

WBCS GAZETTE

Monthly Current Affairs and GK Essentials



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2025



TOPICS COVERED

WB Schemes in News
Sports
Important Days in News
National
International

Awards
Appointments
Static GK
Books and Authors
Security and Defence

Science and Technology
Economics

West Bengal
Budget 2025
Full Analysis

West Bengal Major
Irrigation And
Flood Management
Project

Kolkata's
Leaning
Buildings: A
Growing Concern



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WEST BENGAL SPECIAL

1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

“Nodi Bandhan” Scheme

Context

- West Bengal government has introduced the “Nodi Bandhan” scheme in the 2025-26 budget.

Scheme Details

- Objective:** To combat **natural disasters and boost livelihoods.**
- Aim:** To interconnect rivers and wetlands, creating opportunities in agriculture and pisciculture while preventing river erosion, especially in Murshidabad and Malda.
- Significance:** By improving irrigation, flood control and small-scale industries, Nodi Bandhan is expected to enhance local economies and strengthen climate resilience in riverine areas.

Ghatal Master Plan

Context

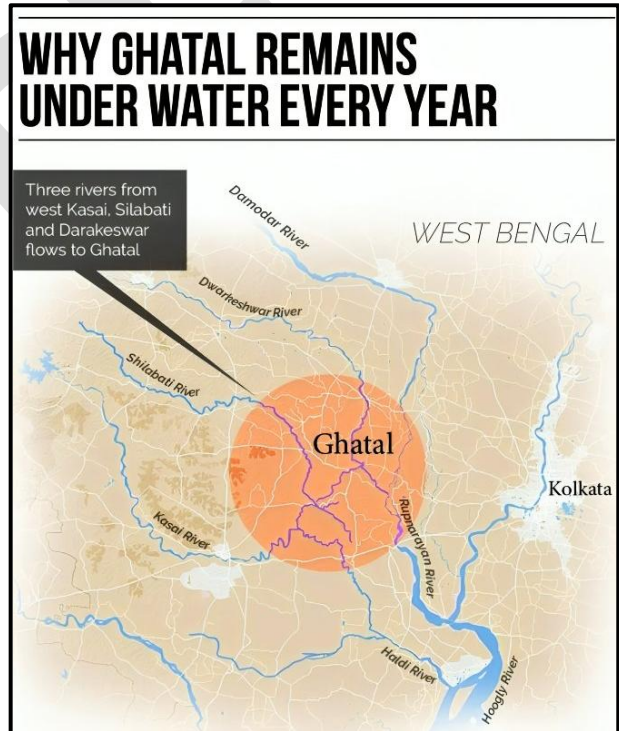
- The West Bengal government has allocated ₹500 crore in the 2025-26 budget for the Ghatal Master Plan.

Issue

- Ghatal, located in a **bowl-like depression**, suffers severe monsoon flooding due to rivers like Silabati, Damodar, Rupnarayan and Dwarakeshwar.

Ghatal Master Plan

- Plan:** The plan includes river dredging (86 km of Silabati, 48.7 km of Kasai), constructing a 3.5 km-long guard wall, 5 sluice gates and 2 pump houses to improve drainage and flood control.
- Aim:** To mitigate flooding in West Midnapore.
- Project Cost:** The total project cost is ₹1,500 crore, with completion expected by March 2028.



Pathashree-Rastashree Scheme

Context

- West Bengal government has allocated ₹1,500 crore under the Pathashree-Rastashree Scheme

Key Highlights of the Scheme

- About:** A road repair scheme under which 7,000+ stretches of roads will be repaired.
- Objective:** Strengthen road infrastructure and improve connectivity in rural areas.
- Scope:** Construction & repair of 12,000 km of roads across 22 districts.
- Implementation:** Mission mode, time-bound manner.
- Funding:** Entirely state-funded; no Central government assistance.
- Public Participation:** Roads identified through ‘Didi Ke Bolo’ initiative (grievance redressal platform launched in 2019).

Choker Alo Scheme

Context

- 10 districts have achieved **Cataract Blindness Backlog Free Status**. The scheme received the **FICCI Healthcare Excellence Award** and **Gold Award for Excellence in Service Public Hospitals**.

Details

- The **Choker Alo** scheme, launched by Bengal in 2021, aims to achieve **eye health for all by 2025**.
- Key features include **free cataract surgeries for senior citizens**, **eye screenings** and **distribution of free spectacles to students**.

2. ECONOMY: WEST BENGAL BUDGET 2025 FULL ANALYSIS

- West Bengal allocated **₹3.89 lakh crore** in budget 2025. It focuses on helping people through social welfare, improving rural infrastructure and supporting farmers.
- **Revenue Expenditure** is set at **₹3.01 lakh crore**, marking an **11.27% rise** from the current estimate. Nearly **₹1.6 lakh crore** is earmarked for **social services**.
- The state's **mid-term fiscal policy** shows a concerning rise in **debt levels**, projected at **38.93% of GSDP** for 2024-25.
- West Bengal's **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** grew by **6.8%** in 2024-25, surpassing India's national growth rate of **6.37%**.

Data Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)

- **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** of West Bengal exceeds **₹18 lakh crore**.
- **Economic growth rate** of West Bengal is higher than India's.
- **GSDP at Constant Prices (2024-25 1st AE)** grew by **6.80%**, surpassing India's **6.37%**.

Sectoral Growth Performance:

- **Agriculture & Allied Sector:** 4.2% (higher than India's 3.8%).
- **Industry Sector:** 7.3% (higher than India's 6.2%).
- **Services Sector:** 7.8% (higher than India's 7.2%).

Exports: More than doubled since 2010-11.

MSME Sector:

- **90 lakh MSMEs** (2nd largest among Indian states).
- **Bank lending to MSMEs** increased **17 times** (2011-12 to 2023-24).

Capital Expenditure:

- **₹28,963.09 crore** in 2023-24 (over 13 times that in 2010-11).

Unemployment Rate:

- **January 2025:**
 - West Bengal: 4.14%
 - India: 7.93%
- **Q3 of 2024-25:**

- West Bengal's unemployment rate was **3% lower** than India's (~8.1%).

Poverty Reduction:

- **92 lakh people** lifted out of poverty by 2021.
- Total of **1.72 crore people** moved out of poverty

Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2025

- Held on **February 5-6, 2025**, in Kolkata.
- **Investment proposals worth ₹4,40,595 crore** received.
- **212 MoUs and Letters of Intent (LoIs)** signed.

Investment Clearance Mechanism

- **State Level Investment Synergy Committee (SLISC)** formed.
- Chaired by the **Chief Secretary** for **single-window clearance** of proposals.

Industrial & Economic Corridors

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB) & Korea Exim Bank (KEXIM)** providing support.
- **6 corridors planned:**
 - Raghunathpur-Tajpur
 - Dankuni-Jhargram
 - Dankuni-Kalyani
 - Dankuni-Coochbehar
 - Kharagpur-Morgram
 - Gurudi, Purulia-Joka, Kolkata

- Initial project cost: ₹4,400 crore for 4 corridors.

Eastern Freight Corridor (Amritsar to Dankuni)

- 2,483 acres of industrial land allocated in Raghunathpur, Purulia.
- 'Jangal Sundari Karmnagari' industrial township with an investment of ₹72,000 crore.

Oil & Gas Exploration

- ONGC Ltd approved for Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) at Ashoknagar field.
- Covers 99.06 sq. km in North 24 Parganas.

Coal & Basalt Reserves

- Deocha-Pachami is the 2nd largest coal block in the world.
- Reserves: 1,240 million tons of coal & 2,600 million tons of basalt.
- Basalt mining has begun.

Power Sector Expansion

- 2x800 MW Greenfield Power Plants approved under Tariff-based Competitive Bidding.
- Investment: ₹16,000 crore.

Social Protection & Human Capital Development

- State follows a "life-cycle approach" to social welfare.
- Major schemes:

- Sabujshree: 64 lakh saplings planted for newborns.
- Education: Sikshashree, Medhashree, Sabuj Sathi, Kanyashree.
- Women Empowerment: LakshmirBhandar, Kanyashree, Rupashree.
- LakshmirBhandar's Impact: Improved financial security and confidence among women, as per Pratichi Trust (chaired by Amartya Sen).

Some Key Statistics

Higher Education & Healthcare

- Universities:** Increased from 12 to 42 in 13 years (31 State-aided, 11 Private).
- Medical Colleges:** 24 new Government MBBS colleges; Seats increased from 1,355 to 5,700.
- Super Speciality Hospitals:** 42 new hospitals with 14,000 beds.
- Government Hospital Beds:** Increased from 57,000 to 98,000.
- Swasthya Sathi:** 2.45 crore families covered; 85 lakh patients treated at ₹11,098 crore.
- States Tax Revenue Quadrupled to Rs 90000 Crore in 2023-24.**

Hike in DA

- The West Bengal Government has announced a 4% increase in dearness allowance (DA) for state employees and pensioners, effective from April 1, 2025. This hike will bring the total DA to 18% for over 10 lakh state government employees and pensioners.

Key Budget Allocations (2025-26)

Sector	Budget Allocation (₹ crore)	Sector	Budget Allocation (₹ crore)
Agriculture Marketing	426.01	Mass Education Extension and Library Services	366.46
Agriculture	10,000.79	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles	1,228.78
Animal Resources Development	1,272.93	Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education	5,602.29
Backward Classes Welfare	2,423.80	Non-conventional & Renewable Energy Sources	82.65
Consumer Affairs	139.70	North Bengal Development	866.26
Co-operation	668.61	Panchayats & Rural Development	44,139.65
Correctional Administration	428.57	Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs	756.80
Disaster Management & Civil Defence	3,278.60	Personnel & Administrative Reforms	425.94
Environment	107.22	Planning and Statistics	616.58
Fire and Emergency Services	523.84	Power	4,141.82

Fisheries	530.11	Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction	71.56
Food and Supplies	9,944.37	Public Health Engineering (PHE)	11,636.92
Food Processing Industries & Horticulture	253.03	Public Works (PWD)	6,796.92
Forests	1,091.11	School Education	41,153.79
Health & Family Welfare	21,355.25	Science and Technology and Biotechnology	80.59
Higher Education	6,593.58	Self Help Group & Self Employment	798.57
Home & Hill Affairs	14,817.67	Sunderban Affairs	631.55
Housing	286.60	Technical Education, Training and Skill Development	1,423.86
Industry, Commerce & Enterprises	1,477.91	Tourism	523.98
Information & Cultural Affairs	990.27	Transport	2,273.29
Information Technology & Electronics	211.57	Tribal Development	1,210.13
Irrigation and Waterways	4,153.84	Urban Development and Municipal Affairs	13,381.68
Judicial	1,697.44	Water Resources Investigation & Development	1,669.74
Labour	1,229.11	Women and Child Development & Social Welfare	38,762.03
Land & Land Reforms and Refuge Relief & Rehabilitation	1,509.72	Youth Services and Sports	840.03
Law	21.98		

Highest 3 Allocations:

1. **Panchayats & Rural Development:** ₹44,139.65 crore
2. **School Education:** ₹41,153.79 crore
3. **Women and Child Development & Social Welfare:** ₹38,762.03 crore

Lowest Allocation:

1. **Law:** ₹21.98 crore

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

- **West Bengal's nominal GDP** is expected to grow by **11.94%** in **2025-26**, with development expenditure rising by **16.17%** and capital expenditure by **10.7%**. However, the state's **outstanding debt projection** for **2025-26** is **₹7,71,670.41 crore**, an increase of over **₹65,000 crore** from the current year.

AGRICULTURE

IN THE LAST 5 YEARS:

- The area of **maize** has increased from **2.64 lakh hectares** to **4.01 lakh hectares**.
- The area for **pulses** has grown from **4.43 lakh hectares** to **4.81 lakh hectares**.

- The area for **oilseeds** has expanded from **9.26 lakh hectares** to **10.02 lakh hectares**.

Bengal has been the **largest producer** of the following crops for more than 5 years:

- **Brinjal**
- **Cabbage**
- **Cauliflower**
- **Pointed Gourd**
- **Radish**
- **Elephant Foot Yam**
- **Capsicum**
- **Cucumber**
- **Cut Flowers**
- Bengal is also the **largest producer** of **Pineapple** and the **second-largest producer** of **Litchi**.
- For the **2023-24** period, the **area coverage** and **production of horticultural crops** stand at **1,591,605 hectares** with a total production of **20,707,396 MT**.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- As per the **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2024**, **West Bengal** has achieved the distinction of being **India's highest meat-producing state**, producing **12.94 lakh tonnes**

of meat during **2023-24**, contributing **12.62%** of the national output.

- In the **Poultry Sector**, **West Bengal** has become **India's fourth-largest producer of eggs**, with a production of **16.23 billion eggs** during **2023-24**. The state now accounts for **11.37%** of the country's total egg production. West Bengal's annual growth in egg production for **2023-24** is **18.07%**, significantly higher than the national average of **3.18%**.
- Additionally, **West Bengal** has recorded the highest **annual growth rate in milk production** in the country, with an increase of **9.76%**, compared to the national average of **3.78%**. The state's estimated **milk production** for **2023-24** stands at **76.50 lakh MT**.
- **Sundarban Cooperative Milk and Livestock Producers Union Limited (Sundarini)** is India's first all-women **Organic Dairy Cooperative**, established in collaboration with the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.

FISHERY

- In **2024-2025**, West Bengal produced **17.08 lakh metric tons** of fish and **26.02 billion fish seeds**, making it the **largest fish seed producer** and **second-largest fish producer** in India.
- Over **70%** of the state's fish exports are from **brackish water species**.

EDUCATION

- Under **Mid-Day Meal Programme**, **100 %** Govt. aided/Govt/ Govt sponsored school have been covered. **100% schools are having LPG connection for cooking Mid Day Meal**.
- West Bengal has **moved upward from Grade VI to Grade I on Performance Grading Index (PGI)**.
- The State has **ranked number 1 at national level** among major states on **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index, 2022** published by GOI.

ELECTRICITY

- **WBPDC** achieved a record-breaking gross generation of **22,286 MU**, marking its highest performance during the period.
- According to the **Central Electricity Authority Merit Order Ranking** of power plants based on **Plant Load Factor**, **Santalidih Thermal Power Plant** ranked **first**, **Sagardighi Thermal** ranked **second** and **WBPDC** as an organization ranked in the **top position** in India.

- **WBSETCL** is maintaining **transmission system availability** of **99.494%**. The **transmission system loss** stands at **2.15%**, compared to **2.18%** in **2023**.
- For **2024-25**, all coal supplied to **WBPDC** power stations was sourced from its **captive mines**, eliminating the need to procure coal from **Coal India subsidiaries**.

HEALTH

- A special initiative for the **Triple Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B, HIV and Syphilis** has been launched. West Bengal is the **first state** to undertake such a program.
- **Institutional Delivery** increased to **over 99%** in **2024-25** from **68.1%** in **2011**.
- **Blood Banks** - **894**, **Dengue Testing Facilities** - **267**.

TOURISM

- The **Homestay Tourism Sector** is growing at a **CAGR** of **20%**.
- **Kolkata** has received global recognition, ranking **19th** for **Travel and Leisure** by **New York Travel Magazine**.
- **Domestic Tourist Footfall** increased from **14.67 crore** in **2023** to **16.55 crore** up to **November 2024**.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Revenue collection** from motor vehicles in **2024-2025** is **Rs 3138 crore** (including **Suvidha Portal**). **125,531 electronic vehicles** have been registered, along with **84 electric vehicles** equipped with **remote sensing devices**.
- **West Bengal** is establishing a **bioshield** along the state border with **Jharkhand** to combat downstream air pollution from neighbouring states in the **Gangetic Basin**, with **2,000 trees** to be planted along the border.
- The **Augmented West Bengal State Data Centre** has increased its capacity to around **8 Petabytes**, with **104 TB RAM**, **25 GBPS bandwidth** and **2,000+ VM compute capacity**.
- **Real-time Noise Monitoring Stations** in West Bengal: **260**
- **Automatic AQI Stations**: **83**
- A **Rhododendron Park** is being set up at **Darjeeling's Mungpoo**, which is famed for its **cinchona plantation**.
- In **2024-25**, West Bengal surpassed other states by forming **12 lakh SHGs**, involving **1.22 crore women**.

