

APTI PLUS OAS GAZETTE

APRIL 2026

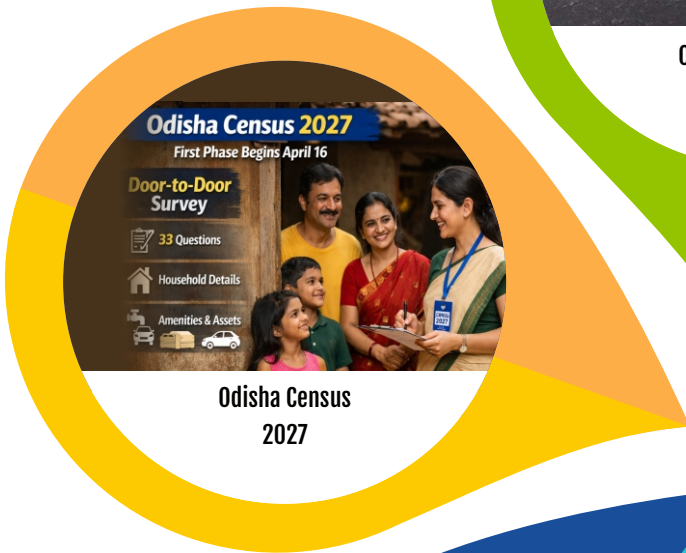


APTI PLUS

Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.
CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION



Odisha Heatwave
& Kalbaishakhi



Odisha Census
2027



Nikita Toppo – Khelo
India Tribal Games
2026



ULLAS Programme in
Odisha – Adult Literacy
Initiative



Utkal Diwas /
Odisha Diwas

Disclaimer: Copyright infringement not intended.

COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



CONTENT

OPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

4

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK	21
BOOKS & AUTHORS	22
APPOINTMENTS	23
AWARDS	23
SPORTS	28
IMPORTANT DAYS	30
STATIC GK	32
CURRENT GK	35



APTI PLUS

Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

Legacy Unstoppable.
Congratulations to our toppers of
OAS 2023

280+ Selections
4 selections in Top 10
12 selections in Top 20
76 selections in Top 100



Mirza Faiz Ahmed
Rank 4
IGP



Antim Swain
Rank 6
Mains Guidance Program



Shailesh Kumar Bhoi
Rank 7
Classroom Program



Md. Nazif Hatif
Rank 8
IGP



Swarupini Patnaik
Rank 12
IGP



Krishna Gopal Swain
Rank 13
IGP



Sneha Das Mohapatra
Rank 14
Mains Mentorship Program



Asutosh Satpathy
Rank 15
IGP



Deepsita Behera
Rank 16
Mains Guidance Program



Supriya Mishra
Rank 17
IGP



Aseema Anwesa
Rank 18
IGP



Mg Subarna Mohanty
Rank 19
IGP



BEHIND EVERY RANK, THERE'S A TEAM.
To our Faculty, Content Team & Support Staff-
Your hard work, passion, and commitment made this historic success possible.
This victory belongs as much to you as to our students!

Rank 21	Rank 22	Rank 23	Rank 24	Rank 26	Rank 27	Rank 29	Rank 31	Rank 33	Rank 34	Rank 35	Rank 36	Rank 37	Rank 39	Rank 41	Rank 42	Rank 44
Rank 46	Rank 49	Rank 51	Rank 53	Rank 54	Rank 55	Rank 57	Rank 58	Rank 59	Rank 61	Rank 62	Rank 63	Rank 64	Rank 66	Rank 66	Rank 68	Rank 69
Rank 71	Rank 72	Rank 73	Rank 75	Rank 77	Rank 79	Rank 82	Rank 85	Rank 86	Rank 88	Rank 93	Rank 101	Rank 109	Rank 110	Rank 117	Rank 118	Rank 119
Rank 123	Rank 124	Rank 125	Rank 126	Rank 127	Rank 129	Rank 133	Rank 134	Rank 136	Rank 138	Rank 140	Rank 141	Rank 142	Rank 147	Rank 150	Rank 152	
Rank 153	Rank 154	Rank 156	Rank 157	Rank 158	Rank 159	Rank 161	Rank 162	Rank 165	Rank 169	Rank 171	Rank 172	Rank 173	Rank 174	Rank 175	Rank 177	Rank 178
Rank 179	Rank 180	Rank 185	Rank 186	Rank 188	Rank 188	Rank 189	Rank 191	Rank 192	Rank 193	Rank 194	Rank 195	Rank 197	Rank 199	Rank 200		

& many more...

Features:

- Renowned Faculty from DELHI with Extensive CSE experience.
- Scientific design Stepwise Training from Basic NCERT to Advance Level.
- Separate Doubt Clearing Session & Weekly Current Affairs Session
- National Level Test Series with a 'Learn-Revise-Test-Succeed' approach
- Mode of Class is Offline / Online / Hybrid with Library and Hostel facilities
- Undivided Attention by Personal Mentors.
- Weekly Evaluation progress made. Analysis of Strength and Weakness.
- Specific focus on upcoming UPSC & OPSC Exam with new approach

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR
IAS & OAS
GRADUATES & 12th PASS CANDIDATES

Integrated & Foundation Courses

Call: 9938386166, 7327846166, 8260677707

JAYDEV VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR

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, SECURITY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

₹585 Crore Package for Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das birthplace

Context

- The Government of Odisha announced a ₹585 crore development package for the birthplace of Gopabandhu Das at Satyabadi, Puri district, during Utkal Divas celebrations.

Key Highlights

- ₹585 crore redevelopment package for **Satyabadi (birthplace of Gopabandhu Das)**.
- ₹90 crore allocated for revival of **Bakul Bana** (historic site).
- Development of:
 - Heritage corridor
 - Cultural & spiritual hub
 - Educational infrastructure including Bana Vidyalaya
- Aim: Promote **heritage tourism + cultural identity + local development**.

Development Vision of Odisha

- Odisha aims to become:
 - \$500 Billion economy by 2036**
 - \$1.5 Trillion economy by 2047**
- Focus sectors:
 - Tourism
 - Cultural heritage
 - Infrastructure
 - Regional development (especially Puri district)
- Proposal for:
 - World Tourism Centre**
 - Cruise Terminal in Puri**

Importance of Gopabandhu Das

- Known as **Utkalmani (Gem of Odisha)**.
- Freedom fighter, social reformer, educationist.
- Founder of **Satyabadi Bana Vidyalaya**.
- Promoted nationalism, social service and education.
- Associated with **Satyabadi Movement** in Odisha.

Odisha District Planning Committees

Context

- The Government of Odisha has constituted **District Planning Committees (DPCs)** for all **30 districts** to strengthen decentralised planning and district-level development.

Details

- The Odisha government formed **District Planning Committees in all 30 districts**.
- Ministers and MLAs** have been appointed as chairpersons of the committees.
- The committees will oversee **district-level planning and development programmes**.
- Leaders have been assigned responsibility for specific districts to ensure **effective implementation of development schemes**.
- The committees will coordinate between:
 - Rural Local Bodies (Panchayats)
 - Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities)

District Planning Committee (DPC)

- DPC is a **decentralized planning organization** at the district level.
- Recommended by:
 - First Administrative Reforms Commission (1967)
 - Dantwala Committee (1978)

- Hanumantha Rao Committee (1983)
- Constitutional status** given by **Article 243ZD** under the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.
- Earlier similar bodies: Zila Aayojana Boards, Zila Vikas Boards, Zila Yojana Boards.
- Example: Rajasthan (1997 Act), Odisha (1998 DPC Act).

Objective of District Planning Committees

- Decentralisation of planning.
- Better coordination between rural and urban local bodies.
- Preparation of **district development plans**.
- Alignment of **local priorities with state development goals**.
- Improve implementation of government schemes at district level.

Constitutional Mandate

- Article 243ZD**: District Planning Committee constituted at district level.
- Function: **Consolidate plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities**.

Composition of DPC

- Includes:
- Members of Lok Sabha representing district

- MLAs of the district
- President of Zilla Parishad
- Mayor/Chairperson of Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council
- **4/5 members elected** from elected members of Panchayats and Municipalities
- Chairman of District Cooperative Bank & Land Development Bank (Permanent invitees)
- Chief Executive Officer – Secretary
- Deputy Commissioner/District Collector – Chairman

Functions of DPC

- Promote **decentralized planning**
- Prepare sectoral plans:
 - Agriculture
 - Infrastructure
 - Watershed development
 - Women & child welfare
 - Public health
 - Education
- Coordinate development with available resources
- Consolidate rural and urban development plans

Odisha Heatwave & Kalbaishakhi

Context

- Western districts of Odisha are experiencing rising temperatures, with Titlagarh nearing 40°C, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts thunderstorms that may reduce temperatures in the coming days.

Current Temperature Situation in Odisha

- **Titlagarh** recorded the highest temperature: **39.5°C**.
- Western Odisha districts are currently the hottest region.
- Coastal cities:
 - **Bhubaneswar** – 37.5°C
 - **Cuttack** – 36.4°C
- **Phulbani** recorded the lowest minimum temperature: **18.5°C**.
- Most places are recording temperatures **around or slightly above normal** seasonal averages.

Nor'westers (Kalbaishakhi)

About

- Intense, short-duration **convective thunderstorms**.
- Occur during **pre-monsoon (April–June)**.
- Driven by **atmospheric instability and convection**.

Geographical Extent

- India:
 - West Bengal
 - Odisha

Significance of DPC

- Link between **Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies**
- Promotes **district-level integrated planning**
- Supports **economic and social justice planning**
- Considers:
 - Local needs
 - Growth potential
 - Budgetary resources
- Ensures **consolidated district development plan**

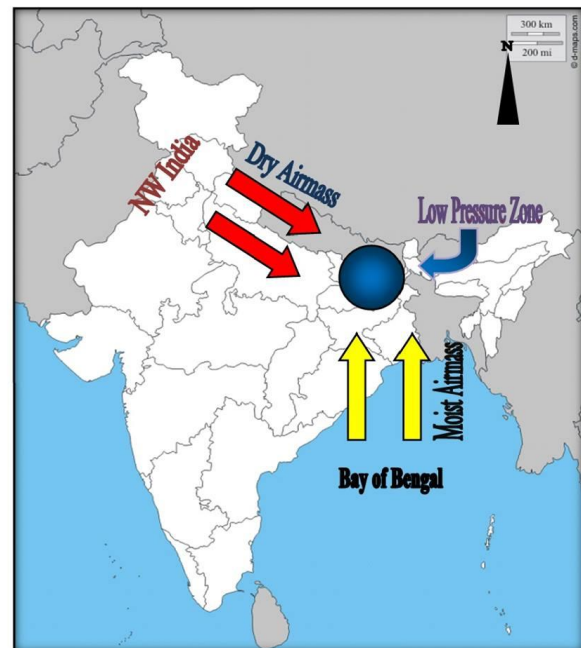
Criticism / Issues

- Many states: **DPCs non-functional**
- **Political interference**
- Poor coordination between rural & urban bodies
- **Lack of dedicated funds**
- Weak institutional capacity

Way Forward

- Professional planning support
- Appointment of **District Planning Officer**
- Creation of **Dedicated DPC Cell**
- Support from **universities & research institutions**
- Better funding and institutional strengthening

- Bihar, Jharkhand
- Assam, Tripura
- Neighbouring regions:
 - Bangladesh, Southern Nepal, Bhutan
- Most prominent in:
 - **Gangetic West Bengal**
 - Eastern Gangetic plains



Local Names

- **Kalbaishakhi (Bengali)** → “Calamity of Baisakh”

- **Bordoisila / Bardoli Cheerha (Assamese)** → Fierce goddess symbol

Formation Mechanism

- Intense heating over **Chota Nagpur Plateau** creates **low pressure**.
- Moist air from Bay of Bengal is drawn in.
- Meets cooler, dry northwesterly winds aloft.
- Leads to:
 - High **CAPE (Convective Available Potential Energy)**
 - Strong **wind shear**
- Formation of **Cumulonimbus clouds** → thunderstorm.

Key Characteristics

- **Timing:** Late afternoon/evening
- **Direction:** Northwest → Southeast
- **Speed:** >100 km/h winds
- **Associated with:**
 - Heavy rainfall

- Lightning & thunder
- Hailstorms
- Occasionally tornadoes

- **Duration:** 1-2 hours (short-lived but widespread)

Significance vs Impacts

Significance

- Provides **heat relief** (temperature drop)
- Recharges **water bodies**
- Supports **agriculture** (tea, paddy)
- Acts as **precursor to Southwest Monsoon**
- Cultural importance (esp. Bengal)

Impacts

- Damage to infrastructure & houses
- Crop destruction (mango, paddy)
- Loss of life (lightning, tree fall)
- Disruption:
 - Transport
 - Power supply
 - Urban flooding

Local Winds of India - Comparative Table

Local Wind	Characteristics	Region Affected	Season/Time	Socio-Economic Impact
Loo	Hot, dry, dusty strong wind	Northern India (Indo-Gangetic plains, Rajasthan, Haryana, UP)	Summer (Apr-Jun)	Causes heatstroke, dehydration, crop loss (10-15%), reduces labour productivity
Mango Showers	Pre-monsoon rainfall with thunderstorms	South India (Kerala, Coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu)	Apr-Jun	Helps mango ripening, improves soil moisture, supports horticulture
Blossom Showers (Coffee Showers)	Light pre-monsoon rainfall	Kerala region	Mar-May	Helps coffee flowering, supports plantations and agriculture
Aandhi	Dust storms / squalls	Northwest & Central India	May-Jun	Low visibility, crop damage, transport disruption, soil erosion
Sea Breeze	Wind from sea → land (day)	Coastal regions	Daytime	Moderates temperature, improves climate comfort, supports tourism
Land Breeze	Wind from land → sea (night)	Coastal regions	Night	Helps fishing and marine activities
Mountain Breeze / Valley Breeze	Day: Valley → Mountain; Night: Mountain → Valley	Himalayan & hilly regions	Daily cycle	Affects agriculture, settlement patterns, frost formation
Elephanta Winds	Moist winds from sea	Malabar Coast	End of monsoon	Helps Kharif crops and cooling after monsoon humidity

Utkal Diwas / Odisha Diwas

Context

- Members of Odia community celebrated **Utkal Diwas (Odisha Diwas)** to commemorate the formation of Odisha as a separate province on **1 April 1936**.

