

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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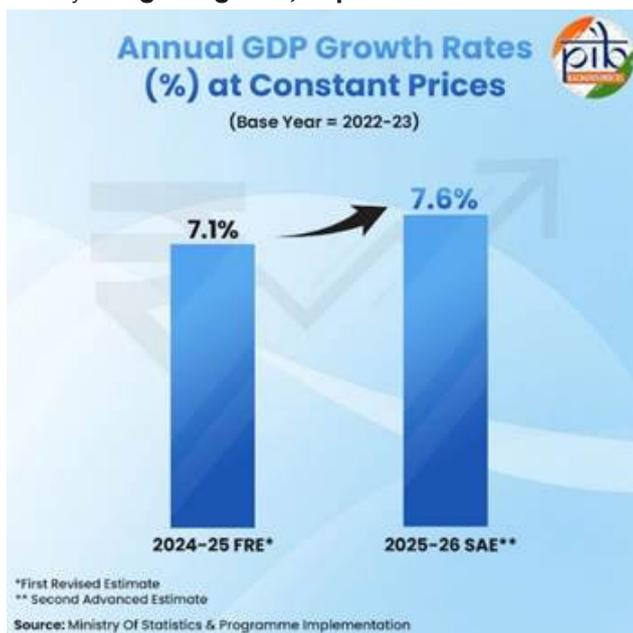
NEW GDP SERIES UPGRADES FY26 GROWTH TO 7.6%

Context

- According to the new series, the gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to **grow at 7.6% during the current fiscal**.

About

- The new series has revised downward the growth for 2023-24 to 7.2% from the 9.2% estimated in the old series, and has revised upward the growth for 2024-25 to 7.1% from the earlier estimate of 6.5%.
- The base year for GDP Estimates has been revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23 to better reflect India's evolving economic structure.
- The revised GDP series strengthens estimation by **integrating new, improved data sources**.



How GDP is Calculated?

- India's GDP is calculated using two methods: the factor cost method and the expenditure method.
 - The factor cost method evaluates performance across eight industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, and financial services.
 - The expenditure method examines spending in areas like household consumption and government costs to assess economic performance.
- The Central Statistics Office under India's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation manages GDP data collection.

- India's GDP data is **released quarterly** with a two-month lag and annually on May 31.
- Contribution of Sectors:** The largest contributor to India's GDP is the services sector, which accounts for 61.5% of GDP.
 - The next largest contributor was the industrial sector (23%) and then the agriculture sector (15.4%).

What is Base Year?

- A base year is a **benchmark year** used for **comparison in economic and statistical calculations**.
- It provides a **reference point** against which **current values of indicators like GDP, CPI, and IIP are measured** to track real changes over time.
- Significance:**
 - It allows us to **remove the effect of inflation** and see real growth.
 - Ensures that the **data reflects the current structure of the economy**, consumption patterns, and prices.



Economic Datasets for Calculation of GDP

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** GDP is the **total monetary value of all final goods and services** produced within a **country's domestic territory** during a **specific period (usually a quarter or a year)**.
 - It is calculated by **adding up all the expenditures** made in the economy, including **expenditures by Indians in their individual capacity, expenditures by governments, expenditures by private businesses, etc.**
 - This provides a picture of the **demand side of the economy**.
 - Released By:** National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** IIP measures the **volume of production** in the **industrial sector**, including mining, manufacturing, and electricity.
 - ◆ It is a volume-based index, not value-based like GDP.
 - ◆ Indicates industrial activity, helping assess the short-term economic momentum.
 - ◆ **Released By:** NSO, MoSPI.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** CPI measures the **average change in prices** paid by **consumers for a basket of goods and services** over time i.e., it tracks retail inflation.
 - ◆ Tracks cost of living and purchasing power.
 - ◆ Includes items like food, housing, clothing, transport, etc.
 - ◆ **Released By:** NSO, MoSPI.

