



Current Affairs of the Day

₹8 lakh income 'reasonable' cap for EWS quota, Centre tells SC

1. A government committee report in the Supreme Court has said that "income" is a "feasible criterion" for defining the "Economically Weaker Sections" (EWS) in society, and the annual family income of ₹8

Eligibility to get EWS Certificate?

- ✓ **Family Income Less than 8 lakhs Per Annum**
- ✓ **Agricultural Land Less than 5 Acres**
- ✓ **Residential Flat less than 1000 sq.ft**
- ✓ **Residential Plot Less than 100 or 200 sq.yards**



lakh is a "reasonable" threshold to determine EWS in order to extend reservation in admissions and jobs.

2. The committee did not agree with the notion that the Union government had "mechanically adopted" ₹8 lakh as a number because it was also used for the OBC creamy layer cut-off.
3. It said the income criterion for EWS was "more stringent" than the one for the OBC creamy layer.
4. "Firstly, EWS's criteria relates to the financial year prior to the year of application whereas the income criterion for the creamy layer in OBC category is applicable to gross annual income for three consecutive years," the committee said.

Census first phase, NPR data collection deferred till Sept.

1. The first phase of the census and the collection of details to update the National Population Register (NPR) have been postponed at least till September.



THE HINDU
03.01.2022 *Monday*



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2. The Registrar-General of India (RGI) had in December informed the States that the freezing of boundaries of districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations had been postponed till June 2022.

CENSUS	Vs	NPR
Census Act, 1948	← Legal Origin →	Citizenship Rules, 2003
Assesment, Policy and Planning	← Purpose →	Creating NRIC
Literacy, Migration, Employment, Income	← Information →	Birth details of parents and documents
Anonymous and Confidential	← Data Privacy →	Not Confidential
No punishment for non-disclosure	← Punishment →	Punishment for non-disclosure

3. Freezing of boundary limits of administrative units, at least three months prior to the exercise, is a prerequisite for conducting the census. Even if the RGI issues an order in June to freeze the boundaries again, the exercise can take place only in September.
4. The first phase of Census 2021 — the House listing and Housing Census along with updating the NPR — was scheduled to be held between April and September 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic.

MINT GRAPHITI

THE CITIZEN COUNT

<p>What is NPR? It is an identity database of residents. It does not offer the right to claim citizenship.</p>	<p>How is NPR different from Census? Census is a primary source of socioeconomic and demographic data, which is shared as aggregates.</p>
<p>Is privacy guaranteed under NPR? Privacy is not offered formally. The data covered under NPR is available for government use.</p>	<p>How will government use NPR? NPR will be used for identifying beneficiaries for welfare programmes, like in the case of Ujjwala.</p>
<p>Is NPR linked to NRC? The home minister says no. But a 2018-19 govt report says NPR is the first step towards the creation of NRC.</p>	<p>Does NPR have any links to CAA? No. CAA is meant to grant citizenship to non-Muslims fleeing Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.</p>



Draft national air sports policy pushes for safety standards

1. The government released a draft national policy for air sports in the country that will require entities providing these services and their equipment to be registered, as well as be liable for penalties.

2. The policy proposes a two-tier governance structure for air

sports in the country, which will include an apex governing body called the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) and associations for each air sport.

3. It will cover activities like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding, paragliding, microlighting, paramotoring, skydiving, and vintage aircraft.

4. The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and will represent India at the Lausanne-headquartered Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) and other global platforms related to air sports.

5. It will provide governance over various aspects of air sports, including regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties.

6. Each air sports association will lay down its safety standards for equipment, infrastructure, personnel and training, and specify the disciplinary actions to be taken in case of non-compliance. Inability to do so may lead to penal action by the ASFI.





Registration required

1. All persons and entities providing air sports services will be required to register as members of the respective air sports associations. Key equipment used will also have to be registered.
2. It is proposed that popular air sports attractions in the country such as Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh, Gangtok in Sikkim, Hadapsar in Maharashtra and Vagamon in Kerala can be declared as a "control zone" for air sports in order to ensure the safety of other manned aircraft.
3. Schools and colleges will be encouraged to include air sports in their curriculum and their students will have the opportunity to participate in the FAI's international competitions.
4. The draft policy also aims to promote domestic design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan; waive import duty on equipment for a few years; as well as request the GST Council to consider rationalising the GST rate on-air sports equipment to 5% or less.

'Malabar is the most complex naval exercise'

1. While the Navy gears up to hold its largest multilateral exercise 'Milan', there are requests from several countries for various formats of exercises, defence officials said, pointing out that Malabar is the most complex naval exercise India does with any other country.



2. Meanwhile, China continues to expand its presence and assistance in the region, the latest being the delivery of Ming class diesel-electric submarine to Myanmar, its second submarine after the first one given by India.
3. The tempo of exercises has been very high last few years and more and more countries want to exercise with us.
4. These engagements are further amplified by the bilateral logistics agreements, Navy to Navy agreements and information sharing agreements that India has concluded with several countries. Some countries



require a Navy to Navy agreement for their bureaucratic process, the official explained.

5. India also exchanges maritime Information bilaterally with friendly foreign countries to create Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the Indian Ocean Region.

S.No.	Name of exercise	Participating country	Nature of exercise
1.	YUDH ABHYAS	India & United States	Army exercise
2.	KUVERIN	India & Maldives	Army exercise
3.	AUSINDEX	India & Australia	Naval exercise
4.	MITRA SHAKTHI	India & Sri Lanka	Army exercise
5.	Malabar Naval Exercise	India & US & Japan	Naval Exercise
6.	Sundarban Maitri	India and Bangladesh	Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)
7.	Suryakiran	India and Nepal February 8 to 21, 2016	Army Exercise;
8.	Ex Lamitye VII	Indo-Seychelles Joint Training	Army Exercise; 15 February to 28 February 2016
9.	SAADMEx	SAARC	Disaster Management Exercise by NDRF
10.	Exercise Livewire	IAF's annual exercise	Indian Air Force
11.	HAND-IN-HAND	India & China	Army exercise
12.	SLINEX	India & Sri Lanka	Naval Exercise
13.	Indra	India & Russia	Army exercise
14.	SAMPRIITI	India & Bangladesh	Army exercise

**MAINS
DAWP**

Q1. Discuss opportunities and challenges in cryptocurrency when we consider it as an asset, medium of exchange and its technology.

MCQs

Q1. Malabar was originally a bilateral exercise between
 a. India and USA
 b. India and Japan
 c. Australia and India
 d. India and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)