



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025



e-JAGRITI PLATFORM

- e-Jagriti is a flagship initiative by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India.
- It is aimed at **strengthening the consumer dispute redressal system** across the country.
- The project focuses on the computerization and networking of all Consumer Commissions at the national, state, and district levels to ensure transparency, efficiency, and speedy resolution of consumer disputes.

Features of e-Jagriti Platform

- e-Jagriti enables consumers to **file complaints, track case statuses**, and access judgments online.
- The platform plays 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.
- It is envisaged to **integrate consumer grievance platforms**, namely, Online Case Monitoring System (OCMS), E-Daakhil, NCDRC Case Monitoring System, CONFONET website, mediation application, in a single platform.
- 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.
- With its user-friendly interface and real-time updates, e-Jagriti ensures accountability, reduces paperwork, and fosters a more transparent and accessible justice system for consumers nationwide.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

NOMINATIONS TO UNION TERRITORY ASSEMBLIES - CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND CHALLENGES

- The process of nominating members to Union Territory (UT) Assemblies has sparked a renewed debate after the Union Home Ministry submitted an affidavit before the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.
- It stated that the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir can nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.**
- This position has revived discussions about the scope of executive power, constitutional principles, and the balance between the Union government and UT administrations.

Constitutional Provisions on Nominations

- The Indian Constitution envisages nominated members in both Parliament and State legislatures.
- While the **provision for Anglo-Indian representation in legislatures was abolished in 2020**, the Rajya Sabha continues to have 12 nominated members appointed by the President on the advice of the Union Cabinet.
- Similarly, **Legislative Councils in six States have one-sixth of their members nominated by the Governor based on ministerial advice.**
- In the context of UTs, nominations are guided by specific Parliamentary statutes.
 - **Delhi:** The Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 provides for 70 elected members, with no nominated MLAs.
 - **Puducherry:** The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 allows the Union government to nominate up to three members to the Assembly.
 - **Jammu & Kashmir:** The J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 (amended in 2023) provides 90 elected seats and authorises the LG to nominate five members, including women, Kashmiri migrants, and displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

Implications for Democracy

- The issue assumes importance because UTs with Assemblies have elected governments that are accountable to the people.
- When the ruling party at the Centre differs from that in the UT, nominations made unilaterally by the LG or Union government could alter the political balance, potentially converting a majority into a minority government.
- This is particularly significant in smaller legislatures like J&K (90 seats) and Puducherry (30 seats), where nominated members could influence the stability of elected governments.

Jammu & Kashmir - A Special Case

- J&K stands apart due to its history of statehood and greater autonomy prior to its reorganisation into a UT in 2019.
- Although the Supreme Court upheld this transition, the Union government has assured restoration of statehood in due course.
- Given this background, democratic principles suggest that the LG's power to nominate should ideally be exercised on the advice of the elected Council of Ministers, rather than independently.

Way Forward

- To avoid constitutional ambiguity & political friction, following measures are necessary:
 - **Statutory Clarity** - Parliament should amend relevant laws to define the procedure and authority for nominations unambiguously.
 - **Democratic Safeguards** - Nominations should not undermine electoral mandates or alter Assembly majorities.
 - **Advisory Role of Council of Ministers** - LGs should generally act on ministerial advice to preserve representative democracy.
 - **Case-Specific Adaptations** - J&K's unique political context requires sensitive handling to ensure legitimacy and fairness in nominations.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

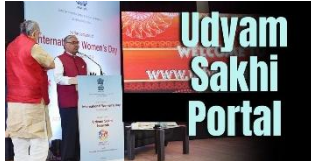
Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

UDYAM SAKHI PORTAL



- Udyam Sakhi portal was launched by the **Ministry of MSME** in **March 2018** to provide information regarding financial schemes, policies, and programmes of the Ministry of MSME to existing/prospective women entrepreneurs in the MSME sector.
 - The portal is a network for **nurturing entrepreneurship** and **creating business models for low-cost products and services** in order to **empower women** and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.
 - The portal **helps women to start, build, and grow their businesses**.
 - The portal accords the **following services** through its programmatic functions:
 - **Entrepreneurship learning tools**
 - **Incubation facility**
 - **Training program for fund raising**
 - **Providing mentors**
 - **One-on-one investor meet**
 - **Provide facilities for market survey**
 - **Learning and development**; be it by means of education, information, or technical assistance and training.
-

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL



- It is a biofuel, also known as **bio-jet fuel** produced from **sustainable feedstocks**.
 - It has chemistry similar to conventional aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel, which is derived from crude oil.
 - This means that existing aircraft engines can easily use the SAF-ATF blend.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

- It is made from **renewable biomass and waste resources** have the potential to deliver the performance of petroleum-based jet fuel.
 - Various Indian airlines have already operated successfully a few test and demonstration flights using jet fuel doped with SAF in various proportions.
 - **Production:** It can be produced from a number of sources (feedstock) including waste oil and **fats, green and municipal waste** and non-food crops.
 - It can also be **produced synthetically** via a process that captures carbon directly from the air.
 - **Significance of Sustainable Aviation Fuel**
 - Its **carbon footprint** is significantly **lower** than aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
 - It is 'sustainable' because the **raw feedstock does not compete with food crops** or water supplies, or is responsible for forest degradation.
 - It remains the major mature and viable pathway to decarbonise the aviation sector. At the same time, SAF only accounts for 0.3% of the current fuel use for aviation.
-

REIMAGINING TOLL COLLECTION ON INDIA'S HIGHWAYS

The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament** has recommended a major overhaul of toll collection practices.

