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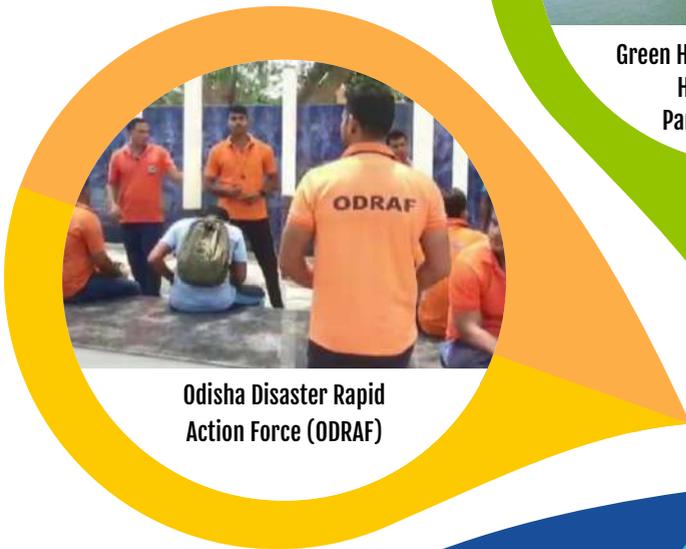
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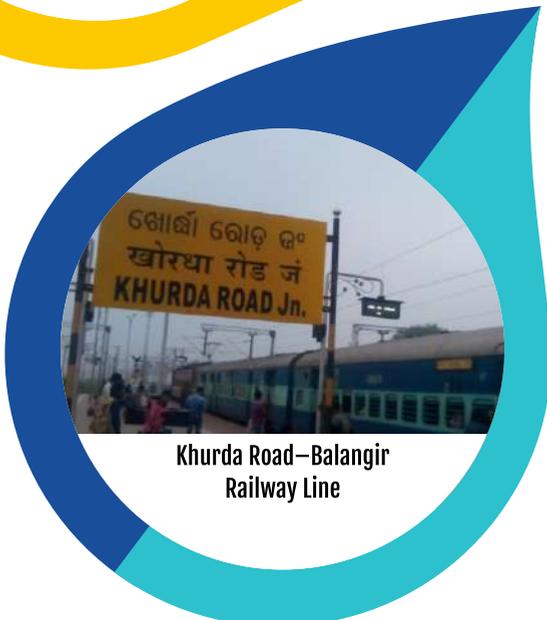
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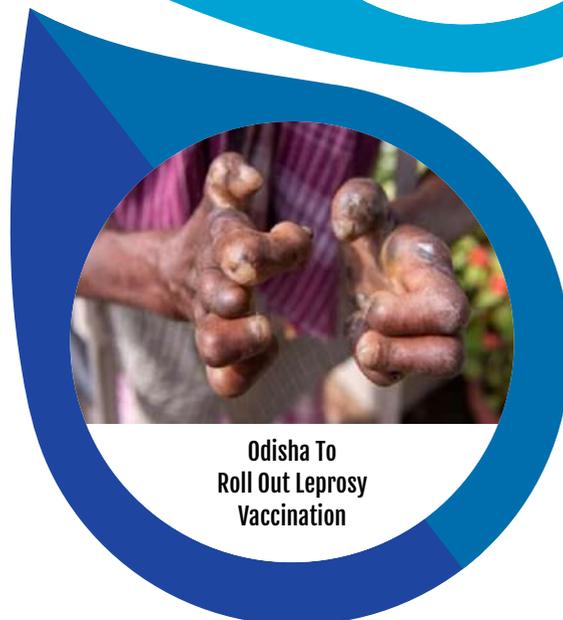Green Hydrogen And Ammonia
Handling Jetty At
Paradip Port, Odisha

Odisha Disaster Rapid
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1.0: Governance
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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, SECURITY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY*

Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Handling Jetty at Paradip Port, Odisha

Context:

In a major push toward **India's clean energy ambitions**, the Centre has approved the construction of a **dedicated green hydrogen and ammonia handling jetty at Paradip Port, Odisha**. The project, cleared by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)**, is estimated at **Rs 797.17 crore** and aims to strengthen India's **green energy logistics network**.

Project Highlights:

- **Developer & Model:** Paradip Port Authority under **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)** model.
- **Capacity:** Handle **4 million tonnes per annum (MTPA)**.
- **Purpose:** Key node under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**.

Infrastructure Details:

- Dedicated jetty for **green hydrogen, ammonia and other liquid cargo**.
- Includes **storage tanks, pipelines, cargo handling systems and utilities** adhering to **global safety standards**.
- Jetty specifications: **Centre-to-centre span: 279 m**; **dredged depth: 14.3 m**, ensuring safe berthing of liquid cargo vessels.

Financials & Timeline:

- Paradip Port Authority to contribute **20% (~Rs 159.43 crore)** during construction.
- **Completion:** Within **24 months**.

Strategic Significance:

- Connects **Odisha's emerging green hydrogen hubs** to international markets.
- Boosts **export infrastructure, investor confidence, employment** and **ancillary industries** in eastern India.
- Flexibility to handle **other liquid cargo**, ensuring **optimal asset utilisation**.

Green Hydrogen

- Green Hydrogen is a **colourless, odourless, non-toxic, highly combustible gas**, produced via **electrolysis of water using renewable energy** (solar, wind, hydro), emitting **no greenhouse gases**.
- **Advantages:** Long-term **energy storage**, monetisable oxygen by-product, **versatile energy carrier** for transport and industry, **zero emissions** and potential **global adoption** in power, industry and households.
- **Disadvantages: High production cost**, **energy-intensive** and **flammable**, requiring strict safety measures.

Production Methods:

- **Alkaline electrolysis:** Mature, low-cost, uses KOH/NaOH, but needs expensive electrodes.
- **Proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolysis:** Efficient, fast, costly membranes and catalysts.
- **Solid oxide electrolysis:** High-temperature, co-electrolysis potential, complex and expensive.

Applications:

- **Transport:** Fuel cell vehicles, trains, ships, planes.
- **Energy storage:** Balances intermittent renewable energy.
- **Industry:** Steel, ammonia, chemical feedstock.
- **Residential/commercial:** Electricity, heating, cooking.
- **Hydrogen blending & trade:** Reduces natural gas emissions, export opportunities.

Green Hydrogen in India:

- **Target:** Energy independence by 2047, Net Zero by 2070.
- **Funding:** $2 billion incentive scheme; cost $4–5/kg.
- **Standard:** ≤2 kg CO_2 per kg H_2; BEE monitors and certifies production.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission (Jan 2023):** Aim 5 MMT/year by 2030 with 125 GW renewables; includes SIGHT program to boost electrolyser manufacturing and production.

Paradip Port: Key Highlights

- **Location & Features:** Paradip Port is a **natural, deep-water port** on the **East coast of India** in Paradip, Odisha, at the **Mahanadi–Bay of Bengal confluence**, 53 km from Jagatsinghpur, 210 nmi south of Kolkata and 260 nmi north of Visakhapatnam. It handles **dry and breakbulk cargo, crude oil and Panamax to Capesize vessels**, with a maximum draft of **16 m** and single point moorings 20 km offshore.
- **Capacity & Operations:** Supports the **hinterland of Central and East India**, mainly transporting **bulk cargoes and crude oil**, handling **150.41 MMT**

of cargo in 2024–25. It has terminals for oil, dry cargo and single point mooring.

- **History:** Conceptualized by **Biju Patnaik**, foundation laid by **Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962**, maiden berthing by **INS Investigator in 1966**, officially declared India's **eighth major port** in April 1966. Managed by **Paradip Port Authority** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, with administration by a board of trustees.

- **Recent Achievement:** In **January 2026**, Paradip Port handled **14.44 MMT of cargo**, its **highest-ever monthly record**, surpassing the previous 2024 record of 14.32 MMT. This reflects **enhanced infrastructure, operational efficiency and workforce dedication**.

- **Significance:** Paradip Port is a **strategic trade hub** on India's east coast, vital for **economic development, maritime logistics and India's growing trade** ambitions, moving towards **world-class mega port status**.

Bolangir and Bargarh Districts are now 'Naxal-Free'

Context:

- Odisha Police has declared **Bolangir and Bargarh districts as 'Naxal-free'** following the surrender of **15 Maoists** in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district. This marks a **significant milestone** in the state's sustained anti-Naxal operations.

Key Highlghts:

- **Naxal-free districts in Odisha:** 7 – Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Boudh, Bolangir, Bargarh.

- **Remaining Naxal presence:** 3 districts, mainly in **Kandhamal**.

