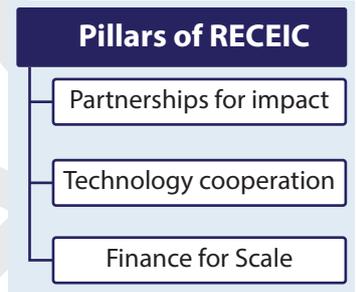


# NEWS TODAY

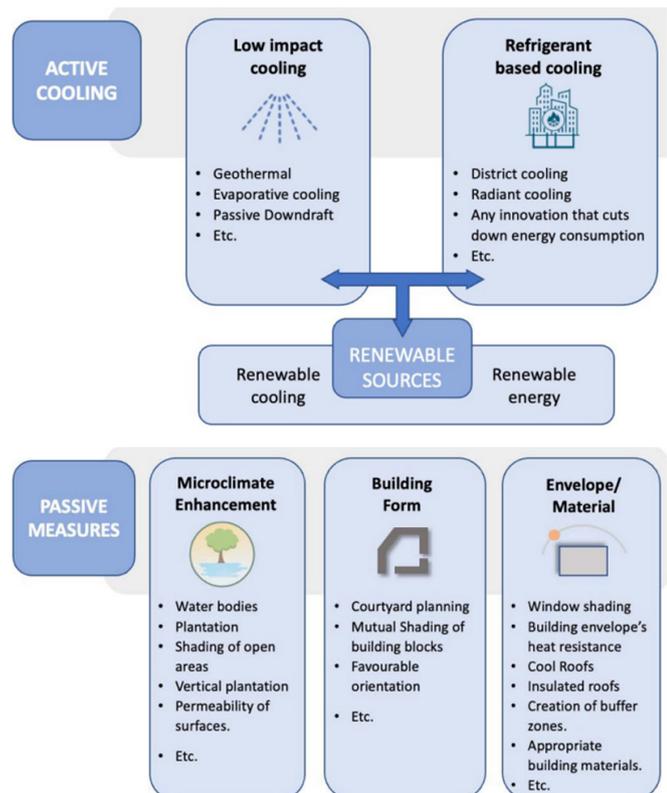
## RESOURCE EFFICIENCY CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDUSTRY COALITION (RECEIC) LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MOEFCC)

- The **RECEIC is conceptualised by India's G20 Presidency** and is envisaged to be industry driven and a self-sustaining initiative.
  - The initiative is **aimed at promoting resource efficiency and circular economy practices globally.**
- **Mission of RECEIC:**
  - Learnings **from diverse and global experiences.**
  - **Unlock private sector action** to enhance resource efficiency.
  - **Contribute towards progress on key global goals** and priorities set by the G20.
- **Resource efficiency and Circular Economy (RECE):**
  - Resource efficiency and circular economy are **strategies that can effectively minimise dependence on natural resources and ensure sustainable development.**
  - While the **circular economy lays much emphasis on the reduce-reuse-regenerate model** to reduce waste, **the resource efficiency aims to maximise the value obtained from resources while minimising their negative effects** on the environment.
  - It is crucial in achievement of **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth)**, etc.
- **Significance of RECE:**
  - Helps in tackling **triple planetary challenges of Pollution, Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss.**
  - **Minimises waste and increases efficiency** of industries.
  - Extends **life of products and enhances reuseage.**



## THE COOLING WEB: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT BY CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

- It cites a range of sustainable cooling solutions that do not rely on conventional cooling practices.
  - **NITI Aayog has estimated that 65% of the energy demand in India is utilised for space cooling and heating and is projected to rise 11 fold by 2037-38.**
  - Recognising it **India became the first in the world to bring out a Cooling Action Plan in 2019.**
- **Major techniques suggested**
  - **Evaporative Cooling:** Involves passing hot air through a medium saturated with water and the heat is transferred to the water, causing it to evaporate and thereby cooling the air.
  - **Utilising geothermal properties of earth:** Earth's surface temperature remains constant at around 24° C for a few metres and building of air tunnels will lead to exchange of heat and provide ambient air.
  - **Design Strategies:** Efficient architectural designs using natural elements to improve the energy efficiency.
  - **District Cooling Systems:** employs a central chilled water source for several buildings to manage their cooling needs.
  - **Dehumidification:** Uses a Desiccant-Based Evaporative Cooler (DEVAP) system that dehumidifies the air and then uses evaporative cooling to bring the air to a comfortable level.