Utkal Diwas (Odisha Diwas)

- Celebrated on **April 1 every year**.
- Marks the formation of **Odisha as a separate province in 1936**.
- Odisha was separated from **Bihar and Orissa Province** on a **linguistic basis**.
- Odisha became the **first Indian state formed on linguistic basis**.

Meaning of Utkal

- Utkal** is the ancient name of Odisha.
- It means **"Utkrisht Kala"**, which means land of excellent art.

- Odisha is known for: Temple architecture, Odissi dance, Literature, Music, Cuisine, Handicrafts.

Cultural Personalities Mentioned

- Kelucharan Mohapatra** was a legendary Odissi dancer and Padma Vibhushan awardee. He played a major role in popularising Odissi dance globally.
- Sarojini Sahoo** is an Odia writer and educationist who was awarded Lucknow Odia Sahitya Samman 2026 for her contribution to literature.

Odissi Dance

- Odissi is a classical dance form of Odisha.
- It developed from:
 - Temple sculpture traditions.
 - Devadasi tradition (Mahari).
 - Gotipua tradition.
- It is known for Tribhangi posture, expressions and storytelling.

Odisha Foundation Day

Utkal Divas, also known as **Odisha Foundation Day**, is celebrated every year on **April 1** to mark the formation of **Odisha** as a separate state based on **linguistic identity** in **1936**. The day honours the **language, culture and identity** of the Odia people and is an important regional celebration reflecting **historical pride and unity**. The demand for a separate state began in the **late 19th and early 20th centuries** when Odia-speaking regions were scattered across **Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces** and leaders such as **Madhusudan Das, Gopabandhu Das and Fakir Mohan Senapati** played a key role in the movement to preserve **Odia language and culture**. After years of struggle, the British government created a separate province on **April 1, 1936**, making Odisha the **first state in India formed on a linguistic basis**, which later influenced the **linguistic reorganisation of states** after independence. Today, **Utkal Divas** is celebrated with **cultural programmes, parades, official ceremonies, awards and educational events** across the state and it remains a symbol of **cultural heritage, linguistic pride and unity** for Odia people in India and abroad.

Nikita Toppo – Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

Context

- Nikita Toppo**, former India junior women's hockey player, won **gold medal for Odisha**.
- The medal came at the **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026**. After winning gold, she is **targeting selection in the Senior Indian Women's Hockey Team**.

Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026

- First national multi-sport event for tribal athletes in India**
- Held from **25 March – 3 April 2026**
- Venue: **Chhattisgarh**

Organised By

Jointly organised by:

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
- Sports Authority of India**
- Indian Olympic Association**
- National Sports Federations**
- Chhattisgarh Government**

Objective

- Integrate **tribal talent into mainstream sports**
- Provide:
 - Exposure
 - Structured competition
 - Pathways for future training
- Part of **Khelo India Programme**
- Focus on:
 - Grassroots participation
 - Talent identification
 - Inclusive sports development

Mascot

- The mascot of the Games is "Morveer"**.
- It symbolises tribal pride, identity and bravery.

Sports Included

Medal Sports

- Athletics.
- Football.
- Hockey.

- Weightlifting.
- Archery.
- Swimming.
- Wrestling.

Indigenous Sports

- Kabaddi.
- Mallakhamb.
- More than **60,000 athletes** participated.
- Athletes competed for **338 medals**.

Selection Process

- Athlete selection follows a **two-stage process**.
- First stage: State/UT level trials.
- Second stage: National level trials conducted by sports federations.
- A **Talent Identification and Development Committee (TIDC)** scouts talented athletes.
- Selected athletes are trained under the Khelo India framework.

Odisha to Expedite Transition to PNG

Context

- The **Government of Odisha** has decided to expedite the transition from **LPG to Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** for urban households.
- The move aims to improve gas distribution efficiency and reduce irregularities in LPG supply.

Transition to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) - Key Points

Government Decision

- Urban households will gradually **shift from LPG to PNG**.
- Once a household gets a PNG connection, the **existing LPG connection will be decommissioned**.
- **Urban areas → PNG, Rural areas → LPG** distribution system.

Administrative Measures

- **District Collectors** directed to provide administrative support for pipeline laying.
- Government departments will **expedite clearances for PNG infrastructure**.
- Priority infrastructure development in **Puri** due to **Rath Yatra** demand.

Digital Safeguards in LPG Supply

To prevent irregularities like **ghost LPG deliveries**, the government will enforce:

- **Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) system**.
- Consumers must provide DAC to receive LPG delivery.
- Helps prevent fake delivery entries and diversion of LPG cylinders.

The government mandated **biometric authentication for LPG deliveries** to prevent black-marketing and ghost deliveries and directed that **LPG connections be discontinued once PNG is installed**. Authorities also instructed rapid **PNG pipeline expansion**, especially in **Puri** ahead of the **Rath Yatra**. The administration also ensured **DAC compliance, buffer stock maintenance and priority gas supply to essential institutions**, aiming to improve **efficiency, transparency and clean energy transition**.

LPG, LNG, PNG and CNG:

Fuel Type	Full Form	Composition	Storage/Transport	Main Uses	Key Features
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	Propane and Butane	Stored as liquid in cylinders under pressure	Cooking, households	Easy to transport, widely used in kitchens, India imports ~60%
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas	Mostly Methane	Stored in high-pressure tanks (200-250 kg/cm ²)	Vehicles (cars, buses)	Cleaner than petrol/diesel, reduces pollution
PNG	Piped Natural Gas	Mostly Methane	Supplied through pipelines	Homes, industries	Continuous supply, safer, more stable than LPG
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas	Natural gas (Methane) cooled to -160°C	Transported in cryogenic tankers	Power plants, fertilizer units, industries	Used for long-distance transport, imported via ships

Quick Summary Differences

Feature	LPG	CNG	PNG	LNG
Form	Liquid	Gas	Gas	Liquid
Supply Mode	Cylinders	Filling stations	Pipelines	Tankers/Ships
Main Use	Cooking	Vehicles	Homes/Industries	Power & Industry
Import Dependence	High	Medium	Medium	High
Clean Fuel	Medium	High	High	High

Odisha Kanya Sumangala Yojana

Context

- The Government of Odisha is set to roll out the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Kanya Sumangala Yojana.
- The scheme was announced in the state budget by Mohan Charan Majhi.
- The scheme aims to support girl children from birth to adulthood and improve education and empowerment outcomes.

Kanya Sumangala Yojana

Objective

- Address financial barriers that hinder girls' education and development.
- Promote long-term social and economic empowerment of girl children.
- Improve education outcomes and welfare support for girls.

Financial Support Structure

- A financial deposit will be made in the name of the girl child within one year of birth.
- Financial assistance will be provided in phases from birth to adulthood.

- The beneficiary will receive more than ₹1 lakh when she turns 21 years old.
- Focus on education-linked financial support.

Implementation Mechanism

- The scheme will be implemented through:
 - Anganwadi centres for grassroots outreach.
- Government will release:
 - Implementation framework.
 - Eligibility criteria.
 - Fund disbursement structure.
 - SOP guidelines.

Related Initiatives

The government is also working on:

- Subhadra Wellness Programme
- Subhadra Sambad Programme

These indicate a broader push for women and child welfare programmes in Odisha.

Scheme Significance

- Encourages girl child education.
- Helps reduce financial burden on families.
- Supports women empowerment.
- Improves human development indicators.
- Strengthens Anganwadi-based service delivery.

Odisha Fire Safety Guidelines for Buildings

Context

- The Government of Odisha has introduced mandatory fire safety guidelines for all government building projects.
- The move aims to enhance public safety and reduce fire risks in infrastructure.

Key Provisions of Fire Safety Guidelines

Mandatory Compliance

- Fire safety compliance is now compulsory for all government building projects.
- No project will receive approval without fire safety measures.
- Safety must be integrated at the planning stage itself.

Approval & Clearance Mechanism

- Building plans must be inspected by authorised agencies.

- Construction cannot begin without fire safety clearance.
- Mandatory certification from Odisha Fire Services Department.
- Non-compliant projects will be rejected.

Fire Safety Requirements

All buildings must include:

- Fire-fighting systems and equipment.
- Fire alarm and detection systems.
- Clearly marked emergency exits.
- Easy access for fire service personnel.

Audit of Existing Buildings

- Government has ordered state-wide fire safety audit.
- Authorities will:
 - Inspect existing infrastructure.
 - Identify gaps.

- Implement corrective measures.
- Priority given to:
 - Hospitals.
 - Schools.
 - Government offices.

Objective & Significance

- Ensures **fire safety** as a core planning component.
- Enhances **emergency preparedness**.
- Reduces **risk to life and property**.
- Promotes **accountability and compliance**.
- Strengthens **public infrastructure safety standards**.

Regularisation of Junior Teachers in Odisha

Context

- The Government of Odisha has issued a notification for the **regularisation of over 13,000 junior teachers (schematic)** working in primary and upper primary schools.
- The decision was approved by Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi**.

Regularisation of Junior Teachers - Key Points

Notification Details

- The notification was issued by the **Odisha School and Mass Education Department**.
- It applies to **junior teachers recruited during the 2023-24 academic year**.
- These teachers are working as **Assistant Teachers in Level-V(A)** of the elementary cadre.

Regularisation Benefits

- Teachers will be **regularised from the date of their joining** (retrospective effect).
- They will receive:
 - **Notional benefits up to 31 December 2025**.

- **Regular salary and allowances from 1 January 2026**.

Coverage

- More than **13,000 contractual/schematic junior teachers**.
- Applies to:
 - Government schools.
 - Government-aided schools.
 - Primary schools.
 - Upper primary schools.

Significance

- Provides **job security** to contractual teachers.
- Improves **teacher motivation and service conditions**.
- Strengthens **elementary education system**.
- Helps reduce **teacher vacancies and contractual employment issues**.
- Important step in **education sector reforms in Odisha**.

Odisha Census 2027

Context

- The **Census 2027** has begun in Odisha with the launch of the first phase on **April 1, 2026**.
- This will be **India's first fully digital census** with a self-enumeration facility and mobile-based data collection.

Odisha Census 2027 - Key Details

Digital Census Process

- Census will be conducted **fully digitally**.
- Data will be collected using **mobile applications**.
- Around **1 lakh enumerators** and **15,000 supervisors** will be involved across **30 districts of Odisha**.
- The census marks the **16th National Census of India**.

Self-Enumeration Facility

- Residents can fill their census details online through the self-enumeration portal.
- Self-enumeration available from **April 1 - April 15, 2026**.

- After self-enumeration, **enumerators will verify the data** during field visits.

Two Phases of Census 2027

Phase I - House Listing Operation (HLO)

April 1 - May 15, 2026

- Self-enumeration: April 1 - April 15.
- Door-to-door survey: April 16 - May 15.
- Includes **33-question survey**.
- Collects data on:
 - Housing conditions.
 - Drinking water.
 - Toilet facilities.
 - Household assets.
 - Amenities.

Phase II - Population Enumeration (PE)

February 2027

- Collects:
 - Population data.
 - Age, sex, education.
 - Occupation.
 - Migration.

- Socio-economic data.
- Caste data (expected).

Protection of Census Staff

- The **Government of Odisha** has ordered:
 - **No transfer of enumerators and supervisors till March 2027.**
 - Ensures administrative continuity and smooth census operations.

Significance of Digital Census

- Faster data collection.
- Reduced paperwork.
- Real-time monitoring.
- Better policy planning.
- Improved governance and welfare targeting.
- Supports development planning and resource allocation.

Odisha Coastal Resilience & Cyclone Mitigation

Context

- The Union Government has invested **₹4,331.68 crore** in cyclone risk mitigation along India's coastline since 2011.
- The investment was implemented through the **National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project** to strengthen coastal disaster preparedness, especially in cyclone-prone states like **Odisha** and **Andhra Pradesh**.

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)

Objective

- Reduce loss of life and property during cyclones.
- Build disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- Improve early warning systems and community preparedness.
- Protect coastal ecosystems while building infrastructure.

Two Phase Implementation

Phase I (January 2011 – December 2018)

- Expenditure: **₹2,524.84 crore**
- Covered high-risk states:
 - Odisha
 - Andhra Pradesh
- Focus on cyclone shelters, evacuation routes, embankments, warning systems.

Phase II (July 2015 – March 2023)

- Expenditure: **₹1,806.84 crore**
- Covered:
 - Goa
 - Gujarat
 - Karnataka

- Kerala
- Maharashtra
- West Bengal

Infrastructure Created Under NCRMP

Life-Saving Infrastructure

- Multi-purpose cyclone shelters.
- Evacuation roads and bridges.
- Community cyclone shelters.

Infrastructure Protection

- Saline embankments to prevent soil erosion and saline intrusion.
- Underground power cabling to prevent electricity disruption during cyclones.

Early Warning Systems

- Advanced early warning dissemination systems.
- Early warning towers along coast.
- Communication systems for disaster alerts.

Capacity Building

- Training programmes for disaster response.
- Community awareness campaigns.
- Disaster preparedness drills.

Significance for Odisha

- Odisha is one of the most cyclone-prone states in India.
- Improved disaster preparedness after major cyclones like:
 - **Cyclone Phailin**
 - **Cyclone Fani**
- Odisha is now considered a **model state for cyclone disaster management** in India.

Odisha Police Infrastructure Spending (2025–26)

Context

- The **Odisha Police** recorded **low utilisation of funds (~55%)** for infrastructure and reforms in FY 2025–26.
- Out of ₹852.57 crore, only **₹474.21 crore** was spent.