Concerns with India's Statistical Architecture

- **GDP Methodology System:** India's GDP calculation method is globally accepted but the real problem is weak and outdated supporting statistical systems.
 - **Manufacturing Data Distortion:** Corporate manufacturing is measured well and is performing strongly but Informal manufacturing is poorly measured causing discrepancy in data.
 - **Growing GDP Discrepancies:** The gap between production-side and expenditure-side data in GDP is widening. It is caused by uneven data quality and outdated weights.
 - **Gap in GVA and IIP:** IIP tracks physical output, not value added; this divergence reflects measurement limits, not economic slowdown.
 - **IMF Rating Paradox:** India scores well on GDP methods but poorly on overall statistical quality. It shows the gap between good methodology and weak data ecosystem.
 - **Need for Statistical Modernisation:** The economy has evolved faster than its statistical tools, the current system cannot fully capture structural change.
- ### 2026 Base-Year Revision as an Opportunity
- **Shift away from commodity-flow approach:** It will move away from the **commodity-flow method** for estimating consumption across most items.
 - ◆ Under the earlier framework, fixed ratios derived from a 2011–12 study were used to allocate commodities between intermediate consumption, final consumption and other uses.
 - ◆ The revised system instead uses dynamic rates and ratios, allowing estimates to evolve over time as consumption patterns change.
 - **Elimination of 'Discrepancies':** MoSPI plans to integrate **Supply and Use Tables (SUTs)** directly into annual GDP compilation.
 - ◆ Supply and use tables show how different goods and services are supplied by domestic industries and imports and how they are distributed between different intermediate or final uses, including exports.
 - ◆ This approach aims to limit discrepancies in early estimates and fully eliminate them in final estimates.
 - **Use of Digital and Administrative Data:** Increased reliance on datasets such as;
 - ◆ e-Vahan (vehicle registrations).
 - ◆ GST and other administrative records.
 - **Updated Surveys as Data Backbone:** Key surveys feeding into the new series include;
 - ◆ **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022–23 and 2023–24.**
 - ◆ Updated surveys of formal and informal enterprises.
 - ◆ These are expected to offer more granular insights into consumption behaviour and production activity than earlier benchmarks.
 - ◆ **Sectoral Coverage of Revised Framework:** The revised quarterly compilation framework has been aligned more closely with the Annual National Accounts methodology in terms of sectoral classification, deflation strategies, and estimation practices.
 - ◆ Inclusion of Hired Domestic Workers in GDP Estimation.
 - ◆ The new series includes unincorporated enterprises, self-employed individuals and informal workers.

Do You Know?

- India compiles its GDP estimates in line with the **2008 System of National Accounts (SNA 2008)**.
 - ♦ It is the internationally accepted statistical framework.
- With the United Nations Statistical Division **transitioning to SNA 2025-** expected to be adopted globally around 2029–30- India intends to align with the updated standard in its next base year revision.

Way Ahead

- The revision of the GDP base year to 2022–23 marks a significant step in **aligning India's national accounts with the realities of a rapidly transforming economy**.
- The new series provides a **more accurate, consistent and comprehensive measure of economic activity**.
- By updating the base year, and eliminating discrepancies the new framework is better aligned with the **realities of a rapidly formalising and digitising economy**.

Source: TH

CASEBOOK ON AI AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT

Context

- The **Casebook on AI and Gender Empowerment** was launched at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

About

- **Developed By:** IndiaAI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in partnership with UN Women and supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- The casebook brings together **23 real-world AI solutions** from across the Global South that **demonstrate measurable impact on gender equality and women's empowerment**.
- The featured solutions span critical sectors including:
 - ♦ Healthcare including menstrual health.
 - ♦ Economic empowerment and financial inclusion.
 - ♦ Digital safety and prevention of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

- ♦ Climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.
- ♦ Access to justice and legal services.
- ♦ Education and skills development.

