

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

### Current Affairs - 20 May 2025

#### OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI)



- The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, in August 2005.
- **Who can be an OCI?** The Central Government may, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, on an application made in this behalf, register as an OCI a foreign national
  - who was a **citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after, 26th January, 1950;**
  - who **was eligible to become a citizen of India** on 26th January, 1950;
  - who **belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947;**
  - who is a **child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen;**
  - who is a **minor child** of such persons mentioned above;
  - who is a **minor child** and **whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India** - is eligible for registration as an OCI cardholder.
  - Besides, a **spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India** or a spouse of foreign origin of an **OCI Cardholder** and whose **marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years** immediately preceding the presentation of the application is also eligible for registration as an OCI cardholder.
  - However, **no person who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great-grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh, or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an OCI Cardholder.**
- The foreigner has to be ordinarily resident of India to be eligible to apply for OCI registration in India.

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- 'Ordinarily resident' will mean a person **staying** in a particular country or in India for a continuous period of 6 months.
- **Benefits:**
  - **Multi-purpose, multiple entries, and a lifelong visa** for visiting India.
  - **Exemption from foreigner registration obligation** for any length of stay in India.
  - **Equivalence to NRIs in respect of economic, financial, educational fields.** An **exception** in the matter of **acquisition of agricultural and plantation properties.**
  - Equality with NRIs for intercountry adoption.
  - Offer similar domestic airfare charges to OCI cardholders as of a resident Indian national.
  - Equality with an Indian national for entry fees to national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- **OCI cardholder is NOT entitled to:-**
  - OCI is **not** to be misconstrued as '**dual citizenship**'. OCI does **not** confer **political rights to vote**;
  - to be a **member of a Legislative Assembly** or of a **Legislative Council** or of the **Parliament** of India;
  - to **hold Indian constitutional posts** such as that of the President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court etc.;
  - He/she **cannot normally hold employment in the Government**;
  - to **undertake any Missionary work, Mountaineering and Journalism** work **without prior permission** of the Govt. of India;
  - OCI card holders shall also **require Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP)** to visit any place which falls within the Protected/Restricted Area notified by the Government as in the case of any other foreigner.

### E-ZERO FIR INITIATIVE



- The **e-Zero FIR** initiative is a new mechanism where **financial cybercrime complaints involving fraud above ₹10 lakh** are **automatically converted into FIRs** if reported via the **1930 helpline** or the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)**.
- This system has been **launched on a pilot basis in Delhi** by the **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to **speed up investigations** into large-scale cyber frauds and ensure **swift action** against cybercriminals.
- **Legal framework:** The system is aligned with the provisions of **Sections 173(1) and 1(ii)** of the newly enacted **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**.
- The **e-Crime Police Station of Delhi** has been officially **notified for e-FIR registration and case transfer** under these legal provisions.

### How Does the System Work?

- Complaints of **financial cybercrime losses above ₹10 lakh**, once filed through **1930** or **NCRP**, will **automatically trigger a Zero FIR** at the **e-Crime Police Station, Delhi**.
- This **Zero FIR** is **immediately routed** to the relevant **territorial cybercrime police station**, based on the complainant's location.
- Victims are required to **visit the cybercrime police station within 3 days** to get the Zero FIR converted into a regular FIR.

### About Zero FIR

- A **Zero FIR** can be registered at **any police station**, regardless of the **place of the crime**.
- It ensures that **jurisdictional issues do not delay investigation** and provides **legal urgency** for prompt action.

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#### DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE (DGFT)



- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is responsible for the **formulation and implementation** of India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).
- Headquartered in **New Delhi**, it operates through a **network of 24 regional offices**.
- Before 1991, DGFT was known as the **Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E)**.
- Post-liberalisation, it was restructured as DGFT to act as a **trade facilitator**.

