

CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY (CCS)



- The CCS, headed by the Prime Minister, is responsible for important discussions and decisions on defence policy, expenditure, and matters related to national security.
- It is also the apex body when it comes to the appointments of the officials in the national security bodies.

History:

- A committee comparable to the current CCS structure was first formed in independent India in 1947 by then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Formed against the background of a newly independent nation facing national security challenges, the committee was constituted with the primary aim of assessing and addressing the political, economic, and military situations in India's border areas.
- The first emergency meeting of this committee was reportedly called during the Indo-Pak War of 1947–48.
- It was reportedly chaired by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, with Home Minister Sardar Patel and Defence Minister Baldev Singh as its members.
- It was after the 1999 Kargil War that the committee evolved to adopt the present formal structure of the CCS and became a high-powered committee for defence and national security.

Composition:

- With the Prime Minister as its chairperson, the committee typically comprises the Home Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, and External Affairs Minister as members.

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- The **National Security Advisor (NSA)** acts as **secretary-level coordinator** on matters within its purview.
- While the defence minister is a permanent invitee to the panel, other members may be included as per requirements.
- The **Cabinet Secretariat** is responsible for **maintaining records of all the meetings** and proceedings of the CCS.
- The CCS concerns itself with all matters related to defence, foreign affairs, intelligence, nuclear issues, space policy, and major appointments related to national security.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI)



- Established under the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997**, passed by Parliament.
- **Primary mandate:** To **regulate telecom services** in India including **tariff fixation/revision**, which was earlier the domain of the Central Government.
- **Scope of regulation:** Covers areas like **tariffs, quality of service, interconnection, spectrum management, and consumer protection** in the telecom sector.
- **Policy role:** Issues **regulations, recommendations, and orders** that guide telecom policy-making and market practices.

Composition of TRAI

- Consists of a **Chairperson**, a maximum of **two full-time members**, and **two part-time members**.
- **Appointments** are made by the **Central Government**.
- **Tenure:** Members serve for **three years** or until the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

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Joint Committee of Regulators (JCoR)

- **Objective of JCoR:** A TRAI-led platform for fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between regulatory bodies across telecom, IT, consumer affairs, banking, insurance, and financial markets.
 - Created to address regulatory challenges in the digital ecosystem, especially in areas like fraud prevention, spam control, and digital consumer protection.
- **Members:** Includes representatives from RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, MoCA, MeitY, with DoT and MHA as special invitees.

SCRAMJET ENGINE TEST



- A Scramjet (Supersonic Combustion Ramjet) is an air-breathing engine designed to operate efficiently at hypersonic speeds (Mach 5 and above).
- Unlike traditional jet engines, it **does not use rotating compressors**, relying instead on the vehicle's high speed to compress air.
- Scramjets enable **supersonic combustion**, making them suitable for **Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCMs)**.
- Scramjets need **rocket-assisted take off** as they can't generate thrust at zero speed.

Jet Engine vs Ramjet vs Scramjet

Engine Type	Speed Range	Key Feature
Jet Engine	Subsonic to Transonic	Uses rotating compressor, works in atmosphere
Ramjet	Supersonic (Mach 3-6)	Needs forward motion to compress air
Scramjet	Hypersonic (Mach 5+)	Allows supersonic combustion
Dual Mode Ramjet	Mach 4–8	Shifts between ramjet & scramjet modes

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About Hypersonic Missiles

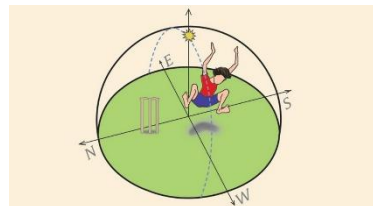
- A **Hypersonic Missile** travels at speeds greater than **Mach 5**, offering high speed and manoeuvrability.
- There are **two types of hypersonic weapons systems**:
 - **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs)**: launched by rockets and glide towards the target.
 - **Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCMs)**: powered by **scramjet engines** and capable of maintaining hypersonic speed throughout the flight. They typically fly at **lower altitudes** and are **more difficult to detect and intercept** due to their speed and manoeuvrability.

CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS (CBIC)



- CBIC is part of the **Department of Revenue**, under the **Ministry of Finance**.
- It administers:
 - **Customs, Central Excise, CGST, IGST, and Narcotics** (where applicable).
 - **Policy formulation** related to levy and collection of indirect taxes.
 - **Custom Houses, Excise & GST Commissionerates, and Revenue Laboratories.**
- CBIC manages customs at: **International Airports, Seaports, Air Cargo Stations, ICDs, LCSs, CFSS, and SEZs.**
- The CBIC is headed by a **Chairman**, supported by **Chief Commissioners and Director Generals** across various zones.
- It also operates a **GST Intelligence Wing** to monitor and prevent tax evasion.

ZERO SHADOW DAY (ZSD)



- It is an interesting **celestial phenomenon** that occurs **twice in a year** when the **Sun is directly overhead** and thus **no shadow of any vertical object can be seen**.

- This event happens for **locations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**.

- The ZSD phenomenon transpires **when the Sun's declination becomes equal to the latitude of the location**.
- On this day, as the sun crosses the local meridian, its rays fall exactly vertically relative to an object on the ground, making it impossible to observe any shadow of that object.
- This is **due to the tilt of the Earth's axis and its rotation around the sun**, causing the **angle of the sun's rays to change throughout the year**, which in turn **affects the lengths and directions of shadows**.

When does it occur?

- There are **two zero shadow days every year**, observed in places that lie **between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**.
- **One falls during the Uttarayan** (when the **Sun moves northwards**), and the other is during **Dakshinayan** (when the **Sun moves southwards**).
- It will clearly be **different for different places** on earth.
- It **lasts for a small part of a second**, but the **effect can be seen for a minute to a minute-and-a-half**.
- The **southern part of India**, roughly **below the latitude of Bhopal**, will experience the **ZSD**.
- The states that can see this event are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Maharashtra, Odisha, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, most of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, and the southern parts of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram.

