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April 2026

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Opp. Sub-Registrar Office,
Gandhinagar Road, Ashoknagar
Cross Road, Hyderabad-500020

HIMAYATHNAGAR

Opp. Telangana Tourism Development
Corporation, Near Telugu Academy,
Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029

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(Current affairs simplified for TGPSC & APPSC exams)

Preface

This Monthly Current Affairs Magazine is thoughtfully designed for aspirants of **APPSC**, **TGPSC**, and other state-level competitive examinations. It features **exam-focused, tailor-made content**, curated to meet the evolving demands of these exams.

The magazine is divided into **thirteen (13) comprehensive sections**, covering international, national, and regional (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) developments. Each topic is presented in a clear, concise, and exam-oriented manner, **seamlessly connecting static knowledge with dynamic current affairs** to help readers develop a deeper and more integrated understanding.

Every edition also includes a set of **50 practice MCQs**:

- ✓ 25 questions based on the most important current events of the month &
- ✓ 25 questions derived from static concepts closely linked to those events.

In essence, this magazine serves as a **one-stop source for current affairs**, meticulously curated to strengthen your preparation and guide you on your journey toward excellence in state-level competitive examinations



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Section-I: POLITY AND POLICIES - recent issues related to Indian constitution, new bills & acts passed by Parliament as well as State Legislatures.

1. President Murmu appoints new Governors across States and Union Territories

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed **Governors** in different States and Union Territories. The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, **Shiv Pratap Shukla**, has been appointed as Governor of Telangana. Telangana Governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** has been appointed Governor of Maharashtra. Former Bihar Assembly Speaker **Nand Kishore Yadav** has been appointed as Governor of Nagaland. **Lieutenant General (Retired) Syed Ata Hasnain** has been appointed as Governor of Bihar.



Interconnected concepts:

In the Indian Constitution, the Governor is the **nominal executive head** of a State and acts as a vital bridge between the Union and State governments.

- **Article 153** of the Indian Constitution mandates that there shall be a Governor for each state. Amended by the **7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956**, the article also allows for the same person to be appointed as Governor for two or more states.
- **Article 155:** Article 155 of the Indian Constitution stipulates that the Governor of a

state is appointed directly by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.

- **Article 156:** The Governor holds office during the **pleasure of the President**, with a 5-year term.

2. Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

India's former ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has been appointed Delhi's **Lieutenant Governor**. The President of India also appointed Vinai Kumar Saxena, the current Lt Governor of Delhi, as Lt Governor of Ladakh.



Interconnected concepts:

In the Indian Constitution, the role of a Lieutenant Governor (LG) is primarily governed by **Article 239**.

- **Article 239 (Administration of Union Territories):** This is the base provision that allows the President to appoint an administrator (designated as "Lieutenant Governor" in specific UTs) to manage the territory on their behalf.
- **Article 239AA (Special Provisions for Delhi):** Inserted by the **69th Amendment Act (1991)**, it designates the **administrator of Delhi as the Lieutenant Governor** and establishes a Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers. It mandates that the **LG act on the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers**

except in matters of public order, police, and land.

- **Article 239A:** Provides for the creation of local legislatures or Councils of Ministers in certain UTs, such as Puducherry.

3. 37 Members elected to Rajya Sabha from ten State Assemblies

The Assemblies of ten states elected **37 MPs** to **Rajya Sabha** and one among them is JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar who, in a surprise move, has decided to step down as Bihar chief minister after a 21-year tenure.



Interconnected concept:

Rajya Sabha:

- **Composition:** Rajya Sabha has up to 250 members, **12 of whom are nominated** for their special knowledge of **literature, science, art or social services**. The others are elected.
 - Unlike Lok Sabha, whose members are directly elected by citizens aged 18 and above, Rajya Sabha members are **elected by state assembly members** through the system of **proportional representation by a single, transferable vote**.
- **UTs:** Members of the **Rajya Sabha from Delhi and Puducherry** are elected by an electoral college consisting of the **elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of these Union Territories**.
 - In contrast, the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Chandigarh, and Ladakh do not have representation in the Rajya Sabha, whereas **Jammu and Kashmir does have representation** in the Upper House.

- **Qualification:** The minimum age to be a Rajya Sabha MP is **30 years**. Also, a person qualified to be chosen as a representative of any State or Union territory **must be an elector for a parliamentary constituency in that State or territory**.
- **Term:** The term of a Rajya Sabha member is **six years, and one-third of the members retire every two years**. This ensures continuity, as Rajya Sabha is a **permanent body** that is never dissolved, unlike the Lok Sabha.
- **Powers:** In terms of the constitutional power of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha has equal power with the Lok Sabha. A Constitution Amendment Bill can be introduced in either House of Parliament and has to be passed by each House. There is no provision for a joint sitting of both Houses to resolve a deadlock on a Constitution Amendment Bill

Rajya Sabha enjoys some **special powers**. If it passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting, saying that it is **"necessary or expedient in the national interest"** that Parliament should make a law on a matter enumerated in the State List, Parliament becomes empowered to make a law on the subject. Such a resolution remains in force for a **maximum of one year** but this period can be extended by one year at a time by passing a similar resolution.

A similar route can be adopted for recommending the **creation of one or more All India Services** common to the Union and the states. Parliament becomes empowered to create such services.

4. Lok Sabha Speaker nominates 15 members to the Committee of Privileges

Nearly two years after the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla has nominated 15 members to the **Committee of Privileges**.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Committee of Privileges:

The Committee of Privileges examines all questions involving **breach of certain rights, privileges, and immunities** enjoyed by MPs. It is a **standing committee**. It examines the cases of breach of the privileges of the House and its members and recommends appropriate action.

- The **Lok Sabha committee** has **15 members**, while the **Rajya Sabha committee** has **10 members**.

2. Constitutional provisions:

Articles 105 and **122** outline the privileges of Parliament, while **Articles 194** and **212** pertain to the privileges of state Legislative assemblies.

- **Article 105**, there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament. No member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof.
- **Article 122**: The validity of any proceedings in Parliament shall not be called in question in court on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.
- **Article 194** and **Article 212** are corresponding articles for state legislature.

5. Lok Sabha rejects Opposition resolution seeking Speaker's removal via voice vote

The Lok Sabha rejected the Opposition's resolution seeking the **removal of Speaker Om Birla** by a **voice vote**. The motion, which alleged partisan conduct and the curtailing of Opposition voices, was defeated following a heated two-day debate.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Procedure for removal of speaker:

- The removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is a significant constitutional process governed primarily by **Article 94** and **Article 96** of the

Indian Constitution, as well as the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

The process for removing the Lok Sabha Speaker requires specific steps:

1. **Notice**: A written, **14-day advance notice** must be given to the Secretary-General.
2. **Support**: The motion needs backing from at least 50 members.
3. **Majority**: The resolution must pass by an **effective majority** (majority of all current members).
4. **Speaker's Role**: Per Article 96, the Speaker cannot preside during the proceedings but can speak and vote in the first instance.

6. Opposition MPs submit notice for removal of the Chief Election Commissioner

Opposition MPs submitted a notice in both the Houses of Parliament seeking the **removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar**.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Election Commission of India:

Article 324 of the Constitution states that the Election Commission will comprise the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of Election Commissioners (ECs), as the President may decide.

- **Appointment of the Commission**: The Commission will be appointed by the President, upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee. The **Selection Committee** will comprise the **Prime Minister**, **Cabinet Minister**, and **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha** (or leader of the single largest opposition party). A **Search Committee** headed by the **Cabinet Secretary** will suggest five names to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee

may consider any person other than those suggested by the Search Committee.

- **Term and reappointment:** Members of the Election Commission will hold office for six years, or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Members of the Commission cannot be re-appointed.
- **Removal:** The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India can only be removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a **Judge of the Supreme Court**. This constitutional safeguard, provided under **Article 324(5)**, ensures the independence of the Election Commission from executive pressure.

Procedure for removal:

- Accordingly, the procedure for the removal of a Judge is laid down in the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**. It stipulates that a complaint against a judge is taken up if it is signed by at least **100 members in the Lok Sabha** and **50 members in the Rajya Sabha**. Once the motion is submitted, the presiding officer of the House takes a call on whether to accept or reject it.
- If the motion is admitted, the Speaker or the Chairman of the House constitutes a **three-member investigative committee**. After concluding its investigation, the committee submits its report to the Speaker or Chairman, who then has to lay the report before the relevant House. If the report records a finding of **misbehaviour or incapacity**, the motion for removal is taken up for consideration and debated.
- For the motion to go through, at least **two-thirds of those "present and voting" in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha must vote to remove the judge, and the number of votes in favour must be more than 50 per cent of the "total membership" of each House**. Once both Houses adopt the motion by a special majority, it is sent to the **President of India**.

7. Parental income alone insufficient to determine OBC creamy layer status: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India ruled that parental income alone cannot be the sole criterion for determining "creamy layer" status among **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**.

OBC creamy layer status cannot be decided on parental salary alone: Supreme Court

This is likely to widen the reservation pool to include the children of senior public sector officials who had earlier been excluded on the basis of their parents' annual salaries being above the ₹8 lakh threshold.

Interconnected concept:

Creamy layer

The "creamy layer" concept was formally established by the Supreme Court in the 1992, **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India** judgement.

Creamy layer & OBCs:

- **1992 Indra Sawhney Case (Mandal Case):** The Supreme Court formally adopted the **recommendation of the Ram Nandan Committee (1993) to exclude the creamy layer among OBCs**.
- The introduction of creamy layer paved the way for the implementation of reservations for OBCs. The idea was to exclude certain categories of OBC candidates whose families had accumulated social and economic privileges over the years, known as the creamy layer.
- **Income:** Total family income (excluding agriculture and salary) exceeds ₹8 lakh annually for three consecutive years.

8. Lok Sabha extends tenure of Parliamentary panel on simultaneous elections

The Lok Sabha extended the term of the **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** examining the bills for **simultaneous elections** until the first day of the last week of the 2026 Monsoon Session.

**Interconnected concept:**

Simultaneous elections, or "**One Nation, One Election**" (**ONOE**), refers to a proposed system where elections for the **Lok Sabha**, all **State Legislative Assemblies**, and **Local Bodies** (Panchayats and Municipalities) are held in a synchronized manner.

Historical Context:

- **Initial Practice (1951-1967):** India successfully held simultaneous elections during the first four general election cycles (1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967).
- **Disruption:** The cycle was broken due to the **premature dissolution** of several State Assemblies in 1968-69 and the Lok Sabha in 1970.
- **Current Status:** Only a few states (e.g., Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim) currently hold Assembly polls alongside the Lok Sabha.

Current Proposal (Ramnath Kovind Committee & 2024 Bills)

In 2024, the Union Cabinet approved recommendations from a high-level committee led by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**. Two key bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha: the **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024** and the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024**.

Key Provisions in 129th amendment bill:

New Article 82A: This article establishes the process for moving to simultaneous elections.

- **Appointed Date:** The President will notify a date (the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election) to bring the provisions into force.
- **Alignment of Terms:** The terms of all State Assemblies constituted after the "appointed date" will automatically expire with the end of that Lok Sabha's five-year term.

- **Handling Premature Dissolution (Articles 83 & 172):**
 - If the Lok Sabha or a State Assembly is dissolved before its full term, fresh "mid-term elections" will be held. The newly elected body will serve only for the **remainder (unexpired term)** of the original five-year cycle to maintain synchronisation.
- **Election Commission (ECI) Powers:**
 - The Bill empowers the ECI to recommend postponing a specific State Assembly election if simultaneous conduct is unfeasible.
 - Even if deferred, that Assembly's term will still end with the current Lok Sabha cycle.

The Bill, along with the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, has been referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** for detailed examination.

9. Lok Sabha passes ₹53 lakh crore Demands for Grants using guillotine procedure

The Lok Sabha passed the Demands for Grants of various Ministries for 2026-27. The House approved an expenditure of over ₹53 lakh crore by applying the **guillotine**, passing the Demands for Grants for various Ministries without a discussion.

The **Guillotine Closure** is a type of motion that enables the Speaker to put all **outstanding Demands for Grants** (requests for funds by various ministries) **to an immediate vote, regardless of whether they have been discussed or not**.

Interconnected concepts:**Types of Closure Motions:**

The Guillotine is one of four types of closure motions used in the Indian Parliament:

- **Simple Closure:** Moved when a member believes a matter has been sufficiently discussed.
- **Closure by Compartments:** A bill is divided into parts (compartments), and the entire part is put to vote after debate.
- **Kangaroo Closure:** Only the most important clauses of a bill are debated; the others are skipped and "leapt" over, deemed passed.

- **Guillotine Closure:** Undiscussed clauses or grants are put to vote alongside discussed ones because time has run out.

10. Meghalaya extends tenure of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council by six months

The Meghalaya State Government has extended the term of the Garo Hills **Autonomous District Council** (GHADC) for a period of six months amid unrest in the Garo Hills over the participation of non-tribals in the tribal council elections.

Interconnected concept:

Autonomous District Council:

ADCs are primarily established under the **Sixth Schedule** of the **Indian Constitution (Article 244(2) and Article 275(1))**. This schedule was designed based on the recommendations of the **Gopinath Bordoloi Committee** to provide self-governance to tribal areas in Northeast India.

There are two main categories of autonomous councils in India:

- **Sixth Schedule Councils:** Constitutional bodies with significant legislative, judicial, and executive powers.
- **Statutory Autonomous Councils:** Formed under state legislation (e.g., in Manipur, Ladakh, and West Bengal), these typically have less power than Sixth Schedule ADCs.

There are 10 **Sixth Schedule Councils** across four northeastern states:

- **Composition:** Most councils consist of up to **30 members**.
 - **26 members** are elected through universal adult franchise.
 - **4 members** are nominated by the Governor.

11. Parliament passes the Appropriation Bill

Parliament passed the **Appropriation Bill, 2026**, after demands for grants of various ministries were guillotined and approved by the Lower House through voice vote, thus paving the way for **withdrawal of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India** to meet the approved spending for 2026-27.



An **Appropriation Bill** is a parliamentary-approved measure, mandated by **Article 114**, that authorizes the government to withdraw funds from the **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)**. It covers both voted demands for grants and charged expenditures.

- **Nature:** Classified as a **Money Bill** (Article 110).
- **Procedural Requirements:** Introduced only after the **Voting on Demands for Grants** in the Lok Sabha, with limited role for the Rajya Sabha (14-day limit).
- **No Amendments:** Amendments altering the amount or purpose of authorized grants are prohibited.

While the Appropriation Bill authorizes **spending** (expenditure), the Finance Bill covers the **revenue side** (taxation proposals).

12. Government signals implementation of Women's Reservation Act based on 2011 Census

The Union government has indicated that it will bring an amendment Bill proposing a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census to ensure the implementation of the **Women's Reservation Act, 2023**, ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha election.

The original law had stipulated that the reservation would only come into effect following a fresh census and delimitation exercise.



Under the proposed amendments, the number of **Lok Sabha seats will increase from 543 to 816**, with 273 seats, 33%, reserved for women.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam:

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, officially the Constitution **(One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023**, is a landmark legislation that mandates a 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

- **Reserved Seats:** It mandates roughly 33% reservation for women in the **Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies**, and Delhi's assembly.
- **Quota Within Quota:** It includes one-third of existing SC/ST reserved seats for women.
- **Duration & Rotation:** Reserved seats last for **15 years**, with rotation occurring after each delimitation.

2. Freezing of Delimitation exercise:

- **The 42nd Amendment (1976):** During the Emergency, the government froze seat allocation based on the 1971 Census until the year 2000.
- **The 84th Amendment (2001):** The government of extended this freeze for another 25 years, specifically until the first census after 2026.
- **87th amendment:** While the total number of seats remained frozen, the 87th Amendment (2003) allowed the redrawing of boundaries within states based on the 2001

Census to balance voter numbers across constituencies.

13. Gujarat to deliberate on Uniform Civil Code Bill in State Assembly

The Gujarat government is set to take up the **Uniform Civil Code Bill** for discussion in the State Assembly. The State Cabinet, approved the implementation of the UCC after the high-level committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, submitted its comprehensive report.



A **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** is a proposed common set of personal laws for all citizens of India, regardless of their religion, covering matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption. Currently, these aspects are governed by diverse, religion-specific personal laws.

- **Constitutional provision: Article 44:** Part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, it states: "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India".
- **Judicial Stance:** The Supreme Court of India has repeatedly advocated for a UCC in landmark cases like **Shah Bano (1985)**, **Sarla Mudgal (1995)**, and **Shayara Bano (2017)** to ensure gender justice and national integration.

14. Supreme Court rules Scheduled Caste status limited to Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists

The Supreme Court has ruled that only individuals belonging to **Hindu, Sikh, or Buddhist faiths** are eligible to claim Scheduled Caste status.



Upholding an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, the Supreme Court held that once a person converts to Christianity and actively professes and practices that faith, they can no longer be regarded as a member of a Scheduled Caste.

- The bench grounded the decision in **Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**. This clause explicitly states that "no person who professes a religion other than the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste".

Clause 3 of the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**, serves as a religious criterion for identifying Scheduled Castes (SC) in India. It explicitly states that no person who professes a religion different from **Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism** shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

- Religious Limitation:** Originally, the 1950 Order only included individuals professing the **Hindu** religion.
- Amendments:**
 - 1956:** Amended to include those professing the **Sikh** religion.
 - 1990:** Amended further to include those professing the **Buddhist** religion.