Overall Financial Performance

- Total allocation: **₹852.57 crore.**
- Total expenditure: **₹474.21 crore.**
- Utilisation rate: **55.62%** (low).

- Indicates **implementation bottlenecks and delays in capital projects.**

Sector-wise Performance

1. Infrastructure (Buildings & Barracks)

- Police buildings (stations, offices):
 - Utilisation: **55.98%** of ₹90 crore.
 - Over ₹39 crore unspent.
- Residential barracks:
 - Utilisation: **48.98%** (₹32.33 crore of ₹66 crore).

- Indicates **poor progress in physical infrastructure creation.**

2. Technology & Surveillance (Major Concern)

- CCTV network scheme:
 - Allocation: ₹76 crore.
 - **Zero expenditure.**
- AI-based predictive policing:
 - Allocation: ₹10 crore.
 - **No spending.**
- Shows **serious lag in police modernisation and smart policing.**

3. Digital Policing Systems

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS):**
 - Utilisation: **50.85%** of ₹23.58 crore.
- Forensic science:
 - Utilisation: **48.40%** (₹15.85 crore of ₹32.75 crore).
- Indicates **weak progress in digital and forensic capacity.**

4. Emergency Response (Better Performance)

- **Emergency Response Support System (112 helpline):**
 - Utilisation: **88.49%** of ₹133.35 crore.

Heatwave in Odisha

Context

- **Odisha** is experiencing **intense heatwave conditions**, with several districts crossing 40°C.
- The **India Meteorological Department** has issued warnings.

Key Highlights

- **Jharsuguda** recorded the highest temperature (40.6°C); **Titlagarh** (~40°C) and many areas above 38–39°C.
- **Western Odisha** (Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Sundargarh, etc.) worst affected with temperatures likely 40–42°C, while **coastal areas remain relatively cooler.**
- IMD issued 'hot & humid' warning and **Yellow warning** for Ganjam, Gajapati and Puri.

Additional Points

- Clear **inland-coastal temperature contrast** due to sea influence.
- Most districts recording >38°C indicates **widespread heatwave spread.**
- Heatwave can impact **health, agriculture, water availability and power demand.**

Heatwave

- A **heatwave** is a period of abnormally high temperatures over a region, declared when the maximum temperature crosses specified

- Reason: Recurring operational expenses → better fund usage.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Areas

- Security Related Expenditure:
 - Utilisation: **90.21%** (₹81.12 crore).
- Special Central Assistance (SCA):
 - Utilisation: **14.19%** (₹80 crore allocation).
 - Over ₹68 crore unspent.
- Indicates **focus on security operations but neglect of development works.**

Key Issues Identified

- Delays in procurement and project execution.
- Poor utilisation in **capital-intensive projects.**
- Lack of progress in:
 - Smart policing (AI, CCTV).
 - Infrastructure development.
- Last-minute spending spikes (e.g., wireless equipment in March).

Implications

- Slows police modernisation.
- Weakens surveillance and crime prevention.
- Impacts policing efficiency and response capacity.
- Development gap in LWE-affected areas persists.

thresholds or remains significantly above normal for consecutive days, as defined by the **India Meteorological Department.**

Criteria for Declaring Heatwave (IMD)

Based on Temperature Threshold

- Plains: Temperature $\geq 40^\circ\text{C}$.
- Hilly regions: Temperature $\geq 30^\circ\text{C}$.

Based on Departure from Normal

- Heat Wave: **+4.5°C to +6.4°C above normal.**
- Severe Heat Wave: **> +6.4°C above normal.**

Based on Actual Maximum Temperature

- Heat Wave: $\geq 45^\circ\text{C}$.
- Severe Heat Wave: $\geq 47^\circ\text{C}$.

Additional Condition

- Criteria must be met in **at least 2 stations** in a meteorological subdivision for **2 consecutive days.**
- Heatwave declared on the **second day.**

Criteria for Coastal Areas

Heatwave declared when:

- Temperature departure $\geq 4.5^\circ\text{C}$ above normal and
- Actual temperature $\geq 37^\circ\text{C}$.

Favourable Conditions for Heatwave

- Hot dry air over region.
- Cloudless sky.
- Absence of upper atmospheric moisture.
- Anti-cyclonic circulation.

- Transport of hot winds.

Causes of Heatwaves

- Jet stream shifts and heat domes.
- Hot local winds like **loo**.
- Urban Heat Island effect.
- Climate change and global warming.

India's temperature rise:

- Global increase: ~1.3°C.
- India increases: > 2°C.

Frequency and severity of heatwaves increasing in India (IMD & Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology).

Effects of Heatwaves

- Heatstroke and deaths.
- Reduced labour productivity.
- Increased electricity demand.
- Forest fires and ecological damage.
- Crop failure and pest attacks.
- Water scarcity.
- Power outages and grid stress.

Heatwave - Notified Disaster Issue in India

Heatwave is **not a notified disaster** under disaster relief norms.

Reasons

- Finance Commissions did not include it.
- Compensation burden on states.
- Difficult to officially attribute deaths to heatwaves.
- However, states can use **up to 10% SDRF funds** for local disasters.

States like:

- Haryana
- Uttar Pradesh
- **Odisha**
- Kerala

have notified heatwaves as local disasters.

Heat Action Plan (HAP)

Heat Action Plans are India's main policy response to heatwaves.

Key Features

- Early warning systems.
- Heat alerts and colour warnings.
- Training health workers.
- Public awareness campaigns.
- Water supply and cooling shelters.

- Inter-agency coordination.

The **National Disaster Management Authority** and **India Meteorological Department** help states prepare Heat Action Plans.

Important Fact

- **Odisha** prepared **India's first Heat Action Plan in 1999** after the 1998 heatwave deaths.
- **Ahmedabad** prepared first city Heat Action Plan in 2013.

Problems with Heat Action Plans

- Ignore local climate conditions.
- Do not consider socio-economic vulnerability.
- Not based on climate projections.
- Lack of city/district heat hotspot mapping.
- Urbanisation and climate change not fully integrated.

Way Ahead - Heatwave Management

- **Localised Heatwave Thresholds:** Heatwave declaration criteria should be region-specific rather than uniform national thresholds, with greater role for the **India Meteorological Department** and **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** in climate zoning and heat hotspot mapping.
- **Strengthening Heat Action Plans (HAPs):** Heat Action Plans should incorporate climate projections, urban heat island mapping and socio-economic vulnerability data, under guidance of the **National Disaster Management Authority**.
- **Urban Planning Reforms:** Increase green cover, cool roofs, reflective building materials and improved urban ventilation to reduce Urban Heat Island effect.
- **Early Warning & Public Awareness:** Improve heat alert systems, SMS warnings, work-hour rescheduling and awareness on hydration, shelters and heatstroke prevention.
- **Water & Power Infrastructure:** Ensure reliable drinking water supply, strengthen power grids and promote energy-efficient cooling systems.
- **Recognise Heatwaves as Notified Disaster:** Bringing heatwaves under disaster relief framework would improve funding, compensation and preparedness measures.

A CASE STUDY ON ORGANIC FARMING

Udhampur Farmer Pioneers Chemical-Free Strawberry Cultivation, Boosting Organic Farming in India.

A farmer in **Udhampur** has transformed his **land** into an **organic farm**, cultivating **strawberries** without the use of any **chemicals**. This initiative highlights the growing emphasis on **sustainable** and **chemical-free agriculture** in **India**, promoting healthier **produce** and environmentally friendly **farming practices**. The move also reflects the increasing awareness among **farmers** about **organic methods** and their potential benefits for **soil health**, **consumer safety** and **market value**.

Assistive Devices to 'Divyang' Students

Context

- Odisha government to provide **assistive devices** to 'divyang' students in higher educational institutions.

Key Points

- Each higher educational institution will receive **three wheelchairs** as part of the initiative.
- **District nodal officers** (regional and deputy directors of education) designated to oversee scheme implementation.
- Nodal officers will coordinate with **institutions and District Social Security Officers (DSSOs)** for effective distribution.
- Data on students with disabilities will be **collected, verified and shared** with DSSOs before device distribution.
- The process will be **jointly monitored** by the Departments of **Higher Education and Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.

Objective

- Ensure **accessible education** and support for students with disabilities in Odisha's higher education institutions.

Overcrowding and Poor Hygiene in Odisha Prisons- CAG Report

Context:

- The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) report highlights **overcrowding and poor hygiene in Odisha prisons**, affecting inmates' health, safety and living conditions.

Key Findings:

- **Space shortage:** Minimum required space per inmate is **3.71 sq. m**, but jails have only **0.34-1.61 sq. m** per inmate; four jails exceed **40% overcapacity**, causing congestion.
- **Bathing and sanitation:** Out of **2,203 required bathing places**, only **916 available**; shortage exists in **58% of jails**. Women inmates in some jails use **open platforms** for bathing; **71 toilets** are insufficient in selected jails.
- **Security lapses:** Essential security equipment missing or non-operational; **29 escapes (2020-2023)** recorded, **12 prisoners** still untraced.
- **Mental health violations:** **121 mentally ill inmates** held with general prisoners without proper segregation or transfer to mental health

institutions, violating jail manual and NHRC guidelines.

- **Monitoring gaps:** Lack of inspections and proper oversight worsened conditions across the state's **87 jails**.

Implications:

- **Inadequate space, sanitation and security** endanger inmate health and safety.
- **Non-segregation of mentally ill inmates** violates legal and human rights norms.
- Calls for urgent **prison reforms, infrastructure improvement and compliance with standards** to ensure humane conditions.

Recommendation:

- Expand jail infrastructure to meet **space and sanitation norms**.
- Implement **proper security measures and regular inspections**.
- Ensure **separate facilities and care for mentally ill inmates**.
- Strengthen monitoring by **Prisons Department** for compliance with NHRC and jail manuals.

Odisha tops AMRUT 2.0 Scheme

Context:

- Odisha tops the country under the **AMRUT 2.0 scheme**, highlighting progress in **urban water infrastructure**.

Key Points:

- Recognised for **strong execution and timely completion** of projects.
- Expanded **tap water services** across urban areas.
- Improved **operational efficiency** of water treatment plants and **upgraded water management systems**.

- Demonstrates commitment to **safe, reliable and sustainable urban water supply**.

Significance:

- Strengthens **urban infrastructure**, ensures **public health** and promotes **sustainable water management** in Odisha.

AMRUT 2.0 (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0)

- **AMRUT 2.0 (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0)**, launched on **1 October 2021** by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, aims to make India's

cities water-secure and self-sustainable by 2025-26.

Key Features:

- **Duration:** FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 (5 years).
- **Core Objective:** Universal functional tap water supply and 100% sewage/septage management.
- **Outlay:** ₹2.99 lakh crore (Central share ₹76,760 crore).
- **Focus Areas:** Water supply, sewerage management, water body rejuvenation, City Water Balance Plans (CWBP) for wastewater reuse and development of green spaces.
- **Reforms & Technology:** Encourages Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), modern tech for water management and citizen engagement.

Key Sub-Missions:

- **Pey Jal Survekshan:** Mapping water bodies & promoting equitable distribution.
- **Technology Sub-Mission:** Adopts global water management technologies.
- **Jan Aandolan:** Promotes public participation in water conservation.
- **IEC Campaigns:** Awareness drives on water conservation.

Significance: Strengthens urban local bodies, promotes sustainable water services and accelerates reforms for equitable and efficient urban water management.

Stricter Pollution under Control Certificate (PUCC) Norms

Context:

- Odisha government enforces stricter Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) norms to tackle worsening air quality caused by transport emissions.

Key Points:

- **E-detection systems** at toll gates to identify vehicles without valid PUCC; violators will be fined.
- Only 21% of vehicles currently possess valid pollution certificates; many vehicles violate norms.

- Commerce & Transport Department had temporarily relaxed PUCC inspections until April 1 for public awareness.
- Enforcement resumes from today to ensure compliance and protect environment from vehicular pollution.

Significance:

- Strengthens air quality management, promotes environmental protection and ensures adherence to transport emission standards.

Emergency Care by Air Lifting

Context:

- To ensure timely access to advanced medical care for critically ill patients outside the state, Odisha has launched the 'Emergency Care by Air Lifting' initiative.

Key Points:

- **Coverage:** Full cost of private air ambulance services, removing financial or travel barriers.
- **Implementation:** Overseen by the Health & Family Welfare Department, with approvals by the Principal Secretary.
- **Assessment:** An expert committee (DMET & DHS) evaluates patients' medical conditions for air transfer necessity.

- **Coordination:** State Nodal Officer arranges air ambulance services; ALS ambulances transfer patients to airports.
- **Funding:** Through Mukhyamantri Air Health Service Scheme, enhancing Odisha's emergency medical safety net.
- **Precautions:** Strict adherence to safety protocols required due to risks highlighted by recent air ambulance accidents in India.

Significance:

- Strengthens emergency healthcare access, reduces delays in life-saving treatment and supports equitable health services for critical patients.

Odisha Biotechnology Incubation Policy

Context

- The Odisha Government has introduced a new policy to provide financial assistance to biotechnology incubation centres. The objective is to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, promote

entrepreneurship and support commercialisation of biotechnology research in the state.

Objectives of the Policy

The major objectives of the policy are as follows.

- To promote **biotechnology entrepreneurship** in Odisha.
- To support **translational research** and **commercialisation of research**.
- To strengthen the **innovation ecosystem** in biotechnology.
- To generate **skilled manpower** in the biotechnology sector.
- To boost the **bio-economy** of the state.
- To develop Odisha as a **biotechnology hub**.

Two-Tier Support Structure

The policy provides a **two-tier support structure** for incubation centres.

1. Category I – New Incubation Centres.

New biotechnology incubation centres will receive **financial assistance up to ₹10 crore** over a period of **five years** for **establishment and infrastructure development**.

2. Category II – Existing Incubation Centres.

Existing incubation centres will receive **financial assistance up to ₹5 crore** over a period of **three years** for **expansion and upgradation**. The support period may be **extended based on performance**.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible institutions must fulfill the following conditions.

