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STRENGTHENING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CITIZEN CENTRIC GOVERNANCE

Context

- Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement (Sadhana) Saptah 2026 is being organised as one of the largest collaborative capacity building initiatives in India.

Sādhana Saptah 2026

- It aims to promote citizen-centric, responsive, and efficient governance by enhancing skills and competencies of government officials.
- The initiative is organised by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Capacity Building Commission (CBC), and Karmayogi Bharat**, bringing together Central Ministries, States, Union Territories, and training institutions.
- It also marks the Foundation Day of **Capacity Building Commission** and **five years of Mission Karmayogi**, under the tagline “Ham Bane Karmayogi”.
- Initiatives launched under Sādhana Saptah:**
 - Karmayogi Kshamata Connect:** Aims to build capacities of frontline functionaries through structured learning modules, enabling them to deliver citizen centric services with improved efficiency and digital awareness.
 - UNNATI Portal:** Unified New-Age National Training Institutions (UNNATI) portal establishes a unified digital backbone for training institutions, enabling real time monitoring, collaboration and data driven capacity building across the ecosystem.
 - iGOT Learning Assessment Framework:** Introduces a trust-based evaluation system to ensure that learning outcomes are applied in real workplace scenarios and improve governance impact.
 - Karmayogi Gaan:** Reflects the spirit of dedication, service and continuous learning, and will be integrated into training programmes to reinforce the ethos of Mission Karmayogi.

What is Citizen-Centric Governance?

- Citizen-centric governance is a model of public administration that **prioritizes the needs, welfare, and active participation of citizens** at the core of all government actions.
- It aims to **make government services more responsive, transparent, and accountable**, transforming citizens into partners in the decision-making process, rather than mere recipients of services.

Government Initiatives Promoting Citizen-Centric Governance

- Mission Karmayogi** officially known as the **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**, is a flagship initiative of the Government of India launched in **2020**.
 - It aims to transform Indian civil services by shifting from a **“rule-based” to a “role-based”** approach, ensuring that government officials are creative, proactive, professional, and future-ready.
- Sevottam model:** It is a quality management framework designed to improve public service delivery in India.
 - Introduced in **2006** by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, it offers a structured approach for government departments to evaluate and upgrade their service standards.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Initiatives such as **Aadhaar-based services** and

UPI payments ecosystem improves ease of access, efficiency, and transparency.

Challenges in Achieving Citizen-Centric Governance

- Bureaucratic Inertia:** Resistance to change from traditional rule-based systems.
- Capacity Gaps:** Lack of skills, training, and digital literacy among officials, especially at grassroots levels.
- Digital Divide:** Unequal access to technology and internet connectivity.
- Fragmented Service Delivery:** Lack of coordination among departments leads to inefficiencies and delays.
- Weak Accountability Mechanisms:** Limited performance measurement linked to citizen outcomes.

Capacity Building Commission

- It was established in **2021**.
- It is a **three-member Commission**, supported by an **internal Secretariat headed by a Secretary**.
 - Members** have been appointed from **diverse backgrounds** such as private sector, academia, public sector, and civil society.
- CBC is the **custodian of the Mission Karmayogi framework**, to drive civil service reforms through capacity building and competency-based learning.

- The **Commission designs frameworks, sets standards, and encourages collaboration** to make governance more transparent, accountable, citizen-centric, and future-ready.

Way Ahead

- **Bridging Centre–State Capacity Gaps:** Greater focus is needed on harmonising capacity building frameworks across Central Ministries, States, and Union Territories to ensure uniform governance standards.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Robust systems for impact assessment, feedback loops, and real-time monitoring should be developed to continuously refine training programmes.
- **Strengthening Grassroots Governance:** Special emphasis should be placed on Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies, ensuring last-mile service delivery aligns with citizen-centric objectives.

Source: PIB

CHALLENGES TO TRADE MULTILATERALISM AMID WTO CRISIS

Context

- The World Trade Organization's Fourteenth Ministerial Conference (MC14), held in Yaoundé, highlighted growing divisions and institutional weaknesses within the WTO.
 - ♦ **Trade multilateralism** is facing its most serious challenge since the post-Second World War era.

