Miscellaneous
CAP VOLUME–7/7

KEY FEATURES OF CAP 2025

▷ Interactive classes with live doubt resolution by faculties.

▷ Comprehensive yet concise study material.

▷ Lectures that promote both conceptual clarity and interlinkage with Current Affairs.

CONTENTS

SECURITY AND AWARDS

Padma Vibhushan   Padma Bhushan   Padma Shri

Ashok Chakra   ARJUNA AWARD

Security

MISSILES

- **Define:** A missile is indeed a type of guided airborne ranged weapon that can propel itself through the air. It is designed to deliver a warhead with precision to a specific target, which can be either stationary or mobile.
- **Missile Components:**
  - **Guidance System:** Directs the missile's path.
  - **Targeting System:** Identifies and locks onto the target.
  - **Flight System:** Controls the missile's trajectory.
  - **Engine:** Propels the missile, either by a jet engine or rocket motor.
  - **Warhead:** The explosive or operational part of the missile.
- **Missile Speed Classifications:**
  - **Subsonic Missiles**: Travel slower than the speed of sound.
    - *Examples:* U.S. Harpoon, Indian Prithvi.
  - **Supersonic Missiles:** Travel faster than the speed of sound (Mach 1) but slower than Mach 5.
    - *Examples:* Russian Iskander, Indian BrahMos.
  - **Hypersonic Missiles:** Travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5.
    - *Examples:* China's DF-ZF, Russia's Avangard.
- **Types of Missiles:**
  - **Ballistic Missiles:** Follow a ballistic trajectory; examples include India's Agni and Prithvi series.
- **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs):** Ballistic missiles reaching hypersonic speeds in the re-entry phase.
  - *Examples:* China's DF-17, Russia's Avangard. India is currently demonstrating HGV technology.
- **Cruise Missiles:** Fly within the atmosphere at a constant speed to hit terrestrial or naval targets.
  - *Examples:* U.S. BGM-109 Tomahawk, Indian Nirbhay.
  - *Supersonic Cruise Missiles:* Cruise missiles achieving supersonic speeds.
    - *Example:* Indo-Russian BrahMos, near Mach 3 speed.
  - **Hypersonic Cruise Missiles:** Utilize scramjet engines to exceed Mach 5 speeds.
    - *Examples:* Russia's 3M22 Zircon over Mach 8, and the planned Indian BrahMos-II aiming for speeds above Mach 8.

BALLISTIC MISSILES

MISSILE NAME	TYPE	MAXIMUM RANGE	WARHEAD TYPE
Prithvi-III	Surface-to-surface SRBM	350 to 600 km	Conventional/Nuclear
Dhanush	Surface-to-surface ASBM	350 to 750 km	Conventional/Nuclear
Agni-V	Surface-to-surface ICBM	5,500 to 8,000 km	Conventional/Nuclear
Prahaar	Surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile	150 km	Conventional/Nuclear
Pragati	Surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile	170 km	Conventional
Pranash	Surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile	200 km	Conventional
Pralay	Surface-to-surface SRBM	500 km	Conventional

INDIA'S BALLISTIC MISSILES

Missiles shown (left to right):
1. PRAHAAR | 150km
2. BRAHMOS (CRUISE MISSILE) | 300km
3. PRITHVI II | 350km
4. AGNI-1 INDIA | 700+km
5. NIRBHAY (CRUISE MISSILE) | 800+km
6. AGNI-2 | 2,000+km
7. AGNI-3 | 3,200+km
8. AGNI-4 INDIA | 3,500+km
9. AGNI-5 INDIA | 5,000+km

19.3m/63ft – 0m
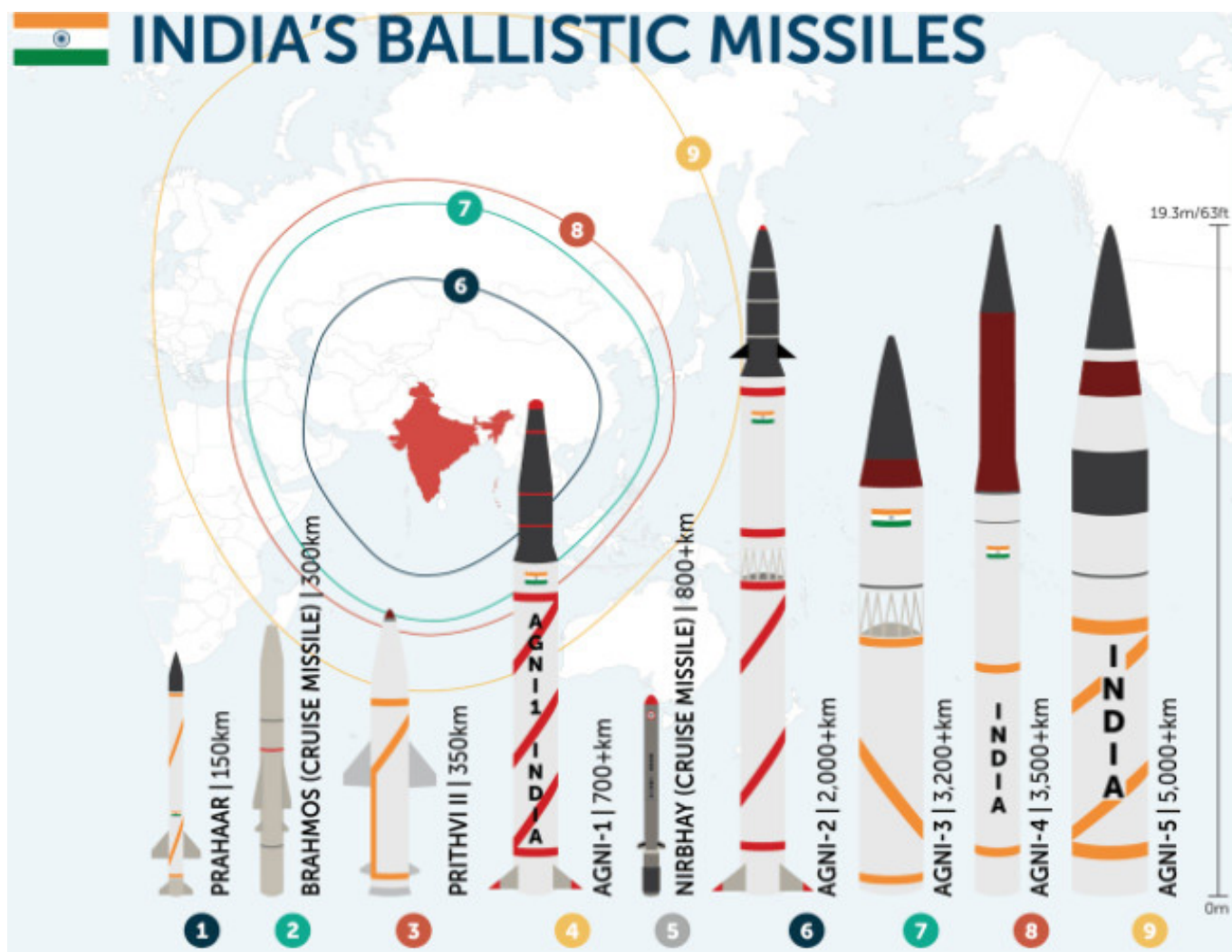
THE INTEGRATED GUIDED MISSILE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IGMDP)

- It was an Indian Ministry of Defence programme for the research and development of a comprehensive range of missiles, including medium-range surface-to-air missiles, short-range surface-to-air missiles, an anti-tank missile, and a range of ballistic missiles.
- **It includes:** Agni series, Prithvi series, Akash, Nag, Trishul Missiles.

Cruise Missiles

MISSILE NAME	TYPE	MAXIMUM RANGE	WARHEAD TYPE
BrahMos Block I	Supersonic Ship-launched anti-ship / land-attack	290 km	Conventional/Nuclear
BrahMos Block II	Supersonic Land-launched land-attack	290 km	Conventional/Nuclear
BrahMos Block III	Supersonic Land-launched land-attack	290 km	Conventional/Nuclear
BrahMos-A	Supersonic Air-launched land-attack / anti-ship	400 km	Conventional/Nuclear
Submarine-launched BrahMos	Supersonic Submarine-launched anti-ship / land-attack	290 km	Conventional/Nuclear

BrahMos ER (Extended Range)	Multi-platform multirole supersonic cruise missile	600 km	Conventional/Nuclear
BrahMos NG (Next Generation)	Multi-platform multirole supersonic cruise missile	290 km	Conventional/Nuclear
BrahMos-II	Hypersonic cruise missile	600–1,000 km	Conventional/Nuclear
Nirbhay	Subsonic land-attack cruise missile	1,000–1,500 km	Conventional/Nuclear

SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES

MISSILE NAME	MAXIMUM RANGE	WARHEAD TYPE
Akash Mk I	30 km	High-explosive, pre-fragmented
Akash Mk II	40 km	High-explosive, pre-fragmented
Akash-NG	70 km	High-explosive, pre-fragmented
Maitri (Missile)	30 km	-
QRSAM	30 km	-
VL-SRSAM	50 km	High-explosive, pre-fragmented
SAMAR Air Defence System	12–40 km	High-explosive, pre-fragmented
Barak 8	70 km	Proximity sensor-based
LRSAM	100 km	Proximity sensor-based
ER-SAM	250 km	High explosive
XR-SAM	350 km	High explosive

AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES

MISSILE NAME	MAXIMUM RANGE	WARHEAD TYPE
Astra Mk1	110 km (68 mi)	High-explosive pre-fragmented
Astra Mk2	160 km (99 mi)	High-explosive pre-fragmented
Astra Mk3	350 km (220 mi)	High-explosive pre-fragmented
Novator KS-172	200 to 300 km (120 to 190 mi)	High-explosive fragmentation directional

OTHER MISSILES

MISSILE NAME	TYPE OF MISSILE	MAXIMUM RANGE	WARHEAD TYPE
Nag (Missile) - Prospina	Third-generation land-attack ATGM	4 km	Tandem-charge high-explosive anti-tank
HeliNa/Dhruvastra	Air-launched ATGM	10 km	TBD

Shaurya (Missile)	Hypersonic Surface-to-Surface Tactical Missile	700 km	Conventional or nuclear
Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle	Testbed for Development of Hypersonic Systems	-	-
Pinaka Mk I	Multiple Rocket Launcher	40 km	Various
K-15 (Sagarika)	Short-range submarine-launched ballistic missile	750 km	Conventional or nuclear
K-4	Medium-range submarine-launched ballistic missile	3,500 km	Conventional or nuclear

SPIKE NON-LINE OF SIGHT (NLOS) ANTI TANK GUIDED MISSILE

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** has received **Israeli Spike NLOS anti-tank guided missiles** with a **30 km range.**
- **About:** These missiles will be integrated into **Russian Mi-17V5 helicopters.** They are effective against hidden enemy targets behind mountains or hills.
- **Key Features:** Available in various launch methods, fire-and-forget with self-guidance, and "Fire, Observe, and Update" mode for extended range versions.
  - Air-launched NLOS ATGMs can strike ground targets from standoff distances, causing significant damage to enemy tank regiments and halting their advances

MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEMS OF WORLD

MISSILE/SYSTEM NAME	TYPE	MAXIMUM RANGE	INTERCEPTION ALTITUDE	SPEED	WARHEAD TYPE	INTRODUCTION YEAR
Prithvi Air Defence (India)	Exo-atmospheric Anti-ballistic Missile	300 km - 2,000 km	50 km - 180 km	Mach 5+	Proximity fuze	2006
Advanced Air Defence(India)	Endo-atmospheric Anti-ballistic Missile	150 km	15 km - 40 km	Mach 4.5	Hit-to-kill	2007
Iron Dome (Israel)	Mobile all-weather air defense system	Up to 70 km	-	-	Tamir interceptor	2011
S-400(Russia)	Anti-aircraft weapon system	Up to 400 km	Up to 30 km	-	Various	2007
THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) (USA)	Anti-ballistic missile system	200 km	Up to 150 km	Mach 8.24	Hit-to-kill	2008
Dongfeng 41 (China)	Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)	12,000	15,000 km	Mach 25	Hit-to-kill	2019

SCALP MISSILES

- France joined Britain in supplying long-range SCALP missiles to Ukraine.
- **About:**
    - It is an air-launched British-French missile known to UK forces as the **"Storm Shadow",** manufactured by MBDA and used by France, Italy and the United Kingdom.
    - It is a **fire and forget missile,** programmed before launch.
    - Once launched, the missile cannot be controlled, its target information changed or self-destructed.
    - The missile follows a path semi-autonomously, on a low flight path guided by GPS and terrain matching to the area of the target.
    - The missile uses inertial navigation, GPS and terrain referencing to chart a low-altitude course to its target to avoid detection.

HWASONG-18

- The General Missile Bureau of **North Korea** conducted the test fire of the Hwasong – 18, an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).
- **About:**
    - The Hwasong – 18 is a solid-fuelled ICBM, which is believed to have a range of **15,000 km or more,** and could potentially carry three or four warheads, rather than only one.
    - ICBMs are particularly worrying because of their long range, including the mainland of the United States.

SUBMARINES

- **Project 15B: Guided-Missile Destroyers**
    - Developed as an enhanced version of Kolkata-class destroyers.
    - Construction by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) for the Indian Navy.
    - **Fleet includes:**
        - INS Visakhapatnam (commissioned)
        - INS Mormugao (preparing for trials)
        - INS Imphal (in advanced outfitting stage)
        - INS Surat (expected launch in 2022).
- **Project 75: Kalvari-Class Submarines**
    - Acquisition plan for six diesel-electric attack submarines for the Indian Navy.
    - Based on Scorpene-class submarines, designed by Naval Group (France) with Navantia (Spain).
    - Construction at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai, with technology from Naval Group.
- **Project 75I (India): Diesel-Electric Submarines**
    - Next phase following P-75, focusing on indigenous submarine construction.
    - Envisioned features include:
        - Air-independent propulsion (AIP) system.
        - Special Operations Forces (SOF) compatibility.
        - Enhanced Anti-ship, Anti-submarine, Anti-surface warfare capabilities.
        - Land-attack capabilities.
    - Plan to build six advanced diesel-electric attack submarines for the Indian Navy.

ORIGIN	CLASS	TYPE	BOATS
India	Arihant class	Ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)	INS Arihant
West Germany	Shishumar class	Attack submarine	INS Shishumar , INS Shankush , INS Shalki , INS Shankul
France	Kalvari class (Under Project 75)	Attack submarine	INS Kalvari , INS Khanderi , INS Karanj ,INS Vela, INS Vagir, INS Vagsheer
Soviet Union	Sindhughosh class	Attack submarine	INS Sindhughosh, INS Sindhudhvaj, INS Sindhuraj, INS Sindhuratna, INS Sindhukesari INS Sindhukirti, INS Sindhuvijay, INS Sindhurashtra

INDIA'S AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

The Defence Procurement Board (DPB) is considering the Indian Navy's proposal for acquiring a second Vikrant-like aircraft carrier.

India's Aircraft Carriers:

- **INS Vikrant:**
  - INS Vikrant is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
  - It has been built with state-of-the-art automation features and is the largest ship ever built in maritime history of India. It was launched into water in 2013 and commissioned in 2022.
  - The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier is named after her illustrious predecessor, India's first Aircraft Carrier which had played a vital role in the 1971 war.
- **INS Viraat:**
  - INS Viraat was originally commissioned by the British Royal Navy as HMS Hermes on November 18, 1959.
  - INS Viraat was finally commissioned by the Indian Navy on 12 May 1987.
  - INS Viraat's first major operation was **'Operation Jupiter'** in July 1989 as part of Peacekeeping Operations in Sri Lanka, following the breakdown of the Indo- Sri Lankan Accord of 1986.
  - It also played a pivotal role in Operation Parakram, which was carried out in the wake of the 2013 terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament.
  - By establishing a blockade against Pakistan during the **1999 Kargil War**, the **INS Viraat** also played a crucial part in **Operation Vijay.**
- **INS Vikramaditya:**
  - Indian Navy's largest ship: Russia's refurbished Admiral Gorshkov and commissioned it into the Indian Navy as INS Vikramaditya at Severodvinsk, Russia on November 16, 2013.
  - It is a state-of-the-art ship, capable of operating a versatile range of high-performance aircrafts, such as the MiG 29K fighters, KM 31 AEW helicopters, multi-role Seakings and utility Chetaks.

INS KIRPAN

The INS Kirpan was decommissioned from the Indian Navy and handed over to Vietnam People's Navy with a complete weapon complement.

About:
- INS Kirpan is the third indigenously built **Khukri class missile corvette**. The Khukri class corvettes are equipped with Diesel Engines assembled in India, under license by Kirloskar Group. It is equipped with an array of weapons and sensors.
- It has been an integral part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet since its commissioning in 1991 and has participated in various operational and humanitarian assistance operations over the last 32 years.

MILITARY EXERCISES

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	ARMY/NAVY/AIR FORCE	EXERCISE NAME
India and Australia	Army	AUSTRA HIND
	Navy	AUSINDEX
India and Bangladesh	Air Force	Table Top Ex
	Army	SAMPRITI
	Navy	IN-BN CORPAT
India and China	Army	HAND IN HAND
India and France	Air Force	GARUDA
	Army	SHAKTI
	Navy	VARUNA
India and Indonesia	Army	GARUDA SHAKTI
	Navy	IND-INDO CORPAT
	Navy	SAMUDRA SHAKTI
India and Japan	Army	DHARMA GUARDIAN
	Navy	JIMEX
India and Kazakhstan	Army	PRABAL DOSTYK
India and Kyrgyzstan	Army	KHANJAR
India and Maldives	Army	EKUVERIN
India and Mongolia	Army	NOMADIC ELEPHANT
India and Myanmar	Army	IMBEX
	Navy	IMCOR
India and Nepal	Army	SURYA KIRAN
India and Oman	Air Force	EASTERN BRIDGE-IV
	Army	AL NAGAH
	Navy	Naseem-al-Bahr
India and Russia	Air Force	INDRA
	Army	INDRA
	Navy	INDRA NAVY
India and Seychelles	Army	LAMITIYE
India and Sri Lanka	Army	MITRA SHAKTI
	Navy	SLINEX

India and Thailand	Air Force	SIAM BHARAT
	Army	MAITREE
	Navy	INDO-THAI CORPAT
India and USA	Air Force	RED FLAG 16-1
	Air Force	Exercise COPE India 23.
	Army	YUDHABHAYAS & VAJRA PRAHAR
	Navy	MALABAR (Multilateral)
India and United Kingdom	Air Force	INDRADHANUSH-IV
	Army	AJEYA WARRIOR
	Navy	KONKAN
India and Vietnam	Army	VINBAX

EX RIMPAC (RIM OF THE PACIFIC)

Recently, the Indian Navy deployed the indigenous stealth frigate INS Shivalik for Ex RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) held in Hawaii.