- The institution must be a **legally registered entity**.
- The institution must be **operating in Odisha for at least five years**.
- The institution must have a **minimum built-up space of 5,000 sq ft**.
- The institution must provide **incubation and startup support services**.

Facilities Provided by Incubation Centres

Biotechnology incubation centres will provide the following facilities to start-ups.

- **Shared laboratory infrastructure**.
- **Access to advanced equipment**.
- **Mentoring support**.
- **Legal and business advisory services**.
- **Skill development training**.
- **Networking opportunities**.
- **Funding and investment linkages**.

Performance-Based Funding Mechanism

- Funding will be released in **phases** and will be linked to **performance**. **Annual reviews and audits** will be mandatory. Financial assistance will depend on the **progress and performance** of the incubation centres.

Governance and Monitoring Framework

- Project proposals will be evaluated by a **Screening Committee** and the **Project Evaluation and Review Committee (PERC)**. The committee will include **experts from government, industry and academia**.
- Each incubation centre must establish **technical advisory and business advisory committees**. Each centre must appoint a **full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. Host institutions must ensure **financial self-sustainability within five years**.

Expected Outcomes

- The policy is expected to promote **innovation-driven entrepreneurship** in biotechnology. It will increase **biotech start-ups** and **employment generation**. It will support **research commercialisation** and strengthen the **biotechnology ecosystem**. It will help position Odisha as an **emerging biotechnology hub**.

Odisha Mining Corporation Performance (FY 2025–26)

Context

- The Odisha Mining Corporation achieved its **highest-ever mineral production** in FY 2025–26, highlighting its growing role in **mining, industrial development and economic growth** in Odisha.

Mineral Production Performance

OMC recorded **total mineral production of 44.82 million tonnes**, which is the **highest-ever production** in its history.

Mineral-wise Production

- **Iron ore** production reached **40.02 million tonnes**, with **12.06% year-on-year growth**.
- **Chrome ore** production stood at **1.69 million tonnes**.
- **Bauxite** production reached **2.83 million tonnes**.

The production targets were achieved through **improved efficiency, better coordination and focused execution**.

Sales and Revenue Performance

- Total **mineral sales** were **42.524 million tonnes**.
- OMC recorded **highest-ever revenue of ₹25,300 crore (provisional)**.

This performance strengthened Odisha's **industrial ecosystem** and contributed to **state and national economic growth**.

Sustainable and Scientific Mining Practices

OMC emphasised **scientific mining and sustainable mining practices**.

Major initiatives included:

- **Dust suppression systems**.

- Afforestation programmes.
- Water conservation measures.
- Use of modern IT-driven technology.
- Focus on safe and efficient mining operations.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), OMC supported communities in mining areas.

Major CSR activities included:

- Healthcare services.
- Education support.
- Drinking water facilities.
- Sanitation facilities.
- Livelihood promotion.

- Skill development programmes.
- Rural infrastructure development.

These initiatives contributed to **inclusive growth** and **improved living standards** in mining regions.

Significance

The record performance highlights:

- **Operational excellence** of OMC.
- Contribution to **industrial development**.
- Support to **economic growth**.
- Promotion of **sustainable mining**.
- Contribution to **inclusive development** through CSR.

ULLAS Programme in Odisha – Adult Literacy Initiative

Context

- The Government of Odisha has fixed a target to enrol **25 lakh adult learners** in the **ULLAS programme** for the **2026-27 academic year** to reduce the **adult literacy gap** and move towards **full literacy in Odisha**.

About ULLAS Programme

- ULLAS stands for **Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society**.
- It is a flagship component of the **New India Literacy Programme** and has been implemented in Odisha since **2022**.
- The programme focuses on **adult education, functional literacy and lifelong learning**.

Objectives of the Programme

The main objectives are:

- Promote **adult literacy**.
- Provide **functional literacy and numeracy**.
- Provide **life skills and basic education** to adults.
- Reduce **illiteracy among adults**.
- Make Odisha a **fully literate state**.

Target Population

As per Census 2011, Odisha has **91.52 lakh non-literate people**, including:

- **30.33 lakh males**.
- **61.19 lakh females**.

The programme mainly targets **adults who never attended school**.

Implementation Mechanism

Implementation is coordinated by:

- Directorate of Elementary Education (DEE).
- District Education Officers (DEOs).
- Block Education Officers (BEOs).

Additional DEOs and BEOs are appointed as **nodal officers** for implementation.

The government plans to involve:

- NGOs.
- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
- **Youth clubs**.
- **Volunteers**.
- **Unemployed youth**.
- **Retired teachers**.

This will be implemented as a **mass literacy campaign**.

Assessment and Certification

Learners enrolled under ULLAS are tested through:

- **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)**.

Successful learners receive certificates from the:

- National Institute of Open Schooling.

Performance Issues

The programme faced challenges in:

- **Learner mobilisation**.
- **Low pass percentage in FLNAT**.

In **2025-26**, only **10.55 lakh learners** appeared for FLNAT against a target of **22.60 lakh**, indicating **implementation gaps**.

Significance of the Programme

The programme is important because:

- Promotes **adult education and lifelong learning**.
- Improves **literacy rate**.
- Supports **skill development and employability**.
- Promotes **inclusive education**.
- Helps in **social and economic development**.
- Supports goals of **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

India skills 2025–26 – Odisha’s Top Performance

Context

- Odisha emerged as the **top-performing state** at the **IndiaSkills 2025–26**, securing the **highest medal tally** with a total of **57 medals**, reflecting the strength of its **skilling ecosystem**.

Medal Performance

Out of **90 participants** from Odisha:

- **15 Gold medals.**
- **12 Silver medals.**
- **14 Bronze medals.**
- **16 Medallions for Excellence.**

Total: **57 medal winners**, indicating **high success rate and performance excellence**.

Institutional Recognition

- Sampad Chandra Swain highlighted:
 - **World-class training standards.**
 - **Strong culture of skill excellence.**
 - **Robust institutional support.**
- Bhupendra Singh Poonia and Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra praised:
 - **Dedication and discipline of youth.**
 - **Technical excellence of participants.**

Role of Institutions

The **World Skill Centre (WSC)** played a key role in:

- Providing **advanced skill training.**
- Building **industry-relevant competencies.**
- Strengthening the **state’s skilling ecosystem.**

About IndiaSkills Competition

- Organised by the **National Skill Development Corporation.**
- Participation of **650+ candidates** across India.
- Competitions held in sectors such as:
 - **Construction.**
 - **Manufacturing.**
 - **Information and Communication Technology (ICT).**
 - **Creative arts.**
 - **Services.**
- Conducted at **India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida** and other centres.

Global Linkage

- Winners will represent India at the **WorldSkills Competition.**
- Provides **global exposure** and enhances **international competitiveness.**

Significance

The achievement highlights:

- Strength of **Odisha’s skill development ecosystem.**
- Promotion of **vocational education and training.**
- Enhancement of **employability and productivity.**
- Contribution to **human capital development.**
- Alignment with **Skill India Mission.**

CAG Audit on Mid-Day Meal / PM-POSHAN in Odisha

Context

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its **performance audit** pointed out serious **irregularities in implementation** of the **Mid-Day Meal (MDM) / PM-POSHAN scheme** in Odisha. The audit covered implementation of **POSHAN, ICDS and Mid-Day Meal Scheme** for the year ending **March 2023**.

Major Findings

The audit examined **attendance registers and Daily Consumption Registers (DCRs)** of **642 schools** in five districts.

It found that in **42 schools**, the number of **mid-day meals served** was shown higher than actual student attendance. This resulted in **inflated reporting of meals**.

Excess reporting included:

- **82,270 meals** for primary students.
- **1,36,546 meals** for upper primary students.

This led to:

- **Inflated rice consumption worth ₹9.12 lakh.**
- **Inflated cooking cost worth ₹14.33 lakh.**

The audit also found that **food security allowance** meant for students was transferred to **personal accounts of headmasters** in some cases.

In some schools, **no infrastructure existed**, yet expenditure and rice consumption were shown, indicating **misuse of funds**.

Hygiene and Monitoring Issues

The audit found several **violations of food safety and hygiene norms**:

- **Sitting mats** were not provided in many schools.
- Teachers did not **taste the meal before distribution.**
- **Tasting registers** were not maintained.

This shows **poor monitoring and supervision** of the scheme.

Funding Pattern Issue

Under the **PM-POSHAN scheme**, the **cooking cost is shared between Centre and State in 60:40 ratio**. However, the audit found that the **Central Government did not contribute its committed share** and the **State Government had to contribute more funds**.

Issues Highlighted

The CAG audit highlights:

- Misappropriation of funds.
- Inflated attendance reporting.
- Weak monitoring and supervision.
- Infrastructure deficiencies.
- Violation of hygiene norms.
- Funding irregularities.

Mid-Day Meal Importance

The Mid-Day Meal / PM-POSHAN scheme is important for:

- Child nutrition.
- School attendance.
- Reducing dropout rates.
- Improving learning outcomes.
- Social sector welfare.

Irregularities affect nutrition, education and public fund accountability.

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 – Odisha Hockey Victory

Context

- Odisha won both men's and women's hockey gold medals at the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 held at the Vallabhbhai Patel International Hockey Stadium.
- This achievement highlights the growing sports ecosystem and tribal sports development in eastern and central India.

Performance Highlights

- Men's Hockey Final: Odisha defeated Jharkhand 4-1 to win gold.
- Women's Hockey Final: Odisha defeated Mizoram 1-0 to win gold.
- Jharkhand won silver in men's category and bronze in women's category.
- Chhattisgarh won bronze in men's category.

This shows the dominance of tribal regions in Indian hockey, especially Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Northeastern states.

Tribal Hockey Ecosystem Development

Hockey has traditionally been part of tribal culture, where children often played using wooden sticks and informal fields. However, now a structured sports development ecosystem is emerging due to:

- Centres of Excellence.
- Improved sports infrastructure.
- Grassroots training programmes.
- Support from Union Sports Ministry and State Governments.

Former Olympian Ajit Lakra highlighted that grassroots to elite-level training systems are becoming stronger, especially benefiting tribal athletes.

Social Impact of Hockey in Tribal Areas

Sports, especially hockey, is contributing to:

- Social inclusion.
- Youth employment opportunities.
- Reduction in socio-economic marginalisation.
- Integration of tribal communities into mainstream society.
- Positive transformation in areas affected by Naxalism.

Sports is emerging as a tool for social transformation and community development.

Role of Government Programmes

Government initiatives supporting tribal sports include:

- Centres of Excellence for sports training.
- Grassroots talent identification programmes.
- ASMITA Programme promoting women participation in sports.
- Khelo India Programme promoting sports infrastructure and talent development.

These initiatives are helping build a sports ecosystem in tribal regions.

Significance

Odisha's double gold victory is significant because:

- Shows tribal dominance in Indian hockey.
- Reflects success of grassroots sports development programmes.
- Promotes tribal youth empowerment.
- Sports acting as a tool of social change and integration.
- Supports national sports talent pipeline.
- Strengthens India's hockey ecosystem.

ODISHA RELATED STATIC GK

Dam Name River and Nearest City

Dam Name	River	Nearest City
Balimela	Sileru	Malkangiri
Bedapada	Sialpia	Hindola
Hirakud	Mahanadi	Sambalpur
Indrawati	Indravati	Nabarangapur
Jalaput	Machkund	Koraput

Some Historical Sites in Odisha

- **Barabati Fort**, Cuttack - **11th-century fort**, built by the **Ganga dynasty**, known for its **fortification**, carved gates and city view over 102 acres.
- **Khandagiri Caves**, Bhubaneswar - **2nd-century man-made caves** built during **King Kharavela's** rule and used by **Jain and Buddhist monks** for meditation.
- **Chausath Yogini Temple**, Bhubaneswar - **9th-century temple** built by **Queen Hiradevi**, dedicated to **Goddess Kali** with **56 yogini idols** in circular chambers.
- **Brahmeshwara Temple**, Bhubaneswar - **11th-century Shiva temple** famous for **sculptures of Shiva and Lakshmi** in fierce forms.



Waterfalls in Odisha

Odisha Handloom

- **Sambalpuri Ikat** is famous for its **tie-dyed yarns** and **geometric patterns**.
- **Bomkai saris** blend **embroidery** and **weaving**, inspired by **nature** and **mythology**.
- **Berhampuri Pata saris** are known for **temple borders** and **glossy silk finishes**.
- **Khandua saris** feature motifs linked to **Jagannath culture** and **tradition**.
- **Kotpad textiles** use **natural dyes**, offering **earthy tones** and **tribal designs**.
- **Habaspuri handlooms** showcase **prosperity symbols** like **fish, flowers** and **birds**.
- **Pasapalli saris** are distinguished by their **checkerboard "pasaa"** patterns.

Important Freedom Fighters of Odisha

- **Jayee Rajaguru** - First martyr of Odisha, hanged in 1805 for leading the 1804 Khurda rebellion against British rule.
- **Buxi Jagabandhu** - Led the Paika Rebellion in 1817, fought the British in Khurda, Pipili and Chilika and died in 1829.
- **Chakhi Khuntia** - Puri Panda who aided Rani Laxmibai during 1857 Sepoy Mutiny; later devoted life to poetry and religious service.
- **Sarala Devi** - Joined Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, Odisha's first female legislator and legislative speaker and social reformer.
- **Samanta Madhaba Chandra Samantaray** - Led Tapangagarh rebellion in 1827 against British rent policies; pardoned for bravery after initial surrender.
- **Veer Surendra Sai** - Rebelled against British in Sambalpur from 1827 to 1864; imprisoned for decades but inspired generations with his fight for sovereignty.
- **Baji Rout** - Youngest martyr of India, killed at 12 for refusing to ferry British soldiers across Brahmani River in 1938.

