

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

### Context

- **National Girl Child Day** is celebrated annually on **January 24**.

### About

- National Girl Child Day has been observed annually on **January 24 since 2008**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- It promotes awareness of girls' rights, empowerment, and equal opportunities in India.

### Challenges Faced by India in ensuring Girls' Rights

- **Cultural Preference for Sons:** Sons were preferred for carrying on the family name, performing religious rites, and providing financial support in old age.
  - ♦ This led to a neglect of daughters, who were seen as a financial burden due to dowry practices.
- **Gender Discrimination:** Girls have historically faced neglect in terms of nutrition, education, and healthcare, which contributed to higher mortality rates among females.
- **Female Infanticide:** In some regions, female infants were either abandoned or killed due to their perceived lower value.
- **Sex-Selective Abortion:** Advances in medical technology, such as ultrasound, enabled the practice of sex-selective abortion, leading to a disproportionate number of male births.
- **Economic Factors:** In agrarian societies, the labor of sons was seen as more valuable for agricultural work, further reinforcing the preference for male children.
- **Lack of Access to Education:** Limited access to quality education, especially in rural areas, affecting girls' future opportunities.
- **Safety and Security:** High rates of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, and trafficking.
- **Child Marriage:** Prevalence of child marriage, particularly in rural areas, which affects women's health, education, and autonomy.
- **Social Norms and Expectations:** Rigid societal roles that limit women's freedom and opportunities for self-expression and growth.

### Government Initiatives



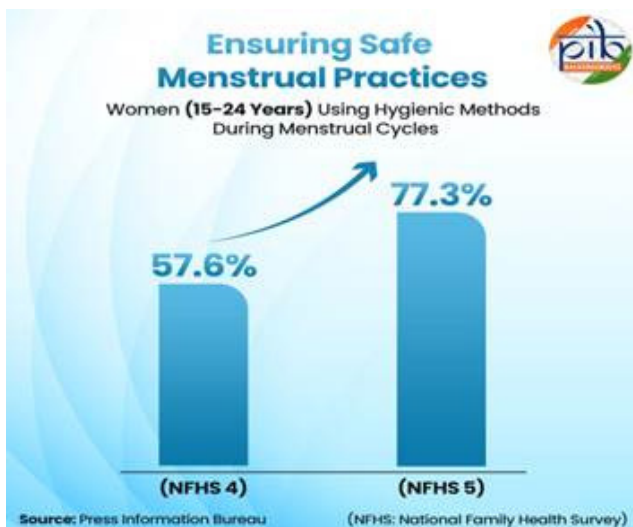


### Achievements

- **Improved Sex Ratio:** Significant progress has been made through sustained efforts, particularly under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, with the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) rising from around 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 at the national level.
- **Progress in School Education for the Girl Child:** For the period 2024-2025, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls at the secondary level has reached 80.2%, as per UDISE report.
  - ♦ 97.5 per cent of schools nationwide are equipped with girls' toilet facilities.



- **Prevention of Child Marriage:** As of January 2026, a total of 2,153 child marriages have been prevented, and 60,262 Child Marriage Prohibition Officers have been appointed across the country.
- **Menstruation Care:**



- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY):** By 2024, more than 4.2 crore accounts had been opened nationwide, indicating strong public participation and confidence in the scheme.

### Way Ahead

- **Community Awareness and Education:** Campaigns like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao should continue to raise awareness about the value of the girl child and the harmful effects of gender discrimination.
- **Improving Women's Health and Access to Healthcare:** Providing better healthcare access for women and girls, especially in rural areas, can help reduce female mortality rates.
- **Changing Social Norms and Attitudes:** Promoting gender-sensitive education, involving men in gender equality discussions, and tackling the dowry system can help break the traditional biases against girls.
- **Robust Data Collection and Research:** Continuous monitoring and research into the reasons behind sex ratio imbalances can help tailor future interventions and track the success of existing initiatives.

Source: PIB

## 71 FUGITIVES LOCATED ABROAD IN 2024-25

### Context

- According to the 2024-25 annual report of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) located **71 people wanted by India in foreign countries, the highest in the last 12 years.**

### About

- Fugitives are individuals who are **accused or convicted of a crime** and **deliberately evade the legal process** by fleeing from the jurisdiction of the country where the offence was committed.
- They escape to avoid arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment by law enforcement authorities and their return requires a **legally recognised international mechanism**, known as **extradition**.

