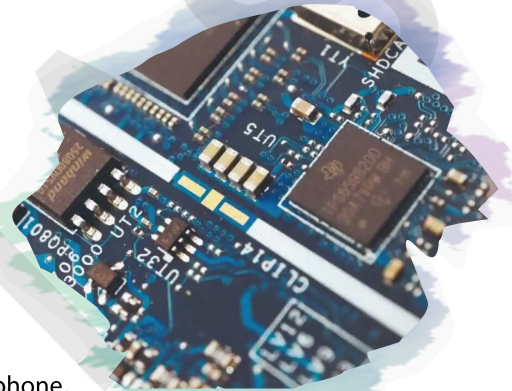


# NEWS TODAY

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT TO FURTHER WORSEN CHIP SHORTAGE: MOODY'S ANALYTICS

- The conflict can hit **semiconductor chips** supply, already constrained due to the pandemic.
  - Russia controls **44% of global palladium supplies**, Ukraine produces a **significant 70% of neon supplies** -- the two key raw materials that go into making chips.
  - Ukraine also supplies **rare gases** used to produce semiconductor fab lasers.
- The shortage further accentuated due to **lockdowns and stay-at-home** that **spurred growth** in sales of laptops.
- **Semiconductor chips** are materials that **conduct electricity more than an insulator but less than a pure conductor**.
  - They can be classified into a small number of categories including **memory chips, microprocessors, and integrated chips**.
  - They act as **tiny brains for most modern electronics**.
  - These are **widely used in industries like automakers, electronics** (TV, Smartphone, computers etc.), data centers etc.
- **India's initiatives for Semiconductor manufacturing:**
  - **India Semiconductor Mission** to drive the long-term strategies for developing a sustainable semiconductors and display ecosystem.
  - **Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme** for semiconductor and display board production with an investment of Rs 76,000 crore over the next 5-6 years.



## GENERAL CONSENT FOR CBI NOW WITHDRAWN BY MEGHALAYA

- Meghalaya has become the **ninth state** to withdraw the general consent to the CBI for investigation.
  - Earlier, Mizoram and seven other states, **Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Kerala** have withdrawn their general consent.
- **About General Consent**
  - As CBI is governed by **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946**, it must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
  - The **consent can be either case-specific or general**.
  - A "general consent" is normally given by states to help the CBI in **seamless investigation of cases** of corruption against central government employees in their states.
- **What does the withdrawal of general consent mean?**
  - CBI will **not be able to register any fresh case** involving officials of the central government or a private person in the state without the consent of the state government.
  - However, Supreme Court and High Courts can order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country **without the consent of the State**.



### ABOUT CBI

- It is the **main investigation agency of the central government** for cases relating to corruption and major criminal probes.
- It is not a statutory body. It derives its **power from the DSPE Act**.
- It comes under **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.

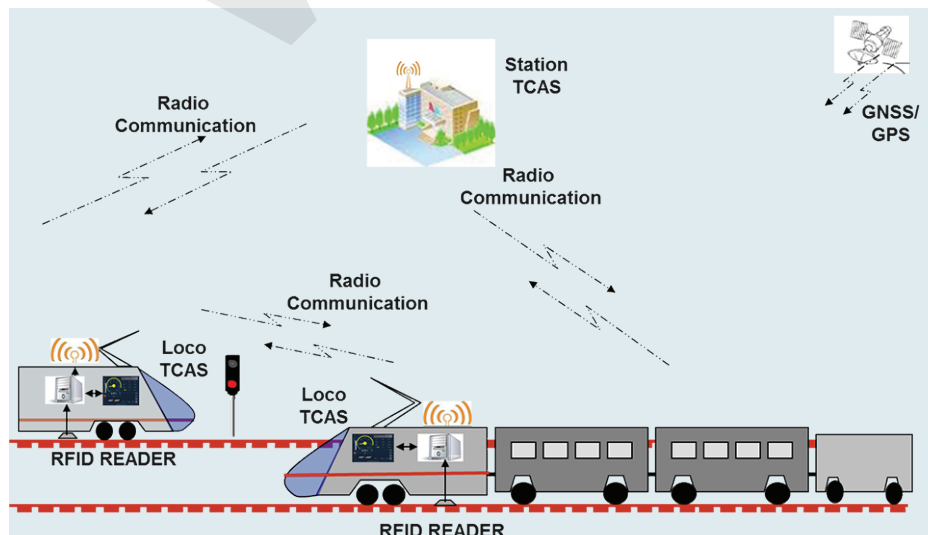
## WHAT IS CAATSA (COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT)?