- **Active Maoists in state:** ~25, mostly in splinter groups.

Classification of Maoist-Affected Districts:

- **Security Related Expenditure scheme:** Kandhamal.

- **Other LWE-affected districts:** Remaining previously identified districts.

Strategic Significance:

- Enhances **internal security and public safety** in western Odisha.

- Facilitates **peaceful development**, tourism and local economic growth.

- Demonstrates Odisha Police's **proactive counter-insurgency approach**.

Vikas Manthan 1.0: Governance in Action

Context

- The Government of Odisha concluded **"Vikas Manthan 1.0: Governance in Action"** at **Lok Seva Bhawan**, setting a comprehensive roadmap for **"Viksit Odisha 2036"** and **"Viksit Bharat 2047"**. The conference focused on **economic growth, citizen-centric governance, cultural preservation and innovation-driven development**.

Economic Growth & Investment:

- **State growth:** 7.9% (above national average).

- **Investment commitments:** ₹20 lakh crore; 109 projects generating **1.76 lakh jobs**.

- **Sectoral policies:** Electronics, AI, semiconductors, Global Capability Centres.

- Odisha recognised in **Ease of Doing Business rankings**.

- **Fiscal prudence:** Budget > ₹3 lakh crore; infrastructure allocation ₹72,100 crore (6.5% of GSDP); debt-to-GSDP ratio 13.6%.

Social Empowerment & Agriculture:

- **Subhadra scheme:**>1 crore women economically empowered; 17 lakh "Lakhpati Didi" beneficiaries.

- **Paddy procurement:** ₹3,100/quintal; 92.63 lakh MT procured; ₹28,715 crore paid to farmers.

Education & Health:

- **Education:** 45,000 ShishuVatikas; 20,000+ teaching positions filled; 2,200 schools under Godabarish Adarsha Primary School Yojana (Rs 12,000 crore).

- **Health:** Rs 23,182 crore for 2026–27; **Ayushman Bharat–Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana** covering 3.47 crore individuals from 1.03 crore families.

- **Rural development:** Piped drinking water target for all villages by March 2027; **BCPPER goal:** $500 billion economy by 2047.

Cultural Preservation & Tourism:

- **Cultural initiatives:** Shri Jagannath Temple corpus fund, heritage village preservation, Bali Yatra promotion.

- **Odia language:** Rs 614.97 crore allocated; Shri Jagannath Museum (Rs 1,000 crore), Bhubaneswar museum (Rs 800 crore).

- **Traditional arts:** Mayurbhanj Chhau Academy (Rs 10 crore); Odisha BaraputraAitihya Grama Yojana (up to Rs 15 crore per site).

- **Tourism vision:** "Think India, Think Odisha"; 15 eco-cultural hubs, Puri–Konark Heritage Corridor, incentives for SC/ST/women/differently-abled entrepreneurs, adventure and rural tourism promotion.

Citizen-Centric Governance & Digital Transformation:

- **Public service delivery:** 445 services across 32 departments under **Right to Public Services Act**.
- **Digital tools:** AmaSathi Dashboard, WhatsApp chatbot, departmental system integration.
- **Judicial reforms:** e-Courts app, paperless courts, State Law Academy, Odisha Replant Bill 2026.

Innovation, Education & Skill Development (Saksham Odisha):

- **Economic target:** $1.5 trillion economy by 2047.
- **Research & Innovation:** Odisha Research and Innovation Fund (ORIF) ₹300 crore; >50,000 patents annually; R&D 3.5% of GSDP.

- **Education:** 60% Gross Enrolment Ratio; Multi-disciplinary Education & Research Universities (MERU); scholarships and loan subventions.
- **Skill development:** "Skilled-In-Odisha" campaign; focus on semiconductors, aerospace, Nano Unicorns.
- **Sports:** 'Youthful Odisha' movement; 30 Integrated District Sports Centres; 'Khel Ratna Khoj Abhiyaan'.

Key Takeaways:

- Odisha aims to make **"Made in Odisha" = "Invented in Odisha"**.
- Governance model integrates **fiscal discipline, inclusive growth, digital governance, cultural revival, tourism expansion and innovation-driven economic transformation**.
- Commitment to **resilient institutions, empowered communities and globally competitive economy** by 2036 and 2047.

Odisha to Roll Out Leprosy Vaccination

Context:

- Amid a **rise in multibacillary (MB) leprosy cases** in Odisha, the state government has decided to **roll out a vaccination drive** in high-burden districts, targeting **leprosy eradication by 2027**.

Pilot Phase & Implementation:

- **Pilot districts:** Dhenkanal and Boudh.
- **Vaccine: Mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP)** – India-developed, for leprosy prevention.
- **Programme expansion:** Phased rollout to other endemic districts.
- **Coordination:** Odisha Health & Family Welfare Department working with **ICMR** for early implementation.

Epidemiology in Odisha:

- **New leprosy cases:** 10,786 (2018-19) → 7,349 (2024-25).
- **Annual New Case Detection Rate (ANCDR):** 23.2 → 15.8 per lakh population (2018-19 to 2024-25).
- **MB leprosy share:** Rising trend – 47.6% (2018-19) → 63.5% (2024-25).
- **Pandemic impact:** Temporary dip in cases due to Covid-19; delayed detection noted.

Significance of Rising MB Cases:

- MB leprosy carries **higher bacterial load**, more likely to cause **nerve damage, deformities and disability**.
- Suggests **late detection** and **sustained community transmission**.
- Officials warn **15,000–20,000 new cases** possible in next five years if trend persists.

Strategic Measures:

- **Vaccination** to interrupt transmission and prevent progression to severe forms.
- **Complement ongoing measures:** Multidrug therapy (MDT), active case detection campaigns.
- **WHO revised criteria** partly explains MB case rise; officials optimistic on eradication target.

National Context – India's Fight Against Leprosy:

- **Leprosy (Hansen's disease):** Chronic infectious disease by *Mycobacterium leprae*; affects skin, nerves, eyes, respiratory tract; causes disability if untreated.
- **Transmission:** Droplets from untreated patients; close contact.
- **Global burden:** Present in 120+ countries; ~2 lakh new cases annually.

Key Historical Milestones in India:

- **1954-55:** National Leprosy Control Programme (NLCP) – Dapsone monotherapy.
- **1983:** Transition to National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) with WHO-endorsed **Multidrug Therapy (MDT)**.
- **2005:** India achieves **national elimination status** (<1/10,000 prevalence).

Achievements Under NLEP:

- **Prevalence rate:** 0.57 (2025).
- **Grade 2 disability:** 1.88 per million.
- **Child cases:** 9.04% (2014-15) → 4.68% (2024-25).
- **New case detection rate:** 9.73 → 7 per 100,000.
- **Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):** 92% coverage.

National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2023-2027:

- Aligns with **Global Leprosy Strategy 2021–2030** and **WHO NTD Roadmap**.
- Goal: **Zero indigenous leprosy transmission by 2030**; targeted eradication by **2027 in high-burden districts**.

Other National & Global Initiatives:
- **Nikusth 2.0 Portal:** Digitized patient tracking.
- **National AMR Surveillance for Leprosy (2023):** Monitors drug resistance.
- **Integration with Ayushman Bharat, RBSK, RKSK:** Ensures screening across all age groups.
- **PVTG Tagging:** Inclusion of vulnerable tribal groups under PM-JANMAN.
- **Special monitoring:** 121 districts with prevalence >1/10,000.

- **Global support:**
  - **WHO:** Free MDT, technical support, programme monitoring, MLECs, COMBI pilot.
  - **World Bank:** IEC and community-based interventions (1993–2004).

Key Takeaways:
- Odisha's **vaccination drive** is a strategic step to **curb MB leprosy**, prevent disability and achieve **leprosy-free status by 2027**.
- Integrated approach: **Vaccination + MDT + active detection + public awareness**.
- Reflects India's **proactive national strategy** to sustain global leadership in NTD control.

Khurda Road–Balangir Railway Line
Context:
- Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** described the **long-pending Khurda Road–Balangir railway line** as a **historic milestone** for Odisha's connectivity and regional development. The project was first surveyed in **1947**, shortly after India's independence.

Project Overview:
- **Length:** ~301 km (broad-gauge).
- **Connected districts:** Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonepur, Balangir.
- **Purpose:** Bridge **coastal and western Odisha**, improve **regional mobility, trade, tourism and livelihoods**.

Operational Status:
- **226 km operational** (Khurda Road–Daspalla, Balangir–Purunakatak via Sonepur).
- **Rail connectivity introduced:** Nayagarh (2017), Sonepur (2024), Boudh (recently).

