



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-05-2025

GS-2

1. Deputy Speaker
2. International Court of Justice

GS-3

3. Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI)
4. Rafale – M

Deputy Speaker

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Parliament – Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Context:

That the post remains vacant is a constitutional anomaly and an active sidelining of consensus politics.

Constitutional Basis

- **Mandated under Article 93:** The Lok Sabha must elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker “as soon as may be.”
- **Role is mandatory, not optional:** The wording indicates urgency and necessity.
- **Article 94:** Deputy Speaker remains in office until resignation, removal, or ceasing to be a Member of Parliament.

Historical Background

- **Colonial origins:** First existed as the "Deputy President" in the Central Legislative Assembly (British rule).
- **First Deputy President:** Sachidanand Sinha (1921).
- **Post-Independence:**
 - Maintained the role during Constituent Assembly (Legislative) sessions before 1950.
 - **First elected Deputy Speaker:** M.A. Ayyangar (after G.V. Mavalankar's death in 1956).
- **Precedent:** Emphasized the Deputy Speaker's importance as an immediate replacement during emergencies.

Relevance in Parliamentary Practice

- **Support for the Speaker:**
 - Speaker cannot preside over all sessions continuously.
 - Deputy Speaker ensures seamless functioning during Speaker's absence.
- **Independent Authority:**
 - Chairs significant sessions, committees, and sensitive debates.
 - Expected to be impartial post-election, irrespective of political affiliations.

➤ **Symbolic importance:**

- Conventionally, post offered to the Opposition to encourage bipartisan respect and non-partisan functioning.

Growing Constitutional Vacuum

- **17th Lok Sabha (2019–2024):** Deputy Speaker's post remained vacant throughout.
- **18th Lok Sabha (2024–present):** No Deputy Speaker elected yet.
- **Significance of delay:**
 - Not just a procedural lapse but a constitutional anomaly.
 - Violates the spirit of "as soon as may be" under Article 93.
 - Risks leadership vacuum during emergencies (e.g., Speaker's resignation or death).
 - Concentrates procedural power in the ruling party without an institutional counterbalance.
- **Violation of conventions:**
 - Ignoring the practice of offering the post to the Opposition undermines inclusivity and consensus politics.

Need for Urgent Reforms

- **Arguments for legislative reforms:**
 - Set a **specific mandatory time frame** (e.g., 60 days from the first sitting) to elect a Deputy Speaker.
 - Introduce a **statutory mechanism**: Allow the President to initiate the election process upon advice.
- **Importance:**
 - Upholding constitutional integrity and democratic resilience.
 - Reaffirming Parliament's commitment to rule-based governance.
 - Reinforcing the credibility and balance of legislative proceedings.

International Court of Justice

Syllabus: GS-2: International Organizations.

Context:

- A case was presented at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) accusing Israel of violating international law in the occupied Palestinian territories.
- Israel **did not attend** the hearing and criticized the case as part of "systematic persecution and delegitimization."

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Introduction

- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is the **principal judicial organ** of the United Nations (UN).
- Established in **1945** by the **UN Charter** and began functioning in **1946**.
- Headquartered at **The Hague, Netherlands**.

Composition

- **15 judges** elected for a term of **9 years** by the **UN General Assembly** and the **UN Security Council**.
- Elections are conducted separately but simultaneously.
- Judges are **eligible for re-election**.
- Judges must represent the **main forms of civilization** and the **principal legal systems of the world**.

Structure and Functioning

- The ICJ has two main roles:
 1. **Contentious Cases:** Settles **legal disputes** submitted by states.
 2. **Advisory Opinions:** Provides **advisory opinions** on legal questions referred by the UN and its specialized agencies.

Jurisdiction

- **Contentious Jurisdiction** (Binding Judgments):
 - Only **sovereign states** can be parties to cases.

- States must consent to the Court's jurisdiction (through treaties, special agreements, or declarations).
- **Advisory Jurisdiction** (Non-Binding Opinions):
 - Open to UN organs and specialized agencies.
 - Opinions are influential but **not legally binding**.

Key Features

- **Only States** (not individuals, companies, NGOs) can approach the ICJ.
- Cases are decided by **majority vote**; in case of a tie, the **President's vote** becomes decisive.
- The ICJ has **no enforcement power**; compliance depends on the political will of states.
- If a party fails to comply with a judgment, the other party may approach the **UN Security Council** for enforcement.

Languages

- The official languages are **English** and **French**.

Differences from Other International Bodies

Aspect	ICJ	International Criminal Court (ICC)
Nature	Civil disputes and advisory opinions	Criminal prosecution of individuals
Parties	Only States	Individuals
Establishment	1945 (UN Charter)	2002 (Rome Statute)
Jurisdiction	Disputes between States, Advisory	Crimes like genocide, war crimes

Important Cases Involving ICJ

- **Nicaragua v. United States (1986)**: US support for Contra rebels ruled illegal.
- **Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (1996)**.
- **Advisory Opinion on Kosovo's Declaration of Independence (2010)**.
- **Advisory Opinion on Israel's West Bank Barrier (2004)**: Declared illegal but Israel ignored.

- **South Africa v. Israel (2023-24):** Genocide case relating to Gaza conflict (ongoing).

