



For success in a changing world

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 06-12-2025

GS-2

1. Assam Accords
2. Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA)
3. Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) Rules

GS-3

4. Repo rate
5. Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

Assam Accords

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity.

Context:

- The **Supreme Court** has sought clarification from the **Union Government** on whether the **new exemption order** allowing persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries to enter/stay in India violates the **Assam Accord's 25 March 1971 cut-off**.
- The petition argues that legitimizing entry after 1971 **undermines demographic and cultural protections** assured to Assamese people.
- This issue has revived debates around **immigration, citizenship, and Clause 6 safeguards**.

Background

- The **Assam Accord** was signed on **15 August 1985** between:
 - Union of India
 - Government of Assam
 - All Assam Students' Union (AASU)
 - All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP)
- It concluded the **Assam Movement (1979–1985)** — a mass agitation against illegal immigration from Bangladesh.
- Objective:
Detect and deport foreigners who entered Assam **after 24 March 1971 (midnight)**.

Key Provisions of the Assam Accord

Cut-off Date

- **1 January 1966** → Citizens of India
- **1 January 1966 – 24 March 1971** → Detected as foreigners but:
 - Names removed from electoral rolls
 - Required to register as foreign nationals
 - Voting rights restored **after 10 years**

- After 25 March 1971 → To be **detected & expelled** as per law

Administrative Framework

- Enforcement under:
 - **Foreigners Act, 1946**
 - **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1939**
 - **Registration of Foreigners Act & Rules (1939)**
- Electoral roll cleansing & registration mechanisms were mandated to identify post-1966 immigrants.

Clause 6 – Cultural & Political Safeguards

- Ensures:
 - Protection of Assamese **cultural, social, linguistic identity**
 - Constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures
- Ongoing demands include:
 - **Reservation** in jobs & political representation
 - Preservation of land & resources for indigenous Assamese

Clause 6 remains **partially unimplemented**, leading to committees and constant political debate.

Legal & Constitutional Status

- Incorporated into law via **Section 6A** of the Citizenship Act (special provisions for Assam).
- Recently upheld by the Supreme Court as **constitutionally valid** (4:1).

Current Controversies

- New exemption order for "persecuted minorities":
 - Allegedly **extends citizenship eligibility beyond 1971** for Assam.
 - Seen as contradictory to the Assam Accord & Section 6A.
- Political groups (e.g., AGP, AASU) oppose any such relaxation.

Why the Issue Remains Sensitive

- **Demographic Anxiety:**

- Fear of indigenous population being outnumbered
- **Electoral impact:**
 - Concerns over illegal immigrants influencing voting patterns
- **Ethno-linguistic Identity:**
 - Assam's cultural integrity seen as threatened

Way Forward / Policy Suggestions

- Clear legal distinction between **humanitarian relief** and **regional safeguards**
- Fast-tracking implementation of **Clause 6**
- Transparent and updated **NRC** process with proper verification
- Federal coordination with Assam's socio-political sensitivities

Conclusion

The Assam Accord remains a cornerstone for balancing **immigration governance, national security, and indigenous rights** in Assam. Any deviation from the **1971 cut-off date** continues to trigger strong political, legal, and identity-based pushback in the state.

Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA)

Syllabus:GS-2: e-Governance

Context

- The Department of Posts has drafted an amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023 to introduce **DHRUVA** — a standardized and interoperable digital addressing system for India.

What is DHRUVA?

- **Full Form:** Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address
- Developed by the **Department of Posts**.
- Establishes a **nationwide Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.

- Uses **geocoded digital addresses** ensuring accuracy and validation.

Objective

- To create a **Unified Addressing System** across India enabling:
 - Efficient service delivery
 - Better governance
 - Enhanced digital transactions and logistics

Key Features



- **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS) model:**
 - Secure, consent-based address sharing
 - Efficient interaction between:
 - Government agencies
 - Businesses
 - Citizens
- **Interoperability** across various address databases
- **Standardization** of address formats and geolocation mapping

- **Public-private ecosystem** enablement
- **User-centric** data control:
 - Citizens can update, manage, and share their verified address
- **Mobile-first, multilingual** platform
- Will integrate with **Aadhaar** and other ID systems

Significance

- Recognizes **digital addresses as core public infrastructure** similar to:
 - Aadhaar (identity infrastructure)
 - UPI (payments infrastructure)
- Supports:
 - E-commerce & last-mile delivery
 - Urban planning & land governance
 - Emergency services & disaster response
 - Ease of accessing welfare services

Relation to DIGIPIN

- Builds upon recently launched **Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN)** or **National Addressing Grid**.