Breakdown of Key Moratoriums

- **End of E-Commerce Moratorium:** Since 1998, WTO members had agreed not to impose customs duties on digital trade.
 - ♦ MC14 failed to extend this moratorium, which lapsed on March 31, 2026.
 - ♦ Countries are now free to impose tariffs on electronic transmissions.
- **TRIPS Non-Violation Moratorium:** It led to the **expiry of the safeguard against non-violation complaints** under the TRIPS Agreement.
 - ♦ The safeguard since **1995** has protected the policy space of developing countries. Without it, even **WTO-compliant measures, such as compulsory licensing**, can be challenged by developed countries.
 - ♦ For India, this increases the risk of disputes over **Section 3(d)** of the **Indian Patents Act, 1970**, which restricts patents for already-

known drugs unless the new claims are superior in terms of efficacy. It curbs the evergreening of patents.

- **Deadlock on Plurilateral Agreements:** The proposed Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) agreement failed to be incorporated into the WTO framework.
 - ♦ India opposed its inclusion due to the absence of clear legal provisions for integrating plurilateral agreements.

Broader Challenges Faced by WTO

- **Erosion of Foundational Principles:** Key principles such as **Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment** and **Special and Differential Treatment (SDT)** are increasingly being questioned.
 - ♦ Actions by countries like the United States reflect a shift towards unilateralism and selective rule adherence.
- **Crisis in Dispute Settlement Mechanism:** The WTO's dispute settlement system, particularly its appellate body, remains non-functional.
 - ♦ MC14 failed to provide any roadmap for restoring this crucial mechanism.
 - ♦ Without a credible dispute resolution system, enforcement of trade rules becomes ineffective.
- **Fragmentation of Global Trade Rules:** The failure of WTO negotiations is pushing countries towards alternative arrangements such as;
 - ♦ Bilateral agreements
 - ♦ Regional trade blocs
 - ♦ Plurilateral agreements outside WTO.

Way Ahead

- The future of global trade governance depends on the WTO's ability to adapt without compromising its foundational principles.
- A balanced approach combining reform, inclusivity, and strong political commitment is essential to restore faith in multilateralism.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- **WTO** is the international organization that deals with the rules of trade between countries.
- **History:** **WTO** is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the Second World War.
 - ♦ **The Marrakesh Agreement** establishing the World Trade Organization was signed by 123 countries in 1994, leading to the birth of the WTO on 1 January **1995**.

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Member:** The WTO is run by its 166 members.
- **Mandate:** Its aim is to promote free trade, which is done through trade agreements that are discussed and signed by the member states.
 - ♦ **The preamble** of the Marrakesh Agreement accords primacy to the developmental objectives of this organization.

Organizational Structure of WTO

- **Ministerial Conference:** The WTO's apex decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, which usually takes place every two years.
 - ♦ All members of the WTO are involved in the Ministerial Conference and they can take decisions on all matters covered under any multilateral trade agreements.
- **General Council:** It is just below the Ministerial Conference that meets several times a year at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva.
 - ♦ It meets as the **Trade Policy Review Body** and the **Dispute Settlement Body**.
 - ♦ **Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council:** It is for the Goods, Services, and Intellectual Property, and it reports to the General Council.

Source: TH

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE WITHOUT A LIMIT

Context

- India has developed a convention limiting a third presidential term, but the Constitution places **no such restriction on the Prime Minister's tenure.**

Restricting Executive Tenure

- Restricting executive tenure means placing a **constitutional or legal limit** on the duration or number of terms an executive can hold office.
- It ensures that no individual can remain in power indefinitely, promoting periodic leadership change.
- Such restrictions are commonly found in presidential systems, like the United States, where the President is limited to two terms.
 - ♦ South Korea, Brazil, Colombia, and Indonesia all impose presidential term limits.

Arguments Against Restricting Executive Tenure

- **Parliamentary Accountability is Sufficient:** In India, the Prime Minister remains in office only as long as they enjoy majority support in the Lok Sabha, ensuring continuous accountability.
- **Undermines Democratic Choice:** Fixed tenure limits may force removal of a popular and effective leader, even when voters want continuity.
- **Disrupts Policy Continuity:** Long-term reforms and national projects require stable leadership, which term limits could interrupt.
- **Risk of Political Instability:** Frequent leadership changes can lead to instability, coalition pressures, and weak governance.
- **Existing Constitutional Checks:** The Constitution of India already ensures accountability through elections, no-confidence motions, and judicial oversight.
- **Not Suitable for Parliamentary System:** Term limits are more relevant in presidential systems like the United States, where executive power is concentrated.
- **Loss of Experienced Leadership:** Restricting tenure may lead to the premature exit of experienced leaders, affecting governance efficiency.