- **Laxmi Panda** – Youngest Odia woman in Netaji Bose’s INA; joined fight in Burma after losing her parents in 1943 air raid.
- **Ramadevi Choudhury** – Early female freedom fighter of Odisha, participated in Salt Satyagraha, Non-Cooperation and Quit India movements; active in Harijan welfare.
- **Malati Choudhury** – Known as ‘Toofani’, joined Gandhi’s padayatra in 1934, founded Bajiraut Chhatravas & Utkal Navajeevan Mandal and joined Constituent Assembly in 1946.

BOOKS & AUTHORS [CURRENT]

Book Name	Author	Key Highlights
Tides of Time: Bharat’s History through Murals in Parliament	Sudha Murty	124 Parliament murals; India’s history from Indus Valley to freedom struggle; art + history + democracy.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman	Not specified	Coffee table book on Vajpayee’s leadership, Pokhran tests, Delhi Metro, democratic legacy.
History That India Ignored (2nd Edition)	Prem Prakash	Highlights INA, unsung heroes, revolutions, Vellore Mutiny, Battle of Imphal; challenges mainstream history.

Odisha Authors & Books

Author	Books	Author	Books
Jayadev	Gitagovinda	Dev Durllav Das	Rahasya Manjari
Sarala Das	Odia Mahabharat, Chandi Puran, Bilanka Ramayan	Kartik Das	Rukmani Bibha
Jagannath Das	Odiya Bhagbat	Purosottam Das	Kanchi Kaberi
Balaram Das	Jagamohan Ramayan	Bachha Das	Kalasa Chautisha
Achyutananda Das	Haribansh, Suny Samhita	Markand Das	Keshab Koili Chaustisha
Jasobanta Das	Premabhakti Brahmagita	Dhananjay Bhanja	Ichhabati
Sisu Ananta Das	Bhakti Mukti Dayak Gita, Anakar	Loknath Bidyadhar	Sarbhangra Sundar
Arjun Das	Ram Bibaha	Bhakta Charan Das	Manabodha Chautisha, Mathura Mangal
Kanhai Khuntia	Mahabhav Prakash	Dinakrushna Das	Rasakalloa
Banmali Das	Chhata Ichhabati	Upendra Bhanja	Baidehisa Vilash, Labanya Bati, Koti Brahmanda Sundari
Narasingh Sena	Parimala	Abhimanyu Samant Singhar	Bidagdha Chintamani
Bishnu Das	Premalochan	Sadananda Kabisurya Brahma	Prema Tarangini
Sisu Sankar	Ushavilash	Narayan Nanda Adbhut Swami	Rundra Sudhanidhi
Danai Das	Gopibhasa	Brajanath Badajena	Chatura Binod, Samar Taranga
Pratap Ray	Sasisena		



APPOINTMENTS

Appointment	Details
Brand Ambassador, Census 2027	Sudarshan Pattnaik , internationally acclaimed sand artist from Odisha , appointed to promote participation in India's first digital census ; Padma Shri awardee 2014 ; Guinness World Record holder for largest sandcastle .
Ambassador to China	Vikram Doraiswami , 1992-batch IFS officer , appointed as India's ambassador to China to strengthen bilateral ties post-Galwan; former High Commissioner to UK ; multilingual and experienced diplomat .
Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	Chanchal Kumar , 1992-batch IAS officer (Bihar cadre), appointed to oversee media, broadcasting and government communication ; holds B.Tech, M.Tech (IIT Kanpur) and Ph.D. in Economics (Patna University) .
Director General, DGCA	Vir Vikram Yadav appointed as DGCA chief to address aviation safety, regulatory challenges and operational disruptions ; replaced Faiz Ahmed Kidwai ; focus on strengthening aviation frameworks and staff .



AWARDS

Awardee / Recipient	Award	Organization / Event	Category / Achievement	Key Details
Sheetal Devi	Para Archer of the Year	World Archery	Para Archery	First female armless archer to win gold at World Para Archery Championships; also won silver (team) and bronze (mixed team); Paris Paralympics bronze; 2022 Asian Para Games silver; 2023 Asian Championships silver.
Nandamuri Balakrishna	Lifetime Achievement Award	International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD)	Cinema	Celebrates 50-year contribution to Telugu cinema; honored at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; also Padma Bhushan 2025.
Kalpana Soren	Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award	BRICS CCI WE Summit	Women Empowerment	Recognized for promoting women-led development, grassroots empowerment in Jharkhand; award presented in New Delhi.
Karnataka Grameena Bank	National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG Bank Linkage	Union Ministry of Rural Development	Rural Banking / Financial Inclusion	Recognized for supporting SHGs and rural women; extended ₹2,835 crore credit to 80,904 SHGs; award presented at Hyderabad.
Rituparna Sengupta	Women Empowerment Award	GloWomen CiC (House of Commons, UK)	Art & Culture	Recognized for contribution to art and culture; presented on International Women's Day; ceremony at UK House of Commons.
Kaveh Madani	Stockholm	Stockholm	Water Science	Youngest laureate (44);

	Water Prize	Water Week / King of Sweden	& Policy	recognized for "water bankruptcy" concept; linking water science with policy, diplomacy and sustainability; first UN official to win.
William Dalrymple	Mark Lynton History Prize	Nieman Foundation & Columbia University	Historical Writing	For book <i>The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World</i> ; USD 10,000 prize; highlights India's role in ancient global exchanges.
Dr. Partha Sarathi Mahanta	Best Director Award	New York Short Animation Festival (NYSAF)	Animation / Film	Directed <i>CHYIMI</i> , an Indian animated short; award highlights global recognition for Indian animation; Mahanta also serves as Assam IGP.
Vairamuthu	Jnanpith Award	Bharatiya Jnanpith	Literature / Tamil Poetry & Lyrics	Recognized for decades-long contributions to Tamil literature, poetry and thousands of film lyrics; India's highest literary honour; includes citation, cash prize and bronze statue of Saraswati.
<i>One Battle After Another</i> (Film)	Best Picture	Oscars	Film / Best Picture	Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson; produced by Adam Somner, Sara Murphy and Anderson; won six Oscars including Best Picture at 98th Academy Awards; political thriller exploring historical and personal themes.
Michael B. Jordan	Best Actor	Oscars	Film / Acting	For dual role in <i>Sinners</i> by Ryan Coogler; first Academy Award; historically significant as part of small group of Black actors winning Best Actor.
<i>Homebound</i> (Film)	Best International Feature Film (Shortlisted)	Oscars	Film / International Feature	Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan; only Indian film shortlisted at 98th Academy Awards; explores social and emotional storytelling; cast includes Ishaan Khatter, Janhvi Kapoor, Vishal Jethwa.
Amol Palekar	META Lifetime Achievement Award	Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)	Theatre & Cinema	Honored for decades-long contribution to Indian theatre and cinema; introduced performances in unconventional venues; iconic "boy-next-door" actor in 1970s Hindi cinema; META jury includes Amal Allana, Anuradha Kapur, Rajit Kapur, Satish Alekar, Ila Arun.
Mangaluru	ASQ Best	Airports	Airport /	Won for excellence in arrivals

International Airport	Arrivals Award	Council International (ACI)	Passenger Experience	experience based on real-time passenger feedback; second consecutive year; highlights immigration, baggage handling, cleanliness, comfort; managed by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd.
India (Multiple Innovators)	Zero Prize	School of Policy and Governance (SPG)	Environmental Innovation	India's first results-based environmental award; Rs 5 crore corpus, Rs 1 crore each for air, water and land pollution reduction; performance-based, independently verified; encourages measurable environmental outcomes aligned with national missions (NCAP, Clean Ganga, Swachh Bharat 2.0).

98th Academy Awards

The 98th Academy Awards, held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, celebrated the best films of 2025, hosted by Conan O'Brien. The night was dominated by *One Battle After Another*, which won six awards including Best Picture and Best Director. Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor for his dual role in *Sinners*, which also secured four Oscars, while Jessie Buckley won Best Actress for *Hannet*. Sean Penn won Best Supporting Actor for *One Battle After Another* and Amy Madigan won Best Supporting Actress for *Weapons*. Ryan Coogler won Best Original Screenplay for *Sinners* and Paul Thomas Anderson won Best Adapted Screenplay for *One Battle After Another*. Other major winners included *KPop Demon Hunters* (Best Animated Feature), *Sentimental Value* (Best International Feature), *Mr. Nobody Against Putin* (Best Documentary Feature), *Avatar: Fire and Ash* (Best Visual Effects), *F1* (Best Sound) and *Sinners* (Best Original Score). The ceremony marked several milestones, including Autumn Durald Arkapaw becoming the first woman to win Best Cinematography and the introduction of a new award for Best Casting. With *Sinners* receiving 16 nominations, the event highlighted diverse talent, technical excellence and global cinema recognition.

All about Oscars

- The Oscars, officially known as the Academy Awards, are among the most prestigious awards in the global film industry. These awards honor outstanding achievements in filmmaking, including acting, directing, writing and technical contributions to cinema. The awards are presented every year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) in the United States.
- The Oscars ceremony is watched by millions of viewers worldwide and is considered one of the most important events in the entertainment industry.

What Are the Oscars?

- The Oscars are annual awards that recognize excellence in motion pictures. The awards are given in multiple categories such as Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director and various technical categories.
- Winners receive a gold-plated trophy officially called the Academy Award of Merit, commonly known as the Oscar statuette. The awards celebrate the best films and performances released in the previous year.

History of the Oscars

- The Academy Awards were first introduced in 1929 to honor achievements in the growing film industry. The first ceremony took place on May 16, 1929, at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles, where only 12 awards were presented. Over time, the ceremony grew in popularity and became a major global entertainment event.

Important Milestones

- **1927:** The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was established.
- **1929:** The first Academy Awards ceremony was held.
- **1930:** The event was broadcast on **radio**.
- **1953:** The ceremony was **televised** for the first time.

Today, the Oscars are one of the most **watched award ceremonies worldwide**.

Oscar Statuette

- The **Oscar statuette** is one of the most **recognizable trophies** in the world. The design shows a **knight holding a sword** standing on a **film reel**. This **golden statue** symbolizes **excellence** and **achievement in filmmaking**.

Categories in the Oscars

- The Oscars include several **award categories** that recognize different aspects of **filmmaking**. Some of the **major categories** are:
 - **Best Picture**
 - **Best Director**
 - **Best Actor in a Leading Role**
 - **Best Actress in a Leading Role**
 - **Best Supporting Actor**
 - **Best Supporting Actress**
 - **Best Original Screenplay**
 - **Best Cinematography**
 - **Best Film Editing**

In total, **awards** are presented in **more than 20 categories** each year.

How Oscar Winners Are Selected

The **winners** are chosen by **members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**, which includes **thousands of professionals** from the **film industry** such as **actors, directors, producers and writers**.

The process includes two main steps:

- **Nomination Voting:** Academy members vote to select **nominees** in each category.
- **Final Voting:** Members vote again to determine the **winners**.

Significance of the Oscars

The Oscars hold **immense importance** in the **film industry** because:

- They recognize the **highest achievements in filmmaking**.
- Winning an **Oscar** can significantly boost a **film's popularity** and **box office performance**.
- The awards help promote **global cinema** and **creative storytelling**.

Because of their **prestige**, the Oscars are often considered the **highest honor** in the **film industry**

BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- The **BCCI Naman Awards 2026** celebrated **India's cricket stars** in **New Delhi**. **Shubman Gill** won the **Polly Umrigar Award**, **Smriti Mandhana** earned the **women's honour**, while **Rahul Dravid**, **Roger Binny** and **Mithali Raj** received **Lifetime Achievement Awards**.
- The **BCCI Naman Awards 2026** recognized **outstanding performances** in **international cricket**, **domestic tournaments** and **lifetime contributions** to the game. **Shubman Gill** received the **Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men)**, while **Smriti Mandhana** won the award for the **women's category**. **Legendary figures** like **Roger Binny**, **Rahul Dravid** and **Mithali Raj** were honored with **Lifetime Achievement Awards**.
- The **BCCI Naman Awards** are one of the most **prestigious recognitions** in **Indian cricket**, presented annually by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** to honor **exceptional achievements** and **long-term**

contributions. The ceremony acknowledges **players, administrators, umpires and emerging talents** from international and domestic cricket.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 winners were announced for **24 Indian languages**. The awards include **poetry, novels, essays, memoirs and short stories**. Each winner will receive **₹1 lakh, a shawl and a copper plaque** at the ceremony in New Delhi on **31 March 2026**.

