



KAVISH IAS

— Converting Possibilities into Reality —

KAVISH INFORMIX

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

🎯 PRECISE | 🧠 RELEVANT | ⌚ EXAM FOCUSED

STAY AHEAD. STAY INFORMED. STAY READY.

TODAY'S DATE



18 JULY 2026

---SATURDAY---



Kolkata Topper

VAISHNA BISWAS

AIR - 367 | CSE 2025

★ OUR PROVEN LEGACY ★

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2023



IPS LAXMAN PRATAP
RANK - 597

FORMER ASST. COMMANDANT IN BSF
CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA

OUR UPSC TOPPERS 2024



IRS SARLA JAKHER
AIR 593

CITY COLLEGE KOLKATA



IRS TANMAY
AIR 346

IIT KHARAGPUR



YOUR
DREAMS.

OUR
MISSION.

TOGETHER,
WE ACHIEVE
THE EXTRA
ORDINARY.

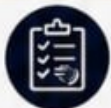


Converting Possibilities into Reality

PRELIMS MAINS | INTERVIEW



DAILY CURATED
NEWS



EXAM ORIENTED
ANALYSIS



SMART NOTES &
INFOGRAPHICS



BOOST YOUR
PREPARATION

“INFORMED TODAY, EMPOWERED TOMORROW.”

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025
2. National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
3. MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter
4. Ultrafast Organic Anode for Next-Generation Rechargeable Batteries
5. i-DRONE Initiative and Drone-Based Tuberculosis Diagnosis

1. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025**Why in News?**

The Union Government has agreed to modify the **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025** by accepting key suggestions from the **Andhra Pradesh** and **Meghalaya** governments. The changes aim to address concerns regarding **State autonomy** in higher education governance.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Bill	Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025
Objective	Establish a single higher education regulator
Reviewed By	Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)
Major Change	Mandatory State Government clearance for key decisions relating to State-funded institutions

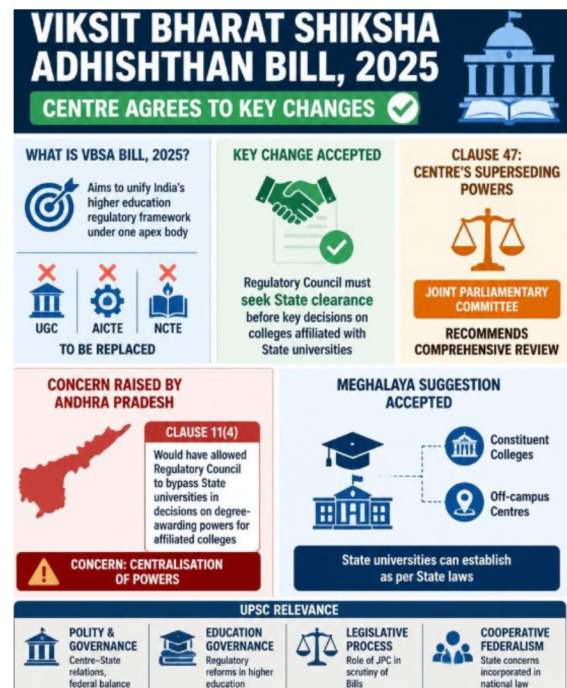
What is the VBSA Bill, 2025?

The Bill seeks to establish the **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA)** as the **single apex regulator** for higher education, in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.

It proposes to replace multiple regulatory bodies with a unified framework to improve coordination, quality and governance.

Key Proposed Reforms

- **Single regulatory framework** replacing multiple higher education regulators.
- **Uniform academic standards** across higher education institutions.
- **Simplified approval mechanism** for universities and colleges.
- **Outcome-based governance** through transparent regulation.
- **Institutional autonomy** with greater accountability.



Major Amendments Accepted

Issue	Modification
Degree-granting powers for State-funded colleges	Mandatory No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned State Government
Establishment of constituent colleges and off-campus centres	Permitted according to respective State laws
Central superseding powers (Clause 47)	Comprehensive review recommended by the JPC

Regulatory Bodies Proposed to be Replaced

Existing Regulator	Function
University Grants Commission (UGC)	Higher education regulation and funding
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)	Technical education
National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)	Teacher education

Significance

- **Implementation of NEP 2020** through an integrated higher education regulatory system.
- **Reduction in regulatory overlap** among multiple statutory bodies.
- **Greater coordination** in academic standards and quality assurance.

- **Recognition of State concerns** by safeguarding federal principles.
- **Improved ease of governance** for higher education institutions.

Way Forward

- **Balanced Centre-State coordination** in higher education governance.
- **Consultative implementation** involving States and universities.
- **Protection of institutional autonomy** while ensuring accountability.
- **Phased transition** from the existing regulatory framework.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to establish a single higher education regulator in India.
2. It aims to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC), AICTE and NCTE.
3. The proposed amendments require State Government clearance before granting degree-awarding powers to substantially State-funded institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025 seeks to reform India's higher education regulatory framework. Discuss its key features and examine the challenges of balancing regulatory reforms with the principles of cooperative federalism. (150 words)

2.National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

Why in News?

The Union Government has appointed **Harjit Singh Grewal** as the **Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**, ending a vacancy that existed since April 2025.

Munawari Begum has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson and **Glenn E. Souza Ticlo** as a Member of the Commission.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Chairperson	Harjit Singh Grewal
Vice-Chairperson	Munawari Begum
Member	Glenn E. Souza Ticlo
Ministry	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Tenure	Three years or until further orders
Current Strength	4 members (against sanctioned strength of 7)

About National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** is a **statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992** to safeguard the rights and interests of notified minority communities.

Feature	Details
Established	1992
Status	Statutory Body
Ministry	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Headquarters	New Delhi
Composition	Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and five Members
Term	Three years

Notified Minority Communities

- Muslims
- Christians
- Sikhs
- Buddhists

- Parsis (Zoroastrians)
- Jains (*notified in 2014*)

Functions

- **Monitoring of constitutional and legal safeguards** available to minority communities.
- **Investigation of complaints** relating to deprivation of minority rights.
- **Recommendations to the Central Government** for effective implementation of safeguards.
- **Studies and research** on issues affecting minority communities.
- **Promotion of communal harmony** and protection of minority interests.
- **Submission of annual and special reports** to the Central Government.

Powers

The Commission enjoys powers of a **Civil Court** while conducting inquiries, including:

- **Summoning and examining witnesses** under oath.
- **Requisition of public records** from government authorities.
- **Receiving evidence on affidavits.**
- **Issuing commissions** for examination of witnesses and documents.

Significance

- **Institutional protection of minority rights** through an independent statutory mechanism.
- **Promotion of equality and social inclusion** among notified minority communities.
- **Monitoring of constitutional safeguards** for effective implementation.
- **Advisory support to the Government** on minority welfare policies.
- **Strengthening of communal harmony** and national integration.

Way Forward

- **Timely appointment of members** to ensure full institutional capacity.
- **Strengthening of follow-up mechanisms** for implementation of recommendations.
- **Improved coordination with State governments** on minority welfare programmes.

- **Greater public awareness** regarding constitutional safeguards and grievance mechanisms.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Constitutional body established under Article 338 of the Constitution.
2. It was constituted under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
3. The Commission has powers of a Civil Court while conducting inquiries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Discuss the role of the National Commission for Minorities in safeguarding the rights of minority communities. Examine the challenges affecting its effectiveness in promoting inclusive governance. (150 words)

3.MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter

Why in News?

