

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelimbits 07-07-2025

### Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

*Prelims: Economic Development | Social Sector Initiatives | Current events of national and international importance*

#### Why in news?

Recently, Union Cabinet had approved Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability.

- **Administered by** - Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Objectives** - To enhance job creation, employability and social security in all sectors.
- **Focus on** - Manufacturing Sector and Incentives for 1<sup>st</sup> timers.
- **Target** - To support employment generation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in 2 Years with an outlay of Rs.1 lakh Crore.
- **Features** - It consists of 2 parts with
  - Part A - Focused on 1<sup>st</sup> timers
  - Part B - Focused on employers

#### Part A: Incentive to 1<sup>st</sup> Time Employees

- It will offer 1-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in 2 installments.
- **Target** - 1<sup>st</sup> time employees registered with EPFO.
- **Eligibility** - Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.
- **Significance** - It will benefit around 1.92 crore 1<sup>st</sup> time employees.

#### Part B: Support to Employers

- **Coverage** - It will cover generation of additional *employment in all sectors*, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector.
- **Eligibility** - Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least 2 additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or 5 additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least 6 months.
- **Support** - The employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.
- The Government will incentivize employers, up to Rs 3000 per month, for 2 years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least 6 months.
- For the manufacturing sector - Incentives will be extended to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years as well.

The **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)** is a popular *savings scheme* introduced by the EPFO under the supervision of the Government of India. The employee and employer each contribute 12% of the employee's basic salary and dearness allowance towards EPF.

**Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** is a *non-constitutional body* that promotes employees to save funds for retirement. It was launched in 1951 and is governed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It covers Indian and international workers.

- **Incentive Payment Mechanism** - All payments to the 1<sup>st</sup> time employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).
- Payments to the Employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.
- **Significance of the scheme** - It will *formalize the country's workforce* by extending social security coverage for crores of young men and women.

## Reference

[PIB | Employment Linked Incentive \(ELI\) Scheme](#)

## Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV)

**Prelims:** *Current events of National and International Importance.*

## Why in the news?

*Recently, A man in New South Wales has died from Australian bat lyssavirus..*

- ABLV (Australian Bat lyssavirus) is a rare but deadly virus found in Australian bats.
- The virus has been found in species of flying foxes and insect-eating microbats.
- **Transmission** - Infected bats can transmit the virus to people, other bats and other mammals.



- **Causes** - The virus (a close relative to rabies, which does not exist in Australia) is transmitted *when bat saliva enters the human body through a bite or scratch.*
- **Symptoms** - First symptoms can take days or years to appear.
  - Early signs of the disease are flu-like a headache, fever and fatigue.
  - The victim's condition rapidly deteriorates, leading to paralysis, delirium, convulsions, coma and death.
- **Treatment and cure** - It is extremely rare to see a case of Australian bat lyssavirus, there is no effective treatment for it.
  - If bitten or scratched by a bat, apply an antiseptic with anti-virus action.
  - Require treatment with rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine.
- **Prevention** - It is better to stay away from handling bats, especially without proper vaccination and training.
- People should avoid touching or handling bats, as any bat in Australia could carry lyssavirus.

*First identified in 1996, by scientists at the national science agency CSIRO, who examined brain tissue from a flying fox that had been showing "nervous*

signs" in New South Wales.

- **Severity** - It is fatal, only four cases including this one, have been confirmed in Australia, all of which have resulted in death.

## References

1. [The Hindu | Australian Bat Lyssavirus \(ABLV\)](#)
2. [TheEconomicTimes](#)

## Sheesh Mahal

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance | Indian art and culture*

### Why in the news?

*Recently Sheesh Mahal, a Mughal-era palace, located in Shalimar Bagh, North Delhi, was restored and unveiled by Union Culture and Tourism Ministry.*

- The magnificent 17<sup>th</sup>-century palace, constructed under Emperor Shah Jahan's reign, showcases skilled Mughal architectural elements.
- The building is an important part of the vast complex Mughal garden complex.
- **Construction** - Originally constructed of bricks and red sandstone.
- It was intended to be a replica of Shalimar Bagh in Kashmir, which was created by Emperor Jahangir in 1619.
- It is still intact in Delhi outside of Red fort and Humayun tomb complexes.
- The garden and water channels resemble paradise, offering both peace and display of dominion over nature.
- **Historical importance** - Aurangzeb held his imperial coronation here.
- It also served as one of the British forces camping's during 1857 uprising.
- **Recent developments** - the palace and its surrounding gardens now protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ASI undertook Restoration works of palace heritage features, Mughal-style *Char-Bagh* landscape recreated by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to revive its original glory.