- **Pending section:** 75 km between Daspalla (Nayagarh) and Purunakatak (Boudh).

Engineering & Environmental Features:
- **Tunnels:** 7 tunnels totaling 12.76 km (longest >4 km in Boudh).
- **Viaducts:** 4.77 km viaduct (India's **second-longest**, over Bhrutang Reservoir).
- **Eco-sensitive measures:** Wildlife **underpasses/overpasses**, minimizing habitat fragmentation and human-animal conflicts.
- **Forested stretches:** 75 km alongside **Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary** (Satkosia Tiger Reserve) and **Brutang irrigation project** in Nayagarh.

Significance:
- Promotes **inclusive infrastructure and balanced regional development**.
- Boosts **local economies, market access, tourism and employment opportunities**.
- Sets a model for **eco-sensitive infrastructure in forested and wildlife areas**.

Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF)
Context
- Odisha emerged **champion** in the **Advanced National Search & Rescue Skills Competition**, with its **Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF)** team securing **first place**.

Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF): Overview
- **Purpose:** ODRAF is a **specialised disaster response unit** of Odisha Police, tasked to **act immediately during natural calamities or industrial accidents**.

- **ODRAF established:** 2001, post **Super Cyclone 1999**, when Odisha lacked a dedicated disaster response force and relied on Andhra Pradesh.
- **Purpose:** Build **state-level rapid disaster response capacity**.
- **Composition:** The force consists of **10 units** drawn from **Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP)** and **Armed Police Reserve (APR)**. Units are equipped with **cranes, generators, troop carriers, trucks, concrete cutting equipment** and can access tools from government or private agencies.
- **Deployment: 20 strategically located units** across Odisha reduce response time, positioned based on

vulnerability profiles. They report to the **District Superintendent of Police** upon deployment, initiated by the **Special Relief Commissioner, OSDMA, or District Collector**.

- **Key Locations:** Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Paradeep, Koraput, Rourkela, Balasore, Baripada, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Rayagada, Jajpur, Deogarh, Boudh, Khordha, Ganjam, Kandhamal.
- **Functional Parameters:** Units are **trained in rapid disaster response**, mobilised immediately upon warning or occurrence of disasters. They coordinate relief, rescue and restoration operations efficiently.

Notable Operations:
- **2005:** Floods in Bhadrak &Jajpur
- **2009:** Odisha floods, Coromandel Express derailment
- **2011:**Jajpur district floods

- **2013:** Cyclone Phailin relief
- **2014:** Hirakud boat capsizing, coastal floods, Cyclone Hudhud
- **2015–2016:** Odisha floods, bus accidents, hospital fire, Chilika boat capsizing
- **2019–2020:** Cyclones Fani and Amphan
- **2021:** Elephant rescue incident (ODRAF personnel casualty)

Significance of the Win:
- Demonstrates **Odisha's transformation** from dependency to national leadership in **disaster management**.
- Highlights excellence in **floods, cyclones, industrial accidents and rescue operations**.
- Reflects **years of investment** in **training, modern equipment and rigorous drills**.
- Enhances Odisha's reputation as a **model state for disaster preparedness and rapid response**.

Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)

Context
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted **three successive flight trials** of the **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**.

Purpose of Trials:
- Revalidate VSHORADS capability to **neutralise high-speed aerial threats** at **varying speeds, ranges and altitudes**.
- Test effectiveness against **enemy aircraft-mimicking targets** in diverse threat scenarios.

Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)
Technical Features:
- **Man-portable, lightweight system** for rapid deployment.
- **Range:** up to **8 km**; **Altitude engagement:** up to **4.5 km**.
- **Targets:** Drones, low-altitude high-speed aerial threats, loitering munitions.
- **Technology:**
  o **Miniaturized Reaction Control System (RCS)** for missile attitude control.
  o **Integrated avionics** for navigation and control.
- **Branches Served:** Indian **Army, Navy, Air Force**.

Significance:
- Provides **close-protection air defence** on the battlefield.
- Critical in countering **emerging drone threats** in modern warfare.
- Complements **India's layered air defence strategy**, enhancing short-range interception capability.
- Flight trials validated system's **effectiveness, reliability and combat readiness**.

Strategic Importance:
- Strengthens India's **indigenous defence capabilities**.
- Odisha serves as a **key site for defence R&D and missile testing**.

National Consultation on Tribal Empowerment, Bhubaneswar

Context:
- A **National Consultation** on tribal empowerment was held at **IMAGE Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar**, organised by **Action Aid India** in collaboration with **Adivasi Janjati Adhikar Manch**.
- Over **150 tribal leaders** from **19 states**, representing **50 tribal communities**, including **PVTGs** such as **Bonda, Didayi, Kolcha, Korva,**

Kotwalia, Paudi Bhuyan, Sabar, Sahariya, Thoti, participated.

Key Messages:
- **Laws alone are insufficient**; active community participation is essential for realising tribal rights.
- **Empowerment priorities** include:
  o Strengthening **Gram Sabhas**.
  o Scholarships and cash transfers for tribal children.
  o Annual **national forum** for Adivasi issues.
  o Effective implementation of **Forest Rights Act (FRA)** and **PESA**, especially for **PVTGs**.
  o Recognition and support for **Adivasi women** as key custodians of forests and seeds.

Challenges Highlighted:
- **Forest Rights Act** and **community forest rights** weakly implemented.
- Forest villages remain **unregularized**.
- Bureaucratic delays, rejected claims, shrinking land titles.
- Threats from **mining, dams and conservation projects**.
- PVTGs face **documentation barriers** to prove habitation rights.

Government Initiatives:
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)** launched on **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Nov 15, 2023**, to strengthen tribal rights and habitation security.

Recommendations & Way Forward:
- Proactive district-level campaigns to secure **habitation rights for PVTGs**.
- Focus on **marginalised tribal groups** to ensure inclusive empowerment.
- Strengthen tribal governance through **FRA, PESA and Sixth Schedule provisions**.
- Improved data on tribal populations' access to **health, education and livelihoods** for targeted interventions.

Significance:
- Marks **20 years of the Forest Rights Act**, reinforcing **constitutional foundations for Adivasi empowerment and environmental justice**.
- Emphasises **self-governance** and rectification of **historical injustices**.

> **Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA)**
> The **Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA)**, officially the *Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act*, secures **land and resource rights** of tribal and forest-dwelling communities, correcting historical injustices from colonial and post-independence forest policies. It recognizes **individual rights** (up to 4 hectares per family, heritable but non-transferable) and **community rights** over forest produce, habitat and resource management, while protecting claimants from eviction. Implemented via a **bottom-up mechanism**, Gram Sabhas consolidate and verify claims, forwarding them to Sub-Divisional and District Level Committees for final approval, with oversight from State and Central authorities. The FRA empowers communities to **govern and conserve forests**, provides rights to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and ensures access to **rehabilitation and basic facilities**.

Odisha's Vision for an Innovation-Driven Economy by 2036

Context
- At **Vikash Manthan 1.0 – Governance in Action**, Bhubaneswar, **Chief Secretary Anu Garg** outlined Odisha's roadmap to become a **high-income, inclusive, climate-resilient and innovation-driven economy by 2036**, coinciding with the state's centenary and India's 100 years of Independence in 2047.

Key Highlights:
- **Economic Performance:**
  o **GSDP (2025-26):** ₹9.9 lakh crore; **growth:** 9.5% YoY.
  o **Real growth rate:** 7.9%, surpassing the national average.
  o **Per capita income:** ₹1,86,761, nearly **tripled** since 2015-16.
- **Sectoral Momentum:**
  o **Agriculture & allied sectors:** Outperform national averages in contribution and growth.
  o **Industrial sector:** Contributes over **41% of GSVA**; shift from **mining-led** to **metallurgy, value-addition, petrochemicals, food processing, textiles** and **green energy equipment**.
  o **Services sector:** Projected growth **9.3%**, driven by IT, semiconductors and global capability centres.

Innovation & Technology:

- Odisha has **350 IT companies**, a dedicated **AI policy** and aims to establish **100+ global capability centres (GCCs)**.
- Focus on **transition from mine-driven to mind-driven economy**, leveraging IT, semiconductors and emerging green technologies.

Fiscal Position:
- Strong macro-fiscal management with **revenue surplus** and prudent **debt-to-GSDP ratio**, providing room for strategic investments.

Significance:
- Aligns **state development with Viksit Odisha 2036** and **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision.
- Promotes **inclusive growth, industrial diversification, technological leadership and climate resilience**.

UN launches Road Safety Financing Project in India

Context
- The **United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF)** has launched a **Sustainable Road Safety Financing Project** in India, inaugurated in New Delhi by **Jean Todt**, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety.

