



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

WHAT IS PINK TAX?



- The Pink tax is **neither a real tax nor is it a government-imposed fee.**
- It is a term used to describe the extra cost that some companies charge for products marketed to women compared to similar products marketed to men.
- This means **women might end up spending more money for the same product that men get for less.**
- **When companies charge more for pink (female) products compared to blue (male) versions, the extra revenue does not go to the government but benefits the companies**
- Pink toys, haircuts, dry cleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax.
- The term “Pink Tax” is believed to have **originated in the U.S. in California in 1994.**
 - It emerged following the realisation that brands in various cities consistently charged women higher prices for goods and services than men.
 - As per a study done in the U.S., personal care products targeting women were 13% costlier than men’s. Further, women’s accessories and adult clothing were 7% and 8% more expensive.
- Pink Tax in India:
 - **Female-targeted goods and services prices are determined based on market dynamics and demand.**
 - While there is limited research on the pink tax in India, surveys indicate price variations between products for women and men.
 - While there are no specific laws in India to address the issue of Pink Tax, the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ruled that companies must follow fair pricing policies and avoid gender-based price discrimination.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

PLI SCHEME FOR WHITE GOODS



- It is designed to create a complete **component ecosystem for Air Conditioners and LED Lights** Industry in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.
- It is implemented as a **pan India scheme** and is not specific to any location, area or segment of population.
- **Objectives:** It proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the **White Goods manufacturing value chain**.
- Its prime objectives include removing **sectoral disabilities, creating economies** of scale, enhancing exports, creating a robust component ecosystem and employment generation.
- **Incentives:** The scheme will extend an **incentive of 4-6% on incremental turnover over base year (2019-20)** of goods sold in India and exported to global markets, to eligible companies for a period of 5 years.

Eligibility

- Applicant can be any company that should be **incorporated in India** under the provisions of the Company Act, 2013.
- Eligibility shall be subject to the achievement of **thresholds of net incremental sales** of Eligible Products for the respective financial year over the base year and cumulative incremental investment in the preceding financial year.
- Any entity availing benefits under any other PLI Scheme of Govt. of India **will not be eligible under this scheme for the same**
- **Time period:** It is to be implemented over **FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29**
- **Nodal Ministry:** The scheme was notified by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES ON DNA EVIDENCE

- In the Kattavellai @ Devakar case, involving rape, murder, and robbery, the Supreme Court found serious lapses, including unexplained delays in sending vaginal swab samples to the Forensic Science Laboratory and failure to establish a clear chain of custody.
- These gaps raised the possibility of contamination. The Court noted that while some bodies had issued guidelines, there was neither uniformity nor a common procedure across states.
- Given that **'Police' and 'Public Order' fall under the State List**, the Court still found it essential to issue uniform directions to ensure consistency and reliability in DNA evidence handling nationwide.

Supreme Court's Guidelines on Handling DNA Evidence

- The Supreme Court laid down **four key guidelines** to ensure the integrity of DNA evidence in criminal cases.
- **First**, DNA samples must be collected with due care, properly packaged with FIR details, case particulars, and duly documented with signatures of the medical professional, investigating officer, and independent witnesses.
- **Second**, the investigating officer must transport the samples to the concerned police station or hospital and ensure they reach the Forensic Science Laboratory within 48 hours; any delay must be explained with preservation measures taken.
- **Third**, once stored, samples cannot be opened, altered, or resealed without trial court authorisation.
- Finally, a **Chain of Custody Register** must be maintained from collection until conviction or acquittal, appended to the trial record, with the investigating officer accountable for any lapses.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

Importance of DNA Evidence in Criminal Cases

- DNA, derived from biological materials like blood, bone, semen, saliva, hair, or skin, helps establish whether a crime scene sample matches a suspect.
- While such matches can strongly indicate common biological origin, the Supreme Court in the Devakar case clarified that **DNA is only opinion evidence under Section 45 of the Evidence Act** (now Section 39 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023).
- Its probative value depends on the circumstances of each case. Thus, DNA evidence is significant but not conclusive, and must be scientifically validated and legally established to hold weight in criminal proceedings.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's guidelines on DNA evidence aim to ensure reliability, prevent contamination, and strengthen criminal justice. Their success depends on consistent enforcement by police and forensic agencies.



