



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 18-08-2025

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1. Sri Aurobindo
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GS-2

3. SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index
4. Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

GS-3

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Sri Aurobindo

Syllabus: GS-1: Modern History – Indian Freedom Struggle – Important personalities.

Context:

- Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Sri Aurobindo on his birth anniversary (15 August 1872).

Sri Aurobindo (1872–1950)

Who He Was

- Yogi, philosopher, poet, and revolutionary nationalist.
- Propounded **Integral Yoga** – harmonizing material and spiritual life.

Early Life

- Born: **15 August 1872**, Calcutta.
- Education: St. Paul's School, London & King's College, Cambridge.
- Acquired mastery over English, French, Latin, Greek; rediscovered Indian culture.

Contribution to Freedom Movement

- **Radical Nationalist:** Through his paper *Bande Mataram*, first openly demanded *Purna Swaraj*.
- **Revolutionary Role:** Active in *Anushilan Samiti*; supported armed struggle.
- **Alipore Bomb Case (1908):** Arrested, later acquitted; during imprisonment underwent deep spiritual transformation.
- Advocated **direct action**, rejecting moderate constitutionalism.

Literary Contributions

- **Philosophical Works:** *The Life Divine*, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, *Essays on the Gita*.
- **Poetic Works:** *Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol* (spiritual epic).
- **Socio-Political Writings:** *The Human Cycle*, *The Ideal of Human Unity*.

Other Contributions

- Founded **Sri Aurobindo Ashram** (1926) with Mirra Alfassa (*The Mother*).
- Gave vision of **Spiritual Nationalism** – India's freedom linked with cultural and spiritual renaissance.

- Integral Yoga: aimed at divinizing life on Earth through spiritual evolution.

Legacy & Significance

- Aurobindo combined **political radicalism with spiritual universalism**.
- Inspired Indian freedom struggle by infusing it with **spiritual dimension**.
- His thought remains central to discourses on **nation-building, human unity, and evolution of consciousness**.

National Deep Water Exploration Mission

Syllabus: GS-1: Energy Resources.

Context:

Prime Minister of India announced the National Deep Water Exploration Mission on the 79th Independence Day.

What it is?

- **Flagship initiative** for energy security to explore untapped oil & gas reserves beneath India's seabed.
- Operates in **mission mode** for accelerated offshore exploration.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- Supported by **Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)** & allied research institutions.

Objectives

- Reduce dependence on crude oil & natural gas imports.
- Enhance **domestic hydrocarbon production capacity**.
- Strengthen India's **long-term energy security**.
- Promote **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in the energy sector.

Key Features

- **Deep-Water Focus:** Target offshore zones like **Andaman-Nicobar basin & Andhra coast**.

- **Policy Reforms:** Linked with **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)** & exploration-friendly legislative changes.
- **Large-Scale Bidding:** Opening **1 million sq. km** of erstwhile 'No-Go' areas.
- **Technology Use:** Seismic surveys, modern drilling, **AI-enabled exploration tools**.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Incentivises domestic & foreign investments.

Significance

- **Energy Independence:** Lowers reliance (currently 88% crude oil & 50% gas imported).
- **Economic Gains:** Reduces import bills, saving billions for social welfare & infrastructure.
- **Strategic Security:** Enhances control over domestic resources amid volatile global markets.

SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Sector – Health and Sanitation.

Context:

- Launched by **Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** (implemented by **CDSCO**) as India's **first national framework** to benchmark and strengthen **state drug regulatory systems**.

What it is

- A **virtual gap assessment tool** to **evaluate, rank, and improve** State/UT drug regulatory authorities.
- Focus: **safety, quality, and efficacy** of medicines.

Objectives

- Benchmark performance of State/UT drug regulators.
- Drive targeted reforms in **human resources, infrastructure, and digitisation**.
- Enhance **public trust** in Indian medicines.

- Align Indian drug regulatory systems with **global WHO standards (ML3-equivalent)**.