### What is Extradition?

- Extradition is the **recognised international mechanism** for the timely return of fugitives from foreign countries.
- It is defined as the **"delivery of an accused or convicted individual** from the country he is found in, to another country that requests his extradition".
- The process is **governed by treaties and agreements** which adopt internationally

recognised legal principles for the surrender of fugitives.

#### • **Extradition Requests:**

- ♦ Over the last five years, India has sent **137 extradition requests** to foreign countries, of which most were accepted but remain pending.
- ♦ **Letters Rogatory continue** to face significant delays. As of 2025, **533 Letters Rogatory** were pending with foreign countries.

#### **Institutional Framework Governing Extradition**

- **The Central Bureau of Investigation**, acting as India's Interpol National Central Bureau, issues Interpol notices, and engages with foreign police agencies to locate fugitives.
- **The Ministry of External Affairs** manages diplomatic engagement related to extradition and mutual legal assistance.
  - ♦ **India has extradition treaties** with around **48 countries** and extradition arrangements with **12 countries**.
- **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty:** It is a mechanism whereby **countries cooperate** with one another in order to provide and obtain formal assistance in prevention, suppression, investigation and **prosecution of crime**.
  - ♦ **Aim:** To ensure that the **criminals do not escape or sabotage** the due process of law for want of evidence available in different countries.
- **Letters Rogatory (LRs):** These are **formal requests** from an Indian court to a foreign court for judicial assistance such as evidence collection, serving summons.
  - ♦ It is done through diplomatic channels and is usually slower than MLAT.

#### **Legal Architecture Supporting Extradition**

- **Extradition in India** is governed by the **Extradition Act, 1962**, which provides the legal basis for surrendering or receiving fugitives under treaties or executive arrangements.
- India is also a party to **multilateral conventions** such as;
  - ♦ **United Nations Convention against Corruption** and
  - ♦ **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**.
- **The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA):** The law was enacted to deter economic

offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

- ♦ It is a law whereby the **Enforcement Directorate** is mandated to attach the properties of the fugitive economic offenders who have escaped from India warranting arrest and provide for the confiscation of their properties to the Central Government.

#### **Structural Challenges in Extradition**

- **Judicial Scrutiny in Foreign Jurisdictions:** Foreign courts independently examine extradition requests, **prison conditions and human rights safeguards** in the requesting country.
  - ♦ These assessments frequently prolong or obstruct extradition proceedings involving Indian requests.
- **Asylum and Political Protection Claims:** Many fugitives claim political persecution or seek asylum in host countries, transforming criminal proceedings into complex legal and humanitarian disputes.
- **Absence of Treaties with Certain Jurisdictions:** Several fugitives reside in countries with which India does not have extradition treaties, limiting India's ability to secure their return through legal compulsion.
- **Outdated Treaty Structures:** Older treaties follow a restrictive list system, which excludes modern crimes such as cybercrime and complex financial fraud.

#### **Governance and Security Implications**

- **Impact on Rule of Law:** Low extradition outcomes weaken deterrence against economic and transnational crimes and encourage offenders to evade domestic legal processes by fleeing abroad.
- **Internal Security and Financial Integrity:** Delayed extradition hampers India's efforts to combat money laundering, corruption, and organized crime, while also undermining public confidence in the criminal justice system.

#### **Way Ahead**

- India needs to **expand its extradition treaty network**, especially with major financial centres, and pursue sustained **diplomatic engagement to expedite pending cases**.
- **Improving prison infrastructure**, ensuring **timely trials**, and reinforcing **procedural**

**safeguards** are needed to address concerns raised by foreign courts and strengthen India's extradition credibility.

Source: TH

## ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT (ODOP)

### Context

- The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative has completed **8 years of transformative impact** by promoting traditional industries.

