

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 12-05-2026

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## UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS

### Context

- India is witnessing increasing weather extremes such as **unseasonal rainfall, heatwaves, and humidity** due to climate phenomena like **Western Disturbances, El Niño, and La Niña**, which significantly influence the country's monsoon, agriculture, and public health.

### What are Heat Waves?

- A heat wave is a period of **unusually high temperatures** departing from the normal, and varies from region to region depending on the historical temperatures observed in the region.
- The basic criteria for IMD to declare a heatwave are when a place's temperature exceeds **40 degrees Celsius (°C)** in the plains, **37°C** in coastal areas, and **30°C** in the hills.

### Feels Like Temperature, Heat index and Wind chill index

- "Feels like" temperature** or apparent temperature accounts for wind and humidity conditions to determine what the outdoor air temperature will feel like in relation to your body temperature.
- Heat index**, a type of apparent temperature, measures how hot a human body feels when combining relative humidity with the actual temperature.
- Wind chill index**, another type of apparent temperature which combines temperature and wind speed.
  - It measures how cold it actually "feels" on exposed skin as wind takes away the thin layer of warm air your body naturally produces to insulate itself.

### Wet Bulb Temperature and Dry Bulb Temperature

- Wet bulb temperature** measures the lowest temperature achievable through evaporation. It reflects the combined effect of heat and humidity.
  - Importance:** Human bodies cool through sweating and evaporation. High humidity reduces evaporation efficiency, making it difficult for the body to cool itself.

- Dry bulb temperature** refers to the actual air temperature measured using a standard thermometer.
  - It does not account for atmospheric moisture.

### What is a Western Disturbance?

- A Western Disturbance (WD) is an **extra-tropical weather system** that originates outside India and moves from west to east, bringing rain, snowfall, and storms to northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, especially during winter and early spring.
- Origin and Formation:**
  - Western disturbances originate over the **Mediterranean region, Black Sea, or Caspian Sea.**
  - They form when **cold polar air interacts with warmer, moist air**, creating **low-pressure systems.**
  - These systems are carried eastward by westerly winds in the upper atmosphere, particularly the subtropical westerly jet stream.
- Regions Affected in India:** Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh.
- Significance of Western Disturbances:**
  - 30% of annual **precipitation over the North West Indian region** (J & K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) is received during winter and it is mostly associated with Western Disturbances.
  - Precipitation associated with Western Disturbances (WDs) **influences Himalayan climate, glaciers**, snow-water storage, flora, fauna, agricultural crops and human inhabitants etc.
  - Winter rainfall from western disturbances is vital for rabi crops, especially **wheat, Mustard, Barley**. Adequate rainfall **improves soil moisture, crop yield, and food security.**

### What is ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation)?

- ENSO is a periodic fluctuation** in sea surface temperatures and atmospheric pressure in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. It has **two opposite phases: El Niño and La Niña.**

- **ENSO influences** Indian Monsoon, cyclone patterns, droughts and floods and global temperature variability.

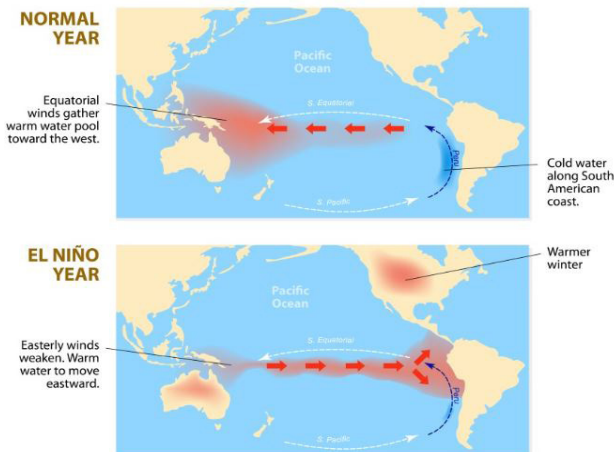
### What is El Niño?

- El Niño is the **warming of seawater** in the central-east Equatorial Pacific that occurs every few years.
- During El Niño, surface temperatures in the **equatorial Pacific rise**, and trade winds, east-west winds that blow near the Equator, weaken.