**Charbagh architecture**

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Theme 6	Theme 7	Theme 8	Theme 9
Poverty Free and Inclusive Growth	Healthy and Sustainable	Child Friendly	Water Secure	Clean and Green	Proactive and Self-Sufficient	Socially Inclusive	Proactive and Self-Sufficient	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Charbagh is a **Persian-style garden layout, in which the main building is put at the centre of a quadrilateral garden, divided by walkways or flowing water into four smaller parts**. where four gardens are positioned at four corners of four quadrants. Charbagh style was brought to India by Mughals

**Reference**

[The Hindu | Sheesh Mahal](#)

[Times of India](#)

**India’s Aluminium & Copper Vision Documents**

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance | Indian Economy*

**Why in news?**

*India recently unveiled Aluminium and Copper Vision Documents 2047, which is aligned with Viksit Bharat vision.*

- **Aluminium vision document** - It is a pivotal step in charting the sector’s future and outlines a growth roadmap to transform India into a global aluminium hub.
- Aluminium will be critical in driving the country’s journey towards becoming the third largest economy and a developed nation by 2047.
- **Objectives** - It aims to scale aluminium production from 4.5 MTPA to nearly 37 MTPA **(Six times)** by 2047.
- To expand **bauxite production** to **150 MTPA** by 2047.
- To double the national **aluminium recycling rate**.
- To promote **low-carbon technologies** and **raw material security**.

- **Strategic importance of aluminium** – The vision highlights aluminium’s critical role in,
  - Clean energy systems
  - Electric mobility
  - Modern infrastructure
  - Achieving net-zero targets
- India is the world’s second largest producer of aluminium, and it accounts for just 6% of global production.
- It points that significant growth potential is there in aluminium production as there is more untapped resource.
- **Copper vision document** - It provides a long-term strategy to meet growing domestic demand while ensuring raw material security,
- **Objectives** - To scale up aluminium production by six times from current production by 2047.
- To add 5 MTPA smelting and refining capacity by 2030.
- To focus on secondary refining, domestic recycling, and securing overseas mineral assets.
- The document anticipates that copper demand will increase six-fold by 2047.
- **Copper's role in green technologies** - The vision recognises copper’s essential role in,
  - Energy transition
  - Infrastructure development
  - Electric vehicles and solar power

### **Significance of the Aluminium and Copper Vision documents**

- Achieving Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in production.
- Strengthening raw material security.
- Promoting circular economy and recycling.
- Enhancing value-added exports and global market share.

### **Reference**

[The Hindu| India’s Aluminium & Copper Vision Documents](#)

### **India’s CAFE Norms for Small Cars**

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance*

## Why in news?

Recently, a study by Nomura (a research and consulting firm in Japan) recommended reforming India's CAFE norms to relax emission targets for small cars.

- **CAFE Norms** - The **Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)** norms were introduced by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in **2017** to regulate fuel consumption and carbon emissions from passenger vehicles.
- It apply to vehicles that are under **3,500 kg**, including petrol, diesel, CNG, LPG, hybrid, and electric vehicles.
- **Current targets under CAFÉ** - As per the 2022-23 norms, automakers must ensure,
  - **Fuel consumption** - Not more than 4.78 litres per 100 km.
  - **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** - Not more than 113 grams per km.
- These norms are designed to reduce oil imports, cut air pollution, and promote cleaner vehicles.

## Nomura Study Highlights Bias Against Small Cars

- **Linear weight-based approach** - As the weight of a vehicle increases, the allowed CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target also increases, in a linear (straight-line) manner.
- The study states that India's linear weight-based approach results in **stricter CO<sub>2</sub> targets only for lighter vehicles**.



- But in other hand heavier vehicles like SUVs get relaxed targets, even if

they emit more CO<sub>2</sub>.

- **Regulatory paradox** - Reducing a car's weight is a common way to cut emissions but in India, as a car gets lighter, its emission target becomes even stricter, making light weighting efforts counterproductive for small cars.
- But globally there is relaxed norms for smaller, lighter cars to encourage their use due to their environmental and socio-economic value.

### Examples from Global Markets

- **USA & China** - Both follow a piecewise linear approach, where targets remain constant below a certain size/weight.
- **South Korea** - It offers constant targets and additional benefits (5-7g/km relaxation) for small car sales.
- **Japan** - It uses a non-linear approach, avoiding strict penalties for lightweight, small cars.

### Reference

[The Indian Express| India's CAFE Norms for Small Cars](#)