About:

- It is a **biennial event,** hosted by the **United States**, that brings together **naval forces** from various countries to foster cooperative relationships and enhance maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.
  - It is the **29th exercise** in the series that began in 1971.
- **Theme of RIMPAC 2024:** 'Partners: Integrated and Prepared'
- Approximately 29 nations, including the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, and India, 40 surface ships, 3 submarines, 14 national land forces, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel aim to participate in the Ex RIMPAC.
- It is critical to ensuring the **safety of sea lanes and security** in support of a **free and open Indo-Pacific region**.
- It provides a unique platform for joint training, interoperability, strategic maritime partnerships, and trust-building among friendly foreign navies.

EXERCISE ANTARIKSHA ABHYAS

Recently, the Defence Space Agency has hosted the first-ever space exercise called Antariksha Abhyas 2024 in New Delhi.

About:

- **Objective of the Exercise:**
  - **Simulation of growing Space threats:** Exercise Antariksha Abhyas focuses on simulating and addressing the growing threats to and from space-based assets and services.
    - It is designed to secure India's strategic objectives in space by integrating space capabilities into military operations and enhancing operational understanding of space-based systems.
  - **Strengthening National Space Security:** The exercise aims to protect and leverage space-based assets critical for national security.
  - **Operational Readiness:** It seeks to improve understanding of dependencies on space-based systems across various stakeholders.
  - **Identifying Vulnerabilities:** The exercise will analyze potential risks and vulnerabilities in operations due to disruptions or denial of space-based services.

DEFENCE SPACE AGENCY

- **Established:** In 2019 to consolidate and streamline India's defense initiatives in the space domain.
- **Operating under:** Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) of the Ministry of Defence.
- **Objectives and Mission:** The DSA's primary mission is to ensure the effective use of space technology for defense while protecting India's space assets from potential threats.
  - It focuses on enhancing situational awareness in space and strengthening capabilities in space-based Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR).
- **Key Functions of the Defence Space Agency:**
  - **Space Situational Awareness (SSA):** The DSA monitors and tracks space objects, including satellites, debris, and other potential threats to India's space assets.
    - Through SSA, the agency predicts possible collisions and addresses space hazards effectively.
  - **Counter-Space Capabilities:** Recognizing space as a contested domain, the DSA develops and implements counter-space measures to safeguard India's space assets against adversarial actions.
  - **Integration of Space Assets:** The agency integrates various space-based resources, including communication satellites, remote sensing satellites, and navigation systems, into defense operations.
    - This integration enhances situational awareness and operational efficiency.
  - **Coordination with ISRO:** Collaboration with ISRO is a cornerstone of the DSA's operations. By leveraging ISRO's expertise, satellite technologies, and launch capabilities, the DSA advances India's defense applications in space.

BHARAT NCX 2024

The Bharat National Cyber Security Exercise (Bharat NCX 2024), was inaugurated at a ceremony organized by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

Key Features of Bharat NCX 2024:

- Bharat NCX 2024 is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at strengthening India's cybersecurity resilience.
- Organized by the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** in collaboration with the **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)**
- This flagship event brings together over 300 participants from government agencies, public organizations, and private enterprises, all dedicated to protecting critical information infrastructure through advanced training, live simulations, and strategic exercises.

Key Highlights:

- **Comprehensive Cybersecurity Training:**
  - Features immersive training on **cyber defense** and **incident response** strategies.
  - Includes **live-fire simulations** of cyberattacks on both IT and OT systems, offering hands-on experience in managing and mitigating cyber threats.
- **Strategic Decision-Making Exercise:** Engages senior leaders from various sectors in a simulated **national-level cyber crisis**, fostering strategic decision-making skills under high-pressure scenarios.
- **CISO's Conclave:**
  - A dedicated platform for **Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)** from the government, public, and private sectors.
  - Includes panel discussions, knowledge sharing, and insights into the latest cybersecurity trends and government initiatives.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

- **Overview:** It operates under the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** and is responsible for planning and coordinating national security efforts.
- **Primary Role:** The NSCS serves as a premier government body that advises the Prime Minister on issues related to **defense**, **internal security**, and **foreign policy.**
- **Leadership:** The Prime Minister heads the NSCS, while the **National Security Advisor (NSA)** oversees its day-to-day operations and policy-making.
- **Key Personnel:** The NSA is supported by deputies drawn from diverse services, including: Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Armed Forces.

BHARAT
NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY EXERCISE 2024

Government | Banking, Financial Services and Insurance | Transport | Health | Power & Energy | Strategic and Public Enterprise | Telecom
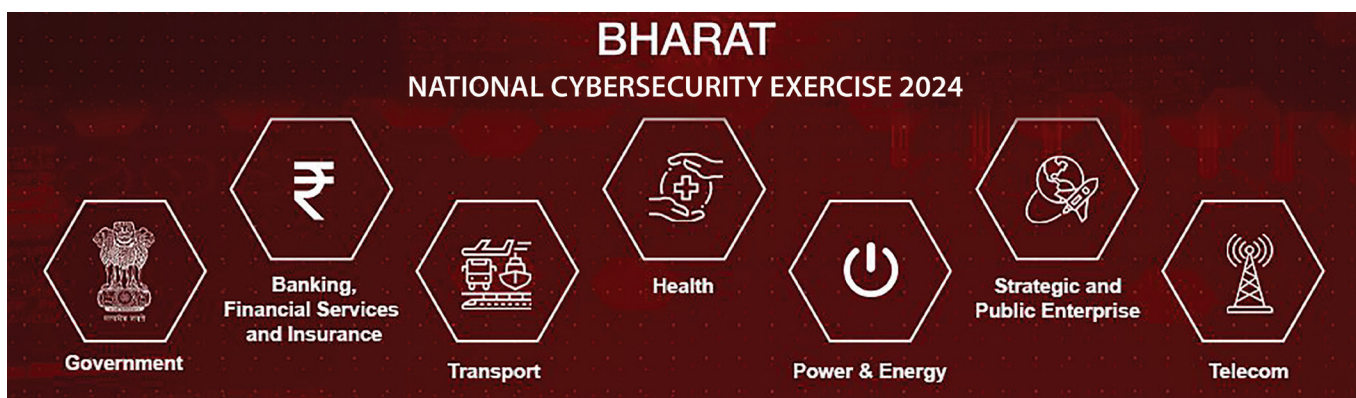
Other Defence Related News

MIRAGE 2000

India is discussing the purchase of 12 used Mirage-2000 fighters aircraft from Qatar, enhancing combat strength amidst retiring MiG fighters.

About:

- It is a **fourth-generation, multirole fighter aircraft**, and has played a significant role in the Indian Air Force (IAF) for several decades.
- It was originally designed by the **French company Dassault Aviation.**
- India acquired around 51 Mirage 2000s in different batches, forming three squadrons based at the **Gwalior Air Force station.**

Key Features:

- **Versatility:** The Mirage 2000 is a versatile platform capable of air-to-air combat, ground attack, reconnaissance, and nuclear strike missions.
- **Precision Strikes:** During the Kargil conflict, Mirage 2000s successfully hit enemy camps at high altitudes using laser-guided bombs.
  - It played a crucial role in the 2019 Balakot airstrikes, demonstrating its combat effectiveness.
- **Upgrades:** The ongoing upgrade program aims to enhance their capabilities, ensuring their relevance till 2035.

INDIGENOUS LIGHT TANK 'ZORAWAR'

India has successfully conducted the field firing trials of its new indigenous light tank 'Zorawar', a highly versatile platform capable of deployment in high-altitude areas.

About:

- Zorawar has been developed by the **Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment** (CVRDE), and DRDO, in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
- It is named after the 19th century **Dogra General Zorawar Singh**, who led military expeditions to Ladakh and Western Tibet.
- The tank will be able to navigate steep mountains and cross water bodies like rivers far more easily than its forerunners such as the heavy-weight **T-72 and T-90 tanks.**

OPERATION CHAKRA III

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under Operation CHAKRA-III has taken action to successfully dismantle a sophisticated cyber-enabled financial crime network.

About:

- This operation was executed with cooperation from other international law enforcement agencies including the **FBI (USA) and INTERPOL.**
- The network has been targeting victims in foreign countries since **2022,** with their operations involving **cryptocurrencies and bullion.**

ARROW-3 MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM

Israel's Defense Ministry is coordinating with Germany's Federal Ministry of Defense for the deployment of the Arrow-3 missile interception system in Germany by 2025.

About:

- The Arrow-3 system is an advanced, exo-atmospheric anti-ballistic missile defense system, designed for long-range missile threats.
- This system is a significant component of Israel's comprehensive air-defense network, which also includes **Arrow 2, David's Sling, and Iron Dome systems.**
- Jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and the US Missile Defense Agency, Arrow-3 has been operational since 2017.
- **Features:**
  - **Two-stage solid-fueled interceptors:** These are essential for engaging short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.
  - **Hypersonic speed:** Arrow-3 travels at speeds five times greater than the speed of sound.
  - **Range and altitude:** Capable of intercepting threats within a range of 2,400 km and at altitudes up to 100 km.
  - **Radar capabilities:** Equipped with early warning and fire control radar, providing extended-range acquisition and the ability to track multiple targets simultaneously.
- **Working Mechanism:** The Arrow-3 system utilizes hit-to-kill technology to neutralize incoming missiles. The interceptor missile launches vertically and then pivots towards the predicted interception point.
  - A high-resolution electro-optical sensor then targets the incoming missile, allowing the kill vehicle to collide with and destroy the warhead directly.

INDIA ELECTED TO GlobE NETWORK'S STEERING COMMITTEE

India has been elected to the GlobE Network's steering committee in Beijing, gaining a pivotal role in shaping global anti-corruption efforts.

About:

- **Background:** The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GloBE Network) was an **initiative of G-20.**
  - It was officially launched on June 3,2021, during a special event at the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption.
- **Member:** It now has **121 member countries** and 219 member authorities.
- **Objective:** The GloBE Network is a platform where agencies from across the world share criminal intelligence, develop strategies, and support in the common cause of combating corruption.
- **Governance:** The Network has **one chair, one vice-chair and 13 members** in the Steering Committee for providing leadership to the organization.

Indian Representation:

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is the central authority for GloBE Network, while the **CBI** and the **Enforcement Directorate** are its member authorities from India.
- During India's G-20 Presidency in 2023, **two high-level principles** for combating corruption were adopted which detailed leveraging of the GloBE Network.

BHARAT RANBHOOMI DARSHAN INITIATIVE

On the 77th Army Day (15th January 2025), the Defence Minister launched the "Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan" Initiative.

About

- It is a joint initiative by the Ministries of Defence & Tourism and the Indian Army. It aims to promote battlefield tourism in India.

Key Features:

- Civilians can visit key battlefield locations along India's borders.
- Covers historic battle sites from the 1962, 1971, and 1999 (Kargil) wars, including:
  - **Ladakh**: Rezang-La, Pangong Tso, Galwan clash site.
  - **Arunachal Pradesh**: Kibithoo, Bum-La.
  - **Doklam** (2017 standoff site).
  - **Kargil conflict sites**: Kargil, Batalik, Drass (trekking access available).
  - **Siachen Base Camp** (highest battlefield; limited access due to acclimatization needs).
- A **dedicated website** serves as a **one-stop portal** for battlefield tourism information.
- **Operational military areas remain restricted**, but forward locations are now **open for public visits**.

Objectives:

- **Transform border areas and battlefields** into **tourist destinations**.
- Allow civilians to **experience India's military history and valour firsthand**.
- Promote **holistic development** in border areas by improving: Infrastructure, Communication, Tourism and Education.

BHARGAVASTRA MICRO MISSILES

India has successfully tested the Bhargavastra, its first micro-missile system designed to counter swarm drones.

About

- **Advanced Targeting:** The Bhargavastra system successfully hit designated virtual targets over **2.5 kilometres away,** demonstrating high precision and effectiveness.
- **Enhanced Radar Capabilities:** It can detect medium to large UAVs up to **10 kilometres** and small drones up to **6 kilometres away**, making it effective against a wide range of aerial threats.
- **Versatile Deployment:** Bhargavastra can be mounted on **mobile platforms,** enabling rapid deployment and adaptability to diverse operational terrains, including high-altitude regions.

UNIFIED COMPLEX RADIO ANTENNA

India and Japan have recently entered into a Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) to jointly develop the Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) mast for use on Indian Navy ships.

About:

- **State-of-the-Art Integrated Antenna System:** The UNICORN is an advanced communication system designed to improve the stealth characteristics of naval ships.
  - It integrates multiple communication antennas into a single, unified system.
- **Developers:** Jointly developed by three Japanese companies, NEC Corporation, Sampa Kogyo K.K. and the Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.
- **First Military Technology Transfer Pact:** This is India's first-ever military technology transfer agreement with Japan.
- **Deepening Strategic Ties:** The pact follows a nine-year agreement between the two nations on defense equipment and technology transfers.
- **Focus on Key Technologies:** Besides the UNICORN mast, the Indian Navy is also exploring Japan's US-2 amphibian aircraft.

Key Features:

- **Stealth Enhancement:** Replaces traditional masts with a **radome** (a radar dome), consolidating multiple antennas into a single structure.
  - Reduces the radar cross-section and electronic signature, enhancing stealth capabilities.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Improves the **maximum detection distance** for radio waves emitted from external sources.
  - Simplifies the maintenance and installation of communication systems.
- **Reduced Electronic Signature:** The innovative design minimizes electronic emissions, making the naval platforms harder to detect by adversaries.
- **Significance for India:** The co-development of UNICORN aligns with India's efforts to modernize its naval fleet with advanced stealth technology.The collaboration strengthens the strategic partnership between India and Japan in defense and technology innovation.

NATIONAL SECURITY GUARD (NSG)

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has established a permanent National Security Guard (NSG) hub in Jammu City to enhance security and counter potential terrorist threats in the region.

About:

- **Elite Counter-Terrorism Force:** The NSG is a specialized force trained to combat terrorism and handle critical security situations.
- **Establishment:** In 1984, following Operation Blue Star. Created under the National Security Guard Act, 1986.
- **Administrative and operational control:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Motto:** "Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha" (Everywhere, Supreme Security).
- **Composition:** The NSG comprises two main groups:
  - **Special Action Group (SAG):** Primarily composed of Army personnel.
  - **Special Ranger Group (SRG):** Comprises personnel from Central Armed Police Forces and State Police Forces.
- **Key Roles:** Counter-terrorism operations, Hijacking situations, Bomb disposal and post-blast investigations, VIP security

INS SAMARTHAK

The Indian Navy celebrated a significant milestone with the launch of Samarthak.

About:

- It is designed for various roles, including towing, launching and recovering targets, operating unmanned vehicles, and testing indigenous weapons.
- It is the first vessel under the **Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli.**

Significance:

- **Boost to Indigenous Defense Manufacturing:** The launch bolsters India's defense sector by encouraging domestic production of critical maritime assets, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers. This fosters industry growth, job creation, and economic benefits.
- **Strengthening National Security:** Homegrown shipbuilding enhances India's ability to protect its maritime borders independently, equipping the Navy with advanced, domestically produced vessels. This approach boosts readiness against regional threats.
- **Technological Innovation and Expertise Development:** Investment in indigenous projects advances marine engineering and defense tech, fostering innovation. It also positions India as a potential exporter of defense technology.
- **Economic Impact and Employment Generation:** Domestic shipbuilding projects stimulate local industries and supply chains, creating jobs and contributing to GDP growth. This benefits manufacturing, electronics, and heavy industries.
- **Geopolitical Influence and Strategic Autonomy:** A self-sufficient Navy strengthens India's role as a security provider in the Indian Ocean, enhancing its global influence and allowing for independent strategic decisions.
- **Environmental and Operational Efficiency:** Control over ship design and production enables eco-friendly, efficient technologies tailored to India's needs, supporting sustainable naval operations and long-term cost-effectiveness.

FOURTH NUCLEAR-POWERED BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), codenamed S4 was launched in Visakhapatnam.*

About:

- **Indigenous SSBN S4* Equipped with Advanced Missile Systems:**
  - The newly launched SSBN submarine, referred to as S4*, has approximately 75% indigenous components.
  - S4* is armed exclusively with 3,500 km-range K-4 nuclear ballistic missiles, deployable through vertical launch systems.

- ◆ Unlike the first of its class, INS Arihant, which carries 750 km-range K-15 nuclear missiles, S4* and its recent predecessors are upgraded to carry only K-4 missiles.

- **Operational Endurance and Limitations:**
  - ◆ As a nuclear-powered vessel, the SSBN can remain at sea indefinitely, limited only by food supplies, crew endurance, and maintenance needs.
  - ◆ INS Arihant and INS Arighaat, already on deep-sea patrols, reinforce India's sea-based nuclear deterrence capabilities.

- **Naming Conventions and Class Evolution:**
  - ◆ India's SSBN naming convention started with the leased submarine INS Chakra (S1), followed by INS Arihant (S2), INS Arighaat (S3), and INS Aridhaman (S4).
  - ◆ The S4*, being the latest addition, is expected to be the final submarine of this class with a formal name still pending.
  - ◆ The next class of Indian SSBNs will be approximately 12,000 tons—double the displacement of the Arihant class—and will carry nuclear missiles with ranges exceeding 5,000 km.

- **Strategic Focus on Sea-Based Deterrence:**
  - ◆ The current government prioritizes submarine-based nuclear deterrence due to the perceived vulnerability of aircraft carriers to China's long-range missiles, such as the Dong Feng-21 and Dong Feng-26.
  - ◆ Nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered attack submarines have therefore been prioritized over a third aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE AND NUCLEAR SUBMARINE		
Feature	**Diesel-Electric Submarine**	**Nuclear Submarine**
Power Source	Diesel engines and electric batteries	Nuclear reactor
Range	Limited range, needs to surface frequently for air	Virtually unlimited range, can stay submerged for months
Speed	Slower, especially underwater	Higher sustained speeds underwater
Stealth	Silent on battery power but must surface to recharge	Can remain submerged, thus more stealthy
Operational Duration	Limited by fuel and battery life	Limited only by crew endurance and supplies
Example	INS Kalvari - Scorpène class	INS Arihant - Arihant class

Cybersecurity

C-DOT'S TRINETRA

Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) inaugurated the Enterprise Security Operation Centre (ESOC) at C-DOT campus, New Delhi and launched TRINETRA, a cyber threat detection and resolution system.

About:

- It is a combination of multiple security systems like **Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)**, **Security Orchestration and Automated Response (SOAR)**, **Data Loss Prevention (DLP), User Entity and Behaviour Analytics (UEBA),** Multi-Source Threat Intelligence and others.
- It provides **24X7 real-time** actionable cyber-security status and detection and resolution of cyber-threats (Virus, Malware, Ransomware, Spyware etc) by providing end-to-end security solutions to the organizations for detection, analysis and mitigation of cyber security threats.

- It performs security evaluation of IT assets of organizations by protecting endpoints including PC, Laptop, Servers and virtual machines (VMs) by detection, analyses and mitigation of vulnerabilities.
- It is designed to generate AI enabled automated responses to cyber threats ensuring protection of sensitive data.

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS (C-DOT)

- It was established in August 1984 as an autonomous Telecom R&D center of the Department of Telecommunications, **Ministry of Communications, Government of India.**
- It is a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860.**
- It is a registered 'public funded research institution' with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. It observed its 40th Foundation Day celebration on 25 August 2023.

Notable Ransomware and Malware Incidents

- **WannaCry Ransomware Incident (May 2017):** This widespread ransomware attack locked out users from their devices, demanding a ransom for access restoration. It notably affected five major Indian cities: Kolkata, Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Pune, and Mumbai.
- **Mirai Botnet Attack (September 2016):** The Mirai malware targeted smart devices with ARC processors, creating a botnet used in a significant DDoS attack against a renowned security expert's website.

Specific Cyber Attacks in India

- **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Station Incident:** The facility was targeted in a cybersecurity incident, highlighting vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure.
- **National Institutions Website Attacks:** Various national institutions in India have experienced cyberattacks, compromising their websites.
- **Petya Ransomware Impact:** The operations at a terminal of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in India were severely disrupted due to the Petya ransomware.
- **Tehri Dam Malware Attack (2017):** The Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand was compromised by a malware attack, underscoring the risk to essential utilities.

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY POLICY, 2013

Objective

- **Secure Cyber Ecosystem:** Foster the implementation of organized IT systems across all economic sectors to create a safer cyber environment. Additionally, aim to reinforce the administrative structures supporting cyberspace security.
- **Compliance with International Standards:** Develop cyber security policies that align with international best practices, ensuring technology infrastructure, personnel, and processes meet global security benchmarks.
- **Indigenous Cyber Security Advancement:** Promote the growth of local cyber security technology through the operation of a continuous (24/7) National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC). Implement mandatory security protocols for the design, procurement, development, usage, and management of information resources.
- **Cyber Security Talent Development:** Aim to train 500,000 professionals in cyber security within the next five years.
- **Incentives for Secure Practices:** Offer fiscal incentives to businesses that adopt recognized security practices and processes. Support legal measures in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of cybercrimes.
- **National Coordination Agency:** Establish a central national agency to oversee and coordinate cyber security activities within the country, with clearly outlined duties and responsibilities.

- **Mandatory Security Roles:** Require all private and public sector organizations to appoint a Chief Information Security Officer within their IT departments.

- **Policy Development and Compliance:** Organizations should formulate information security policies tailored to their operational needs. Ensure IT infrastructures adhere to cyber security best practices and standards, including compliance assessment and certifications such as ISO 27001 ISMS, system audits, penetration tests, application security, and web security testing.

- **Emergency Response and Crisis Management:** Designate the National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) as the leading agency for cyber security emergency responses and crisis management, serving as the coordinating body for sector-specific CERTs.

- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Enhance collaboration and support among national and international security agencies, CERTs, defense agencies, law enforcement, and judicial systems for a comprehensive approach to cyber security.

- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative:** Launched to enhance awareness about cyber crimes and implement safety protocols for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and IT staff across government departments, ensuring a safer digital environment.

- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**
  - **Function:** Provides a structured framework for law enforcement agencies to address cyber crimes effectively. It comprises seven key components:
  - National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit
  - National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal
  - National Cyber Crime Training Centre
  - Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit
  - National Cyber Crime Research and Innovation Centre
  - National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem
  - Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Team

- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre):** To maintain a secure cyberspace by identifying botnet infections within India, and assisting in the cleaning and securing of infected systems to prevent future attacks.

- **Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In):** An entity under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) that collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on cyber incidents. It also issues alerts on cybersecurity incidents to preempt cyber threats.

- **Critical Information Infrastructure (CII):** A computer resource whose destruction would have a significant impact on national security, economy, public health, or safety. The protection of such infrastructure is vital for the country's well-being.

- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC):** To safeguard critical information infrastructures across various sectors including power, banking, telecom, transport, government, and strategic enterprises, ensuring national security and economic stability.

- **Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA):** A tri-service command of the Indian Armed Forces tasked with defending against cyber threats. It is equipped to conduct comprehensive cyber operations including hacking, surveillance, data recovery, encryption, and countermeasures against cyber threats.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001)

- The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, established in 2001 under the Council of Europe, addresses the harmonization of national laws to tackle internet and computer crime. It covers copyright infringements, computer-related fraud, child pornography, and network security violations.

- **Objectives**
  - To harmonize national laws on cybercrime.
  - To enhance international cooperation among police and judicial authorities.
  - To improve legal authorities for investigative techniques in cybercrime cases.
- **Additional Protocols:** Includes a "Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism" committed through computer systems.
- **Membership**
  - Notably excludes India among its members.
  - Has 56 members, including prominent countries like the **US and the UK.**
- **Global Centre for Cybersecurity**
  - Initiated by the World Economic Forum, this center is headquartered in Geneva. It represents the first global platform dedicated to addressing cybersecurity challenges.
- **Goals**
  - To foster collaboration between governments, businesses, experts, and law enforcement agencies.
  - To develop comprehensive regulatory mechanisms for cybersecurity**.**
- **Global Conference on Cyber Space:**
  - Engages members from government, civil society, and the private sector.
  - Focuses on cooperation in cyberspace and enhancing cyber capacity building.
  - Held biennially since 2011.
- **Commonwealth Cyber Declaration (2018)**
  - Represents the world's largest inter-governmental agreement on cybersecurity cooperation.
  - Aims to support economic and social development and rights online.
  - Establishes the foundation for effective national cybersecurity responses.
  - Encourages stability in cyberspace through international cooperation.
  - Was signed in April 2018 at the Commonwealth Summit.
- **Paris Call**
  - Launched at the UNESCO Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting in Paris, the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace aims to establish common principles for securing cyberspace.
  - This rephrased and reorganized format should offer a clearer understanding of the key international efforts and agreements aimed at enhancing cybersecurity globally.

TERM	DEFINITION
Cyberattack	An attack conducted by a threat actor using a computer network or system with the intention to disrupt, disable, destroy, control, manipulate, or surveil a computing environment/infrastructure and/or data.
Cyber Operation	Actions by a nation state or state-sponsored group to penetrate a target's computer networks using offensive cyber capabilities for political, military, or strategic goals.
Cyberpeace	Peace in cyberspace, ensuring human security, dignity, and equity in digital ecosystems, with a focus on people and their rights over technology.
Cybersecurity	The application of technologies, processes, and controls to protect systems, networks, and data from cyberattacks, unauthorized access, or damage.
Cyberspace	The digital systems and online world accessible through computer networks and the internet, including social media platforms, bank accounts, and connected devices.

TERM	DEFINITION
Darknet	An overlay network within the Internet accessed with specific software, configurations, or authorization, used for security, anonymity, and resistance to censorship. Often associated with criminal activities despite legitimate uses.
Data breach	The exposure of confidential, sensitive, or protected information to an unauthorized person, either accidentally or deliberately.
Data dump	The transfer of data from one system, file, or device to another, often associated with illegal activity following a data breach.
Data Wiper	Malware aiming to corrupt or destroy data, sometimes targeting the MBR to prevent booting. Not all data may be irrecoverable.
Decryption	Converting encrypted data back into its original, human-readable form, reversing the encryption process.
Deep web	Part of the Internet not indexed by search engines, requiring user authentication for access to additional information.
Defacement	Unauthorized modification of a website's appearance and content.
Disinformation	The spread of false or misleading information intended to deceive.
Double extortion	A ransomware attack where attackers encrypt the target's system and threaten to publish the target's data unless a ransom is paid.
Encryption	The process of converting information or data into a coded format to protect it from unauthorized access, ensuring it can only be read by those with permission.
Infodemic	The rapid spread of both accurate and inaccurate information, making it hard to distinguish true from false.
Internet and World Wide Web	The internet is a global network enabling computers to communicate, while the World Wide Web is a protocol running on the internet for accessing information.
Offensive cyber capabilities (OCCs)	Attributes combining people, technologies, and organizational strategies to manipulate or disrupt digital services or networks.
Penetration Testing	Authorized security testing on computer systems, devices, or networks using cyberattack techniques to find and exploit vulnerabilities.
Quadruple extortion	A triple extortion attack supplemented by a DDoS attack on the target's infrastructure during recovery efforts.
Triple extortion	An attack where, beyond data encryption and threat of publication, individuals whose data was stolen are also directly threatened for ransom.
Wiping	The process of deleting data from a digital medium such that it cannot be recovered, typically done when decommissioning sensitive digital media.

TERM	DEFINITION
Phishing	A fraudulent attempt made through email to capture personal and financial information.
Cyber Stalking	The repeated use of electronic communications to harass or frighten someone.
Identity Theft	A fraud type where an individual pretends to be someone else to commit crimes in that person's name.
Denial of Service (DoS)	An attempt to make a computer, server, or network resources unavailable to authorized users, usually by temporarily interrupting or suspending services.

Ransomware	Malware that encrypts files or storage media on communication devices like desktops, laptops, and mobile phones, holding data as a hostage. Victims are asked to pay a ransom for decryption.
Botnets	A collection of networked internet-connected computers that send spam, viruses, and malicious information under the control of botnet operators.
Whaling	A cybercriminal tactic masquerading as a senior organization member to target important individuals within the organization, aiming to steal money, sensitive information, or gain computer system access.
Spoofing	In cybersecurity, pretending to be something else to gain confidence, access systems, steal data or money, or spread malware.
Browser Hijacking	The unauthorized modification of a web browser's settings by malware, without the user's permission. Some hijackings can be easily reversed, while others may be difficult.
Pharming	A phishing method that deceives users into thinking they are interacting with a legitimate website, redirecting them to a fraudulent or spoofed site when they enter a legitimate web address.
Skimming	The act of obtaining data from an unknowing end user who is not willingly submitting the data at that time, such as secretly reading data in close proximity to a user.
Spamming	Sending Unsolicited Commercial Email (UCE) to numerous addresses or newsgroups.
Espionage	The act or practice of obtaining information and data without the permission and knowledge of the owner.
Computer Virus	A program designed to enter your computer, damage/alter your files/data, and replicate itself.
Worms	Malicious programs that replicate themselves over and over on the local drive, network shares, etc.
Trojan Horse	A destructive program that masquerades as a benign application. Unlike viruses, Trojan horses do not replicate themselves but can open a backdoor to your computer, giving access to malicious users/programs to steal confidential and personal information.

DRONE RULES 2021

- **Provisions:**
  - **Elimination of Various Approvals:** The reforms abolish the need for numerous approvals such as certificates of conformance, maintenance, import clearance, and more, simplifying the regulatory framework for drone operations.
  - **Fee Reduction:** Fees have been reduced to nominal levels, with no correlation to the drone's size, making it more economical for individuals and businesses to operate drones.
  - **Development of a Digital Platform:** The government plans to develop a 'Digital Sky Platform' that categorizes the airspace into green, yellow, and red zones, simplifying the process for identifying where drones can and cannot fly.
  - **Support for Drone Technology Frameworks:** This platform will support frameworks like NPNT (no permission, no take-off), enabling digital flight permissions and efficient management of unmanned aircraft operations and traffic.
  - **Reduced Airport Perimeter:** The radius around airports where restrictions apply has been decreased from 45 km to 12 km, expanding the areas where drones can fly without specific permissions.
  - **Relaxed Flight Permissions:** Drones are allowed to fly up to 400 feet in green zones and up to 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter without needing flight permissions.
  - **No Pilot License Required:** For micro drones used for non-commercial purposes, nano drones, and drones operated by R&D organizations, no pilot license is required.

- **Open to Foreign-Owned Companies:** There are no restrictions on drone operations by foreign-owned companies that are registered in India.
- **Drone Corridors:** The Ministry will facilitate the development of drone corridors for cargo deliveries, promoting the use of drones in logistics and delivery services.
- **Drone Promotion Council:** A council will be established to create a business-friendly regulatory regime, encouraging innovation and growth in the drone industry.
- **Expanded Drone Coverage:** The weight limit for drones has been increased from 300 kg to 500 kg, including drone taxis, broadening the scope of drone applications.
- **Delegation of Certification:** The issuance of Certificates of Airworthiness has been delegated to the Quality Council of India and other authorized certification entities, streamlining the certification process.

Drones

- **About:** The term "drone" commonly refers to Unmanned Aircraft (UA), a broad category encompassing various types of aircraft operated without a human pilot onboard.
- **Classification On the Basis of Weight:**
  - **Nano:** Weighs less than or equal to 250 grams. Nano drones are often used for recreational purposes and basic photography, posing minimal risk and requiring minimal regulation.
  - **Micro:** Ranges from 250 grams to 2 kg. Micro drones are suitable for more advanced recreational use, educational purposes, and some commercial applications where a lightweight and agile drone is beneficial.
  - **Small:** From 2 kg to 25 kg. Small drones are widely used in commercial operations, including aerial photography, surveying, and inspections, combining significant payload capacity with flexibility.
  - **Medium:** From 25 kg to 150 kg. Medium drones can carry larger payloads, making them suitable for more demanding commercial and industrial applications, including cargo delivery and more extensive surveying tasks.
  - **Large:** Weighs more than 150 kg. Large drones are capable of carrying out the most demanding tasks, including heavy cargo transport and complex military missions, requiring stringent regulatory oversight due to their potential impact on safety and airspace.

OTHER ONGOING INITIATIVES

- **DRDO's Counter IED 1 KW LASER**
  - **Purpose:** Remote disposal of unexploded bombs, mines, and IEDs.
  - Effective Range: 30-250 meters.
- **Kilo Ampere Linear Injector (KALI)**
  - **Developers:** DRDO and Bhabha Atomic Research Center.
  - **Type:** Particle accelerator Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).
  - **Function:** Emits powerful electron pulses for the destruction of incoming missiles and aircraft by damaging onboard electronic circuits.
- **Project Aditya**
  - **Developed by:** DRDO's Laser Science and Technology Centre (LASTEC).
  - **Aim:** Developing a gas dynamic high power 100 kW Laser Weapon System (LaWS).
- **Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array (DURGA II)**
  - **Feature:** 100-kilowatt, lightweight LaWS for the Indian Army.
  - **Integration:** Planned for land, sea, and air-based platforms.
  - **Stage:** Currently in the concept stage.

DRONES IN INDIA

- **Heron TP Drones from Israel**
    - India plans to lease four Heron TP long-endurance drones from Israel.
    - These drones can fly for nearly 45 hours at altitudes of up to 35,000 feet.
    - Equipped with automatic taxi-takeoff and landing (ATOL) and satellite communication (SATCOM) systems for extended range.
    - This addition aims to enhance India's surveillance along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
- **Predator Drones from the USA**
    - India is negotiating the purchase of about 30 Predator drones for its three military services.
    - Predator-B drones, featuring medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) capabilities, can stay airborne for around 35 hours.
    - They are capable of engaging targets on both land and sea.
- **MQ-9B Sea Guardian Drones**
    - The Indian Navy has leased two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones, a maritime variant of the Predator drones, from the US.
    - These drones are leased for one year with an option to extend, focusing on non-weaponized surveillance.
- **FireFly Loitering Munition from Israel**
    - The Indian Army is set to acquire FireFly loitering munitions from Israel's Rafael.
    - These UAVs carry warheads for ground attacks and can hover over conflict zones to target various ground threats.
- **Harpy and Harop Loitering Munitions**
    - The Indian Air Force utilizes the Israeli-made Harpy loitering munition and its updated version, the Harop.
    - These munitions can loiter for up to six hours, equipped with sophisticated sensors for targeting.
- **Rustom – 2 Indigenous Drone**
    - DRDO tested the Rustom-2 medium-altitude long-endurance indigenous drone in 2020.
    - Aimed for surveillance, it can carry diverse payloads and features a satellite communication link for real-time updates.
    - Rustom-2 is expected to match the specifications of the Israeli Heron UAVs.
- **CATS Warrior Program**
    - A Combined Air Teaming System involving a mother ship (fighter jets) and autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles known as CATS Warrior.
    - These vehicles can strike targets and stealthily infiltrate 700 km into enemy territory.

KAMIKAZE DRONES

- These are made in Iran, where they are known as **Shahed-136,** which could be translated as **"witness of faith"** but also as **"martyr".**
    - Unlike drones that return to base once missiles are launched, **"kamikaze" or "suicide**" drones are destroyed in an attack.
    - There are drones that fire missiles and then there are ones which are missiles themselves.
- **They are also called Switchblade drones.**
    - They are called Switchblade because their bladelike wings spring out on launch.
- They are precise, small in size, able to effectively penetrate air defenses when fired in groups.

INDRAJAAL

About:

- It is a groundbreaking advancement in drone defense technology developed by **Grene Robotics, a Hyderabad-based technology R&D firm.**
- This indigenous drone defense dome represents a significant step forward for India in terms of autonomous defense capabilities, particularly in managing and neutralizing aerial threats over large areas.
- Indrajaal is designed to autonomously protect a significant area—ranging from **1000 to 2000 square kilometers**—against a variety of aerial threats. These threats include Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), loitering munitions, and targets with Low-Radar Cross Section (RCS).

Salient Features of Indrajaal

- **Real-Time Situational Awareness:** Indrajaal provides a continuous, real-time understanding of the aerial threat landscape within the protected area, enabling timely and effective responses to emerging threats.
- **Integrated and Intelligent Meshed Network:** The system operates on an intelligent network that integrates various components and sensors, ensuring seamless communication and coordination across the defense dome.
- **Integration with Existing Weapons Suite and Infrastructure:** Indrajaal is designed to work in conjunction with existing defense mechanisms and infrastructures, enhancing overall defense capabilities without the need for extensive retrofitting.
- **Honeycombed Cell Structure:** This feature allows for a seamless and scalable defense network, adaptable to various geographical and tactical requirements.
- **Synergic Combination of Technologies:** Indrajaal utilizes a blend of 9-10 different technologies, synergistically combined to create a robust and effective defense system against aerial threats.
- **Persistent and Autonomous Monitoring, Action, and Tracking:** The system operates 24/7, autonomously monitoring for threats, taking necessary actions against identified threats, and tracking all activities within its coverage area.

D4 DRONE SYSTEM

About:

- It is also known as the **Drone Detect, Deter, and Destroy System (D4S)**, representing a significant advancement in anti-drone technology within India.
- It was prominently featured for security purposes during the Republic Day parade and showcased at Aero India 2023. Here are some key aspects of this system:
- **Developed By:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India's premier agency for military research and development.
- **Manufactured By:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a leading Indian state-owned aerospace and defense electronics company.
- **Induction:** This system is noteworthy for being the first indigenously developed anti-drone system to be officially adopted by the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Primary Objective**: The D4S is designed to counteract and neutralize rogue drones. These unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) pose threats to critical and vulnerable locations due to their potential for carrying out surveillance or attacks.

Features and Capabilities

- **Soft Kill:** The system has the capability to instantly detect micro drones and then disable them through jamming.

* ◆ This process involves interfering with the radio frequencies or global navigation satellite signals that the drones use for navigation and communication.
* **Hard Kill:** Beyond merely jamming, the D4S can physically destroy targets using a laser-based mechanism. This allows for a permanent neutralization of the threat.
* **Detection and Jamming Range:** It is effective against micro-drones within a range of up to 3 kilometers, ensuring a broad perimeter of security against aerial threats.
* **Laser Targeting Range:** The system can accurately target and neutralize drones from a distance of 1 to 1.25 kilometers, depending on the power output of the laser weapon utilized.

Awards

BHARAT RATNA

* Bharat Ratna', the **highest civilian Award of the country,** was instituted in the year **1954.** Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
* It is awarded in recognition of **exceptional service/performance of the highest order** in any field of human endeavor.
* On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion. The Award does **not carry any monetary grant.**
* The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the **Prime Minister** himself to the **President.**
* No formal recommendations for this are necessary.
* It is made of bronze and designed in the shape of a peepal leaf, embossed with the sun. The reverse side bears India's emblem, the 'Ashok Chakra', and the motto, 'Satyameva Jayate'.
* In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.
    * ◆ However, should an award winner consider it necessary, he/she may use the following expression in their biodata/letterhead/visiting card etc. to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award: 'Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President' or 'Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award'.

S.NO	NAME	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	POSTHUMOUS
1	C. Rajagopalachari	1954	Last Governor-General of India and Swatantra Party founder, known as MK Gandhi's conscience keeper.	No
2	Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan	1954	First Vice President and second President of India.	No
3	C. V. Raman	1954	First Asian Nobel Laureate in Science, known for Raman Scattering.	No
20	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	1987	First non-citizen Bharat Ratna recipient, known as Frontier Gandhi and founder of the Red Shirt Movement.	No
22	B. R. Ambedkar	1990	Architect of the Indian Constitution, first Law Minister, and critic of the caste system.	Yes
23	Nelson Mandela	1990	Known as the Gandhi of South Africa, second non-citizen recipient of Bharat Ratna, Nobel Peace Prize laureate.	No
25	Vallabhbhai Patel	1991	The Iron Man of India, first Deputy Prime Minister, played a key role in Bardoli Satyagraha and the integration of princely states.	Yes

S.NO	NAME	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	POSTHUMOUS
27	Abul Kalam Azad	1992	India's first Education Minister, known as Maulana Azad, his birthday is celebrated as National Education Day.	Yes
28	J. R. D. Tata	1992	Industrialist and aviation pioneer, founded India's first airline Air India and several key institutions like TIFR and TCS.	No
29	Satyajit Ray	1992	Filmmaker who brought Indian cinema to global recognition, director of 'Pather Panchali,' recipient of Dadasaheb Phalke Award.	No
31	Aruna Asaf Ali	1997	First Mayor of Delhi post-independence, known for her role in the Quit India Movement.	Yes
32	A.P.J Abdul Kalam	1997	Known as the Missile Man of India, contributed to missile and space technology, 11th President of India, authored 'Wings of Fire' and 'India 2020.'	No
35	Jayaprakash Narayan	1999	Known as Loknayak, initiated the Total Revolution Movement against corruption.	Yes
36	Amartya Sen	1999	Nobel Laureate in Economics, contributed to welfare economics, social choice theory, and justice.	No
39	Lata Mangeshkar	2001	Celebrated playback singer, known as the Nightingale of India, received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.	No
40	Bismillah Khan	2001	Renowned classical shehnai player, brought the instrument to prominence in Indian music.	No
43	Sachin Tendulkar	2014	Legendary cricketer, holds the record for most runs in international cricket, debuted at 16.	No
45	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	2015	Served as Prime Minister of India three times, acclaimed poet, and parliamentarian.	No
46	Pranab Mukherjee	2019	13th President of India, played key roles in Indian politics across various capacities.	No
48	Bhupen Hazarika	2019	Prominent filmmaker, poet, and musician, known for his contributions to Assamese music and cinema.	Yes
49	Karpoori Thakur	2024	Former Chief Minister of Bihar, known as Jan Nayak, recognized for his political and social contributions 35 years posthumously.	Yes
50	Lal Krishna Advani	2024	Served as Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, a significant figure in Indian politics during Vajpayee's tenure.	No
51	M. S. Swaminathan	2024	Awarded for contributions to Indian agriculture and significant role in the Green Revolution.	Yes
52	Chaudhary Charan Singh	2024	Known for his dedication to farmers' welfare and opposition to the Emergency, inspired farmer-centric policies.	Yes
53	P. V. Narasimha Rao	2024	Led significant economic reforms in the 1990s as Prime Minister, ushering in liberalization and structural changes.	Yes

PADMA AWARDS

- Instituted in 1954.
- Announced annually on Republic Day, with exceptions in 1978-1979 and 1993-1997.
- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honors of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- **Categories:**
    - **Padma Vibhushan:** For exceptional and distinguished service. (2nd Highest civilian Award)
    - **Padma Bhushan:** For distinguished service of a high order. (3nd Highest civilian Award)
    - **Padma Shri:** For distinguished service. (4th Highest civilian Award)
- **Eligibility:**
    - Open to all individuals regardless of race, occupation, position, or sex.
    - Government employees, except doctors and scientists, are ineligible.
- **Fields of Recognition:** Art, Social Work, Public Affairs, Science & Engineering, Trade & Industry, Medicine, Literature & Education, Civil Service, Sports, and Others (including Indian Culture propagation, Human Rights, Wildlife conservation).
- **Award Criteria:**
    - Not typically awarded posthumously, except in highly deserving cases.
    - A higher category award requires a minimum of five years since the previous Padma award, with possible exceptions.
- **Presentation:**
    - Awarded by the President of India typically in March/April.
    - Includes a Sanad (certificate) and a medallion, with a miniature version for ceremonial use.
    - Names published in the Gazette of India on the presentation day.
    - Limited to 120 awards annually, excluding posthumous awards to NRI/foreigners/OCIs.
- **Restrictions:** Not a title; cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the awardee's name.
- **Selection Process:**
    - Nominations reviewed by the Padma Awards Committee, formed annually by the Prime Minister.
    - Committee led by the Cabinet Secretary and includes the Home Secretary, Secretary to the President, and 4-6 eminent individuals.
    - Recommendations forwarded to the Prime Minister and the President for final approval.

PADMA AWARDS

Padma Vibhushan   Padma Bhushan   Padma Shri

UN'S WSIS 2024 PRIZE 'CHAMPION' AWARD

Recently, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) won the UN's WSIS 2024 'Champion' Award for Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting.

Recognition and Impact:

- The **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024**, conducted by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in Geneva, Switzerland, and **co-organised with UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD**.
- It underscores C-DOT's commitment to leveraging technology for societal impact.
- **C-DOT** showcased cutting-edge telecom solutions, including an ITU-CAP-based early warning alert system and AI-powered fraud detection.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS (C-DOT)

- It was established in 1984 as an autonomous Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunication.
- It is a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**, and a registered **'public funded research institution'** with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology.

Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting Platform of C-DOT:

- **Near Real-Time Alerts**: The platform delivers life-saving emergency information to mobile phones via cellular networks.
- **Geo-Targeted Multi-Hazard Alerts:** The system provides alerts based on location, ensuring timely responses during disasters.
- **Multi-Language Support:** Alerts are available in multiple languages.
- **Cost-Effective and Automated:** An indigenous solution that optimises disaster risk management.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday (5th July 2024) conferred 36 Gallantry Awards to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State and Union Territory Police.

About:

- Gallantry Awards are prestigious honors bestowed upon individuals who display exceptional courage, valor, and devotion to duty.
- These gallantry awards are announced twice in a year - first on the occasion of the Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.

Wartime Gallantry Awards:

- **Param Vir Chakra (PVC):** It is the highest military decoration for valor in India.
    - It is awarded for acts of conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy.
    - It is a posthumous award in most cases and is symbolized by a bronze circular medal with a purple ribbon.
- **Maha Vir Chakra (MVC):** It is the second-highest military award for gallantry.
    - It recognizes acts of exceptional courage and valor during combat.
- **Vir Chakra (VrC):** The Vir Chakra is awarded for acts of bravery in the face of the enemy.
    - It is a gallantry award for both officers and other ranks.

