

Daily Current Affairs To The Point by Dhananjay Gautam

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 25 June 2025

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GS Paper 2 – Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice

Draft Registration Bill 2025: A Step Towards Transparent and Digital Land Governance

Context: The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has released the **Draft Registration Bill, 2025**, seeking public suggestions and expert feedback. This significant reform intends to overhaul India's archaic land registration system, replacing the century-old **Registration Act of 1908**.



Objective of the Draft Bill:

The Draft Registration Bill 2025 is designed to modernize the registration

of land and property documents through a citizen-friendly, digital-first framework. The bill aligns with the broader goals of Digital India and aims to ensure greater transparency, accountability, and ease of access in property registration.

Key Features of the Draft Bill:

- Modernized Registration Process: Enables both online and offline registration of property documents using Aadhaar or alternative identity proof, thereby enhancing inclusivity and ease of use.
- **Expanded Scope of Registration**: Mandates the registration of previously unregistered documents like sale agreements, company mergers, and other legal transactions, bringing greater legal clarity to property dealings.
- **Simplified Optional Registration**: Offers provisions for **optional registration of certain documents**, although finer details are yet to be clarified.
- Strengthened Administrative Hierarchy: Introduces new roles like Additional Inspector General and Assistant Inspector General of Registration to support administrative efficiency.
- **Power to Cancel Illegal Registrations**: Empowers the **Inspector General** to cancel registrations obtained through **fraudulent or illegal means**, with a **30-day appeal window** for aggrieved parties.
- **Reduced Penalties**: Lowers the **maximum imprisonment term** for offenses from **7 years to 3 years**, while still imposing monetary **fines** for violations.

Challenges and Concerns:

- **Cybersecurity Risks**: As digital infrastructure grows, concerns over **data security**, **e-signature protection**, and **server vulnerabilities** have surfaced. Experts emphasize the need for a **robust cybersecurity framework** to protect citizens' digital records.
- Role of Common Services Centres (CSCs): Delegating registration tasks to CSCs, which handle complex tasks like stamp duty assessments and title transfers, could lead to inconsistencies and legal ambiguities due to lack of specialized training.

Supporting Reforms and Allied Initiatives:

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

• Revamped in 2016 as a **100% centrally funded scheme**, this programme seeks to create an **integrated land record system**.

- Aims include:
 - Real-time land data access
 - Reduced litigation and fraud
- Elimination of redundant visits to registration offices **Download Our Application**











- o Better data sharing across departments
- Support for policymaking and urban planning

SVAMITVA Scheme:

- Launched on **April 24, 2020**, it empowers rural citizens by providing a **legal "Record of Rights"** in **Abadi areas** of villages.
- Uses **drone and GIS technology** for land mapping, helping property owners with:
 - Loan eligibility
 - Reduced boundary disputes
 - Economic empowerment under Atmanirbhar Bharat

NAKSHA Programme:

- A collaborative initiative with **Survey of India**, it focuses on **urban land record digitization**.
- Targets challenges in **rapid urbanization** by offering **verifiable**, **standardized**, and **accessible** land data.

Additional Insights:

- Why It Matters: Over 66% of civil cases in India are related to land or property disputes. A modern registration system can drastically reduce this burden and enable faster, fairer dispute resolution.
- Global Perspective: Countries like Estonia and Sweden have already implemented fully digital land registration systems, serving as successful models for India's transformation.
- Long-Term Vision: The Bill is expected to pave the way for blockchain-based land records, smart contracts, and AI-powered land analytics in the future.

Conclusion:

The **Draft Registration Bill 2025** is a **timely, progressive reform** aimed at transforming India's property registration landscape. By embracing **digital tools**, ensuring **legal clarity**, and promoting **citizen convenience**, this bill lays the foundation for a more **transparent**, **efficient**, and **equitable land governance system**.

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GS Paper 3 – Economy

Expansionary Policies in a Slowing Economy: Balancing Stimulus and Stability

Context: India is currently navigating a unique economic phase where **both fiscal and monetary policies are expansionary**—a rare and bold move aimed at reviving **sluggish growth**. While this dual approach is intended to **stimulate aggregate demand**, it carries risks such as **inflationary pressures**, **fiscal imbalances**, and **ineffective coordination** between policy arms.