DIGIPIN: Key Facts

- Developed by: **Department of Posts** with **IIT Hyderabad&NRSC-ISRO**
- **Open-source, nationwide geocoded addressing system**
- India divided into **4m × 4m grids**
- Each grid assigned a **unique 10-character alphanumeric code**
- Benefits:
 - Improved emergency and disaster response
 - Enhanced logistics & delivery efficiency
 - Better governance and planning

Potential Challenges

- Data privacy and cybersecurity concerns
- Digital divide and user awareness
- Need for strong institutional coordination across sectors

Conclusion

DHRUVA aims to revolutionize India's addressing system through **standardization, accuracy, and citizen empowerment**, aligning with India's broader vision of Digital Public Infrastructure and efficient digital governance.

Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) Rules

Syllabus: GS-2: Governance – Rules and Regulations.

Context

- India's aviation sector has seen major disruptions due to new FDTL rules.
- Tighter fatigue norms led to crew shortages, causing widespread delays and cancellations (especially at IndiGo).

What is FDTL?

Strict rostering rules

FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitation) is DGCA's framework regulating flight crews' hours. Airlines must navigate crew schedules in consonance with these rules

What the rules say

WEEKLY REST Pilots must get 48 consecutive hours' rest a week to help them recover from fatigue.

RESTRICTED NIGHT LANDINGS Pilots can perform a maximum of 2 landings during night operations (between midnight and 6am).

CONSECUTIVE NIGHT DUTIES Airlines cannot roster flight crew members for more than two consecutive nights with a duty period within the night operations.

Limits to duty periods

Flight duty-period (FDP) limit: Pilots are not allowed to fly more than one hour over and above the flight time, as well as pre-flight and post-flight duties.

Ultra-long haul flights: For pilots operating ultra long haul routes (like to the US and Canada), an additional 24 hour rest period is mandated after two consecutive flights.



- Regulatory framework controlling:

- Maximum **duty hours** and **flying hours** for pilots
- Limit on **night operations**
- Minimum **mandatory rest periods**
- Objective: Prevent fatigue-related safety risks.

Regulating Authority

- Issued and enforced by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- Revised and notified: **January 2024**.

Key Features

- **48 hours continuous weekly rest** → Enhances pilots' recovery and reduces cumulative fatigue.
- **Night period redefined: 00:00 – 06:00** → More protection during high-fatigue circadian window.
- **Limit on Night Operations**
 - Max **two night landings**
 - Max **two consecutive night duties** → Reduces performance degradation during critical landing phases.
- **Fatigue Reporting System**
 - Mandatory reporting framework for pilots
 - Transparency in crew fatigue management
 - Airlines must restructure rosters accordingly
- **Phased Implementation**
 - Timeline up to **Nov 1, 2025**
 - Airlines must expand crew strength and revise traditional scheduling patterns

Significance

- **Enhances flight safety** Based on scientific fatigue-risk principles.
- **Global Alignment** Brings India closer to **ICAO** and international aviation standards.

- **Improves work-life balance & well-being** of flight crew→ Leads to better operational discipline.

Challenges

- Immediate crew shortage due to new constraints
- Flight cancellations causing passenger inconvenience
- Increased workforce and training requirement for airlines
- Higher operational costs

Way Forward

- Strategic crew expansion and better fatigue risk management systems (FRMS)
- Improved planning for high-demand seasons
- Tech-driven predictive rostering to optimise resources

Repo rate

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy

Context:

- RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) reduced the **repo rate by 25 basis points** — from **5.50% to 5.25%**.
- Monetary stance: **Neutral**, signaling balanced focus on growth and inflation stability.
- Updated projections:
 - **GDP Growth** expected to rise (positive outlook for FY26).
 - **Inflation** expected to remain within target band.

What is Repo Rate?

