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Current Affairs - 09 September 2025

UNIFIED REAL ESTATE (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) ACT, 2016 (RERA)



PORTAL

- RERA, introduced in 2016, was designed to tackle project delays and protect homebuyers.
- Until now, each state and union territory had its own RERA website.
- The primary purpose of the Unified RERA Portal is to consolidate data from various state RERA portals into a single, integrated platform—making information such as approvals, project statuses, timelines, and developer histories easily accessible to homebuyers and regulators
- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The portal aims to create a national database of projects, enhance transparency, and share best practices across States and Union Territories.
- It will let both homebuyers and developers check the status of any project across India in one place.
- The portal is also designed to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) tools to flag potentially delayed or stalled projects.
- Key features include:
 - **Centralised access:** Buyers can view project details nationwide in one place.
 - **Transparency:** Developer history, project approvals, and timelines are easily accessible.
 - **Standardisation:** Uniform data makes it simpler to compare projects across states.
 - **Grievance redressal:** Complaint filing and tracking can now be streamlined.
- Transparency and Convenience for Buyers:
 - A major highlight of the portal is easier access to verified information.



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- Buyers can confirm whether a project has necessary approvals, track progress against timelines, and even review a developer's compliance history.
 - This would cut down the need for "endless follow-ups" and reduce complaints, making transactions more dependable.
 - Simplified Compliance for Developers: For developers, the portal standardises reporting requirements, making it easier to update project details and stay compliant with regulations.
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COMBINED COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE (CCC) 2025



- The CCC is the **apex-level brainstorming forum of the Armed Forces**, bringing together the nation's **top civil and military leadership** to exchange views at the conceptual and strategic levels.
 - CCC 2025 will be held in **Kolkata**, West Bengal, from September 15 to 17, 2025.
 - The central **theme for this year's conference** is "**Year of Reforms – Transforming for the Future**".
 - The CCC 2025 will **focus on Reforms, Transformation & Change and Operational Preparedness**.
 - Together, these **reflect the Armed Forces' commitment to institutional reforms, deeper integration, and technological modernisation**, while sustaining a high level of multi-domain operational readiness.
 - The deliberations will seek to further strengthen the Armed Forces, which are agile and decisive in an increasingly complex geo-strategic landscape.
 - Continuing with the tradition of inclusive engagement, the conference will feature **interactive sessions** with officers and personnel of various ranks from the Armed Forces, ensuring that field-level perspectives enrich the discussions at the highest level.
 - The conference will **also be attended by the Defence Minister, the National Security Adviser, the Minister of State for Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the Defence Secretary**.
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SC CLARIFIES AADHAAR ESTABLISHES IDENTITY, NOT CITIZENSHIP

- The Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the Election Commission of India's (ECI) June 24 directive for a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.
- The ECI defends the exercise as necessary to ensure only eligible citizens remain on the rolls ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls.
- A key dispute is over which documents should be accepted to verify voter identity.

SC Clarifies Aadhaar's Role in Bihar Voter List Revision

- The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to accept Aadhaar as the **12th valid identity document** for Bihar's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls but clarified it cannot prove citizenship.
- The EC must verify the authenticity of Aadhaar numbers before inclusion and ensure **only genuine citizens are enrolled**, excluding illegal immigrants or those using forged documents.
 - With this, the EC is permitted to verify Aadhaar's authenticity and, if doubts persist, exclude individuals from the rolls.
 - Even genuine Aadhaar holders can face scrutiny over their citizenship, similar to those presenting other documents like caste or matriculation certificates.
- **What Aadhaar Can and Cannot Do?**
 - The Supreme Court clarified that Aadhaar can serve as proof of a voter's identity and residence but not citizenship, since even non-citizens residing in India may hold Aadhaar cards.
 - The Election Commission (EC) has been directed to verify the genuineness of Aadhaar cards to prevent forged use in electoral rolls.
- **How Citizenship Is Proved?**
 - Citizenship must be established through documents such as passports, birth certificates with parental details, citizenship or naturalisation certificates, or certain government/school records backed by additional evidence.



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- Importantly, the Court held that **booth-level officers (BLOs) cannot decide citizenship**; only the Centre can, under the Citizenship Act. BLOs may verify only local identity and residence.
 - **Nationwide Implications**
 - Although the order directly applies to Bihar, it has wider implications.
 - The EC is expected to conduct a nationwide SIR in 2026, and leaving Aadhaar out of accepted documents elsewhere will be difficult.
 - The EC is also seeking state-level suggestions on additional documents, especially in border states.
 - **Unsettled Question**
 - A key unresolved issue is whether the EC has the authority to decide matters of citizenship.
 - While the EC insists its mandate is to ensure only citizens vote, petitioners question its power to enforce this mandate.
 - The SC may need to address this broader constitutional question in future hearings.
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IRAN AND INDIA, ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS AND NEW HORIZONS

- The Global South is forging a new path of independence, rooted in local models, indigenous technology, and stronger security.
- Ancient civilisations like India and Iran play a unique role in this transformation. Historically, both influenced global culture through statecraft, literature, philosophy, and art, while upholding values of peace, diversity, and spirituality.
- Despite colonial exploitation, external interference, and economic pressures, neither has compromised its independence or identity.
- Today, their shared values and resilience are vital in confronting global crises.
- By deepening **South-South cooperation** and upholding moral principles, India and Iran can help lay the foundation for a just and humane world order.



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Palestine, Iran, and the Global South's Struggle for Justice

- The Palestinian struggle embodies the Global South's resistance against Western hypocrisy, supremacy, and occupation, symbolising the right of all nations to resist domination.
- Similarly, Iran's defence of peaceful nuclear energy reflects the South's broader right to development, making it a stronghold for international law and diplomacy.
- In this context, multilateral platforms like **BRICS offer an alternative to Western economic dominance** by promoting de-dollarisation and inclusive growth.
- The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) goes beyond trade, serving as a civilisational bridge connecting Eurasia, the Caucasus, India, and Africa, while fostering stability in West Asia.

