

BIMA SAKHI YOJANA

Bima Sakhi Yojana



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

• It is an initiative of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

- It is a **performance-oriented** stipendiary scheme exclusively for women.
- It is designed to empower women aged **18-70 years**, who are **Class X pass**.
- They will receive **specialized training** and a **stipend** for the first three years to **promote financial literacy and insurance awareness**.
- Female agents will get a stipend of **7,000 per month** for the first year, **Rs. 6,000** per month in the **second year**, and **Rs. 5,000** per month in the **third year**.
- Bima Sakhis will **also get commissions**. They will receive a commission of **Rs 48,000 (excluding bonus)** for the first year.
- **After training**, they can serve as **LIC agents**, and the **graduate Bima Sakhis** would have the **opportunity to qualify** for being considered for **Development Officer roles in LIC**.
- The **plan** is to appoint **two lakh Bima Sakhi** over a period of three years.
- **Eligibility:**
 - **Women must be aged between 18 and 70.**
 - The minimum qualification of a woman must be **10th grade passed**.
 - **Preference** will be given to **women residing in rural areas**.
- The **following women are ineligible** to apply for this scheme:
 - **Women related to existing agents and employees of LIC**. Relatives include spouses, children, adopted and stepchildren, parents, sisters, brothers, and immediate in-laws.
 - **Women should not be retired employees and ex-agents of LIC.**
 - **Women should not be existing agents of LIC.**

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY (ISA)



- It is an **autonomous international organization** established under the **1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement).
- ISA, which has its **headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica**, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of UNCLOS.

Mandate: To regulate mining and related activities in the international seabed beyond national jurisdiction.

- The **international seabed area** — the part which is under ISA jurisdiction — is the **seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.**
- The international seabed area covers around **54 percent of the total area of the world's oceans.**
- ISA is the organization through which states parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the international seabed area for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
- In so doing, ISA has the **mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment** from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities.
- **Membership:**
 - In accordance with UNCLOS, Article 156(2), **all States Parties to UNCLOS are members of ISA.**
 - ISA has **169 members**, including **168 member States and the European Union.**

Key Facts about United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

- UNCLOS, also called the **Law of the Sea Convention** or the **Law of the Sea Treaty**, is an international agreement that establishes a **legal framework for all marine and maritime activities**.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of **law and order in the world's oceans and seas**, establishing rules **governing all uses of the oceans and their resources**.
- UNCLOS became effective on **16th November 1982**.
- UNCLOS covers a wide range of issues, including:
 - The **definition of maritime zones**, such as the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf.
 - The **rights and responsibilities of coastal states** and flag states.
 - The **conservation and management of marine resources**.
 - The **protection of the marine environment**.
 - The **peaceful settlement of disputes**.

KASHI DECLARATION



- It was adopted at the **Youth Spiritual Summit**, held under the theme **'Drug-free Youth for Developed India'** at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in **Varanasi**.
- The summit was organised by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- The summit brought together over **600 youth leaders** from more than **120 spiritual and socio-cultural organisations**, along with **academicians**, experts, and government representatives.
- The event was a moment in India's **pursuit of a drug-free society by 2047**, uniting spiritual strength with youthful resolve.

- The Kashi Declaration calls for treating substance abuse as a complex public health and societal challenge.
 - It recommends a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, integrating efforts from spiritual, educational, technological, and cultural domains.
 - It proposed institutional mechanisms for **multi-ministerial coordination**, including the formation of a **Joint National Committee**, **annual progress reporting**, and a **national platform for linking affected individuals** to support services.

MERI PANCHAYAT APP



- It is designed to provide a **unified digital governance platform for rural areas**, catering to residents, functionaries, and stakeholders of the Panchayati Raj Institution system.
- This platform integrates and consolidates diverse functions and information currently dispersed across multiple government portals into a single, seamless web-based interface.
- It fosters a more accountable and participatory governance ecosystem for rural communities.
- It is an **initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and National Informatics Centre (NIC)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Through Meri Panchayat App, citizens can effortlessly access, on their mobile devices:
 - **Real-time Panchayat budgets**, receipts, payments and development plans
 - Details of elected representatives and functionaries
 - **Information on public infrastructure** and civic services in their Panchayat
 - **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)** and track project proposals
 - Weather forecasting at Gram Panchayat level

- Social audit tools, fund utilization data, and grievance redressal with geo-tagged and geo-fenced features
- **Multilingual interface** supporting 12+ Indian languages to ensure inclusiveness
- The app also enables citizens to propose new projects, review and rate implemented works, and access **Gram Sabha agendas and decisions**, thereby strengthening participatory democracy and civic engagement.

What is the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize?

- It was developed in response to requests from the WSIS stakeholders to create an effective mechanism to evaluate projects and **activities that leverage the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to advance sustainable development.**

VICE PRESIDENT JAGDEEP DHANKHAR RESIGNS

- Article 67(a) of the Indian Constitution allows the Vice President to resign before completing the five-year term by submitting a written resignation to the President.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar, who became Vice President in August 2022, invoked this article to step down two years early, well before his term was due to end in 2027.
- **Timeline for Vice-Presidential Election**
 - Unlike the President's post, the Constitution does not set a fixed deadline for filling a Vice-Presidential vacancy.
 - The only stipulation is that the election be **conducted "as soon as possible" after the office falls vacant.**
 - The Election Commission is responsible for announcing the schedule.
 - The election is held under the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.
 - Traditionally, the Secretary General of either House of Parliament is appointed as the Returning Officer on a rotational basis.
- **Tenure of the new Vice President**

Current Affairs - 22 July 2025

- A newly elected Vice President, in the event of a mid-term vacancy, **will serve a full five-year term from the date of assuming office**, not merely the remaining period of the predecessor's term.
- This is a crucial distinction from some other constitutional offices where successors may serve only the unexpired term.