- CAATSA is a 2017 **US law targeting Iran, North Korea and Russia** and can be invoked against any country or entity that carries out business transactions with them.
  - Among others, Act primarily deals with **sanctions on Russian interests** such as its oil and gas industry, defence and security sector, and financial institutions, in the **backdrop of its military intervention in Ukraine** (in 2014) and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US Presidential elections.
  - **Sanctions are unilateral**, and not part of any United Nations decision.
- Earlier, **India got a waiver from the outgoing Trump administration** on the S-400 air defence system. Russia began deliveries of the system to India in November 2021.
  - Russia's attack on Ukraine, and India's **neutral positioning in the conflict** have put the S-400 deal back under the spotlight.
- **Why it can be concern for India?**
  - Russia has **historically been one of the major suppliers** of arms and ammunition to India.
  - India is still **heavily dependent on Russian arms**. Russian arms make up **half of India's total military imports** (as per SIPRI data).



## KAVACH IS SET FOR COUNTRYWIDE IMPLEMENTATION BY TAKING UP 4,000-5,000 KM EACH YEAR: RAILWAYS MINISTER

- Minister of Railways inspected the trial of 'Kavach' working system between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations.
- Kavach is the indigenously-developed **train collision avoidance system (TCAS)**.
  - It is a **set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices** installed in locomotives, in the signalling system and tracks.
  - These **communicate with each other using ultra-high radio frequencies** to control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers
- **Key features include:**
  - It **automatically takes over and applies sudden brakes** — in case of a human error in jumping a red signal and **prevents rear-end collisions** too when they are on the same line.
  - **The hooter sounds by itself** when a level crossing is approached helping the loco-pilots during fog conditions when visibility.
  - **Speeds automatically shift to permissible limits** during curves or on bridges.
- It is in **development since 2012 and is developed by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** in collaboration with Indian industry and trials facilitated by South Central Railway.
- **Other initiatives taken for safety in railways:** Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings, Online Monitoring of Rolling Stock and Switch over to **Linke Hofmann Busch coaches** for safety of Railway Passengers, etc.



## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (I&B) HOLDS CONSULTATION WITH FILM INDUSTRY ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CINEMATOGRAPH ACT

- Cinematograph Act, 1952 made **provision for the certification of cinematograph films for exhibition and for regulating exhibitions by means of cinematographs**.
  - Under it, **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**, a statutory body under I&B Ministry, **regulates the public exhibition of films**.
- **Key Provisions of Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021**
  - **Empowering government to direct CBFC to reconsider certification** it has issued to a film.
  - **Subdividing the U/A category** to U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+
  - **Adding Section 6AA to curb piracy** by introducing penal provisions.
- **Concerns raised against the bill**
  - Central Government would have the **power to revoke or recall certification of films** that have already been cleared by CBFC.
  - It is against the **recommendations of Mudgal Committee (2013) and Shyam Benegal Committee (2016)** on film certification.
  - Film fraternity held that some provisions **stifle creativity** by being hinderance to open expression and discussion.
- **Suggestions:** Encouraging self-regulation, Limiting the extent of censoring power of the state, increased usage of content warnings involving explicit material etc.



## ALSO IN NEWS



Anti-conversion Bill

- Haryana introduced the '**Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022**', aimed at prohibiting **religious conversions through force or fraud** etc. by making it an offense.
  - There is **no central anti-conversion law**.
- **Key provisions**
  - **burden of proof** lies on the accused.
  - **Declares marriage null and void**, solemnized by concealment of religion.
- **Supreme court in Rev. Stanislaus vs State of Madhya Pradesh (1977) case** upheld the anti-conversion laws of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Court highlighted that **Article 25 does not include the Right to Convert**.



