ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

India ended a 12-year wait to clinch a record-extending third Champions Trophy title, beating New Zealand by 4 wickets in the Champions Trophy 2025 final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

- The ICC Champions Trophy is a premier One Day International (ODI) cricket tournament featuring the world's top eight teams.

- The tournament was originally called the ICC Knockout when it began in **1998 in Dhaka (Bangladesh)**. It was renamed the ICC Champions Trophy in 2002.

- It was held every two years until 2009. After that, the event transitioned to a four-year cycle.

- **Tournament Format:**
  - The format of the competition has endured since 2006. The eight teams are divided into two groups of four teams each.
  - Each team plays once against every other team in the group.
  - And then, the top-two teams from each group advance to the semi-finals, determining the two that feature in the summit clash.

- **What made this year's team selection different?**
  - Previously the **top-eight ranked ODI sides** would feature in the Champions Trophy. But for the 2025 edition, the qualification used the results of the 2023 edition of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.
  - The teams **that occupied the top-eight spots in the 10-team points tabl**e, including the hosts Pakistan, sealed their place for the Champions Trophy.

- **Teams in 2025:** India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, New Zealand were in Group A while the remaining four teams — Australia, Afghanistan, England, South Africa — were in group B.

International Cricket Council (ICC):

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the global governing body for cricket. Representing 108 members, the ICC governs and administrates the game and works with our members to grow the sport.

- The ICC is also responsible for the staging of all ICC Events. The ICC presides over the ICC Code of Conduct, playing conditions, the Decision Review System and other ICC regulations.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

- It is the global **intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated** to the promotion of **gender equality,** the rights, and the **empowerment of women.**

- It is p**art of the United Nations**, and works to promote women's political, economic, civil, social, and educational rights.

- As a **functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),** it was established by ECOSOC resolution of 21 June 1946.

- The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's and girls' rights, documenting the reality of their lives throughout the world, and **shaping global standards** on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

- CSW can **also highlight urgent problems,** such as the situation of women and girls affected by conflict.

- In 1996, ECOSOC expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and **reviewing progress** and problems in the **implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

- o The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by 189 countries, is the **most comprehensive** and transformative **global agenda for** the achievement of **gender equality and the empowerment of women** and girls.

- **Annual Sessions:**
  - o During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of **UN member states, civil society organizations,** and **UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York.**
  - o They **discuss progress** and gaps in the **implementation of the** 1995 **Beijing Declaration** and Platform for Action, and the **23rd special session of the General Assembly held in 2000 (Beijing+5),** as well as **emerging issues** that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
  - o Member States **agree on further actions** to accelerate progress and promote women's and girls' enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields.
  - o The **outcomes and recommendations** of each session are **forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.**

MP'S MADHAV NATIONAL PARK BECOMES INDIA'S 58TH TIGER RESERVE

- India is home to over **70% of the world's tiger population**, making tiger conservation a national priority.
- To protect these big cats, the government has established Tiger Reserves under the Project Tiger initiative.

About Tiger Reserves

- A **Tiger Reserve** is a specially designated protected area under **Project Tiger**, aimed at conserving **wild tiger populations** and their ecosystems.
- These reserves are governed by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

- **Key Features of a Tiger Reserve:**
  - **Core Area:** Strictly reserved for wildlife conservation; no human activities allowed.
  - **Buffer Area:** Limited human activities permitted under eco-sensitive guidelines.
  - **Wildlife Protection:** Strict enforcement against poaching, deforestation, and encroachments.
  - **Scientific Monitoring:** Tracking tiger populations, prey bases, and ecosystem balance using advanced technology.

Current Status of Tiger Reserves in India

- As of 2025, India has 58 Tiger Reserves, covering nearly 2.3% of India's land area. Madhya Pradesh leads with 9 reserves, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- The largest Tiger Reserve is **Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam** (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana), while **Bor Tiger Reserve** (Maharashtra) is the smallest.
- The 2022 Tiger Census estimated India's tiger population at 3,167, reflecting a steady rise due to conservation efforts.

Madhav National Park

- On **March 9, 2025**, **Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh** was officially designated as a **Tiger Reserve**.
- **Key Highlights:**
  - **Location:** Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh.
  - **Tiger Population:** 5 tigers, including two new cubs.
  - **Repopulation Efforts:** 3 tigers introduced in 2023 under the Tiger Reintroduction Project.
  - **Government Announcement:** Union Environment Minister declared Madhav National Park as a Tiger Reserve.
- This move strengthens **tiger conservation in central India** and expands **protected habitats**.

INDIA, MAURITIUS AND A VISIT TO DEEPEN LONG-STANDING TIES

- India and Mauritius share **a relationship rooted in history, culture, and kinship.**

- Mauritius has **a substantial Indian-origin population, with nearly 70% of its citizens tracing their ancestry to Indian indentured** labourers brought by colonial rulers to work on sugar plantations.

- The **country is a melting pot of cultures**, with Indo-Mauritians preserving languages such as Bhojpuri, Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi.

- The bond between the two nations **extends beyond cultural similarities**.

- **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam**, **Mauritius' first Prime Minister** and a key figure in its independence movement, was **deeply connected to India's freedom struggle.**

- **His association with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** in London during the early 20th century highlights **the intertwined histories of both nations.**

- Over the years, **India has played an active role in promoting Mauritius' cultural heritage,** as seen in initiatives like the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Indian Cultural Centre, the largest of its kind worldwide.

The Broader Geopolitical Context of India-Mauritius Maritime Ties

- India's maritime cooperation with Mauritius **takes on added significance in the context of China's expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean.**

- **China has been increasing its presence in the region** through investments in port infrastructure, naval deployments, and economic partnerships with various island nations.

