



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DILEMMA - STRATEGIC AND MULTI-DEPENDENCE

India's Dependence on Major Powers:

- **Dependence on China:**
 - **Manufacturing and consumer goods:** Heavy reliance on Chinese white goods, mobile phone components, and computers.
 - **Pharmaceuticals:** Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and precursor chemicals critical for India's pharma sector.
 - **Energy and commodities:** Import of rare earths, polysilicon, wafers, and solar cells.
 - **Infrastructure inputs:** Fertilisers and tunnel-boring machines.
 - **Semiconductors:** Large-scale imports from China.
- **Dependence on Russia:**
 - **Defence:** 60–70% dependence on platforms and systems across Army, Navy, and Air Force.
 - **Energy:** Oil imports from Russia rose from 4% (2022) to nearly 40% in recent times.
 - **Legacy factor:** While India has tried to diversify to France, Israel, and the US, dependence on Russia goes back to the 1970s, and it is **hard for the armed forces to wean themselves off Russian equipment.**
- **Dependence on the United States:**
 - **Economic and human capital links:**
 - The US is **India's largest export destination.**
 - Indians in recent years have **topped the list of H1-B visa recipients**, up to 70% of those issued.
 - **Indian students** in the US rival Chinese students in terms of numbers, and the US is the top destination for the Indian students going abroad.
- **Defence and technology:**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

- American arms and military technology are seen as **vital for India's defence modernisation.**
- **Key military armaments and components** include GE engines for India's indigenous fighter aircraft - the Tejas, assault rifles, helicopters, missiles, unmanned aerial systems, etc.
- **Geopolitical:** Counterbalancing against China's power in the Indo-Pacific.

Foreign Policy Tightrope:

- **China:** New Delhi cannot afford to offend China over the border without risking economic fallout.
- **Russia:** Oil and defence links limit criticism of Russia over the Ukraine war, its arms sales to China, and its burgeoning relationship with Pakistan.
- **United States:** Due to trade and technology dependence, India cannot offend the Americans over tariffs and India's relations with China and Russia as well as Iran beyond a point.
- **Overall:** India's room for manoeuvre in foreign policy is severely restricted.

Way Forward:

- **Manufacturing revolution:** Strengthen Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.
 - **Diversify imports and commodities:** Expand sourcing of APIs, rare earths, energy, and semiconductors from multiple countries.
 - **Export diversification:** Reduce dependence on the US by tapping into **African, ASEAN, and Latin American markets.**
 - **Defence indigenisation:** Accelerate indigenous R&D, promote joint ventures, and reduce reliance on Russia and US.
 - **Policy push:** Galvanise private sector innovation, investment, and competitiveness.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

SUPREME COURT REVIEW ON GOVERNORS' ROLE IN ASSENT TO STATE BILLS

- The Supreme Court of India is currently examining a crucial constitutional reference concerning the role of Governors in the legislative process of States.
- The issue revolves around whether fixed timelines should be mandated for Governors and the President in granting assent to Bills passed by State legislatures.
- This matter has significant implications for Centre-State relations and India's federal framework, especially at a time when multiple States have accused Governors of deliberately delaying assent to Bills, thereby obstructing governance.

The Role of Governors in Assent to Bills

- Under **Article 200 of the Constitution**, when a Bill is passed by a State legislature, it is presented to the Governor for assent. The Governor has the following options:
 - Grant assent to the Bill.
 - Withhold assent.
 - Reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.
 - Return the Bill (if not a Money Bill) with a message for reconsideration.
- If the Bill is again passed by the legislature, the Governor is constitutionally bound to give assent.
- However, the Constitution does not prescribe any **timeframe** for the Governor's decision, leading to controversies where Governors have sat on Bills indefinitely.
- Similarly, **Article 201** governs the President's assent when a Bill is reserved for consideration. Even here, no timeline exists for the President to act, which sometimes results in prolonged delays.

