

**BIHAR**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

For Bihar Public Service Commission and all other Competitive Exams of Bihar

February 2026 Year 03 | Issue 02



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# ISSUE OF THE MONTH

## U.S. Actions in Venezuela

**Context:** The recent U.S. Operation Absolute Resolve, resulting in the arrest of the Venezuelan President, has revived serious debates over the prohibition on the use of force in international law.

### Background

- Venezuela, under leaders like Hugo Chavez and now Nicolas Maduro, has adopted a socialist, nationalist stance, especially after nationalising oil assets and opposing US influence. Chavez's government (1999-2013) championed socialist policies and took control of natural resources, making Venezuela a symbol of anti-imperialist resistance.
- Maduro's presidency, which began in 2013 following Hugo Chavez's death, has been challenged by strong domestic opposition as well as by the United States, which accuses his government of authoritarian practices and corruption. The opposition, led by leaders such as Juan Guaido, has received significant support from Western countries, particularly the US, intensifying Venezuela's political confrontation.

### Operation Absolute Resolve: Key Details

- On January 3, 2026, the United States launched a major military operation in Venezuela, code named Operation Absolute Resolve, involving coordinated air and ground action in and around Caracas to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores.
- U.S. forces struck key military and defensive positions before special operations teams seized Maduro and Flores and transported them out of the country, with Maduro later facing charges in the United States.

### Trump's Policy U-Turn

- US President Donald Trump, who earlier criticised the Iraq invasion, had projected himself as a peacemaker when he assumed office a year ago.
- He has since reversed this position by authorising a major military operation.
- Trump justified the action by invoking the **Monroe**

**Doctrine (1823), a long-standing US policy warning European powers against interference in the Western Hemisphere.**

- He has revived and rebranded the Monroe Doctrine as a core guiding principle of US foreign policy.
- This marks a significant departure from previous US administrations, which had largely kept the doctrine dormant.
- The policy shift was formally reflected in the new US National Security Strategy released last month.

### Pattern of Escalating Military Action

- The operation against Maduro reflects a broader pattern of heightened US military assertiveness over the past year.
  - This trend includes airstrikes authorised in Syria and Nigeria.
  - The US has also issued explicit threats of intervention amid ongoing protests in Iran.
  - Earlier actions in 2025 targeted a wide range of actors, including Iranian nuclear facilities, drug-trafficking vessels in the Caribbean, Houthi forces in Yemen, militants in Somalia, and Islamic extremist groups in Iraq.
- Taken together, these developments suggest a renewed reliance on unilateral military power.
- The intervention in Venezuela stands out as the clearest indication yet of a return to US interventionism, driven primarily by concerns over oil interests and hemispheric dominance.

### Why Venezuela: The Oil Factor

- Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven crude oil reserves, exceeding 300 billion barrels, which accounts for around one-fifth of global reserves (as per the US EIA).
- Despite this vast resource base, the country's oil production remains low at about 1 million barrels per day, contributing only around 0.8% of global output.
- Chevron remains the only major foreign oil company with active exposure to Venezuelan crude, giving the United States a distinct strategic and economic stake in Venezuela's energy sector.

**Trump’s Oil-Centric Agenda**

- US President Donald Trump has placed oil at the centre of his justification, framing Venezuela’s vast energy reserves as a key strategic interest.
- He asserted that the US would take control of Venezuela’s oil reserves, with American companies investing billions of dollars to repair dilapidated infrastructure and significantly boost production.

Why have multilateral institutions such as the United Nations been unable to prevent unilateral military interventions?

- **Structural Paralysis – the “Veto Trap”:** The UN Security Council is structurally paralysed when a Permanent Member (P5) is the aggressor or shields an aggressor.
  - The US, Russia, and China frequently use their veto to protect strategic and geopolitical interests.
  - As a result, the UNSC has shifted from a collective security guarantor to a forum of deadlock.
  - This dysfunction is reflected in the 47 vetoes exercised on 37 draft resolutions and amendments between 2015 and 2024.
- **Legal Reinterpretation– Law Enforcement” as a Loophole:** Powerful states are reinterpreting international law by labelling military interventions as “transnational law-enforcement operations”.
  - This framing allows them to bypass Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force.
  - By describing actions as “surgical criminal extractions” rather than warfare, states avoid seeking UN authorisation while asserting a moral justification.
  - For example, the US defended “Operation Absolute Resolve” in Venezuela by invoking Article 51 (self-defence) against alleged narco-terrorism, effectively exploiting a legal loophole.
- **Financial Coercion–The Liquidity Crisis:** Multilateralism is failing because the UN is currently facing its worst liquidity crisis in history, leaving it without the “teeth” to monitor or intervene in fast-moving conflicts.
  - When major donor countries withhold assessed contributions to express dissatisfaction with UN policies, the organisation’s ability to deploy

peacekeepers and neutral observers is severely weakened.

- Mounting arrears \$2.4 billion in unpaid regular budget dues and \$2.7 billion in peacekeeping funds have forced the UN to cut spending, freeze recruitment, and scale back key services.
- **Rise of Regionalism:** Multilateralism is also failing because the world has shifted from a “universal” security model to a fragmented one where regional blocs prioritize their own rules over UN mandates.
  - As the UN is viewed as too slow and geographically disconnected, smaller, exclusive alliances are taking direct action to secure their own spheres of influence, often excluding the UN entirely.
  - Interventions without UNSC approval have been conducted by a myriad of regional organizations, including the A.U., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

How can Multilateralism be Reformed to Promote a Fair and Just Global Order?

- **Enhance Legal Clarity:** International law should clearly differentiate between criminal law enforcement and the use of military force, eliminating the ambiguity around “self-defense against non-state actors.”
  - Stronger codification can stop powerful states from disguising military aggression as counter-narcotics or counter-terrorism operations.
  - Treaty-based reforms could introduce a “threshold of harm” principle, clearly defining when a cross-border intervention is legally justifiable.
- **Revitalizing the UN Security Council and Reforming the Veto:** Reforming UNSC procedures, for example by introducing a “veto override” mechanism in cases of mass atrocities or blatant unilateral interventions, could help restore the Council’s credibility.
  - Rotational or weighted veto systems could restrict P5 members from using their veto to avoid accountability.
  - Increasing transparency in UNSC deliberations and requiring public justification for vetoes can pressure permanent members to act responsibly.

- ♦ Structural reforms should uphold collective security while safeguarding the voices of smaller nations. Stronger decision-making mechanisms will help ensure the UN is not paralysed by superpower deadlocks.
- **Incentivising Compliance Through Financial and Trade Levers:** States that violate multilateral norms could face targeted economic penalties, such as restrictions on access to international financial systems and global trade platforms.
  - ♦ Integrating incentives into the global economic framework helps align national interests with collective international rules.
  - ♦ By leveraging the interconnected global economy, financial tools can enforce norms effectively without depending solely on military action.
- **Promoting Transparency and Norm-Based Oversight in Global Governance:** Multilateral institutions should implement ongoing monitoring of global military, economic, and cyber activities using open-access reporting platforms.
  - ♦ Real-time monitoring of troop movements, sanctions, and cyber incidents enhances accountability and discourages covert operations.
  - ♦ Independent audits by neutral experts provide credibility and legitimacy to international assessments.
  - ♦ Transparency creates peer pressure, serving as an effective mechanism to ensure compliance.

### Conclusion

- The Venezuela crisis exposes the fragility of multilateralism when powerful states act unilaterally. Sovereignty, legal clarity, and collective accountability are essential to prevent a lawless global order. Strengthening institutions, enhancing transparency, and enforcing norms can restore credibility to international frameworks. India's commitment to multilateral principles highlights the value of principled diplomacy in today's turbulent world: peace depends on justice and rules, not power alone.

# BPSC (MAINS) BASED CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Transforming India with AI

**Context:** India is accelerating its Artificial Intelligence journey through the IndiaAI Mission, supported by over ₹10,300 crore investment and a rapidly expanding domestic AI ecosystem.

### Current scenario of AI Ecosystem in India

- India's technology sector is expanding rapidly, with annual revenues projected to cross USD 280 billion this year.
- India has secured the 3rd position globally in Artificial Intelligence competitiveness, according to a report by Stanford University's 2025 Global AI Vibrancy Tool.
- Over 6 million people are employed in the tech and AI ecosystem.
- The country hosts 1,800+ Global Capability Centres, including more than 500 focused on AI.
- India has around 1.8 lakh startups, and nearly 89% of new startups launched last year used AI in their products or services.
- On the NASSCOM AI Adoption Index, India scores 2.45 out of 4, showing that 87% of enterprises are actively using AI solutions.
- Industrial and automotive, consumer goods and retail, banking, financial services and insurance, and healthcare are the leading sectors in AI adoption, contributing around 60 per cent of AI's total value.
- About 26% of Indian companies have achieved AI maturity at scale, according to a recent Boston Consulting Group (BCG) survey.

### India AI Mission

- It is guided by the vision of "Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India", approved in March 2024, with a budget outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore over five years.
- It marks a defining step towards making India a global leader in Artificial Intelligence.
- It has been implemented by IndiaAI, an independent business division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- From an initial target of 10,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), India has now achieved 38,000 GPUs,

providing affordable access to world-class AI resources.

### Seven Pillars of India AI Mission

	<b>India AI Compute:</b> Enhancing computational resources for AI development.
	<b>India AI Innovation Centre:</b> Fostering innovation and research in AI technologies.
	<b>India AI Dataset Platform:</b> Providing a comprehensive platform for AI datasets.
	<b>India AI Application Development Initiatives:</b> Supporting the development of AI applications across sectors.
	<b>India AI Future Skills:</b> Equipping the workforce with necessary AI skills.
	<b>India AI Startup Financing:</b> Providing financial support to AI Startups.
	<b>Safe &amp; Trusted AI:</b> Ensuring the ethical and secure use of AI.

Source: pib.gov.in

### Implementation Roadmap



### Key Government Initiatives

- **Centres of Excellence for AI:** Three AI Centres of Excellence (CoEs) have been set up in Healthcare, Agriculture, and Sustainable Cities.
- Serve as collaborative spaces where academia,

industry, and government institutions come together to develop scalable AI solutions.

- **AI Competency Framework:** Provides structured training for government officials, helping them acquire essential AI skills and apply them in policymaking and governance.
- **Sarvam AI: Smarter Aadhaar Services:** A Bengaluru-based company is translating advanced AI research into practical governance solutions.
- **Bhashini: Voice for Digital Inclusion:** AI-powered platform that breaks language barriers by offering translation and speech tools in multiple Indian languages.
- **BharatGen AI:** First government-funded multimodal Large Language Model supporting 22 Indian languages and integrates text, speech, and image understanding.

### Applications of AI

- **Healthcare:** AI is transforming healthcare delivery.
  - It helps doctors detect diseases early, analyse medical scans, and recommend personalised treatments.
  - Telemedicine platforms powered by AI connect patients in rural areas with specialists in top hospitals.
- **Agriculture:** It predicts weather, detects pest attacks, and suggests optimal times for irrigation and sowing.
  - **The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has deployed Artificial Intelligence through initiatives such as **Kisan e-Mitra, including PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.**
  - **The National Pest Surveillance System and Crop Health Monitoring** combine satellite data, weather inputs, and soil analysis to provide real-time advice that improves yields and income security.
- **Education and Skilling:** AI education has been introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 from Class VI onwards.
  - The DIKSHA platform uses AI to enhance accessibility through read-aloud and smart search tools.
  - The YUVAi programme allows Classes 8-12 students to apply AI to social and development themes

- **Skilling**
  - Students apply AI across eight thematic domains—Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities, and Vidhi aur Nyaay for real-world societal challenges.
- **Governance and Justice Delivery:** AI is reshaping governance and public service delivery through translation, prediction, administrative efficiency, automated filing, intelligent scheduling, and communication through chatbots.
  - Digital legal platforms such as e-HCR and e-ILR now provide citizens with online access to judgments in multiple regional languages
- **Weather Forecasting and Climate Services:** The India Meteorological Department uses AI-based models to forecast rainfall, fog, lightning, and fire.
  - The Advanced Dvorak Technique helps estimate cyclone intensity.
  - **MausamGPT**, an upcoming AI chatbot, will offer real-time weather and climate advice to farmers and disaster management agencies.

### Bridging India's Skill Gap

**Context:** Despite a decade of heavy investment and large-scale training under schemes like PMKVY, India's skilling ecosystem has delivered weak employability and limited wage gains.

### Key Data and Facts

- Between 2015 and 2025, nearly 1.40 crore candidates were trained and certified under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Only 4.7% of India's workforce has received formal vocational training, up from about 2% a decade ago.
- In contrast, vocational participation exceeds 70% in Germany and Japan and crosses 90% in South Korea.
- Skill assessments indicate that just 51.25% of Indian youth are employable.
- Formal vocational training covers only 4.4% of young people, while 16.6% rely on informal training routes.
- Around 12 million new workers enter the labour market each year, but annual training capacity stands at only 4.3 million, highlighting a persistent skills gap.

## Concerns in India's Skilling Ecosystem

- **Low Aspiration for Vocational Pathways:** Despite large-scale training under PMKVY, only 4.7% of the workforce has formal vocational qualifications, indicating limited preference for skill-based careers.
- **Weak Social Legitimacy:** Academic degrees continue to dominate career mobility, while skilling lacks recognition, with only 2% of graduates pursuing skill certifications after completing their degrees.
- **Limited Wage Benefits:** Periodic Labour Force Survey-data shows that vocational training leads to modest and uneven wage gains, especially in the informal sector, where most trained workers find employment.
- **Education Skill Disconnect:** Many higher education programmes fail to match industry needs, forcing graduates to relearn practical workplace skills after entering jobs.
- **Low Youth Employability:** Despite years of skilling efforts, only about 51.25% of young people meet employability benchmarks, reflecting weak outcome quality.
- **Training Capacity Shortfall:** With 12 million new entrants annually and only 4.3 million training seats, a large skills deficit persists.
- **Industry Disengagement:** Most employers do not rely on government skill certificates for hiring. Instead, they prefer internal training, referrals, or private recruitment platforms.
- **High Attrition Rates:** Sectors such as retail, logistics, hospitality, and manufacturing face 30–40% attrition, increasing recruitment costs and reducing productivity.
- **Uneven Apprenticeship Participation:** While the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) has expanded, participation remains concentrated in large firms, with limited reach among MSMEs.
- **Fragmented Accountability:** Training, assessment, certification, and placement are handled by different agencies, leaving no single institution responsible for employment outcomes.
- **Weak Certification Value:** Employer surveys show that Sector Skill Council (SSC) certificates have limited signalling power compared to degrees or prior work experience.

## Initiatives to Strengthen India's Skilling System

- **Restructured Skill India Programme:** The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation and restructuring of Skill India until 2026 with an outlay of ₹8,800 crore. This integrates PMKVY 4.0, NAPS, and Jan Shikshan Sansthan under a unified framework.
- **Integration with Higher Education:** The National Credit Framework enables credit transfer between vocational and academic streams, allowing students to combine skills with degree programmes.
- **Modernisation of Training Institutions:** The PM-SETU initiative focuses on upgrading ITIs with improved infrastructure and stronger industry alignment to enhance training quality and accountability.

## Key Skill India Mission Programmes

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Provides outcome-based short-term training, encourages enrolment, promotes future skills, gender inclusion, and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS):** Supports on-the-job training through DBT incentives, extending coverage to contractual staff and UGC-affiliated institutions.
- **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS):** Offers community-level vocational education for non-literates, neo-literates, and school dropouts, promoting lifelong learning.

## Integration and Modernisation

- **NEP 2020:** Vocational education aligned with the National Skill Qualification Framework has been introduced in Classes 9–12 to expose students early to work-related skills.
- **Skill India Digital (SID):** Uses AI-based tools for job matching and continuous learning, including new-age courses such as drone operations.
- **ITI Reforms:** Schemes like STRIVE aim to increase industry ownership and introduce contemporary skills to make training more workplace-relevant.

## Initiatives Needed

- **Integrate Skills with Degree Programmes:** Skilling should move alongside formal education. While degrees provide social legitimacy, skills ensure job relevance. Their integration can raise both aspiration and participation.
- **Make the Industry a Co-owner:** Employers should actively shape curricula, certification standards, and assessments to ensure training reflects real job roles and workplace practices.
- **Strengthen SSC Accountability:** Sector Skill Councils (SSC) must be evaluated based on placement and employability outcomes, not just standard-setting functions.
- **Align Curricula with Professional Standards:** Training courses should map clearly to industry roles and portfolios, guided by the National Skill Qualification Framework.
- **Use Professors of Practice:** Industry professionals can bridge the academia–industry gap by supporting curriculum design, mentoring, assessments, and employer feedback.
- **Improve Assessment and Learner Profiling:** Skill modules should define clear performance benchmarks and workplace tasks. AI-enabled profiling can help students choose suitable career pathways.

## India's Agricultural Sector 2025

**Context:** Year 2025 marked a defining phase in the evolution of India's agricultural sector.

### Key Highlights

- Agriculture and allied sectors contributed ~16% to GDP (FY 2024–25) and supported over 46% of the population.
- Union Budget 2025-26 allocated ₹1.52 lakh crore to agriculture and allied sectors with a focus on research, infrastructure, and farmer welfare.

### Agricultural Production and Crop Performance

- India recorded its highest-ever foodgrain production of 357.73 million tonnes in 2024-25, reflecting an increase of nearly eight per cent over the previous year

- **Rice:** 150.18 million tonnes
- **Wheat:** 117.95 million tonnes
- **Shree Anna (millets):** Steady rise in “production reaffirmed India’s leadership in climate-resilient cereals.
- Strong growth in pulses, oilseeds, maize, and millets

### Farmer Income and Price Support

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed at a minimum 50% return over the cost of production for mandated crops.
- Since 2014:
  - **Paddy procurement payments:** ₹14.16 lakh crore
  - **Wheat procurement payments:** ₹6.04 lakh crore
- Expanded procurement of pulses and oilseeds (tur, urad, chana, moong)

### Agricultural Credit and Income Transfers

- PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi transferred ₹3.90 lakh crore directly to farmers through 20 instalments in August 2025.
- Beneficiaries: Over 11 crore farmers via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, agricultural credit exceeding ₹10 lakh crore has been provided to 7.71 crore farmers

### Risk Management and Irrigation

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
  - Claims worth ₹1.83 lakh crore have been paid since 2016
  - Increased enrolment in 2024-25 and higher participation of non-loanee farmers.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)
  - Wider adoption of micro-irrigation enabled a shift towards high-value crops.

### Agricultural Infrastructure and Market Access

- **Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):**
  - Over one lakh projects sanctioned across the country.
  - Improve Custom Hiring Centres, warehouses, cold storage units and food processing facilities

- PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras improved access to quality inputs, advisory services and agrisolutions at the village level.
- **Market Reforms and Institutional Innovations**
  - Formation and strengthening of 10,000 Farmer-Producer Organisations, enabling collective marketing, particularly benefiting women farmers
- **Growth of Allied Sectors**
  - India remained the world’s largest milk producer, with 239.30 million tonnes of milk output.
  - Fisheries production reached 195 lakh tonnes in 2024-2025, supported by inland fisheries growth.
  - Horticulture continued to grow in fruits and vegetables
  - Food processing exports crossed USD 49.4 billion as of July 2025
- **Sustainability, Climate Action and Energy Transition**
  - The Soil Health Card scheme promoted balanced nutrient management
  - Ethanol blending programme reached 19.05%
  - Under PM-KUSUM, expanded solar pump coverage and promoted decentralised solar power generation on farmlands.
- **Capacity Building and Skill Development**
  - Krishi Vigyan Kendras trained millions of farmers through hands-on demonstrations and vocational programmes.
  - ATMA, STRY and PMKVY strengthened rural skilling ecosystems
  - Empowered farmers, women and rural youth to adopt modern practices

**Convergence of MSME Schemes**

**Context:** NITI Aayog recently released a comprehensive report advocating the convergence of MSME schemes to reduce duplication, enhance efficiency, and strengthen last-mile delivery.

**About the Report**

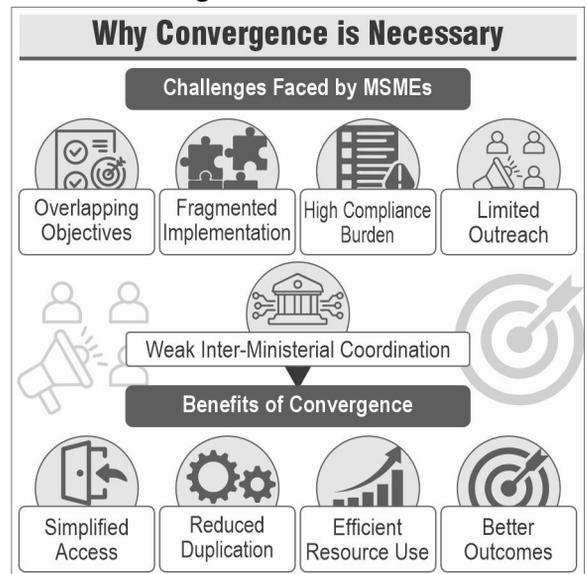
- The report titled “Achieving Efficiencies in MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes” was prepared by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) for NITI Aayog.

- It reviews 18 centrally administered MSME schemes and recommends both **information convergence** and **process convergence** to improve coordination, outcomes, and resource utilisation.
- The objective is to streamline government support and maximise the impact of public expenditure on India’s MSME sector.

**Significance of the MSME Sector**

- **India’s MSME sector plays a critical role in economic development:**
  - **GDP Contribution:** MSMEs contribute nearly **29–30%** of India’s GDP.
  - **Employment:** The sector provides livelihoods to over **28.7 crore** people, second only to agriculture.
  - **Exports:** MSMEs account for around **45–46%** of India’s exports, though only about **1%** are direct exporters.
  - **Geographic Spread:** Over **6.3 crore** MSMEs exist, with nearly **51%** located in rural areas.
  - **Rising Public Support:** Budgetary allocation increased from **₹6,717 crore (2019–20)** to **₹22,094 crore (2023–24)**, highlighting the need for efficient delivery mechanisms.

**Need for Convergence**



**Framework for Convergence**

- **Information convergence:** It focuses on integrating government-generated data at the

central and state levels to improve coordination, enable informed decision-making, and strengthen governance outcomes.

- **Process convergence:** It aims at aligning and unifying schemes to reduce redundancies, streamline operations, and improve service delivery. This includes merging similar schemes, combining common components, and fostering collaboration across ministries and states to create a cohesive MSME support ecosystem.

### Opportunities for Scheme Convergence

- **Unified Digital Access:** Multiple portals increase confusion and compliance costs. A single digital interface can streamline scheme discovery, eligibility checks, and application processes.
- **Rationalised Cluster Development:** Overlapping cluster schemes dilute funding and governance efficiency. Convergence can improve infrastructure quality, scale, and collective competitiveness of MSME clusters.
- **Skill Programme Alignment:** Fragmented skilling initiatives often target similar beneficiaries, leading to duplication and weak industry linkage. Aligned programmes can enhance employability and workforce readiness.
- **Integrated Marketing Support:** Dispersed marketing schemes limit visibility and scale. A unified approach can strengthen both domestic and export promotion.
  - ♦ **Example:** A single Marketing Assistance Wing can coordinate MSME participation in the India International Trade Fair, buyer–seller meets, and overseas expos.
- **Consolidated Innovation Ecosystem:** Multiple incubation schemes fragment funds and mentoring support. Convergence can strengthen innovation pipelines, especially for rural enterprises.
  - ♦ **Example:** Integrating ASPIRE with MSME Innovative can combine grassroots innovation with advanced incubation infrastructure.

### Major MSME Support Initiatives

- **Udyam Registration & Udyam Assist Platform:** Enable easy digital registration and formalisation.
- **PMEGP & PM Vishwakarma:** Promote

entrepreneurship, self-employment, and artisan livelihoods.

- **CGTMSE & SRI Fund:** Provide collateral-free loans and equity support to reduce financing gaps.
- **RAMP Programme:** Enhances productivity, resilience, and global competitiveness.
- **GeM & Public Procurement Policy:** Ensures assured market access through government procurement.

### Challenges in Implementing Convergence

- **Inter-Ministerial Silos:** Departments often protect jurisdiction, slowing coordination.
  - ♦ **Example:** Overlaps between the MSME and Rural Development Ministries in coir and village industries.
- **Risk to Targeted Schemes:** Broad mergers may weaken focus on vulnerable groups.
  - ♦ **Example:** The National SC/ST Hub requires ring-fenced funding and autonomy.
- **Field-Level Capacity Gaps:** Local agencies may lack skills to manage integrated digital schemes.
  - ♦ **Example:** Uneven capacity of District Industries Centres (DICs).
- **Data Integration Issues:** Incompatible IT systems hinder real-time monitoring.
  - ♦ **Example:** State MSME dashboards are not fully linked with the Udyam portal.
- **Transition Risks:** Abrupt mergers can disrupt ongoing benefits and delay disbursements.

### Key Recommendations

- **Centralised Portal for MSMEs:** The report proposes an AI-powered centralised digital platform integrating MSME schemes, compliance, finance, and market intelligence.
- **Convergence of Cluster Development Schemes:** Integration of the Scheme for Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) with the Micro and Small Enterprises – Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP). It proposes a dedicated sub-scheme for traditional industries, a unified governance structure under MSE-CDP.
- **Convergence of skill development programmes:** The report proposes rationalising of skill initiatives into a three-tier structure covering entrepreneurship and business skills, MSME technical skills, and training for rural and women artisans.

- **Marketing Assistance Wing:** To streamline MSME marketing support, the report proposes a dedicated Marketing Wing with domestic and international components.
- **Msme Innovative & A Scheme For Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE):** The report recommends integrating ASPIRE into MSME Innovative as a special category for agro-rural enterprises.

### India-EU Free Trade Agreement

**Context:** India and the European Union are in the advanced stage of concluding a long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA), aimed at strengthening bilateral trade ties amid rising global protectionism.

#### About the India-EU Free Trade Agreement

- The India-EU FTA is a comprehensive trade pact that seeks to reduce tariffs, harmonise regulations, liberalise services, and promote investment between India and the 27-member European Union.
- Parallel negotiations are also underway on Investment Protection and Geographical Indications (GIs).
- Talks first began in 2007, were suspended in 2013, and formally revived in June 2022.

#### Current India-EU Trade Profile (2024-25)

- **Largest Goods Partner:** The EU is India's biggest trading partner in goods.
- **Export-Import Balance:** India exports a large volume of goods to the EU and imports machinery, chemicals, and high-value products.
- **Services Trade:** India enjoys a surplus, particularly in IT, telecom, intellectual property, and business services.
- **Export Share:** The EU accounts for about 17% of India's total exports, making it India's largest export market bloc.
- **Key EU Markets:** Germany, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Poland are major destinations for Indian exports.

#### Opportunities from the India-EU FTA

- **Boost to Labour-Intensive Sectors:** Eliminating 12-16% tariffs on textiles and leather will help Indian exporters compete with duty-free rivals like Vietnam and Bangladesh.
- **Expansion of Manufacturing Exports:** Zero-duty access to the EU's 450-million consumer market will strengthen exports of pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and machinery, supporting industrial growth.
- **Growth in Services Trade:** Regulatory cooperation can ease mobility for Indian IT and telecom professionals, expanding India's already strong services footprint in Europe.
- **Supply Chain Diversification:** The agreement reinforces India's role as a "China-plus-one" alternative, integrating Indian firms into advanced European manufacturing networks.
- **FDI and Technology Inflows:** Improved legal certainty can attract European investment in green hydrogen, EVs, and semiconductors, boosting the Make-in-India mission.

#### Key Challenges in Negotiations

- **Labour and Environmental Standards:** EU's climate-linked measures like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) are viewed by India as protectionist non-tariff barriers.
- **Data Protection and Digital Trade:** India prioritises data localisation for digital sovereignty, while the EU seeks freer cross-border data flows for its tech firms.
- **Automobile and Wine Tariffs:** Pressure to cut high duties on European cars and spirits could affect India's domestic manufacturing ecosystem.
- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** The EU's push for data exclusivity may delay affordable generic medicines, challenging India's role as the "pharmacy of the world".
- **Public Procurement Access:** EU demands for access to Indian government contracts conflict with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat preference for local suppliers.

## Way Forward

- **Balanced Tariff Liberalisation:** India should seek asymmetric opening, securing early access to EU markets while phasing domestic tariff cuts.
- **Protect Sensitive Sectors:** Carve-outs for agriculture and dairy are essential to shield small farmers from subsidised European imports.
- **Safeguard Digital Sovereignty:** India can leverage its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) success to negotiate data rules that protect privacy while enabling trade.
- **Align with Make-in-India:** Strategic integration with PLI schemes can turn the FTA into a catalyst for high-tech manufacturing and innovation.
- **Use FTA as a Strategic Hedge:** Stronger economic ties with the EU provide India a buffer against geopolitical shocks and rising global trade fragmentation.

## Women in India's Green Economy

**Context:** A recent CEEW report, "Building a Green Economy for Viksit Bharat", underlines that India's goal of becoming a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047 cannot be achieved unless women are meaningfully integrated into green value chains.

### Purpose

- Women's inclusion in the green economy involves expanding their **workforce participation, leadership roles, and income opportunities** across sectors such as renewable energy, circular economy, and bio-economy/nature-based solutions.
- The objective is to ensure that India's green transition remains **employment-rich, socially equitable, and productivity-driven**, rather than extractive or exclusionary.

### Current Patterns of Participation

- **Untapped Workforce Potential:** Women's labour force participation stands at 41.7%, compared to 78.8% for men, reflecting a significant gender gap that constrains green-led growth.
- **Economic Returns from Gender Balance:** A 1% rise in gender diversity in formal manufacturing is linked to a 2.9% increase in labour productivity, reinforcing the economic rationale for women's inclusion.

- **Gender Skew in the Energy Transition:** Women constitute around 32% of the global renewable energy workforce but are concentrated in administrative and non-technical roles, with limited presence in engineering and field operations.
- **Low Female Presence in Rooftop Solar:** Indian rooftop solar firms report only 11% female employees, with minimal participation in construction, commissioning, and O&M activities.
- **Women in the Circular Economy:** Nearly 1.5 million women, about 49% of all waste-pickers, are engaged in waste collection and segregation, earning 33% less than men for similar work.
- **Compounded Marginalisation:** Most women in waste and recycling value chains come from Dalit and Adivasi communities, facing unsafe conditions, informal employment, and social discrimination.
- **Invisible Labour in Bio-economy:** Women dominate labour-intensive activities like agroforestry, seaweed farming, and bio-input preparation, while men control value addition and formal employment.

### Emerging Pathways

- **Energy-Enabled Micro-Enterprises:** Solar automation in SHG units such as *Didi ke Papad* reduces drudgery, lowers energy costs, and helps women scale sustainable local businesses.
- **Precision Agriculture through Drones:** The Namo Drone Didi initiative upgrades women from farm labourers to technology-driven service providers, promoting climate-smart agriculture.
- **Nature-Based Enterprise Models:** Women-led millet revival initiatives combine biodiversity restoration with solar-powered processing, strengthening climate resilience and food security.
- **Women in Green Manufacturing:** All-women EV plants, such as Ola's Future Factory, mainstream women into advanced clean manufacturing and challenge traditional gender norms.

### Persistent Barriers

- **Restricted Access to Technical Roles:** Despite increased STEM enrolment, women remain underrepresented in field-based renewable energy jobs due to safety risks, mobility limits, and male-dominated work cultures.

- **High Climate Exposure:** Heatwaves erode the daily incomes of informal green workers like salt-pan farmers, revealing gaps in climate insurance and social protection.
- **Financial Exclusion:** Limited land ownership and lack of collateral prevent women-led green enterprises from accessing formal credit.
- **Weak Market Linkages:** Women SHGs producing eco-friendly goods struggle to access formal supply chains due to certification, logistics, and digital barriers.

#### Strategic Directions for the Future

- **Climate-Responsive Social Protection:** Parametric heat insurance can provide timely payouts during climate shocks, safeguarding women's livelihoods.
- **From Skills to Employment:** Women-focused green certifications linked with job placement can reduce skill mismatches and hiring biases.
- **Strengthening Women's Asset Ownership:** Registering rooftop solar assets in women's names under PM Surya Ghar can enhance financial autonomy and energy decision-making.
- **Formalising Informal Green Work:** Municipal contracts for women waste-pickers can convert informal labour into dignified, secure green employment.

#### 500% Tariffs Ahead for India

**Context:** The United States is considering a bipartisan bill allowing tariffs up to 500% on countries, including India, that continue purchasing Russian oil, after US President Donald Trump signalled support for the proposed Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025.

#### About the Act

- The **Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025**, backed by US Senators led by Lindsey Graham, seeks to empower the US President to impose **punitive tariffs (up to 500%)** on countries buying Russian oil, to choke revenues funding Russia's war in Ukraine.

#### Background of the Issue

- After the **Russia-Ukraine war (2022)**, India sharply increased imports of **discounted Russian crude** to protect energy security.
- The **US and G7 imposed a \$60/barrel price cap** to limit Russian revenues without disrupting global oil markets.
- Despite reducing purchases marginally, India remains one of Russia's **largest oil buyers**, leading to earlier US penalty tariffs (**25%, later 50%**) on Indian exports.
- The proposed Bill escalates pressure by linking **energy trade with secondary sanctions**.

#### Key Provisions of the Sanctioning Russia Act, 2025

- **Secondary Sanctions Authority:** The Bill allows the US to penalise countries that trade in Russian energy products, even if those countries are not violating any international law. This broadens US economic influence beyond its own borders.
- **Provision for Ultra-High Tariffs:** Tariffs of up to 500% can be imposed on imports from such countries, effectively pricing their goods out of the US market.
- **Financial Isolation Measures:** The US Treasury can freeze the assets of Russian banks and foreign entities that deal with them, tightening financial pressure.
- **Presidential Discretion:** The President can decide which countries, products, or sectors to target, making the law a flexible diplomatic tool.
- **National Interest Waiver:** Tariffs can be temporarily suspended for up to 180 days if US strategic interests require cooperation.
- **Strategic Objective:** The broader aim is to disrupt Russia's war economy by limiting global demand for its energy exports.

#### Implications For India

- **Severe Impact on Indian Exports:** A 500% tariff would make Indian products prohibitively expensive in the US market, effectively blocking access. The US is one of India's largest export destinations.

## Opportunities for India Amid the Challenges

- ♦ Sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods depend heavily on the American market.
- ♦ Trade bodies estimate that exports worth nearly \$120 billion could be affected, particularly in labour-intensive industries.
- **Rising Energy Costs and Inflationary Pressures:** If India is forced to reduce Russian oil purchases, it would have to source more expensive crude from West Asia, Africa, or the US.
  - ♦ This would increase India's import bill and could raise fuel prices domestically, affecting transportation, food prices, and overall inflation.
  - ♦ Studies suggest India's annual oil import bill could rise by \$9–11 billion, impacting fiscal stability.
- **Strain on India–US Strategic Relations:** India and the US cooperate on defence, technology, and Indo-Pacific security. However, economic coercion undermines trust and creates diplomatic discomfort.
  - ♦ India has pointed out that China, the largest buyer of Russian energy, has not faced similar penalties, raising questions about selective enforcement.
- **Fragmentation of Global Trade and Finance:** Countries affected by US secondary sanctions may increasingly trade using local currencies and alternative financial systems, weakening the dominance of the US dollar.
  - ♦ India, Brazil, and others may expand non-dollar settlement mechanisms to reduce vulnerability.
- **Pressure on India's Strategic Autonomy:** India has traditionally followed a policy of strategic autonomy, maintaining relations with multiple global powers. Coercive economic tools limit this flexibility.
  - ♦ The US withdrawal from the International Solar Alliance (2026) and tariff threats indicate a more transactional diplomatic approach.
- **Diversifying Energy Sources:** Reducing dependence on Russian crude can lower sanction risks.
  - By sourcing oil from multiple regions, India can avoid over-reliance on any single supplier.
  - India is expanding imports from Guyana, Brazil, and West Asia.
- **Reframing India's Role in Global Energy Stability:** India can present itself as a stabilising force in oil markets.
  - ♦ Indian demand for Russian oil prevents global shortages and extreme price spikes, which would otherwise hurt consumers worldwide.
  - ♦ Diplomatic engagements can highlight how India's purchases keep oil prices below \$120 per barrel.
- **Expanding Trade Partnerships:** New FTAs can reduce reliance on the US market.
  - ♦ Broader trade networks help Indian exporters find alternative buyers.
  - ♦ Ongoing negotiations with the UK and EU can benefit the apparel, engineering, and MSME sectors.
- **Multilateral and Legal Engagement:** India can challenge the legitimacy of such tariffs. Unilateral tariffs of this scale violate WTO principles like Most Favoured Nation (MFN).
  - ♦ India can raise concerns at the WTO and G20 forums.
- **Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition:** Reducing fossil fuel dependence strengthens long-term resilience.
  - ♦ Renewable energy reduces exposure to geopolitically sensitive oil markets.
  - ♦ India's Green Hydrogen Mission, EV expansion, and solar push enhance energy sovereignty.



# BIHAR SPECIAL

## Encroachment in Bihar's Wetlands

**Context:** Recently, the Patna High Court sought a report over the ongoing construction and encroachment in Kabartal Wetland, Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries.

### About Kabartal Wetland

- Located in the Begusarai district of Bihar, the wetland is also called Kanwar Jheel.
- It covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in northern Bihar.
- It is one of 18 wetlands within an extensive floodplain complex.
- It is an important stopover point along the Central Asian Flyway, where approximately 58 migratory waterbird species use it to rest and replenish their energy.
- It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented.
- It is home to significant biodiversity, with 165 plant species and 394 animal species recorded, including 221 bird species.
- The area hosts five critically endangered species (3 Vultures and 2 Waterbirds):
  - ♦ Red-Headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)
  - ♦ White-Rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)
  - ♦ Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*)
  - ♦ Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*)
  - ♦ Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)

### Nagi Bird Sanctuary

- It is located in the Jamui district of Bihar.
- It was formed after the construction of a dam across the Nagi River.
- It was notified as a Bird Sanctuary in 1984 and later designated as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.
- It serves as a wintering ground for threatened migratory species, including the critically endangered Baer's Pochard and the endangered Steppe Eagle.
- It provides habitat to more than 75 bird species, 33 species of fish, and 12 aquatic plant species.
- It provides a reliable source of water for the irrigation of over 9,800 acres of agricultural land, and serves as a location for recreation, tourism, and educational activities.

### About Nakti Bird Sanctuary

- It is a man-made wetland located in the Jamui district of Bihar, which was developed primarily for irrigation through the construction of Nakti Dam.
- It provides habitat for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, and reptiles and amphibians.
- It is home to some globally threatened species, including the endangered Indian elephant and a vulnerable native catfish (*Wallago attu*).
- It was also declared a bird sanctuary in 1984, where more than 20,000 birds gather during the winter months.

## Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana

**Context:** Recently, the Government of Bihar has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' for Students to explore the Historical and Cultural Landmarks of India.

