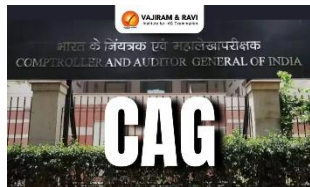


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COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG)



- The CAG of India is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD) and is responsible for auditing government expenditures to ensure financial accountability.
- As per Article 148 of the Constitution of India, the CAG safeguards the public purse and monitors financial transactions at the Central and State levels.
- The CAG is one of the key pillars of Indian democracy, alongside the Supreme Court, Election Commission, and Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The CAG's powers and responsibilities are defined by the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, with amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.

Appointment and Term of the CAG:

- Appointed by the President of India through a warrant under his hand and seal.
- Holds office for six years or until reaching the age of 65, whichever comes first.
- Takes an oath of office to perform duties impartially, without fear or favour.
- Can be removed by the President in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge, which requires a special majority resolution in both Houses of Parliament.
- Can resign at any time by submitting a resignation letter to the President.

Independence of the CAG:

- Cannot be removed at the President's discretion; only constitutional procedures
- After completing tenure, the CAG cannot hold any further government office under either the central or state governments.
- Salary is determined by Parliament, equivalent to that of a Supreme Court judge.
- Administrative expenses (including salaries, pensions, and allowances) are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India, meaning they do not require parliamentary approval.

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- No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament or take responsibility for CAG's actions.

Duties and Powers of the CAG:

- Audits the expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India and State funds.
- Examines government corporations, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and other government-funded bodies.
- Certifies net proceeds of taxes and duties, ensuring financial accuracy.
- Audits debt, advances, and suspense accounts.
- Submits audit reports to the President, which are then presented in Parliament and examined by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- Acts as an agent of Parliament, ensuring that public money is used legally and efficiently.
- Conducts propriety audits to assess whether government spending is wasteful or extravagant.

NAINI LAKE



- It is a natural freshwater lake of tectonic origin, located amidst Nainital city of Uttarakhand.
- Discovered in the early 1800s by the British, the Naini Lake also finds mention in the Skanda Purana as Tri-Rishi-Sarovar.
- The lake is in crescent or kidney shape, and has an outlet at the southeastern end.
- It covers a perimeter of 2 miles with a depth from 6m to 28 m.
- It is one of the four lakes in the Kumaon hills, the three others being Sattal Lake, Bhimtal Lake, and Naukuchiyatal Lake.
- Balia Nala is the main feeder stream of the lake. Other than this, 26 major drains, including the three perennial ones, feed it.
- Mallital is the name of the lake's north end, while Tallital is the name of the southern one, which has a bridge with Gandhi's statue and a post office on its sides.
 - It is the world's only post office on a lake bridge.

VIBE CODING



- Vibe coding basically refers to **using generative AI** not just to assist with coding but **to generate the entire code for an app**.
- At its core, vibe coding is about **communicating with AI in natural language to build apps**.
- Users ask, or prompt, **Large Language Model (LLM)-based models** such as ChatGPT, to **produce the code for an app or service**, and the AI system **does all the work**.
- The term was **coined by Andrej Karpathy**, a **skilled software engineer** who was head of AI at Tesla and a **founding engineer at OpenAI** – the maker of ChatGPT.
- **Vibe coding can help people with ideas** for tools, apps, and services to make them a reality **without the challenge of learning the specifics of a programming language**.
- However, it can also be seen as a **major security risk** as it **replaces experienced human coders with amateurs** or untrained coders who give orders to AI chatbots instead of coding from scratch or understanding existing codebases.
 - Human project managers and coders precisely frame how the code needs to take shape in order to best serve a specific use case.
 - But an **AI code generator may not understand the larger context of what it is creating**.
 - In other words, a Gen AI tool may indeed produce the code that the user requested, but this **generated code might be too slow to run, too expensive to maintain, and too long to scan regularly for security risks**.

