



## SRVA AND INTERNATIONALISATION OF RUPEE

In a bid to boost rupee trade, RBI has allowed non-residents holding [Special Rupee Vostro Accounts \(SRVAs\)](#) to invest surplus balances in G-Secs.

### RBI's Measure

- ⌘ Non-resident entities can now invest surplus rupee balances in G-secs and [Treasury Bills](#).
- ⌘ Unlike the previous procedure, now Authorised Dealer banks can open SRVAs independently, without seeking RBI permission.
- ⌘ **Significance**
  - ❖ Faster and wider adoption of INR-based trade settlement → [Internationalisation of Rupee](#).
  - ❖ Productive deployment of surplus rupee funds.
  - ❖ Reduced dependency on the US Dollar in bilateral trade.

### Internationalisation of the Rupee

- ⌘ Promoting the use of INR in cross-border trade, investment, and finance without mandatory conversion to a dominant currency.

### Benefits

- ⌘ ↓ vulnerability to global currency crises.
- ⌘ ↓ hedging and transaction costs for Indian businesses.
- ⌘ Eases pressure on forex reserves.
- ⌘ Facilitates rupee-denominated bonds and overseas financing.
- ⌘ Attracts long-term capital through increased foreign demand for INR assets.

### Negatives

- ⌘ Raises exposure to global volatility.
- ⌘ May destabilize markets without proper regulation.

Challenges to Rupee Internationalisation	RBI Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INR Liquidity Constraints Abroad: Limits ease of settlement in INR.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop Local Currency Settlement (LCS) Framework: Standardise and support with sufficient INR liquidity.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stringent and Inconsistent KYC Norms: Across RBI and SEBI act as deterrent for <a href="#">FPIs</a>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KYC Simplification: Harmonise RBI and SEBI norms; accept digital documents and SWIFT confirmations.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weak INR-Based Payment Infra Globally: Limited UPI, RTGS, RuPay integration with foreign systems.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen Market Infra Develop 24x5 global INR forex market → interbank trades via overseas branches.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reluctance in Adoption: INR is not fully convertible on capital account – restricted usage in global markets.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SDR Basket Inclusion: Work towards INR inclusion in IMF's Special Drawing Rights basket to elevate its reserve status.</li></ul>

### Major Initiatives Taken

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>RBI's Strategic Action Plan 2024–25</b> to allow persons resident outside India (PROI) to open INR accounts abroad → lending PRIOs in INR.</li><li>• MoUs with UAE, Indonesia, Maldives, etc., to settle bilateral trade in local currencies.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currency Swap Agreements with 20+ countries for liquidity support and trade settlement in local currencies.</li><li>• <a href="#">UPI</a> operational in UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius.</li><li>• Issuance of Masala Bonds to attract global investors.</li></ul>
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# WTO AND THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERAL TRADE

The increasing use of unilateral tariff measures by the US has renewed global concerns over the efficacy of the WTO and the role of multilateral trading system in ensuring fair competition and settling trade disputes.

## Global Trade Dynamics – Role of WTO

- ⌘ Facilitates multilateral global trade agreements (e.g., Trade Facilitation Agreement, 2013).
- ⌘ Promotes tariff reduction and **MFN** principle → rules-based global trading environment.
- ⌘ Trade Policy Reviews and mandatory notifications of subsidies, tariffs, and regulations.
- ⌘ Sustainable Trade via alignment with SDGs (e.g., fisheries subsidies and SDG 14).

## Challenges Undermining WTO's Role

- ⌘ **Dispute Settlement Paralysis:** **WTO's Appellate Body** non-functional since 2019 due to US' opposition to the appointment of new judges.
- ⌘ **Stalled Negotiations:** **Doha Development Round (2001)** collapsed over agriculture and subsidies; exposing deep **North–South divide**.
- ⌘ **Rise of FTAs & Regional Blocs:** (e.g., EU, ASEAN, RCEP) Weakens WTO multilateral vision.
- ⌘ **Limited Relevance in New Trade Areas:** WTO struggles to address digital trade, e-commerce, climate-linked trade barriers, and green technologies; declined relevance in multilateral trade governance.
- ⌘ **Issue with Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT):** “Developing countries” allowed trade flexibility. However, no clear definition of the term → self-designation by rather advanced economies → Disputes.