The Indian Navy has received its **21st MH-60R Seahawk** multi-role helicopter from the United States. The delivery is part of the **24-helicopter deal signed in 2020** under the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** programme to strengthen India's maritime combat capabilities.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Helicopter	MH-60R Seahawk ("Romeo")
Manufacturer	Sikorsky (Lockheed Martin)
Deal Signed	2020
Procurement Mode	Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Programme

Helicopters Ordered	24
Delivered	21 (Two more expected shortly)

About MH-60R Seahawk

The **MH-60R Seahawk** is an advanced **multi-mission naval helicopter** designed for anti-submarine, anti-surface and maritime surveillance operations from warships and naval bases.

Feature	Details
Manufacturer	Sikorsky (Lockheed Martin)
Type	Multi-role Naval Helicopter
Engines	Twin General Electric T700 turboshaft engines
Crew	Three
Deployment	Aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates and shore bases

Major Capabilities

- **Advanced anti-submarine warfare capability** through dipping sonar, sonobuoys and Mk-54 torpedoes.
- **Enhanced anti-surface warfare capability** using Hellfire missiles and precision-guided rockets.
- **Long-range maritime surveillance** through multi-mode radar and electro-optical sensors.
- **Search and Rescue (SAR) and Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)** during humanitarian and emergency operations.
- **Support for Special Operations and fleet logistics** during naval missions.

Significance for India

- **Strengthening of the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare capability** amid increasing submarine activity in the Indian Ocean.
- **Replacement of the ageing Sea King helicopter fleet** with advanced multi-role platforms.
- **Improved maritime domain awareness** across India's vast maritime interests.
- **Enhanced operational capability of frontline warships**, including aircraft carriers and destroyers.

- **Deepening of India-US defence cooperation** under the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

Related Naval Squadrons

Squadron	Base
INAS 334 "Seahawks"	INS Garuda, Kochi
INAS 335 "Ospreys"	INS Hansa, Goa

Challenges

- **High lifecycle and maintenance costs** associated with advanced military platforms.
- **Dependence on foreign suppliers** for spare parts and long-term support.
- **Need for rapid induction of trained aircrew and maintenance personnel.**
- **Integration with indigenous defence systems** for seamless operations.



Way Forward

- **Expansion of indigenous naval helicopter manufacturing** under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Strengthening of anti-submarine warfare capabilities** through advanced sensors and unmanned systems.
- **Enhanced technology transfer and defence co-development** with strategic partners.
- **Development of a self-reliant maintenance and logistics ecosystem** for long-term operational readiness.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-role naval helicopter designed for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare.
2. India procured the helicopters from the United States under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme.
3. The helicopter is equipped with dipping sonar and Mk-54 torpedoes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) **1, 2 and 3**

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

The induction of MH-60R Seahawk helicopters significantly enhances India's maritime security capabilities. Discuss their role in strengthening the Indian Navy's operational preparedness and India's strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific. (150 words)

4.Ultrafast Organic Anode for Next-Generation Rechargeable Batteries

Why in News?

Scientists from the **Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)** and the **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS)** have developed an **ultrafast organic anode material** capable of charging batteries to **80% in just over one minute**, offering a major breakthrough in rechargeable battery technology.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Innovation	Ultrafast organic anode material
Material Used	Covalent Organic Framework (COF)
Developed By	IACS and SNBNCBS (DST)
Charging Performance	80% charge in just over one minute
Compatible With	Lithium-ion and Sodium-ion batteries

What is a Covalent Organic Framework (COF)?

A **Covalent Organic Framework (COF)** is a **highly porous crystalline material** made from light elements such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and boron, linked through strong **covalent bonds**.

Key Features

- **Highly porous structure** providing large surface area for ion storage.
- **Rapid ion transport** enabling ultrafast charging and discharging.

- **Lightweight and chemically stable** for long battery life.
- **Customizable molecular design** for improved electrochemical performance.
- **Compatibility with lithium and sodium ions** for diverse battery technologies.

