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Current Affairs - 05 December 2025

WHAT IS THE ASSAM ACCORD?



- The Assam Accord was signed on 15th August, 1985, amongst the Union of India, the Government of Assam, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), and the All Assam Gana

Sangram Parishad.

- The signing of the Accord brought an end to the 6-year-long agitation, the Assam Movement (1979-1985), aimed at dispelling foreigners from the state of Assam.
- The aim of the accord was to **detect and deport all immigrants** in the state who had come to the territory post-24 March 1971.

Main Provisions of Assam Accord:

- It **determined 1st January 1966 as the cut-off date** for the purpose of **detection and deletion of foreigners**.
- It allowed for **citizenship for all persons coming to Assam** from “Specified Territory” **before the cut-off date**.
- It further specifies that all persons **who came to Assam prior to 1st January 1966 (inclusive) and up to 24th March 1971 (midnight) shall be detected** in accordance with the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1939.
 - The **names of foreigners so detected will be deleted from the Electoral Rolls** in force.
 - Such persons will be **required to register themselves before the Registration Officers** of the respective districts in accordance with the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939.
 - The Assam Accord **does not call for their deportation**, but they were to **get voting rights only after expiry of 10 years from the date of their detection or declaration as foreigner**.



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- **Foreigners who came to Assam on or after 25th March 1971 shall continue to be detected, deleted, and expelled in accordance with law.**
 - **Clause 6:**
 - It promises to provide **constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve, and promote the cultural, social, and linguistic identity, and heritage of the Assamese people.**
 - These safeguards aim to address concerns regarding the state's demographic and cultural integrity amidst the influx of migrants.
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DIGITAL HUB FOR REFERENCE AND UNIQUE VIRTUAL ADDRESS (DHRUVA)



- **Developed by the Department of Posts, DHRUVA sets the foundation for a nationwide Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).**
- It envisions a **standardized, interoperable, and geocoded digital addressing system** that supports secure, consent-based, and seamless sharing of address information.
- At its core is the concept of **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** — the array of services associated with address data management to support **secure and efficient interactions between users, government entities, and private sector organizations.**
- **The AaaS Framework Ensures:**
 - **Interoperability** across different address systems used by various sectors.
 - **Standardization** of address formats and geolocation tagging.
 - **Consent-based sharing** to empower user control and privacy.
 - **Public-private integration** for seamless adoption and innovation.
- **By recognizing digital addresses as core infrastructure, akin to Aadhaar and Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DHRUVA sets out to streamline everything from e-governance and online commerce to urban planning and emergency services.**



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- The policy also places emphasis on **user-centric design**, ensuring that citizens have meaningful control over how their address data is used and shared.
- Citizens will **retain full control over their digital address identity**, with options to manage access, update details, and share their verified address securely for various use cases.
- The DHRUVA platform will also feature **multilingual support**, mobile-first access, and integration with identity systems like Aadhaar, thereby improving usability and accessibility for all demographics.

Key Facts about DIGIPIN:

- It is an **open-source nationwide geo-coded addressing system** developed by the Department of Posts in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and NRSC, ISRO.
- It **divides India into grids and assigns each grid a unique alphanumeric code based on latitude and longitude**
- The DIGIPIN system is **publicly accessible** and supports improvements in emergency response, logistics efficiency, and citizen service delivery.

WHAT IS A TENSOR PROCESSING UNIT (TPU)?



- A TPU is a **specialized chip** designed to **accelerate AI and Machine Learning (ML) tasks**.
- Unlike traditional Computer Processors Units (CPUs) or Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), TPUs are specifically built to **handle the complex calculations required for deep learning models**.
- TPUs were **developed by Google** to **improve the performance of their AI applications**, such as Google Search, Google Translate, and Google Photos.
- Since then, TPUs have **become a key component in AI infrastructure** and are widely **used in data centers and cloud computing**.



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How Do TPUs Work?

