



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 05-07-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Mount Shinmoedake

### **GS-2**

2. Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines (MVAG), 2025

### **GS-3**

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## **Mount Shinmoedake**

**Syllabus: GS-1: World Geography –Volcanoes.**

### **Context:**

- Mount Shinmoedake, an active stratovolcano in Japan's **Kirishima mountain range (Kyushu Island)**, recently erupted, producing a **large ash plume**.
- The eruption prompted warnings for **aviation and nearby residents** due to potential ashfall and volcanic gases.
- Authorities are monitoring for further activity, including possible **pyroclastic flows** or **lava dome growth**.

### **Key Facts About Mount Shinmoedake**

- **Type:** Stratovolcano (composite volcano)
- **Elevation:** 1,420.8 meters (4,662 ft)
- **Location:** Kagoshima Prefecture, Kyushu, Japan
- **Eruption History:** Frequent activity since 1716, with notable eruptions in **2011, 2018, and 2020–2021**.
- **Famous For:** Filming location for the 1967 James Bond movie *"You Only Live Twice."*

### **What is a Stratovolcano?**

- **Steep, conical volcanoes** built by layers of lava, ash, and pyroclastic debris.
- Known for **explosive eruptions** due to viscous (sticky) lava (andesite/dacite) trapping gases.
- Found along **subduction zones** (e.g., the Pacific **Ring of Fire**).
- Examples: Mount Fuji (Japan), Mount St. Helens (USA), and Mount Vesuvius (Italy).

### **Current Risks & Monitoring**

- **Ashfall** can disrupt air travel and agriculture.
- Potential for **pyroclastic flows** (fast-moving hot gas/ash clouds).
- Japan's Meteorological Agency (JMA) maintains an **alert level system**; nearby residents should stay updated.

## **Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines (MVAG), 2025**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Governance – Laws and Policies.**

**Context:**

- Recently, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines (MVAG), 2025, under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

**What is MVAG?**

A regulatory framework for app-based ride-hailing services (e.g., Ola, Uber, Rapido) to ensure standardization, safety, and fair practices in the mobility sector.

**Key Provisions of MVAG 2025**

### **1. Driver Welfare & Earnings**

- **Fare share:**
  - **80%** to drivers using own vehicles
  - **60%** to drivers using aggregator-owned vehicles
- **Insurance:**
  - ₹5 lakh health insurance
  - ₹10 lakh term insurance
- **Training:**
  - Mandatory quarterly sessions for bottom 5% rated drivers

### **2. Passenger Protection**

- ₹5 lakh mandatory **travel insurance** per passenger
- **Complaint redressal:**
  - Resolved within 3 days
  - Outcomes must be communicated
- Fare to be charged only from **pick-up to drop-off**

### **3. Fare Regulation**

- States to set **base fare** by vehicle category
- Aggregators may apply **dynamic pricing**:

- **Min 50%** below base fare
- **Max 2×** base fare

#### 4. Ride Cancellation Penalties

- **10% penalty** (capped at ₹100) on rider/driver for **unjustified cancellations**
- Valid reasons must be listed publicly for transparency

#### 5. Legal Recognition for Bike Taxis

- Non-transport motorcycles allowed for ride-hailing
- Subject to **state-level approval** (benefits services like Rapido)

#### 6. EV Promotion & Accessibility

- States may **mandate EV targets** annually
- Aggregators must include **Divyangjan-friendly** vehicles

#### 7. Driver Screening & Training

- Mandatory:
  - Police verification
  - Medical & psychological tests
  - Induction & annual training

#### 8. Grievance Redressal & Licensing

- Aggregators to appoint a **Grievance Officer**
- Contact info must be **displayed on apps/websites**
- A **central portal** to handle:
  - Licensing
  - Renewals
  - Security deposits

#### 9. Compliance & Penalties

- Fines: ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore
- Repeat offences:
  - **3-month suspension**, eventual **license cancellation**

### Significance

- Balances **tech-driven mobility** with **social accountability**
- Promotes **passenger safety, driver dignity**, and **sustainable transport**
- Brings legal clarity to **emerging sectors** like bike taxis and EV-based rides

## **Reserve Bank of India (Pre-payment Charges on Loans) Directions, 2025**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy –Payment systems.**

### Context:

- **RBI** has barred lenders from levying **pre-payment penalties** on **floating-rate loans** availed by:
  - **Individuals** (for non-business purposes)
  - **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)**
- Effective from **January 1, 2026**

### Key Concepts

#### What is Pre-Payment?

- **Pre-payment** = Early repayment of loan (full or partial) before scheduled tenure.
- **Types:**
  - **Part-Prepayment:** Lump sum payment alongside EMIs.
  - **Full Prepayment (Foreclosure):** Repaying the entire outstanding loan early.