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 was officially announced on **16 March 2026**, recognizing **outstanding literary works** across **24 Indian languages**. This **prestigious literary honour** is presented annually by the **Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, celebrating excellence in literature**. This year's awards include:

- **Poetry** – 8 books
- **Novels** – 4 books
- **Short story collections** – 6 books
- **Essays** – 2 books
- **Literary criticism** – 1 book
- **Autobiography** – 1 book
- **Memoirs** – 2 books

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Selection Process

- The **selection process** began in **January 2025**, with the **Sahitya Akademi** inviting **nominations** for literary works in its recognized languages. **Distinguished jury members** evaluated the submitted works. Their **recommendations** were reviewed and approved by the **competent authority** of **Sahitya Akademi**.
- This **transparent selection system** ensures that awards honor works based on **merit, originality and contribution** to Indian literature.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners List – Genre Wise

Poetry:

- **Shrestha Kabita (Bengali)** – Prasun Bandyopadhyay
- **Bhatkhadaki (Gujarati)** – Yogesh Vaidya
- **Padapurana (Odia)** – Girijakumar Baliyar Singh
- **Animesha (Telugu)** – Nandini Sidha Reddy
- **Safar Jaari Hai (Urdu)** – Pritpal Singh Betab
- **Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah (Sanskrit)** – Sadhu Bhadreshdas

Novels:

- **Karhi Khelar Sadhu (Assamese)** – Devabrat Das
- **Dwngnwi Lama Mwnse Gathwn (Bodo)** – Sahaisuli Brahma
- **Crimson Spring (English)** – Navtej Sarna
- **Maayaamanushyar (Malayalam)** – N. Prabhakaran

Short Story Collections:

- **Dada Seerisu Tande (Kannada)** – Amaresh Nugadoni
- **Safety Kit (Punjabi)** – Jinder
- **Bharkhama (Rajasthani)** – Jitender Kumar Soni
- **Waghoo (Sindhi)** – Bhagwan Atlani

Essays:

- **Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Konkani)** – Henry Mendonca
- **Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Nepali)** – Prakash Bhattarai

Literary Criticism:

- **Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal (Tamil)** – Sa. Tamilselvan

Autobiography:

- **Kalyanilya Resha (Marathi)** – Raju Baviskar

Memoirs:

- **Jeete Jee Allahabad (Hindi)** – Mamta Kalia

- Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Maithili) – Mahendra

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Winners – Language Wise

Language	Title & Genre	Author
Assamese	KarhiKhelar Sadhu (Novel)	Devabrat Das
Bengali	Shrestha Kabita (Poetry)	Prasun Bandyopadhyay
Bodo	Dwngnwi Lama MwngseGathwn (Novel)	Sahaisuli Brahma
Dogri	Thakur Satsayie (Poetry, Couplets)	Khajur Singh Thakur
English	Crimson Spring (Novel)	Navtej Sarna
Gujarati	Bhattkhadaki (Poetry)	Yogesh Vaidya
Hindi	Jeete Jee Allahabad (Memoir)	Mamta Kalia
Kannada	Dada Seerisu Tande (Short Stories)	Amaresh Nugadoni
Kashmiri	Najdavanek'y Pot Aalav (Poetry)	Ali Shaida
Konkani	Konkani Kavyem: Rupani Ani Rupakam (Essays)	Henry Mendonca
Maithili	Dhatri Paat San Gaam (Memoir)	Mahendra
Malayalam	Maayaamanushyar (Novel)	N. Prabhakaran
Manipuri	KanglamdribaEephut (Short Stories)	Haobam Nalini
Marathi	Kalyanilya Resha (Autobiography)	Raju Baviskar
Nepali	Nepali Paramparik Sanskriti Ra Sabhyata Ko Dukuti (Essays)	Prakash Bhattarai
Odia	Padapurana (Poetry)	GirijakumarBaliyar Singh
Punjabi	Safety Kit (Stories)	Jinder
Rajasthani	Bharkhama (Stories)	Jitender Kumar Soni
Sanskrit	PrasthanacatustayeBrahmaghosah (Poetry)	Sadhu Bhadreshdas
Santali	Mid Birna ChenneSaonInag Sagai (Short Stories)	Sumitra Soren
Sindhi	Waghoo (Stories)	Bhagwan Atlani
Tamil	ThamizSirukathaiyinThadangal (Literary Criticism)	Sa. Tamilselvan
Telugu	Animesha (Poetry)	Nandini Sidha Reddy
Urdu	Safar Jaari Hai (Poetry)	Pritpal Singh Betab

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Ceremony

The official ceremony will take place on **31 March 2026** in **New Delhi**. Each winner will receive:

- ₹1,00,000 cash prize
- Ceremonial shawl
- Engraved copper plaque

About Sahitya Akademi

- The Sahitya Akademi is India's national academy, established in **1954**, dedicated to promoting **literature in multiple Indian languages**. It supports **literary creativity, translation, publishing and cultural exchange**.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is one of the **most prestigious literary honors in India**, recognizing **outstanding books in 24 officially recognized languages**.



SPORTS

Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 Concludes: Karnataka Emerges Victorious

- The first edition of the **Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026** concluded on **April 4th**, with

Karnataka dominating the **medal tally** by winning **23 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals**, showcasing a balanced performance across **swimming, athletics and wrestling**. **Odisha** secured second

place with 21 golds, Jharkhand third with 16, while host Chhattisgarh finished ninth.

India Surpasses Kenya and Russia in Track & Field Doping Cases

- India has emerged as the country with the highest number of track and field athlete doping suspensions, with 148 athletes banned, surpassing Kenya and Russia, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) April 2026 data. Prominent athletes such as Dutee Chand, Parvej Khan and Dhanalakshmi Sekar are among those suspended for doping, tampering, or evading tests. The report highlights the scale of the problem, with WADA 2024 data showing India's 3.6% positivity rate and over 7,100 samples tested, prompting reforms in training systems, monitoring and awareness by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Olympics Transgender Ban 2028: IOC Rules, SRY Gene Test Explained

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that transgender women and DSD athletes will no longer be eligible to compete in female categories at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, introducing a one-time SRY gene screening to ensure fairness. The SRY gene, found on the Y chromosome, indicates male biological development, giving potential performance advantages in strength and endurance sports. The decision follows debates from Paris 2024 Olympics and aims to safeguard competitive fairness, though critics argue it limits inclusivity.

India Wins Two Bronze Medals at Asia Cup Archery Stage 1

- At the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1, India secured two bronze medals in team events while also reaching multiple finals. The women's recurve team defeated Malaysia 5-1 and the men's compound team recovered from a semifinal loss to beat Bhutan 234-232. Individual athletes in the compound category, including Abhishek Jawkar and Uday Kamboj, progressed to finals with assured medals, while the top-seeded men's recurve and women's compound teams now target gold against Kazakhstan in upcoming finals.

India's First Indoor Athletics Championships Kickoff at Kalinga Stadium

- India hosted its inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026 at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Indoor Stadium, featuring over 278 athletes competing in 11 track and field events for men, women and U-20 categories. The 200m banked synthetic track offers a controlled environment with no impact from weather, highlighting events like 60m sprints, 60m hurdles and pole vault. Serving as preparation for the 2028 World Indoor Athletics Championships, the event aims to strengthen India's international sports presence, showcase talent from states like Odisha, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and boost sports infrastructure and tourism.

India Open 2026:

- Anahat Singh Wins - Anahat Singh won her second consecutive JSW India Open title, defeating Hana Moataz 3-1 on March 22, 2026. Her dominant performance, tactical skill and mental toughness highlight India's growing presence in squash and her potential for world top 10 rankings.

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- Held from March 25-April 3 in Raipur, Jharkhand, the games featured 6,000+ participants. It promotes tribal sports, culture and youth talent, including archery, athletics, mallakhamb, kabaddi and preserves indigenous traditions while boosting national recognition of tribal athletes.

LeBron James NBA Record

- LeBron James played his 1,612th NBA game for the Lakers, surpassing Robert Parish. At 41, he demonstrated longevity, consistency and elite performance, setting a new benchmark in basketball history over 23 seasons.

FIFA World Cup 2026 & WADA

- WADA postponed the decision on a ban of government officials, including Donald Trump, until after FIFA World Cup 2026. This ensures tournament participation, highlights sports governance challenges and addresses US-WADA funding disputes.

World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028

- India will host the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Odisha at Kalinga Stadium, marking a historic first. The event will boost sports infrastructure, athletics development and global recognition of India in track and field.

National Para Athletics Championship 2026

- Held at Kalinga Stadium, 1,460 para-athletes from 28 states participated in 145 events. The championship is a selection platform for Asian Para Games 2026, showcasing India's para-sports talent and promoting inclusivity.

India at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026

- India dominated with 208 medals (75 gold) at New Delhi, showing depth of para-athlete talent, global competitiveness and consistent excellence in track and field events.

India Women's Hockey World Cup 2026

- India's women's hockey team qualified early for the World Cup 2026 after a 4-1 win over Wales in Hyderabad qualifiers. Key performers like Navneet Kaur scored a hat-trick, reflecting strong attack, defense and international readiness.

Shailesh Kumar Gold Medal 2026

- Shailesh Kumar won men's T63 high jump gold at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 in New Delhi with 1.84m, recovering from injury and targeting Asian Para Games 2026.

ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2026

- Smriti Mandhana retains No.1 in ODI batting rankings, demonstrating consistency and stroke play. Harmanpreet Kaur stays 8th, while Jemimah Rodrigues drops to 12th after India's 0-3 loss to Australia. New Zealand players excel: Amelia Kerr climbs to 11th (bowlers) and 5th (all-

rounders); Brooke Halliday rises to 11th with 157 runs; Maddy Green joint 22nd.

Women's T20I Rankings

- Hasini Perera jumps 15 places to 28th, Imesha Dulani rises 17 places, Kavisha Dilhari moves up 3 spots (bowling) & 2 spots (all-rounder), Afy Fletcher climbs 4 spots (bowling).

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, New Delhi

- Held March 11-13, featuring 257 athletes from 8 countries. India fields 219 athletes, including stars Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sumit Antil, Praveen Kumar. Event offers 74 international classification slots for fair competition. India dominated 2025 edition, winning 134 medals (45G, 40S, 49B).

T20 World Cup 2026

- India beats New Zealand at Ahmedabad to become first team to defend T20 World Cup title and win three times (2007, 2024, 2026). BCCI announces ₹131 crore reward. Sanju Samson: Player of the Tournament (321 runs); Jasprit Bumrah: Player of the Match (4/15). India sets highest T20 WC final score (255/5).

F1 Australian Grand Prix 2026

- George Russell (Mercedes) wins, Kimi Antonelli 2nd, Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 3rd. Race featured multiple lead changes, strategic pit-stops and new F1 2026 technical regulations with 50:50 ICE & electric power. Max Verstappen recovers to 6th; Arvid Lindblad impresses debut with 8th.

All England Open 2026

- Lakshya Sen runner-up in men's singles, losing to Lin Chun-Yi (Taiwan) 15-21, 20-22. Marks 5th consecutive loss to Lin; India still awaits a new All England champion since Padukone (1980) and Gopichand (2001).



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Safety Day 2026 (March 4):

- National Safety Day is observed to promote workplace safety, occupational health and accident prevention in India. The 2026 theme, "Engage,

Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety," encourages active participation, awareness and empowerment across industries.

International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness 2026 (March 5):

- This day raises global awareness on arms control, nuclear disarmament and security under UN Resolution A/RES/77/51. It emphasizes educating youth and the public to prevent conflict, reduce weapons proliferation and promote peace.

CISF Raising Day 2026 (March 10):

- CISF Raising Day commemorates the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force in 1969 and honors its personnel for protecting India's critical infrastructure. The observance highlights the force's evolution, discipline and national security contributions.

Pi Day 2026 (March 14):

- Pi Day celebrates the mathematical constant π (3.14) and its significance in mathematics, science and engineering. First observed in 1988, it includes educational activities, recitations and pie-themed events to make learning fun and engaging.

National Vaccination Day – 16 March 2026

- Observed to promote vaccination and public health, marking the launch of the Pulse Polio Programme in 1995. India achieved polio-free status in 2014. Key vaccines include Polio, Rotavirus, Measles-Rubella, Pneumococcal, Td and COVID-19 vaccines like COVAXIN and COVISHIELD.

World Social Work Day – 17 March 2026

- Recognizes social workers' role in promoting social justice and inclusion. The 2026 theme *Co-Building Hope and Harmony* highlights collective responsibility (Harambee) to unite divided societies.

Ordnance Factory Day – 18 March 2026

- Celebrates India's defense manufacturing heritage, beginning with Cossipore factory in 1802. India has 41 factories producing arms, ammunition, tanks and military equipment. Celebrations include parades, exhibitions and awards.

International Day of Happiness – 20 March 2026

- Promotes well-being and sustainable growth. Happiness is seen as a global development goal. The 2026 focus is on well-being in the digital age, guided by the World Happiness Report. Bhutan's Gross National Happiness inspired global adoption.

World Poetry Day – 21 March 2026

- Honors poets and poetry as a cultural and creative medium. Established by UNESCO in 1999, the day promotes reading, writing, linguistic diversity and cultural exchange.

International Nowruz Day – 21 March 2026

- Marks the Persian New Year and spring, symbolizing renewal and harmony. Celebrated with Haft Sin, spring cleaning and cultural events. Recognized by UNESCO (2009) and UN (2010).

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – 21 March 2026

- Observed to promote equality and fight racism, commemorating the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa where 69 peaceful protesters were killed opposing apartheid. Established by the United Nations, the day emphasizes global action against racial discrimination. Key frameworks include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD, 1965) and the Durban Declaration (2001), promoting legal reforms, equality and awareness.

World Water Day – 22 March 2026

- Raises awareness on freshwater, water conservation and sustainable access to safe drinking water. The 2026 theme is *Water and Gender*, highlighting women's role in water management and the impact of water scarcity on education and livelihoods. It emphasizes inclusive solutions, policy participation and resilient water systems in the face of climate change, aligned with SDG 6.

Shaheed Diwas – 23 March 2026

- Honours Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, executed in 1931 for their role in India's freedom struggle. Observed to remember their courage, patriotism and sacrifice. The day inspires

reflection on justice, bravery and youth activism, with commemorations including two-minute silences, floral tributes and educational events.

World Meteorological Day – 23 March 2026

- Celebrates weather, climate science and the work of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The 2026 theme *Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow* emphasizes the use of accurate weather data for disaster preparedness, climate monitoring and sustainable planning.

World TB Day – 24 March 2026

- Raises awareness about tuberculosis and urges global action to eliminate the disease. The 2026 theme *Yes! We Can End TB: Led by Countries, Powered by Peoplestresses* leadership, community participation, early detection, prevention and innovation. TB remains a major global health challenge, with 10.7 million cases and 1.23 million deaths reported in 2024. BCG vaccination, hygiene and timely treatment are key preventive measures.

Earth Hour 2026 – 28 March

- Observed 8:30–9:30 pm globally, Earth Hour marks 20 years of WWF's (World Wide Fund for Nature) climate movement. Started in Sydney in 2007 as a "lights-off" event, it now spans 190+ countries promoting climate action, biodiversity and sustainable living. In India, WWF leads since 2009 with 58 cities participating through clean-ups, nature walks, wetland conservation and awareness programs. The campaign links lifestyle choices to health, addressing obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular issues, mental health and sleep disruption from artificial light.

