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OCI CARDHOLDERS AND THE LAW

- The OCI scheme was introduced in 2005 for certain foreign nationals of Indian origin.
- India does not permit dual citizenship — an OCI remains a foreign national holding another country's passport.
- Key privileges: A multiple-entry lifelong visa, and exemption from FRRO registration regardless of stay duration. OCIs also **get parity** with Indian citizens/NRIs in certain property, educational, and professional matters.
- **Restrictions Under a March 2021 Notification**
 - OCIs need special permission before undertaking:
 - Research, missionary/Tabligh work, mountaineering, journalistic activity.
 - Certain employment/internships in foreign diplomatic establishments.
 - Entering protected, restricted, or prohibited areas.
 - Crucially: political protests are **NOT** listed among activities requiring prior permission.
- **Political Rights Denied to OCIs**
 - Under Section 7B of the Citizenship Act, OCIs cannot vote or contest elections.
 - Article 19 rights (freedom of speech, peaceful assembly) are guaranteed specifically to citizens, not OCIs.

Can an OCI Be Asked to Leave for Joining a Protest?

- The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 (in force since September 2025, replacing the Foreigners Act, 1946) gives the government wide powers over foreign nationals — and an **OCI remains a foreigner for this purpose**.
- No explicit ban exists on foreigners attending political rallies, but the law grants considerable executive discretion.
- **Provisions Invoked Against Khan**
 - **Section 7(2)(c):** Empowers government to direct a foreigner shall not remain in India or in any specified area therein.

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- **Section 29:** Empowers removal of a foreigner for violating the Act/rules, or based on an adverse security report. Officers may exercise reasonable enforcement powers.
- **Key insight:** The statute doesn't designate "political protest" as prohibited conduct — but it gives the executive latitude to prohibit activities through specific orders or directions.
- **Delegation of power:** A September 2025 notification delegated powers under Sections 7(2) and 29 to FRROs and Foreigners Registration Officers — not confined to the Union Home Ministry alone.
- **A Relevant Precedent: The Kamil Siedczynski Case (2020)**
 - The Calcutta High Court quashed a Leave India Notice against Kamil Siedczynski, a Polish student who had joined an **anti-CAA rally in Kolkata**.
 - The Court, applying the then Foreigners Act, held that mere participation in a political rally alone was insufficient to justify such action.
 - It should be noted that the 2025 Act has since replaced that law, though it retains similarly broad executive powers.

OCI Registration Cancellation: A Separate, Stricter Process

This is governed by Section 7D of the Citizenship Act — distinct from a "Leave India" notice.

- **Grounds For Cancellation**
 - OCI obtained through fraud, false representation, or concealment.
 - Disaffection towards the Constitution.
 - Helping an enemy during war.
 - Conviction for serious crime (in specified circumstances).
 - **Widest ground — Section 7D(e):** Cancellation where the government deems it necessary for sovereignty, integrity, security of India, friendly relations with foreign countries, or "the general public."
- **Key safeguard:** Unlike the power to direct a foreign national to leave India, cancellation expressly requires that the person be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

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INNOVATE TODAY, NOURISH TOMORROW' FOR FOOD SECURITY

- World Food Day 2026, observed on October 16, carries the theme “**Innovate today, nourish tomorrow.**”
- The theme underscores an urgent reality: 645 million people still face hunger globally, while one-third of the world’s population cannot afford a healthy diet.

Why Hunger Persists: Three Interconnected Drivers

- Climate-related risks — reducing yields and disrupting growing seasons.
- Economic shocks and food-price inflation — eroding purchasing power.
- Conflict, war, and civil strife — destroying harvests, displacing farmers, disrupting supply chains, and weakening institutions meant to protect people from hunger.

India’s Transformation: From Scarcity to Surplus

- India has become a food-surplus nation and one of the world’s **largest producers** of foodgrains, milk, pulses, fruits, and vegetables.
- A decisive turning point was the Green Revolution: high-yielding varieties, backed by expanded irrigation and assured prices, boosted cereal production — laying the foundation for India’s public distribution and nutrition schemes.