- **AI models rely on a type of mathematical operation called tensor computation.**
 - A tensor is a **multi-dimensional array of numbers**, similar to a table of data.
 - **Deep learning models use these tensors to process large amounts of information and make predictions.**
 - **TPUs are optimized for tensor computations**, allowing them to process large datasets much faster than CPUs or GPUs.
 - **They achieve this through:**
 - **Massive parallelism:** TPUs can perform **many calculations at once**, making them highly efficient.
 - **Low power consumption:** Compared to GPUs, TPUs use less energy while delivering high performance.
 - **Specialized circuits:** TPUs have circuits specifically designed for AI workloads, reducing the need for unnecessary computations.
 - While **CPUs are great for general tasks** and **GPUs are an excellent choice for gaming and AI**, TPUs are specifically **designed to make AI models work faster and more efficiently.**
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WORLD SOIL DAY 2025



- It is held annually on **5 December** as a means to focus attention on the **importance of healthy soil** and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
 - In 2013, the **United Nations General Assembly officially declared December 5** as World Soil Day, with the first celebration held in 2014.
 - **WSD 2025 Theme:**
 - **“Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities,”** shifting attention from rural farmlands to the often-overlooked soil beneath urban landscapes.
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EXERCISE GARUDA SHAKTI



- It is the joint Special Forces exercise conducted between India and Indonesia.
 - The Indian contingent is represented by **troops from The Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces).
 - **Aim:** The exercise aims to **strengthen mutual understanding**, cooperation and **interoperability** between the Special Forces of the two nations.
 - **Focus:** Its scope includes **troop-level tactics**, techniques and procedures in a **counter-terrorism environment**, covering unarmed combat techniques, combat shooting, sniping, heliborne operations and **planning for drone**, counter-UAS and **loiter-munition strikes** in semi-mountainous terrain.
 - **Objectives:**
 - It features the exchange of expertise and **information on weapons**, equipment and operational practices.
 - **Validate joint training** through a simulated real-world operational scenario.
 - Test the endurance, coordination and combat readiness of both contingents.
 - **Significance:** It helps in **advancing defence cooperation** and further strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.
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NATIONAL FORENSIC INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME



- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 2024.
 - **Aim:** The aim of the scheme is to help create a sound **forensic laboratory infrastructure** and **prepare world class trained forensic professionals** in the country.
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs.
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- **Implementation Period:** 2024–25 to 2028–29.
- **Components of National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme**
 - Establishment of campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
 - Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs) in the country.
 - Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.

What is the need of NFIES?

- To **address the significant shortage of trained forensic** manpower in the Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) in the country.
 - To alleviate the case load / pendency of forensic laboratories, and align with the Government of India's goal of securing a high conviction rate of more than 90%.
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INDIGO MELTDOWN

IndiGo has faced widespread flight cancellations and delays in recent days, disrupting thousands of passengers. The core reason is an acute crew shortage triggered by the rollout of the **new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms**, whose final phase took effect last month.

India's largest airline, which handles over 60% of domestic traffic, was not adequately prepared for the stricter duty and rest requirements. As a result, punctuality has collapsed — only 19.7% of flights were on time on December 3.

Why IndiGo Is Hit Harder Than Other Airlines?

- The new FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitation) rules technically apply to all domestic airlines, but IndiGo has suffered disproportionately. Industry insiders point to several reasons:
- **Massive Scale and High-Frequency Network** - IndiGo operates the largest network and highest number of daily flights in India. This amplifies the impact of crew shortages compared to smaller carriers.



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- **Heavy Late-Night and Early-Morning Operations** - IndiGo runs a significant share of “red-eye” and early-morning flights—segments most affected by stricter rest requirements under the new FDTL norms.
- **Why Other Airlines Are Less Affected?**
 - Other carriers currently have lower-than-optimal aircraft utilisation, largely due to:
 - Delayed new aircraft deliveries
 - Aircraft grounded for refits
 - This means more pilots are available per aircraft, giving them greater flexibility in rostering and making it easier to absorb the impact of the new FDTL norms.

What the New FDTL Norms Changed?

