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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 28 June 2026

WHAT IS BHARAT TAXI?



- Bharat Taxi is **India's first cooperative-led, driver-owned, ride-hailing platform** registered under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
- It is a **government-supported** initiative developed under the **Union Ministry of Cooperation** and the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**.
- It differs from private ride-hailing platforms by **treating drivers as "Sarathis"** and **making them shareholders in the cooperative** instead of merely service providers.
- **Developed by Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited**, Bharat Taxi is **backed by eight major cooperative institutions** -- NCDC, GCMF (Amul), NDDB, NAFED, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NABARD, and NCEL.
- **Features:**
 - **Driver-Owned Fleet:** Drivers can purchase shares and become cooperative members, giving them transparency and decision-making power.
 - **Zero Commission:** Unlike private cab aggregators that take a large cut, Bharat Taxi transfers the full fare to the driver.
 - **Transparent, No-Surge Pricing:** Fares will remain predictable, with no surge charges.
 - **Platform Integration & Technical Architecture:** Integration of the Bharat Taxi platform with national digital platforms such as DigiLocker, UMANG, and API Setu.
 - **Security, Compliance & Infrastructure:** Ensuring adherence to Government of India's data protection norms and cybersecurity standards and advising on robust technical infrastructure.
 - Bharat Taxi would provide support to Sarathis through loans, insurance, and business expansion opportunities.

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WHAT IS E-SUSHRUT@CLINIC?



- It provides a **lightweight, cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** for outpatient clinics.
- This government-backed HMIS is designed **specifically for small and medium healthcare providers**, including general practitioners, specialists, clinic administrators, pharmacists, and lab technicians.
- It can also be used by **allied health workers and staff for administrative tasks**.
- The platform includes **modules for outpatient management, pharmacy, and nursing**, and is designed to **digitise patient records, prescriptions, and billing**.
- It marks a pivotal step in **expanding the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**
- **Features:**
 - Any healthcare provider can onboard it from his/her laptop/mobile on a webpage through their Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Health Professionals Registry (HPR).
 - If the healthcare provider is not registered on HFR/HPR, they would be able to register on eSushrut@Clinic itself.
 - The platform enables **small clinics, sub-centres, and medium-sized hospitals** to digitize patient records, prescriptions, and billing with minimal technical overhead.
 - The system **supports both online and offline functionalities** for seamless clinic operations. It delivers essential functionalities at a **low per-user cost**.
 - The system also **integrates several services from the ABDM**, including the **AIIMS Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS)** for hypertension and diabetes, which are provided free of charge for all ABDM-integrated software.
 - This CDSS helps improve patient care by supporting doctors in making better diagnoses and treatment.

PROVING INDIAN CITIZENSHIP: DOCUMENTS, GAPS AND DISPUTES

The Core Puzzle: No Universal Citizenship Document

- The central fact is simple but counter-intuitive — India does not have **one document** that conclusively proves citizenship for all.
- An attempt to create such a record through the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** became politically contentious, amid fears that a nationwide verification drive could exclude genuine citizens over missing or inconsistent paperwork.
- This forces citizens to rely on different combinations of evidence depending on the dispute.

Why the Passport Is Not Conclusive Proof?

- This is not a new rule. The government's Passport Manual places a passport in the same category as any other **evidence of citizenship status** — it is strong evidence that the holder is an Indian citizen, but not conclusive proof in law.
- The MEA official explained that a passport is a **travel document**, not a citizenship document. While it **attests to nationality abroad**, that is distinct from being conclusive proof.
- The key distinction is between evidence of citizenship and conclusive proof of citizenship. Citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, while passports are issued under the Passports Act, 1967.

Can Aadhaar Prove Citizenship

- From the start, the UIDAI has stressed that Aadhaar is proof of identity and address only — not citizenship.
- In fact, non-Indian citizens legally resident in India are also eligible for Aadhaar and often need it for basic services like banking and cooking gas.
- Supreme Court (May 2026): While upholding the constitutional validity of the SIR, the Court held that Aadhaar does not constitute proof of citizenship and cannot be relied on for that purpose. It may, however, be used for the limited purpose of establishing identity.