The World’s Largest Food Safety Net

- India’s food abundance underpins an extensive welfare architecture:

Under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, India provides a legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains to up to 75% of its rural population and 50% of its urban population — reaching approximately **81 crore** people.

Since January 2024, foodgrains have been provided free of cost under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) — a guarantee extended until 2028.

- This system rests on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), strengthened by: **Digitised ration cards; Aadhaar seeding; One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** — enabling migrant workers to draw entitlements anywhere in the country.

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How International Agencies Complement India's Efforts?

- **FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization):**
 - Supports digital agriculture — developing advisory roadmaps and building capacities of frontline extension workers.
 - Works on reducing food loss — measuring losses, assessing environmental impact, and identifying pathways like composting, bioenergy, and recycling.
- **IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development):**
 - Its **financing plus** approach integrates support across the value chain: production, market access, finance, and small-scale infrastructure — designed to crowd in (not replace) domestic public/private capital.
 - IFAD is now lending directly to the private sector, with India hosting one of its largest pipelines of such operations in Asia and the Pacific.
- **WFP (World Food Programme):**
 - Focuses on enhancing public distribution system efficiency through innovations like: Grain ATMs and Supply chain optimization.
 - Works to improve **nutritional effectiveness** of food assistance, especially for children and pregnant women — including promoting dietary diversity and incorporating nutrient-rich millets and other nutri-cereals.

India's Blueprint: Why It Matters Globally?

- India's innovations were shaped by **real constraints**: fragmented landholdings, monsoon-dependent agriculture, multilingual populations, and limited resources.
- This makes India's model particularly relevant for other Global South nations facing similar challenges of climate change, conflict, and economic uncertainty.
- The path forward requires:
 - Moving beyond mere sufficiency toward better nutrition.
 - Scalable innovations built around climate-resilient and biofortified crops.
 - Nutritionally diverse diets.
 - Value chains that reward smallholders.

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A CONTESTED UNSC SEAT POSES A TEST FOR INDIA

- India's bid for a **ninth term** as a non-permanent member of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for 2028–29 presents a significant diplomatic challenge.
- The June 2027 election requires at least **129 votes in the 193-member** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- India faces competition from Tajikistan, raising questions about its global ambitions, relations with the Global South and **commitment to equitable representation**.

The Bid for a Ninth Term

- India has served on the UNSC eight times: 1950–51, 1967–68, 1972–73, 1977–78, 1984–85, 1991–92, 2011–12 and 2021–22.
- It secured 187 votes in 2010 and 184 votes in 2020, reflecting strong diplomatic support.

The Diplomatic Battle

- **India's Advantages and Limitations**
 - India enjoys advantages in population, economic strength, diplomatic reach and UNSC experience. However, these factors do not guarantee electoral victory.
 - Smaller countries increasingly demand equitable representation in international institutions.
 - India's repeated terms could therefore become a disadvantage.

The Crucial Fight: Tajikistan or India

- **Persuading Tajikistan to Withdraw**
 - India could persuade Tajikistan to withdraw, following precedents involving Kazakhstan in 2010 and Afghanistan in 2013.
 - Meetings between Indian and Tajik leaders in September 2026 have not produced such an announcement.
 - A withdrawal would simplify India's path but might reinforce the perception that it prioritises its own ambitions over smaller countries' aspirations.

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- **India Withdrawing Its Candidature**

- India could withdraw and support Tajikistan, seeking endorsement for a subsequent election.
- Such a decision would demonstrate **strategic restraint and regional solidarity** while strengthening India's credibility as a champion of the Global South.

- **The Possibility of Sharing the Term**

- Another option is to divide the two-year term between the candidates, as has occurred in previous contests.
- However, this would require mutual agreement and a willingness to compromise.