Details
- **Objective:** To establish **sustainable and coordinated financing mechanisms** for road safety interventions at national and state levels.
- **Partners:** Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), WHO, UNICEF and NGOs like **Save LIFE Foundation**.
- **Focus States:** Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam — aiming to **strengthen capacity for effective road safety action plans**.

- **Rationale:** India faces a **high burden of road traffic fatalities**, with accidents costing nearly **3% of GDP** annually.

Key Strategies:
- Innovative funding tools like **road safety bonds, dedicated taxes and PPPs**.
- **Capacity building** for planning, budgeting and monitoring road safety investments.
- Alignment with the **Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030**, targeting a **50% reduction in road fatalities and serious injuries by 2030**.

Significance
- The project ensures **predictable funding**, enhances institutional capacity and supports India's commitment to safer roads and global road safety goals.

Odisha Economic Survey 2025–26

Context:
- The **Odisha Economic Survey 2025–26** provides a comprehensive overview of the state's economy, highlighting growth momentum, structural transformation and inclusive development across sectors.

Overall Economy:
- Odisha's **GSDP at current prices** reached ₹9.9 lakh crore (growth 9.5%), with a **real growth rate of 7.9%**, surpassing the national average of 7.4%. Growth is driven by **robust domestic demand, industrial output, stable agriculture and rising investments**.
- **Per Capita Income:** Increased to **₹1,86,761** (growth 9.2%), outpacing the national average, indicating **income convergence and rising purchasing power**.

Employment & Structural Shift:
- **Labour force participation** (15+ years) rose from 58.1% to 64.5%; female participation from 37.6% to 48.7%.

- Implications: **Women empowerment, rural income diversification, social mobility and demographic dividend utilization**.

Agriculture:
Contributes **19.6% to GSDP** with 5.3% growth. Highlights:
- Food grains: 150.5 lakh MT; rice: 118.6 lakh MT; paddy procurement: 92.6 lakh MT.
- MSP payments: ₹21,300 crore; input subsidies: ₹7,140 crore; irrigation potential: 74.2 lakh hectares; cropping intensity: 165%.
- Allied sectors: milk (27.1 lakh MT), eggs (406 crore), fish (11.92 lakh MT), shrimp exports ₹4,708 crore.
- Reflects **policy-driven stability, rural development and export orientation**.

Industry:
Contributes **41.3% to GSVA**, manufacturing growth 8.3%. Key points:

- 244 projects approved (₹5.66 lakh crore, 3.35 lakh jobs), 80 implemented (₹1.75 lakh crore, 1.4 lakh jobs).
- **Business Reforms Action Plan** 98% implemented; compliance simplified under Odisha Jan Vishwas legislation.
- Signals **industrialization, investment attraction and ease of doing business**.

Services Sector:

- Contributes **39.1% to GSVA**, growing 9.3%. Tech-driven initiatives include: **AI Policy 2025, Global Capability Centre Policy 2025, Semiconductor and Fabless Policy 2025**, indicating a **shift to innovation-led services**.

Fiscal Management:

- Capital expenditure: 6.6% of GSDP (highest among major states).
- Debt-to-GSDP ratio: 13.6%; interest payments/revenue receipts: 2.8%.
- Ensures **high infrastructure investment with low debt burden**.

Infrastructure:

- Ports: Paradip, Dhamra, Gopalpur; Paradip handles 18% of India's cargo.
- Rail: 3,243 km; passenger growth 40% annually.
- Air: 5 airports; 30-city connectivity; ₹4,182 crore invested.

- Enhances **logistics, trade and industrial competitiveness**.

Social Sector & Human Capital:

- Health budget: ₹19,700 crore; 8,500 public health institutions.
- Education: ₹31,185 crore; 84% schools with internet; govt. enrolment >80%.
- Skills: 93% placement at Odisha World Skill Centre.

Social Inclusion & Women Empowerment:

- 16.42 lakh **LakhpatiDidis** created.
- SC/ST higher education enrolment up 34.3%; industrial employment: 31.7%.

Sports & Youth Development:

- Budget: ₹1,319 crore; six Regional Sports Hubs; ₹600 crore invested.
- Positions Odisha as **India's leading sports hub**.

Conclusion:

- Odisha demonstrates **robust economic growth, structural transformation and inclusive development**, with balanced progress across **agriculture, industry, services, human capital, infrastructure and social sectors**.
- Fiscal prudence and investment-driven industrialization make it a **model for sustainable and inclusive state-level development**.

Odisha Budget 2026–27

Context:

- Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi**, holding the Finance portfolio, presented the **₹3.10 lakh crore Odisha Budget 2026–27**, guided by the **GYAN philosophy** — Garib, Youth, Annadata, Narishakti — emphasizing **inclusive, outcome-driven development** while maintaining fiscal prudence. The Budget targets **12% nominal GSDP growth**, expanding the economy to ₹11.07 lakh crore.

Fiscal Framework:

- Revenue surplus: 3% of GSDP | Fiscal deficit: 3.5% | Debt stock: 14.1%
- Programme expenditure: ₹1.80 lakh crore (58% of total) | Administrative expenditure: ₹1.14 lakh crore
- Disaster management: ₹5,375 crore | Transfers: ₹10,625 crore | **Capital outlay:** ₹72,100 crore (6.5% of GSDP)

Key Strategic Priorities:

- **Rural Empowerment & Infrastructure: Mission PoWaR** — electricity, drinking water and last-mile road connectivity to all revenue villages; rural development allocation ₹44,309 crore; **BGBO programme** ₹2,000 crore for civic, sports, education and micro-tourism infrastructure.
- **Employment & Livelihoods: Viksit Bharat – Gramin Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission** ₹5,575 crore; MGNREGS ₹1,500 crore; **DALKHAI initiative** for local employment and infrastructure; tribal livelihood missions ₹476 crore.
- **Agriculture & Allied Sectors:** ₹42,492 crore; **Samruddha Krushak Yojana**, assured paddy procurement, CM-KISAN ₹2,030 crore; Shree Anna Abhiyan ₹400 crore; fisheries and animal husbandry ₹2,019 crore; irrigation & flood control ₹17,855 crore.
- **Health & Education:** Health ₹23,182 crore — Mukhyamantri Swasthya Seva, Gopabandhu Jan Arogya, cancer care, emergency networks; Education ₹42,565 crore — Samagra Shiksha, model schools, 4 new Greenfield universities, specialised higher education institutions.
- **Women & Child Welfare:** ₹18,957 crore; **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangal Yojana** — ₹20,000 at birth, ₹1,00,001 at graduation;

Madhubabu Pension Yojana ₹5,837 crore with saturation coverage.

- **Urban Development & Connectivity:** ₹10,738 crore; major expressways, air & rail investments; Bhubaneswar transformation projects; port-led development including National Waterway–5, international cruise terminal, shipbuilding cluster.
- **Industrial & Technology Push:** Odisha AI Mission ₹23 crore, Rare Earth Corridor ₹10 crore, MSME grants, industrial infrastructure funds, innovation missions.
- **Cultural & Heritage Infrastructure:** ₹1,000 crore Shree Jagannath Interpretation Centre, temple restoration, Digital Hundi platform, sacred ornament inventory.

Significance:

- The Budget blends **fiscal discipline with expansionary capital and welfare spending**, reinforcing **inclusive rural and urban development, agricultural resilience, women empowerment, education, health and technology-led industrial growth**. It positions Odisha for **sustained, resilient and broad-based growth**, aligning with **Vision Odisha 2036–2047**, while preserving cultural heritage and promoting equitable social transformation.

Forest Rights Cells

Context:

- The Odisha government has directed the **closure of Forest Rights Cells (FRCs)** at district and sub-divisional levels, raising concerns about the implementation of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.

Background:

- FRCs are administrative units created to process **Individual Forest Rights (IFR)** and **Community Rights (CR)** claims and provide technical support to tribal communities. Odisha has been a top performer in issuing forest rights titles but still had about **20% pending claims** as of December 2025.

Key Developments:

- On **17 February 2026**, Odisha ordered the closure of all 50 **sub-divisional FRA Cells** under the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA)** by March 2026.
- This follows the earlier shutdown of **district and tehsil-level cells** under the **Mo Jungle Jami Yojana**.
- The government has mandated clearing **all pending claims** before the deadline.

Concerns:

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** is scrutinizing the decision, stressing the need for adequate support staff for FRA implementation.
- Critics warn it may **slow tribal rights recognition** and affect **community forest governance**, potentially breaching the **legal provisions of FRA, 2006**.