Criteria for Evaluation

- **Two-tier categorisation:**
 - **Manufacturing States** – 27 indicators across 5 themes.
 - **Distribution States/UTs** – 23 indicators across 5 themes.
- **Five Themes of Evaluation:**

Human Resources

Infrastructure

Licensing

Surveillance

Responsiveness

- **Process:**
 - Monthly data submission to CDSCO.
 - Monthly scoring & feedback for continuous improvement.

Key Features

- **Data-driven ranking** – transparent, dynamic updates.
- **Cross-learning platform** – dissemination of best practices.
- **Regulatory harmonisation** – uniform implementation of **Drugs & Cosmetics Act** across states.
- **Global competitiveness** – ensures Indian medicines meet international quality standards.

Significance

- Strengthens **federal health governance** through cooperative benchmarking.
- Builds **robust regulatory ecosystem** to safeguard patients.
- Enhances **India's pharmaceutical credibility** in domestic & global markets.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Sector – Health and Welfare.

Context:

- The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) has completed five years since its launch in 2020, with a special anniversary event scheduled in New Delhi.



Launched: 15 August 2020

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)

What it is?

- Nationwide anti-drug initiative to **reduce substance abuse**.
- Focuses on **prevention, awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation**, especially in **high-risk districts**.

Objectives

- **Curb Drug Demand** – through prevention, education, and outreach.
- **Strengthen Community Response** – involving **youth, women, panchayats, and institutions**.

- **Rehabilitation & Treatment** – ensuring access to **counseling, de-addiction centres, and medical care.**

Key Features

- **Targeted Districts:** 272 high-risk districts identified via **national surveys & NCB data.**
- **Three-Pronged Approach:**
 - *Supply reduction* – Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
 - *Demand reduction* – MoSJE-led awareness & outreach.
 - *Treatment & rehabilitation* – Ministry of Health & allied agencies.
- **Community-Based Implementation:** Committees at **district/state level**, led by senior officials.
- **Technology Integration:** Dedicated NMBA app, website, digital campaigns.
- **Mass Mobilisation:** Collaboration with **Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris, ISKCON, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), NSS.**

Significance

- **Public Health Impact:** Reached **18+ crore citizens**, especially **youth & women.**
- **Capacity Building:** **20,000+ Master Volunteers** trained.
- **Social Stability:** Contribution to **crime reduction, social harmony**, and stronger community resilience.

Golden Dome Missile Defense System

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Defence system.

Context:

Golden Dome is a ground- and space-based missile defense system designed to safeguard the United States from advanced missile threats.

Background

- Recently, the **US President announced a \$175 billion Golden Dome missile defence shield.**

- It represents the **most ambitious American missile defense initiative** since the Cold War.

What is Golden Dome?

- A **ground- and space-based missile defense system** designed to safeguard the United States from advanced missile threats.
- Aims to create a **network of satellites** to detect, track, and potentially intercept incoming missiles.

Objectives

- Protect US against **long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)**.
- Defend against **space-launched weapons** and hypersonic glide vehicles.
- Integrate with **existing missile defense systems** (Patriot, THAAD, Aegis BMD, GMD).

Key Features

- **Space-Based Interceptors**
 - To detect and neutralize missiles during various trajectory phases (boost, mid-course, terminal).
- **Advanced Tracking Technologies**
 - Space-based radars and infrared sensors for **real-time global tracking**.
- **Directed Energy Weapons (Lasers)**
 - High-energy lasers to destroy missiles mid-flight.
- **Integration of Current Assets**
 - Components from **Patriot, THAAD, Aegis BMD, GMD** incorporated for layered defence.

Strategic Significance

- Enhances **homeland security** against emerging threats from Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran.
- Counters new **hypersonic missile technologies**.
- Strengthens **US deterrence capability** in a multipolar nuclear order.

Criticisms & Concerns

- Extremely high cost (\$175 billion).
- Risk of **weaponization of space** → may trigger a new arms race.
- Effectiveness against **swarm attacks or decoys** uncertain.
- Raises questions under **Outer Space Treaty (1967)**.