Recent Expansionary Measures:

Fiscal Policy Push (Union Budget 2025–26):

- Allocation of **11.21 lakh crore** towards **infrastructure**, **agriculture**, **MSMEs**, and **digital connectivity**, highlighting a strong emphasis on **capital expenditure**.
- **Income tax relief** provided to spur consumption and household spending during economic slowdowns.

Monetary Policy Support by RBI:

- **Repo rate cut** to **5.5%**, making borrowing cheaper to encourage **investments** and **consumer credit**.
- Implementation of the RBI's **dual mandate**—balancing **price stability** and **growth**:
 - Retail inflation has moderated to **4.6% in 2024–25**, providing space for accommodative policies.
 - Liquidity support extended to financial institutions, NBFCs, and housing finance companies to maintain credit flow.

Challenges to the Expansionary Approach:

- Lack of Policy Synchronisation: Without tight coordination, simultaneous expansion by both fiscal and monetary sides may overheat the economy, leading to a spike in inflation.
- Weak Consumption Response: Despite tax cuts, consumer demand remains subdued. This contradicts the Rational Expectations Theory, which suggests that consumers should respond positively to stimulus.
- **Rising Fiscal Deficit Concerns**: If growth does not accelerate, **tax revenues may fall**, widening the fiscal deficit. This could force the government to reduce **welfare spending**, disproportionately affecting **vulnerable populations**.
- Stagnant Real Wages and Inequality: Although corporate profits are increasing, real wage growth remains flat. Expansionary measures may end up benefiting capital more than labour, deepening inequality.
- **Muted Credit Growth**: Private sector remains cautious, despite **low interest rates**, indicating **low investor confidence** and uncertain business outlook.

Historical Precedents of Expansionary Policies:

- **The New Deal (1930s)**: The US response to the Great Depression, which combined **public works**, **employment programs**, and **financial reforms** to jumpstart the economy.
- **Post-2008 Global Financial Crisis**: Major economies slashed interest rates and launched **quantitative easing** programs to inject liquidity and revive credit markets. In India, the **repo rate dropped from 9% to 4.75%** within a year.

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- Japan's Abenomics (2012–2020): A three-pillar strategy that included monetary easing, fiscal spending, and structural reforms to revive Japan's long-stagnant economy.
- COVID-19 Response (2020-2021):
 - India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** involved a **20 lakh crore** stimulus package.
 - Measures included **direct transfers**, **loan moratoriums**, **repo rate cuts to 4%**, and **liquidity support** to critical financial sectors.

How Expansionary Policies Help:

- **Stimulates Aggregate Demand**: Tax cuts and increased government expenditure **raise disposable incomes**, spurring consumption and investment across sectors.
- **Boosts Employment**: Capital investment in **infrastructure** and **MSME support** creates direct and indirect jobs, especially in **rural** and **informal sectors**.
- Encourages Private Sector Investment: Lower borrowing costs and increased consumer confidence create a favorable climate for businesses to expand operations and hire more workers.
- **Maintains Financial Stability:** RBI's liquidity support prevents **credit crunches** and ensures continued functioning of banks and NBFCs.
- **Short-Term Economic Cushion**: In times of crises like pandemics or financial shocks, expansionary policies provide **urgent relief** through **cash transfers**, **food security**, and **interest subsidies**.

Strategic Way Forward:

- 1. **Institutionalise Policy Coordination**: Establish structured dialogues between **RBI** and the **Finance Ministry** to align objectives and avoid conflicting actions.
- 2. Focus on Targeted Welfare Transfers: Scale up Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs) and employment support schemes to boost grassroots consumption.
- 3. **Comprehensive Tax Reforms**: Blend **income tax relief** with **rationalisation of indirect taxes (GST)** to reduce regressivity and improve consumer spending power.
- 4. **Inflation Surveillance**: Closely monitor inflation indicators and **pre-emptively tighten** monetary policy if **demand-pull inflation** resurfaces.
- 5. **Support Real Wages and Labour**: Implement **minimum wage adjustments**, link productivity to wage growth, and promote **labour-intensive industries**.