Utkal Divas 2026 – 1 April

- Marks Odisha's formation in 1936 as India's first linguistic state, uniting Odia-speaking regions. Led by Madhusudan Das and Gopabandhu Das to protect Odia language and culture. Historically, Odisha was Kalinga, later fragmented under Mughals, Marathas and British. The formation followed decades of struggle and the creation of Utkal Sammilani (1903). Utkal Divas celebrates linguistic pride, cultural unity and Odisha's development with Odissi dance, music, parades, speeches, school and college events honoring leaders and heritage.



STATIC GK

UN/International Decades and Years:

Period / Year	Name / Theme
2010–2020	UN Decade for Fight Against Desertification
2011–2020	UN Decade on Biodiversity
2011–2020	UN Decade of Action for Road Safety
2013–2022	UNESCO International Decade for Rapprochement of Cultures
2014–2024	UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All
2015–2024	International Decade for People of African Descent
2016–2025	United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition
2018–2028	International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development"
2019–2028	United Nations Decade of Family Farming
2019–2028	Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace
2020–2030	International Decade of Healthy Ageing
2020–2030	Decade of Action for Achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
2021–2030	International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
2021–2030	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
2022–2032	International Decade of Indigenous Languages
2016	International Year of Pulses
2019	International Year of Indigenous Languages

2020	International Year of Plant Health
2020	Year of Tourism and Rural Development (by UNWTO)
2021	UN International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
2021	International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour
2021	International Year of Peace and Trust
2021	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
2021	SCO Year of Culture
2022	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
2023	International Year of Millets
2024	International Year of the Family
2024	International Year of Camelids
2024-2033	International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development
2025	International Year of Cooperatives
2026	International Year of the Woman Farmer

Important Revolutions in India:

Name of the Revolution	Field of the Revolution	Father of the Revolution	Period of the Revolution
Green Revolution	Agriculture	M.S. Swaminathan	1966-1967
White Revolution / Operation Flood	Milk / Dairy products	Dr. Varghese Kurien	1970-1996
Blue Revolution	Fish and Aqua	Dr. Arun Krishnan & Dr. Harilal Chaudhari	1973-2002
Golden Revolution	Fruits, Honey, Horticulture	Nirpakh Tutaj	1991-2003
Silver Revolution	Eggs	Indira Gandhi	2000s
Yellow Revolution	Oil Seeds	Sam Pitroda	1986-1990
Pink Revolution	Pharmaceuticals, Prawns, Onion	Durgesh Patel	1970s
Brown Revolution	Leather, Coco	Hiralal Chaudri	-
Red Revolution	Meat, Tomato	Vishal Tewari	1980s
Golden Fibre Revolution	Jute	-	1990s
Evergreen Revolution	Overall Production of Agriculture	M.S. Swaminathan	2017-2022
Black Revolution	Petroleum	-	-
Silver Fiber Revolution	Cotton	-	2000s
Round Revolution	Potato	-	1965-2005
Protein Revolution	Agriculture (Higher Production)	-	2014-2020
Grey Revolution	Fertilizers	-	1960s-1970s

Riverside cities in India, state-wise

State	City	River	State	City	River
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Krishna	Maharashtra	Sangli	Krishna
Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry	Godavari	Maharashtra	Karad	Krishna, Koyna
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	Krishna	Maharashtra	Golegaon	Godavari
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	Pennar	Odisha	Sambalpur	Mahanadi
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Tungabhadra	Odisha	Rourkela	Brahmani
Assam	Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	Odisha	Rairangpur	Khadkhai
Bihar	Munger	Ganges	Odisha	Banki	Mahanadi
Bihar	Jamalpur	Ganges	Odisha	Cuttack	Mahanadi
Bihar	Purnia	Koshi	Odisha	Brahmapur	Rushikulya

Bihar	Bhagalpur	Ganges	Odisha	Chhatrapur	Rushikulya
Bihar	Patna	Ganges	Punjab	Ferozpur	Sutlej
Bihar	Gaya	Falgu	Rajasthan	Kota	Chambal
Bihar	Hajipur	Ganges	Sikkim	Rangpo	Teesta
Delhi	New Delhi	Yamuna	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	Vaigai
Gujarat	Bharuch	Narmada	Tamil Nadu	Thiruchirapalli	Kaveri
Gujarat	Navsari	Purna	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Cooum, Adyar
Gujarat	Surat	Tapi	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Noyyal
Gujarat	Vadodara	Vishwamitri	Tamil Nadu	Erode	Kaveri
Gujarat	Deesa	Banas	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	Thamirabarani
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram	Vegavathi, Palar
Gujarat	Modasa	Mazum	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	Vennaaru, Vadavaaru
Gujarat	Rajkot	Aji	Telangana	Nizamabad	Godavari
Gujarat	Patan	Saraswati	Telangana	Hyderabad	Musi
Gujarat	Morbi	Machchu	Telangana	Karimnagar	Maner
Gujarat	Himmatnagar	Hathmati	Telangana	Ramagundam	Godavari
Gujarat	Valsad	Auranga	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehgarh	Ganges
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Tawi	Uttar Pradesh	Kannauj	Ganges
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	Jhelum	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Rapti
Karnataka	Mangalore	Netravati, Gurupura	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Gomti
Karnataka	Shimoga	Tunga River	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Cantonment	Ganges
Karnataka	Bhadravathi	Bhadra	Uttar Pradesh	Shuklaganj	Ganges
Karnataka	Hospet	Tungabhadra	Uttar Pradesh	Chakeri	Ganges
Karnataka	Karwar	Kali	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	Ganges
Karnataka	Bagalkot	Ghataprabha	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura	Yamuna
Karnataka	Honnavar	Sharavathi	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur	Ganges
Karnataka	Bangalore	Vrishabhavathi	Uttar Pradesh	Auraiya	Yamuna
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Narmada	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	Yamuna
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	Chambal	Uttar Pradesh	Farrukhabad	Ganges
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Shipra	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Yamuna
Madhya Pradesh	Ashta	Parwati	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	Ganga
Maharashtra	Pune	Mula, Mutha	Uttar Pradesh	Ayodhya	Sarayu
Maharashtra	Gangakhed	Godavari	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	Ganges
Maharashtra	Karjat	Ulhas	Uttar Pradesh	Jaunpur	Gomti
Maharashtra	Nashik	Godavari	Uttar Pradesh	Budaun	Sot
Maharashtra	Mahad	Savitri	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Ganges
Maharashtra	Nanded	Godavari	Uttarakhand	Badrinath	Alaknanda
Maharashtra	Kolhapur	Panchaganga	West Bengal	Baranagar	Ganges
Maharashtra	Malegaon	Girna River	West Bengal	Kolkata	Hooghly
			West Bengal	Murshidabad	Hooghly



CURRENT GK

- Energy Statistics India 2026:** The National Statistics Office's Energy Statistics India 2026 highlights India's total primary energy supply at 9,32,816 KTOE and renewable energy potential of 47,04,043 MW, mainly solar concentrated in six states. Coal remains dominant, per-capita consumption is rising and T&D losses reduced to 17%, while credit flow to the sector increased sixfold. Challenges include geographic concentration, heavy coal dependence and growing energy demand, necessitating decentralization, smart grids and energy diversification.
- Exercise Dweep Shakti:** Dweep Shakti is a tri-service military exercise in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands testing rapid deployment, amphibious assaults and maritime dominance using next-gen drones and electronic warfare. It demonstrates India's readiness to defend island territories and reinforces multi-domain interoperability across Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Solid Waste Management Rules 2026:** The SWM Rules 2026 replace the 2016 framework to achieve zero waste to landfill with mandatory four-stream segregation, on-site processing for large generators, digital monitoring and promotion of refuse-derived fuel. These rules emphasize circular economy, polluter-pays principle and stricter management of landfills and legacy waste.
- Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle:** Adopted at CMS COP15, the Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan (2026-2035) aims to halt population decline through six strategic goals covering energy infrastructure, trade control, poisoning prevention, habitat restoration, research and stakeholder engagement. In India, key sites include the Thar Desert, Jorbeer and Desert National Park.
- Bab el-Mandab Strait:** The Bab el-Mandab Strait, or Gate of Tears, is a strategic maritime chokepoint between Yemen and the Horn of Africa, vital for 10-12% of global oil and gas shipments. Missile threats from Houthi rebels heighten its vulnerability and blockage would force ships around the Cape of Good Hope, adding up to 20 days to the journey.
- Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO):** SKO is a highly refined, low-sulphur kerosene distributed under the PDS to provide affordable, clean-burning fuel for rural households. Its high smoke point and safety features distinguish it from regular kerosene, supporting domestic cooking, lighting and certain industrial applications.
- Agray - Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft:** Agray is the fourth of eight indigenously built ASW shallow water craft delivered to the Indian Navy by GRSE, Kolkata. It uses waterjet propulsion, the largest Indian warship to do so and is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and advanced shallow water SONAR. Its induction strengthens India's anti-submarine, mine-warfare and coastal surveillance capabilities.
- 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste Initiative:** Varkala has been included in the UN's inaugural 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative led by UN-Habitat and UNEP. The initiative recognizes cities adopting innovative approaches to reduce waste, promote circular economy and build sustainable urban systems. It encourages knowledge exchange and inspires other cities to accelerate zero-waste transitions.
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS):** At COP15 of CMS, forty new species were added to the protected list, strengthening global conservation efforts. CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, was signed in 1979 and provides a platform for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. Parties implement conservation measures through legally binding treaties or agreements and MoUs.
- PM E-Drive Scheme:** The PM E-Drive Scheme aims to accelerate electric vehicle adoption, offering subsidies for e-2W, e-3W, e-ambulances and e-trucks, extended till 2026-28. Launched in October 2024, it also promotes charging infrastructure, e-buses and state-level incentives.

The scheme is monitored by the PISC to ensure effective rollout and progress.

- **Kariba Dam:** Kariba Dam is a concrete arch dam across the Zambezi River on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border, completed in 1959, creating Lake Kariba, the world's largest human-made lake by volume. It provides hydroelectric power to both countries and supports regional energy needs. A 500 MW floating solar plant is being planned to enhance renewable energy generation.
- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):** NCLAT is a quasi-judicial body established under the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against NCLT decisions. It regulates its own procedure, has civil court powers and ensures timely corporate dispute resolution. NCLAT handles appeals related to insolvency, competition, financial reporting and gives advisory opinions on referred legal issues.
- **Shyamji Krishna Varma:** Shyamji Krishna Varma (1857-?) was an Indian freedom fighter, lawyer and journalist from Gujarat, who founded the Indian Home Rule Society. He established India House in London and published *The Indian Sociologist* to promote nationalist ideas. His work inspired Indian students and nationalists abroad to support the freedom struggle.
- **Balirajgarh Site:** Balirajgarh, in Madhubani, Bihar, is an archaeological site of national importance believed to be the ancient capital of King Bali. Excavations revealed antiquities from five cultural periods: Northern Black Soil, Sunga, Kushan, Gupta and Pala. ASI regulates its protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- **Waste Foundry Sand:** Waste foundry sand (WFS) is a by-product of ferrous and nonferrous metal casting, classified as clay-bonded or chemically bonded sand. It poses environmental challenges due to large-scale generation, but can be reused in road construction to promote sustainability. The IIF and CSIR-CRRI are collaborating to develop solutions for its effective utilisation.
- **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):** The CCPA, established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, protects and enforces consumer rights and prevents unfair trade practices. It is headed by a Chief Commissioner and has commissioners handling goods and services complaints. The authority can initiate class-action suits, recall products, impose penalties and ensure consumer welfare.
- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):** The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), headquartered in Chennai, was established under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** and formally set up in 2003. It advises the government on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable benefit-sharing. NBA comprises a Chairperson, 10 ex-officio members and 5 non-official members and functions with **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)** and **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** at local levels. Recently, NBA launched a short-term internship programme for graduate and postgraduate students.
- **Helium: Helium (He)** is an inert gas, the second lightest element, discovered in 1868. It has a very low boiling point (-268.9°C) and cannot be solidified at normal pressure. Major reserves are in the USA, Algeria and Russia, with India's **Rajmahal Volcanic Basin** holding significant helium. It is used in pressurizing fuel tanks and cooling rocket systems. India's semiconductor and PCB industries may face supply disruptions after Iran's attack on Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG hub.
- **Assam Rifles:** The Assam Rifles, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, is India's oldest paramilitary force, originating in 1835 as the Cachar Levy. It played roles in colonial frontier expeditions, combat in wars such as 1962 Sino-India War and peacekeeping (IPKF in Sri Lanka). Headquartered in Shillong, it conducts counterinsurgency operations in northeastern India. Its motto is "Service, Security, Friendship."
- **Beaver: Beavers** (*genus Castor*) are semi-aquatic rodents native to North America, Europe and Asia. Known as "ecosystem engineers," they build dams from mud, stones and branches, which help in flood control and carbon storage. They have continuously growing orange incisors and live 10-12 years. A recent study highlighted their role in reducing CO₂ release from riverbeds.