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Does a Voter ID / Electoral Roll Prove Citizenship?

- Only Indian citizens can vote — but presence on the electoral roll or holding an EPIC (Electoral Photo Identity Card) does not determine or conclusively prove citizenship.

What Actually Proves Citizenship?

- The answer depends on how a person became a citizen. Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, citizenship can be acquired by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, or incorporation of territory.
- Citizenship certificates are issued to those who acquire citizenship by registration or naturalisation, and act as conclusive proof.
- But most Indians are citizens by birth or descent and have no such certificate. They rely on documents proving date of birth, place of birth, or parentage, depending on the dispute.
- The Home Ministry itself, replying in the Lok Sabha on August 2025, did not specify a fixed list of valid documents, stating that citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- **The Birth-Date Complication**
 - Citizenship by birth has changed over time, making documentary proof progressively harder:
 - **Jan 26, 1950 – Jul 1, 1987** - Citizen by birth, irrespective of parents' nationality.
 - **Jul 1, 1987 – Dec 3, 2004** - Must also prove at least one parent was an Indian citizen.
 - **On or after Dec 3, 2004** - One parent must be an Indian citizen **and** the other must not be an illegal migrant.
- For the earliest group, since mandatory birth certificates were not issued then, many rely on a combination of educational certificates, Aadhaar and other records.
- For the later groups, proving one's own birth is no longer enough — parentage must also be documented, complicating matters significantly.

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FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) AMENDMENT RULES 2026 - STRICTER OVERSIGHT OF FOREIGN-FUNDED NGOS

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions.
- It ensures that such funds do not adversely affect India's sovereignty, internal security, public interest, or democratic institutions.
- **Current status:** Over 18,000 NGO registrations have been cancelled since 2015. As of June 22, 2026, 14,456 NGOs hold active FCRA registration.

Major Amendments under the FCRA Rules 2026:

- **Detailed disclosure of activities:**
 - Registered NGOs must now:
 - Specify the exact nature of activities from a government-prescribed list.
 - Declare the States/Union Territories where foreign funds will be utilised.
 - Existing NGOs must update these details within one year.
 - **Implication:** Replaces the earlier broad permissions with purpose-specific approvals, enabling closer monitoring.
- **Expanded definition of 'Key Functionary':**
 - The Rules widen the scope of persons responsible for compliance to include Trustees, Partners, Karta of a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), governing body members, and any individual exercising managerial or controlling authority.
 - This increases accountability beyond office-bearers and directors.
- **Enhanced transparency requirements:**
 - NGOs must mandatorily disclose official websites, social media accounts, and publications issued during the year (books, magazines, newspaper articles, etc.).
 - The objective is to improve transparency and facilitate regulatory oversight.
- **Higher registration costs:**

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- Registration fees are now charged separately for each approved purpose, and for every State or Union Territory where the NGO operates.
- This increases compliance costs, particularly for organisations working across multiple sectors or regions.

Penalties for Violations:

- The MHA has separately notified penalties for several violations, including -
 - Excess administrative expenditure
 - Speculative investment of foreign funds
 - Misuse or unauthorised utilisation of contributions
 - Receipt or utilisation without approval
 - Use of funds for unapproved purposes or outside approved States/UTs
- **Penalty structure:**
 - **Misutilisation of funds:** 30% of the misused amount or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher.
 - **Unapproved purposes:** Use of funds for unapproved purposes or geographical areas, will attract 30% of the amount involved or ₹1 lakh penalty, whichever is higher.
 - **Excess administrative expenditure:** and speculative investments also attract percentage-based penalties, subject to a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh.

Concerns Raised by the Opposition and Civil Society Organisations:

- The amendments may restrict the operational flexibility of NGOs.
- Limit their ability to respond swiftly to emergencies and humanitarian crises.
- Increase compliance burdens through **rigid** activity **classifications** and geographical restrictions.
- Shift the focus from regulating foreign contributions to regulating voluntary organisations themselves.
- Raise concerns regarding freedom of association (**Article 19(1)(c)**) and constitutional protections available to civil society organisations.