Conclusion: Stimulus with a Strategy

India's current reliance on **expansionary fiscal and monetary policies** reflects a proactive approach to counter **slow economic recovery**. While these policies have proven effective in past crises—both globally and domestically—their success lies in **timing, targeting**, and above all, **coordination**.

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GS Paper 3 – Science & Technology

Quantum Communication: India's Leap into the Future of Ultra-Secure Networks

Context: India has achieved a **significant milestone** in quantum technology by **successfully demonstrating quantum secure communication** using **entanglement-based free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**. This feat was accomplished by the **DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE)** at **IIT Delhi**, marking a big step forward in India's **quantum technology roadmap**.



Key Technical Achievements:

- Technology Used: Quantum Entanglement-based Free-Space QKD
- Secure Key Rate: Approximately 240 bits per second
- Quantum Bit Error Rate (QBER): Less than 7%
- Distance Covered: Over 1 km through a free-space optical link on IIT Delhi campus

This demonstration shows India's growing capabilities in **next-generation communication systems** that promise to be **unhackable**.

What is Quantum Communication?

• Quantum communication harnesses the principles of quantum mechanics, especially quantum entanglement, to create highly secure data channels.

Quantum En<mark>tanglem</mark>ent:

When two particles (like photons) become entangled, the state of one instantly influences the other

 regardless of distance. Any attempt to intercept or tamper with the data disturbs the entanglement, revealing the intrusion.

Quantum Key Distribution (QKD): The Core of Quantum Security

QKD is a process that enables two parties to securely exchange encryption keys using quantum principles.

- It uses photons as carriers of quantum information.
- Especially in **entanglement-based QKD**, the security is so robust that even if the hardware is imperfect or partly compromised, **any interference is detectable**.

Benefits of Entanglement-based QKD:

- High Security even with non-ideal devices
- Eavesdropping detection via quantum disturbances
- More **resilient and reliable** than traditional QKD models (like prepare-and-measure)

Applications of Quantum Communication:

Quantum communication has vast strategic potential across sectors:

- Defence and Intelligence: Secure channels for mission-critical information
- Banking & Finance: Tamper-proof systems for transactions and authentication
- Telecom & Cloud Networks: Confidential data transfer
- **Strategic Infrastructures**: Power grids, air traffic, and satellite systems
- Cost-Efficiency: Free-space QKD reduces the need for expensive optical fiber networks, especially in tough terrains
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Why Focus on Free-Space Quantum Communication?

Free-space (or satellite-based) QKD allows quantum communication over **long distances without physical cables**.

- **Optical fiber** networks are expensive and often **unviable** over mountains, oceans, or rural areas.
- Free-space links are better suited for **intercontinental and global quantum communication**.

India's Position and Global Landscape:

- **China** leads the world with a **4,600 km quantum network** and demonstrated **satellite-based QKD** nearly a decade ago.
- **European countries, Canada**, and the **US** have also achieved **free-space QKD demonstrations** beyond **100 km** since 2005.
- India's efforts began in earnest around 2020, meaning it has significant ground to cover in this race.

Key Challenges Ahead:

- **Resource Intensive**: Requires **massive funding** and a **multi-disciplinary workforce** of quantum physicists, engineers, optical experts, and cyber specialists.
- Atmospheric Interference: In free-space channels, weather and air turbulence increase data errors.
- Late Start: India must accelerate R&D to catch up with global leaders.
- Fibre vs Free Space: While free-space is cost-effective, fibre optics offer more stability and reliability in controlled environments.

Roadmap: What Lies Ahead for India

Under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), India has laid out an ambitious plan to develop a pan-India quantum network within the next 5–10 years. Key focus areas include:

- Satellite-based QKD for secure nationwide communication
- Support for quantum start-ups and indigenous hardware development
- Transitioning quantum technologies from lab to market
- Building **quantum cryptography ecosystems** within academic institutions and industries

Additional Insights:

- India's Quantum Mission is backed by over 26,000 crore funding, placing it among the top nations investing in quantum technologies.
- A **quantum internet** where entangled particles form the basis of communication is the eventual goal.
- With **AI and quantum computing** converging in the near future, **quantum communication** will play a **pivotal role** in national security and digital sovereignty.

