

## Current Affairs - 14 May 2025

### INDIA'S RIGHT TO REPAIR MOVEMENT: ENHANCING CONSUMER RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONICS

- India has taken a notable step toward empowering consumers and ensuring environmental sustainability through its Right to Repair movement.
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)** recently accepted a report on the proposed **Repairability Index (RI)** for mobile phones and electronic appliances, which aims to rank products based on how easy they are to repair.
- This framework, aligned with the global right to repair movement, is a response to rising concerns about product durability, electronic waste, and consumer dependence on manufacturers for repairs.

#### Understanding the Repairability Index

- The proposed Repairability Index is a score that evaluates how easy it is to repair a product. It considers criteria such as:
  - Availability and pricing of spare parts
  - Access to repair documentation
  - Cost and time of repairs
  - Software support (e.g., updates)
- Consumer electronic products and appliances like smartphones, washing machines, and refrigerators would be rated using this index, allowing consumers to make informed purchase decisions.
- The idea is to promote long-lasting products and provide transparency regarding repair options.

#### The Need for Repairable Electronics

- The initiative comes amid increasing complaints that modern appliances break down more often than older ones.

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- This is partly due to **planned obsolescence**, where companies deliberately manufacture products with a shorter lifespan to push consumers to buy new ones.
- The declining metal content in appliances (due to rising metal prices and competition) has also contributed to poor durability. India's reliance on imported metals like copper further exacerbates the problem.
- Prolonging the lifespan of electronics also ties into India's broader goals like:
  - Reducing electronic waste (e-waste)
  - Supporting a circular economy where old parts re-enter the value chain
  - Lowering the demand for freshly mined ("virgin") metals

#### The Right to Repair Movement in India

- Globally, the right to repair refers to the consumer's ability to choose how and where to repair their devices, whether through the manufacturer or independent service providers.
- In India, the DoCA launched a **Right to Repair Portal**, listing:
  - Manufacturer-authorized service centres
  - Repair manuals and guides
- Unlike the more confrontational stance in countries like the U.S., India's model currently supports manufacturer-authorized channels, with limited support for third-party repairs.
- However, the inclusion of consumer rights advocates suggest the framework may not be entirely in favour of manufacturers.
- They emphasized that denying repair services for older products violates the consumer's right to choice and advocated for more repair freedom.

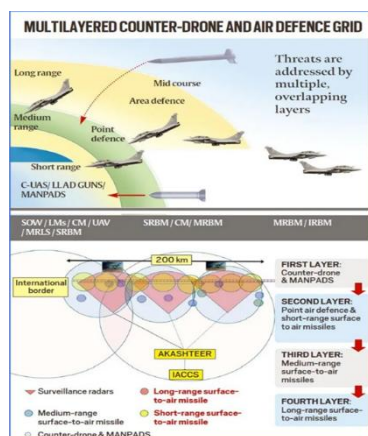
#### Challenges Ahead

- Though India's Repairability Index is a progressive move, it faces several challenges:
  - Balancing innovation and industry freedom with consumer rights
  - **Overcoming resistance from electronics manufacturers** who profit from repair services
  - Creating enforcement mechanisms to **ensure compliance**
  - Making third-party repairs safe and reliable

### INDIA'S AIR DEFENCE SHIELD EXPLAINED

During a media briefing on Operation Sindoor, the IAF showcased its Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS), which provides a real-time feed of India's air defence operations.

This system integrates radar, control centres, fighter jets, and ground-based defences to protect against aerial threats like enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles.



### The IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS)

- IACCS is an automated command and control system developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the Indian Air Force.
- It integrates data from various air defence sources, including ground and airborne radars, civilian radar systems, communication nodes, and command centres.

#### • Real-Time Situational Awareness

- The system provides real-time updates and a consolidated dataset to commanders at multiple levels.
- This ensures comprehensive situational awareness during air operations and enhances decision-making in response to aerial threats.

#### • Command Structure and Execution

- IACCS supports central control with decentralised execution, enabling swift identification and response to threats. It helps reduce reaction time and allows commanders to deploy air defence assets effectively.

#### • Enhanced Airspace Management

- Overlapping radar and radio coverage within IACCS ensures efficient airspace monitoring and reduces system redundancy, leading to better coordination and control of air defence operations.

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### The Army's Akashteer System

- Akashteer is the Indian Army's air defence control and reporting system, designed to connect and coordinate its air defence units.
- It enables monitoring of low-level airspace over battle zones and controls ground-based air defence weapon systems.
- **Development**
  - Akashteer has been developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- **Integration with IAF Systems**
  - Currently operating on a smaller scale, Akashteer is being integrated with the Indian Air Force's IACCS to ensure seamless coordination between Army and Air Force air defence operations.

### Multilayered Air Defence Umbrella

- The Indian military employs a multi-layered air defence system, combining various assets to detect and neutralise aerial threats at different ranges and altitudes.
- **Four Defence Layers Explained**
  - **Layer 1:** Counter-drone systems and MANPADS (Man-Portable Air Defence Systems).
  - **Layer 2:** Point air defence and short-range surface-to-air missiles (SR-SAM).
  - **Layer 3:** Medium-range surface-to-air missiles (MR-SAM).
  - **Layer 4:** Long-range surface-to-air missiles (LR-SAM).

### MERA YUVA BHARAT (MY BHARAT)



As part of empowering young men and women to play a crucial role in disaster management, Mera Yuva Bharat is selecting civil defence volunteers.

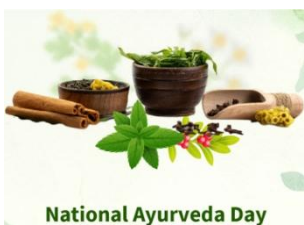
- It is an **autonomous body** under the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport.