#### **Key Functions of DGFT**

- **Implements India's Foreign Trade Policy (Exim Policy)** by issuing various **schemes, licenses, and notifications**.
- Issues the **Importer Exporter Code (IEC)**—a **10-digit unique code** mandatory for all Indian importers and exporters.
- **Regulates transit of goods** across Indian borders as per **bilateral treaties**.
- Grants permissions for **free export items** listed in **Schedule 2** of the export policy.
- Sets **standard input-output norms** to define the quantity of inputs allowed for the export of a specified quantity of output.
- Facilitates **regional trade promotion**, especially with **neighbouring countries**.

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS NATIONWIDE INSPECTION OF JAL JEEVAN MISSION PROJECTS AMID COST OVERRUN CONCERNS

- Jal Jeevan Mission is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
- **Objective:** To provide to all households in rural India safe and adequate water through individual household tap connections by 2024.

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- The Jal Jeevan Mission is based on a **community approach** to water.
- According to the government, the mission includes Information, Education and Communication as key components.
- The mission is meant to create a people's movement for water, making it everyone's priority.

#### Institutional mechanism under JJM

i)	National level	National Jal Jeevan Mission
ii)	State level	State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM)
iii)	District level	District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM)
iv)	Gram Panchayat level	Paani Samiti/ Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ User group

#### Challenges Facing the Mission

- **Escalating Costs:**
  - The cost per tap connection has reportedly increased from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1,37,500 in some areas. This sharp rise has prompted scrutiny from the Ministry of Finance and the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).
- **Slow Implementation in Certain States:**
  - While some states like Gujarat and Telangana have performed well, others are lagging in infrastructure setup, quality checks, and timely utilization of funds.
- **Quality of Work:**
  - Reports from rural areas indicate that in some cases, **pipeline infrastructure is substandard**, or connections are functional only intermittently.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Gaps:**
  - The vast scale of the project has made it difficult to ensure **real-time auditing and third-party verifications**, leading to lapses.



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### NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)

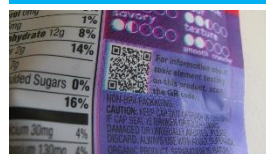


- The NIA was established under the **National Investigation Agency Act, 2008**, following the **26/11 Mumbai terror attacks**.
- It is the **primary counter-terrorism agency of India** with powers to **investigate and prosecute offences** affecting India's sovereignty, security and integrity.

#### Key Features of the NIA

- **Jurisdiction:** It applies across **India** and to **Indian citizens abroad**. It also extends to offences committed on **Indian ships and aircraft**, and to crimes **outside India** that affect Indian citizens or interests.
- **Powers and Mandate:**
  - Can **investigate Scheduled Offences** listed in the Act (e.g., **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, Arms Act, Explosives Act**).
  - Can initiate investigations on orders from the **Central Government** when a Scheduled Offence is suspected.
  - Can prosecute cases in **Special NIA Courts**.
  - Can **coordinate with state police**
  - Can conduct **extraterritorial operations** with **international legal cooperation**.
- **Headquarters:** Located in **New Delhi**, with **zonal offices** in **Guwahati** and **Jammu**.
- **Leadership:** Headed by a **Director-General (DG)**, typically a senior **Indian Police Service (IPS)**.

### GS1'S NEW GENERATION QR CODES



- **GS1 (Global Standards One)** is a **non-profit international organisation** that develops **global data standards** for **efficient product identification, supply chain transparency, and consumer safety**.

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- GS1 introduced **barcodes** nearly **50 years ago** and now operates in **over 100 countries**, including **GS1 India**.

### Features of the New QR Code System

- The next-gen QR codes will offer **greater data capacity**, supporting **enhanced product traceability**, **real-time inventory management**, **consumer transparency**, and **product authentication and safety**.
- Initially, **dual codes** (traditional **1D barcode** + **new QR code**) will appear on packaging to ensure **compatibility with older Point-of-Sale (POS) systems**.
- Eventually, when **retail infrastructure is fully upgraded**, only the **QR code** will be used.