### About the Scheme

- It has been launched by the Education Department of Bihar.
- Objective: To promote the educational and cultural development of students and provide them with an opportunity to gain information related to national heritage.
- Students studying in state government-run secondary schools (Class 9-12) will be taken on a tour of important sites and research institutions across India.
- A similar scheme, the '**Mukhyamantri Bihar Darshan Yojana**', is already operational in the state, in which children from government-run primary and middle schools are sent on tours within the state.
- The prominent landmarks proposed for student visits include:
  - ♦ Taj Mahal, Agra
  - ♦ Red Fort & Qutub Minar, Delhi
  - ♦ Charminar, Hyderabad
  - ♦ Goa (Famous beaches)
  - ♦ Green nature and backwaters of Kerala
  - ♦ Darjeeling, West Bengal
  - ♦ Rishikesh (Yoga, meditation, and spirituality)

- ♦ Jaipur (Pink City and Rajasthani culture)
- ♦ Varanasi-Sarnath, Kolkata, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot - Confluence of literature, culture and spirituality

## 20th International Tripitaka Chanting Ceremony

**Context:** Recently, the 20th International Tripitaka Chanting Ceremony concluded at the sacred site of the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

### Key Points about the Ceremony

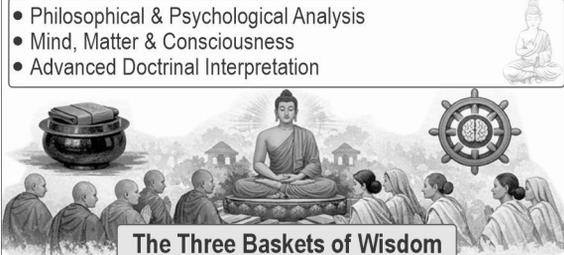
- It was organised by the **International Tripitaka Chanting Committee (ITCC)** of India, headed by **Sanghasena Mahathero** of the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Ladakh.
- It was the **first time** that seventeen Buddhist organisations from across India had come together to organise this event.

### Tripitaka

The Three Baskets of Buddhist Scriptures

Foundational scriptures of Buddhism in the Theravāda tradition  
Compiled after the Buddha's Mahaparinirvana Preserving the teachings and monastic rules.

<p><b>1. Vinaya Pitāka (Discipline Basket)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules for Monks &amp; Nuns</li> <li>• Code of Monastic Conduct</li> <li>• Regulates daily life, discipline &amp; ethics of Sangha</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Sutta Pitāka (Discourse Basket)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachings &amp; Sermons of Buddha</li> <li>• Dialogues &amp; Parables</li> <li>• Covers Ethics, Morality &amp; Meditation</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Abhidhamma Pitāka (Philosophy Basket)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philosophical &amp; Psychological Analysis</li> <li>• Mind, Matter &amp; Consciousness</li> <li>• Advanced Doctrinal Interpretation</li> </ul>	



**The Three Baskets of Wisdom**

- It is the largest **Theravada Buddhist** gathering of its kind, attracting thousands of monks and devotees from Southeast Asian nations.
- Over 15,000 Indian monks and laypeople participated, along with international participants from the **United States, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.**

- The chanting of the **Tripitaka (the Buddhist canon)** took place under the Bodhi Tree for 10 days.
- As a symbol of spiritual awakening, **220 handcrafted golden Buddha statues** from Odisha were consecrated and donated to various Buddhist communities across India.
- It includes an art gallery, Q&A sessions with Dhamma teachers, and cultural showcases by artists from India and abroad.
- Devotees took part in the traditional commemorative walk from **Jethian Valley to the bamboo grove of Venuvana.**

## Birth Anniversary of Bhikhari Thakur

**Context:** Recently, the nation commemorated the 138th birth anniversary of the great Bhojpuri folk artist and social reformer Bhikhari Thakur.

### About Bhikhari Thakur

- **Personal Life:**
  - ♦ He was born on December 18, 1887, into a poor barber family in the village of Kutubpur, Saran district, Bihar.
  - ♦ He later migrated to Calcutta (now Kolkata), where he keenly observed the struggles of migrant workers, which deeply influenced his work.
  - ♦ With only one year of school education, he came to be known as the **“Shakespeare of Bhojpuri literature”**.
  - ♦ Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan gave him the title of **‘Unaghara Heera (Unguarded Diamond),’** while Jagdish Chandra Mathur called him **‘Artist of the Tradition of Bharat Muni.’**
  - ♦ Died in 1971.
- **Literary Contributions:**
  - ♦ He authored nearly three dozen books and booklets, and his published and unpublished works were compiled as **“Bhikhari Thakur Granthavali”** by Bhikhari Thakur Ashram.
  - ♦ His most renowned play, **Bidesiya**, portrays the anguish of separation brought by migration.
  - ♦ Other works, such as **Beti Bechwa, Gabar Ghichor**, and **Achhoot Ki Shikayat**, boldly engaged with pressing social concerns, including child marriage, dowry, and untouchability.

- His writings confronted deep-rooted issues like caste discrimination, gender inequality, alcoholism, and the hardships of migration and displacement.
- He introduced the comic character “**Labar**” or “**Vidushak**” who enters in mid-play for humour and social commentary.
- He incorporated popular Bhojpuri folk song forms, including **Biraha, Purbi, Kajari, Alha, Fagua, Chaita, Sorathi, and Chaubola.**
- He was a pioneer of “**Launda Naach**” (Men dressed as women to perform female roles), which emerged due to the parda system.

### **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Clubs**

**Context:** Recently, following instructions from the Bihar Education Project Council, the district education office has issued orders to establish ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat’ clubs in all schools across Bihar.

#### More about the News

- All Block Education Officers and School Sub-Inspectors are instructed to link Bihar with **Mizoram and Tripura** through the clubs formed in the schools.
- Speech, writing, quiz, rangoli, painting, and cultural competitions on the theme of Mizoram and Tripura will be organised in the secondary and higher secondary schools.
- Audio-visual materials and booklets are uploaded on the **Diksha portal** for the activities.

#### About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Clubs

- It is a **student-led initiative** that promotes cultural exchange, national unity, and diversity awareness through fun and educational activities, strengthening students’ connection with the wider Indian cultural fabric.
- Nodal Agency: Ministry of Education; implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Railways.
- It is part of the **Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat programme**, aimed at strengthening emotional

bonds between people from different states and Union Territories.

#### • Objectives:

- To help students learn about Unity in Diversity.
- To promote National Integration through regular activities among students from varied cultural backgrounds.
- To give students exposure to languages, traditions, music, festivals, cuisine, and customs of paired states/UTs.
- To conduct structured engagement that highlights different aspects of the paired region’s culture and heritage.

#### • Activities of Students:

- Seminars and presentations about the paired state’s culture and geography.
- Folk dance, music, food festivals and craft display.
- Quiz competitions, essay writing, and poster making on themes related to national unity and cultural appreciation.

### **Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Bihar**

**Context:** Recently, following the acquisition of 125 acres of land from the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA), a tender has been floated for site preparation for entrepreneurs at Kumarbagh in West Champaran.

#### Key Points

- Under the **Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Package 2025**, the Centre approved Bihar’s first two Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at **Navanagar in Buxar district and Kumarbagh in West Champaran.**
- Each SEZ will be developed across **125 acres** of land with an investment of **225 crore.**
- The 125-acre campus will be treated as a foreign territory for taxation purposes, and industries set up in the zone will be exempt from taxes.
- For the promotion of these SEZs, the Bihar government has already launched the **BIADA Amnesty Policy, 2025.**
- The government has developed a single window clearance system for seamless installation of entities in the zones.
- More than 20+ industries can operate inside these

zones, and 10,000+ jobs are expected to be created across both SEZs.

### BIHAR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION PACKAGE 2025

Approved: 26th Aug 2025 | Valid till: 31st Mar 2026

Objective: Boost industrial growth & attract large-scale private investment; generate 1 crore jobs in 5 years.

**Key Highlights**

#### 1. LAND BENEFITS

Free land at Rs. 1 for investors:

- Up to 10 acres: ₹100 crore investment & 1,000 jobs
- Up to 25 acres for projects > ₹1,000 crore
- Fortune 500 companies: 10 acres
- 50% discount on BIADA land

#### 2. FIN TECH CITY (PATNA)

- ₹408.81 crore for 242 acres
- Modeled on Gujarat's GIFT City
- Boosts financial services & exports

#### 3. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SUPPORT

- Viability Gap Funding for Patna & Gaya
- Routes:**

1. Patna-Kathmandu    2. Gaya-Sharjah
3. Gaya-Bangkok    4. Gaya-Singapore, Gaya-Colombo

#### 4. FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Choose 1 model:

- Interest subvention up to ₹40 Cr + 100% SGST Reimbursement
- 300% SGST Reimbursement (14 Years)
- 30% Capital Subsidy

#### 5. EXPORT INCENTIVES

- Increased to ₹40 lakh/year,
- Valid for 14 years

#### 6. EMPLOYMENT & SKILL SUPPORT

- ₹5,000/month per worker + Up to 300% ESI/EPF support (eligible industries)
- Other Units: ₹2,000/month per worker + Social Security Benefits
- ₹20,000 Skill Development Grant per Employee

#### About Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

- They are designated duty-free enclaves treated as foreign territory for trade, tariffs, and duties.
- They operate under the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006, administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- They are established to promote exports, attract foreign investment, boost employment, and encourage industrial growth.
- Units in SEZs enjoy tax incentives, simplified customs procedures, and single-window clearances.

### 44th Session of Bihar Hindi Sahitya Conference

**Context:** Recently, the two-day 44th Session of the Bihar Hindi Sahitya Conference was concluded in Patna.

#### Key Points

- Objective:** To promote and enrich the Hindi language and literature by encouraging literary discussions, cultural exchange, and honouring the contributions of writers and scholars.
- It was dedicated to the **350th anniversary of the great sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the ninth Guru of the Sikh faith and a great martyr.
- The conference was organised with **seven thematic sessions**.
- After the completion of the conference, **50 Scholars** were awarded with different awards.

Anuj Bechain	Kaviwar Gopal Singh 'Nepali' Award
Dr Renu Mishra	Shanta Sinha Memorial Award
Dr Alka Verma	Dr Usha Rani 'Deen' Memorial Award
Prof. Sunita Srishti	Dr Shanti Jain Memorial Award
Dr. Deepak Kumar	Prof. Kesari Kumar Memorial Award
Dr Ataulah Khan Alvi	Raja Radhika Raman Prasad Singh Award
Dr Mamta Mishra	Dr Shanti Suman Award
Dr Birendra Kumar Mallik	Brajnandan Sahay 'Brajvallabh' Award
Dr. Loknath Mishra	Poddar Ramavatar 'Arun' Award
Dr. Ranjita Tiwari	Vidushi Bindu Sinha Memorial Award
Dr Asha Tiwari Ojha	Vidushi Girija Barnwal Award
Dr Renu Sharma 'Radhya'	Prakashwati Narayan Award
Dr Ajay Kumar Meet	Dr Muralidhar Srivastava 'Shekhar' Award
Shri Vinod Kumar 'Naitik'	Pt. Ram Dayal Pandey Award
Dr. Naveen Nikunj	Dr Parmanand Pandey Award

Shri Mukund Prakash Mishra	Acharya Shriranjan Suridev Memorial Award
Dr Nagendra Kumar Sharma	Baba Nagarjun Award
Shri Umesh Mishra	Prof. Muralidhar Srivastava 'Shekhar' Award
Shri Devendra Singh Azad	Dr Ramprasad Singh Folk Literature Award
Dr. Ajay Kumar	Sahitya Sarathi Balbhadra Kalyan Award
Rajneesh Kumar Gaurav	Pt. Prafulla Chandra Ojha 'Mukt' Award
Shri Arvind Kumar Bharti	Pt. Hans Kumar Tiwari Memorial Award
Dr Shubha Kumar Barnwal	Dr Kumar Vimal Award
Shri Ashish Sagar	Raghuvir Narayan Award
Amit Kumar Rai	Dr Shailendranath Srivastava Memorial Award
Dr. Ajeya Kumar	Prof. Mathura Prasad Dixit Memorial Award
Dr. Mannu Rai	Prof. Amarnath Sinha Memorial Award
Sanjay Kumar Yadav	Sahityasarathi Balbhadra Kalyan Award
Dr Kumar Vimalendu Singh	Prof. Kesari Kumar Memorial Award
Maheshwar Ojha 'Mahesh'	Pt. Jagannath Prasad Mishra Gaur 'Kamal' Award
Rakshit Raj	Dr Naresh Pandey 'Chakor' Memorial Award
Sangeeta Mishra	Vidushi Anupamanath Memorial Award
Mohammad Mumtaz Hasan	Peer Muhammad Munis Award
Jyoti Mishra	Vidushi Shailaja Jayamala Memorial Award
Suman Lata	Kishori Chaturvedi Memorial Award
Acharya Animesh	Dr Chaturbhuj Memorial Award
Deepali Kumari	Niroj Sinha Memorial Award
Priyanka Kumari	Vinodini Sharma Memorial Award
Sanjay Kumar Sinha	Acharya Shriranjan Suridev Memorial Award

## Trial in Absentia

**Context:** Recently, Bihar has become the first state in India to implement "Trial in Absentia" under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

### Key Points

- Trial in Absentia refers to a trial conducted in the absence of the accused.
- **Section 356 of the BNSS** provides that if an accused is not arrested in a case where the sentence can be **more than 10 years**, the trial will still be conducted against them.
- **Objectives:**
  - ♦ To prevent the delay of justice when the accused absconds.
  - ♦ To discourage evasion of the judicial process.
  - ♦ To help in reducing case backlogs in courts.
  - ♦ To safeguard the rights and interests of victims.
  - ♦ To enhance the effectiveness and authority of the justice system.

### Provisions for Proceedings

- Trial may begin if the court finds the accused's presence unnecessary or obstructive to justice.
- At least **two arrest warrants** must have been issued earlier in the case of absconding before trial.
- If the accused still does not appear, proceedings can continue by:
  - ♦ Publishing a notice in a national or local newspaper,
  - ♦ Informing relatives, and
  - ♦ Posting a notice at the accused's residence.

### Other Judicial Reforms in Bihar

- It ranks **second** in the country for **e-prosecution**, after Uttar Pradesh
- It became the **first state** in the country to conduct a trial and secure a conviction in the shortest possible time.
- After the implementation of the new law, directorates of prosecution were created in all districts of the state.
- Special teams have been formed to present witnesses in the court, and monitoring is done daily by the Home Department and Police Headquarters.

- Public prosecutors submit daily reports to the Home Department, Prosecution, and Police Headquarters on the number of trials initiated, witnesses examined, and cases in which bail was granted or rejected.

### **AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet – 2025-26**

**Context:** Recently, the Association of Indian Universities East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet – 2025-26 was concluded in Patna.

#### **About the Conference**

- It is a focused forum for university leaders, where practical policy recommendations are discussed for mainstreaming sustainability in research, curriculum, and campus operations.
- It was the **first time** that a national-level conference of this kind was organised in Bihar.
- **Host University:** Aryabhata Knowledge University (AKU), Patna, Bihar.
- Theme: **Promoting Sustainability & Social Responsibility in Higher Education Institutions.**
- Vice-Chancellors from across the country shared their views on the sustainable development of education, research, innovation and digital technology.
- A postage stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Association of Indian Universities was also released.
- Stem cell technology was a special focus of the program. AKU is a leading institution in higher education.

### **Param Rudra**

**Context:** Recently, the state-of-the-art supercomputer "Param Rudra" was inaugurated at IIT Patna under the National Supercomputing Mission.

#### **About Param Rudra**

- It is the **first supercomputer in Bihar** and was established under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- It was developed through a collaboration between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and IIT Patna.

- The system has a peak computing performance of **838 TeraFLOPS.**
- It includes **180 high-performance compute nodes**, GPUs, and high-memory nodes, with **1 petabyte of high-speed storage.**
- It is built using the indigenous Rudra server series, where **more than 50% of the components** used are manufactured and assembled in India, and the software stack is also indigenously developed by C-DAC.
- The facility is expected to benefit approximately **60 faculty members and 400 students** across 10 different departments at the institute.
- Key research areas supported by this facility include computational astrophysics, material design, molecular electronics, fluid mechanics, and artificial intelligence.

### National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) India

Launched: 2015	Ministries: MeitY & DST
Implemented by: C-DAC + IISc Bengaluru	

**Objective**

Build a self-reliant supercomputing ecosystem in India

**Key Goals**

- National supercomputing infrastructure
- Indigenous hardware & software
- Strengthen R&D, academia & industry
- Develop HPC-skilled manpower

**Core Features**

- Network of supercomputers nationwide
- PARAM series development

**Applications**

  
 Climate & weather forecasting

  
 Space & defence research

  
 Healthcare & drug discovery

  
 AI, big data & scientific simulations

**Implementation Phases**

Phase I  
(Assembly of systems)

Phase II  
(Manufacturing)

Phase III  
(Design & Manufacturing)

#### Supercomputer

- A supercomputer is an extremely powerful computer capable of performing trillions of calculations per second.

- It uses thousands of processors working in parallel to solve complex problems at very high speed.

**Characteristics**

- Very high processing speed (measured in FLOPS)
- Massive parallel processing
- Large memory & storage capacity
- Special cooling and power systems

**Applications**

- Weather & climate forecasting
- Scientific research (physics, chemistry, space)
- Healthcare & drug discovery
- Artificial Intelligence & Big Data Analysis
- Defence, cryptography & nuclear research

**Examples**

- Fugaku (Japan)
- Summit (USA)
- PARAM series (India)

**Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave**

**Context:** Recently, the 3rd edition of the Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave was organised at Bengaluru to foster the state's long-term development pathway.

**Key Highlights of Conclave**

- Organised under the **Let's Inspire Bihar initiative** at the **Oxford College of Science, Arts, Commerce & Management, Bengaluru**.
- **Objective:** To connect Biharis based in South India with investors, corporate leaders and policymakers, and to channel professional expertise and capital towards Bihar's development.
- It became one of the largest gatherings outside the state, focusing on the future of Bihar, where about 900 entrepreneurs, industry leaders, IT professionals, start-up founders, and members of the Bihari diaspora attended.
- The **Bihar @ 2047 Vision Document** was refined, which is a comprehensive roadmap, first drafted in 2023, debated in 2024, and formally released at the Start-up Summit in Patna this August.
- It featured three panel discussions on **Education, Egalitarianism and Entrepreneurship**, with experts from India and abroad.
- Setting up a **Bihar Industrial Security Force**, modelled on the CISF, was announced to provide dedicated security to industrial and commercial establishments.

- The upcoming **Bihar Development Summits 2026** were announced in **Hyderabad** and **New Delhi**.

**Judicial Efficiency and Expenditure Trends in Bihar**

**Context:** According to a recent report by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the cost of settling each case in Bihar is significantly higher compared to other states in the country.

**Key Highlights of the Report**

- The report reveals that the cost per case settlement in Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs) in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is nearly **200 times higher** than in Delhi and more than **140 times higher than in Haryana**.
- The cost of disposal of a case in Bihar is around **Rs 1,06,000**, whereas the national average cost per case is **Rs 2,650**.
- The average cost per case settlement in Delhi's Permanent Lok Adalat is around Rs 500, while in Haryana it is Rs 766.
- It states that the **average cost per sitting of the Permanent Lok Adalat is ₹17,000**.
- It also expressed concern over the issue of huge vacancies in the PLAs in Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Odisha.
- It also suggests some **solutions** for the issues:
  - ♦ **Optimum utilisation of resources** for rationalising the expenditure and boosting efficiency.
  - ♦ **Robust appointment** and monitoring systems to improve the efficiency and reach of Permanent Lok Adalats.

**Call-In-Line Presentation System**

**Context:** Recently, the Department of Telecommunications has started the Call-In-Line Presentation System in Bihar to avoid fraud-related calls and SMS.

**About the Call-In-Line Presentation System**

- It is also known as **Calling Line Identification Presentation (CLIP)**, in which, when a call is made, the name of the person in whose name the SIM card is registered appears on the mobile screen.
- It works exactly like Truecaller, which helps in preventing spam calls.

- This system is linked to the KYC data of telecom companies.
- **Benefits**
  - ♦ **Identity Verification:** Shows the caller's name and number before pick up.
  - ♦ **Spam Prevention:** Helps users screen and block fraudulent or unwanted calls.
  - ♦ **Increased Answer Rates:** People are more likely to answer when they recognise the caller.
  - ♦ **Operational Speed:** Saves time by identifying callers without manual verification.
  - ♦ **Professionalism:** Allows companies to display a verified brand name instead of a random number.
  - ♦ **Improved Safety:** Identifies unknown callers for better personal security.
- **Concerns**
  - ♦ **ID Spoofing:** Scammers can falsify their caller ID to impersonate banks or government agencies.
  - ♦ **Privacy Violations:** Displaying verified names without consent can expose personal information to strangers.
  - ♦ **Data Security:** Centralised name databases are high-value targets for hackers and data breaches.
  - ♦ **Harassment Risks:** It makes it easier for stalkers or bad actors to harvest names from unknown numbers.
  - ♦ **Consent Issues:** Mandatory name display (CNAP) removes a caller's right to remain anonymous.
  - ♦ **Marketing Misuse:** Verified names can be collected by telemarketers for targeted spam lists.
- **Objective:** To digitally enable Universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for Planning, Management and Service delivery.
- It provides a fully managed, cloud-based ERP system specifically designed for Indian institutions, integrating technology with governance policies and standards, and giving stakeholders digital access anytime, anywhere.
- It provides facilities to Central and State Universities, Colleges, NITs, IITs, IIMs, IISERs and other institutions of national importance.
- It covers admissions, examinations, student records, employee and leave management and administrative functions.

### Kajra Solar Power Plant

**Context:** Recently, the Kajra Solar Power Plant in Bihar successfully energised its transmission line and power transformer, marking a significant step in Bihar's renewable energy push.

#### About Kajra Solar Power Plant

- It is located in **the Lakhisarai district** in Bihar.
- It is being developed by the Bihar Government with involvement from **Bihar State Power Generation and Transmission Companies (BSPGCL, BSPTCL)**.
- It is one of the country's largest battery storage system solar energy projects, which will give a new impetus to green energy production in Bihar.
- **Two Phases:**
  - ♦ First phase includes a **185 MW solar power plant** and a **254 MWh battery energy storage system**, constructed at an estimated cost of **₹1,810 crore**.
  - ♦ It can supply uninterrupted electricity for 4 to 5 hours during peak hours through the battery energy storage system.
  - ♦ Second phase includes a **116 MW solar power plant** and a **241 MWh battery energy storage system**, constructed at an estimated cost of **₹1,055 crore**.
- The target completion timeline for both phases is January 2027.
- After completion of the project, the total capacity of Kajra Solar Power Plant will be **301 MW** and the total battery energy storage system capacity will be **495 megawatt-hours**.

### Samarth Portal

**Context:** Recently, the Higher Education Department of Bihar has instructed all state universities to use the Samarth portal to complete various tasks, from enrollment to filling out examination forms.

#### About Smarth Portal

- Samarth is an initiative by the **Ministry of Education** started in 2019, under the **National Mission on Education** through Information and Communication Technology.
- It is a single, integrated, open-source and open-standards-based platform that supports process automation and digital transformation.

### Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP)

**Context:** Recently, the Thuthi Mohanpur Panchayat in Chautham block of Khagaria district has been selected as a 'Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat'.

#### About Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to establish at least one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat in every district of the country.
- **Objectives**
  - ♦ To create inclusive and gender-sensitive Panchayats that empower women leaders.
  - ♦ To ensure women's participation, safety, rights, and leadership in local governance.
  - ♦ **To focus on Theme 9 of the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs): Women-Friendly Panchayat.**
- The MWFGP Dashboard has been developed to track and evaluate the progress of the panchayats.
- It consists of **41 indicators across 6 sub-themes**:
  - ♦ Participation in Governance
  - ♦ Education & Skill Development
  - ♦ Access to Economic Opportunities
  - ♦ Health & Nutrition
  - ♦ Safety & Security
  - ♦ Advocacy against Harmful Practices
- The Ministry has partnered with the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** to develop training content and provide technical expertise to the concerned **Mukhiya/Pradhan, Sarpanch, secretary**, etc.

### Gen-Z Post Office in Bihar

**Context:** Recently, the first Gen-Z Post Office of Bihar was opened at IIT Patna by the Indian Postal Department.

#### Key Points

- Following the IIT Patna launch, the state's second Gen-Z post office is scheduled to open on December 15 at Tilka Manjhi University in Bhagalpur.
- 5 other locations of the Eastern Zone, Northern Zone and Gaya Zone have been selected for the development of other Gen-Z Post Offices.

#### About Gen-Z Post Office

- It is a redesigned version of a traditional India Post Office tailored specifically to the needs, preferences and lifestyle of Generation Z.
- These post offices are reimagined as modern, youth-friendly hubs offering amenities and services tailored to students and young people.
- It aims to modernise the postal network by engaging youth, ensuring relevance in the digital and e-commerce era, and blending traditional trust with new-age convenience.
- **Services offered by a Gen-Z Post Office**
  - ♦ Free high-speed Wi-Fi zones
  - ♦ Cafe-style seating and social spaces
  - ♦ QR code payments and digital booking
  - ♦ On-site printing or "My Stamp" custom stamps
  - ♦ Quick parcel packaging/booking
  - ♦ Additional services like Aadhaar enrolment, banking kiosks etc.

### Tikuli Art

**Context:** Recently, the Bihar Museum Society has completed all formalities and submitted the required documents to obtain a GI tag for the Tikuli Art from Bihar.

#### About Tikuli Art

- It is a unique traditional art form from Patna, Bihar, with an **800-year-old history**.
- The term "Tikuli" is derived from the local word for bindi (the ornamental dot worn on the forehead), as the craft was originally practised on glass bindis decorated with gold foil.
- It is an art form **exclusive to Bihar** and is not found elsewhere in India or abroad.
- Its evidence is found from the **Maurya period**, and later in the **Mughal Period**, Patna city became a major centre of Tikuli.
- It underwent a major transformation after **Upendra Maharathi** visited **Japan in 1954**. The art evolved from glass to wood, hardboard, and then MDF.
- Historically, Tikuli was worn by royal and aristocratic women. In contemporary times, **it is blended with Madhubani art** to create products like wall plates, coasters, and pen stands.

- It involves a complex, multi-step and highly skilled production process-
  - ♦ Glass is first melted, blown into shape, and then cut.
  - ♦ Gold work is applied to the glass surface.
  - ♦ Artists scratch intricate motifs such as flowers and depictions of deities and then paint them.
  - ♦ The artwork is glued using acacia and polished to achieve a glossy finish.
- **Benefits of GI Tag**
  - ♦ The painting will gain global recognition.
  - ♦ Thousands of artisan families will find sustainable employment.
  - ♦ Artists will receive a fair price for their art.
  - ♦ Demand and popularity will increase both domestically and internationally.
  - ♦ The originality of traditional art will be preserved.

**FDI Inflow in Bihar**

**Context:** Recent data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of the Government of India clearly shows that Bihar lags far behind other states in attracting investment.

**Key Points**

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) refers to investment made by a foreign entity (individual or company) in the business or productive assets of another country with the intention of long-term management control.
- Bihar ranks 25th out of 29 states in India in attracting Foreign Direct Investments.
- It only ranks above Nagaland, Manipur, Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- According to the Government of India data for September 2025, foreign investment across the country in 2025 amounted to ₹3,84,369 crore, of which Bihar’s share was only ₹ 6 crore and 9 lakh.
- Jharkhand, a neighbouring state separated from Bihar, also surpasses Bihar with ₹859 million in foreign direct investment.
- Under FDI in 2025, Japan’s Rebright Partner Investment Limited has invested in an egg production unit in Nalanda, and American company Health RX Inc. invests Rs 85 lakh in Gaya

Current scenario of FDI in Bihar (As of November 2025)

District	Investment
Nalanda	4.05 crores
Gaya	1.35 crores
Patna	0.45 crore
Begusarai	0.17 crore
Nawada	0.08 crore

**Reasons behind the low FDI inflow in Bihar**

- Poor industrial and transport infrastructure, with low level of urbanisation and market connectivity
- Inadequate and unreliable power supply
- Bureaucratic Red-Tapism and complex approval processes
- Perception of below average law-and-order conditions
- Shortage of skilled and industry-ready workforce
- Limited integration with global value chains
- Strong competition from more industrialised states

**Steps taken by the Government to improve FDI inflow in Bihar**

- **Industrial Policy Incentives:** Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy (BIIPP) offers capital subsidy, tax exemptions and interest subsidy.
- **Single-Window Clearance:** Bihar Udyog Mitra portal enables faster approvals (e.g., online land allotment and licenses).
- **Industrial Parks & Clusters:** Development of industrial areas at Bihta, Hajipur, and Muzaffarpur to attract manufacturing units.
- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Upgrading highways under Bharatmala and rail freight corridors for better logistics.
- **Power Sector Reforms:** Expansion of thermal plants like Kanti Plant, Barauni Plant, NTPC Barh, etc., to provide 24x7 power supply to industrial zones.
- **Skill Development Initiatives:** Bihar Skill Development Mission and ITIs are training youth for industry needs.
- **Investment Promotion Events:** Bihar Business Connect and Investors Summits to showcase opportunities.

## Eklavya Residential Training Centre

**Context:** Recently, the state government has decided to open several Eklavya Residential Training Centres in the state to nurture the excellence of young rural and urban players in the state.

### About Eklavya Residential Training Centre

- It is a network of state-level residential sports training centres established by the Bihar government under its broader **Chief Minister's Sports Development Scheme**.
- These centres are run under the authority of the **Bihar State Sports Authority (BSSA)**, established to promote sports development and infrastructure in the state.
- **Objective:** To identify talented players at a young age and provide high-level training under the guidance of experienced coaches, along with accommodation, nutrition, and modern sports resources.
- These centres offer residential facilities, modern infrastructure, and support all-around development.
- **Facilities Provided to Players**
  - ♦ Accommodation, food, training facilities and education too.
  - ♦ **Financial Support:** Monthly scholarships up to ₹1000 and competition exposure up to ₹20,000.
  - ♦ **Additional Benefits:** Includes insurance, sports science, academic support, and rewards with increased coach salaries.
  - ♦ **Two-Level Monitoring:** System managed by ACS Sports at the state level and DM at the district level.
  - ♦ **Digital Monitoring:** The **eEklavya portal** allows for online monitoring from anywhere.

## Human Trafficking in Bihar

**Context:** Recently, a review by the Directorate of Prosecution, Bihar, shed light on the huge pendency of cases of Human Trafficking in different districts in Bihar.

### Key Points

- Human trafficking involves recruiting, transporting, or harbouring people through force, fraud, or coercion for exploitation.
- A total of 946 human trafficking cases are currently on trial across the state.
- Patna has the highest number of pending cases, with 109, followed by Gaya and Samastipur.

- The primary reasons for the delays are the absence of the accused (387 cases) and lack of witness testimony/evidence (331 cases).
- Eleven districts, including Bhojpur (Ara), Banka, Saran, Darbhanga, Gopalganj, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Munger, Sheikhpura, and Sheohar, have ten or fewer cases pending.

### Human trafficking scenario in Bihar

- Extreme poverty and natural calamities like floods lead to trafficking.
- Deceptive recruitment (false job offers, promises of marriage or work).
- Sexual exploitation or forced prostitution, especially of girls and women.
- Children are particularly vulnerable; many are trafficked from railway stations, rural markets, or open border areas.

### Steps taken by the State

- Cases related to missing children under the Bihar Juvenile Justice provision, if not investigated within four months, will be transferred to the district's Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) for further action.
- The prosecution directorate has instructed officials to prioritise and resolve all cases, except those where the accused is absent, within two months.
- The appointment of one Court Naib (Court Assistant) in all courts of the state and one Court Naib (Police Station) in each police station has been ordered.
- In addition, the appointment of a court-in-charge in the police prosecution branch has also been made.
- All Chief Prosecutors have been directed to send the list of witnesses to the concerned police station to ensure the presence of the investigating officer and other witnesses in pending cases for evidence, a copy of which should also be made available to the Additional Director General of Police of the Criminal Investigation Department.

## Avinya Bihar 2.0

**Context:** Recently, on the occasion of National Startup Day, the Avinya Bihar 2.0 program was organised at the Chandragupta Institute of Management, Patna.

## Key Points

- It was organised by the Industries Department of Bihar in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Technology Patna**.
- It was organised on behalf of **Start-up Bihar** to present a new picture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the state.
- **Objective:** To establish detailed discussions on important issues like investment, guidance, and government support to boost entrepreneurship in Bihar.
- The Industries Minister announced that the state government will increase the start-up seed fund from **₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh** to provide more strength to the youth to start their own ventures.
- Panel discussions were also held on the topics

**'Building a Strong Start-up Ecosystem in Bihar' and 'Vision 2030: Policy Direction and Government Initiatives'.**

- **Key Highlights of the Summit**

- ♦ Launch of a dedicated website for start-ups "**startupandi.com**".
- ♦ Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Startup Bihar and TiE Patna, and another MoU between Startup Bihar and SU&I Magazine.
- ♦ The **top 5 incubation centres and start-up cells** were awarded
  - IIT Patna
  - CIMP Patna
  - BAU Sabour Bhagalpur
  - RPCAU Pusa, Samastipur
  - CNLU Patna

## ONE LINER

- Recently, how many Mobile Forensic Vehicles have been launched by the Bihar Government to enable on-site fast-track crime investigations? **34 Vehicles**
- Recently, where was the 44th General Conference of Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan organised? **Patna**
- Recently, which state has reserved 20% of the seats in its various sports academies for players from Bihar? **Madhya Pradesh**
- Recently, which state government has decided to implement the Mashal scheme of Bihar in its state? **Madhya Pradesh**
- How many players from Bihar have been selected for IPL 2026? **8 Players**
- According to the latest report by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, what is the ranking of Bihar in adopting the Sabhasar App in Gram Panchayats? **5th Rank (74.36%)**
- Recently, how many students from Bihar participated in the National Art Festival 2025 held in Pune? **25 Students (Won 2 Trophies)**
- Recently, in which category did the Bihar team secure first place at the National Art Festival 2025? **Theatre Category (Defeating Delhi)**
- What is the nationwide ranking of Bihar in Dial 112 response time? **Second (With an average police response time of 12 minutes after a call).**
- Recently, who became the first woman from Bihar to arrive in Antarctica? **Arti Gupta**
- Recently, the Bihar Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services has signed an MoU with which organisation to conduct yoga and meditation programmes for prisoners in the state? **Art of Living (AOL) Foundation, Bengaluru**
- Which state will host the 2028 National Youth Games? **Bihar**
- Where is the Mahaprajapati Gautami Mahaparinirvana site, recently in the news for the discovery of ancient relics, located? **Veerpur village, Muzaffarpur**
- Which Indian state has the highest number of female police force? **Bihar**
- Recently, which day was celebrated in Bihar on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Former PM Atal Bihari Bajpeyee? **Prakharta Diwas**
- Recently, which district has become the first in Bihar to successfully implement paperless eOffice? **Madhubani**
- Where is Odhani Dam located, which was seen in the news for the development of Bihar's first Water Sports Academy? **Banka**
- Recently, which team won the 6th Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Women's Cricket Championship held at Moinul Haq Stadium in Patna? **Digital India Thunders (Runner-Up: Jal Jeevan Strickers)**
- Recently, in the Vijay Merchant Trophy (Elite) held in Gwalior, the match between Bihar and which team ended in a draw? **Puducherry**

- Recently, which cricket player from Bihar has been honoured with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for being the youngest IPL player and fastest Indian centurion in the league?  
**Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (Samastipur)**
- Recently, which child from Bihar was posthumously honoured with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for giving up his life in a brave and instinctive attempt to rescue another child from drowning?  
**Kamlesh Kumar (Kaimur)**
- What is the ranking of AIIMS-Patna in the Kayakalp Yojana 2024-25 of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare?  
**3rd**
- Where will the state's first proposed turmeric cluster be established?  
**Sakara, Muzaffarpur**
- Recently, who was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court?  
**Justice Sangam Sahu**
- Recently, where was the 6th Bihar State Closed Squash Championship organised?  
**Patna**
- Recently, when was the Adhyatmikta Day Celebrated at all registered monasteries, temples, and rest houses in Bihar?  
**January 12 (Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary)**
- Recently, who has been re-elected as the chairman of the State Workers and Artisans Union?  
**Nagendra Kumar Kushwaha**
- Recently, which short film from Bihar secured the 3rd position in the 11th Khajuraho International Film Festival organised in Khajuraho (MP)?  
**Oshmin ki Pahal**
- Where is the Kharagpur Lake located, which was seen in the news for its newly launched boating facility?  
**Munger**
- Recently, which sanctuary of Bihar has received state government approval to be designated as the state's second tiger reserve?  
**Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Recently, what medal did the Bihar junior girls' hockey team win at the Junior East Zone Khelo India Asmita Games held in Guwahati?  
**Silver Medal**
- Recently, where was the South Asia Ball Badminton Championship, 2025 organised?  
**Patna**
- What is the ranking of Bihar in OPD registrations through the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)-based Scan and Share service?  
**First Rank**
- Recently, where was the 33-foot-tall Shiva lingam brought from for the Virat Ramayana Temple being built in Kesariya, East Champaran?  
**Tamil Nadu**
- Recently, who has been elected as the Vice-President of the Amateur Baseball Federation of India (ABFI) for the 2025-2029 term?  
**Madhu Sharma**
- Recently, where was a life-size statue of Sushil Modi unveiled on his birth anniversary?  
**Patna**
- Recently, which district in Bihar has topped in securing convictions in serious crime cases?  
**Bhagalpur**
- Recently, which district in Bihar has topped in securing convictions under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985?  
**Patna**
- Recently, who was honoured with the Rashtriya Pratibha Samman award for her exceptional contributions to education and social empowerment?  
**Dr. Divya Jyoti**
- According to the recent rules of the Bihar government, which two days have been designated as mandatory days for all public offices in Bihar to hear and address public grievances?  
**Every Monday and Friday**
- Recently, which two lawyers from the Patna High Court have been appointed as judges of the Patna High Court?  
**Ritesh Kumar and Praveen Kumar**
- Recently, which state has decided to adopt the technical innovations and procedures of the Bihar Election Commission for conducting its local panchayat elections?  
**Sikkim**
- Recently, who from the Saran district of Bihar has been honoured with the prestigious Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar?  
**Praveen Mohan Sahay**
- Recently, which department in Bihar received the Skoch 'Order of Merit' award for water conservation?  
**Panchayati Raj Department**
- Recently, who was awarded the World Hindi Academy Award for the year 2026 by the World Hindi Academy Mumbai?  
**Satish Singh (Patna)**
- Recently, where is Bihar's first FinTech city being developed?  
**Jaitiya Mauja (Fatuha)**
- Where are the Mandar Festival and Bansi Fair held every year?  
**Banka**
- Recently, how many medals have been won by Bihar Players in the 69th National School Games organised in Imphal?  
**2 Medals**
- Recently, where was Bihar's first E-Radiation centre opened?  
**Bihta Industrial Area (Patna)**
- What is the nationwide ranking of Bihar in issuing national permits?  
**13th**

# ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### Electoral Trust Scheme

**Context:** With the scrapping of the Electoral Bonds Scheme by the Supreme Court, companies have once again turned to electoral trusts as the preferred channel for political donations in 2024–25.

