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## Current Affairs - 25 August 2025

### INTEGRATED AIR DEFENCE WEAPON SYSTEM



Integrated Air Defence  
Weapon System

- It is a **multi-layered air defence system**, which includes three components — **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missiles (QRSAM)**, the advanced **Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** missiles and a **high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW)**.
- **The three components of the IADWS:**
  - **QRSAM:** It is a **short-range Surface to Air Missile (SAM)** system, primarily designed to provide a **protective shield** to moving armoured columns of the Army from enemy aerial attacks.
  - The entire weapon system is configured on highly mobile platforms. It has search and track capability and can fire on short halts. The system has an operation range of three to 30 kilometers.
  - The QRSAM weapon ensemble consists of a fully automated command and control system, two radars — **Active Array Battery Surveillance Radar** and **Active Array Battery Multifunction Radar** and one launcher. Both the radars have a **360-degree coverage** with ‘search on move’ and ‘track on move’ capabilities.
  - **VSHORADS:** It is a **fourth-generation**, technically advanced **miniaturised Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD)**. This missile system has the capability to meet the needs of all the three **branches of the Armed Forces** — **Army, Navy and Air Force**.
  - **Directed Energy Weapon (DEW):** Earlier this April, the CHES facility conducted a successful field demonstration of the **land version of the Vehicle mounted Laser DEW MK-II(A)**.



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- It defeated **fixed wing UAV and swarm drones**, causing structural damage and disabling their surveillance sensors. With this, India has joined the exclusive club of global powers who possess such a system. DEW is said to have a range of less than three kilometers.
- QRSAM has been designed and developed by the DRDO, VSHORADS and DEW have been developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** and **Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS)** respectively, both Hyderabad-based facilities of the DRDO.
- The integrated operation of all these weapon system components is controlled by a **Centralised Command and Control Centre**, developed by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad**.

### INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION



- It is an **independent body funded by Western countries** and widely recognised as the main global system for measuring the **severity of hunger crises**.
- It was set up to sound the alarm so that famine and mass starvation could be prevented and to help organisations respond.
- The IPC is **overseen by 19 major humanitarian organisations** and regional bodies. It typically partners with national governments to analyse data.
- It is an **innovative multi-stakeholder global initiative** aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition analysis to inform decisions.
- **How is Famine determined?**
  - The IPC system charts acute food **insecurity on a five-phase scale**. Its most extreme warning is Phase 5, which has two levels, catastrophe and famine.
  - If the IPC or one of its partners finds that **at least one area is in famine**, a famine review committee, led by up to six experts, is activated.



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- For an area to be classified as in famine, at least **20% of people must be suffering extreme food shortages**, with one in three children acutely malnourished and two people out of every **10,000 dying daily** from starvation or malnutrition and disease.
- The IPC says **it does not formally declare famine**, but provides analysis for governments and others to do so.
- The IPC relies on the **N. World Food Programme** and other relief organisations and government **agencies to provide data**.
- The protocols used by the IPC are **harmonized across the three individual scales** (IPC Acute Food Insecurity, IPC Chronic Food Insecurity, and IPC Acute Malnutrition).

### NAMASTE SCHEME



- The objective of the “**National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem**” (NAMASTE) scheme is to **formalize and institutionalize the persons engaged in hazardous cleaning** of sewers and septic tanks and promoting safe and mechanized cleaning through trained sanitation workers.
- **Ministries involved:** It is jointly being implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- **Implementing agency:** It is implemented by the **National Safai Karmacharis Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC)** under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)
- **Duration:** It would be implemented for **three years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26**.
- **Target Groups:** Sewer and septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) and waste pickers in urban areas of India

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- **Aims of NAMASTE Scheme**
    - Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India
    - All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers
    - No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter
    - Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises
    - All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods.
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### BLOOM SYNDROME



- Bloom Syndrome or **BSyn** is a **genetic disorder**, in which the **BLM gene**, a protein-coding gene, **does not function as it should.**
- It leads to growth delays, increased vulnerabilities to infections, sensitivity to the sun and an increased risk for certain cancers.
- The BLM gene is a **gene that makes a protein involved** in maintaining the structure of DNA, when DNA is copied in a cell, and in repairing damaged DNA.
- Mutations in the BLM gene may **cause cells to lose their ability** to repair damaged DNA, which may **lead to abnormal cell growth.**
- **Other names** for Bloom Syndrome are **Bloom-Torre-Machacek syndrome and congenital telangiectatic erythema.**
- **How does it occur?**
  - It is **inherited in an autosomal recessive** This means that if both parents have a mutation in one of their two BLM genes and if the child inherits two of the disease-causing variants of the gene, then the disorder occurs.
  - It is seen **most commonly in the Eastern European (Ashkenazi) Jewish population.**

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- **Signs and Symptoms:**
    - **Poor growth** is a common clinical feature, this happens during the development of the foetus and after birth. **Below normal average height** and head circumference may be seen.
    - There may be abnormalities in certain features such as **narrowing of the head and face**, prominent ears and nose, long arms and legs and high-pitched voices.
    - **Skin lesions:** The skin is very **sensitive to sunlight** and red rashes may develop after exposure.
    - **Insulin resistance** which leads to an increased risk of diabetes, while other issues include immune deficiencies.
    - People with Bloom Syndrome are at a **higher risk of contracting infections** such as ear and lung infections and also chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
    - In adults, male sterility and female **infertility may occur**.
    - Bloom Syndrome increases the risk of **developing cancer, and at an early age**.
  - **Treatment:** It involves a multi-disciplinary approach. Since there is no specific treatment, the goal is to manage symptoms.
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### EVOLUTION OF DECEPTION TECHNIQUES IN MODERN WARFARE

- Warfare has always relied on deception, but in the 21st century, these techniques have evolved into highly sophisticated systems that integrate technology, artificial intelligence, and multi-domain capabilities.
- Today, decoys are no longer limited to simple tricks but are advanced systems designed to mislead enemy radars, sensors, and weapons, turning confusion into a strategic asset.
- Modern decoys replicate radar, thermal, and acoustic signatures of real targets, forcing adversaries to waste expensive munitions while buying time for actual platforms to retaliate or evade.
- These innovations have made deception a strategic pillar of modern military doctrine.



