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## 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRSA MUNDA

### In News

- 15 November is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, commemorating the birth anniversary of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.
  - The Government designated this day as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in 2021.

### Birsa Munda

- He was born in 1874 in Ulihatu village, Jharkhand and was a spiritual reformer and freedom fighter. He is Known as **Dharti Aaba** ("Father of the Earth").
- He led the **Ulgulan** or "Great Tumult" (1899–1900) (also called **Munda Rebellion (1895–1900)**) which was a fierce movement for tribal self-rule and the restoration of Khuntkatti (community land rights).
- He united the Munda tribes against British land laws and feudal exploitation.
- He envisioned a moral, self-governed society free from colonial influence.
- He was captured and martyred in Ranchi Jail at the age of 25.

### Munda Rebellion (1895–1900)

- Also known as **Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)**, was a major tribal uprising led by Birsa Munda against British colonial rule, exploitative **outsiders (called Dikus)**, and the erosion of traditional tribal systems in the **Chhotanagpur region**.
- The rebellion is seen as a landmark event in tribal resistance and eventually prompted legislative changes such as the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (CNT Act) of 1908** to protect tribal land rights.

### Major Reasons for the Revolt

- Economic Exploitation & Land Alienation:** The imposition of British colonial land revenue policies dismantled the traditional Khuntkatti system of communal land ownership. Land was transferred to zamindars, moneylenders, contractors, and non-tribal settlers (Dikus), leading to widespread alienation of tribal land.
- Forced Labour (Beth Begari):** Tribals, especially Mundas, were subjected to compulsory, often unpaid, labor for the British and Dikus, further exacerbating their hardships and fueling resentment.

- Religious and Cultural Suppression:** Missionary activities, forced conversions, and the imposition of foreign laws threatened traditional religious practices.
- Political Marginalization:** The British administration took over the Mundas' traditional rights to land, justice, and self-administration, undermining their autonomy and traditional leadership.
- Identity Assertion & Leadership of Birsa Munda:** Birsa Munda's leadership gave a new sense of identity, spiritual revival, and mobilization, rallying the community to resist colonial exploitation and restore their rights.

### Governments Steps

- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas honors the legacy of **Birsa Munda and the contributions of Scheduled Tribes**, aiming to integrate their struggles and heritage into India's national consciousness.
- Through initiatives like the Tribal Pride Year and 11 dedicated museums, the government reinforces the vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat—a united nation celebrating all communities.
  - These museums, funded under the Support to Tribal Research Institutes scheme, aim to document and disseminate tribal histories often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

Source :PIB

## INDIA NOTIFIES DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION RULES, 2025

### Context

- The Government of India has notified the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025, marking the full operationalisation of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**.

### Key Highlights of the Rule

- Phased Implementation:** The DPDP Rules introduce an 18-month phased compliance timeline, allowing organisations especially startups and smaller firms time to adapt.
  - Consent Managers, responsible for helping individuals manage data permissions, must be Indian companies, ensuring domestic jurisdiction and accountability.
- Clear Protocols for Personal Data Breach Notifications:** In the event of a personal data

breach, Data Fiduciaries must promptly inform affected individuals regarding the nature of the breach, possible consequences & steps taken to mitigate harm.

- **Safeguards for Children and Persons with Disabilities:** Verifiable consent is mandatory before processing children's personal data, with limited exemptions for essential sectors like education, healthcare, and real-time safety.
- **Digital-First Data Protection Board (DPB):** The DPB will function as a fully digital adjudicatory body, enabling online filing, tracking, and resolution of complaints.
  - ♦ A dedicated digital platform and mobile app will increase transparency and ease of access.
- **Transparency and Accountability Measures:** Data Fiduciaries must display clear contact details (e.g., a designated officer or Data Protection Officer) for individuals to raise concerns.

#### Timeline of the DPDP Act, 2023

- **2011:** Group of experts on digital privacy law formed; report submitted in 2012.
- **2017:** IT ministry forms panel; report submitted in 2018.
  - ♦ The Supreme Court of India recognizes the **right to privacy as a fundamental right** in **Justice KS Puttaswamy vs GOI**.
  - ♦ **Justice BN Srikrishna Committee** is formed to draft data protection laws.
- **2018-2021:** Multiple drafts of the **Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill** are introduced and revised, with the **Joint Parliamentary Committee** submitting a report in December 2021.
- **2022:** Bill withdrawn, fresh consultations proposed.
- **2023:** Digital Personal Data Protection Bill tabled, gets Parliament nod; to ensure data protection through rights-based governance.
- **2025:** Government introduces draft rules in January, releases final rules in November, 2025.

#### Key Provisions of the DPDP Act, 2023

- **Consent-Based Data Processing:** Organizations need to obtain clear and informed consent from users before collecting their personal data.
- **Data Minimization:** Only necessary data should be collected, and it needs to be used solely for the stated purpose.

- **Right to Erasure:** Users can request deletion of their data, especially after prolonged inactivity.
- **Data Retention Limits:** Companies need to delete user data after three years of inactivity, with a 48-hour notice to the user.
- **Cross-Border Data Transfer:** The Act allows data transfers to certain countries, to be notified by the government.
- **Penalties:** Non-compliance can attract fines up to ₹250 crore, depending on the severity of the breach.

#### Related Controversies & Concerns

- **Government Exemptions and Surveillance Powers:** The rules grant broad exemptions to government agencies, allowing them to bypass consent requirements for reasons such as national security or public order.
- **Impact on RTI and Transparency:** The amendment to the RTI Act restricts access to personal data of public officials, undermining accountability and limiting public oversight.
- **Compliance Burden on Businesses:** The rules impose strict obligations on data fiduciaries, including mandatory data audits, breach notifications, and consent management systems.
  - ♦ OTT platforms and entertainment apps, especially those targeting children, face increased costs due to requirements like parental consent and restrictions on behavioral tracking.
- **Cross-Border Data Transfer Uncertainty:** The rules **allow data transfers to 'trusted' countries**, but the criteria for trustworthiness are not defined.
  - ♦ It could affect global tech firms and cloud service providers operating in India.

Source: TH

## INDIA, CANADA REVIVE TIES WITH CRITICAL MINERALS, AEROSPACE PARTNERSHIPS

#### In News

- India and Canada held the 7th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) recently.

#### About

- India and Canada reaffirmed mutual respect and forward-looking cooperation, agreeing to deepen



strategic collaboration in **critical minerals, clean energy, aerospace, and dual-use technologies.**

- They emphasized resilient, diversified supply chains—especially in **agriculture**—and committed to a transparent investment climate.
- Both sides highlighted the **importance of people-to-people ties** and pledged continued **ministerial engagement** with trade and investment stakeholders in early 2026.

### India-Canada Relations

#### Overview:

- India-Canada ties are underpinned by shared values of democracy, cultural diversity, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties.
- Both sides have dialogue mechanisms such as Ministerial level Strategic, Trade and Energy dialogues; Foreign Office Consultations; Joint Committee Meeting on Environment and other sector specific joint working groups (JWG).

#### Economic Relations:

- In 2024, India-Canada bilateral trade in goods totaled CAD 13.32 billion, with India exporting CAD 8.02 billion and importing CAD 5.30 billion.
- Bilateral services trade in 2024 stood at CAD 18.6 billion, with India's exports at CAD 3.5 billion and imports at CAD 15.1 billion.

#### Security Cooperation:

- India and Canada engage on counter-terrorism through the Joint Working Group (JWG) established in 1997, with cooperation further strengthened by the 2018 Framework for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

#### Civil Nuclear Cooperation:

- India and Canada signed a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) in June 2010, which came into force in September 2013, enabling peaceful nuclear collaboration.
- Further cooperation in science, technology, and innovation was formalized through an MoU during Prime Minister Trudeau's visit in February 2018.

#### Energy Cooperation:

- India and Canada held a Ministerial-level Energy Dialogue in September 2016, which was expanded in February 2018 to include electricity, energy efficiency, and renewables.

- Further engagement occurred when India's Petroleum Secretary participated in the World Petroleum Congress 2023 in Calgary.

#### Space:

- India and Canada have built a longstanding space partnership through MoUs signed between ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency in 1996, 2003, and 2015, focusing on satellite tracking, space astronomy, and peaceful space technology cooperation.
- ANTRIX, ISRO's commercial arm, has launched several Canadian nanosatellites, including Canada's first low-Earth orbit satellite aboard ISRO's 100th PSLV mission in January 2018.

#### Source :ET

## STEM CELL THERAPY

#### In News

- Researchers at Osaka Metropolitan University have developed a new technique to heal spinal fractures using **adipose-derived stem cells (ADSCs).**

#### About

- Osteoporosis affects 15 million people in Japan and is rising globally with ageing populations.
- Vertebral compression fractures are the most common osteoporosis-related injuries.
- Current treatments (vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty, implants) have limitations: invasive, costly, risk of complications or re-fracture.

#### Stem cells

- Stem cells are undifferentiated biological cells capable of both self-renewal and differentiation into specialized cell types. They form the foundation of regenerative medicine and hold potential for treating degenerative, genetic, and injury-related diseases.

#### Types of Stem Cells

- **Embryonic Stem Cells (ESCs):**
  - ♦ Pluripotent in nature; can form all cell types of the body.
  - ♦ Derived from early-stage embryos.
  - ♦ Pose ethical concerns due to their origin, leading to strict regulatory controls.

### • Adult (Somatic) Stem Cells:

- ♦ Multipotent, with limited capacity to differentiate compared to ESCs.
- ♦ Found in bone marrow, skin, adipose tissue, and other organs.
- ♦ Primarily responsible for maintaining and repairing tissue in which they are found.

### • Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs):

- ♦ Created by reprogramming adult cells (like skin cells) to behave like pluripotent stem cells.
- ♦ Have similar properties to ESCs but without ethical issues.
- ♦ Useful in disease modeling, drug testing, and regenerative research.

### • Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSCs):

- A subset of adult stem cells found in bone marrow, adipose tissue, and the umbilical cord.
- Can differentiate into bone, cartilage, and fat cells.
- Widely studied for their role in bone and tissue regeneration.

### Adipose-Derived Stem Cells (ADSCs)

- Adipose-derived stem cells are multipotent cells extracted from body fat. They are easy to harvest, even in elderly patients, and present a less invasive alternative to bone marrow stem cells.
- Because of their high proliferation rate, ADSCs show strong potential for applications in bone, cartilage, and wound healing therapies.

### Benefits of ADSC-Based Therapy

- Minimally invasive, as fat extraction is safer than bone marrow procedures.
- Effective even in older individuals with declining tissue quality.
- Promotes natural healing by activating repair-related genes.
- Reduces the need for synthetic implants or metallic hardware.
- Offers potential long-term cost savings by reducing repeat surgical interventions.

### Concerns and Challenges

- Most studies are still at the animal-trial stage and human clinical trials are still ongoing.
- Long-term safety, stability, and risk of uncontrolled cell growth remain uncertain.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

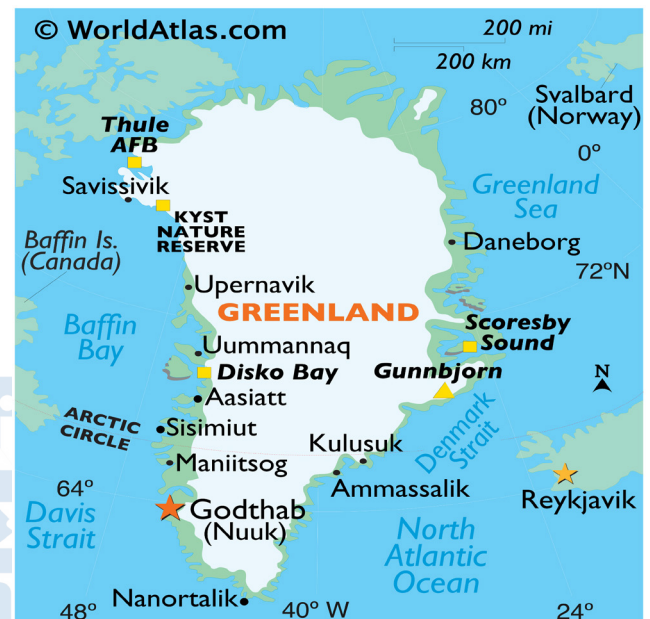
### GREENLAND

#### In News

- Greenland's Parliament has adopted legislation limiting foreigners' right to own property on the vast Arctic island.

#### About Greenland (Capital: Nuuk)

- Greenland is the **world's largest island**, lying in the North Atlantic Ocean.



- It remains part of the Kingdom of Denmark, the island's home-rule government is responsible for most domestic affairs. It is **not a member of the European Union**.
- It is located between the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and Greenland shares its **maritime borders with Canada, Iceland and Norway**.
- It is noted for its vast tundra and immense glaciers.
- Greenland Ice Sheet, the single ice sheet or glacier covering about **80 percent of the island of Greenland** and the largest ice mass in the Northern Hemisphere, globally second in size to only the ice mass that covers Antarctica.

Source: TH

### STRAIT OF HORMUZ

#### In News

- Iranian forces recently seized a Marshall Islands flagged oil tanker as it passed through the **Strait of Hormuz**, the world's most sensitive energy chokepoint.

### About Strait of Hormuz

- **Geography:** It is a narrow strait (33 km wide) connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea.
  - ♦ Iran lies to the north; Oman (Musandam Peninsula) to the south.
- **Strategic Importance:** It is a critical chokepoint in global oil transit, with nearly one-fifth of the world's petroleum passing through it daily.

Source: TH

## LAKE TURKANA

### Context

- Researchers from Syracuse University and the University of Auckland revealed that long-term climate-driven declines in Lake Turkana's water levels have increased earthquake and volcanic activity in the East African Rift System.

### Lake Turkana

- It lies mainly in northern Kenya, with its northern end stretching into Ethiopia.
- It is the most saline lake in East Africa and the **largest desert lake in the world**, surrounded by an arid, seemingly extraterrestrial landscape that is often devoid of life.
- It is **Africa's fourth largest lake**, fondly called the Jade Sea because of its breathtaking color.

Source: DTE

## GCC APPROVED "ONE-STOP" TRAVEL SYSTEM

### In News

- In a major step toward deeper regional integration, the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** has approved a "one-stop" travel system that will simplify movement across member nations.
  - ♦ The one-stop travel system eliminates redundant travel procedures and foster stronger cooperation between member states.

### About Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- **Overview:** The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic grouping of six Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.
- **Established:** 1981 (Riyadh)

- **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
- **Economic significance:** The GCC accounts for ~30% of global oil reserves and around 20% of global gas reserves.

Source: TOI

## OPERATION SOUTHERN SPEAR

### Context

- The United States has launched Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR in Latin America, aimed at "removing narco-terrorists."

### About the Operation

- **SOUTHCOM** stands for the **U.S. Southern Command**, whose area of responsibility includes **31 countries across South America, Central America and the Caribbean**.
- According to the U.S., the mission aims to:
  - ♦ Defend the U.S. homeland
  - ♦ Remove narco-terrorist threats from the Western Hemisphere
  - ♦ Prevent drug flows that the U.S. says are harming its population.

Source: TH

## COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

### In News

- The **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** officially welcomed Bangladesh as its fifth member state during the **8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting**.

### About

- **Overview:** The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation.
- **Objective:** To promote regional security by jointly addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern.
- **Members:** India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius & Bangladesh
  - ♦ Seychelles is an observer nation.

- **Pillars of Cooperation:** Maritime security, counterterrorism, combating transnational organised crime, cyber security & humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Source: PIB

## GI TAG TO AMBAJI MARBLE

### In News

- The Ambaji Marble has received a **Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag)** by the Union government.
  - ♦ The certificate is being given by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Union government.

### Ambaji Marble

- Ambaji's marble mines date back **1,200–1,500 years**, around the time the **Dilwara Jain Temple in Mount Abu was constructed**.
- It is known for its **milky white colour**, durability, high calcium content and natural beauty. It is found in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat.
- It is believed to have been used in the construction of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya**.
- The marble has also been used in temple construction abroad, including in Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, New Zealand and England.

### Importance of getting GI tag

- A GI tag not only safeguards the product's identity and authenticity but also enhances its market value and export potential.
- The GI tag will help Ambaji marble establish a distinct brand identity in global markets, boosting demand in India and abroad and giving a fillip to local industries and artisans.

Source :IE

## ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF)

### Context

- Recently, the Government of India launched the **Electronics Development Fund (EDF)** aimed at catalyzing innovation, research, and entrepreneurship in the electronics and IT sectors.
  - ♦ India's electronics market is projected to reach \$300 billion by FY26.

### About Electronics Development Fund (EDF)

- **Overview:** It was **launched in 2016** under the MeitY as a key component of the **Digital India and Make in India missions**.

### What are Daughter Funds?

- These are professionally managed venture capital funds that receive investment from the EDF to support startups and innovation in electronics and IT.

- **Fund of Funds Model:** EDF invests in **Daughter Funds**, which then invest in startups and innovation-driven enterprises, and it **does not directly invest in startups**.
- **Fund Manager:** The fund is **managed by** CANBANK Venture Capital Fund Ltd. (CVCFL).

### Strategic Importance

- Reducing India's dependence on imported electronics
- Encouraging domestic innovation in critical technologies like semiconductors, IoT, AI, and robotics
- Positioning India as a global hub for electronics design and manufacturing

Source: PIB

- ♦ Saalumarada Thimmakka

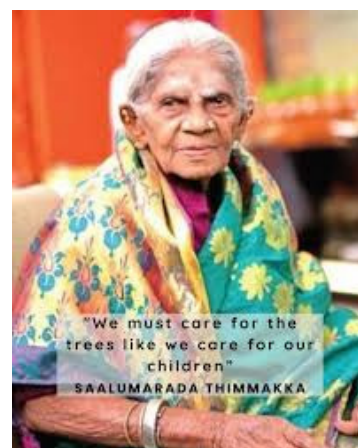
### SYLLABUS: GS4/ ETHICS; ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

### In News

- India mourns the passing of **Padma Shri awardee Saalumarada Thimmakka**, one of the country's most respected environmentalists and a global symbol of grassroots afforestation.

### About

- Born in Gubbi taluk, Tumakuru district, and later settled in Hulikal, Thimmakka lived a life shaped by poverty and personal sorrow.



- Beginning in the 1950s, she and her husband Bikkala Chikkayya carried water daily for miles, protected the saplings from grazing cattle using thorny branches, and planted mostly in monsoon seasons to ensure the trees' survival.
- Their persistent efforts **resulted in a green corridor** that provides shade, supports birdlife, and regulates the microclimate, serving as a living example of community-led afforestation.
- Her legacy also influenced **Karnataka's afforestation policies and inspired numerous tree-planting movements across India**. The 385 trees she planted were saved from being cut down during a road widening project in 2019 after her appeal to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

**Source: TH**