### What is La Niña?

- La Niña is the opposite of El Niño. La Niña witnesses **cooler than average sea surface temperature (SST)** in the equatorial Pacific region.
  - ♦ Trade winds are stronger than usual, pushing warmer water towards Asia.
- **Impact:** This leads to **drier conditions in the Southern U.S.**, and heavy rainfall in Canada. It has also been associated with heavy floods in Australia.

## THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON



### How does it affect the Indian Monsoon?

- In **El Niño years**, India faces **warmer temperatures and less rainfall**, causing droughts in some regions.
  - ♦ This affects agriculture, water resources, and ecosystems.
  - ♦ The El Niño phenomenon led to **1.4% decrease** in food grain production for the 2023-24 (July-June) crop year.
- **La Niña** brings cooler sea surface temperatures, leading to increased rainfall in certain parts of India.

### Way Forward

- India must strengthen **climate forecasting and early warning systems**.
- **Climate-resilient agriculture and water conservation** measures should be promoted.
- **Urban planning** should include green infrastructure and heat mitigation strategies.
- **Public awareness** regarding heat stress and disaster preparedness must be enhanced.

Source: IE

## SAVING FOREX VS SUSTAINING GROWTH

### Context

- The appeal of Prime Minister Modi to reduce the consumption of imported goods has reignited the debate on whether India should reduce consumption to save forex or strengthen production and productivity to sustain long-term economic growth.

### What are Foreign Exchange Reserves?

- Foreign exchange reserves refer to **foreign currency assets held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- These reserves mainly consist of foreign currencies such as the **US dollar, gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and reserve positions** in the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **Significance:** Foreign exchange reserves are essential because they help India finance imports, stabilise the rupee, maintain investor confidence, and meet external payment obligations during periods of economic stress.

### Why Does India Need Strong Forex Reserves?

- **Dependence on Imports:** India depends heavily on imports for crude oil, fertilisers, edible oils, gold, electronics, and industrial machinery.
  - ♦ Hence India requires adequate forex reserves to ensure uninterrupted trade and economic stability.
- **Protection from External Shocks:** Strong forex reserves help protect the economy during periods of global financial instability, **rising oil prices, currency volatility and sudden capital outflows**.
  - ♦ Countries with weak forex reserves often face balance of payments crises and severe currency depreciation.

### Balance of Payments (BoP)

- The Balance of Payments (BoP) is a record of all economic transactions between India and the rest of the world during a particular period.
- **Components of BoP:**
  - ♦ **Current Account:** It includes trade in goods and services, remittances, and income transfers. India generally imports more goods than it exports, which results in a Current Account Deficit (CAD).
  - ♦ **Capital Account:** It includes foreign investments such as **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**, **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)**, and external borrowings.
    - India has traditionally financed its current account deficit through capital inflows from foreign investors.

### Relation Between Forex Reserves and the Rupee Exchange Rate

- When **foreign exchange inflows** into India are higher than outflows, the Balance of Payments remains in surplus, which helps **strengthen forex reserves and stabilise the rupee**.
- However, **when imports rise sharply** or foreign investment inflows weaken, dollar outflows begin to exceed inflows.
  - ♦ In such a situation, **forex reserves decline** and the **rupee depreciates** against the dollar.
  - ♦ A **weaker rupee further increases the cost of imports** such as crude oil and fertilisers, thereby worsening inflationary and external sector pressures.

### Concerns Regarding Consumption Reduction

- **Impact on Economic Growth:** Private consumption is one of the largest contributors to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A sharp reduction in household spending may weaken overall economic demand and slow economic growth.
  - ♦ India adopted an **import substitution strategy after independence** that resulted in low industrial competitiveness, inefficiency, and slower economic growth.
- **Impact on Business Investment:** Businesses invest when consumer demand remains strong. Weak demand discourages firms from expanding production and making fresh investments.
- **Impact on Employment:** Lower production demand may reduce industrial expansion and affect employment generation.

- **Impact on Foreign Investment:** Foreign investors prefer economies with strong demand and high growth potential. Deliberate suppression of consumption may reduce India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

### Way Ahead

- **Balancing Self-Reliance with Global Integration:** India should reduce avoidable imports while simultaneously strengthening domestic manufacturing and exports.
- **Expansion of renewable energy** can gradually reduce dependence on imported crude oil.
- **Industrial reforms** and technological advancement should improve productivity and export competitiveness.
- **Strengthening Investment Climate:** India must continue improving ease of doing business to attract long-term domestic and foreign investments.