Interconnected concepts:

- Reservation in India is a system of **affirmative action** that provides historically disadvantaged groups with representation in education, government employment, and legislatures. Its primary goal is to address historical injustices, such as those caused by the caste system, and to ensure social justice and inclusive development.
- As of early 2026, the standard vertical reservation quotas in central government jobs and educational institutions are:

Category	Reservation Percentage
Scheduled Castes (SC)	15%
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	7.5%
Other Backward Classes (OBC)	27%
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)	10%
Total Reserved	59.5%



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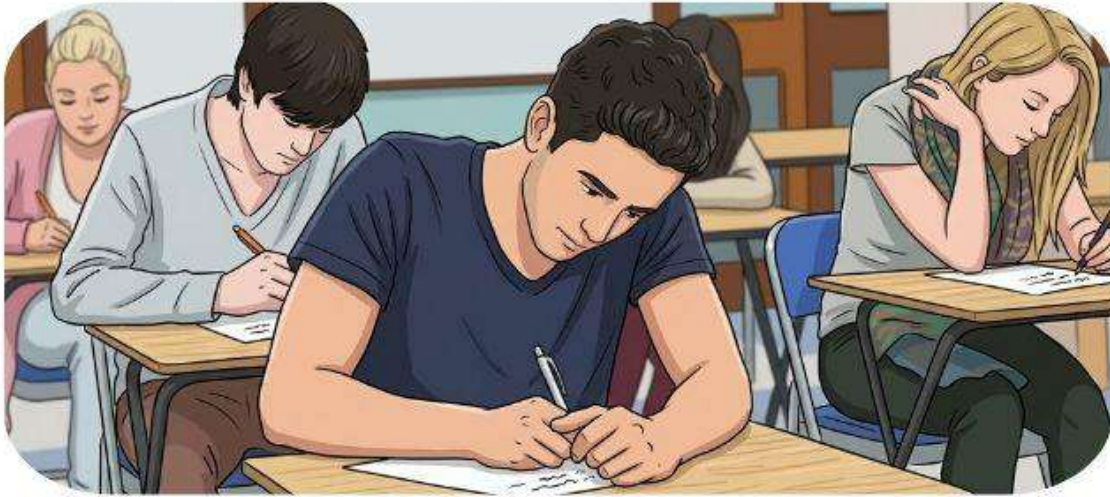
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Section-II A: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - including achievements of ISRO, new innovations & other related issues of S & T.

1. Japan approves world's first stem cell therapies for Parkinson's disease and heart failure

In a historic milestone for regenerative medicine, Japan's health ministry has officially granted **conditional and time-limited approval** for the world's first induced pluripotent stem cell (iPS) therapy to treat Parkinson's disease.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Stem cells:

Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that have the ability to:

- **Self-renew** – divide and produce more stem cells.
- **Differentiate** – develop into specialized cells such as muscle cells, nerve cells, or blood cells.

They act as the body's **raw material for growth, repair, and regeneration** of tissues.

2. Stem cell therapy:

- Stem-cell therapy, also known as **regenerative medicine**, is a medical treatment that uses stem cells-the body's raw materials-to repair or

replace diseased, dysfunctional, or injured tissue.

2. Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 rocket set for maiden orbital launch in April 2026

Skyroot Aerospace is in the final stages of preparing its **Vikram-1** rocket for its maiden orbital launch, which is currently targeted for **April 2026**.



The **Vikram-1** is India's first privately developed **orbital-class launch vehicle**, designed by the Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace.

- Named after the father of India's space programme, **Vikram Sarabhai**, it is specifically built to cater to the small satellite market with a "space cab" model—providing dedicated and precise orbital placement rather than bulk launches.
- **Payload Capacity:** Can carry approximately **300 kg to 350 kg** to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- **Stages:** A multi-stage rocket primarily powered by solid fuel, with a liquid upper stage for precision:
 - **Stages 1-3:** Uses solid propellants (**Kalam-1200, Kalam-250, and Kalam-125**).
 - **Upper Stage:** An Orbit Adjustment Module (OAM) powered by a 3D-printed liquid engine called **Raman-2**.

3. Government allocates ₹13,000 crore for BioPharma SHAKTI and dedicated chemical parks

Government of India announced a combined budgetary provision of **₹13,000 crore** to launch the **Bio-Pharma SHAKTI mission** and establish **three dedicated chemical parks**. This initiative aims to transition India from a generics-led "Pharmacy of the World" to a global leader in high-value biologics and specialty chemicals.



4. Bio-Pharma SHAKTI Mission:

The **Bio-Pharma SHAKTI Mission (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation)** is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, to transform India into a global manufacturing and innovation hub for **biologics and biosimilars**.

The mission establishes a comprehensive ecosystem to support the entire biopharma value chain:

- **Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)** and the upgradation of 7 existing ones to create a specialized workforce.
- **Clinical Research:** Creation of a network of over **1,000 accredited clinical trial sites** across the country to accelerate drug development.
- **Industrial Support:** Integrated with the development of **dedicated chemical parks** (₹3,300 crore allocation) to provide plug-and-play utilities and reduce production costs by 20–40%

5. India and Canada sign \$2.6 billion uranium supply agreement

India and Canada signed a landmark **\$2.6 billion (CAD)** uranium supply agreement and will work on

building **small modular nuclear reactors** and advanced reactors, during a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney** in New Delhi.



Interconnected concepts:

Uranium:

Uranium is a naturally occurring **radioactive element**, which has the atomic number of **92** and corresponds to the chemical symbol **U** in the periodic table. It belongs to a special group of elements called "actinides" — elements that were discovered relatively late in history.

- Uranium is "**radioactive**", which means it decays over time and releases energy in the process. Its special properties make uranium the main source of fuel for nuclear reactors.

There are three natural isotopes of uranium — uranium-234 (U-234), uranium-235 (U-235) and uranium-238 (U-238).

Uranium enrichment:

Uranium-235 is the most used nuclear fuel, however, natural uranium typically contains only 0.72 per cent of U-235 and most reactors need a higher concentration of this isotope in their fuel. Therefore, the U-235 concentration is being artificially increased through a process called enrichment.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):

- SMRs are essentially advanced small nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of **30MWe to 300 MWe (megawatt electrical) per unit**.

Conventional nuclear reactors, the kind which are currently installed in India and elsewhere, usually have capacities to produce 500 MW of electricity or more.

6. NavIC satellite suffers failure of onboard atomic clock

ISRO announced that, **IRNSS-1F** satellite lost its final functioning atomic clock causing the **NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)** system to fall below the minimum operational threshold.



Impact: A navigation system requires at least **four operational satellites** to provide accurate Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) services. With this failure, NavIC is down to only **three** working satellites.

Interconnected concepts:

NAVIC: NavIC (**N**avigation with **I**ndian **C**onstellation) is India's independent, indigenous regional satellite navigation system developed by the ISRO. Originally called the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**, it was designed to provide accurate positioning and timing services over **India and a region extending up to 1,500 km beyond its borders.**

Constellation Structure: The system is designed with 7 satellites:

- **3 in Geostationary Orbit (GEO)** (remain fixed over one point on the equator).

- **4 in Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO)**

Coverage: Unlike the global reach of GPS (USA) or GLONASS (Russia), NavIC is regional, focusing on the Indian subcontinent and its immediate neighbourhood. (1500 Km from Indian border)

Two Types of Services:

- **Standard Positioning Service (SPS):** Open for all civilian users (e.g., Google Maps, fleet tracking).
- **Restricted Service (RS):** An encrypted service provided only to authorised users, specifically for strategic and military purposes.

Atomic Clock:

- An atomic clock is a highly accurate time-measuring device that determines time using the natural vibrations of atoms, commonly **rubidium or cesium**. In navigation satellites, such clocks are crucial because even a billionth of a second error can cause several metres of location error on Earth.

7. ISRO successfully conducts ground test of CE-20 cryogenic engine

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully conducted a key **ground test of its CE20 cryogenic engine**, demonstrating higher thrust capability that could improve the performance of India's heavy-lift rocket, the LVM3 launch vehicle.



CE-20 is an advanced, indigenously developed cryogenic rocket engine designed by the ISRO.

- **Purpose:** Powers the **Cryogenic Upper Stage (C25)** of India's heaviest rocket, the **LVM3** (formerly GSLV Mk III).

- **Propellants:** Uses **Liquid Hydrogen (LH2)** as fuel (stored at -253 C) and **Liquid Oxygen (LOX)** as the oxidizer (stored at -183 C).

Its development made India one of only six countries (joining the US, Russia, China, France, and Japan) to possess advanced cryogenic technology.

Interconnected concept:

LVM3: LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), formerly known as the GSLV Mk III, is the most powerful heavy-lift launch vehicle operated by the ISRO.

Payload Capacity:

- Up to **4,000 kg** to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- Up to **8,000 kg** (historically reaching up to 10,000 kg) to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

Vehicle configuration: It is a **three-stage** vehicle using a combination of solid, liquid, and cryogenic propulsion.

- **Stage 1 (S200):** Two large solid strap-on boosters that provide massive initial thrust at liftoff.
- **Stage 2 (L110):** A liquid core stage powered by twin Vikas engines.
- **Stage 3 (C25):** An indigenous cryogenic upper stage (CE-20 engine) for precise orbital insertion.

8. Gujarat achieves milestone with first sounding rocket launch at Dholera

Gujarat has marked a historic milestone in the space research sector with the successful launch of the state's **first sounding rocket at Dholera**.



Carried out by the Ahmedabad-based startup **Omspace Rocket and Exploration Private Limited (OSRE)**, this single-stage sub-orbital

rocket lifted off from a temporary launch complex at 1:00 PM, reaching an altitude of approximately three kilometres.

- The rocket also carried a mini-satellite designed to collect essential weather data.
- This launch was conducted under the authorization of **IN-SPACE** and supported by the Gujarat Space Tech Policy 2025-2030.

Interconnected concept:

IN-SPACE:

IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) is a single-window, autonomous nodal agency under the Department of Space (DoS).

- It was established in June 2020 to facilitate, promote, and regulate the participation of the private sector (Non-Governmental Entities or NGEs) in the Indian space domain.
- It Acts as the primary bridge between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and private companies to streamline approvals and reduce bureaucratic delays.

9. Indian startup delivers 'Akasha300' 3D printer to ISRO

In a significant boost for India's high-performance engineering, the Kerala-based deep-tech startup **Spacetime 4D Printing Solution** delivered its flagship **Akasha300** 3D printer to ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**.



Akasha300 is a high-temperature, multi-material extrusion 3D printer designed for demanding industrial environments where conventional manufacturing methods may fall short.

It can print at temperatures up to and is upgradeable to, enabling the use of advanced aerospace alloys and engineering-grade polymers.



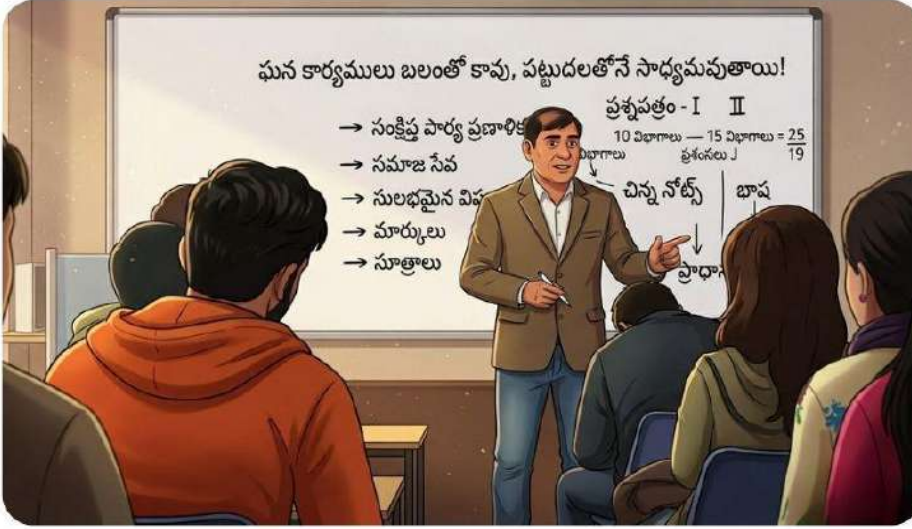
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Section II B: DEFENSE - achievements of DRDO and other defense related issues.

1. Defence Ministry signs ₹5,083 crore deals for ALH Mk-III (MR) helicopters and VL-Shtil missile systems

The Ministry of Defense signed contracts worth Rs 5,083 crore for the procurement of six **Advanced Light Helicopters** (ALH) Mk-III (Maritime Role) for the Indian Coast Guard and **Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch (VL)-Shtil missiles** for the Indian Navy.

- Six ALH Mk-III (MR) helicopters has been awarded to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category.
- Defence Ministry signed a Rs 2,182 crore contract with JSC Rosoboronexport of the Russian Federation for the procurement of **Surface-to-Air VL-Shtil missiles**.

The Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch (VL)-Shtil is a **Russian-developed**, ship-based, medium-range missile system designed to defend warships against diverse aerial threats.

2. DRDO conducts three successful flight trials of VSHORADS air defence system

DRDO has successfully conducted three successive flight trials of the **Very Short-Range Air Defence System** (VSHORADS) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.



The **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** is a 4th-generation, indigenously developed **Man-Portable Air-Defence System (MANPADS)** designed to neutralize low-altitude aerial threats.

- **Range & Altitude:** It has an operational range of up to **6 km** and can engage targets at altitudes up to **3.5 km**.

3. Indian Navy commissions 'INS Anjadip', a 'Dolphin Hunter' anti-submarine warfare vessel

In a move to sharpen its anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the Indian Navy commissioned its fourth indigenously designed and built **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW SWC) INS Anjadip** at Chennai Port.



INS Anjadip (P73) is an indigenously built **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** of the Indian Navy. Nicknamed as the "**Dolphin Hunter**," it is specifically designed to detect, track, and neutralize enemy submarines in littoral (coastal and shallow) waters.

- **Class:** Third of eight vessels in the **Arnala class** (ASW SWC project).

- **Construction:** Indigenously designed and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, Kolkata, in partnership with **L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli**.
- **Indigenisation:** Boasts over **80% indigenous content**, supporting the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

4. President Droupadi Murmu becomes first Indian President to fly in 'Prachand' attack helicopter

President Droupadi Murmu became the **first Indian President** to fly in the indigenous **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand**.

As the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, she undertook a **25-minute sortie** as a co-pilot from the **Jaisalmer Air Force Station** in Rajasthan, near the India-Pakistan border.



The **HAL Prachand** (meaning "Fierce") is **India's first indigenously designed and developed multi-role Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)**. It is the **only attack helicopter in the world** capable of landing and taking off at altitudes as high as 5,000–6,400 metres, making it critical for high-altitude warfare in regions like the Siachen Glacier and Ladakh.

Interconnected concept:

Article 53 of Indian constitution has two provisions:

- **Vesting of Executive Power:** The executive power of the Union is officially vested in

the President. This power can be exercised by the President either directly or through subordinate officers.

- **Supreme Command:** The **President is the Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces of the Union**. However, the actual exercise of this command is regulated by laws passed by Parliament.

5. BEL and Bellatrix Aerospace sign MoU to develop satellite systems for Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO)

Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with space technology startup Bellatrix Aerospace to jointly design, develop and manufacture satellite systems and payloads.

- The collaboration will focus on developing indigenous satellite platforms designed for operations in **Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO)**, a region of space that is gaining interest for high-performance satellite missions but requires specialized technologies to operate effectively.

Interconnected concept:

Very Low Earth Orbit:

Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) refers to satellite orbits at altitudes between **150 km and 450 km**, lower than traditional LEO (500-2,000 km).

- VLEO offers superior high-resolution imaging and low-latency communication due to proximity but faces high atmospheric drag and significant atomic oxygen corrosion. It requires specialized electric propulsion for station-keeping.

6. India develops indigenous 'Sheshnaag-150' drone system

As the world watches **Iran's Shahed-136** low-cost suicide drones and America's own Shahed-inspired **LUCAS drones**, India is working on development of **Sheshnaag-150 drones**.

Sheshnaag-150 is an indigenous, long-range **swarm attack drone** (loitering munition) developed by the Bengaluru-based startup **New Space Research and Technologies (NRT)**.



- Designed for deep-strike missions, it is often compared to Iran's Shahed-136 due to its role as a low-cost, mass-deployable "kamikaze" drone capable of overwhelming enemy air defences through saturation attacks.

7. Indian Army inducts new Pinaka regiment to enhance long-range firepower capabilities

The Indian Army has added another **Pinaka** regiment and is preparing to induct one more by the end of the year as it expands rocket artillery capability along the western and northern frontiers.



The **Pinaka** is an indigenous **Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) system** developed by DRDO. The Pinaka system is capable of firing a salvo of **12 rockets in 44 seconds**.

8. Indian Air Force unveils 'Vayu Baan', India's first helicopter-launched drone system

With warfare moving beyond visual range, drones taking center stage and helicopter survivability under scrutiny, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has set in motion '**Vayu Baan**', its first helicopter-dropped drone project.



The project aims to create a drone that can be released from a moving helicopter mid-flight.

- Operational Range:** It is designed to fly over **50 km** (with some reports suggesting up to 80 km) after being dropped, allowing the helicopter to remain at a safe distance from enemy territory.



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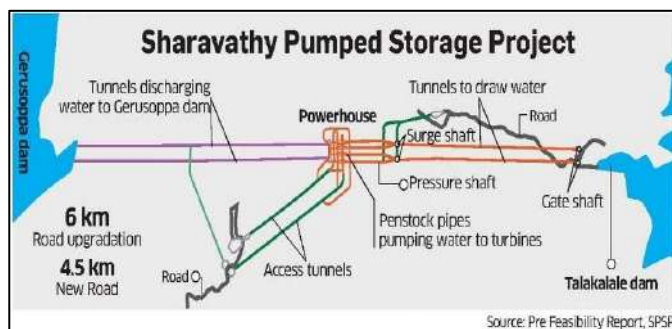
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Section-III: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY - important current issues with respect to environment and climate change.

1. Karnataka High Court seeks response on ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi hydropower project

The High Court of Karnataka ordered issue of notice to the Centre and State government on a **PIL petition**, which had questioned the legality of the approval granted by the State Wildlife Board and the in-principle approval granted the **Standing Committee** of the **National Board for Wildlife** for the ₹10,000 crore **Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project** in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts.



Interconnected concepts:

- The **Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (PSH)** is a proposed pumped-storage hydropower project in the Sharavathi River in Shivamogga district of **Karnataka**, aimed at improving electricity storage and grid stability.
- **PIL**: Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a legal mechanism introduced in the early 1980s by Justices **P.N. Bhagwati** and **V.R. Krishna Iyer**, allowing any public-spirited citizen or NGO to approach the Supreme Court (Article 32) or High Courts (Article 26) to enforce public rights, **relaxing the traditional rule of locus standi**.

Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife:

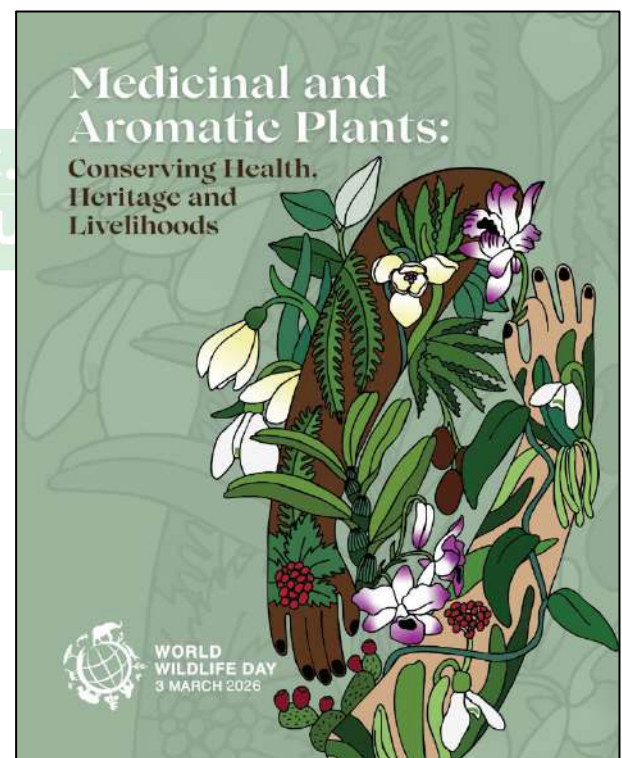
- The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a smaller executive body Constituted under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, that takes decisions on wildlife conservation matters, especially project approvals affecting wildlife habitats and protected areas.

- **Chairperson**: Prime Minister of India (head of NBWL).
- The **Standing Committee** is chaired by the **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

2. World Wildlife Day observed on March 3

World Wildlife Day was observed on **March 3** with the theme "**Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods**".

The date marks the anniversary of the signing of **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** in 1973.



Interconnected concept:

CITES:

- **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** is a 1975-established international treaty, administered by **UNEP**, that regulates international trade in over 40,000 species of animals and plants to ensure their survival.

- It is **legally binding** on 185+ parties (including India since 1976), using a licensing system for trade.

Mechanism: Species are listed in three Appendices based on protection levels:

- Appendix I:** Species threatened with extinction; trade is permitted only in exceptional circumstances (e.g., Gorillas, Lions).
- Appendix II:** Species not necessarily threatened, but trade must be controlled to avoid utilization incompatible with survival (e.g., Hippopotamus).
- Appendix III:** Species protected in at least one country, which has asked other parties for assistance in controlling trade (e.g., Bengal fox).

3. India submits its 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

India has submitted its 7th National Report to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, presenting a detailed national assessment of progress towards global biodiversity goals set for 2030.

- India's latest submission is of particular importance; it is the first full progress assessment since countries adopted the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** in 2022.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international legally binding treaty aimed at **conserving biological diversity, promoting sustainable use of its components, and ensuring fair sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.**

- It was adopted during the **Earth Summit 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro** and came into force in 1993

Protocols under CBD: Important protocols adopted under CBD include:

- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** Regulates the safe handling and transfer of living modified organisms (LMOs).
- Nagoya Protocol:** Deals with Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) from genetic resources.

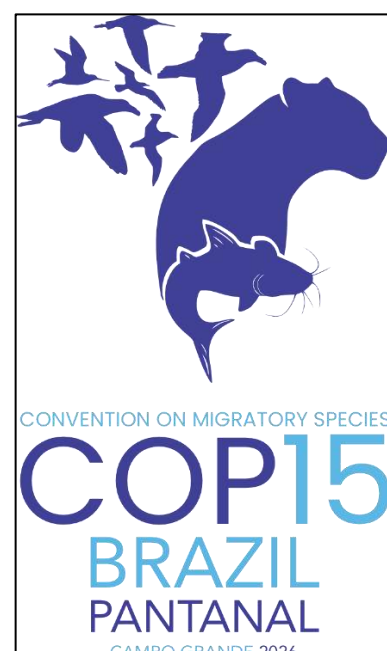
2. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** is a global agreement adopted in **2022** to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by **2030**. It was adopted at the **15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15)** to the **Convention on Biological Diversity**, held in **Montreal**.

- The framework replaces the earlier **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**.
- The framework includes **4 global goals for 2050** and **23 targets to be achieved by 2030**.

4. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan propose inclusion of striped hyena under Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

In the run-up to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP15)** in Campo Grande (Brazil), Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have urged the inclusion of the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) in Appendix I and II of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS).



Bonn Convention:

The **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, or **Bonn Convention**, is a United Nations environmental treaty signed in 1979 (in force since 1983) aimed at conserving terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species across their ranges.

- It provides a global platform for international cooperation and habitat protection, with 133 parties as of 2022.

Appendices: Species are classified into two lists to determine their protection level:

- Appendix I:** Lists migratory species threatened with **extinction**. Parties must afford these animals strict protection and work to restore their habitats.
- Appendix II:** Lists species that have an **unfavourable conservation status** and would significantly benefit from international cooperation

Species in India, such as the Great Indian Bustard, the Asian Elephant, the Bengal Florican, the Siberian Crane, the Hawksbill Sea Turtle, the Olive Ridley turtle and the Leatherback Sea Turtle are included in Appendix I of CMS.

5. India and Germany launch €20 million initiative to enhance climate resilience

Germany has announced a new **EUR 20 million (approx. ₹180 crore)** large grant project for India to enhance climate resilience in high-risk ecosystems under the **International Climate Initiative (IKI)**.

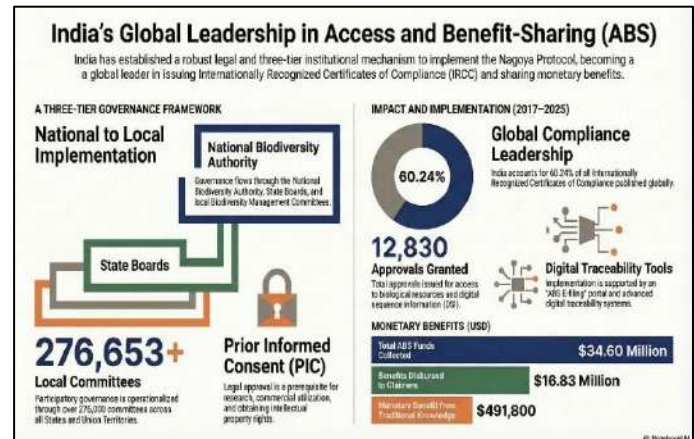
- The project aims to improve resilience in high-risk ecosystems across priority regions, including the Himalayas, island areas, the Western Ghats, the North-East, and the Lower Gangetic floodplains.

International Climate Initiative:

- The **International Climate Initiative (IKI)** is a key funding program of the German government that supports climate action and biodiversity conservation in developing and emerging countries.

6. India submits its first report under the Nagoya Protocol

Recently, India has submitted the First National Report (NR1) on the implementation of the **Nagoya Protocol on Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.



The report covers the period from 1 November 2017 to 31 December of 2025. It highlights the country's progress in implementing the Nagoya Protocol.

According to the report, India implements the Access and Benefit-Sharing mechanism through a three-tier institutional framework comprising the **NBA**, **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)** or Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) at the sub-national level; and the **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** at the local level, constituted by elected local bodies. This decentralized system has enabled coordinated action at national, state, and local levels.

Interconnected concepts:**1. Convention on Biological Diversity:**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a landmark international treaty opened for signature at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**, dedicated to the conservation of life on Earth. It currently has 196 Parties and is considered the key global document for sustainable development.

The CBD is supported by **two legally binding protocols** that address specific biodiversity issues:

- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** Governs the movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) resulting from biotechnology to protect biodiversity and human health.

- **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS):** Provides a legal framework for sharing benefits from genetic resources and traditional knowledge fairly between providers and users.

Implementation & Frameworks:

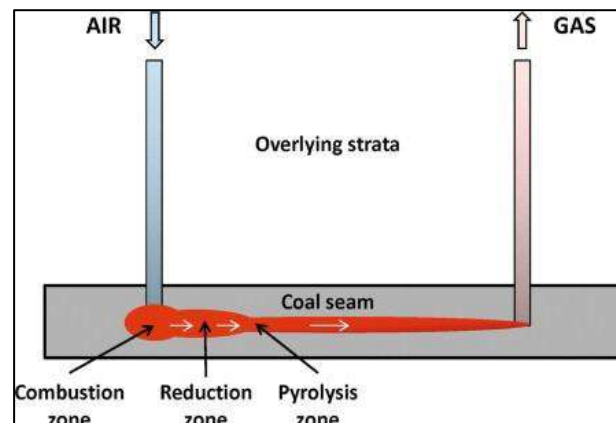
The Convention is implemented primarily through **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** developed by each member country.

- **Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011–2020):** A set of 20 targets aimed at halting biodiversity loss, which were part of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan.
- **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF):** Adopted in 2022 at COP 15, this new framework includes the "30 by 30" initiative—a commitment to protect 30% of the world's land and sea by 2030.
- **The Cali Fund:** Launched in 2025, it serves as a mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources.

7. Coal gasification highlighted as key to strengthening India's energy security: Union Minister

Minister for Coal and Mines, said that **coal gasification** will be pivotal in strengthening India's energy security, reducing import dependence, and supporting industrial growth.

Coal gasification is a thermochemical process that converts coal into a gaseous fuel called **syngas** (synthetic gas) by reacting it with controlled amounts of oxygen, steam, or air at high temperatures.



- **The Reaction:** Unlike traditional combustion (burning), gasification involves partial oxidation of pulverized coal at temperatures typically between 1000°C and 1400°C.
- **Syngas Composition:** A mixture primarily of Hydrogen (H₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), and smaller amounts of Carbon Dioxide, Methane and water vapour.



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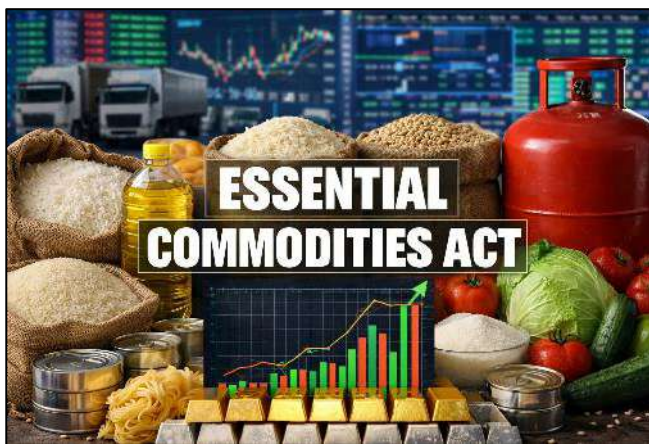
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Section IV: NATIONAL EVENTS - covers current national happenings.

1. Government invokes Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to address energy shortages and food price volatility

In a significant move to tackle energy shortages and maintain food security amidst rising global tensions, the Government of India has recently invoked the **Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955**.



Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is a legislation enacted by the Parliament of India to ensure the **availability of essential commodities to consumers at fair prices and prevent hoarding, black marketing, and profiteering**. It is triggered during crises like war, famine, natural disasters, pandemics, or sharp price rise.

- The Central Government has the power to **declare any commodity as "essential"** under the Act.

2. Mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' unveiled for Census 2027

Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled two mascots, '**Pragati**' and '**Vikas**', for the upcoming Population Census 2027 to increase public awareness and participation in the census exercise.

The **Census 2027** is India's **16th decennial census** and the first to be conducted entirely digitally. Originally planned for 2021, the exercise was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and is now scheduled to conclude by **March 1, 2027**.

- It will be conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under Ministry of Home affairs.
- It will be the **16th Census since 1872** and the **8th Census after Independence**.

The census is conducted in **two phases**:

- **House Listing and Housing Census (HLO)**: Collects information about housing conditions, assets, and amenities.
- **Population Enumeration (PE)**: Collects demographic, social, economic and cultural data of individuals.



Significance:

- **Delimitation Basis**: According to **Article 82**, this census will provide the updated population data required for the redrawing of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies after the current freeze ends in 2026.
- **Women's Reservation**: The implementation of the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** (33% reservation for women in legislatures) is constitutionally tied to the completion of the new census and subsequent delimitation.
- **Fiscal and Policy Planning**: It serves as the baseline for the **Finance Commission's** horizontal tax devolution to states and for targeting beneficiaries under schemes like the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and MGNREGA.

3. VB-G RAM G Act logo design contest launched on MyGov platform

The Rural Development Ministry has said a logo design competition for the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB-G RAM G)** has been launched. The competition is live on the government's citizen engagement platform MyGov.



VB-G RAM G:

Government enacted the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, which will **replace the two-decade-old MGNREGA, 2005.**

Key Features & Changes

- **Increased Work Guarantee:** The Act increases the statutory guarantee from 100 days to **125 days** of wage employment per rural household annually.
- **Agricultural Pause:** Introduces an aggregated **60-day "no-work period"** during peak sowing and harvesting seasons. This is intended to ensure labour availability for farmers and prevent wage inflation during critical periods.
- **New Funding Model:** Moves from 100% central funding for unskilled wages to a **60:40 cost-sharing ratio** between the Centre and States (90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States).
- **Normative Allocation:** Replaces the demand-driven "Labour Budget" with **normative allocations** based on objective parameters set by the Centre. Expenditure exceeding this limit must be borne by the State government.
- **Asset Creation Verticals:** Focuses on four priority domains: **water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood infrastructure** (e.g., warehouses), and **disaster mitigation.**

4. Supreme Court permits passive euthanasia for patient in prolonged coma in a landmark ruling



In its first-ever order allowing **passive euthanasia**, Supreme Court in **Harish Rana v. Union of India** has permitted the withdrawal of artificial life support of a 32-year-old man who has been in a comatose condition for more than 12 years.

Passive euthanasia is the **intentional withdrawal or withholding of medical treatment that is necessary to keep a patient alive**, allowing the person to die naturally from their illness.

Eg: Removing a **ventilator** from a patient who cannot breathe independently.

Type	Meaning
Passive euthanasia	Withdrawing/withholding treatment and allowing natural death
Active euthanasia	Deliberately administering a substance to cause death (illegal in India)

5. Tamil lyricist Vairamuthu awarded the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025)

The **60th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honor**, for the year 2025 will be conferred on distinguished Tamil poet, lyricist and writer **R. Vairamuthu.**



He has been selected for the prestigious award in recognition of his **outstanding contributions to Tamil literature**, marked by creative depth and a distinctive poetic voice.

- **Major Works:** His notable literary achievements include the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning novel **Kallikkattu Ithikasam**, **Karuvachchi Kaviyam**, and **Moondram Ulagappor.**

Jnanpith Award:

The **Jnanpith Award** is India's highest and oldest literary honour, presented annually to authors for their "outstanding contribution towards literature".

- The award is given for work in any of the **22 languages** listed in the **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**, as well as in **English** (included since 2013).

Interconnected concept:

The **Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution** lists the languages officially recognized by the Government of India. As of 2026, it consists of **22 languages**. Initially, when the Constitution was enacted in 1950, only 14 languages were included. Later the following were added:

- 21st Amendment (1967):** Added **Sindhi**.
- 71st Amendment (1992):** Added **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali**.
- 92nd Amendment (2003):** Added **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santali**.
- 96th Amendment (2011):** Renamed "Oriya" to "Odia"

6. Centre prescribes conditions for states to access Jal Jeevan Mission funds

Days after the Union Cabinet approved extending the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) until 2028**, the Centre has set **four conditions** that must be fulfilled by the states to receive funds, putting safeguards amid concerns over irregularities in the implementation of the rural tap water scheme.



These **four conditions** include:

- Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU);
- Creation of **Sujal Gaon IDs** to ensure complete digital mapping of all rural water supply schemes;
- Timely financial reconciliation, and
- Notification of State operation & maintenance (O&M) policies.

Interconnected concepts:

- Union Cabinet approves extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) period up to December 2028

- For restructuring JJM focusing on structural reforms, a uniform national digital framework, namely "**Sujalam Bharat**", instituted, under which every village shall be assigned a unique **Sujal Gaon** / Service Area ID, digitally mapping the complete drinking water supply system from source to tap.

7. Cabinet approves Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme for 2026-31

The Union Cabinet has approved the '**Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme** for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31' with an outlay of Rs.2584.60 crore for installation of Small Hydro Power (SHP) Projects of an approximate capacity of 1500 MW.



The scheme will support small hydro projects (**between 1-25 MW capacity**) to come up in different states and will especially benefit hilly and Northeastern states with high potential for such projects.

- In Northeastern States and in districts with international border, central financial assistance to the tune of Rs.3.6 crore per MW or 30% of the project cost, whichever is lower with an upper limit of Rs.30 crore per project will be available.
- In other states Rs.2.4 crore per MW or 20% of project cost, whichever is lower with a cap of Rs.20 crore per project would be available.

8. Union Cabinet approves launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

The **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** is a ₹1 lakh crore Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to transform Indian cities into growth hubs through

market-linked and reform-driven infrastructure projects.



It aims to catalyze ₹4 lakh crore in investments by providing 25% central funding for infrastructure projects, requiring 50% from the market.

- **Funding Structure:** 25% central funding, at least 50% from market sources (e.g., municipal bonds, PPP), and the remaining from states/ULBs.
- **Eligible Cities:** Cities with over 10 lakh population, all state/UT capitals, and industrial cities with a population above 1 lakh.
- **Focus Areas:** Urban redevelopment, improved sanitation, and building "cities as growth hubs".

9. India's strategic petroleum reserves at 64% capacity: Government data



Government of India informed the Rajya Sabha that the nation's **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)** are currently at **64% capacity**, holding approximately 3.372 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil.

The **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)** manages a total storage capacity of **5.33 MMT** across three underground rock cavern facilities.

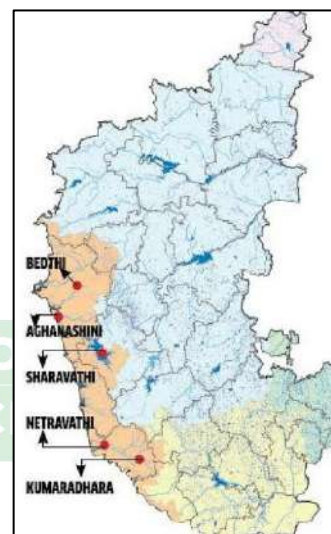
- **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh:** 1.33 MMT
- **Mangaluru, Karnataka:** 1.5 MMT

• Padur, Karnataka: 2.5 MMT

At the current 64% level, these strategic reserves can sustain India for approximately **5 to 9.5 days** in the event of a total import disruption.

10. UNESCO urges Centre to adhere to regulatory framework for Aghanashini River project

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has advised the Centre to follow the regulations related to World Heritage Conservation for the proposed **Aghanashini river-linking project**.



