



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION (BRO)



• It is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to the Indian Armed Forces.

- BRO was entirely brought under the **Ministry of Defence** in 2015.
- **Establishment:** It was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop **infrastructure in remote areas** of the north and northeastern states of the country.
- It **develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.**
 - This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and **neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.**
 - BRO specialises in **constructing and maintaining Roads, Bridges, Tunnels, Airfields** and Marine Works across some of the world's most challenging terrains.
- The BRO also has an **operational role during national emergencies** and the **outbreak of hostilities**, when it provides **direct support to the Army in the maintenance of roads** in the forward zones and executes **other functions specified by the government.**
- It also provides the **workforce for the rehabilitation of certain forward airfields of the Indian Air Force** during operations.
- BRO is also **included in the Order of Battle of the Armed Forces**, ensuring their support at any time.
- In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the **Government of India set up the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** with the **Prime Minister as Chairman** of the Board and the **Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

- The executive head of the BRO is the Director General of Border Roads (DGBR), who holds the rank of Lieutenant General.
- Officers and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the BRO.
- **Motto: Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam** (everything is achievable through hard work).

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID



- It is a platform for the police and investigating agencies to securely access government and private databases in real time.
- It is conceptualised as a **seamless and secure database** for information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents to help bolster India's capabilities.
- **Background:**
 - The project was started in 2009 in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
 - NATGRID was set up as an attached Office of the **Ministry of Home Affairs** with effect from December 1, 2010.
 - It started its **operations on December 31, 2020**.
- **NATGRID database is available to;**
 - Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
 - **Superintendent of Police (SP) rank officers.**
- **Operation:**
 - It has been mandated to maintain a **repository of intelligence databases.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

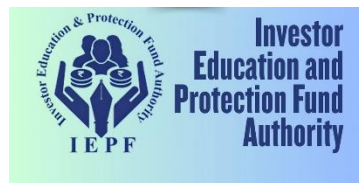


CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

- It works as an **integrated intelligence grid** that connects databases of core security agencies of the government of India.
- It will have data related to all immigration entry and exit, **banking and financial transactions**, credit card purchases, telecom, individual taxpayers, air flyers, train travellers besides others to generate intelligence inputs.

INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND AUTHORITY



- It was established in 2016 under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Purpose:** It is dedicated to **promoting investor awareness** and protection through sustained outreach, education, and strategic collaborations.
- **Functions:**
 - It manages the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)** and promotes investor awareness and financial protection.
 - It makes refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures etc. to investors and promote awareness among investors.
 - It is **dedicated to safeguarding investor interests** by facilitating the return of unclaimed shares and dividends and advancing financial literacy nationwide.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- **Initiatives:** Through flagship initiatives such as **Niveshak Didi, Niveshak Panchayat, and Niveshak Shivir**, IEPFA empowers individuals to make informed financial choices and fosters a financially aware citizenry.
- The **IEPF consists of amounts** that remained unclaimed for 7 years, including:
 - Unpaid dividends,
 - Application money is due for refund,
 - Matured deposits and debentures,
 - Interest on investments from the fund,
 - Grants or donations received from the government or other entities.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

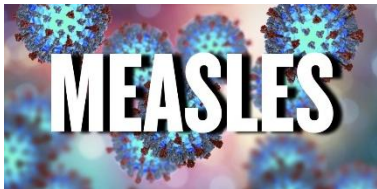
COSMIC FILAMENT



- Cosmic or galaxy filaments are the largest ‘**threads**’ in the universe’s cosmic web.
 - **Size:** A single cosmic filament is a structure spanning **hundreds of millions of lightyears**.
 - These filaments are **the largest known structures** in the Universe which are vast, thread-like formations of galaxies and dark matter that form cosmic **scaffolding**.
 - They serve as the nurseries **where galaxies grow** by accreting pristine gas that fuels their star formation.
 - **Formation:**
 - It is formed as a result of **gravity pulling in gas, dark matter and galaxies** into long, thin strands that link giant clusters of galaxies.
 - These filaments also surround large, **empty regions of space called voids**.
 - A filament forms where sheets of matter intersect and collapse; they’re also highways along which gas and smaller galaxies ‘flow’ towards big clusters.
 - **Significance:** These filaments help **decide where galaxies form**, how fast they grow, and how much fresh gas they receive over billions of years.
-

WHAT IS MEASLES?

- Measles is a **highly contagious**, serious airborne disease caused by a virus.



- It is **caused by a virus** in the paramyxovirus family.
 - **Transmission:** It is one of the world’s **most contagious diseases**, spread by contact with infected nasal or throat secretions (coughing or sneezing) or **breathing the air that was breathed by someone with measles**.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

- The **virus remains active** and contagious **in the air** or on infected surfaces for up to **two hours**.
- For this reason, it is very infectious.
- The **virus infects the respiratory tract**, then **spreads throughout the body**, causing severe disease, complications, and even death.
- **Symptoms:**
 - The **first sign** of measles is usually **high fever**, beginning about 10 to 14 days after exposure to the virus and lasting four to seven days.
 - A **runny nose, cough, red and watery eyes**, and small white spots inside the cheeks can develop in the initial stage.
 - A **rash erupts** after several days, **usually on the face** and upper neck. The rash **spreads over about three days**, eventually reaching the hands and feet, and lasts five to six days before fading.
- **Who is at risk?**
 - **Any non-immune person** (not vaccinated or vaccinated but did not develop immunity) can become infected.
 - **Unvaccinated young children and pregnant persons** are at the **highest risk** of severe measles complications.
 - Measles is still common, particularly in parts of **Africa, the Middle East, and Asia**.

