.
  - Out of all the rats, **white rats** are **held specifically sacred** as they are believed to be the incarnations of **Karni Mata** and her sons.
- **Architecture:**
  - The **present structure** of the **Karni Mata Temple** was **completed in the early 20th century** under **Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner**.
  - Built **entirely of marble**, the temple's design bears **Mughal architectural influences**. Its **silver doors** are **intricately carved** with scenes from the goddess's legends, while the **sanctum** houses a **75-centimetre idol** of **Karni Mata** holding a trident and adorned with a silver crown and garlands.



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## Current Affairs - 07 November 2025

### WHAT IS GPS SPOOFING?



- A “spoofing attack” is a broad category of cyberattack where fake data is disguised as originating from a trusted source to deceive systems or users.
- Kinds of spoofing include **GPS Spoofing**, **IP spoofing**—often used to avoid detection while performing Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS)—as well as **SMS spoofing** and **caller ID spoofing**, where messages or calls appear to be from another number or caller ID.
- GPS spoofing involves **manipulating navigation data** with malicious intent.
- **Unlike jamming, which blocks GPS signals, spoofing involves transmitting fake satellite signals to override genuine ones.**
- The aircraft’s navigation systems pick up these counterfeit signals and calculate wrong data for position, altitude, time, and speed.
- The aim is for the target to act on false navigation information.
- The fake signals over-ride the genuine satellite signals using specialised hardware or software.
- **Since GPS satellite signals are weaker, the receiver considers the amplified spoofed signals as authentic.**
- **Aircraft may end up flying blind, or even worse, dangerously off-course.**
- Spoofing is often reported in:
  - **Conflict zones** like the Black Sea region
  - **West Asia** and the Middle East
  - **Military action areas or electronic warfare zones**
- Globally, spoofing and jamming of GPS signals have become a **growing menace for airlines**. The **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** recorded **4.3 lakh cases of GPS jamming or spoofing over conflict zones in 2024**, up 62 percent from 2023.



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### NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION



- It was **launched in 2020** by the **Ministry of Textiles** to boost technical textiles in India.
- It was launched for a **period from 2020-21 to 2025-26** with an outlay of Rs.1,480 crores.
- **Components of the National Technical Textiles Mission:**
  - **Research, Innovation and Development:** It supports **R&D in technical textiles**, inviting proposals to develop new materials and processes.
  - **Promotion and Market Development:** It aims to **increase technical textile adoption** in India through market promotion and international collaborations.
  - **Export Promotion:** Focuses on **boosting exports** of technical textiles with a dedicated export council.
  - **Education, Training, and Skill Development:** **Promotes technical textiles education**, skill training, and internships in top institutes and industries.

#### What are Technical textiles?

- Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products used primarily for their **technical performance and functional properties** rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.
- Other terms used for defining technical textiles include **industrial textiles, functional textiles, performance textiles, engineering textiles**, invisible textiles, hi-tech textiles.
- These products are broadly **classified into 12 different categories**- Agrotech, Oekotech, Buildtech, Meditech, Geotech, Clothtech, Mobiltech, Hometech, Sportstech, Indutech, Protech, Packtech.
- **Applications:** They are used in products that help protect people, improve machinery, and solve practical problems, such as in **car parts, building materials, medical equipment, and safety gear**.



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### REFORMING ELECTION NOMINATION PROCESS

- India's electoral process, the cornerstone of the world's largest democracy, begins long before votes are cast.
- Yet, one of its most undemocratic aspects lies in the **nomination scrutiny stage**, where candidates can be disqualified on minor procedural grounds.
- From missing signatures to delayed certificates, technicalities often override democratic principles.
- Experts now argue that this system needs urgent reform to uphold the spirit of free and fair elections.

### The Legal Framework Governing Nominations

- The **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, along with the **Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961**, lays down the framework for candidate nominations.
  - **Section 33** - Specifies eligibility and procedure for filing nominations.
  - **Section 34** - Mandates security deposits by candidates.
  - **Section 36** - Grants the Returning Officer power to scrutinise nominations and reject them for "defects of a substantial character."
- However, the term "substantial character" is undefined, giving ROs sweeping authority.
- Furthermore, **Article 329(b)** of the Constitution bars judicial review during the election process, meaning any challenge can only be raised after the polls, when the harm is already done.
- This combination of discretionary power and delayed remedy has made the nomination stage a **potential chokepoint for political exclusion**, often weaponised against opposition candidates.

### Procedural Technicalities and Arbitrary Rejections

- Examples across India reveal how technicalities are misused to eliminate candidates even before campaigning begins:



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- In **Bihar**, an RJD candidate was disqualified for leaving a few fields blank in the nomination form.
- In **Surat (2024)**, opposition candidates were rejected after proposers allegedly denied their signatures, leading to an unopposed win for the ruling party.
- In **Varanasi (2019)**, ex-BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav's nomination was rejected for failing to obtain a certificate within a day.
- In **Birbhum**, a former IPS officer's form was invalidated due to a delayed "no-dues" certificate.
- Such rejections are legally valid under the current framework but **morally corrosive to democracy**. They expose how bureaucratic discretion can effectively curtail voter choice.

### Way Forward

- Experts suggest several structural reforms to make the nomination process more democratic and accountable:
  - **Codify Clear Classification of Defects:**
    - Technical Errors (missing signatures, blank columns, typos) should not justify rejection.
    - Authenticity Issues (disputed signatures, false documents) should require verification.
    - Statutory Disqualifications (age, dual citizenship, corruption convictions) should lead to outright disqualification.
  - **Guarantee a Correction Window:**
    - ROs should issue a written notice detailing the defect, citing the legal provision violated, and allow **48 hours for rectification**.
  - **Mandate Reasoned Orders:**
    - Every rejection must include the specific grounds, evidence considered, and justification for why the defect is "substantial."
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