NEXT IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 10-10-2026

Table of Content

India Qatar Reviews Bilateral Ties

3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026

World Mental Health Day 2026

World Cotton Day

Dignity and Humility: Essential Virtues for Ethical Governance

News In Short

Khadi and Village Industries (KVI)

Global Greenfield Investments

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

CAQM Panel Proposes 100% Electric Cars in Delhi by 2030

SIDM Champion Awards 2026

Noida Airport to Be Renamed After PM ModiContents

INDIA QATAR REVIEWS BILATERAL TIES

Context

- India and Qatar reviewed their bilateral relations during the 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations.

Brief on India-Qatar Relations

- **Establishment of Relations:** India's diplomatic relations with Qatar were established in 1973. The year 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.
- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2025, India and Qatar have signed an agreement to elevate their ties to the level of a **strategic partnership.**
  - **India currently has strategic partnerships with four other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council –** the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Kuwait.
- **Economic and Trade Relations:** In FY 2025-26, India's bilateral trade with Qatar stood at USD 13.91 billion. India's export to Qatar during the period was USD 1.62 billion and India's imports from Qatar were USD 12.29 billion.
  - Two sides also signed a **double taxation avoidance treaty** and also planned on **doubling their trade by 2030.**
- **Energy:** Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India (10.86 MMT for US$ 5.61 billion in FY 2025-26), it is also the **largest supplier of LPG** to India (4.58 MMT for US$ 2.67 billion in Financial Year 2025-26).
  - In FY 2025-26, the total bilateral hydrocarbon trade between the countries amounted to US$ 10.81 billion, accounting for **77.71% of overall bilateral trade.**
  - In 2024, QatarEnergy and Petronet LNG signed a 20-year agreement for the supply of 7.5 million tonnes of LNG annually, beginning in 2028.
- **Defence:** The India-Qatar Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed in **2008 and extended for five years in 2018,** it is managed through the **Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC).**
  - India participates in the biennial **Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX).**
  - **Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr** is a joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF).
- **Labor and Diaspora:** Around 830,000 Indians in Qatar is testament to the close people-to-people ties that continue to nurture the cultural bonds.
  - The Indian diaspora in Qatar plays a crucial role in the country's development, particularly in construction and other sectors.
- **Regional Cooperation: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** is a **political and economic alliance** of **six Middle Eastern countries**—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. It was established in **1981.**
  - India engages regularly with GCC and aims to deepen its relationship with the GCC.

Gulf Region

- The Gulf Region typically refers to the countries surrounding the **Persian Gulf in the Middle East.**
- It includes nations like **Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
- This region is known for its **vast oil reserves,** which have significantly influenced global economics and politics.



Significance of Qatar for India

- **Energy Security:** Qatar is a major supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India. These imports support India's electricity generation, fertiliser production and industrial requirements.
- **Indian Diaspora:** A large Indian community lives and works in Qatar, contributing to its economy and sending remittances to India. Their safety, welfare and labour rights are important bilateral concerns.
- **Maritime Security:** Qatar's location near the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy supplies, makes regional stability important for India's energy imports and commercial shipping.

- **Regional Diplomacy:** Qatar maintains diplomatic channels with various regional and international actors. Its engagement can support dialogue on conflicts, de-escalation and the protection of Indian interests in West Asia.

Challenges/Concerns

- **The Hamas–Israel war** and shipping attacks in the Red Sea affect India's energy security and economic growth.
  - India remains cautious in Middle Eastern politics, balancing relations with the Gulf, Iran, and Israel.
- **Limited Trade Diversification:** Bilateral trade remains significantly influenced by hydrocarbons, leaving scope to expand cooperation in manufacturing, technology, services and other non-energy sectors.
- **Delay in Connectivity Projects:** The conflict has delayed progress for the I2U2 group since 2023.
  - India urges economic initiatives like **I2U2 and IMEC** to progress despite the conflict.
- **FTAs with GCC:** Delays in finalizing the **India–GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** due to changes in the GCC's trade negotiator. Reaching an agreement that satisfies all GCC states remains a key challenge.

Way Forward

- Qatar is a key partner in India's pursuit of energy security, economic diversification and stronger engagement with West Asia.
- Strengthening institutional frameworks, expanding economic complementarities, and ensuring the welfare of the Indian community will be key to future-proofing this vital West Asian partnership.