International
Electrotechnical
Commission

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

- It is a nonprofit organization which was **established in 1906**.
- It is the organization that **prepares and publishes international Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies**.
- IEC's mission is to promote, through its members, international cooperation on all questions of electrotechnical standardization and related matters.
- Its standards are developed in a **consensus process by experts from the participating countries**.
- IEC Standards are often used as a basis to globally harmonize technical requirements in **IEC member and non-member countries**.
- IEC standards **reach over 150 countries**.
- **Standardization Management Board (SMB)** is an apex governance body of IEC responsible for technical policy matters.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

- The IEC works closely with the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** and the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.
- It is the world's leading body for developing international standards for electrical, electronic and related technologies, with a network of 30,000 experts worldwide.
- It is the **fourth time India** is hosting the prestigious IEC General Meeting, after 1960, 1997 and 2013.
- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

INDIA'S FIRST BAMBOO-BASED ETHANOL PLANT INAUGURATED IN ASSAM

- India has been steadily advancing toward renewable energy as part of its clean energy transition.
- Ethanol blending, a central component of this strategy, has gained momentum with sugarcane and maize-based ethanol.
- Now, India has achieved a milestone by inaugurating the world's first green bamboo-based ethanol plant in Golaghat, Assam.
- The plant will use **five lakh tonnes of bamboo annually** from Assam and nearby states to produce:
 - 48,900 MT ethanol
 - 11,000 MT acetic acid
 - 19,000 MT furfural
 - 31,000 MT liquid CO₂
- It is expected to boost Assam's rural economy by **Rs. 200 crore annually**.
- This facility represents both a technological innovation and an economic opportunity for the Northeast, linking biofuel production with rural livelihoods.

Working of Bamboo-Based Ethanol Plants

- **Feedstock and Processing**
 - Bamboo, a lignocellulosic biomass, serves as the primary raw material.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

- It contains cellulose and hemicellulose, which can be broken down into fermentable sugars through biochemical processes.
- **Pre-treatment** - Bamboo undergoes mechanical and chemical pre-treatment to separate cellulose and hemicellulose from lignin.
- **Hydrolysis** - Enzymes break down cellulose into glucose and hemicellulose into xylose and other sugars.
- **Fermentation** - Specialised microorganisms convert these sugars into ethanol.
- **Distillation** - Ethanol is purified to achieve fuel-grade quality suitable for blending with petrol.
- **Co-Products and Zero-Waste Approach**
 - Besides ethanol, the Golaghat facility will also produce **acetic acid, furfural, and food-grade liquid CO₂**, creating multiple revenue streams.
 - Lignin-rich residues can be used for power generation, making the plant energy self-sufficient.
- **Advantages Over Traditional Ethanol**
 - **Non-food biomass** - Unlike sugarcane, bamboo does not compete with food crops.
 - **Sustainability** - Bamboo regenerates quickly, making it an abundant renewable resource.
 - **Localised benefits** - Northeast India, with vast bamboo reserves, can integrate farmers and tribal communities into the bio-economy.

Significance of the Project

- **Energy Security**: Reduces dependence on imported crude oil, saving foreign exchange.
 - **Rural Development**: Enhances farmer income and supports tribal livelihoods.
 - **Green Economy**: Reinforces India's climate commitments by cutting emissions through biofuel adoption.
 - **Regional Growth**: Strengthens Assam's role in India's industrial map through Make in Assam and Make in India initiatives.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

