e-JAGRITI PLATFORM

- It is a **flagship initiative** by the Department of Consumer Affairs, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.**
- It was **launched on 1 January 2025.**
- It is aimed at **strengthening the consumer dispute redressal system** across the country.

Features of e-Jagriti Platform:

- **Global Accessibility:** NRIs and citizens can file and manage cases from any location, with secure end-to-end encryption and role-based permissions.
- **Inclusivity:** Features like multilingual interfaces and accessibility tools make it user-friendly for diverse demographics.
- **Integrated Platforms:** It has **unified four legacy applications** Online Case Monitoring System (OCMS), e-Daakhil, NCDRC CMS and CONFONET into a single AI-enabled, paperless platform.
- **AI-Powered smart search:** It has case filing, online fee payment, case monitoring modules for seamless disposal of cases by all the Commissions, has Smart search facility on archived consumer complaints / cases / judgements using AI technology for metadata and keyword creation, and Voice-to-text conversion of judgements, case history and other details using AI / ML technology.
- It enabled consumers to file complaints, track case statuses, and access judgments online.
- The platform played a vital role in digitizing consumer commissions and empowering citizens by providing easy access to legal remedies.
- It provides simple, fast and a more cost-effective consumer disputes redressal software solution at all levels.

ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL SUPREME COURT JUDGES

- On May 16, 2026, the President promulgated an Ordinance lifting the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges. Following this:
    - Five judges took the oath in Delhi
    - Of these, two filled lawful vacancies that already existed (the Court was sitting at 32 against a sanctioned 34).
    - Three judges occupy chairs that no statute has created; they sit only by virtue of the Ordinance.
- An Ordinance is a temporary law promulgated by the President of India under Article 123 of the Constitution.
- It is an extraordinary legislative power that can be exercised when Parliament is not in session and when immediate action is necessary.
- **Key Features of Ordinances**
    - **Article 123**: Empowers the President to promulgate ordinances when Parliament is not in session.
    - **Force of Law**: An ordinance has the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament during its operation.
    - **Duration**: An ordinance ceases to operate six weeks after Parliament reassembles, unless approved by both Houses.
    - **Withdrawal**: The President may withdraw an ordinance at any time.
    - **Disapproval**: Both Houses may disapprove it by resolution.
    - **Re-promulgation**: While constitutionally permissible, repeated re-promulgation has been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Constitutional Concerns

- **Security of Tenure**
    - Three judges hold their positions based on an Ordinance that:
        - Can be withdrawn at any time by the President.

        - May be disapproved by either House of Parliament.
        - Will cease to operate six weeks after Parliament reassembles unless replaced by an Act.
    - A court that owes three chairs to a six-week renewable Ordinance holds them at the executive's sufferance.
- **Judicial Independence**
    - The fundamental concern is whether the court can hold its seats free of obligation to the political branch.
    - Judges whose tenure depends on the government's willingness to convert the Ordinance into an Act may face questions about their detachment in matters involving the Union government.
- **Appearance of Bias**
    - In matters touching the Union, the government whose parliamentary majority must regularise the appointments may appear before these judges.
    - A judge whose tenure lies, even loosely, in one party's gift cannot wear the detachment the office demands.
- **For Constitutional Governance**
    - Raises questions about the proper use of ordinance-making powers.
    - Tests the limits of the D.C. Wadhwa principle.
    - Potential for further litigation on the validity of the Ordinance.

Concerns Raised by Experts

- Security of tenure is a cornerstone of judicial independence that may be compromised.
- The appearance of detachment from the executive is essential for public confidence in the judiciary.
- Historical precedents like the Roosevelt court-packing plan demonstrate the dangers of executive interference in court composition.
- The Supreme Court's own jurisprudence in D.C. Wadhwa and Krishna Kumar Singh warns against using ordinances as parallel legislation.

COTTON PRODUCTIVITY MISSION - CAN INDIA RECLAIM ITS LOST COTTON REVOLUTION?

- The Union Cabinet approved the Mission for Cotton Productivity with an outlay of ₹5,659 crore for **2026–31**.
- The mission aims to raise cotton lint productivity from 441 kg/hectare (ha) (in triennium ending (TE) 2025-26) to 755 kg/ha by 2031.
- There is a need to evaluate whether this target is achievable amid declining productivity, technological stagnation, and policy constraints.