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### India's Use of AI-Enabled Decoys

- During **Operation Sindoor**, the Indian Air Force reportedly deployed the **X-Guard Fibre-Optic Towed Decoy (FOTD)** system developed by Israel.
- These AI-enabled decoys trailed behind Rafale fighter jets, mimicking their radar cross-section, velocity, and spectral signature.
- Reports suggest that Pakistan Air Force missiles locked onto these decoys instead of real aircraft, saving Indian platforms and misleading enemy pilots.
- Analysts called this “**one of the best instances of spoofing and deception ever seen,**” highlighting the operational value of advanced decoys.

### Functioning of the X-Guard System

- The **X-Guard decoy**, weighing only 30 kg, integrates seamlessly with the Rafale's **SPECTRA electronic warfare suite**.
- While SPECTRA detects and blocks threats, the X-Guard provides a trailing expendable shield, emitting jamming signals across multiple radar bands. Together, they form a multi-layered defensive system.
- Comparable systems globally include **Leonardo's BriteCloud**, the **AN/ALE-50/55 series** by Raytheon/BAE Systems, and decoys integrated into platforms like the Eurofighter Typhoon and Gripen-E.

### Strategic Importance of Deception

- Deception technologies offer high-impact protection at relatively low costs, making them indispensable in modern military strategies.
  - By diverting enemy fire, they not only preserve expensive assets but also erode adversary confidence.
  - For countries like India, deploying such technologies enhances deterrence against technologically superior adversaries and ensures survivability in contested environments.
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### JAN VISHWAS 2.0 - TOWARDS TRUST-BASED GOVERNANCE

- **The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025**, also dubbed as **Jan Vishwas 2.0**, was recently introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The new Bill is an extension of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 (decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 Acts), and aims to amend 16 Central Acts (administered by 10 ministries/departments) to **decriminalise and rationalise some offences and penalties**.
- This means the Bill further enhances **trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business**.

#### **Provisions of the Jan Vishwas Bill 2025:**

- **Scope of amendments:** The 2025 Bill proposes amending 355 provisions - 288 provisions decriminalised to foster ease of doing business, and 67 provisions proposed to be amended to facilitate ease of living.
- **Covers 16 Acts including:** RBI Act 1934, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, Motor Vehicles Act 1988, Electricity Act 2003, Legal Metrology Act 2009, MSME Act 2006, etc.

#### **Key Features of the Bill:**

- **First-time offenders:**
  - Warning and improvement notice introduced for 76 offences under 10 Acts.
  - **For example**, non-standard weights and measures, earlier drew a penalty of ₹1 lakh, but now provides for improvement notice with rectification timeline.
- **Removal of imprisonment clauses:**
  - Minor procedural or technical defaults no longer attract jail terms.
  - **For instance**, it proposes a fine (between Rs 10,000 and Rs 10 lakh) instead of the existing three-month imprisonment for non-compliance with orders under the Electricity Act 2003.



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- **Rationalisation of penalties:**

- For example, an automatic 10% increase in penalty every 3 years ensures deterrence without fresh amendments.
- **Focus** is on financial penalties rather than incarceration.

### Government's Rationale for Jan Vishwas 2.0:

- To build on “**minimum government, maximum governance**” philosophy.
- To support **Make in India, Ease of Doing Business**, and judicial reforms.
- To reiterate the government's commitment to remove “unnecessary and outdated laws” that criminalise trivial acts.

### Conclusion:

- The Bill is under review by a **Select Committee** of Lok Sabha, and report is expected in the next parliamentary session.
- If enacted, the Jan Vishwas 2.0 could reduce pendency in courts, enhance trust between state and citizens, and **strengthen India's image as a business-friendly destination**.

### WHAT IS THE MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC)?



- **Monetary policy** refers to the use of monetary instruments under the control of the central bank to regulate magnitudes such as interest rates, money supply, and availability of credit with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of economic policy.
- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** constituted by the central government determines the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.

**Function:** The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.

### Composition:

- MPC will have **six members:** the **RBI Governor** (Chairperson), the **RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy**, one official nominated by the RBI



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Board, and the remaining three members would represent the Government of India.

- The external members hold office for a period of four years.
- The quorum for a meeting shall be four Members, at least one of whom shall be the Governor and, in his absence, the Deputy Governor, who is the Member of the MPC.
- The MPC takes decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote.
- The decision of the MPC would be binding on the RBI.
- RBI's Monetary Policy Department (MPD) assists the MPC in formulating the monetary policy.
- The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year.

### EXERCISE MAITREE



#### Exercise Maitree

The 14th edition of Exercise Maitree, a joint military exercise between India and Thailand, is scheduled to be held in Umroi, Meghalaya, from September 1 to 14, 2025.

- It will enable the two sides to share their best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of joint operations.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Maitree is designed to further sharpen the operational capabilities of both the armies in undertaking joint company-level counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain.
- It is set to take place in Meghalaya's Umroi from September 1 to 14.
- This edition is significant as the exercise returns to India after a gap of five years.
- The last Maitree exercise was held in Tak Province, Thailand, where both sides had deployed 76 soldiers each, including India's Ladakh Scouts and Thailand's 1st Battalion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.