#### About the Scheme

- It was introduced by the Government of India in 2013.
- It is the institutional funding channel for political parties and gained prominence again after the Supreme Court struck down the Electoral Bonds Scheme in 2024.
- Both electoral trusts and electoral bonds were designed to facilitate political donations by corporations and individuals.
- It is regulated by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Electoral Trust Scheme, 2013.

#### Functions

- **Renewal Requirement:** Electoral trusts must apply for renewal every three financial years.
- **Eligible Beneficiaries:** Donations can be made only to political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- **Mandatory Disbursement Rule:** Minimum 95% of total contributions received in a financial year must be donated to political parties, and a maximum 5% can be used for administrative expenses.
- **Disclosure of Donor Identity:** PAN is mandatory for resident Indian donors, while a Passport number is required for NRIs.
- **Mode of Contribution:** Contributions can be made only through: Cheques, Bank drafts and Electronic transfers.
- **Transparency:** The electoral trust route is fully transparent, with disclosure of contributors and Beneficiary political parties.
- **Use of Funds:** Funds can be used only for permitted administrative expenses and political contributions.
- **Accounting and Oversight:** Trusts must maintain audited accounts, disclose donors, recipients and disbursements to the CBDT and the Election Commission of India (ECI).

## PRAGATI

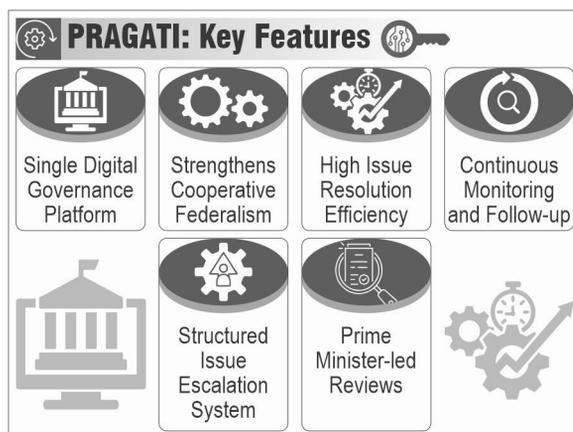
**Context:** Recently, PM chairs the 50th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

#### About PRAGATI

- It is a comprehensive, technology-enabled governance mechanism launched on March 25, 2015, spanning all tiers of government.
- It aims to address the common man's grievances while monitoring and reviewing important government programmes and projects, including those flagged by States
- It functions as a tripartite platform integrating three hierarchical levels
  - ♦ Prime Minister's Office at the apex.
  - ♦ Union Government Secretaries as the middle tier.
  - ♦ State Chief Secretaries as the operational base.

#### Objective

- Fast-track stalled infrastructure projects.
- Improve implementation of flagship welfare schemes.
- Resolve citizen grievances across sectors.



#### Key Achievements

- Since 2014, 377 projects have been reviewed, and 2,958 out of 3,162 identified issues, about 94% have been resolved.
- Several projects that had remained stalled for decades were completed or decisively unlocked.
  - ♦ Jammu–Srinagar rail link commissioned in June 2025.

- ♦ Navi Mumbai International Airport was commissioned in December 2025.
- ♦ Bogibeel Bridge was commissioned in December 2018.

### New Rules Against Caste Discrimination

**Context:** Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified new regulations to address caste-based discrimination in higher education institutions across the country.

#### Evolution from Draft to Final Regulations

A draft version released in February 2024 invited public criticism for:

- Excluding Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from the ambit of caste-based discrimination.
- Proposing penalties to “discourage” false complaints, potentially deterring genuine grievances.
- Ambiguity in defining discrimination.

#### In the final notified version of the rules

- Included OBCs under the ambit of “caste-based discrimination”
- Dropped the provision on false complaints.
- Expanded some of the language contained in the 2012 regulations.

#### Major Highlights

- **Caste-based Discrimination:** It means “discrimination only based on caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes”
- **Definition of Discrimination:** Defines “discrimination” as “any unfair, differential, or biased treatment or any such act against any stakeholder, whether explicit or implicit
- **Ground of Discrimination:** Discrimination on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, disability, or any of them.
- **Equity committees:** Promote “equity and equal opportunity to the community at large in the higher education institutions (HEIs) and to bring about social inclusion”.
- **Equal Opportunity Centres:** Every higher education institution is mandated to establish an Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC)

- ♦ Chaired by the head of the institution must have the representation of OBCs, persons with disabilities, SCs, STs, and women
- **National-level monitoring committee:** Representatives of statutory professional councils and commissions and from civil society
  - ♦ The committee is required to meet at least twice a year.
  - ♦ Look into issues of discrimination
- **Penalties for Non-Compliance**
  - ♦ Debarred from participating in UGC schemes
  - ♦ Debarred from offering degree programmes
  - ♦ Distance learning programmes, and online mode programmes

### National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers

**Context:** Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised India’s First National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers.

#### About the Programme

- It is India’s first Programme for Tribal Healers on Strengthening Health Outreach in Tribal Areas, held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- It will recognise, capacitate, and integrate tribal and indigenous healers as trusted community-level partners within India’s public health ecosystem.
  - ♦ Tribal healers remain the most culturally trusted touchpoint for healthcare-seeking behaviour, especially in remote habitations where frontline staff mobility and Institutional access remain limited
- MoU signed between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ICMR–Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) Bhubaneswar, to establish India’s first National Tribal Health Observatory–the Bharat Tribal Health Observatory (B-THO) under Project DRISTI.
  - ♦ It will institutionalise tribe-disaggregated health surveillance, implementation research, and research-driven disease elimination initiatives in tribal districts
- The capacity-building programme was organised with strong technical and knowledge partnerships involving leading national and international institutions

- It will bring global evidence, national best practices, and scientific rigour to structured engagement with tribal healers.

## Governor's Power to Address the State Legislature

**Context:** Recently, Tamil Nadu has witnessed renewed standoffs between Governors and State governments over the content and delivery of the Governor's Address to the Legislature.

### About the Governor's Address

- The Governor's Address to the State Legislature is a **constitutionally mandated procedure** marking the commencement of the first legislative session after elections and the first session of every calendar year.
- Far from being a personal or political speech, the address serves as a **formal articulation of the elected government's policies, priorities, and legislative agenda**.
- In essence, the Governor functions as a **constitutional medium**, conveying the will of the Council of Ministers to the Legislature.

### Constitutional Framework

- **Article 176** mandates the Governor to address the Legislative Assembly (or both Houses in bicameral States) at the specified sessions and inform the Legislature of the reasons for its summons.
- **Article 163** establishes that the Governor must act on the **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, except in narrowly defined discretionary areas.
- **Article 175** empowers the Governor to address or send messages to the House, reinforcing the communicative-but not decision-making-nature of the role.
- **Article 174**, dealing with summoning and proroguing the Legislature, has been judicially interpreted as a power to be exercised **in accordance with Cabinet advice**.

### Nature and Limits of the Governor's Powers

- **Mandatory Duty, Not Discretionary Expression:** The Governor is constitutionally bound to deliver the Address. However, the content is prepared by the elected government, leaving no scope for unilateral alteration, omission, or rewriting by the Governor.

- **Absence of Independent Policy Authority:** The Address reflects the **collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers**. Any deviation risks undermining democratic accountability and the supremacy of the elected executive.
- **Procedural and Symbolic Role:** The Address initiates legislative business and is followed by a structured discussion in the House, ensuring legislative scrutiny of government policy, rather than gubernatorial oversight.
- **Limited Discretion in Legislative Session:** Judicial interpretations have made it clear that Governors cannot delay, advance, or obstruct legislative sessions contrary to the advice of the Cabinet.

### Judicial Precedents

- **In Yogender Singh Handa v. State of Rajasthan (1967)**, the Rajasthan High Court ruled that even the partial reading of the Governor's Address is sufficient to treat the constitutional requirement as fulfilled, and the address can be deemed to have been delivered in its entirety.
- **Syed Habibullah v. Speaker, West Bengal Assembly (Calcutta HC)**, Affirmed that while the Address is mandatory, defects in its delivery do not invalidate legislative proceedings.
- **Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker (2016):** The Supreme Court held that the Governor does not possess discretionary powers under Article 174 and must act on ministerial advice while summoning the Assembly.

## ECONOMY

### The Rapid Financing Instrument

**Context:** Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved USD 206 million in emergency assistance for Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah under the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI).

### About Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI)

- It is an IMF emergency lending mechanism designed to provide swift financial support to member countries experiencing sudden and acute balance-of-payments (BoP) stress.

- It is particularly activated during natural disasters, external economic shocks, or domestic crises, where immediate liquidity is critical.
- It is one of the facilities under the General Resources Account (GRA) that provides financial support to countries, including in times of crisis.

### Purpose of the RFI

- Enable **quick access to foreign exchange** during short-term crises
- Cushion economies from **disruptive external shocks**.

### Key Operational Features

- One-time, rapid disbursement of funds.
- Meant for temporary and urgent BoP crisis.
- No requirement for a detailed structural reform programme.

### Eligibility

- All member countries can access the facility, while the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) receive concessional support through the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF).

### Windows Available Under the RFI

- **Regular Window**
  - ♦ It is used for Balance of Payment(BoP) pressures arising from domestic instability, external shocks, or fragility.
  - ♦ **Access limits:**
    - Up to 50% of the IMF quota annually
    - 100% cumulatively
- Large Natural Disaster Window
  - ♦ It is applicable when disaster-related losses amount to 20% or more of GDP.
  - ♦ **Enhanced access:**
    - Up to 80% of quota per year
    - 133.33% cumulatively

### Lending Terms

- **Repayment period:** Between 3½ and 5 years
- **Interest rate:** Aligned with the IMF's non-concessional lending facilities (such as Stand By Arrangements, Flexible Credit Line, and Precautionary and Liquidity Line)

## District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan

**Context:** Recently, the Ministry of Textiles announced the “ District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT)” Plan to Create Global Export Champions

### About the Plan

- It is a strategic initiative designed to catalyse inclusive and sustainable growth across India's textile landscape, in the National Textile Ministers Conference in Guwahati
- It aims to develop 100 high-potential districts as global export champions, while enabling 100 aspirational districts to become self-reliant textile hubs.
- The Ministry analysed all districts using a data-driven scoring methodology based on three key parameters - Export Performance, MSME Ecosystem Workforce Presence.
- It also emphasises Purvodaya convergence in the east and northeast zones.

### Two-pronged strategy of district categorisation

- **Champion Districts (Scale & Sophistication):** These districts will focus on removing advanced bottlenecks.
- Interventions include upgrading to Mega Common Facility Centres (CFCs), integrating Industry 4.0, and facilitating direct Export Market Linkages, etc.
- **Aspirational Districts (Foundation & Formalisation):** These Districts would aim to build the ecosystem from the ground up in setting up the foundation and formalisation of the workforce.
  - ♦ It includes basic skilling and certification, establishing Raw Material Banks, and promoting micro-enterprises through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Cooperatives, etc.

### Textile Sector of India

- The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes approx. 2.3 % to the country's GDP, 13% to industrial production and 12% to exports.
- India has a 4% share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.

- India is the 6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel in the world

### Quick Commerce Platforms to stop 10-minute Service

**Context:** Recently, the government ordered Eternal’s Blinkit, Zepto and Swiggy to stop promoting their grocery deliveries as a “10-minute” service.

#### Key Highlights

- India’s gig workforce is projected to grow from 1 crore in 2024–25 to 2.35 crore by 2029–30.
- Code on Social Security, 2020 provides legal recognition and social security benefits to gig and platform workers.

**Aim:** Ensuring greater safety, security and improved working conditions for gig workers.

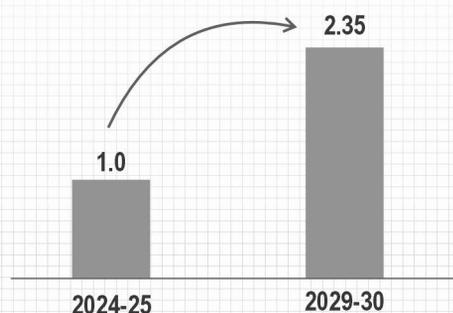
#### About the Gig Worker

- They also called non-standard work and consist of income-generating activities outside of traditional, long-term, direct-hire employment.
- They earn their livelihood outside the traditional employer–employee setup
- Their roles typically involve flexible hours, no long-term commitments, and compensation based on tasks or projects completed.
- “Gig” is borrowed from the music world, where performers book “gigs” that are single or short-term engagements at various venues.

#### India’s Gig Economy

- According to the Ministry of Labour & Employment (Annual Gig Work Bulletin, 2024–25):
  - ♦ Over 3.5 lakh individuals are employed in Q-commerce delivery.
  - ♦ 60% are part-time gig workers, with daily average earnings between ₹700–₹1,200.
- The e-Shram portal has registered over 30.98 crore unorganised workers, including 3.37 lakh platform workers.
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal have the highest registrations, with strong female participation.

### Projected Employment in India's Gig Economy (NITI Aayog) (Numbers in Crore)



Source: Ministry of Labour & Employment

### Global Risks Report 2026

**Context:** Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 21st edition of the Global Risks Report (2026).

#### About the Report

- Uncertainty is the defining theme of the global risks outlook in 2026.
- The report analyses global risks through three time frames: 2026 (Immediate term), 2028 (short-to-medium term) and (long term) 2036.

#### Key Highlights

- **Geoeconomic Confrontation:**
  - ♦ The confrontation, such as sanctions and tariffs are the top risk for 2026.
  - ♦ 18% of respondents polled labelled such geoeconomic confrontations as the main concern for the world.
  - ♦ It includes the “weaponisation” of trade, finance, and technology through sanctions and tariffs (such as the US tariffs imposed by the US, banning critical minerals by China etc).
- **State-Based Armed Conflict**
  - ♦ It listed state-based armed conflict, such as the war raging in Ukraine, as the second biggest risk for respondents at 14 per cent.
- **Extreme Weather**
  - ♦ The events came in third at eight per cent.
  - ♦ It indicates that economic and geopolitical tensions now outweigh environmental and technological risks, which have traditionally been a major concern, at least in the short term.

## ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

### • Societal Risks:

- ♦ Polarisation and Misinformation and disinformation, Facebook and amid the rise of deepfakes, particularly content generated by AI. as notable social risks

### Biggest Risks to India

- Cybersecurity is the biggest risk to India in 2026.
- Wealth inequality and a lack of a social safety net are among the biggest threats facing India.
- Goeconomic Conflicts are the biggest risk facing major powers
- Growing dependence on digital infrastructure, particularly when it comes to governance and making payments.

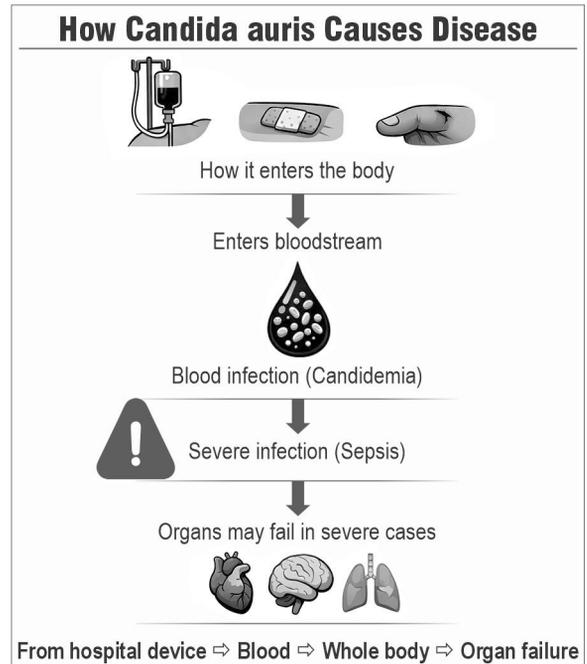
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Candida Auris

**Context:** Recently, at the University of Exeter Scientists have discovered a genetic process that acts as a potential new treatment target for Candida auris, a mysterious and deadly fungal infection.

### About Candida auris

- **Pathogen type:** Multidrug-resistant Yeast (Fungus).
- **Scientific Name:** Candida auris (also known as Candidozyma auris).
- **WHO Status:** Ranked in the “Critical Priority” group of the WHO Fungal Priority Pathogens List.
- **Mortality Rate:** Extremely high, approximately 45%.
- **High-Risk Patients:** Primarily those in **Intensive Care Units (ICUs)** and patients on **ventilators**.
- **Environmental Resilience:**
  - ♦ **Thermotolerance:** High tolerance for heat.
  - ♦ **Halotolerance:** High salt tolerance.
  - ♦ **Surface survival:** It can survive for weeks on hospital surfaces and resists standard disinfectants.
- **Key timeline:**
  - ♦ **First formal recognition:** In 2009, from a patient in Tokyo, Japan, as a **nosocomial infection**.
  - ♦ **First discovery in the wild:** **Andaman Islands** in 2021.



### About Candida

- Candida is a genus of **yeasts** (unicellular fungi).
- Most Candida species are part of our normal human **microbiota** (found in the mouth, gut, and skin) and only cause “opportunistic infections” when the immune system is weak.
- Candida auris is not the only clinically significant Candida species in India.
- **Other Candida species in India:**
  - ♦ **Candida albicans:** The most common species globally and in India, causing thrush and severe systemic infections.
  - ♦ **Candida tropicalis:** This is highly prevalent in India and is known for its high adherence to medical devices (catheters).
  - ♦ **Candida glabrata:** Known for being naturally less sensitive to common “azole” antifungal drugs (like Fluconazole).
  - ♦ **Candida krusei:** Intrinsically resistant to Fluconazole, making it very difficult to manage.

Feature	Candida auris	Candida albicans	Mucormycois (Black Fungus)
Classification	Yeast (Fungus)	Yeast (Fungus)	Mold (Fungus)

Main Threat	Multi-drug resistance	Most common infection	Necrosis (tissue death)
Relevance in India	“Superbug” threat	ICMR Research (ALT1)	Declared Epidemic in Bihar
Common Site	Bloodstream, Ears	Mouth, Skin, Vagina	Sinus, Brain, Lungs

**About the WHO Fungal Priority Pathogens List**

- The WHO released this first-ever list in 2022 to prioritise 19 fungi.
- In India, some specific pathogens from this list are of extreme importance due to their high “disease burden.”
- Critical Priority Group:
  - ✓ Aspergillus: India has one of the highest burdens, and it is often misdiagnosed as Tuberculosis (TB).
  - ✓ Candida: Leading cause of bloodstream infections (Candidemia) in Indian ICUs.
- High Priority Group:
  - ✓ Mucormycosis (Black Fungus): Many Indian states (like Rajasthan and Telangana) declared it a “Notifiable Disease” under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
  - ✓ Eumycetoma (Madura Foot): It enters through thorns or soil injuries and is found in rural, agricultural belts.
- Medium Priority Group:
  - ✓ Talaromycosis: Life-threatening disease, particularly in adults with HIV infection.

**Cellular Autophagy**

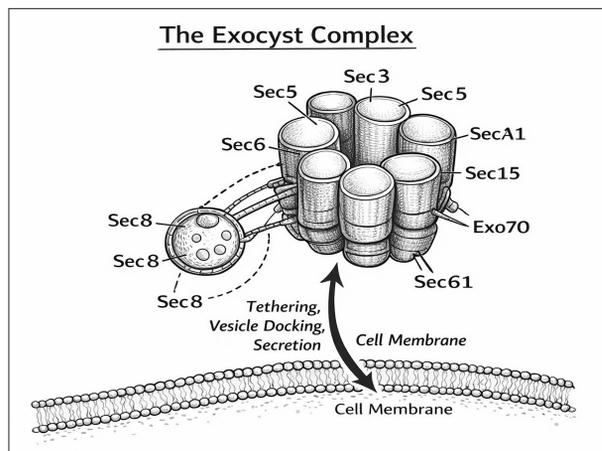
**Context:** Recently researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, have identified a new molecular regulator of autophagy for treating Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Cancer.

**About Autophagy**

- It is the cell’s **self-cleaning mechanism** that removes damaged components and helps fight infections.
- It is vital for **long-lived cells like neurons**, where waste accumulation can be toxic.
- Defective autophagy is associated with:
- **Neurodegenerative diseases:** Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s
- **Cancer:** Alters cell survival and tumour growth pathways

**Exocyst Complex**

- It is a **highly conserved, eight-protein complex** present in eukaryotic cells.
- It helps regulate **cell growth, polarity, and membrane expansion.**
- It was **traditionally known** for its role in:
  - ♦ Vesicle trafficking
  - ♦ Transporting proteins and lipids to the **cell membrane** during secretion



**Its Relevance in Diseases**

- **Neurodegenerative diseases:** Impaired exocyst-mediated autophagy leads to the accumulation of toxic cellular waste in neurons.
- **Cancer:**
  - ♦ Autophagy acts as a **tumour suppressor** by maintaining genome integrity and cellular homeostasis.
  - ♦ Advanced cancer cells exploit autophagy for survival, making its regulation therapeutically important.

**India’s Space Programme in 2025**

**Context:** India’s Space programme recently witnessed a defining transition in 2025 with advanced technological demonstrations, expanding global partnerships and a clear alignment with long-term objectives under Space Vision 2047.

- **Space Docking Experiment Mission**
  - ♦ Successfully launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

- ♦ Demonstrated autonomous rendezvous, docking and undocking of two spacecraft in orbit.
- ♦ Docking was achieved twice, highlighting maturity in indigenous docking technologies.
- ♦ Power transfer and circumnavigation experiments were conducted.
- ♦ These capabilities are essential for future Indian space stations and crewed missions.
- **First Space Biology Experiment**
  - ♦ **Crop-1** experiment was conducted on the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Orbital Experimental Module platform(POEM-4).
  - ♦ Cowpea seeds germinated and grew up to the two-leaf stage in microgravity.
  - ♦ Provided early insights into plant growth systems crucial for long-duration human missions.
- **Orbital Experimental Module Platform**
  - ♦ POEM-4 completed one thousand orbits around the Earth.
  - ♦ Hosted twenty-four payloads from the Indian Space Research Organisation and private sector entities.
  - ♦ Experiments covered robotics, green propulsion, artificial intelligence and biological sciences.
  - ♦ Reflected an emphasis on low-cost, shared access to space.
- **Solar Research Advancements**
  - ♦ First scientific datasets released from the Aditya L1 mission were placed at the Sun–Earth Lagrange Point One.
  - ♦ Data provided insights into the Sun’s photosphere, chromosphere and corona.
  - ♦ Strengthened India’s role in solar physics and space weather research at the global level.
- **Earth Observation and Monitoring**
  - ♦ Satellite-based data supported agricultural planning.
    - Wheat production was forecast at over one hundred twenty-two million tonnes using satellite imagery and crop models.
  - ♦ Launch of the joint Indian Space Research Organisation and National Aeronautics and Space Administration Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite.
    - Enabled global monitoring of land deformation, glacier movement and natural disasters.
    - Enhanced India’s contribution to climate studies and disaster management.
- **Expansion of Launch Infrastructure**
  - ♦ Establishment of a Third Launch Pad at Sriharikota to support next-generation launch vehicles and human spaceflight missions.
  - ♦ Construction progressed at the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle launch complex in Kulasekarapattinam.
- **Launch and Propulsion Milestones**
  - ♦ Indian Space Research Organisation achieved its 100th launch from Sriharikota.
  - ♦ **Significant propulsion achievements included:**
    - Successful hot tests of the semi-cryogenic engine power head.
    - Completion of a one-thousand-hour life test of electric plasma thrusters.
    - First in-space restart of a cryogenic upper stage during a heavy-lift launch vehicle mission.
- **Gaganyaan Programme Milestones**
  - ♦ The first integrated air-drop test of the crew module parachute system was successfully conducted.
  - ♦ Marked a critical safety benchmark for India’s human spaceflight programme.
- **Indian Presence Aboard the International Space Station**
  - ♦ Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla travelled to the International Space Station on a commercial mission and spent eighteen days in orbit.
  - ♦ Conducted microgravity experiments and public outreach activities.
  - ♦ Marked India’s entry into research aboard the International Space Station.
- **Supporting Human Spaceflight Research**
  - ♦ Human endurance and adaptation studies were conducted through analogue missions in Ladakh’s Tso Kar Valley.
  - ♦ An agreement was signed with the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, aimed at advancing research in astronaut health and biomedical systems.
- **Advancing Self-Reliance**
  - ♦ India delivered its first fully indigenous 32-bit space-grade microprocessors, namely VIKRAM3201 and KALPANA3201, developed

in collaboration with the Semiconductor Laboratory, Chandigarh.

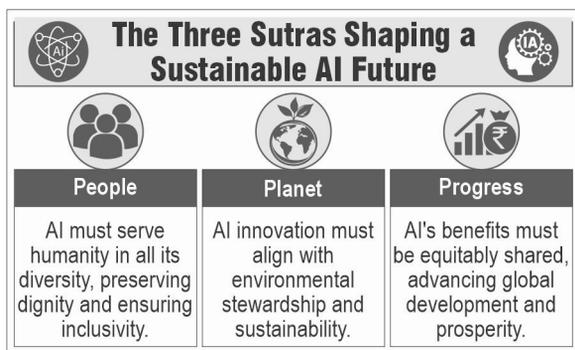
- ♦ Strengthened autonomy in critical onboard computing technologies.
- **Private Sector Engagement**
  - ♦ ISRO signed a technology transfer agreement to commercialise the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), opening the door for industry-led launches.
  - ♦ A private startup successfully conducted static testing of a large solid rocket motor at Indian Space Research Organisation facilities.

**India AI Impact Summit 2026**

**Context:** India will host the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, positioning itself as a global hub for responsible and inclusive Artificial Intelligence.

**About India AI Impact Summit 2026**

- A global platform to **showcase India's AI capabilities** and promote cross-sectoral innovation.
- It focuses on **Responsible Intelligence**, inclusive growth, and AI for public good.
- It aims to bring together **governments, startups, researchers, industry leaders, and civil society** from across the world.



**Key Flagship Initiatives**

- **AI Pitch Fest (UDAAN)**
  - ♦ Global pitching platform for AI startups.
  - ♦ Special focus on **women-led startups** and **differently-abled changemakers**.
- **Global Innovation Challenges**
  - ♦ Open challenges for **youth, women, and innovators** worldwide.

- ♦ Encourages AI-based solutions for **real-world public challenges** across sectors.
- **Research Symposium**
  - ♦ Platform for showcasing the **latest AI research**.
  - ♦ Participation from **India, the Global South, and the international research community**.
  - ♦ Promotes collaboration, evidence sharing, and methodological exchange
- **AI Expo**
  - ♦ Dedicated to **Responsible Intelligence**.
  - ♦ Participation of **300+ exhibitors** from **30+ countries**.
  - ♦ Showcases AI solutions across governance, industry, and society.

**The Seven Chakras**

- Building on the three guiding Sutras, the discussions at the **AI Impact Summit** will be structured around **seven interlinked Chakras**.
- ♦ **The Seven Chakras are:**
  - **Human Capital:** Strengthening skills, talent, and capacity-building to prepare societies for an AI-driven future.
  - **Inclusion for Social Empowerment:** Ensuring equitable access to AI benefits, particularly for marginalised and underrepresented communities.
  - **Safe and Trusted AI:** Promoting ethical, transparent, and accountable AI systems through robust governance frameworks.
  - **Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency:** Leveraging AI to enhance systemic resilience, foster innovation, and improve efficiency across sectors.
  - **Science:** Advancing AI-led research, knowledge creation, and scientific collaboration across borders.
  - **Democratising AI Resources:** Expanding access to data, computing infrastructure, and AI tools to reduce global and domestic digital divides.
  - **AI for Economic Growth and Social Good:** Harnessing AI to drive sustainable economic development while addressing societal challenges.

**Transparent Land Governance**

**Context:** Recently, the Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications has launched the 'Land Stack' and 'Glossary of Revenue Terms' (GoRT) initiatives.

**About Land Stack**

- It is an integrated, GIS-based digital platform designed to provide single-window access to land and property information for citizens and government agencies.
- It is inspired by international best practices from Singapore, the UK, and Finland.
- It aims to overcome fragmented land data across departments.
- It was launched as a pilot in Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu.

**Its Benefits**

- The Land Stack portal enables informed decision-making by citizens through integrated access to land-related information.
- It enhances citizen convenience, transparency and trust.
- It reduces the risk of inadvertent purchase of unauthorised or non-compliant properties.
- It improves inter-departmental coordination and supports data-driven governance.
- It represents a significant e-Governance reform in land administration.

**About Glossary of Revenue Terms (GoRT)**

- To address the linguistic diversity of India's land administration, a glossary was released to harmonise terms like Khasra, Dag, and Pula.
- It has been launched in collaboration with the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and CoE-LAM at YASHADA, Pune.
- It provides meanings in Vernacular, Hindi, English, and Roman scripts to ensure data interoperability without replacing State-specific terminology.

**Its Benefits**

- Its objective is to harmonise terminology to make land data comparable and interoperable nationally, without replacing State-specific terminology.

- It serves as an authoritative reference for revenue officials, policymakers, judicial authorities, and citizens.

**PathGennie Software**

**Context:** Recently, the Ministry of Science and Technology has announced the development of PathGennie, an open-source computational software.

**About PathGennie**

- It is an open-source computational framework designed to simulate rare and slow molecular events, particularly the unbinding of drugs from protein targets.
- Unlike conventional molecular dynamics methods, it avoids artificial bias and distortions, enabling more physically accurate simulations.
- It is being developed by the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata

**Objectives**

- To overcome the limitations of traditional molecular dynamics simulations in capturing **rare molecular transitions**
- To generate **accurate drug-protein interaction pathways**
- To reduce **computational time and cost** without compromising scientific accuracy

**Key Applications**

- Predicts **drug unbinding pathways** and **drug residence time**, a crucial pharmacological parameter
- Demonstrated through studies such as **Imatinib-Abl kinase interaction**
- Enhances understanding of **protein-ligand kinetics** for improved drug design
- Applicable beyond pharmaceuticals, including: chemical reactions, catalysis, phase transitions and molecular self-assembly

**Nimesulide**

**Context:** The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prohibited the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of all oral formulations containing Nimesulide above 100 mg.

## About the News

- The ban has been imposed through a gazette notification under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, following consultations with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- Since its introduction, nimesulide has faced safety concerns and has not been approved for use in United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

## About Nimesulide

- **Composition:** Nimesulide is a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) used mainly for relief from pain and inflammation.
- **Chemical class:** Sulfonanilide group of NSAIDs
- **Chemical formula:**  $C_{13}H_{12}N_2O_5S$
- It was first approved in Italy in 1985 and approved in India by Drug Controller General of India 1995
- It has been linked to hepatic adverse reactions, ranging from mild increases in liver enzymes to severe liver failure
- India prohibited the use of nimesulide for children below 12 years of age in 2011, while continue to permit its use in older patients.

## Other drugs Banned in India

- Antidiabetes Drugs - Phenformin, Rosiglitazone
- Gastrointestinal Drugs - Cisapride, Tegaserod
- Antibiotic - Gatifloxacin
- Phenacetin: A pain and fever reducer that was banned due to its links to kidney damage

## Lab Grown Diamonds

**Context:** Recently, India's lab-grown diamond market has entered a high-growth phase as demand accelerates and funding surges amid the expansion.

## About Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGDs)

- It possesses the same chemical composition, physical characteristics, optical properties, and crystal structure as natural diamonds.
- Like natural diamonds, they are made of tightly bonded carbon atoms, respond to light in the same way, and exhibit similar hardness and durability.

- The key difference between natural and lab-grown diamonds lies in their origin.
  - ♦ Natural diamonds form over millions of years deep inside the Earth.
  - ♦ Lab-grown diamonds are produced using advanced technologies that replicate these geological conditions in a controlled environment.
- It is important to distinguish lab-grown diamonds from diamond simulants such as Moissanite, Cubic Zirconia (CZ), and White Sapphire.
- These materials only resemble diamonds in appearance but do not share the same chemical or physical properties.

## Method of Production

- **High Pressure, High Temperature (HPHT) Method**
  - ♦ Carbon material is placed inside a large machine that applies pressures exceeding 870,000 pounds per square inch and temperatures between 1300°C and 1600°C.
  - ♦ It is also used to improve the colour quality of lower-grade diamonds.
- **Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) Method**
  - ♦ It uses relatively lower temperatures (700°C to 1300°C) and reduced pressure.
  - ♦ Carbon-rich gas is introduced into a vacuum chamber.
  - ♦ Carbon atoms deposit layer by layer on a diamond seed crystal

## Applications of Lab-Grown Diamonds

- Used for **industrial and technological purposes** due to their exceptional hardness and strength.
- Used in cutting tools and machinery.
- Used in electronics as heat spreaders for high-power laser diodes, laser systems, and high-performance transistors.

## India's Role in Lab-Grown Diamond Production

- India is a major global producer of lab-grown diamonds, manufacturing over **three million** units annually.
- India accounts for around **15% of the world's total production**, making it a significant player in the global LGD industry.

### PSLV-C62 Mission

**Context:** ISRO's PSLV-C62 rocket lifted off from the first launchpad at Sriharikota, becoming India's first space launch of 2026.

#### About PSLV C62 Mission

- It is a multi-payload mission that carried one primary satellite and 18 secondary payloads into space.
- It was the **9th dedicated commercial mission** undertaken by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to build and launch the EOS-N1 Earth observation satellite for a user.
- It also provided launch services for **15 co-passenger satellites** from domestic and international customers.
- It marked the 64th flight of PSLV with two solid strap-on motors and the fifth mission of the PSLV-DL variant.
- It also demonstrated the Kestrel Initial Technology Demonstrator (KID) from a Spanish startup, which is a small-scale prototype of a re-entry vehicle being developed by the startup.
  - ♦ The KID will be the last co-passenger to be injected, after which it is slated to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere towards splashdown in the South Pacific Ocean.

#### About EOS-N1 (Anvesha) Satellite

- It is a hyperspectral imaging satellite developed primarily for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

#### Key Features:

- ♦ Captures data in hundreds of wavelength bands
- ♦ Enables material identification with high precision
- ♦ Provides detailed Earth observation capabilities

### Mpemba Effect

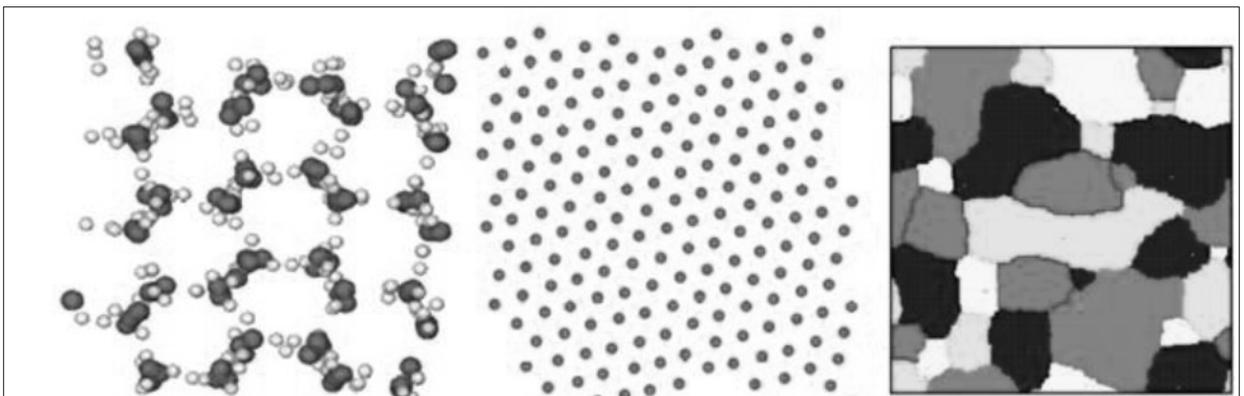
**Context:** Indian scientists have developed the first supercomputer powered simulation to successfully capture the Mpemba effect.

#### About the News

- Researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) used high-performance supercomputers to simulate ice formation in water.
- They employed advanced models like TIP4P/Ice, 2D Lennard-Jones, and the Potts model to study phase transitions.
- The simulations confirmed that the Mpemba Effect is not exclusive to water but can also occur in other fluid-to-solid transitions.

#### About the Mpemba Effect

- The Mpemba Effect refers to the paradoxical phenomenon where hotter water freezes faster than colder water under certain conditions.
- First observed by Aristotle and later rediscovered by Erasto Mpemba, the effect remained scientifically unresolved due to experimental and computational limitations.



**How the Mpemba Effect Works**

- When water cools, it does not freeze instantly.
- It passes through intermediate molecular states before nucleation (formation of ice crystals).
- Hot water sometimes avoids these delay-prone intermediate states and reaches nucleation faster.
- Colder water may remain trapped in unstable molecular arrangements for longer durations.
- Thus, hot water can take a shorter thermodynamic path to freezing.

**Scientific Significance**

- Provides the first computational proof of the Mpemba Effect in water.
- Resolves long-standing experimental controversies.
- Demonstrates that the effect is universal, not limited to water alone.
- Enhances understanding of out-of-equilibrium phenomena in materials.

**Applications and Implications**

- **Thermal Management:** Helps design better cooling systems for next-generation electronics.
- **Material Science:** Offers insights into rapid temperature-induced material relaxation.
- **Climate and Cryogenics:** Improves understanding of ice formation dynamics.
- **Physics of Phase Transitions:** Deepens knowledge of how substances behave during state changes.

**ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY**

**Arctic Tundra Wildfires**

**Context:** Recently, a study that was conducted in Arctic Alaska has revealed that wildfires in the tundra biome are now more frequent and intense than at any time in the last 3,000 years.

**Key Findings**

- **Between 1000 BC and AD 1000:** Wildfire activity in the Arctic tundra remained extremely low, as cold climatic conditions and moist soils prevented ignition and fire spread.
- **From AD 1000 to 1200:** Fire incidents increased moderately when tundra soils began to dry, making the landscape more vulnerable to burning.

- **Between AD 1200 and 1900:** Wildfire frequency declined again as cooler conditions returned and moisture levels stabilised.
- **Since the mid-20th century:** Particularly after 1950, the Arctic tundra has witnessed an unprecedented surge in wildfire activity, driven by rapid warming, record-dry peat soils, and the expansion of woody shrubs that provide abundant fuel.

**Reason for the Increase in Wildfires**

- **Arctic warming and permafrost feedbacks:** The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that the Arctic is warming faster than the global average, causing permafrost thaw and transforming ecosystems that historically acted as carbon sinks.
- **Connection between warming, soil drying and wildfires:** UN climate science highlights that surface warming increases the frequency of drought and dry soil conditions in high-latitude regions.
- **Wildfires and Arctic carbon dynamics:** The wildfires can accelerate permafrost degradation and release large carbon stocks into the atmosphere.