### About

- The ODOP initiative, spearheaded by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, aims to unlock each district's unique economic potential, drive balanced regional growth, and equip local artisans to compete in national and global markets.
- Product Selection Framework under ODOP:** Products are selected by States and Union Territories based on the existing ecosystem on the ground and the final list is communicated to the DPIIT.
- ODOP was first launched in **2018** with **Moradabad's brassware** in Uttar Pradesh and has since expanded nationwide.
- The ODOP has so far identified **1243 products** from **775 districts** across the country encompassing various sectors such as textiles, agriculture, food processing, handicrafts and more



### Government Initiatives for Promotion of ODOP

- Through e-commerce initiatives like the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)-ODOP Bazaar**, India's finest ODOP products are being showcased to wider markets, empowering artisans and expanding market access.
- PM Ekta Malls (Unity Malls)** are envisaged as dedicated retail and display hubs **for promoting and selling ODOP, GI and handicraft products.**



### Global Outreach of ODOP:

- 80+ Indian Missions** have promoted products abroad through exhibitions, showcases, ODOP walls or diplomatic gifting.
- In order to popularize ODOP products internationally, they were included as part of **gifting during G-20 meetings**.
- Three international stores are selling ODOP products (02 in **Singapore**- in Mustafa Centre and in Kashmir Heritage and One in **Kuwait-Hakimi Centre**) to strengthen sustained overseas market presence.
- Under the District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative**, identification of the products and services with export potential in all the districts of the country is done in consultation with all stakeholders including the States/UTs.

### Significance of the Scheme

- Balanced Regional Development:** The ODOP initiative promotes equitable economic growth by decentralising industrial activity and leveraging district-specific strengths.
- Empowerment of Artisans:** By providing access to finance, skill development, technology, and market linkages, ODOP empowers local artisans and craftsmen enabling them to scale production and improve incomes.
- Preservation of Heritage:** The initiative supports traditional crafts, indigenous knowledge systems, and cultural industries, ensuring the preservation of India's rich artisanal heritage.
- Economic Impact:** ODOP strengthens local value chains, encourages formalisation, and contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth at the grassroots level.
- Global Recognition:** District-specific products gain global visibility, positioning India as a hub of quality, diversity, and craftsmanship.

### Concluding remarks

- The One District One Product initiative has converted local skills into engines of economic

growth, national recognition, and global opportunity.

- It now represents not just district-specific products, but the millions of aspirations finding recognition far beyond their villages.

Source: PIB

## NEWS IN SHORT

### SOWMYANARAYANA PERUMAL TEMPLE

#### Context

- PM Modi met priests from the **Sowmyanarayana Perumal Temple**.

#### About

- **Location:** Thirukoshtiyur, Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Religious Significance:** The temple is one of the **108 Divya Desams**, the most sacred **Vaishnavite shrines** dedicated to **Lord Vishnu**.
  - ♦ It holds a revered position in the history of **Vaishnavism**.
- **Historical Significance:** This is the sacred place where **Shri Ramanujam** revealed the Naraayana Mantra to the public, contrary to his guru's instructions, to help people achieve salvation.

#### Architectural Features

- The temple is built in the **Chola architectural style**.
- It has a unique **three-tier sanctum**, representing different postures of Lord Vishnu;
  - ♦ **Ground level:** Lord Krishna in a dancing form.
  - ♦ **First level:** Vishnu in Sayana (reclining) posture.
  - ♦ **Top level:** Vishnu in standing posture.
- The shrine is crowned by the **rare Ashtanga Vimana**. Only a few Vishnu temples in India possess this distinctive vimana.

Source: PIB

### GRANTH KUTIR

#### Context

- The President of India inaugurated **Granth Kutir**.

#### About

- **Granth Kutir** is a library at the **Rashtrapati Bhawan** which has the collection of **around 2,300**

**books** and **about 50 manuscripts** in **11 Indian classical languages**: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.

- The collection reflects India's **cultural, philosophical, literary, and intellectual heritage**.
- Subjects include **epics, philosophy, linguistics, history, governance, science, devotional literature**, and the **Constitution of India** in classical languages.
- Several manuscripts are **handwritten** on traditional materials such as **palm leaf, paper, bark, and cloth**.
- Granth Kutir supports the vision of the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, which aims to **preserve, digitise, and disseminate India's manuscript heritage**, blending tradition with modern technology.