- The **development of Chinese-funded projects, including those under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has raised concerns** about the potential militarization of key maritime locations.

- By deepening its security ties with Mauritius, **India is ensuring that the Indian Ocean remains a stable and secure region**, free from external influences that could disrupt the balance of power.

- **The India-Mauritius partnership serves as a counterbalance to China's presence** and reinforces India's role as the primary security provider in the region.

Conclusion

- **Prime Minister Modi's visit to Mauritius on 11 and 12 March 2025, goes beyond ceremonial honours;** it is a reaffirmation of India's commitment to a stable, prosperous, and secure Indian Ocean region.

- **The historical, cultural, economic, and strategic ties between the two nations provide a strong foundation** for continued collaboration.

- As the world navigates uncertain geopolitical waters, **the India-Mauritius relationship remains an anchor of stability and mutual growth.**

WHAT IS PREVENTIVE DETENTION?

The Supreme Court recently quashed a preventive detention order by Nagaland's home department, emphasizing that detaining authorities must independently apply their minds.

- Preventive detention refers to the **detention of an individual without a trial or conviction** by a court.

- The primary objective of preventive detention is not to punish an individual for a past offence but to **prevent them from committing an offence in the future.**

- Preventive detention laws are enacted by governments **to ensure public safety and maintain social order.**

- **Constitutional Provisions and Safeguards:**
  - **Article 22** of the Indian Constitution **grants protection to individuals who are arrested or detained.**
  - It has **two parts**—the **first part** deals with **cases of ordinary law,** which includes situations where an individual is detained as part of a criminal investigation.

- The **second part deals with cases of preventive detention law,** which pertains to the detention of individuals without a trial or conviction.

- **Article 22(4)** states that **no law providing for preventive detention shall authoris**e the **detention** of a person **for a longer period than three months unless an Advisory Board reports** sufficient cause for extended detention.

- The **detainee** is **entitled to know the grounds of his detention.** The **state,** however, **may refuse to divulge the grounds** of detention if it is **in the public interest** to do so.

- The detaining authorities must give the detainee earliest opportunities for making representation against the detention.

Who can make laws under Preventive Detention?

- **Parliament** has the exclusive power to enact a law for preventive detention **for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs, or security of India.**

- **Both Parliament and State Legislature** have powers to enact a law for preventive detention for reasons related to the **maintenance of public order** or the **maintenance of supplies or services** essential to the community.

Laws that provide for Preventive Detention:

- In India, various laws pr**ovide for preventive detention, including the National Security Act (NSA)** of 1980, the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)** of 1967, and state-specific laws like the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and the **Public Safety Acts (PSA) in certain states**.

- Under these laws, authorities can detain an individual for a specific period, typically up to 12 months, without presenting formal charges or conducting a trial.

- The detention order is issued by a designated authority or government official and is subject to periodic review by an advisory board.

INDIA'S OBESITY PROBLEM

PM Modi, in a public address in Silvassa, highlighted obesity as the "root cause of many diseases" and urged Indians to reduce oil consumption. He referenced projections from The Lancet, stating that 44 crore people in India could be obese by 2050.

- Half of the world's overweight and obese adults were from eight countries:
  - China (40.2 crore)
  - **India (18 crore)**
  - USA (17.2 crore)
  - Brazil (8.8 crore)
  - Russia (7.1 crore)
  - Mexico (5.8 crore)
  - Indonesia (5.2 crore)
  - Egypt (4.1 crore)

Defining Obesity

- Obesity is commonly measured using Body Mass Index (BMI), which is the ratio of a person's weight to their height squared.
  - **BMI > 30** → Obese
  - **BMI 25-30** → Overweight
- For children and adolescents (ages **5-17**), the International Obesity Task Force's weight-for-age and gender criteria are used.

Health Risks Associated with Obesity

- Obesity significantly increases the risk of **lifestyle diseases**, including:
  - Type-2 diabetes
  - Heart ailments
  - Certain cancers
- In countries with aging populations and lower birth rates, managing obesity-related chronic illnesses will become more challenging and expensive.

- Aging patients with obesity require more surgeries and incur higher treatment costs.
- Obesity increases susceptibility to infections and severe diseases (e.g., COVID-19).

Causes of the Obesity Epidemic

- Major driver of the obesity epidemic is the shift in dietary patterns, with an increase in:
  - Calorie-dense foods high in sugar, salt, and fats
  - Processed foods with long shelf lives replacing traditional diets
- Multinational food and beverage corporations have moved investments from high-income to low- and middle-income countries, where regulations are weaker.
  - Between 2009 and 2019, the largest growth in per capita sales of ultra-processed foods was seen in Cameroon, India, and Vietnam.

Solutions to Address Obesity

- **Promoting Traditional Food Systems**
  - Supporting local agriculture and food distribution to counter corporate-driven food systems.
  - Introducing additional taxes on unhealthy products, such as sugary beverages.
- **Strengthening Healthcare Responses**
  - Investing in clinical management and treatment of obesity and related conditions.
  - Developing national policies to combat obesity (currently, only 40% of countries have such policies, with even lower adoption in low- and middle-income nations).
- **Expanding Obesity Intervention Research**
  - Most obesity intervention studies focus on high-income countries, necessitating research in low-income regions.
- **Advancing Medical Treatments**
  - New obesity drugs (e.g., semaglutide and terzapatide) show promise.
  - Past obesity drugs had significant side effects, limiting their use.
  - Cost and access remain challenges, but cheaper generic versions may improve availability.