Source: IE

## A DECENTRALISED SOLUTION FOR WASTE CRISIS

### Context

- The objectives of **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026** are environmentally sound but **there are concerns** regarding excessive centralisation, weak federal design, and unrealistic compliance expectations for States and local bodies.

### Why Were the SWM Rules, 2026 Needed?

- **India's Growing Waste Crisis:** According to government estimates and discussions in policy reports:
  - ♦ India generates over **1.5 lakh tonnes of municipal solid waste daily**, and a large proportion remains untreated or scientifically unmanaged.
  - ♦ Plastic waste and untreated sewage pollute rivers and coasts.
  - ♦ Rural areas are witnessing rapid growth in non-biodegradable waste due to packaged consumption.
- **Environmental Consequences:** Methane emissions from landfills, leachate contaminating groundwater, urban flooding due to clogged drains, air pollution from open burning, marine litter and microplastics.

- ◆ Thus, stronger waste-management regulations became necessary.

### Key Features of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

- **Source Segregation:** Mandatory segregation into wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste, and special-care waste.
- **Scientific Waste Processing:** Promotion of composting, biogas production, recycling, and waste-to-energy systems.
- **Reduction of Landfill Dependency:** Focus on legacy waste remediation, landfill mining, and circular economy principles.
- **Digital Governance:** Centralised reporting portals, online compliance mechanisms, data audits and monitoring.
- **Regulation of Bulk Waste Generators:** Hotels, institutions, gated societies, and commercial establishments are required to process waste responsibly.

### Constitutional and Federal Dimensions

- **Article 253 and Environmental Governance:** The SWM Rules are framed under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, enacted pursuant to **Article 253 of the Constitution**.
  - ◆ **Article 253:** It empowers Parliament to legislate for implementing international agreements and obligations, such as **Stockholm Declaration (1972)**, and environmental treaties
  - ◆ It gives the Union broad legislative authority even over subjects linked to public health, sanitation, agriculture, and local government.

### Related Concerns & Issues

- **Federalism and the Principle of Subsidiarity:** Waste management depends heavily on local geography, settlement patterns, citizen behaviour, informal waste workers, local recycling markets, and availability of land. Hence, a uniform national model may not work everywhere.
  - ◆ Although States can prepare strategies, the framework remains largely centrally designed. It limits state autonomy, innovation, and institutional learning.
- **Problem of Over-Centralisation** ('One-Size-Fits-All' Approach): The Rules attempt to create a uniform compliance framework across megacities, small towns, rural panchayats, hill regions (fragile ecology, narrow roads), coastal settlements (marine litter, tidal flooding), and tribal areas (sparse population, transport difficulty).

- ◆ It creates an administrative mismatch.
- **Challenges for Rural Local Bodies:** The Rules extend complex compliance obligations to gram panchayats despite limited capacity.
  - ◆ **Key constraints** include lack of sanitation staff, inadequate vehicles, weak digital infrastructure, limited financial resources, and absence of technical expertise.
  - ◆ However, panchayats are expected to maintain segregation systems, use digital reporting, and manage **Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)**.

### Need for Differentiated Urban Governance

- **Megacities Need Stronger Institutions:** Large cities require Metropolitan Waste Management Authorities, technical expertise, citizen oversight, elected local representation, and scientific planning.
- **States as 'Laboratories' of Innovation:** US Supreme Court described States as 'Laboratories' for policy innovation.
  - ◆ Different States can test decentralised composting, informal worker integration, user-fee systems, cluster waste models, and women SHG-led waste systems. Successful models can then be replicated nationally.
- **Concerns Regarding Digital Centralisation:** The Rules mandate CPCB reporting, standardised formats, digital uploads, and central data audits.
  - ◆ It risks excessive focus on compliance reporting, bureaucratic overload, 'Dashboard governance', and reduced local accountability.
- **Financial Concerns:** The Rules substantially expand responsibilities of Municipalities and Panchayats.
  - ◆ But without predictable grants, formula-based funding, and revenue support implementation may remain weak.
- **Judicialisation of Environmental Governance:** Failure of implementation may trigger Public Interest Litigations (PILs), judicial monitoring, and continuing mandamus.
  - ◆ It could convert environmental reform into prolonged judicial administration.
  - ◆ India has already witnessed similar trends in air pollution cases, river pollution matters, and waste-management litigation.