- The revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms introduced multiple fatigue-mitigation measures:
 - **Weekly rest** increased from 36 to 48 hours
 - **Night landings** capped at two, down from six
 - Definition of **night hours** extended by one hour
 - These changes significantly tightened crew availability and operational flexibility, particularly for airlines with heavy night operations.
 - **Steps IndiGo Is Taking to Stabilise Operations**
 - According to the DGCA, IndiGo has initiated corrective actions, including:
 - **Strengthening Crew Planning and Rostering** - Better alignment of crew assignments with FDTL rest and duty requirements.
 - **Improving Coordination with ATC and Airports** - Enhanced communication to manage airspace constraints and reduce avoidable bottlenecks.
 - **Enhancing Turnaround and Disruption Management** - Accelerating ground processes and improving responses to cascading delays.
 - These measures aim to gradually stabilise IndiGo’s operations while staying compliant with FDTL norms.
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CENSUS 2027 - COUNTING INDIA, RENEWING THE REPUBLIC

- India has **missed the decennial Census** for the first time in 143 years.
- With the last Census conducted in 2011, the next round — now termed Census 2027 — marks a 16–17-year gap. This has raised pressing concerns for governance, welfare delivery, federalism, representation, and democratic accountability.

The Constitutional Significance of Census 2027:

- **Why the delay matters?**
 - The 2021 Census was cancelled despite elections being held during the pandemic.
 - India has been functioning using outdated 2011 population data, affecting welfare schemes, urban planning, fiscal federalism (Finance Commission transfers), and budgeting and policy design.
- **Renaming to "Census 2027" (rather a delayed Census 2021):**
 - It enables the first Lok Sabha delimitation since 1976, frozen by the **84th Constitutional Amendment** until “the first Census after 2026”.
 - It will also trigger **women’s reservation** (dependent on delimitation) — though the government’s 2029 promise is mathematically impossible given delimitation’s four-to-six-year track record.

Challenges and Way Forward:

- **Over 16 years data vacuum:** Affect welfare, planning, and fiscal transfers. Comprehensive enumeration including caste with scientific methodology.
- **Migration miscount:** This will distort electoral representation and urban governance. Therefore, accurate counting of migrants based on actual residency is needed.
- **Privacy and surveillance risks from digital data:** Robust data-protection framework— legal firewalls preventing linkage with Aadhaar/NPR.
- **Potential politicisation of enumeration and data release:** Federal transparency through real-time data access and independent audits. Timely publication of all data collected to avoid SECC-like opacity.



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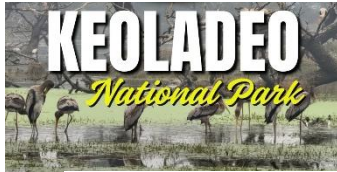
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KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK



- It is situated in the **Bharatpur** district of **Rajasthan**.
 - It was earlier known as **Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary**.
 - It is recognised as one of the world's most important bird breeding and feeding grounds.
 - It was declared a national park in 1981. It was renamed Keoladeo for the ancient temple in the park dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva.
 - It is the only one of its kind in India which is enclosed by a boundary wall to fend off encroachments.
 - It is a **Ramsar site** and also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
 - **Vegetation:**
 - **Woodlands, swamps, and wet grasslands** cover a large part of the park.
 - The vegetation here is of a **dry deciduous type**, with medium-sized trees and shrubs found inside its forest.
 - **Flora:** Some of the trees which can be commonly spotted inside the park are **kadam, jamun, babul, kandi, ber, kair, and piloo**.
 - **Fauna:**
 - It is home to a range of mammals and reptiles—including **pythons** and other **snakes, deer, sambars, blackbucks, jackals, monitor lizards, and fishing cats**.
 - It is strategically located in the middle of the **Central Asian migratory flyway**.
 - Among those wintering in the park are waterfowl **from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China, and Siberia**, including species such as **gadwalls, shovellers, common teals, tufted ducks, pintails, white spoonbills, Asian open-billed storks, Oriental ibises, and the rare Siberian crane**.
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