Eligibility Criteria for Vice-President of India

- As per Article 66 of the Indian Constitution, a person is eligible to contest for the office of Vice-President if:
 - He is an Indian citizen,
 - at least 35 years old, and
 - qualified to be elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Additionally, the candidate must not hold any office of profit under the Central or State Government or any local or public authority.

Election Process for the Vice-President of India

- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including nominated members.
 - State legislatures do not participate in this process.
 - Voting takes place in the Parliament House through a **secret ballot**, using the **proportional representation** system with a single transferable vote.
 - Each Member of Parliament ranks candidates in order of preference, with all votes carrying equal weight.
 - A candidate must secure a quota of votes — calculated by dividing the total valid votes by two and adding one — to win.
 - If no candidate reaches the quota initially, the one with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed according to second preferences.
 - This elimination and transfer process continues until a candidate meets the required quota.
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AI VS COPYRIGHT: WHAT THE COURTS SAY

- Generative AI models sometimes replicate or closely resemble original copyrighted works, leading to legal and ethical concerns.
- The key legal question is whether training AI on such data and producing new content harms the original creator's market or qualifies as "transformative use."
- While some jurisdictions like the U.S. may consider it fair use, others like the EU and U.K. allow it under text and data mining exceptions.
- However, with AI often trained on large datasets scraped from the internet—including both copyrighted and public domain materials—the global legal consensus on copyright infringement remains unsettled.

Legal Uncertainty Around Databases and Generative AI

- The use of databases and published works for training generative AI models raises complex questions rooted in intellectual property law, contracts, and privacy norms.
- There is widespread legal ambiguity about whether training AI on IP-protected data and generating outputs from it constitutes infringement.
- Some countries allow exceptions for fair use, text and data mining, or temporary copying, but these exceptions vary and haven't been universally tested in court.
- A major concern is the **lack of harmonised global rules**, which deepens the uncertainty around who owns IP rights in AI-generated content.
- This is particularly challenging in copyright law, which traditionally demands human authorship—a standard generative AI does not meet.

Implications of AI Copyright Disputes for India

- Although India's IP laws don't explicitly mention AI, the prevailing view is that the existing legal framework is adequate to handle AI-related challenges.
- As a signatory to major global IP treaties, India recognises works by legal entities and provides civil and criminal enforcement, including safeguards against digital rights violations.

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY 2025 - A PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARDS SCIENCE, SUPPORT, AND SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE

From Passion to Precision - India's Sporting Evolution:

- **India's rise in global sports:**
 - India has made commendable progress in international sports, with **growing medal counts and participation.**
 - However, **success remains inconsistent due to gaps in support systems, athlete care, and scientific integration.**
- **The 2025 policy:**
 - **Core message:** "Performance must be supported, not just expected."
 - **Objective:** The 2025 policy integrates science, technology, and medicine as foundational to sports development.

Key Pillars of the National Sports Policy 2025:

- **Sports science and medicine integration:**
 - **Injury surveillance and early intervention:** Focus on athlete longevity.
 - **Biomechanics and performance analytics:** Scientific refinement of training and techniques.
 - **Nutrition and recovery science:** Targeting marginal gains that decide podium finishes.
 - **Mental health and cognitive conditioning:** Addressing psychological pressure in high-stakes competition.
- **Infrastructure and institutional development:**
 - The Sports Authority of India (SAI) regional centres and National Centres of Excellence are being upgraded, in partnership with the **National Centre for Sports Science & Research.**
 - **Examples include:**

- Bengaluru Centre: Advanced sports science hub under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- Indira Gandhi Stadium, Delhi: Home to new Return to Sports division.
- **Medical team support at global events:** For the first time, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had constituted a **10-member Indian medical team** in association with the Indian Olympic Association last year, to be stationed in Paris during the Olympic Games.

Technology - Backbone of the New Sports Ecosystem:

- **Governance and monitoring:** Use of **AI-driven** platforms, real-time dashboards, and digital tools for:
 - Tracking performance and recovery.
 - Predicting injury risks and facilitating early intervention.
 - Enhancing transparency and efficiency in sports schemes.
- **Innovation and research ecosystem:**
 - Formation of a Sports Innovation Task Force.
 - Research grants for academic institutions to develop India-specific, interdisciplinary technologies.
 - These will help in **creating a self-reliant pipeline of ideas and tools for athlete development.**

Strategic Vision for the Future:

- The policy emphasizes **systemic support** over sporadic talent success.
- It marks a shift from **reactive care to proactive performance support.**
- Embeds a data-driven, medically sound, and technologically equipped sporting ecosystem.

Conclusion:

- The National Sports Policy 2025 is a visionary shift in India's sporting philosophy — from mere passion to performance driven by precision, planning, and preventive care.
- It is a vital case study in **policy innovation, evidence-based governance,** and the intersection of sports, science, and technology.