**Ecological and Climate Implications**

- Arctic wildfires release vast reserves of previously stored carbon, intensifying global warming.
- Fire-induced heating accelerates permafrost thaw, leading to land instability and ecological disruption.
- Recurrent fires reshape vegetation patterns, reduce biodiversity, and weaken critical ecosystem services.

**Arctic Tundra Biome**

- It is a treeless region found in the Arctic and on the tops of mountains, where the climate is cold and windy, and rainfall is scant, making it world’s northernmost biome.
- It extends from areas **north of the Arctic Circle up to the polar ice cap.**
- It also stretches southward into regions such as **Canada’s Hudson Bay** and parts of **northern Iceland**, covering nearly **11.5 million square kilometres.**
- In addition to the Arctic tundra, **alpine tundra** occurs at high altitudes on mountains worldwide, while **Antarctic tundra** is found across **Antarctica and its surrounding islands.**

**Climate-Resilient Agriculture**

**Context:** Recently, Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) is emerging as a critical strategy to safeguard livelihoods and ensure sustainable food systems amid increasing climate-induced weather unpredictability.

**About Climate-Resilient Agriculture**

- It refers to the integration of **biotechnology, digital tools, and sustainable agronomic practices** to enhance farm productivity while reducing environmental harm.
- **Key components include:**
  - ♦ **Biological inputs** such as biofertilizers, biopesticides, and microbial soil enhancers
  - ♦ **Genome-edited and climate-tolerant crops** resistant to drought, heat, salinity, and pests
  - ♦ **AI-driven analytics** that integrate soil, weather, crop, and satellite data to provide location-specific advisories
  - ♦ **Resource-efficient practices** that reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides

**Need for Climate-Resilient Agriculture**

- **Food Security Pressure:** A growing population demands stable and higher agricultural output amid shrinking natural resources.
- **Climate Vulnerability: Due to droughts, floods and heat stress** rice yields could decline by 3–22% by the end of the century, and in extreme scenarios by over 30%
- **Strategic Autonomy:** CRA can reduce dependence on food imports and strengthen national food sovereignty.
- **Environmental Protection:** Lower chemical usage helps restore soil health, biodiversity, and water quality.
- **Dependence on Rainfed Farming:** About 51% of net sown area is rainfed, contributing nearly 40% of food production and is highly vulnerable to climate extremes.

**India’s Current Preparedness**

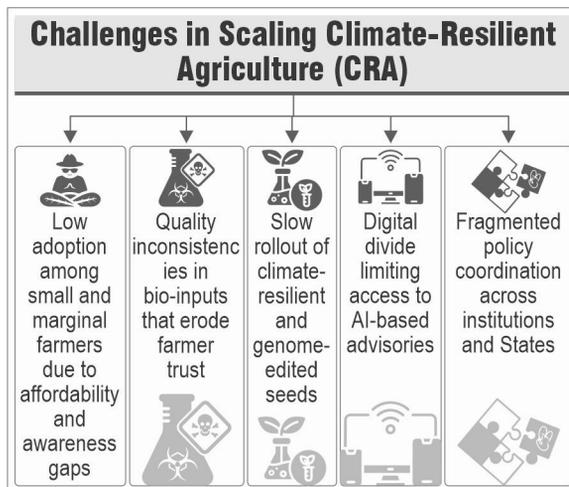
- **NICRA (2011):** The ICAR-led National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project

demonstrated location-specific practices such as zero tillage, direct-seeded rice, climate-tolerant crop varieties, and residue management across **448 climate-resilient villages.**

- **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):** Focuses on rainfed areas, integrated farming systems, water-use efficiency, and soil health management.
- **BioE3 Policy:** Positions CRA as a priority area for biotechnology-led solutions.
- **Institutional Strength:** Strong scientific ecosystem involving **ICAR, DBT, IARI,** and private biotech firms.
- **Commercial Progress:** Biofertilizers and biopesticides supplied by firms such as **IFFCO, GSFC, NFL, Biostadt, and IPL Biologicals** are already in use.
- **Digital Agriculture Growth:** Agritech startups offer AI-enabled advisories, precision irrigation, crop-health monitoring, and yield prediction.

**Global Best Practices**

- **United States:** Integrates CRA through the **USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Initiative,** with large-scale federal investments.
- **European Union:** CRA is central to the **EU Green Deal** and **Farm to Fork Strategy,** aiming to cut chemical inputs and improve sustainability.
- **China:** Focuses on climate-resilient crop breeding, water-saving irrigation, and agricultural digitalisation.



- **Brazil:** Leads in tropical CRA research through **EMBRAPA (Brazilian Agriculture Research Cooperation)**, especially in resilient crop development.

### Way Forward

- Accelerate development and deployment of **climate-tolerant and genome-edited crops**
- Strengthen **quality control and supply chains** for biofertilizers and biopesticides
- Expand access to **digital tools, climate advisories, and precision agriculture** for smallholders
- Provide **financial incentives, climate insurance, and affordable credit** to support the transition
- Formulate a **coherent national CRA roadmap under the BioE3 framework**, aligning biotechnology, climate adaptation, and agricultural policy.

### Kalai-II Project

**Context:** Recently, the Union Environment Ministry expert panel has recommended environmental clearance (EC) for the Kalai-II hydroelectric project on the Lohit River.

### About Kalai-II Project

- The **1,200 MW project** is proposed on the **Lohit River** in **Anjaw district**, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The project forms part of India's broader efforts to enhance hydropower generation and infrastructure development in the Northeast.
- It will be developed by **THDC India Ltd** at an estimated cost of **₹14,176.26 crore**
- It is a **run-of-river hydropower project with pondage-based project involving the construction of a 128.5-metre concrete gravity dam along with an underground powerhouse.**
- The project will have a **reservoir capacity of 318.8 million cubic metres** and operate with a **gross head of 125 metres.**
- Power generation will be carried out through **six turbines**, each with a capacity of **190 MW**, aggregating to 1,200 MW.

### About the Lohit River

- **Source:** Near Zayul (Rima) Glacier, southeastern Tibet (China)

- **Indian Entry Point:** Kibithu, Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh
- **Length:** 1,000 km (approx.)
- **River System:** Brahmaputra River System
- **Confluence:** Joins the Brahmaputra at Sadya, Assam

### District Mineral Foundation

**Context:** Recently, the Allahabad High Court has held that District Mineral Foundations under Section 9-B of the MMDR Act, 1957 must be liberally interpreted to benefit people adversely affected by mining operations.

### About District Mineral Foundation (DMF)

- It is a statutory, non-profit fund set up as a trust in every mining-affected district of India.
- It was established in 2015 through an amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957.
- Its objective is to promote the welfare and development of people and areas adversely affected by mining operations, as prescribed by the respective State Governments.

### Administrative Structure

- State Governments are empowered under the MMDR Act to frame rules regarding DMF composition and functions.
- Operates through a **two-tier structure**:
  - ♦ **Governing Council (GC):** Policy formulation and oversight.
  - ♦ **Managing Committee (MC):** Implementation of schemes and projects.

### Funding Mechanism

- Financed through contributions from mining leaseholders, calculated as a percentage of royalty:
  - ♦ 10% of royalty for leases granted on or after 2015.
  - ♦ 30% of royalty for leases granted before 2015.
- Contribution varies across minerals since royalty rates differ by mineral, not by individual mines.
- DMF funds are to be utilised at the district level in accordance with Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines.

### Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

- It was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Mines.
- It provides the framework for the utilisation of DMF funds.
- Its objectives are to implement developmental and welfare projects, mitigate environmental, health, and socio-economic impacts of mining, and ensure sustainable livelihoods.
- Under PMKKKY, at least 60% of funds must be spent on high-priority sectors such as drinking water, health, education, and environment, while up to 40% may be used for other priority areas like infrastructure, irrigation, energy, and watershed development.

### Eastern Imperial Eagles

**Context:** Recently, the rare Eastern Imperial Eagle was sighted in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), Tamil Nadu.

#### About the News

- One of the sightings also recorded the eagle alongside an endangered Egyptian Vulture, highlighting the raptor diversity of the landscape.
- Continuous records on the global platform eBird (2020–2025) indicate that the species regularly visits Mudumalai between November and February.

#### About the Eastern Imperial Eagle

- **Scientific name:** *Aquila heliaca*
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **Breeding range:** Western & Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Siberia, north-western China
- It prefers open landscapes with scattered forests, known as forest-steppe habitats during breeding.
- It requires tall trees for nesting and open areas for hunting.
- It is the second-largest eagle to reside in Europe.
- It is a carnivorous bird of prey whose primary diet consists of small mammals, particularly rabbits and susliks (ground squirrels).
- It becomes sexually mature and is ready to breed for the first time at around four years of age.

### Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

- It forms an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the first biosphere reserve in India.

- It is ecologically connected to Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) to the west, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) to the north, and Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley National Park to the south, creating a vast, contiguous conservation landscape.
- It is drenched by the Moyar river and several other tributaries which nurtures nearly 38 species of fishes.

### 40th Asian Waterbird Census

**Context:** Recently, the 40th Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) and the 60th International Waterbird Census (IWC) will be conducted on January 10–11, 2026, at the Godavari Estuary, in Andhra Pradesh.

#### About the Census

- It is organised by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and WWF.
- It will be the 10th waterbird census conducted in the Coringa landscape.
- It aims to systematically enumerate winter migratory waterbirds using standardised global protocols.

#### Focus Species of the Census

- **Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albigollis*)**
  - **IUCN Status:** Endangered
  - It is almost completely restricted to India as a breeding bird, with only occasional breeding in western Bangladesh
  - It was formerly widely distributed across the Indian Subcontinent, along the major rivers of Myanmar and along the Mekong in Indo-China.
- **Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)**
  - **IUCN Status:** Endangered
  - It is a medium-sized shorebird with a straight, slender bill of medium length and is a heavily streaked head and neck.
  - It occurs around coastal areas in many parts of Australia during the southern summer.
- **Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)**
  - **IUCN Status:** Near Threatened
  - **Migration Routes:** African-Eurasian flyway, Central Asian Flyway, East Asian Australasian Flyway

- It is famous for its long, downward-curving, slender bill and bubbling ‘cur lee’ call.
- Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
  - **IUCN Status:** Near Threatened
  - It is the most widespread of the oystercatchers, with three races breeding in western Europe, central Eurosiberia, Kamchatka, China, and the western coast of Korea.

**The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**

- It is a pan-India wildlife research non-profit organisation.
- It has been promoting the cause of nature conservation since 1883.
- **Mission:** Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity through action based on research, education and public awareness
- **Vision:** Premier independent scientific organisation with a broad-based constituency, excelling in the conservation of threatened species and habitats.

**Bio-Bitumen Technology**

**Context:** Recently, India has become the world’s first country to commercially produce bio-bitumen for road construction

About the Technology

- It is an indigenous technology developed by **CSIR-CRRI (New Delhi)** and **CSIR-IIP (Dehradun)** under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- It enables partial replacement of petroleum-based bitumen using **agricultural residues**, especially **rice straw**.
- A **100-metre trial stretch** on the **Jorabat–Shillong Expressway (NH-40), Meghalaya**, demonstrated the field-level feasibility of the technology.
- India is now the **first country globally** to take bio-bitumen from lab research to **commercial-scale production** within the same year.

About Bio-bitumin

- It is a **bio-based alternative** to conventional petroleum bitumen used as a binder in road construction.
- It is produced from **agricultural residues** and can replace **20–30%** of fossil-fuel-derived bitumen without compromising road performance.

Manufacturing Process

- **Collection of Farm Residue:** Post-harvest rice straw is collected and pelletised for uniform size and efficient processing.
- **Pyrolysis:** Biomass pellets are heated at high temperatures in the absence of oxygen, producing bio-oil, gases, and bio-char.
- **Bio-Oil Extraction:** The adhesive bio-oil fraction is separated and refined for use as a binder.
- **Blending:** Bio-oil is blended with conventional bitumen (20–30%) to form bio-bitumen.
- **Quality Validation:** The final product undergoes tests for rutting, cracking, moisture resistance, rheology, and durability to meet highway standards.

Impact & National Relevance

- Potential annual savings of ₹4,000–4,500 crore
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 70%
- Value addition to agricultural residue and farmer income
- Alignment with Waste-to-Wealth Mission and sustainability goals

**DEFENCE**

**Anjadip**

**Context:** Recently, the Indian Navy has inducted Anjadip, the third of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC).

About Anjadip

- It has been designed and built in India by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The project has been delivered in Chennai, and it is being executed under a public–private partnership (PPP) between GRSE and L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.
- It is the third vessel in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWCs) being inducted by the Indian Navy.
- It has been named after Anjadip Island, located off the coast of Karwar, Karnataka.
- It carries forward the legacy of the erstwhile INS Anjadip, a Petya-class corvette decommissioned in 2003.

**Features**

- It is approximately 77 metres in length.
- It is the largest Indian naval warship to be propelled by waterjets.
- It is equipped with advanced lightweight torpedoes, indigenously developed anti-submarine rockets and shallow water sonar systems, enabling effective detection and engagement of underwater threats.

**Strategic Significance**

- **Enhancing Maritime Security:** Strengthens India's ability to detect and neutralise submarine threats in shallow coastal waters.
- **Force Multiplier for the Navy:** Waterjet propulsion enhances manoeuvrability, stealth and operational flexibility in shallow waters.

**Suryastra**

**Context:** Recently, the Indian Army has signed a ₹293 crore contract with NIBE Limited, in collaboration with Israel, to procure the long-range Suryastra Rocket Launchers system.

**About Suryastra**

- It is India's **first indigenous universal multi-calibre** rocket launcher, capable of precision of surface to surface strikes up to 300 km.
- It is based on technology derived from the **Israeli PULS rocket system**, developed through cooperation with Elbit Systems
- It can integrate **multiple rocket and missile types without requiring changes to the core platform**, allowing rapid adaptation to different operational requirements.
- It achieves a **high degree of accuracy with a circular error probable (CEP)** of less than five metres during trials.
- It complements existing systems such as the Pinaka rocket launcher while extending engagement ranges well beyond earlier platforms.
- It is capable of **firing loitering munitions up to a range of 100km**, enhancing operational flexibility.

**National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)**

**Context:** Home and Cooperation Minister recently launched the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS) to strengthen India's counter-IED capabilities and internal security framework.

**About NIDMS**

- It has been developed by the National Security Guard (NSG) as a secure, national-level digital platform.
- It aims to systematically collect, collate, and disseminate data related to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) used in terrorist incidents across India.
- It will function as a two-way information system, allowing agencies to both upload and retrieve IED-related data for investigations.
- It will be accessible to:
  - ♦ National Investigation Agency (NIA)
  - ♦ Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS)
  - ♦ State Police Forces
  - ♦ Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

**How NIDMS Strengthens Internal Security**

- **Centralised Data Repository**
  - ♦ Brings together scattered IED-related data that earlier existed in silos.
  - ♦ Enables real-time access to historical and current incident data.
- **Enhanced Inter-Agency Coordination**
  - ♦ Improves information-sharing between police, intelligence agencies, and CAPFs.
  - ♦ Facilitates quicker and coordinated responses to terror incidents.
- **Support for Post-Blast Investigations**
  - ♦ Helps investigators analyse blast patterns, explosive materials, and methods used.
  - ♦ Assists in identifying links between multiple incidents.
- **AI-Based Analytical Capability**
  - ♦ The Home Ministry plans to integrate AI tools for advanced data analysis.
  - ♦ This will help detect trends, predict threats, and improve counter-terror planning.

## Bhairav Battalion

**Context:** The Indian Army's newly raised Bhairav Battalions will make their historic debut at the Republic Day Parade 2026 on Kartavya Path, showcasing India's evolving military preparedness.

### More about the News

- For the first time, troops of the Bhairav Battalion will march in the Republic Day Parade and salute the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
- The formation of these elite units was announced by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi from Kargil, following the success of Operation Sindoor.
- So far, 15 Bhairav battalions have been raised, and around 25 battalions are expected to be fully deployed within the next few months.
- Each battalion consists of about 250 highly trained soldiers and is designed for swift, surprise, and high-impact operations across diverse combat environments.
- Before their Republic Day appearance, the battalion will also participate in the Army Day Parade in Jaipur, marking another milestone in their operational journey.

### Need for Bhairav Battalions

- The Bhairav Battalions were created in response to:
  - ♦ The changing nature of modern warfare
  - ♦ Rapidly evolving geostrategic challenges
  - ♦ The need for quick-response, high-impact forces
  - ♦ Growing emphasis on counter-terror and cross-border operations
- They are meant to strengthen India's ability to conduct short-notice, precision missions in hostile terrain.

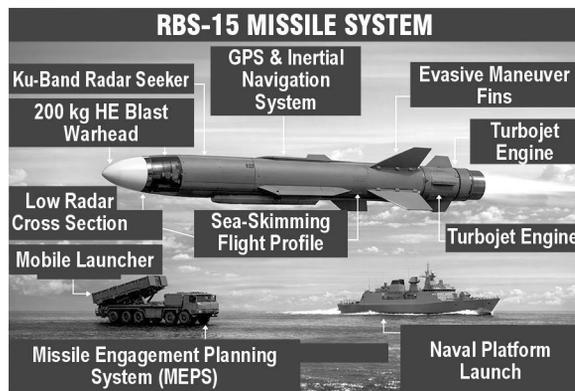
## RBS-15 Missile

**Context:** Swedish defence manufacturer **Saab** has recently highlighted the operational capabilities of its **RBS-15 missile** over Russia's **S-400**.

### About RBS-15 Missile

- The **RBS-15 (Robotssystem-15)** is a **fire-and-forget anti-ship missile** with **land-attack capability**, developed by **Saab Bofors Dynamics of Sweden**.

- The missile can be launched from **aircraft, naval vessels, and ground-based platforms**, enabling flexible multi-domain deployment.



### Key Features

- The RBS-15 missile has a length of approximately **4.35 metres**, a fuselage diameter of about **0.5 metres**, and a wingspan of nearly **1.4 metres**, making it suitable for deployment across multiple platforms.
- It has a **launch weight of around 800 kilograms** and an **in-flight weight of about 650 kilograms**, allowing it to carry a substantial warhead while maintaining operational range.
- It can strike targets at distances of up to **200 kilometres** and travels at a **subsonic speed of nearly Mach 0.9**, optimised for precision strike missions.
- The missile is equipped with a **200-kilogram high-explosive blast and pre-fragmented warhead**, designed to inflict severe damage on both naval and land-based targets.
- It follows a **low sea-skimming flight profile** and performs **unpredictable evasive manoeuvres**, which significantly enhance its survivability against enemy air defence systems.
- It features a **low radar cross-section and reduced infrared signature**, which makes detection and interception by enemy sensors more difficult.
- The RBS-15 possesses **advanced target discrimination and selection capabilities**, allowing it to operate effectively in cluttered and contested maritime environments.

- The missile demonstrates **high resistance to electronic countermeasures**, including chaff, active jammers, and decoys, ensuring reliable performance in electronic warfare condition.

### Strategic Significance

- The RBS-15 missile strengthens the ability of armed forces to conduct precision strikes against high-value naval and land targets while operating in heavily defended environments.
- Its demonstrated capability to neutralise critical components of air defence systems highlights the growing importance of sensor-denial and network-disruption strategies in modern warfare.

### Third-Generation MPATGM

**Context:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the third-generation Fire-and-Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

### About the News

- The successful flight test was conducted on January 11, 2026, at the KK Ranges, Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra.
- The missile accurately engaged a moving armoured target, validating its operational effectiveness in realistic battlefield conditions.
- The trial paves the way for the induction of MPATGM into the Indian Army.

### About MPATGM

- MPATGM is a **third-generation, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system** developed indigenously by **DRDO**.
- It is designed to neutralise **modern main battle tanks (MBTs)** equipped with advanced armour protection.
- It is capable of **day and night combat operations**, enhancing battlefield flexibility for infantry units.

### Key Features

- The missile employs an **Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker**, which enables autonomous target acquisition and guidance after launch.

- It is equipped with a **tandem warhead** capable of defeating **explosive reactive armour (ERA)** and modern composite armour of MBTs.
- The system incorporates an **all-electric control actuation system**, ensuring higher reliability and reduced maintenance.
- A sophisticated **fire control system** enhances engagement accuracy against moving targets.
- The propulsion system provides the missile with adequate speed and manoeuvrability during flight.
- A **high-performance sighting system** allows effective target lock-on under low-visibility and night conditions.

### Strategic Significance

- **Strengthens Infantry Anti-Armour Capability:** Enhances the Indian Army's ability to counter enemy tanks in close combat scenarios.
- **Boosts Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** Demonstrates indigenous mastery in seeker technology, warheads, propulsion, and fire control systems.
- **Reduces Import Dependence:** Provides a domestic alternative to imported third-generation ATGMs.
- **Modern Warfare Relevance:** The top-attack and fire-and-forget features align with current armoured warfare doctrines.

## SOCIAL ISSUES

### Child Marriages in India

**Context:** Recently, India has marked the first anniversary of the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, reaffirming its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goal of ending child marriage by 2030.

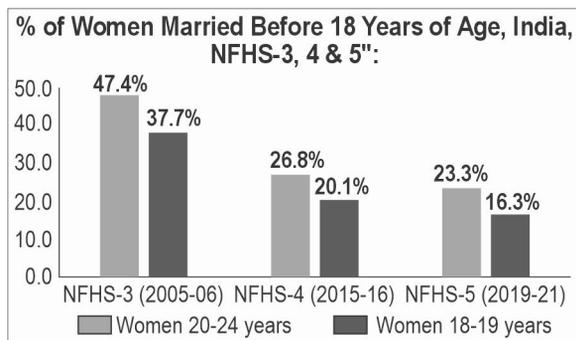
### Global Status of Child Marriage

- Child marriage is monitored using the indicator of the proportion of women between the ages of 20 and 24 years who were married before they turned 18.
- It is recognised as a harmful practice under SDG Target 5.3 (Gender Equality).
- UNICEF (2023) estimates that 640 million girls worldwide were married in childhood.
- India accounts for nearly one-third of the global burden.

- Failure to eliminate child marriage affects at least nine SDGs, including health, education, poverty reduction, and economic growth.

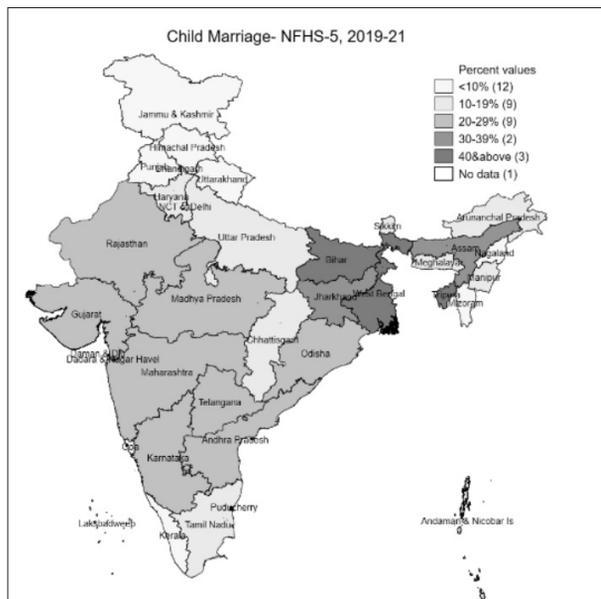
### Status of Child Marriage in India

- The median age of first marriage (among women 20–49 years of age) has increased by 2.0 years during the last decade and a half, from a level of 17.2 years in 2005–06 to 19.2 years in 2019–21. For men (age 25–29), this increased from 22.6 to 24.9 during the same period.
- India has significantly reduced child marriage, from 47.4% in 2005–06 to 26.8% in 2015–16, marking a 21 percentage point decline in a decade (NFHS).
- 43% women aged 20-24 years are married by age 20, and 61% are married by age 21.
- Child marriage, when computed for the younger cohort of women (18–19 years), showed a decline from 37.7% in 2005-06 to 16.3% in 2019-21.



### Inter-State Variations

- **Highest prevalence:** West Bengal (42%), Bihar (40%), Tripura (39%).
- **Above national average:** Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan.
- **Lowest prevalence:** Lakshadweep (4%), Jammu & Kashmir (6%), Ladakh (6%), Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland (7%).



### Socio-Economic Disparities

- The UN Population Fund’s analysis of NFHS data shows:
  - ♦ **Education:** 48% of girls with no education were married below 18 years of age in comparison to only 4% among those with higher education.
  - ♦ **Wealth:** 40% of girls from the lowest quintile of the household wealth index married before they became adults, in comparison to just 8% of those from the highest quintile.

### Measures Taken

- The **Prevention of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006**, provides the primary legal framework for prohibiting and annulling child marriages.
  - ♦ Since its enactment, **national child marriage rates have nearly halved**, underscoring the importance of legal backing.
- The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**, further reinforces deterrence by criminalising all sexual activity involving minors, indirectly curbing child marriage by overriding customary and religious justifications.

- **Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan:** Launched to accelerate India's commitment to **end child marriage by 2030**, the campaign adopts a **whole-of-society approach**. As of **December 20, 2025**
  - ♦ **A total of 54,917 Child Marriage Prevention Officers** have been appointed nationwide.
  - ♦ **1,520 reported cases** of child marriage were prevented through counselling, persuasion, or administrative intervention.
  - ♦ **198 cases** could not be prevented, resulting in police complaints, Child Welfare Committee intervention, or annulment proceedings.
  - ♦ States such as **Madhya Pradesh and Haryana** have recorded relatively higher prevention rates.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** seeks to address declining child sex ratios while promoting **education and empowerment of girls**, tackling one of the root causes of child marriage.
  - ♦ For example, West Bengal's Kanyashree scheme offers low-income families ₹1,000 per year to educate their girls between the ages of 13 and 18, along with a one-time grant of ₹25,000 for 18 and 19-year-olds, provided that girls pursue higher education and delay marriage.

### Internationalisation of Higher Education in India

**Context:** Recently, NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive roadmap to internationalise India's higher education system to address the sharp imbalance between inbound and outbound student mobility.

#### About the News

- The title of the report was "Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations".
- It recommends 22 policy interventions across strategy, regulation, funding, branding, curriculum, and outreach.
- The report aligns with the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which mandates non-binding frameworks for internationalisation.

#### Key Findings

- Using multiple forecasting methods, the report estimates 7.89 lakh to 11 lakh international students by 2047, depending on reform intensity.
- In 2024, for every 1 international student studying in India, 28 Indian students went abroad.

#### Aim

- To position India as a global hub for higher education and research in line with NEP 2020.

#### Rationale for Internationalisation

- Despite a 518% increase since 2001, India hosted only about 47,000 international students in 2022, highlighting its underperformance as a global education destination.
- In contrast, outbound mobility is extremely high; Indian students' overseas tuition and living expenses are projected to touch ₹6.2 lakh crore by 2025, equivalent to nearly 2% of GDP.
- This outflow contributes to around 75% of India's trade deficit in FY 2024–25, creating serious macroeconomic pressures.
- The 1:28 inbound–outbound student ratio signifies a deepening brain drain, with over 16 lakh Indians renouncing citizenship since 2011, largely concentrated in high-income strategic countries such as the US, UK, and Australia.
- Such asymmetric mobility undermines India's global competitiveness in knowledge production, research ecosystems, and soft power projection.

#### Key Policy Recommendations

- **Financial and Academic Intervention:** To make India a competitive destination for global learners and scholars, the report stresses targeted financial and academic incentives.
  - ♦ **Vishwa Bandhu Scholarship:** Designed to attract international students, especially from developing and strategic partner countries.
  - ♦ **Vishwa Bandhu Fellowship:** Focused on attracting foreign faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and global academic talent.
  - ♦ **Competitive Salaries and Fast-track Tenure:** The report recognises that rigid pay structures and slow career progression discourage foreign faculty.

- **Research and Innovation Push:** Strengthening research capacity is seen as central to internationalisation.
  - ♦ **Bharat Vidya Kosh:** It is a national research sovereign wealth fund where 50% funding comes from the Indian diaspora and philanthropic contributions, with the remaining 50% matched by the Union government.
  - ♦ **Complementarity with RDI Fund:** The Kosh is envisioned to complement the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, recently launched to crowd in private sector investment in R&D.
- **Global Mobility Framework:** Academic mobility is identified as a major weakness in India's higher education ecosystem.
  - ♦ **Erasmus+-like Programme:** It is inspired by Europe's Erasmus+ model, the report proposes a structured multilateral mobility programme to enable student and faculty exchanges, joint degrees, and credit transfer mechanisms.
  - ♦ **"Tagore Framework":** It is tailored for regional and strategic groupings such as ASEAN, BRICS, BIMSTEC, and other partner regions. A proposed India-centric mobility framework named after Rabindranath Tagore, symbolising cultural and intellectual exchange.
- **Branding, Rankings and Outreach:** Perception management and global visibility are critical to attracting international students.
  - ♦ **Expansion of NIRF Parameters: Inclusion of new sub-parameters such as:**
    - Outreach and Inclusivity
    - Globalisation and Partnerships
- **Bharat ki AAN (Alumni Ambassador Network):** Mobilises Indian diaspora alumni from top Indian institutions to act as global ambassadors, promoting India's education ecosystem abroad.

### SOAR Programme

**Context:** Recently, the President of India presided over a special programme under SOAR – Skilling for AI Readiness, a flagship initiative of the Skill India Mission, at New Delhi.

### About the News

- The **#SkillTheNation Challenge** was launched to promote youth participation in future-ready skilling programmes.
- A special **"AI for Beginners"** interactive session was conducted in collaboration with Google, led by a globally renowned AI expert.

### About SOAR

- It was organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in coordination with the Ministry of Education to strengthen India's preparedness for an AI-driven future.
- **It comes** under the Skill India Mission aimed at strengthening AI literacy and competency among School students (Classes 6–12) and educators.
- It offers structured AI modules, hands-on learning, and ethics-based training to prepare India's youth for AI-driven careers.
- It incorporates **3 targeted 15-hour modules** for students and **one independent 45-hour module** for educators, focusing on topics like ethical AI use and basic concepts of machine learning.
- The Union Budget 2025-26 allocates ₹500 crore to establish a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education, aimed at advancing AI-driven learning and innovation.

### Aims of SOAR

- Create AI awareness among school students and educators.
- Equip youth with industry-relevant AI skills for self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Bridge the digital skill gap between urban and rural learners.

### PANKHUDI Portal

**Context:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the PANKHUDI portal, a digital platform to streamline CSR and partnership initiatives for women and child welfare.

### About PANKHUDI

- It is an integrated digital portal designed to bring together contributions from corporates, NGOs,

## ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

NRIs, government agencies, and individuals working in the areas of:

- ♦ Nutrition and health
- ♦ Early childhood care and education
- ♦ Child protection and rehabilitation
- ♦ Women's safety and empowerment
- It provides a structured mechanism for registering contributors, identifying welfare projects, submitting proposals, and tracking implementation through a transparent approval workflow.

### Aim

- It aims to create a centralised digital ecosystem for partnerships
- To improve accountability and traceability of funds
- To enhance collaboration between public and private stakeholders
- To ensure better service delivery at the grassroots level

### Key Features

- **Unified Partnership Platform:** Brings together CSR contributors, NGOs, donors, and government agencies on a single interface for structured collaboration.
- **Transparent Workflows:** All project proposals move through defined digital approval processes, reducing delays and improving governance.
- **Non-Cash Contributions Only:** Ensures financial accountability, traceability, and reduced risk of misuse.
- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Allows contributors to track project progress, improving trust and outcome orientation.
- **Alignment with National Missions:** Supports key flagship schemes of the Ministry:
  - ♦ Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0
  - ♦ Mission Vatsalya
  - ♦ Mission Shakti

## ART AND CULTURE

### Ho Tribe

**Context:** Recently, the Advasi Ho Samaj Yuva Mahasabha (AHSYM) has called upon tribal people to celebrate picnics on January 1 and 2.

### About the Ho Tribe

- The Ho or Kolha people are an Austroasiatic Munda ethnic group of India mainly concentrated in Jharkhand and Odisha.
- The Ho, Hodoko and Horo mean "human" in their own language and they are the fourth largest Scheduled Tribe in Jharkhand, after Santals, Kurukhs, and Mundas.

### Distribution

- They are situated in the Kolhan region of Jharkhand and Odisha, with around 10.7% and 7.3% of the total Scheduled Tribe population, respectively, as of 2011.
- They inhabit neighbouring states of Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar, bringing the total to 806,921 as of 2001 and also live in Bangladesh and Nepal.

### Language

- They speak the Ho language, an Austroasiatic language closely related to Mundari and more distantly related to languages of Southeast Asia such as Khmer and Mon.

### Religion

- Over 90% of Ho people follow their indigenous religious systems called "Sarna" or Sarnaism.
- All religious rituals are performed by a village priest known as a deuri.

### Occupation

- The majority are engaged in agriculture, with others working in mining.

### Script and Literacy

- Ho is written in Devanagari, Latin, and Warang Citi scripts.

### Culture and Festivals

- Mage Parab is the most important festival, marking the end of the agricultural cycle.
- Sohrai (Gaumara) is a major agricultural festival celebrating cattle and cultivation.

### Position of women

- Ho society, accords a high social status to women, with strong post-marital mortality.

## Dance and Music

- Dance is central to the Ho culture and is performed in village grounds called akhra.
- Traditional instruments include dama, dholak, mandar, and flute (rutu).

## Notable Ho People

- Debendranath Champia - Indian politician and a former member of the Bihar constituency assembly
- Madhu Koda - former Chief Minister of Jharkhand
- Laxman Giluwa - Indian politician and the president of the Jharkhand unit of Bharatiya Janata Party

## Chaudhary Charan Singh

**Context:** Recently, PM Modi paid tributes to former PM, Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh on his 122nd birthday anniversary

## About Chaudhary Charan Singh

- **Born:** December 23, 1902, and served as India's fifth Prime Minister from July 1979 to January 1980.
- December 23 is observed as Kisan Diwas (**National Farmers' Day**), and the day also marks the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- In 2024, the government honoured him with the prestigious Bharat Ratna

## Major Contribution

- In 1938, he introduced an Agricultural Produce Market Bill in the Assembly, which was intended to safeguard the interests of the farmers against the rapacity of the traders.
- He introduced and supported the Redemption Bill of 1939, which played a crucial role in providing relief to rural debtors.
- He established the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provided critical financial lifelines to rural India.

## Literary Work

- India's Economic Policy: The Gandhian Blueprint
- The Economic Nightmare of India: Its Causes and Cure
- Cooperative Farming Examined (X-rayed)

## Piprahwa Relics

**Context:** Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics in New Delhi.

## About the News

- The exposition titled "The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" was inaugurated at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi.
- It brings together the Piprahwa relics, discovered in 1898 and associated with ancient Kapilavastu, along with artefacts preserved in the National Museum, New Delhi, and the Indian Museum, Kolkata.
- The relics were taken out of India during the colonial period and remained abroad for over 125 years before being repatriated.

## About the Piprahwa Relics

- The Piprahwa relics are believed to be associated with Buddha and linked to Kapilavastu, where Buddha spent part of his early life.
- They are considered among the most sacred Buddhist relics globally.
- The relics were excavated in 1898 by William Claxton Peppé at Piprahwa (present-day Uttar Pradesh).

## Significance of the Exhibition

- The exposition highlights India's role as the custodian of Buddhist heritage and relics.
- It reflects India's efforts towards cultural repatriation and protection of civilisational heritage.
- The exhibition connects India's archaeological legacy with its soft power diplomacy, especially with Buddhist-majority countries.

## Kathputli Puppetry

**Context:** Kathputli Nagar in Jaipur has emerged as a focal point for the preservation of Kathputli puppetry, a traditional folk art of Rajasthan, where nearly 250 families continue to practice the craft across generations.

**About Kathputli Puppetry**

- Kathputli is a traditional string puppet theatre form originating from Rajasthan and is regarded as one of the oldest folk art traditions of the region.
- The term Kathputli is derived from 'kath' (wood) and 'putli' (doll), reflecting the wooden structure of the puppets.
- The art form is traditionally associated with the Bhatt community, who have preserved and transmitted the craft through hereditary practice.

**Key Features of Kathputli**

- **Craftsmanship**
  - ♦ Kathputli puppets are hand-carved from wood, primarily for the head and upper torso.

- ♦ The remaining body is made using colourful fabrics, cotton, sequins, and decorative materials, often sourced from recycled textiles.
- **Distinctive Visual Identity**
  - ♦ The puppets are characterised by large, expressive eyes and sharply arched eyebrows, enhancing facial expressions.
  - ♦ Kathputlis do not have legs; instead, the lower portion is concealed beneath long, flowing skirts that create a twirling effect during performances.
- **Puppeteering Technique**
  - ♦ Puppeteers manipulate the puppets using two to five strings tied to their fingers.
  - ♦ The strings are controlled from above, allowing precise movement and dramatic gestures.
- **Themes and Narratives**
  - ♦ The narratives often combine entertainment with social and ethical messages.
  - ♦ **Performances typically depict:**
    - Stories of Rajput kings and warriors
    - Folk heroes and legends
    - Moral tales and episodes from everyday life
- **Musical Instrument**
  - ♦ Kathputli performances are accompanied by folk music and rhythmic narration.
  - ♦ Instruments commonly used include the dholak and harmonium, which enhance the dramatic appeal of the shows.

**ONE LINER**

- Which country has topped the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) global list of offenders for the third consecutive year? **India**
- Which state is home to the Udanti–Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, where forest authorities recently arrested 53 persons for attempting to encroach upon protected land? **Chhattisgarh**
- Which festival did the Tamil Nadu government recently propose for inclusion in the list of festivals recognised by UNESCO? **Pongal**
- Who will be the chief guests at India's Republic Day parade on January 26, 2026? **Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa**
- Which of the following places were recently declared 'holy cities' by the Punjab government, leading to a ban on the sale of meat, tobacco, alcohol and other intoxicants? **Amritsar Walled City, Talwandi Sabo and Sri Anandpur Sahib**
- Which eminent mathematician's birth anniversary is commemorated by observing National Mathematics Day every year on 22 December? **Srinivasa Ramanujan**
- Which Bengaluru-based company developed the half-scale eVTOL demonstrator SYLLA SYL-X1, whose ground testing was recently conducted? **Sarla Aviation**
- Which institute recently developed an AI agent called AILA (Artificially Intelligent Lab Assistant) capable of autonomously conducting scientific experiments? **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi**
- Recently, in which city was the "PESA Mahotsav" organised to promote awareness about the

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA)? **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

- India Post recently transported a priceless Thanjavur Art depiction of Shri Ram from which city to Ayodhya? **Bengaluru**
- Recently, where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the Rashtra Prerna Sthal to honour the life and ideals of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee? **Lucknow**
- Recently, in which tiger reserve did the tiger population increase from 8 in 2010 to 54 in the 2022 census? **Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar**
- Recently, large doses of which vitamin have been found to help protect the lungs from the harmful effects of fine particles present in the air? **Vitamin C**
- Recently, President Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in which language at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan? **Santhali**
- Recently, the world's largest open-air theatre festival 'Dhanu Yatra', was inaugurated in which state? **Bargarh, Odisha**
- Recently, how much money was allocated in the Union Budget for the development of Rakhigarhi? **₹500 crore**
- Which Union Minister recently called for establishing a common Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) structure across the country? **Home Minister**
- Which state is associated with Narsapur lace that recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag? **Andhra Pradesh**
- Which indigenously built Indian Navy submarine did President Droupadi Murmu recently undertake a sortie onboard? **INS Vaghsheer**
- Which of the following is the newest and 23rd district declared in Haryana? **Hansi**
- Which state recently welcomed the first sunrise of India with the event called "Dance of Dawn"? **Arunachal Pradesh**
- Which two cities were recently announced to be connected by India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train service? **Guwahati and Kolkata**
- Which country has recently overtaken China to become the world's largest producer of rice? **India**
- Which state has recently been finalising a policy

to legalise and regulate cannabis cultivation for medicinal and industrial purposes?