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A CHANCE FOR INDIA'S CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM TO MAKE WAVES

WAVES 2025: Nurturing the Ecosystem

- To further cement its status in the global M&E arena, the Government of India has launched the **World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)**.
- Scheduled for May 2025 in Mumbai, the summit will feature the **WAVES Xcelerator (WAVEX)**, a dynamic platform to support creative startups.
- This **initiative aims to connect young Indian creators with global industry leaders**, investors, and mentors, addressing key challenges such as funding, visibility, and mentorship.
- India's M&E sector, valued at ₹2,422 billion in 2023, is **projected to reach ₹3,067 billion by 2027**.
- **WAVEX is designed to catalyse this growth**, particularly in frontier areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), gaming, the metaverse, and immersive media technologies.

Key Features of WAVES

- **Inclusivity and Innovation at the Forefront**
 - WAVEX **also champions diversity and inclusivity** by supporting women-led startups like Lapwing Studios and Vygr Media.
 - The **program creates a launchpad for entrepreneurs** who might otherwise struggle for recognition on the global stage. It offers not just financial backing but a structured environment fostering long-term innovation and impact.
- **A Synergy of Art, Science, and Imagination**
 - India's creative revolution is **not confined to the arts**. It reflects a deeper synergy between culture and science, where experimentation thrives in both laboratories and art studios.

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- Institutions like the **Museum of Art and Photography (MAP)** and **Science Gallery Bengaluru** celebrate this convergence, illustrating how creativity transcends disciplines.
- **India's storytelling tradition, spanning classical dance, cinema, comics, and now digital and immersive media, forms the cultural bedrock of this new creative economy.**
- The essence of India's artistic spirit is not just about preserving heritage, but about **transforming it into futuristic, globally relevant expressions.**

Significance of WAVEX: A Vision for Tomorrow

- The **spirit of creativity is most palpable among India's youth**, who are not only shaping today's narratives but envisioning the future of global entertainment and culture.
- **WAVES 2025 is more than an event; it's an ambitious movement to fuel this energy** and turn ideas into enterprises that can influence the world.
- As a catalyst for creative startups, **WAVES represents the future of India's soft power.**
- **Its impact goes beyond economic metrics**, it develops self-expression, cultural exchange, and identity formation in an interconnected world.
- The **government's support, paired with the visionary drive of creators and entrepreneurs**, ensures that India is **not just participating in the global creative economy, it is leading it.**

Conclusion

- With initiatives like WAVES and the unrelenting spirit of its creators, **the country is ready to inspire the world through its stories, innovations, and imagination.**
- The vision of **"Create in India, Create for the World"** is not just a slogan; it is a declaration of intent, one that seeks to place Indian creativity at the heart of global culture and innovation.
- **India stands on the cusp of a creative revolution** and now is **India's moment, to lead, to inspire, and to create.**

TEACHING CHILDREN TO EAT WELL MUST BEGIN IN SCHOOL

Nutrition Education: From Awareness to Action

- One of the key takeaways from the N4G Summit's side event, '**Learn to Eat Well: Bio-diverse Diets and Youth as Agents of Change,**' was the call to embed nutrition education in schools.
- This **education must transcend calorie counting** and include lessons on how to make informed, sustainable, and culturally respectful food choices.
- **In today's fast-paced, convenience-driven food landscape,** where processed foods are easily accessible and aggressively marketed, **such education is more important than ever.**

The Crisis of Dietary Diversity and Rethinking the Focus on Nutrition

- **The Crisis of Dietary Diversity**
 - A major casualty of modern food systems is **dietary diversity**. Despite the UN's adoption of Minimum Dietary Diversity as an indicator under SDG 2, **many children still fail to consume even five of ten essential food groups daily.**
 - **Poor diets contribute not only to malnutrition and obesity but also to chronic illnesses** and mental health challenges.
 - Alarming, **research suggests that 70% of preventable adult diseases originate from childhood habits,** underlining the urgency of early and sustained intervention.
- **Rethinking the Focus on Nutrition**
 - Historically, **nutrition initiatives have targeted the first 1,000 days of life,** from conception to age two, as the most critical period for preventing malnutrition.
 - **Proper nutrition during this period can mitigate early deficits,** aid in growth recovery, and lay the foundation for lifelong health.
 - This **calls for a shift from simply feeding children to teaching them how and why to eat well.**

The Missing Link in Schools

- Despite the critical role schools can play, **nutrition education is often absent, outdated, or disconnected from students' lived experiences.**
- **Teachers frequently lack the tools and training** needed to deliver effective food education.
- A **structured curriculum**, beginning from preschool and extending through middle school, **could fill this gap.**
- **Central to this approach is the promotion of bio-diverse diets**, those that prioritise local, seasonal, and culturally familiar foods, **benefiting not just personal health but also local economies and environmental sustainability.**

The Way Forward

- **Bringing Food Education to Life**
 - To be effective, **food education must be an immersive part of school life.**
 - Weekly lessons, practical experiences like gardening and cooking, healthier canteen options, and student-led campaigns can develop deeper engagement and lasting habits.
 - Around the world, **innovative schools are already demonstrating success:** students are reading food labels, preparing meals, and **understanding the impact of their dietary choices on both personal and planetary health.**

Conclusion

- **In a world grappling with the twin challenges of undernutrition and overconsumption**, climate change, and cultural erosion, **food literacy is no longer optional, it is essential.**
- **Teaching children to eat well is about much more than nutrition;** it is about cultivating respect for health, heritage, and the environment.