- **Muri Ganga River, also known as Baratala River or Channel Creek**, is a distributary of the Hooghly River in South 24 Parganas flowing east of Sagar Island before joining the Bay of Bengal.
- 2018 All India Tiger Estimation: **Tigers in Sundarbans: 88**
- The **three critically endangered Gyps vulture species are:** Slender-billed vulture: (*Gyps tenuirostris*), Oriental white-backed vulture: (*Gyps bengalensis*), Long-billed vulture: (*Gyps indicus*).
- Two forest villages – **Gangutia (191 families) and Bhutia Busty (51 families)** – were cleared and forest dwellers were shifted to **Bono Chhaya Village, near Bhatpara Tea Garden in Kalchini, Alipurduar**, where they were provided patta in Non-Forest Land.
- West Bengal has **42 universities and 518 government and government-aided colleges.**
- **Ullarkhawa Bridge, Cooch Behar** – Improves regional connectivity.
- **Sundarban Divas (11th Dec 2024), South 24 Parganas** – Celebrates the Sundarbans' ecological significance.
- **Palsara Black Stone Mine, Purulia** – Key source of blackstone extraction.
- **Granite Projects, Baropanajia & Paschi Beroin, Purulia** – Boosting granite production.
- West Bengal State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission operates with 5 benches – **3 in Kolkata and 1 each in Siliguri and Asansol.**

MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Kangsabati Reservoir Project:

- **Kangsabati Reservoir Project** was initiated in **1956-57** to provide irrigation to the districts of **Bankura, Midnapore and Hooghly**. The project has created an irrigation potential of **348,477 ha**.

Salient Features:

- **Location:** Mukutmanipur, District Bankura, on the rivers Kangsabati and Kumari, 3.2 km upstream of their confluence.
- **Dam Type:** Earthen Gravity Dam with Concrete Saddle Spillway.
- **Catchment Area:** 3,625 sq. km (1,400 sq. miles).

Mayurakshi Reservoir Project :

- **Mayurakshi Reservoir Project** was initiated in **1951** and completed in **1985**, creating an irrigation potential of **250,860 ha** in the districts of **Birbhum, Murshidabad and**

Burdwan. Additionally, **6,000 ha** in Jharkhand receive irrigation from this reservoir.

- It also supplies industrial water to **Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project**. Although not designed for flood control, **advanced planning reduced the 2000 peak flood by 30%.**

Salient Features:

Massanjore Dam

- **Location:** Massanjore, near Suri, District Birbhum, on the **Mayurakshi River**

Pick-up Barrages / Weirs

- **Tilpara, Dwarka, Brahmani, Bakreswar and Kopai**

Tilpara Barrage

- **Location:** Near Suri, Birbhum, on the **Mayurakshi River**

Bakreswar Weir

- **Location:** Kadisala, Dubarajpur, Birbhum, on **Bakreswar River**

Kopai Barrage

- **Location:** Kultore, Illambazar, Birbhum, on **Kopai River**

Dwarka Weir

- **Location:** Deocha, Md. Bazar, Birbhum, on **Dwarka River**

Brahmani Barrage

- **Location:** Baidana, Birbhum, on **Brahmani River**

KEY ASPECTS MENTIONED IN THE BUDGET

Hitech Potato Through Arc Technology

- **Apical Rooted Cutting (ARC)** is a cost-effective potato seed production method. In India, it was first introduced in Hassan, Karnataka, aiming to make quality seeds more accessible.

How ARC Works:

- Tissue culture plantlets are grown in a greenhouse.
- Cuttings are taken from the plantlets.
- Once rooted, cuttings are transplanted to the field to grow seed tubers.

Benefits of ARC Technology:

- **Faster multiplication:** ARC cuttings are ready in two seasons, compared to three or four for minitubers.
- **Disease-free:** Produced from disease-free mother stocks in controlled conditions.
- **Reduced exposure:** Fewer field exposures than conventional methods.
- **Quality seeds:** Ensures high-quality seeds at affordable prices.

E-Pop Machine

- An e-PoP machine is an electronic point of purchase device used for transactions like

wheat procurement and direct benefit transfers to farmers.

How e-PoP Machines are Used:

- **Wheat procurement:** Only registered farmers, authenticated biometrically, can sell their produce at the purchase center.
- **Direct benefit transfer (DBT):** Enables DBT/non-DBT payments for Aadhaar and non-Aadhaar accounts.

Benefits of e-PoP Machines:

- **Transparency:** Eliminates middlemen in wheat procurement.
- **E-payment:** Facilitates electronic payments.

Protected Places Mentioned In Budget

- **Bibhutibhusan Wildlife Sanctuary**, formerly known as Parmadan Forest, is located in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Spanning 0.68 km² along the Ichamati River, it was initially established in 1964 with the introduction of chital deer and declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1980. In 1995, it was renamed after Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, a renowned Bengali author and nature lover.
- **Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary**, situated in Nadia district, covers 67 hectares and was established in 1980 to conserve the Central Gangetic alluvial zone. It hosts a diverse range of wildlife, including spotted deer, jackals, Bengal foxes, porcupines, civet cats and langurs. The sanctuary is also home to gharial crocodiles, making it a significant conservation site. Dominant tree species include shal, teak, arjun, rosewood and bamboo. It is conveniently located beside National Highway 12 (NH 34).
- **Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary (CKBS)**, formerly known as Kayaler Bagan, is located south of Kolkata. Initially a mango orchard, it was designated a bird sanctuary in 1982 and renamed in 2005 after sculptor Chintamani Kar, who advocated for its conservation. The sanctuary is a haven for parakeets, kingfishers, drongos, owls, butterflies, ferns and orchids.

Important Roads Constructed In West Bengal

- **KhirpaiRamjibanpur Road** – Located on State Highway (SH) 7 in Paschim Medinipur.
- **Palita PalitpurNatunhat Road** – Situated in PurbaBardhaman district.
- **ManbazarBandwanKuilapal Road** – A key road in Purulia district.

- **TaldangaPanchmuraChowbeta Road** – Found in Bankura district.
- **HingalganjDulduliHemnagar Road** – Located in North 24 Parganas, serving as an important regional connector.

Important Solar Plants

- **Bhajanghat 10 MW Solar Plant, Nadia** – Boosts renewable energy.
- **2 MW Solar Plant, Jamuria, Paschim Bardhaman** – Enhances grid-connected solar power.

SCHEMES THAT FIND MENTION IN THE BUDGET

JAL DHARO-JAL BHARO PROGRAMME

Introduction

- **Launched in 2011-12** to preserve precious water resources in West Bengal.
- Focuses on enhancing water availability through **large-scale rainwater harvesting** and construction of **minor irrigation structures**.

Further Details

- Led by the **Water Resources Investigation & Development Department (WRI&DD)**.
- **Re-excavation** of water bodies like tanks, ponds, reservoirs and canals with reduced water-holding capacity.
- Works in **convergence** with the Panchayat and Rural Development Department (P&RD) and other programs.

Key actions include:

- **Artificial recharge** of underground water through **rooftop rainwater harvesting**.
- Construction of **check dams, water harvesting tanks** and **surface flow minor irrigation schemes**.
- Helps in **arresting surface runoff** and increases irrigation potential.
- Provides **protective irrigation** during dry spells, benefiting farmers.
- Supports **pisciculture** activities, creating income opportunities for **poor farmers**.
- Improved water availability benefits local villagers for **agriculture, domestic and animal husbandry** activities.
- Aims to build **citizen awareness** about **rainwater conservation** and **efficient water use** in irrigation.

MATIR SRISHTI SCHEME

Introduction

- Launched in **May 2020** in **six districts** of **Pachimanchal** by the Government of West Bengal.
- Aims to transform **barren land** into **green vegetation** and create livelihood opportunities

by utilizing inputs from various **Central and State Government schemes**.

- Focuses on **horticulture, fishery and animal husbandry** to commercially exploit **fallow land**.
- **Lead administrator: Water Resources Investigation & Development Department.**

Key Features:

- Utilizes **fallow plots of 10 to 20 acres** belonging to farmers and **State Government land**.
- Implements **micro-irrigation schemes** for each plot.
- Only **farmers' cooperative societies** and **self-help groups (SHGs)** can participate.
- **Sale of products** farmed will be conducted by **farmers' cooperative societies**.

MATSYA JEEBI CREDIT CARD (MJCC)

Introduction

- The **Matsya Jeebi Credit Card (MJCC)** is a specialized credit delivery scheme aimed at providing institutional short-term credit to **fish farmers** for their working capital needs. This initiative aims to reduce the dependence of farmers on informal credit sources and promotes self-reliance, employment, income generation and increased production in the fishery sector.

Features of Matsya Jeebi Credit Card (MJCC)

- **Eligibility:** All fish farmers, including small and marginal farmers, are eligible, as well as fisher folk engaged in activities like dry fish processing, vending, or making products such as fish scales ornaments.
- **Credit Facility:** Offers **cash credit** at subsidized interest rates to farmers, with a **credit limit** generally not exceeding **Rs 3 lakh**.
- **Repayment:** The repayment is flexible and is scheduled after the harvest season. It also allows **rescheduling** in case of a bad crop season.
- **Withdrawals:** Multiple withdrawals are allowed within the approved credit limit.
- **Loan Details:** **No collateral** is required for loans up to Rs 1.6 lakh and there is **interest subvention** for timely repayments.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture:** Fishers, fish farmers (individuals, groups, partners, share croppers, leaseholders), self-help groups and women groups are eligible.
- **Marine Fisheries:**
 - Owners of registered fishing vessels/boats.
 - Those with the necessary licenses or permissions for fishing in estuaries and

open seas, or for fish farming in these areas.

The **Department of Fisheries** has set up an online portal for **applying**, processing and monitoring the **MJCC applications**.

BANGLAR BARI/HOUSING FOR ALL (U)

Introduction

- **Banglar Bari/Housing for All (U)** is a mission launched by the Government of India on June 25, 2015, with the objective of providing housing for all **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** and **Lower Income Groups (LIG)** by **2022**. The program is a **seven-year initiative** aimed at ensuring **affordable housing** for the underprivileged population in urban areas.

Coverage

- The program covers all **128 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** and **Development Authorities** in West Bengal, starting from the financial year **2015-16**.

Criteria for Selecting Beneficiaries

- Beneficiaries must belong to the **EWS** category.
- Beneficiaries must not own a **"Pucca"** house anywhere in India.
- Beneficiaries must have **ownership of land** for construction.

Banglar Bari Verticals

The program is implemented through four key verticals, offering different options to beneficiaries:

- **In-situ Slum Rehabilitation (ISSR)** – Slum dwellers are rehabilitated through private developers using land as a resource.
- **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)** – Affordable housing is promoted through a credit-linked subsidy.
- **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)** – Partnership with public and private sectors for affordable housing.
- **Beneficiary-led Individual House Construction (BLC)** – Subsidy for individuals to construct their houses.

Implementation and Project Management

- **State Level Nodal Agency (SUDA)** monitors progress and supports ULBs through capacity-building initiatives.
- **Municipal Engineering Directorate (MEDte)** provides technical support.
- **State Level Technical Cell (SLTC)** consisting of professionals supports ULBs and SUDA.
- A **Third-Party Quality Monitoring Agency (TPQMA)** ensures construction quality, except for CLSS projects.

Sharing

- The total cost per dwelling unit is **Rs. 3.68 Lakh** (Rs. 4.41 Lakh for hilly areas).
- The Government of India provides **Rs. 1.5 Lakh** for BLC & AHP.
- **State share** varies by population size:
 - **Rs. 1.93 Lakh** for ULBs with populations under 5 Lakh.
 - **Rs. 1.83 Lakh** for ULBs with populations over 5 Lakh.
 - **Rs. 2.66 Lakh** for ULBs in hilly areas.
- Beneficiaries contribute **Rs. 0.25 Lakh** (Rs. 0.35 Lakh for ULBs with populations over 5 Lakh).

ANANDADHARA (WBSRLM)

Introduction

- **ANANDADHARA (WBSRLM)**, launched in 2012 by West Bengal under NRLM, aims to alleviate rural poverty through self-employment and financial inclusion, focusing on **women and vulnerable communities**.

Key Features:

- **Universal Mobilization:** Organizes one woman per household into **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- **Institution Building:** Formation of SHGs, federations and livelihood collectives.
- **Skill Building:** Continuous training for empowerment, financial literacy and market linkages.
- **Financial Access:** Credit linkage, micro-insurance and interest subvention for SHGs.
- **Livelihood Promotion:** Focus on agriculture, livestock and non-farm livelihoods.
- **RSETIs:** Encourage Rural Self Employment Training Institutes for youth empowerment.
- **Market Linkages:** Support for Rural Haats and partnerships with public/private sectors.
- **Convergence & Linkages:** Collaboration with other government programs and NGOs.

Objective

- Empower rural communities, especially women, through financial inclusion, skill development and sustainable livelihoods.

WEST BENGAL MAJOR IRRIGATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Introduction

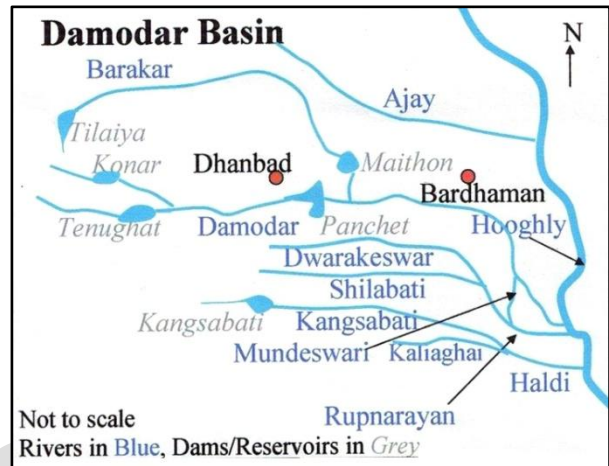
- The West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project aims to improve irrigation service delivery, flood risk management and climate resilience in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA), benefiting 2.7 million farmers in five districts.

Further Details

- The \$413.8 million project is co-financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and

Development (IBRD) (\$145 million), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) (\$145 million) and the Government of West Bengal (\$123.8 million).

- The **Damodar River**, called the "Sorrow of Bengal", flows through **Jharkhand and West Bengal**, with the **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** managing **Tilaiya, Konar, Maithon and Panchet dams** for flood control and irrigation.



JALATIRTHA SCHEME

Introduction

- The Jalatirtha scheme was launched in 2014-15 by the West Bengal State Government to address water scarcity in arid regions. It aims to conserve surface and rainwater for year-round irrigation and support agriculture and allied activities.

Objectives

- **Water Conservation:** Construction of Check Dams (CDs), Water Harvesting Structures (WHTs) and Surface Flow Minor Irrigation Schemes (SFMIS).
- **Irrigation:** Assured irrigation for local communities.
- **Soil Conservation:** Prevention of soil erosion and groundwater recharge.
- **Livelihood Support:** Promotion of fisheries, duckery and animal husbandry.

Project Area

Initially implemented in Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur. In 2017-18, it was extended to:

- Sundarbans (North & South 24 Parganas)
- Hilly areas of North Bengal (Darjeeling & Kalimpong).

SISHUSAATHI SCHEME

Introduction

- The Sishu Saathi scheme, launched in 2013, is a flagship initiative of the West Bengal Government to provide free paediatric

cardiac surgeries for children irrespective of their family income.

Key Features:

- Free paediatric cardiac surgery for children up to 12 years suffering from heart ailments.
- **Eligibility:**All children, regardless of their socio-economic status.
- Health screenings conducted in government schools under Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK) to identify cardiac ailments.
- The State Government bears all expenses for the surgery.
- **Annual Target:**3,000 children to receive free surgeries.
- **Implementation through:**
 - **Private Hospitals:** BM Birla Heart Research Centre, RN Tagore Institute of Cardiac Sciences (Kolkata), Mission Hospital (Durgapur).
 - **Government Hospitals:** SSKM Hospital, B.C. Roy Memorial Hospital, R.G. Kar Medical College.

SWASTHYA INGIT INITIATIVE

Introduction

- The Swasthya Ingit initiative, launched by the West Bengal Government, aims to provide affordable, accessible and high-quality healthcare with a special focus on the underprivileged.

Key Features:

- Telemedicine Services at all SusasthyaKendras (SKs) to develop them into Decentralized e-Clinics.
- Specialist doctors available at the grassroot level through telemedicine.
- Strengthens early diagnosis and treatment of diseases, including COVID-19.
- Supports active surveillance, screening, isolation and timely treatment for COVID-affected people.
- Reduces out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for villagers.
- Ensures easy follow-ups, early diagnosis and timely medical intervention.

This initiative enhances healthcare accessibility in rural Bengal and ensures equitable healthcare delivery.

WEST BENGAL GREEN FIRECRACKER MANUFACTURING, STORAGE and SELLING SCHEME (WBGFMSS)

Introduction

- This initiative promotes safe and sustainable fireworks production while reducing

environmental hazards and ensuring livelihoods.

Objective:

- To create a safe, environment-friendly ecosystem for manufacturing, storage and selling of green firecrackers in West Bengal, ensuring sustainable employment and economic growth.

Key Features:

- Establishment of firecracker hubs (clusters of 10 or more micro/small units).
- Compliance with the Explosives Act & Rules, 2008.
- Integration with Banglashree Scheme for fiscal incentives.
- Infrastructure support including land-filling, roads, drainage, storage facilities.
- Promotion of NEERI-certified green firecracker technology.
- Online licensing and renewal via the Shilpa Sathi portal.
- Temporary selling hubs during festive seasons, set up by District Magistrates.