**Himachal Pradesh**

- Which bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh has recently been declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone by the Government? **Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary**
- Which district in Maharashtra witnessed the first mountain tunnel breakthrough of the bullet train project? **Palghar**
- Vishnugad–Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project, recently in news due to a tunnel accident, is located on which river? **Alaknanda River**
- Which state recently witnessed the inauguration of a state-of-the-art Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS)? **Hyderabad, Telangana.**
- Which country is hosting the 20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2025? **India**
- **Recently**, which country's nationals are eligible for India's newly launched e-Business visa? **China**
- Which region's iconic double-humped Bactrian camels are set to debut at the 77th Republic Day parade? **Ladakh**
- Which disease is the Delhi government set to declare a notifiable disease recently to strengthen disease surveillance? **Rabies**
- Recently, which river is set to be bridged by a 5-km-long bridge to connect Sagar Island with the mainland in West Bengal? **Muriganga**
- Nagauri Ashwagandha, which was recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, is primarily associated with which state of India? **Rajasthan**
- In which Indian state is the Tadoba Tiger Reserve located, where the sterilisation of stray dogs is being undertaken recently? **Maharashtra**
- Recently, the first phase of the All-India Tiger Estimation-2026 (AITE-26) commenced in which Wildlife Sanctuary? **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu**
- Which district in Arunachal Pradesh is set to become India's first Bio-Happy District? **Keyi Panyor, Arunachal Pradesh**
- Which organisation recently celebrated its 125th Foundation Day at its headquarters in Dhanbad,

- Jharkhand? **Directorate General of Mines Safety**
- Which wildlife sanctuary has been renamed as first butterfly Sanctuary by the Kerala Government?  
**Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary**
  - Which State's Drug Control Administration recently issued a stop-use notice for a contaminated batch of Almont-Kid Syrup containing toxic Ethylene Glycol?  
**Telangana**
  - Which village panchayat in Rajasthan has become the first to be certified as fully organic?  
**Bamanwas Kankar**
  - Who has recently edited The Routledge Handbook of Maritime India?  
**Alluri Subramanyam Raju and R. Srinivasan**
  - President Droupadi Murmu recently participated in a fire altar 'mahayagna' of Lord Hanuman organised by which mission? **Ramanand Mission**
  - Who has been nominated by the UN Secretary-General to chair the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters for the 2026–27 term?  
**D.B. Venkatesh Varma**
  - Recently, in which city was the Grand International Exposition of the Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Bhagwan Buddha inaugurated? **New Delhi**
  - Which telescope of NASA recently discovered a new astronomical object named Cloud-9?  
**Hubble Space Telescope**
  - Which state's police secured first position in the ICJS (Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System) 2.0 national ranking? **Uttarakhand Police**
  - Which state has appointed Justice Revati Mohite Dere as its first woman Chief Justice? **Meghalaya**
  - Indian middle-distance runner Jinson Johnson, who recently announced his retirement, hails from which state? **Kerala**

# ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

## 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

**Context:** Recently, India hosted the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi.

### About the Summit

- **Theme:** Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-being,' reflects the foundational thought of holistic health.
- Organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO)-Traditional Medicine Centre in collaboration with the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
- Served as a follow-up to the 1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine (2023) held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

### Key Outcomes of the Summit

- My AYUSH Integrated Services Portal (MAISP)
  - ♦ Launched as a comprehensive digital gateway for the AYUSH sector.
  - ♦ Integrates service delivery, research data, governance mechanisms and regulatory oversight.
  - ♦ Aims to improve coordination, transparency and citizen access.
- Ayush Mark
  - ♦ Conceptualised as a global quality assurance label for AYUSH-based products and services.
  - ♦ Intended to enhance international credibility, ensure standardisation, and promote exports.
- Traditional Medicine Global Library (TMGL)
  - ♦ Established as the largest digital knowledge repository on traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.
  - ♦ Designed to support research validation, evidence-building and global collaboration.

### Technology and Digital Health Emphasis

- The summit highlighted the use of digital health platforms and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to:
  - ♦ Strengthen research methodologies
  - ♦ Generate reliable clinical data
  - ♦ Expand access to traditional medicine systems globally

- Reflects a shift towards evidence-based integration of traditional medicine into public health.

### International Cooperation Announced

- Proposal to set up a Centre of Excellence for BIMSTEC nations focusing on traditional medicine.
- Announcement of an India–Japan collaboration to promote joint research, education and best practices in traditional medicine.

### Strategic and Policy Alignment

- **The summit outcomes are:**
  - ♦ Anchored in the Gujarat Declaration (2023)
  - ♦ Aligned with the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034
- It reinforces the global push for regulated, data-driven and culturally sensitive TCIM(traditional, complementary and integrative medicine) systems.

### India's Global Institutional Contribution

- India hosts the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- The centre functions as a global hub for:
  - ♦ Policy research
  - ♦ Norm-setting and standards
  - ♦ Knowledge exchange in traditional medicine systems.

### Initiatives for Traditional Medicine in India

- **National AYUSH Mission (NAM), 2014:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It aims to strengthen AYUSH infrastructure and service delivery across the country.
- **Ayurgyan:** It focuses on research advancement and scientific validation of AYUSH systems.
- **AOGUSY:** It stands for AYUSH Oushadhi Gunvatta evam Utpadan Samvardhan Yojana
- Drug Quality and Production Enhancement. It aims to improve quality assurance and standardisation of AYUSH drugs.
- **Other Key Initiatives:** Include the AYUSH Grid and Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), to protect and document indigenous knowledge.

**1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine (2023)**

- **Venue:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **Key Outcome:** Adoption of the Gujarat Declaration, which:
  - ✓ Reiterated commitment to evidence-based traditional and integrative medicine
  - ✓ Called for stronger data ecosystems and regulatory frameworks
  - ✓ Recognised India’s leadership in aligning cultural heritage with scientific health governance

**India- New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**

**Context:** Recently, India and New Zealand have concluded negotiations on a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

**Historical Context**

- India and New Zealand share **friendly relations**, with diplomatic ties established in **1952**. The relationship is anchored in:
  - ♦ Commonwealth membership
  - ♦ Shared democratic values
  - ♦ Common law traditions
  - ♦ Commitment to pluralism and inclusive growth
- People-to-people ties form the bedrock of the relationship:
  - ♦ Around **300,000 persons of Indian origin and NRIs** live in New Zealand, accounting for nearly **5% of its population**
  - ♦ Strong cultural links through **tourism, education, and sports**, particularly cricket, hockey, and mountaineering.
- New Zealand has consistently identified India as a strategic priority:
  - ♦ “Opening Doors to India” Policy (2011; reiterated in 2015)
  - ♦ NZ Inc. India Strategy (2011) to make India a core trade and political partner
  - ♦ **“India–NZ 2025: Investing in the Relationship”** Strategy Paper (2020), which envisages an enduring strategic partnership

**Key highlights**

- **Trade Ties**
  - ♦ New Zealand is India’s second-largest trading partner in Oceania

- ♦ Merchandise bilateral trade increased from USD 855 million in 2015-2016 to USD 1298 million in 2024-2025.
- ♦ The exports increased by 130%, whereas imports only increased by 7.21% in 10 years.
- ♦ In 2024-25, the exports from India to New Zealand were higher than imports from New Zealand, maintaining a positive trade balance with the country.



**Investment and Economic Co-operation**

- **FDI Commitment:** New Zealand will invest USD 20 billion in India over 15 years, strengthening long-term economic ties.
- **Organic Primary Products:** Mutual recognition of organic certification to be agreed between the two sides.
- **MSME Cooperation:** Institutional linkages to help small businesses access trade-related information and global markets.
- **Technical Assistance:** Cooperation has been agreed in AYUSH, audio visual industries, tourism, sports and the traditional knowledge system

- **Best-Ever Offer by New Zealand:** Commitment across 118 services sectors, with Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment in 139 sectors.

**Mobility & Education**

- **Student Mobility:** New Zealand signed Annex on Student Mobility and Post Study Work Visa for the first time with any country
  - ♦ Indian students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week while studying, even if future policy changes occur.
  - ♦ **Post-Study Work Visa Duration:**
    - **STEM Bachelor’s:** up to 3 years
    - **Master’s:** up to 3 years
    - **Doctorate (PhD):** up to 4 years
- **Professional Pathways:** A quota of 5,000 visas for skilled Indians for stay upto 3 years in the sectors of interest of India.
- **Working Holiday Visa:** 1000 young Indians annually can avail multiple entry in New Zealand for a period of 12 months.

**Salient Features of the FTA**

- The FTA provides **zero-duty access to 100% of Indian exports**, significantly enhancing market access.
- A **USD 20 billion investment commitment over 15 years** strengthens long-term economic and strategic ties.
- **Labour-intensive sectors and MSMEs** gain through duty-free access for textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, engineering goods and processed foods.
- India has opened **70.03% of tariff lines**, while **29.97% remain excluded** to protect sensitive sectors such as dairy, agriculture, metals and defence items, with **30% seeing immediate duty elimination** and the rest phased.
- For the first time, New Zealand has signed an **AYUSH and Traditional Medicine Annexes**, promoting Ayurveda, yoga and related services globally.

**US Push to Reform WTO**

**Context:** Recently, the United States submitted a communication to the WTO General Council outlining its vision for WTO reform.

**Key Reform Areas Highlighted by the US**

- **Decision-Making: Shift towards Plurilateralism**
  - ♦ The US argues that consensus among 166 members is no longer feasible.
  - ♦ It promotes plurilateral agreements among “like-minded” members as the future of WTO rule-making.
  - ♦ Benefits and obligations would apply only to participating countries.
- **Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)**
  - ♦ The US proposes restricting S&DT **almost exclusively to Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**.
  - ♦ All other members, irrespective of development gaps, should follow uniform rules.
- **Level Playing Field**
  - ♦ The US correctly flags distortions caused by **non-market policies**, such as state subsidies and overcapacity.
  - ♦ Its reform prescription is limited mainly to better transparency and stricter notification compliance.

**India’s Approach**

- Defending the Most Favored Nation (MFN) Principle
- Addressing trade imbalances with prudence, not protectionism
- Economic security through multilateral disciplines
- Recalibrating Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) exclusively to Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Cautious and conditional engagement with plurilateral agreements

<b>About WTO</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Headquarters:</b> Geneva, Switzerland</li> <li>• <b>Members:</b> 166 countries</li> <li>• <b>Global Trade Coverage:</b> Approximately 98% of world trade.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Regulates global trade rules among nations.</li> <li>✓ Covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- **Formation**
  - ♦ **GATT (1948):** General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade laid the foundation of multilateral trade rules.

- ♦ **Uruguay Round (1986–1994):** Expanded trade negotiations beyond goods to services and intellectual property.
- ♦ **Marrakesh Agreement (1994):** This led to the establishment of the WTO in 1995.

### Bulgaria Joins the European Union

**Context:** Recently, Bulgaria adopted the Euro as its official currency, becoming the 21st country to join the Eurozone, nearly 20 years after joining the European Union (EU).

#### About Bulgaria

- It Bulgaria is located in southeastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula.
- It shares its northern border with Romania, largely marked by the Danube River, while the Black Sea lies to its east.
- The country borders Turkey and Greece to the south, North Macedonia to the southwest, and Serbia to the west.
- Its capital, Sofia, is situated in a mountainous basin in the western part of the country.

#### Evolution of the Euro

- The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 led to the formation of the European Union and laid the foundation for the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).
- This allowed EU members to adopt a common currency, the Euro, as legal tender.
- The Euro was first introduced in 12 countries in 2002, and Croatia was the most recent country to join in 2023.
- A unified monetary system was created under the European Central Bank (ECB) to manage Eurozone policies.

#### About the Eurozone

- The Eurozone, also called the Euro area, consists of EU countries that have officially adopted the Euro as their national currency.
- With Bulgaria's entry, 21 out of 27 EU members now use the Euro. The remaining six continue to use their own currencies.
- Some microstates like Andorra, Monaco, Vatican

City, and San Marino use the Euro through agreements with the EU, while Kosovo and Montenegro use it without formal approval, though none are Eurozone members.

#### Benefits of Joining the Eurozone

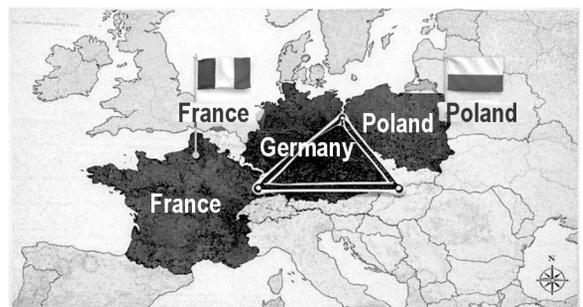
- Membership in the Eurozone offers several economic advantages, including price stability, lower interest rates, and easier access to European markets.
- A common currency reduces exchange costs and makes cross-border trade, travel, and investment smoother.
- It also allows consumers to compare prices across countries more easily.
- Member states gain representation in the ECB, which helps protect them from external economic shocks.
- As the world's second-largest reserve currency, the Euro strengthens European integration and global competitiveness.

### Weimar Triangle

**Context:** India's External Affairs Minister recently participated in India's first-ever engagement with the Weimar Triangle.

#### About the Weimar Triangle

- The **Weimar Triangle** is a regional political grouping of **France, Germany, and Poland**, formed on **29 August 1991** in Weimar, Germany, through a joint declaration by the foreign ministers of the three countries.



- It emerged in the post-Cold War period with the aim of stabilising Central Europe, healing historical

divisions, and integrating Poland into Western political and security structures.

- Unlike formal international organisations, the Weimar Triangle has **no permanent secretariat or treaty framework**.
- Instead, it functions through regular political consultations and coordination at multiple levels.

### Objectives of the Weimar Triangle

- **German–Polish Reconciliation:** Building on the successful Franco–German reconciliation model, the platform sought to improve trust between Germany and Poland after decades of conflict and Cold War divisions.
- **Strengthening Political Dialogue:** It aimed to institutionalise regular consultations on European and international issues, enabling coordinated positions within the EU and NATO.
- **Supporting Poland’s Western Integration:** A major goal was to assist Poland’s entry into **NATO (1999)** and the **European Union (2004)** by aligning its policies with Western European standards.

### Pax Silica Initiative

**Context:** The United States has announced that India will be invited to join the US-led Pax Silica initiative, signalling a major step towards strengthening India–US strategic and technological cooperation

### About Pax Silica

- Pax Silica is a US-driven economic security and technology partnership aimed at building secure, resilient and innovation-led global supply chains for silicon, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, critical minerals and advanced manufacturing.
- It is led by the United States under the US Department of State
- The first Pax Silica Summit was held in December 2025.

- **Core participants:** Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Israel, the UAE and Australia.
- **Guest partners:** Taiwan, the European Union, Canada and the OECD.

### Key Features

- **End-to-end technology security:** The initiative safeguards the entire value chain—from raw silicon and critical minerals to advanced chips and AI infrastructure—to avoid supply bottlenecks.
- **Trusted partner framework:** Cooperation is limited to reliable and like-minded countries, reducing risks of espionage, data breaches and technological sabotage.
- **Capacity building and investment:** It promotes long-term investments, new fabrication units, and processing facilities across member states.
- **Protection against coercion:** Members coordinate to counter dumping practices and geopolitical pressure that could disrupt critical tech supplies.
- **Tech as national security:** Pax Silica explicitly links semiconductor and AI dominance with economic strength and strategic power.

### Significance

- **Emerging AI–chip bloc:** Pax Silica consolidates a powerful coalition controlling a large share of the global advanced semiconductor ecosystem.
- **Reduced strategic dependence:** It helps members cut reliance on adversarial or unstable supply sources, especially in defence and high-tech sectors.
- **Opportunity for India:** India’s proposed inclusion would improve access to advanced chips, attract global investors, and accelerate its ambitions in AI, electronics manufacturing and defence modernisation.

## ONE LINER

- Kavachi volcano, where scientists recently reported rare footage of sharks living inside an active underwater volcano, is located near which of the following regions? **Solomon Islands**
- Which country did the US military recently carry out a strike against the Islamic State (IS) group in? **Syria**
- Which country was targeted during the US forces’ ‘Operation Hawkeye Strike’ launched to eliminate ISIS fighters, infrastructure and weapons sites? **Syria**

- India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which country to strengthen cooperation in maritime heritage for the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat? **Netherlands**
- Japan is set to resume operations at which nuclear power plant—the world’s largest—for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima disaster? **Kashiwazaki–Kariwa**
- The Bezymianny volcano, known for its massive past explosion and renewed rapid growth, is located in which region? **Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia**
- A Sikh Nagar Kirtan in South Auckland was recently protested through a traditional tribal “Haka” dance belonging to which country? **New Zealand**
- Recently, Japan has planned to carry out experimental extraction of rare-earth-rich mud from the deep ocean near which island? **Minamitori**
- Recently, which country became the first to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent state? **Israel**
- Which religious minority was recently involved in clashes on Syria’s coast? **Alawite**
- Which country has set a new world record in magnetic levitation by accelerating a one-ton superconducting maglev test vehicle? **China**
- Which country has sought assistance from Indian companies to manage its recently upgraded Hanimaadhoo International Airport? **Maldives**
- Which country’s native bees have recently become the first insects in the world to be granted legal rights? **Peru**
- Which country has recently replaced its Dutch-era law with a new criminal code? **Indonesia**
- Which tennis player has recently become the oldest woman to compete at the Australian Open after receiving a wildcard entry? **Venus Williams**
- Mount Bur Ni Telong volcano, recently in news for increased activity and a raised alert level, is located in which country? **Indonesia**
- Which country’s air force recently conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed Taimoor Weapon System? **Pakistan**
- Recently, scientists captured the first 3D images from inside the Popocatepetl volcano. This volcano is located in which country? **Mexico**
- Socotra Island, where hundreds of tourists were recently stranded due to mainland clashes, is located in which country? **Southeast of Yemen**
- Which country recently witnessed the commencement of the 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project by the Adani Group? **Bhutan**
- In which UNESCO-listed site did Pakistani archaeologists recently find rare decorative stones and coins? **Takshashila**

# MISCELLANEOUS

## PM SVANidhi

**Context:** Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the “Restructuring and extension of the lending period of Prime Minister Street Vendor’s Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme” until March 31, 2030.

### About the Scheme

- It was launched in June 2020 with the collaboration of the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**.
- It was formulated to assist the street vendors to overcome the adverse effects of financial constraints and to restart their lost businesses during the pandemic.
- It is a Central Government Initiative whose effective implementation is made possible through close collaboration with States, Banks, and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

### Restructured PM SVANidhi

- The restructured scheme aims to benefit 1.15 crore beneficiaries, including 50 lakh new beneficiaries.
- Its coverage is being expanded beyond statutory towns to census towns and peri-urban areas in a graded manner.

Restructured SVANidhi Scheme	
	<b>ENHANCED LOAN STRUCTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Tranche: Increased from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000.</li> <li>Second Tranche: Increased from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000.</li> <li>Third Tranche: ₹50,000</li> </ul>
	<b>UPI-LINKED CREDIT CARD</b> <b>PM SVANidhi</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides instant credit access.</li> <li>Helps vendors meet emergent business needs.</li> <li>Supports personal financial requirements as well.</li> </ul>
	<b>CASH BACK INCENTIVES FOR DIGITAL ADOPTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vendors can earn cashback up to ₹100/- per month, for 12 months on retail digital transactions.</li> <li>₹100/- per quarter, for 4 quarters on merchant digital transactions for wholesale purchase.</li> </ul>

*Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs*

### SVANidhi Se Samridhhi

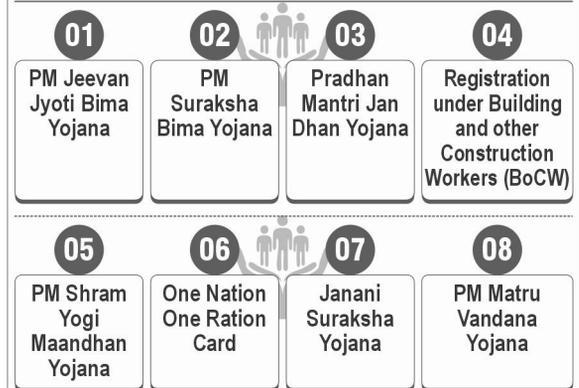
- SVANidhi Se Samridhhi is an extension of the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- It is aimed at enabling holistic socio-economic

empowerment of street vendors by integrating credit support with social security and welfare linkages.

- It has connected beneficiaries to 8 welfare schemes of the Government of India.
- Its ‘SVANidhi se Samridhhi’ component is being strengthened through Lok Kalyan Melas for the holistic welfare of street vendors and their families.

### Welfare Schemes for PM SVANidhi Beneficiaries

Street vendors and their family members will be covered under 8 central government schemes, depending on the eligibility.



*Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs*

## Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi)

**Context:** Recently, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) announced the nationwide rollout of Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) services across all telecom circles in India.

### About VoWiFi

- It is a technology that lets you make and receive calls and texts using a Wi-Fi connection instead of a cellular network.
- It is an IMS-based (IP Multimedia Subsystem) service that supports seamless handover between Wi-Fi and mobile networks.
- It is also known as Wi-Fi Calling, which allows users to make and receive voice calls and messages over a Wi-Fi network.
- It is now available to all BSNL customers across the country.
- Calls are made using the existing mobile number and default phone dialer, without the need for third-party applications.

**Working of VoWiFi**

- It converts voice calls into data packets transmitted over Wi-Fi.
- It automatically switches between Wi-Fi and cellular networks to maintain call continuity.
- It ensures clear voice quality even in low or no mobile signal areas such as basements, offices, homes, and remote locations.

**Creator’s Corner**

**Context:** Prasar Bharati has launched “Creator’s Corner” on DD News to showcase content created by digital creators across the country.

**About the News**

- “Creator’s Corner” is a dedicated platform introduced by Prasar Bharati to feature content produced by independent digital creators from diverse regions, languages, and genres.
- The platform seeks to promote the digital economy by encouraging the production of high-quality content and expanding its outreach through structured partnerships between Prasar Bharati and individual content creators.
- The programme is broadcast on DD News from Monday to Friday, ensuring regular visibility for creators and consistent engagement with viewers.
- The initiative follows a revenue-sharing mechanism, where 90% of the earnings from the programming are allotted to content creators, while 10% is retained by Prasar Bharati.

**Potential Benefits**

- **National Platform for Digital Creators**
  - Provides visibility to creators from small towns and rural areas.
  - Offers access to Doordarshan’s wide national and global audience.
- **Diversification of Public Broadcasting Content**
  - Introduces fresh, youth-centric and regionally diverse perspectives.
  - Enriches public service broadcasting with innovative formats.
- **Encouragement to Independent Content Production**
  - Recognises creators as full-fledged content

makers, not just performers.

- Promotes self-produced, edited, and distributed digital content.
- **Boost to Digital & Orange Economy**
  - Supports livelihoods in creative industries.
  - Aligns with India’s broader digital transformation goals.

**About Prasar Bharti**

- Prasar Bharati is India’s statutory public broadcaster established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1997.
- It operates Doordarshan and All India Radio.
- Its core mandate is to inform, educate, and entertain the public.
- It promotes cultural diversity, national integration, and public interest broadcasting.
- Recent reforms aim to align it with the digital and creator economy.

**Sports Sciences Workshop**

**Context:** The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched a four-day Sports Sciences Workshop for combat sports coaches in New Delhi to strengthen scientific training methods and injury management.

**About the News**

- The workshop is being conducted at SAI’s Sports Science Division, New Delhi.
- It focuses on integrating sports science into daily coaching practices through hands-on training.
- SAI and SIC are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for priority medical care to Indian athletes.

**About the Sports Authority of India (SAI)**

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the apex national body responsible for the promotion and development of sports in the country.
- It functions under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and plays a central role in nurturing sporting talent and achieving excellence at national and international levels.
- SAI was established in 1984 as a legacy institution following the successful hosting of the 9th Asian Games (1982) in New Delhi.
- It was created to systematically manage and utilise the sports infrastructure developed for the Games and to institutionalise sports development in India.

- SAI is a registered society, fully funded by the Government of India.
- SAI has been entrusted with two core objectives:
  - ♦ Promotion of sports across the country
  - ♦ Achievement of sporting excellence at national and international platforms

### SHAKTI Scholars' Young Research Fellowship

**Context:** Recently, the National Commission for Women launched 'SHAKTI Scholars' young research fellowship on women-centric policy issues

#### About the Programme

- It is a six-month programme that offers financial support to young Indian researchers working on solutions for gender equality
  - Aim: To strengthen evidence-based policymaking and contribute to meaningful social change for women across the country.
- **Objective of the Fellowship**
    - ♦ Encourage research on women's issues from a multidisciplinary perspective.
    - ♦ Provide opportunities for young scholars to support the Commission's mandate through meaningful research.
    - ♦ Promote academic and policy-oriented studies for gender equality, safety, and empowerment.
  - **Eligibility Criteria**
    - ♦ Only Indian citizens aged 21 to 30 years
    - ♦ Must have completed at least a bachelor's degree
  - **Benefit**
    - ♦ Grant of Rs 1 lakh for a six-month research period
    - ♦ Amount will be disbursed in instalments, linked to research progress
    - ♦ Opportunity to contribute directly to policy-oriented research at the national level

# KNOW YOUR BIHAR

## Agricultural Roadmaps

### BACKGROUND

- **Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, the former President of India, called the agriculture sector the core competence of Bihar.
- Accelerated development of the agriculture sector in eastern states, especially Bihar, is important for the food security of the country, it has been highlighted by the **National Commission on Farmers**.

According to the Land Utilisation Statistics, 2020-21

Land Use	Area (in 000 hectares)
Geographical Area	9359.57
Forest Area	621.64
Barren and uncultivable land	431.72
Non-agricultural land	1750.74
Agricultural wasteland	43.79
Non-agricultural land other than fallow	264.76
Fallow land	1028.10
1. Current fallow	173.50
2. Other fallow	
Net cropped area	5045
Gross cropped area	7246
Cropping intensity (%)	144

- According to the Agriculture Census (year 2015-16), out of the total number of land holdings in the state, **91.21 percent** are marginal holdings, whose holding size is less than 1 (one) hectare.
- For the first time, 'Farmer' was defined under the Agricultural Road Map for the sake of

Item	Period I (Pre-Agricultural Roadmap)		Period II (3rd Agricultural Roadmap)	
	Average Production during Period I (in LMT)	Average Productivity during Period I (Quintol/hectare)	Average Production during Period II (in LMT)	Average Productivity during Period II (Quintol/ hectare)
Wheat	37.97	18.29	62.82	28.89

implementation of the schemes.

- The first three Agricultural Road Maps have been implemented by the state government with the resolve **"A dish of Bihar in the plate of every Indian"**(Pratyek Bhartiya ke thal me Bihar ka ek vyanjan).

### Major achievements of Agricultural Roadmap Programs

- A total of 5 Krishi Karman Awards have been given to the state by the Government of India for its remarkable achievement in production and productivity of Rice (2011-12), Wheat (2012-13 and 2017-18) and for coarse cereals (Maize: 2015-16 and 2016-17).
- As per the 2019 NSS Report, the average income of agricultural households in the state is 7542 rupees, which has doubled since 2012-13,
- But the average income of agricultural households at the national level has risen from Rs 6426 to Rs 10,218. Hence, the rate of increase in income of agricultural households in Bihar is higher than the national average.
- Low level of indebtedness in the state results in less stressed farmers as compared to the national level.

Region	% of agricultural households indebted	Average debt per agricultural household(in Rs)
Bihar	39.7	25,534
India	50.2	121,47

- Achievements in terms of production and productivity can be realised by the following comparative analysis of various primary and secondary agricultural products:

Maize	15.97	25.04	33.72	50.26
Fruits	32.2	—	45.36	—
Vegetables	101.3	—	169.25	—
Milk	57.7	—	115	—
Egg	10,667 lakh	—	30,132 Lakhs	—
Meat	1.8	—	3.97	—
Fish	2.88	—	7.62	—

## Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

### • Strengths

- ♦ Fertile soil
- ♦ An abundance of water sources like rivers, chaur, mann, etc. and availability of underground irrigation water sources
- ♦ Suitable agroclimatic situation for growing three crops in a year
- ♦ Hard-working farmers
- ♦ Priority for the agriculture sector in state government policies
- ♦ Availability of Agricultural Research and Education Centres
- ♦ Availability of the agricultural extension system up to the Panchayat level
- ♦ Rich agricultural heritage with GI tag such as Zardalu Mango, Shahi Litchi, Magahi Paan, Katrani Rice, Mithila Makhana

### • Weaknesses

- ♦ More than 91 percent of all the farmers belong to the marginal farmer category in the state.
- ♦ Lack of infrastructure for storage, processing, marketing, etc due to less investment in the agriculture sector
- ♦ Lack of use of modern technology in the agricultural extension system,
- ♦ Lack of timely communication of market-related information to the farmers.
- ♦ Underrealisation of the productivity of agricultural enterprises.
- ♦ The cropping system is dominated by the paddy-wheat cropping system leading to lesser crop diversity.

### • Opportunities

- ♦ To take agricultural heritage products in the different parts of the country and the international market.
- ♦ To increase the production of fruits and vegetables of the state for national and international markets.
- ♦ Organise small farmers and transform them into an economic unit.
- ♦ Crop Diversification
- ♦ To take advantage of the Agriculture Road Map schemes through effective coordination between different departments.
- ♦ Increase in the income of farmers by processing and value addition
- ♦ Agricultural Input Marketing by adopting digital technologies

### • Threats

- ♦ Climate Change
- ♦ Flood
- ♦ Drought
- ♦ Irregularity of Monsoon
- ♦ Terminal Heat

### • The objectives of the Fourth Agriculture Roadmap

- ♦ Food and Nutrition Security
- ♦ Promotion of non-raiyat and women farmers along with raiyat farmers for inclusive development
- ♦ Sustainable development.
- ♦ Convergence between different departments of the Agriculture Roadmap, as well as mutual coordination between government departments and the private sector in relation to farmer-related subjects.
- ♦ Forming farmers' groups for the purpose of small farmer-big farming.

- ♦ Maximum use of modern technology in agriculture, so that farmers' lives can be improved by solving their problems.
- ♦ Specific measures to reduce damage to agricultural produce during production and after production.
- ♦ Special program for the development of specific agricultural areas of the state, such as Tal, Diara and Chaur.
- ♦ Integrated development of the agriculture sector, which includes the development of horticulture, animal husbandry, the fisheries sector, along with crops.
- ♦ To prepare farmers for the situations arising due to climate change, and to keep the ecological balance intact.

**Crops and Horticulture**

**Major Priority Areas for Crops and Horticulture**

- **Seed Development**
  - ♦ Various research and studies confirm that 15-20 percent more yield can be obtained by using quality seeds and up to 45 percent more production can be obtained as a result of proper use of other inputs and timely cultivation activities.

List of Crops	Seed Replacement Rate (3rd Agri-Roadmap)	
	Target	Achieved
Paddy	50	45.16
Wheat	35	39.1
Maize	90	94.39
Pulse	30	16.14
Oilseeds	70	51.74

- **Ongoing Schemes:**
  - ♦ CM Crash Seed Programme
  - ♦ Seed Distribution Programme
  - ♦ Certified seed production Programme
- **Crop Diversification and Intensification**
  - ♦ Millets Development Programme
  - ♦ Jute Development Programme

- ♦ Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Promotion Programme
- ♦ Dryland Horticulture Crop Promotion Programme
- ♦ Flexi Fund for Promotion of Processing
- ♦ Research, Training and Implementation of Micro-Irrigation

• **Pulses and Oilseeds Mission**

Crops	Kharif	Rabi
Pulses	Arhar, Urad, Moong, Kulthi	Gram, Lentil, Pea, Lathyrus
Oilseeds	Soybean, Groundnut	Mustard, Rapeseed, Linseed

**Priority areas for 2023-28**

- Focus on technology demonstration and area expansion under pulses and oilseed crops in Bihar
- Distribution of quality seed for expansion under new and improved varieties
- Cultivation of about 1 lakh ha of rabi pulses in Tal areas
- Addressing pest infestation (especially pod borer) as the major constraint to productivity
- Use of drones for quick and efficient application of plant protection measures in Tal areas
- Promotion of intercropping:
  - ♦ Jute with pulses/oilseeds
  - ♦ Sugarcane with pulses/oilseeds
  - ♦ Millets with pulses/oilseeds
  - ♦ Coarse cereals with pulses/oilseeds
- Bringing current fallow land after paddy harvest under pulses and oilseeds cultivation
- Expansion supported by micro-irrigation facilities
- Implementation through DPR under Pulses and Oilseed Mission.

**Bihar Organic Farming Promotion Program**

**Need**

- Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides has:
  - ♦ Adversely affected human health
  - ♦ Degraded the environment
- Global concerns linked to unsustainable agriculture:
  - ♦ Around 30% of food produced worldwide is wasted

- ♦ Nearly 1 million species are threatened with extinction
- ♦ Loss of biodiversity
- ♦ Contribution to global warming
- ♦ Soil contamination
- ♦ Threats to rural livelihoods
- ♦ Risks to food and nutrition security
- Climate change linkage:
  - ♦ IPCC estimates that food systems contribute up to 29% of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions
- Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions:
  - ♦ Crop production and chemical use are major sources
  - ♦ Chemicals used in day-to-day agricultural practices aggravate emissions

**Priority areas**

- Availability of organic inputs and organic pesticides at the local level
- Creation of infrastructure to strengthen the organic value chain at the local level
- Training and capacity building of farmers on organic farming
- Awareness campaigns among consumers/users regarding the health benefits of organic products
- Strengthening of FPOs/FPCs for effective marketing of organic produce

**Climate- Resilient Agriculture Programme**

- **Background:**
  - ♦ Increasing extreme climatic events (floods, droughts, erratic rainfall, temperature stress) are reducing yields and altering cropping patterns.
  - ♦ Small and marginal farmers (>91% in Bihar) are most vulnerable due to climate uncertainty and

- lack of quality seeds.
- ♦ Climate change impacts agriculture directly (crop damage due to extremes) and indirectly (changes in growth and distribution).
- ♦ Climate-resilient agriculture is crucial for farmer livelihoods and food security, especially for marginal farmers.

• **Key Interventions:**

- ♦ Laser land levelling, zero tillage, raised bed planting
- ♦ Climate-resilient varieties, Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)
- ♦ Crop diversification, intercropping, and precision input management
- ♦ Community irrigation, potato-based systems
- ♦ Crop residue management, carbon credits, solar harvesting
- ♦ Millets in food systems, empowerment of rural women.

• **Horticulture Development**

- ♦ Horticulture (fruits, vegetables, tubers, floriculture, mushrooms, beekeeping, spices, plantation, aromatic & medicinal plants) is a sunrise sector.
- ♦ **Advantages:** agro-climatic suitability, high biomass and income per unit area, large employment potential, and scope for value addition.
- ♦ Horticulture is a major contributor to State agricultural GDP and export earnings.
- ♦ It is a sustainable and viable option for small and marginal farmers and offers commercial opportunities for entrepreneurs.
- ♦ Despite Bihar’s suitability, growth is constrained by production bottlenecks, limited technology adoption, and marketing constraints.

**Achievements under Previous Krishi Roadmaps**

Crops	Before Krishi Road		Post 3rd Krishi Road Map		% age increment post 3rd Krishi Road Map	
	Production (Lakh MT)	Productivity (Q/ha)	Production (Lakh MT)	Productivity (Q/ha)	Production	Productivity
Fruits	32.28	112.90	45.36	136.90	40.52	21.26
Veg.	101.03	159.40	169.25	194.60	67.52	22.08

### Priorities under 4th Roadmap

- Production of quality planting materials
- Vegetables development
- PARAG: Promoting Apiculture (Beekeeping) for Revolutionising Agrarian Growth
- **Centre of Excellence (CoE)**- Establishment of Adarsh Baghwani Kendras for Honey, Mushroom, Post-Harvest management, Makhana and Mango, along with one CoE for Fruits, and one CoE for Vegetables
- **Use of modern technology in the fourth Krishi Roadmap:**
  - ♦ Establishment of Digital Farmers' Services.
  - ♦ Formation of Bihar Kisan Utthan Society.
  - ♦ Development of the e-Machan platform.
  - ♦ Development of Smart/Digital Agri-Ecosystem.
  - ♦ To facilitate the standardisation of sensor-based protected cultivation for capsicum, tomato, cucumber and gerbera.
  - ♦ Development of sensor-based (AI and IoT-based) farm equipment for operations and post-harvest technology.
  - ♦ Standardisation of UAVs for crop production management and monitoring.
  - ♦ To establish a bioinformatics and computational biology lab for accelerating the agricultural breeding program.
  - ♦ To develop a protocol for smart dairy and aquaculture system.
  - ♦ To develop capacity building programme through certificate and diploma courses in AI&ML, IoT and Automation and Blockchain Technology.

### Agricultural Education

- **Background:**
  - ♦ Agricultural research was born in the year 1905 in Pusa, Samastipur. Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, was converted into Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in the year 2016 with the continuous efforts of the state government.
  - ♦ The Barlaug Institute for South Asia was established in the year 2011 at Pusa as the first international agricultural research institute in the state.

- ♦ Not only college and university level agriculture education, but for the first time in the state, from the year 2015, agriculture education was started at the high school level.

### Under the 4th Agriculture Roadmap

- Establishment of the College of Secondary Agriculture in Bihar.
- Formation of the Bihar Academy of Agriculture Science

### Animal and Fisheries

#### Measures to be taken for the achievement of targets of the Fourth Agriculture Roadmap

- Provision for the timely implementation of vaccination programmes under the state scheme in case of late release of funds under centrally sponsored schemes.
- Due to the shortage of artificial insemination personnel in the department, arrangements to achieve the target of artificial insemination by imparting training to private artificial insemination workers.
- Provision for training of skilled human resources for animal husbandry, also through outsourcing and establishment of Project Management units.
- Establishment of goat farms by the provision of subsidies in the private sector, as well as a scheme of goat distribution on a large scale, for the enhancement of the availability of goat meat.
- Establishment of layer farms of 5000 and 10000 capacity, Broiler Obreeding-cum-hatchery of 10000 capacity and infrastructure development of broiler farms by provision of subsidy in the private sector, along with a scheme of poultry distribution on a large scale for enhancement in availability of poultry egg, broiler chicks and meat.
- Establishment of pig farms by provision of subsidy in the private sector, as well as a scheme for free of cost pig distribution for the enhancement in availability of pig meat.