Significance

- Ensuring timely processing of claims is crucial for **tribal entitlements, forest governance and legal compliance**.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) is a **transformative tribal development initiative** covering **63,843 villages**, benefiting **over 5 crore tribal citizens** across **549 districts and 2,911 blocks** in **30 States and UTs**, with special focus on **tribal-majority and aspirational blocks**. The program addresses gaps in **social infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihoods** through **25 interventions** by **17 line ministries**, promoting **convergence and holistic development**.

Services include **identity and welfare documents**, **healthcare (Ayushman Bharat, immunization)**, **financial inclusion (Jan Dhan, KCC, PM-KISAN)**, **social security (pensions, insurance)**, **employment and livelihoods (MGNREGA, PM Vishwakarma, Mudra Loans)** and **women & child welfare schemes**. Tribal citizens in districts like **Senapati** are urged to participate and avail these benefits for **inclusive and sustainable tribal development**.

Black Swan Summit India 2026

Context:

- The **Odisha government launched the Black Swan Summit India 2026** in Bhubaneswar under the **BharatNetra initiative** to strengthen digital finance and technology capabilities.

Key Features:

- Organised with **Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)**.
- Focus on **FinTech, InsurTech, AI, tokenisation and quantum computing**.

- Includes a **five-month hybrid training programme** with **NUS-AIDF** to build a future-ready workforce.
- **Global participation** to discuss policy, innovation and investment opportunities.

Significance

- Supports Odisha's vision to become a **global hub for digital finance, technology-led jobs and financial inclusion**.

AWARDS

Zero Prize

- The **Zero Prize** is India's first **results-based environmental award** with a **₹5 crore corpus**, granting **₹1 crore each** for **independently verified reduction in air, water and land pollution**, where only **measurable on-ground outcomes** qualify (not theoretical proposals), with monitoring aligned to **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** standards; the initiative is convened by the **School of Policy and Governance** and supports national missions such as **NCAP, Clean Ganga Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0**.

Boong

- The Manipuri-language film **Boong** made history by winning the **Best Children's and Family Film** category at the **BAFTA Awards 2026**, becoming the first Indian film ever to receive this honour; directed by **Lakshmipriya Devi** and backed by producers including **Farhan Akhtar** and **Ritesh Sidhwani**, the film was recognized for its emotional storytelling, cultural depth and portrayal of childhood innocence, after having gained international acclaim at festivals such as **Toronto International Film Festival 2024** and the **Warsaw International Film Festival 2024**.

One Battle After Another

- At the **79th BAFTA Awards 2026**, the film **One Battle After Another** dominated by winning **six awards**, including **Best Film** and **Best Director** for **Paul Thomas Anderson**, while other films like **Sinners** and **Hamnet** also won multiple honours and India celebrated with **Boong** winning **Best Children's & Family Film**, marking a historic achievement for Indian cinema on the global stage.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- The **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, instituted in 1969 to honor the father of Indian cinema, recognizes **lifetime achievement** in Indian films and is considered the country's highest cinema honor, awarding recipients with the **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl and ₹10 lakh**; over the decades, legendary artists from across languages and regions—including **Mohanlal (2025), Mithun Chakraborty (2024), Rekha (2023), Rajinikanth (2021, 2019), Amitabh Bachchan (2018) and Satyajit Ray (1984)**—have been celebrated for their enduring contributions to Indian cinema, highlighting the diversity and unity of the nation's film heritage.

68th Grammy Awards 2026

- The **68th Grammy Awards 2026** celebrated global musical excellence, creativity and cultural impact, spotlighting both established stars and emerging talent across diverse genres. Major wins included **Billie Eilish** for Song of the Year (*Wildflower*), **Olivia Dean** as Best New Artist, **Lady Gaga** for Best Pop Vocal Album (*Mayhem*) and **Kendrick Lamar** dominating rap categories with *GNX* and collaborations with Pharrell Williams, Lefty Gunplay and SZA. Other notable awards went to **Leon Thomas** (R&B), **Turnstile** (Rock/Metal), **The Cure** (Alternative), **FKA twigs** (Dance/Electronic), **Bad Bunny** (Música Urbana) and **Tyla** (Global Music Performance). Classical, jazz, folk and visual media were also recognized, with **Andris Nelsons** conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra and **Sinners** winning Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media, while unique categories honoured narration, comedy and children's music.

SPORTS

Ranji Trophy 2025-26

- Jammu and Kashmir made history by winning the **Ranji Trophy 2025-26** in their maiden final appearance, defeating **Karnataka**. Led by captain **Paras Dogra**, J&K posted 584 runs in the first innings and secured a massive 291-run lead. Key performances included **Shubham Pundir**'s crucial century and **Aquib Nabi Dar**'s five-wicket haul. This victory made them only the **10th team in 92 years** to win the Ranji Trophy on their debut final.

Delhi Open 2026

- At the **Delhi Open 2026**, Greece's **Stefanos Sakellaridis** won his maiden **ATP Challenger Tour singles title** by defeating Great Britain's **Oliver Crawford** in a thrilling final (7-5, 5-6, 7-6). In the doubles event, **India's Siddhant Banthia** and **Bulgaria's Alexander Donski** clinched the trophy, continuing India's strong record in the tournament. The Delhi Open, part of the ATP Challenger Tour, provides emerging players with crucial ranking points and experience on the international tennis circuit.

Winter Olympics 2026

- At the **Winter Olympics 2026** held in **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy**, **2,900 athletes** from **92 countries** competed across **116 events** in **8 sports**. **Norway** topped the medal table with **41 medals (18 golds)**, followed by the **United States** with 33 and the **Netherlands** with 20. **Italy**, the host nation, won **30 medals** including 10 golds. Notable historic golds were claimed by **Spain, Brazil and Kazakhstan**, while countries like **India** did not secure any medals.

Norway Gold Medal

- At the **2026 Winter Olympics** in **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo**, **Norway** made history by winning its **17th gold medal**, breaking the previous record of 16 set at Beijing 2022. The milestone came when **Johannes Dale-Skjevdal** delivered a flawless biathlon mass start performance, hitting **all 20 targets** and finishing in **39 minutes 17.1 seconds**. This achievement reinforced Norway's long-standing dominance in winter sports, particularly in biathlon, cross-country skiing and Nordic events, placing it at the top of the Winter Olympics all-time medal table with **405 total medals**.

Most-Capped Player in Women's International Cricket

- On **20 February 2026**, **India captain Harmanpreet Kaur** became the **most-capped player in women's international cricket**, appearing in **356 matches** during the second T20I against Australia in Canberra. She surpassed **Suzie Bates** of New Zealand (355 matches), highlighting her longevity, fitness and consistency across formats. Since her debut in 2009, Harmanpreet has played 6 Tests, 161 ODIs and 189 T20Is, amassing over 8,400 international runs and leading India to their first **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title in 2025**. This milestone cements her legacy as one of the greatest women cricketers globally.

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026

- At the **Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026** in Tianjin, China, **India's Tejaswin Shankar** won gold in the men's **heptathlon**, setting a **new national indoor record of 5,993 points**, surpassing his previous best of 5,650 points. His performance marked India's **only gold medal** at the championship, where the country finished **sixth overall** with five medals.
- The heptathlon is a combined track and field event that consists of seven disciplines across a two-day period. Competitors earn points for their performance in each discipline and the overall winner is the athlete who scores the most points. It's considered to be the ultimate all-round-test for athletes.

BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025

- Indian cricket star **Smriti Mandhana** was named **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025** for her pivotal role in India's historic Women's World Cup triumph. The award, presented in New Delhi, recognized her outstanding performance, including the fastest 50-over international century by an Indian and being among the highest run-scorers in women's cricket. Young chess prodigy

Divya Deshmukh won the Emerging Player of the Year award for her FIDE Women's World Cup victory, highlighting India's rising talent across sports.

First bowler in the world to take 700 T20 wickets

- Afghanistan's star spinner **Rashid Khan** created history during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 match against UAE in Delhi by becoming the **first bowler in the world to take 700 T20 wickets**. Achieving this milestone in just 518 matches, he surpassed Dwayne Bravo's previous record of 631 wickets and now leads global T20 records. Rashid's tally includes 191 T20I wickets, four hat-tricks and 225 bowled dismissals—the most in T20 history—highlighting his consistency, dominance across leagues and exceptional ability to attack stumps.

2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship

- World number one **Magnus Carlsen** won the **2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship** in Weissenhaus by defeating **Fabiano Caruana** 2.5–1.5 in the final. The victory marked Carlsen's **21st world title across formats** and his first official FIDE-recognized title in the Freestyle (Chess960) format, where starting positions of pieces are randomized to emphasize creativity and over-the-board calculation.