## Suggestions for Reforms

- ⌘ **Revive Appellate Body** with US concerns addressed; set time-bound rulings.
- ⌘ **Strengthen Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)** and encourage members to share data and undertake joint impact assessments.
- ⌘ Enhance **cooperation with IMF, WB, UNCTAD and climate bodies** to integrate trade with finance, development, and sustainability goals.
- ⌘ Establishing a **permanent WTO Reform Council** with rotating leadership for sustained reform momentum.
- ⌘ WTO to **update trade rules** to address digital trade, data flows, industrial policy, green subsidies.

### India's Role in Multilateral Trade Governance

<b>Voice of Global South</b>	→ Advocate food security, subsidy protections for developing countries
<b>Advocate Calibrated Liberalisation</b>	→ Liberalisation that respects developmental needs, resists unilateral tariff hikes and protectionist tendencies
<b>Lead Sustainable Trade</b>	→ Link trade to SDGs; push against green protectionism (e.g., EU CBAM)
<b>Exemplify Balancing Development with Integration</b>	→ Showcase PLI, digital public infrastructure (UPI), and service sector strength

## KEY SPORTS-RELATED BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT – 2025

Parliament has passed National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 and National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

- ⌘ Sports is a State subject under 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule.

### National Sports Governance Bill, 2025

<b>Centre's Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing – National Sports Board (NSB), National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, National Sports Federations (SFs) for each sport</li></ul>
<b>Role of NSB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognise/suspend/cancel recognition of sports bodies (incl. BCCI)</li><li>• Conduct inquiries, frame Code of Ethics &amp; Safe Sports Policy</li><li>• Regulate elections via a National Sports Election Panel</li></ul>
<b>Mandate for SFs (affiliated with int'l bodies)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a General Body, 15-member Executive Committee (incl. 2 outstanding sportspersons &amp; 4 women)</li><li>• Committees for Ethics, Dispute Resolution, and Athletes</li></ul>

<b>National Sports Tribunal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-members; chairperson – sitting/former SC Judge or HC Chief Justice</li> <li><b>Excludes</b> doping, internal disputes, and international event matters</li> </ul>
<b>Other Obligations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognised bodies receiving govt aid are public authorities (RTI Act, 2005)</li> <li>Must maintain CAG-audited accounts</li> <li>Approval required to use “India” or national insignia</li> </ul>

## National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- ⌘ Amends the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 to align with UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sports.
- ⌘ **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)’s role:** Implement anti-doping rules, conduct testing and enforce compliance.
  - ❖ Bill establishes a National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports to oversee NADA.

## OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI) SCHEME

The MHA, under Section 7D of the Citizenship Act, 1955, has expanded grounds for cancelling **OCI** cards.

### About the Scheme

- ⌘ Launched - 2005 via amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955 to allow registration of Persons of Indian Origin.
- ⌘ Provides foreign passport holders of Indian origin with:
  - ❖ Multiple-entry, multi-purpose, lifelong visa to India – OCI cards.
  - ❖ Exemption from police registration, irrespective of duration of stay.
  - ❖ Does not grant dual citizenship.
- ⌘ Largest OCI cardholders currently in US, UK, Australia, Canada.

### Eligibility:

- ⌘ Citizens of India on/after 26 Jan 1950 or eligible for citizenship on that date, their descendants, and spouses (married ≥2 years).
- ⌘ **Exclusions:** Present or former citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh.