Debate on Fixing Timelines

- The absence of clear timelines has become a major flashpoint in Centre-State relations.
- Several States, including **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, and Telangana**, have complained of Governors withholding or delaying assent to Bills, thus stalling key reforms.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

- The Supreme Court, while hearing the reference, is considering whether judicially enforceable timelines can be set to prevent such delays.
- Proponents argue that indefinite inaction by Governors violates the **spirit of parliamentary democracy** and undermines the functioning of elected governments.
- On the other hand, critics caution that imposing strict timelines may constrain the discretionary powers vested in Governors and the President, potentially upsetting the delicate constitutional balance.

Implications for Federalism

- **Strengthening Legislative Authority:** Time-bound assent would reinforce the authority of elected State legislatures, reducing executive interference.
- **Preventing Political Deadlocks:** It would minimise friction between Governors and State governments, ensuring smoother legislative functioning.
- **Judicial Oversight on Federal Balance:** The case marks an important judicial intervention in clarifying ambiguities of the Constitution that impact Centre-State relations.
- **Setting a Precedent:** The ruling could also influence debates on other constitutional offices where delays in decision-making affect governance.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA



राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार
National Archives of India

- It is the **custodian of the records** of enduring value of the **Government of India.**

- **History of National Archives of India:**

- It was **originally established** as the **Imperial Record Department** on 11 March 1891 in Kolkata (Calcutta).
- It was **transferred to New Delhi in 1911.**
- The NAI also serves as the nodal agency for implementing the **Public Records Act, 1993, and the Public Record Rules, 1997.**



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

- A significant portion of its oriental records is in **Sanskrit, Persian, Odia, and other languages**. Access to the records in the NAI is governed by the provisions of the **Public Records Rules, 1997**.
- The NAI keeps and conserves records of the government of India and its organisations. It does not receive classified documents.
- **Headed by: Director General of Archives**
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Culture.
- **Location:** New Delhi and has one **regional office at Bhopal** and three Records Centers at **Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, and Puducherry**.



CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME

- It was conceptualized by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** in collaboration with the **Asian Development Bank**.
- It was as launched as a major initiative to provide farmers with **access to high-quality, virus-free planting material** of key fruit crops.
- It is implemented by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** in association with **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**
- **Components of Clean Plant Programme:**
 - **Establishment of Nine Clean Plant Centers (CPCs):** These centres will offer **disease diagnostics and treatments, develop mother plants** for nurseries, and quarantine all domestic and imported planting materials intended for commercial propagation and distribution.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** This includes setting up **large-scale nurseries** to efficiently multiply clean planting material. The mother plants produced by the CPCs will be propagated in these nurseries and then distributed to farmers.
 - **Regulatory and Certification Framework:** A regulatory and certification process will be created to ensure **complete accountability and traceability** in the production and distribution of planting material.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

PROJECT VIJAYAK



- It was launched by the **Border Roads Organisation** in
 - It drew its **name** from **Operation Vijay**, signifying the congruence between the Theatre of Battle and the Project Area of Responsibility.
 - **Objective:** It was entrusted with the **responsibility of providing road connectivity** in the areas of **Kargil and Zaskar**, which previously were under Project Himank.
 - This project has played a significant role **in strengthening the security infrastructure** along the LC and has also contributed positively in shaping the socio-economic landscape of the region.
 - **Other Initiatives under Project**
 - It has also placed strong focus on **welfare of its Casual Paid Labourers**.
 - Welfare initiatives such as insulated shelters, improved sanitation, enhanced protective gear, winter clothing, and regular health camps have been introduced to ensure safety and well-being.
-

SC RULING ON ANAND MARRIAGE ACT REKINDLES OLD DEBATE

- Despite legal recognition through the **Anand Marriage Act, 1909** and its **2012 Amendment**, most Sikh couples still register marriages under the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, which also governs divorce and disputes.
- The Anand Act lacks provisions for divorce or matrimonial issues, forcing Sikhs to rely on Hindu law, undermining their distinct religious identity.
- Community leaders and scholars argue that Sikhs need a **comprehensive marriage law** similar to those for Muslims and Christians.
- Critics highlight that Anand Act, barely a page long, is symbolic rather than substantive, offering limited rights and failing to fully recognise Sikhs as a separate community.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

The Anand Marriage Act and Its 2012 Amendment

- Anand Karaj, meaning “blissful union,” is the Sikh marriage ceremony conducted before the Guru Granth Sahib.
- To solemnise the marriage, the couple walks around the Guru Granth Sahib four times, as hymns, known as laavan, are recited.
 - The four chosen verses, **composed by Guru Ram Das**, the fourth Sikh Guru, outline the spiritual journey of a married couple.