Major Initiatives Highlighted

- **NyayaSakhi-SWATI: NyayaSakhi-SWATI** is **India's first large language model** and retrieval-augmented generation-powered decision-support assistant **for domestic violence survivors**.
 - ♦ It provides estimates of **likely statutory reliefs and approximate case duration**, enabling safer, more informed and financially realistic decisions.
 - ♦ It supports domestic violence survivors in **understanding potential legal outcomes before filing a case**.
 - ♦ It is deployed in India, with an **initial focus on Maharashtra**, serving women from low-income and marginalized communities.
- **HELPSTiR is an AI-powered platform** that enables civil society actors to raise **hyperlocal help requests on behalf of vulnerable women** and children and automatically match them with nearby local NGOs, shelters, healthcare providers and welfare linkage organizations.
 - ♦ By removing digital access barriers, the system accelerates **gender-responsive benefits delivery across multiple domains**.
 - ♦ It is currently at the pilot stage of deployment, and is being implemented in Delhi with future prospects for expansion to Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **YASHODA AI** is a human-centered, blended AI solution that combines accessible AI tools with facilitated, in-person learning to **support women's digital safety and understanding of AI-enabled risks**.
 - ♦ The system functions primarily as a learning and decision-support mechanism, designed to build awareness and confidence rather than to automate decision-making or enforcement.
 - ♦ Following pilot development 5,500 women across 29 cities in 12 Indian states and 4 Union Territories were served by Yashoda AI.

Need for Such Initiatives

- **Bridging the Gender Digital Divide:** Women face lower digital access, skills, and online safety. AI tools like YASHODA AI address digital literacy and cyber-risk awareness gaps.

- **Improving Access to Justice and Welfare:** Survivors of domestic violence and vulnerable women often lack legal clarity and service access. Tools like NyayaSakhi–SWATI and HELPSTiR reduce information asymmetry and last-mile exclusion.
- **Addressing Algorithmic Bias:** AI systems can produce gender bias. Gender-responsive design and bias audits are needed to ensure fairness and inclusion.
- **Strengthening Public Service Delivery:** AI enables targeted health, financial inclusion, and welfare interventions, especially in low-resource settings.

Significance

- **Operationalising Women-Led Development:** Aligns with India's development vision by positioning women as AI creators, leaders, and beneficiaries.
- **Global South Leadership in Ethical AI:** Through initiatives led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the IndiaAI Mission, India showcases scalable, responsible AI models.
- **Advancing SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Moves from policy rhetoric to measurable impact across justice, health, finance, and digital safety.
- **Scalable and Replicable Governance Frameworks:** Provides tested deployment models that policymakers can replicate across sectors and states.
- **Embedding Ethics in AI Ecosystems:** Demonstrates that inclusion, transparency, and human oversight can coexist with innovation and scale.

Source: PIB

INDIA BHUTAN COOPERATION ON HYDROPOWER PROJECTS

Context

- India and Bhutan have reaffirmed their longstanding partnership in water resources management and hydropower development during a high level visit by an Indian delegation to Bhutan.

India-Bhutan Hydropower Relations

- **Early Cooperation:** Indo–Bhutan hydropower cooperation began in 1961 with the signing of the Jaldhaka agreement.

- The Jaldhaka project is located on the Indian side of the border in **West Bengal**, and most of the power generated was exported to southern Bhutan.
- **A major milestone came in 1987** with the commissioning of the **336 MW Chukha Hydropower Project**.
 - It was **Bhutan's first mega power project**.
 - It was funded by India in a **60% grant and 40% loan format**, with the loan at **5% interest** payable over 15 years after commissioning.
- **The 1,020 MW Tala Hydroelectric Project** further strengthened bilateral cooperation.
 - It was also financed in the **60:40 grant-loan model** by the Government of India and significantly enhanced Bhutan's export earnings.