Financial & Land Assistance:

- Govt. land allocation on lease (30 years) with infrastructure support.
- 90% project cost reimbursement for private land clusters in 3 installments.
- Special lease terms for stakeholders developing infrastructure on government land.

Monitoring & Implementation:

- State & District Level Committees for supervision.
- Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for licensing, land allocation and project vetting.
- State-level oversight by Chief Secretary, DGP and other key officials.

WEST BENGAL ARTISANS FINANCIAL BENEFIT SCHEMES

Scheme Details

The Artisans Financial Benefit Scheme aims to provide systematic financial support to artisans in West Bengal for:

- Procurement of modern tool kits
- Provision of working sheds
- Access to digital markets and e-commerce

This initiative seeks to create sustainable business opportunities, leading to economic development and employment generation. The scheme targets:

- 1 lakh artisans
- 200 industrial cooperative societies annually
- Annual financial outlay of ₹200 crore

Commencement & Duration

- The scheme is in effect across West Bengal from March 7, 2024.

- It will remain active for **five years**, unless withdrawn/amended earlier.

Area of Coverage

- Entire state of West Bengal (both rural & urban).

Covered Crafts & Trades

The scheme includes all handicrafts and traditional trades, such as:

- Blacksmithy, Pottery, Carpentry, Masonry, Malakar (Garland Making), Charmakar (Shoe Making), Dhobi (Washerman), Boat Making, Fishing, Net Making, Broom Making, Coir Product Making, Clay Doll Making, Folk/Musical Instrument Making, Puppetry, Basketry, Locksmithy, Goldsmithy, Barbering, etc.

Financial Assistance

Individual Artisans

- One-time grant of ₹15,000 for purchase/repair of tools & equipment.

Industrial Cooperative Societies (Minimum 10 Artisans)

- ₹3 lakh for tools/equipment.
- ₹7 lakh for work shed & fixed assets.

Support for Digital Marketing

- ₹2,000 per artisan.
- ₹10,000 per industrial cooperative society.

Additional Support

- Enlistment on the State Portal for Artisans.
- Formation of Industrial Cooperative Societies.
- Facilitation for obtaining statutory requirements.

Eligibility Criteria

- Age: 18–60 years.
- Engaged in traditional craft/trade using hand tools, equipment, or small machines.
- Registered on the State Portal for Artisans & Weavers.
- Indian citizen & permanent resident of West Bengal for the past 10 years.
- For work sheds, an industrial cooperative society must have land for construction/installation.

Non-Eligibility

- Government employees (Central/State) and their family members.
- Individuals who have already received assistance/grants for the same purpose from Central/State Govt.
- Handloom & Khadi weavers and their societies (covered under separate schemes).

WEST BENGAL HANDLOOM AND KHADI WEAVERS FINANCIAL BENEFIT SCHEME 2024

Scheme Details

The West Bengal Handloom and Khadi Weavers Financial Benefit Scheme 2024 aims to support handloom and khadi weavers in West Bengal by providing financial assistance for various purposes.

Key Components of the Scheme

1. **Support for One Time Settlement (OTS) of NPA Accounts**
 - 100% coverage of overdue principal and 25% of overdue interest on Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts.
 - Example: If a Primary Weavers' Cooperative Society (PWCS) has:
 - ✓ Overdue principal of ₹1 lakh → The government will cover ₹1 lakh.
 - ✓ Overdue interest of ₹1 lakh → The government will cover ₹25,000 (25%), while the bank will write off the remaining interest.
2. **Assistance to Viable and Potentially Viable PWCS**
 - Financial support ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh based on their activity level.
3. **Assistance to Individual Handloom Weavers**
 - ₹5,000 for repair/renovation of work sheds and looms.
 - ₹10,000 for raw material assistance (yarn to be procured through Tantuja).

Objective of the Scheme

- **Debt Relief:** Help PWCS become debt-free by assisting in the One Time Settlement (OTS) of NPA accounts.
- **Sustainable Livelihood:** Provide financial assistance to societies and individual weavers to enhance their earning potential.
- **Development & Employment:** Promote handloom and khadi weaving, maximize resource utilization and generate employment opportunities.

Eligibility Criteria

- Handloom and khadi weavers engaged in traditional weaving practices in West Bengal.
- Primary Weavers' Cooperative Societies (PWCS) with viable or potentially viable operations.
- Weavers seeking financial assistance for repairing looms/work sheds or procuring raw materials.

3. WEST BENGAL-MISCELLANEOUS

Fort William renamed as 'Vijay Durg'

Context

- The **Indian Army** has renamed **Kolkata's Fort William**, the Eastern Command headquarters, as 'Vijay Durg'.

Details

Additional Renaming:

- Kitchener House** → **Manekshaw House** (honoring Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw).
- South Gate (St. George's Gate)** → **Shivaji Gate**.

Why 'Vijay Durg'?

- Inspired by **Maharashtra's Vijaydurg Fort**, a symbol of **Maratha naval power** and resilience.

Fort William

- First Fort William** was built by the **British East India Company** in **1696** along the **Hooghly River**.
- Named after **King William III of England**.
- Structure:** Known for its **irregular octagonal shape** and **arched windows**.
- Six Gates:** **Chowringhee, Plassey, Calcutta, Water Gate, St. George's (now Shivaji Gate), Treasury Gate**.
- Maidan**, India's **largest park**, lies in front of the fort.
- 1756:** Captured by **Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah**, leading to the **Black Hole of Calcutta** incident.
- 1758-1781:** Rebuilt under **Robert Clive** after the **Battle of Plassey (1757)**.

Kolkata's Leaning Buildings: A Growing Concern

Context

- Over **ten buildings** in **Kolkata** have been reported **tilting** in recent weeks, raising concerns about **construction practices** and **urban planning**.

Key Factors behind Tilting Buildings

Soil in Kolkata:

- Primarily **clayey**, posing challenges for construction.
- Subsidence risk** if not managed properly.
- Built on **alluvial and lacustrine soil**, requiring **pre-construction settlement**.

- Differential settlement** can lead to **building tilt**.

Importance of Soil Testing:

- Crucial for **stable foundations**, but often **neglected**.
- High costs** deter thorough soil testing.
- Inaccurate assessments** lead to **structural weaknesses**.

Foundation Challenges:

- Close proximity** of buildings causes **soil movement**.
- Piling** helps transfer load deeper, but often **skipped** to cut costs.
- Lack of piling** increases **structural risks**.

Multi-Faceted Causes of Tilting:

- Akin to **multi-organ failure**—**engineers, developers and administrators** share responsibility.
- Economic pressures** lead to **compromises in construction quality**.
- Minimal spacing** between buildings worsens **structural instability**.

Seismic Concerns:

- Kolkata lies in **seismic zones III & IV**, increasing **earthquake risks**.
- Poorly built structures** in **dense areas** are highly vulnerable.
- Stronger building regulations** are needed for **earthquake resilience**.

Way Forward:

- Strict enforcement** of municipal regulations.
- Mandatory & subsidized soil testing**.
- Comprehensive inspections** at all stages.
- Accountability** among all stakeholders to ensure safety.

Gangasagar Mela 2025

Context

- The **Gangasagar Mela**, held annually on **Makar Sankranti**, has faced **climate change impacts**, including **rising temperatures** and **coastal erosion**.

Location & Significance

- Sagar Island**, ~100 km south of **Kolkata**, lies in the **Sundarbans** but lacks **mangroves**.
- A major **Hindu pilgrimage site**, where devotees take a **holy dip** at the **Ganges-Bay of Bengal confluence**.

Key Facts

- Mentioned in Mahabharata (Pandavas' visit, ~1500–2000 BC) and Raghuvamśa (5th century).
- Kapil Muni Temple referenced in 16th-century texts and Pala inscriptions.
- India's second-largest religious gathering after Kumbh Mela.

New Observatory in Purulia

Context

- The S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBCBS) has set up a new astronomical observatory atop Panchet Hill, Purulia, West Bengal.

About the Observatory

- Features a 14-inch telescope for scientific research and training.
- Located at 600 meters altitude, 86° E longitude—a rarely covered longitude in global astronomy.
- Aids in transient astronomical phenomena observation.
- Facilitates student training and global research collaborations.

New Microbe causing disease in Sesame

Context

- Researchers have identified a new microbe affecting sesame crops in Midnapore, West Bengal.

About Sesame

- Known as the "Queen of Oilseeds", sesame has been cultivated since Harappan times.
- Rich in antioxidants, it is beneficial for heart health.
- Despite its medicinal value, sesame oil is not widely used as India's primary edible oil.

Key Findings of the Study

- **Symptoms:** Sesame plants reverting from flowering to vegetative state; white flowers turning green.
- **Cause:** The disease is caused by Candidatus Phytoplasma, a bacterium carried by leafhoppers and plant-hoppers.
- **Transmission:** The bacterium spreads via phloem-feeding insects, which also infect tobacco, maize and grapevine.
- **Effects:** Leads to disfigurement and greening (virescence) of floral parts.
- **Significance:** The study helps in understanding disease pathways and developing better crop disease management strategies.



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NATIONAL

India to host First Regional Social Justice Dialogue in 2025

Context

- India will host the first Regional Dialogue on the Global Coalition for Social Justice on February 24-25, 2025, in New Delhi.

Key Details:

- Organizer:** Ministry of Labour and Employment, Confederation of Indian Industry, Employers' Federation of India
- Global Context:** Part of International Labour Organization's Global Coalition for Social Justice (2023)
- Theme:** "Responsible Businesses for Inclusive and Sustainable Societies"
- Participation:** More than 80 partners from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond
- Focus Areas:** Fair employment, social security, sustainable enterprises
- Significance:** Strengthens India's leadership in labor rights and social justice
- Event Link:** Coincides with Employees' State Insurance Corporation's 74th Foundation Day. This dialogue reinforces India's role in shaping global social justice policies and enhancing regional cooperation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh to preside over 12th All India Pension Adalat

Context

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, will chair the 12th All India Pension Adalat on February 13, 2025, in New Delhi.

Key Details:

- Organizer:** Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare
- Objective:** Resolve pension-related grievances pending for over 120 days
- Major Ministries Involved:** Home Affairs, Defence, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Central Pension Accounting Office

- Past Achievements:** 18,005 cases resolved since 2017, with a 71% success rate
- Significance:** Enhances pension dispute resolution efficiency, ensures timely disbursement and reinforces the government's commitment to pensioners' welfare

New Income Tax Bill introduced in Parliament

Context

- On February 13, 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Income Tax Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session.

Details

- This bill aims to replace the Income Tax Act, 1961, which has become overly complex due to multiple amendments over the years.

Key Highlights of the Income Tax Bill, 2025

- Simplification of Tax Laws:** Eliminates outdated terminology, making tax provisions clearer and reducing litigation.
- Terminology Changes:** "Assessment Year" and "Previous Year" replaced with "Tax Year" to streamline tax filing.
- Structural Changes:** The number of sections increased from 298 to 536, while schedules expanded from 14 to 16.
- Expected Impact:**
 - Easier compliance for taxpayers with simplified language.
 - More transparent and structured tax filing system.
 - Faster resolution of tax disputes and reduced litigation.
 - Modernized tax laws aligning with global tax systems.

Lok Sabha expands Translation Services to 6 more Languages

Context

- In a move to promote linguistic inclusivity, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced the expansion of translation services to six additional languages. This initiative aims to

enhance accessibility for Members of Parliament and strengthen democratic participation.

Key Highlights of the Initiative

- **Newly Added Languages:** Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit and Urdu.
- **Existing Translation Services:** Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and English.
- **Total Languages Supported:** Now 16, with plans to expand to all 22 languages listed in Schedule 8 of the Constitution.
- **Global Recognition:** India's Parliament is the only democratic institution globally offering real-time translations in multiple languages.
- This expansion is a step toward greater linguistic representation in Parliament, ensuring that more MPs can express themselves in their native languages, fostering a more inclusive legislative process.

Cabinet extends Safai Karamchari Commission Tenure

Context

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three more years, from March 31, 2025, to March 31, 2028.

Significance of the Extension

- Ensures continued monitoring and implementation of welfare schemes for Safai Karamcharis.
- Aims to achieve full mechanization of sewer and septic tank cleaning to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning.
- Supports the rehabilitation of manual scavengers, addressing socio-economic challenges faced by sanitation workers.
- Allocates a budget of ₹43.68 crore for the extended period, reflecting an increased financial commitment.

About the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- Established in 1993 under the NCSK Act, the commission works to protect the rights of Safai Karamcharis and improve their living and working conditions.

- **Functions of NCSK:**
 - Recommends programs and policies for their welfare.
 - Evaluates the implementation of social and economic rehabilitation schemes.
 - Investigates grievances related to non-implementation of these programs.
 - Monitors working conditions, wages and safety measures.
- Under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the NCSK monitors the act's enforcement and advises governments on policy measures.

75th Anniversary of The National Sample Survey (NSS)

Context

- On 7th February 2025, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) commemorated the 75th anniversary of the National Sample Survey (NSS) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), headed by a Director General, is responsible for conducting large-scale sample surveys across India. It plays a crucial role in data collection, analysis and reporting on socio-economic aspects, industrial statistics and price data.

Key Responsibilities of NSSO

- Conducting nationwide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects.
- Managing the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).
- Collecting rural and urban price data.
- Supervising crop estimation surveys to improve agricultural statistics.
- Maintaining a frame of urban area units for sample surveys in urban areas.

Divisions of NSSO

1. **Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD) – Kolkata**
 - Plans survey methodologies, sampling designs and inquiry schedules.
 - Defines concepts, tabulation plans and data analysis frameworks.
2. **Field Operations Division (FOD) – Delhi/Faridabad**
 - Responsible for data collection through 52 Regional Offices, 117 Sub-Regional Offices and 6 Zonal Offices.

- Conducts **on-ground surveys** across rural and urban areas.
3. **Data Processing Division (DPD) – Kolkata**
- Handles **sample selection, software development and data validation.**
 - Processes data for **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** and **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).**
 - Manages **industrial statistics** and processes wage data for rural India.
4. **Survey Coordination Division (SCD) – New Delhi**
- Coordinates activities of all NSSO divisions.
 - Publishes the **bi-annual journal "Sarvekshana".**
 - Organizes **National Seminars** on socio-economic survey findings.
- NSSO plays a **pivotal role** in strengthening India's statistical system and ensuring **data-driven policymaking.**

National Logistics Policy (NLP)

Context

- India is advancing its logistics sector with **PM Gati Shakti** and the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** to enter the **top 25** of the **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI)** by 2030.

Key Highlights

India's Current Rank & Goals

- **LPI Rank: 38th (2024) → Target: Top 25 (2030)**
- **Major Government Initiatives:** PM Gati Shakti, National Logistics Policy

Infrastructure Investments

- **434 projects** worth ₹11.17 lakh crore under **PM Gati Shakti.**
- Focus on **energy, minerals, cement, port connectivity and high-traffic corridors.**

Market Growth & Cost Reduction

- **Logistics sector** growing at **8.8% annually**, projected to reach **\$484.43 billion** by 2029.
- **Target:** Reduce logistics costs from **13-14% of GDP** to **single digits** by 2030.

Multi-Modal Transformation & Transport Efficiency

- **High-speed roads, hyperloops, new airports** to cut transport time by **66%.**
- **Advanced technology & public-private partnerships** to boost efficiency.

Agrihub: AI-Driven Transformation in Indian Agriculture

Context

- The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** and **IIT Indore** have launched **AgriHub.**

Details

- **AgriHub** is a **state-of-the-art AI-driven Center of Excellence (CoE)** to revolutionize **Indian agriculture.**
- This initiative aims to tackle **droughts, floods and low productivity** by integrating **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML)** and **Deep Learning (DL).**

Kavach: India's Indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System

Context

- **Kavach** is an **indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system, designed by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** in collaboration with Indian industries.
- It aims to **enhance railway safety** by preventing **signal passing at danger (SPAD), collisions and overspeeding.**

Key Features of Kavach

- **Developed by RDSO** with trials conducted by **South Central Railway.**
- **SIL-4 (Safety Integrity Level-4)** certified, ensuring a **1 in 10,000 years probability of failure.**
- **Prevents train collisions** by automatically activating the braking system when required.
- **Transmits SoS messages** during emergencies.
- **Provides live monitoring of train movements** through a **Network Monitor System.**
- **Cost-effective ATP solution**, making it one of the **cheapest SIL-4 certified technologies** globally.

How Kavach Works in Railway Systems

- Uses **Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)** with **RFID-based two-way communication** between **loco-pilots** and **station masters.**

- Instrument panels inside locomotives display real-time signal status and speed limits to drivers.
- Automatically applies emergency brakes if a red signal is ignored or two trains come on the same track.
- Activates a hooter near level crossings, helping pilots during low-visibility conditions like fog.

