

SWASTH BHARAT PORTAL



- It is a **unified platform** designed to **integrate fragmented health programme** systems across the country.
- It acts as a **one-stop aggregator platform** to integrate programme systems via APIs, enabling interoperability and reducing administrative burden
- It is a **single platform**:
 - To **eliminate duplicate data entry**, streamline reporting, and support faster decision-making across health programmes.
 - To provide easy access, along with data visualisation tools and the use of data at the **local level for monitoring and evidence-based planning**.
- It is designed to evolve into a comprehensive and interoperable digital health ecosystem, further integrating with national registries such as the **Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR)**.
- It is **ABDM-compliant and supports integration with ABHA** (Ayushman Bharat Health Account), enabling seamless and secure exchange of patient health records.
- **It envisages the following**:
 - **Reduce Infrastructure Duplication**: Independent hosting, storage, and compute resources are maintained across programs, which will reduce when they will be aggregated through Swasth Bharat
 - **Reduce Repetitive Data Entry**: Similar beneficiary data which was entered across multiple systems will be entered on a single platform thus reducing repetitive tasks
 - **Unified HR Deployment**: Separate development and maintenance teams are required in all programs, a unified system will reduce the HR burden
 - **Increased Interoperability**: As the system is designed on federated architecture via APIs, the interoperability will be higher



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 07 May 2026



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE



- It is an **inter-governmental international organisation** launched in 2023 during the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger**.
- It focuses on the **conservation of seven big cats - Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma**.
- **Objective:** To facilitate collaboration and synergy among stakeholders, consolidating successful conservation practices and expertise to achieve the conservation of big cats at a global level.
- It brings together **95 range and non-range countries**, conservation partners, scientific organisations, and corporates to promote collaboration and share conservation practices.
- **Implementation agency:** The IBCA is implemented through the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Founding Members:** **India**, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Suriname, & Uganda.
- **Membership:** Membership is open to **all UN Member States**, including:
 - **Range countries**, where big cats naturally occur.
 - **Non-range countries** that are interested in supporting global conservation of big cats.
- **Institutional Support and Funding:** India has committed ₹150 crore (for the period 2023–2028) as budgetary support for: Creating a corpus fund, Building infrastructure, and Covering recurring expenses of the IBCA.

Governance:

- **Assembly:** It is a main decision making body which is comprised of representatives of all member countries.

- **Standing Committee:** It is established by the Assembly shall assist in effective and efficient functioning of the IBCA.
- **Secretariat:** It is based in New Delhi.

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF A CM REFUSING TO STEP DOWN AFTER DEFEAT

A day after the All India Trinamool Congress lost the West Bengal Assembly elections, Mamata Banerjee announced that she would not resign as Chief Minister, alleging that the election outcome resulted from a “conspiracy” rather than the people’s mandate.

Can a Governor Remove a Chief Minister?

- Article 164(1) of the Constitution states that the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor and holds office “during the pleasure of the Governor.”
- On a literal reading, this appears to give the Governor the power to remove a Chief Minister.
 - Over time, the Supreme Court of India has interpreted the Governor’s powers as largely bound by the “**aid and advice**” of the Council of Ministers.
 - In practice, a Governor cannot arbitrarily dismiss a Chief Minister who continues to enjoy the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.
 - **The real test of legitimacy remains majority support in the House.**

Floor Test: Determining Majority Support in the Assembly

- The floor test is a constitutional mechanism to verify majority support in the House. The Chief Minister must demonstrate the backing of more than half of the sitting MLAs.
- If the Chief Minister fails to secure majority support during the floor test, resignation becomes necessary.
- If no party or coalition can prove a stable majority after the floor test, the state may come under **President’s Rule under Article 356** as a last resort.

What Happens After the Assembly's Tenure Ends?

- **Constitutional Provision** - Article 172 of the Constitution states that a State Legislative Assembly normally continues for five years from the date of its first meeting, unless dissolved earlier. After five years, the Assembly automatically stands dissolved.
- **Expiry of the West Bengal Assembly** - According to the Election Commission, the present West Bengal Assembly began its term on May 8, 2021, and its tenure is scheduled to end on May 7.
- **Formation of a New Government** - After the Assembly's tenure ends, the Governor initiates the process of constituting a new Assembly. Newly elected MLAs take oath, following which a new government is formed based on majority support in the House.

What Happens Next After Electoral Defeat?

- According to the experts, resignation after losing an Assembly election is largely a constitutional convention rather than a strict legal requirement.
- Even if a Chief Minister does not resign, the office automatically ceases once the Assembly's tenure ends and the House stands dissolved.
- **Possibility of Election Petitions**
 - The election results can still be legally challenged through an election petition filed before the High Court within 45 days of the declaration of results.
 - Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, grounds for challenge include corrupt practices and procedural violations during the conduct of elections.
- **Scope for Writ Petitions**
 - Apart from election petitions, writ petitions may also be filed if the integrity of the electoral process itself is questioned.
 - Allegations such as arbitrary deletion of voters from electoral rolls can be challenged as violations of fundamental rights.

CRIME IN INDIA 2024 - NCRB HIGHLIGHT DECLINING OVERALL CRIME BUT RISING CYBER THREATS

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released the Crime in India 2024 and Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI) 2024 reports, highlighting key trends in crime, cyber offences, suicides, economic crimes, and vulnerable sections of society.
- While India witnessed an **overall decline** in registered cognisable crimes in 2024, the reports underline a **sharp rise in cybercrime**, economic offences, child safety concerns, and drug overdose deaths.
- It also highlights persistent **social vulnerabilities** linked to unemployment, agrarian distress, and crimes against women.