### What Is a Barcode?

- A **barcode** is a **machine-readable visual representation** of data, using a pattern of **lines (1D)** or **dots/squares (2D)**.
- It allows **quick identification** of products, patients, shipments, and records.
- Originally **developed in 1973** by **George Laurer and Norman Joseph Woodland**.
- Also known as **Universal Product Code (UPC)**.

### What Is a QR Code?

- QR Code (Quick Response Code)** is a **2D barcode** that stores **more data** than traditional barcodes.
- Developed in **1994** by **Masahiro Hara**, QR codes store information both **horizontally and vertically**.
- Widely used in **UPI payments, ticketing, supermarkets, and product authentication**.

### COMBATING OBESITY AMONG ADOLESCENTS

- India faces a **complex nutritional paradox**: while **undernutrition remains a persistent challenge**, **obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** are rising at an alarming rate.

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- Adolescents, who represent a critical demographic and a fifth of the country's population, are caught in this double burden.
- According to the World Obesity Atlas 2024, India has one of the fastest-growing rates of childhood obesity.

### Vulnerabilities and Influences: Why Adolescents Are at Risk

- Adolescents are uniquely vulnerable to poor dietary choices due to a combination of environmental, social, and economic factors.
- Though today's youth appear to have greater freedom in food selection, they are frequently influenced by peer pressure, social media trends, and pervasive advertising.
- The problem is compounded in schools, where canteens and vendors often supply sugary snacks and salty processed foods, further entrenching unhealthy eating patterns.

### The Way Forward

- **Policy Interventions and the Need for Structural Reform**
  - Fiscal measures such as imposing health taxes on foods high in fat, salt, and sugar, while subsidising nutrient-dense options, have proven effective internationally and merit consideration in India.
  - However, policies alone are insufficient if they are not supported by consistent implementation and inter-sectoral coordination.
- **Empowering Youth Through Education and Literacy**
  - Informed youth can become agents of change, advocating for healthier communities and influencing food environments from the ground up.
  - Schools must become centres of nutritional literacy, offering not just academic instruction but life skills that enable students to make healthy dietary choices.

### Conclusion

- India stands at a pivotal moment in addressing adolescent obesity. Beyond awareness, the solution requires comprehensive action: robust policy measures, a transformation of food environments, inter-ministerial cooperation, and, most importantly, empowered youth.



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#### KEY FACTS ABOUT MULLAPERIYAR DAM



- It is a masonry gravity dam situated on the **Periyar River** in Thekkady, Idukki district, in **Kerala**.
- It is located 881 m above sea level, in the **Western Ghats**
- The dam is built at the **confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers**.
- It is one of the oldest dams in India. Its **construction** began in 1887 and was **completed in 1895**.
  - The construction was **carried out by the British Corps of Royal Engineers under the leadership of Pennycuik**.
- The dam was constructed **with limestone and "Surkhi"** (burnt brick powder and a mixture of sugar and calcium oxide).
- The dam has a height of 53.6 meters (176 feet), a length of 365.7 meters (1,200 feet), and a storage capacity of 443 million cubic meters (11.5 billion cubic feet).
- It **created an artificial lake and reservoir** that covers an area of 8.5 sq.km
- The dam is surrounded by the **Periyar National Park**, a renowned biodiversity hotspot that is home to numerous endangered species of animals and birds.
- The dam's **primary function** is to **transfer water from the Periyar River to the Vaigai River basin in Tamil Nadu for irrigation and power generation**
- Although the **dam is located in Kerala**, it is **operated and maintained by the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu**.
  - It was **according to a 999-year lease agreement** made during British rule, that the operational rights were handed over to Tamil Nadu.
- In recent years, there has been a **long-standing dispute between Kerala and Tamil Nadu** over the safety of the dam. **Kerala has been demanding that the dam be strengthened or decommissioned**, while Tamil Nadu has opposed any such move.