- It suggests that **toll charges on national highways** should be discontinued or reduced once construction costs and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered, ending the practice of perpetual tolling.
- The committee raised concerns that current practices allow indefinite toll collection regardless of road quality, traffic volume, or affordability.
- It proposed the **establishment of a specialised regulatory authority** to ensure transparency and fairness in toll determination, collection, and regulation.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

- PAC also pointed out that toll charges currently increase annually by a fixed 3% plus partial indexation to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
- However, there is no independent mechanism to verify whether these hikes are justified in relation to actual operational or maintenance costs.
- It further recommended that commuters should be reimbursed when road construction disrupts usage.
- **On FASTags**, while acknowledging their widespread use, the committee noted that traffic bottlenecks persist due to scanner malfunctions at toll plazas.

How Toll is Determined?

- Under **Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956**, the government is empowered to levy fees for services or benefits on national highways, while **Section 9** authorises it to frame rules.
- Based on this, toll collection is governed by the **National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008**.
- A 2008 amendment allowed toll collection to continue in perpetuity, even after concession periods end, with revenues directed to the Consolidated Fund of India if NHAI manages the highway.

Ministry's Response

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** acknowledged the Public Accounts Committee's concerns.
 - It confirmed that a **comprehensive study with NITI Aayog** has been initiated to revise the user fee determination framework.
 - The **scope of the study** has already been finalised and will consider key factors such as:
 - Vehicle operating costs
 - Damage to highways caused by vehicle use
 - Users' willingness to pay
 - This reflects the Ministry's intent to create a fairer and more transparent toll policy aligned with actual costs and user affordability.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

INDIA'S ROLE IN ENDING GLOBAL HUNGER

- Through targeted policy measures, digital tools, and improved governance, India has significantly advanced food security and nutrition outcomes.
- Revised estimates using new National Sample Survey data reveal that **undernourishment in India fell from 14.3% in 2020–22 to 12% in 2022–24**.
- In real terms, this translates to 30 million fewer people living with hunger — a remarkable achievement considering India's vast population and the severe disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transformation of India's Public Distribution System (PDS)

- India's Public Distribution System (PDS) has undergone a major transformation in recent years.
- Through **digitalisation, Aadhaar-enabled targeting, biometric authentication, and real-time inventory tracking**, the system has become more efficient and transparent.
- The **One Nation One Ration Card** scheme has made food entitlements portable across the country, which is crucial for migrant workers and vulnerable households.
- These reforms allowed India to rapidly scale up food support during the pandemic and continue providing subsidised staples to over **800 million people**.

Shift from Calories to Nutrition

- While India has made remarkable progress in ensuring calorie sufficiency, the bigger challenge now is **nutrition security**.
- A healthy diet still remains unaffordable for more than **60% of the population**, largely due to high prices of nutrient-rich foods, weak cold chain infrastructure, and inefficient market linkages.
- Recognising this, the government has introduced initiatives like:
 - **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)** school feeding programme and



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

Progress and Structural Challenges

- According to new UN data, India has made progress in making healthy diets relatively more affordable despite inflationary pressures.
- However, a **larger structural challenge** persists: even as hunger levels decline, issues like **malnutrition, obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies** are on the rise, especially among **poor urban and rural populations**.
- This underscores the need for policies that go beyond hunger eradication to address broader health and nutrition outcomes.

India's Role as a Global Symbol of Hope

- India's progress in transforming its agrifood system is not just a national achievement but a global contribution.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlights that India's advances in digital governance, social protection, and data-driven agriculture can serve as a model for the Global South.
 - It can demonstrate how hunger reduction is possible at scale when backed by political will, smart investments, and inclusive policies.
- With only five years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including **SDG 2: Zero Hunger**, India's recent success offers optimism for the global fight against hunger.
- However, sustaining this momentum will require a shift from ensuring food security to ensuring nutrition security, while also focusing on resilience and opportunity for vulnerable populations.

Conclusion

- The **"hunger clock" is ticking**, and India's leadership is now crucial for the world.
 - No longer just feeding itself, India stands as a **pathway to ending global hunger**, proving that progress in one nation can inspire and support change worldwide.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 19 August 2025

SAKURA SCIENCE PROGRAMME



A group of thirty-four students from government schools in India are set to visit Japan under the Sakura Science Programme 2025.

- It is the prestigious **Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program** in Science—better known as the Sakura Science Programme.
- It was **launched globally in 2014**, aims to expand scientific curiosity amongst youth and encourage international collaboration.
- **India joined** the Sakura Programme **in 2016**.
- It is implemented by the **Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)**.
- The initiative offers young learners a chance to explore **cutting-edge science and immerse themselves in Japanese culture**.
- Under this programme, students are invited for short-term visits to Japan, providing them with the opportunity to experience Japan's cutting-edge science and technology as well as its rich culture.
- For the upcoming Sakura Programme 2025, JST has invited participants from six other countries **Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia**.
- **The Sakura Science Program's objectives include:**
 - To support the **development of talented human resources** from overseas who have the potential to contribute to innovation in science and technology.
 - To accelerate international brain circulation.
 - To **promote continuous collaboration**, cooperation and interaction between Japanese educational and research institutes and those overseas.
 - To strengthen good relationships between Japan and other countries and regions that can encourage diplomacy in science and technology.