CUTTING OFF ONLINE GAMING WITH THE SCISSORS OF PROHIBITION

- The ban on online real money gaming strikes directly at India's digital economy, affecting technology, payments, and digital content — sectors central to Digital India.
- The industry, projected to **employ 1.5 lakh people by 2025** in areas like design, programming, customer support, and analytics, now faces massive job losses, stifled innovation, and weakened entrepreneurship.
- Additionally, online real money games were expected to **contribute about ₹17,000 crore in GST revenue**, benefiting both the Centre and States.
- By cutting this revenue source, the government has imposed a significant financial cost.
- The Centre justifies the ban by citing financial ruin and addictive behaviour among players, **equating gaming with a societal harm akin to drug abuse**.
- However, critics question whether prohibition is the right solution, suggesting that careful regulation — as attempted in States like Tamil Nadu — might address negative impacts without destroying jobs, revenue, and industry growth.

Ignoring Responsible Gaming and Legal Safeguards

- Online gaming companies had introduced proven tools to promote responsible play, such as age-gating, self-exclusion, deposit and time limits, bot detection, KYC/AML checks, and ethical advertising standards.
- Instead of strengthening these safeguards, the government imposed a blanket ban, dismantling accountability and pushing players toward illegal offshore platforms that operate outside Indian jurisdiction, evade taxes, and expose users to fraud.
- The ban also undermines constitutional rights and federal principles. **Article 19(1)(g)** guarantees the right to practise any profession or business, which this law curtails.
- Moreover, **betting and gambling are State subjects**, yet the Union government acted unilaterally, raising constitutional concerns now challenged in court. At the heart of the debate is whether online games are “**games of skill**” or “**games of chance**.”



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

Finding a Middle Ground in Online Gaming Regulation

- The solution to online real money gaming lies not in prohibition or unchecked freedom but in balanced legislation.
- A clear licensing system, strict compliance standards, and a predictable taxation regime could safeguard players, prevent addiction, and respect States' roles while ensuring industry growth.
- Instead, the blanket ban drives revenues and opportunities into the underground economy, strips players of protection, and risks fueling unregulated networks.
- Whether this move truly safeguards citizens or leaves them more vulnerable remains an open question.

Conclusion

- The abrupt ban on online real money gaming risks job losses, revenue decline, and regulatory gaps, raising doubts about whether it protects citizens or worsens vulnerabilities.
-

BRINGING GLOBAL EDUCATION HOME

- In recent years, **India has witnessed a significant transformation in its higher education landscape**, marked by the entry of world-class foreign universities establishing physical campuses within its borders.
- The **cornerstone of this development lies in the UGC regulations introduced in 2023**, which enabled foreign universities to set up campuses in India with operational autonomy and regulatory clarity.
- This initiative aligns directly with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which emphasizes reimagining higher education to be both globally competitive and locally grounded.
- The **policy reflects India's growing ambition to host world-class institutions**, thereby integrating global best practices with indigenous educational traditions.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 15 September 2025

The Reason Behind India's Timing in Opening Its Doors to Foreign Universities

- The country is experiencing a **unique convergence of factors**: a large and aspirational youth population, a rapidly expanding economy, and an innovation-driven startup ecosystem.
- The **demand for high-quality education** in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, sustainability, and data science is rising sharply.
- At the same time, **India's domestic reforms**, such as hybrid learning models, streamlined research funding via the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation**, and outcome-oriented accreditation reforms, **create fertile ground for global institutions to thrive**.
- **Foreign universities**, many of which face operational challenges and demographic shifts in the West, **find in India a promising environment**.
- **With its vast youth population and expanding intellectual capital**, India offers both **opportunity and stability**, making it an attractive destination for international expansion.

Conclusion

- What began as an idea within NEP 2020 is now evolving into a **bold reconfiguration** of India's higher education landscape.
 - By hosting **global university campuses**, India provides its students with **unprecedented choices** while strengthening its own academic infrastructure.
 - The **dilemma of choosing between studying in India and going abroad** is being replaced by a more empowering possibility: accessing global opportunities at one's doorstep.
 - This **transformation represents not just a policy initiative but the unfolding of a new chapter** in India's knowledge economy.
-