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- MY Bharat, **supported by a technology platform**, would help to increase the youth outreach efforts of the Department of Youth Affairs.
- It has been set up to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology **for youth development and youth-led development** and provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat across the entire spectrum of the Government.
- MY Bharat **will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years**, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.
- **In the case of program components specifically meant for adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age group of 10-19 years.**
- It will help set the focus of the Government on youth-led development and make the youth "active drivers" of development and not merely "passive recipients".

### MY Bharat Portal:

- It is a 'Phygital Platform' (physical + digital) comprising physical activity along with an opportunity to connect digitally.
- The **fusion of physical activities and digital connectivity** reflects the modern, dynamic nature of the platform.
- **Youth across the country can register** on the MY Bharat portal and **sign up for various opportunities and events** available on the portal.
- MY Bharat has rapidly emerged as a pivotal tool for youth development, offering a diverse array of **opportunities, events and volunteering activities with Police, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and various Ministries.**



### Ayurveda Day

The Government of India has declared that Ayurveda Day will now be observed annually on 23rd September, starting from 2025.



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### Why 23rd September?

- The date 23rd September coincides with the autumnal equinox, when day and night are nearly equal.
- This event represents **balance in nature**, aligning with the Ayurvedic principle of **equilibrium** among **body, mind, and spirit**.
- The **symbolism of cosmic balance** supports the holistic philosophy of Ayurveda, making the equinox a **powerful metaphor** for natural harmony and health.

### What is Ayurveda?

- The term 'Ayurveda' is derived from 'Ayu' (life) and 'Veda' (knowledge), meaning the "science of life."
- Ayurveda deals with **all forms of life** and is divided into:
  - **Nara Ayurveda** – focused on **human life and health**,
  - **Satva Ayurveda** – deals with **animal health and diseases**,
  - **Vriksha Ayurveda** – focused on **plant growth, health, and diseases**.
- Ayurveda is not just a **system of medicine** but also a **philosophy of living** aimed at **positive health and spiritual growth**.

### Structure and Practice of Ayurveda

- Ayurveda has both **preventive and curative elements**, with therapies adapted to **individual, climatic, and environmental needs**.
- **Preventive aspects** include: **Strict hygiene protocols, lifestyle discipline, and seasonal regimens**.
- **Curative aspects** involve: **Herbal remedies, dietary therapy, external applications, and physiotherapy**.
- Ayurveda advocates for **personalised treatment**, customised to the **prakriti (constitution) and imbalances (doshas)** of each individual.
- The **Indian Medical Council Act of 1971** provides formal recognition to **Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha systems**, ensuring **standardisation and regulation**.

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### Core Principles and Holistic Approach

- Ayurveda is based on the concept of the **tridosha theory**: **Vata** (air & space), **Pitta** (fire & water), and **Kapha** (water & earth).
- The **seven body tissues (dhatus)** are: **Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa, Meda, Asthi, Majja, and Shukra**.
- **Waste products (malas)** include: **Mala (feces), Mutra (urine), and Sweda (sweat)**.
- Health is defined as the **balanced state of these doshas, dhatus, and malas**.

### WHAT IS THE CENTRALISED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CIMS)



Regulated entities (REs) will now be required to report details of their digital lending apps (DLAs) through the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) portal of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- It was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to handle the massive data flow, aggregation, analysis, public dissemination, and data governance.
- CIMS is a **warehouse of data**. This system uses state-of-the-art technology to **manage Big data** and will serve as a platform for power users to **carry out data mining, text mining, visual analytics, and advanced statistical analysis**, connecting data from multiple domains, such as, financial, external, fiscal, corporate, and real sectors, as well as prices.

#### Advantages:

- It **enhances** the efficacy and **efficiency** of RBI's regulatory reporting system.
- **Banks and other regulated entities** can submit their regulatory reports electronically using the cloud-based CIMS technology.

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- Banks and other regulated firms will have less work to do as a result, and the RBI will benefit from **improved timeliness** and quality of its regulatory data.
- The RBI will be better able to keep an eye on the financial system and respond quickly to any new dangers.
- The RBI will benefit from **improved communication with banks** and other regulated companies due to CIMS.

#### WHAT IS THE SAMRIDH SCHEME?



- The **Startup Accelerator for Product Innovation, Development, and Growth (SAMRIDH)** is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for startup acceleration under the National Policy on Software Products–2019.

#### Objective:

- It aims to **support existing and upcoming Accelerators to select and accelerate potential IT-based startups to scale.**
- Among others, the program focuses on accelerating the startups by providing **customer connect, investors connect and connect to international markets.**
- **An investment of up to Rs 40 lakh to the start-up** based on the current valuation and growth stage of the Start-Up will be **provided through selected accelerators.** It will also facilitate **equal matching investment by the accelerator.**
- **Implemented by:** The scheme is being implemented by **MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC).**
- In the first round of the cohort, 22 Accelerators spread across 12 states are supporting 175 startups, selected through a multilevel screening process.



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- List of accelerators comprises **government supported organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and early-stage start-up funding platforms.**
- These **accelerators then select 5-10 startups** each in the focused areas of health-tech, ed-tech, agri-tech, consumer-tech, fin-tech, Software as a Service (SaaS), and sustainability through a multi-level screening process.

The Accelerators have to **provide services to the Start-Ups** which include the following:

- **Expert diagnostic for market research and product positioning.**
- **Mentoring** startups through experts based on tech vertical
- **Legal Assistance** for all matters: IP, Incorporation, and other matters
- **Connected learning** and networking through shared platform
- Co-learning
- Weekly meets between founders of all startups
- Demo Day: **Presentation with venture capitalists (VCs)** and angel investors
- Assistance to startups in negotiating and closing investment deals with VCs and angel investors.