#### Poultry Development

- Bihar currently produces about 3.06 billion eggs and 97.34 thousand tonnes of chicken meat.

However, the per capita availability of eggs in Bihar is only 25 eggs per year, which is significantly lower than the national average of 90 eggs per person per year.

- Similarly, the per capita availability of chicken meat in Bihar stands at 0.77 kg per year, whereas the national average is much higher at 3.2 kg per person per year.
- This wide gap between Bihar and national averages highlights the need to enhance poultry production in the state. Accordingly, to achieve parity with national availability levels and to ensure access to low-cost, good-quality broiler chicks, the state aims to promote the establishment of layer farms, broiler farms, and broiler breeding farm-cum-hatcheries, particularly through private sector participation.

#### Priority under 4th roadmap

- Incentivising private entrepreneurs for the establishment of different types of farms, such as Layer Farm, Boiler Farm, Breeding Boiler Farm cum Hatchery
- Strengthening backyard poultry for livelihood and nutritional security of marginal and disadvantaged farmers- chick distribution to 2.5 Lakh families
- Establishment of the Poultry Research and Training Centre.

#### Livestock Healths

- **Livestock Health Protection Programme:**
  - ♦ Annual vaccination against HS, BQ, FMD, PPR, and Brucellosis under Pashu Swasthya Raksha Pakhwara
  - ♦ For 355.85 lakh livestock, Economic cost- ₹18,440 lakh.
  - ♦ Biannual deworming of 960 lakh animals with a cost of ₹34,803.08 lakh.
  - ♦ Total 11,370 infertility prevention camps costing approximately ₹1,950 lakh.
  - ♦ **Veterinary Infrastructure:** Construction and strengthening of 460 veterinary hospitals, which will cost around ₹57,816 lakh.
- **Veterinary Services & Animal Health:**
  - ♦ Honorarium to Touring Veterinary Officers (contractual),

- ♦ Free life-saving medicines, equipment in dispensaries/hospitals,
- ♦ Ring vaccination,
- ♦ Medicines for ambulatory vans;
- ♦ Fuel for private motorcycles and recharge coupons for mobiles of veterinary doctors.
- ♦ **Total expenditure:** ₹7,845.00 lakh.
- **Goshala Development Scheme:**
  - ♦ Strengthening and modernising 86 registered goshalas in the state
  - ♦ 50 goshalas engaged in the maintenance and propagation of over 10 helpless cattle each.
  - ♦ **The scheme provides grant-in-aid for:**
    - Modernisation of goshalas
    - Indigenous cattle conservation,
    - Development of Infrastructure,
    - Establishment of biogas plants
    - Vermicompost units
    - Fodder production
  - ♦ Financial assistance of ₹50.00 lakh per functional goshala is provided.
  - ♦ The total expenditure under the scheme is ₹2,500.00 lakh for the period 2023–2028.
- **Fodder Production & Demonstration Scheme:**
  - ♦ Production and demonstration of new fodder varieties on 198 acres at departmental fodder nurseries (block level).
  - ♦ **Expenditure:** ₹564.00 lakh (2023–28).

#### Dairy Sector

- **Background**
  - ♦ Dairy is an important component of the rural economy in Bihar.
  - ♦ The State Government, under the last Agriculture Road Map, arranged for animal health, vaccination and an increase in the number of milch cattle.
  - ♦ Provisions were made to pay better prices to milk producers and to enhance the number of dairy plants so that milk from the cooperative sector is processed and supplied to consumers.
  - ♦ Despite floods and COVID-19, total milk production in Bihar increased from 87.10 lakh tonnes in 2016–17 to 115.02 lakh tonnes in 2020–21.

- During this period, the national average growth in milk production was 26.94%, while in Bihar it was 32.04%.
- Per capita milk availability rose from 229 grams per person per day (before the third Agriculture Road Map) to 300 grams per person per day in 2020–21.
- The Agriculture Road Map 2023–28 is expected to play an important role in sustaining this growth.
- Bihar’s rank in milk production among Indian states improved from 9th earlier to 8th position in 2020–21.
- **Role of the Co-operative sector:**
  - The cooperative sector is playing an important role in the growth of the dairy sector.
  - Cooperative societies are being established in villages for the sale of milk and milk products at remunerative prices.
  - These cooperatives ensure the supply of good quality cattle feed for milch cattle, mineral mixture and artificial insemination services.
  - They are also involved in fodder seed production and distribution.
  - The supply of hygienic milk and milk products as per standards through the cooperative network is a key activity.

**ACHIEVEMENTS OF PREVIOUS ROADMAPS**

Particulars	Roadmap				
	Before (2007-08) Achiev.	First (2008-12) Achiev.	Second (2012-17) Achiev.	Third (2017-23) Target	Third (2017-23) Achiev.*
No. of Dairy Co-operatives	6585	11000	20691	28191	27816
Women’s Dairy Co-operatives	870	1196	2163	4788	4495
Milk Procurement (Lakh kg/day)	4.79	11.00	15.36	25.98	16.05
Milk Sale (Lakh ltr/day)	5.25	8.25	13.45	21.66	17.77
Dairy Plant Capacity (Lakh ltr/day)	8.45	10.60	25.60	50.70	40.55

\*Upto February 2023

**Fisheries Sector**

- **Key figures**
  - Annual demand - 8.02 Lakh metric tonnes
  - Current Production- 7.62 lakh metric tonnes (2021-22 data)
- **Major Obstacles:**
  - Traditional fish farming methods
  - Lack of skilled and professional manpower
  - Lack of production and utilisation of fish seed and feed
  - Weak extension system
  - Calamities like floods and drought
  - Multi-ownership of water bodies
  - Social inequalities
  - Siltation in water bodies

**VISION- “Fish Surplus State”**

**Year-wise Fish Production, Demand and Total Fish Seed Production**

Sl. no.	Financial Year	Fish Demand (Lakh MT)	Fish Production Target (Lakh MT)	Total Potential Production of Fish Seed (Fry) In Million
1.	2023-24	9.56	8.89	1800

2.	2024-25	9.67	9.50	2100
3.	2025-26	9.76	10.20	3000
4.	2026-27	9.84	11.60	3332
5.	2027-28	9.91	12.70	0053

**Schemes for the Fourth Krishi Roadmap:**

- Wetland Fisheries Development
- Pond Aquaculture Development
- Self-sufficiency in Quality Fish Seed
- Institutional strengthening

**Ongoing Schemes**

- Fish Marketing and Value Addition
  - ♦ Construction of market sheds at the block and panchayat level
  - ♦ Installation of the Ready-to-Eat and Ready-to-Cook Fish unit.
  - ♦ Installation of the fish waste to wealth unit.
- Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory

**Establishment of the “One Health” platform**

- **Background**
  - ♦ Nearly 60% of human diseases are zoonotic; 75% of emerging infections originate from animals.
  - ♦ Rising demand for animal protein has increased human–animal interaction and zoonotic risks.
  - ♦ Bihar lacks an integrated platform to address emerging zoonotic pathogens and food contaminants.

**Key Interventions**

- **One Health Platform Development**
  - ♦ Establishment of a One Health Platform through a multidisciplinary professional society integrating human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

**Surveillance and Monitoring**

- Standardisation of rapid diagnostic tests for zoonotic diseases.
- Surveillance of TB, brucellosis, rabies, etc.
- Monitoring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in livestock and its human link.
- Metagenomic analysis of sewage and environmental samples.

- Establishment of a BSL-3 laboratory at Bihar Animal Science University, Patna.
- Creation of poison and residue analysis laboratories.

**Public Awareness**

- Awareness programmes for farmers and other stakeholders on One Health.

**Expected Outcomes**

- A common platform to address One Health challenges.
- Enhanced capacity to manage high-risk pathogens.
- Improved outbreak response to zoonotic diseases.
- Greater awareness of One Health and Antimicrobial Management.

**Rural Works**

**Objective of the Rural Works Department:**

- To provide all-weather single connectivity to all eligible habitations. The rural roads join Other District Roads(ODR), State Highways (SH) and National Highways(NH) and thus help in overall rural development.
- **Programmes run by the department for rural connectivity are:**
  - ♦ Gramin Tola Sampark Yojna
  - ♦ Mukhyamantri Gram Sampark Yojna
  - ♦ PM Gram Sadak Yojna

- **Achievements of the Department:**
  - ♦ During Krishi RoadMap-3 (2017-2023), Connectivity has been provided to 29052 habitations, out of a total of 31884 habitations, by constructing 30189.03 km of roads.
  - ♦ The remaining 2832 habitations are being connected through additional construction of 9757.75 km roads.

**Work Programme for Rural Works Department under 4th Krishi Roadmap**

- To uplift the overall economic condition of rural areas by providing connectivity to unconnected eligible habitations under various schemes run by the department.
- To construct additional cross drainage structures in rural roads to drain water from water logged areas and to make them arable.

**Water Resources**

Reasons behind the continuously rising pressure on Water Resources

- Increase in the temperature of the Earth
- Irregular rainfall
- Droughts
- Rapid Urbanisation
- Continuous reduction in Forest Areas
- Growing demand for water in other sectors

Water Resources in Bihar

- Bihar receives an annual average rainfall of 1100 mm.
- Based on 75% dependability, 1,32,175 MCM of surface water is available in Bihar, while the total storage capacity of the present reservoirs is only 949.77 MCM.
- The per capita water availability in the year 2001 was 1594 cubic meters, and it is estimated that it will decrease to 1006 cubic meters in the year 2025 and 635 cubic meters by the year 2050.
- The total estimated requirement of water in the state for 2050 is 1,45,048 MCM, which includes 1,04,706 MCM for the agriculture sector and 40,342 MCM for the non-agriculture sector.
- From this perspective, it is clear that Bihar is a state where the availability of water is critical, and there is a need to take appropriate measures to deal with future water crises.

Main works of the Water Resource Department

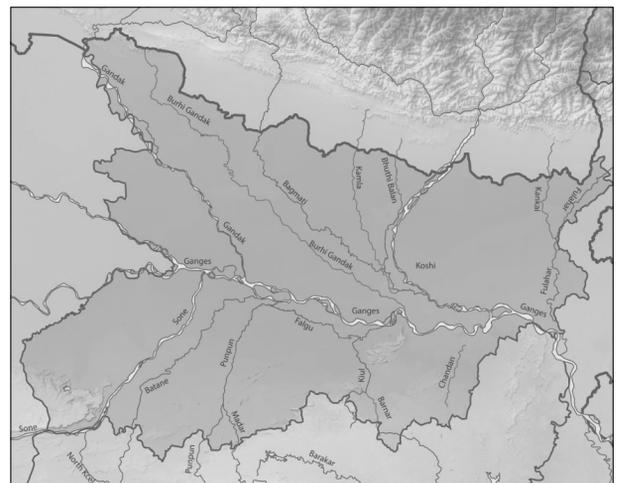
- Development, management and operation of major and medium irrigation projects which can provide irrigation to 41.23 lakh hectares out of the total 55.63 lakh hectares of net cultivable land in the state.
- Implementation of Flood Control, drainage and river linking schemes.

Strategy under 4th Krishi Roadmap

- To create and restore irrigation potential under the scheme “Har Khet Sinchai ka Pani” and other ongoing irrigation schemes, including barrage scheme, river linking scheme, Taal development scheme, etc.
- Flood control through the construction of new embankments
- Protect areas from waterlogging by completing schemes for water drainage.

Major schemes:

- **Har Khet Sinchai ka Pani Scheme:**
  - ♦ During the year 2023-2028, 1.295 lakh hectare irrigation potential is to be created/restored by implementing a total of 1127 schemes. A total expenditure of Rs 700 Crore is estimated for its implementation.
- **Program of River Linking Scheme:**
  - ♦ During the year 2023-28, 3.358 lakh hectare irrigation potential is to be created/restored by implementing 4 river linking schemes. A total of Rs 6192 crore is estimated for its implementation.
  - ♦ **Four river linking schemes are as follows:**
    - Kosi-Mainchi interstate link project
    - Bagmati- Budhi Gandak river link Belwadhar scheme
    - Gandak-Chhari-Ganga river link scheme
    - Gandak-Daha-Ghaghra river link scheme



- **Flood Control and Flood Management Plan:**
  - ♦ Out of the total area of 94.163 lakh hectares,

about 68.80 lakh hectares of the state is flood-affected, leading to significant crop damage every year.

- ♦ The program will focus on the implementation of 11 ongoing flood protection schemes to provide flood protection in 19.272 lakh hectare area by constructing 550.242 km of new embankments, on which a total expenditure of Rs 2304 crore is estimated.
- ♦ In addition to the above scheme, an inter-departmental committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the DM of four affected districts.

### Minor Water Resources

The department is mainly concerned with these areas of work

- Surface schemes like traditional Ahar-Pyne Pond, weir, check-dam and lift irrigation schemes etc.
- Groundwater schemes like State tube well, private tube well etc.
- Collection of groundwater data and its analysis.
- Niji Nalkup Yojna

### Cooperatives

The role of the Cooperative Department

- Providing agricultural inputs (such as fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, agricultural credit, etc.),
- Creating warehouses for increasing food storage capacity,
- Establishing an agriculture equipment bank,
- Processing of agricultural products,
- Ensuring the procurement of agricultural produce on MSP, and
- Training for institutional development under the purview of the cooperative sector.

Achievements of the Cooperative Department

- Out of a total of 8,984 PACS and Vyapar Mandals in the state, the construction of **godown-cum-office facilities** at 6,888 PACS and Vyapar Mandals has already been completed resulted in the creation of

approximately 14.63 lakh MT storage capacities for agricultural produce. Creation of 3 lakh MT storage capacity is in process.

- Rice Mills have been established at 468 PACS and Vyapar Mandals through which procured paddy has milled and supplied to the state food corporation.

Kisan Credit Card

- State cooperative bank facilitates short term loan through the Kisan Credit Card to farmers who have PACS membership.
- Interest rate payable on KCC is 7%, with 2% interest subsidy, and an additional 3% interest subsidy is available for timely loan repayment.
- All the cooperative banks in the state are operating and monitoring the various activities under modern-technology based platforms.

Major Schemes

- **Bihar Chief Minister Harit Krishi Sanyatra Scheme:** It aims to establish agricultural equipment banks at 2,927 selected PACS within the state.
- **Bihar State Crop Assistance Scheme:** It has been implemented since the kharif season of 2018. This scheme benefited registered farmers and non-raiyat farmers on account of their crop damages and facilitated them with the help of the online portal of the agricultural department.
- **Bihar State Vegetable Processing and Marketing Scheme:** It aims to provide fair prices to vegetable producers and the availability of quality vegetables at an affordable price for the consumers.

#### Sugam

- It is a toll-free call centre to provide information about the Cooperative department schemes and address complaints promptly.

Priorities for the 4th Krishi Roadmap

- To facilitate business development and provide physical identity to the cooperatives, godown construction-cum-office facilities have been established at PACS and Vyapar Mandals within the state.

- The department aims to create a storage capacity of approximately 10 lakh MT in all remaining PACS and trade circles as part of the 4th Krishi roadmap.
- Establishment of Usna rice mills in cooperative societies with support from the Department of Industries, replacing the Arwa rice mill.
- Harit Krishi Sanyantra Scheme
- Bihar State Crop Assistance Scheme
- Kisan Credit Card- In the upcoming Krishi roadmap, computerisation of all PACS is planned, transforming them into centres of the rural economy and extending their functions as centres for the District Central Cooperative Bank.
- It includes institutional strengthening of vegetable and honey producer cooperative societies, aiming to harness the potential of these sectors through inter-departmental coordination.

### Sugarcane Industries

- Sugarcane is an important cash crop in Bihar and is commercially cultivated due to its suitability to the climate and soil. It is commercially cultivated in approximately 3 lakh hectares.
- There are currently a total of 9 sugar mills operating in Bihar state, primarily located in West Champaran, East Champaran, Gopalganj and Samastipur.
- There is significant potential for establishing jaggery units in non-sugar mill districts such as Madhubani, Saharsa, Madhepura, Banka, Darbhanga, Jamui, Purnia, Begusarai, Vaishali, Nawada, Lakhisarai, Munger, Araria, Khagaria, and Gaya.

### Achievements of Past Agriculture Roadmaps

- There has been a significant increase in area, production and productivity of sugarcane.
- Area increased from 2.49 lakh hectares to 2.64 lakh hectares, production increased from 134.4 lakh tonnes to 182.34 lakh tonnes and productivity increased from 53.55 ton/hectare to 69.06 ton/hectare.

### Priorities under 4th Krishi Roadmap

- Encouraging the jaggery industry to increase the income of farmers and to provide direct

employment to about 10,775 people through these industries.

- Ensuring the availability of seeds of the best selected strains of sugarcane and increasing the seed replacement rate
- Promoting intercropping
- Distribution of insecticides at a subsidised rate to protect the sugar crop from borer insects and other pests and diseases
- Distribution of bio-fertilisers/organic fertilisers to the farmers at the subsidised rates.
- Seminars/interstate exposure to progressive sugarcane farmers
- Training of farmers and entrepreneurs by setting up visit cum training/incubation centre
- Construction of a juice analysis laboratory

### Targets

- During the 4th roadmap, efforts will be made to
  - ♦ Increase sugarcane productivity from 49.70 tons/hectare to approximately 90 tons/hectare, and
  - ♦ Increase sugarcane area coverage from 3 lakh hectares to 3.50 lakh hectares.

### Associated Schemes/Programmes:

- **Bihar State Jaggery Industries Promotion Programme:** It aims to establish approximately 405 jaggery units of varying capacities, with 70% of these units to be set up in non-sugar mill areas and the remaining 30% in sugar mill areas.
- **Mukhyamantri Ganna Vikas Programme:** It includes
  - ♦ Incentives on production of seeds
  - ♦ Distribution of seeds at subsidised rates
  - ♦ Grant for intercrop cultivation
  - ♦ Subsidy on bio-fertilisers
  - ♦ State-level seminars etc.

### Revenue and Land Reforms Department

#### Objectives

- The main objective of the government is to prepare the updated revenue map of each land plot and maintain the Ryotwar Records of Rights (Khatian) in hard as well as soft copy by using special software.

**Special Survey and Settlement Programme:**

- In the 4th Krishi roadmap, the work of ground verification/khanapuri/draft application/final publication of the land maps prepared by the agencies through aerial photography in all the revenue villages of all the 38 districts of the state will be done in a phased manner.
- Aerial photography under the Special Survey and Settlement Programme(SSSP) is funded through the central sponsored scheme DILRMP (Digital India Land Records Modernisation Program) of the Government of India, and salary and other works are being funded by the state plan of the Government of Bihar.
- Under the Bihar SSSP, “Citizen Records of Rights ePassbook” for all agricultural and residential land will be made available online to the ryots/ citizens/ farmers of the state.
- Along with this, there is a target of giving a unique serial number (ULPIN- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number) to each plot present in the maps of villages in the state.
- Through this ULPIN, identification of any plot of the state and related information can be easily obtained.

**Food and Consumer Protection**

- The paddy procurement has stabilised in the state over the last few years, and the state has been able to procure 45 LMT of paddy, equivalent to about 30 LMT of rice, to meet the entire need of the targeted public distribution system under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- The following are some of the key targets to be achieved under the Fourth Krishi Roadmap:
- **Continuing procurement of paddy at 45 LMT per year**
  - ♦ Total economic cost will be over Rs. 61,650 crore, which will include Rs. 56,045 crore in only MSP, during the 4th Krishi roadmap.
  - ♦ MSP has been assumed to increase @10% per season.
  - ♦ The incidental cost has been assumed to increase @10% per season.

- **Procurement of wheat of up to 20 LMT per year**
  - ♦ The requirement of wheat under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System) is around 22 LMT/ Annum.
  - ♦ In the case of wheat, the procured stocks are directly transferred to BSFCSCCL.
  - ♦ BSFCSCCL releases the entire payment covering MSP as well as approved incidental costs, including the commission to the co-operative bodies, within 72 hours of the receipt of the stocks.
  - ♦ This system has performed well in the last few years, and the entire operation may gradually be streamlined.
- **The need for Procurement of Oil Seeds (mustard) through Price Support Schemes**
  - ♦ The state is in dire need of not only adopting climate-resilient agriculture but also diversifying its agriculture to prevent both glut and shortage of different crop products.
  - ♦ The area under oilseed production has not witnessed any substantial increase over the years; the farmers need to be incentivised for diverting land for oilseed cultivation.
- **Key Interventions:**
  - ♦ Guaranteed MSP is being offered every season so that farmers are assured of remunerative returns on oilseed cultivation.
  - ♦ Notification for oilseed crops by the state government, including expected production, sowing area, average yield, and peak arrival/ harvesting period.
  - ♦ Logistic arrangements like GPRS fitted transport facilities, electronic weighing machines, moisture content testing machines, etc.
  - ♦ Working capital arrangements for state agencies so that farmer dues can be cleared within 2 days of receipt of their produce.
  - ♦ Establishment of godowns and processing mills in the procuring areas through the PPP mode in rural areas in a time-bound manner.
- **Procurement:**
  - ♦ It is proposed that around 25% of the production can be procured under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) of the Government of India.

- ♦ It is to be noted that the requirement of cooking oil in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) is about 25000 MT, which translates to about 75000 MT of oilseeds.
- ♦ Procurement shall be made by BSFCSCCL as the state nodal agency in collaboration with NAFED, and the procured stocks shall be transferred to NAFED.
- ♦ The farmers shall be paid MSP within 48 hours, and the BSFCSCCL will recover the MSP and incidental payments from NAFED.
- ♦ **Limitation on holding the stocks:** The procured material shall be stored only to its biological life but not exceeding six months from the closure of PSS operation to avoid increasing holding cost and quality deterioration. Any material that is stored for a period of more than six months must be put for disposal on a priority basis.
- ♦ NAFED's e-Samridhi platform is a digital procurement platform for farmers comprising constituents covering the entire process from procurement to disposal.
- **Reasons behind non-procurement of Pulses (Gram and Lentil)**
  - ♦ The total production of pulses has remained stagnant at about 5.20 LMT in the state,
  - ♦ There is little marketable surplus
  - ♦ Market prices have consistently shot up after the harvest in the face of the Government Procurement Policy.
- However, it is assumed that as crops are diversified during the ongoing roadmap, some marketable surplus will be generated, and the guarantee of MSP will offer the farmers a basic remunerative price based on MSP.
- It is to be noted that the requirement of pulses in ICDS and MDM is over 1.15 LMT.
- **Increase in storage capacity, including under the Private Entrepreneurship Guarantee (PEG)**

### **Scheme**

- ♦ Over the last 3 Krishi Roadmaps, the state has made sustained efforts at augmenting the storage capacities in not only the cooperative sectors, which stand at about 14 LMT, but also under the BSFCSCCL, which has the responsibility of storing and distributing procured food grains.
- ♦ In order to run the procurement system and PDS efficiently, the state needs to augment the storage capacity by at least 20 LMT across the districts by the end of the 4th Krishi Roadmap.
- **Inclusion of PEG Scheme:**
  - ♦ **Reason:** Public investment will not be sufficient to bridge the infrastructure gap in the warehousing sector.
- **Procedure:**
  - ♦ Private entrepreneurs will be invited through a public bidding process to set up a modern warehouse of at least 5000MT in each Block of the state with their own investment on their own/leased land.
  - ♦ BSFCSCCL would give a guaranteed rental at the lowest bid price for 10 years on FCI model.
  - ♦ After the guarantee period is over, the private entrepreneur is free to offer the warehousing facilities to private parties.

### **Energy**

- **Proposals and Priorities under 4th Krishi Roadmap:**
  - ♦ To provide free electricity connection to 4,80,000 pump sets which includes both remaining and new upcoming pump sets, during the 4th roadmap.
  - ♦ Solarisation of all 1354 existing dedicated feeders for Agriculture.
- **Associated Schemes:**
  - ♦ Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY)
  - ♦ Mukhyamantri Krishi Vidyut Sambandhan Yojna

# PRELIMS SPECIAL

## NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Personalities	Appointed As/To
Saleem Ahmad	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
Anu Garg	First woman Chief Secretary of Odisha
Diya Binu Pullikkakandam	Chairperson of the Pala Municipality in the Kottayam district of Kerala. She has become the first Gen Z and the youngest municipal chairperson in India.
B. Sairam	Chief Executive Officer of Coal India LTD.
Advocate Davinder Pal Singh Advocate Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar Advocate Anil Kaushik	All three advocates are appointed as new Additional Solicitors General (ASG) of India
PV Sindhu	Chairman of Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes Commission for the 2026–2029 term
Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor	Vice Chief of the Air Staff
Justice Revati Mohite Dere	Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court (Former Bombay High Court judge)
Justice Sangam Kumar Sahu	Chief Justice of the Patna High Court (Former judge of the Odisha High Court)
Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak	Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court (Former Bombay High Court judge)
Justice Soumen Sen	Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court (Former Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court )
Rakesh Aggarwal	National Investigation Agency (NIA) Director General (Additional Charge)
Lav Aggarwal	Chief of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade
Rabindra Kumar Agarwal	Chairman & Managing Director of Food Corporation of India (FCI)
Air Marshal Seethepalli Shrinivas	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training Command of the Indian Air Force (IAF)
Air Marshal Tejinder Singh	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the South Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force
Sjoerd Marijne	Chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team
Justice A Muhamed Mustaque	Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court (Former Kerala High Court judge)
Ramesh Kumar Juneja	Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports
A. K. Balasubrahmanian	Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)
Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta	Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court (Former judge of the Allahabad High Court)
Rakesh Aggarwal	Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)
Praveen Kumar	Director General of the Border Security Force
Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor	Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police
Praveen Vashista	Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

**INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Personalities	Appointed As/To
Nasry Asfura	President of Honduras
Zohran Mamdani	First Muslim Mayor of New York City He is the first mayor of South Asian descent He is the first New York City Mayor born in Africa.
Mamady Doumbouya	President of Guinea
Delcy Rodriguez	Interim President of Venezuela
Shaya Mohsen Zindani	Yamen’s Prime Minister
Yoweri Museveni	Re-elected as the 7th president of Uganda

**PERSON IN THE NEWS**

Personalities	Related Facts
Gopinath Bardoloi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statue of Gopinath Bardoloi was recently unveiled in Guwahati.</li> <li>• He was a prominent Indian freedom fighter and widely regarded as the Architect of Modern Assam.</li> <li>• Played a crucial role in ensuring that Assam remained part of India during the Partition.</li> <li>• Posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1999.</li> </ul>
Michaela Benthaus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She is a 33-year-old German aerospace and mechatronics engineer, made history as the first wheelchair user to travel past the Kármán Line, a common marker for outer space, by a Blue Origin New Shepard capsule.</li> </ul>
Sudarsan Pattnaik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is a renowned sand artist and Padma Shri awardee</li> <li>• Created a world record by creating a sand art installation on Christmas at Niladri Beach in Puri, Odisha.</li> <li>• It was titled “World’s Biggest Apple and Sand Installation of Santa Claus”, created using 1.5 tonnes of apples along with sand, measures 60 feet in length, 45 feet in width and 22 feet in height.</li> <li>• The installation was officially recognised by the World Records Book of India.</li> </ul>
Savitribai Phule (1831–1897)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her 195th birth anniversary was celebrated on 3rd January 2026.</li> <li>• She is recognised as India’s first female teacher, feminist- social reformer from the Mali community and a prominent leader of the Satyashodhak Samaj.</li> <li>• In 1848, with the help of Jyotirao Phule, she started the first school for girls in Pune.</li> <li>• In 1852, she founded the Women’s Service Society</li> <li>• She authored Kavya Phule (1854) and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892).</li> </ul>
Rani Velu Nachiyar (1730–1796)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembered as “Veeramangai” (Brave Woman).</li> <li>• First Indian queen to wage and win a war against the British East India Company and a pioneering woman ruler of Sivaganga (Tamil Nadu).</li> <li>• Defeated the British and reclaimed the Sivaganga kingdom, decades before the Revolt of 1857.</li> <li>• Formed one of the earliest women’s armies in India.</li> <li>• Kuyili, her commander, became the first woman suicide bomber in Indian history by attacking a British ammunition depot.</li> </ul>
Siddaramaiah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He became the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka by eclipsing the record held by his role model and the party’s social justice icon D. Devaraj Urs.</li> </ul>
Aritra Roy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She is a Bengaluru mountaineer who has successfully summited Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak outside Asia, at 6,967.15 meters above Mean Sea Level.</li> </ul>

## PLACES IN THE NEWS

Place	Related Facts
Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has imported eight black-capped capuchin monkeys (<i>Sapajus apella</i>) from South Africa under an animal exchange programme.</li> <li>• About BBP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located approximately 22 kilometres south of Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.</li> <li>• It was established in 2002 within Bannerghatta National Park.</li> <li>• It is India's first butterfly park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India provided a \$ 450 million reconstruction package to the nation affected by Cyclone Ditwah.</li> <li>• About Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, south of India</li> <li>• Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (administrative); Colombo (commercial)</li> <li>• Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)</li> <li>• Separated from India by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.</li> <li>• Major rivers: Mahaweli, Kelani.</li> <li>• Major ethnic groups: Sinhalese, Sri Lankan Tamils, and Moors.</li> <li>• Official languages: Sinhala and Tamil</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has accused the United States of extortion over the seizure of oil tankers.</li> <li>• About Venezuela <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officially, it is called the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</li> <li>• It is a country in northern South America, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, Colombia, Brazil, and Guyana.</li> <li>• Capital: Caracas</li> <li>• Currency: Bolívar</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Rashtra Prerna Sthal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the occasion of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 101st birth anniversary, it was inaugurated on the banks of the Gomati River in Lucknow.</li> <li>• It is a state-of-the-art lotus-shaped museum dedicated to the lives, ideals, and invaluable heritage of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.</li> <li>• It features 65-foot-tall bronze statues of all three prominent national leaders.</li> </ul>
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Junta announced the dates for the final round of elections in the country.</li> <li>• About Myanmar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Southeast Asian country bordered by India, Bangladesh, China, Laos, Thailand, the Bay of Bengal &amp; Andaman Sea.</li> <li>• Capital: Naypyidaw</li> <li>• Official language: Burmese</li> <li>• Currency: Kyat</li> <li>• Government: Military-led administration (since 2021)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the commercial operation of the 2nd unit of 250 megawatts of the 2000 MegaWatt of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project was inaugurated.</li> <li>• It is located on the Assam- Arunachal Pradesh border.</li> <li>• It has eight units of 250 megawatts each, and is expected to generate more than 7 thousand 400 million units of renewable electricity annually.</li> </ul>
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russia plans to put a nuclear power plant on the moon in the next decade to supply its lunar space programme and a joint Russian-Chinese research station.</li> </ul>
Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japan has decided to restart this plant.</li> <li>• It is the world's largest Nuclear Power Plant located in Japan.</li> <li>• It was shut down after the Fukushima nuclear disaster, which led to a nationwide shutdown of nuclear reactors.</li> </ul>

Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirming the presence of a tiger in the sanctuary, Gujarat has regained its status as a 'Tiger State' by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) after 33 years.</li> <li>• This status included the state in the National Tiger Census.</li> <li>• About Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also known as Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary, located in eastern Gujarat</li> <li>• Part of the Vindhyan ecosystem and has mainly dry deciduous Forest.</li> <li>• Flora: Teak, bamboo, mahua, tendu, etc.</li> <li>• Fauna: Sloth bear (flagship species), Leopard, hyena, jungle cat, Indian fox, civet, reptiles, and diverse bird species.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has inaugurated the world's longest expressway tunnel in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.</li> </ul>
Somaliland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Israel, the first ever country, has recognised the Republic of Somaliland</li> <li>• It is a self-declared sovereign state in the Horn of Africa.</li> <li>• While internationally considered an autonomous region of Somalia, it has functioned as a de facto independent state since 1991, maintaining its own government, military, currency, and passport.</li> <li>• Location: Situated on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden, it borders Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia.</li> </ul>
Kanger Valley National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The efforts to secure the official UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Kanger Valley National Park have been intensified by the Chhattisgarh Government.</li> <li>• About Kanger Valley National Park             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of the Eastern Ghats, Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.</li> <li>• Attained the status of a National Park in 1982.</li> <li>• Kanger River flows through the park</li> <li>• Flora: Sal, teak, bamboo, medicinal plants</li> <li>• Fauna: Tiger, leopard, wild dog (dhole), sloth bear, chital, sambar, giant squirrel</li> <li>• Its unique feature is its limestone caves.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&amp;CC)'s Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has recommended an environmental clearance for the Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project.</li> <li>• It is a 260 MW (2x130 MW) run-of-the-river (ROR) underground powerhouse project on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar District of Jammu &amp; Kashmir.</li> </ul>
Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has become the first state to constitute the 8th Pay Commission for state employees.</li> </ul>
Turkmenistan (Capital: Ashgabat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It officially legalised mining and exchanging of cryptocurrency.</li> <li>• About Turkmenistan             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Central Asian country, bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran and the Caspian Sea.</li> <li>• Dominated by the Karakum Desert (covers ~80% of the country).</li> <li>• Rich in natural gas; notable site: Darvaza Gas Crater ("Door to Hell").</li> <li>• Part of the TAPI gas pipeline project (Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Bulgaria (Capital: Sofia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has become the 21st country to adopt the Euro as its currency.</li> <li>• About Bulgaria             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bordered by Romania, Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece, Turkey and the Black Sea.</li> <li>• Member of the European Union and NATO.</li> <li>• Major features: Danube River (forming the northern border with Romania), Balkan Mountains.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Venezuela (Capital: Caracas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After being captured in a nighttime military operation in Venezuela by the USA, President Nicolás Maduro was held in prison to face criminal charges.</li> <li>• About Venezuela             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officially, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</li> <li>• Borders with Colombia, Brazil, Guyana and the Caribbean Sea.</li> <li>• Home to Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall.</li> <li>• Possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves.</li> <li>• Member of OPEC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Greenland (Capital: Nuuk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the US President repeatedly stated that the U.S. “absolutely needs” Greenland for national security and defence.</li> <li>• About Greenland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister: Jens-Frederik Nielsen</li> <li>• The world’s largest island and a semi-autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.</li> <li>• Least densely populated territory in the world.</li> <li>• Approximately 80% of the island is covered by a permanent ice cap</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Surat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Became India’s First Slum-Free City</li> </ul>
Aleppo (Syria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the deadliest clashes broke out between Syrian government forces and Kurdish fighters in a contested area of the northern city of Aleppo.</li> </ul>
Somnath Temple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the Somnath Swabhiman Parv (8–11 January 2026) was celebrated, commemorating 1,000 years since the first attack by Mahmud of Ghazni on the Somnath Temple in 1026.</li> <li>• About the temple <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Prabhas Patan, near Veraval, Gujarat</li> <li>• First of the 12 Jyotirlingas mentioned in the Rigveda, the Skanda Purana, Mahabharata</li> <li>• After the attack by Mahmud of Ghazni, reconstructed in 1951 and inaugurated by Dr Rajendra Prasad.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Keyi Panyor, Arunachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becomes India’s first Bio-Happy District.</li> </ul>
Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the world’s largest green ammonia facility has been installed here.</li> <li>• It aligns with Andhra Pradesh’s Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024 and the national Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming for 5 MTPA green hydrogen by 2030 to cut imports and fuel zero-carbon sectors like shipping, power, and fertilisers.</li> </ul>
Finke River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been recognised by scientists as the oldest river in continuous existence on Earth.</li> <li>• About the Finke River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Central Australia (Northern Territory &amp; South Australia)</li> <li>• Drainage Basin: Lake Eyre Basin</li> <li>• Source: MacDonnell Ranges</li> <li>• Mouth: Disappears into the Simpson Desert (Lake Eyre Basin)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Jharkhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has implemented the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996, after 25 Years, making it one of the last Fifth Schedule states to do so.</li> <li>• PESA was enacted to extend self-governance and democratic decentralisation to Scheduled Areas by empowering Gram Sabhas</li> </ul>

**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

Awards	Related Facts
Best Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Institute	Recipient: Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, for the second consecutive year Presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) at ARISE 2025.
French Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) Award	Recipient: Ravi Deecee, Publisher and Managing Director of DC Books for his contribution to literature, translation, and cultural exchange between India and France.
40 Under 40 Lawyer Award 2025	Recipient: Advocate Shubham Awasthi
Sangita Kalanidhi Award	Violinist R.K. Shriramkumar

Sangita Kala Acharya Awards	Thavil player T.R. Govindarajan and Musician Shyamala Venkateswaran
UN Secretary General’s Award 2025	Recipient: Major Swathi Shantha Kumar for her project Equal Partners, Lasting Peace.
Cavaliere dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy)	Recipient: Shrinivas Dempo (Chairperson of the Dempo Group)
Ati Vishisht Rail Sewa Puruskar	Recipient: RPF inspector Chandana Sinha for the rescue of more than 1,500 of them across UP’s rail network.
Padmapani Award	Recipient: Legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja It was awarded at the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF) 2026

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Books	Author
Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood	Mohar Basu
Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti (Based on former PM Atal Bihari Bajpeyee)	Shri Vasudev Devnani
History That India Ignored	Prem Prakash
Sing, Dance and Lead: Leadership Lessons from the Life of Srila Prabhupada	Hindol Sengupta
Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu (Book on the life of President Droupadi Murmu)	Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad

**REPORTS AND INDICES**

Report/Index	Key Facts	Rankings
Annual report on medical certification of cause of death, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released by the Office of the Registrar-General of India.</li> <li>Diseases of the circulatory system were the leading cause of medically certified deaths in India (2023), accounting for 36.4% of total deaths.</li> <li>Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other heart diseases contributed to over 50% of these circulatory-system deaths.</li> <li>Highlights a significant rise in heart attacks among younger people; 50% of heart attacks in men occur below 50 years of age.</li> <li>Only Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli and Daman &amp; Diu, Delhi, Goa, and Lakshadweep medically certified more than 50% of registered deaths.</li> <li>Medically certified deaths accounted for 22% of all deaths registered under the Civil Registration System (CRS), 0.3 percentage points lower than in 2022.</li> </ul>	—

<p>Financial Stability Report (FSR), 2025 (Released biannually by RBI)</p>	<p><b>Key Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India’s government debt is stable; S&amp;P upgraded India to BBB rating.</li> <li>• AI-driven market confidence is high, but it may hide economic risks and global spillover effects.</li> <li>• Fintech lending rose 36.1%; the RBI warned about high risk in borrowers taking multiple unsecured loans.</li> <li>• Foreign stablecoins may weaken monetary sovereignty, policy control, and increase money-laundering risks.</li> <li>• The Rupee depreciated due to weak trade terms, higher tariffs, and lower capital inflows.</li> <li>• Banks remain strong; GNPA fell to 2.2%, the lowest in many decades (Sept 2025).</li> </ul>	<p>—</p>
<p>2026 Henley Passport Index</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranking is released by Henley &amp; Partners, a London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm.</li> <li>• India moved up five spots on the list and ranked 80 and tied with Algeria</li> <li>• Indian citizens can now travel to 55 countries without a prior visa, through visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or electronic travel authorisation (ETA) arrangements.</li> </ul>	<p>Top Global Passports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singapore</li> <li>• Japan, South Korea</li> <li>• Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland</li> </ul>

