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BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS (BAS)



- It is an **independent, nonprofit organization** that sought to **warn the public about the danger of nuclear weapons.**

- The bulletin was **founded** by a group called the **Atomic Scientists of Chicago** in **September 1945** at the **University of Chicago.**

- Its **founding members** and **sponsors** were **scientists who had contributed** to the **development of the first atomic bombs** as part of the **Manhattan Project**, including **physicists Albert Einstein, J. Robert Oppenheimer, and Eugene Rabinowitch.**
- It focuses on three **main areas: nuclear risk, climate change, and disruptive technologies.**
- It pursues its goals through media products, **starting in 1945 as a mimeographed newsletter, then a magazine, and now as an online publication.**

Key Facts about Doomsday Clock:

- To **convey the particular peril posed by nuclear weapons**, the **BAS devised the Doomsday Clock in 1947.**
- It is a **symbolic clock** adopted by atomic scientists to **show how close human beings are considered to be to a global catastrophe, with midnight standing for annihilation, or “doomsday.”**
- It is recognized as a universal symbol of threats to humanity from a variety of sources: **nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, climate change, and disruptive technologies.**
- The Doomsday Clock appeared on the Bulletin’s first cover when it transitioned from a newsletter to a magazine.
- Its **original setting** was **seven minutes to midnight.** Since its invention in 1947, the clock has been reset 27 times.
- **In 2026 the clock was set to 85 seconds before midnight,** the closest it has ever been to doomsday.

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G7 GROUP



- It is an **informal grouping of seven** of the world's advanced economies.

- **Members:** Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United

Kingdom, and the United States.

- **Evolution:**

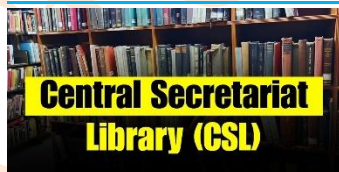
- It was **founded in 1975** in response to **the oil crisis**.
- Russia was a member from 1998, the group temporarily became the G8.
- **In 2014**, the group returned to the G7 format.
- The G7 originally dealt exclusively with issues related to the development of the global economy.

- **Major Focus Area:** It now **covers the entire spectrum of global issues**, such as foreign and security policy, trade, climate, and development.

- **Governance:**

- There is **no firmly established secretariat**, procedural guidelines, or administrative structures.
- **Presidency:** Its **presidency rotates each calendar year** among the member states. The EU does not hold the rotating presidency of the G7.
- The changing agenda and thematic priorities of the G7 are determined by the respective presidency.
- **Decisions** are usually **taken by consensus**.

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY (CSL)

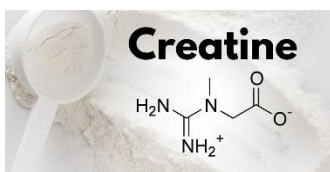


- It is **one of the oldest libraries** of the Government of India.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Culture**.

- **Location:** Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

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- **History:**
 - The library, originally set up as the Imperial Secretariat Library in Kolkata in 1891, was moved to Delhi when the British shifted the capital in 1911.
 - It was moved to North Block after its construction in the 1930s and finally to Shastri Bhawan in 1969.
- In terms of size of collection, it is the second largest Central Government library after the National Library, Kolkata.



WHAT IS CREATINE?

- It is a naturally occurring **nitrogen-containing organic compound**.
- It is a **natural source of energy** that **helps skeletal muscles flex (contract)**.
- It helps **create a steady supply of energy in muscles** so they can keep working, especially while exercising.
- About **half of body's supply** of creatine comes from the diet, especially **protein-rich foods** such as:
 - **Red meat**
 - **Seafood**
 - **Milk**
- The **body produces the other half naturally** in the liver, kidneys, and pancreas from **amino acids** such as arginine, glycine, and methionine.
- **Most creatine** (about 95 percent) is **stored in skeletal muscles** as phosphocreatine.
 - **Phosphocreatine** helps make adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the **primary energy currency of cells**.
 - So creatine in the muscles normally is a **supply for the energy needed during exercise**.
- The **rest of the creatine** (about 5 percent) is **stored in the heart, brain, and other tissues**.