#### Institutional Support

- It is developed through collaboration with **central and state governments, universities, research institutions, cultural organisations**, and individual contributors.
- Supported by the **Ministry of Education** and **Ministry of Culture**.
- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (**IGNCA**) provides expertise in manuscript conservation, documentation, management, and display.

Source: PIB

### NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

#### Context

- The President of India, paid tribute to **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** on **his birth anniversary**, observed as **Parakram Diwas**.

#### About Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

- He was a prominent Indian **nationalist and leader** who played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement.
- He was the **first person** to call Mahatma Gandhi "**Father of the Nation**", in his address from Singapore.
- **Indian National Congress:**
  - ♦ He was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress twice, in **1938 and 1939**.
  - ♦ Ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi led to his resignation and the formation of the **Forward Bloc**, a political faction committed to radical change.



- **Azad Hind Radio 1942:** He established **Azad Hind Radio in Germany** to reach out to Indians and spread his vision of independence.
  - ♦ He coined several patriotic slogans, including “Jai Hind,” “Dilli Chalo” (On to Delhi), and “Give me blood, and I will give you freedom”.
- **Formation of Indian National Army (INA):** In 1942, he formed the INA with the help of Japanese forces.
  - ♦ The INA was an armed force aimed at securing India’s independence through military action against British rule.
- **Azad Hind Government:** In 1943, Subhash Chandra Bose renamed the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as “Shaheed” (Martyr) and “Swaraj” (Self-Rule) during his leadership of the Azad Hind Government.
  - ♦ This was a symbolic gesture of asserting India’s sovereignty against British rule.
  - ♦ On October 21, 1943, Netaji declared the **establishment of the Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind Sarkar)**.
- Subhash Chandra Bose reportedly passed away in a plane crash in Taiwan in 1945.
- **Legacy:** Ross Island (an island of the Andaman Islands) was renamed **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep** in 2018 in his honour.
  - ♦ The **Kranti Mandir Museum** at the Red Fort preserves key historical material related to Netaji Bose and the Indian National Army.
  - ♦ In 2022, a **grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** was unveiled by the Prime Minister near **India Gate, New Delhi**.

Source: PIB

## VANDE MATARAM AND THE DEBATE ON NATIONAL HONOUR

### Context

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is examining whether Vande Mataram should be governed by formal protocols and attract penalties for disrespect, on lines similar to the national anthem Jana Gana Mana.

### About

- **The Constituent Assembly** accorded Vande Mataram the status of the **national song**, with

equal honour to the national anthem, but **not identical legal treatment**.

- **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971:** Provides statutory protection to the **National Flag and the National Anthem**.
  - ♦ **No penal provision** exists for disrespect to Vande Mataram under the Act.

### Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 51A(a) Fundamental Duties:** Mandates every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- **Absence of Explicit Constitutional Protection:** Unlike the national anthem, Vande Mataram is not explicitly protected by any constitutional provision.
  - ♦ Its status flows from **Constituent Assembly resolutions**, not from enforceable constitutional text.

### Vande Mataram

- Vande Mataram was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel **Anandamath in 1882**.
  - ♦ Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the 1769–73 **Bengal famine** and the **Sanyasi Rebellion**.
- First sung by **Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Indian National Congress session** gave it national exposure.
- During the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.
  - ♦ Vande Mataram, as a political slogan, was first used on **7 August 1905**.
- **National Song:** On 24 January 1950, the first two stanzas were adopted as India’s National Song.

Source: IE

## DONBAS

### Context

- As the **United States, Russia and Ukraine met in Abu Dhabi** for peace talks, Russia and Ukraine remain sharply divided over the future of **Donetsk**.

### Donetsk

- Donetsk is one of four Ukrainian regions Russia claimed to **annex in 2022** after disputed referendums.

- Ukraine, Western countries, and most of the world recognise **Donetsk as part of Ukraine**.
- Russia claims Donetsk as part of its “**historical lands**.”



