



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 22-09-2025

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GS-2

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Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

Syllabus: GS-1: Indian Society - Women Empowerment.

Context:

- The Prime Minister launched the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA) and the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah.

Nodal Ministries:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Women and Child Development

Objectives:

- Strengthen **women's and children's healthcare** in India.
- Ensure **accessible, quality, and affordable care**.
- Drive **Jan Bhagidaari (community participation)** in health reforms.

Key Features:

- **1 lakh+ Health Camps** at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs & CHCs.
- Comprehensive **screening for women's health issues** – anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, cancers.
- **SASHAKT Portal** → real-time monitoring, transparency, accountability.
- **Community involvement** → Nikshay Mitras, volunteers, especially in tribal & rural areas.
- Awareness drives on **menstrual hygiene, nutrition, and wellness** (via Anganwadis & health camps).
- Model of **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** with active role of private hospitals.

Significance:

- Empowers women → healthier families (“Swasth Nari → Sashakt Parivar”).
- Early detection of NCDs (non-communicable diseases).
- Strengthens **primary healthcare delivery system**.
- Integrates **nutrition, health, and awareness** in one mission.

Rashtriya Poshan Maah – 8th Edition (2025)

Background:

- Launched in **2018** under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**.

- Celebrated every **September** as a **Jan Andolan (people's movement)**.
- Till 2025 → 130+ crore nutrition-focused activities across India.

Themes of 8th Edition (2025):

1. Anaemia Prevention
2. Growth Monitoring
3. Complementary Feeding
4. "Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi" – integrating nutrition & early childhood education.
5. Technology for Better Governance – digital tracking, monitoring.
6. Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam – linking nutrition with environmental sustainability.

Importance:

- Tackles **malnutrition & undernutrition**.
- Promotes **nutrition literacy** and **behavioural change**.
- Links **nutrition with education and environment**.
- Supports **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** and **SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being)**.

Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)

Syllabus: GS-2; Polity-Political Parties

Context

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has recently taken stringent action by **de-listing 474 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)**.
- The primary reason for this action was their failure to contest any elections in the last six consecutive years, which is a direct violation of the guidelines for maintaining registered status.

Who are Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)?

As the name suggests, these are political parties that are:

- **Registered** with the ECI under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951.
- **Unrecognised**, meaning they have not met the criteria to be recognised as a State or National Party.

This category includes newly formed parties, those that haven't secured enough votes in elections, and, as the recent news highlights, many that have never even contested an election after registration.

Why was this Action Taken?

- The ECI enforced a specific guideline: **"if the party does not contest elections continuously for 6 years, the party shall be taken off the list of registered parties."** The 474 de-listed parties were found to be in violation of this fundamental rule.

What are the Benefits RUPPs Lose Upon De-listing?

The de-listed parties will no longer enjoy the privileges granted to registered parties, which include:

- **Tax Exemption:** Loss of tax exemption under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, for donations received.
- **Common Election Symbol:** They will no longer be eligible for a common poll symbol for their candidates. Their candidates will be treated as independents.
- **Star Campaigners:** They lose the permission to appoint up to 20 'star campaigners' for campaigning. The travel expenses of star campaigners are not counted in the election expenditure of the candidate.

What are the Obligations RUPPs Must Fulfill?

- The news also underscores that RUPPs have serious obligations, which many may be flouting. They are required to:
 - Contest elections periodically.
 - Submit annual audited accounts and reports of contributions.

- Disclose all donations above ₹20,000.
 - Refrain from accepting any cash donations above ₹2,000.
- Failure to meet these obligations can lead to scrutiny and potential action by the ECI or income tax authorities.

The Path to Recognition

The text outlines the clear hierarchy and benefits of moving up from an RUPP:

- **RUPP:** Gets basic benefits (tax exemption, common symbol, star campaigners).
- **State Party:** Must fulfil one of four conditions (e.g., win 3% of assembly seats or 6% of votes plus some seats). Gains an exclusive reserved symbol, free broadcast time on state-owned media, and other campaign advantages.
- **National Party:** Must fulfil one of three stricter conditions (e.g., be recognised in four states or secure 6% of votes in four states plus LS seats). Gains benefits on a national scale.

Conclusion and Significance

The ECI's decision to de-list 474 RUPPs is a significant step towards:

- **Enhancing Electoral Integrity:** It removes inactive or potentially shell entities from the official system.
- **Curbing Misuse:** It prevents the misuse of benefits like tax exemptions by parties that exist only on paper and have no intention of participating in the democratic process.
- **Ensuring Transparency:** It reinforces the message that registration comes with responsibilities, and the ECI will act against those who fail to comply.

Draft Civil Drone (Promotion and Regulation Bill) 2025

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

Context:

- Ministry of Civil Aviation released the draft Bill in 2025 and invited feedback from citizens and stakeholders.

Key Features

Coverage

- Applies to: Individuals/entities engaged in ownership, operation, design, manufacture, import, export, leasing, training, or maintenance of drones.
- Excludes:
 - Unmanned aircraft used by armed forces.
 - Unmanned aircraft weighing **over 500 kg** (covered under Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024).

Regulatory Authority

- **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)** retained as the primary regulator.
- Mandatory **registration and Unique Identification Number (UIN)** for all drones.
- **Type certification** required for drone manufacturers before sale/operation.

Safety & Security Provisions

- Mandatory incorporation of **airworthiness, anti-tampering, and traceability features**.
- Manufacture/assembly/operation of drones without safety compliance prohibited.