Arguments in Favor of Restricting Executive Tenure

- **Prevents Concentration of Power:** Limiting tenure reduces the risk of excessive centralisation of authority in one individual over time.
- **Safeguard Against Authoritarianism:** Long, uninterrupted rule may weaken democratic norms; tenure limits act as a check against authoritarian tendencies.
- **Promotes New Leadership:** Encourages new leaders and fresh ideas, strengthening internal party democracy and political competition.
- **Strengthens Democratic Culture:** Reinforces the principle that no office is permanent, deepening democratic values in India.
- **Aligns with Global Practices:** Many democracies, especially presidential systems like the United States, impose term limits to ensure accountability.
- **Prevents Institutional Capture:** Long tenures may lead to influence over institutions; limits help preserve institutional independence and balance of power.

Conclusion

- While introducing the Draft Constitution, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1948** drew a distinction between "the daily assessment of responsibility," available through questions, no-confidence motions,

and adjournment motions, and the “periodic assessment” offered by fixed-term elections.

- Together, these mechanisms embody the **essence of parliamentary democracy** ensuring that the **executive remains continuously accountable to the legislature** while ultimately answerable to the people.

Source: TH

BSF'S PROPOSAL TO USE REPTILES ALONG BANGLADESH BORDER

Context

- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** is exploring the use of natural deterrents like snakes and crocodiles in riverine stretches of the India–Bangladesh Border, where **fencing is not feasible**.

India–Bangladesh Border: Key Facts

- The **India–Bangladesh border**, stretching approximately **4,096.7 km**, is India's **longest international boundary**.
 - ♦ Out of this, around **3,232 km** has been **fenced**, while **about 864 km** remains **unfenced**, including nearly **174 km** of **non-feasible gaps**.
 - ♦ These gaps exist due to **rivers (such as the Ichhamati, Raimangal, and Haribhanga)**, **frequent flooding**, and **difficult terrain**, especially in the Sundarbans region.
 - ♦ The border passes through **West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.



Major Issues

- **Porous Border & Illegal Migration:** Long-standing concern of **illegal migration from Bangladesh**.

- ♦ It is driven by economic disparities, and environmental displacement (floods, erosion).
- **Smuggling & Transnational Crime:** Common illegal activities i.e. cattle smuggling, narcotics trafficking, and fake currency.
 - ♦ Organized networks exploit **difficult terrain and local linkages**.
- **Riverine & Difficult Terrain:** Large stretches are flood-prone, without fencing, and subject to **changing river courses**.
 - ♦ **Physical barriers are difficult in low-lying and riverine areas**, delaying fencing projects.
- **Border Fencing Challenges: Land acquisition issues, and local protests** (fencing cuts through villages/agricultural land).
 - ♦ Fencing norms (distance from zero line) complicate implementation.
- **Humanitarian & Social Concerns:** Border residents face restricted movement, livelihood disruptions, and allegations of excessive force.
- **India–Bangladesh Coordination Issues:** Occasional tensions like border killings, and disputes over fencing close to the zero line.

Border Management Measures Adopted

- **Deployment of BSF:** BSF is the **primary border guarding force**, for round-the-clock surveillance and patrolling.
- **Technological Interventions: BOLD-QIT (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System)** deployed in Assam riverine stretches. It uses sensors, thermal imagers, and radars.
- **Smart Fencing (BOLD-QIT):** Smart fencing for real-time monitoring, with integrated command and control systems.
- **Border Outposts (BOPs) Strengthening:** Increased density of BOPs, and identification of **‘dark areas’ (no mobile connectivity)** for improvement.
- **India–Bangladesh Cooperation:** Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP); joint patrols and flag meetings; and improved intelligence sharing.
- **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), 2015:** Settlement of **enclave disputes** (exchange of territories); demarcation of previously undefined border segments; improved bilateral relations and reduced conflict zones.
- **Border Haats (Local Trade Markets):** To promote local economic cooperation, legalize small-scale cross-border trade, reduce smuggling and informal trade, and improve livelihoods in border communities.