Institutional Framework between India-Bhutan

- In July 2006, the two countries signed the **Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Hydroelectric Power (HEP)**, which laid down a formal framework for collaboration.
- In April 2014, both countries signed a **Framework Inter-Governmental Agreement** to develop Joint Venture (JV) hydropower projects through Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Major Ongoing and Planned Projects

- **Punatsangchhu-I (1,200 MW):** It has experienced significant delays and cost escalations due to geological problems at the dam site, with work resuming on the main dam structure as of late 2025.
- Joint Venture Model Projects:
 - **600 MW** Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project
 - **180 MW** Bunakha Hydroelectric Project
 - **570 MW** Wangchu Hydroelectric Project
 - **770 MW** Chamkharchu Hydroelectric Project

Hydrological Strengths of Bhutan

- Bhutan's topography and climate uniquely favor large-scale hydropower.
- **Major Bhutanese rivers** like **Punatsangchhu, Wang Chhu/Raidak, Drangme Chhu/Manas, Amochhu/Sankosh**, etc. are snow- and monsoon-fed and have steep gradients.
- **Bhutan's glacial lakes and snowmelt** are additional water sources, though they also pose Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risks.

Significance for India

- **Energy Security and Climate Goals:** Bhutan supplies clean and renewable electricity to India, helping India meet its renewable energy and climate commitments.
 - ♦ Imported hydro power complements India's solar and wind capacity by providing stable and flexible energy.
- **Grid Stability in the Northeast:** India's northeastern grid benefits from flexible hydro capacity, which helps manage seasonal demand and renewable variability.
 - ♦ States such as Assam gain improved power reliability.
- **Reduction in Thermal Dependence:** Hydropower imports reduce dependence on coal-based thermal generation. This lowers carbon emissions and reduces fuel import costs.
- **Strategic and Economic Dimension:** Hydropower is Bhutan's largest source of revenue, much of which comes from exports to India.
 - ♦ The cooperation strengthens India's strategic influence in the Himalayan region amid growing geopolitical competition.

Challenges

- **Environmental Risks:** Climate change increases the threat of **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** and ecological damage.
- **Hydrological Variability:** Changing rainfall and glacier melt patterns impacts long-term generation.
- **Local Concerns:** Land acquisition, ecological impacts, and livelihood issues require sensitive handling.
- **Debt Sustainability for Bhutan:** High borrowing for hydropower projects has raised concerns about external debt levels.

Way Ahead

- Hydropower cooperation remains the cornerstone of India–Bhutan relations.
- It reflects mutual trust, economic interdependence, and shared strategic interests.
- Strengthening transboundary river management and ensuring environmentally sustainable hydropower development will be essential to maintaining this mutually beneficial partnership in the coming decades.

Source: DD News

16TH FINANCE COMMISSION (FC): PUSH TO URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

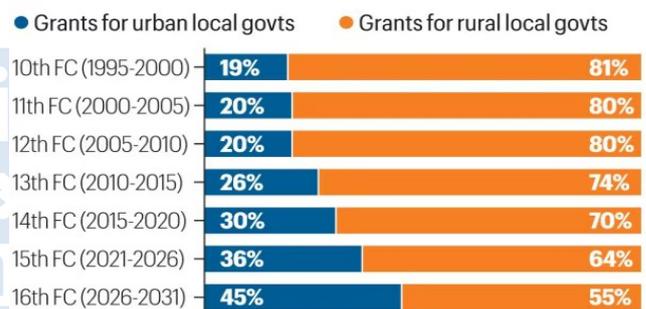
Context

- Recently, the **16th Finance Commission (FC) report**, tabled in Parliament, has significantly **enhanced the share of grants to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**, signalling a structural shift in India's fiscal federalism in favour of urban governance.

Key Highlights of the 16th FC For ULBs

- **Increased Share for Urban Local Bodies:** Share of grants to ULBs increased to **45%**; (36% in 15th FC, & 26% in 13th FC).
- **Sharp Rise in Absolute Allocation:** Recommended grants to ULBs: **₹3.56 lakh crore**;

• A bigger share for urban local govts



SOURCE: JANAAGRAHA

- ♦ More than double the 15th FC's 1.55 lakh crore;
- ♦ Nearly 15 times higher than the 13th FC allocation;
- ♦ It marks the largest ever fiscal support to urban governance in India.