### Way Forward (Suggested Reforms)

- **Minimum National Standards:** The Union should prescribe baseline environmental safeguards only.
- **State Flexibility:** States should design implementation models suited to local realities.
- **Empowered Local Bodies:** Municipalities and panchayats need administrative autonomy, technical staff, and local planning powers.
- **Predictable Financing:** Waste management should receive dedicated grants, performance-linked support, and long-term funding mechanisms.
- **Citizen Accountability:** Strengthening ward committees, Gram Sabhas, and public disclosure systems.

Source: TH

## NATIONAL JUTE BOARD'S ROLE IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUTE CROP

**Syllabus: GS3/Economy and Agriculture**

### Context

- The evolution of India's jute sector has entered a decisive new phase with the **implementation of the Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)**.

### About

- The National Jute Board has been implementing the **Jute Crop Information System project since 2023** in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Jute Corporation of India**.
- **Aim:** To **monitor jute cultivation** using remote sensing and field data. As part of this initiative, **two key tools have been developed:**
  - ♦ **BHUVAN JUMP**, a mobile app for on-field jute monitoring, and
  - ♦ **PATSAN** (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations), a web-based platform that provides near-real-time jute surveillance and analytics to support informed decision-making by officials and stakeholders.

### Need for JCIS

- Prior to the introduction of JCIS, the jute ecosystem was marked by **structural limitations** that constrained both planning and productivity.

- Crop area and yield estimates were largely based on **fragmented inputs and expert assessments**, often resulting in inconsistencies and delays.
- **Field data collection remained manual, with limited standardization** and absence of geo-referencing.
- The lack of real-time mechanisms to detect crop stress arising from floods, droughts, pests, or temperature variations led to **delayed responses and higher crop losses**.

### Jute Production In India

- It is also called the **golden fibre**, in view of being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product.
- **India** is the **largest producer** of jute followed by Bangladesh and China.
  - ♦ However, in terms of acreage and trade, Bangladesh takes the lead accounting for three-fourth of the global jute exports in comparison to India.
  - ♦ Most of the Jute is consumed domestically due to its vast domestic market demand, with an average domestic consumption of 90% of total production.
- The jute sector provides direct employment to **about 4 lakh workers** in the country and supports the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families.
- **West Bengal, Bihar and Assam** account for almost 99% of India's total production.

### Conditions Required for Jute Production

- **Temperature:** A mean maximum and minimum temperature of **34°C and 15°C** and a mean **relative humidity of 65%** are required.
- **Rainfall:** Around 150-250 cm.
- **Soil:** Jute can be raised on all kinds of soils from clay to sandy loam, but loamy **alluvial soils** are best suited.

### Challenges for Jute Industry in India

- **Competition from Synthetic Fibers:** Jute faces stiff competition from synthetic fibers like polypropylene and polyester, which are often considered more versatile and cost-effective.
- **Lack of Innovation and Product Diversification:** The industry is facing challenges in terms of limited product innovation and diversification.
- **Quality Issues:** Under retting, jute bundles are kept under water at a depth of about 30 cm. This process gives the fiber its shine, color, and strength.

- ◆ It should ideally be done in slow moving, clean water bodies like rivers. But Indian farmers do not have access to such resources.
- **Concerns of Jute mills in India:** Jute mills are marred by issues of Machinery modernisation, Mismanagement, Labour shortage, and Unrest and dependence on the government.
- **Price Fluctuations:** Jute prices are volatile, influenced by climate conditions and supply-demand imbalances, which affects the stability of the industry.

### Government Steps for Jute Production

- **Continuation of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.**
  - ◆ The Government has kept reservations **100% for food grains** and **20% for sugar**, to be packed in jute packaging material.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute.**
- The Government has approved an Umbrella scheme namely **National Jute Development Program (NJDP)** for implementation during **2021-22 to 2025-26** for overall development and promotion of the Jute Sector.

### NJDP covers following schemes:

- **Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise (Jute ICARE):** To introduce a package of scientific methods of jute cultivation and retting exercises.
- **Jute Resource cum Production Centre (JRCPC):** To spread jute diversification programmes by providing training to new artisans.
- **Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB):** To supply jute raw material to jute artisans, MSMEs for production of JDPs at Mill Gate price.
- **Jute Design Resource Centre (JDRC):** For designing and development of market worthy innovative jute diversified products and helping existing and new JDP manufacturers and exporters.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** To support Jute Mills and MSME JDP units for manufacturing and exporting JDPs and making them cost competitive in the international markets.
- **Market Development Promotion activities (Domestic & Exports):** Development of Jute Mark Logo for Certification of Quality Jute Diversified products and Launching publicity campaign to popularize jute.

### Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI)

- **JCI** was incorporated by the Government Of India in **1971** as a price support agency with the mandate for the procurement of raw jute from the growers at the **minimum Support price (MSP)**.
- **The objective** is not profit making but a social cause to protect the interest of families engaged in farming of jute.

Source: PIB

## NEWS IN SHORT

### BAIGA TRIBE

#### Context

- Children belonging to the **Baiga tribe** rescued from bonded labour in Chhattisgarh.

#### About

- The Baiga are an ethnic group found in **central India** primarily in the state of **Madhya Pradesh**, and in smaller numbers in the surrounding states of **Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**.
- The name Baiga means “**sorcerer- medicine man**”.
- The Baigas in Chhattisgarh are classified as **Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)** by the Government due to their declining population and low level of literacy.
- They traditionally practiced shifting cultivation, locally called “**Bewar**” cultivation.

#### Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** set up a separate category for **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)**.
  - ◆ **In 1975**, the Union identified 52 tribal groups as PTGs.
  - ◆ **In 1993**, 23 more groups were added to the list. Later, in 2006, these groups were named PVTGs.
- PVTGs are a **more vulnerable group** among tribal groups in India.
  - ◆ These groups have primitive traits, geographical isolation, low literacy, a zero to negative population growth rate, and backwardness.

- ◆ Moreover, they are largely dependent upon hunting for food and a pre-agriculture level of technology.
- **Out of more than 700 tribal communities**, there are **75 tribal communities identified as PVTGs** residing in 18 States and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
  - ◆ As per the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the PVTG population is estimated to be **45.56 lakh**.
  - ◆ **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh** are the top three in terms of PVTG population.

Source: TOI

## NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY

### Context

- National Technology Day is **observed annually on 11 May**.

### National Technology Day

- The day commemorates the successful nuclear tests conducted by India at **Pokhran in Rajasthan** in 1998 under **Operation Shakti**.
- The day recognizes the contribution of Indian scientists, engineers, and technological institutions to national development and strategic capability.

### About Pokhran-II Nuclear Tests

- India conducted a series of **five underground nuclear tests on 11 and 13 May 1998** at the Pokhran Test Range.
  - ◆ The **first three tests** were conducted simultaneously on **11 May 1998**, followed by two additional tests on **13 May 1998**.
- The operation demonstrated India's capability in designing and testing:
  - ◆ **Fission weapons,**
  - ◆ **Low-yield tactical devices, and**
  - ◆ **Thermonuclear weapon designs.**

### Strategic Significance

- India declared itself a **nuclear weapon state** after the tests.
- They laid the foundation for India's doctrine of **credible minimum deterrence and No First Use (NFU) policy**.

Source: TH

## 'ONE CASE ONE DATA' AND 'SU SAHAY INITIATIVE'

### In News

- Recently, the Supreme Court launched 'One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay initiative'.

### One Case One Data initiative

- It is a major digital initiative to connect all levels of courts — from taluka and district courts to High Courts and the Supreme Court through a unified database system.
- It aims to improve case management by creating a comprehensive and interconnected digital judicial information system.

### 'Su Sahay' Chatbot

- It is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered assistance chatbot.
- It is integrated with the Supreme Court website to facilitate easier access to justice and court-related services for litigants.
- It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry

Source:TH

## FORUM OF REGULATORS (FOR)

### In News

- The Forum of Regulators held its 100th meeting at Bharat Mandapam, celebrating 21 years since its establishment.

### Forum of Regulators

- It was established on 16 February 2005 under Section 166(2) of the Electricity Act, 2003.
- It serves as a statutory platform bringing together Central and State electricity regulatory commissions to coordinate and improve regulatory practices in the Power Sector.

### Composition

- The Forum of Regulators consists of the Chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Chairpersons of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.
- The CERC Chairperson serves as the head of the Forum, while the Secretary of CERC acts as its ex-officio Secretary.
- The Central Commission provides secretarial support, and the Forum's headquarters is located in New Delhi.