Challenges & Concerns opting natural deterrents

- **Ecological & Ethical Issues:** Introducing or manipulating wildlife populations for security purposes could disturb natural ecosystems and violate wildlife protection norms.
- **Proportionality Concerns:** Snakes and crocodiles cannot distinguish between infiltrators and local fishermen or civilians, raising serious humanitarian questions.
- **International Law Angle:** Use of lethal natural hazards as deliberate border barriers may conflict with international humanitarian norms.

About Border Security Force (BSF)

- It is India's **primary border guarding force**, functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, was established on 1 December 1965.
- It is one of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** tasked with ensuring the security of India's borders, especially with **Pakistan and Bangladesh**.
- **Legal Basis: Border Security Force Act, 1968**
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ Ensure **security of India's borders**
 - ◆ Prevent **trans-border crimes**
 - ◆ Check **illegal migration and infiltration**
 - ◆ Act as the **first line of defence during peacetime**

Source: TH

INDIAN PORTS HAVE TO TRANSFORM USING AI

Context

- The major ports in India have, over the last few years, transformed into smart ports, with IT and automation bringing about major gains in efficiencies.

About

- Platforms such as **National Logistics Portal (Marine)**, **Sagar Setu**, and **e-Samudra** have digitised port operations.
 - ◆ However, the next phase requires "intelligent ports" powered by AI, moving from digitisation to data-driven decision-making.

Why is AI Needed in Ports?

- AI can enhance project planning and predictive decision-making.
- Enables congestion forecasting and Just-in-Time berthing, reducing turnaround time.

- Improves trade facilitation and compliance with safety and environmental norms.
- Helps in energy optimisation and cost reduction.

Key Digital Reforms in Ports

- Implementation of **Maritime Single Window** for seamless regulatory approvals.
- Introduction of **ONOD (One Nation One Document)** and **ONOP (One Nation One Process)** to standardise documentation.
- **Reduction of redundant paperwork** across customs, immigration, and port authorities.
- Shift from manual to fully digital workflows, improving transparency and efficiency.

India's Port Sector

- There are **14 major ports** out of which **12 Major Ports are in Operation** and 200 non-major ports (minor ports) in the country.
- **Authoritative Control: Major Ports are** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, the non-major ports are under the jurisdiction of respective **State Maritime Boards/ State Government**.
- **Strategic Position:** Located along the world's busiest shipping routes, India is a key trading hub and a rising global power.
- **India's Maritime Sector Overview:** Handles 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value, with port infrastructure critical to the economy.
- **Port Ranking Improvement:** India's port ranking improved from **54th in 2014 to 38th in 2023**, with **nine Indian ports now in the top 100 globally**.
- **Growth in Cargo-handling:** Between 2014-15 and 2023-24, major ports increased their annual cargo-handling capacity by 87.01%.
- **Maritime Sector's Importance:** India is the **16th-largest maritime nation**, occupies a key position in global shipping, with major trade routes passing through its waters.
- **Future Goals:** India has outlined investments of **US\$ 82 billion in port infrastructure projects by 2035** to bolster the maritime sector.
 - ◆ India plans to establish a new shipping company to **expand its fleet by at least 1,000 ships within a decade**.

Challenges

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Inadequate port infrastructure and outdated facilities at some ports, limiting capacity and efficiency.
- **Congestion:** High traffic volumes at major ports leading to delays, increased turnaround times, and reduced productivity.

- **Environmental Concerns:** Pollution and sustainability issues, including emissions from ships and port operations.
- **Logistics Bottlenecks:** Inefficient transport connectivity between ports, roads, and railways, impacting smooth cargo movement.
- **Global Competition:** Rising competition from other global maritime hubs, necessitates continuous investment and modernization.