Aghanashini-Vedavathi river-linking project:

The **Aghanashini-Vedavathi river-linking project** is a proposed intra-state initiative in **Karnataka** designed to divert approximately 35 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet) of surplus monsoon water from the west-flowing Aghanashini River in Uttara Kannada to the east-flowing Vedavathi River in Chitradurga.



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Section-V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – covers issues at global level impacting India & its relations with other countries.

1. Pakistan–Afghanistan border clashes escalate along the disputed Durand Line

Tensions between **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** have escalated into a state of "open war" following intense cross-border clashes along the **Durand Line**.



The **Durand Line** is the 2,640 km (1,640-mile) international boundary separating **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan**. The line was drawn during the "**Great Game**" between the British and Russian Empires.

- **Strategic Purpose:** The British intended to create a buffer zone to protect their Indian empire from Russian expansionism. It aimed to fix the limits of their respective spheres of influence and improve trade.

2. UN Security Council adopts GCC-backed resolution condemning Iran's attacks on Gulf countries

UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted **Resolution 2817**, which condemns Iran's attack on Gulf countries and Jordan. The resolution, drafted by Bahrain on behalf of the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**, received broad international support with 135 co-sponsors, including India.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Gulf Cooperation Council:

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic union of **six Arab countries** on the Arabian Peninsula. The GCC consists of Six countries.

- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- Bahrain
- Oman

2. UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations** and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

The UNSC has **15 member countries**.

Five Permanent Members (P5):

- China
- France
- Russia
- United Kingdom
- United States

Ten Non-Permanent Members:

- Elected by the **UN General Assembly** for a **2-year term**.
- Representation is based on **regional distribution**.

Veto Power:

- The **five permanent members** have **veto power**.
- If any one of them votes **against (veto)** a substantive resolution, the resolution **fails**, even if all other members support it.

3. India-China border trade via Lipulekh Pass set to resume after six-year suspension



India and China are set to resume border trade via the **Lipulekh Pass** in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district in **June 2026**.

The **Lipulekh Pass** is a high-altitude Himalayan Mountain pass situated in the **Pithoragarh district**

of **Uttarakhand, India**. It serves as a vital tri-junction between **India, China (Tibet), and Nepal**.

- It is part of the Kali River basin, which acts as a natural boundary between India and Nepal.

Territorial Dispute: The region (including Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura) is a subject of dispute between India and Nepal.

- **Nepal's Claim:** Based on the **1816 Treaty of Sugauli**, Nepal claims the area as part of its territory.
- **India's Stand:** India asserts that the pass has been under its administration for decades and that the Kali River originates near the pass, placing it within Indian territory.



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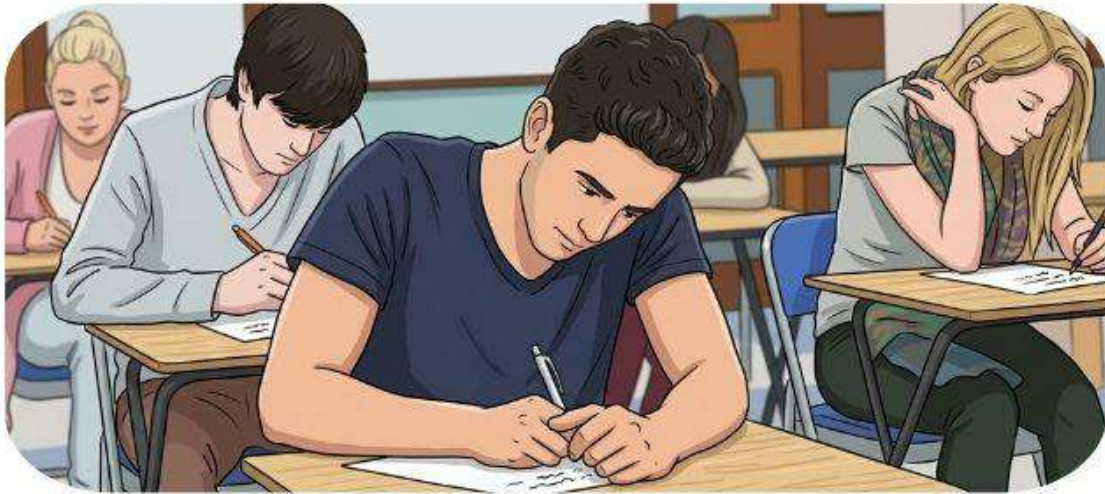
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Section-VI: ECONOMY - covers issues of Indian Economy & Development.

1. India's foreign exchange reserves reach record high of \$728.5 billion

RBI injects ₹55,837 crore into banking system via 3-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction. **India's foreign exchange reserves** rose \$4.8 billion by the end of February to reach a record high of \$728.5 billion. The increase in reserves February was majorly driven by gold reserves, which increased \$4 billion to \$131 billion.

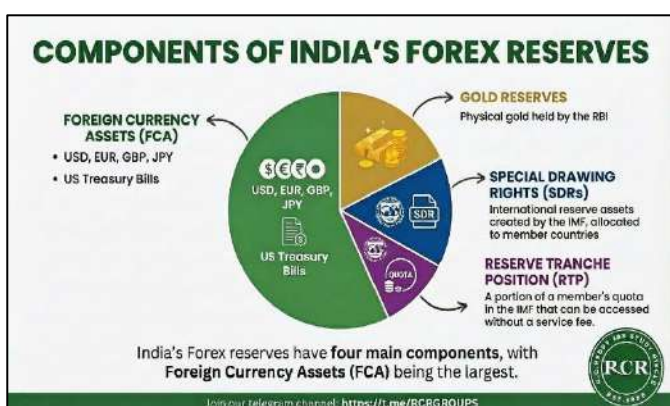
2. RBI purchases ₹50,000 crore worth of government securities to enhance liquidity

With the prolonged war in West Asia likely to have far-reaching consequences on the Indian economy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held **Open Market Operations (OMO)** buying ₹50,000 crore **Government of India securities (G-Secs)** of various maturities.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Open Market Operations:

Open Market Operations (OMO) are a core **quantitative monetary policy tool** used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to regulate the money supply and liquidity in the economy by **buying or selling Government Securities (G-Secs)**.



India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves are external assets held by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to manage exchange rate volatility, ensure economic stability, and cover import liabilities. Managed under the RBI Act (1934) and FEMA (1999), these reserves act as a cushion against financial shocks, boosting confidence among international investors.

Components of India's Forex Reserves:

India's Forex reserves have four main components, with Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) being the largest.

- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA):** Includes external currencies (USD, EUR, GBP, JPY) and securities (US Treasury bills) purchased by the RBI.
- **Gold Reserves:** Physical gold held by the RBI.
- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** International reserve assets created by the IMF, allocated to member countries.
- **Reserve Tranche Position (RTP):** A portion of a member's quota in the IMF that can be accessed without a service fee.



How OMO Works?

The RBI manages liquidity by acting as a buyer or seller in the open market:

- **Buying G-Secs (Liquidity Infusion):** RBI buys securities from banks, paying them in cash. This increases the bank's reserves, enabling more lending, lowering interest rates, and stimulating economic growth.
- **Selling G-Secs (Liquidity Absorption):** RBI sells securities to banks, taking cash out of the system. This reduces bank reserves, limits lending capacity, increases interest rates, and helps control inflation.

3. New GDP series launched with 2022-23 as base year

The Government of India launched a new series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with **2022-23 as the base year** and replaces the decade-old 2011-12 series to better reflect the modern structure of the Indian economy.



Key Changes and Impact:

- **Base Year & Methodology:** The base year shifts to 2022-23 to reflect post-pandemic realities.

Apart from base year, among the new sources incorporated are GST figures, which help in estimating the quarterly data. The informal sector is being captured more accurately through annual surveys of unincorporated enterprises. The contentious issue of double deflation has also been addressed in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, while several key ratios have been updated using more recent studies.

- **Revised Economic Growth:** Real GDP growth for FY26 is now estimated at **7.6%**, up from 7.4% under the old series.
- **Fiscal Metrics:** Due to the revised nominal GDP, the fiscal deficit for FY26 is placed at **4.51%**, with the debt-to-GDP ratio for FY27 projected at **57.5%**.

4. Nidhi Chhibber appointed interim CEO of NITI Aayog

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Chhattisgarh cadre IAS officer **Nidhi Chhibber** as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the government think tank NITI Aayog, following the completion of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam's** tenure.



Interconnected concepts:

1. NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog (**National Institution for Transforming India**) was established on January 1, 2015, by a Union Cabinet resolution, it replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission to serve as the government's premier policy think tank.

- **Nature of Body:** It is a **non-constitutional** and **non statutory** (executive) body, meaning it was not created by the Constitution or an Act of Parliament.
- **Core Philosophy:** It follows a "**bottom-up**" approach, emphasizing **cooperative federalism** by involving states in the policy-making process.
- **Financial Power:** Unlike the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog has **no power to allocate funds** to states or ministries; this power now rests with the Finance Ministry.

Composition:

Position	Appointee
Chairperson	Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)
Vice-Chairperson	Shri Suman K. Bery (appointed by the PM)
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Ms. Nidhi Chhibber (Additional Charge)
Governing Council	CMs of all states, CMs of UTs with legislatures, and Lt. Governors of other UTs
Full-time Members	V.K. Saraswat, Ramesh Chand, V.K. Paul, Arvind Virmani, and Rajiv Gauba

2. Appointments committee of Cabinet:

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in India is a high-level body, established in 1950 and chaired by the Prime Minister, responsible for final decisions on key senior appointments in the central government, public sector undertakings, banks, and financial institutions.

- It typically includes the **Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs**.

5. NITI Aayog releases second edition of Fiscal Health Index

NITI Aayog, released the second annual edition of the **"Fiscal Health Index 2026"**.



Fiscal Health Index (FHI) is an annual diagnostic tool launched by **NITI Aayog** to evaluate and benchmark the financial performance of Indian states.

The 2026 report introduced separate rankings for North-Eastern/Himalayan states to account for structural differences.

- **Major States:** Odisha (73.1) was the top 'Achiever,' followed by Goa and Jharkhand. Several states, including Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala, ranked lowest, driven by high debt and fiscal stress.
- **North-Eastern & Himalayan States:** Arunachal Pradesh (59.5) and Uttarakhand (52.5) led, while Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, and Nagaland faced the most stress.

6. India proposes Economic Stabilisation Fund to mitigate global economic shocks

Indian government has proposed creating a **₹1 lakh-crore Economic Stabilization Fund** to build fiscal buffers against global economic "headwinds" and unforeseen external shocks. The primary objective is to address disruptions like the **West Asia conflict**, which has impacted energy supplies and supply chains.

For the Rs1 lakh corpus, the government has sought an additional Rs59,000 crore through the second **Supplementary Demand for Grants**, while the remaining amount will be mobilized through savings.



Further government announced that this additional spending will **not increase the fiscal deficit** beyond the target of **4.4% of GDP** for FY26, as it is offset by savings and enhanced receipts.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Supplementary Demand for Grants:

Supplementary Demands for Grants refer to a constitutional mechanism that **allows the government to seek additional funds from Parliament** when the original budget allocation for a specific service is found to be insufficient.

- **Constitutional Basis:** Governed by **Article 115** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Approval Authority:** Like the regular budget, these must be voted on and approved by the Lok Sabha.

2. Types of Grants:

Grant Type	Timing of Approval	Context
Supplementary Grant	During the current FY	Original budget for an <i>existing</i> service is insufficient.
Additional Grant	During the current FY	For a completely new service not included in the original budget.
Excess Grant	After the FY has ended	When money has already been spent in excess of the sanctioned amount; requires Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recommendation first.

7. Union Cabinet approves BHAVYA plan for development of 100 industrial parks by 2032

The Union Cabinet approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)** with a total outlay of ₹33,660 crore.



BHARAT AUDYOGIK VIKAS YOJNA (BHAVYA)

Powering India's Industrial Future:
Approved by Union Cabinet.

₹33,660 CRORE OUTLAY

100 "PLUG-AND-PLAY" INDUSTRIAL PARKS

BY 2032

NODAL AGENCY:
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NICDC), under DPIIT

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This flagship scheme aims to develop **100 "plug-and-play" industrial parks** across India by 2032 to accelerate manufacturing-led growth and enhance the ease of doing business.

Key Features of the BHAVYA Plan:

- **Scale and Scope:** The plan involves developing approximately **33,600 to 34,000 acres** of land across all States and Union Territories.
- **Plug-and-Play Ecosystem:** Parks will offer ready-to-use infrastructure—including pre-approved land, utilities, and factory sheds—enabling companies to move from "intent to production" with minimal delays.
- **Project Size:** Industrial parks will typically range from **100 to 1,000 acres**. The minimum size is relaxed to **25 acres** for North-Eastern and hilly states.
- **Nodal Agency:** The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC), under DPIIT, will anchor the implementation

8. 24 States and Union Territories allocate funds for new rural employment scheme

With the Centre yet to notify the formula for determining State-wise normative allocations under the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025**, at least 24 States and Union Territories have nevertheless earmarked funds for the new rural employment programme.



Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India

Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) : VB- G RAM G (विकसित भारत - जी राम जी) Act, 2025

Employment guarantee is expanded from **100 to 125 days**

A stronger Right to Work aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047**

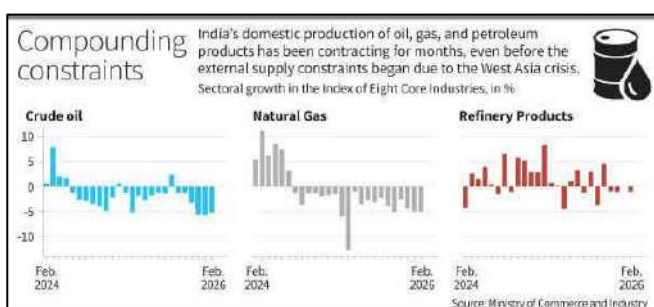
Under the Act, **States must bear 40% of the scheme's expenditure**, except in the northeastern and hilly States and UTs such as Jammu & Kashmir, which receive a relaxation.

The **Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025** is a landmark legislation that replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

- **Enhanced Employment Guarantee:** Increases the statutory wage employment guarantee from 100 days to **125 days** per financial year for every rural household **whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work**.
- **Thematic Focus Areas:** Projects are integrated into the **Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack**, focusing on four priority verticals:
 - **Water security** through water-related works.
 - **Core rural infrastructure** (e.g., roads and connectivity).
 - **Livelihood-related infrastructure** (e.g., storage and production assets).
 - **Extreme weather mitigation** and disaster preparedness.
- **Agricultural Labour Balance:** Empowers states to notify a **60-day "no-work" period** annually to ensure the availability of farm labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons.

9. Core sector growth slows to 2.3% in February

India's core industrial growth slowed sharply with government data showing growth in the eight core sectors slowing to a three-month low of 2.3% in February.



Interconnected concept: Core industries

- Core Industries refer to the **eight most fundamental industrial sectors** of the Indian economy that serve as the backbone for all other industrial activities. Because they produce the basic inputs required by almost every other sector—from small-scale manufacturing to large-scale infrastructure.

- These industries hold a combined weight of **40.27%** in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. Ranked by weight, they include **Refinery Products** (28.04%), **Electricity** (19.85%), **Steel** (17.92%), **Coal** (10.33%), **Crude Oil** (8.98%), **Natural Gas** (6.88%), **Cement** (5.37%), and **Fertilizers** (2.63%).

10. RBI injects ₹55,837 crore into banking system via 3-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) injected ₹55,837 crore transient liquidity into the banking system through three-day **variable rate repo (VRR)** auction.



A **Variable Rate Repo (VRR)** is a **market-driven monetary policy tool** used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to inject short-term liquidity, with rates determined via competitive auctions rather than a fixed rate.

- It addresses temporary cash shortages, such as during tax outflows.



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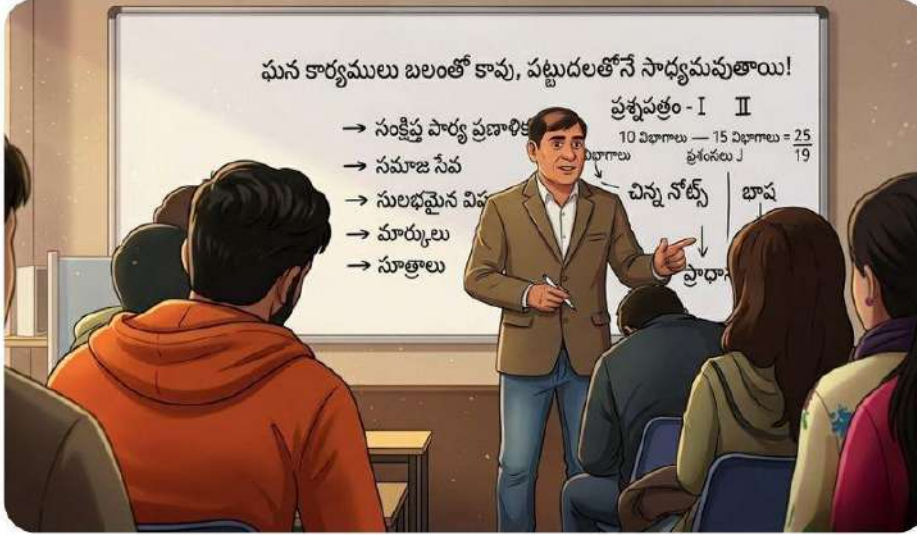
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Section-VII: HISTORY & CULTURE – covers events of historical significance, art forms & other relevant aspects.

1. UK museum repatriates 16th century idol of Saint Tirumangai Alvar to Tamil Nadu temple

The Ashmolean Museum in the UK has repatriated a 16th-century bronze idol of **Saint Tirumankai Alvar** to India, paving the way for its return to the temple in Tamil Nadu, where the Vaishnava saint was originally worshipped.

The idol was taken from the Sri Soundararaja Perumal Temple in Thadikombu, Tamil Nadu, after the museum purchased it at an auction in 1967.



Interconnected concept:

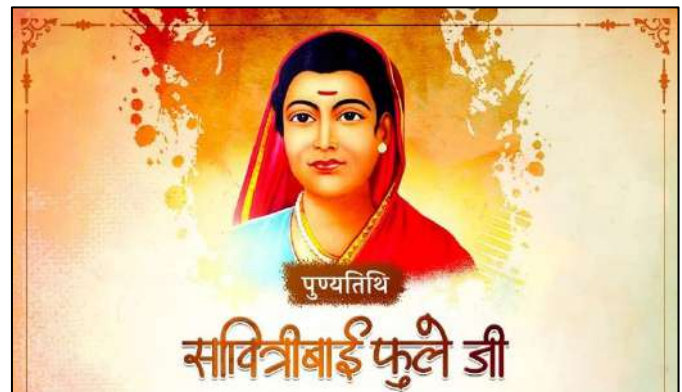
Alvars:

Alvars were **Tamil Vaishnavite poet-saints** who lived between the 6th and 9th centuries CE in South India, mainly in present-day **Tamil Nadu**. They were devoted to **Vishnu** and played a major role in the **Bhakti Movement**.