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DESERT NATIONAL PARK



- **Location:** It is located in the Thar Desert near the town of Jaisalmer, in Rajasthan.
- It is one of the largest national parks in the country.
- **Topography:** The substantial part of the park is on a landscape, which comprises of lakebed of extinct salt lakes and thorny scrubs and a considerable area consists of sand dunes.
- **Climate:** The area falls in the extreme hot and arid region of the very low rainfall zone (<100mm) of the country.
- One of the most interesting features of this park is the presence of fossils from the Jurassic Period.
- **Vegetation:**
 - The vegetation of a major part of the arid region of the Thar falls under the thorn forest type.
 - The vegetation is quite sparse with open grassland, thorny bushes, plantations and dunes as the broad habitat types.
- **Lakes:** There are three main lakes in this sanctuary- Rajbaugh Lake, Malik Talao Lake and Padam Talao.
- **Flora:** It consists of dhok, ronj, salai and palm trees. The vegetation is sparse, and patches of sewan grass and aak shrub can be seen.
 - Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) is commonly found, which is revered and protected by the local communities, especially the 'Bishnois'.
- **Fauna:** Blackbuck, Chinkara, Desert fox, Bengal Fox, Indian Wolf, Desert Cat, Hare etc. Reptiles are also found in abundance and they include spiny –tailed lizard, monitor lizard, saw scaled-viper, Russel viper, Karit.
 - The Great Indian Bustard is one magnificent bird found in relatively fair numbers.

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GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE 3

- The Centre approved the **third phase of the Green Energy Corridor (GEC)**, with an outlay of ₹1.86 lakh crore, aimed at facilitating the evacuation of up to 135 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE).
 - Evacuation refers to transferring electricity generated from renewable sources to the places where it is actually consumed.
- This comes as India's rapidly expanding RE capacity poses a growing challenge: ensuring electricity generated from renewables can actually be evacuated and absorbed by the grid when and where needed.

What Is the Green Energy Corridor (GEC)?

- The GEC is a flagship government programme to build dedicated transmission infrastructure integrating large-scale renewable energy — solar and wind — into the national power grid.
- **What's New in Phase 3:** For the first time, GEC includes a dedicated battery energy storage component, with provisions for deploying 50 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
- **Understanding Storage:**
 - Energy storage systems store excess renewable electricity during high-generation periods and discharge it when demand rises but generation remains low.
 - They convert electricity into a storable form when available, then convert it back to electricity when needed.
 - A GWh measures total energy produced, consumed, or stored over a period.

Why This Matters: The Evacuation Problem

- Transmission bottlenecks and grid congestion — particularly during periods of high solar generation in the daytime — are causing renewable power to be curtailed or restricted from being evacuated.

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The Scale of India's Future Needs and Significance of GEC-III

- India is expected to add around **400 GW of RE capacity** between 2030 and 2035–36.
- This would require about 160 GW of additional InSTS infrastructure.
- GEC-III is expected to support 135 GW of this infrastructure creation at the state level.
- **Decentralisation Goal:** The scheme would also help decentralise RE capacity, which has so far been concentrated largely in five states.
 - Proposals have already been received from at least 13 states, expanding GEC's geographical footprint — GEC-I covered eight states, GEC-II covered seven states.
- **Boosting Private Capital:** Greenfield projects — traditionally developed by states via CPB using budgetary resources or loans — will now be opened to TBCB.
 - Experts draw a parallel with inter-state transmission (ISTS), where transmission service providers bring in capital upfront and recover it over a 35-year period.
 - The same model will now apply at the state level, aiming to maximise private capital inflow and competition.

The Challenges So Far

- **Persistent delays.** MNRE is implementing GEC in two phases (GEC-I and GEC-II) to augment transmission lines and transformation capacity. Both have faced consistent delays:
 - GEC-I: Now expected to complete by March 2027.
 - GEC-II: All projects expected to complete by 2028.
- A steering committee at the Cabinet Secretary level will monitor GEC-II and GEC-III progress twice a year.
- **Transmission constraints** are a major barrier to evacuating RE power. In FY26, around 6,900 GWh of clean electricity faced restrictions due to a mismatch between rapid RE deployment and the pace of transmission infrastructure commissioning.