Source: MEA

3RD INTERNATIONAL BHARAT 6G SYMPOSIUM 2026

Context

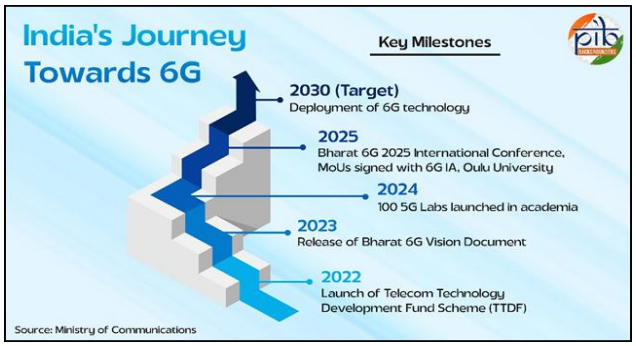
- The 3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026 concluded in New Delhi.

About

- Organised by the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)** alongside **India Mobile Congress 2026**, the three-day event brought together global telecom leaders, industry, academia and researchers to discuss the roadmap towards **IMT-2030** and beyond.
- A key outcome was the exchange of **five new MoUs with GSMA, one6G, GTI Alliance, 6G Innovation Forum (6G IF) Taiwan and VOICE**, strengthening opportunities for international cooperation.

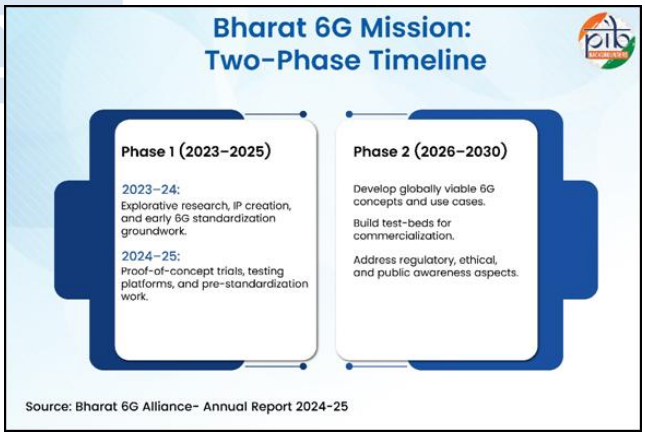
What is 6G?

- **6G, or sixth-generation wireless technology,** will succeed 5G and make internet connections significantly faster and smoother.
- 6G aims to send and receive information in just one microsecond; that's **1,000 times faster** than the response time of 5G.
- The 6G Technology has been named **'IMT 2030'** by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU).**
  - **IMT-2030** stands for **International Mobile Telecommunications for 2030.**



Bharat's 6G Mission

- India's pursuit of **6G began with an ambitious vision** to become a global leader in next-generation wireless communications.
- This vision has driven the emergence of a dynamic **ecosystem of innovators, researchers, startups, and policymakers,** all dedicated to advancing connectivity.



About Bharat 6G Alliance

- Established in **2023**, Bharat 6G Alliance is an **industry-led collaborative platform** bringing together telecom service providers, industry, startups, academia and research institutions to advance India's 6G ambitions.
- It promotes **indigenous research and innovation, intellectual property creation, international standards engagement and partnerships** for an affordable, secure, sustainable and globally interoperable 6G ecosystem.

Initiative for the Development of 6G Technology

- The Government **established 100 5G labs at academic institutions** across India for capacity building & for building a 6G-ready academic and start-up ecosystem in the country.
- **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)** Scheme was launched in 2022 to fund R&D and innovation in telecom technologies including 6G, fostering collaboration between academia, start-ups, MSMEs, research institutes, and industry to enhance the telecom ecosystem in India.
- **Technology Innovation Hub at IIIT-Bangalore: Under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, a Technology Innovation Hub has been established at IIIT Bangalore, with a focus on Advanced Communication Systems that will shape future 6G networks.

Significance of 6G Vision

- The 6G technology will enable advancements in sectors like;
  - **Healthcare:** Telemedicine, robotic surgeries, AI-based diagnostics.
  - **Agriculture:** Smart monitoring, precision farming using IoT sensors.
  - **Education:** Real-time immersive learning through AR/VR technologies.
- Industrial Automation: Leveraging Industry 4.0 with enhanced Machine-to-Machine communication, Digital Twins, and IoT for smart industries.