'Swarail' Superapp: A One-Stop Solution for Seamless Railway Services

Context

- The Ministry of Railways has launched the 'SwaRail' SuperApp on January 31, 2025, integrating multiple railway services into a single platform.

Key Services Offered by 'SwaRail'

- **Ticket Booking** – Facilitates reserved and unreserved ticket reservations.
- **Platform & Parcel Booking** – Allows platform ticket purchases and parcel management.
- **Train & PNR Inquiry** – Provides real-time train schedules and PNR status updates.
- **Food Ordering** – Enables passengers to order meals during travel.
- **Rail Madad** – A platform for lodging complaints and seeking assistance.

Unique Features of 'SwaRail'

- **Single Sign-On** – Unified login for all railway services.

- **Integrated Services** – Displays PNR inquiries, train schedules and ticket details in one place.
- **User-Friendly Onboarding** – Quick registration and easy navigation.
- **Secure Login Options** – Supports m-PIN and biometric authentication for enhanced security.

MoMSME launches Team Initiative to Strengthen MSME Digital Presence

Context

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) has introduced the MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative to enhance the digital footprint of small businesses in India.

Details

- With a budget of ₹277.35 crore over three years, the initiative aims to onboard 5 lakh MSMEs, with a special focus on women-led businesses and SC/ST enterprises.
- Implemented in collaboration with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), the initiative seeks to democratize e-commerce and provide MSMEs with essential tools for digital success.

Note: ONDC is an open-source e-commerce platform designed to promote inclusivity and competition by allowing small businesses to reach a wider audience without reliance on dominant e-commerce giants.

INTERNATIONAL

Takeaways from PM Modi's US visit

Context

- The Prime Minister's visit to the United States laid the groundwork for stronger Indo-US trade relations, with a focus on doubling bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

Key Takeaways

- The "MEGA Partnership" (Make India Great Again + Make America Great Again) signifies a deepening strategic alliance, with economic

growth, technological advancements and global leadership at the forefront.

Technology Partnership

- **Semiconductor Supply Chain:** Micron Technology to invest over \$800 million in India for a new semiconductor assembly and test facility.
- **Critical Minerals:** India joins the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) to promote sustainable energy supply chains.
- **Telecommunications:** Public-private task forces launched for Open RAN systems, with collaboration between India's Bharat 6G and the US Next G Alliance.

Space Collaboration

- **NASA-ISRO:** India joins the **Artemis Accords**, with NASA providing advanced astronaut training for joint missions to the International Space Station.

Research and Development

- **Quantum Computing and AI:** Quantum Coordination Mechanism created for joint research in AI and advanced wireless technologies.
- **Scientific Research:** 35 joint research collaborations between the US National Science Foundation and India's Department of Science and Technology.

Health Initiatives

- **Cancer and Diabetes Research:** Collaboration between US and Indian scientists on AI-based digital pathology and radiotherapy treatments.
- **Diabetes Research:** Partnership between the US National Institute of Diabetes and India's Indian Council of Medical Research.

Defense Agreement

- **F-35 Stealth Fighter Jets:** The US to sell F-35 fighter jets to India, enhancing India's defense capabilities.
- **Defense Roadmap:** A ten-year defense collaboration with potential co-production of jet engines and other military technologies. The deal aligns with the US strategy to strengthen allies in Asia.

Security Support

- **Extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana:** The US commits to supporting India in extraditing the 2008 Mumbai attacks accused.
- **Intelligence Sharing and Counterterrorism:** Enhanced intelligence sharing and joint efforts on illegal immigration and terrorism.

25% Tariffs on Steel & Aluminum Imports

Context

- U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports, effective March 4, 2025.
- This removes previous country-specific exemptions, impacting major exporters like Canada, Brazil, Mexico and South Korea.

Impact on India

- **Steel and Aluminum Imports:** India is concerned about excess steel and aluminum being dumped in its market, especially from China.

- The Indian steel ministry has proposed a 25% safeguard duty to protect domestic producers.

14FAF 2025: Advancing Sustainable Fisheries in Asia-Pacific

Context

- The **14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14FAF)** in New Delhi, focussed on sustainable fisheries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key Highlights:

- With over 1,000 delegates from 24 countries, the forum explored pressing issues such as climate change, smart aquaculture and policy advancements, underscoring India's role as a global leader in the fisheries sector.
- **Theme:** "Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific".
- **Organizers:** The Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) is a professional organization, with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Department of Fisheries (DoF) supporting the AFS Indian Branch in advancing fisheries science.
- **Key Topics:** Sustainable fisheries management, climate change impacts, smart aquaculture, fish genetics, post-harvest processing and policy.

Fish Sector

- China leads the world in fish production. India is the **second largest fish producing country with around 8 per cent share in global fish production and during the financial year 2023-24**, the country exported 17,81,602 metric tonnes (MT) of seafood worth Rs 60,523.89 crore.

Indian Consulate in Marseille

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron inaugurated India's second diplomatic mission in France, the **Indian Consulate in Marseille**.

Details

- Marseille, France's second-largest city, holds a vital position on the **Mediterranean coast** and serves as a gateway for trade between **Europe, Africa and Asia**.

- The **Port of Marseille-Fos**, France's largest port, handles substantial imports and exports, making it a crucial hub for **oil shipments**. Establishing a consulate in this region will **strengthen India's trade ties**, especially with the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)**.

India and Nicaragua forge Partnership for Quick Impact Projects

Context

- India and Nicaragua have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)**, aimed at enhancing physical and social infrastructure in Nicaragua.

Details

- The agreement was signed in **Managua** between Indian Ambassador **Sumit Seth** and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister **Valdrack Jaentschke**.
- Under this, India will provide **grant assistance** for the development of roads, **community centers**, education, **healthcare** and **sanitation**.

Nicaragua

- Geographically largest country in Central America.
- Known as "**the breadbasket of Central America**" due to having the most fertile soil and arable land in all of Central America.
- Known as the "**land of lakes and volcanoes**", Nicaragua is also home to the **Bosawás Biosphere Reserve**, the second-largest rainforest of the Americas.
- President: **Daniel Ortega**
- Indian Diplomatic Presence: Indian Embassy in Panama concurrently accredited to Nicaragua

Lord Buddha Trination Triservices Expedition

Context

- The **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** is set to launch the **Lord Buddha Trination Triservices Expedition**.

Details

- This unique **motorcycle expedition** will start from **Lumbini (Nepal)**, the birthplace of **Lord**

Buddha and conclude in **Galle, Sri Lanka**, covering significant **Buddhist heritage sites** such as **Sarnath, Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Nagarjuna Sagar** and **Udayagiri** along the route.

- **Objective:** The expedition aims to promote **peace, harmony, tourism, environmental awareness** and celebrate the shared **Buddhist heritage** of the three nations.

Key Buddhist Sites in India

- **Lumbini (Nepal):** Birthplace of Buddha, part of **Shakya Janapada**.
- **Bodhgaya (Bihar):** Site of Buddha's enlightenment on the **Neranjana River (Uruwela)**.
- **Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh):** Location of Buddha's first sermon, part of **Kashi Janapada**.
- **Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh):** Site of Buddha's death and **Mahaparinirvana**, part of **Malla Janapada**.
- **Sravasti (Uttar Pradesh):** Capital of **Kosala Kingdom**, where Buddha spent 24 Chaturmasas, also the birthplace of **Jaina Tirthankar Sambhavanath**.
- **Sankasya (Uttar Pradesh):** Believed to be the site where Buddha descended from heaven after death.
- **Rajgir (Bihar):** Early capital of **Magadh Janapada**, ruled by **Bimbisara**; Buddha began his ascetic life here.
- **Vaishali (Bihar):** Part of **Vajji Janapada**, where Buddha received spiritual training from **Allara** and **Udaka** after his renunciation.
- **Nalanda:** Ancient Buddhist university.

UN Honour Roll

Context

- India's timely contribution of **USD 32.895 million** to the UN Regular Budget on January 31, 2024, earned it a spot on the **UN Honour Roll**.

UN Honour Roll

- The **UN Honour Roll** recognizes countries that meet their financial commitments promptly. India, along with 35 other nations, secured this recognition. In 2023, India paid **USD 30.54 million**.
- The **UN budget** supports peacekeeping, humanitarian aid and sustainable development programs.

United Nations (UN)

- **United Nations (UN)** is an intergovernmental organization focused on maintaining international peace and security, fostering friendly relations among nations and promoting cooperation and development.

Key Facts:

- **Headquarters:** New York City (with offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, The Hague).
- **Established:** After World War II, succeeding the League of Nations.
- **Founding Conference:** San Francisco, April 25, 1945; UN Charter adopted on June 25, 1945 and took effect on October 24, 1945.
- **Initial Members:** 51 member states; **current members:** 193 sovereign states.
- **Mission:** Maintain peace, protect human rights, provide humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development and uphold international law.

Structure:

- **Six Principal Organizations:**
 - General Assembly
 - Security Council
 - Economic and Social Council
 - International Court of Justice
 - UN Secretariat
 - Trusteeship Council (suspended since 1994)
- **Specialized Agencies:** World Bank, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.

Leadership:

- **Secretary-General:** António Guterres (since 2017, re-elected in 2021).

Funding:

- Financed by **assessed and voluntary contributions** from member states.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Context

- **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** officially recognized the withdrawal of **Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso** from the regional bloc.

ECOWAS

- The **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** is a **regional political and economic union** comprising **15 countries** in **West Africa**, formed in **1975** under the **Lagos Treaty**. Its primary objective is to promote **economic integration** and enhance cooperation among its member nations.

- **Headquarters:** ECOWAS has its **headquarters** in **Abuja, Nigeria**.
- **ECOMOG:** A peacekeeping operation initiated by ECOWAS, notably in **Liberia (1990)** and **Sierra Leone (1997)**, to restore peace after military conflicts and coups.

USAID

Context

- U.S. President **Donald Trump** criticized **USAID** for its overseas spending, accusing it of being inefficient and wasteful, while prioritizing **"America First"** policies.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** is an independent agency of the **U.S. government** responsible for administering **civilian foreign aid and development assistance** globally.
- **Establishment:** USAID was established in the **1960s** as a key component of U.S. foreign policy.
- **Scope of Operations:** USAID operates in **over 60 countries**, providing support in areas such as health, education, clean water, economic development and disaster relief.

Mount Taranaki granted Legal Personhood

Context

- **New Zealand** passed a historic law granting **Mount Taranaki** (also known as **Taranaki Maunga**) **legal personhood**, recognizing the mountain as a **living entity** with rights similar to those of a human.

Mount Taranaki

- **Mount Taranaki** (also known as **Taranaki Maunga** in Māori and formerly **Mount Egmont**) is a **dormant stratovolcano** located in the **Taranaki region** on the **west coast** of **New Zealand's North Island**.
- Mount Taranaki has a secondary conewhich reaches a height of **1,966 metres** on its southern side.
- Mount Taranaki is deeply important to the **Māori people**, viewed as an **ancestor** and a key figure in their **spiritual beliefs**.

First African country to eliminate Onchocerciasis

Context

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recognized **Niger** as the first African country to eliminate **onchocerciasis** (also known as **river blindness**) as a public health threat.

Details

- Niger joins four other countries globally - **Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico** – that have successfully halted the transmission of the disease.

Onchocerciasis

- Onchocerciasis, commonly known as river blindness, is a parasitic disease caused by the roundworm *Onchocerca volvulus*. It is primarily transmitted through bites from infected black flies of the genus *Simulium*. These flies typically breed in fast-flowing rivers, which is why the disease is known as river blindness.
- The disease primarily affects **rural populations** near fast-flowing rivers in **sub-Saharan Africa**.

- Symptoms include intense itching, swelling, nodules under the skin, skin discoloration and eye problems such as corneal clouding, glaucoma and potential blindness.
- No vaccine exists. **Treatment:** Ivermectin for controlling larvae, doxycycline for weakening worms and surgery for skin nodules.

UAE President Declares 2025 as The 'Year Of Community'

Context

- **2025** has been declared the **Year of Community** by UAE President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**.

Details

- The initiative's **slogan** is "**Hand in Hand**", reflecting the vision of **unity and collective effort** in building a cohesive society.
- The campaign focuses on **fostering social cohesion**, promoting **inclusion** and strengthening **community bonds**.

SCIENCE

Einstein Ring

Context

- The **European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid space telescope** recently captured an **Einstein ring**.

Details

- An Einstein ring is a **ring of light formed around a massive object due to gravitational lensing**, where light from a distant object is bent by gravity, creating a ring shape.
- Named after Albert Einstein, this phenomenon supports his theory of general relativity.
- Einstein rings are faint and occur over vast distances, making them **visible only through powerful space telescopes**.
- Einstein rings **help map dark matter (85% of the universe's matter)** and study the expansion of the universe by magnifying distant galaxies. They also provide insight into gravitational effects.

Srjanam

Context

- **AIIMS Delhi** launched '**Srjanam**', India's first automated **biomedical waste conversion system**

Key Features of 'Srjanam'

- **Automated Waste Neutralization:** Efficiently neutralizes hazardous biomedical waste, unlike incinerators that emit harmful gases.
- **Odor Control Technology:** Controls foul odors, making waste management safer and more manageable.
- **Scalable Processing:** Initially processes **10 kg/day**, with plans to scale up to **400 kg/day** upon approval.

Uganda launches Groundbreaking Ebola Vaccine Trial

Why in News?

- Uganda, in collaboration with WHO and global partners, launched the first clinical trial for a

vaccine targeting the Sudan species of Ebola on January 30, 2025.

Key Highlights

- **First-ever** vaccine trial for the Sudan strain of Ebola.
- **Rapid Response** – Initiated within 4 days of outbreak confirmation.
- **No licensed vaccine** currently exists for this strain.

Ebola Virus Overview

- **Discovered:** 1976, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- **Family:** **Orthoebolaviruses** (formerly Ebolavirus).
- **Hosts:** Fruit bats, primates (gorillas, monkeys), forest animals.

Transmission

- **Zoonotic** – From infected animals (bats, primates) to humans.
- **Human-to-Human** – Through **direct contact** with blood, secretions, or body fluids.

Symptoms

- **Incubation:** 2 to 21 days.
- **Key Symptoms:** Fever, diarrhea, vomiting, bleeding, organ failure.
- **Fatality Rate:** ~50%.

Treatment

- **No cure** available.
- **FDA-approved monoclonal antibodies:** Inmazeb & Ebanga (for Ebola Zaire strain).
- **Supportive care:** Fluids, electrolytes, blood transfusion.

Significance of Trial

- Follows **ring vaccination strategy** for high-risk groups.
- **Potential regulatory approval** and improved outbreak response.
- Results expected within **months**.

India's first Ferret Research Facility Launched

Context:

- India inaugurated its **first Ferret Research Facility** at the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, Faridabad, Haryana.

Purpose

- Develop vaccines and therapeutics.
- Research emerging infectious diseases.
- Strengthen India's pandemic preparedness.
- Enhance India's position in global scientific research.

Key Features

- Adheres to highest biosafety and research standards.
- Crucial for vaccine development, therapeutic testing and infectious disease research.

Impact

- Boosts India's biomedical research capabilities.
- Improves pandemic preparedness.
- Strengthens public health innovation.

BHU discovers New Fungal Species affecting Vetiver

Context:

- Researchers at **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**, Varanasi, have discovered **Epicoccum indicum**, a new phytopathogenic fungus.

Key Details

- **Fungus Name:** Epicoccum indicum
- **Plant Affected:** Chrysopogon zizanioides (Vetiver)
- **Disease Caused:** Leaf Spot Disease

Significance of Discovery

- **Vetiver is valuable** for medicinal (pain relief, anti-inflammatory, anti-infection) and **environmental uses**.
- **Epicoccum indicum threatens its cultivation**, making disease management essential.
- **Helps develop early detection methods** and sustainable agricultural solutions.

Chain of Thought (CoT)

Context:

- New research reveals safety risks in the Chain of Thought reasoning model used by a top-ranking AI model DeepSeek.

Key Details

- **Chain of Thought (CoT)** is an AI reasoning technique that breaks down complex problems into **step-by-step logical steps**, improving accuracy in **math, logic and multi-step decision-making**.

How Does CoT Work?

- **Step-by-Step Reasoning:** AI thinks aloud, generating intermediate steps.
- **Better Accuracy:** Reduces errors in complex tasks.
- **Transparency:** Makes AI's logic more interpretable.

Michibiki No. 6 Satellite

Context:

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched the fifth H-3 rocket, carrying the Michibiki No. 6 satellite.

Michibiki 6

- Part of Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), providing high-precision GPS augmentation.
- Position: 90.5° East in the geostationary belt (35,786 km above the equator).
- First Michibiki satellite launched in 2010; expansion to 11 satellites under consideration for enhanced redundancy (Cabinet Office, 2024).