- **Number:** Traditionally, there are **12 Alvars**.
- **Contribution:** They spread the **Bhagavata** tradition and popularized the **108 Divya Desams** (holy Vishnu temples).
- **Literary Work:** Their hymns (approx. 4,000 verses) were compiled by Nathamuni into the **Nalayira Divya Prabandham**.
- **Andal:** The **only female Alvar**, known for her intense devotion to Ranganatha (Vishnu).
- **Difference from Nayanars:** While Alvars worshipped Vishnu (12 saints), Nayanars were 63 Tamil saints devoted to Lord Shiva.

2. Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays tribute to Savitribai Phule on her death anniversary

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation paid tribute to social reformer **Savitribai Phule** on her death anniversary.



Savitribai Phule (1831–1897) was a pioneering Indian social reformer, poet, and educator from Maharashtra, widely regarded as **India's first female teacher**.

- **First School for Girls:** In 1848, she co-founded India's first school for girls at **Bhida Wada, Pune**, with Jyotirao Phule.
- **Trained Teacher:** She was the first Indian woman to undergo formal teacher training.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj (1873):** She played a central role in this "Truth-Seekers' Society," which aimed to eliminate caste-based hierarchies and promote social equality.
- **Mahila Seva Mandal (1852):** A platform she initiated to raise awareness about women's rights, where women of all castes were invited to sit on the same mattress as a mark of equality.
- **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (1863):** India's first home to prevent female infanticide and provide refuge to pregnant widows and rape victims who faced social ostracization.

3. Nation commemorates the 96th anniversary of the historic Dandi March

March 12 marks the 96th anniversary of the historic **salt march or Dandi March** led by

Mahatma Gandhi from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi in Gujarat.



The **Dandi March**, also known as the **Salt March** or **Salt Satyagraha**, was a 24-day non-violent protest led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. It served as a direct-action campaign of tax resistance against the British salt monopoly in colonial India and marked the beginning of the nationwide **Civil Disobedience Movement**.

- **Duration:** 12 March 1930 to 6 April 1930.
- **Route:** From Sabarmati Ashram (near Ahmedabad) to the coastal village of Dandi in Gujarat.
- **Participants:** Gandhi began with 78 followers, but the number swelled to thousands as the march progressed.
- **The Act:** On 6 April, Gandhi symbolically broke the salt law by picking up a handful of salt from the shores of Dandi, defying the British Salt Act of 1882.

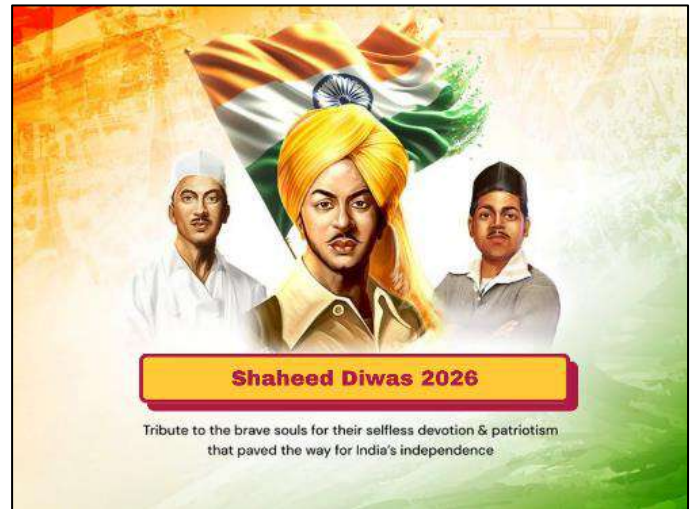
Why did Gandhi choose 'salt'?

- The **1882 Salt Act** gave the British a monopoly in the manufacture and sale of salt. Even though salt was freely available on the coasts of India, Indians were forced to buy it from the colonisers. Gandhi decided that if there was any one product through which civil disobedience could be inaugurated, then it was salt.

4. Shaheed Diwas 2026: Prime Minister pays tribute to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru

On **Shaheed Diwas 2026** (March 23), Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a heartfelt tribute to

the legendary freedom fighters **Bhagat Singh**, **Shivaram Rajguru**, and **Sukhdev Thapar**. Marking the 95th anniversary of their execution, the Prime Minister highlighted their unparalleled bravery and unshakeable commitment to India's freedom struggle.



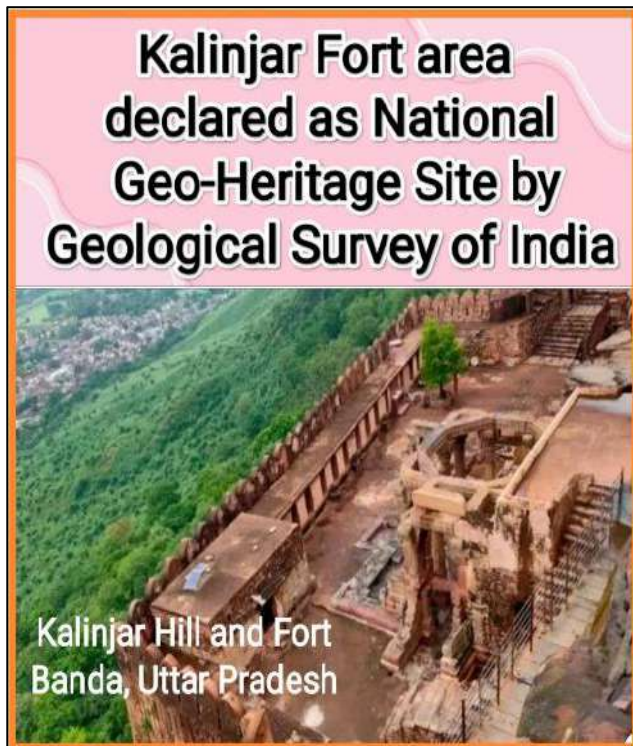
Bhagat Singh, **Shivaram Rajguru**, and **Sukhdev Thapar** were members of the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**, which was reorganized from the HRA in 1928.

- **The Lahore Conspiracy Case (1928):** To avenge the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**, who died after a brutal lathi charge during protests against the **Simon Commission**. They planned to kill Superintendent James A. Scott but killed Assistant Superintendent **John P. Saunders** in a case of mistaken identity.
- **Central Legislative Assembly Bombing (1929):** While Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw "harmless" smoke bombs to "make the deaf hear," the subsequent investigation led to the discovery of the HSRA's bomb factories and the arrest of the trio for the Saunders murder.
- **Execution:** They were hanged on **March 23, 1931**, in Lahore Jail. This day is now observed as **Shaheed Diwas** (Martyrs' Day)

5. Geological Survey of India declares Kalinjar Fort hill a National Geo-Heritage Site

The hill area around the historic **Kalinjar Fort** in **Banda district** in Uttar Pradesh has been declared a **National Geo-Heritage Site** by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

- The recognition highlights the region's rare geological formation known as the Eparchaeon Unconformity, which records a long gap in Earth's geological history.



A **National Geo-Heritage Site** (or National Geological Monument) is a location with unique geological, paleontological, or geomorphological features that reveal the Earth's evolutionary history.

- In India, these are identified and declared by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** to support scientific research, education, and geotourism.
- As of 2026, there are approximately **69 officially recognized sites** across the country.



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Section-VIII: SOCIAL ISSUES - covers issues relevant to social aspects like unemployment, poverty etc. & schemes thereby.

1. Parliamentary panel recommends inclusion of breakfast under PM-POSHAN and extension of scheme up to Class 10

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education has recommended that the Education Ministry introduce "at least a light breakfast" as part of the **PM-POSHAN (midday meal) scheme in schools**, and that the scheme be extended to cover all students up to Class 10, and then Class 12 in the next five years.



PM-POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) is a centrally sponsored scheme in India

that provides one hot cooked meal per school day to children in government and government-aided schools.

- Launched in September 2021, it is the restructured and renamed version of the long-standing **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**.
- Under the PM-POSHAN scheme, a cooked meal is provided to government and aided school students up to Class 8.



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Section-IX: REGIONAL ISSUES OF ANDHRA PRADESH - covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Andhra Pradesh launches 'Project HANUMAN' to address human-wildlife conflict

In a major initiative aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflict and strengthening wildlife conservation, on **World Wildlife Day**, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest & Environment launched the '**Hanuman**' Project.



The project - **Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife (HANUMAN)** - has been designed as a comprehensive scientific and technological intervention to protect both wildlife and people living in forest fringe villages.

Key features:

Under Project HANUMAN:

- Government will provide 100 vehicles-93 Rapid Response and seven ambulances-to provide care and medical assistance to wildlife.
- **Rescue & Treatment Centres:** Four dedicated centres have been established at **Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram (Rajahmundry), Tirupati, and Birlut (Bhairluti/Atmakur)** to provide long-term care and rehabilitation for injured wildlife.

- '**Vajra**' (Wildlife Rakshak) Teams: Village-level volunteer teams trained to handle minor wildlife incursions and snake rescues.
- '**Sarpa Mitras**': Specifically appointed volunteers for safe snake rescue and awareness.

Interconnected concept:

World Wildlife Day:

- **World Wildlife Day** is observed annually on **3 March** to celebrate the world's wild animals and plants and to raise awareness of the urgent need to conserve biodiversity.
- The date marks the anniversary of the signing of **CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in 1973.

2. Andhra Pradesh partners with Centre for implementation of BharatNet project

AP State government signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Centre for the **Amended BharatNet Project (ABNP)**.



- The pact was signed between the Andhra Pradesh government and **Digital Bharat Nidhi**. The Centre has sanctioned Rs 2,432 crore for the project, which will be executed through a Special Purpose Vehicle-**Andhra Pradesh BharatNet Infrastructure Limited (APBIL)**.

The initiative aims to strengthen rural digital infrastructure and provide broadband connectivity

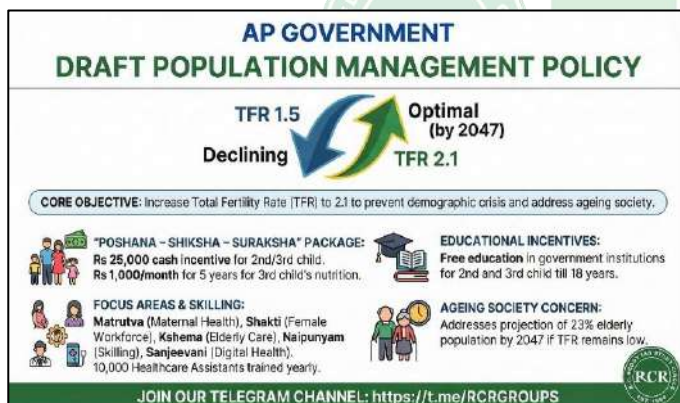
to Gram Panchayats. The plan will cover 13,426 Gram Panchayats statewide.

Interconnected concepts:

1. The **Amended BharatNet Program (ABP)** is an upgraded version of the BharatNet Project. It aims to provide **high-speed broadband connectivity to all 2.64 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs)** and approximately 3.8 lakh non-GP villages on a demand-driven basis.
2. **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** is the new name for the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, a statutory fund established to provide **telecommunications services in rural, remote, and underserved areas** across India.

3. State government releases Draft Population Management Policy

AP government introduced the **Draft Population Management Policy**, whose objective is to raise the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 1.5 to an optimal level of 2.1 thereby reversing the declining fertility rate and prepare the State for an ageing society by 2047.



AP GOVERNMENT DRAFT POPULATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

TFR 1.5 Declining → Optimal (by 2047) TFR 2.1

CORE OBJECTIVE: Increase Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1 to prevent demographic crisis and address ageing society.

"POSHANA - SHIKSHA - SURAKSHA" PACKAGE:
 Rs 25,000 cash incentive for 2nd/3rd child.
 Rs 1,000/month for 5 years for 3rd child's nutrition.

EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVES:
 Free education in government institutions for 2nd and 3rd child till 18 years.

FOCUS AREAS & SKILLING:
 Matrutva (Maternal Health), Shakti (Female Workforce), Kshema (Elderly Care), Naipunyam (Skill), Sanjeevani (Digital Health).
 10,000 Healthcare Assistants trained yearly.

AGEING SOCIETY CONCERN:
 Addresses projection of 23% elderly population by 2047 if TFR remains low.

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Key features:

- **Core Objective:** Increase the **TFR from 1.5 to 2.1 by 2047** to prevent a future demographic crisis and address the shrinking, aging workforce.
- **"Poshana - Shiksha - Suraksha" Package:** Under the policy, the state government intends to provide a **cash incentive of Rs 25,000 on the birth of a second or third child**. In case of the third child, Rs 1,000 per month is proposed to be given for the first five years for ensuring nutritional supplements
- **Educational Incentives:** Free education is proposed for the second and third child till 18 years of age in government institutions.

- **Focus Areas:** The policy focuses on **"Matrutva"** (focused on maternal health), **"Shakti"** (aiming for greater female participation in workforce), **"Kshema"** (elderly care), **"Naipunyam"** (skilling), and **"Sanjeevani"** (digital health).
- **Health care assistants:** The policy also seeks to train at least 10,000 healthcare assistants every year, equipped mainly to handle the needs of adolescents and elderly.
- **Target Population:** Addresses the concern that 23% of the state's population could be elderly by 2047 if fertility rates do not rise

Need for the policy:

- **Low TFR:** The proposed policy is a direct response to the state's falling fertility rates, which is among the lowest in the country, well below the replacement level fertility of 2.1. The total fertility rate (TFR) of Andhra Pradesh has dropped to 1.5, meaning that, on an average, a woman in the state is producing only 1.5 children.
- **Low median age:** The median age of the population is 32.5 years, compared to 28.4 years for the country as a whole. Nearly 10 per cent of its population is above the age of 60, which is projected to rise to 23 per cent by 2047.
- **Female participation in the workforce** is about 31 per cent - much lower than the 37 per cent national average.

4. Andhra Pradesh launches 'Indra Dhanassu' initiative for persons with disabilities

AP govt launched **Indra Dhanassu initiative** aimed at empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) across the state. The scheme is designed to enhance social inclusion, mobility, and economic stability for individuals with 40% or more.

- **Free bus travel:** As part of this initiative, the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) will provide **free bus travel** facility to **all eligible PwDs** covered under Section 2 (ZC) of the RPwD Act, 2016, who have 40% or more disability.
- Eligible escorts accompanying the PwDs would be provided 50% concession in these categories of buses.



5. State forms Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for mega shipbuilding hub at Dugarajapatnam

AP State government formed a Special Purpose Vehicle titled **National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park Andhra Pradesh Limited**, under the Companies Act, 2013, to promote shipbuilding, ship repair and allied maritime infrastructure at **Dugarajapatnam** in Tirupati district.



Earlier, the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board entered into a memorandum of understanding with the **Visakhapatnam Port Authority** for establishing the **shipbuilding cluster** at **Dugarajapatnam** under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

6. Justice Lisa Gill assumes office as Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court

Justice Lisa Gill took charge as a Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. **Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur administered her the oath of office** at a ceremony held in the First Court Hall of the High Court.



Interconnected concepts:

High court judge

- **Appointing Authority:** Under Article 217, the President of India appoints all High Court judges by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Oath:** Judges take an oath or affirmation before the **Governor of the State**, or a person appointed by them.
- **Transfer:** The President can transfer a judge from one High Court to another after consulting the CJI, as per **Article 222**.
- **Tenure:** Holds office until 62 years of age.
- **Salary:** Charged on the **Consolidated Fund of the State**, but pensions are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

7. World's first autonomous ship hub proposed in Andhra Pradesh

Sagar Defence Engineering, with support from the Andhra Pradesh government, is establishing the **world's first autonomous maritime shipbuilding and systems centre** at **Juvvaladinne Harbour** in **Nellore** district.

**WORLD'S FIRST
AUTONOMOUS
MARITIME SHIPBUILDING
& SYSTEMS CENTRE**

SAGAR DEFENCE ENGINEERING,
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE **ANDHRA PRADESH
GOVERNMENT**, IS ESTABLISHING THE CENTRE.

JUVVALADINNE
HARBOUR
Nellore district

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The proposed facility, located in Bogole mandal along the Bay of Bengal, is set close to key maritime routes on the eastern coast. The centre aims to strengthen the nation's capabilities in autonomous maritime technologies, shipbuilding, and unmanned systems development, while also driving regional economic growth.

8. Chief Minister unveils statue of Potti Sriramulu in Amaravati

AP Chief Minister unveiled 58-foot bronze statue of **Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu**. The statue, named "Statue of Sacrifice," has been installed at **Sakhamuru Park** under the **Sri Potti Sriramulu Memorial Park** project, being developed on **6.8 acres** at an estimated cost of **₹150 crore**.

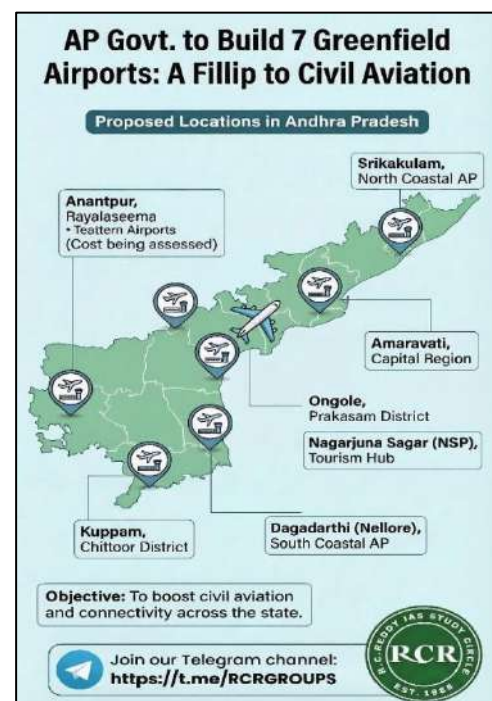
The monument symbolically reflects Sriramulu's historic **58-day fast unto death** that led to the formation of Andhra State.



Potti Sriramulu is celebrated as the "Founding Father of Andhra Pradesh" for his ultimate sacrifice that led to the creation of a separate state for Telugu-speaking people.

