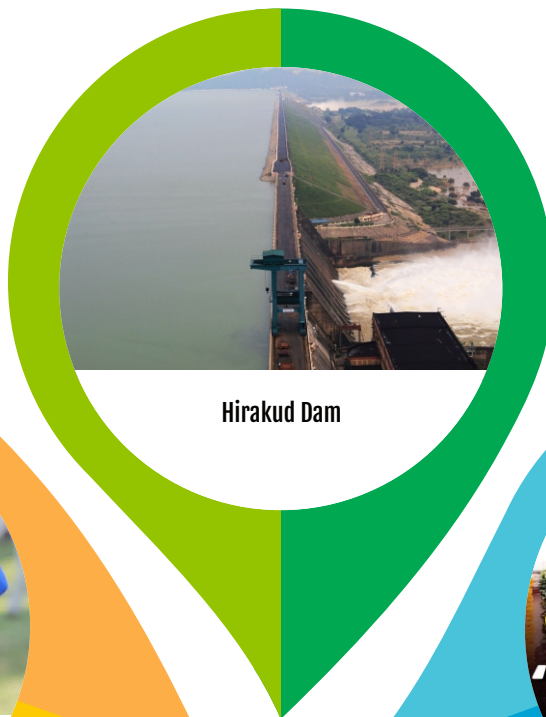


APTI PLUS OAS GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2025



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Hirakud Dam



Odisha's
Rashmita Sahu



Odisha Govt's
Jeevan Zindabad
Campaign



Odisha-Chhattisgarh
Mahanadi Water
Dispute



Odisha's Electric Bus
Expansion and Green Transport
Initiative

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



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IGP



DEBABRATA GAUDA
IGP



KAPIL K. MOHANTY
IGP



AMRITA SAHOO
IGP



BIKASH KUMAR SAHOO
RANK 11
TSP & IGP



SATYA S. PANIGRAHI
RANK 12
IGP



NOORIE PARVEEN
RANK 13
IGP



BIKASH RANJAN SAHU
RANK 15
TSP & IGP



RAJIB LOCHAN DIKSHIT
RANK 18
IGP



SIDDHANT NAYAK
RANK 20
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RANK 21
IGP



PRITISH BHOL
RANK 24
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SUBHA K. MAHAPATRA
RANK 25
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SIDDHARTHA GOUTAM
RANK 27
TSP & IGP



SATARUPA SATAPATHY
RANK 28
IGP



MUNMUN GIRI
RANK 31
IGP



PRIVANKA MOHANTY
RANK 39
IGP



KUNCHITA SAMAL
RANK 42
IGP



SUBHADARSHINEE DAS
RANK 43
IGP



SANTOSH K. JENA
RANK 44
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AMRIT MAHAPATRA
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ANANYA GARABADI
RANK 48
IGP



CHIRANJIBEE SAHU
RANK 49
IGP



TRISANDHYA PATRA
RANK 52
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SHIPRA PRIYADARSHINI BAL
RANK 54
TSP & IGP



AKANKSHA BISWAL
RANK 58
IGP



SUNIL K. SAMANTA
RANK 62
IGP



SUBHRANSHU S. MISHRA
RANK 63
TSP & IGP



EPSITA PRIYADASHINI
RANK 67
IGP



RACHITA MAHAPATRA
RANK 68
IGP



BIJAY NAIK
RANK 70
IGP



AMRIT ACHARYA
RANK 71
IGP



SATYABRATA SAHOO
RANK 95
IGP



SANJAY MISHRA
RANK 112
TSP & IGP



PRITAM MOHANTY
RANK 115
TSP & IGP



SAHIL SAHU
RANK 78
IGP



CHINMAYEE PANIGRAHI
RANK 79
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



DIBYA RANJAN BISWAL
RANK 82
IGP



SOUMYESH ACHARYA
RANK 83
TSP & IGP



SAURAV KUMAR RANJIT
RANK 86
IGP



KALINGA ASISH SATAPATHY
RANK 88
IGP



CHINMAYA K. SAHOO
RANK 90
IGP



SAMIR PAIKARAY
RANK 92
IGP



ANKITA MADELI
RANK 286
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



SWETA SHRABANI NAYAK
RANK 384
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



SWARNAMAYEE SAHU
RANK 438
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DIPTI RANJAN SAHOO
RANK 125
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



NIBEDITA SWAIN
RANK 137
IGP



BHAGYASHREE MISHRA
RANK 138
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PRATOSH KANUNGO
RANK 169
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



SIBURAM SWAIN
RANK 214
CLASSROOM PROGRAM



ANKUR DASH
RANK 230
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SAUMIT KUMAR MOHANTA
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SASWATI SADANGI
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AISWARYA MAHALIK
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RANK 74
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MANAS RANJAN PANDA
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Odisha Current Affairs

SYLLABUS:

CURRENT EVENTS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: TO BE READ FROM THE IAS GAZETTE: COVERS – POLITY, GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Hirakud Dam

Context:

- At 67 years old, the **Hirakud Dam** in Odisha, the world's longest earthen dam, requires a **major overhaul** to address structural concerns and enhance flood management capacity.

Details:

- Built across **Mahanadi River**, inaugurated in 1957 by PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Length: **25.8 km** (main dam 4.8 km + dykes).
- Creates **Asia's largest artificial lake** (743 sq km).
- Multipurpose: **flood control, irrigation, hydropower (347.5 MW), water supply.**
- Declared **Ramsar Wetland** in 2021.

Significance for Odisha & India:

- One of the **first multipurpose river valley projects** post-Independence.
- Key for **flood moderation** in Mahanadi basin.
- Supports **agriculture, power, industry and water security** in western Odisha.

Odisha: 35% Rise in Mobile Phone-Linked Road Fatalities in 2023

Context:

- According to the **"Road Accidents in India 2023" report (MoRTH)**, Odisha saw a **sharp rise in road deaths due to mobile phone use while driving**, even as fatalities from drunk driving declined.

Details:

- Mobile Phone Use While Driving:**
 - 2022: **347 accidents, 120 deaths.**
 - 2023: **433 accidents, 163 deaths** → 35% rise in fatalities.
 - Odisha ranked **3rd in India** (after Uttar Pradesh – 1,815; Madhya Pradesh – 185).
- Drunk Driving:**
 - 2022: **301 deaths.**
 - 2023: **254 deaths** → 15% decline.
 - Odisha still ranked **2nd in India**, after Uttar Pradesh (1,822 deaths).
 - Reason for decline:** strict enforcement & zero-tolerance policy.
- Legal Provisions:**
 - Section 185, MV Act (Amendment 2019):**
 - ✓ **Maximum Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limit: 30 mg per 100 ml of blood.**

- ✓ **Penalty: ₹10,000 fine / 6 months jail (first offence); ₹15,000 fine / 2 years jail (repeat offence).**

○ **Section 105, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023:**

- ✓ **Fatal drunk driving cases treated as culpable homicide (not murder).**
- ✓ **Punishment: up to 10 years imprisonment + fine.**

Significance for Odisha:

- Despite decline in drunk driving deaths, **distracted driving via mobile phones is an emerging threat.**
- Enforcement success in one area shows potential for targeted awareness and regulation in another.

Odisha identifies 5,500 Acre for t & Electronics Infrastructure Development

Context

- The **Odisha Pavilion at SEMICON India 2025 (New Delhi)** was inaugurated highlighting the state's ambition to become a hub for **semiconductors and ESDM (Electronics System Design & Manufacturing).**

Key Developments

Institutional Achievements:

- PMEC Berhampur** → High-performance multiplier IC.
- NIT Rourkela** → Variable Gain Amplifiers (VGA), sensor circuit & encryption core.
- Reflect Odisha's growing role in **Made in India chip initiative.**

Vision 2036 & 2047:

- Expansion of **World Skill Centre (Bhubaneswar).**
- 3 new campuses: **IT/ITeS, semiconductors, aerospace & marine engineering.**
- Courses in **avionics, digital animation, logistics, chip design.**

Industrial Clusters:

- Dedicated **ESDM & semiconductor clusters** planned in **Khurda & Ganjam.**
- Backed by **R&D institutions, startups & skill training hubs.**

Policy Support:

Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy 2025:

- 25% capital subsidy** (first 10 large projects).
- 10% subsidy** (subsequent projects).

- Land allocation, rental support, **10-year electricity duty exemption**, power tariff reimbursement.

National Support:

- **Union Cabinet** approved **₹4,009 crore semiconductor projects** under **India Semiconductor Mission**.
- Location: **Info Valley, Bhubaneswar**.
- Includes **India's 1st commercial compound semiconductor fabrication unit** → Will produce **SiC devices** (critical for defense, missiles, EVs).

Odisha Govt's Jeevan Zindabad Campaign

Context

- Odisha Govt to launch **"Jeevan Zindabad"** campaign in all district HQs to curb rising **student suicides**.

Key Features

- **Aim:** Promote **mental health, hope and resilience** among youth.
- **Target Group:** College & school students, youth from diverse backgrounds.
- **Activities:** Cultural programs, workshops, interactive sessions.
- **Participation:** 70+ artists, student community, civil society.
- **Departments Involved:**
 - Women & Child Development
 - Home Department
 - Higher Education Department

Odisha Govt mandates Biometric Mobile App Attendance for SSEPD Staff

Context

- From **Sept 1, 2025**, Odisha govt has made **mobile-based biometric attendance** mandatory for all employees of the **Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD)**.

Key Features

- **Implementation:** All District Social Security Officers (DSSOs) instructed to enforce compliance.
- **Salary Linkage:** Attendance data via app will be the **sole basis** for salary disbursement starting Oct 2025.

Significance

- Promotes **digital governance** and **accountability** in welfare administration.
- Ensures **transparent salary processing** and reduces manipulation in attendance.
- Model for **e-governance reforms** in other departments.

Odisha Govt Launches Quad-City Economic Zones

Context

- Odisha govt has unveiled **Quad-City Economic Zones** to promote **balanced urban-industrial growth** and boost the state's economy.

Key Details

- **First Zone:** **Bhubaneswar-Puri-Cuttack-Paradip** → connects **capital, cultural hub, admin center & port city** into an integrated corridor.
- **Other Zones:**
 - **Koraput-Sunabeda-Sambalpur-Bargarh** → agro-industries, tribal economy.
 - **Rourkela-Keonjhar** → steel & mining hub.
 - **Fourth Zone** → under discussion with **NITI Aayog**.

Implementation

- Dedicated **state committee** formed.
- **Phased investment & infrastructure plans** under review.

Significance

- Boosts **industrialization, urban synergy & regional balance**.
- Integrates high-GDP contributing regions.
- Strengthens Odisha's role in **steel, mining, agro & port-led growth**.

Odisha's Export Decline

Context

- Odisha, once among India's fastest-growing export hubs post-COVID, is facing a steep decline in its export performance. Between **2021-22 and 2024-25**, exports fell by over **40%**, exposing the state's vulnerability due to its heavy reliance on mineral-based commodities.

Key Details

- **Export Trend:** \$17.06 bn (2021-22) → \$10 bn (2024-25).
- **National Rank:** Dropped to **9th** (2.31% of India's exports), from **7th in 2021-22**.
- **Major Markets:** China (21.5%), Turkey, South Korea, UK, USA, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam, Japan, Italy.
- **Commodity Concentration:** 106 commodities exported, but **top 10 make up ~98%**; dominated by **iron ore, ferro alloys, steel, aluminium**.
- **Causes:**
 - Global slowdown in Chinese demand.
 - Weak steel prices.
 - Stricter EU environmental norms.

- Over-dependence on minerals, limited diversification.
- US tariff (50%) aggravated decline but trend began earlier.
- **Comparison:** States like Telangana, TN, Karnataka, WB, UP, AP diversified into **pharma, electronics, engineering goods** and sustained growth.
- **Odisha's missed opportunities:** Seafood, textiles, handicrafts saw limited growth.

Nagar Panchayat / Notified Area Council (NAC)

Context

- Odisha has one of the **lowest urbanisation levels in India (17%)**, compared to the national average of over 35%. With rapid growth, the State faces pressure to expand **urban governance structures** for better delivery of services and infrastructure.

Key Announcement

- **21 new Notified Area Councils (NACs)** created on **Independence Day (Aug 15, 2025)**.
- **Aim:** Boost infrastructure, services and urbanisation in semi-urban regions.
- **Significance:** Expands urban local bodies (ULBs) beyond existing municipalities and corporations.

Welfare Measures Announced Alongside

- **Additional 5 kg rice** under **Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** for 3 months, benefitting **27 lakh families**.
- Strong emphasis on **women's safety**, with CM declaring **zero tolerance towards crimes against women**.

Nagar Panchayat / Notified Area Council (NAC): Structure and Governance

Definition

- A Nagar Panchayat (Town Panchayat / NAC) is a settlement in **transition from rural to urban**, functioning as an **urban political unit** comparable to a municipality.
- Generally applicable to **urban centres with 12,000–40,000 population** (though the threshold varies across states).
- Introduced as an **intermediate step** between **Gram Panchayats (rural)** and **Municipalities (urban)**.
- Tamil Nadu was the **first state** to introduce this system.

Governance Structure

- **Committee:** Consists of a **Chairperson/President** and **Ward Members**.
- **Membership:** At least **10 elected ward members + 3 nominated members**.

- **Elections:** Ward Members chosen by **direct elections** (adult franchise) for **5 years**.
- **Reservation:** One-third seats reserved for **SCs, STs, OBCs and women**.
- **Head:** The **Chairperson** presides over NAC.

Administrative Support

- State Govt appoints officials like **CEO/Secretary, Engineers, Health Inspectors, Superintendents**, etc.
- These officers ensure execution of NAC functions and policies.
- **Powers & functions** are determined by the **State Government**.

Odisha's Electric Bus Expansion and Green Transport Initiative

Context

- Odisha is making significant strides in **sustainable urban mobility**, currently ranking **5th in India** for electric bus deployment. The state operates **450 e-buses** and aims to increase this number to **over 1,000** to enhance eco-friendly transportation.

E-Bus Scenario in India (2025)

- Delhi: 3,564
- Maharashtra: 3,296
- Karnataka: 2,236
- Uttar Pradesh: 850
- **Odisha: 450**

Eastern India Comparison

- West Bengal: 391
- Andhra Pradesh: 238
- Chhattisgarh: 215
- Jharkhand: 46

Odisha's Expansion Strategy

- Existing services: Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri
- Future expansion: Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Berhampur, Angul
- Goal: **Expand fleet beyond 1,000 e-buses**

Supportive Infrastructure & Commuter Facilities

- Charging stations at terminals and depots
- Smart ticketing through QR codes, National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) and mobile apps
- Focus: **Efficient, user-friendly and environmentally sustainable urban transport**.

Odisha-Chhattisgarh Mahanadi Water Dispute

Context

- Odisha and Chhattisgarh are taking steps to resolve the long-standing **Mahanadi River water**

dispute through dialogue rather than prolonged tribunal adjudication.

Background: Inter-State River Water Dispute Framework

- **Article 262, Constitution of India:** Parliament can legislate on inter-state water disputes; courts may be barred from jurisdiction.
- **River Boards Act, 1956:** Establishes River boards for regulation and development of inter-state rivers.
- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956:** Central government can set up ad hoc tribunals; tribunal decisions are final and binding.

Mahanadi River System

- **Origin:** Sihawa hills, Chhattisgarh
- **Basin States:** Chhattisgarh, Odisha (major), parts of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
- **Drainage:** Bay of Bengal
- **Geographical Boundaries:** Central India hills (N), Eastern Ghats (S & E), Maikal range (W)
- **Major Dams:** Hirakud (Odisha), Hasdeo Bango & Arpa (Chhattisgarh)
- **Key Tributaries:** Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand, Ib (left bank); Ong, Tel, Jonk (right bank)

Tribunal Proceedings

- Odisha alleges Chhattisgarh built barrages affecting **Hirakud reservoir inflow**, especially during non-monsoon periods.
- **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal** established in 2018; proceedings continued until 2023 with inspections and data submissions.
- Historical context: No inter-state water dispute in India has been fully resolved through tribunals alone.

Significance

- The current initiative for **amicable resolution** through dialogue, technical cooperation and institutional coordination reflects a pragmatic approach, aiming to protect the interests of **people in both Odisha and Chhattisgarh**.

Odisha's Debrigarh set to become India's Newest Tiger Reserve

Context

- Odisha's **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**, spanning **804 sq km** near Sambalpur, has been approved by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** as India's newest tiger reserve.
- The sanctuary has transformed from a conflict-prone area into a thriving ecosystem with significant eco-tourism potential.

Ecological Transformation

- **Prey populations thriving:** Gaur (670→700 in six months), sambar, spotted deer, wild boar, and wild dog populations healthy.
- **Newborns:** 40% of animal herds are newborns, signaling ecosystem recovery.
- **Grassland restoration:** Relocation of 400+ families freed 500 hectares of forest, converted into stable grasslands for herbivores.

Unique Ecosystem Features

- Borders **Hirakud Wetland**, creating **amphiterrestrial habitat**: wetlands → grasslands → forests.
- **300+ bird species**, including **120 migratory species**; four lakh birds visit Oct-Mar.
- Hirakud Wetland designated a **Ramsar site**, attracting international attention.

Tourism & Innovation

- **Dark sky destination:** 1,000 sq km free from human habitation; six stargazing rooms operational.
- Technology-driven conservation: camera traps, AI-based wildlife tracking, live global feeds.
- Eco-friendly policies: zero single-use plastics, water quality monitoring.
- **Revenue & employment:** Rs 5 crore from tourism, 85,000 visitors in 2025, 100+ families employed (40% women).

Historical Significance

- Area was a base for **freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai** against British forces.
- Memorials and cultural heritage integrated into tourism.

Significance

- Debrigarh exemplifies a **replicable conservation model** combining wildlife protection, community welfare, sustainable tourism, and historical preservation--positioning Odisha as a national leader in eco-tourism and tiger conservation.

Odisha ushers in A New Era Of Urban Mobility With CRUT's Digital Initiatives

Context

- Odisha has launched **digital urban mobility solutions** under the **Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)** to modernize public transport and enhance commuter convenience.

Key Initiatives

- **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC):**
 - Enables use across **buses, e-rickshaws, and metro systems**.

- Launched in collaboration with SBI and Airtel Payment Bank.
- Issuance fee ₹50; re-issuance ₹200; valid for five years.
- Supports Ama Bus passes and aligns with “One Nation, One Card” vision.
- **Digital Ticketing & Pass System:**
 - WhatsApp-based ticketing on ONDC platform or Odisha Yatri app.
 - Passes include:
 - ✓ City Pass (≤ ₹30)
 - ✓ Magic Pass (≤ ₹50)
 - ✓ Long Route Pass (> ₹50)
 - Daily and monthly options tailored for commuter affordability.
- **Discounts to Promote Digital Adoption:**
 - 10% off for all commuters; 15% off for women.
- **Operational Cities:** Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Rourkela.
- **NCMC Card Distribution:** CRUT Head Office (Patia, Bhubaneswar) and major bus stands.

Significance

- Facilitates cashless, seamless, and inclusive urban mobility.
- Encourages digital payments and women's participation in public transport.
- Supports Odisha's vision of modern, smart cities aligned with national urban mobility standards.

Odisha's Rashmita Sahu

Context

- During the 125th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the achievements of young athletes, including **Rashmita Sahu** from Odisha, for her outstanding performance at the **first Khelo India Water Sports Festival** held at Dal Lake, Srinagar.

Rashmita Sahu's Achievements

- Began canoeing in 2017 after being inspired near her village.
- Trains at SAI Sports Centre, Jagatpur with family support.
- **41 national-level medals**, including **13 golds**.
- At the Khelo India Water Sports Festival, she won:
 - Gold in singles 200m canoeing
 - Gold in 500m doubles canoeing

Khelo India Water Sports Festival Highlights

- Over 800 athletes participated nationally.
- Women's participation nearly matched men's.
- Top medal-winning states: Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha.

- The **Himalayan Kingfisher** was officially launched in **Srinagar** as the mascot for the inaugural **Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF)**, held at the iconic **Dal Lake**.
- It is part of the expanding **Khelo India calendar**; follows the **Khelo India Beach Games** in Diu (May 2025) and the **Winter Games** in Gulmarg (March 2025).
- Hosted by **Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council**, in collaboration with the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**
- **Competitions: Medal Events:** Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking. **Demonstration Events:** Water skiing, Shikara race, Dragon boat race.

Odisha Government Mandates Use Of Odia On Shop Signboards

Context

- In a move to promote Odia language and cultural identity, the **Odisha government** has made it compulsory for all shops and commercial establishments in **urban areas** to display signboards prominently in Odia.

Key Highlights

- Directive issued by **Housing & Urban Development Department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee**.
- Applicable to businesses under **municipal corporations, municipalities, and notified area councils (NACs)**.
- **Odia script must cover at least 60%** of the total area on signboards.

Compliance and Incentives

- Establishments following the rule get a **5% discount** on trade license renewal fees.
- Urban local bodies (ULBs) will verify compliance during **trade license renewals and inspections** by **September 30, 2025**.
- Non-compliant shops will receive a **formal notice** and **55 days** to correct signage.
- A **penalty of ₹500 per day** will apply after the grace period.

Awareness Measures

- Municipal bodies are tasked to **conduct awareness campaigns** for shopkeepers.
- ULBs must submit a **compliance report** within **60 days** to the **Director of Municipal Administration**.

Significance

- Reinforces **visibility and importance** of Odisha's official language.

- Ensures accessibility for citizens unfamiliar with other scripts.

- Aligns with the state's broader policy of cultural preservation and promotion of Odia.



APPOINTMENTS

Nagaland Governor

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Governor of Manipur, has been given additional charge as the Governor of Nagaland.

General Secretary of Constitution Club of India

- Rajiv Pratap Rudy, has retained his post as **General Secretary (Administration)** of the **Constitution Club of India (CCI)**, a platform for interaction among past and present Members of Parliament, originally started for Constituent Assembly members in 1947 and formally inaugurated in 1965 by President S. Radhakrishnan.

Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission

- Mrs. S. Radha Chauhan has officially assumed charge as the **Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**, an independent body under the **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)** that aims to transform the civil services learning ecosystem for a smart, accountable and citizen-centric public service.

Command of the Indian Naval Academy

- Vice Admiral Manish Chadha, assumed command of the **Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala**, succeeding Vice Admiral C.R. Praveen Nair.

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, has taken charge as the **47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**.

Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

- Dr. Mayank Sharma has officially assumed charge as the **Financial Advisor (Defence Services)** in the Ministry of Defence, a key IDAS position responsible for financial advice, defence planning and oversight of the defence budget.

Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

- Dr. A. Rajarajan has assumed charge as the **Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram**, succeeding Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair.

Next Vice Chief of Army Staff

- Lt Gen Pushendra Singh** assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)**, succeeding Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani.

Global President & CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G)

- Procter & Gamble (P&G) has appointed Shailesh Jejurikar, its current COO, as Global President & CEO effective January 1, 2026, making him the first Indian to lead the company.

CEO of Sansad TV

- Lok Sabha Secretary-General Utpal Kumar Singh, a former IAS officer, has been given additional charge as CEO of Sansad TV.

First Woman Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU

- Prof Uma Kanjilal has been appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).



AWARDS

Miss Universe India 2025

Context

- Manika Vishwakarma has been crowned Miss Universe India 2025 and will represent India at the 74th Miss Universe in Thailand.

Details

- India boasts a proud Miss Universe history, producing global icons like Sushmita Sen (1994) – the first Indian winner, Lara Dutta (2000) – the second and Harnaaz Sandhu (2021) – who brought the third crown after two decades.



Gallantry Awards

Context

- President Droupadi Murmu has formally approved gallantry and service awards.

Details

Gallantry Awards History:

- Post-Independence, the first three wartime awards--**Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra** and **Vir Chakra**--were instituted on 26th January 1950, effective from 15th August 1947.
- The **Ashoka Chakra Class I, II, III** were instituted in 1952, later renamed in 1967 as **Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra** and **Shaurya Chakra**.
- Order of precedence:** Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, Shaurya Chakra.

Eligibility:

- All ranks of **Army, Navy, Air Force**, reserve forces, territorial army and other lawfully constituted armed forces.
- Nursing staff, hospital personnel and civilians** serving under these forces are also eligible.

Wartime Gallantry Awards:

- Param Vir Chakra:** Highest wartime honor for distinguished valor.
- Maha Vir Chakra:** Second-highest for conspicuous gallantry in presence of the enemy.
- Vir Chakra:** Third-highest wartime gallantry award.

Peacetime Gallantry Awards:

- Ashoka Chakra:** Highest for valor, courageous action, or sacrifice away from combat.
- Kirti Chakra:** Second-highest for acts of bravery or self-sacrifice in peacetime.
- Shaurya Chakra:** Awarded for extraordinary gallantry by armed forces personnel.

Other Awards:

- Sena Medal, Nao Sena Medal, Vayu Sena Medal:** Recognize exceptional devotion to duty or courage in the Army, Navy and Air Force, respectively.

First woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)

Context

- Sonali Mishra, a 1993-batch senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the **first woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)**.

Details

- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**, responsible for safeguarding railway passengers and property, was established in **1957** through an Act of Parliament, gained powers to arrest and prosecute railway-related crimes in **1966** and was declared an **armed force of the Union in 1985**, working to ensure safety across stations, trains and passengers nationwide; its current DG, **Sonali Mishra**, will serve until **31 October 2026**.

Chairperson of the National Medical Commission

Context

- Dr. Abhijat Sheth has been appointed as the **new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC)**

Details

- National Medical Commission (NMC)** is a statutory body that regulates medical education, practitioners, institutes and research in India. Established in **2020** to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI), the NMC grants recognition to medical qualifications, accredits medical schools, registers practitioners and monitors medical practice and infrastructure.



BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book	Author and Details
M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India	Priyambada Jayakumar. The book covers Swaminathan's formative years, scientific journey and role in India's food security.
The Conscience Network	Sugata Srinivasaraju. In June 1975, during Indira Gandhi's Emergency, civil liberties were suspended in India, but young Indians in the U.S. resisted from afar. <i>The Conscience Network</i> by Sugata Srinivasaraju chronicles the story of Indians for Democracy (IFD) and their fight for democracy beyond borders.



BOOKS & AUTHORS [STATIC GK]

Book	Author and Details
Kim (1900)	Rudyard Kipling; A story about an Irish orphan in India involved in the Great Game, blending espionage, Buddhism and the vibrant life of the bazaar and Grand Trunk Road. A children's classic for grown-ups.
White Mughals (2003)	William Dalrymple; Chronicles James Kirkpatrick, a British Resident in Hyderabad and his marriage to Khair un-Nissa, highlighting early Anglo-Indian relationships before the Raj.
Up the Country (1867)	Emily Eden; Letters home describing northern India, offering witty social commentary and a record of her brother George Auckland's disastrous policy in Afghanistan.
A Matter of Honour (1974)	Philip Mason; Short history of the Indian Army, exploring loyalty between British officers and sepoys and the army's enduring legacy in independent India.
Curry and Rice (1860)	George Francklin Atkinson; Sketches of social life in British India, detailing daily routines, officers, families and local customs with charming illustrations.
The Great Mutiny (1978)	Christopher Hibbert; A concise account of the 1857 Indian Rebellion, highlighting the brutality, European officer losses and the retaliations that shocked public opinion.
The Siege of Krishnapur (1973)	JG Farrell; A novel depicting the massacre of the British garrison at Cawnpore during the 1857 Mutiny, combining historical accuracy with literary art.
Man-Eaters of Kumaon (1944)	Jim Corbett; Accounts of hunting man-eating leopards and tigers in northern India and early conservation efforts, later leading to the establishment of Jim Corbett Park.
A Passage to India (1924)	EM Forster; A novel exploring British-Indian relations, cultural misunderstandings and the friendship between Dr. Aziz and Cyril Fielding during the Raj.
Staying On (1977)	Paul Scott; Follows retired officer Tusker and his wife Lucy, portraying life after independence and the shrinking world of the British in post-Raj India.
The Tears of the Rajas (1805-1905)	Ferdinand Mount; Examines the Mutiny, money and marriage in India, published by Simon & Schuster.



SPORTS

Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025

Context

- India will host the **Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025** in Dehradun from **20-23 August 2025**, marking its debut in international winter sports.

Details

- The event will take place at **Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur (Dehradun)**, organized under the **Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI)**, featuring high-speed, action-packed ice races.
- Over **11 Asian countries**, including China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and India, will compete,

reflecting growing interest in winter sports across Asia.

- The **Ice Skating Association of India (ISAI)** is the national governing body for competitive ice skating disciplines in India, including **figure skating, synchronized skating, speed skating and short track speed skating**. It is affiliated with the **International Skating Union** and the **Asian Skating Union**.
- History:** The ISAI was registered in **2002**. Before its establishment, ice skating was governed by the Winter Games Federation of India



Real Madrid Tops Brand Finance Football 50-2025

Context

- Real Madrid has been named the **world's most valuable football club** in the Brand Finance Football 50-2025 report

Details

- It has a **brand value of €1.921 billion** and a near-perfect **brand strength score of 94.9**. It is its **fourth consecutive year at the top**. The club achieved **14% year-on-year brand value growth**, secured the **highest AAA+ brand rating** and continues to combine **sporting success**, including its 15th UEFA Champions League title, with **global commercial dominance**.

Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025

Context

- The Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025 will be held at Dal Lake, Srinagar from August 21-23, 2025, marking the **first-ever water sports event** under the Khelo India program.

Details

- Organized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** in collaboration with the **Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council** and **SAI**, the festival aims to **promote sports culture, eco-tourism and youth participation** in the Kashmir Valley.
- The official mascot, the **Himalayan Kingfisher**, symbolizes **energy, tranquility, adventure and ecological balance**, while the logo showcases a **Shikara boat on Dal Lake with snow-capped mountains**, integrating Khelo India colors.

2025 World Games in Chengdu, China.

Context

- India's **Namrata Batra** reached the **women's 52 kg Wushu final** at the **2025 World Games in Chengdu, China**.

Details

- This marks a historic milestone as India's **first-ever medal in Wushu** at this global event. Namrata secured her place in the final with a **2-0 win over Krizan Faith Collado** of the Philippines, guaranteeing at least a **silver medal**. She will face **Mengyue Chen of China** for the gold.

Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025

Context

- India's boxing teams shone at the **Asian U19 & U22 Boxing Championships 2025** in Bangkok, winning **27 medals**

Details

- The **U19 team** earned **14 medals** (3 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze) and the **U22 team** bagged **13 medals** (1 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze), with **Ritika** winning gold in women's 80+ kg, **Yatri Patel** (Women's 57 kg), **Priya** (Women's 60 kg), **Neeraj** (Men's 75 kg) and **Ishan Kataria** (Men's 90+ kg) won silver medals, contributing significantly to India's medal tally and international boxing standing.

International Wiesław Maniak Memorial

Context

- India's **Annu Rani** won gold in the women's javelin at the **International Wiesław Maniak Memorial** in Poland with a season-best throw of **62.59m**.

Details

- Rani led the competition ahead of **Eda Tugsuz** (Turkey, 58.36m) and **Lianna Davidson** (Australia, 58.24m). Her throws included 60.96m, 62.59m (season best) and 60.07m. Other Indian athletes included **Pooja** (800m, 3rd, 2:02.95) and **Jisna Mathew** (400m, 6th, 54.12s). Rani now aims to surpass the **64m qualification mark** for Tokyo 2025.

First franchise-based Archery League

Context

- The **Archery Association of India (AAI)** has launched the country's first franchise-based **Archery League**, scheduled for **October 2025** at the **Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi**.

Details

- The league will have **six franchise teams** with top Indian archers, Olympic and national medalists and foreign players from the world's top 10. Supported by **World Archery, World Archery Asia and India's Sports Ministry**, the league aims to boost India's archery profile, offer international exposure and inspire future athletes.
- The **Archery Association of India (AAI)** is the national governing body for archery, tasked with organizing, promoting and regulating the sport across the country. Established on **8 August 1973** following archery's return to the Olympic Games in 1972, AAI is a **non-profit, government-funded organization** headquartered in **New Delhi**. Its current president is **Arjun Munda** and the association is affiliated with the **World Archery**

Federation, World Archery Asia, Indian Olympic Association and is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

World Athletics Eligibility Rules

Context

- Starting **1 September 2025**, **World Athletics** will enforce new eligibility rules for the female category, requiring all athletes to undergo a **once-in-a-lifetime SRY gene test** to confirm biological sex.

Details

- This test, conducted via cheek swab or blood sample under Member Federation supervision, will first be applied at the **World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25** beginning 13 September 2025.
- The regulations aim to **protect the integrity of women's sports** by ensuring fair competition, following recommendations from the **Gender Diverse Athlete Working Group**. Eligible athletes include biological females, biological females with past testosterone use under conditions, males with Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS) who did not undergo male puberty and males with Differences of Sex Development (DSD) who meet transitional provisions.

FISU World University Games 2025

Context

- India finished **20th** at the **FISU World University Games 2025** in Germany, securing a total of **12 medals** -- 2 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze.

Details

- In **athletics**, Praveen Chitravel (men's triple jump) and Seema (women's 5000m) won silver, while the men's 4x100m relay team earned bronze. **Archery** was a standout, with Sahil Rajesh Jadhav winning gold (men's individual compound), Parneet Kaur taking silver (women's individual) and the mixed team clinching another gold. Historic firsts included a bronze in mixed team badminton and Vaishnavi Adkar's bronze in tennis singles. Despite ranking below the 2023 performance (7th with 26 medals), India demonstrated **consistent growth and potential**.

100 years of Indian hockey

Context

- Hockey India (HI) celebrated 100 years of Indian hockey.

Details

- Senior Nationals will receive ₹70 lakh each, Junior and Sub-Junior Nationals ₹30 lakh each and each state ₹25 lakh to support local competitions.

Divyanshi Bhowmick

Context

- Divyanshi Bhowmick made history at the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent by winning the U-15 Girls' Singles title.

Details

- At just 14, she defeated China's Zhu Qihi 4-2 in the final. She became the first Indian in 36 years to win the U-15 Girls' Singles title. Among the other titles she won are the U-17 Girls Singles gold at the 2024 WTT Youth Contender in Algiers and silver in the 2023 ITTF World Youth Championships held at Nova Gorica in the U-15 Girls Doubles with Jennifer Varghese.

FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025

Context

- Divya Deshmukh made history by winning the **FIDE Women's Chess World Cup** in Batumi, Georgia, defeating veteran **Koneru Humpy** in rapid tiebreaks.

Details

- At 19, she became India's fourth female Grandmaster (GM), joining the ranks of Humpy, R. Vaishali and Harika Dronavalli. Her was also crowned **World Junior Champion 2024** and instrumental in India's **Chess Olympiad gold** in Budapest, where she also won individual gold.

Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025

Context

- At the **Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025** as **Tanvi Sharma** and **Vennala Kalagotla** became the first-ever Indian duo to win two medals in women's singles in a single edition.

Details

- Tanvi, junior World No. 1, dominated top contenders, while Vennala battled through tight matches with grit and composure.
- The **Badminton Asia Junior Championships** is an annual under-19 tournament organized by **Badminton Asia** to determine the continent's top junior players. It rotates among different host cities across Asia, with each city's hosting frequency noted in records.

National Sports Governance Bill, 2025

Context

- The **National Sports Governance Bill, 2025** is a measure designed to modernize India's sports administration by enforcing **transparency, accountability and structural reforms** in all National Sports Federations (NSFs).

Details

- A major provision brings the **BCCI under the RTI Act**, granting it public accountability while recognizing it as a formal NSF.
- The bill sets up a **comprehensive governance structure**, increasing the age limit for sports officials to 75, establishing the **National Sports Board** for oversight and ensuring **representation of athletes, women and distinguished sportspersons** in decision-making bodies. It also provides for a **National Sports Tribunal** to resolve disputes, with appeals allowed to the Supreme Court and introduces a **National Sports Election Panel** to oversee elections. Top executives are limited to 15 members with a three-term maximum and mandatory cooling-off periods.
- By bringing Indian sports governance in line with **Olympic Charter standards**, the bill seeks to

improve accountability in influential bodies like the BCCI, promote inclusivity and strengthen India's global sporting image, while also supporting its **ambitions to host the 2036 Olympics**.

ICC World Test Championship Hosting Rights

Context

- The **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** has been awarded the hosting rights for the next three **ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Finals** in **2027, 2029 and 2031**.

Details

- Since the WTC's inception in 2021, England has hosted three finals: **Southampton (2021)** - New Zealand beat India, **The Oval (2023)** - Australia defeated India and **Lord's (2025)** - South Africa overcame Australia. By awarding multiple finals to ECB, the ICC aims to ensure **organizational continuity, maximize fan engagement and optimize broadcasting reach**, while leveraging iconic venues like **Lord's, The Oval and Edgbaston**.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Event & Details
July 29, 2025	Global Tiger Day 2025 - Highlights tiger conservation, population decline (~4,000 left), habitat protection, anti-poaching and community engagement. The theme for International Tiger Day 2025 is "Securing the future of tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart"
July 30, 2025	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025 - Focus on ending human trafficking, supporting victims, law enforcement and global cooperation.
August 1, 2025	World Wide Web Day 2025 - Celebrates the web's transformative power, addressing digital divide, cybersecurity and responsible tech use.
August 7, 2025	National Handloom Day 2025 - Celebrates India's weaving heritage, women weavers and cultural preservation.
August 9, 2025	World Sanskrit Day 2025 - Promotes Sanskrit learning, cultural heritage and modern relevance.
August 10, 2025	World Lion Day 2025 - Raises awareness for lion conservation, highlighting threats like poaching, habitat loss and human-lion conflicts. The theme for World Lion Day 2025 was "Community-Led Conservation,".
August 12, 2025	World Elephant Day 2025 - Raises awareness for elephant conservation, focusing on habitat preservation, anti-poaching and welfare initiatives. The World Elephant Day 2025 theme is "Matriarchs & Memories"
August 12, 2025	International Youth Day 2025 - Promotes youth participation in local governance and sustainable development initiatives.



August 15, 2025	This Day in History - 15 August - Highlights major global events, including India's independence (1947), Panama Canal opening (1914) and Woodstock Festival (1969).
August 15, 2025	79th Independence Day of India 2025 - Celebrates India's freedom with flag hoisting, PM's address, cultural programs and national initiatives.
August 20, 2025	Sadbhavana Diwas 2025 - Commemorates Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary, promoting peace, tolerance and national unity.
August 20, 2025	Akshay Urja Day 2025 - Focuses on renewable energy awareness, promoting solar, wind and biomass energy adoption.



STATIC GK

Banasura Sagar Dam in **Wayanad, Kerala** is India's largest earthen dam.

Kharavela of Kalinga maintained records in **Hathigumpha inscription**.

Earth Summit 1992 (Rio) led to **Agenda 21** for sustainable development.

WHO declared smallpox eradicated in 1980.

International Court of Justice is in The Hague, Netherlands.

Mangalyaan made India the **first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit in its first attempt**.

Hemis National Park in Ladakh is the largest high-altitude national park in India.

Nalanda University library was called **Dharmaganja**.

Vikram Samvat calendar started in 57 BCE.

Earth Hour started in 2007 by World Wildlife Fund to promote energy conservation.

Montreal Protocol (1987) phased out ozone-depleting substances.

SAARC established in 1985 for regional cooperation.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) created at Bretton Woods in 1944; maintains global financial stability.

Paris Agreement (2016) targets <2°C global warming.

Hogenakkal Falls is formed on the Kaveri River by Dharmapuri rocks.

First Chief Justice of India: Harilal J. Kania.

UN Peacekeeping operations began in 1948.

Mount Vinson is the highest peak in Antarctica at 4,892 m.

Altai Mountains form borders between Russia, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

Mehrgarh in Balochistan is one of the earliest farming settlements (~7000 BCE).

Guru Gobind Singh established the **Khalsa** in 1699.

Ranganadi River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

PIL provisions were expanded under Justice P.N. Bhagwati in the 1980s.

Saptagram was a major medieval port in Bengal before Hugli emerged.

The Mayurakshi flows through Jharkhand and then through the districts of Birbhum and Murshidabad in West Bengal before flowing into the Hooghly River.

The **Kunchikal Fall** is the highest waterfall in India and also the **second highest in Asia**.

First Education minister: Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad.

In **Oscar 2023**, the Telugu song "**NaatuNaatu**" from **RRR** by **M. M. Keeravani** (music) and **Chandrabose** (lyrics) won **Best Original Song**, while **The Elephant Whisperers**, directed by **Kartiki Gonsalves** and produced by **Guneet Monga**, won **Best Documentary Short**. India's Oscar history also includes **Bhanu Athaiya** (Gandhi, **Best Costume Design**, 1983), **A. R. Rahman & Gulzar** (**Slumdog Millionaire**, 2009, **Best Original Score & Song**) and **Resul Pookutty** (**Slumdog Millionaire**, 2009, **Best Sound Mixing**).



The **Earth's atmosphere** is structured into **five main layers** based on altitude and pressure. The **Troposphere (0-18 km)** experiences decreasing temperature with height and ends at the **Tropopause**, while the **Stratosphere (18-50 km)** sees rising temperatures up to the **Stratopause**. Above it, the

Mesosphere (50-90 km) has decreasing temperatures ending at the **Mesopause**, followed by the **Thermosphere/Ionosphere (80-640 km)** where temperatures rise again up to the **Thermopause**. The outermost layer, the **Exosphere (up to 10,000 km)**, continues the trend of increasing temperature and ends

at the **Exopause**. Atmospheric pressure **decreases with altitude**, creating low-pressure zones that bring **cloudy and moist weather** and high-pressure zones associated with **clear and sunny skies**.



CURRENT GK

India ranked **6th globally** in patent filings in 2023.

RBI guideline: A savings account is marked inoperative if **no transactions for over 2 years**.

Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve: 10,500 km², established 1989, UNESCO recognition 2001: Includes the Marine National Park; first marine biosphere reserve in South and South-East Asia.

Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs): Accounts opened by foreign entities with Indian banks to **settle international trade transactions in Indian Rupees (INR)**. Introduced: 2022.

World Trade Organization (WTO) – Established: 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, post Uruguay Round (1986-94). India: Member of GATT since 1948; WTO member since January 1995.

The **Kakori Train Action (9 August 1925)** was a revolutionary robbery near Lucknow by members of the Hindustan Republican Association, including Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, to seize British

government funds for India's freedom struggle.

Operation Black Forest (April 21-May 11, 2025) was a major **anti-Naxal operation** in the Karreguttalu Hills (Chhattisgarh-Telangana border), jointly conducted by **CRPF, Chhattisgarh STF and DRG**, resulting in **31 Naxalite deaths, including senior leaders** and the seizure of weapons and explosives.

Indus Waters Treaty (1960) is a **water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan**, mediated by the World Bank, allocating Eastern Rivers (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi) to India and Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan, giving Pakistan **80% of the water**. India can use Western Rivers for domestic, agricultural purposes and run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects without large storage dams, while ensuring the flow to Pakistan as per **Article III(1)**.

S&P upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' with a stable outlook in June 2025, citing strong fiscal consolidation, robust growth, stable inflation and a resilient financial sector.

MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) are non-farming businesses engaged in manufacturing, processing, or preserving goods. They are classified by investment and turnover: Micro (≤₹2.5 crore/₹10 crore), Small (≤₹25 crore/₹100 crore), Medium (≤₹125 crore/₹500 crore). The **Ministry of MSMEs**, formed in 2007, promotes and supports their growth nationwide.

India is the **second-largest producer of textiles and garments** globally, contributing around **2.3% to GDP, 13% to industrial production and 12% to exports**. It is the **6th largest exporter of textiles and apparel** (4.1% share) and the **world's largest producer of jute** (70% of global output). India is also the **second-largest producer of silk** and **man-made fibers**, uniquely producing all four commercial silk varieties.

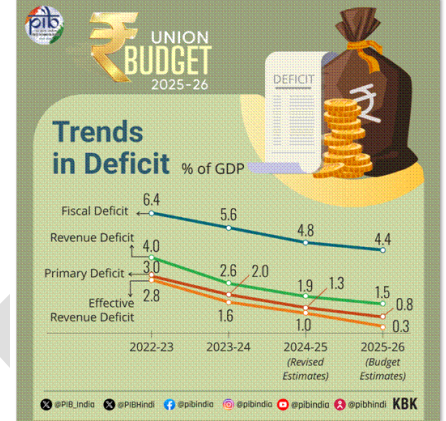
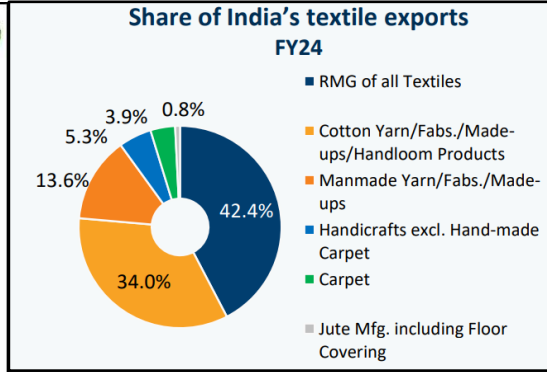
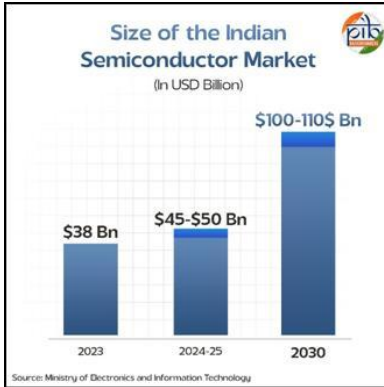
Liquid Biogas (LBG) is liquefied biogas suitable for **long-distance transport** and **electricity generation**, while **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** is **high-methane gas** mainly used as a **green vehicle fuel**. LBG is easier to store in low volumes; CBG

requires **high-pressure cylinders**. Both **reduce emissions** and help **replace fossil fuels**.

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, evolving

from the **Shanghai Five** in 1996, formally began in 2001 and now has **10 members**, including **India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus**. Guided by the **Shanghai Spirit**, it promotes **mutual trust, equality**

and **development**, with institutions like the **Heads of State Council** and **RATS** for security cooperation.



LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS

Electoral Reforms in India at a Glance

Electoral Reforms Before 1996

- Voting age lowered to 18 (61st Amendment, 1988)
- More proposers to stop fake candidates
- EVMs introduced (1998-99)
- Booth capturing banned
- EPIC (Photo ID cards) issued to prevent fake votes

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Electoral Reforms Post 1996

- Candidates classified by party status
- 6-year ban for insulting national symbols
- Liquor banned 48 hrs before polls
- 10 proposers needed if no recognized party support
- Party replaces deceased candidate in 7 days
- By-elections within 6 months
- Max 2 constituencies per candidate
- Campaign period shortened to 14 days

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Reforms 1997-2009

- More proposers for President/VP elections
- Postal & proxy voting for armed forces
- Candidates declare criminal records, assets, qualifications
- Rajya Sabha: no residency requirement, open ballot
- Free rolls/materials for recognized parties
- Donation transparency & equal media time
- EVMs with Braille; exit polls restricted

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Reforms Since 2010

- NRI voting, online registration, NOTA added
- VVPAT for vote verification
- Immediate disqualification of convicted MPs/MLAs
- Increased spending limits
- Electoral Bonds introduced, struck down in 2024

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World Biofuel Day

10th Aug

Government initiatives for promotion of Biofuel

- ➔ Introduction of various **Ethanol Interest Subvention Schemes**
- ➔ Reduction in **GST rate** for procurement of **biodiesel** for blending programme from **12% to 5%**
- ➔ Administered **price mechanism** for procurement of sugarcane based ethanol under the **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme**

World Biofuel Day

10th Aug

Government initiatives for promotion of Biofuel

National Policy on Biofuels*

- ➔ Aims to enable availability of biofuels in the market thereby increasing its blending percentage.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN^o Yojana:

- ➔ Provides financial support for integrated bio-ethanol projects for setting up Advanced Biofuels projects in the country

INDIA ACHIEVES 20% ETHANOL BLENDING

5 YEARS AHEAD OF TARGET!

20%
1.5%
2014 2025

ORIGINAL TARGET: 2030

CLEANER FUEL, EMPOWERED FARMERS, AND REDUCED OIL IMPORTS – THE ETHANOL REVOLUTION IS HERE!





NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

NISAR
NASA - ISRO SAR Mission

A Joint Earth Observation Mission

Launched via GSVL-F16	World's First dual-frequency radar: L-band (NASA) + S-band (ISRO)	Orbit: Sun-synchronous, 747 km	Life: 3 years Cycle: 12 days
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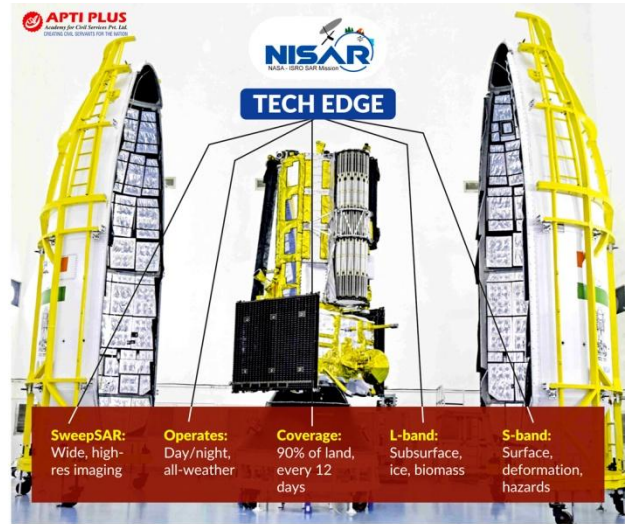
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Elgin Road Branch: Office No. 302, 3rd Floor, Elgin Chambers, 1A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Giza Park, Sreepaty, Bhowanipour, Kolkata, West Bengal 700020



NISAR
NASA - ISRO SAR Mission

TECH EDGE

SweepSAR: Wide, high-res imaging	Operates: Day/night, all-weather	Coverage: 90% of land, every 12 days	L-band: Subsurface, ice, biomass	S-band: Surface, deformation, hazards
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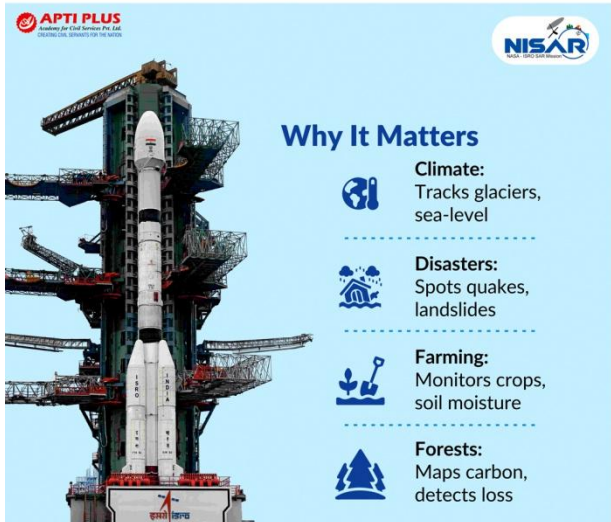
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Why It Matters

- Climate:** Tracks glaciers, sea-level
- Disasters:** Spots quakes, landslides
- Farming:** Monitors crops, soil moisture
- Forests:** Maps carbon, detects loss

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Strategic Impact

- NASA-ISRO's first full co-build
- Supports SDGs, Paris Goals, Disaster Plans
- Open data = Global Equity
- Boosts India-US space ties
- Projects India as "Vishwa Bandhu"

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INDIA-UK FTA INKED

HOW INDIA GAINS

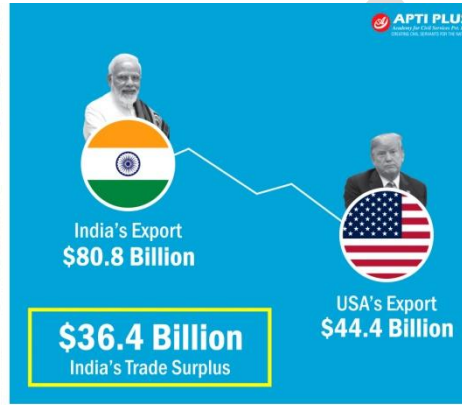
PRE-FTA DUTY RANGE		POST-FTA DUTY
PROCESSED FOOD*	Upto 70%	0%
VEG/OIL*	Upto 20%	
TRANSPORT/AUTO	Upto 18%	
LEATHER/FOOTWEAR	Upto 16%	
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	Upto 14%	
HEADGEAR/GLASS/CERAMICS	Upto 12%	
TEXTILES/CLOTHING	Upto 12%	
WOOD/PAPER	Upto 10%	
BASE METALS	Upto 10%	
MECHANICAL MACHINERY	Upto 8%	
MINERALS	Upto 8%	
CHEMICALS	Upto 8%	
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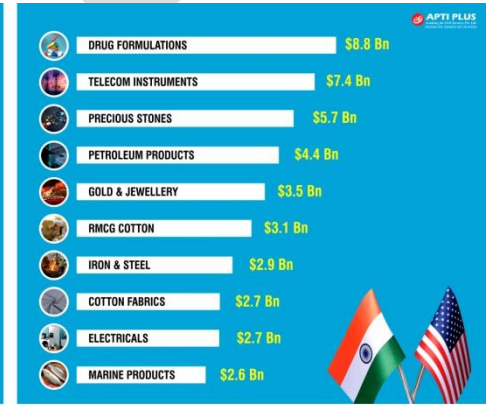
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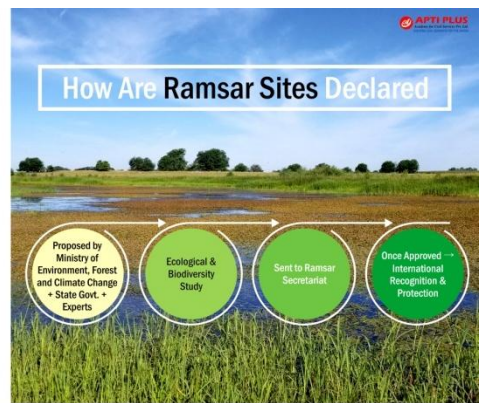
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Map of Ramsar Sites in India



Evolution of Indian Flag

The National Flag of India, in its present form, was adopted on July 22, 1947. In its evolution, lies the different phases of the fight for independence and in its unfurling lies the story of India's freedom.

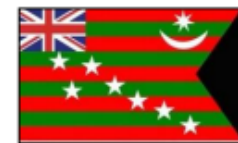
- In 1906, during the Swadeshi and Boycott struggle, a flag of India was hoisted for the first time in the Parsee Bagan Square in Calcutta (present-day Kolkata).



- In 1907, a similar flag with slight modifications was raised by Madam Bhikaji Cama in Paris. This flag was also exhibited in Berlin at a socialist conference and thus came to be called the Berlin Committee Flag.



- In 1917, as a part of the Home Rule Movement, Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak hoisted another flag. The flag signified autonomous rule for Indians within the Colonial Empire.



- In 1921, at the Bezwada (now Vijayawada) session of Congress, a young freedom fighter Pingali Venkaiah, presented a design of a flag to Mahatma Gandhi. The flag consisted of three stripes representing multiple communities living in harmony in India. A spinning wheel was superimposed in the center, signifying the country's progress.



- In 1931, a formal resolution was passed adopting Pingali Vekaiah's flag with a little modification. While the white and green remained, the red was replaced by saffron. The saffron was for courage, white for peace and green for fertility and growth.



- Finally, in July 1947, the Constituent Assembly formally adopted the flag of free India. The spinning wheel was replaced by the Dharma Chakra of Emperor Ashoka, symbolizing truth and life. **This came to be called the Tiranga.**



Source: [Ministry of Culture](#)