Finance Commission: Constitutional Mandate

- **Article 280** of the Constitution provides for the constitution of a Finance Commission every five years.
- It recommends:
 - ♦ Distribution of tax revenues between the **Centre and States (Vertical Devolution)**;
 - ♦ Distribution among States (Horizontal Devolution);
 - ♦ Grants-in-aid to States and Local Bodies;
- Since the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments**, Finance Commissions have also recommended grants for **Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies**.

Rationale Behind Increasing Share in 16th FC

- **Cities As Growth Pole:** Cities contribute nearly **two-thirds of India's GDP**, making them engines of economic growth.
 - ♦ India adds millions to its urban population annually due to migration and natural growth.
- **Rising Urbanisation & Growing Urban Population:** Urbanisation in India is steadily increasing, demanding higher fiscal capacity at the city level.
 - ♦ **Census 2011: 31%** population urban;
 - ♦ **Projected urbanisation by 2031: 41%**
 - ♦ **Global comparison:** China (45%); Indonesia (54%); and Brazil (87%)
- **Data Gaps in Urbanisation:** A **World Bank report (2015)** suggested up to **78% of the population** living in cities and urban clusters.
 - ♦ Lack of credible and **updated data (next Census awaited)** affects policy planning and fiscal allocations.
 - ♦ The 16th FC's higher allocation **pre-emptively addresses future urban growth**, even if Census 2027 shows urbanisation at higher levels (e.g., 48%).

Major Urban Challenges & Concerns

- **Uneven Distribution Across States:** The grants are distributed based on a **population-based formula**, leading to significant inter-state variation.
 - ♦ **Major Gainers: Kerala** (Over 400% increase); and **Maharashtra** (Over 300% increase);
 - ♦ **Limited Gains / Reductions: Odisha** (13% increase); **Bihar** (8% decrease);
 - ♦ It reflects demographic changes and formula-based allocation rather than uniform distribution.
- **Water Supply & Sanitation:** Intermittent water supply in most cities; high Non-Revenue Water (NRW) losses; and sewage treatment gaps.
- **Urban Housing & Slums:** ~65 million people living in slums (2011 Census); rapid expansion of informal settlements; and inadequate affordable housing.

- **Urban Transport & Congestion:** Traffic congestion in Tier-1 & Tier-2 cities; rising air pollution; and weak public transport integration.
- **Weak Finances of ULBs:** Limited own-source revenue, heavy dependence on state transfers, poor property tax coverage, and weak municipal bond market.
- **Weak Implementation of 74th Constitutional Amendment:** Many States have not fully devolved the **18 functions** listed in the Twelfth Schedule.
 - ♦ State governments retain control over urban planning, water supply boards, and development authorities.
 - ♦ **Capacity Deficit:** Shortage of trained urban planners, limited digital governance integration, and poor data systems.
- **Climate Vulnerability:** Urban flooding (e.g., Chennai, Bengaluru), heat waves, and coastal vulnerability.

Implications For Urban Governance

- **Strengthening the Third Tier:** Enhances fiscal autonomy of ULBs, and improves ability to provide basic services (water, sanitation, waste management); urban infrastructure; and public health and mobility.
- **Reduced Fiscal Stress Post-Census:** ULBs will not face sudden resource gaps due to already enhanced allocation, if future Census data shows higher urbanisation.
- **Deepening Fiscal Federalism:** It reflects shift towards recognising urban India as a key growth driver. It aligns with goals of **Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Urban reforms under AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission**.

Urban Reforms and Flagship Missions

- **Smart Cities Mission (2015):** Key objectives are area-based development, ICT-enabled governance, and sustainable infrastructure.
- **AMRUT:** Key focus areas are water supply, sewerage, and urban green spaces.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban):** Key achievements are Open Defecation Free (ODF) certification, and solid waste management reforms.
- **PM SVANidhi:** It supports street vendors with micro-credit, and demonstrates integration of urban governance with social protection frameworks.

Citizen Participation and Digital Governance

- Recent reforms emphasize e-governance portals, online grievance redressal, GIS-based property tax systems, and participatory budgeting (Pune model).
- MoHUA promotes digital dashboards and open data platforms.