Aim & Purpose

- Enhance Japan's independent satellite navigation system.
- Improve GPS accuracy and reliability, especially in urban and mountainous areas.
- Support disaster management, autonomous driving and precision agriculture.
- Reduce dependence on the U.S. GPS for critical infrastructure.

BIMCOIN

Context

- The Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) has launched BIMCOIN, India's first blockchain-powered campus currency.

Details

- This digital currency is designed for secure, transparent and efficient transactions within the campus ecosystem, positioning BIMTECH as a pioneer among business schools in India.
- **Blockchain-based:** Utilizes a **permissioned blockchain**, ensuring **decentralization** and **transparency**.
- **Security:** **Advanced encryption** and **privacy protocols** guarantee secure transactions.
- **Practical Learning:** Offers students real-world experience in **fintech**, **blockchain** and **digital currencies**.

Plasticizers

- **Recent Research:** IIT Roorkee has developed bacterial enzymes to break down DEHP (diethyl hexyl phthalate), a harmful plasticizer, using the esterase enzyme from the bacterium *Sulfobacillus acidophilus*.
- **Environmental Significance:** This research presents a potential solution to address the environmental challenges posed by plasticizers, which are toxic and difficult to degrade.

In-Flight Wi-Fi

Context

- **Air India** is the first Indian airline to offer Wi-Fi connectivity on both domestic and international flights, enhancing the passenger experience.

Details

- **Technologies:**
 - **Air-to-Ground (ATG)** connects to ground towers for stable internet but has limitations over water bodies.
 - **Satellite-based Connectivity** offers broader coverage, especially over oceans and is more reliable.
- **How It Works:** Passengers connect to Wi-Fi via aircraft antennas, which communicate with satellites or ground towers to provide internet connectivity.

Cubic Kilometre Neutrino Telescope (KN3NET) Projects

Context

- A European research initiative deploying two neutrino telescopes under the Mediterranean Sea to detect high-energy neutrinos.

Key Detectors:

- **ARCA Telescope:** Located off Sicily, it searches for high-energy cosmic neutrinos, covering 87% of the neutrino sky.
- **ORCA Telescope:** Situated off France, it studies neutrinos created by cosmic rays in Earth's atmosphere.
- **Detection Method:** Uses thousands of optical sensors to detect faint light produced when neutrinos interact with seawater.
- **Neutrinos:** Subatomic, chargeless particles that rarely interact with matter, often called

"ghost particles," and are abundant in the universe.

BIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

India's First White Tiger Breeding Centre

Context

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved India's first white tiger breeding centre in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

Details

- The centre will be located in Govindgarh, near the Mukundpur White Tiger Safari, which is Madhya Pradesh's only white tiger tourism facility.
- The most famous white tiger, Mohan, was captured in 1951 by Maharaja Martand Singh of Rewa from the Sidhi forest, now part of Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve.
- All white tigers in zoos worldwide are descendants of Mohan.

White Tiger

- The white tiger is a leucistic variation of the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), characterized by a white or near-white coat with black stripes and blue eyes.
- The white coat results from a lack of pheomelanin, a pigment responsible for the orange color in regular Bengal tigers.
- Both parents must carry the recessive gene for a white tiger to be born, which naturally occurs once in 10,000 births.

India adds four New Ramsar Sites, total now 89

Context

- On World Wetlands Day (February 2, 2025), India added four new wetlands to the Ramsar List, taking the total to 89 sites, the highest in Asia and third globally. Tamil Nadu leads with 20 Ramsar sites.

Newly Added Ramsar Sites:

- Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) – Sikkim's first Ramsar site
- Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand) – Jharkhand's first Ramsar site

What are Ramsar Sites?

- The Ramsar Convention (1971) protects wetlands vital for biodiversity, water security, flood control and carbon storage. India joined in 1982 and has been expanding its list.
- Sundarbans is the largest Ramsar Site of India.
- Chilika Lake (Orissa) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first Ramsar Sites of India.
- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in India with 20 Ramsar Sites.

No.	Ramsar Site	State/UT	No.	Ramsar Site	State/UT
1	Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	46	Kanjirankulam BS	Tamil Nadu
2	Deepor Beel	Assam	47	Karikili BS	Tamil Nadu
3	Kanwar (Kabar) Taal	Bihar	48	Koonthankulam BS	Tamil Nadu
4	Nanda Lake	Goa	49	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu
5	Khijadia WLS	Gujarat	50	Pichavaram Mangrove	Tamil Nadu
6	Nalsarovar BS	Gujarat	51	Point Calimere WLS & BS	Tamil Nadu
7	Thol Lake	Gujarat	52	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	Tamil Nadu
8	Wadhvana Wetland	Gujarat	53	Udhayamarthandapuram BS	Tamil Nadu
9	Bhindawas WLS	Haryana	54	Vaduvur BS	Tamil Nadu
10	Sultanpur NP	Haryana	55	Vedanthangal BS	Tamil Nadu
11	Chandra Taal	Himachal Pradesh	56	Vellode BS	Tamil Nadu
12	Pong Dam Lake	Himachal Pradesh	57	Vembannur Wetland	Tamil Nadu

				Complex	
13	Renuka Lake	Himachal Pradesh	58	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
14	Ranganathittu BS	Karnataka	59	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu
15	Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve	Karnataka	60	Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura
16	Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve	Karnataka	61	Hokera Wetland	UT of JK
17	Aghanashini Estuary	Karnataka	62	Hygam Wetland CnR	UT of JK
18	Ashtamudi Wetland	Kerala	63	Shallbugh Wetland CnR	UT of JK
19	Sasthamkotta Lake	Kerala	64	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	UT of JK
20	Vembanad-Kol Wetland	Kerala	65	Wular Lake	UT of JK
21	Bhoj Wetland	Madhya Pradesh	66	Tso Kar	UT of Ladakh
22	Sakhya Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	67	Tsomoriri	UT of Ladakh
23	Sirpur wetland	Madhya Pradesh	68	Bakhira WLS	Uttar Pradesh
24	Yashwant Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	69	Haiderpur Wetland	Uttar Pradesh
25	Lonar Lake	Maharashtra	70	Nawabganj BS	Uttar Pradesh
26	NandurMadhameshwar	Maharashtra	71	Parvati Arga BS	Uttar Pradesh
27	Thane Creek	Maharashtra	72	Saman BS	Uttar Pradesh
28	Loktak Lake	Manipur	73	Samaspur BS	Uttar Pradesh
29	Pala Wetland	Mizoram	74	Sandi BS	Uttar Pradesh
30	Ansupa Lake	Odisha	75	Sarsai Nawar Jheel	Uttar Pradesh
31	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Odisha	76	Sur Sarovar (Keetham Lake)	Uttar Pradesh
32	Chilika Lake	Odisha	77	Upper Ganga River	Uttar Pradesh
33	Hirakud Reservoir	Odisha	78	Asan Barrage	Uttarakhand
34	Satkosia Gorge	Odisha	79	East Kolkata Wetlands	West Bengal
35	Tampara Lake	Odisha	80	Sundarban Wetland	West Bengal
36	Beas CnR	Punjab	81	Nagi Bird Sanctuary	Bihar
37	Harike Wetland	Punjab	82	Nakti Bird Sanctuary	Bihar
38	Kanjli Wetland	Punjab	83	Kazhaveli Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
39	Keshopur-Miani CmR	Punjab	84	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
40	Nangal WLS	Punjab	85	Tawa Reservoir	Madhya Pradesh
41	Ropar Wetland	Punjab	86	Therthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
42	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	87	Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
43	Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan	88	Khecheopalri Wetland	Sikkim
44	Chitrangudi BS	Tamil Nadu	89	Udhwa Lake	Jharkhand
45	Gulf of Mannar Marine BR	Tamil Nadu			

Indian Grey Wolf

Context:

- Recently, an **Indian Grey Wolf** gave birth to eight pups at the **Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary** in Karnataka.

Indian Grey Wolf:

- Range:** From **Southwest Asia** to the **Indian subcontinent**.
- Behavior:** Travels in smaller packs, **less vocal**, **nocturnal** (hunts from dusk to dawn).

- Appearance:** Medium-sized, between **Tibetan** and **Arabian** wolves. Lacks a **lush winter coat**.
- Habitat:** Prefers **scrub**, **grassland** and **semi-arid agroecosystems**.
- Distribution:** Widely found across the **Indian subcontinent** to **Israel**.
- Protection Status:**
 - IUCN:** Least Concern
 - CITES:** Annex 1
 - Nature Conservation Act 1972:** Schedule I

Protected Areas and Wetlands in news

Sanjay Gandhi National Park

- **Location:** Borivali, Mumbai
- **Key Features:** Dense forests, birdlife, Kanheri Caves
- **Fauna:** Tigers, leopards, panthers, 251 bird species

Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Kollam district, Kerala
- **Flora:** Tropical evergreen forests
- **Fauna:** Indian hornbill, Malabar hornbill, woodpeckers

Umred-Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Maharashtra
- **Fauna:** Tigers, leopards, sloths, wild dogs

Desert National Park

- **Location:** Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- **Fauna:** Great Bustard, chinkara, Indian wolf

Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary

- **Location:** Jorhat, Assam
- **Fauna:** Hoolock gibbons, Bengal slow loris, Indian elephants

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan
- **Fauna:** Bengal tigers, leopards, sloth bears

Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
- **Fauna:** Snow leopard, Himalayan black bear, monal

Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Kalburgi, Karnataka
- **Fauna:** Black buck, Indian wolf, Black Drongo

Asan Wetland

- **Location:** Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- **Status:** Ramsar site
- **Birds:** Bald eagle, Egyptian eagle, Marbled teal

Dhanauri Wetland

- **Location:** Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- **Species:** Sarus Crane, Teal, Mallard

Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Jaipur, Rajasthan
- **Fauna:** Leopards, hyenas, wild boars

Surajpur Wetland

- **Location:** Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- **Fauna:** Spot-billed duck, Red-crested pochard

Sharavathy Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary

- **Location:** Karnataka
- **Fauna:** Lion-Tailed Macaque, tiger, leopard

Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)

Context

- The **Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)**, launched by the **World Economic Forum**, has reached a significant milestone by expanding its network to **25 countries**, including **Maharashtra (India)**.

About Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)

- **Launched:** At the **Sustainable Development Summit 2018** during **WEF 2018**.
- **Purpose:** Accelerates the **circular economy** and supports "**Friends of Ocean**" events.
- **Current Members:** **25 countries**, including **Maharashtra (India)**.

Objectives:

- Strengthen the **global response** to plastic pollution by uniting **governments, businesses and civil society**.
- Promote a **circular plastic economy** to reduce **emissions** and protect **ecosystems**.

Key Activities:

- Assist countries in creating **national action plans** for **plastic pollution** control.
- Mobilize **investments** in **waste management** to enhance **sustainability**.

Blue Flag Certification

Context:

- **Kerala's Kappad Beach** in Kozhikode and **Chal Beach** in Kannur have been awarded the prestigious **Blue Flag certification** by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)** for meeting rigorous environmental and safety standards.

About Blue Flag Certification

- **Awarded By:** **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**, Denmark.
- **Launched:** **France, 1985**; expanded outside Europe in **2001**.
- **Recognition:** A globally recognized **eco-label** for sustainable tourist beaches, marinas and boats.

Criteria for Award:

- **Water Quality**
- **Environmental Management**
- **Environmental Education**
- **Safety**

Mission:

- Promote **sustainability** in tourism through **environmental education, protection** and other sustainable practices.

Other Indian Beaches with Blue Flag:

- **Shivrajpur** (Gujarat), **Ghoghla** (Diu), **Kasarkod** and **Padubidri** (Karnataka), **Rushikonda**

(Andhra Pradesh), **Golden** (Odisha), **Radhanagar** (Andaman and Nicobar), **Kovalam** (Tamil Nadu), **Eden Beach** (Puducherry), **Minicoy Thundi Beach** and **Kadmat Beach** (Lakshadweep).

Nimesulide

Context:

- India has officially **banned Nimesulide**, a toxic substance, following scientific research confirming its harmful effects on **endangered vultures**.

About Nimesulide:

- Type:** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).
- Uses:** Relieves pain, inflammation and swelling. Commonly used to treat conditions like:
 - Fever, menstrual cramps, osteoarthritis** and similar conditions.
- Impact on Vultures:** In January 2025, India banned Nimesulide in **veterinary medicine** under **Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, due to its toxicity to vultures.

GENERAL SCIENCE [STATIC GK]

Meristematic Tissue

Position	Origin	Function	Plane of division
Apical meristem Present in apices of root and shoot. It is responsible for increase in the length of the plant, it is called as primary growth.	Primary Meristem It is derived from embryonic stages and differentiated into primary permanent tissues. Secondary Meristem It is derived during later stage of development of the plant body. It produces cork cambium and inter fascicular cambium.	Protoderm It gives rise to epidermal tissue system and develops into epidermis, stomata and hairs.	Mass meristem It divides in all planes. Example: endosperm, young embryo and sporangium
Intercalary meristem Occurs between the mature tissues. It is responsible for elongation of internodes.		Procambium It gives rise to primary vascular tissues. Example: xylem and phloem .	Rib meristem or File meristem It divides antidinally in one plane. Example development of cortex and pith
Lateral meristem Occurs along the longitudinal axis of stem and root. It is responsible for secondary tissues and thickening of stem and root. Example vascular cambium and cork cambium.		Ground Meristem It gives rise to all tissues except epidermis and vascular strands.	Plate meristem It divides anticlinally in two planes. Example: development of epidermis

MACRONUTRIENTS	MICRONUTRIENTS
Macronutrients are required in large quantities.	Micronutrients are required in small quantities
They are present in excessive concentration in plant.	They are present in low concentration in plant.
Also called as major elements	They are also called trace elements
They are usually not toxic to the cell if they are present in relatively higher concentration than the normal level.	They can be toxic for the plant if present excess in the cell than the required quantity.
Examples: C, H, O, N,P, K, Ca, S, and Mg.	Examples: Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, Mo, B, Cl, and Ni. All micronutrients are minerals.

	Red Cells	Cone Cells
Location in retina	Found around periphery	Found around centre (fovea)
Optimal light conditions	Dim light (night' vision)	Bright light ('day' vision)
Visual acuity	Low resolution (many rods : one bipolar cell)	High resolution (one cone : one bipolar cell)
Colour sensitivity	All wavelengths	Certain wavelengths (red, green,

		blue)
Type of vision	Achromatic (black and white)	Colour
Number of types	One (all contain rhodopsin)	Three different iodopsin pigments
Relative abundance	Many	Fewer

Differences between Ionizing and Non-Ionizing Radiation	
Ionizing Radiation	Non-Ionizing Radiation
Ionizing radiation has a high energy	Non-Ionizing radiation has less energy than ionizing radiation
Ionizing radiation can emit electrons or other particles from atoms	Non-Ionizing radiation cannot emit but excite electrons from ground level to a higher level
Ionizing radiation is non-electromagnetic radiation	Non-Ionizing radiation is electromagnetic radiation
Examples: Alpha, Gamma, X-rays	Examples: UV rays, Visible Microwave, Radio Waves
Ionizing radiation has a shorter wave length	Non-Ionizing radiation has a longer wave length
Ionizing radiation has high penetrating power	Non-Ionizing radiation has low penetrating power

Table 8.3: Chart showing the Digestive Enzymes

Digestive glands	Enzymes	Substrate (nutrient)	Product of digestion
Salivary glands	Ptyalin (Salivary amylase)	Starch	Maltose
Gastric glands	Pepsin	Proteins	Peptones
	Rennin (in infants)	Milk protein or caseinogen	Curdles milk to produce casein protein
Pancreas	Pancreatic amylase	Starch	Maltose
	Trypsin	Proteins and peptones	Peptides and amino acids
	Chymotrypsin	Protein	Proteoses, Peptones, Polypeptide, tri and dipeptides
	Pancreatic lipase	Emulsified fats	Fatty acids and Glycerol
Intestinal glands	Maltase	Maltose	Glucose and Glucose
	Lactase	Lactose	Glucose and Galactose
	Sucrase	Sucrose	Glucose and Fructose
	Lipase	Fats	Fatty acids and Glycerol

Agriculture Revolution in India			
	Black Revolution		Petroleum
	Blue Revolution		Fish
	Brown Revolution		Leather
	Golden Revolution		Fruit / Honey
	Green Revolution		Food Grains
	Grey Revolution		Fertilizer
	Pink Revolution		Onion
	Red Revolution		Meat / Tomato
	Silver Revolution		Egg / Poultry
	White Revolution		Milk / Dairy
	Yellow Revolution		Oil Seeds
	Evergreen Revolution		Overall Development

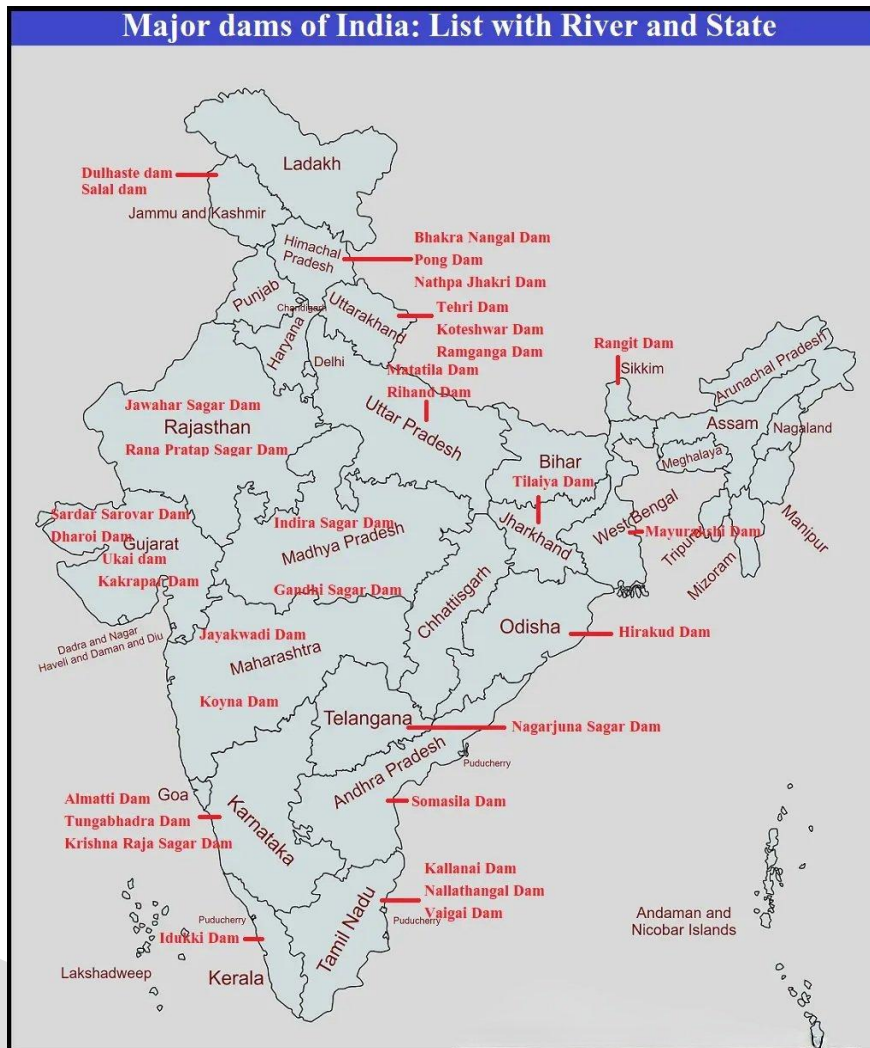
Types of ATM

- White Label ATM is owned and operated by a non-banking entity while cash is provided by sponsored bank.
- Brown Label ATM is owned by the bank but its operation and maintenance is outsourced to third entity.
- Green Label ATM is used for Agricultural transactions.
- Orange Label ATM is used for transacting shares.
- Yellow Label ATM is used for E-commerce.
- Pink Label ATM is used for women banking.

TRIBAL MOVEMENTS

Sl.	Movement	Period	Place	Leader
1	Chuar uprising	1768	Midnapur	Jagannath Singh, the zamindar of Ghatshila or theking of Dhalbhum
2	Halba rebellion	1774-79	Donger,Chhatisgarh	
3	Chakma rebellion	1776-87	North East India	
4	PahariyaSardar's Revolution	1778	Chhotanagpur	Raja Jagganath
5	Tamar's revolution	1794-95	Chhotanagpur	Chief Bisoi
6	Bhopalpatnam Struggle	1795	Bhopalpatnam	-
7	Chuar rebellion in Bengal	1795-1800	Midnapur	Jagannath Singh, Dhadkar Shyamganjan and Durjol Singh
8	Kol Rebellion	1795-1831	Chhotanagpur	BirBudhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat, JhindraiManki and Sui Munda
9	Tribal Revoltagainst the sale of Panchet estate	1798	Chhotanagpur	Raja Jagganath
10	Mizo Movement	1810	Mizoram	
11	Khurda Rebellion	1817	Orissa	
12	Kondhas Rebellion	1817	Orissa	-
13	Bhil Rebellion	1822-57	Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh	BhagojiNaik and Kajar Singh
14	Paralkot Rebellion	1825	Bastar	Gend Singh
15	Khasi and Garo Rebellion	1829	Meghalaya	-
16	Tarapur Rebellion	1842-54	Bastar	-
17	Maria rebellion	1842-63	Bastar	-
18	Jharkhand Movement	1845	Jharakand	-
19	Kond Revolution	1850	Orissa	Chief Bisioi.
20	First Freedom Struggle	1856-57	Sidu Murmu and Kanu Murmu	-
21	Bhil rebellion	1858	Banswara	Tantya Tope
22	Koi Revolt	1859	Bastar	
23	Gond Rebellion	1860	Ramji Gond	Adilabad
24	Synteng Tribal	1860- 62	North East India	-
25	Kuki Invasion	1860s	Manipur	-
26	Juang Tribal	1861	Orissa	-
27	Koya	1862	Andhra Pradesh	Tammandora
28	Bhuiyas Rebellion	1868	Keonjhar	-
29	Daflas Rebellion	1875	North East India	-
30	Rani of Nagas Rebellion	1878-82	Manipur	
31	1 st Rampa Rebellion	1879	Vizagapatnam (Visakhapatnam)	-
32	Naga Movement	1879	North East India	Tikendraji
33	Sentinelese Tribal People	1883	Andaman and Nicober Island	-
34	Santhal Revolt	1885-86	Dhanbad	Sidhu and kanhu
35	Muria Gond Rebellion	1886	Eastern Madhya Pradesh	-
36	Mundal Rebellion	1889	Orissa	Birsa Munda
37	Lushei Rebellion	1892	Tripura	-
38	Bhumkal	1910	BastarChattisgarh	-
39	Samp Sabha Movement	1913	Rajasthan	Guru Govind
40	Tana Bhagat Movement	1913-14	Jharkhand	Tana Bhagat
41	KuKi Movement	1917-19	Manipur	Chieftains called haosa

42	Tana and Bhagad Movement	1920-21	Jharkhand	Tana Bhagat
43	2 nd Rampa Rebellion	1921-23	Visakhapatnam	-
44	Koya Rebellion	1922	Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sree Rama Raju
45	Naga Rebellion	1932	Nagaland	Rani Guidallo
46	Gond and the Kolam	1941	Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh	-
47	Koraput Revolution	1942	Orissa	Lakshmana Naik
48	Andamanese Revolution	1942-45	Andaman & Nicobar	-
49	Bodo Movement	1987	Assam	Upendranath
50	Dongria Kondh Movement	2008	Odisha	-



Buddhist Site	Features
Lumbini, Nepal	It is the place where Queen Mayadevi gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama.
Kapilavastu, Uttar Pradesh	Kapilavastu was the capital of Shakya. It was the was the childhood home of Gautama Buddha
Bodh Gaya, Bihar	It is the place where Gautama Buddha is said to have obtained Enlightenment. Mahabodhi Temple, located in Bodh Gaya, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	The deer park in Sarnath is where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma. It is also where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence. It was also the site of the Buddha's DhammacakkappavattanaSutta, which was his first teaching after attaining enlightenment.
Rajgir, Nalanda, Bihar	It was the first capital of the kingdom of Magadha. The two rock-cut caves here, were the favourite retreats of the Buddha. It

	was on Rajgir hill that Buddha preached two of his most famous sermons. Rajgir is equally important for the Jains as well as Hindus.
Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh	It is closely associated with the life of Gautama Buddha, who is believed to have spent 24 Chaturmasas here. Shravasti was the capital of the Kosala Kingdom.
Vaishali, Bihar	Gautama Buddha gave his last sermon here.
Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh	This is the place where Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death.

Name	Origin from	Falls into	Length (km)
Ganges	Combined Sources	Bay of Bengal	2,525
Satluj	Mansarovar Rakas Lakes	Chenab	1,050
Indus	Near Mansarovar lake	Arabian Sea	2,880
Ravi	Kullu Hills near Rohtang Pass	Chenab	720
Beas	Near Rohtang Pass	Satluj	470
Jhelum	Verinag in Kashmir	Chenab	725
Yamuna	Yamunotri	Ganga	1,375
Chambal	M. P.	Yamuna	1,050
Ghagra	Matsatung Glacier	Ganga	1,080
Kosi	Near Gosain Dham Peak	Ganga	730
Betwa	Vindhyanchal	Yamuna	480
Son	Amarkantak	Ganga	780
Brahmaputra	Near Mansarovar Lake.	Bay of Bengal	2,900
Narmada	Amarkantak	Gulf of Khambat	1,057
Tapti	Betul Distt. in M. P.	Gulf of Khambat	724
Mahanadi	Raipur Distt. in Chhatisgarh	Bay of Bengal	858
Luni	Aravallis	Rann of Kuchchh	450
Ghaggar	Himalayas	Near Fatehabad	494
Sabarmati	Aravallis	Gulf of Khambat	416
Krishna	Western Ghats	Bay of Bengal	1,327
Godavari	Nasik dist. in Maharashtra	Bay of Bengal	1,465
Cauvery	Brahmair Range of Western Ghats	Bay of Bengal	805
Tungabhadra	Western Ghats	Krishna river	

Mahajanapada	Capital	Present Location
Kasi	Varanasi	Varanasi
Kosala	Sravasti	Uttar Pradesh East
Anga	Champa	Bhagalpur and Munger
Magadha	Rajagriha	Gaya and Patna
Vajji	Vaishali	Bihar
Malla	Kusinara	Deoria and Uttar Pradesh
Chedi	Sothivati	Bundelkhand, MP
Vatsa	Kusambi	Prayagraj
Kuru	Indraprastha	Meerut and Haryana
Panchala	Kampliya	Uttar Pradesh West
Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
Surasena	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh West
Assaka	Paithan	Bank of Godavari
Avanti	Ujjaini	Madhya Pradesh/Malwa
Gandhara	Taxila	Rawalpindi
Kamboja	Pooncha	Kashmir and Hindukush

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CUPS AND TROPHIES

Cups And Trophies	Sports Name	Cups And Trophies	Sports Name
American Cup	Yacht Racing	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Field Hockey (Men)
The Ashes	Test Crickets (England & Australia)	Swaythling Cup	World Table Tennis (Men)

Colombo Cup	Football (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar)	Thomas Cup	Badminton (Men)
Corbillon Cup	World Table Tennis (Women)	Tunku Abdul Rahman Cup	Asian Badminton
Davis Cup	Tennis (Men)	U. Thant Cup	Lawn Tennis
Lord Derby Cup	Rugby	Uber Cup	Badminton (Women)
Billi Jean King Cup	Tennis (Women)	Yonex Cup	Badminton
Holker Trophy	Bridge	Walker Cup	Golf
Jules Rimet Trophy	World Football (Soccer)	Wightman Cup	Tennis (Women)
Merdeka Cup	Football (Asian Cup)	William Jones Cup	Basketball
Ryder Cup	Golf (Men)	Wimbledon Trophy	Tennis
Solheim Cup	Golf (Women)	Prudential World Cup	Cricket
Sudirman Cup	Badminton		

NATIONAL SPORTS CUPS AND TROPHIES

Sports Cup And Trophies	Sports
Beighton Cup	Hockey
Ezra Cup	Polo
Deodhar Trophy	Cricket
Dhyan Chand Award	Lifetime Achievement Sporting Honour in India
B. C Roy Trophy	Football (National Junior)
Duleep Trophy	First Class Cricket
Durand Cup	Football
Guru Nanak Dev Gold Cup	Hockey
Z. R. Irani Cup	Cricket
Maharaja Ranjit Singh Gold Cup	Hockey
Murugappa Gold Cup	Hockey
Nehru Trophy	Boat Race
Nizam Gold Cup	Horse Racing
Rangaswami Cup	Hockey (National Championship)
Ranji Trophy	Cricket (National Championship)
Rovers Cup	Football
Santosh Trophy	Football
Sheesh Mahal Trophy	Cricket
Subroto Mukherjee Cup	Football
Vittal Trophy	Football
Vijay Hazare Trophy	Cricket
Vizzy Trophy	Cricket
Yadavindra Cup	Hockey

Major Straits Of The World

Name	Joins	Locations
Malacca Strait	Andaman Sea & South China Sea	Indonesia - Malaysia
Palk Strait	Palk Bay & Bay of Bengal	India-Sri Lanka
Sunda Strait	Java Sea & Indian Ocean	Indonesia
Yucatan Strait	Gulf of Mexico and Carribean Sea	Mexico-Cuba
Mesina Strait	Mediterranean Sea	Italy-Sicily
Otranto Strait	Adriatic Sea & Ionian Sea	Italy-Albania
Bab-el-Mandeb Strait	Red Sea & Gulf of Aden	Yemen-Djibouti
Cook Strait	South Pacific Ocean	New Zealand (N & S islands)
Mozambique Strait	Indian Ocean	Mozambique - Malagassy

North Channel	Irish Sea & Atlantic Ocean	Ireland-England
Taurus Strait	Arafura Sea & Gulf of Papua	Papua New Guinea - Australia
Bass strait	Tasman Sea & South Sea	Australia
Bering Strait	Bering Sea & Chuksi Sea	Alaska-Russia
Bonne-Fasio Strait	Mediterranean Sea	Corsika-Sardinia
Bosporous Strait	Black Sea and Marmara Sea	Turkey
Dardenleez Strait	Marmara Sea and Agean Sea	Turkey
Davis strait	Baffin Bay & Atlantic Ocean	Greenland-Canada
Denmark strait	North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean	Greenland-Iceland
Dover strait	English Channel & North Sea	England-France
Florida Strait	Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean	USA-Cuba
Hormuz strait	Gulf of Persia & Gulf of Oman	Oman-Iran
Hudson strait	Gulf of Hudson & Atlantic Ocean	Canada
Gibraltar Strait	Mediterranean Sea & Atlantic Ocean	Spain-Morocco
Magellan strait	Pacific and South Atlantic Ocean	Chile
Makkassar Strait	Java Sea & Celebeze Sea	Indonesia
Tsungaru Strait	Japan Sea and Pacific Ocean	Japan (Hokkaido-Honshu island)
Tatar Strait	Japan Sea & Okhotsk Sea	Russia (E Russia-Sakhalin Island)

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DEFENCE & SECURITY

Defence Budget in 2025-2026

Context

- The Union Budget 20-25-26 has allocated ₹6.8 lakh crore to the defence sector, marking a 9% increase from the previous year's budget estimate of ₹6.22 lakh crore.
- This allocation focuses on military modernization, self-reliance and operational readiness.

Breakdown of the Defence Budget

- **Total Defence Outlay:** ₹6.8 lakh crore (1.9% of GDP).
- **Capital Expenditure (Modernization & Procurement):** ₹1.8 lakh crore, emphasizing indigenous manufacturing under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Revenue Expenditure:** ₹3.11 lakh crore, covering salaries, maintenance and logistics.
- **Defence Pensions:** ₹1.6 lakh crore, ensuring financial security for retired personnel.

Defence Allocation Year-Wise

Category	FY2024-25 (BE)	FY2024-25 (RE)	FY2025-26 (BE)	Growth (%)
Total Defense Budget	₹6.22 lakh cr	₹6.41 lakh cr	₹6.8 lakh cr	+9%
Modernization & Procurement	₹1.62 lakh cr	₹1.75 lakh cr	₹1.8 lakh cr	+8.8%
Revenue Expenditure	₹2.97 lakh cr	₹3.05 lakh cr	₹3.11 lakh cr	+4.9%
Pension Outlay	₹1.38 lakh cr	₹1.52 lakh cr	₹1.6 lakh cr	+14.5%
Defence Budget as % of GDP	1.8%	1.85%	1.9%	

DRDO successfully conducts three VSHORADS Trials

Context

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) on February 1, 2025, at Chandipur, Odisha.

Details

- VSHORADS is a Man-Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS) designed for quick deployment by the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The trials successfully intercepted and destroyed all targets.
- Developed by: Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and DRDO labs, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Significance: Enhances India's air defence capabilities and reduces dependence on foreign defence systems.

Details

- This system marks a major advancement in India's aerospace and defense manufacturing sectors by enabling the large-scale production of metal components through additive manufacturing technology.
- **Technology Used:** Powder-based Directed Energy Deposition (DED), utilizing laser and blown-powder techniques to manufacture metal parts.
- **Build Volume:** 1m x 1m x 3m, making it one of India's largest metal 3D printing systems.
- **Key Features:**
 - Dual-head system for thermal balancing and high-speed deposition.
 - Complex geometries suitable for aerospace and defense applications.
 - Successfully fabricated a 1-meter-tall rocket component.
- **Significance:**
 - Boosts self-reliance in defense and aerospace manufacturing.
 - Reduces dependence on traditional fabrication methods.
 - Strengthens India's additive manufacturing ecosystem.

DRDO-IIT Hyderabad unveils Large Area Additive Manufacturing System

Context

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and industry partners, has developed a Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) system at the DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE), IIT Hyderabad.

Indian Navy's first Training Squadron Docks at Changi Naval Base

Context

- The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) arrived at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, on 6th February 2025 as part of its Long-

Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia.

Key Facts:

- Squadron Name: First Training Squadron (1TS)
- Ships Involved: INS Sujata, INS Shardul and ICGS Veera
- Location: Changi Naval Base, Singapore
- Purpose: Maritime cooperation, professional exchanges and cross-training visits
- Strategic Importance:

- Strengthens India-Singapore naval cooperation.
- Reinforces SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- Supports regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific.
- This visit demonstrates India's commitment to strengthening defense diplomacy and maintaining strong maritime partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

Exercises in News

Exercise	Context	Details
EX Winged Raiders	The Indian Army and Indian Air Force conducted a joint exercise, EX Winged Raiders.	The exercise, focused on special airborne operations, involved personnel practicing airborne insertion techniques using fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, including the Chinook helicopter. This exercise aligns with the Indian government's goal of establishing an integrated theatre command to improve coordination and mission readiness.
Aero India 2025	The 15th edition of Aero India, themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', was recently held at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru.	Aero India, a biennial air show and aviation exhibition, is organized by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence. Held in Bengaluru, it is India's flagship aerospace and defence event, showcasing global aerospace vendors and thrilling the audience with spectacular aerobatic flying displays by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
Exercise CYCLONE-III	The India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE-III commenced on February 10, 2025, at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.	Exercise Cyclone is specifically designed to enhance bilateral military cooperation between India and Egypt. First edition: Held in India. Second edition: Held in Egypt in January 2024. Third edition: Currently underway in Rajasthan. This third edition aims to enhance military cooperation, focusing on interoperability and special operations tactics between both countries.
TROPEX 25	TROPEX 25 was recently conducted from January to March 2025 in the Indian Ocean Region.	The Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) is an annual inter-service military exercise that involves all branches of the Indian Armed Forces—the Indian Army, Air Force, Navy and the Coast Guard. The exercise is designed to assess and enhance the combat readiness of these forces, while improving interoperability and joint operations in complex scenarios. Started in 2005 , the exercise has been conducted almost every year since, with exceptions in 2016 and 2018. TROPEX 25 aims to validate naval strategies , enhance operational accuracy, integrate cyber and electronic warfare and strengthen inter-service coordination.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Context:

- The ITBP has moved at least 33 border outposts (BOPs) closer to the India-China border as part of its forwardisation plan.

ITBP

- **Background:** Formed in 1962 post the Sino-Indian War, created for deployment along the India-China border.
- **Legal Foundation:** Initially under the CRPF Act, the ITBPF Act was passed in 1992, with rules framed in 1994.
- **Full Fledged Status:** Declared a full-fledged central armed police force in 2004 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Motto:** "Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha" (Courage - Determination - Devotion to Duty).
- **Guarded Area:** Guards the 3,488 km long India-China border through 197 BOPs located at altitudes from 9,000 feet to 18,750 feet.
- **Specialization:** A specialized mountain force, with personnel trained as mountaineers and skiers.
- **Head of the Force:** Director General.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

Pralay Missile

Context:

- The inclusion of the Pralay missile underscores India's advancing capabilities in indigenous defence technology.

Details

- **Development:** An indigenously developed short-range quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile by DRDO.
- **Purpose:** Designed for deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Line of Control (LoC).
- **Engine:** Features a solid propellant rocket engine.
- **Range:** Has a range of 150-500 km.
- **Warhead:** Capable of carrying conventional warheads.
- **Trajectory:** Has the ability to alter its trajectory mid-flight.

Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

Context:

- The **Supreme Court** has suggested setting up **Benches** of the **Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)** in **Jammu and Kashmir** and **Himachal Pradesh** to address the growing number of **defence-related cases** from these regions.

About the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

- **Established:** Under the **Armed Forces Act, 2007**.
- **Functions under:** **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- **Purpose:** Resolves **military disputes** and **appeals from courts-martial**.

Functions:

- **Disputes:** Resolves issues related to **service conditions, enlistment, commission**, under the **Army Act, Navy Act and Air Force Act**.
- **Appeals:** Hears appeals from **courts-martial**.
- **Dismissal:** The tribunal can dismiss appeals if the court-martial's findings are justified.
- **Incidental Matters:** Deals with related matters arising from military laws.

The AFT has **original jurisdiction** in **service matters** and **appellate jurisdiction** in **court-martial matters**. Appeals from AFT decisions are heard by the **Supreme Court**.

Benches:

In addition to the main bench in **New Delhi**, AFT has regional benches in:

- **Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, Jabalpur, Srinagar and Jaipur.**

Composition:

- **Judicial Members:** Retired **High Court Judges**.
- **Administrative Members:** Retired **Armed Forces personnel** with a **Major General** rank or equivalent.
- **JAG:** Appointed as an **administrative member** for at least one year.

Procedure:

- The tribunal follows the **Armed Forces Tribunal (Rules of Procedure) 2008**.
- All proceedings are conducted in **English** and the tribunal follows procedures similar to **High Courts**.

Ministry Of Defence Declares 2025 As 'Year Of Reforms'

Context:

- 2025 will focus on strengthening India's defense capabilities to ensure security and sovereignty.

Key Areas for Intervention:

- **Integrated Theater Commands (ITC):** Joint Army, Navy and Air Force commands for regional security.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Focus on cyber, space, AI/ML and hypersonics.

- **Technology Transfer & Knowledge Sharing:** Business facilitation, PPPs for innovation.
- **Cooperation:** Civil-military coordination and interagency training.
- **Defense Exports & R&D:** Enhance India's position as a defense exporter.

Defense Modernization:

- **Private Sector Involvement:** iDEX and SRIJAN portals for indigenization.
- **FDI Policy:** 74% FDI limit for defense, up to 100% for advanced tech.

ECONOMY

Rise in Female Labour Force Participation: Economic Survey 2024-25

Context

- The Economic Survey 2024-25 has reported a significant increase in India's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR), primarily driven by rural women entering the workforce.

Key Highlights of the Survey

Increase in FLFPR

- FLFPR rose from 23.3% (2017-18) to 41.7% (2023-24).
- 21 states report FLFPR between 30% and 40%.
- 7 states/UTs exceed 40% FLFPR, with Sikkim leading at 56.9%.

Rural Women's Participation

- Rural FLFPR increased from 24.6% (2017-18) to 47.6% (2023-24).
- Government schemes like Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM) have been key in enhancing rural women's workforce participation.

Union Budget 2025-26

Context

- The Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2025, outlines India's economic priorities and fiscal plans.

	Actuals 2023-24	Budgeted 2024-25	Revised 2024-25	Budgeted 2025-26	% change (2024-25 RE to 2025-26 BE)
Defence	6,09,504	6,21,941	6,41,060	6,81,210	6.3%
Road Transport and Highways	2,75,986	2,78,000	2,80,519	2,87,333	2.4%
Railways	2,45,791	2,55,393	2,55,348	2,55,445	0.0%
Home Affairs	1,96,872	2,19,643	2,20,371	2,33,211	5.8%
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	2,32,496	2,23,323	2,12,820	2,15,767	1.4%
Rural Development	1,63,642	1,80,233	1,75,878	1,90,406	8.3%
Chemicals and Fertilisers	1,91,165	1,68,500	1,86,653	1,61,965	-13.2%
Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	1,18,147	1,32,470	1,41,352	1,37,757	-2.5%
Education	1,23,365	1,20,628	1,14,054	1,28,650	12.8%
Communications	1,11,339	1,37,294	1,50,201	1,08,105	-28.0%
Health and Family Welfare	83,149	90,959	89,974	99,859	11.0%
Jai Shakti	95,109	98,714	51,558	99,503	93.0%
Housing and Urban Affairs	68,565	82,577	63,670	96,777	52.0%
Other Ministries	19,28,316	22,10,838	21,33,030	23,69,358	11.1%
Total Expenditure	44,43,447	48,20,512	47,16,487	50,65,345	7.4%

Budget Estimates 2025-26

- **Total receipts (excluding borrowings):** ₹34.96 lakh crore
- **Total expenditure:** ₹50.65 lakh crore
- **Net tax receipts:** ₹28.37 lakh crore
- **Fiscal deficit:** 4.4% of GDP
- **Capital expenditure:** ₹11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP)

Key Growth Engines

- **Agriculture:** Launch of **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana** in 100 districts, KCC loan limit raised to ₹5 lakh and initiatives for pulses, vegetables and cotton productivity.
- **MSMEs:** Investment & turnover limits increased, loan schemes for women entrepreneurs, toy manufacturing hub and National Manufacturing Mission.
- **Investment:** ₹1.5 lakh crore in **interest-free loans** for states, **Atal Tinkering Labs** in 50,000 schools, BharatNet broadband expansion and ₹20,000 crore for R&D.
- **Exports:** **Export Promotion Mission, BharatTradeNet** and infrastructure support for fisheries and air cargo exports.

Financial Sector Reforms

- **FDI in insurance** raised to **100%**
- **High-Level Committee** for regulatory reforms
- **Investment Friendliness Index** for states
- **Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0** decriminalizing 100+ provisions

Taxation & Fiscal Policy

- **Personal Income Tax:** No tax up to ₹12 lakh, ₹75,000 standard deduction
- **TDS/TCS Rationalization:** Higher thresholds for senior citizens & rent
- **Indirect Tax Reforms:** Lower customs duty on lithium-ion batteries, fish, leather and lifesaving medicines fully exempted.

NEW TAX REGIME

Income Slab	Individuals (Aged below 60 Yrs)	Senior Citizens (Aged 60 Yrs and above but below 80 Yrs)	Super Senior Citizens (Aged 80 Yrs and above)
Up to Rs.2,50,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rs.2,50,001 to Rs.3,00,000	5%	Nil	Nil
Rs.3,00,001 to Rs.5,00,000	5%	5%	Nil
Rs.5,00,001 to Rs.10,00,000	20%	20%	20%
Rs.10,00,001 and above	30%	30%	30%
If you are NOT claiming deductions and exemptions			
Income Slab	Income Tax Rate		
Up to Rs.4,00,000	Nil		
Rs.4,00,001 to Rs.8,00,000	5% (with Tax Rebate Under Sec.87A)		
Rs.8,00,001 to Rs.12,00,000	10% (with Tax Rebate Under Sec.87A)		
Rs.12,00,001 to Rs.16,00,000	15% ((with Tax Rebate Under Sec.87A up to Rs.12.75 Lakh)		
Rs.16,00,001 to Rs.20,00,000	20%		
Rs.20,00,001 to Rs.24,00,000	25%		
Rs.24,00,000	30%		

Nuclear Energy Expansion

- ₹20,000 crore allocated for **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

Cap on Health Insurance Premium hikes for Senior Citizens

Context

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has put a cap on health insurance premium hikes for senior citizens.

Details

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mandated that **health insurance premiums for policyholders aged 60 and above cannot increase by more than 10% per year without prior approval.**
- This move aims to **protect senior citizens from steep premium hikes**, ensuring affordability and financial stability for elderly individuals who often rely on fixed incomes.

Key Regulations for Insurers

- Premium hikes **beyond 10% require IRDAI approval.**
- **Withdrawal of senior citizen-specific insurance plans** needs regulatory consent.
- Insurers encouraged to **negotiate standardized hospital rates, similar to PMJAY, to control hospitalization costs.**
- **Greater transparency** - Insurers must publicize measures benefiting senior citizens.

Fiscal Health Index 2025

Context:

- Launched by the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, developed by NITI Aayog to assess the fiscal performance of Indian states.

About the Fiscal Health Index 2025:

- **Evaluation Criteria:** Assesses 18 major states based on five sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilization, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index and Debt Sustainability.
- **Data Source:** Uses data from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) from 2014-15 to 2021-22.

Key Highlights:

- **Odisha** ranked first with a score of 67.8, excelling in debt sustainability, revenue mobilization and capital expenditure.

Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

Context:

- The Union Government has introduced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central employees, to take effect from April 1, 2025.

About UPS:

- **Objective:** Address grievances related to the National Pension System (NPS) and to provide a balance between employee concerns and fiscal responsibility.

Eligibility:

- **Central Government Employees** under NPS, who can opt for UPS.
- **Retired Employees** (since 2004) also eligible for UPS.
- **Pre-2004 Employees** will remain under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Key Features:

- **Guaranteed Pension:** 50% of the last 12-month average basic pay after 25 years of service.
- **Proportionate Pension:** For service between 10-25 years.
- **Minimum Pension:** ₹10,000 per month for employees with at least 10 years of service.
- **Family/Survivor Pension:** 60% of last-drawn salary.
- **CPI-IW Indexation:** Pension adjusted for inflation.

QS World Future Skills Index 2025

Context:

- India ranks 2nd globally in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025, highlighting its potential in emerging sectors.

About the Index:

- Developed by **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**, the index evaluates countries based on:
 1. **Skills Fit**
 2. **Academic Readiness**
 3. **Future of Work**
 4. **Economic Transformation**

Key Highlights of India's Performance:

- **Global Ranking:** 2nd in job market preparedness.
- **Future of Work:** India ranks 2nd globally (99.1), just behind the United States.
- **Overall:** India ranks 25th, being recognized as a "future skills contender."

SPORTS

38th National Games 2025

All about the 38th National Games

- **Host State:** Uttarakhand
- **Duration:** January 28 – February 14, 2025
- **Venue:** Haldwani (Closing), Dehradun, Haridwar, Pithoragarh

- **Theme:** 'Green Games' (Sustainability focus)
- **Participants:** 10,000+ athletes, 37 teams
- **Sports Disciplines:** 35 sports, 4 demonstration events
- **Eco-friendly Initiatives:** E-waste medals, tree plantations for medalists, bamboo fiber water bottles, wheat fiber coffee mugs

- **Significance:** Boosted India's 2036 Olympics bid, promoted Uttarakhand as a sports hub

National Games

- India's first few Olympic Games, now renamed as National Games, were held in Lahore (now in Pakistan), Delhi, Allahabad, Patiala, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay.
- **Motto:** "Get Set Play"
- **First event:** 1924; 101 years ago
- The first Modern National Games on the lines of the Olympics were held in 1985 in New Delhi.
- **Occur every:** 2 years, sometimes uneven
- **Headquarters:** Olympic Bhawan, B-29, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi

Cristiano Ronaldo: Highest-Paid Athlete of 2025

Key Pointers

- Top Earner: Cristiano Ronaldo – \$285M

Other Top Earners:

- Jon Rahm – \$218M, Lionel Messi – \$135M, LeBron James – \$128.7M, Neymar – \$110M
- **No Women in Top 100:** Coco Gauff (\$30.4M) was the highest-paid female athlete but below the \$37.5M threshold.

Babar Azam's historic 6,000 ODI runs

Key Pointers

- Babar Azam (123 innings) equals Hashim Amla as the fastest to 6,000 ODI runs.
- Surpassed Virat Kohli's record as the fastest Asian to reach the milestone (Kohli took 136 innings).
- Achieved the feat during the ODI tri-series final vs New Zealand at National Stadium.

Shikhar Dhawan named ICC Champions Trophy 2025 Ambassador

Tournament Details

- **ICC Champions Trophy 2025:** February 19 – March 9, 2025
- **Hosts:** Pakistan & Dubai
- Shikhar Dhawan appointed official event ambassador along with three other cricketing legends.

Shikhar Dhawan's Legacy in the Champions Trophy

- **Highest run-scorer for India** in Champions Trophy history (701 runs).
- **Only player to win the Golden Bat twice** consecutively (2013 & 2017 editions).
- Played a key role in India's success in both tournaments.

Champions Trophy: A Prestigious Cricket Tournament

Introduction

- The Champions Trophy is an ICC-organized international cricket tournament featuring top teams in a limited-overs format. It is known for its intense competition and high stakes, making it a significant event in the cricketing calendar.

History and Evolution

- **Inception (1998):** Originally called the ICC KnockOut, featuring 8 teams.
- **Renamed in 2002** as the Champions Trophy, evolving into a marquee event.
- **Milestones:**
 - **1998:** South Africa won the first edition.
 - **2013:** India triumphed in a rain-affected final.
 - **2017:** Pakistan secured a historic victory over India.

Tournament Format

- Typically features 8 teams in a round-robin format followed by semi-finals and a final.
- Unlike the ICC World Cup (more teams, longer format) and T20 World Cup (shorter format), it maintains a concise yet highly competitive structure.