Conclusion:

India's successful demonstration of **quantum-secure communication** is a **landmark achievement** in its journey toward building an **ultra-secure, future-ready communication network**. While challenges persist, focused investment, policy backing, and international collaboration can position India as a **serious player in the global quantum race**.

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Dravidogecko Coonoor: A Remarkable New Gecko Species from the Nilgiris

Context: A new species of gecko has been discovered in the Coonoor Hills of the Upper Nilgiris, nestled in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu. This discovery adds a fascinating chapter to India's rich biodiversity, as the species is believed to be **exclusively found** in the **Coonoor region**.

About Dravidogecko coonoorensis:

- This newly identified species has been named Dravidogecko coonoorensis, after its native range in the Coonoor area.
- It marks the **ninth species** in the **Dravidogecko genus**, all of which are native to the **Western Ghats**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity.

Unique Habitat and Ecology:

- The gecko has been observed in a **mosaic of environments**, ranging from **montane (high-altitude)** forests to monoculture plantations.
- Notably, it shows **remarkable adaptability**, thriving in both **natural** and **urban surroundings** including:
 - Tree trunks and bark \circ
 - Wall crevices of buildings 0
 - Plant branches and garden structures 0
- Its presence even on man-made structures reflects its resilience and ability to coexist in humanmodified landscapes.

Significance of the Discovery:

- Dravidogecko coonoorensis is now the only known gecko species endemic to high-elevation areas of the Western Ghats, making it ecologically and evolutionarily significant.
- This discovery highlights the **biological richness** of the Nilgiris and the need for **enhanced** conservation efforts, especially in highland ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change and habitat alteration.

What Are Geckos?

- Geckos are a group of small to medium-sized reptiles known for their vibrant colors, nocturnal behavior, and distinct chirping sounds.
- They belong to the **infraorder Gekkota**, and are found across **every continent except Antarctica**.
- Geckos have adapted to a wide range of habitats, including:
 - **Rainforests** \circ
 - Arid deserts \cap
 - **Mountain slopes** 0
 - Urban and suburban environments
 - They are grouped into six major families:
 - **Gekkonidae** (largest family, includes house geckos)

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GS Paper 3 – Environment and conservation









- Phyllodactylidae
- Sphaerodactylidae
- Diplodactylidae
- Carphodactylidae
- Eublepharidae (includes leopard geckos)

Additional Insights:

- The **Dravidogecko genus** is a relatively recent taxonomic classification, and several of its species have only been described in the **past decade**.
- These geckos are **primarily insectivorous** and play an important role in **controlling insect populations**, making them valuable to both **natural ecosystems** and **human dwellings**.
- The discovery of new gecko species also enhances our understanding of **evolutionary biology**, **species distribution**, and **genetic diversity** in tropical highland regions.

Conclusion:

The discovery of *Dravidogecko coonoorensis* serves as a reminder of how much remains **undiscovered in India's ecological treasure troves** like the Western Ghats. This new species, thriving quietly in the **misty hills of Coonoor**, highlights the **urgent need to conserve fragile mountain ecosystems**, not just for their beauty — but for their **unique and irreplaceable life forms**.

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GS Paper 1 – Geography

Qatar in the News: Rising Tensions in the Gulf Region

Context: Recent events have placed **Qatar** at the center of global attention after Iran launched missile strikes targeting the Al-Udeid Air Base, the largest U.S. military installation in West Asia. This significant development has heightened geopolitical tensions in the **Gulf region**, reinforcing the strategic importance of Qatar on the world stage.

Geopolitical and Political Overview:

Location: Qatar is a peninsula situated on the western coast of the ٠ Arabian Gulf (Persian Gulf), giving it a key maritime position in the region.



- Land Borders: The country shares its only land border with Saudi Arabia, emphasizing its dependence on maritime routes and international airspace.
- Maritime Neighbors: Qatar has sea boundaries with Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, placing it in a highly sensitive and strategic maritime corridor.
- **Capital City: Doha**, a rapidly growing urban hub known for its modern skyline and political influence.