- **Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) Initiative:** The **DEH Initiative**, launched in 2019 by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, promotes district-level products for domestic and international markets to boost regional development. **State and District Export Promotion Committees** identify export potential in 734 districts and prepare **District Export Action Plans (DEAPs)** to address bottlenecks and support local manufacturers.
- **RoDTEP Scheme:** The **RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) Scheme**, effective from January 2021, reimburses embedded taxes and duties on exports that are otherwise non-creditable, replacing the MEIS scheme. It covers all sectors, prioritizes labor-intensive industries and is applicable to SEZs, EOUs and e-commerce exports, but excludes re-exports. Benefits are provided as transferable duty credit/e-scrip.
- **Tonga:** **Tonga** is a Polynesian archipelago of 169 islands in the South Pacific, with capital **Nuku'alofa**. Its western islands are volcanic, while the eastern islands are coral-based. Recently, Tonga experienced a magnitude 7.6 earthquake. It is a member of the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance and Marine Protected Areas Action Groups.
- **Great Salt Lake:** The **Great Salt Lake** in northern Utah, USA, is the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere with no outlet. Fed by the Bear, Weber and Jordan rivers, it experiences high salinity due to evaporation. Recent studies show freshwater saturating rocks up to 13,000 feet deep. The lake hosts several bird species like American avocet, Wilson's phalarope and California gull.
- **Sperm Whale:** The **sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)** is the largest toothed whale, notable for its square head containing spermaceti oil, which aids echolocation. Distributed across all deep oceans, they feed primarily on squid and can live up to 60 years. Social animals, they communicate using codas and are classified as Vulnerable (IUCN) and on CITES Appendix I.
- **Globe Network:** The **Globe Network** (Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities) is a global platform of 135 countries and 250 authorities established under the Riyadh Initiative (G20 Saudi Arabia) and operates under UNCAC. India, through CBI and ED, participates in it. The network facilitates direct agency-level cooperation to investigate, prosecute and recover proceeds of corruption, supported by UNODC.
- **Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP):** The **MSE-CDP**, a central sector scheme under the Ministry of MSME, enhances productivity and competitiveness of Micro and Small Enterprises using a cluster-based approach. It supports **Common Facility Centers (CFCs)**, infrastructure development, skill-building, market access and adoption of green technologies to ensure sustainable growth and collaborative capacity building among MSEs.
- **Aghanashini River:** The **Aghanashini River**, originating from Gadihalli (Sirsi) in the Western Ghats, Karnataka, flows 117 km into the Arabian Sea. One of the few free-flowing rivers in the world, it has a 1,449 sq.km catchment, supports diverse flora and fauna and its estuary is a **Ramsar Site**. UNESCO has advised compliance with World Heritage norms for the proposed Aghanashini-Vedavathi river linking project.
- **Panama Canal:** The **Panama Canal**, a 40-mile man-made waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, uses a lock system to raise and lower vessels due to differing ocean elevations. Completed in 1914 by the US, it was fully transferred to Panama in 1999. Recently, increased LNG traffic due to the Iran war has pushed it to operate at full capacity, highlighting its strategic importance in global maritime trade.
- **Titanium:** **Titanium (Ti, atomic number 22)** is the fourth most abundant metal in the Earth's crust, highly corrosion-resistant, lightweight and strong. Extracted via the **Kroll process**, it occurs mainly in ilmenite and rutile ores. Used in aerospace, ships, prosthetics and as an alloying element, titanium is also studied in lunar rocks for planetary science research.
- **GARBH-INi Initiative:** The **GARBH-INi Initiative** is India's largest pregnancy cohort study, enrolling 12,000 women to develop AI-driven solutions for preterm birth. Led by the

Department of Biotechnology through THSTI, it aims to understand adverse pregnancy outcomes, including fetal growth restriction and provide predictive tools to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

- **Smog-Eating Photocatalytic Coating:** The Delhi government and IIT Madras are studying road coatings that neutralize harmful gases like nitrogen dioxide and volatile hydrocarbons. The coating uses titanium dioxide and photocatalytic activity to reduce air pollution and clean the environment.
- **Kolleru Lake:** Environmentalists report a decline in the ecological health of Kolleru Lake over 50 years. Located in Andhra Pradesh and fed by Krishna and Godavari rivers, it serves as a flood-balancing reservoir, a wildlife sanctuary and a Ramsar wetland, supporting over 20 million migratory birds and sustaining local livelihoods.
- **Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary:** Assam is creating a new Reserved Forest near Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Sonitpur district. Part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem, it hosts Bengal florican, one-horned rhinoceros, tigers, wild buffalo and wetland birds, with diverse grasslands and forests.
- **Subarnarekha River:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has instructed action against illegal sand mining in the Subarnarekha River. Originating near Nagri village, Ranchi in Jharkhand, it flows through Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal for 395 km. Its main tributaries are the Kanchi, Karkari and Kharkai rivers.
- **Diego Garcia:** Iran recently fired ballistic missiles toward the U.S.-U.K. military base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Diego Garcia, a coral atoll in the Chagos Archipelago, is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory and leased to the U.S. since 1966 as a strategic air and naval base. Its original inhabitants were forcibly removed and a 2019 UN General Assembly vote called for its return to Mauritius.
- **Caspian Sea:** Israeli strikes targeted Iranian naval vessels in the Caspian Sea. The Caspian, the world's largest landlocked water body, is bordered

by Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. It is an endorheic basin with freshwater in the north and saltier water in the south. Major rivers such as the Volga, Ural and Terek drain into it and its coastlines are rich in oil and gas reserves. Key cities include Baku and Nowshahr and important islands are Chechen, Tyuleny, Morskoy, Kulaly, Zhiloy and Ogurchin.

- **Prosopis Juliflora:** The Madras High Court issued 34 directions for eradicating *Prosopis juliflora*, an invasive shrub native to South America, from Tamil Nadu. Introduced by the British in the 1920s, it is highly adaptive, grows in arid and semi-arid soils, absorbs large quantities of water, reduces oxygen, increases carbon dioxide, poisons groundwater and leads to land erosion, outcompeting native flora.
- **Lipulekh Pass:** Cross-border trade between India and China via Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand is set to resume in June. Located near the trijunction of India, Nepal and China at 5,334 meters, it links Uttarakhand to Tibet and serves as a historic trade route. Opened in 1992 for trade, it is also a key corridor for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, facilitating religious pilgrimage and supporting local Bhotia communities.
- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary:** The National Board for Wildlife approved Assam's proposal to rationalize Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary boundaries. Established in 1998, the sanctuary spans Rajamayong and Pobitora Reserve Forests in Assam's Brahmaputra floodplains. Known for the highest density of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in India, it also hosts leopards, wild buffalo, barking deer and wild boar. Its vegetation is dominated by alluvial grasslands, with invasive water hyacinth affecting waterfowl.
- **Adipose Tissue:** Body fat is an active metabolic organ. White fat stores energy and regulates hormones; brown fat generates heat; beige fat has brown fat-like properties.
- **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve:** Located at Eastern & Western Ghats junction, Tamil Nadu. Hilly terrain, subtropical climate, rivers like Bhavani & Moyar. Fauna: tiger, elephant, panther, Nilgiri langur. Illegal resorts sealed.

- **Methane:** Potent greenhouse gas; 15 of 25 top emission sites (2025) from oil & gas in Turkmenistan. 2.5× pre-industrial levels, 86× more heat-trapping than CO₂ over 20 years. Major sources: agriculture, energy, waste.
- **Coconut:** India is the world's largest producer (30.37% of global output). Grown mainly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, West Bengal. Requires 1000–3000 mm rainfall, 27°C temp, sandy/loamy soils. Oil comes from the flesh.
- **Autonomous District Councils (ADC):** Formed under 6th Schedule in tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram. Manage land, forests, village courts, local markets, schools, dispensaries. Members: 30 (26 elected, 4 nominated).
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2026:** Awarded to Kaveh Madani for outstanding contributions to water conservation.
- **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI):** Ensures fair MSP for cotton farmers; works under Ministry of Textiles. Major states: Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra.
- **Ethyl Chloroformate:** Colorless, toxic, flammable chemical; used in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and specialty chemical production. Formula: C₂H₅OCOCl. India investigating anti-dumping imports from China.
- **Prambanan Temple:** India and Indonesia have partnered to restore the Prambanan Temple complex in Yogyakarta, southern Java. It is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia, built in the 9th century by the Sanjaya dynasty and dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti of Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma. The complex consists of 240 temples, with the central Shiva temple being the tallest at 47 meters. Its architecture reflects both indigenous Javanese traditions and South Indian Pallava influences. UNESCO designated it as a World Heritage Site in 1991.
- **Exercise Sea Dragon 2026:** The Indian Navy is participating in Exercise Sea Dragon 2026, a United States Navy-led multinational anti-submarine warfare drill in Guam. The exercise aims to strengthen maritime security, improve ASW capabilities and enhance interoperability among allied nations, including the US, India, Australia, Japan and New Zealand. It involves the deployment of long-range maritime patrol aircraft and graded exercises to test mission coordination.
- **Kalinjar Fort:** The hill region around Kalinjar Fort in Banda district, Uttar Pradesh, has been declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India. The fort, over 1500 years old, was established during the Gupta period and later became a capital of the Chandela dynasty. It was captured by Akbar in 1569 AD and gifted to Birbal. The fort contains mosques, temples, palaces, stepwells and the notable Neelkanth Temple.
- **Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS):** HGPS is a rare genetic disorder caused by LMNA gene mutation, leading to premature aging in children. Key features include hair loss, prominent eyes, wrinkled skin and thin nose. Death occurs early, usually from atherosclerosis-related heart attacks or strokes.
- **Butis bargabhimae:** Butis bargabhimae is a new estuarine fish discovered in the Rupnarayan River, West Bengal. It belongs to the butid family and is distinguished by interorbital scales and pectoral fin bands.
- **Petroglyphs:** Petroglyphs are rock engravings made by removing part of the rock surface. Found worldwide except Antarctica, they represent early art, communication, territorial markers and maps. In India, Edakkal Caves, Kerala, is a key site.
- **Force Majeure:** Force majeure refers to extraordinary events beyond control that prevent contractual performance, such as wars, natural disasters, or epidemics. In India, it is governed by Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.
- **Foot and Mouth Disease:** FMD is a viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats. Symptoms include fever and blisters and vaccination is the main preventive measure.
- **Nagoya Protocol:** The Nagoya Protocol under the CBD ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits

from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. India ratified it in 2012.

- The **Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project** is a 120 MW run-of-river hydropower project located on the Kopili River basin in Assam, spanning West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts. The project is developed by Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL) and funded by the Asian Development Bank.
- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development that oversees the adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children in India. It acts as the Central Authority for inter-country adoptions in accordance with the Hague Convention, monitors adoption agencies and coordinates with State Adoption Resource Agencies and Child Welfare Committees.
- The **Great Indian Bustard** is a large terrestrial bird endemic to India, primarily inhabiting dry grasslands and scrublands, with the largest population in Rajasthan's Thar Desert. It is critically endangered, listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and in CITES Appendix 1. It has a lifespan of 12-15 years, weighs up to 15 kg and feeds on grass seeds, insects, small rodents and reptiles. Its captive breeding is ongoing under Project GIB.
- **Dimethyl Ether (DME)** is a synthetic diesel alternative with a high cetane number, colorless under normal conditions and burns cleaner with low NO_x, SO_x and soot emissions. It is used as fuel, in chemical industries and as an aerosol propellant. Its chemical formula is CH₃OCH₃.
- **Acrylonitrile:** An organic compound found on Titan can self-assemble into cell-like structures. It is used to produce acrylic fibers, resins and synthetic rubber and is toxic and highly flammable.
- **Amblyceps vavavy:** A new catfish discovered in northern Western Ghats (Goa, Maharashtra), inhabiting shallow hill streams with sand and stones, distinguished by its unique fins and lateral line.
- **Gajapati Empire:** Medieval Hindu dynasty of Odisha (1434-1541 CE), founded by Kapilendra Deva, with capital at Cuttack/Konark. Patrons of art and literature, exemplified by Konark Sun Temple; declined due to Vijayanagara and Golconda conflicts.
- **Kharg Island - Coral island, Iran,** northern Persian Gulf, 30 km from mainland; freshwater in porous limestone; major oil-loading terminal, handles 90% of Iran's oil exports, storage 28 million barrels, strategic near Strait of Hormuz; US airstrikes raised oil supply concerns.
- **Joha Rice - Indigenous aromatic rice, Assam,** GI-tagged 2017; exported to UK & Italy; varieties: Kola, Keteki, Bokul, Kunkuni Joha; rich in omega-3 & omega-6, antioxidants.
- **Deepor Beel - Freshwater lake, Guwahati, Assam,** former Brahmaputra channel, Ramsar site, Important Bird Area; supports 50 fish species, livelihoods of ~1,200 households; habitats for spot-billed pelican, lesser adjutant stork, Baer's pochard.
- **Van Allen Probe A:** Launched by NASA (2012) to study Earth's radiation belts with twin Van Allen Probe B. Mission lasted 2012-2019, studying charged particles that shield Earth from cosmic and solar radiation.
- **Cobalt (Co, 27):** Ferromagnetic metal, major reserves in DRC, Russia, Canada; in India found in Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan. Used in electronics, batteries, magnets, superalloys, aerospace.
- **Spotted Hyena (Crocuta crocuta):** Largest hyena, nocturnal, matriarchal clans, females with pseudo-penis, found in savannas and grasslands, IUCN: Least Concern.
- **Kurumba Painting:** Originates from Kurumba tribe (TN, Kerala, Karnataka), 3,000+ years old, uses natural pigments, depicts nature, mythology, rituals and daily life.
- **Beas River:** Flows through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, originates from Rohtang Pass, length 470 km, meets Sutlej. Tributaries: Bain, Banganga, Luni, Uhal. Pong Dam constructed on it.

- **IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency**, founded 1957, HQ Vienna, 180 member states, ensures peaceful nuclear use, safety, security, verification, part of UN system.
- **Peptides:** Chains of 2-50 amino acids, shorter and simpler than proteins, act as hormones, anti-inflammatory, muscle-building, pro-aging support.
- **White Phosphorus:** A white-yellow waxy solid that ignites spontaneously above 30°C. Used in military as incendiary weapons, for illumination and smokescreens and in industry to produce phosphates and fertilizers. Exposure can cause severe burns, respiratory harm and environmental damage.
- **Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV):** A respiratory virus in the Pneumoviridae family, causes cold-like symptoms, spreads via droplets, contact and contaminated surfaces and can lead to bronchitis or pneumonia in high-risk groups. No vaccine or specific antiviral exists; treatment is symptomatic care.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):** India's nodal drug law enforcement agency, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, established in 1985 under the NDPS Act. It coordinates drug law enforcement, intelligence collection, liaises with international agencies and dismantled networks like Team Kalki.
- **BharatNet Project:** A Government of India initiative to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. It uses optical fibre, radio and satellite technologies and integrates 5G for digital public infrastructure, enabling e-governance, e-health and e-education. Executed by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).