NEW GI-TAGGED TRIBAL CROPS OF MADHYA PRADESH



- The four crops recognised are **Sitahi Kutki (Sitahi Minor Millet)**, **Nagdaman Kutki (Nagdaman Minor Millet)**, **Baigani Arhar (Baigani Pigeon Pea)** and **Chhatriya Dhan (Chhatriya Paddy)**.
- These crops have been traditionally preserved for generations, particularly by the **Baiga tribe** from the Dindori region of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Sitahi and Nagdaman Kutki:**
 - They are **highly nutritious minor millets**, rich in dietary fiber, minerals and antioxidants, making them health-promoting.
 - These two specific varieties are inherently **climate-resilient**.
- **Baigani Arhar:**
 - Deeply integrated with the heritage of the **Baiga tribe**, this **local variety of pigeon pea (toor dal)** is completely cultivated using **organic, age-old tribal practices**.
 - It stands out for having a notably **higher natural protein content** and a **distinct sweet flavor** compared to commercial varieties.
 - It has a **shorter maturation cycle** (5–6 months) and requires significantly **less cooking time**, retaining its **high concentration of dietary fibre, iron, calcium, and B-complex vitamins**.
- **Chhatriya Dhan:**
 - Cultivated across the fertile wetlands of Jabalpur and Katni, this **traditional rice variety** is historically **revered for its hardiness** and culinary excellence.
 - It is famous for its **distinct aroma, taste**, and local adaptability.
 - Unlike heavily processed white rice, Chhatriya Dhan **retains its vital bran layer, providing a rich source of vitamin B1 (thiamine), essential minerals, and healthy fats**.

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KEY FACTS ABOUT DAL LAKE



- It is an **urban freshwater lake** located in **Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It is **surrounded by the Pir Panjal mountains**.
- It is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the “**Jewel in the crown of Kashmir**” or “**Srinagar’s Jewel**”.
- It is the **second-largest lake in Jammu and Kashmir** after the Wular Lake.
- It is **one of the world’s largest natural lakes** and also known as the **Lake of Flowers**.
- The lake **gets its water** mainly from the **Telbal stream**. This stream flows from the **Jhelum River**.
- The wetland is **divided by causeways into four basins: Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal, and Nagin** (although Nagin is also considered an independent lake).
- Lokut-dal and Bod-dal each have an island in the centre, known as **Rup Lank (or Char Chinari)** and **Sona Lank**, respectively.
- The **floating gardens**, locally known as “**Rad**,” are a spectacular highlight of the lake.
 - These are **patches of land that float on the water**.
 - **Farmers grow vegetables** and flowers on them.
 - It **blossoms with lotus flowers** during July and August.
- It is also popular for the **floating market**, where vendors have their own **Shikaras/wooden boats** and approach tourists.

AMRABAD TIGER RESERVE



- **Location:** It is located in the Nallamala hills of the Eastern Ghats in **Telangana**.

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- It was originally part of the larger **Nagarjunasagar-Srisaïlam Tiger Reserve** before the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2014.

Terrain: The reserve is renowned for its rugged terrain, deep valleys, and dense forests.

Rivers: The **Krishna River** and its perennial streams originating within the reserve contribute to the water supply of major reservoirs such as the **Srishaïlam Dam** and **Nagarjunsagar Dam**.

Tribal Community: The **Chenchu tribe** is one of the major tribal communities that live in the ATR.

Flora:

- Amrabad is characterized by **dry deciduous forests**, primarily made up of sal, teak, bamboo, and acacia trees.
- The forest is rich in **medicinal plants and shrubs**, which have long been used by local tribes for traditional remedies.

Fauna:

- It is home to leopards and wild cats, along with herbivores like sambar deer, chital (spotted deer), nilgai (blue bull), wild boar, and the Indian bison (gaur).
- Over 303 bird species have been identified in this region. Some important groups include Eagles, Pigeons, Doves, Cuckoos, Woodpeckers, Drongos, etc.