- **Fast Unto Death:** Sriramulu began an indefinite hunger strike on 19 October 1952, demanding the separation of Andhra State from the Madras Presidency.
- **Duration:** He fasted for **58 days** before passing away on the night of 15 December 1952.
- **Impact:** His death sparked widespread protests, forcing Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to announce the formation of Andhra State just four days later, on 19 December 1952. This event catalyzed the **broader linguistic reorganisation of Indian states**

9. Andhra Pradesh plans development of seven greenfield airports



To give a fillip to civil aviation in Andhra Pradesh, the government has taken steps **to construct seven greenfield airports**, including one in the capital Amaravati, at a total estimated cost of ₹7,472 crore, while focusing on making the **Alluri Sitharama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram** operational by June 2026.

The seven airports are proposed at **Dagadarthi** (Nellore), **Kuppam**, **Amaravati**, **Srikakulam**, **Nagarjuna Sagar (NSP)**, **Ongole**, and **Anantpur** (whose cost is being assessed).

- Besides, it has been decided to have airports at **Tuni-Annaram** and **Tadepalligudem**.

10. State becomes first to receive 'Pramaan' certification from IFWCS

Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) is set to become the first agency in the country to receive the Government of India's **Pramaan certification** (Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources) under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**.



The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) is a national, voluntary third-party certification program launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

11. Andhra Pradesh launches 'Divyang Shakti' scheme for free RTC bus travel for persons with disabilities

AP government has announced a major welfare initiative for the differently-abled persons under the **'Divyang Shakti' scheme**, as part of which free travel will be provided in RTC buses across the State.

- All people with **40% or more disability** will be eligible for free travel in RTC services, including city ordinary, metro express, Palle Velugu, Ultra-Palle Velugu, and express buses.

- The scheme also provides a 50% fare concession to people accompanying differently-abled passengers.
- Previously limited to just four categories, the scheme will now cover **21 categories of disabilities**. With this expansion, the number of beneficiaries is set to rise from about **2.05 lakh** to **12.76 lakh, including the attendants**.



AP Government Launches 'Divyang Shakti' Scheme

FREE TRAVEL in RTC BUSES Across the State

- City Ordinary
- Metro Express
- Palle Velugu
- Ultra-Palle Velugu
- Express Services

ELIGIBILITY: 40%+ Disability

50% FARE CONCESSION for Attendants

EXPANDED from 4 to 21 Categories of Disabilities

BENEFICIARIES to Rise from ~2.05 Lakh to ~12.76 Lakh

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12. Chief Minister lays foundation stone for ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS India) plant in Anakapalli district

Andhra Pradesh CM laid stone for **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India)** plant.



- **Location:** The greenfield integrated steel plant will be established at **Rajayyapeta** in the **Nakkapalli Mandal** of **Anakapalli district**.
- **Capacity:** The plant will be developed in two phases with a total production capacity of 17.8 million MT of steel per year.
- **Investment:** The project represents a massive investment of ₹1,35,964 crore and is expected to create employment and livelihood opportunities for approximately one lakh people through both direct and indirect roles.
- **Captive port:** In addition to the steel plant, AM/NS India will invest ₹11,198 crore to develop a captive port with a capacity of **50 million MT**.



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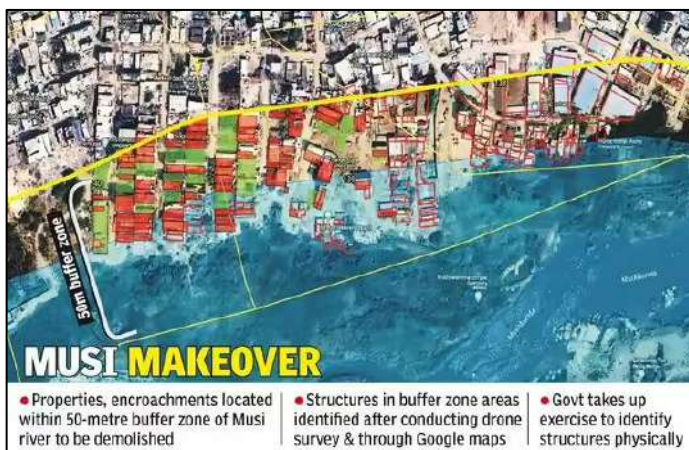
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Office, Gandhinagar Road, Ashok Nagar Cross Road, Hyderabad - 500 020.**

Section-X: REGIONAL ISSUES OF TELANGANA- covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Musi Riverfront Development Project: Objectives, features and significance

The **Musi Riverfront Development Project** is a major urban renewal and environmental rejuvenation initiative by the Government of Telangana to transform the 55 km corridor of the Musi River in Hyderabad.



Musi River:

- The Musi River, with an aggregate length of about 260 km, is created by the confluence of two rivulets – **Musa** and **Esi** originating in **Ananthagiri hillocks** of Vikarabad district in Telangana.
- The destructive floods of 1908 prompted the last Asafjahi king **Mir Osman Ali Khan** of the Hyderabad princely state to commission two tanks – **Osman Sagar** and **Himayat Sagar** – which act as flood control reservoirs for the river.

Proposed Project:

- The project envisages development on both sides of the river's 55-km course. The government also proposes to channel 2.5 tmcft of water from the Godavari River through **Mallanna Sagar Reservoir**, 72 km away from the city, to fill the twin reservoirs, for staggered release into the Musi River to keep it flowing throughout the year.

Status:

- The first phase of the Musi Riverfront Development project has received in-principle

approval for funding from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, while the final approval is awaited.

2. Telangana government announces timeline for completion of Palamuru-Rangareddy project

TG irrigation minister announced to fast track irrigation projects and make the **Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project** fully operational in the next 30 months.



Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project (PRLIP) is designed to lift 90 TMC of floodwater from the Krishna River to provide drinking and irrigation water to drought-prone upland regions of Telangana.

- **Purpose:** To irrigate approximately **12.30 lakh acres** of land and provide drinking water to 1,226 villages, industries, and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
- **Districts Benefited:** Primarily serves Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar, Vikarabad, Rangareddy, Narayanpet, and Nalgonda.
- **Infrastructure:** The project involves lifting water against gravity in **five stages** through six major reservoirs: Anjanagiri, Veeranjaneya, Venkatadri, Kurumurthyra, Udandapur, and K.P. Laxmidevipally.

3. Shiv Pratap Shukla appointed as Governor of Telangana

Shiv Pratap Shukla, who is currently serving as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, has been appointed

as the new Governor of Telangana. He will replace Jishnu Dev Varma.



Interconnected concepts:

- **Method of Appointment:** Unlike the President, the Governor is not elected. They are **appointed by the President of India** by warrant under his hand and seal (Article 155), effectively acting as a nominee of the Central Government.
- **Tenure:** A Governor typically holds office for a term of five years but serves "**at the pleasure of the President**". This means they can be removed or transferred by the President at any time without a formal impeachment process.
- **Qualifications:** To be eligible, a person must be a citizen of India and **at least 35 years of age**. They must not be a member of Parliament or a State Legislature and must not hold any office of profit.

4. Gandhi Sarovar Project: key features and objectives of Telangana's proposed initiative

The **Gandhi Sarovar Project** is a major tourism and cultural initiative proposed by the Telangana government as a centerpiece of **the larger Musi Riverfront Development Project**.

Key features:

- **Location:** Located at Bapu Ghat in Langar Houz, Hyderabad, the project aims to transform the **confluence of the Musa and Esi rivers** into a world-class destination honoring Mahatma Gandhi.
- **World's Tallest Gandhi Statue:** A massive statue of Mahatma Gandhi, planned to be around 150 metres tall. The statue will sit atop a 100-metre tower.
- **Cultural Hub:** The 100-metre tower will house a national museum, exhibition spaces, meeting halls, and offices dedicated to Gandhi's legacy.



5. Telangana ranks 7th in NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (2023-24)

Telangana secured seventh rank in **NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index 2026** for 2023-24 with a score of 44.3.



The NITI Aayog listed Telangana alongside Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the **frontrunner category**, while noting that the State recorded the highest FHI score among the five major southern States.

Telangana was placed among the achievers in Quality of Expenditure and ranked third in Revenue Mobilization.

6. Telangana High Court to deliver verdict on Ghose Committee report

The High Court will pronounce its verdict on April 8 in the batch of writ petitions filed separately by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao and

three others seeking a direction to set aside and quash the report of **Justice P.C. Ghose Commission** which inquired into alleged irregularities in the execution of **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme**.



Interconnected concepts:

1. The **Justice P.C. Ghose Commission** is a one-man inquiry commission led by retired Supreme Court judge and **India's first Lokpal**, Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose.
2. The commission was established by the Telangana government in 2024 to investigate alleged technical and financial irregularities in the **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)**, specifically focusing on the **Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages**.

2. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP): Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) is a multi-stage lift irrigation project on **Godavari River** in Telangana.

- **Location** : Primarily in **Jayashankar Bhupalpally district**, Telangana.
- **River Source**: It draws water from the **Godavari River**, specifically starting at the **Medigadda Barrage** near the confluence with the **Pranhita River**.

Water Capacity: Designed to harness **240 TMC** (Thousand Million Cubic feet) of water annually.

- **Irrigation**: 169 TMC (aiming to irrigate ~45 lakh acres).
- **Drinking Water**: 30 TMC for Hyderabad and 10 TMC for en-route villages.
- **Industrial Use**: 16 TMC

7. Nandini Sidha Reddy awarded Sahitya Akademi Award

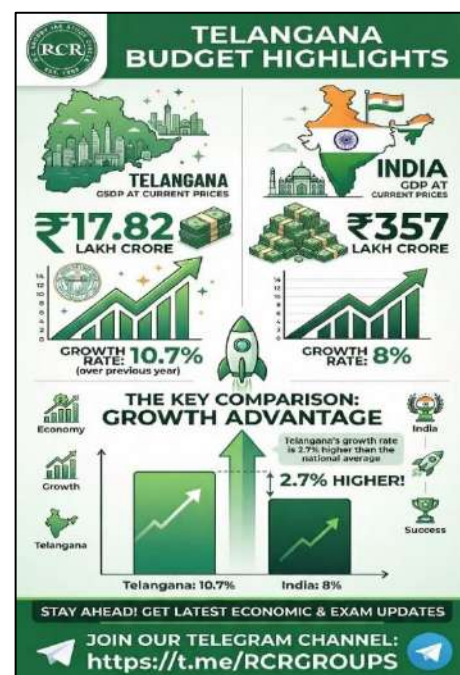
A strong votary of Telangana's culture and identity and an eminent Telugu poet **Nandini Sidha Reddy** (Sidda Reddy), has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 for his anthology of poems '**Animesha**'.



Sahitya Akademi Awards are given annually for works in **24 languages**:

- 22 languages listed in the **8th Schedule** of the Indian Constitution.
- **English and Rajasthani**.

8. Key highlights from Telangana Governor's Budget Address



The Telangana Governor, **Shiv Pratap Shukla** delivered his address to open the state's budget session. The speech outlined a long-term roadmap

titled "**Telangana Rising Vision 2047**," which aims to transform the state into a **\$3 trillion economy** by 2047, with an interim goal of **\$1 trillion by 2034**.

- Telangana's GSDP at current prices was **₹17.82 lakh crore** registering growth rate of 10.7% over the previous year. The country's GDP stood at ₹357 lakh crore during the same period with growth rate of 8%. Telangana's growth rate is 2.7% higher than the national average.
- On the per capita income, State's per capita income was **₹4.18 lakh** while the national per capita income was ₹2.19 lakh, resulting in Telangana's per capita being higher by ₹1.96 lakh, **1.9 times higher than the national average**
- **Development Models:** Introduced the CURE (urban), PURE (peri-urban/manufacturing), and RARE (rural/agriculture) models to drive growth.
- **Growth & Investment:** Projected a **10.7% GSDP growth to ₹17.82 lakh crore for 2025-26**, supported by ₹5.75 lakh crore in commitments from the Telangana Rising Global Summit.
- **Healthcare:** Increased **Rajiv Aarogyasri** coverage to **₹10 lakh per family**. This enhancement benefits over 90 lakh below-poverty-line (BPL) families, providing cashless treatment for 1,672 medical procedures.
- **Agriculture & Women:** The speech highlighted ₹20,616 crore in farm loan waivers and enhanced support under **Rythu Bharosa**, alongside the **Mahalakshmi scheme** providing 2.69 billion free bus trips to women.

9. Telangana government plans expansion of natural farming across 61,125 acres

The Telangana government has planned to introduce natural farming from the coming kharif season by encouraging farmers to take up farming in the natural farming methods in **61,125 acres under the National Mission on Natural Farming**.

- It would be implemented in **489 clusters** with a cost of ₹42 crore and farmers selected for the mission would be first trained at some identified **Rythu Vedikas**. Two persons each with knowledge on natural farming and marketing would be appointed in every cluster to help

farmers and they would be paid a monthly honorarium of ₹5,000.

Interconnected concept:

National Mission on Natural Farming:

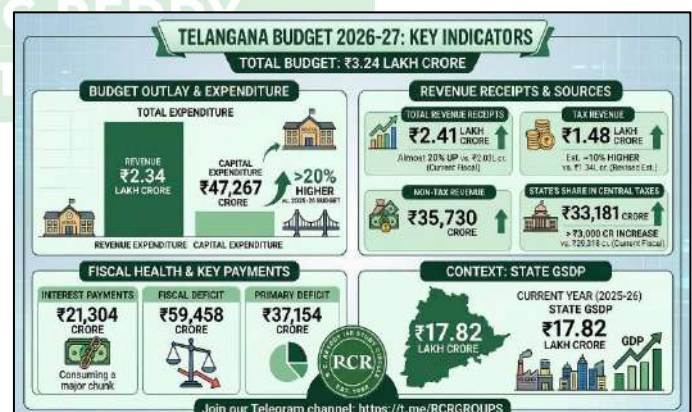
National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) is a standalone, centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Government of India in November 2024 to promote chemical-free, ecosystem-based agriculture.

- It aims to rejuvenate soil health, restore ecosystems, and reduce cultivation costs for farmers by leveraging traditional Indian knowledge and livestock-integrated methods.

Coverage Goals: Reaching **1 crore farmers** and initiating natural farming across **7.5 lakh hectares** through 15,000 clusters.

10. Telangana presents ₹3.24 lakh crore Budget for 2026-27

The Telangana government has introduced a massive budget of ₹3.24 lakh crore for the financial year 2026-27.



Key indicators in the budget:

The budget projects a

- **Total revenue expenditure** of ₹2.34 lakh crore
- **Capital expenditure** of ₹47,267 crore, more than 20% higher than the current (financial year 2025-26) budget.
- **Revenue receipts** during the fiscal (2026-27) are pegged at ₹2.41 lakh crore, up almost 20% as compared to the ₹2.03 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

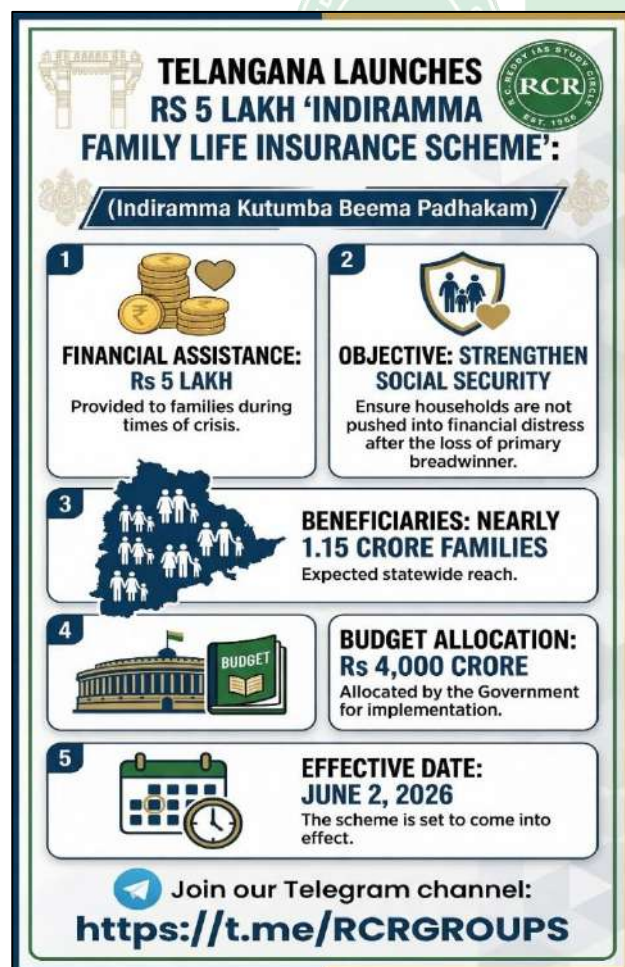
Tax revenue for the next fiscal is estimated at **₹1.48 lakh crore**, about 10% higher than the ₹1.34 lakh crore (revised estimates) and

Non-tax revenue is estimated at **₹35,730 crore**

- The **State's share in Central taxes** for the year is projected at ₹33,181 crore, over ₹3,000 crore higher than the ₹29,318 crore (revised estimates) of the current fiscal.
- On the expenditure side, interest payments continue to consume a major chunk at ₹21,304 crore
- **Fiscal deficit** is pegged at ₹59,458 crore. Primary deficit has been pegged at ₹37,154 crore for the fiscal.
- The **State's Gross Domestic Product (GSDP)** during the current year is pegged at ₹17.82 lakh crore.

11. Telangana launches 'Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme' with ₹5 lakh coverage

The Telangana government has launched the '**Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme**' (**Indiramma Kutumba Beema Padhakam**) to strengthen the social security of families in the state.



TELANGANA LAUNCHES RS 5 LAKH 'INDIRAMMA FAMILY LIFE INSURANCE SCHEME':
(Indiramma Kutumba Beema Padhakam)

- 1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Rs 5 LAKH**
Provided to families during times of crisis.
- 2 OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY**
Ensure households are not pushed into financial distress after the loss of primary breadwinner.
- 3 BENEFICIARIES: NEARLY 1.15 CRORE FAMILIES**
Expected statewide reach.
- 4 BUDGET ALLOCATION: Rs 4,000 CRORE**
Allocated by the Government for implementation.
- 5 EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 2, 2026**
The scheme is set to come into effect.