Geographical Characteristics:

- The country's terrain is largely **flat and arid**, with minimal elevation changes.
- Northern Qatar features low carbonate hills and rocky outcrops near the Dukhan area, known for its oil reserves.
- In the **southeast**, the desert landscape transitions into **spectacular sand dunes**, especially near Umm Said (Ummsaieed) and the Khor Al Adaid (Inland Sea)—a UNESCO-recognized natural reserve.
- No permanent rivers or lakes exist in Qatar; the primary sources of freshwater are groundwater extraction and desalination, supplemented by rare rainfall.

Additional Insights:

- Al-Udeid Air Base, located southwest of Doha, is not only a critical asset for the United States but also plays a vital role in coalition operations in the Middle East, including surveillance, logistics, and aerial missions.
- Qatar is one of the world's richest countries per capita, thanks to its vast reserves of natural gas and oil.
- The nation is home to the third-largest natural gas reserves globally and is a leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Conclusion: With its **strategic location**, **vast energy resources**, and role as a **diplomatic mediator**, Qatar continues to be a key player in the evolving dynamics of **West Asian politics**. As regional tensions rise, the global spotlight remains fixed on this small yet influential Gulf nation.

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GS Paper 3 – Environment and Disaster Management

Evaporative Demand: A Hidden Driver of Climate Stress in India

Context: India is witnessing a surge in evaporative demand, a crucial yet often overlooked factor influencing the country's water crisis and climate risks. This increase is revealing **gaps in climate monitoring and data infrastructure**, posing serious challenges for water management, agriculture, and disaster preparedness.



What Is Evaporative Demand?

Evaporative demand refers to **how much moisture the atmosphere can potentially draw from land and water surfaces**, assuming unlimited water supply. In simple terms, it reflects **how "thirsty" the atmosphere is**.

Unlike actual evaporation, which depends on available moisture, **evaporative demand is a theoretical maximum** and is driven by atmospheric variables such as:

- Temperature
- Wind speed
- Humidity
- Solar radiation (sunlight exposure)
- Cloud cover

Why It Matters:

Periods of **high evaporative demand** can significantly affect ecosystems and human activities:

- Accelerates drought conditions by drying out soil faster
- **Increases fire** risk by making vegetation more flammable
- **Reduces water availability** for agriculture, leading to crop stress
- Worsens heat stress in both rural and urban areas

When **high evaporative demand** overlaps with **low rainfall**, it leads to a dangerous combination of **critically dry fuels** and **fast-spreading wildfires**, especially in **forested and semi-arid regions**.

Introducing the 'Thirstwave': A New Climate Threat

A "thirstwave" is a newly coined term describing three or more consecutive days of extreme evaporative demand.

Unlike a traditional **heatwave**, which is mainly driven by temperature, a **thirstwave** results from the combined effects of:

- High temperatures
- Low humidity
- Strong winds
- Intense solar radiation

In a **warming climate**, **thirstwaves are becoming more intense**, **more frequent**, **and longer-lasting**, increasing the risk of **severe droughts and wildfires**, especially in regions already prone to water scarcity.

Current Trends and Alarming Indicators in India:

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- Northern and Central India are increasingly vulnerable due to rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall.
- **Crop yields**, especially for water-intensive crops like **rice and sugarcane**, are being negatively affected.
- **Urban areas** are experiencing faster drying of green spaces and water bodies, contributing to urban heat island effects.
- Forest fire frequency in states like Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha is showing a strong correlation with rising evaporative demand.

What Needs to Be Done?

To address this emerging challenge, India needs to:

- Upgrade its climate monitoring systems to better track evaporative demand patterns
- Incorporate evaporative demand in drought early-warning systems
- Support farmers with tools and technologies for water-efficient agriculture •
- Improve land-use planning and forest management to reduce fire risk •

Conclusion:

As the climate crisis deepens, evaporative demand is becoming a critical metric to understand environmental stress and plan for future resilience. Recognizing and responding to thirstwaves and rising atmospheric dryness will be essential for managing India's water security, agriculture, and disaster **preparedness** in the decades ahead.

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