## URBAN EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEMES (UEGS)

- Multiple states like Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Odisha have launched (UEGS) in recent past.
  - **Kerala was the first state** to launch an UEGS in 2011.
- **Need for UEGS**
  - **High Unemployment Rate:** Higher in urban areas (7%) as compared to rural areas (4%) (**Periodic Labour Force Survey 2019-20**).
  - **Rising urban population** coupled with persistently **high inflation**.
  - Most employment schemes prioritise rural unemployment and poverty.
  - **Other issues:** Poor Quality of Job, Low Wages, and lack of social security.
- With poor financial and human capacity of Urban local bodies, there have been calls for an Central Employment Guarantee Programme for the urban workforce in line with MGNREGA. This should be further supplemented through:
  - Investment in urban infrastructure through a **labor-intensive approach**.
  - Capacity **Building of Urban Local Bodies**.
  - **Encouraging small enterprises** to create jobs.
  - Reduce Migration from **rural areas through rural development**.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE RELEASES REPORT ON CYBER SECURITY AND RISING INCIDENCE OF CYBERCRIMES

### • Observations:

- **Cyber security incidents: More than 13 million** cybersecurity incidents were tracked in 2022 (according to CERT-In).
- **Disparity in cyber-resilience between banking entities:** Only 10.92% of cooperative banks completed cyber security audits.

### • Recommendations:

- Consider **cyber security policy framework across five major dimensions** (see infographic).
- Notify **Cyber Forensic labs as 'Examiner of Electronic Evidence'** under **Section 79A** of the Information Technology Act 2000.
- **Oversee and control third-party service providers** including **Big Tech** and Telecom companies, by implementing comprehensive guidelines and standards.
- Service providers e.g., Goggle, Apple etc should share apps' origin, and its developers' identity with Centre.
- Establishment of a **centralised overarching regulatory** called the **Cyber Protection Authority (CPA)**, to tackle financial cybercrimes in India.
- Maintain a **Central Negative Registry** under CPA, which would include information on **fraudsters' accounts** and the **official documents they have utilised**.
- CPA should engage **ethical hackers** to test organisation ecosystem participants.
- Establishment of a **whitelisting framework by the CPA** for Digital Lending Agencies and **"financial intermediaries"** for standardisation of digital lending.

### Five major dimensions of cyber security

Establish a more dynamic and proactive regulatory framework;

Consumer grievance redressal and compensation mechanisms.

Strengthen central and state cyber security enforcement capabilities.

Achieve closer global cooperation with other leading countries.

Empower a Centralized cyber security authority for India's digital ecosystem

## CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 PASSED IN RAJYA SABHA

- The bill has been aimed at **suppressing piracy and bring the 1952 Cinematograph Act in harmony with various SC's judgements**.

- The 1952 Act provided for establishment of **Central Board of Film Certification**.

### • Key Highlights of the bill

- It expands the **UA category** under the Act, by introducing 3 age-based certification in "UA" category, namely **"UA 7+", "UA 13+" and "UA 16+"**. The 1952 act provided Films with:

- **'U':** Films **without restrictions**.
- **'UA':** Restricted to parental guidance for aged under 12.
- **'A':** Only for adults.
- **'S':** Only for a class of persons.

- It provides for **Separate certificate for television/other media**.

- It provides that the certificates will be **perpetually valid** as opposed to the **present validity of 10 years**.

- It **prohibits carrying out or abetting unauthorized recording or exhibitions of films**.

- It omits **section 6(1)** (as directed by **SC in UOI Vs KM Shankarappa Case**) of the Act relating to **revisional powers of the Central Government against CBFC's decisions**.

- However, **govt would have revisional powers if complaint is received under Section 5B (1)** (in sync Reasonable restriction under Article 19 of the Constitution).

# SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS MAY RESULT IN PUBLIC SAVING: MINISTRY OF LAW

- Simultaneous Elections (SE) are defined as **structuring the Indian election cycle** in a manner such that elections to **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronized together**.
- SE was held in **1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967**. The cycle was disrupted due to the premature dissolution of assemblies in 1970.
- **Requires amendment in Constitutional Provisions**
  - **Article 83:** duration of Houses of Parliament,
  - **Article 85:** dissolution of Lok Sabha by the President,
  - **Article 172:** duration of the state legislatures,
  - **Article 174:** dissolution of state legislatures, and
  - **Article 356:** imposition of President's Rule in states.
  - It would also require obtaining the consensus of all political parties.
- **Significance**
  - **Reduced expenditure:** incurred for the conduct of separate elections.
  - **Better governance:** Frequent elections lead to the imposition of a Model Code of Conduct over prolonged periods affecting normal governance.
  - **Free manpower:** which otherwise is being deployed for prolonged periods on election duties.
- **Challenges:** practical problems like midterm elections make it less feasible, and the requirement of additional resources like VVPATs would burden the system.

## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was passed by the Lok Sabha.</li><li>• <b>Features:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A total of 183 provisions are being <b>proposed to be decriminalized</b> in 42 Central Acts.</li><li>➤ Pragmatic revision of <b>finances and penalties</b> commensurate to the offence committed;</li><li>➤ Establishment of <b>Adjudicating Officers and Appellate Authorities;</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Benefits:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Ensures that the degree and nature of punishment is commensurate with the <b>severity of the offence</b>.</li><li>➤ Boost to <b>ease of living</b> and ease of <b>doing business</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• Reduces undue pressure on the justice system and helps in a more <b>efficient and effective</b> justice dispensation.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• India, Laos signed MoU for implementation of various <b>Quick Impact Projects</b> in the fields of education, health, water facility and IT.</li><li>• <b>QIPs are small-scale</b>, low-cost projects funded by UN peacekeeping missions</li><li>• QIPs are <b>mainly implemented through local actors</b> including local authorities, <b>non-governmental and grassroots organisations</b>.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Global Climate Litigation Report: 2023 Status Review</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Report was published by the UNEP.</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The report provides an <b>overview of key climate litigation cases</b> from the past two years (2020–2022 period).</li><li>➤ It highlights that <b>climate change litigations have more than doubled since 2017</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• Climate change litigation includes cases that <b>raise material issues of law or fact</b> relating to climate change <b>mitigation, adaptation or the science of climate change</b>.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TRAI releases <b>Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Repealing Regulations, 2023</b>.</li><li>• It repeals <b>Regulation on Quality of Service of Dial-Up and Leased Line Internet Access Service, 2001</b>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Its objective was to <b>ensure customer satisfaction</b> by laying down <b>norms of network performance</b>.</li><li>➤ These regulations were issued when the <b>dial up service was the only service available for accessing low speed internet</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• With the <b>passage of time, the telecommunication networks, both wireline as well as wireless, have evolved to offer high speed</b> internet services.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ This has made the 2001 regulations irrelevant.</li></ul></li></ul>

 <p><b>Digital Payment Index (DPI)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Reserve Bank of India's</b> DPI rose to 13% against the previous year.</li><li>• <b>About DPI:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ It measures the extent of <b>digitisation of payments across the country</b> and reflects the expansion of various digital payment modes</li><li>➤ <b>It is published on a semi-annual basis.</b></li><li>➤ <b>Comprises 5 broad parameters</b> with different weightages viz.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Payment Enablers</b> (weight 25%),</li><li>■ <b>Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors</b> (10%),</li><li>■ <b>Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors</b> (15%),</li><li>■ <b>Payment Performance</b> (45%) and</li><li>■ <b>Consumer Centricity</b> (5%)</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Initiatives launched by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MoES unveiled <b>several service-centric initiatives</b> on its 17th foundational day, namely.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Rainfall Atlas of India (1971-2020):</b> prepared by IMD, using data of 4389 rain gauges and is expected to provide resources for various agencies, researchers, students and operational meteorologists.</li><li>➤ <b>Indian Ocean Biodiversity Information System (IndOBIS):</b> a web portal features the biodiversity of the Indian Ocean Exclusive Economic Zone and also provides information on marine species of the Indian Ocean.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up NAQUIM since 2012 to map aquifers in the country.</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ An aquifer is a body of porous rock or sediment saturated with groundwater.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>NAQUIM was initiated as a part of the Ground Water Management and Regulation scheme to delineate and characterize the aquifers</b> to develop plans for ground water management.</li><li>• It aims to <b>provide comprehensive and realistic information</b> on the geologic framework, hydrologic characteristics, water levels, and the occurrence of natural and anthropogenic contaminants.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Cherry Farming</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The prolonged cold weather and rain have damaged the cherry crop cultivation in the Kashmir Valley.</li><li>• <b>Climate:</b> require cool weather with temperatures between 15°C to 25°C during the growing season and temperatures below 7°C to induce flowering.</li><li>• <b>Soil:</b> should be well-drained, rich in organic matter, and have a pH between 6.0 to 7.5.</li><li>• <b>Rainfall:</b> Annual rainfall of 100-125 cm.</li><li>• <b>Area of Cultivation :</b> primarily grown in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand</li><li>• <b>Common Varieties:</b> Makhmali, Siya, Mishri, Jaddi, Dabal, Italy, Vishkan and Stela.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Conjunctivitis (pink eye)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is the swelling or <b>inflammation of the conjunctiva</b> i.e., a <b>clear tissue covering the white part of your eye</b> and the inside the eyelids.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Conjunctiva</b> provides <b>protection and lubrication of the eye</b> by the production of mucus and tears.</li></ul></li><li>• It can occur due to <b>allergic or chemical reaction</b> or due to Infectious cause caused by <b>bacteria or virus.</b></li><li>• <b>Common symptoms</b> include redness, itching, excessive tearing and a gritty feeling in the eye.</li><li>• <b>Spread:</b> direct or indirect contact with an infected person's eye secretions, <b>contaminated objects</b>, or respiratory droplets.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Dengue (Break bone fever)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysed samples in Delhi have confirmed the <b>presence of Type-2 Strain of the Dengue Virus.</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ It is a <b>viral infection that spreads through Aedes aegypti mosquitoes</b> in tropical and subtropical climates.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Symptoms:</b> Vary from asymptomatic cases to cases with high fever, headache, body aches, nausea and rash.</li><li>• <b>Treatment:</b> No specific treatment for dengue.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A vaccine called <b>Dengvaxia</b> is used for people who have had dengue at least once.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Serotypes:</b> DenV1, 2, 3 and 4, of which DenV-2 is considered as most Severe strain.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Serotypes</b> are groups within a single species of microorganisms, such as bacteria or viruses, which share distinctive surface structures.</li></ul></li></ul>