- **Definition:** Interest rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks against government securities.
- **Monetary Policy Tool:**
 - Controls **liquidity, inflation, and credit flow** in the economy.

➤ **Mechanism:**

- Banks borrow from RBI → pay repo rate as interest → affects market lending rates.

➤ **Significance:**

- Influences lending rates, cost of borrowing, economic activity, and currency stability.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

➤ A **six-member** body responsible for deciding interest rates like repo rate.

➤ Established under **RBI Act, 1934 (amended in 2016)**.

➤ Meets **at least 4 times a year**.

➤ **Members:**

- RBI Governor – Chairperson
- Deputy Governor (Monetary Policy)
- One RBI-nominated member
- Three Government-appointed external experts

Impact of Repo Rate Changes in the Indian Economy

When Repo Rate is Reduced (like now)

➤ **Cheaper Loans**

- Lower EMIs for home, car, and business loans.

➤ **Boosts Consumption**

- Individuals purchase more goods (automobiles, real estate).

➤ **Encourages Investment**

- Firms expand operations, adopt new technology.

➤ **Supports Key Sectors**

- SMEs and agriculture get easier credit access.

➤ **Improves Liquidity**

- More funds circulate in the financial system.

- **Enhances Economic Growth**
 - Higher demand → Higher production → Job creation.
- **Strengthens Consumer Confidence**

When Repo Rate is Increased

- **Costlier Credit**
 - Loans become expensive → demand slows.
- **Controls Inflation**
 - Reduces excess spending and overheating.
- **Encourages Savings**
 - Higher deposit rates.
- **Attracts Foreign Capital**
 - Higher returns strengthen rupee.
- **Maintains Macro Stability**
 - Avoids speculative bubbles and uncontrolled growth.

Why RBI Cut Rates Now?

- **Inflation under control** → room for monetary easing.
- **Strong GDP growth trends** → need to sustain momentum.
- **Global slowdown fears** → domestic demand needs support.
- **Policy focus on investment, housing, SMEs, agriculture.**

Risks & Challenges Ahead

- **Inflation may rebound** if liquidity expands too fast.
- **Incomplete transmission** — banks may delay passing benefits to borrowers.
- **Reduced interest income** for savers and pensioners.
- **External vulnerabilities** — capital outflows, rupee volatility.
- **Possibility of over-leveraging** if borrowing rises excessively.

Conclusion

- The **repo rate cut to 5.25%** marks a calibrated shift towards **growth support**, while maintaining caution through a **neutral stance**.
- Effectiveness will depend on:
 - How well banks transmit rate cuts to borrowers,
 - Inflation trajectory,
 - Financial market stability.
- RBI continues to balance **price stability**, **growth momentum**, and **financial stability** — the core of India's monetary policy framework.

Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

Syllabus: GS-3: Wildlife – Species in news.

Context:

Latest News

- Researchers documented **unique predatory behaviour** of Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab at **Rushikonda Beach**, India.

About Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

- Belongs to **Genus: Ocypode**
- Named “**Ghost Crab**” due to:
 - Pale body blending with sand
 - Swift, nocturnal/dawn-dusk movements
- Acts as a **keystone species** → indicator of **coastal ecosystem health**
- **Six species** reported along **Indian coastline**
- **Habitat:** Intertidal zones of sandy beaches
- **Distribution: Indo-Pacific region**
 - East Africa → Philippines
 - Japan → Great Barrier Reef (not in Red Sea)



Threats

- Coastal pollution
- Sediment distribution changes
- Rising sea temperatures
- Altered tidal patterns → forcing movement to new microhabitats for feeding

Characteristics

- Primarily known as **scavengers** in intertidal food webs
- Build **deep burrows** in sand for shelter and moisture retention

Diet & Predatory Behaviour

- Hunts actively:
 - Clams, snails, worms, isopods, shrimps, insects
 - Also preys on other crabs including **smaller hermit crabs**
- Documented behaviour at Rushikonda shows **opportunistic and adaptive feeding strategies**

Ecological Role

- Crucial for **nutrient cycling** in sandy beach ecosystems

- Burrowing activities:
 - Aerate sand
 - Influence **distribution & abundance** of small organisms
- Serve as prey for shorebirds → **maintain food chain balance**