Source: IE

NEWS IN SHORT

DURAND LINE

In News

- Pakistan recently launched Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, a series of cross-border strikes against Afghan Taliban targets along the disputed Durand Line.

About

- The 2,640 km Durand Line, drawn in 1893 by **British diplomat Sir Mortimer Durand and Afghan Amir Abdur Rahman Khan**, separates Pakistan from Afghanistan but splits Pashtun tribes.
- Afghanistan has never fully recognized it as a **legitimate border**, viewing it as a colonial imposition. Disputes over the line have fueled decades of tensions, including fencing efforts and militant crossovers.

Source: TH

INDIA-EU TO GRANT EACH OTHER 'MOST FAVOURED NATION' STATUS

Context

- India and the European Union are set to grant each other '**Most Favoured Nation**' status for five years from the date the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) comes into effect.

What is 'Most Favoured Nation' status?

- According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the MFN principle guarantees **non-discriminatory trade** by requiring countries to treat all trading partners equally.
- **Core Principle:**
 - ♦ If a country grants a special favour such as a lower customs duty to one trading partner, it must extend the same benefit to all other WTO members.

- ♦ **Countries cannot normally discriminate** between their trading partners.
- ♦ MFN ensures **equality, predictability, and transparency** in international trade.
- The MFN principle is foundational to the multilateral trading system and is embedded in key WTO agreements:
 - ♦ MFN is enshrined in Article 1 of the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**.
 - ♦ MFN is a priority principle under Article 2 of the **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)**.
 - ♦ MFN is reflected in Article 4 of the **Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** Agreement.

Source: TH

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 2026

Context

- National Science Day is celebrated every year on 28th February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' made by the physicist Sir C.V. Raman.

About

- Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 1930** for the discovery of the Raman Effect.
- **The first celebration** took place on **February 28, 1987**, marking the beginning of a tradition that continues to inspire generations.
- **The objective** of the observation of National Science Day is to spread the message of the importance of science and its application among the people.
- **Theme for 2026: "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat"**

About CV Raman

- He founded the **Indian Journal of Physics in 1926**.
- He became the **first Indian director of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in 1933**.

- He established the Raman Research Institute in **1948**.
- In **1954**, the Government of India honored him with the Bharat Ratna.

Raman Effect

- When a beam of light passes through a **transparent medium** (such as a liquid or gas), a small fraction of the **scattered light changes in wavelength**.
- This change occurs due to the **interaction of light with the vibrational and rotational energy levels** of the molecules in the medium.

Source: **PIB**

PROGRESS TOWARD AN EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS (EBV) VACCINE

In News

- Researchers are developing monoclonal antibodies that could prevent **EBV infection**.

Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)

- It is a common virus linked with infectious mononucleosis, multiple sclerosis, cancers and other serious illnesses, after successfully testing antibodies they developed in mice.
 - ♦ Most infections occur in childhood and are usually symptom-free or mild.
- EBV infection can cause fatigue, fever, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, enlarged spleen or liver, and rash. Symptoms typically last 2–4 weeks, though fatigue may persist longer, and the virus remains latent in the body with potential reactivation, especially in people with weakened immune systems.
- It spreads mainly through saliva (kissing, sharing drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, toys).
- Nearly 95% of the global population is infected with Epstein-Barr virus, with some populations at higher risk for serious complications if the virus becomes activated.
- EBV has no vaccine; prevention involves avoiding contact with infected people. Diagnosis uses blood tests, and treatment focuses on rest, fluids, and symptom relief.