### Restrictions on OCI Cardholders:

- ⌘ **No political rights:** cannot vote, contest elections, or hold constitutional posts.
- ⌘ No public employment rights (Article 16), except if specially notified.
- ⌘ **Special permits required for:** Research, missionary/journalistic work, mountaineering or visiting protected/restricted areas

### Grounds for Revocation:

- ⌘ Fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining OCI.
- ⌘ Actions or statements made against the Constitution.
- ⌘ Wartime aid to the enemy.
- ⌘ Prejudicial acts against sovereignty, integrity, security, foreign relations, or public interest.
- ⌘ **Serious criminal offences (recently added):**
  - ❖ Conviction with ≥2 years imprisonment.
  - ❖ Chargesheeted for offences punishable with ≥7 years imprisonment

POINT OF DIFFERENCE	OCI CARDHOLDER	NRI
Legal Status	Person registered under Section 7A, Citizenship Act 1955 as OCI cardholder	Indian citizen residing abroad (>182 days in a FY)
Visa Requirement	OCI card serves the purpose	Not required (holds Indian passport)
Political Rights	No	Yes but must be physically present in constituency to cast a vote
Scope of Activities	All except restricted ones (provided above) without prior approval	All activities

# MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ON INDIA'S 79<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY

PM outlined key national initiatives to help achieve the goal of a **Developed India by 2047**.

INITIATIVE	OBJECTIVE	TARGET YEAR
<b>PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana</b>	Create 3.5 crore jobs in 2 years; ₹15,000 (in 2 installments) to new employees; ₹3,000/month to employers per new employee.	2027
<b>Mission Sudarshan Chakra</b>	Develop indigenous Iron Dome-like air defence system to protect strategic and civilian sites; intercept and retaliate enemy attacks.	2035
<b>Semiconductor</b>	Roll out the first Made-in-India semiconductor chip.	2025
<b>National Deep Water Exploration Mission ('Samudra Manthan')</b>	Explore offshore oil, gas, and mineral resources in mission mode.	–
<b>GST Reforms</b>	GST reforms with reduced taxes on essentials and relief for MSMEs and consumers.	October 2025
<b>Reform Task Force</b>	↑ economic growth, ↓ red tape, and modernise governance for USD 10 trillion economy.	2047
<b>High-Powered Demography Mission</b>	Tackle demographic imbalance due to illegal migration in border areas; ↑ national security and citizens' rights.	–
<b>Nuclear Energy Expansion</b>	↑ nuclear power capacity by 10x; 10 new reactors.	2047

## PRADHAN MANTRI VIKSIT BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA (PMVBRY)

Launched on 79<sup>th</sup> Independence Day to **formalize workforce** and provide **social security**.

☞ **Target:** Create **3.5 crore jobs by 2027** through incentives (DBT).

<b>Part A – First-Time Employees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> EPFO-registered, earning ≤ ₹1 lakh/month</li><li>• <b>Support:</b> EPF wage support <b>up to ₹15,000</b> in 2 installments (part of incentive to be locked in <b>savings/fixed account</b> for a specific period)</li></ul>	<b>Part B – Employers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Incentive:</b> Employers get ₹3,000/month/employee (salary ≤ ₹1 lakh) for 2 years; job must last ≥ 6 months</li><li>• <b>Manufacturing sector:</b> Incentives Extended to <b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> years</b></li></ul>
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## 100 YEARS OF THE KAKORI TRAIN ACTION

9 August 2025 marks 100 years since the Kakori Train Action.

- ☞ **What Happened:** On 9 August 1925, Indian revolutionaries looted British treasury money from the Number 8 Down train (Shahjahanpur to Lucknow) near Kakori, to fund the freedom movement.
- ☞ **Background:** After Jallianwala Bagh (1919) and the Non-Cooperation withdrawal (1922), young nationalists formed the **HRA** (1924) to fund revolution through British treasury loot.
- ☞ **Main Revolutionaries:** Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal, Chandrashekhar Azad.
- ☞ **British Response:** 17 jailed, 4 transported for life, 4 hanged (Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Rajendra Lahiri, Roshan Singh). Chandrashekhar Azad escaped arrest.

### HRA → HSRA

- ☞ HRA was founded in October 1924 in Kanpur by Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, and Sachin Sanyal.
- ☞ **Renamed HSRA (**Hindustan Socialist Republican Association**) in 1928** under Chandrashekhar Azad; key members included Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Bejoy Kumar Sinha, Shiv Verma, and Jaidev Kapur.
- ☞ **Major actions:** Simon Commission protest (1927), JP Saunders assassination (1928), Viceroy Irwin train bombing (1929).
- ☞ By early 1930s, British repression led to its fragmentation.