Overall Crime Trends in India:

- **Decline in total crime rate:**
 - India recorded 58.86 lakh cognisable crimes in 2024, marking a **6% decline** compared to 62.41 lakh cases in 2023.
 - Crime rate per lakh population declined from 448.3 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024.
 - Cases registered included:
 - 35.44 lakh under the IPC/Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
 - 23.41 lakh under Special and Local Laws (SLL).
 - **Key interpretation:** The decline suggests improved law enforcement and reporting efficiency in some categories, but emerging digital crimes are offsetting these gains.

Surge in Cybercrime:

- **Sharp rise in cybercrime cases:**
 - Cybercrime emerged as the fastest-growing category of crime in India.
 - **For example**, cybercrime cases increased by **17.9%** from 86,420 (2023) to 1,01,928 (2024). Cybercrime rate rose from 6.2 to 7.3 per lakh population.

- **State-wise trends:** Telangana recorded the highest number of cybercrime cases (27,230 cases) - nearly 50% rise from 2023. Karnataka followed with 21,003 cases.
- **Metropolitan cities under stress:**
 - Nearly 35,000 cybercrime cases were registered in metro cities in 2024.
 - Investigation burden remained severe, for example, over 1.2 lakh cases pending investigation, and around 75,000 cases pending trial.

Key Challenges Highlighted by NCRB Data:

- **Institutional challenges:** Massive pendency in cybercrime investigations, low conviction rates, forensic and cyber policing gaps, and judicial delays.
- **Social challenges:** Agrarian distress, gender violence, juvenile vulnerability, mental health crisis, and drug addiction.
- **Governance challenges:** Coordination gaps between states and agencies, weak cyber awareness, insufficient rehabilitation and counselling infrastructure.

Way Forward:

- **Strengthening cyber security:** Expand cybercrime police stations, enhance digital forensic capacity, improve interstate coordination, promote cyber awareness campaigns.
- **Criminal justice reforms:** Fast-track cybercrime and economic offence cases, reduce judicial pendency, and improve conviction rates through technology-enabled policing.
- **Social protection measures:** Strengthen mental health support systems, expand farmer welfare and livelihood security, enhance employment generation programmes.
- **Child and women safety:** Improve child tracking systems, strengthen women helplines and legal aid, expand community policing initiatives.
- **Drug abuse prevention:** Strengthen rehabilitation centres, improve narcotics intelligence sharing, promote awareness among youth.

The data underscores the urgent need for a modernised criminal justice system, stronger cyber governance, mental health interventions, and inclusive socio-economic policies. As India moves deeper into the digital age, governance institutions must evolve to address emerging forms of crime while ensuring justice, social security, and public trust.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 07 May 2026



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

WHAT IS CORDYCEPS?



- It is a **genus of parasitic fungi** that **grows on insect larvae**.
 - When these fungi attack their host, they replace its tissue and sprout long, slender stems that **grow outside the host's body**.
- The fungi have a cosmopolitan distribution and are **found on every continent except Antarctica**.
- Some of the rarest kinds are at **higher altitudes in the Himalayan regions of China, Nepal, and India**.
- It is one of the **most prized medicinal fungi**.
- It is often referred to as "**Himalayan gold**" because of their **exceptionally high commercial value and extensive use in traditional medicine, nutraceuticals, and pharmaceutical research**.
- It **produces** a wide range of **bioactive compounds**, including cordycepin, adenosine, and polysaccharides.
- These compounds are **associated with immunomodulatory, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antiviral, and antitumor properties**.

GALAPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO



- **Location:** It is situated in the **Pacific Ocean**, off the coast of Ecuador.
- It is **distributed on either side of the Equator**.
- **Terrain**
 - The Archipelago is a group of islands
 - Repeated volcanic eruptions helped to form the rugged mountain landscape of the Galápagos Islands.

- **Islands:** It is very young with the largest, and youngest islands, **Isabela and Fernandina**, with less than one million years of existence, and the oldest islands, **Española and San Cristóbal**, somewhere between three to five million years.

- **Highest Point: Mount Azul**

Climate: It is characterized by **low rainfall, low humidity**, and relatively low air and water temperatures.

- It is designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 1978.

Biodiversity: It include the giant **Galápagos tortoise** (*Chelonoidis nigra*), the marine iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*), the flightless cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*), and the Galápagos penguin.

- The **Galápagos penguin** (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) is the only penguin species to live in the Northern Hemisphere.

KEY FACT ABOUT SAMBHAR LAKE



- It is located in the districts of Nagaur and Jaipur in **Rajasthan**.
- It is the **largest inland saltwater lake in India**.
- This saline wetland is **elliptical in shape**.
- It is **surrounded on all sides by the Aravalli hills**.

The waters of **five streams feed the lake: Rupangarh and Mendha are the main ones**, and the lesser ones are Samoad, Khari, and Khandela.

It was designated as a **Ramsar site** in the year 1990.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 07 May 2026



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Salt Production: It is known for the production of **brine/salt** and also houses one of the **largest salt manufacturing units in the country**. It accounts for nearly **9% of the country's total salt production**.

The **specialized algae and bacteria** growing in the lake provide **striking water colours** – colours that also impart their **distinctive hues to the salt that is harvested** – and support the lake's ecology.

Fauna:

- It is the most important **wintering area for flamingoes** (both *Phoniconaias minor* and *Phoenicopterus roseus*) in India outside the Rann of Kachchh.
- Other **migratory species like pelicans, common shelduck, redshank, and common sandpiper, black-winged stilt, Kentish plover, and Ringed plover, Ruff, and Sociable lapwing** are also found here.