Source :**DD**

PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA

Context

- The Government of India has launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Digital Food Currency pilot for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in Puducherry.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

- PMGKAY is a flagship food security program of the Government of India, launched in **2020** during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was introduced to provide additional free food grains to beneficiaries covered under the **National Food Security Act**. It covers around **81.35 crore** beneficiaries across India.
- The scheme has been **implemented in 7 phases to ensure food security of NFSA** beneficiaries in the country.
- The scheme has been **extended for five years** from 2024.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- **Coverage:** The Act legally entitled up to **75%** of the rural population and **50%** of the urban population, approximately **67%** of the total population, to receive subsidized food grains.
- **Beneficiary Categories:**
 - ♦ **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Households:** Recognized as the poorest of the poor, these households are entitled to **35 kg of food grains per household per month**.
 - ♦ **Priority Households (PHH):** These households are entitled to **5 kg of food grains per person per month**.
- **Subsidized Prices:** Beneficiaries pay highly subsidised prices, originally fixed at **₹3 per kg for rice ₹2 per kg for wheat, and ₹1 per kg for coarse grains**.

Source: **PIB**

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

In News

- The Meghalaya government has sounded a high-level health alert after two Agniveer trainees at the Assam Regimental Centre in Shillong died from a suspected meningococcal infection.

Meningococemia Infection

- It is a serious bloodstream infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, often presenting with fever, hemorrhagic rash, and rapid progression to septic shock.
 - ♦ *Neisseria meningitidis* is a significant bacterial infection of the bloodstream manifesting as meningitis, septicemia, or, more often, a combination of both.
- It spreads via respiratory droplets, with infants and adolescents being most vulnerable.
- Symptoms include high fever, headache, stiff neck, and rash, spreading through close contact.
- It is a severe, rapidly progressing disease which leads to life-threatening meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain) or meningococemia (blood poisoning).
- Prevention relies on vaccination and antibiotics for close contacts, while prompt diagnosis and treatment with antibiotics and supportive care are critical.

Source :TH

INS ANJADIP

In News

- **INS Anjadip** was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy.

INS Anjadip

- 'Anjadip', the **third of eight ASW SWC (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft)**, indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
 - ♦ The ASW-SWC corvettes are being built indigenously to replace the Navy's aging Abhay-class vessels.
- It is engineered to act as a **'Dolphin Hunter'**, focused on detection, tracking, and neutralisation of enemy submarines.
- It is a state-of-the-art vessel specifically designed to address the challenges of the

littoral combat environment, the coastal and shallow waters vital for the nation's security.

Source :PIB

GRID OSCILLATIONS

Context

- **A grid oscillation** that was registered in Rajasthan was felt in **Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu**.

Grid Oscillations

- ♦ It is the rapid fluctuations in solar and wind output that cause transmission voltage and frequency instability, leading to grid oscillations that can damage equipment or trigger large-scale blackouts.
- ♦ **Reason for Grid Oscillation:** India's electric grid is **not sufficiently "smart" to switch smoothly between coal and renewable sources** due to limited automation, poor real-time balancing, and inadequate forecasting systems.
- ♦ **Other concerns:**
 - ♦ **Coal Plant Inflexibility:** Coal plants are designed for baseload supply and cannot ramp up or down quickly, making it difficult to balance intermittent renewable generation.
 - ♦ **Inadequate Energy Storage:** Lack of large-scale battery and storage infrastructure prevents surplus renewable energy from being stored for later use, aggravating instability.

India's Renewable Energy Target

- India added 48 GW of renewable energy capacity in 2025, the highest ever in a single year, nearly doubling the previous year's addition.
- Non-fossil sources now constitute 52% of installed capacity (~264 GW), but nearly 75% of actual electricity generation still comes from coal, as it is available on demand.

Source: TH

STATE INNOVATION MISSION (SIM)

Context

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** under NITI Aayog, launched the first **State Innovation Mission (SIM)** in Tripura.

About

- SIM anchored under AIM 2.0, serves as a long-term institutional mechanism to strengthen state innovation ecosystems through policy support, capacity building, partnerships, and context-driven interventions, advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat through innovation-led development.
- Under this initiative, key interventions include institutionalising SIM under

Tripura Institution for Transformation (TIFT), inauguration of T-NEST (Tripura – Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups) as a dedicated incubation facility, launch of a District Innovator Fellowship to scale grassroots innovation, and support for transforming Agartala into an AI-enabled city.

Source: PIB