Meghalaya-Assam border dispute

- Meghalaya governor said that soon border issues with Assam would be resolved in **six areas** (Tarabari, Gizang, Hahim, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilangkata and Ratacherra).
- The dispute was sparked in **1972 when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam**.
  - It was as a result of **different readings of the demarcation** of boundaries.
  - There are **12 areas of differences along the inter-State border**.
- Both the states have signed an **MoU** in this regard which was **sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further examination**.



Kherson, Ukraine

- Russian forces have captured **Kherson, situated on the Dnieper River** that flows into the Black Sea.
- **Its significance**
  - It is important port city, that provides an **important economic trade route to the Mediterranean Sea**.
  - Black sea can act as a **security buffer zone** from any threats that might arise in its south.
  - Home to the **Kherson Shipyard** which specialises in the construction of various types of vessels like merchant ships, tankers, container ships, etc.



Project ARYA (Attracting and retaining youth in agriculture)

- Project ARYA, initiated by **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, is the recognition of the **importance of rural youth in agricultural development of the country**.
  - Its prime objective includes **attracting and empowering the Youth in Rural Areas** to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for **sustainable income and gainful employment in selected districts**.
  - It is implemented through **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)**.
  - **Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes act as Technology Partners**.
- ICAR is an autonomous organisation under **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.



Draft notification of the Building Construction Environment Management Regulations, 2022.

- Issued by **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Key features**
  - **At least one tree for every 80 square meters** of land needs to be planted within construction sites. It will ensure a 10 percent green cover for every plot.
  - Applicable to **built-up area of or greater than 5000 square meters**.
  - **Rainwater harvesting or groundwater recharge** systems will also be mandatory.
  - **No construction** will be allowed on **wetland and water bodies**.
  - **On-site solid waste management** for certain projects.



Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved **continuation** of the scheme 'Modernisation Plan-III' for CAPFs from 2022 to 2026.
- **Key features**
  - Scheme will **equip CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment, upgraded IT solutions** as per their operational requirements and deployment pattern in different theatres.
  - Implementation of the scheme will improve the **overall operational efficiency and preparedness** of CAPFs.
- CAPF includes **Armed Police Organisations under MHA**, including Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police, National Security Guard and Seema Suraksha Bal.



**Nokkukooli**

- A draft proposal to **amend the Kerala Headload Workers Act 1978** with a provision for upto two years of imprisonment for a worker demanding 'nokkukooli' is awaiting ministerial nod.
- Nokkukooli is the **age-old practice by trade unions demanding a 'fee' for workers even when they were not hired to do work.**
- In November 2021, **Kerala High Court directed the State Police to treat Nokkukooli as extortion.**



**Medicinal Marijuana**

- Recently, **Costa Rica has legalised the use of medicinal marijuana** and also the cultivation and industrial production of hemp.  
 > However, for **recreational purposes it remains banned.**
- Medical marijuana uses marijuana plant or its active chemical (Cannabinoids) to **treat diseases or conditions like glaucoma;** mental health conditions like schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); etc.
- In India, the **use of Marijuana is not completely banned** as its medical and scientific use is allowed under the law.
- However, its **sale and consumption are banned** under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.



**Shirui Lily Festival**

- It is an **annual five-day State festival** organised by the Department of Tourism of **Manipur.**
- Its aim is to **spread awareness about the endangered state flower 'Shirui Lily'**  
 > It is a unique species of ground lily that **is found only** in the **Shirui Hills of Manipur.**  
 > It is about a **foot tall** and its flower resembles the shape of a bell. It **blooms only during the months of April to June** every year.
- The festival helps celebrate rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of Manipur, and gives chance to **learn more about the Tangkhul Naga tribe living in the region.**



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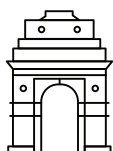
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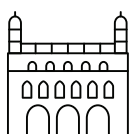
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**DELHI**



**LUCKNOW**



**JAIPUR**



**HYDERABAD**



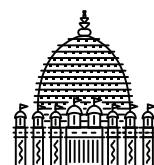
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