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## Current Affairs - 29 November 2025

### NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (NPC)



The Delhi High Court recently quashed the Lokpal's proceedings against Defence Secretary and other officials in a case alleging irregularities in promotions at the National Productivity Council (NPC).

- NPC, established in **1958**, is an **autonomous organization** under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- It is a **non-profit** organization with **equal representation from employers' & workers' organizations and the Government**, apart from **technical & professional institutions and other interests**.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Objectives:**
  - To **increase awareness of productivity** in general, especially of the concepts and techniques aimed at strengthening the microeconomic foundations of economic development, rooted in operating practices and strategies of the organizations.
  - To function as a **think tank of the Government** on measures needed to enhance focus on productivity
  - To be among the **premier productivity consultancy and training organizations** of the country in the first phase and of the South & Southeast Asian region in the long run.
  - To **raise financial resources to sustain its operations** on its own on a self-generating and continuing basis.
- **Functions:**
  - **Consultancy** to organizations on productivity improvement.
  - **Training** of personnel at different levels.
  - Dissemination of productivity information through **seminars, workshops, conferences**, etc.



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- Productivity **Research and Database.**
  - Productivity **Publications.**
  - Productivity **Awards.**
  - It is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body of which the Government of India is a founding member.
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### CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS (CBIC)



The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) 'GST & Customs Pavilion' has bagged the Gold Prize in the 'Public Outreach and Communication' category at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 in New Delhi recently.

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- CBIC, formerly known as the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), is one of the Boards constituted under the statute the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963.
  - It is the apex body under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, responsible for administering indirect taxes in India.
  - It deals with the tasks of
    - Formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties, Central Goods & Services Tax and IGST.
    - Prevention of smuggling and administration of matters relating to Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods & Services Tax, IGST, and Narcotics to the extent under CBIC's purview.
  - The Board is the administrative authority for its subordinate organizations, including Custom Houses, Central Excise and Central GST Commissionerates, and the Central Revenues Control Laboratory.
  - The CBIC is headed by a Chairman and has 6 members in addition to the Chairman.
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### KEY FACTS ABOUT RUSTIC BUNTING



Birders recently spotted a rare species, the rustic bunting (*emberiza rustica*) at Najafgarh Jheel on the Delhi-Gurugram border, marking the first time the passerine bird, which is also elusive across India, was spotted in the national capital region (NCR).

- It is a **passerine bird** in the bunting family *Emberizidae*.
- Scientific Name: *Emberiza rustica*
- **Distribution:**
  - Its breeding range extends from the **Nordic regions to eastern Siberia**.
  - It **migrates to southeast Asia and parts of East Asia**, including Japan, Korea, and eastern China, during the winter months.
  - There are only a **handful of records of it being seen across India** – predominantly in the northeast and across the Himalayan belt.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List: Near Threatened**

### INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION



- It is an **autonomous institution** of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is created to **set standards of drugs** in the country.
- **Functions of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission**
  - Its basic function is to **update regularly the standards of drugs** commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in this region.



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- It publishes **official documents for improving Quality of Medicines** by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).
- It further promotes **rational use of generic medicines** by publishing National Formulary of India.
- It prescribes standards for identity, purity and strength of drugs essentially required from the health care perspective of human beings and animals.
- It also provides **IP Reference Substances (IPRS)** which act as a fingerprint for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.

### What is Pharmacopoeia?

- The **Pharmacopoeias are official compendia** of quality standards of the drugs being imported, manufactured for sale, stocked or exhibited for sale or distributed in India.

### INDIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM



INDIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM  
অসম্ভৱজগতথাকসম্ভৱ

- It is the **Indian chapter** of the **United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF)** which was established in 2021.
- It is a **global multi-stakeholder platform** that fosters dialogue on public policy issues related to the Internet.
- It aims to **maximize the opportunities of the Internet** while addressing associated challenges and risks.
- IIGF promotes collaborative discussions among representatives from government, civil society, industries, technical communities, think tanks, and industry associations.
- It is guided by a **14-member multi-stakeholder committee**, IIGF Known for its inclusive and collaborative approach.
- **Role of IIGF:** It plays a vital role in shaping **policies for an open, secure, and accessible Internet**, addressing issues such as cybersecurity, digital inclusion, data privacy, and emerging technologies.



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- **Theme of the fifth edition of IIGF:** “Advancing Internet Governance for an Inclusive and Sustainable Viksit Bharat.”

### What is Internet Governance?

- It is the **process of developing norms and principles** that impact the **way the Internet is used and functions**.
  - It includes **solving technical issues**, setting regulatory frameworks, and policymaking to respond to social, economic and security matters, as well as questions of trust, standard-setting, accountability and jurisdiction.
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### NATIONAL MISSION FOR MENTORING



- It is **flagship initiative** of the Department of School Education and Literacy, **Ministry of Education**.
- It is in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- It was **launched in 2022** in selected **30 Central Schools** across the country.
- It provides **platforms for professionals and experts** where they can share knowledge, skills and expertise as a Mentor with Mentee teachers and help them in their journey to become effective teachers.
- **Aim:** It aims to **create a supportive environment**, enhance mentorship experiences and contribute to individual and collective growth.
- **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)** has been assigned to develop and design the modalities for National Mission for Mentoring (NMM).
  - NCTE released a comprehensive **document on the mission (NMM – The Blue Book)** with a detailed roadmap of its framework and implementation strategy.
- **Important stakeholders:** Mentor (the guide), Mentee (the teacher) and The Nodal officers/administration
- **Implementation strategy:**



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- **Building capacity:** Seminars and workshops are conducted to teach “Master Mentors” who can subsequently teach others.
  - **Incentivisation:** Although participation is voluntary, the NMM manual encourages participants to do so with **certificates, performance credits and other incentives.**
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### INDIA'S Q2 FY26 GDP GROWTH ACCELERATES TO 8.2%

- India's economy outpaced expectations, recording **8.2% real GDP growth**, significantly higher than the consensus forecast of around 7.3%.
- This marks the fourth consecutive quarter of acceleration, signalling robust economic momentum despite global uncertainties.
- The government attributed this growth to a combination of pro-growth reforms, elevated public investment, strong services activity, and rising private consumption, particularly after the recent GST rate cuts that boosted discretionary spending.