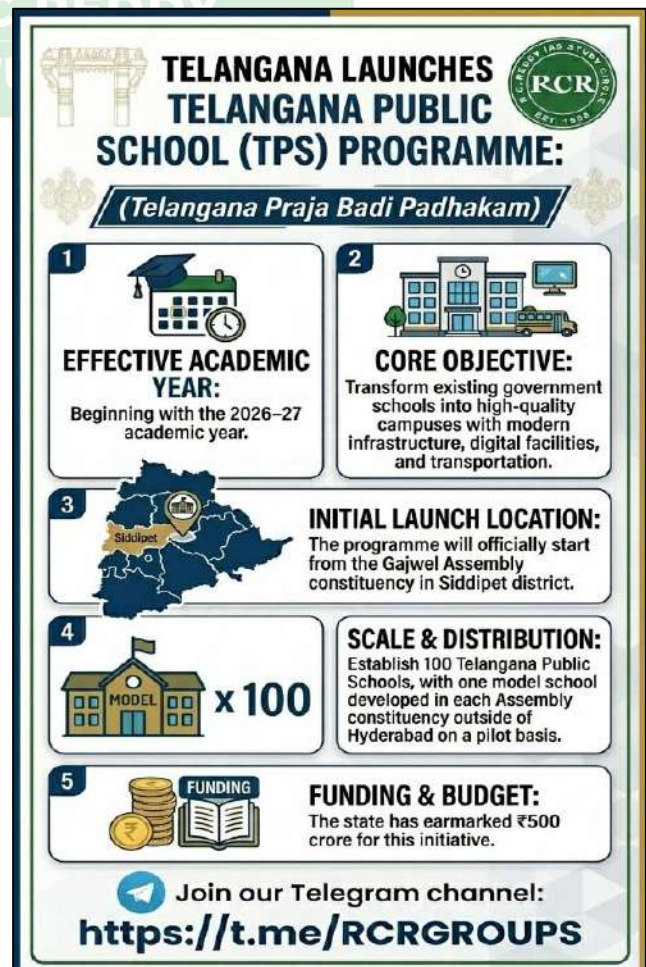
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- **Financial assistance:** Under the policy, **financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh** is provided to the families during times of crisis.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to support households that lose their primary breadwinner to ensure they are not pushed into financial distress during emotionally challenging periods.
- **Beneficiaries:** The scheme is expected to benefit nearly **1.15 crore families across the state**.
- **Budget:** Government has allocated Rs 4,000 crore for its implementation.
- **Date:** The scheme is set to come into effect from June 2, 2026.

12. State to launch Telangana Public Schools initiative

The Telangana state government is set to launch the **Telangana Public School (TPS)** programme beginning with the **2026-27 academic year**.

The initiative aims to transform existing government schools into high-quality campuses with modern infrastructure, digital facilities, and transportation.



TELANGANA LAUNCHES TELANGANA PUBLIC SCHOOL (TPS) PROGRAMME:
(Telangana Praja Badi Padhakam)

- 1 EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC YEAR:**
Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year.
- 2 CORE OBJECTIVE:**
Transform existing government schools into high-quality campuses with modern infrastructure, digital facilities, and transportation.
- 3 INITIAL LAUNCH LOCATION:**
The programme will officially start from the Gajwel Assembly constituency in Siddipet district.
- 4 SCALE & DISTRIBUTION:**
Establish 100 Telangana Public Schools, with one model school developed in each Assembly constituency outside of Hyderabad on a pilot basis.
- 5 FUNDING & BUDGET:**
The state has earmarked ₹500 crore for this initiative.

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- **Initial Launch Location:** The programme will officially start from the **Gajwel Assembly constituency** in Siddipet district.
- **Scale:** Govt has directed the establishment of **100 Telangana Public Schools**, with one model school being developed in each Assembly constituency outside of Hyderabad on a pilot basis.
- **Funding:** The state has earmarked **₹500 crore**

13. Telangana announces Chief Minister's Overseas Employment Programme

The Telangana government has officially announced the launch of the **CM Overseas Employment Programme** as part of the state's 2026-27 budget to enhance international employment opportunities for the state's youth.

- **Budget Allocation:** The initiative is backed by a substantial allocation of ₹1,056 crore.
- **Targeted Sectors:** Jobs will be provided in sectors such as healthcare, hospitality, construction, and logistics.
- **Implementation:** The initiative will be executed through the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM).

14. Telangana Cabinet approves Hate Speech Bill and Parents Support Bill

The Telangana Cabinet approved Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crime Prevention Bill, 2026 and Parents Support Bill.

- **Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crime Prevention Bill, 2026**, designed to curb inflammatory speeches, social media posts and acts that disturb communal harmony or incite violence and clashes. The proposed legislation seeks to provide a legal framework to prevent and penalize hate-driven offences in the State.
- **Parents Support Bill** provides for deduction of 15% of salary or ₹10,000, whichever is lower, from public representatives and government or private employees who neglect their aged parents, with the deducted amount to be paid directly to the parents.
- Another key decision was the formation of a ministerial sub-committee under Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to frame modalities for implementing the proposed **Rohith Vemula Act** aimed at preventing caste discrimination in educational institutions.



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Section-XI: ONE LINERS - covers important events that does not require subject specialization.

- **Shahed drones** are low-cost, one-way-attack unmanned aerial vehicles developed by Iran. These drones are also called “**kamikaze**” or “**suicide**” **drones** as they explode on impact with their targets.
- **Scotland** has become the first nation in the United Kingdom to legalize water cremation, formally known as alkaline hydrolysis.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** scripted history by winning their maiden Ranji Trophy title, defeating eight-time champion Karnataka.
- United States and Israel launched a massive joint military operation, **Operation Epic Fury (or Operation Genesis)**, against Iran. The strikes resulted in the assassination of Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.
- **Exercise Lamitiye-2026** is the 11th edition of the biennial joint military training exercise between the **Indian Armed Forces** and the **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**.
- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant laid the foundation stone for the construction of the **Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy building at Pichukalapalem in Amaravati**.
- **Balendra Shah's** Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is set to become the new Prime Minister of Nepal after the Gen Z protests in September 2025 that unseated the coalition government led by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. He will be the **first Madhesi prime minister of Nepal**.
- **Golestan Palace**, a world heritage site in the Iranian capital-Tehran, was reportedly damaged due to an airstrike in its vicinity.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed entrances to **Iran's underground**
- **Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP)** were bombed.
- India defeated New Zealand in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, thus becoming the first team to successfully defend their World T20 crown. **Jasprit Bumrah** became the Player of the Match and **Sanju Samson** won the Player of the tournament.
- **Operation Epic Fury** is the codename for a major, ongoing U.S. military campaign against Iran. Conducted in coordination with Israel (whose portion is codenamed **Operation Roaring Lion**), the mission was ordered by President Donald J. Trump following the collapse of nuclear negotiations.
- After the US and Israel launched coordinated air strikes against Iran and its leadership, the Iran regime launched **Operation True Promise 4** against Tel Aviv (Israel) and US assets in the Middle East.
- The Cabinet approved the implementation of '**Sakhi Nivas**' **hostels** under the Mission Shakti (Andhra Pradesh) programme. The initiative aims to provide safe, affordable accommodation for single working women, widows, and those living away from their families.
- Union Minister of Jal Shakti released the **Sujal Gaon ID**, a scheme-based unique digital identifier that enables complete **digital mapping of rural piped water supply assets**. For the first time in the country, every rural drinking water scheme is being assigned a digital identity, bringing the rural water supply system onto a unified national platform.
- **International Day of Mathematics (IDM)** is observed annually on **14 March** to celebrate the importance of mathematics in everyday life.

- **Kavach** is an indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system. It is an advanced electronic safety technology designed to prevent train collisions by automatically controlling the train's speed and applying brakes if the loco pilot fails to take action.
- The **Israeli Parliament (Knesset)** conferred the "**Speaker of the Knesset Medal**" on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recognising his role in strengthening India-Israel strategic ties.
- Government of India announced the development of an **Integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor** with a strategic, well-connected node at **Durgapur, West Bengal**. This initiative is part of the broader Purvodaya vision aimed at accelerating economic growth and infrastructure in Eastern India.
- **World Water Day** is observed annually on **22 March (since 1993)** as a United Nations observance highlighting the importance of freshwater resources. The idea originated in **1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro)**, after which the UN officially designated the day.
- **Navroz** (also known as **Nowruz**) is the **Persian New Year**, which translates literally from Persian to "**New Day**". It is a 3,000-year-old festival that celebrates the arrival of spring and the beginning of the year in the Iranian calendar.
- **Chapchar Kut** is the largest and most significant traditional spring festival of the **Mizo people in Mizoram**. Celebrated annually in **March**, it marks a period of relaxation and joy following the completion of the labor-intensive **Jhum operation** (clearing forests for shifting cultivation).
- In the **World Happiness Report 2026**, India is ranked **116th** out of 147 countries. This marks a marginal improvement of two positions from its 118th rank in 2025. **Top 5 Happiest:** Finland (1st for the ninth consecutive year), Iceland, Denmark, Costa Rica, and Sweden.
- Government has approved **RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation)** under the Export Promotion Mission to support exporters affected by West Asia maritime disruptions.
- The West Asian conflict has escalated significantly following Israeli strikes on **Iran's South Pars gas field** and retaliatory Iranian missile attacks on **Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG facilities**.
- **Kaveh Madani** has been awarded the **2026 Stockholm Water Prize**, the world's most prestigious water-related honour.
- Every year, **March 21** is observed as the **International Day of Forest (IDF)** by the United Nations to commemorate the green cover around the world and reiterate its importance.
- **Diego Garcia** lies in the central Indian Ocean, south of India and southwest of Sri Lanka. It is the largest island in the Chagos Archipelago and one of only two critical US bomber bases in the Indo-Pacific region, the other being **Andersen Air Force Base in Guam**.
- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** aims to provide **potable water of at least 55 litres every day to every person** through functional tap connection to every rural household. Originally scheduled to be completed by 2024, the mission deadline has now been extended to 2028.
- **World Meteorological Day** is observed annually on **March 23** to emphasize the significance of weather, climate, and water sciences. The day also marks the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950.
- **Jose Antonio Kast** was sworn in as the 38th President of Chile.

- The **Terafab Project** is a major semiconductor manufacturing initiative officially announced by Elon Musk. It is a joint venture between **Tesla, SpaceX**, and **xAI** to build a massive chip fabrication facility (a "fab") in **Austin, Texas**.
- The **Panama Canal** is a man-made waterway connecting the **Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean** across the Isthmus of Panama. It is a highly strategic global trade route.
- **NASA's Space Reactor-1 (SR-1) Freedom** is a groundbreaking **nuclear-powered interplanetary spacecraft**. Scheduled for launch 2028, it is designed to be the first mission to use Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP) to travel beyond Earth orbit.
- **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** is a highly flammable blend of hydrocarbon gases, mainly **propane and butane**. It is obtained as a byproduct during the refining of crude oil and the processing of natural gas. Under moderate

pressure, it converts into a liquid form, which makes it easy to store and transport in cylinders.

- **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** is mainly composed of **methane** that is cooled to extremely low temperatures (below -160°C) using a cryogenic process. It is converted into liquid form primarily to enable long-distance transportation across oceans where pipelines are not practical, as its volume in liquid state is about 600 times smaller than in gaseous form.



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Section-XII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on Current affairs.

1. Practice Questions-I

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of March 2026)

1. The Vikram-1 launch vehicle, recently seen in news, is:

- India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle designed by Skyroot Aerospace
- A reusable launch vehicle developed by Indian Space Research Organization
- A human spaceflight rocket developed under Gaganyaan
- A heavy-lift rocket designed for deep space missions by Indian Space Research Organization

2. Consider the following statements about World Wildlife Day:

- World Wildlife Day is observed on March 3.
- March 3 marks the anniversary of the signing of CITES in 1973.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

3. Exercise Lamitiye-2026 is a joint military training exercise conducted between India and which of the following countries?

- Maldives
- Seychelles
- Mauritius
- Madagascar

4. Consider the following statements regarding the 16th Finance Commission:

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted by the President under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya.
- The Commission has been tasked to give recommendations for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. The Government of India recently launched a new series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with which of the following base years?

- 2015-16
- 2017-18
- 2020-21
- 2022-23

6. Consider the following statements:

- The Jnanpith Award is regarded as the highest literary honor in India.
- The 60th Jnanpith Award for the year 2025 conferred on Tamil poet and lyricist R. Vairamuthu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

7. Recently proposed Economic Stabilisation Fund aims to:

- Promote rural employment
- Manage global economic shocks
- Boost exports
- Control inflation

8. Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

- Indonesia is one of the countries that joined the expanded BRICS grouping.
- All members of the expanded BRICS grouping are located in Asia and Africa.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

9. The Urban Challenge Fund mandates which funding structure?

- 50% Centre, 25% State, 25% Market
- (25% Centre, 50% Market, rest State/ULB)
- 100% Centre funding
- Equal Centre-State sharing

10. The Akasha300, recently developed by Spacetime 4D Printing Solution, is best described as a:

- High-performance 3D printer
- Satellite launch vehicle
- Cryogenic rocket engine
- Space communication system

11. Consider the following about NavIC:

- It requires at least four satellites for accurate positioning.
 - It provides encrypted services only for military use.
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both
 - None

12. Vikram-1 differs from traditional ISRO rockets mainly because it:

- Uses only cryogenic fuel
- Is designed for reusable launches
- Provides dedicated orbital placement for small payloads
- Is fully government-funded

13. The Durand Line, recently seen in news, was originally drawn to:

- Separate British India and China
- Create a buffer against Russian expansion
- Demarcate tribal autonomous regions
- Define trade routes in Central Asia

14. The Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy building, whose foundation stone was laid by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, is being constructed at:

- Pichukalapalem in Amaravati
- Tirupati
- Visakhapatnam
- Kurnool

15. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Epic Fury:

- It is a U.S. military campaign conducted against Iran in coordination with Israel.
- Israel's corresponding operation is codenamed Operation Roaring Lion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

16. Lipulekh Pass is strategically important because it:

- Connects India with Myanmar
- Lies at India-China-Bhutan tri-junction
- Lies at India-China-Nepal tri-junction
- Connects India with Afghanistan

17. Diego Garcia is located in which ocean?

- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Arctic Ocean

18. Consider the following about CMS COP15:

- It is held in Brazil.
 - It focuses on migratory species conservation.
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both
 - None

19. The BHAVYA scheme aims to:

- Promote agriculture exports
- Build 100 industrial parks
- Expand digital payments
- Develop ports

20. Consider the following about Jal Jeevan Mission reforms:

- Sujal Gaon IDs are introduced.
 - States must sign MoU for funds.
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both
 - None

21. Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) in India are managed by:

- ONGC
- IOCL
- ISPRL
- NITI Aayog

22. Which of the following best explains coal gasification?

- Complete combustion of coal
- Conversion into liquid fuel
- Partial oxidation producing syngas
- Carbon capture process

23. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are considered suitable for remote areas because:

- They require large cooling systems
- They have modular construction and smaller capacity
- They produce zero waste
- They are fusion-based

24. The Terafab Project, recently announced by Elon Musk, is related to:

- Electric vehicle manufacturing
- Semiconductor chip fabrication
- Space tourism infrastructure
- Artificial intelligence software development

25. Consider the following statements regarding the World Happiness Report 2026:

- India is ranked 116th out of 147 countries.
- Finland is the happiest country for the ninth consecutive year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answers & Explanations for Questions (1-25)

1. Ans: b

The **Vikram-1** is India's first privately developed **orbital-class launch vehicle**, designed by the Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace.

- Named after the father of India's space programme, **Vikram Sarabhai**, it is specifically built to cater to the small satellite market with a "space cab" model—providing dedicated and precise orbital placement rather than bulk launches.
- Payload Capacity:** Can carry approximately **300 kg to 350 kg** to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

2. Ans: c

- World Wildlife Day was observed on **March 3** with the theme "**Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods**."
- The date marks the anniversary of the signing of **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** in 1973.

3. Ans: b

Exercise Lamitiye-2026 is the 11th edition of the biennial joint military training exercise between the **Indian Armed Forces** and the **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**.

4. Ans: c

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted by the President on 31 December 2023 under the chairmanship of **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice- chairman of NITI ayog,
- The Commission was mandated to make its recommendations for the five-year period commencing on **1 April 2026 and ending on 31 March 2031**.

5. Ans: d

- The Government of India launched a new series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with **2022-23 as the base year** and replaces the decade-old 2011-12 series.

6. Ans: c

- The **60th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honor**, for the year 2025 will be conferred on distinguished Tamil poet, lyricist and writer **R. Vairamuthu**.

7. Ans: b

- Government of India introduced the **Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF)**, a ₹1 lakh crore fiscal buffer designed to shield the economy from global "black swan" events and supply chain disruptions

8. Ans: a

- The BRICS grouping has Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (the original five), along with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Indonesia.
- Indonesia is among the countries included in the expanded BRICS grouping along with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because BRICS also includes countries from **South America (Brazil)** and **Europe/Eurasia (Russia)**, not only Asia and Africa.

9. Ans: b

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹1 lakh crore **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31, designed to catalyze market-driven, sustainable urban infrastructure development.

The fund focuses on cities as growth hubs, transit-oriented development, and water/sanitation, aiming to leverage private investment and improve creditworthiness in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

- The fund aims to unlock **₹4 lakh crore over five years**, with ₹1 lakh crore in central funding targeting bankable, transformative projects.
- The UCF covers up to 25% of project costs, while at least 50% must be financed through bonds, bank loans, or public-private partnerships (PPPs).

10. Ans: b

In a significant boost for India's high-performance engineering, the Kerala-based deep-tech startup **Spacetime 4D Printing Solution** delivered its flagship **Akasha300** 3D printer to ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**.

11. Ans: a

- **NavIC** (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is India's independent, indigenous regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO.
- Originally called the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**, it was designed to provide accurate positioning and timing services over India and a region extending up to **1,500 km** beyond its borders.
- **Service Types:**
 - **Standard Positioning Service (SPS):** Open for all civilian users.
 - **Restricted Service (RS):** An encrypted service for authorized users, primarily for strategic and military applications.

12. Ans: c

Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, designed and built by the **Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace**. Named after the father of India's space programme, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the rocket is a **four-stage launch vehicle** specifically engineered for the small-satellite market.

- **Payload Capacity:** Capable of delivering up to 350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 260 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- **Propulsion:**
 - **Stages 1-3:** Powered by solid-fuel motors (Kalam-1200, Kalam-250, and Kalam-100).

- **Stage 4:** A hypergolic liquid stage using a cluster of four **Raman engines** for precise orbital insertion and multi-orbit deployment.