Limitations

- **No compulsory jurisdiction:** States must voluntarily accept jurisdiction.
- **No enforcement mechanism:** Relies on voluntary compliance or Security Council action.
- **Only States** can be parties (no role for individuals or corporations).
- **Slow decision-making:** Proceedings can take years.

India's Engagement with ICJ

- India has been involved in several ICJ cases:
 - **Kulbhushan Jadhav Case (India vs. Pakistan, 2017):** ICJ stayed Jadhav's death sentence.
 - **Marshall Islands Case (2016):** Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction against India.
- Indian judges who served on ICJ:
 - **Sir Benegal Rau** (First Indian member).
 - **Nagendra Singh** (also served as President of ICJ).
 - **Dalveer Bhandari** (current judge since 2012).

Importance of ICJ in International Relations

- Promotes **peaceful settlement of disputes** under international law.
- Upholds the **Rule of Law** at the global level.
- Provides **legal clarity** on complex international issues.
- Supports the work of **UN agencies** and specialized bodies.

Quick Facts for Prelims

- ICJ = Principal judicial organ of the UN.
- Located = The Hague, Netherlands.
- Only **states** (not individuals) can be parties.
- Established by **UN Charter**, not a separate treaty.
- Languages = English and French.

- Judges = 15, elected for 9 years.
- Advisory opinions = Non-binding but influential.

Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI)

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Mitigation measures.

Context:

The **Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI)** is a landmark initiative to establish India as a global leader in green hydrogen production and trade. Here's a concise breakdown of its key aspects:

Purpose

To certify hydrogen as "green" by verifying it is produced **only using renewable energy**, ensuring transparency and credibility in domestic and international markets.

Key Stakeholders

- **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE):** Launched the scheme.
- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):** Nodal agency for implementation.
- **Accredited Carbon Verification (ACV) Agencies:** Conduct third-party audits.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Provides policy and financial support.

Certification Criteria

- **Emissions Threshold:** Measures **kg CO₂ equivalent per kg H₂** to ensure low carbon footprint.
- **Production Methods:** Covers **electrolysis** and **biomass conversion** (new methods may be added).
- **Scope:** Certifies up to **purification stage** (excludes transport/storage).

Operational Mechanism

- **Annual Verification:** Mandatory third-party audits.
- **Green Hydrogen Portal:** Centralized platform for data logging and tracking.
- **Guarantee of Origin (GO):** Authenticates renewable sourcing claims.

Compliance & Exemptions

- **Mandatory for:** Domestic producers supplying Indian markets.
- **Exempted:** Export-only units (may follow buyer-country standards).

Strategic Importance

- **Global Exports:** Boosts credibility for deals like the **4.12 lakh tonnes** agreement with Japan/Singapore.
- **Investment & Jobs:** Clear standards attract private sector participation.
- **Carbon Trading:** Aligns with India's **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (2026)**.
- **Energy Transition:** Supports India's **5 MMT green hydrogen target by 2030** and reduces fossil fuel dependence.

Challenges Ahead

- Scaling renewable energy capacity to meet production targets.
- Ensuring cost-competitiveness against conventional hydrogen.
- Harmonizing standards with international regimes (e.g., EU's RFNBO criteria).

Conclusion

The GHCI is a critical step toward positioning India as a **green hydrogen hub**, combining regulatory rigor with market incentives to drive sustainable energy growth.

Rafale – M

Syllabus: GS-3: Defence Technology.

Context:

India and France on Monday formally concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), valued at nearly ₹64,000 crore, to procure 26 Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy.

Overview:

- **Full Name:** Dassault Rafale Marine (Rafale-M).
- **Manufacturer:** Dassault Aviation, France.
- **Type:** 4.5-generation, twin-engine, canard delta-wing, multirole fighter jet designed for carrier-based naval operations.

- **Purpose:** Enhance Indian Navy's airpower, particularly for INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya aircraft carriers.

Key Features:

- **Multi-Role Capability:** Performs air superiority, air defense, deep strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes, and nuclear deterrence missions.
- **Carrier Compatibility:**
 - Reinforced airframe and landing gear for high-impact carrier landings.
 - Foldable wings for compact storage on carrier decks.
 - "Jump strut" nose gear for catapult-assisted take-off (CATOBAR) and short take-off (STOBAR).
- **Advanced Systems:**
 - Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar for enhanced target detection.
 - SPECTRA electronic warfare system for threat evasion.
 - Advanced avionics and sensors for maritime operations.
- **Weapons:**
 - Meteor (Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile, 150+ km range).
 - MICA (multi-mission air-to-air missile).
 - SCALP (long-range cruise missile, 300+ km).
 - AM39 Exocet (anti-ship missile).
- **Payload:** Up to 9.5 tonnes on 13 external hardpoints.
- **Speed:** Mach 1.8 (supersonic).
- **India-Specific Enhancements:** Tailored radar modes, low-band jammers, and helmet-mounted displays.

Strategic Significance:

- **Naval Strength:** Bolsters Indian Navy's carrier-based operations, enhancing power projection in the Indo-Pacific.
- **India-France Partnership:** Strengthens bilateral defense ties, with potential for co-development of aerospace technologies.

- **Regional Dynamics:** Counters China's J-20 and Pakistan's F-16, offering superior kinematic performance and combat-proven technology (used in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya).