



## GS Paper 3-Science and Tech

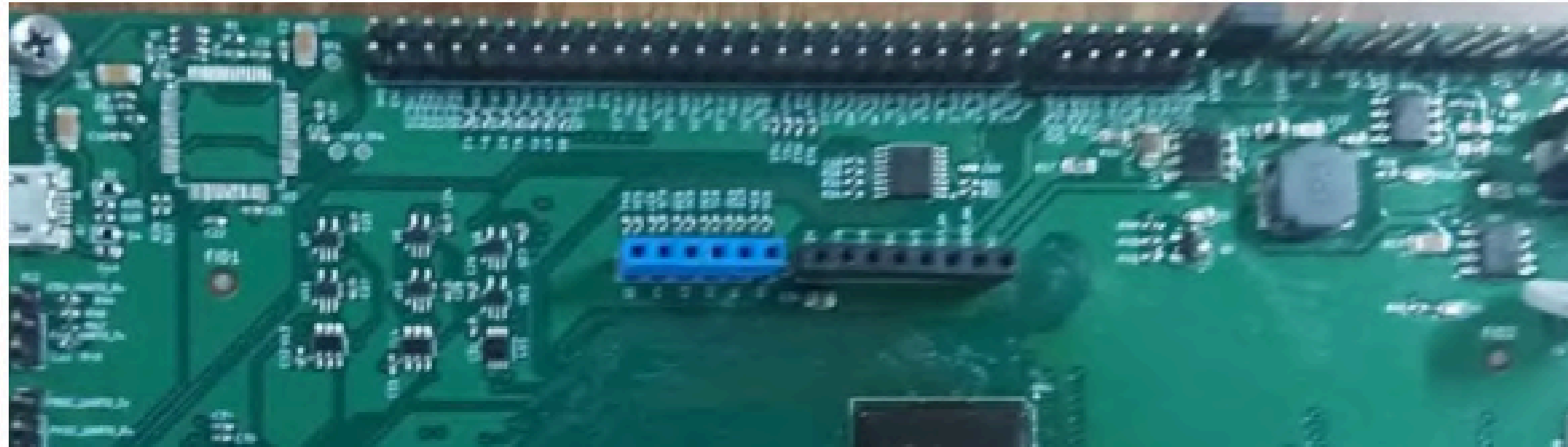
### IIT Madras & ISRO jointly develop and successfully boot aerospace quality semiconductor chip

Updated - February 11, 2025 at 05:03 PM.

A joint effort with ISRO Inertial Systems Unit, Thiruvananthapuram, the chip was manufactured at Semiconductor Laboratory Chandigarh & packaged at Tata Advanced Systems, Karnataka

BY BL CHENNAI BUREAU

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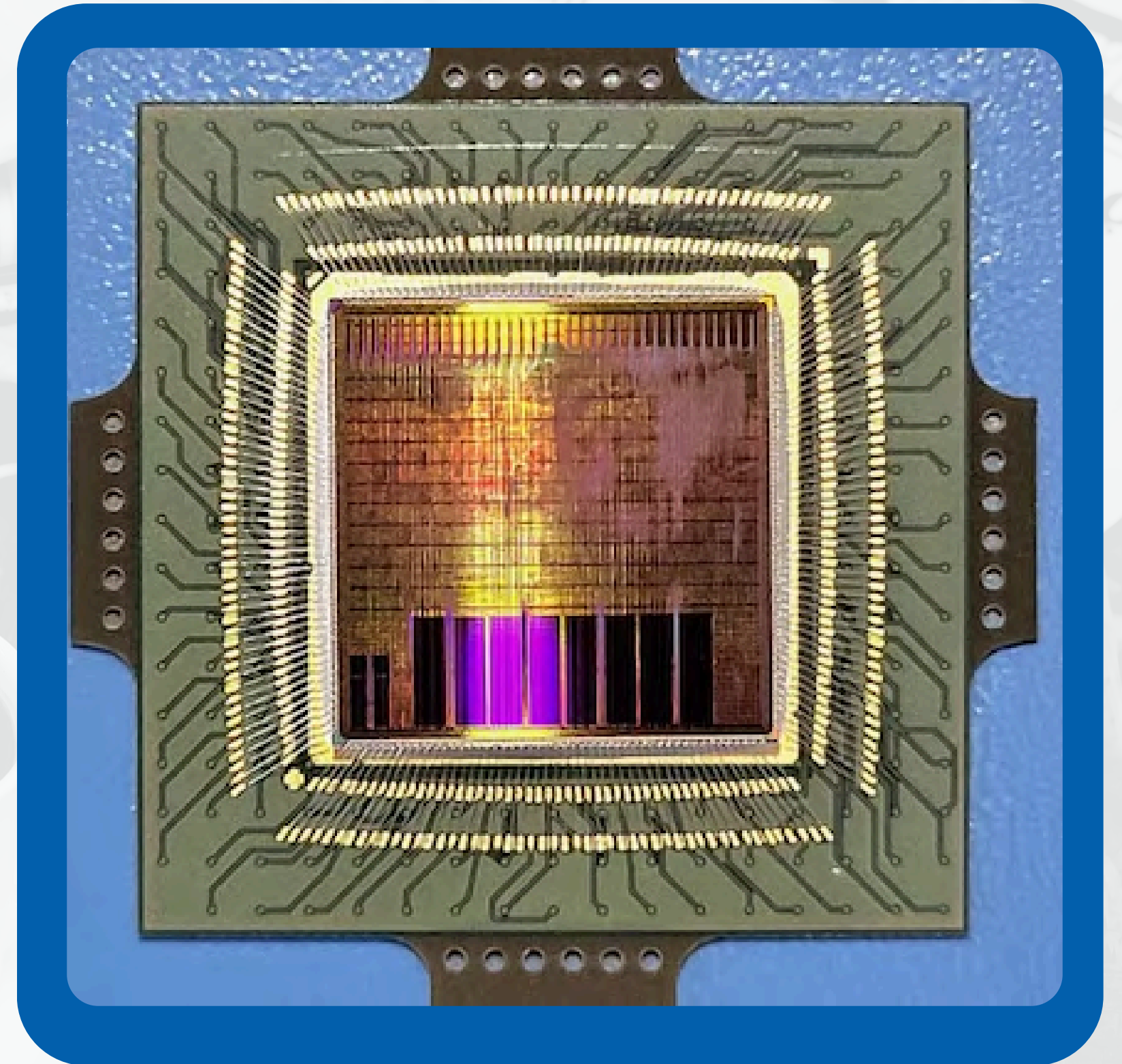






## KEY POINTS

- IIT Madras and ISRO developed an indigenous Shakti-based semiconductor chip for aerospace applications.
- The project supports India's self-reliance in space technologies. Backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the chip is designed for diverse uses like IoT and strategic needs.







# GS Paper 2-IR

## How will freeze on USAID affect the world?

Why is the U.S. administration halting foreign assistance and scaling back personnel in the United States Agency for International Development? What will happen if the agency stops funding development projects in many countries? Which are the key sectors it is involved in? What will be the fallout in the Global South?

### EXPLAINER

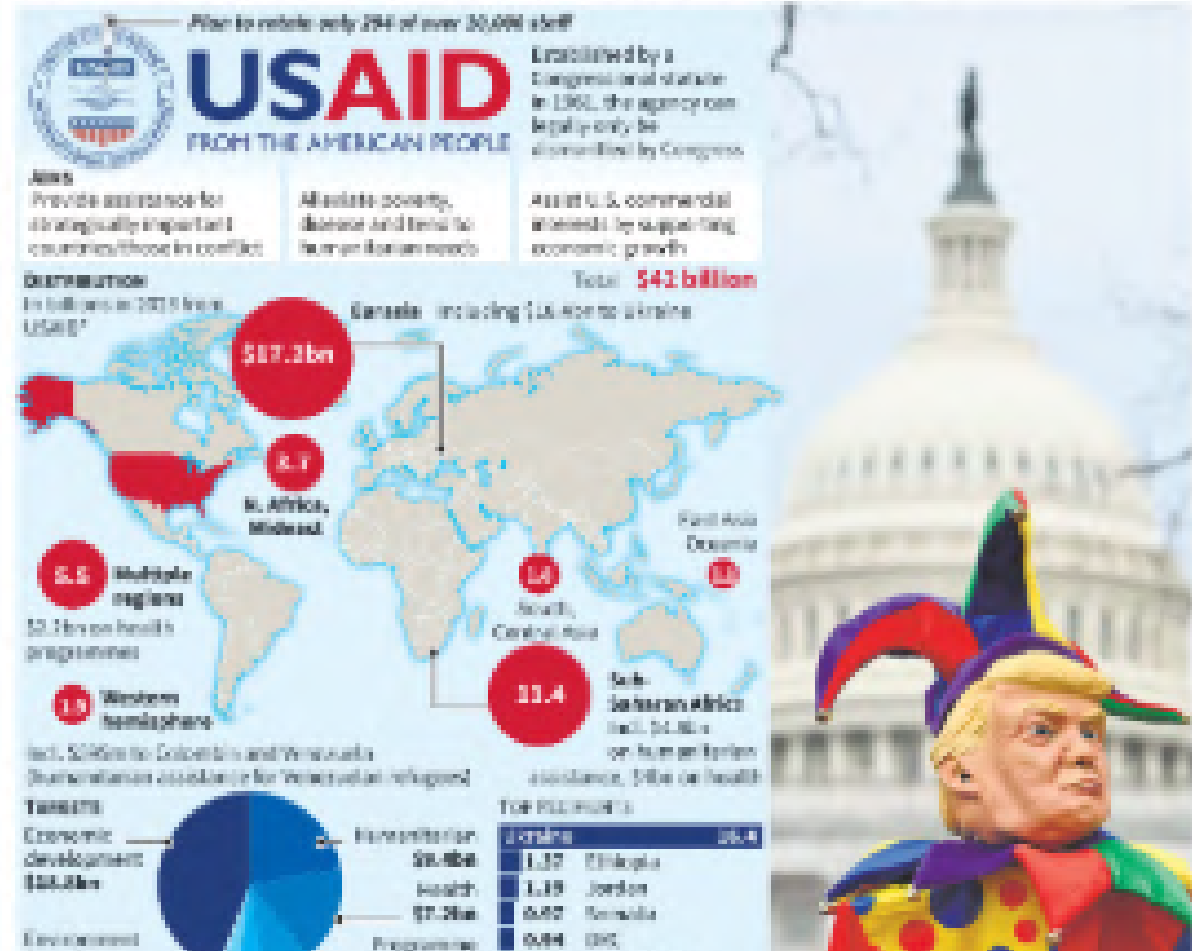
Ramya Kannan

**The story so far**  
 On January 20, his first day in office for a second term, U.S. President Donald Trump put in place a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance. The executive order read, "[There will be a] 90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance for assessment of programme effectiveness and consistency with united states' foreign policy." Consequently, personnel at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were stopped from disbursing assistance across the world. By late last week, the website of USAID also wiped content, leaving just a message that all USAID personnel (about 10,000 globally) would be placed on administrative leave, with a few exceptions for mission-critical personnel. Shortly before the plans to scale back personnel were to take effect, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order still February 14, but that does not extend to the freeze on funds disbursement.

**What is the USAID?**  
 The U.S. Agency for International Aid was set up as an independent agency, through an Act of Congress in 1961. It was an attempt to align all U.S. efforts to administer civilian foreign aid and development assistance. Its mission is "to promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world" while advancing the U.S.'s security and prosperity. In pursuing this agenda, it provides financial aid across various sectors in over 100 countries worldwide.

### Dismantling aid from the U.S.

The withdrawal of USAID, irrespective of a decision from parliament, might severely impact the fortunes of many nations, as a number of projects will have to be stopped, in the light of not being stopped through an executive decision by the Donald Trump administration.



### THE GIST

- The U.S. Agency for International Aid was set up as an independent agency through an Act of Congress in 1961. It was an attempt to align all U.S. efforts to administer civilian foreign aid and development assistance.
- In India, the quantum of funding has reduced over the years, with the government of India objecting to certain aspects of the conditions for the agreement for grants.
- While health remains the main sector where USAID has been involved in India, with a funding of \$98.2 million in 2024, it also has interests in economy, energy, water supply and sanitation, and environmental health.





## KEY POINTS

- President Trump froze U.S. foreign assistance for 90 days, halting USAID's operations globally. USAID, established in 1961, provides aid in sectors like health, education, and food security.
- The freeze could severely impact countries like Ukraine and Ethiopia, especially health programs. While funding for India has decreased, ongoing projects, particularly in healthcare, may still face challenges.





## GS Paper 2-Governance

# President's rule among options for Manipur: the provision and its history

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM,  
ANJISHNU DAS**

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

AFTER N BIREN SINGH resigned as Manipur's Chief Minister on Sunday, the BJP leadership is exploring its options. If the party fails to find a consensus CM candidate, the state may have to be put under President's rule — something the BJP wants to avoid, as it is against President's Rule in principle, sources told *The Indian Express*.

### Article 356 of the Constitution

The imposition of President's Rule under Article 356 effectively transfers all the functions of the state government to the Centre and the function of the state legislature to Parliament during the period when

it is in force.

The process begins if the President, on receiving a report from the Governor, is "satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution".

In this situation, the President will issue a 'Proclamation', which can remain in force for up to two months. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha must approve it through a resolution before this period expires for it to remain operative further. If approved, the proclamation of President's Rule can be extended to six months and Parliament can approve further six-month extensions for up to three years.

However, certain conditions must be met before a proclamation can be renewed by Parliament beyond a year since it was

first issued. Further extensions can only be approved if an Emergency has been declared in the country or that particular state, or if the Election Commission certifies that President's Rule is necessary due to difficulties in conducting elections.

### President's Rule over the years

Since 1950, when the Constitution first came into force, President's Rule has been imposed 134 times across 29 states and UTs. It has been imposed most frequently in Manipur and Uttar Pradesh, at 10 times each. However, they are not the ones to have spent the most time under central control.

That distinction is held by Jammu & Kashmir, followed by Punjab and Puducherry. Since 1950, Jammu & Kashmir

has spent over 12 years (4,668 days) under President's Rule and Punjab has been under central control for over 10 years (3,878 days) in the same period. In both states, this is largely owed to recurring spells of militant and separatist activity, and unstable law and order situations.

The most recent imposition of President's rule was in Puducherry after the Congress government in 2021 lost power failing a vote of confidence. Puducherry has spent over 7 years (2,739 days) under President's Rule in its history, largely because of governments frequently losing support in the Assembly thanks to infighting or defections.

### SC on President's Rule

The Supreme Court comprehensively

examined the power to impose President's Rule and its effect on Centre-state relations in *S R Bommai v Union of India* (1994). The matter came to court after several instances of the Centre imposing President's Rule and dismissing state governments.

A nine-judge Bench unanimously held that the President's power under Article 356 was subject to judicial review and courts could examine if the decision suffered from illegality, malafide, extraneous considerations, abuse of power, or fraud. While the SC acknowledged that the court could not weigh in on the correctness of the decision to impose President's Rule, it could examine if the material supplied to the President was relevant to the proclamation.

The court also created guidelines to protect the independence of state governments. Even after a valid proclamation, the

court held that only the state legislature would be suspended and that its other limbs would continue to function unless the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha approved it within two months. Without approval, the dismissed government would be revived.

Justice B P Jeevan Reddy was a part of the majority and stated in his opinion, "The fact that under the scheme of our Constitution, greater power is conferred upon the Centre vis-à-vis the states does not mean that states are mere appendages of the Centre".

He also noted that the courts should not adopt an approach that has the effect of whittling down the powers reserved to the states.

In the decades following the *Bommai* ruling, instances of President's Rule being imposed have decreased.

**EXPLAINED  
LAW**



## KEY POINTS

- After N. Biren Singh's resignation as Manipur's CM, the BJP may face President's Rule if no consensus candidate is found.
- Article 356 allows the President to take over state functions, with parliamentary approval. Since 1950, it's been imposed 134 times, mostly in Manipur and Uttar Pradesh. The Supreme Court's 1994 Bommai ruling confirmed judicial review of President's Rule, ensuring states' powers are protected.





## GS Paper 3-Economy

# GDKP: How a new plan to capture knowledge economy as additional GDP metric could pan out

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

IN A revival of an idea that had been shelved earlier in 2021, the government is looking to capture the knowledge economy as a metric to supplement the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and intends to develop a framework to comprehensively capture the impact of knowledge on economic and social life in the country.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) had a session on "Conceptual Framework of Gross

**MoSPI will form a technical committee to evaluate the proposal and provide guidance on measuring the knowledge economy**

contributions of knowledge-driven sectors, innovation, and intellectual assets to India's economic growth.

**Satellite Account**

At present, all expenditures

working with concerned ministries in compiling satellite accounts, namely tourism satellite accounts, culture satellite accounts, ocean and blue economy accounting, he said. It was discussed that a formulation to capture the knowledge economy is essential but not available. MoSPI will form a technical committee to evaluate the proposal and provide guidance on measuring the knowledge economy.

**NITI Proposal**

GDKP was discussed earlier

cation of knowledge parameters but it also requires tweaking of parameters which would reflect the real status of the outcome," it had said, adding that the overall

concept has a lot of subjectivity and requires further elaboration.

MoSPI had also noted that the concept paper suggested the GDKP would serve as

such an indicator supplementing the GDP measure, but fell short of specifying how it is going to supplement the GDP in measuring welfare. "Data for GDKP may not be readily avail-



## KEY POINTS

- The government is revisiting the idea of measuring the knowledge economy to supplement GDP through Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP). MoSPI is exploring a framework focusing on intellectual assets and innovation.
- A session chaired by Ajay Kumar Sood discussed creating a satellite account for the knowledge economy. The GDKP proposal, shelved in 2021 due to data challenges and unclear methodology, is now under review,



Statistics and Programme Implementation had a session on "Conceptual Knowledge Product (GDKP) Measurement" on February 10, chaired by Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood. (Photo: PIB)





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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



## GS Paper 1(Culture)

Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister greets everyone on Thaipooosam

Posted On: 11 FEB 2025 1:14PM by PIB Delhi



## KEY POINTS

- **Thaipusam is a Hindu festival honoring Lord Murugan, celebrated by Tamils in India and worldwide, symbolizing courage and spiritual growth.**







**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



# GS Paper 3(Economy)

Ministry of Commerce & Industry



India offers a transparent, predictable and comprehensive FDI Policy Framework for investments

Posted On: 11 FEB 2025 4:26PM by PIB Delhi



## KEY POINTS

- The Union Budget 2025 increases the insurance sector's FDI cap from 74% to 100% and announces the launch of an Investment Friendliness Index to promote competition among states.
- The government aims to improve the business environment through Jan Vishwas 2.0, further reforms in FDI policies, and a High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms. Efforts to attract FDI include removing barriers, streamlining processes, and enhancing the Ease of Doing Business.







**ALL INDIA RADIO**  
VOICE OF THE NATION



## GS Paper 2- IR/Governance

### Bangladesh Slips 2 Notches In Global Corruption Index







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## KEY POINTS

- The CPI is produced annually by Transparency International and Bangladesh has been included in the index since 2001.
- Denmark remained the least corrupt country with a score of 90, followed by Finland (88) and Singapore (84).
- South Sudan ranked as the most corrupt country in 2024 with a score of 8, followed by Somalia (9) and Venezuela (10).