Challenges

- There is a **need for R&D investments** with a focus on semiconductors, AI processors, and advanced SoCs.
- There are concerns related to **cybersecurity and privacy** in a hyper-connected network environment.
- **Establishing dense networks of small cells,** fibre-optic backhaul and edge-computing facilities could increase deployment costs, particularly in rural, remote and geographically difficult areas.

Concluding remarks

- Bharat 6G Mission is fully aligned with the national Vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat.**
- It also ensures that India takes its rightful place in the world as a **leading supplier of advanced telecom technologies** and solutions that are affordable and contribute to the global good.

Source: PIB

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2026

Context

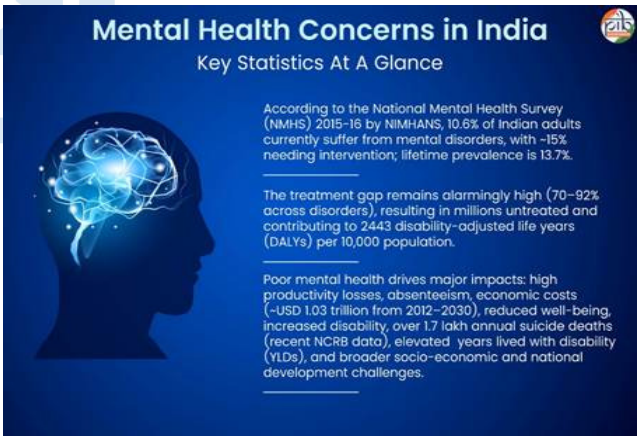
- World Mental Health Day is observed annually on October 10.

About

- The day was first initiated in **1992** by the **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).**
- This global observance aims to raise awareness about mental health issues and mobilize efforts in support of mental health care worldwide.
- **Theme for 2026:** Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change

What is Mental Health?

- Mental health is the **state of well-being in which a person can cope with normal stresses of life**. It allows one to learn, work well and contribute to the community.
- Good mental health includes **emotional, psychological, and social well-being**.
- **Poor mental health** can lead to disorders like **anxiety, depression, and other severe disorders,** with far-reaching consequences for physical health, relationships, and overall functioning.



Challenges in Addressing Mental Health Issues in India

- **Social stigma:** Fear of discrimination and social labelling discourages individuals and families from acknowledging mental health conditions or seeking professional help.
- **Low mental health literacy:** People fail to recognise symptoms of depression and other common mental disorders, delaying diagnosis and treatment.
- **Neglect of elderly people:** Loneliness, social isolation and age-related challenges affect mental well-being, while families may mistake symptoms of depression for normal ageing.

- **Unequal access to care:** Mental health professionals and specialised facilities are concentrated in urban areas, making treatment less accessible to people in rural and underserved regions.
- **Misinformation:** Unverified claims and misconceptions can discourage people from seeking evidence-based medical care.

Initiatives taken by India

- **Tele-MANAS:** A 24x7 national tele-mental health helpline to provide free counselling and psychological support, especially crucial during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Integration through Ayushman Bharat and Primary Care:** Over **1.75 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs)** and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been upgraded into **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs,** where mental health services are now part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care.
- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), 1982:** NMHP was launched to tackle the rising burden of mental disorders and the lack of adequate mental health services across India.
- **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP):** The DMHP intervention was launched in 1996 and later integrated into the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP).
  - It is based on Karnataka's successful **'Bellary Model'** and focuses on community-based mental healthcare delivery.
- **National Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:** The Act ensures protecting the dignity and rights of persons with mental illness, and aligning India's framework with international standards, particularly the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).**

Global Initiatives

- **WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030** seeks to strengthen leadership, community-based services, prevention and mental health information systems.
- **WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)** supports the delivery of evidence-based mental healthcare by non-specialist health workers, particularly in resource-constrained settings.
- **Sustainable Development Goal 3.4** calls for the promotion of mental health and well-being and includes reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases.

Way Ahead

- **Strengthen mental health literacy** through school curricula, workplace programmes and public awareness campaigns.
- **Expand the mental health workforce** through recruitment, training and equitable deployment of specialists and community health workers.
- **Improve mental health data** through regular national surveys, reliable reporting and research into underserved populations.