Insurance

- **Compulsory third-party insurance** for all drone operators (with limited exemptions).
- Insurance companies must designate officers to settle claims after accidents.

Digital Sky Zones

- Retains online **Digital Sky platform** with zoning:
 - **Green Zone:** Free operations.
 - **Yellow Zone:** ATC clearance required.
 - **Red Zone:** Central govt. permission mandatory.
- Violations in restricted zones → **Cognisable & non-compoundable offence** (up to 3 years imprisonment or ₹1 lakh fine).

Compensation Provisions

- In case of accidents:

- ₹2.5 lakh for death.
- ₹1 lakh for grievous hurt.
- Compensation payable by drone owner or authorised insurer.
- **Motor Accident Claim Tribunals** designated for UAS-related claims.

Penalties & Offences

- General contravention:
 - Fine up to ₹50,000 / imprisonment up to 3 months.
 - Subsequent offence: Fine up to ₹1 lakh / imprisonment up to 6 months.
- Serious offences:
 - **Carriage of dangerous goods or use as weapon** → Cognisable & non-compoundable.
- DGCA empowered to **seize/confiscate UAS, documents, devices** during investigation.

Significance

- Establishes a **comprehensive legal framework** for civil drone operations.
- Balances **promotion of drone industry** with **security, safety, and accountability**.
- Aligns with India's efforts to become a global hub for drone technology.

Aflatoxin

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Agriculture – Exports & General Science

Context:

- Indonesia suspended imports of Indian groundnuts (from Sept 2025) citing aflatoxin contamination.
- Exporters are disputing **delayed notification** by Indonesia and raising concerns over **testing procedures**.
- India's Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) has tightened pre-export checks.

About Aflatoxin

- **Aflatoxins** → toxic **mycotoxins** produced mainly by *Aspergillus flavus* & *A. parasiticus*.

- Thrive in **warm, humid conditions**; contaminate **groundnuts, maize, rice, tree nuts, spices, oils, cocoa**.
- **Health Impact** → genotoxic, carcinogenic, risks to human & animal health.
- **Exposure routes**: eating contaminated foods, animal products (meat/dairy), inhaling crop dust.

The Indonesia-India Trade Issue

- **Indonesia's action**: Import suspension effective Sept 3, 2025.
- **Export value**: ~2.25 lakh tonnes annually (~US\$ 274 million).
- **Standards**: Indonesia follows **Codex Alimentarius limit = 15 ppb** (stricter EU norm ~4 ppb).
- **Exporter grievances**:
 - Late notification of rejection.
 - Doubts over lab infrastructure and sampling.
- **APEDA's response**:
 - All shipments to Indonesia to undergo **strict lab checks**.
 - Orders to improve **sampling, analysis, stuffing protocols**.

Issues Involved

- **Trade disruption** → Major market for Indian groundnuts affected.
- **Reputation risk** → Questions on India's credibility as agri exporter.
- **Regulatory lapses** → Concerns over lab accreditation, testing protocols.
- **Health & Safety** → Ensuring compliance is essential, not just trade issue.

Significance

- **Economic**: Groundnut is a key agri-export; suspension hurts farmers & exporters.
- **Diplomatic**: Strains India-Indonesia agri trade relations.
- **Policy**: Highlights need for stronger **food safety & traceability** in exports.
- **Public health**: Ensuring toxin-free food for consumers (domestic + international).

Way Forward

- Strengthen **pre-export testing & lab accreditation**.
- Improve **traceability & documentation** in agri exports.
- **Capacity building** for farmers & exporters on post-harvest practices (storage, drying).

- **Bilateral engagement:** India–Indonesia to align on testing protocols.
- **Diversify markets** to reduce over-dependence on single buyer.
- Promote **quality assurance frameworks** (e.g., HACCP, ISO, FSSAI strengthening).

INS Rajali

Syllabus: GS-3; Defence and Technology

Context

- Recently, **two-day seminar on Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR)** hosted by the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command at INS Rajali.



About

- **Full Name:** Indian Naval Station Rajali
- **Commissioning Date:** March 11, 1992
- **Name Meaning:** Named after 'Rajali', an aggressive bird of the Hawk family, common to the Tamil Nadu coastal belt.

Location & Infrastructure

- **Located** near Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu.
- **Approximately 80 km west of Chennai.**
- **Spreads over 2,200 acres** of land.
- Has the **longest military runway in Asia.**
- **Garrison strength** of approximately 4,700 personnel.

Command Structure

- Operates under the **Eastern Naval Command** of the Indian Navy (Headquarters in Visakhapatnam).

Primary Roles & Functions

1. **Operational Base:**
 - a. Frontline hub for maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare.
2. **Training Hub:**
 - a. Houses the navy's **Helicopter Training School (HTS).**

Key Operational Assets & Units

- **INAS 312 Squadron ("The Albatross"):**
 - Operates the **P-8I Poseidon** aircraft for long-range patrol, anti-submarine warfare, and surveillance.
- **Unmanned Aerial Systems:**
 - Operates **MQ-9B Sea Guardian** drones for high-altitude, long-endurance intelligence and reconnaissance missions.
- **Helicopter Training School (HTS):**
 - Trains naval pilots to operate various helicopters for roles like anti-submarine warfare and search and rescue.

Strategic Importance

- Serves as the **nerve center for monitoring the Indian Ocean Region**, particularly the Bay of Bengal.
- The presence of advanced aircraft like the P-8I and MQ-9B provides a **significant deterrent** to potential threats.
- Its **combination of operations and training** makes it a uniquely vital and modern air station for the Indian Navy.