Pankaj Advani clinches 36th National Title in Snooker

Context

- Pankaj Advani, secured his 36th national title and 10th men's snooker championship at the Yashwant Club, defeating Brijesh Damani in the final.

Key Highlight

- **Milestone Victory:** 36th national gold, 10th men's snooker title.

Significance:

- Qualified for Asian Snooker Championship (Feb 15, 2025).

Meghalaya to host 39th National Games in 2027

Context

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has officially announced Meghalaya as the host of the 39th National Games.

Details

- IOA President PT Usha confirmed this decision.
- 39th National Games is scheduled for February/March 2027.

Recent and Upcoming Hosts

- 35th Edition (2015): Kerala
- 36th Edition (2022): Gujarat
- 37th Edition (2023): Goa
- 38th Edition (2024): Uttarakhand (main venue: Dehradun)
- 39th Edition (2027): Meghalaya

Kyrian Jacquet wins 2025 Chennai Open, secures first ATP title

Context

- French tennis player Kyrian Jacquet claimed his maiden ATP title by winning the 2025 Chennai Open men's singles.

Details

Key Highlights

- **Champion:** Kyrian Jacquet (France)
- **Runner-up:** Elias Ymer (Sweden)
- **Final Score:** 7(7)-6(1), 6-4
- **Event Type:** ATP 100 Challenger Tournament
- **Venue:** SDAT Tennis Stadium, Nungambakkam, Tamil Nadu

About the ATP Challenger Tour

- **Organized by:** Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)
- **Second-tier** competition below the ATP Tour
- **Provides ranking points** and serves as a pathway to ATP Tour events
- **Chennai Open:** ATP 100 event offering 100 points and \$17,500 prize money to the winner

Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), founded in 1972, governs men's professional tennis through the ATP Tour and ATP Challenger Tour. It evolved from the Grand Prix tennis tournaments and World Championship Tennis. The global headquarters is in London, with regional offices in Florida, Monaco and Sydney.

Jil Teichmann wins 2025 Mumbai Open

Context

- Swiss tennis player Jil Teichmann won the 2025 Mumbai Open, claiming the Women's Tennis Association 125 singles title by defeating Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand in the final.

Details

- The tournament, **India's only Women's Tennis Association event**, was held from 3 to 9 February 2025 at the Cricket Club of India, Mumbai.

Key Highlights – 2025 Mumbai Open

- **Winner:** Jil Teichmann from Switzerland
- **Runner-up:** Mananchaya Sawangkaew from Thailand
- **Final Score:** 6-3, 6-4
- **Venue:** Cricket Club of India, Mumbai
- **Category:** Women's Tennis Association 125 event
- **Surface:** Outdoor Hard court
- **Edition:** Fourth edition (Previously held in 2017, 2018 and 2024)

Prize Money and Ranking Points

- **Winner:** Fifteen thousand dollars and one hundred twenty-five ranking points
- **Runner-up:** Eight thousand four hundred dollars and eighty-one ranking points

About the Mumbai Open

- **First Held:** 2017 (Winner: Aryna Sabalenka)
- India's only Women's Tennis Association event
- **Formats:** Singles and Doubles
- **Surface:** Hardcourt

About the Women's Tennis Association

- **Founded:** 1973 by Billie Jean King from the United States of America

- **Headquarters:** Florida, United States of America
- **Tournament Levels:** Women's Tennis Association 1000, Women's Tennis Association 500, Women's Tennis Association 250, Women's Tennis Association 125 (Mumbai Open is a Women's Tennis Association 125 event)

Rohit Sharma Becomes Second-Highest Six-Hitter in One Day International Cricket History

Context

- India's captain Rohit Sharma delivered a remarkable performance in the second One Day International against England in Cuttack, leading India to a four-wicket victory while setting multiple records.

Details

- His 119-run innings off 90 balls, featuring 12 fours and 7 sixes, helped him surpass Chris Gayle to become the second-highest six-hitter in One Day International history, trailing only Shahid Afridi. Additionally, Rohit overtook Sachin Tendulkar to become the second-highest run-scorer for India as an opening batsman in international cricket.

Dimuth Karunaratne Retires

Context

- Former Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne has announced his retirement from Test cricket after playing his 100th Test match against Australia in Galle.

Details

- The 36-year-old opener ends his career with 7,222 Test runs, including 16 centuries, leaving behind a legacy as one of Sri Lanka's finest Test openers.

Varun Chakravarthy Becomes India's Second-Oldest One Day International Debutant

Context

- At 33 years and 164 days, Varun Chakravarthy became India's second-oldest

cricketer to make a One Day International debut

Key Highlights of Varun Chakravarthy's Debut

- **Age at debut:** 33 years, 164 days.
- India's second-oldest One Day International debutant, behind Farokh Engineer.
- Took Phil Salt's wicket in his first spell.

Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers Clinch Hockey India League Title

Context

- The Men's Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25 season ended with an electrifying final.

Details

- ShrachiRarh Bengal Tigers secured a 4-3 victory against Hyderabad Toofans at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela.
- The closely contested match saw Jugraj Singh's hat trick and Sam Lane's decisive late goal sealing the title for the Tigers.

Wriddhiman Saha Retires From Cricket

Context

- Former India wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha has retired from all formats of cricket at the age of 40.

Details

- Renowned for his exceptional wicketkeeping skills and resilience, Saha played his final match for Bengal against Punjab in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy Elite Group C. He retired from international cricket in November 2024.

Domestic and International Career

- First-class debut in 2007.
- Played 142 first-class matches, scoring 7,169 runs at an average of 41.43, with 14 centuries and 44 fifties.
- Replaced MS Dhoni in Test cricket as India's first-choice wicketkeeper after Dhoni's retirement in 2014.

Memorable Achievement

- First Indian to score a century in an IPL final (2014, for Kings XI Punjab).

Fastest Century in T20 International Cricket

- Fastest T20I Century – Sahil Chauhan (27 Balls)
- The record for the fastest T20I century is held by Sahil Chauhan of Estonia, who reached his 100 in just 27 balls against Cyprus on June 17, 2024.

Simona Halep retires at 33 after two Grand Slam Titles

Context

- Simona Halep, a two-time Grand Slam champion and former World No. 1, has announced her retirement from professional tennis at the age of 33.

Career Achievements

- Former World No. 1 in WTA rankings (first reached in 2017).
- **Grand Slam Titles:**
 - French Open 2018 (defeated Sloane Stephens).
 - Wimbledon 2019 (defeated Serena Williams).

R Praggnanandhaa wins Tata Steel Masters Chess Title

Context

- Indian chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa clinched his first-ever Tata Steel Masters title

on February 2, 2025, in the Netherlands, defeating D Gukesh in a thrilling 2-1 tie-breaker.

Key Highlights of Tata Steel Masters 2025

- **Tournament Venue:** Netherlands.
- **Final Standings:** Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh both finished with **8.5 points**, leading to a tie-breaker.

Tie-Breaker Match

- **Format:** Two rapid games followed by a sudden-death decider.
- **Final Score:** Praggnanandhaa won 2-1 to claim the title.

India Clinches second consecutive ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Title

Context

- **India U19 Women's Cricket Team** won the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 by defeating South Africa by 9 wickets.

Details

- **Venue:** Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **India's 2nd consecutive title**, establishing dominance in youth women's cricket.
- **Star Performer:** Gongadi Trisha - **Player of the Tournament:** Runs: 309 in 7 innings (highest scorer).
- **Other Key Players:** *Sanika Chalke (28) **, Kayla Reyneke (1/14).

APPOINTMENTS

IRS Officer Maimun Alam	Appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel under the Central Staffing Scheme.
K Balasubramanian	Named Citibank's India Subcontinent Sub-Cluster and Banking Head.
Gopal Vittal	Gopal Vittal, the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Bharti Airtel, took over as the Acting Chair of the GSMA Board.
Rajesh Nirwan	IPS officer Rajesh Nirwan is the new Director General (DG) of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) , approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) .
Paul Kapur	Nominated by US President Donald Trump as the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.
Dr. Madhavankutty G	Canara Bank has appointed Dr. Madhavankutty G as its Chief Economist
Tulsi Gabbard	Director of National Intelligence (DNI) of the United States.
Ilie Bolojan	Romania's interim president
Monika Rani	Appointed Director in the Department of Justice on central deputation

IPS Sagar Singh Kalsi	Appointed Director in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
Abhinav Gupta	Additional Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
Alexander Lukashenko	Created history by winning the Belarus presidency for the seventh time.
M Mohan	New Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
Micheál Martin	Re elected as Irish Prime Minister.
Dhananjay Shukla	Appointed as the President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for this year.
Usha Vance	First Indian-American second woman as her husband J.D. Vance was sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the United States.
Constantine Tassoulas	Elected as Greece's New President
Jotham Napat	Elected as Vanuatu's new Prime Minister.
Alexander Lukashenko	Re-elected as Belarus's president

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Day/News
February 2	World Wetlands Day. Theme for 2025 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future'
February 3	Vasant Panchami
February 4	World Cancer Day
February 2nd to 8th	International Development Week
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation
February 8	National Opera Day
February 10	National Deworming Day
February 10	World Pulses Day
February 10	International Epilepsy Day
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
February 11	Safer Internet Day
February 12	Darwin Day
February 12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
February 12	National Productivity Day
February 13	World Radio Day
February 13	Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary
February 14	World Congestion Heart Defect Awareness Day
February 20	World Day of Social Justice
February 21	International Mother Language Day

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES IN THE NEWS

Personality	Details
Shubhanshu Shukla	Will become the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) aboard Axiom Mission 4.
Sunita Williams	Broke the spacewalking record by surpassing Peggy Whitson's total spacewalking time of 60 hours and 21 minutes
Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto	Invited as the chief guest for India's 76th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2025, marking his first official visit to India
Yoon Suk Yeol	South Korea arrested impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol on charges of insurrection.
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das	Named top central banker globally for the second consecutive year.

Maria Branyas	World's Oldest Person
Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur	Architect of Modern Tripura

AWARDS

Award	Context	Details
NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award	Varsha Bharath's directorial debut, <i>Bad Girl</i> , has won the prestigious NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025.	The NETPAC Award promotes Asian cinema by recognizing exceptional films and discovering new talents. Established in 1990, it is given at prestigious international film festivals like Rotterdam, Busan and Kerala . The award supports Asian filmmakers , helping them gain global recognition.
Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri	Late Chaman Arora was awarded Sahitya Akademi Award for his book <i>Ik Hor Ashwthama</i>	The Sahitya Akademi Award is a prestigious literary honor in India, established in 1954 to recognize excellence in Indian literature. It is conferred annually by the Sahitya Akademi on authors for the most outstanding books in any of the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, as well as English and Rajasthani . The award includes a plaque and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000 . The award promotes literary excellence and acknowledges new trends in Indian writing. The plaque, designed by filmmaker Satyajit Ray , replaced earlier marble versions due to weight issues.
67th Annual Grammy Awards	In 67th Annual Grammy Awards Beyoncé made history by winning Album of the Year for her country album <i>Cowboy Carter</i> .	The Grammy Awards , presented by the Recording Academy since 1959, recognize excellence in music and are considered the most prestigious awards in the music industry. Known as " music's biggest night ," the awards honor achievements across 94 categories. Seven Indian films have made it to the Best Picture consideration for the 97th Academy Awards , marking a historic moment for Indian cinema. The films under consideration are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kanguva ▪ Aadujeevitham (The Goat Life) ▪ Putul ▪ Santosh ▪ Swatantrya Veer Savarkar ▪ All We Imagine as Light ▪ Girls Will Be Girls

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

BOOK	AUTHOR
The New Icon: Savarkar and the Facts	Arun Shourie
"I Am?"	Gopichand P. Hinduja
I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder.	Geetika Lidder
Indian Renaissance: The Modi Decade	Dr. Aishwarya Pandit
Wild Fictions	Amitav Ghosh
BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life	Dr. Deepa Malik

How India Scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of the G20 Presidency	Amitabh Kant
Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; a Comparative Constitutional Perspective	Dr. K.S. Chauhan

BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

Book	Author	Book	Author
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	India: The Emerging Giant	Arvind Panagariya
Interpreter of Maladies	Jhumpa Lahiri	Human Development in India	Naresh Gupta
The Shadow Lines	Amitav Ghosh	The Idea of India	Sunil Khilnani
The Guide	R.K. Narayan	How Indiasees the World	Shyam Saran
India Unbound	Gurcharan Das	The Political Economy of Reform in India	Rahul Mukherji

STATIC GK

First woman to receive the Ashoka Chakra
Neerja Bhanot

First Indian woman to climb Mount Everest twice
Santosh Yadav

Who coined the term 'Hindu Rate of Growth'
Raj Krishna

"Ryotwari System" was first implemented in
Madras Presidency

Fault line associated with the Himalayan Mountain range's formation
Main Central Thrust

Scientific name of Vitamin B12
Cobalamin

Unit of measuring magnetic flux density
Tesla

Chemical formula of "laughing gas"
N₂O - Nitrous oxide

Gas is used in welding
Acetylene

In which sport is the term "alley-oop" used
Basketball

First Indian woman to win an Olympic medal
Karnam Malleswari

Largest volcano in Europe
Mount Etna

First Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics
Deepa Malik

Highest Navigable Lake in The World
Lake Titicaca

Largest Atoll in The World
Kwajalein Atoll

Largest lagoon in India
Chilika Lagoon

The impression of an image persists on the retina for about
1/16th of a second.

Nobel Prize is not given in which field?
Mathematics

When was the first agricultural census of India conducted?
1970-71

Vincent Van Gogh was a
Dutch painter

Absorption of ink by a blotting paper is based on

Capillary action

Harshcharita and KadamBari are the works of
Bana Bhatta

War of Americans Independence
1776

Judicial capital of South Africa
Bloemfontein

New name of Odisha's Secretariat.
Lok Seva Bhawan

Location of Indian Institute of Petroleum
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Regular census in India are held every
10 years

Organ that absorbs water from food.
Large Intestine

Soil that is a mixture of sand, silt and clay
Loam

Napoleon of India
Samudragupta (335-375 AD)

Refractive index of water
1.33 at 20°C for visible light

Lens used in magnifying glass

Convex lens

Photoelectric effect

Emission of electrons from a material caused by electromagnetic radiation such as ultraviolet light.

Largest gland in the human body

Liver

Lifespan of red blood cells

Can vary from 70 to 140 days

Unit of luminous intensity

Candela (cd)

Which type of wave is sound?

Longitudinal Wave

Mirror is used in head lights of vehicles

Concave mirror

Oldest living tree

Methuselah (California, USA)

State flower of West Bengal

Night-flowering Jasmine

National Income in India is estimated by

Central Statistical Office (CSO)

City of Lakes

Udaipur

First woman Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Meira Kumar

CURRENT ONE LINERS

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024 is released by Transparency International.

Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs)

Debt issued by governments for sustainable projects like renewable energy and afforestation.

Yalta Summit

Aimed to plan the post-war world, focusing on Germany and Eastern Europe.

Einstein Ring

A ring of light formed around a massive object, like a galaxy or galaxy cluster, due to gravitational lensing.

Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated in the Western Ghats in the Kodagu district, Karnataka.

Muriate of Potash (MOP)

Contains chloride and is commonly used for carbohydrate-rich crops like wheat.

Sulphate of Potash (SOP)

Chloride-free and preferred for high-value crops like fruits and vegetables.

Cascade Range

Mountains found northwestern United States and southwestern Canada.

Furlough

Temporary release from prison granted to convicts who have served a portion of their sentence.

Ambergris

Whale vomit (ambergris) is a rare and valuable substance produced by sperm whales, prized in the perfume industry for enhancing fragrance longevity.

Henipaviruses

Zoonotic RNA viruses that cause serious diseases in both humans and animals, including well-known viruses like Nipah and Hendra.

Digital Payments Index (DPI)

Launched by RBI in 2021. A comprehensive tool to measure the extent of digitization of payments across India, with March 2018 as the base year.

Extra-long staple (ELS) cotton

With fibers over 30 mm it is stronger, finer and comes from **Gossypium barbadense** (Egyptian or Pima cotton). It's

grown in China, Egypt, Australia and Peru and in India, mainly in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Green Cardamom

India is the second largest producer.

Rusty-Spotted Cat

Smallest and lightest known cat in the world. Found in West Bengal's Purulia district. IUCN Red List: Near Threatened.

Point Nemo

Located in Southern Pacific Ocean.

Darfur region

In western Sudan.

F11 Bacteria

A bacterium that degrades PFAS ("forever chemicals") by breaking carbon-fluorine bonds. Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contain ultra-stable carbon-fluorine bonds, resisting natural degradation.

Geo-Economic Fragmentation

Refers to countries splitting into rival geopolitical camps (e.g., U.S.-led v/s China-led blocs), imposing trade curbs, tech bans and investment restrictions.