Source: TH, PIB

WORLD COTTON DAY

Context

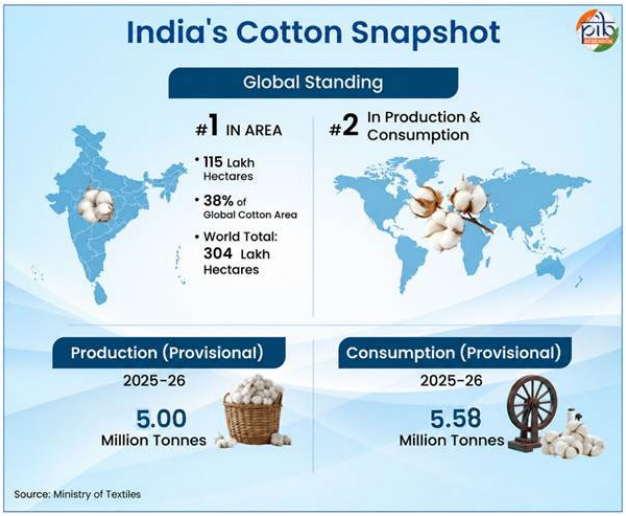
- The Permanent Missions of India and Mali to the United Nations jointly organized an event on the theme "Cotton for Sustainability: Livelihoods, Value Addition and Partnership" at the United Nations commemorating **World Cotton Day.**

World Cotton Day

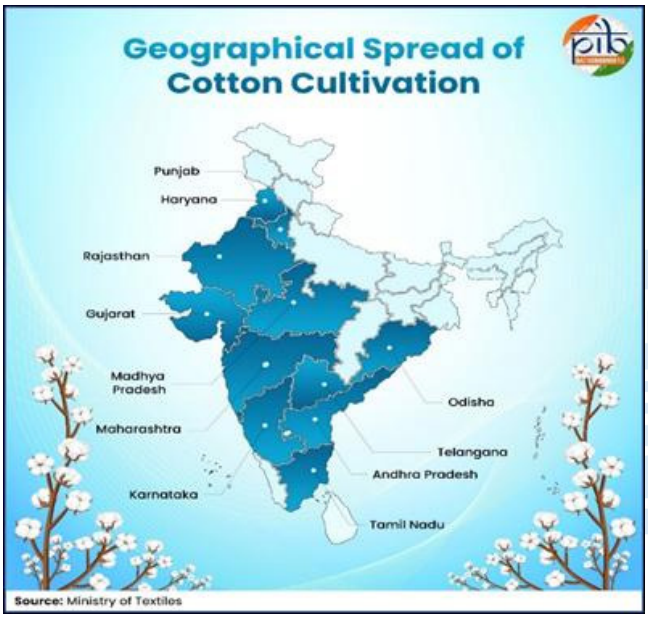
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **7 October** as **World Cotton Day.**
- The idea for World Cotton Day originated from the **Cotton Four nations, Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, and Mali** aiming to promote cotton by-products and their markets.
  - They are the top cotton-producing and exporting countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The first World Cotton Day (WCD) event was initiated in Geneva and observed on **October 7, 2019.**

Cotton Production in India

- Cotton accounts for around **23% of global fibre production.**
- Due to its economic importance in India, it is also termed as "**White-Gold".**



- **India is the only country that cultivates all four recognized cotton species.** These include G. Arboreum and G. Herbaceum, commonly referred to as Asian cotton.
- Cotton production in India is largely concentrated in **9 major states,** grouped into 3 distinct agro-ecological zones:
  - **Northern Zone** comprising Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan
  - **Central Zone** comprising Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh
  - **Southern Zone** comprising Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka
- In addition to these states, cotton is also grown in **Odisha and Tamil Nadu.**



- **Bt Cotton:** Bt refers to Bacillus thuringiensis, a naturally occurring soil bacterium. These genes provide resistance against bollworms, a major pest affecting cotton cultivation.
  - It was introduced commercially in India in **2002**, Bt cotton significantly reduced bollworm infestation and lowered the need for insecticide sprays.

Cotton Exports of India

- In 2024-25, India accounted for **3.37% of total world cotton exports,** amounting to 541.69 lakh bales (9.21 million metric tonnes).
- In value terms, cotton exports reached US$ 11.49 billion in FY25.
- **The United States of America emerged as the largest destination** for Indian cotton fabrics and made-ups exports, followed by Bangladesh.
- **Other important destinations included** the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

Challenges Faced by the Sector

- **Low Productivity:** India's cotton productivity remains constrained by fragmented landholdings, inadequate irrigation, poor-quality seeds in some areas, and limited adoption of modern farming practices.
- **Climate Change:** Erratic monsoons, rising temperatures, droughts and unseasonal rainfall affect cotton yields and fibre quality.
- **Pest and Disease Attacks:** Pink bollworm, whiteflies and other pests cause significant crop losses and increase farmers' expenditure on pesticides.
- **Quality Issues:** Contamination during harvesting, storage and transportation, along with inconsistent fibre quality, reduces the competitiveness of Indian cotton in premium markets.
- **Issues with Seed Technology:** Limited availability of high-yielding, pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties, along with concerns over the cost and effectiveness of existing seed technologies, affects productivity.

Government Initiatives to Support Cotton Sector

- **Strengthening Cotton Farmers through MSP:** For 2026-27, the MSP for cotton was increased to Rs. 8,267 per quintal for medium-staple cotton and Rs. 8,667 per quintal for long-staple cotton. This marked an increase of Rs. 557 per quintal for both varieties.
- **Mission for Cotton Productivity:** A five-year Mission for Cotton Productivity was launched in 2025-26 to strengthen cotton production nationwide.
  - It aims to develop climate-resilient, pest-resistant, and high-yielding cotton varieties.
  - Cotton production is targeted to increase from 297 lakh bales to 498 lakh bales by 2031.
- **Special Project on Cotton under National Food Security Mission:** It focuses on large-scale demonstrations of technologies suited to different agro-ecological zones. It covers major cotton-growing states across the country.
  - The objective is to improve productivity, fibre quality, and farmer incomes.
- **Kapas Kisan App:** The mobile application has been introduced to streamline procurement under the MSP system, it enables cotton growers to complete self-registration and book procurement slots.
- **Branding of Indian Cotton - Kasturi Cotton Bharat:** It seeks to enhance the value and global positioning of Indian cotton through traceability, certification, and branding.

Conclusion

- Efforts to improve productivity, strengthen farmer incomes, modernize procurement, and enhance global competitiveness are shaping a more resilient cotton ecosystem.
- As new initiatives expand quality, sustainability, and value addition, the sector is well-positioned to support livelihoods, industry, and economic growth in the years ahead.

Source: PIB

DIGNITY AND HUMILITY: ESSENTIAL VIRTUES FOR ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

Context

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India shared a **Sanskrit Subhashitam** highlighting the importance of dignity, humility and respectful conduct, reinforcing their relevance in ethical leadership and public administration.

About Dignity and Humility

- The verse states:

"वत्सराजोऽपि तं प्राप्तं प्रदत्तोपायनं नृपम्।
प्रीत्या सम्मानयामास शूरा हि प्रणतिप्रियाः॥"

- It shows the wonderful heritage of greeting people with warmth and honour, the virtue of appreciating those who come to us in humility.
- **Dignity:** Every human being, irrespective of caste, class, gender, religion or economic standing, has intrinsic worth.
- **Humility:** Understanding one's limits, willing to learn and to respect others without conceit.
- **For example: Mahatma Gandhi's** humble lifestyle was an example of humility, **Dr B.R. Ambedkar's** emphasis on equality and constitutional rights was an example of human dignity.

Role in Public Services

- Dignity and humility reinforce ethical governance through the nurturing of:
  - **Citizen-centred Administration:** Citizens as rights-holders, not as recipients of official favour.
  - **Inclusive Governance:** Treating marginalised populations with dignity.
  - **Trust and Accountability:** Encouraging open discussion and healthy public participation.
  - **Participatory Decision-making:** Policies are developed only after listening to the voices of citizens, experts and grass-root institutions.
- **Article 14** ensures equality before the law and **Article 21** ensures protection of life and personal liberty. These constitutional provisions enhance the importance of dignity in the government.

Importance for Civil Servants

- These virtues for civil workers are required to:
  - Exercise your authority appropriately, and don't abuse your power.
  - Sympathise with the public's grievances.
  - Learn from administrative mistakes and take constructive feedback.
  - Encourage collaboration, fairness and timely delivery of services.
- **For example,** an IAS officer who holds a public hearing in an accessible way and attentively listens to the grievances of deprived individuals shows humility and respect for human dignity.

Dignity and Humility in Ethical Dilemmas

- Civil personnel are often caught between political pressure and constitutional morality, efficiency and compassion, or institutional hierarchy and individual liberties.
- For example, a police officer administering disaster relief must administer aid fairly, but also be sensitive to the suffering of families.
- Humility is listening to the local communities and dignity is relief reaching everybody without prejudice.
- Humility, however, must not fall into submission, nor regard for dignity into the rule of law.

Challenges in Practising These Values

- **Power distance:** Hierarchies in administration may breed hubris.
- **Political interference:** External pressure can compromise neutrality.
- **Workload and stress:** Time pressures may impede empathic involvement.
- **Social prejudices:** Caste, gender and class biases can affect official conduct.
- **Tokenism:** Symbolic gestures of humility can mask discriminatory actions.

Way Ahead

- Integrate empathy, constitutional principles and emotional intelligence to the civil service training.
- Strengthen grievance redressal systems and social audits.
- Encourage ethical leadership, citizen feedback, and accountability.
- Promote dignity-sensitive service delivery, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

- Integrate ongoing ethical training and thoughtful decision making.

Conclusion

- Dignity, to regard each person; humility, to serve power.
- Together they convert administration from an exercise of power to an instrument of justice, compassion and good governance.

Source: PIB

NEWS IN SHORT

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES (KVI)

Context

- Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) have continued to play a significant role in promoting rural livelihoods, generating employment and strengthening the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a **statutory body** established in 1957 under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.**
- **It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** and promotes khadi and village industries to **generate rural employment, encourage self-employment and strengthen local production.**
- **Its major functions** include providing financial assistance, training artisans, supporting marketing and developing village-based enterprises.

Initiatives to Promote Khadi and Village Industries

- **Khadi Vikas Yojana (KVY)** promotes Khadi sector through the existing schemes components like;
  - Modified Market Development Assistance (MMDA),
  - Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC),
  - Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans,
  - Strengthening infrastructure of existing weak Khadi Institutions,
  - Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure and Khadi (Science and technology).
- **Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY)** promotes village industries through common facilities, technology upgradation, training and toolkit distribution.
- **A Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK)** has been established by KVIC in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi to provide design intervention, product development, and market support for khadi products.

Source: PIB

GLOBAL GREENFIELD INVESTMENTS

Context

- As per the report of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's share in global greenfield investments during 2020-25 is at 5.7%.

Greenfield Investments

- A greenfield investment is a type of **foreign direct investment (FDI)** where a parent company launches a **business operation abroad** by building everything up on its own.
  - Greenfield projects involve **building from the ground up,** contrasting with brown-field investments that use existing structures.
- **Greenfield investments have their risks,** including large investments of capital, time, and effort, as well as the need to deal in potentially unfamiliar business and political environments.
- **Through incentives,** developing countries attract greenfield investments that create jobs and boost economies.

Findings of the Report

- **From 2020 to 2025,** strategic sectors grew from 16% to 44% of global greenfield investment.
  - Strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and related technologies attracted the largest share of overall global greenfield investment.
  - AI infrastructure was followed by the semiconductor value chain (8.1%) and energy transition technologies and services (7.8%).
- **Region-wise Investment:** Europe accounted for 28.4% of strategic investment and North America captured another 28%.
  - Among developing economies, capital is primarily funnelled into developing Asia (26.5%), with China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore as leading jurisdictions for new investments.
- **India Specific:** India accounted for 5.7% of global greenfield investments during 2020 to 2025, followed by Malaysia (4%), Indonesia (3.8%), and China (2.8%).
  - India ranks high in terms of the number of industrial policies it has implemented over the last two decades or so.
  - During 2008-21, India implemented 1,416 industrial policies, behind only China (4,201) and the U.S. (4,025).

