



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (NCDC)



- It is an institute **under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- The institute was established to function as a **national centre of excellence for control of communicable diseases.**
- The Director, an officer of the Public Health sub-cadre of Central Health Service, is the administrative and technical head of the Institute.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi.**
- Besides the headquarters in Delhi, NCDC has **8 branches located at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Kozhikode (Kerala), Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Patna (Bihar), Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh), and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).**
- **History:**
 - NCDC, **formerly the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), had its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau, established at Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) in 1909, and following expansion, was renamed in 1927 as the Malaria Survey of India.**
 - The organization was **shifted to Delhi in 1938 and called as the Malaria Institute of India (MII).**
 - In view of the drastic reduction achieved in the incidence of malaria under National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP), the Government of India decided to reorganize and expand the activities of the institute to cover other communicable diseases.
 - Thus, in **1963, the erstwhile MII was renamed as the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) to shoulder these additional responsibilities.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

- In the year 2009, NICD transformed into the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) with a larger mandate of controlling emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- **Functions:**
 - It functions as the nodal agency in the country for **disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.**
 - In **coordination with the State Governments**, NCDC has the capacity and capability for disease surveillance, **outbreak investigation**, and **rapid response to contain and combat outbreaks.**
 - It also **deals with Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)**, an emerging area of concern with far-reaching consequences.
 - It also provides referral **diagnostic support, capacity building, and technical support to States/UTs** in the country.
 - The **mandate of the Institute broadly covers three areas viz. services, trained health manpower development, and research.**

NATIONAL MEDICAL REGISTER



- It is a **centralized database of registered medical practitioners** in modern medicine, maintained by the National Medical Commission (NMC).
- It was launched in August 2024 under **Section 31 of the NMC Act, 2019**, the register was introduced as a mandatory exercise for all registered medical practitioners.
- It aims to **eliminate duplication** and enable the public to access information on any doctor working in India.
- It contains information on each **practitioner, including qualification, area of specialisation** (in process), **registration status**, and date of registration, and assigns a **unique identification number called the NMR ID.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

- Each doctor's **record is linked to their Aadhaar ID** for verification, with some data made public while sensitive information is restricted to specified individuals and institutions.
 - **State Medical Councils (SMCs) are responsible for verifying degrees** and facilitating the process, with the portal dynamically updated for transparency and governance.
 - Upon successful verification by the State Medical Council, the application is sent to the National Medical Commission. After the NMC verification, a unique NMR ID would be issued.
-

BLUE PINKGILL MUSHROOM



- It is referred as “**sky-blue mushroom,**” (scientific name: **Entoloma hochstetteri**) this genus of mushrooms has pink to purplish hues in their gills.
 - It is a **species native to New Zealand** and famously featured on the country's \$50 note.
 - **Appearance of Blue Pinkgill Mushroom:**
 - It is a vivid blue mushroom, its **colour derived from rare azulene pigments.**
 - Some are small, with a distinctive all-blue colour and slightly reddish-tinted gills from spores, thanks to azulene pigments.
 - They have caps that can be flat or funnel-shaped, pink or white gills and stems that may be centrally or laterally attached.
 - The spore print is typically pink to salmon-coloured, which helps in identification.
 - **Habitat:** It is common in **forests across New Zealand**, where it grows in the ground between litter in **the broadleaf forest.**
 - The Blue Pinkgill **mushroom appears during the monsoon** when the forest cover reaches saturation due to abundant rainfall, which creates perfect soil conditions for mushrooms to grow and thrive.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

UN CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Third United Nations
Conference on
Landlocked Developing
Countries

- The LLDC3 conference, held once every ten years, brings global attention to the 32 landlocked developing countries, which collectively house over 600 million people.
- The conference will explore actionable solutions through partnerships, smarter investment frameworks, and the development of efficient, flexible transport corridors that enhance the movement of goods and services across regions.
- Due to lack of direct access to seaports, **landlocked** countries face disproportionate barriers to trade, economic diversification, and infrastructure development.
- **This year's conference**, themed “**Driving Progress through Partnerships**,” serves as a crucial platform to address structural challenges, mobilize investment, and **implement the newly adopted Awaza Programme of Action (2024–2034)**.