Initiatives by the Government

- **Sagarmala Programme:** Focuses on leveraging India's coastline and of navigable waterways.
 - ♦ Supports port infrastructure, coastal development, and connectivity.
 - ♦ Financial aid for projects like coastal berths, rail/road connectivity, fish harbours, and cruise terminals.
- **Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030):** Aiming for India to become a top 10 shipbuilding nation by 2030 and create a world-class, efficient, and sustainable maritime ecosystem.
 - ♦ Includes 150+ initiatives across ten key maritime sectors.
- **Inland Waterways Development:** 26 new national waterways identified by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
 - ♦ Provides alternative, sustainable transport, easing road/rail congestion.
- **Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP):** Aims to replace fuel-based harbour tugs with eco-friendly, sustainable fuel-powered tugs.
 - ♦ Transition to be completed by 2040 across major ports.
- **Sagarmanthan Dialogue:** An annual maritime strategic dialogue to position India as a global center for maritime conversations.
- **Maritime Development Fund:** 25,000 crore fund for long-term financing to modernize ports and shipping infrastructure, encouraging private investment.
- **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFAP 2.0):** Modernized to help Indian shipyards compete with global giants.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

MAJOR PORTS IN INDIA SURPASS CARGO TARGET

Context

- The major ports of India handled **915.17 million tonnes (MT)** of cargo in FY 2025–26, exceeding

the target of **904 MT** and recording a **7.06%** year-on-year growth.

About

- There are **14 major ports** out of which **12 Major Ports are in Operation** and 200 non-major ports (minor ports) in the country.
 - ♦ **New ports:** VadHAVAN Port in Maharashtra and Galathea Bay Port in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have been notified as Major Ports.
- While the **Major Ports are** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, the non-major ports are under the jurisdiction of respective **State Maritime Boards/ State Government**.

Operational Major Ports in India

Western Coast Ports	Eastern Coast Ports
Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat)	Paradip Port (Odisha)
Mumbai Port (Maharashtra)	Visakhapatnam Port (Andhra Pradesh)
Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT, Maharashtra)	Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu)
Mormugao Port (Goa)	Kamarajar Port (Ennore, Tamil Nadu)
New Mangalore Port (Karnataka)	V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu)
Cochin Port (Kerala)	Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata–Haldia, West Bengal)

Key Initiatives Driving India's Port Sector Progress

- **Legislative Reforms:** The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 grants greater autonomy to major ports and encourages PPP participation.
 - ♦ The Indian Ports Act, 2025 (replacing the 1908 Act) modernises port regulation. 100% FDI is permitted under the automatic route for port development and maintenance.
- **Sagarmala Programme (2015):** Flagship scheme covering port modernisation, connectivity enhancement, new port development, and coastal community upliftment.

- **Maritime India Vision 2030:** Outlines 150 initiatives across port infrastructure, logistics efficiency, and global maritime competitiveness.
- **Digital & Monitoring Tools:** National Logistics Portal (Marine) — SAGAR-SETU; real-time Sagar Manthan performance dashboard for port monitoring.

Source: PIB

OPEC+

Context

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries+** group decided to increase oil production by 206,000 barrels per day amid rising global energy tensions.
 - ♦ Crude oil prices have surged close to \$120 per barrel due to conflict in West Asia.

About OPEC

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1960 at the **Baghdad Conference** by **Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Kuwait and Iraq**.
- Currently, it has **12 members**, viz. Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- The **objective of the organisation** is to coordinate policies with respect to petroleum demand and supply to ensure fair and stable prices and ensure a steady income to oil producing countries.
- It is **headquartered** in Vienna, Austria, although **Austria is not an OPEC member state**.

OPEC+

- **OPEC+ has 22 members**, made up of **10 major oil producing countries** (Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Bahrain, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan, Sudan and Malaysia), **along with the 12 OPEC members**.
- The **OPEC+ was formed in 2016** after the adoption of the **'Algiers Accord'** by OPEC countries in September 2016 and signing of the **'Vienna Agreement'** in November 2016 between OPEC and other major oil exporting countries.
- The move was largely a response to sharply falling oil prices caused by a surge in U.S. shale oil production.

Source: TH

STAGFLATION

In Context

- The ongoing US-Israel vs. Iran conflict has triggered a sharp energy supply disruption, reviving fears of 1970s-style **stagflation**.

What is Stagflation?