#### How It Works

- Based on **loan agreement terms**: Includes lock-in period, charges, fund source, etc.
- **Impact:**
  - Reduces **interest burden**
  - Decreases either **EMI or loan tenure**

## RBI's Directive – Key Features

Aspect	Details
Applicability	Floating-rate loans to individuals (non-business) & MSEs
Effective Date	From <b>1 January 2026</b>
Scope	Includes both <b>partial</b> and <b>full pre-payments</b>
Penalties	<b>No pre-payment charges or lock-in period</b>
Fund Source	No restriction—borrowers can repay from any source
Institutions Covered	Banks, NBFC-ULs, Urban Cooperative Banks, RRBs (loans ≤ ₹50 lakh)
Mandate	Disclosure of terms in sanction letter, agreement & KFS

## Need for the Move

- **Unequal Practices:** Arbitrary, non-transparent charges across lenders
- **Borrower Grievances:** MSEs and individuals penalised unfairly for early closure
- **Credit Portability:** Enables borrowers to shift lenders without cost
- **Support for MSEs:** Addresses working capital challenges

## Significance

### 1. Ease of Doing Business

- Reduces credit cost for MSEs—a key economic contributor

### 2. Promotes Financial Inclusion

- Encourages first-time borrowers, especially **women and rural entrepreneurs**

### 3. Strengthens Consumer Rights

- Aligns with **fair lending norms**
- Improves **transparency** and borrower awareness

### 4. Encourages Healthy Competition

- Facilitates **loan portability**, increases choice for borrowers

### 5. Regulatory Harmonisation

- Applies uniformly across financial institutions
- Covers loans up to **₹50 lakh**

## **Ham Radio**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology –Communication Technology.**

### **Context:**

- Indian astronaut **Shubhanshu Shukla** communicated with students in India using **ham radio** from the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- This interaction highlights the role of amateur radio in **space communication** and STEM education.

### **About Ham Radio (Amateur Radio)**

- A **licensed radio service** that uses radio waves for communication.
- Primarily used for **education, emergency communication (SOS), and experimentation**.
- Requires a **transceiver, antenna, and dedicated frequency** for communication between licensed operators.
- Can be used for **local, global, and even space-based communication**.

### **Ham Radio in India**

- **Licenses issued by:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Minimum age:** 12 years.
- **Emergency Use:** Deployed during disasters like:
  - Bhuj Earthquake (2001)
  - Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004)
  - **Uttarakhand Floods (2013)**

### **Why Ham Radio Still Matters?**

- **Reliable** when traditional communication fails (disasters, wars).
- **Cost-effective** and independent of cellular networks.
- Used by **astronauts** for public outreach (e.g., ISS school contacts).

## **Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Wildlife Conservation – WLS.**

### **Context:**

Recently, **300 acres of encroached forest land** was cleared in **Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary**, Karnataka.

### **Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary**

#### **Overview**

- **Location:** Bukkapatna, Sira Taluk, Tumakuru District, Karnataka.
- **Establishment:** Declared a wildlife sanctuary in **2019**.
- **Key Species: Chinkara (Indian Gazelle)** – the flagship species.
- **Area:** Covers **3,904 hectares** (approx. 39 sq km).
- **Ecosystem:** Dry scrub forest, grassland, and semi-arid landscape.

#### **Ecological Significance**

- **Habitat for Chinkara:**
  - One of the few protected areas in South India dedicated to the **Chinkara (Gazella bennettii)**.
  - Also supports **wolves, leopards, foxes, blackbucks, and various bird species**.
- **Biodiversity:**
  - **Flora:** Dry deciduous scrub, thorny bushes, and grassland vegetation.
  - **Fauna:**
    - **Mammals:** Indian fox, jungle cat, wild boar, hare.
    - **Birds:** Painted sandgrouse, peafowl, eagles.
    - **Reptiles:** Monitor lizards, snakes.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **Chinkara** is listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (highest protection).
  - IUCN Status: **Least Concern** (but declining due to habitat loss).



### Threats & Challenges

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:**
  - Encroachment for agriculture and livestock grazing.
- **Habitat Fragmentation:**
  - Due to roads and infrastructure development.
- **Poaching & Illegal Activities:**
  - Hunting for meat and traditional medicine.

### Conservation Efforts

- **Protected Area Status:** Helps regulate human activities.
- **Community Involvement:** Awareness programs for locals.
- **Eco-Tourism Potential:** Can generate revenue for conservation.