The Crisis of Credibility of the United Nations

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza and tensions involving the United States and Iran demonstrate the limitations of existing international mechanisms.
- The **veto power of the five permanent members** frequently obstructs collective action, weakening confidence in international law and the principle of equal treatment.
- Despite these shortcomings, the UN remains essential for diplomacy, development cooperation and international representation.
- India should pursue **comprehensive UN reform**, greater accountability and a more representative global order.

Way Forward

- India should adopt a carefully **calibrated diplomatic strategy**.
- Conduct a **realistic assessment** of voting patterns and engage undecided countries.
- Strengthen relations with African, Latin American and other developing nations through cooperation on climate justice, food security, development financing and technology.
- Explain how **strategic autonomy** supports consistent international principles.
- Undertake a **cost-benefit analysis** of another non-permanent term.
- Evaluate whether competing, negotiating a compromise or withdrawing would best advance India's long-term interests.

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WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK AND DATA SYSTEM

- It is a national initiative under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** to strengthen **weather data infrastructure across India**.
- It is a programme to set up a **nationwide network of weather sensors** to supply **hyper-local weather data**.
- It employs **Automatic Weather Stations** and **Automatic Rain Gauges** to collect hyperlocal weather data at the **Block and Gram Panchayat levels**.
- It **integrates weather data** pooled from **IMD, State Governments, and public/private technical organisations** into a single, unified national-level WINDS portal.
- This is mainly to aid in computing insurance estimates and payouts under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
- It is run by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, and executed through the **Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)**.

Features

- It harness advanced weather data analytics to provide stakeholders with actionable insight to make informed weather decisions on agriculture.
- WINDS will **provide farmers** with critical **weather-related information and data**.
- The WINDS initiative prioritizes the establishment of a robust network of meteorological stations.
- The goal of this effort is to create a **large network of weather stations** that spans the whole nation.
- The goal is to close the knowledge gap and empower decision-makers, farmers, and stakeholders at the grassroots level.

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WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT 2026



- It is an international, multi-stakeholder global health forum.
- The event takes place annually in the German capital Berlin.
- It is organized by the WHS Foundation GmbH, a 100% subsidiary of Charite – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.
- Founded in 2009, it brings together global health stakeholders from all sectors and regions to catalyze collaborative and innovative solutions for key global health priorities.
- Key topics include pandemic preparedness, global digital health integration, climate change impacts, and healthcare equity.
- In addition to the conference in Berlin, the WHS features annual WHS Regional Meetings held in different parts of the world as well as activities throughout the year.
- It is distinct from the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- WHS 2026:
 - Theme: “From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health”

VARUNA STRA



- It is a ship launched, heavy weight, electrically-propelled anti-submarine torpedo.
- It is capable of targeting quiet submarines, both in deep and shallow waters in an intense countermeasures environment.
- It was designed and developed by Vizag-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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- **Features:**

- It is capable of being **launched from surface ships and submarines**.
- **Speed:** It can achieve speeds in **excess of 40 knots** (74 km/h; 46 mph) and has a range of 40 km.
- **Capacity:** It can **carry a 250 kg high-explosive warhead** and has a maximum operating depth of 600 metres (2,000 ft). It has long range with multi maneuvering capabilities.
- It also has an **advanced autonomous guidance algorithm** with low drift navigational aids, an insensitive warhead that can operate in various combat scenarios, and a GPS-based locating aid.

HORNBILL FESTIVAL



- It is celebrated at **Naga Heritage Village** in Nagaland.
- It was **named after the Hornbill bird** given its association with the socio-cultural life of the Nagas.
- It aims to promote **inter-tribal interaction** and preserve **Nagaland's heritage**, blending the traditional with the contemporary in a harmonious display of unity.
- It was initially began as a three-day event, was subsequently expanded to five days and then to ten days, which coincides with **Nagaland's Statehood Day** on **December 1**,
- It is also called the **festival of festivals** and is **held every year**.

Organised by: It is organized by the **State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments** of the Government of Nagaland.

- It has evolved into a celebration showcasing the diverse and **vibrant cultural and traditional heritage** of the tribes of Nagaland.