Most number of Wickets

- In India–Pakistan T20 World Cup clashes, **Hardik Pandya** leads with 14 wickets, followed by **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** (11), **Arshdeep Singh** (7), **Jasprit Bumrah** (7) and **Irfan Pathan** (6). These bowlers have consistently delivered breakthroughs in high-pressure matches, making India's contests against Pakistan memorable.

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026

- At the **Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026** held at **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi**, India topped the medal tally with **94 medals** (51 gold, 23 silver, 20 bronze), dominating both senior and junior events. Shooters like **Amanpreet Singh** (25m Centre Fire Pistol) and **Sift Kaur Samra** (50m Rifle Prone Women – Senior) won individual medals, while India achieved multiple **podium sweeps** and team golds, reinforcing its status as a leading shooting nation in Asia.

Asian Shooting Championships 2026

- At the **Asian Shooting Championships 2026** in **New Delhi**, Indian shooter **Manu Bhaker** won the **silver medal in the 25m pistol** event, bouncing back after finishing seventh in the 10m air pistol.
- At the **Asian Shooting Championships 2026**, **Meghana Sajjanar**, eight months pregnant, won a **bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle** event and contributed to India's **team gold**. Her achievement is historic, highlighting exceptional **resilience, balance and mental strength** and challenges conventional notions about pregnancy and elite sports.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date & Occasion	Theme / Significance
1 Feb 2026 – Coast Guard Day (India)	Celebrates the role of India's Coast Guard in maritime security, rescue and safety operations. 2026 marks 50 years of continuous service to the nation.
1–7 Feb 2026 – World Interfaith Harmony Week	Promotes dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation among different faiths.
2 Feb 2026 – World Wetlands Day	World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on 2 February to mark the signing of the Ramsar Convention in 1971 at Ramsar in Iran. The 2026 theme, "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage," focuses on the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in wetland conservation.
4 Feb 2026 – International Day of Human Fraternity	Promotes dialogue over division; encourages peace, tolerance and human fraternity.

10 Feb 2026 – World Pulses Day	Highlights importance of pulses for nutrition, food security and sustainable agriculture. The day has been officially observed since 2019, after being designated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018. It builds on the success of the International Year of Pulses 2016
11 Feb 2026 – International Day of Women & Girls in Science	International Day of Women and Girls in Science was declared by the United Nations to address the persistent gender gap in STEM. The theme for International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 is "Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls."
12 Feb 2026 – National Productivity Week	Celebrated by National Productivity Council (68th Foundation Day); focuses on enhancing productivity culture in India.
13 Feb 2026 – National Women's Day (India)	Commemorates Sarojini Naidu; celebrates women's achievements and empowerment.
13 Feb 2026 – World Radio Day	Stresses role of radio in digital age & AI era; ensures access to information, education and cultural programming.
18 Feb 2026 – Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti	Tribute to spiritual teachings of Sri Ramakrishna; emphasizes moral, cultural and spiritual values.
19 Feb 2026 – Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti	Marks birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj; highlights valor, leadership and Swarajya.
19 Feb 2026 – World Day of Social Justice	Focuses on equity, human rights and social inclusion; post-Doha commitment to social justice.
20 Feb 2026 – Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day	Arunachal Pradesh celebrates its Foundation Day (Statehood Day) annually on **February 20**, marking its establishment as the 24th state of India on February 20, 1987
20 Feb 2026 – Mizoram Foundation Day	Mizoram became a state on February 20, 1987. It was established as the 23rd state of India following the 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution and a peace accord with the Mizo National Front. Previously, it was a Union Territory from 1972.
21 Feb 2026 – International Mother Language Day	Theme: "Youth Voices on Multilingual Education"; promotes linguistic diversity, mother-tongue education and inclusion.
27 Feb 2025 – 95th Martyrdom Day of Chandra Shekhar Azad	Honors revolutionary leader of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) highlights patriotism and sacrifice for India's freedom struggle.
28 Feb 2026 – National Science Day (India)	Commemorates C. V. Raman's discovery of Raman Effect; theme: "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat"; encourages women in STEM.
28 Feb 2026 – Remembering Baba Amte	Marks 18 years since the passing of social reformer Baba Amte; highlights contributions to leprosy rehabilitation and social service

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book / Publication	Author / Publisher	Book / Publication	Author / Publisher
Common Weal, New India	Annie Besant	Indian Opinion	Valentine Chirol
Hind Swaraj	Mahatma Gandhi	Indian Unrest	Subhash Chandra Bose
India Wins Freedom	Abul Kalam Azad	Indian Struggle	Tara Chand
Bapu: My Mother	Manubehn Gandhi	History of the Freedom Movement in India	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
Gita Rahasya	Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Anandmath	Raja Ram Mohan Roy
Vande Mataram (letter)	Aurobindo Ghosh	Precepts of Jesus	W.W. Hunter

Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan	Colonel James Tod	Our Indian Musalmans	K.K. Dutta
Vital-Vidhvansak	Gopal Baba Walangkar	History of the Freedom Movement in Bihar	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
Unhappy India	Lala Lajpat Rai	Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Kesari, Maratha	Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Al-Helal	Bhagat Singh
Durgesh Nandini, Anandmath	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee	An Introduction to the Dreamland	Bhagat Singh
Poverty and Un-British Rule in India	Dadabhai Naoroji	Why I am an Atheist	Sachindranath Sanyal
The Man Who Divided India	Dr. Rafiq Zakaria	Bandi Jivan	Subhash Chandra Bose
Freedom at Midnight	Larry Collins & Dominique Lapierre	Indian Struggle	Bhagwati Charan Vohra
India from Curzon to Nehru and After	Durga Das	The Philosophy of Bomb	Shyamji Krishna Verma
Runs and Ruins	Sunil Gavaskar	The Indian Sociologist	B.R. Ambedkar
Young India	Mahatma Gandhi	Annihilation of Caste	Frank Robert Moraes
The Hitavada	Gopal Krishna Gokhale	Jawaharlal Nehru – A Biography	Ram Manohar Lohia
Songs from Prison	Mahatma Gandhi	Guilty Men of India's Partition	H.V. Hudson
The Story of My Deportation	Lala Lajpat Rai	The Great Divide	Govinda Das
Gita Rahasya	Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Amabasyara Chandra	Gopinath Mohanty
A Nation in Making	Surendranath Banerjee	Amritua Santa, Mati o Matala	Akhil Mohan Patnaik
Samachar Darpan	J.C. Marshman	Andha Gali	Sitakant Mahapatra
Mirat-ul-Akhbar	Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Ara Drushya	Bibhuti Patnaik
	Mahatma Gandhi	Ashwamedheva Ghoda	

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

- **Upendra Bhanja** is known as **Kabi Samrata**, meaning "Emperor of Poets." He was a celebrated Odia poet of the 17th–18th century, renowned for his **lyrical poetry, intricate language and literary ornamentation**, particularly in works like *Baidehisha Bilasa*.
- Gourishankar Ray, regarded as the father of Odia journalism, co-founded **Utkala Deepika** on **4 August 1866**, making this day celebrated as **Odia Journalism Day**.
- Cuttack is known as the "Silver City" of Odisha, celebrated for its, over 1,000-year-old history and exquisite, 500-year-old Tarakasi (silver filigree) art form.
- The popular book "SampratikataraAnuchintare Bigyan O Baigyanik" was written by **Dr. Nikhilananda Panigrahi**.

- Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo (R.N. Singh Deo), leader of the Ganatantra Parishad, was the first recognized Leader of the Opposition in the Odisha Legislative Assembly after Independence, taking the position on April 1, 1957.
- The first assembly election in Odisha after India's independence was held in **1951–1952**. This was part of the inaugural Indian general election under the new constitution, which saw voters elect representatives for both the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
- The Barabati was built in 987 CE by the Somavamshi dynasty lineage ruler Maharaja Markata Keshari while building a stone embankment to protect Cuttack which was known as Kataka at that time.
- The Budhabalanga River begins in the **Similipal Hills of Mayurbhanj district** and flows eastwards

- to the Bay of Bengal, with tributaries like the **Sone and Gangadhar**.
- Rising in the **Sinkaran hills of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha's Koraput district**, the Kolab River (also known as the Sabari River in its lower course) is a major perennial river. It flows southward, joining the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Badrama (Ushakothi) Wildlife Sanctuary** lies west of **Hirakud Dam** (Ib joins Mahanadi) and east of **Rengali Reservoir** (on Brahmani River).
- **Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated where the **Mahanadi River flows through a gorge in the Eastern Ghats**.
- **Tampara Lake** is a 300-hectare <u>fresh water</u> lake situated on the right bank of the <u>Rushikulya River</u>, near <u>Chhatrapur</u>.
- Justice Harish Tandon is the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.
- Justice Bira Kishore Ray was the **first Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court**, serving from its inauguration on July 26, 1948, until October 30, 1951.
- The **sanctioned judge strength** of the **Odisha High Court** is **33**, consisting of **24 permanent judges** and **9 additional judges**.
- There are now **six Municipal Corporations in Odisha**. These key **urban local bodies** are **Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur and Puri**.
- Odisha has **53 Municipalities (Municipal Councils)** and **86 Notified Area Councils (NACs)**.
- The **Rourkela Steel Plant** was established on **February 3, 1959**, with the inauguration of its first **blast furnace**.