### **Sectoral Performance Driving GDP Expansion**

- **Manufacturing and Industry Rebound**
  - Manufacturing GVA rose by 9.1% in Q2, the fastest in six quarters, reflecting higher industrial output, improved capacity utilisation, and resilient demand.
  - This compares to 7.7% in Q1 and just 2.2% in the same quarter of the previous fiscal.
  - Industry as a whole grew 7.7%, supported by robust construction activity (7.2% growth). Mining was the only laggard, contracting due to monsoon disruptions.
- **Services Sector Continues Dominance**
  - The services sector expanded by over 9% for the second consecutive quarter, led by:
    - Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services: 10.2%
    - Public Administration, Defence & Other Services: 9.7%
- These components played a pivotal role in pushing overall GDP beyond forecasts.



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- **Agriculture Shows Mild Improvement**

- Agriculture GVA grew 3.5%, supported by stable food inflation and better kharif output, though still lower than industry and services contributions.

### Consumption and Investment Trends

- **Private Consumption Strengthens**

- Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) grew 7.9%, up from 7% in Q1, driven by:
  - Lower food inflation
  - GST rationalisation
  - Moderation in interest rates
  - Improvement in rural demand

- Economists highlighted that lower inflation boosted discretionary spending, reinforcing consumption-led growth.

- **Investment Activity Supported by Capex**

- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) grew 7.3%, aided by:
  - A 31% rise in government capital expenditure
  - Early signs of revival in private investment
  - Stronger credit flow to the industry

- Economists noted, however, that private investment remains sensitive to global risks, especially higher U.S. tariffs.

### Fiscal and Nominal Growth Concerns

- Despite strong real growth, India's nominal GDP growth slipped to 8.7%, a four-quarter low. Economists warned that low nominal growth could strain fiscal math, as tax revenues rose only 4% in the first seven months of FY26.
  - To meet the budget target of 12.5% gross tax revenue growth, revenues must grow 22.3% in the remaining months of FY26, an ambitious requirement.
  - The Chief Economic Advisor revised India's FY26 GDP growth projection to at least 7%, up from 6.3-6.8% previously.
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### BHARAT NCAP 2.0

- Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is a voluntary vehicle safety rating system that evaluates cars based on **crashworthiness**, going beyond basic roadworthiness requirements.
- Cars are tested using India-specific crash protocols, and those performing best receive a five-star safety rating.
- Designed to give Indian consumers clearer safety information, Bharat NCAP aligns with global NCAP models but adapts them to Indian conditions and technologies.
- Manufacturers can voluntarily submit vehicles for testing and use the ratings in marketing.
- The **Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT)**, Pune, is the authorised agency for issuing Bharat NCAP ratings.

### **Key Changes Proposed in Bharat NCAP 2.0**

- **Expanded Safety Assessment Framework**
  - Bharat NCAP 2025 broadens its evaluation method.
  - Instead of the earlier three verticals — AOP (Adult Occupant Protection), COP (Child Occupant Protection), and SAT (Safety Assist Technologies) — the new programme rates vehicles across five assessment areas:
    - Safe Driving – 10%
    - Accident Avoidance – 10%
    - Crash Protection – 55%
    - Vulnerable Road User Protection – 20%
    - Post-Crash Safety – 5%
  - This gives a more holistic picture of a vehicle's overall safety performance.
- **More Comprehensive Crash Tests**
  - The earlier version required three crash tests.
  - Bharat NCAP 2.0 increases this to five mandatory crash tests:



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- 64 km/h frontal impact against a deformable barrier
  - 50 km/h lateral impact with a mobile deformable barrier
  - 32 km/h oblique side impact against a rigid pole
  - 50 km/h frontal impact against a full-width rigid barrier
  - 50 km/h rear impact against a mobile rigid barrier
  - These tests help assess injury risk in real-world crash scenarios.
  - **Enhanced Injury Assessment**
    - Using Anthropomorphic Test Devices (ATDs) (crash-test dummies), the new draft evaluates injury risk for:
      - Adult occupants
      - Driver, front passenger and rear-seat occupants
      - Child occupants
    - This ensures a more precise measurement of protection across all seating positions.
  - **Protection for Vulnerable Road Users**
    - For the first time, Bharat NCAP incorporates tests to assess:
      - Pedestrian injury risk
      - Cyclist safety measures
    - This addresses India's high share of pedestrian fatalities.
  - **Additional safeguards include:**
    - A 5-star vehicle cannot score zero in any assessment vertical; otherwise, its rating is capped at 4 stars.
    - No injury values in the red zone for adult or child ATDs (Anthropomorphic Test Device — commonly known as a crash test dummy) are permitted in a 5-star rating before modifiers are applied.
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