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoUs) AND AGREEMENTS**

Partner Organisations/Countries	Related Areas
<p>India and the Netherlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) as a formal institutional framework for regular dialogue and cooperation on trade and investment matters.</li> <li>• Aims to provide an institutional framework for advancing defence collaboration.</li> </ul>
<p>India Optel Limited (IOL) (Mini Navratna defence public sector undertaking) and Safran Electronics &amp; Defence (French company)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the production of two high-precision combat-proven defence systems, the SIGMA 30N Digital Ring Laser Gyro Inertial Navigation System and the CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight in India.</li> <li>• SIGMA 30N is used across artillery guns, air defence systems, missiles and radars, while CM3-MR is designed for artillery guns and anti-drone applications, significantly enhancing accuracy and operational effectiveness on the battlefield.</li> </ul>
<p>India and the Netherlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen cooperation in maritime heritage and the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.</li> </ul>
<p>Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To foster collaboration in the areas of research, education, training, and technology support for defence and internal security, aimed at strengthening the country’s self-reliance in defence.</li> </ul>
<p>Indian Army and Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop software-driven and artificial intelligence AI based solutions for the evolving operational and technological needs of the Army.</li> </ul>
<p>National Test House (NTH) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen quality control and third-party testing in national highway and infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Delhi Government and Reserve Bank of India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable the RBI to function as the banker, debt manager, and financial agent of the Government of Delhi.</li> <li>• It will facilitate market borrowings through State Development Loans, automatic investment of surplus cash, professional cash management, and access to low-cost liquidity facilities.</li> </ul>

The Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate the exchange of young legal professionals.</li> <li>• Under the MoU, two law clerks from Bhutan will be engaged by the Supreme Court of India for a period of three months.</li> </ul>
Indian Council of Agricultural Research- ICAR and National Dairy Development Board – NDDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance collaboration in multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity building across the entire dairy sector.</li> <li>• It aims to synergise ICAR’s scientific and research expertise with NDDB’s extensive field-level experience and address emerging challenges at the grassroots level.</li> </ul>
Madhya Pradesh and Digital India BHASHINI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To integrate multilingual AI tools across state digital platforms and strengthen inclusive, voice-first governance and improve last-mile delivery of public services in Indian languages.</li> </ul>

**SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

<b>Name of Summit</b>	<b>Related Facts</b>
Kimberley Process (KP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India got the chairmanship of the Kimberley Process from 1 January 2026.</li> <li>• It is a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society, aimed at preventing the trade in “conflict diamonds”</li> <li>• It currently has 60 participants, with the European Union.</li> <li>• Its participants account for over 99% of the global rough diamond trade.</li> </ul>
Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: New Delhi</li> <li>• Organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs</li> <li>• Objective: To tackle terrorism threats.</li> <li>• Key proposals included:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of an “impenetrable anti-terrorism grid”</li> <li>• Standardised Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) structure</li> <li>• A <b>“360-degree strike”</b> plan against organised crime</li> <li>• Emphasis on <b>trial-in-absentia</b> for terrorists abroad</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tools &amp; Platforms Launched:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An updated NIA Crime Manual</li> <li>• Organised Crime Network Database</li> <li>• Lost, Looted and Recovered Weapons Database</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised in New Delhi</li> <li>• Theme: Human Capital for Viksit Bharat</li> <li>• Objective: To strengthen structured Centre–State cooperation on key development priorities essential for India’s long-term growth path.</li> <li>• Special Emphasis on Early Childhood Education, Schooling, Skilling, Higher Education, Sports and Extracurricular activities.</li> </ul>
Regional AI Impact Conference 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised in Rajasthan</li> <li>• It is a preparatory event for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to promote AI adoption and innovation.</li> <li>• Objective: To analyse the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in strengthening governance, accelerating economic growth, encouraging innovation, and ensuring inclusive development</li> </ul>
National Textiles Ministers’ Conference 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Guwahati, Assam</li> <li>• Organised by: Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Assam</li> <li>• Objective: To align Centre–State efforts for making India a globally competitive, sustainable, and employment-generating textile hub.</li> <li>• Participants: Textile ministers and senior officials from States and Union Territories across India.</li> <li>• Theme: “India’s Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage &amp; Innovation”</li> </ul>

Third International Bharatiya Languages Conference – 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi</li> <li>• Jointly organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Antarashtriya Sahyog Parishad, Vaishwik Hindi Parivar, and the Department of Indian Languages and Literary Studies, University of Delhi.</li> <li>• Objective: To promote, preserve, and globally disseminate Bharatiya (Indian) languages by fostering research, dialogue, and cooperation among scholars, policymakers, and the Indian diaspora.</li> </ul>
28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi</li> <li>• Chairman: Om Birla</li> <li>• Objective: To promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy in its various forms and to develop parliamentary institutions.</li> <li>• It brings together Speakers and Presiding Officers from over 60 Commonwealth countries and semi-autonomous Parliaments.</li> </ul>
25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised at Jayadev Sadan, Paradip Port.</li> <li>• Organised by Paradip Port Authority (PPA) in association with the Major Ports Sports Control Board.</li> <li>• Objective: To showcase the rich cultural talents of port employees and reinforce the spirit of unity, cultural harmony, and mutual respect among the major ports of the country.</li> </ul>

**SCHEMES/CAMPAIGNS/INITIATIVES**

Schemes and Initiatives	Related Facts
National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Hub (NSSH) Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).</li> <li>• Implementing Agency: National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC).</li> <li>• Objective: To enhance the capabilities of SC/ST entrepreneurs and promote entrepreneurship culture among the SC/ST population.</li> <li>• In collaboration with banks and NBFCs, it ensures that entrepreneurs receive affordable and timely financial assistance.</li> </ul>
Santhali Version of the Constitution of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution of India in the Santhali language was released at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.</li> <li>• It is written in the Ol Chiki script.</li> <li>• The language is spoken by tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.</li> </ul>
Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a proposed statutory body to ensure comprehensive and risk-based security of ports and vessels across India.</li> <li>• It will function under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)</li> <li>• It will be headed by the Director General (an IPS officer of Pay Level-15).</li> </ul>
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched on 25 December 2000, completed 25 Years.</li> <li>• Since its inception, it has sanctioned a total of 8,25,114 km of rural roads, of which 7,87,520 km have been completed, nearly 95 per cent physical progress as of December 2025.</li> <li>• Objective: To provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible, previously unconnected rural habitations by linking villages with markets, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities.</li> <li>• Nodal Agency: Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), in coordination with State Governments and Union Territories.</li> </ul>

<p>Indian Standard for incense sticks (agarbatti)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)</li> <li>• Objective: To ensure safer products and promote responsible and sustainable practices in the incense stick industry</li> <li>• It classifies agarbattis into three types: machine-made, hand-made, and traditional masala agarbattis.</li> <li>• It prescribes norms for chemical parameters, raw materials, burning quality, and fragrance performance.</li> </ul>
<p>Bharat Taxi</p>	
<p>Green to Gold Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the government of Himachal Pradesh.</li> <li>• Objective: To legalise and regulate the cultivation of industrial hemp in the state.</li> <li>• Goal is to transform cannabis from an illicit “wild weed” into a valuable industrial and medicinal resource, promoting self-reliant Himachal by 2027.</li> </ul>
<p>Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the Delhi government in partnership with IIT Kanpur.</li> <li>• Objective: To offer quicker resolutions to public grievances and enhance transparency.</li> <li>• It is an artificial intelligence (AI)-based unified grievance redressal system which integrates several existing grievance redressal government portals into a single dashboard.</li> </ul>
<p>Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM)</li> <li>• Objective: To strengthen global market access for Indian exporters, especially MSMEs, first-time exporters and priority sectors.</li> <li>• Implemented by the Department of Commerce, the Ministry of MSME and the Ministry of Finance.</li> </ul>
<p>E-Bill System for fertiliser subsidies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an online system to enable the government to process the fertiliser subsidies amounting to approximately 2 lakh crore rupees.</li> <li>• It replaces manual, paper-based procedures with a fully digital workflow, eliminating the physical movement of bills</li> </ul>
<p>e-B-4 Visa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an e-Production Investment Business Visa introduced by India for Chinese businessmen.</li> <li>• It allows the Chinese nationals to travel to India for specific business activities, including the installation and commissioning of equipment, with permission to stay in India for up to six months.</li> </ul>
<p>Badalta Bharat Mera Anubhav campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in collaboration with the MyGov platform</li> <li>• Objective: To document and showcase India’s transformation over the past 11 years (2014–2025) through the personal experiences and creative expressions of its citizens.</li> <li>• It aligns with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, focusing on how governance reforms and development initiatives have positively impacted daily lives.</li> </ul>
<p>AYUSH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has received formal recognition in bilateral trade agreements with Oman and New Zealand.</li> <li>• AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Yoga &amp; Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy.</li> <li>• It showcases India’s traditional and alternative medicine systems, which are officially promoted by the Indian government.</li> </ul>

Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the government approved the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Rabi 2025–26.</li> <li>• About the scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India.</li> <li>• Aimed at ensuring the availability of fertilisers to farmers at affordable prices while promoting balanced use of nutrients.</li> <li>• Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers (Department of Fertilisers)</li> <li>• Objective: To provide the subsidy based on nutrients rather than individual fertiliser products. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fertilisers Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phosphatic (P) fertilisers</li> <li>▪ Potassium (K) fertilisers</li> <li>▪ Complex fertilisers (NPK)</li> <li>▪ Urea is excluded (it is covered under a separate price control and subsidy mechanism).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sanskara Shaala Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the Assam Government</li> <li>• Objective: To promote ethical conduct, character development, and social harmony as foundational elements of learning, citing the Sanskrit maxim: “Sanskarah hi gunanam moolam”.</li> <li>• It is designed for children aged between 4–14 years.</li> </ul>
Fully Paperless District Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India’s first fully paperless district court has been inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India in Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala.</li> </ul>
Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a joint initiative by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (GOI) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).</li> <li>• Objective: To build a dedicated science diplomacy platform that facilitates high-level discussions on the intersection of science, technology, and international relations, influencing global policy and diplomatic engagement.</li> </ul>
Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-2026 (TNDTSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is India’s first deep tech start-up policy at UImagineTN 2026.</li> <li>• Objective: To transform cutting-edge research into scalable commercial solutions, positioning the State as a hub for frontier and deep science technologies.</li> </ul>
Asha Van	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the Gujarat Government</li> <li>• It is a cancer screening van designed for the early detection and diagnosis of cancer.</li> <li>• It will enable the diagnosis of several life-threatening diseases, including lung, oral, blood, cervical, pancreatic, liver, breast and prostate cancers, using ultra-modern equipment at any location.</li> </ul>
National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently launched by the Union Home Minister.</li> <li>• It is a centralised and secure national platform for the management of data related to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) incidents.</li> <li>• Developed by the National Security Guard (NSG) in collaboration with the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gujarat</li> <li>• Objective: To support prevention, investigation and response mechanisms by enabling systematic data collection, analysis, and dissemination among authorised stakeholders.</li> </ul>
PM CARES Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Delhi High Court recently ruled that the PM CARES Fund holds a statutory right to privacy under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, even if considered a government entity.</li> <li>• It is a dedicated national fund established as a public charitable trust on March 27, 2020.</li> <li>• It was created primarily to address emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide relief to affected citizens.</li> </ul>

<p>Pariipoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by: Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance</li> <li>• Objective: To offer cashless facilities, modern treatments and access to a wide network of hospitals for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.</li> <li>• It provides indemnity-based in-patient hospitalisation coverage within India, with sum insured options of 10 Lakh or 20 Lakh rupees.</li> <li>• It will have a Co-payment component, allowing beneficiaries to choose between 70:30 or 50:50 co-sharing between insurance companies and the subscribers.</li> </ul>
<p>Bembla Irrigation Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Maharashtra cabinet has approved 4,775 crore rupees for this project.</li> <li>• It is implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.</li> <li>• It is a key irrigation initiative aimed at strengthening agricultural resilience in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.</li> </ul>

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

<p><b>Discoveries/Missions/ Initiatives/ Facts</b></p>	<p><b>Related Facts</b></p>
<p>RESPOND Basket 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)</li> <li>• It is a set of comprehensive set of research themes aligning with India’s dynamic and evolving space programs on emerging areas such as quantum computing, remote sensing, launch vehicles/materials, and advanced satellite communication systems.</li> </ul>
<p>CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru and CRISPRBITS Private Limited (CrisprBits) signed an LoI to establish a Centre of Excellence for CRISPR Innovation and Translation (CoE-CIT) to translate advanced CRISPR research into real-world clinical applications.</li> <li>• It is a powerful gene-editing technology that allows scientists to precisely modify DNA in living organisms.</li> </ul>
<p>BlueBird Block-2 satellite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a US-based communication satellite launched by ISRO from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.</li> <li>• It is the 6th operational flight of LVM3.</li> <li>• It is a next-generation space-based cellular broadband satellite developed by AST SpaceMobile</li> <li>• It represents the heaviest commercial payload ever carried by India’s premier launch vehicle.</li> </ul>
<p>MAVEN Mars Orbiter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, NASA lost contact with the Mars probe MAVEN.</li> <li>• It has been studying the Martian atmosphere since 2014.</li> <li>• NASA has two other spacecraft orbiting Mars that are still active: the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, launched in 2005, and the Mars Odyssey, launched in 2001.</li> </ul>
<p>AILA- Artificially Intelligent Lab Assistant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed by: IIT Delhi</li> <li>• It is an AI Agent that works on an AI Agentic Framework to conduct real scientific experiments like a human scientist.</li> <li>• It can convert the instructions into code and perform the experiments, which are given in English.</li> <li>• It can control the Atomic Force Microscope instrument and make real-time decisions during experiments, and analyse results independently.</li> </ul>
<p>1.5-Tesla MRI scanner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is India’s first fully indigenous MRI scanner.</li> <li>• Developed by: Voxxel Grids, a Bengaluru-based company.</li> <li>• It has been installed at the Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation near Nagpur.</li> </ul>

ITVISMA Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, becomes the first hospital globally to administer ITVISMA for spinal muscular atrophy.</li> <li>• The UAE has become the second in the world, after the United States, to authorise the therapy.</li> <li>• It targets the genetic root of spinal muscular atrophy by replacing the defective SMN1 gene, enabling the production of the survival motor neuron protein.</li> </ul>
White-bellied Heron (Ardea insignis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creature is facing an extinction issue.</li> <li>• Distribution: South and Southeast Asia, India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam), Bhutan, Myanmar</li> <li>• One of the largest and rarest herons in the world</li> <li>• Conservation Status:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUCN Status: Critically Endangered</li> <li>• Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I</li> <li>• CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species): Appendix I</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sandalwood Leopard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karnataka has recorded its first-ever ultra-rare strawberry-coloured Sandalwood Leopard.</li> <li>• Unlike most leopards that possess tawny coats with black rosettes, this exceptionally rare colour morph exhibits a pale reddish-pink coat, similar to the colour of sandalwood.</li> </ul>
EOS-N1 Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by ISRO by its PSLV-C62 Launch Vehicle.</li> <li>• It is an Earth Observation Satellite built for strategic purposes.</li> <li>• It is the 105th launch from Sriharikota.</li> </ul>
Calamaria mizoramensis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a new species of reed snake found in Mizoram.</li> <li>• A reed snake is a small, secretive, non-venomous snake from the genus Calamaria.</li> </ul>
Bio-bitumen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India has become the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen in road construction.</li> <li>• Bitumen is a black, viscous mixture of hydrocarbons produced by the fractionation of crude oil, and it serves as a crucial binder in road construction.</li> </ul>
PARAM SHAKTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) at IIT Madras.</li> <li>• It has been developed and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).</li> <li>• It is powered by the PARAM RUDRA supercomputing cluster, built using C-DAC's indigenous RUDRA series of servers.</li> <li>• The system delivers a peak computing capacity of 3.1 petaflops</li> </ul>
TranslateGemma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by Google has</li> <li>• It a open translation model, designed to support multilingual communication across a wide range of devices and deployment environments.</li> <li>• Built on Gemma 3, it aims to deliver high-quality machine translation while maintaining lower computational requirements.</li> </ul>

**APPS AND PORTALS**

App/Portal	Related Facts
NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government has linked the NATGRID with the National Population Register (NPR) to improve intelligence gathering and speed up criminal investigations.</li> <li>• It is a secure platform for the police and investigating agencies to access government and private databases in real-time.</li> <li>• It helps law enforcement and intelligence agencies in counter-terrorism and crime fighting by facilitating data like banking, travel, telecom, and identity records.</li> <li>• It was created after the 2008 Mumbai attacks to break down information silos and improve national security.</li> </ul>

PathGennie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an open-source software for accelerated drug discovery that predicts the binding of potential drugs to their protein targets, without the artificial distortions typically used in standard methods.</li> <li>• Developed by: Ministry of Science and Technology</li> </ul>
PANKHUDI Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by: Ministry of Women and Child Development</li> <li>• Objective: To provide a single-window digital platform that facilitates voluntary and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) contributions and partnerships in the domain of women and child welfare.</li> </ul>

**DEFENCE & SECURITY**

Equipment/News	Related Facts
Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants: India and the UAE</li> <li>• Conducted at Abu Dhabi, UAE</li> <li>• Objective: To strengthen interoperability and defence cooperation between the two forces through joint urban training, focusing on UN-mandated sub-conventional operations, including peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, and stability missions.</li> </ul>
Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The User Evaluation Trials of the Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) system were completed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).</li> <li>• In the trial, missiles successfully intercepted aerial targets at different ranges and altitudes, including the near-boundary-low-altitude and long-range, high altitude scenarios.</li> <li>• It is a potent system of air defence against different types of aerial threats equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker and propelled by a solid rocket motor.</li> </ul>
Samudra Pratap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the first indigenously developed Pollution Control Vehicle of the Indian Coast Guard.</li> <li>• Developed by: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)</li> <li>• It is for the first time that these vessels are being designed and constructed indigenously.</li> <li>• It will help to check the oil spillage in the country's sea coast.</li> </ul>
INSV Kaundinya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It undertook its maiden overseas voyage to Muscat (Oman) from Porbandar, which symbolically retraces the historic maritime routes that connected India with the wider Indian Ocean world for millennia.</li> <li>• It is the Navy's pioneering stitched sailing vessel, built using traditional techniques represents a rare convergence of history, craftsmanship and modern naval expertise.</li> </ul>
Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise (RPREX-2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted by the Indian Coast Guard in Mumbai to fight against the oil pollution at sea.</li> </ul>
Sudarshan Chakra Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an initiative of DRDO that will equip critical installations across the country with advanced air defence systems for comprehensive aerial protection over the next decade.</li> </ul>
Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR 120)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRDO successfully tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR 120) at Chandipur, Odisha, achieving its full 120 km range with precise target impact.</li> <li>• It is an advanced variant of the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System, which features a guidance system that combines inertial navigation, mid-course updates, and terminal correction for high accuracy.</li> </ul>

Pralay Missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRDO successfully conducted a salvo launch of two indigenously developed Pralay missiles in quick succession from the same launcher off the coast of Odisha.</li> <li>• Developed by: Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, in collaboration with several DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.</li> <li>• It is a solid-propellant, quasi-ballistic missile equipped with advanced guidance and navigation systems to ensure high accuracy.</li> <li>• It is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and engaging a variety of targets, enhancing the operational flexibility of the armed forces.</li> </ul>
Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities in both countries covered under this agreement.</li> <li>• Signed on 31 December 1988 and entered into force on 27 January 1991.</li> <li>• States that India and Pakistan inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first day of every calendar year.</li> </ul>
Bhairav Battalion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a newly formed Special Force of the Indian Army to tackle the challenges of modern warfare, like handling drones and using them in real operations for targeting bases and formations inside enemy territory.</li> </ul>
Exercise Sanjha Shakti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted by the Indian Army at the Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, under the aegis of MG &amp; G Area, Southern Command.</li> <li>• Objective: To highlight the seamless coordination and joint preparedness among civil and military agencies to address complex security challenges and emergency situations.</li> </ul>
Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a third-generation fire-and-forge missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) indigenously.</li> <li>• It is equipped with top-attack capability against a moving target.</li> </ul>
Joint Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) response drill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG)</li> <li>• Place: Mumbai</li> <li>• Objective: To reaffirm their strong maritime partnership and commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.</li> </ul>

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

Days	Date	Theme/Objective
World Meditation Day	21st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day to raise awareness about meditation and its benefits.</li> </ul>
National Mathematics Day	22nd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of India's most influential and globally recognised mathematicians.</li> </ul>
National Farmers' Day	23rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrated to honour farmers' contributions and commemorate the birth anniversary of India's fifth Prime Minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh.</li> <li>• Theme: Empowering 'Annadatas' for a Prosperous Nation</li> </ul>
National Consumer Rights Day	24th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrated to highlight the significance of consumer rights and the broader framework of consumer protection.</li> <li>• Theme: Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice</li> </ul>
Veer Bal Diwas	26th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrated to remember and honour the extraordinary courage and supreme sacrifice of the four Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru.</li> </ul>

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	27th December	• Celebrated to raise awareness about the prevention of, preparedness for, and partnership against epidemics at local, national, and global levels.
International Mind-Body Wellness Day	3rd January	• Celebrated to raise global awareness about the deep, reciprocal connection between mental and physical health.
National Bird Day	5th January	• Celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of birds, their role in maintaining ecological balance, and the urgent need to protect avian species from threats such as habitat loss, climate change, and illegal wildlife trade.
Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	6th January	• Celebrated to commemorate the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, his founding of the Khalsa Panth (1699), and his profound impact on Sikh identity and values.
World Day of War Orphans	6th January	• Celebrated worldwide to raise awareness about the struggles faced by children orphaned due to wars and conflicts.
World Hindi Day	10th January	• Celebrated to promote the use of the Hindi language abroad. • It aims to encourage the use of Hindi on international platforms, including diplomacy, education and cultural exchange. • Theme: Hindi: Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence.
National Youth Day	12th January	• Celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's greatest philosophers, spiritual leaders, and youth icons. • Theme: Ignite the Self, Impact the World
National Startup Day	16th January	• It was celebrated to commemorate National Startup Day 2026 and mark 10 years of the Startup India Initiative.
Penguin Awareness Day	20th January	• It is dedicated to raising awareness about penguin conservation, the impacts of climate change on their habitats, and the dwindling numbers of several species.

**OBITUARIES**

<b>Personalities</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Sreenivasan	• Veteran Malayalam actor, screenwriter, and filmmaker.
Vinod Kumar Shukla	• He is a renowned Hindi poet and author. • He was the first Chhattisgarh writer to receive the Jnanpith, India's highest literary honour in 2024. • His first poetry collection was "Lagbhag Jaihind". • His major literary creations were 'Kavita Se Lambi Kavita, 'Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi,' and 'Naukar Ki Kameez.' • He received several recognitions, including the Sahitya Akademi Award.
Khalida Zia	• Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Chief of BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party)
Hugh Morris	• Former England cricketer
Suresh Kalmadi	• Former Union Minister, Former President of the Indian Olympic Association. • During the tenure of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, he held the position of Minister of State for Railways.

Manoj Kothari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former World Billiards Champion</li> <li>• Won the world billiards championship title back in 1990.</li> <li>• He was conferred with the Dhyan Chand Award, India’s highest award for lifetime achievement in sports and games</li> </ul>
Madhav Gadgil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renowned Ecologist, Environmentalist, and Academic expert</li> <li>• Ex-Chairman of Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)</li> </ul>
Ueli Kestenholz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swiss athlete and Olympic Snowboarding Pioneer</li> </ul>

## BANKING & FINANCE

Organisation/Event	Related Facts
Free Trade Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India and New Zealand have recently concluded negotiations for a comprehensive FTA.</li> <li>• A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is an agreement between two or more countries to reduce or eliminate trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas to promote free trade among them.</li> </ul>
Polymer Banknote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oman’s central bank has issued a one-rial polymer banknote, which is the country’s first currency issued in polymer material.</li> <li>• Polymer notes are more durable than traditional cotton-based notes, which can include advanced security features to prevent counterfeiting.</li> </ul>
Open Market Operation (OMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RBI announces fresh measures to inject ₹2.90 lakh crore liquidity</li> <li>• OMO is an operation conducted by the central bank of any country for buying and selling government securities to regulate money supply and liquidity in the economy.</li> </ul>
India: 4th Largest economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India has overtaken Japan to become the world’s fourth-largest economy, with a GDP of USD 4.18 trillion, and is projected to surpass Germany to claim the third spot by 2030.</li> </ul>
100% FDI in Insurance Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The finance ministry has notified the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2025, aligning them with the 100% foreign investment limit in the sector approved by Parliament in December 2025.</li> </ul>
First Advance Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)</li> <li>• Real GDP has been estimated to grow by 7.4% in FY 2025-26 against the growth rate of 6.5% during FY 2024-25.</li> <li>• Nominal GDP is estimated to grow at 8.0% in FY 2025-26.</li> </ul>
Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the certificates of registration of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.</li> <li>• NBFCs are financial institutions registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that provide banking-like financial services without holding a banking licence.</li> <li>• They cannot accept demand deposits (no savings/current accounts) and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves.</li> </ul>
Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued By: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)</li> <li>• Purpose: To regulate cross-border guarantees involving Indian residents &amp; non-residents, streamline processes, expand automatic routes and strengthen transparency &amp; reporting.</li> </ul>

India's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by: Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB)</li> <li>• Objective: To provide uninterrupted banking services to remote and electricity-deficient areas in Tripura.</li> <li>• Initiative Name: Known as "TGB on Wheels"</li> <li>• Implemented with financial and technical support from NABARD and Punjab National Bank (PNB).</li> </ul>
Karnataka Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has won the 'Best Fintech &amp; DPI Adoption' category title at the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Banking Technology Awards.</li> <li>• It was also adjudged runner-up in 'Best Tech Talent' and received Special Mention in the categories of 'Best Technology Bank', 'Best Digital Financial Inclusion' and 'Best Digital Sales'.</li> </ul>
Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, it has been recognised by the RBI as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for all Authorised Dealers (ADs).</li> <li>• It was recognised under the RBI's Omnibus Framework for SROs, which aims to enhance market discipline and transparency.</li> </ul>
Integrated Ombudsman Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RBI has issued the revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme recently.</li> <li>• Objective: To provide a cost-effective, expeditious, non-adversarial alternate grievance redress mechanism for the resolution of complaints against Regulated Entities (REs).</li> <li>• It is expected to strengthen the Reserve Bank Ombudsman framework and bring about further efficiency in the resolution of complaints.</li> </ul>

**SPORTS**

Events	Details
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune</li> <li>• Organised by: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</li> <li>• Winner: Jharkhand won by 69 runs (Runner-up: Haryana)</li> </ul>
Smriti Mandhana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She became the first Indian woman cricketer to score more than 4,000 runs in T20Is.</li> <li>• She is only the second woman in the world to reach this landmark.</li> </ul>
IGU 124th Amateur Golf Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised at Tollygunge Club, Kolkata</li> <li>• Winner: Sukhman Singh against Harman Sachdeva from Haryana</li> </ul>
Vaibhav Suryavanshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaibhav Suryavanshi made cricket history by becoming the youngest player to score a List A century during a Vijay Hazare Trophy match held in Ranchi.</li> <li>• He was representing Bihar against Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>• He reached the fastest hundred in just 36 balls.</li> </ul>
Season 3 of Global Chess League 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised in Mumbai</li> <li>• Winners: Indian Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa and Anish Giri's Alpine SG Pipers</li> <li>• Runner Up: Triveni Continental Kings</li> <li>• Alpine SG Pipers defeated Triveni Continental Kings 4-2 in match one, and 4.5-1.5 in the second match.</li> </ul>
87th Senior National Badminton Championships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Vijayawada</li> <li>• Winner (Women's Singles): Surya Charishma Tamiri (Against Tanvi Patri)</li> <li>• Winner (Men's Single): Rithvik Sanjeevi S (Against Bharat Raghav)</li> </ul>

Sonam Yeshey (Bhutan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has created a world record by becoming the first bowler to take eight wickets in a men's T20 International match.</li> <li>• He achieved the unprecedented feat during the third T20I against Myanmar in Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan.</li> </ul>
Smriti Mandhana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing against Sri Lankan Nimasha Meepage in the fourth T20I in Thiruvananthapuram, she became only the fourth player, and the second Indian, to reach 10,000 runs in women's internationals.</li> <li>• Others are: Mithali Raj (10,868 runs), New Zealand's Suzie Bates (10,652), England's Charlotte Edwards (10,273).</li> </ul>
2025 FIDE World Rapid Championships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised in Doha, Qatar.</li> <li>• Winners: Magnus Carlsen and Alexandra Goryachkina</li> <li>• Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy won bronze medals.</li> </ul>
72nd National Volleyball Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised in Varanasi</li> </ul>
Jinson Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announced his retirement.</li> <li>• He is a national record-holder and Asian Games gold-winning Indian middle-distance runner.</li> <li>• Won the 1500 metres gold in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games with a time of 3 minutes 44.72 seconds.</li> <li>• He also won a silver medal in the 800 metres in the same Games.</li> </ul>
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointed as the goodwill ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026, India's first international cycling road race, scheduled to be held in Pune.</li> </ul>
ICC Player of the Month for December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men: Mitchell Star (Australia)</li> <li>• Women: Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa)</li> </ul>
India's 92nd Grandmaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaryan Varshney clinched the title at the Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia.</li> <li>• He secured his third and final GM norm after holding a crucial draw against FM Tyhran Ambartsumian in the eighth round.</li> </ul>



# BPS MAINS CAPSULE

## Eminent Personalities

M.K. Gandhi

**“Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth.”**

- Albert Einstein

### Greatness of Gandhiji

- John Haynes Holmes once said of Gandhiji that he was, “The greatest Indian since Buddha and the greatest man since Jesus Christ”.
- He did not let Jesus or any other great figure overshadow his moral power.
- He conquered people’s hearts and gave mankind the amazing weapon of non-violent resistance.
- One of the reasons he was so different is that apart from leading the people in the fight for their freedom, he was also busy in developing a life philosophy which he believed would always be true and which combined personal self-rule with political self-rule.

### A Revolutionary Thinker

- Gandhiji refused to recognize any fixed “Gandhism,” but his ceaseless experimental life was essentially a disciplined way of life.
- He was profoundly Indian and at the same time very much a radical.
- He actually preached far more revolutionary ideas than Marx or the anarchists ever did - for instance, the concept of a non-violent, stateless society, and spiritual commonwealth.
- He turned down the utilitarian standard of “greatest good of the greatest number” and proposed Sarvodaya instead.
- He contested the dominance of matter over spirit and maintained that true freedom - both at the level of the individual and the collective - can only come from spiritualism, not materialism.

### Nature of Thought

- Gandhian ideas can be said to come from a primarily spiritual perspective and are very much dependent on the faith he had in truth, love, and non-violence.

- In his view, Truth, Love, and God were the same, and every creature had a spark of the divine. His political and social victories were the result of his spiritual experience through Satyagraha.
- His even different opinions on economic life, decentralisation, trusteeship, and technology were still from the spiritual origin.
- He was convinced that material things should be set in a way that they would be the means for spiritual growth which is the ultimate goal of man.

### Methods

#### • Empiricism

- ♦ Gandhi had absolute faith in Truth and Non-violence, but he applied them in a world where he was constantly testing them by experimentation.
- ♦ His concepts were not formed by theory but by his experience; thus, the title of his autobiography, My Experiments with Truth.
- ♦ He only preached what he had practised, thereby South Africa being his testing ground.

#### • Historicism

- ♦ Gandhi, unlike Marx, whose materialistic interpretation is based on the conflict of classes, saw history through love, truth, and the spiritual aim of life.
- ♦ He perceived human progress as coming from the moral internal forces rather than the economic struggle and called upon countries to battle untruth, hatred, and violence by resorting to positive, non-violent ways.

#### • Intuitionism

- ♦ Gandhi was a rational man, but he also believed that understanding the power of the spirit comes through intuition.
- ♦ It was intuition rather than reason which led him to non-violence, to his being against materialism and the use of technology without control, and to his view of God as an eternal, underlying power which one realises through inner vision and not through the senses.

### God

- According to Gandhiji, God is Love and Truth. However, as “love” could be easily misunderstood,

he preferred to think of God as the supreme love.

- In fact, he changed the expression “God is Truth” to “Truth is God” because the name of God had been very often invoked for violence, while Truth (Sat) is what is eternal and really exists.
- He believed that love (non-violence) is the unavoidable way to reach Truth, and since means and ends are finally the same, God is Love. Gandhiji gave the following character to God: Sat–Chit–Anand:
  - ♦ Sat (Truth)
  - ♦ Chit (True Knowledge)
  - ♦ Anand (Bliss)
- Where there is Truth, there is also true knowledge; where there is true knowledge, there is lasting bliss.

### Religion

- “By religion”, he said, “I do not mean formal religion or customary religion, but that religion which underlines all religions, which brings us face to face with our Maker.
- Religion to Gandhiji means a belief in the ordered moral government of the universe.
- The essence of religion is to be found in the disinterested search after Truth, which purifies the heart and transforms conduct.
- Religion consists in the service of the poor and the helpless. According to Gandhiji, he who wants to serve God must serve his creatures.
  - ♦ **Characteristics of a truly religious man-** Gandhiji was of the opinion that all religions have a common soul, which is manifested in different forms.
  - ♦ **According to him, a truly religious man is a combination of:**
    - Faith in God — The Supreme Power, which is the source of the entire universe.
    - Truth and Righteousness — morality is the heart of religion. Without moral conduct, it is impossible to be religious.
    - Fearlessness — very strong faith in God drives away all fear.
    - Service and Humility — killing the ego inside you, it makes you conquer the inner demon and enables you to serve all living beings.
- ♦ **Religious tolerance-** As the core of all religions is the same, Gandhiji, therefore, exhorted respect for every faith and considered each of them to be manifestations of God.
- ♦ Real understanding breaks down the walls separating religions.
- ♦ Therefore, he was against religious conversion, believing that being good is more important than taking up another form of worship.
- **Religious Basis of Gandhiji’s Politics:** The greatest contribution that Gandhiji made to political thought and practice was to spiritualize politics.
  - ♦ Gandhiji integrated religion with politics, with the belief that life is one single whole and that religion is the source of energy for every activity, even politics.
  - ♦ To him, it was a point of darkness if one separates politics from religion.
  - ♦ According to him, true religion involved the service of fellow humans, especially the poor and the oppressed, which was impossible without political change; politics became part of his religious obligation.
  - ♦ He did not accept the concept of different moralities for politics and private life, but rather, he maintained that every action should be spiritually oriented. In his view, depending on material things alone will lead to destruction, and politics without religion is like a death-trap that kills the soul.
  - ♦ Just as Marx upturned Hegel’s Dialectics by propounding his theory of dialectical materialism, Gandhiji, by introducing religion into politics, did the signal job of turning upside down Machiavelli’s thesis that politics and religion do not go together.

### Satyagraha: The quintessence of Gandhism

- Satyagraha means to insist on truth. It can be a truth-force, love-force, or soul-force. It is a non-violent struggle where the truth is supported without hurting the opponent, but by self-suffering, patience, and goodwill.
- A Satyagrahi does not have any hatred, wants to change the opponent’s mind, and by not cooperating with the unjust, he rebels against evil.

- Satyagraha's strength is in equaling one's ability to suffer with the enemy's ability to cause suffering.
- Gandhiji connected the idea of Satyagraha to characters like Socrates, Prahlad, Mirabai, Buddha, Christ and also to the thinkers of the modern world, such as Tolstoy, Ruskin, Thoreau, but he went beyond that and made it a means for public, social, economic, and political action.
- Satyagrahi qualities should be honesty, moral integrity, self-control, control of the senses, a simple way of life, and the ability to respect just laws even when going against them in case of disobeying the unjust ones. Nonviolent struggle, similar to war, demands preparation and inner self-control.
- There is a close relationship between the ends and means. The immorality of the means is sure to infect and destroy the morality of the end.
- As Stanley Jones says, Gandhiji "goes point blank against the methods of war and methods of Marxian Communism. War and Communism both will use any means that get them to their respective goals."
- So, 'the means must be consistent with the end' holds good not only in personal life but also in dealings of one group with another, or of one nation with another nation.
- This message may be regarded as one of Gandhiji's greatest and most important contributions to the art of politics.

### Truth and Non-Violence

- As per him, Truth is God and non-violence is the law of life. They cannot be separated—violence is untruthful as it goes against the unity of all life.
- Non-violence is the doctrine of not causing harm through thought, word, or deed. It requires the sacrifice of self, and non-retaliation, i.e. "the courage of dying without killing." It is love and goodwill, not passive indifference.
- Its performance is based on trust in God, humility, purity, courage, fearlessness, patience, and non-owning.
- Gandhiji was the advocate of fearless non-violence. If the decision was between cowardice and violence, he would choose violence, although non-violence is a moral entity of a higher order.
- However, He believed non-violence to be the only refuge for both individuals and nations.

### Means and Ends

**"There is just the same inviolable connection between the means and the end as there is between the seed and the tree."** – Mahatma Gandhi

- Mahatma Gandhi believed that truth cannot be attained with the help of untruth.
- He had emphasised is the inseparability of truth and non-violence because while truth was the goal, non-violence was the means.
- According to him, it is sufficient that our ends must be moral. It is equally necessary that the means to achieve the end must be moral too.

### Gandhi's New Social Order

- **Ideal society:** Based entirely on truth, love, and non-violence, morally and structurally different from the present order.
- **Statelessness: A coercive, centralised state has no place in a non-violent society because:**
  - It rests on organised violence.
  - It suppresses individuality and freedom.
  - In a fully self-disciplined society, external authority becomes unnecessary.
- **Perfect non-violent order:**
  - Every individual governs himself through self-discipline, purity, and regard for others
  - No external force is needed to regulate behaviour.
- **Village republics:**
  - The ideal society is a network of free, self-sufficient village communities
  - Each village is a republic managing its own affairs
  - Structure resembles "oceanic circles" with the individual at the centre.
- **Perfect democracy:**
  - Freedom of the individual is supreme.
  - Decentralisation in politics and economy; simple, rural civilisation.
- **Moral foundation:**
  - Society rests on inner swaraj (self-rule of the mind and soul), not on force
  - Primacy of ethics over power or materialism.

- ♦ **Real-world limitation:**
  - Perfect non-violence is ideal and absolute; therefore, Gandhiji accepts a predominantly non-violent state, i.e. minimal, limited, and operating through persuasion, not coercion.
- ♦ **Non-violent government:**
  - No harsh punishments; prisons become reformatories
  - State authority is minimal— “the best government is that which governs least.”
- **Rights and Duties: “The right to perform one’s duties is the only right that is worth living for and dying for. It covers all legitimate rights.”**

– Mahatma Gandhi.