India's Bt Cotton Success Story:

- A major turning point came in **2002**, when the government approved the commercial cultivation of Bt cotton as cleared by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), marking India's entry into the **biotechnology revolution** in agriculture.
- **Impact of Bt cotton (2002–2014):**
    - Introduction of Bollgard (Cry1Ac gene) and later Bollgard II (stacked genes) helped control bollworm infestation.
    - Cotton **production increased** from 13.6 million bales (2002-03) to 39.8 million bales (2013-14).
    - Cotton acreage expanded by **56%**, from 7.6 million ha to 11.9 million ha. **Productivity** rose by 88%, from 302 kg/ha to 566 kg/ha.
    - India emerged as the world's **largest** cotton producer and the **2nd-largest**
- This period demonstrated how technological innovation can transform agricultural productivity and farmer incomes.

Emerging Cotton Crisis:

- India's cotton sector has entered a phase of **stagnation** and **decline**.
- **Key trends:**
    - Cotton production has been declining by around 2% annually since 2014-15.

  - If the earlier growth trajectory had continued, output could have reached 65.3 million bales by 2026.
  - Actual production in 2025-26 stands at only 29 million bales.
  - India has shifted from being a net exporter to importing approximately 4 million bales of cotton.
- This reversal raises concerns about the competitiveness of India's textile value chain and long-term cotton self-sufficiency.

Evaluating the Cotton Productivity Mission:

- The mission's objective of increasing productivity to 755 kg/ha by 2031 is ambitious and welcome.
- However, significant concerns remain:
  - Lack of access to cutting-edge biotechnology available globally.
  - Absence of next-generation genetically modified cotton varieties.
  - **Weak incentives** for private-sector innovation.
  - Long and uncertain regulatory approval processes.
  - Inadequate public-sector agricultural R&D funding.
- Even if the target is achieved, India's productivity would remain well below current levels in Brazil, China, and Australia.

Conclusion:

- The Mission for Cotton Productivity acknowledges the seriousness of India's cotton crisis, but productivity gains alone may be difficult without technological renewal.
- The long-term revival of the cotton sector requires **a balanced framework** that promotes innovation, biotechnology adoption, robust R&D investment, and farmer access to advanced seed technologies.
- Without addressing these structural issues, the mission risks treating the symptoms rather than the underlying causes of declining cotton competitiveness.

100 DAYS OF US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN: NO WINNER, NO END

June 7, 2026 marked 100 days of the US-Israel war on Iran — a conflict triggered by the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the opening strikes.

- The US and Israel launched strikes targeting Iran's military and nuclear-linked infrastructure, aiming to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.
- The killing of Khamenei — Iran's highest political and religious authority — dramatically escalated the conflict.
- Iran retaliated through both direct strikes and regional proxies, drawing Lebanon, the Gulf states, and global energy markets into the crisis.
- Recently, the US House of Representatives voted 215–208 to restrict President Trump's authority to continue the war — a largely symbolic move, as the Senate must also pass it.

Key players in the Conflict

- The standoff involves multiple state and non-state actors:
    - The **United States** is leading military strikes and diplomatic pressure.
    - **Israel** is engaged in direct confrontation with Iran-linked forces.
    - **Iran**, responding through direct actions and regional proxies.
    - **Hezbollah in Lebanon** is sustaining cross-border attacks on Israel.
    - **Gulf countries** are impacted by spillover effects despite not being direct participants.
        - Countries across the Gulf have been affected by the conflict, even though they are not directly involved in the fighting.
        - Missile and drone attacks have targeted infrastructure in parts of the region, raising security concerns.
        - Air travel has been disrupted, with flights cancelled or rerouted due to safety risks.

Who Is Winning?

- Nobody, clearly. The conflict has become a war of endurance rather than decisive military gains. The US and Israel have struck Iranian military and nuclear facilities.
- But Iran has sustained its resistance through direct action and proxy forces — chiefly Hezbollah in Lebanon — keeping multiple fronts active. Both sides claim limited success while facing ongoing risks.
- Trump has described the war as a "great success" and insists Iran is "in no position" to develop nuclear weapons. But stalled diplomacy tells a different story.