Key facts about The Awaza Programme of Action (2024–2034)

- A central focus of LLDC3 is the implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action (APoA) for the Decade 2024–2034.
- The APoA was adopted by **consensus at the UN General Assembly on 24 December 2024** and offers a comprehensive framework to tackle persistent development challenges faced by LLDCs.
- Built on five interconnected priority areas, the programme aims to support:
 - Structural Transformation, and Science, Technology, and Innovation
 - Trade, Trade Facilitation, and Regional Integration
 - Transit, Transport, and Connectivity
 - Enhancing Adaptive Capacity, Strengthening Resilience, and Reducing Vulnerability
 - Implementation, Follow-up, and Monitoring.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

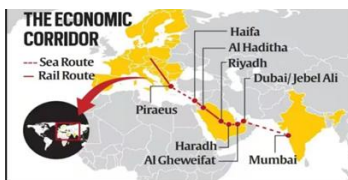
Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

GAZA WAR PUTS INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC'S) FUTURE IN DOUBT

India's National Security Council Secretariat recently hosted officials from the U.S., UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Germany, Israel, Jordan, and the EU to review progress on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

This article deals with the corridor's ambitions, challenges, and future prospects.

About (IMEC)



- Announced at the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, the IMEC aims to boost economic development through enhanced connectivity between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.
- It consists of two segments:
 - **India-Gulf corridor**, linking India's western ports to the UAE and then via high-speed freight rail through Saudi Arabia and Jordan to Haifa, Israel; and
 - **Gulf-Europe corridor**, connecting Haifa to Greece and Italy by sea, followed by onward transport through Europe's rail networks.
- Expected to reduce India-Europe shipping times by about 40% compared to the Red Sea route, the project has seen limited progress since its launch.

IMEC's Promise and the Geopolitical Opening That Enabled It

- The IMEC was conceived during India's G20 Presidency in September 2023, at a rare moment of Middle East stability following years of regional rivalries.
- Planned as more than a trade route, IMEC aimed to integrate electricity and digital connectivity cables, clean hydrogen pipelines, and measures to boost efficiency, reduce costs, create jobs, and cut emissions.
- It sought to address persistent trade challenges, including lack of tariff standardisation, low financial integration, limited corridor-wide insurance, and varying port capacities, while building a cross-Saudi/UAE railway to link its sea legs.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

Gaza War Turns IMEC's Challenges into Fundamental Obstacles

- While the IMEC's economic rationale remains strong, its hurdles have shifted from manageable to fundamental due to Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, which has strained regional ties.
- The corridor's key Middle East-Europe link depends on Jordan-Israel cooperation, now at a low point amid tensions over Palestinian displacement.
- Prospects for Saudi-Israel normalisation have also diminished, with Riyadh demanding Palestinian concessions that Israel is unwilling to make.
- The war's expansion into Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and tensions with Iran heightens insurance costs for regional trade, further complicating implementation.
- Ironically, despite hindering progress, Israel sees the IMEC as crucial to deepening its economic integration with the Arab world, excluding Palestine.
 - Prime Minister Netanyahu has termed framed of the project as a geopolitical blessing for participating states.

IMEC's Future Hinges on Middle East Stability and Conflict Resolution

- While the IMEC's western leg faces uncertainty, India's strong strategic and economic ties with the UAE and Saudi Arabia keep prospects for its eastern leg alive.
 - Initiatives like UPI integration enhance digital connectivity potential, but **intra-Gulf economic rivalries**, such as Saudi measures to counter Emirati dominance, hinder unified corridor planning.
 - For the IMEC to match its 2023 vision, the regional stability that enabled its conception must be restored — a goal tied to resolving the Palestinian statehood issue.
 - Growing global recognition of the need to end Israel's Gaza war, reflected in actions like Germany halting certain arms shipments to Israel, underscores this reality.
 - Until lasting peace is achieved, IMEC remains a "day-after" project, with current efforts limited to planning and trade facilitation.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