India, Iran, and the Vision of a Just Global Order

- In West Asia, U.S. interventions have long undermined regional security by backing Israel and fueling instability in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Iran.
 - Similarly, in South Asia, Washington has alternated between fighting and empowering terrorist groups to suit its interests.
 - At this turning point in history, ancient civilisations like India and Iran, with their traditions of wisdom, independence, and partnership, can shape a new order based on justice, equality, and respect for human dignity — an order where nations define their own destiny rather than serve the powerful.
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UNITED KINGDOM-INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING BRIDGE (UKIIFB)



- It is a **collaborative initiative led jointly by NITI Aayog and the City of London.**
 - It aims to **channel sustainable infrastructure investments into India, leveraging the UK's expertise** in managing and structuring large-scale projects.
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- The UKIIFB, agreed as part of the UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), was operationalised with a steering committee made up of representatives from the UK government's Treasury department, construction giants, and engineering and legal firms operating across both countries to drive forward the aim of getting mega infrastructure projects bid-ready.
- This committee will oversee the implementation of the initiative, focusing on projects such as national highways, regional rapid transport systems, and renewable energy ventures.
- UKIIFB Stakeholders will seek to jointly build a diverse investment and financing system that is long-term, stable, and sustainable with manageable risks.
- It is distinctly committed to sustainable infrastructure development, prioritizing environmentally friendly projects that are aligned with the core principles of the Sustainable Development Goals.

BRICS SUMMIT 2025 - INDIA CALLS FOR FAIR ECONOMIC PRACTICES

- BRICS, an acronym for **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, is an influential intergovernmental grouping that represents **nearly 42% of the world's population**.
- BRICS economies contribute an estimated 37.3% of global GDP, reflecting their significant economic weight.
 - The concept of BRICS was first introduced in **2001** by economist Jim O'Neill to describe emerging economies shaping the global order.
 - The first BRIC Summit was held in 2009 in Russia, and South Africa joined in 2010, transforming it into BRICS.
- **Objectives**
 - Enhanced trade, investment, and sustainable development among member states.
 - Cooperation on security, technology, and climate change.
 - Advocacy for a multipolar world order to counter Western dominance.



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Achievements

- Over the years, BRICS has launched initiatives like the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, which finances infrastructure and sustainable projects, and the **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** to stabilise economies during crises.
- It has also served as a forum for discussing counter-terrorism, energy security, digital innovation, and global governance reforms.

• Challenges

- **Internal divisions** - particularly between India and China due to border tensions.
- **Economic asymmetry** - China's overwhelming dominance compared to other members.
- **Geopolitical contradictions** - diverging interests in Ukraine, West Asia, and trade policies.
- **Limited integration** - trade among BRICS members is often constrained by deficits and protectionist measures.

Summary of the 2025 BRICS Summit

• India's Concerns on Tariff Wars

- At the 2025 BRICS Summit, EAM S. Jaishankar raised concerns over the United States' imposition of **50% tariffs on Indian and Brazilian exports**, citing penalties for oil trade with Russia.

• Call for Fair and Transparent Economic Practices

- S. Jaishankar emphasised that the international trading system must remain **open, fair, transparent, non-discriminatory, and rules-based**.

• India's Trade Deficits within BRICS

- S. Jaishankar pointed out that India faces some of its **largest trade deficits with BRICS partners**, especially China. He urged member states to review trade flows and adopt more cooperative mechanisms that can reduce imbalances and boost intra-BRICS trade.



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HIMALAYAN BROWN BEAR



• It is also known as the **Himalayan red bear**, **isabelline bear** or **Dzu-Teh**, is a subspecies of the brown bear.

- **Distribution:**

- It is mainly found in **northwestern and central Himalayas**, including Pakistan, India, Nepal, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, and Bhutan.
- It is found above the timberline, between **3,000 and 5,500 meters** (9,800 and 18,000 feet) above sea level.
- In India, it exists in small isolated populations in the fragmented alpine and subalpine habitats of **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.**

- **Features**

- Males are larger than females.
- **Diet: Omnivorous**, eating grasses, roots, bulbs and other plants, insects, and small mammals such as marmots, pikas, and voles.
- They **hibernate** in dens **during the winter.**
- They are solitary and only interact with each other to mate or fight over mates.
- **Life span:** 20 to 30 years in the wild.

Issues: In recent days, human-induced climate change and bears' habituation to human-made food is causing conflict to rise.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972:** Schedule I.



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NILGIRI TEA



- Nilgiri Tea is generally described as **intensely aromatic, fragrant and flavored tea** grown in the southern portion of the Western Ghats.

- It has been named after the **Nilgiris or Blue Mountains** where it is grown.
- It is mainly cultivated in **Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu** and a small portion in **Kerala and Karnataka**.
- It was recognized with the **Geographical Indication Tag in 2008**.
- It is known for **its delicate flavour and aroma**, with notes of floral and citrus.
- It is a **popular choice for iced tea** and is often used in blends with other teas to create unique taste profiles.

Required climatic conditions

- **Altitude:** Teas are grown at elevations ranging from **1000 to 2500 metre** above sea level.
- **Annual Rainfall:** 150 to 230cm.
- **Soil:** Well drained **Laterite soil**
- It is grown **throughout the year in Nilgiri** and it also experiences two monsoons per year.

Issues

- **Pricing issue:** Price for Green Tea Leaves (GTL) is dwindling these days.
 - It is facing issues like over-reliance on Russian exports, poor quality management, **adulteration** and local market negligence.
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