Treatment:

- **No specific antiviral treatment** exists for measles.
 - It can be **prevented with** a safe and effective **measles-rubella (MR) vaccine** that gives long-term immunity.
 - The **Government of India (GoI)** introduced the measles vaccine in its **Universal Immunization Programme in 1985**.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

CONCERNS MOUNT OVER DRAFT INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE BILL, 2025

- Founded in 1931 by **P.C. Mahalanobis**, the Indian Statistical Institute has grown into one of India's most respected centres for statistical research and interdisciplinary studies.
- Registered initially as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and later under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961, the ISI obtained the status of an **Institution of National Importance (INI)** through the **Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959**.
- The institution's historical contributions include the development of the **National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)**, which laid the foundation for India's official statistical system.
- ISI has produced global stalwarts in statistics and mathematics, such as **C.R. Rao** and **S.R.S. Varadhan**.
- With six centres across India and nearly 1,200 students, ISI offers high-level education and research in Statistics, Mathematics, Quantitative Economics, Computer Science, Cryptology, Library and Information Science, and Operations Research.

Key Features of the Draft ISI Bill, 2025

- The proposed Bill **seeks to transform ISI from a registered society into a statutory body corporate**.
- This structural shift is framed by the government as a step toward modernising and strengthening ISI as it approaches its centenary in 2031.
- A press release cited by MoSPI states that multiple review committees, including the **Mashelkar Committee (2020)**, recommended governance reforms and expansion of academic programmes for global competitiveness.
- The Bill introduces:
 - A new Board of Governors (BoG), empowered to make key administrative and academic decisions.
 - Centralised control over faculty selection, recruitment, and appointments.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

Concerns Raised by Academicians and Students

- The strongest criticism relates to the erosion of institutional autonomy.
- Academicians argue that converting ISI into a statutory body corporate undermines the original agreement under which the ISI society was formed.
- A letter signed by **1,500 academicians** stated that the Bill violates the spirit of the Societies Registration Act and undermines cooperative federalism.
- **Governance Structure Overhaul**
 - Under the 1959 Act, ISI's governance rested with a council that included significant academic representation, including 10 members from within ISI.
 - The draft Bill's new BoG is heavily dominated by government nominees, leaving no elected representatives from among faculty or researchers.
 - This raises concerns of political interference, especially in appointments and academic decision-making.
- **Threat to Academic Freedom and Long-term Research**
 - Experts fear that increased focus on revenue generation may shift ISI away from basic research, which often lacks immediate commercial value.
 - Critics highlighted that essential long-term research could suffer under a corporate-style funding model.
- **Jurisdictional Conflict and Legal Ambiguity**
 - Opponents argue that bypassing the existing society registered under state law infringes on state jurisdiction and risks undermining the established legal framework that has guided ISI for decades.

Government's Defence of the Proposed Legislation

- The government maintains that the Bill aims to globalise ISI, strengthen accountability, modernise governance, and expand research programmes.
 - It argues that the reforms are necessary to align ISI with global standards and to support its growth over the next decade.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE



- **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**, as UNESCO defines it, includes the practices, knowledge, expressions, objects, and spaces that communities see as part of their cultural identity.
- For the Safeguarding of ICH, **UNESCO adopted the 2003 Convention** on 17th October 2003 during its 32nd General Conference in Paris.
- The Convention formally established **mechanisms for international cooperation**, support, and recognition, laying the **foundation for UNESCO's ICH lists** and the **subsequent work of the Intergovernmental Committee**.
- The **purposes of this Convention** are
 - To safeguard the ICH;
 - To ensure respect for the ICH of the communities, groups, and individuals concerned;
 - To raise awareness at the local, national, and international levels of the importance of the ICH, and ensure mutual appreciation thereof;
 - To provide for global cooperation and assistance.
- The Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the ICH **advances the objectives of the 2003 Convention** and ensures their effective implementation across Member States.
- In fulfilling this mandate, **the committee:**
 - Promotes and **monitors** the objectives and **implementation of the 2003 Convention**.
 - Provides **guidance on best practices** and recommends measures for safeguarding ICH.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 08 December 2025

- Prepares and submits to the General Assembly the draft plan for the use of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.
 - Mobilises additional resources for the Fund in accordance with the Convention's provisions.
 - Drafts and proposes operational directives for the implementation of the Convention.
 - Examines periodic reports submitted by States Parties and compiles summaries for the General Assembly.
 - Evaluates requests from States Parties and makes decisions regarding:
 - Inscription of elements on UNESCO's ICH Lists (as per Articles 16, 17, and 18).
 - Granting of international assistance.
 - **Membership:**
 - It has **24 members** who are elected for a **term of four years**.
 - The **election of new members** takes place **every two years** during the ordinary session of the General Assembly of States Parties.
 - **India is currently a member** of the committee (2022-2026).
-