  - According to Gandhiji, the conflict between individual freedom and social obligation arises in the present-day society because of an undue emphasis on individuals’ rights. Like Kant and Hegel, and Unlike Green, Gandhiji gave more importance to duties than to rights.
  - ♦ As per the Gita, action (duty) is ours, and fruits (rights) come afterwards.
  - ♦ Swaraj, which means self-rule of individuals, can be achieved only through fulfilling duties as citizens.
  - ♦ This resolves the individual vs society conflict as no one thinks of rights, and conflicts arise only to improve duty-performance.
- **Decentralisation**
  - ♦ **Political Decentralization:**
    - ♦ As per Gandhiji, Centralisation is the main enemy of freedom, individuality, initiative, and self-governance. Moreover, it is maintained by force.
    - ♦ It is the village communities that should enjoy the greatest degree of freedom; the national power should be kept to a minimum.
    - ♦ The villages must be developed by the panchayats; the people should “see the tangible results” in order to regain their trust in social action.
    - ♦ He envisioned for local communities that are self-governing and morally aware.
- **Economic Decentralization**
  - ♦ Large-scale industrialism is the root of the violence, inequality, greed, exploitation, and global tensions.
- ♦ **Cottage industries are the surest way to:**
  - moral & spiritual development
  - end of the ‘haves vs have-nots’ problem
  - local self-reliance,
- ♦ In short, he believed that Industrial civilisation destroys simplicity and humanity, whereas a decentralised economy enables truth and ahimsa.
- **Varna-Vyavastha:** Gandhi described it as ethically performing one’s hereditary calling for living, not for profit. It removes competition, exploitation, inequalities, and complexity, thus ethical specialisation, assured returns, local self-sufficiency, and equality of all professions are maintained.
- **Non-Possession (Aparigraha):** Too many desires cause misery and exploitation. One should restrict his/her wants to essentials and rely on God for daily needs. Civilisation in its truest form is in wanting less rather than in acquiring more.
- **Trusteeship:** It is allowed to earn wealth, but it has to be used for the benefit of society. Only what is necessary is kept; the rest is considered as a trust for other people. This abolishes capitalism as a system in which there are no more landlords, without depriving the capitalists, by balancing private property with social welfare.
- **Bread Labour:** Everyone ought to earn their living through physical work. It makes life balanced, cleanses the person, develops the intellect, and lessens social inequalities. Agriculture is the best, but any kind of productive work is sufficient for self-reliance and dignity.

### Nationalism and Internationalism

**“I am a humble servant of India, and in trying to serve India, I serve humanity at large.”** **Gandhiji**

- Gandhiji was a nationalist as well as an internationalist par excellence. His nationalism and internationalism were dovetailed and could not be separated from each other.
- Gandhiji says. “It is impossible for one to be internationalist without being a nationalist. Internationalism is possible only when nationalism becomes a fact...”

- As per him, It is not nationalism that is evil, it is the narrowness, selfishness, exclusiveness which is the bane of modern nations, which is evil.
- Indian nationalism or the nationalism preached by Gandhiji, strikes a different course. It wants to organise itself or to find full expression for the benefit and service of humanity at large.
- His notion of Purna Swaraj was not isolated independence but healthy and dignified interdependence. He believed in the indivisibility of peace, freedom and the whole good of the entire mankind.
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### Democracy

Gandhiji understood Democracy as “the art and science of mobilising the entire physical, economic and spiritual resources of all the various sections of the people in the service of the common good of all.”

- **Democracy as a Way of Life:** For Gandhi, democracy was not just elections and government. It was a moral way of living that shaped social, economic, cultural, and spiritual life. It required ethical behaviour, cooperation, and responsibility at all levels of society.
- **Participation of All:** True democracy means power shared by everyone, including the poorest. It cannot be run by a few leaders at the centre. People must be trained, guided, and organised so that democracy does not turn into mob rule.
- **Common Good of All (Sarvodaya):** Gandhi rejected the principle of “greatest good of the greatest number.” His democracy aimed at the welfare of all, without sacrificing minorities. The philosophy of Sarvodaya was its core.
- **Conditions for Successful Democracy:**
  - ♦ Discipline
  - ♦ Willing obedience of laws
  - ♦ Selflessness
  - ♦ Tolerance
  - ♦ Truth and non-violence
  - ♦ Active public opinion
  - ♦ Primacy of duties.

### Gandhian Socialism

- **Equality as Natural Order:** Society should function like the human body, where no part is high or low. All members are intrinsically equal.
- **Goal:** Social justice and equal economic opportunity for all, especially the poor and oppressed.
- **Core Principles:** Non-possession, bread-labour and trusteeship to ensure fair distribution of wealth and dignity of labour.
- **Trusteeship:** The rich may earn wealth, but they must hold it in trust for society. Wealth gained through social cooperation must be returned to society.
- **No Class Conflict:** Capital and labour are interdependent. Hence, there should be cooperation, not clash. Mill-workers are as much owners as shareholders.
- **Economic Equality:** Not equal incomes, but each person having enough to meet natural needs; no hoarding or excess.
- **Moral-Spiritual Foundation:** It is rooted in the Isha Upanishad and the Bhagwat Purana. He advised to renounce excess and to take only what suffices, as taking more is theft.
- **Rejection of Marxist Ideas:** No class struggle, hatred, violence, or dictatorship of the proletariat. Only truth, non-violence, conversion of hearts, and harmonious cooperation.
- **Method of Change:** Persuasion and non-violence; if exploitation continues, use non-violent non-cooperation and civil disobedience.
- **Distinctive Feature:** A spiritual, non-violent, moral socialism achieved without destroying capitalists, but transforming them.

### Gandhi and Communism

- Gandhi shared the communists’ concern for the poor, equitable distribution of wealth, and removal of the divide between “haves” and “have-nots.”
- He upheld the principle “from each according to his capacity, to each according to his needs,” and even envisioned a stateless, non-violent society.
- But Gandhi’s goals were moral and spiritual, whereas communists’ goals were materialistic, rejecting religion and God.
- Communism stressed economic forces shaping all life. Gandhi stressed character, culture, and inner

moral growth as the foundation of society.

- Communists held ends above means, permitting violence or deceit. Gandhi insisted that means must be as pure as the ends, rooted in truth and non-violence.
- Communists sought revolution by capturing state power at the top. Gandhi sought change from the bottom, transforming individuals and communities first.
- For Gandhi, the individual is supreme and the state only a tool. Communism subordinates the individual to the class and the collective.
- Thus, despite superficial similarities, Gandhism and Communism have no common ground and their foundations, methods, and aims are fundamentally opposed.

## Rabindra Nath Tagore

### Patriotism/Nationalism

**“I love India, but my India is an idea, not a geographical expression.”**

- R.N.Tagore

- **Humanistic, not Territorial Patriotism:** As per Tagore, Patriotism is rooted in love for humanity, not in the worship of land. He warned against the idolatry of geography. He believed that fighting injustice is a duty not as an Indian but as a Human being.
- **Alignment with Universalism:** He blamed misunderstanding between people as the main cause behind global conflicts. Therefore, he suggested that India and the East must open themselves to the world. His nationalism worked within the wider framework of universal freedom.
- **Opposition to Aggressive Nationalism:** He strongly opposed aggressive and narrow nationalism, viewing it as a dangerous Western-imported ideology driven by power, greed and conflict. He believed that it stifles human values for territorial gain. He advocated thus, for a cosmopolitan vision of humanity, cultural unity and cooperation. He even cautioned against the violent anti-colonialism in India to foster inclusive and spiritual growth.
- **Moral Responses to National Crises:** Though universalist, he was strongly opposed to injustices in India. During the partition of Bengal, he inspired public awakening through speeches and writings.

Moreover, after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre happened, he returned his knighthood, declaring honours shameful amidst national humiliation. He chose to stand with those who suffered degradation.

- **True Nationalism:** Tagore believed that nationalism, in its truest and sanest sense, is the inviolable right of the composite Indian people to fully and freely live its own special life in its own way, following its own peculiar genius, and developing its specific culture to its highest perfection, and thus to contribute what is highest and best in it to the general stock of human knowledge and human culture.

### Education

#### • Philosophical Foundation

- ♦ Tagore’s theory of education emerged from his humanistic philosophy of life.
- ♦ He rejected the utilitarian, job-oriented education system that focused merely on technical efficiency.
- ♦ For him, education is the basis of the “true” and “complete” life.
- ♦ True freedom arises from vidya (knowledge), whereas bondage arises from avidya (ignorance).
- ♦ Education must help individuals realise their true self and liberate them from narrow ego-bound identities.

#### • Objectives of Education

- ♦ **Formation of Nationalist Life:** Children’s education is the foundation of a strong nation.
- ♦ **Training for universal values:**
  - Freedom
  - Justice
  - Peace
- ♦ Building a desirable social order rooted in freedom and human dignity.
- ♦ Education must create free minds, capable of critical thinking and social transformation.

#### • Ideals behind Tagore’s Educational System:

- ♦ Freedom
  - Atmosphere of natural freedom, not rigid discipline
  - True education can not stifle individuality
- ♦ Sympathy
  - Education must be rooted in love, human relationships and trust.

- ♦ Service
  - Learners must engage with society.
  - Learning and education should contribute to social reconstruction.
- **Critique of Colonial Education:** Book knowledge alone cannot sustain interest or promote holistic development.
  - ♦ The colonial system emphasised rote learning to keep Indians ignorant and submissive.
  - ♦ Academic degrees did not produce the strength for self-reconstruction.
- **Mother Tongue as Medium of Instruction:**
  - ♦ Tagore strongly advocated education through the mother tongue
  - ♦ **English as a Medium was:**
    - Alien to the Indian thought-world
    - Joyless and burdensome
    - Stifling imagination and cognitive growth
  - ♦ Children carried the “load of mere words” with no blossoming of faculties.
  - ♦ **One of Santiniketan’s aims:** revival of learning in the mother tongue.
- **Nature-centric and Open-air Education:**
  - ♦ Tagore preferred open-air classes; walls created gloom and deadness.
  - ♦ Freedom of movement energised the mind.
  - ♦ Knowledge must be gathered casually, spontaneously, through interaction with nature and society, not forced memorisation.
  - ♦ Encouraged learning by doing, emotion, imagination, and curiosity.
- **Concept of School as an Ashram:** A school should be an ashram with the following features:
  - ♦ Close to nature
  - ♦ Encouraging meditation added with an active life
  - ♦ Free from aggressive nationalism or self-idolatry
  - ♦ Promoting universal human values
  - ♦ Students should aspire to the citizenship of God’s world, not narrow cultural pride.
- **Visva-Bharati:** Ideals & Global Vision
  - ♦ **Objective:** Strengthen Asia’s spiritual unity and reveal the culture of the East to the world.
  - ♦ Promote cooperation over competition.
  - ♦ Make India conscious of her cultural roots.
  - ♦ Education must not merely distribute knowledge but create knowledge.

- ♦ **Balanced development of:**
  - Intellect
  - Emotions
  - Complete personality

## Internationalism

- Tagore, like Gandhi and Nehru, was a true internationalist. Yet like them he wanted the freedom for India so that the free individuals of India might be able to play their useful role in tackling the problems of the world.
- Tagore was deeply steeped in the Upanishads and had imbibed their spirit of oneness of all life. It was this realisation which led him to found Vishva-Bharati, where people from distant lands might come, and the authors of the East and the West might mingle in the broad framework of common humanity.
- He advocated co-operation among all peoples of the world. If men are to live as human beings, they must associate together in the fields of knowledge, of humanity, of spiritual endeavours.
- Tagore was convinced that world peace could not be brought about by stockpiling weapons of war, by ingenious diplomacy or by establishing only institutions entrusted with the task of establishing peace.
- His faith in education was great. He was firmly of the view that unity of mankind would be more easily attained through education rather than through anything else. Knowledge is more powerful than all the hydrogen and atom bombs put together.
- It is only through knowledge that a mind leads itself to the highest stage of man. Once one reaches that stage, malice, lust, hatred, jealousy, etc., vanish. Only then can we bring harmony to the world.
- Thus, we find that Rabindra Nath Tagore was a many-faceted personality. The width of his vision and the vast range of activities amazed even the greatest of the great.
- He was a poet, a dramatist, a novelist, a story writer, a painter, a musician, a philosopher and an educationist.
- He was really a gem of humanity who, by his calm effulgence and quiet radiance, lighted the path of humanity groping in the dark to find its moorings.
- In 1937, Tagore wrote his famous poem ‘Africa’, which shows his concern for the oppressed mankind.

# PRACTICE WORK

## Current Affairs MCQs

**Q 1. The Gujarat Declaration (2023), adopted at the 1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, primarily aimed to:**

- (A) Replace modern biomedicine with traditional systems
- (B) Promote evidence-based traditional, complementary and integrative medicine globally
- (C) Restrict traditional medicine to culturally homogenous societies
- (D) Standardise only Ayurveda at the international level

**Q 2. Which of the following statements about the Large Natural Disaster Window under the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument is correct?**

- (A) It applies when disaster losses exceed 10% of GDP.
- (B) It allows higher access to the IMF quota than the regular RFI window.
- (C) It requires a full structural adjustment programme.
- (D) It is available only to countries under an IMF Stand-By Arrangement.

**Q 3. With reference to the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It provides collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors.
- 2. The restructured scheme extends the lending period up to March 31, 2030.
- 3. Only vendors operating in statutory towns are eligible for loans under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 4. With reference to India's space programme in 2025, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Space Docking Experiment Mission was successfully launched using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle

2. Crop-1 experiment was conducted on the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Orbital Experimental Module platform(POEM-4).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 5. With reference to child marriage in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Child marriage is monitored globally using the proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married before the age of 18.
- 2. India accounts for nearly one-third of the global burden of child marriage.
- 3. The Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006, allows only criminal prosecution and does not provide for annulment of child marriages.
- 4. Higher levels of female education significantly reduce the prevalence of child marriage in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 4
- (B) Only 1 and 3
- (C) Only 2 and 3
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q 6. With reference to the IndiaAI Mission, consider the following statements:**

- 1. The mission was approved with a financial outlay of more than ₹10,300 crore for five years.
- 2. It aims to provide affordable access to high-end computing infrastructure such as GPUs.
- 3. The mission is implemented by NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 7. With reference to Anjadip, recently inducted into the Indian Navy, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the third vessel under the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) programme.
2. It is the largest Indian naval warship to be powered by waterjet propulsion.
3. It has been built entirely by a private shipyard under the Make in India initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 1 and 3  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 8. With reference to Electoral Trusts in India, consider the following statements:**

1. These are regulated by the Central Board of Direct Taxes under the Electoral Trust Scheme, 2013.
2. These are required to donate at least 95% of the contributions received in a financial year to political parties registered under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
3. Contributions to electoral trusts can be made anonymously through bearer instruments similar to electoral bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 9. PathGennie, recently seen in the news, is best described as:**

- (A) A vaccine development platform using artificial intelligence
- (B) An open-source computational software for simulating drug-protein unbinding
- (C) A laboratory technique for protein crystallisation
- (D) A proprietary tool for genomic sequencing

**Q 10. The United States' recent proposal for WTO reform mainly supports which of the following?**

- (A) Strengthening consensus-based decision-making among all members
- (B) Expanding Special and Differential Treatment to all developing countries
- (C) Promoting plurilateral agreements among like-minded WTO members
- (D) Replacing the WTO with regional trade agreements

**Q 11. With reference to INS Anjadip, recently inducted into the Indian Navy, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the third vessel in the series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWCs).
2. It has been designed and built in India by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in partnership with L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.
3. It is named after an island located off the coast of Karwar in Karnataka.
4. It is the largest Indian naval warship to be powered by a conventional diesel propulsion system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 3                      (B) Only 1 and 4  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q 12. With reference to the Eastern Imperial Eagle, consider the following statements:**

1. It is classified as an Endangered species on the IUCN Red List.
2. It breeds mainly in Europe and Central Asia.
3. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve serves as its wintering habitat in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 2 and 3                      (B) Only 1 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 2                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 13. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is ecologically connected with which of the following protected areas?**

1. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Bandipur National Park
3. Silent Valley National Park

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (A) Only 1                                      (B) Only 1 and 2  
(C) Only 2 and 3                              (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 14. With reference to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), consider the following statements:**

1. It was established in the year 1883.
2. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment.

3. It coordinates the Asian Waterbird Census in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 3                      (B) Only 1  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 15. With reference to Bulgaria's adoption of the euro, consider the following statements:**

1. Bulgaria became the 21st member of the Eurozone in 2026.
2. Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007.
3. The euro was first introduced in all EU countries in 2002.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 16. Which of the following benefits is/are associated with joining the eurozone?**

1. Lower interest rates
2. Easier cross-border trade and investment
3. Representation in the European Central Bank
4. Complete elimination of inflation

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 3                      (B) Only 2 and 4  
(C) Only 1 and 4                      (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q 17. With reference to the Mpemba Effect, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the phenomenon where hot water can freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions.
2. Recent supercomputer simulations have confirmed that the Mpemba Effect is unique to water.
3. It is explained using principles of nonequilibrium physics and nucleation dynamics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 1 and 3  
(C) Only 2 and 3  
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 18. Creator's Corner, recently launched by Prasar Bharati, aims to:**

- (A) Provide government advertisements to private media houses  
(B) Showcase independent digital content on public broadcasting platforms  
(C) Promote only documentary films  
(D) Replace private OTT platforms

**Q 19. Consider the following statements about the Sports Authority of India (SAI):**

1. It was established after the IXth Asian Games.
2. It is fully funded by the Government of India.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 20. The Governor's Address to the State Legislature is mandated under:**

- (A) Article 163                      (B) Article 174  
(C) Article 175                      (D) Article 176

**Q 21. Consider the following statements regarding the National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers:**

1. It is India's first Programme for Tribal Healers on Strengthening Health Outreach in Tribal Areas, held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
2. The programme was organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. It led to the establishment of Bharat Tribal Health Observatory (B-THO) under Project DRISTI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1                      (B) Only 1 and 3  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 22. With reference to the Weimar Triangle, consider the following statements:**

1. It was formed in 1991 in the immediate post-Cold War period.
2. It was created to stabilise Central Europe and overcome historical divisions.

3. It operates as a treaty-based organisation with binding decisions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 23. With reference to the Pax Silica Initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a US-led initiative focused on technology and economic security.
2. It treats semiconductors and AI as strategic national assets.
3. It is administered by the World Trade Organisation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 24. With reference to the Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a run-of-river hydropower project with pondage on the Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The project involves the construction of a concrete gravity dam with an underground powerhouse.
3. The project will be developed by NHPC Limited.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 2                                  (B) 1, 2 and 3  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) Only 1 and 2

**Q 25. Consider the following statements regarding the District Mineral Foundation (DMF):**

1. It is a statutory non-profit trust created under the MMDR Act, 1957.
2. Contributions to DMF are uniform across minerals and independent of royalty rates.
3. Mining leases granted before 2015 contribute a higher percentage of royalty to DMF.
4. Utilisation of DMF funds is guided by the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 4                      (B) Only 1, 3 and 4  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) Only 1 and 4

**Q 26. Consider the following statements about the Asian Waterbird Census:**

1. It follows globally standardised protocols for counting migratory waterbirds.
2. The Indian Skimmer is classified as Endangered and breeds almost exclusively in India.
3. The Eurasian Curlew migrates only along the Central Asian Flyway.
4. The Census in the Godavari Estuary is organised with the involvement of BNHS.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 4                      (B) Only 1 and 3  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q 27. With reference to India's bio-bitumen technology, consider the following statements:**

1. It allows partial replacement of petroleum bitumen using agricultural residue.
2. Rice straw is converted into bio-bitumen through a pyrolysis-based process.
3. Bio-bitumen can replace up to 100% of conventional bitumen in highways.
4. The technology aligns with India's Waste-to-Wealth Mission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 3                      (B) Only 1, 2 and 4  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) Only 1 and 4

**Q 28. Yoweri Museveni was re-elected as the President of which country?**

- (A) Guinea                                  (B) Venezuela  
(C) Uganda                                  (D) Honduras

**Q 29. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahu was appointed as the Chief Justice of which High Court?**

- (A) Jharkhand High Court  
(B) Patna High Court  
(C) Kerala High Court  
(D) Meghalaya High Court

**Q 30. Match the personalities in List I with the positions appointed to them in List II:**

<b>List I (Personality)</b>	<b>List II (Position/ Appointed To)</b>
A. Saleem Ahmad	1. Chief Executive Officer of Coal India Ltd
B. Sairam	2. Chairman & Managing Director of RVNL
C. Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor	3. Vice Chief of the Air Staff
D. PV Sindhu	4. Chairman of BWF Athletes Commission (2026–2029)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (A) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- (B) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3
- (C) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- (D) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

**Q 31. Match the international appointees/ appointments in List I with their roles/ countries in List II:**

<b>List I (Personality)</b>	<b>List II (Role/ Country)</b>
A. Nasry Asfura	1. President of Honduras
B. Zohran Mamdani	2. First Muslim & youngest Mayor of New York City
C. Mamady Doumbouya	3. President of Guinea
D. Delcy Rodriguez	4. Interim President of Venezuela

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (B) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- (C) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- (D) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

**Q 32. Match List-I with List-II**

<b>List-I (Place)</b>	<b>List-II (Associated Fact)</b>
A. Kashiwazaki-Kariwa	1. World's largest nuclear power plant
B. Kakinada	2. World's largest green ammonia facility
C. Surat	3. India's first slum-free city
D. Kanger Valley National Park	4. Limestone caves

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (B) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- (C) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- (D) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

**Q 33. Match List-I with List-II**

<b>List-I (Countries)</b>	<b>List-II (Features)</b>
A. Turkmenistan	1. Legalised cryptocurrency mining
B. Myanmar	2. Military-led administration
C. Greenland	3. Semi-autonomous territory of Denmark
D. Bulgaria	4. Adopted the Euro as currency

Select the correct answers using the codes given below:

- (A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (B) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- (C) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- (D) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

**Q 34. Match List-I with List-II**

<b>List-I (Place)</b>	<b>List-II (Associated Fact)</b>
A. Rashtra Prerna Sthal	1. Lotus-shaped memorial museum on the Gomati River

- B. Dulhasti Stage-II Project      2. Run-of-the-river hydropower project on the Chenab River
- C. Somnath Temple                      3. First of the 12 Jyotirlingas
- D. Keyi Panyor District                4. India's first Bio-Happy District

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4  
 (B) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4  
 (C) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4  
 (D) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

**Q 35. Match List-I with List-II**

**List-I (Books)**

- A. Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood  
 B. Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti  
 C. History That India Ignored  
 D. Sing, Dance and Lead: Leadership Lessons from the Life of Srila Prabhupada

**List-II (Authors)**

1. Mohar Basu  
 2. Shri Vasudev Devnani  
 3. Prem Prakash  
 4. Hindol Sengupta

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- (A) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4  
 (B) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4  
 (C) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4  
 (D) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

**Q 36. Consider the following statements regarding recent Awards and Honours:**

- The **Best Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Institute Award** was conferred upon PGIMER, Chandigarh.
- The **French Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres Award** was awarded to Ravi Deecee for his contribution to Indian classical music and performing arts.
- Major Swathi Shantha Kumar** received the **UN Secretary General's Award 2025** for her project titled *Equal Partners, Lasting Peace*.

- The **Padmapani Award** was conferred upon legendary composer **Ilaiyaraaja** at the **Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF) 2026**.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1, 3 and 4                      (B) Only 1 and 3  
 (C) Only 2 and 4                        (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q 37. Consider the following statements regarding the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Hub (NSSH) Scheme:**

- It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- Its primary objective is to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through skill development and market access support.
- It provides affordable and timely financial assistance to SC/ST entrepreneurs in collaboration with banks and NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                        (B) Only 1 and 3  
 (C) Only 2 and 3                        (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 38. Consider the following statements regarding the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS):**

- It is a proposed statutory body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- It will be responsible for the comprehensive and risk-based security of ports and vessels in India.
- The Bureau will be headed by a Director General from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                        (B) Only 2  
 (C) Only 1 and 3                        (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 39. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):**

- It was launched in December 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.

- As of December 2025, nearly 95% of the sanctioned rural road length has been completed under this scheme.
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 1  
(C) Only 2 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 40. With reference to the National Improved Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS), consider the following statements:**

- It is a centralised platform for managing data related to IED incidents in India.
- It has been developed by the National Security Guard in collaboration with Rashtriya Raksha University.
- Its primary objective is to regulate the commercial manufacturing of explosives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1                                (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 41. Consider the following statements regarding the EOS-N1 Mission:**

- It is an Earth Observation Satellite launched using the PSLV-C62 launch vehicle.
- The mission marks the 105th launch from Sriharikota.
- The satellite has been launched exclusively for civilian weather forecasting purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 42. Which of the following statements regarding the NSSH Scheme is/are correct?**

- It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).
- It aims to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST communities.
- It is administered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 43. Consider the following statements regarding the Santhali Language:**

- The Santhali Constitution is written in Ol Chiki script.
- Santhali is spoken in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar.
- It was released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 44. The proposed Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) will:**

- Function under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- Ensure risk-based security of ports and vessels.
- Be headed by an IPS officer of Pay Level-15.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) 1, 2 and 3                      (D) Only 1 and 3

**Q 45. Which of the following statements about PMGSY are correct?**

- It was launched on 25 December 2000.
- It aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to rural habitations.
- Nearly 95% of the sanctioned road length has been completed as of December 2025.

Select the correct answers using the codes given below

- (A) Only 1 and 2                      (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3                      (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 46. The Indian Standard for incense sticks (Agarbatti) aims to:**

- Promote export competitiveness only
- Ensure safety and sustainable manufacturing practices
- Regulate prices of agarbattis
- Replace traditional agarbatti making

**Q 47. The Green to Gold Initiative is related to:**

- (A) Organic farming
- (B) Industrial hemp cultivation
- (C) Carbon trading
- (D) Forest conservation

**Q 48. The Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) is best described as:**

- (A) A blockchain-based court management system
- (B) An AI-powered unified grievance redressal platform
- (C) A police complaint tracking portal
- (D) A manual grievance auditing mechanism

**Q 49. Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention Initiative primarily aims to:**

- (A) Provide export subsidies
- (B) Improve logistics infrastructure
- (C) Strengthen global market access for Indian exporters
- (D) Regulate foreign trade policy

**Q 50. Under the Nutrition- Based Subsidy(NBS) Scheme, which fertiliser is excluded?**

- (A) Phosphatic fertilisers
- (B) Potassic fertilisers
- (C) NPK fertilisers
- (D) Urea

**Q 51. Kabartal Wetland, recently in the news, is located in which district of Bihar?**

- (A) Jamui
- (B) Begusarai
- (C) Khagaria
- (D) Samastipur

**Q 52. Nagi Bird Sanctuary was formed primarily due to:**

- (A) Natural oxbow lake formation
- (B) Floodplain deposition
- (C) Construction of a dam
- (D) Wetland restoration project

**Q 53. When were the Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries declared as Important Bird Sanctuaries?**

- (A) 1975
- (B) 1980
- (C) 1984
- (D) 1992

**Q 54. Consider the following statements regarding Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana:**

1. It is applicable to students of government-run schools only.
2. It includes visits to historical, cultural, and research institutions across India.
3. It replaces the Mukhyamantri Bihar Darshan Yojana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 55. Which of the following departments is the implementing agency of Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana?**

- (A) Tourism Department
- (B) Art, Culture and Youth Department
- (C) Education Department
- (D) Planning and Development Department

**Q 56. Recently, where was the International Tipitaka Chanting Committee of India organised the 20th International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony?**

- (A) Sarnath
- (B) Kushinagar
- (C) Bodh Gaya
- (D) Nalanda

**Q 57. Consider the following statements regarding the 20th International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony:**

1. It was the first time that seventeen Buddhist organisations from across India jointly organised the event.
2. The chanting of the Tipitaka was conducted for ten days.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 58. Who gave Bhikhari Thakur the title 'Unaghar Heera (Unguarded Diamond)'?**

- (A) Jagdish Chandra Mathur
- (B) Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan
- (C) Ramdhari Singh Dinkar
- (D) Hazari Prasad Dwivedi

**Q 59. Which of the following is not a literary contribution of Bhikjhari Thakur?**

- (A) Beti Bechwa
- (B) Gabar Ghichor
- (C) Achhoot Ki Shikayat
- (D) Baat Insaaf Ke

**Q 60. Consider the following statements regarding Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Clubs in Bihar:**

1. It is a student-led initiative aimed at promoting cultural exchange and national unity.
2. In Bihar, EBSB Clubs will link the state with Manipur and Tripura.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 61. Which of the following pairs has been approved as a Special Economic Zone in Bihar under the Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Package 2025?**

- (A) Navanagar and Motihari
- (B) Kumarbagh and Gaya
- (C) Navanagar and Kumarbagh
- (D) Buxar and Bhagalpur

**Q 62. Which of the following policies has been launched by the Bihar Government to promote Special Economic Zones in the state?**

- (A) Bihar Export Promotion Policy
- (B) BIADA Amnesty Policy, 2025
- (C) Make in Bihar Policy
- (D) Industrial Corridor Policy

**Q 63. Which of the following best describes the Trial in Absentia, recently implemented in Bihar?**

- (A) Trial conducted without a judge
- (B) Trial conducted without witnesses
- (C) Trial conducted in the absence of the accused
- (D) Trial conducted without legal representation

**Q 64. Consider the following statements regarding the AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet — 2025-26:**

1. It was hosted by Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna.
2. The theme of the conference was "Promoting Sustainability & Social Responsibility in Higher Education Institutions".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 65. Which advanced scientific area received special focus during the AIU East Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet — 2025-26 conference?**

- (A) Nanotechnology
- (B) Artificial Intelligence
- (C) Quantum Computing
- (D) Stem Cell Technology

**Q 66. The recently inaugurated Param Rudra at IIT Patna has been established under which mission?**

- (A) Digital India Mission
- (B) National Knowledge Network
- (C) National Supercomputing Mission
- (D) Make in India Mission

**Q 67. Consider the following statements regarding the 3rd edition of Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave:**

1. It was organised in Bengaluru under the Let's Inspire Bihar initiative.
2. Its primary objective was to promote tourism in Bihar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 68. Consider the following statements regarding the cost of case settlement in Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs):**

1. The cost per case settlement in PLAs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is nearly 200 times higher than in Delhi.

- The average cost of disposal of a case in Bihar is around ₹1,06,000.
- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) expressed concern over the huge inefficiency of judges in Bihar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 69. Which of the following statements best describes the Call-In-Line Presentation System?**

- (A) A system that records all incoming and outgoing calls
- (B) A telecom facility that blocks unknown numbers automatically
- (C) A system that displays the caller's registered name on the receiver's screen
- (D) A telecom-based system to verify caller identity using KYC data

**Q 70. Consider the following statements regarding the Kajra Solar Power Plant:**

- It is located in the Lakhisarai district of Bihar.
- It combines solar power generation with battery energy storage systems.
- Its total solar capacity after completion will be less than 250 MW.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 71. Which of the following ministries launched the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat (MWFGP) Initiative?**

- (A) Ministry of Rural Development
- (B) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (D) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Q 72. Consider the following statements regarding Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats (MWFGP):**

- It focuses on Theme 9 of the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs), which relates to Women-Friendly Panchayats.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj partnered with UN Women to design the MWFGP framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 73. Where was the first Gen-Z Post Office of Bihar inaugurated?**

- (A) Nalanda University
- (B) IIT Patna
- (C) Tilka Manjhi University, Bhagalpur
- (D) Patna University

**Q 74. Which of the following services is *not* provided at a Gen-Z Post Office?**

- (A) Free high-speed Wi-Fi
- (B) QR code-based digital payments
- (C) Cryptocurrency trading facilities
- (D) On-site printing and custom "My Stamp" services

**Q 75. Tikuli Art is traditionally associated with which region of Bihar?**

- (A) Mithila
- (B) Bhagalpur
- (C) Patna
- (D) Gaya

**Q 76. According to DPIIT data, what is Bihar's ranking among states in terms of attracting FDI?**

- (A) 18th
- (B) 21st
- (C) 25th
- (D) 29th

**Q 77. Bihar ranks above which of the following states in FDI inflow?**

- (A) Jharkhand and Odisha
- (B) Chhattisgarh and Assam
- (C) Nagaland, Manipur and Ladakh
- (D) Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura

**Q 78. Under which scheme are the Eklavya Residential Training Centres established in Bihar?**

- (A) Khelo India Scheme
- (B) Chief Minister's Sports Development Scheme
- (C) National Sports Talent Search Scheme
- (D) Bihar Youth Empowerment Scheme

**Q 79. Consider the following statements regarding Human Trafficking in Bihar:**

1. Patna district has the highest number of pending human trafficking cases in Bihar.
2. Delay in disposal of cases is mainly due to a shortage of judges in district courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 80. During Avinya Bihar 2.0, the start-up seed fund announced by the Bihar Government was increased to:**

- (A) ₹15 lakh
- (B) ₹20 lakh
- (C) ₹25 lakh
- (D) ₹30 lakh

**Q 81. Consider the following statements regarding CRISPR–Cas9 technology**

1. It is a genome-editing technology adapted from a natural defence mechanism found in bacteria.
2. It uses a guide RNA to identify a specific DNA sequence for precise cutting.
3. CRISPR technology can be used only for modifying plant genomes and not animal or human cells.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 82. With reference to NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a secure platform that enables law enforcement and intelligence agencies to access government and private databases,

including banking, travel, telecom, and identity records, to support counter-terrorism and crime control efforts.

2. It was established after the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks to overcome information silos and strengthen the national security architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 83. With reference to the PANKHUDI Portal, consider the following statements:**

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. It provides a single-window digital platform for voluntary and CSR contributions and partnerships in the domain of women and child welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 84. The Bhairav Battalion is best described as:**

- (A) A paramilitary unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs for border policing
- (B) A newly raised specialised battalion of the Indian Army focused on drone warfare and modern battlefield operations
- (C) A cyber-intelligence wing for electronic surveillance and signal interception
- (D) A peacekeeping force deployed exclusively under United Nations missions

**Q 85. The Sudarshan Chakra Initiative is best described as:**

- (A) A naval modernisation programme to strengthen aircraft carrier groups
- (B) An initiative of DRDO to deploy advanced air-defence systems for protecting critical installations across India over the next decade
- (C) A space-based missile defence shield under ISRO
- (D) A joint Indo-foreign programme for hypersonic weapon development

## PRACTICE WORK

**Q 86. Match the following Days with their correct Dates:**  
**List-I (Day)**                      **List-II (Date)**

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| A. World Meditation Day  | 1. 12th January  |
| B. National Farmers' Day | 2. 5th January   |
| C. National Youth Day    | 3. 21st December |
| D. National Bird Day     | 4. 23rd December |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2  
(B) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2  
(C) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2  
(D) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

**Q 87. Consider the following statements regarding Polymer Banknotes:**

1. The Central Bank of Oman has issued a one-rial polymer banknote, marking the country's first currency note made of polymer material.
2. Polymer banknotes are more durable than traditional cotton-based notes and allow the inclusion of advanced security features to reduce counterfeiting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1                      (B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 and 2            (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q 88. Which of the following banks has launched India's first fully solar-powered mobile ATM van?**

- (A) State Bank of India  
(B) Tripura Gramin Bank  
(C) Bank of Baroda  
(D) ICICI Bank

**Q 89. Which of the following has become India's 92nd Grandmaster in chess?**

- (A) Aaryan Varshney      (B) Nihal Sarin  
(C) R. Praggnanandhaa    (D) Arjun Erigaisi

**Q 90. Who has been appointed as the goodwill ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026, India's first international cycling road race?**

- (A) Sachin Tendulkar  
(B) Virat Kohli  
(C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni  
(D) Neeraj Chopra

**Q 91. With reference to the Akash Next Generation (Akash-NG) missile system, consider the following statements:**

1. It uses an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker.
2. It is propelled by a solid rocket motor.
3. It is designed exclusively for naval air defence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2              (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3              (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 92. Samudra Pratap, recently in the news, is associated with:**

- (A) Missile tracking and telemetry  
(B) Pollution control and oil spill response  
(C) Coastal surveillance and radar deployment  
(D) Submarine rescue operations

**Q 93. Consider the following statements regarding Samudra Pratap:**

1. It is developed by Goa Shipyard Limited.
2. It will help in checking oil spills along India's coastline.
3. It is the first pollution control vessel inducted into the Indian Navy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2              (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3              (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 94. INSV Kaundinya is best described as:**

- (A) A stealth destroyer built under Project 15B  
(B) A diesel-powered offshore patrol vessel  
(C) A stitched sailing vessel built using traditional techniques  
(D) A nuclear-powered submarine

**Q 95. With reference to INSV Kaundinya, consider the following statements:**

1. It retraced historic maritime trade routes of the Indian Ocean.
2. It undertook its maiden overseas voyage from Porbandar to Muscat.
3. It is equipped with modern missile systems for naval warfare.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 2              (B) Only 2 and 3  
(C) Only 1 and 3              (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 96. The Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise (RPREX-2025) was conducted by:**

- (A) Indian Navy at Kochi
- (B) Ministry of Environment at Chennai
- (C) Indian Coast Guard at Mumbai
- (D) National Disaster Response Force at Visakhapatnam

**Q 97. With reference to the Pinaka LRGR-120, consider the following statements:**

1. It has a maximum range of 120 km.
2. It is guided only through satellite navigation.
3. It is an advanced variant of the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only 1 and 3
- (B) Only 1 and 2
- (C) Only 2 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Q 98. Pralay missile is classified as a:**

- (A) Cruise missile
- (B) Intercontinental ballistic missile
- (C) Solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile

(D) Hypersonic glide vehicle

**Q 99. Which of the following statements is true about Madhav Gadgil?**

- (A) He chaired the committee on climate change adaptation under NITI Aayog
- (B) He led the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel and advocated a people-centric ecological conservation approach
- (C) He was the principal architect of India's National Biodiversity Action Plan under UNFCCC
- (D) He headed the Forest Rights Committee that drafted the Forest Rights Act, 2006

**Q 100. The Joint Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) response drill was conducted between:**

- (A) India and Australia
- (B) India and Japan
- (C) India and France
- (D) India and Indonesia

**ANSWER KEY**

1	B	11	A	21	B	31	A	41	A	51	B	61	C	71	C	81	A	91	A
2	B	12	A	22	A	32	A	42	A	52	C	62	B	72	A	82	C	92	B
3	A	13	D	23	A	33	A	43	A	53	C	63	C	73	B	83	A	93	A
4	B	14	A	24	B	34	A	44	C	54	A	64	C	74	C	84	B	94	C
5	A	15	A	25	B	35	A	45	D	55	C	65	D	75	C	85	B	95	A
6	A	16	A	26	A	36	A	46	B	56	C	66	C	76	C	86	A	96	C
7	A	17	B	27	B	37	D	47	B	57	C	67	A	77	C	87	C	97	A
8	A	18	B	28	C	38	A	48	B	58	B	68	A	78	B	88	B	98	C
9	B	19	D	29	B	39	A	49	C	59	D	69	C	79	A	89	A	99	B
10	C	20	D	30	A	40	A	50	D	60	A	70	A	80	C	90	C	100	B



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