



The Online Gaming Market in India

❖ Context

- Recently, a task force set up by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has prepared a final report of its recommendations to regulate the online gaming industry in India.

❖ Requirement of Central-Level Law

- Online gaming so far has been a **state subject**.
- **Difficulty in Enforcing Certain Rules by State**
 - State governments find it extremely difficult to enforce certain rules like **geo-blocking certain apps** or websites within the territory of their state.
- **Inconsistency in Regulation :**
 - Rules passed in one state are not applicable in another, which has caused inconsistency in how the online gaming industry is regulated in the country.
- **State governments with Lesser Power**
 - State governments also do **not have enough blocking powers like the Centre** to issue blocking orders for offshore betting sites.
- **Societal Concerns :**
 - People losing large sums of money on online games, leading to **suicides in various parts of the country**.
- **No regulatory framework exists** to govern various aspects of Online Gaming Companies. I.e. grievance redressal mechanism.

❖ Online Gaming Market in India

- **Revenue** - \$1.5 billion in 2022 and estimated to reach \$5 billion in 2025.
- **CAGR in India** - 38% between 2017-2020
 - 8% in China, 10% in the US.
 - It is expected to grow at a CAGR of 15% to reach Rs 153 billion in revenue by 2024.
- **New Paying Users (NPU) percentage in India-**
 - Fastest growing in the world for two consecutive years, at 40% in 2020 and reaching 50% in 2021.
- Transaction-based games' revenues grew 26% in India.
- ❖ **Recommendations of the Task Force**
 - A central-level law for online gaming should **apply to real money and free games of skill**, including **e-sports, online fantasy sports contests, and card games**, etc.
 - **Casual games with no real money element** in the form of stakes may be kept outside the scope of such rules unless they have a high number of users in India.
 - **Creating a regulatory body**, which will determine what qualifies as a game of skill or chance, and accordingly certify different gaming formats, seek compliance, etc.
 - **A three-tier dispute resolution mechanism**, similar to that prescribed under the Information Technology Rules, 2021 for online streaming services.
 - Any online gaming platform – domestic or foreign– offering real money online games to Indian users will need to be a **legal entity incorporated under Indian law**.

Aatmanirbhar in Defence Production

❖ Context

- According to a study released in October 2022 by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, **India ranks fourth among 12 Indo-Pacific nations** in self-reliant arms production capabilities.

❖ Key Highlights

- The 12 countries in the study were selected because they have the **highest military spending in the region**.
 - Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
- **China tops the list**, Japan is second, South Korea is in third place, and Pakistan is at number 8.
- **India is ranked as the second largest importer** of arms for its armed forces in 2016-20.
- The study is based on **three indicators of self-reliance in each country-**
 - Arms Procurement.
 - Arms Industry.
 - Uncrewed Maritime Vehicles, the sea equivalent of drones.

❖ About SIPRI

- Established in **1966**.
- It is an **independent international institute** dedicated to **research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament**.

Country	Exporter rank*	Importer rank*	Largest supplier**	Military Spending 2021***	Spending rank****
Australia	3	2	US (69%)	31,754	5
China	1	3	Russia (77%)	293,352	1
India	4	1	Russia (54%)	76,598	2
Indonesia	5	8	US (23%)	8,259	9
Japan	14	6	US (97%)	54,124	3
South Korea	2	4	US (58%)	50,227	4
Malaysia	NA	16	Spain (32%)	3,830	13
Pakistan	13	5	China (72%)	11,305	8
Singapore	7	9	France (43%)	11,115	7
Taiwan	12	15	US (100%)	12,958	6
Thailand	15	10	South Korea (25%)	6,605	10
Vietnam	11	7	Russia (66%)	5,500*****	NA

- SIPRI provides **data, analysis and recommendations**, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.
- Based in Stockholm, SIPRI is **regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide**.

Face to Face Centres



Weapon Systems Branch in Indian Air Force



❖ Context

- In a historic step for the Indian Air Force (IAF), Government has approved the creation of a new branch, called the Weapon Systems (WS) branch.

❖ Key Highlights

- The creation of WS branch would entail unification of all weapon system operators under one entity dedicated to the operational employment of all ground-based and specialist airborne weapon systems.
- The branch would encompass operators in four specialised streams of Surface-to-Surface missiles, Surface-to-Air missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft and Weapon System Operators in twin/multi-crew aircraft.

- The branch will induct specialised cadre officers for handling latest weapon systems. The branch will have four sub-streams - flying, remote, intelligence and surface.
- The existing branches in the air force include the flying branch, engineers, administration, accounts, logistics, meteorology and education.

❖ Significance

- The branch will contribute immensely by enhancing the war fighting capability of the Indian Air Force.
- Weapon systems have become very sophisticated, requiring personnel with deep specialist knowledge to operate them.

United Nations Peace Keeping Forces



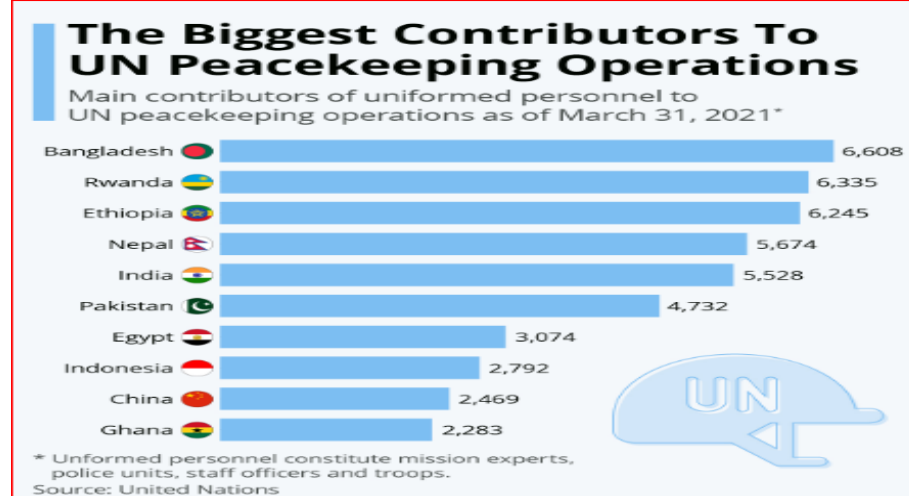
❖ Context

- The number of fatalities among United Nations peace keeping forces (UNPKF) in direct attacks is growing according to the recent reports.

❖ Key Highlights

- The U.N. Peacekeeping mission is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support, and aims to assist host countries to transition from situations of conflict to peace.
- The U.N. began its Peacekeeping efforts in 1948 when it deployed military observers to West Asia.
- The Peacekeeping mission's role was to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.
- U.N. Peacekeepers provide security as well as political and peacebuilding support to conflict-ridden countries.
- The three basic principles that guide U.N.'s Peacekeeping missions are:
 - Consent of the parties
 - Impartiality
 - Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate

- **Note:** Blue Helmets are the military personnel of the U.N. that work alongside the U.N. Police and civilian colleagues to promote "stability, security, and peace processes."
- In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a U.N. Peacekeeping mission.



Child Marriage

❖ Context

- Recently Jharkhand has earned the disrepute of having the highest percentage of underage girls getting married.



❖ Key Highlights

- The percentage of girls getting married before attaining majority is as high as 5.8 in Jharkhand.



- The percentage of females who got effectively married before reaching 18 years of age is 1.9 at the national level and varies from 0.0 in Kerala to 5.8 in Jharkhand.
- In Jharkhand, child marriages accounted for 7.3% of marriages in rural areas and three per cent in urban areas.

- **The Sample Registration System (SRS)** Statistical Report contains estimates of various demographic, fertility and mortality indicators based on the data collected through one of the largest demographic surveys in the world covering about 8.4 million sample populations.
- **Note:** Jharkhand and West Bengal are the only two states in the country where more than half of the women are married before the age of 21 years.

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News in Between the Lines

Rosetta Stone



❖ Context

➤ Many Egypt historians are demanding the U.K to return the **2,000-year-old Rosetta Stone**.

❖ Rosetta Stone

- It is a **large stone slab with inscriptions on it** and is believed to be a **piece of a bigger rock**.
- It has **inscriptions in three scripts**, all of which convey a decree or public message.
- This is **similar to how in Ancient India, King Ashoka ordered stambhas** or edicts that had messages of Buddha's teachings and news about victory in a war inscribed.
- These were then **placed throughout the kingdom** for the public to see.
- Its discovery **helped develop the specific field of ancient Egypt studies, Egyptology**.
- The engraving was done during the reign of **King Ptolemy V** who ruled from 204–181 BC.
- This stone was **'rediscovered' in the time of French king Napoleon Bonaparte**, who launched a campaign in Egypt from 1798 to 1800.
- On Napoleon's defeat later at the hands of the British, the Treaty of Alexandria (1801) led to its transfer and it has been at the British Museum since then.

India's First Solar-Powered Village



❖ Context

➤ Recently, the Prime Minister of India declared **Modhera, a village in the Mehsana district of Gujarat as India's first solar-powered village**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Modhera is famous for its **Sun temple**, which is situated on the river **Pushpavati**.
- The Modhera village is located **25 km from the Mehsana district of Gurajat**, and about 100 km from the state capital of Gandhinagar.
- The village has a **ground-mounted solar power plant**, and over 1,300 rooftop solar systems with **1kW capacity** have been installed on houses to generate electricity.
- Significantly they will be **provided with solar electricity at zero cost**.
- Both the central and state governments have invested over ₹80 crore in this solar-development project in two phases.

'Droni'



❖ Context

➤ Garuda Aerospace announced the launch of a new camera drone named 'Droni'.

❖ Key Highlights

- Apart from Droni, Garuda Aerospace also announced another drone aimed at farmers. Named **Kisan Drone**, it is a battery-powered device that can spray pesticides over a 30-acre land area per day.
- Droni drone is indigenous and can be used for different surveillance purposes.
- It is efficient, seamless, and high quality from tech and builds standpoint.

Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue



❖ Context

➤ External Affairs Minister recently held the 13th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with his Australian counterpart in Canberra.

❖ Key Highlights

- Both Ministers discussed Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement ECTA progress, defence, counter terrorism, mobility of talent and skills, education, double taxation avoidance, critical minerals, cyber, clean energy and Sustainable Development Goals.
- They agreed to work closely together in Quad, trilaterals, G20, UN and other important forums.

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Foreign Direct Product Rule (FDPR)




❖ **Context**

- Recently, **US officials applied FDPR to China's advanced computing and supercomputer industry** to stop it from obtaining advanced computing chips.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- It was first **introduced in 1959** to control the trading of US technologies.
- It essentially says that if a **product was made using American technology, the US government has the power to stop it from being sold** – including products made in a foreign country.
- It enables US regulators to **extend their technology export control powers** far beyond America's borders to transactions between foreign countries and China.
- The latest move would **ban any semiconductor manufacturing firm** that uses American tools – which most do – from selling advanced chips to China.

Anti-Narcotics Operation



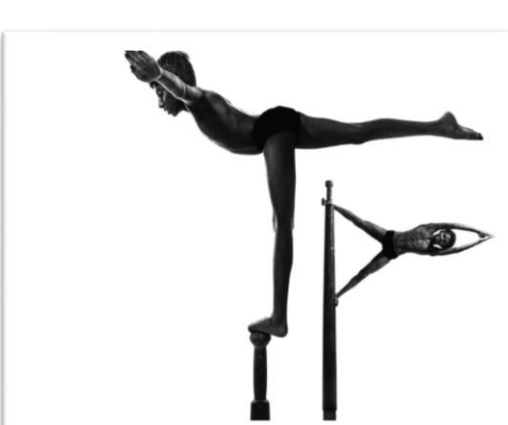
❖ **Context**

- In a coordinated operation at sea, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Indian Navy apprehended a suspicious vessel carrying more than 200 kgs of narcotics.

❖ **About Narcotics Control Bureau**

- The **Narcotics Control Bureau** (abbr. **NCB**) is an Indian central law enforcement and intelligence agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- The agency is tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
- Established in 1986, it is responsible for coordination with the Indian state governments and other central departments, implementation of India's international obligations with regard to drug trafficking, and assisting international and foreign drug law enforcement agencies.

Mallakhamb



❖ **Context**

- Indian indigenous sport Mallakhamb began at the 36th National Games recently.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Mallakhamba is the display of aerial yoga and wrestling grips with vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole performed by a gymnast.
- The word Mallakhamb also refers to the pole used in the sport.
- The pole is usually made from sheesham (Indian rosewood) polished with castor oil. This is one of the five new sports to be played at the National Games this year.
- Competitively, there are several versions but three variations of Mallakhamb sport are in practice since 1937.
 - Pole Mallakhamb
 - Hanging Mallakhamb
 - Rope Mallakhamb

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)



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❖ **Context**

- The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has recently appointed Reetu Jain, as an ex-officio member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The IBBI was established on 1st October, 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a key pillar of the ecosystem responsible for implementation of the Code that consolidates and amends the laws relating:
 - to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons.
 - partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons.
 - to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders.
- It has been designated as the **'Authority'** under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation Rules), 2017 for regulation and development of the profession of valuers in the country.

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