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NEXT-GEN GST - SIMPLIFYING COMPLIANCE, EXPANDING MARKETS AND STRENGTHENING INDIA'S GROWTH

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in **2017**, created a common national framework for **indirect taxation** and sought to replace a fragmented system of multiple indirect taxes.
- After nearly nine years of implementation, Next-Gen GST seeks to take the reform forward through two broad objectives: **rationalising** tax rates and **simplifying** compliance.

Widening Tax Base and Compliance:

- GST participation has expanded significantly, **for example**,
 - GST **registrations** across Central and State jurisdictions reached around 1.71 crore by August 2026, nearly 15% higher than a year earlier.
 - GSTR-3B **returns** filed by their due dates for the April–July 2026 tax periods increased by 12.6%.
- However, rising registration and filing numbers also increase the responsibility of tax administration.
- Businesses require reliable digital services, clear guidance, timely grievance redressal and predictable procedures.

Strengthening Cooperative Federalism:

- GST is fundamentally a product of cooperative federalism, with the Centre and States jointly participating through the **GST Council**.
- **For instance**, States have contributed their priorities and implementation experience to the reform process.
- Their revenue position has also strengthened, with aggregate SGST receipts, including their share of IGST settlements, growing by about 16% during April–September 2026.
- This creates a mutually **reinforcing cycle**: consumer relief → higher demand → enterprise growth → higher tax revenues → greater public investment in infra & services.

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The Road Ahead:

- The next stage of GST reform must focus not merely on tax rates but on the **taxpayer experience**.
- Proposed reforms before the GST Council on 7 October address registration procedures, return filing, refunds, dispute resolution, and improved flow of Input Tax Credit.
- For smaller enterprises in particular, reducing the **time and cost of compliance** is crucial.
- Administrative **simplicity** can allow entrepreneurs to redirect scarce resources from paperwork towards production, innovation, employment and expansion.

Conclusion:

- GST represents a major structural reform aimed at **One Nation, One Indirect Tax**, market integration, formalisation and improved tax compliance.
- Its next phase highlights the shift from merely creating a common tax architecture to improving its efficiency, predictability and **ease of doing business**.

A VISA IS NOT A GUARANTEE: DELHI HC RULES ENTRY INTO INDIA REMAINS A SOVEREIGN DISCRETION

The Delhi High Court has held that possession of a valid visa **does not** give a foreign national an inherent or legally enforceable right to enter India.

The court dismissed a petition filed by a Turkmenistan citizen who was stopped at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, despite holding a valid business visa.

What the Court Ruled?

- The court's central holding: there is **no inherent or legally enforceable right** of a foreign national to seek entry into India.
- **Key Reasoning**
 - Issuance of a visa, refusal of entry, and immigration clearance are **sovereign functions of the State**, involving considerations like national security, foreign policy, and administrative discretion.

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- The court drew a crucial distinction between satisfying the requirements for obtaining a visa and actually being admitted into the country — these are not the same thing.
- The statutory framework, therefore, does not treat the possession of a visa as creating an absolute and unconditional right of admission into India.
- **On the Article 14 Discrimination Argument**
 - The court rejected this too. The mere fact that her husband was allowed entry did not establish that the two were similarly situated in all respects — since the "adverse inputs" specifically concerned the petitioner, not her husband.
 - Without a basis to show infringement of a legally enforceable right, there was no ground to issue a writ under Article 226. The petition was dismissed.

The Legal Framework: Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

- This is the key legislation now governing foreigners in India.
- **Section 3:** Requires a foreigner seeking entry into India to possess a valid passport/travel document and a valid visa.
- However, no foreigner shall be allowed entry or stay if found inadmissible on grounds including threats to:
 - National security, Sovereignty and integrity of India
 - Relations with a foreign State, Public health, or other grounds.
- **Section 7** (along with Section 3 of the now-repealed Foreigners Act, 1946) authorises the Central government to make provisions prohibiting, regulating, or restricting the entry, departure, or continued presence of foreigners in India.
- **At the Point of Entry:** An Immigration Officer examining a foreigner's passport, travel document and visa is empowered to require any information necessary and appropriate — reinforcing that a visa alone does not guarantee admission.