13. Ans: b

- Durand Line is the 2,640-kilometre (1,640-mile) international boundary that separates Afghanistan and Pakistan. It was created to define "spheres of influence" between British India and Afghanistan, serving as a buffer zone against the expanding Russian Empire.

14. Ans: a

- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant laid the foundation stone for the construction of the **Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy building at Pichukalapalem in Amaravati**

15. Ans: c

- **Operation Epic Fury** is the codename for a major, ongoing U.S. military campaign against Iran. Conducted in coordination with Israel (whose portion is codenamed **Operation Roaring Lion**), the mission was ordered by President Donald J. Trump following the collapse of nuclear negotiations.

16. Ans: c

- India is set to resume border trade with China via the **Lipulekh Pass** in June 2026 after a six-year hiatus. The pass, a critical high-altitude gateway in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, has been closed since 2019-2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent border tensions.
- It is a **tri-junction of India, China (Tibet), and Nepal**.

17. Ans: c

- **Diego Garcia** lies in the central Indian Ocean, south of India and southwest of Sri Lanka. It is the largest island in the Chagos Archipelago and one of only two critical US bomber bases in the Indo-Pacific region, the other being **Andersen Air Force Base in Guam**.

18. Ans: c

- 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** was held in **Campo Grande, Brazil**.
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the **Bonn Convention**, is a legally binding

international treaty under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Signed in 1979 and effective since 1983, it is the only global treaty exclusively dedicated to the conservation of terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species throughout their ranges

19. Ans: b

- **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)** is a flagship industrial infrastructure scheme approved by the Union Cabinet. With a total allocation of ₹33,660 crore, it aims to establish **100 "plug-and-play" industrial parks across India by 2031-32.**

20. Ans: c

- The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) until December 2028. Rebranded as Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, the mission now aims to provide functional household tap connections (FHTC) to all **19.36 crore rural households** by 2028.
- A new national digital framework will assign every village a unique **Sujal Gaon / Service Area ID**, allowing for digital mapping of the water supply system from source to tap.

21. Ans: c

- As of March 2026, India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) have a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT) across three locations—**Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur**—which are about 64% full and can cover roughly 5–9.5 days of oil demand. These underground, safe caverns, managed by ISPRL, act as a buffer against global supply shocks.
- India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) are managed by the **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)**. ISPRL is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), which functions under the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

22. Ans: c

- **Coal gasification** is a thermo-chemical process that converts coal into a versatile gaseous

mixture called **syngas** (synthesis gas). Unlike traditional coal combustion, which burns coal completely to produce heat, gasification uses a controlled amount of oxygen (or air) and steam at high temperatures (typically 700–1600 °C) and pressures to partially oxidise the coal.

23. Ans: b

- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are advanced, factory-built nuclear reactors with a capacity of up to 300 MW(e), roughly one-third of conventional reactors. They are safer, more cost-effective to construct, and flexible, offering a reliable, low-carbon energy source for remote areas, mining, or replacing decommissioned coal plants.

24. Ans: b

- The Terafab Project is a **semiconductor manufacturing initiative** involving Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI to build a large chip fabrication facility in Texas.

25. Ans: c

- In the **World Happiness Report 2026**, India is ranked **116th** out of 147 countries. This marks a marginal improvement of two positions from its 118th rank in 2025. **Top 5 Happiest:** Finland (1st for the ninth consecutive year), Iceland, Denmark, Costa Rica, and Sweden.



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Section-XIII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on static concepts linked to this months' current affairs.

2. Practice Questions-II

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of March 2026)

26. Who among the following heads the NDMA?

- a) President of India
- b) Prime Minister of India
- c) Union Home Minister
- d) Cabinet Secretary

27. Consider the following statements regarding Public Interest Litigation (PIL):

1. PIL emerged in India in the early 1980s through the efforts of Justices P. N. Bhagwati and V. R. Krishna Iyer.
2. PIL allows any public-spirited person to approach the Supreme Court (Art. 32) or High Courts (Art. 226).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The Alvars were 63 Tamil saints devoted to the worship of Shiva.
2. The Nayanars were 12 Tamil saints devoted to the worship of Vishnu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

29. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was given Constitutional Status through which of the following Constitutional Amendments?

- a) 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016
- b) 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018
- c) 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019
- d) 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2020

30. Consider the following statements regarding protocols under the Convention on Biological Diversity:

1. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regulates living modified organisms (LMOs).
2. The Nagoya Protocol deals with access and benefit sharing of genetic resources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

31. The Expenditure Approach to measure Gross Domestic Product (GDP) includes which of the following components?

- a) Consumption, Investment, Government Expenditure and Net Exports
- b) Wages, Rent, Interest and Profit
- c) Value of intermediate goods and services
- d) Only Government Expenditure and Investment

32. Andhra Pradesh currently records a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of around 1.4 children per woman, which is significantly below the replacement level. In this context, the replacement level fertility refers to:

- a) The number of children required to increase population rapidly
- b) The average number of children per woman needed to maintain a stable population size in the long run
- c) The number of children required to eliminate population ageing
- d) The fertility level at which migration stops

33. Consider the following statements regarding the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:

1. It is also known as the Bonn Convention.
2. It aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species across their ranges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

34. Structural unemployment refers to which of the following situations?

- a) Temporary unemployment caused by people changing jobs
- b) Unemployment caused by a mismatch between workers' skills and job requirements
- c) Unemployment occurring due to seasonal variations in economic activity
- d) Unemployment caused by a decline in overall demand in the economy

35. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature exceeds which of the following thresholds?

- a) Plains – 42°C, Coasts – 40°C, Hills – 35°C
- b) Plains – 40°C, Coasts – 37°C, Hills – 30°C
- c) Plains – 38°C, Coasts – 36°C, Hills – 28°C
- d) Plains – 45°C, Coasts – 40°C, Hills – 32°C

36. Consider the following statements regarding the special powers of the Rajya Sabha:

1. If the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, Parliament can make laws on matters listed in the State List in the national interest.
2. Such a resolution remains valid for two years at a time and cannot be renewed further.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

37. The First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) voting system in India is used for electing members to which of the following bodies?

- a) Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils
- b) Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies
- c) President and Vice-President
- d) Panchayati Raj Institutions only

38. Consider the following statements regarding Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

1. Nominal GDP measures the value of goods and services produced in an economy after adjusting for changes in prices.

2. Real GDP per capita is calculated by dividing Real GDP by the total population of the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

39. Which of the following are examples of permanent winds?

- a) Loo, Chinook and Foehn
- b) Trade winds, Westerlies and Polar easterlies
- c) Monsoon winds and Land breeze
- d) Cyclones and Anticyclones

40. Consider the following statements regarding provisions of the Constitution of India on elections:

1. Article 325 provides that no person shall be excluded from electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
2. Article 326 states that elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies shall be based on adult suffrage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

41. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, provides reservation for women in which of the following?

- a) Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils
- b) Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies
- c) Panchayats and Municipalities only
- d) President and Vice-President elections

42. With reference to Total Fertility Rate (TFR), consider the following statements:

1. TFR denotes the average number of children born to a woman during her lifetime
2. A TFR of 2.1 is considered replacement level fertility.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

43. Under which Article of the Constitution are estimates for withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of India presented to the Lok Sabha as demands for grants?

- a) Article 110
- b) Article 112
- c) Article 113
- d) Article 114

44. With reference to the measurement of economic output in India, consider the following statements:

1. Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the value of goods and services produced across different sectors of the economy.
2. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is equal to GVA minus net indirect taxes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

45. Which of the following statements regarding the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is correct?

- a) The CEC can be removed by the President at his discretion.
- b) The CEC can be removed in the same manner as a High Court judge.
- c) The CEC can only be removed on the same grounds and procedure as a Supreme Court judge.
- d) The CEC can be removed by a simple majority in Parliament. D. The CEC can be removed by a simple majority in Parliament.

46. Which UT does NOT have representation in Rajya Sabha?

- a) Delhi
- b) Puducherry
- c) Ladakh
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

47. Consider the following statements:

1. Core industries supply basic inputs and have 40.27% weight in IIP.
2. Electricity has the highest weight among core industries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

48. The Dandi March (1930), led by Mahatma Gandhi, was primarily aimed at:

- a) Protesting against the British land revenue system
- b) Opposing the British salt monopoly
- c) Demanding complete independence
- d) Supporting the Quit India Movement

49. The Lahore Conspiracy Case (1928) was associated with:

- a) Protest against the Rowlatt Act
- b) Revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai
- c) Demand for Dominion Status
- d) Formation of the Simon Commission

50. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in India is chaired by:

- a) President of India
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Home Minister
- d) Cabinet Secretary

Answers & Explanations for Questions (Q 26-50)

26. Ans: b

- The National Disaster Management Authority is the apex body for Disaster Management in India.
- The Disaster Management Act, 2005, envisaged the creation of the NDMA. It is headed by the **Prime Minister**, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective **Chief Ministers**, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

27. Ans: c

- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a legal mechanism introduced in the early 1980s by Justices **P.N. Bhagwati** and **V.R. Krishna Iyer**, allowing any public-spirited citizen or NGO to approach the Supreme Court (Article 32) or High Courts (Article 26) to enforce public rights, **relaxing the traditional**

28. Ans: d

- Alvars worshipped Vishnu (12 saints), Nayanars were 63 Tamil saints devoted to Lord Shiva.

29. Ans: b

- National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was initially constituted by the Central Govt by the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, of 1993. The act has been repealed through the National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Act, 2018.
- The NCBC has been accorded Constitutional Status through "The Constitution (**One Hundred and Second Amendment**) Act, 2018, whereby **Article 338-B** has been inserted, forming a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as National Commission for Backward Classes.

30. Ans: c

Protocols under CBD: Important protocols adopted under CBD include:

- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** Regulates the safe handling and transfer of living modified organisms (LMOs).
- **Nagoya Protocol:** Deals with Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) from genetic resources.

31. Ans: a

Economists measure **GDP** using three approaches- **Expenditure, Income and Product**. In theory, all three methods should produce the **same GDP value**, though results may vary depending on the structure of the economy.

- **Expenditure Approach:** GDP is calculated as the sum of **Consumption (C), Investment (I), Government expenditure (G), and Net exports (X-M)**.
- **Income Approach:** GDP is measured by adding **wages and salaries, proprietors' income, rental income, corporate profits, and net interest**, along with **net indirect taxes, depreciation and net payments to the rest of the world**.
- **Product Approach (Value-added/Output Method):** GDP is calculated by adding the **market value of all final goods and services produced**, excluding intermediate goods used in production.

32. Ans: b

- **TFR** stands for **Total Fertility Rate**. It is a demographic metric that represents the average number of children a woman would have over her lifetime if she were to experience the current age-specific fertility rates throughout her reproductive years

33. Ans: c

- The **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, or **Bonn Convention**, is a United Nations environmental treaty signed in 1979 (in force since 1983) aimed at conserving terrestrial, aquatic,

34. Ans: b

- **Structural unemployment** occurs when there is a **mismatch between the skills of workers and the skills required for available jobs**, often due to technological changes or structural shifts in the economy.

Note:

- **Cyclical Unemployment:** Occurs due to economic cycles—rises during recessions and falls during economic growth.
- **Seasonal Unemployment:** Results from seasonal changes in demand, affecting sectors like agriculture and tourism.
- **Technological Unemployment:** Caused by automation and technological advancements, which reduce demand for certain jobs or skills.
- **Frictional Unemployment:** Temporary unemployment when people are between jobs or searching for new employment.

35. Ans: b

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** declares a **heatwave** when the **maximum temperature** crosses certain thresholds:

- **Plains:** above 40°C
- **Coastal areas:** above 37°C
- **Hilly regions:** above 30°C.

36. Ans: a

- Rajya Sabha enjoys some **special powers**. If it passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting, saying that it is "**necessary or expedient in the national interest**" that Parliament should make a law on a matter enumerated in the State List, Parliament becomes empowered to make a law on the subject. Such a resolution remains in force for a **maximum of one year** but this period can be extended by one year at a time by passing a similar resolution.

37. Ans: b

- In India, the first-past-the-post voting method is used to elect members of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. In this system, the candidates with

the most votes win the election. It is one of the most basic methods of holding elections.

38. Ans: b

- GDP is the sum of the market value of all the final goods and services produced within the geographical boundaries of a country each year.
- The value of GDP measured in **current prices is called Nominal GDP** but it might not be a good measure of production because the increase in value may result from an increase in prices and not output. **Nominal GDP, adjusted for price changes, is called Real GDP.**
- Nominal GDP per capita = Nominal GDP/total population
- Real GDP per capita = Real GDP/total population

39. Ans: b

The movement of air from high pressure area to low pressure areas is called wind.

Winds can be broadly divided into three types.

- **Permanent winds** – The trade winds, westerlies and easterlies are the permanent winds. These blow constantly throughout the year in a particular direction.
- **Seasonal winds** – These winds change their direction in different seasons. For example, monsoons in India.
- **Local winds** – These blow only during a particular period of the day or year in a small area. For example, land and sea breeze. It is called loo.

40. Ans: c

- **Article 324:** The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and the Legislature of every state and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President.
- **Article 325:** No individual to be excluded from electoral rolls on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.
- **Article 326:** Adult suffrage shall be the basis for elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States.
- **Article 327:** Parliament may, according to the provisions of this Constitution, from time to time enact laws with respect to all matters relating to elections to Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of States.

- **Article 328:** A state's Legislature may from time to time by law make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, the elections to the House or either House of the Legislature.
- **Article 329:** The article prohibits the courts from becoming involved in electoral matters.

41. Ans: b

The **Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023**, also known as the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, provides 33% (one-third) reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. Passed in September 2023, it originated as the **128th Constitutional Amendment Bill**.

- **Scope:** It applies to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly.
- **Implementation:** The reservation will be implemented after the next delimitation exercise (based on the first census after the Act's passage).
- **Duration:** The reservation is effective for a **period of 15 years**, with a provision for further extension by Parliament.

42. Ans: c

- TFR denotes the average number of children born to a woman. A TFR of 2.1, called replacement level fertility, means two parents can be replaced by two children (0.1 being the mortality adjustment since all children born might not survive).
- At 1.5, Andhra Pradesh's present TFR is lower than the national average of 2.1

43. Ans: b

- Article 113 of the Constitution requires that any proposal or estimate seeking withdrawal of money **from the Consolidated Fund of India should be presented to the Lok Sabha in the form of a demand for grants**. Therefore, every ministry prepares a demand for grants for the expenditure to be incurred in the next financial year. These demands are collectively presented in the Lok Sabha as part of the Union Budget.
- The demand for grants includes **both charged and voted expenditure**. Charged expenditures are considered liabilities of the government of India such as payment of interest and are not put to vote in the Lok Sabha.

- Article 113 (iii) prescribes that no demand for grants can be presented in the Lok Sabha without the President of India's prior approval.

44. Ans: a

- There are two main ways to calculate India's economic output.
- One way is to look at everything India produces in a year and add up all the monetary "value" created in a year. This is typically captured by a measure called the Gross Value Added (GVA), and it looks at what value was produced in different sectors of the economy.
- The other way to look at the same economy is to add up all the money spent by different people or entities (be it individuals, governments, or business houses) in the economy. This is typically called the Gross Domestic Product or GDP.
- The two variables are connected thus:**
 - $GDP = GVA + \text{Net Indirect Taxes}^*$
 - *Tax govt levies on different goods minus the subsidies govt provides for the production of different goods

45. Ans: c

- Article 324 (5) lays down that the Chief Election Commissioner can only be removed on the same ground and by following the same procedure as established for the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court. The procedure involves impeachment by Parliament on the ground of proven "misbehaviour or incapacity".
- It also says that Election Commissioners can only be removed on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

46. Ans: c

- Currently, only **three** out of the eight Union Territories (UTs) have representation in the Rajya Sabha-Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir.

47. Ans: a

Core Industries refer to the **eight most fundamental industrial sectors** of the Indian economy that serve as the backbone for all other industrial activities. Because they produce the basic inputs required by almost every other sector—from small-scale manufacturing to large-scale infrastructure.

- These industries hold a combined weight of **40.27%** in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. Ranked by weight, they

include **Refinery Products** (28.04%), **Electricity** (19.85%), **Steel** (17.92%), **Coal** (10.33%), **Crude Oil** (8.98%), **Natural Gas** (6.88%), **Cement** (5.37%), and **Fertilizers** (2.63%).

48. Ans: b

- The **Dandi March, also known as the Salt March or Salt Satyagraha**, was a 24-day non-violent protest led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. It served as a direct-action campaign of tax resistance against the British salt monopoly in colonial India and marked the beginning of the nationwide **Civil Disobedience Movement**.

49. Ans: b

- The Lahore Conspiracy Case (1928):** To avenge the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**, who died after a brutal lathi charge during protests against the **Simon Commission**. They planned to kill Superintendent James A. Scott but killed Assistant Superintendent **John P. Saunders** in a case of mistaken identity.

50. Ans: b

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in India is a high-level body, established in 1950 and chaired by the Prime Minister, responsible for final decisions on key senior appointments in the central government, public sector undertakings, banks, and financial institutions.

- It typically includes the **Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs**.



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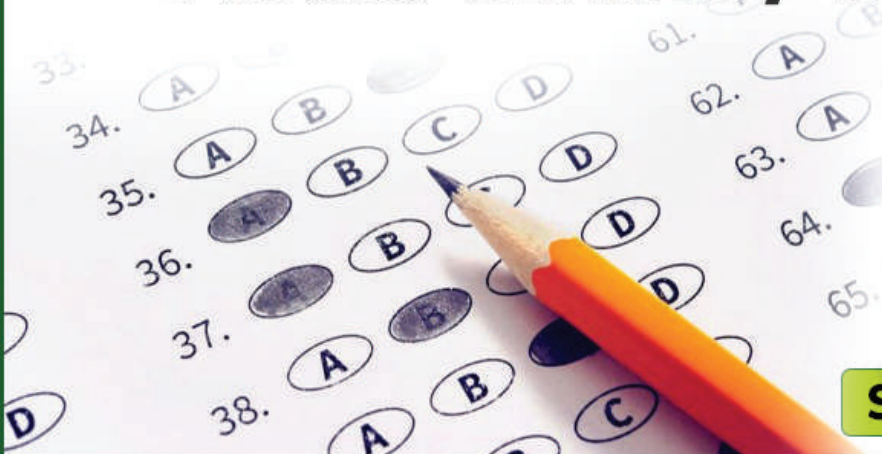
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