- **Definition:** Simultaneous occurrence of stagnant/negative economic growth + high unemployment + high inflation.
- **Term Coined By:** British politician Iain Macleod (1960s).
- **Why It's Dangerous:** Normal monetary policy tools fail, raising interest rates fights inflation but worsens unemployment; cutting rates boosts growth but fuels inflation further.

How Does It Occur?

- In a normal economy, prices and output move along a stable supply-demand curve.
- A negative supply shock (war, pandemic, sanctions) shifts the entire supply curve leftward.
 - ♦ As a result, at the same price level, producers supply less output due to higher input costs or broken logistics.

Source:TH

FOREVER CHEMICALS

In Context

- The European Union has strengthened water pollution regulations to control harmful chemicals such as PFAS, often called "forever chemicals".

About PFAS

- PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) are a large group of **man-made chemicals**.
- They contain strong carbon-fluorine bonds, making them highly stable and resistant to breakdown.
- These are classified as **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** under the **Stockholm Convention**.
 - ♦ The **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** is a legally binding international treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from highly hazardous chemicals.

Source: DTE

HECTOCOTYLUS IN OCTOPUSES

Context

- Recent research has highlighted a novel function of the hectocotylus in octopuses, revealing advanced sensory and reproductive adaptation.

About Hectocotylus

- The hectocotylus is a **modified arm present in male octopuses**, traditionally understood as a structure crucial **role in reproduction**.

- However, new findings establish that it also performs **sensory functions**, making it a multifunctional appendage.
- The hectocotylus **enables male octopuses to identify female mates** through chemical cues.

Source: TH

BRO'S PROJECT CHETAK CELEBRATES 47TH RAISING DAY

Context

- **Project Chetak** of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** celebrated its **47th Raising Day**.

About

- **The Project Chetak** is one of the **largest projects of the BRO** in terms of geographical area.
 - ♦ Raised in **1980**, it has played a key role in developing and maintaining road networks across **Rajasthan, Punjab and northern parts of Gujarat**.
 - ♦ It supports the Defence Forces by maintaining key feeder roads towards the International Border.

Border Roads Organisation

- The BRO constructs and maintains strategic roads, bridges, tunnels and airfields in border and inaccessible regions to **meet both military and civilian needs**.
- **Ministry: Ministry of Defence**
- Since its inception in **1960**, it has built over 64,100 kms of roads, 1,179 bridges, 07 tunnels and 22 airfields across India's border areas and in friendly neighbouring countries.
- Through overseas infrastructure in Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, BRO supports regional connectivity and strategic partnerships.



Source: AIR

BIONEST

Context

- Recently, the **BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre** was inaugurated at **CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru**.

About

- The new **BioNEST centre** is designed to support **food bioprocessing, biotechnology research, scale-up validation, and regulatory support**.
- Its main goal is to convert **scientific research into market-ready products**.
- **Focus Areas:** The startups are working in emerging areas such as **Nutraceuticals, Precision fermentation, Probiotics and postbiotics, CRISPR-based technologies and Botanicals**.
- **CFTRI's Role:** CFTRI has developed over **450 technologies**, which have been transferred to **thousands of licensees**.
- It has emerged as a major national hub for **food research, incubation, and industry collaboration**.

CFTRI	BIRAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIR–Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru is a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi. • It came into existence during 1950. • Its vision is to pursue in-depth research and development in the areas of food science and technology. • Key areas of research CSIR-CFTRI include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Engineering Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency. • It strengthens and empowers the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technology Development ◆ Translational Research ◆ Food Protection and Safety • CFTRI has its Resource Centres at Hyderabad, Lucknow and Mumbai. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIRAC provides access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive.
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Source: TH

BHARAT TRIBES FEST 2026

Context

- **Bharat Tribes Fest 2026** was concluded recently.

About

- It is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** organised in association with **TRIFED**.
- The 19-day festival brought together **tribal artisans, entrepreneurs, and self-help groups** from across the country, showcasing India's diverse tribal heritage and products.

- Top-performing tribal artisans and sellers **were felicitated across ten categories**, including pottery, cane and bamboo, jewellery, cuisines, textiles, and forest-based products.
- Key attractions included the **RISA Pavilion** promoting contemporary tribal design and the Bharat Tribes Fest Bazaar, aimed at strengthening market linkages.

Source: PIB