Source: TH

THE CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY (CAF)

Context

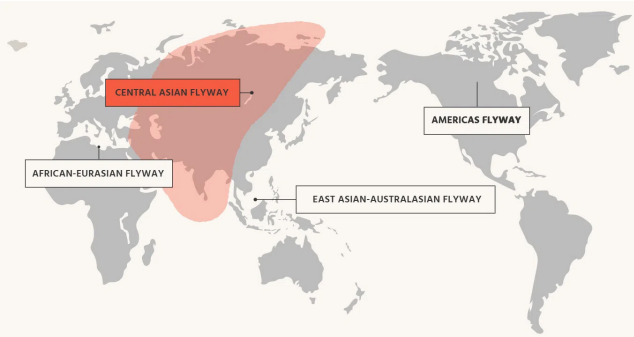
- The Central Asian Conservation Network (CACN) has launched a **new Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub.**

About Digital Hub

- It aims to **strengthen the sharing of knowledge and information** for the conservation of migratory birds across one of the world's major migration routes.
- It will bring together information on migratory bird species, important flyway sites, conservation projects and opportunities for participation.
- It will also provide dedicated portals for recording bird collisions and sightings of marked birds.

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

- CAF is a vast migratory corridor stretching across **30 countries of North, Central and South Asia and the Trans-Caucasus,** connecting the **Arctic and Indian Oceans**.
- It encompasses some of the **world's most important routes** for migratory waterbirds, landbirds, and raptors, many of which are threatened or declining.
- The CAF is one of the major migratory bird flyways recognised in international conservation efforts, particularly under the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).**
- More than 600 bird species use the flyway, making cooperation and information sharing across national boundaries essential for their conservation.



Source: DTE

CAQM PANEL PROPOSES 100% ELECTRIC CARS IN DELHI BY 2030

Context

- A 15-member expert committee appointed by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has recommended a phased phase-out of older vehicles in Delhi-NCR.

Key Recommendations

- The committee has recommended the immediate **phase-out of BS-I, BS-II and BS-III** vehicles in Delhi-NCR.
- It has proposed **phasing out BS-IV vehicles by 2030**, with a pilot restriction during winter **2026.**
- It has recommended phasing out **BS-VI two-wheelers by 2035** and **BS-VI four-wheelers by 2040.**
- **From 2035,** the committee has suggested considering restrictions on **BS-VI vehicles** if the average **AQI exceeds 200.**

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- **CAQM** was constituted under the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.**
- **Objective:** The Act provides for the constitution of a Commission for better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas.
- **Powers** of the Commission include;
  - **Restricting activities** influencing air quality,
  - **Preparing codes and guidelines** to prevent and control air pollution,
  - **Issuing directions** on matters including inspections, or regulation **which will be binding** on the concerned person or authority.
  - The Commission **may impose and collect environmental compensation** from farmers causing pollution by stubble burning prescribed by the central government.
  - The Commission issues orders to combat air pollution in NCR under the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).**
- **In case of any conflict**, the orders or directions of the Commission will prevail over the orders of the respective state governments, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), state PCBs, and state-level statutory bodies.

Source: THE PRINT

SIDM CHAMPION AWARDS 2026

Context

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented the SIDM Champion Awards 2026 at the 8th Annual Session of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

About

- A total of **15 Champion Awards** were presented to recognise organisations for achievements in indigenous

technology development, product innovation, design, import substitution, manufacturing excellence and exports.

- **Objectives:** To encourage Indian industries to invest in technology and product innovations to address capability gaps of defence forces.
- **Eligibility Criteria**
  - All Indian manufacturing companies are eligible to participate in the SIDM Champion Awards.
  - Companies with upto max 50% foreign holding and not a subsidiary of a foreign company.

About SIDM

- The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) is a **not-for-profit association** formed to be the **apex body** of the Indian defence industry.
- It acts as an advocate, catalyst and facilitator for the growth and capability development of India's defence industry.

Source: PIB

NOIDA AIRPORT TO BE RENAMED AFTER PM MODI

Context

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to rename the Noida International Airport at Jewar as 'Narendra Modi International Airport'.

About

- The Cabinet passed the resolution to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **25 years** of continuous service as the head of a government, beginning with his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001.
- Once implemented, it will become the **first airport to be named after a sitting Prime Minister**. Other airports — Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi; Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport, Lucknow and Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Varanasi — are all named after former PMs.
- Located in **Jewar**, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Noida International Airport was developed through a **public-private partnership** between Yamuna International Airport Private Limited — a subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG — and UP state authorities.
- It is **Uttar Pradesh's largest airport** and is poised to become a major aviation hub for the **National Capital Region (NCR)**, alongside Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Source: IE