PROTECTION OF INTERESTS IN AIRCRAFT OBJECTS BILL, 2025



- The bill **aims to implement** international agreements, particularly the **Convention on International Interests in Mobile**

Equipment (commonly known as the **Cape Town Convention of 2001**) and its **Protocol on Aircraft Equipment**.

- **India** became a **signatory** to these agreements in 2008.
- These international standards are designed to **secure the rights over high-value mobile assets such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines**, thereby ensuring greater **legal clarity and uniformity** across the aviation industry.
- The bill is designed to bring these international agreements into India's legal framework, ensuring that **creditors and stakeholders in the aviation leasing space are protected** under clear guidelines.
- The **bill empowers the central government to make rules** to implement the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol.
- The legislation **designates the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** as the **registry authority for the purposes of the convention**.
- The registry authority is **responsible for the registration and de-registration of aircraft**.
- Key provisions of the bill include the **requirement for creditors to notify the DGCA before initiating any remedies in the event of a default**.
- In cases where defaults occur, creditors will be entitled to recover assets such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines within two months, or a mutually agreed upon timeframe.
- The bill is expected to **provide much-needed clarity and security, particularly in the leasing industry**.

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD)



- It is an umbrella term for a group of **conditions that cause swelling and inflammation of the tissues in the digestive tract**.
- The most **common types** of IBD include:

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- **Ulcerative colitis.** This condition involves **inflammation** and sores, called **ulcers, along the lining of the colon and rectum.**
- **Crohn's disease:**
 - In this type of IBD, the **lining of the digestive tract is inflamed.**
 - The condition often involves the **deeper layers of the digestive tract.**
 - Crohn's disease **most commonly affects the small intestine.**
 - However, it also can affect the large intestine and, uncommonly, the upper gastrointestinal tract.
- **Symptoms:** Symptoms of both ulcerative colitis and crohn's disease usually include **belly pain, diarrhea, rectal bleeding, extreme tiredness, and weight loss.**
- **Causes:** The exact cause of IBD is unknown, but IBD is the result of a **weakened immune system.** Its possible causes are:
 - The **immune system responds incorrectly to environmental triggers**, such as viruses or bacteria, which cause inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract.
 - There also appears to be a **genetic component.** Someone with a family history of IBD is more likely to develop this inappropriate immune response.
- **Treatment:**
 - IBD is a **chronic or long-term condition**, but there are **treatments** available to **ease symptoms** and prevent flare-ups.
 - IBD treatment usually involves either **medicines or surgery.**

INDIA FINALISES TERMS FOR US TRADE DEAL

A day before the US reciprocal tariffs take effect on April 2, India has agreed to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US. The ToR sets the negotiation framework and required high-level approval.

While discussions were still ongoing when US negotiators left after four days of talks, both countries are now set for formal negotiations.

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US Criticizes India's Trade Policy

- The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has raised concerns over India's trade policies in its 'Foreign Trade Barriers' report.
- **Key Concerns Raised by USTR**
 - **Internet Shutdowns**
 - The US claims localized shutdowns disrupt commercial activities.
 - **Dairy Feed Regulations**
 - India mandates that dairy products must come from animals that have not consumed blood meal or internal organs, a rule the US argues lacks scientific justification.
 - **Agricultural and GM Food Imports**
 - India requires GM-free certification for milk, pork, and fish imports, which the US says is not based on scientific risk assessment.
 - The report raised concerns over India's agricultural support programmes, claiming they distort markets.
 - **India's Data Localisation Rules**
 - The USTR report raised concerns over India's data localisation requirements for payment service providers and banks.
 - Since 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that all electronic payment data related to Indian citizens be stored on local servers.
 - **Intellectual Property (IP) Issues**
 - India remains on the 'Priority Watch List' due to weak trade secret protection and slow patent approvals.
 - It flagged multiple issues in India's intellectual property (IP) framework, including:
 - **Patent Delays:** Long waiting periods for patent grants and excessive reporting requirements.