The Strait of Hormuz: The Energy Flashpoint

- The Strait of Hormuz — a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to global markets — has become the most sensitive pressure point of the conflict.
- Roughly one-fifth of the world's crude oil passes through it daily.
- Iran has asserted shared control of the strait with Oman. Military activity has disrupted shipping, created a partial blockade, and kept oil prices volatile.
- Prices crossed $100 per barrel at peak, though they dipped when ceasefire signals emerged.

India's Concern: Three Direct Threats

- India has maintained strategic neutrality but is directly affected across three dimensions.
- **Oil imports:** 65–70% of India's crude oil transits through the Strait of Hormuz. Sustained disruption raises fuel import costs, adding to inflation and current account pressure.
- **Gulf diaspora:** 9–10 million Indians live in Gulf countries — the largest Indian diaspora concentration in the world. Their remittances account for roughly 40% of India's total remittance inflows. An Indian national was killed in an Iranian drone strike on Kuwait International Airport on June 3.
- **Trade routes:** Shipping disruptions, flight cancellations, and supply chain uncertainty affect India's trade with the Gulf and beyond.

LAND PORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

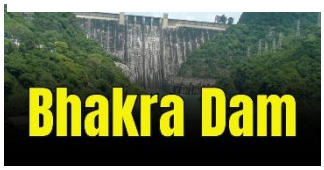
- It is a state-of-the-art digital platform designed to integrate operations across Land Ports into a unified system.
- **Features of Land Port Management System:**
  - **Real time information:** It **enables secure, real-time exchange** of **logistics and regulatory information**, bringing land ports at par with digital systems operational at airports and seaports.
  - **Inclusion and Coordination:** LPMS will facilitate **seamless coordination among various stakeholders**, including government agencies and private operators,
  - **Digitization:** The **system introduces end-to-end digital workflows** for cargo and passenger processing, including slot booking, payments, tracking, and single-window clearances.
- **Significance:** It reduces delays and enhancing operational efficiency.

Key Facts about Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)

- It is a **statutory body** under the Department of Border Management, **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- It is **responsible for developing and managing land ports** to facilitate trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation.
- Currently, **LPAI operates 15 land ports** across India's international borders:

➢ **India-Pakistan Border (2):** Attari (Punjab) and Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab)
➢ **India–Nepal Border (3):** Rupaidiha (Uttar Pradesh), Raxaul (Bihar) and Jogbani (Bihar)
➢ **India–Bhutan Border (1):** Darranga (Assam)
➢ **India–Bangladesh Border (8) :** Petrapole (West Bengal), Dawki (Meghalaya), Sutarkandi, Golakganj and Mankachar (Assam), Agartala, Srimantapur and Sabroom (Tripura)
➢ **India–Myanmar Border (1):** Moreh (Manipur)

KEY FACTS ABOUT BHAKRA DAM



- It is a **concrete gravity dam** across the **Sutlej River.**
- It is located at a gorge near the upstream Bhakra village in the Bilaspur district of **Himachal Pradesh.**
- It is near the **border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.**
- It is the **highest straight gravity dam in the world,** with a height of 207.26 meters.
- It is **Asia's second tallest dam, next to the Tehri Dam.**
- **History**:
  - The Bhakra Dam is **one of the earliest river valley development schemes** undertaken by India **after independence.**
  - The **construction** of this dam **started in 1948,** when **Jawahar Lal Nehru,** the first prime minister of India, poured the first bucket of concrete into the foundations of Bhakra.
  - The dam was **completed** by the end of **1963**.
  - **Operation and maintenance** of the Bhakra dam is done by the **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).**
- The dam created the massive **Gobind Sagar reservoir** and plays a crucial role in **irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power generation for Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh.**
  - **In terms of storage of water,** it is the **second largest reservoir in India,** the first being Indira Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh with a capacity of 12.22 billion cu m.
- **Nangal Dam** is another dam **downstream of Bhakra** Sometimes both the dams together are called the **Bhakra-Nangal Dam,** though they are **two separate dams.**
  - It serves as an **auxiliary dam to channel the water released from Bhakra Dam to two powerhouses.**
  - The installed capacity of **Bhakra Right Bank Power House is 785 MW,** and that of **Bhakra Left Bank Power House is 630 MW.**