

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2025



- It is observed every year on **June 5** across more than 150 countries.
- Led by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, it is an international day dedicated to raising global awareness about environmental issues and encouraging individuals, organisations, and others to take a step towards protecting the planet.
- **History:**
  - World Environment Day was **established in 1972** during the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** held in **Stockholm**.
  - The **UNEP** was **established in the same year**.
  - Later that year, the UN General Assembly officially designated June 5 as World Environment Day.
  - The **first celebration took place in 1973** with the theme **“Only One Earth,”** marking the beginning of what would become the largest global platform for environmental awareness.
  - **Each year, a host nation spearheads the campaign**, which raises awareness of a certain issue.
- **World Environment Day 2025:**
  - **Theme: Beat Plastic Pollution**
  - This year, the **Republic of Korea is leading the campaign** to spread awareness with a focus on ending plastic pollution globally.

### WORLD WEALTH REPORT 2025



It is released by the **Capgemini Research Institute**.

- It covers **71 countries**, accounting for more than 98% of global gross

national income and 99% of world stock market capitalization.

- **Highlights of World Wealth Report 2025:**

- The Global high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) population rose by 2.6 percent in 2024.
- This increase was driven by the growth in the population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), which grew by 6.2 percent, as strong stock markets and AI optimism boosted portfolio returns.
  - HNWIs are individuals with investable assets of \$1 million or more, excluding their primary residence, collectibles, consumables, and consumer durables.
  - HNWIs are segmented into three categories based on wealth bands: Ultra-HNWIs (\$30 million or more), Mid-Tier Millionaires (\$5-30M), and Millionaires Next Door (USD 1-5M).
- The data indicates that alternative investments, such as private equity and cryptocurrencies, are now an established presence in HNWI holdings, representing 15 percent of their portfolios.
- Within the largest individual markets, the U.S. was the clear leader, adding 562,000 millionaires as the country's HNWI population grew by 7.6% to 7.9 million.
- This dominance in wealth extends across all tiers: 36% of the world's centi-millionaires (those with over \$100 million) and 33% of the world's billionaires reside in the United States.
- India and Japan were standouts in the Asia-Pacific region, with both countries registering 6% growth, adding 20,000 and 210,000 millionaires, respectively.
- India saw an 8.8 percent rise in high-net-worth individual (HNWI) wealth in 2024, witnessing 378,810 millionaires with a total wealth of \$1.5 trillion by the end of last year.

### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES



- It is a federation of member States, national sections and academic research centres jointly elaborating public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day.
- **Members:** It is a Federation of **31 Member Countries**, 20 National Sections and 15 Academic Research Centres jointly collaborating for scientific research on public administration.
- Key member countries include - India, Japan, China, Germany, Italy, Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain, Qatar, Morocco, Indonesia etc.
- **Objectives**
  - Enable collaborative and strategic projects with members and partners.
  - **Accredit both academic and professional training programs** in line with standards of best practices in public management.
  - To produce and promote comprehensive content on **public governance research** and practice to different audiences.
- The IIAS maintains a close working **relationship with the United Nations**, and participates in the UN's Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN).
- It is **not a formally affiliated body of the UN**, it actively engages with the UN's work in public administration.
- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** has represented India as a Member State of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences **since 1998**.
- It is the first time that India has secured the historic mandate for the Presidency of the IIAS.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

### KICHAN AND MENAR WETLANDS



- It is a **freshwater monsoon wetland** complex located in **Rajasthan**.

- It is formed by three ponds, **Braham talab, Dhand talab and Kheroda talab**, and agricultural land that connects the latter two.
- During the monsoon season the farmland floods, providing habitat for species of water birds.
- Among the notable bird species at the Site are the **critically endangered white-rumped vulture** (*Gyps bengalensis*) and **long-billed vulture** (*Gyps indicus*).
- Over 70 plant species are found, including mango trees (*Mangifera indica*) around Braham talab that host a large colony of **Indian flying fox** (*Pteropus giganteus*).
- The Site is recognized as one of the best examples of **community-led conservation in Rajasthan**, with residents of the nearby Menar village playing a key role in conserving wildlife by preventing poaching or fishing.

### **About Khichan Wetland:**

- It is located in the **northern Thar Desert, Rajasthan**.
- It comprises two water bodies, **Ratri nadi (river) and Vijaysagar talab (pond)**, riparian habitat and scrub land.
- This desert ecosystem supports **drought-resistant plant species** that provide habitat for over 150 species of birds.
- It is especially recognized for hosting large wintering flocks of **migratory demoiselle cranes** (*Anthropoides virgo*), making up over 22,000 individuals each year.
- The Site attracts bird-watchers, tourists, students and scientists, drawn primarily by the large seasonal gathering of the cranes.

### POPULATION CENSUS-2027

- The government has announced that the next nationwide population census will begin on April 1, 2026.
- **Key Features of the 2027 Census**
  - **First Digital Census:** The upcoming exercise will be India's first fully digital census.
  - **Caste Enumeration:** For the first time since Independence, the census will include **caste-based data collection**.
- **Timeline and Phases**
  - The census will be held in **two phases**:
    - House Listing and Housing Schedule
    - Population Enumeration (includes caste data)
  - Both phases will span April 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027.
- **Reference Date:**
  - **March 1, 2027** (for most of India)
  - **October 1, 2026** (for Ladakh and snow-bound areas in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand)
- **Legal and Procedural Aspects**
  - The census will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.
  - A gazette notification under Section 3 of the Census Act is expected soon, which will formally announce the schedule.
- **Political Implications**
  - As per the constitutional mandate, the first census after 2026 can be used for the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies.
  - This data could form the basis for electoral constituency restructuring before the 2029 General Elections.