### Functions

- It collects and analyzes data on tariff orders and regulatory decisions of Central and State Commissions.
- It monitors subsidy accounting to ensure distribution companies correctly calculate and receive government subsidies under the law.
- It tracks compliance with renewable energy purchase targets by distribution licensees, captive users, and open-access consumers.
- It promotes harmonisation of regulations across the power sector.
- It sets performance standards for electricity licensees.
- It facilitates information sharing and coordination among regulatory commissions.
- It conducts or commissions research on power sector regulatory issues.
- It protects consumer interests while encouraging efficiency, economy, and competition in the sector.
- It carries out any additional responsibilities assigned by the Central Government.

### Progress

- It has played a key role in discussing and improving major power sector reforms such as open access, tariff rationalisation, and utility unbundling.
- It has become an important institution guiding reforms and helping the sector handle regulatory challenges
- It has conducted 71 studies, 55 Capacity Building Programs, issued 25 Model Regulations and delivered 6 Technical Committee Reports & 37 Working Group Reports.
- These initiatives have contributed significantly to the development of the Power Sector in India.

Source:PIB

## NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS 2025

### In News

- Kawrthah North Village Council in Mizoram has secured the top rank at the national level under the "Clean and Green Panchayat" category of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025, for its work in sustainable rural development and environmental conservation.

### National Panchayat Awards

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj annually confers the National Panchayat Awards to recognize and incentivise best-performing Panchayats and promote inclusive, participatory, and sustainable development in rural India.
- The awards are given under the Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP) scheme, a central component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- Winning Panchayats receive financial incentives ranging from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 5 crore per awardee, depending on tier and category.

### Categories

- The **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar** awards recognise outstanding Gram Panchayats for their performance across themes linked to Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty-free livelihoods, health, water sufficiency, sanitation, women-friendly governance and social justice.
- Under the **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**, awards will be given to the best-performing Panchayats at the district, block and gram levels.

### Objectives

- These awards aim to encourage Panchayats to improve local governance, service delivery, and progress towards Sustainable Development Goals through community-led initiatives, reinforcing Panchayats' role in translating national priorities towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

### Latest winners

- Karnataka has secured the highest number of awards with six Panchayats being selected, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with five awards each.

Source:Air

## SEHAT MISSION

### In News

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilisers launched the 'SEHAT Mission' in Delhi,

### SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)

- It is a national mission aimed at linking agriculture, nutrition, and public health by converting agricultural innovations into better health outcomes for people in India.

- It is a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

#### Focus and Priority Areas

- The **development and evaluation of biofortified and nutrient-dense crop varieties** to address malnutrition and improve nutritional status;
- **Strengthening integrated farming systems** to promote dietary diversification, enhance farm incomes, and build resilience.
- Addressing **occupational health risks among agricultural workers** through targeted, evidence-based interventions.
- **Advancing agriculture-enabled strategies for the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases** through the promotion of functional foods and nutritionally superior crop varieties.
- **Strengthening One Health preparedness through integrated surveillance, diagnostics, and research** at the human–animal–environment interface.

#### Objectives

- It aims to improve nutrition and public health through biofortified foods, integrated farming, better occupational health for farm workers, and support for the One Health Mission.
- It seeks to produce evidence-based and scalable solutions, strengthen coordination between the agriculture and health sectors, and create data-driven policies to address nutrition, preventive healthcare, non-communicable diseases, farmer welfare, and public health challenges.

Source :PIB

## CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

#### Context

- The Government of India has appointed Lieutenant General **NS Raja Subramani** as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
  - ♦ He will also function as the Secretary, **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**.

#### Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- The post of CDS was created in **2019** following recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee** and subsequent defence reforms.
- The first CDS of India was **General Bipin Rawat**.
- **Role and Responsibilities of the CDS:**
  - ♦ **Principal Adviser:** Acts as the primary military adviser to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters.
  - ♦ **Department of Military Affairs:** Functions as the **Secretary** to the Government of India for the Department of Military Affairs.
  - ♦ **Military Reform:** Focuses on enhancing synergy, jointness in operations, and modernization of the armed forces.
  - ♦ **Theater Commands:** Drives the restructuring of military commands into integrated theater commands.
  - ♦ **Strategic and Nuclear Role:** Serves as an important military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.

Source: PIB