- **Kandhamal Haladi** was awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) status** by the **Geographical Indications Registry**, under the **Union Government of India**, on **1 April 2019**, valid up to **10 January 2028**.
- **Gopalpur port** is close to **National Highway 16 (Kolkata-Chennai)**, providing good **connectivity** with **Gopalpur**.
- **Khurda Road Junction Railway Station** was opened to the public in **1897**, with the **Khurda Road–Puri section** opening on **February 1, 1897**.
- The **Salandi River** is a **144 km long river** in **Odisha**, originating from the **Meghasani hills** in the **Similipal range (Mayurbhanj district)** and featuring the **Salandi Dam (Hadagarh Dam)** in **Keonjhar district**.
- The **Saranda Forest**, located in **West Singhbhum, Jharkhand**, is **Asia's largest Sal forest**, known as the "**land of seven hundred hills**".
- **Ramchandi Beach**, located **7 km from Konark** and **25 km from Puri** in **Odisha**, is a **picturesque destination** where the **Kusabhadra River** meets the **Bay of Bengal**.
- **Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary** is a **wildlife reserve** in the **southern fringe of Cuttack district**.
- **Gonasika Hill**, located **45 km from Keonjhar** in **Odisha**, is a **sacred, scenic spot**, known as the **origin of the Baitarani River**.
- **Kalinganagar**, located in **Jajpur district, Odisha**, is a **planned industrial hub** and a **major steel manufacturing cluster** in **India**.
- **Rengali Dam** is a **dam** constructed across the **Brahmani River**.

STATIC GK

United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF): Created in **2005** by **Kofi Annan** to support **democratization**, relying on **voluntary contributions**.

President's Bodyguard (PBG): Raised in **1773** by **Warren Hastings** in **Benares**, oldest regiment of the **Indian Army**.

Srijan Portal: Encourages **FDI** in the **defense sector**.

Akash Weapon System (AWS):Indigenous SRSAM by **DRDO**, targets **helicopters, fighter aircraft, UAVs**.

Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs):Short-range weapons: land (<500 km) and air/sea (<600 km).

Umiam Lake: In **Meghalaya**, aka "**Bara Pani**," created for first **hydel project**.

Congo Basin: Spans **Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon**; excludes **Angola**.

Siyom Bridge: In **Arunachal Pradesh**, enhances **strategic connectivity** along **Sino-India border**.

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme (MSSC): Exclusively for **women**, max deposit **₹2 lakh**.

Trade Secrets:Confidential information protected under **IPR**; India lacks specific law.

Ajrak: Ancient **block-printing craft** from **Gujarat** using **natural dyes**.

Ankia Naat:Assamese one-act play linked to **Sattriya dance**, depicts **Krishna's life**.

High-altitude Balloons: Used in **meteorology, astronomy, espionage**.

Fields Medal: Awarded every **4 years** to **mathematicians under 40**.

Largest shareholder in World Bank:United States.

Vande Mataram Movement (1907): In **Andhra Pradesh**, led by **Harisarvothama Rao & Pingali Lakshmi Narayana**, ended with annulment of **Bengal partition**.

Direct Listing Scheme: Allows **Indian companies** to list on **foreign exchanges** without intermediaries.

Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) Model: Private entities collect **tolls** for set period; govt regains ownership later.

Subak System: Traditional **Bali irrigation** via **canals and dykes** to rice terraces.

Hashing: Scrambles **data integrity**, encryption secures **data transmission**.

Sitabena&Jogimara Caves: Ancient caves in **Ramgarh hills, Chhattisgarh**.

Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT):Non-sexual genetic material movement between organisms.

Fifth Mass Extinction: Known for **dinosaur extinction** via **asteroid impact**.

El Niño Modoki: Warming in **central tropical Pacific**, cooling in **eastern & western Pacific**.

GRAPES-3 experiment: Studies **solar flares' impact** on **Earth's climate**, in **Ooty, Tamil Nadu**.

Andes Mountain Range: Stretches across **Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina**.

Schengen Area:27 European countries with abolished **internal borders**.

UNCAC: Only **legally binding international anti-corruption treaty**.

Environmental DNA (eDNA): DNA released via **feces, mucous, gametes**, not **UVB resistant**.

Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF): Covers **QR codes, biometric devices, PoS terminals**.

Ayak & Anyat:Millet varieties grown by **Adi community, Arunachal Pradesh**.

Milling Copra: Used to **extract oil**; **ball copra** consumed as **dry fruit**.

SIGHT Programme: Under **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, boosts **electrolyser & green hydrogen production**.

Pheromones: Chemicals triggering **behavior in same-species animals**.

Longest coastline (Indian states):Gujarat.

Calcium-41: Shorter half-life than **C-14**, rare detection.

Public Charging Stations (PCS):De-licensed, managed by **DISCOMs**.

Nodal agency for EV charging:Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Connected Lending: Loans to **owners/related businesses** on **softer terms**.

Calibrated Tightening Policy: RBI's **policy tilt toward rate hikes**, not at every meeting.

Hazardous Wastes (India): Includes **mercury, cadmium, arsenic**.

Bengal Barrier: Proposed **green wall** on **West Bengal's western border**.

Hussain Sagar Lake: Built under **Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah**, links **Hyderabad &Secunderabad**.

Spiral Galaxies:Young stars form in **spiral arms**; elliptical galaxies have less **gas & dust**.

REDD+: UNFCCC mechanism incentivizing **low-carbon sustainable development**.

First organized trade union (India):Madras Labour Union (1918).

Realized Niche: Species' **actual habitat** limited by **competition &** **predation**.

CURRENT GK

India hosted the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi (16–21 Feb), the first major global AI summit in the Global South.

India formally signed the Pax Silica Declaration with the United States at the AI Impact Summit to deepen strategic tech cooperation.

AI Impact Summit 2026 positioned India as a leader in inclusive AI, focusing on development and governance.

India launched new Indian AI models including Sarvam AI and BharatGen Param2 at the Summit.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited India (17–19 Feb) for AI summit and bilateral talks.

India–France Year of Innovation 2026 was launched to deepen cooperation in tech, health and science.

India–France elevated ties to Special Global Strategic Partnership for future cooperation.

Cybercrime in India rose 24% in 2025, with losses of over ₹22,000 crore, led by investment scams.

New GDP series with base year FY23 introduced for revised national economic estimates.

Operation Ghazablil Haq marked armed conflict escalation along the Pakistan–Afghanistan border.

Pakistan- Afghanistan armed conflict remains a key security issue affecting regional stability.

India unveiled 'Prahaar', its first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy for modern terror threats.

India hosted three major naval events in Vizag (IFR, MILAN, IONS Conclave) showcasing maritime power.

India ranked 130th in HDI 2025, marking progress in health, education and income but persistent inequalities.

Renaming Kerala as Keralam: The Union Cabinet approves changing Kerala's official name to reflect its Malayalam heritage.

LCH Prachand – India's indigenous light combat helicopter operates above 5,000 meters, strengthening high-altitude defense capabilities.

Villages of Excellence Initiative – India-Israel collaboration integrates high-tech agriculture into villages to boost farmer income and productivity.

Meningococcal Infection – A rapidly progressing bacterial infection causing meningitis and septicemia, with high fatality if untreated.

Suspension of Fortified Rice Rollout – Fortified rice distribution under welfare schemes is paused due to nutrient degradation during storage.

BharatGen and IndiaAI initiatives use AI for precision agriculture, multilingual governance and rural healthcare.

Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU): India allocates ₹20,000 crore to scale CCUS technologies, promoting a circular carbon economy.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination: India rolls out a nationwide free HPV vaccination program to prevent cervical cancer in adolescent girls.

Congo Lakes (Mai Ndombe and Tumba): Ancient peat carbon from Congo's Mai Ndombe and Tumba lakes is being released, raising climate concerns.