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- **Patentability Restrictions:** The US continues to monitor India's **Section 3(d) of the Patents Act**, which limits patentability to prevent **evergreening** of pharmaceutical patents.
- **Weak IP Enforcement:** Concerns over inadequate protection of undisclosed test data, lack of an early resolution mechanism for pharmaceutical patent disputes, and delays in trademark opposition proceedings.
- **Trade Secret Protection:** The absence of specific laws for safeguarding trade secrets.
- **Medical Price Controls**
 - The US criticized India's price caps on coronary stents and knee implants, arguing they discourage American manufacturers due to inflation and production cost concerns.

THE INDIAN DIASPORA AND THE CASE FOR DUAL CITIZENSHIP

- The movement of people across the world in the last 50 years has been a **significant aspect of global history**, with **India playing a central role**.
- India has the **largest diaspora**, with **over 3.5 crore** Indians living abroad. This migration has profound **economic, cultural, and political implications** for India.

India's Global Migration and Its Impact:

- **Growing Indian diaspora:**
 - The number of international migrants has **tripled since 1970**, now constituting **4% of the world's population**.
 - Nearly **one in 40** Indians lives abroad, making India the **largest source of emigrants**.
- **Economic contributions of the Indian diaspora:**
 - India receives the **highest migrant remittances globally**, amounting to **nearly \$130 billion annually**.

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- These remittances **surpass foreign investment inflows** (\$42 billion) and help cover India's trade and current account deficits.
- The major sources of remittances have **shifted from the Gulf to advanced economies**.

Changing Global Attitudes Toward Migration:

- **Increasing restrictions on migration** and citizenship policies in developed countries.
- **Non-citizens face growing risks**, making foreign citizenship essential for security and travel freedom.
- **Many Indians renounce Indian citizenship** out of necessity rather than choice.

Broader Implications of Dual Citizenship:

- **Strengthening emotional and economic ties:**
 - Many Indians abroad maintain strong emotional ties with India **but face legal and practical barriers**.
 - **Dual citizenship** would **reinforce their commitment**, encouraging **investment and knowledge transfer to India**.
- **Recognizing evolving identities:**
 - In a globalized world, identities are **increasingly complex**.
 - **Genuine dual citizenship** would acknowledge these realities, **ensuring future generations of the diaspora remain connected to India**.
 - It would **eliminate the need for an either-or choice** between nationalities.

Conclusion:

- India's diaspora is **an invaluable global asset**, contributing significantly to the nation's economy and international influence. However, the current OCI framework falls short of fulfilling their aspirations.
- **Recognizing dual citizenship** would **enhance India's global integration** while preserving its strong cultural and economic links with its diaspora.
- As India's presence in the world grows, allowing more of the world into India through progressive citizenship policies is imperative.

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GST E-INVOICING

- GST e-invoicing is a system where B2B and export invoices are reported to the Union Government's e-invoice portal for validation.
- Each invoice receives a unique Invoice Reference Number (**IRN**).
- However, invoices are not generated by the government but are created by taxpayers in their own systems and then reported.
- The system enables seamless electronic data exchange through API integration.

Exempted Businesses

- Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units
- Insurance and banking sectors, including NBFCs
- Multiplex cinema admissions
- Goods transport agencies (road transport)
- Passenger transport services

Advantages of GST E-Invoicing

- **Automation & Efficiency**
 - Invoice details are auto-populated into GST return forms and e-way bills, reducing time and manual effort.
 - Minimizes disputes and processing costs by ensuring digital storage of all forms.
 - Improves payment cycles, enhancing overall business efficiency.
- **Standardization & Interoperability**
 - Uses a digitally verifiable e-invoice format based on international standards.
 - Ensures machine readability and uniform interpretation across different platforms.
 - Allows taxpayers to seamlessly switch between different portals.
- **Fraud Prevention & Compliance**
 - Reduces fraudulent transactions by providing real-time access to data for tax authorities.
 - Helps in curbing tax evasion and malpractice, leading to greater transparency.