State Inaction and Supreme Court’s Intervention

- Despite the **2012 Amendment** mandating registration rules for Anand Karaj marriages, most states and Union Territories failed to act, denying Sikh couples legal certificates essential for residence, maintenance, inheritance, and succession.
- Highlighting this inaction, petitions were filed in the Supreme Court in 2022, arguing that uneven access to rights disenfranchised the community.
- As a result, the Court directed all states and UTs to frame rules within four months, stressing that in a secular framework, Anand Karaj marriages must be registered on par with others.
- It placed a **positive duty on states** to create workable registration systems and clarified that applications cannot be refused merely because rules have not been notified.

Importance of Marriage Registration

- The Supreme Court stressed that marriage registration is essential for equality, civil administration, and legal proof of status in matters such as residence, maintenance, inheritance, insurance, succession, and monogamy.
 - It also safeguards the rights of women and children.
 - Emphasising uniformity, the bench stated that in a secular framework, marriages solemnised by **Anand Karaj** must be recorded and certified on the same footing as other marriages to ensure both religious respect and civic equality.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

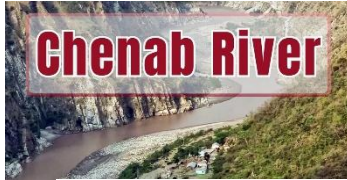
Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

CHENAB RIVER



- It is a **tributary of the Indus River**.
- **Origin:** It is formed by the confluence of two streams, **Chandra and Bhaga**, in the Lahaul and Spiti Districts of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- In its upper reaches, it is also known as the **Chandrabhaga River**.
- It flows through Jammu and Kashmir union territory, **Himachal Pradesh** and after receiving the Jhelum River near Trimmu, the Chenab **empties into the Sutlej River**.

Major Tributaries:

- **Left Bank:** Niru, Tawi, Neeru, and Liddrari
- **Right Bank:** Ans, Bhut Nalla, Bichleri, Kalnai Marusudar and Miyar Nalla.
- **Major Dams on Chenab River:** **Salal** (rockfill dam), **Aalal** (concrete dam), **Baglihar**, and **Dul**.
- The waters of the Chenab are shared by India and Pakistan as per the terms of the **Indus Water Treaty**.

What is the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)?

- It was signed in **1960 between India and Pakistan**, with the World Bank acting as a mediator.
 - The treaty outlines water usage rights over **six rivers of the Indus River System**, categorizing them into Eastern and Western rivers.
 - **The Eastern rivers**—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—are allocated for India's exclusive and unrestricted use.
 - **The Western rivers**—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—are allocated primarily to Pakistan.
-



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

Current Affairs - 22 September 2025

BAGRAM AIR BASE



The Taliban government recently rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's bid to retake Bagram Air Base, four years after America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan left the sprawling military facility in the Taliban hands.

- **Bagram Air Base is the largest air base in Afghanistan, located north of the capital, Kabul.**
- It has a strategic position at the **crossroads of Iran, Pakistan, China's Xinjiang province, and Central Asia.**
- It was **built during the Cold War by the Soviet Union.**
- The airbase served Soviet operations in the country for decades **until they withdrew in the late 1980s.**
- The US revamped the facility following its own occupation of Afghanistan decades later.
- It had served as a **crucial hub in the US war against the Taliban and Al Qaeda since 2001.**

Features:

- It has **runways longer than many international airports, and hardened shelters, hospitals, and fuel depots.**
 - The base also housed **fast-food restaurants** to cater to the US troops, along with shops selling everything from electronics to Afghan rugs.
 - Bagram also had a **massive prison complex.**
-