Military Exercises (Dharma Guardian & Vajra Prahar): India strengthens defence cooperation with Japan and the US through joint military exercises.

India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) update: The DTAC amendment aligns taxation rules with international standards and clarifies capital gains and dividends.

Prahaar is **India's first integrated anti-terror policy focusing on proactive, intelligence-led operations.**

Vasai Cathedral won UNESCO merit for authentic, community-driven heritage conservation.

INS Anjadip enhances India's coastal anti-submarine warfare capabilities as an indigenously built vessel.

Cybercrime cases in India rose 24% in 2025, causing ₹22,495 crore losses.

"One Plant Per Day" initiative promotes mass environmental awareness and afforestation.

Operation Chivalrous Knight 3 provides large-scale humanitarian relief to Gaza.

India assumed the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) to enhance maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

Strait of Hormuz – Strategic oil chokepoint linking Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean, critical for global energy security.

United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative Impact Centre: A specialized UN centre guiding financial institutions to align investments with sustainability and SDGs.

PM RAHAT Scheme: Provides cashless emergency treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for road accident victims during the Golden Hour.

Bio-based Chemicals and Enzymes: Promotes renewable feedstock and enzyme-driven industrial processes to reduce petrochemical dependence.

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF): A ₹1 lakh crore market-linked initiative to transform urban infrastructure through competitive and reform-driven projects.

CBDC-based Public Distribution System (PDS): Digitally enabled ration delivery using central bank digital currency for transparency and efficiency.

Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) – Indigenous vaccine trials target a tick-borne viral disease endemic to the Western Ghats.

United States–India Interim Trade Agreement – Interim trade framework enhances reciprocal market access, tariff alignment and strategic supply chain cooperation.

Increased Capital Spending for the Defence Sector: India's defence budget rises 15.2% with 75% of capital acquisitions earmarked for domestic industry.

Waste-pickers enumeration under NAMASTE scheme: Over 84% of India's waste-pickers belong to SC, ST and OBC communities, highlighting occupational inequities.

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) Technology: DRDO successfully demonstrates indigenous air-breathing missile propulsion for sustained supersonic flight.

Project Vault: US launches a $12 billion stockpiling program to secure critical minerals and reduce dependence on China.

Removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC): CEC can be removed like a Supreme Court judge via parliamentary special majority for proven misbehavior or incapacity.

Blue Line along the Lebanon–Israel frontier: The UN-monitored Blue Line marks Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon to maintain regional stability.

Turtle Trails: Eco-tourism 'turtle trails' in Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala aim to protect Olive Ridley nesting sites and support local communities.

Seychelles: Strategic Indian Ocean archipelago hosting 115 islands, emphasizing marine conservation and the blue economy.

Addition of 2 New Wetlands to India's Ramsar List: Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari Dhand are India's newest Ramsar sites, raising the total to 98.

SBI launches 'CHAKRA' Centre of Excellence: SBI's CHAKRA CoE strengthens financing expertise for eight critical sunrise sectors.

Pennaiyar River: The Pennaiyar River dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka underscores the need for inter-state water management.

Sabhasaar Initiative: Over 1.11 lakh Gram Panchayats adopted the AI-powered SabhaSaar platform for automated Gram Sabha meeting summarisation.

India Joins BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies: India joined BCIC to enhance industrial competitiveness, MSME support and digital transformation across BRICS countries.

Anthropic AI Workplace Suite: Anthropic launched autonomous AI agents capable of performing complex office tasks, raising concerns of disintermediation in SaaS and IT services.

Bharat Taxi Cooperative: India launched its first driver-owned cooperative taxi service to promote inclusive, commission-free mobility under Sahkar se Samriddhi.

Military Exercises: India conducted Exercises Khanjar, Agni Pariksha and Vayu Shakti-2026 to enhance joint operational readiness across Army, ITBP and IAF units.

Rafah Border Crossing: The Rafah Border between Gaza and Egypt reopened to allow humanitarian aid and limited civilian movement under international monitoring.

Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary: Kerala's Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, spanning seven forest types, recorded new species, reinforcing its status as a Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.

LEARNING THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS

BASICS OF INDIAN CURRENCY & CURRENCY MANAGEMENT

• CLEAN • STRUCTURED • ESSENTIAL •

What is Legal Tender?

Coins
Law: Coinage Act, 2011
• Issued by Government of India
• Should not be defaced or underweight

Limits per transaction
• ₹1 and above → Valid up to ₹1000
• 50 paise → Valid up to ₹10
You cannot be forced to accept coins beyond this limit (but you may accept voluntarily).

Banknotes
Law: Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 26)
• Issued by RBI
• Legal tender across India
• Guaranteed by Central Government
• ₹1 note is issued by Government of India

Demonetisation Explained

Old notes withdrawn:
• ₹500 & ₹1000 (on 8 Nov 2016)

₹2000 note continues to be legal tender.

Past Demonetisations:
• 1946 → ₹500, ₹1000, ₹10000
• 1978 → ₹1000, ₹5000, ₹10000
• 2016 → ₹500 & ₹1000

Law governing 2016:
Specified Banknotes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017

After grace period:
• Max 10 notes allowed
• 25 allowed for research/numismatics

Where Is Money Printed?

Banknotes (100% cotton paper)
Printed at 4 presses:
Nasik | Dewas | Mysuru | Salboni

Coins are minted at:
Mumbai | Hyderabad | Kolkata | Noida
Coins are issued into circulation through RBI (Section 38).

How Currency Reaches You

Step-by-step flow:
Printing Press
→ RBI Issue Office (19 offices + Kochi chest)
→ Currency Chest
→ Bank Branch
→ Public

Currency Chest
• Store notes & rupee coins
• Managed by selected banks
• 2691 chests

Small Coin Depots:
• Store coins below ₹1
• 2299 depots (as on Feb 28, 2025)
Coins first go to Mint Linked Offices:
Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi.

Role of RBI in Currency Management

RBI
• Sole authority to issue notes (Section 22)
• Note design approved by Central Govt (Section 25)
• Estimates yearly demand
• Places printing orders (indent)
• Destroys damaged notes
• Implements Clean Note Policy
• Distributes coins minted by Government

Notes are backed by (Section 33)
• Gold coin
• Gold bullion
• Foreign securities
• Rupee coins
• Rupee securities

Laws Governing Indian Currency
• Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
• Coinage Act, 2011
• RBI (Note Refund) Rules, 2009
• Amendment Rules, 2018
• Master Directions on Exchange of Notes & Coins
Earlier Paper Currency Acts have been repealed.

Banknote Series & Denominations

Ashoka Pillar Series (1949)
• Lion Capital watermark
• "Satyameva Jayate" added in 1970

Mahatma Gandhi Series (1996)
MG Series 2005
• Added extra security features

Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series – 2016
• Smaller size
• Indian themes
• First note: ₹2000 (Mangalyaan theme)
Later: ₹500, ₹200, ₹100, ₹50, ₹20, ₹10

Current Notes:
₹10, ₹20, ₹50, ₹100, ₹200, ₹500, ₹2000
₹1→Government of India
₹2 & ₹5→Discontinued
Highest ever printed→₹10000
(demonetised in 1946 & 1978)

India & Kimberley Process (KP)

India assumes Chairmanship of KP in 2026.

Kimberley Process (KP)

- Started: 2000 (by Southern African countries).
- Nature: Voluntary, not legally binding.
- Aim: Prevent trade in conflict diamonds.
- Members: 60 participants | 86 countries.
- Coverage: 99.8% of global rough diamond production.

India & Diamonds

- Only active mine: Majhgawan (Panna, MP) – GI-tagged
- ~90% of world diamonds processed in India
- ~75% global value turnover (Surat & Mumbai hubs)
- Major importer of rough diamonds

Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)

- Launched: 2003
- Mandatory tamper-proof KP certificate for cross-border trade in rough diamonds
- Trade allowed only among certified members
- National laws enforce compliance; members share production & trade data
- India: Founding member.

Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGDs): India's New Edge

- 2023: >3 million LGDs | 15%+ of global output
- Produced via CVD & HPHT technologies
- Policy support:
  - Customs duty removed on carbon seeds (Fy26)
  - 100% FDI permitted
- Goal: From polishing hub → global LGD manufacturing leader

Core Challenges Facing the KP

- Narrow definition: Ignores state-led violence & human rights abuses.
- "Mixed origin" loophole: Weak traceability enables laundering.
- Consensus veto: One country can block reforms.
- No permanent secretariat: Weak monitoring & crisis response.
- Ineffective embargoes: e.g., Central African Republic.
- Rough-only scope: Polishing removes KP oversight.
- LGD shift: Ethical concerns reducing demand for natural diamonds.