### Donbas

- Collectively known as the **Donbas**, the two coal-rich eastern Ukrainian regions of **Donetsk and Luhansk** used to be Ukraine's **industrial heartland**.
- The region is well connected to the **Sea of Azov by rivers** and man-made canals. It is also known for its **fertile agricultural ground** and rich mineral deposits.
- Russian troops control almost all of the Luhansk region, they've only managed to seize 70% of Donetsk.
- Legality:** Under Ukraine's constitution, territorial changes must be settled by a referendum that can be called if it has the signatures of 3 million eligible Ukrainian voters in at least two-thirds of Ukraine's regions.

Source: IE

## FRANZ EDELMAN AWARD

### Context

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) is among the six finalists for the **prestigious 2026 Franz Edelman Award for its Anna Chakra initiative**.

### Anna Chakra initiative

- Anna Chakra** is an **operations research (O.R.)** based decision support solution that **strengthens India's Public Distribution System** by optimizing state-specific logistics.

- It is developed in partnership with the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India and the IIT, Delhi**.
- It was launched in **2025** to strengthen the **movement of food grains across India**. Its national deployment has generated:
  - Estimated annual savings of **INR 250 crore**.
  - A **35% reduction in emissions**, supporting India's climate commitments.
  - Efficiency gains that benefit more than **81 Crore PDS beneficiaries**, including the most vulnerable populations.

### Franz Edelman Award

- It is the world's **most prestigious award in the field of Operations Research (OR) and advanced analytics**.
- It is widely known as the “**Nobel Prize of Operations Research and Analytics**.”
- Instituted by: INFORMS** (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences) a global professional body for analytics and OR.
- It is named after **Franz Edelman**, a pioneer in management science and operations research.
- The award recognizes the real-world, high-impact applications of operations research, advanced analytics, mathematical modeling and data-driven decision-making.

Source: PIB

## UTTAR PRADESH STATEHOOD DAY

### Context

- The Prime Minister extended greetings to the **people of Uttar Pradesh** on the occasion of the **state's Establishment Day**.

### About

- During the colonial period the region was called the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh**.
- The name was shortened to the **United Provinces in 1935**.
- On January 24, 1950** the United Provinces was renamed as **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The State is bound by Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the north, Haryana in the west, Madhya Pradesh in the South and Bihar in the east.
- It has an international border with **Nepal**.
- It is the **most populous and 4th largest state of India**.



- It is recognized as the **“Sugar Bowl of India”** because it is the country’s **largest producer of sugarcane**.
- Major rivers:** Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gomti, Rapti, Son, Betwa, Ken.

Source: PIB

## SEBI FLAGS INSIDER TRADING LAPSES IN YES BANK SHARE SALE

### Context

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has accused executives from PwC and EY, among others, of breaching insider trading rules involving a 2022 share sale by Yes Bank.

### What is Insider Trading?

- Insider trading refers to the **practice of purchasing or selling a publicly-traded company’s securities** while in possession of material information that is not yet public information.
- Material information** refers to any and all information that may result in a substantial impact on the decision of an investor regarding whether to buy or sell the security.
- It is prohibited under the **SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015**.

### Impact of Insider Trading

- Financial Markets:**
  - Distorts fair price discovery mechanism.
  - Creates an uneven playing field between informed insiders and ordinary investors.
- Impact on Investors:**
  - Small and retail investors suffer losses due to information asymmetry.
  - Reduces confidence in the integrity of capital markets.

Source: TH

## PRAKASH GANGA TABLEAU

### Context

- The Ministry of Power will showcase a tableau titled **“Prakash Ganga: Powering an Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat”** at the Republic Day Parade of 2026.

### About

- The tableau traces India’s journey from achieving **universal electricity access** to emerging as a **global clean energy player**.
- The theme **Prakash Ganga** - meaning **“River of Light”** - symbolises the seamless and continuous flow of power across the interconnected national grid.

### Key features of the Tableau

- A **robotic Smart Meter model**, accompanied by **wind turbine generators**, reflecting the integration of **digital technologies, automation, and smart solutions** for efficient power management.
- The central section depicts the **“Smart Power, Smarter Home”** concept with **rooftop solar installations**.
- A **towering transmission structure** represents **last-mile connectivity**, while an **EV charging station** and **electric scooter** demonstrate the power sector’s role in enabling clean mobility and a sustainable transport ecosystem.



Source: PIB