Significance

- **Reduction in battery charging time** for electric vehicles and portable electronics.
- **Improvement in battery lifespan** through enhanced structural stability.
- **Expansion of sodium-ion battery technology** as a cost-effective alternative to lithium-ion batteries.
- **Strengthening of India's research capabilities** in advanced energy-storage technologies.
- **Support for renewable energy integration** through efficient energy storage solutions.

Applications

- Electric Vehicles (EVs)
- Smartphones and consumer electronics
- Renewable energy storage systems
- Grid-scale energy storage
- Portable electronic devices

Way Forward

- **Expansion of industry-academia collaboration** for commercialization.
- **Greater investment in indigenous battery research** under clean energy initiatives.
- **Development of domestic manufacturing capacity** for advanced battery materials.
- **Promotion of sodium-ion battery technology** to reduce dependence on critical minerals.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs), consider the following statements:

1. They are porous crystalline materials connected by strong covalent bonds.
2. They can facilitate rapid movement of lithium ions in rechargeable batteries.
3. They are useful only for lithium-ion batteries and cannot store sodium ions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Advanced battery materials are critical for achieving clean energy and sustainable mobility. Discuss the significance of Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs) in the development of next-generation rechargeable batteries. (150 words)

5.i-DRONE Initiative and Drone-Based Tuberculosis Diagnosis

Why in News?

An **ICMR study in Telangana** found that the use of drones under the **i-DRONE Initiative** reduced the average time for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis from **16.6 days to 6.9 days** and lowered the cost from **₹9,451 to ₹91**, improving access to healthcare in remote areas.

Key Highlights

Particular	Details
Conducted By	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
Initiative	i-DRONE (ICMR Drone Response and Outreach in North East)
State	Telangana
Diagnosis Time	Reduced from 16.6 days to 6.9 days
Diagnosis Cost	Reduced from ₹9,451 to ₹91

About the i-DRONE Initiative

The **i-DRONE (ICMR Drone Response and Outreach in North East)** initiative was launched by **ICMR in 2021** to improve healthcare delivery in remote and inaccessible regions through drone technology.

Key Features

- **Drone-based transportation of medical supplies** including vaccines, medicines and diagnostic samples.

- **Hub-and-spoke delivery model** connecting health centres with diagnostic laboratories.
- **Temperature-controlled transport** for vaccines and other sensitive medical products.
- **Support for Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations** for long-distance healthcare logistics.
- **Expansion beyond the Northeast** to strengthen healthcare delivery across India.

Significance of the Study

- **Reduction in diagnostic delay** enabling early detection and treatment of tuberculosis.
- **Lower healthcare costs** for patients from remote and economically weaker communities.
- **Improved accessibility to molecular diagnostic facilities** in difficult terrains.
- **Strengthening of India's TB elimination efforts** through technology-driven healthcare delivery.
- **Demonstration of drone technology** for improving public health logistics.

About National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)

Feature	Details
Earlier Name	Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Objective	Elimination of Tuberculosis in India
Strategy	Early diagnosis, universal drug susceptibility testing, free treatment and nutritional support
Global Target	End TB by 2030 (SDG Target 3.3)

Challenges

- **Limited drone infrastructure** in many rural and tribal regions.
- **Regulatory and operational constraints** for large-scale drone deployment.
- **Need for trained personnel** to manage drone operations and logistics.
- **Persistent TB burden** requiring stronger surveillance and awareness.

Way Forward

- **Expansion of drone-enabled healthcare logistics** to underserved districts.
- **Integration of drone technology** with the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.
- **Strengthening of molecular diagnostic infrastructure** at the district level.
- **Greater public investment in digital and healthcare innovations** for disease control.

UPSC Prelims MCQ

Q. With reference to the i-DRONE Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. It uses drones for transporting vaccines, medicines and diagnostic samples.
3. It was initially launched to improve healthcare delivery in the North Eastern region of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question (10 Marks)

Discuss the role of drone technology in improving healthcare delivery in India. How can initiatives such as i-DRONE contribute to achieving the goals of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme? (150 words).