TOWARDS ONE NATION, ONE SOCIAL SECURITY - REFORMING INDIA'S WELFARE ARCHITECTURE

- **India's welfare ecosystem is vast but fragmented**, with multiple central and state schemes leading to duplication, inefficiencies, and access barriers.
- Election-bound states often announce **populist welfare measures**, but the **real challenge is designing a unified, rights-based**, and economically sustainable social security system leveraging the Digital India framework to ensure universal, efficient, and inclusive coverage.

Reform Path - One Nation, One Social Security Governance:

- **Global models:**
 - **Brazil's 'The Fome Zero' programme:** It brought in a Unified System of Social Assistance (SUAS) that regulates and organises the social assistance service network across the nation.
 - **South Korea's consolidation:** Under institutions like the National Pension Service and the National Health Insurance Service.
- **Proposed Indian model:**
 - **Integrate schemes** under a federated, flexible, incentive-driven framework.
 - **States add top-ups** instead of duplicating central schemes.
 - **Use EPFO's UAN** for routing cash transfers; part of transfers to be invested in PF, pension, and insurance.
 - **Leverage Digital India Stack, Aspirational Districts Programme, and PM-Gati Shakti** for efficient delivery.
 - **Employment Linked Incentive Scheme** via EPFO to create 3.5 crore jobs in 2 years.

Way Forward:



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

- **Integration and interoperability:** Build a centralised beneficiary database with cross-scheme linkages.
- **Rights-based framework:** Guarantee minimum social security for all, irrespective of political cycles.
- **Productive transfers:** Link welfare benefits to skill development, education, and employability.
- **Political consensus:** Achieve bipartisan support for a federated social security reform.

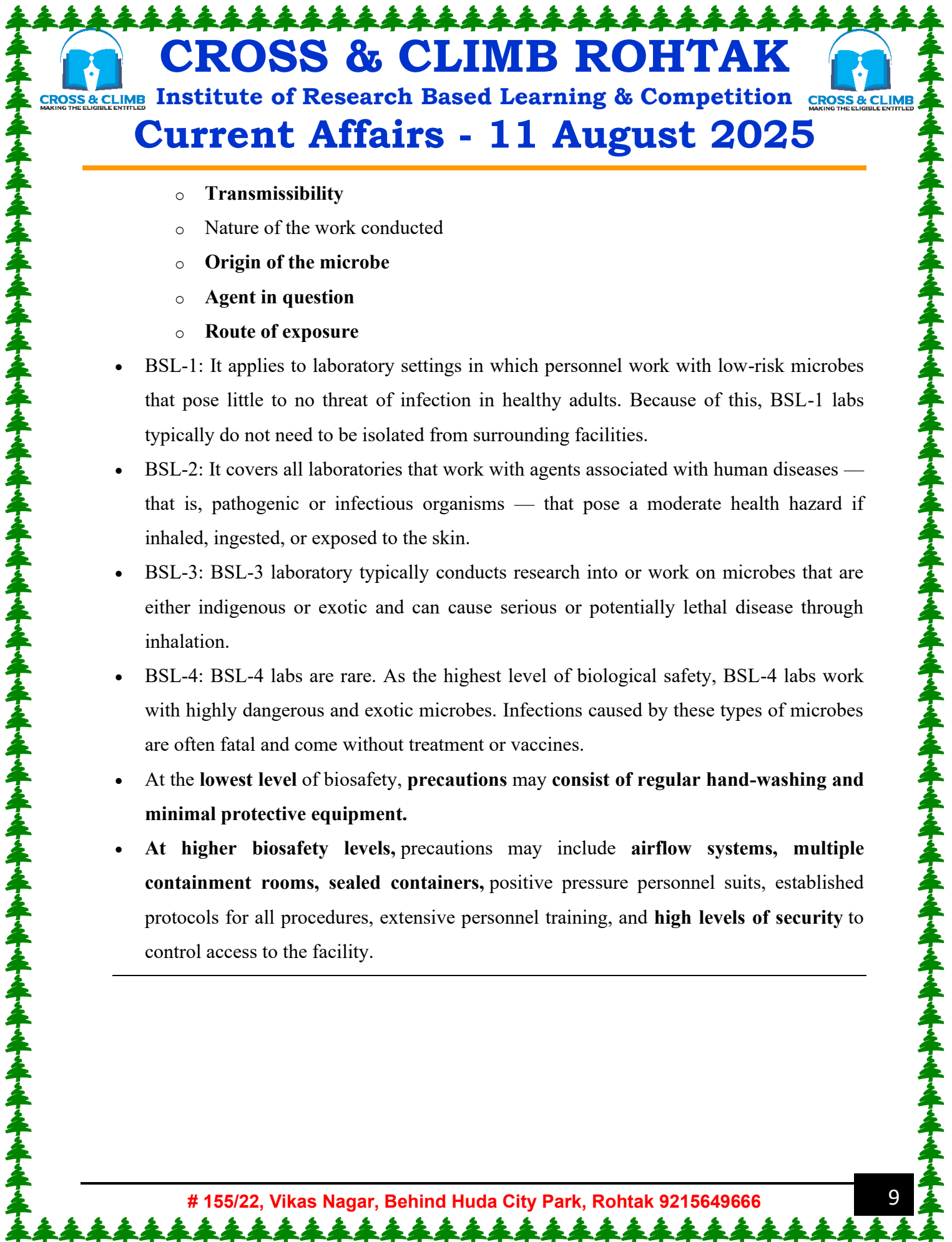
Conclusion:

- By 2047, adopting a “**one government**” welfare system can streamline India’s fragmented schemes into a unified, technology-driven social security network that ensures **dignity, equity, and opportunity for all citizens**.
- This transformation will be a key pillar in realising the vision of **Viksit Bharat**, where inclusive growth and economic resilience go hand in hand.

WHAT ARE BIOSAFETY LEVELS (BSL)?



- Biosafety levels (BSL), also known as biological safety levels or biohazard levels, define the **necessary containment precautions for handling infectious agents in laboratory settings**.
- They’re a **mandatory requirement in any biological research facility**.
- Biosafety levels **contribute to the isolation of dangerous organisms and lethal agents**.
- The levels of containment **range from the lowest biosafety level 1 (BSL-1), to the highest at level 4 (BSL-4)**.
- **Each BSL lab level builds upon the previous level**—thereby creating layer upon layer of constraints and barriers.
- These lab levels are **determined by the following:**
 - **Risks** related to containment
 - **Severity of infection**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 11 August 2025

- **Transmissibility**
 - Nature of the work conducted
 - **Origin of the microbe**
 - **Agent in question**
 - **Route of exposure**
- BSL-1: It applies to laboratory settings in which personnel work with low-risk microbes that pose little to no threat of infection in healthy adults. Because of this, BSL-1 labs typically do not need to be isolated from surrounding facilities.
 - BSL-2: It covers all laboratories that work with agents associated with human diseases — that is, pathogenic or infectious organisms — that pose a moderate health hazard if inhaled, ingested, or exposed to the skin.
 - BSL-3: BSL-3 laboratory typically conducts research into or work on microbes that are either indigenous or exotic and can cause serious or potentially lethal disease through inhalation.
 - BSL-4: BSL-4 labs are rare. As the highest level of biological safety, BSL-4 labs work with highly dangerous and exotic microbes. Infections caused by these types of microbes are often fatal and come without treatment or vaccines.
 - At the **lowest level** of biosafety, **precautions may consist of regular hand-washing and minimal protective equipment.**
 - At **higher biosafety levels**, precautions may include **airflow systems, multiple containment rooms, sealed containers**, positive pressure personnel suits, established protocols for all procedures, extensive personnel training, and **high levels of security** to control access to the facility.
-