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

### Current Affairs - 05 June 2025

- **Impact on Women's Reservation**

- The 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, as mandated by the recently passed Women's Reservation Act, will also come into force only after a new delimitation exercise is conducted based on post-2026 census data.

- **No Update on NPR**

- There was no mention of updating the **National Population Register (NPR)** during the announcement.
  - As per Citizenship Rules, 2003, NPR is the first step toward compiling a National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC/NRC).

- **Background**

- The last census was conducted in 2011, with the first phase held in 2010.
- The 2021 census was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other administrative reasons.

#### Delimitation to Begin After Release of Census 2027 Data

- Once the final census data is released in late 2027, the process of delimitation will begin.
- The Parliament must first pass a new Delimitation Act to legally empower the formation of a Delimitation Commission.
- **Legal Provision and mandate**
  - The process is mandated under **Articles 81 and 82 of the Constitution**, which require delimitation after every **Census**.
  - Once formed, the Commission will consult **state governments and stakeholders** to devise a formula based on **population per constituency**.
- **Formation and Composition of the Delimitation Commission**
  - The Delimitation Commission will be:
    - Headed by a retired Supreme Court judge
    - Include the Chief Election Commissioner and State Election Commissioners



### INDIA'S NEW NATIONAL POLICY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: DEMOGRAPHIC REALITIES AND WELFARE REFORMS

- **Article 41** of the Indian Constitution directs the state to make effective provisions for securing the right to public assistance in cases of old age.
- Further, under the **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**, children and legal heirs are obligated to care for their elderly parents, including financial and physical support.
  - The Act provides **mechanisms for senior citizens to claim maintenance through tribunals**, and mandates state governments to **establish old age homes**.
- Provisions have also been made in personal laws, income tax rebates, and transport benefits to ease the lives of older citizens.
- In addition, the **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) 1999**, and its revised draft in 2011, laid the groundwork for inclusive elder care policies.
- However, with India's changing demographic profile and emerging challenges, a new policy has become necessary.

#### **Challenges Faced by the Elderly in India**

- Despite supportive legal provisions, senior citizens in India continue to face numerous challenges:
  - **Healthcare Accessibility:** Limited geriatric care facilities, lack of regular health check-ups, and high out-of-pocket expenditures remain persistent concerns.
  - **Economic Insecurity:** Many older individuals are without formal pension systems and rely on informal family support, which is eroding due to migration and urbanization.
  - **Social Isolation and Abuse:** Changing family structures, reduced intergenerational interactions, and neglect have contributed to emotional and sometimes physical abuse of the elderly.

## Current Affairs - 05 June 2025

- **Digital Exclusion:** With increasing digitization of services, elderly citizens are often unable to access essential facilities such as banking, healthcare, and government benefits.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Old age homes and care centres are unevenly distributed and often fail to meet quality standards.
- These issues demand a holistic policy that combines welfare, dignity, and active aging principles.

### News Summary: Drafting a New National Policy on Senior Citizens

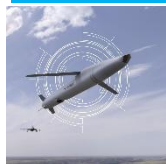
- The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced that a **new National Policy for Senior Citizens** is under formulation.
- This was revealed during the fourth meeting of the **National Council for Senior Citizens**, chaired by Union Minister Virendra Kumar.
- The draft policy is being shaped by inputs from various stakeholders and will align with the country's evolving demographic landscape.

### Key Areas of Focus

- The Council meeting included deliberations on several critical areas:
  - **Digital Inclusion:** Aimed at bridging the digital divide, especially for services like healthcare, pension disbursement, and grievance redressal.
  - **Role of NGOs and Associations:** Efforts are being made to institutionalise senior citizen groups and NGOs into policymaking, implementation, and feedback systems.
  - **Grievance Redressal and Elder Abuse:** The draft policy may include mechanisms to address **elder abuse and neglect**, a growing concern.
  - **Minimum Standards for Care Facilities:** Discussions were held on setting and monitoring standards for **old age homes and senior care institutions** to ensure better quality of life.



### WHAT IS THE ICE BREAKER MISSILE?



- It is a **long-range, autonomous, precision-guided weapon system**.
- It was **developed by Israeli defense company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems**.
- Compatible with multiple **air and ground platforms**, it offers significant flexibility in operational deployment.
- It is suitable for **jet fighters, light attack aircraft, and helicopters** as well as small **maritime vessels and ground vehicles**.
- **Features:**
  - It's about 4 meters long, weighs less than 400 kg, and can hit targets up to 300 km away at high subsonic speeds, carrying a 250 lb warhead.
  - It uses an incredibly **advanced electro-optical seeker** that can "see" in **all weather conditions**.
  - It is loaded with **artificial intelligence** that **helps it recognize targets** and ensures it only engages hostile ones.
  - It **flies incredibly low**, hugging the terrain or skimming the waves, and its design makes it **very hard to detect**. This '**Very Low Observable**' (VLO) **capability** gives it a significant edge in getting to its target unnoticed.
  - It is remarkably **compact and lightweight** – under 400 kg.
  - It can work in a synchronized attack with multiple missiles.
  - It can **function autonomously or in a man-in-the-loop mode**.