Peacetime Gallantry Awards:

- **Ashoka Chakra:** The Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award. It is given for acts of valor, self-sacrifice, and exceptional courage outside the battlefield.

- **Shaurya Chakra:** It is awarded for acts of bravery not in direct combat.
  - It recognizes exceptional courage and selflessness.
- **Kirti Chakra:** It is a peacetime gallantry award.
  - It is given for acts of bravery and courage in non-combat situations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Order of precedence of these awards is the Param Vir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra.

RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR

Recently, the President of India presented the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

About:
- **Purpose and Prestige:** The Science and Technology Awards are prestigious honors recognizing exceptional contributions to science and technology. They celebrate outstanding scientists across various fields and categories.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** There are no age restrictions for any of the awards. They are open to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), with a maximum of one award for the Vigyan Ratna category, three for the Vigyan Shri and VY-SSB categories, and no awards for the Vigyan Team category.
- **Award Components:** The awards do not include a cash prize. Recipients receive a certificate and a medallion instead.
- **Selection Process:** A committee, chaired by the principal scientific adviser, is responsible for selecting the awardees. Committee members are ineligible to receive the awards during their tenure.

About Award Categories and Awardees:
- **Vigyan Ratna Award:** It celebrates lifetime contributions in any field of Science and Technology.
  - **Recipient:** Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, a pioneer in molecular biology and biotechnology research in India. His work has significantly advanced our understanding of life sciences.
- **Vigyan Shri Awards:** These acknowledge distinguished contributions to Science and Technology.
  - **Recipients:** Thirteen scientists who have made path-breaking research in their respective domains. Their work spans a wide range of scientific disciplines.
- **Vigyan Yuva-SSB Award:** It recognises exceptional contributions by young scientists.
  - **Recipients:** Eighteen scientists who have significantly impacted fields such as I*ndian Ocean Warming; Indigenous 5G Base Station Development; Quantum Mechanics Precision Tests*
- **Vigyan Team Award:** Given to teams of three or more scientists for groundbreaking research.
  - **Recipient:** Chandrayaan-3 Team.

NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARDS 2024

The President of India has conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to Nurses at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

About:
- The Award was instituted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in the year **1973.**
- This award is given as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the **nurses and nursing professionals** to society.
- Each **award consists** of a Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a medal.

MAGSAYSAY AWARD 2024

Hayao Miyazaki, the acclaimed Japanese animator and co-founder of Studio Ghibli, has been honoured with the Ramon Magsaysay Award of 2024.

About:

- The **Ramon Magsaysay Award** is considered Asia's premier prize, recognizing individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions in various fields.
- It is often referred to as **Asia's Nobel Prize**, symbolizing the highest honour for humanitarian service and leadership.
- This award is presented in **formal ceremonies in Manila, Philippines on August 31st,** the birth anniversary of the much-esteemed Philippine President whose ideas inspired the Award's creation in 1957. Ramon Magsaysay was the **Third President of the Philippines** after World War II.
- **Purpose and Spirit:** The award celebrates greatness of spirit in selfless service to the people of Asia. It acknowledges those who have demonstrated generosity, integrity, and commitment to helping others without seeking public recognition.
- **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF):** It is based in the Philippines, and is responsible for selecting the awardees. The RMAF board of trustees annually selects the winners, recognizing both individuals and organizations across the continent.
- **Fields of Recognition:** The award recognizes contributions in diverse fields such as Environmental protection, Peace and conflict resolution, Public service, Community leadership, Journalism, Literature and Arts and culture.
- **Inclusivity and Scope:** The award honours individuals and groups from all Asian nations, irrespective of race, creed, gender, or nationality.
    - It highlights those who have achieved distinction and helped others generously across Asia.

INDIANS WHO WON THE AWARDS

Vinoba Bhave in 1958; Mother Teresa in 1962; Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1966; Satyajit Ray in 1967; Mahasweta Devi in 1997; Arvind Kejriwal in 2006; Anshu Gupta of Goonj in 2015; Bezwada Wilson (human rights activist) in 2016; and Ravish Kumar (journalist) in 2019.

EMMY AWARDS 2024

The 76th Primetime Emmy Awards were handed out at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

About:

- The Emmy Awards are the most renowned accolades given to **television and emerging media performances**. Unlike Oscars and Golden Globe awards, they aren't given for films.
- **History:** The Emmy Awards were conceived in **1948** and the first ceremony took place in 1949.
- **Types of awards:** Apart from the **International Emmy Awards** and the **Primetime Emmy Awards**, the Emmys are also given in the following categories like sports, news and documentary, technology and engineering, and regional.
- **Award Given by:** These awards are given by three sister organizations; **First is the Television Academy,** which administers the Primetime Emmy Awards. **Second is the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences,** which oversees daytime, sports, news and documentary categories. **Third is the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences**, which is responsible for International Emmys.
- **Some of the Winners of Emmy Awards 2024:**
    - **Outstanding Drama Series:** Shogun
    - **Outstanding Comedy Series:** Hacks

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2024

South Korean author Han Kang has been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature by the Swedish Academy in Stockholm for her "intense poetic prose" that delves into historical traumas and the fragility of life.

About:

- Established by **Alfred Nobel** in his will, which dedicated the bulk of his fortune to the creation of the **Nobel Prizes**. Nobel is best known for **inventing dynamite.** The first **Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901.**
- The awards ceremony takes place in **Stockholm, Sweden**, for all categories except the Peace Prize, which is **presented in Oslo, Norway.**
- Since 1974, the Nobel Prizes **cannot be awarded posthumously**, except in cases where the recipient dies after the prize has been announced.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2024

Japanese atom bomb survivors' organisation Nihon Hidankyo has won the Nobel Peace Prize for its "efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons".

About:

- From the **immediate thermal and shock effects** to long term environmental damage, a nuclear detonation exacts terrible human costs.
- Weapons available today are **many times more devastating than the ones detonated in Japan in 1945.**
- **Concerns:** Over the first 9 weeks of a nuclear explosion, it is estimated that roughly 10% of deaths will be due to the effects of radiation, with 90% deaths being due to thermal injuries or blast effects.
    - However, the effects of radiation will manifest themselves in the **form of various cancers and genetic damage** over the coming years and generations.

Nuclear Disarmament:

- Disarmament refers to the **act of eliminating or abolishing weapons** (particularly offensive arms) either unilaterally or reciprocally.
- It may refer either to **reducing the number of arms, or to eliminating entire categories of weapons.**

Nuclear Powers in the World:

- There are **nine countries** recognized as possessing nuclear weapons.
- These countries are often referred to as "**nuclear-armed states" or "nuclear powers."**
- United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel.

Treaties Related to Nuclear Disarmament:

- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):** Signed in **1968** and entered into **force in 1970,** the NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.
    - It divides the world into nuclear-weapon states (NWS), recognized as possessing nuclear weapons at the time of the treaty's signing, and non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS), which agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.
    - The treaty also requires NWS to pursue disarmament negotiations in good faith.
- **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):** Adopted by the United Nations in **2017** and opened for signature in 2018, the TPNW aims to prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons. It represents a significant step towards nuclear disarmament, although it has not been signed by nuclear-armed states.

- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** Opened for signature in **1996**, the CTBT aims to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes.
  - While the treaty has been signed by **185** countries and ratified by **170**, it has not entered into force as nuclear-armed states must ratify it to become operational.
- **Outer Space Treaty:** This multilateral agreement entered into force in 1967 and bans the siting of weapons of mass destruction in space. All nine states believed to have nuclear weapons are parties to this treaty.

70TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

President Droupadi Murmu presented the 70th National Film Awards, honoring the winners across various categories for their outstanding contributions to Indian cinema.

About:
- **National Film Awards** are the most prestigious awards, which are announced annually to **honor the best filmmaking talent** across the country.
- **It aims** at encouraging the production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance.
- The awards are given in **three sections** – Features, Non-Features and Best Writing on Cinema.

History:
- The awards were first presented in **1954** and were known as the **'State Awards'**. Earlier, only best films in different regional languages were recognised and awarded.
- Separate awards for artists and technicians were **instituted in 1968** for the films of **1967.**
- **Nargis Dutt** and **Uttam Kumar** being the first actress and actor to get the Best Actress and Best Actor Awards respectively.

Key Recipient of the Awards this Year:
- **Best Feature Film:** Aattam (The Play)
- **Best Non-feature film:** Ayena (Mirror)
- **Best Actor:** Rishab Shetty (Kantara)
- **Best Actress:** Nithya Menen (Thiruchitrambalam) and Manasi Parekh (Kutch Express)
- Veteran actor **Mithun Chakraborty** was honored with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award** for the year **2022.**

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE 2024

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 was presented to former Chilean president and prominent human rights voice Michelle Bachelet.

About the Prize
- **Introduction:** Instituted in 1986, the Indira Gandhi Prize is awarded annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It recognizes outstanding contributions to humanity and environmental sustainability.
- **Award Components:** The prize includes a monetary award of ₹25 lakh and a citation.
- **Significance of the Award:** Named after Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of independent India, it honors individuals and institutions for exemplary service to humanity and the planet.
- **Selection Process:** Recipients are chosen from a diverse pool of national and international nominees.

- **Recent Laureates:** In 2023, the award was jointly presented to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) in recognition of their efforts as COVID-19 warriors.

PRESIDENT'S COLOURS AWARD

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) awarded the President's Colours to the 26th and 27th Battalions of Mechanised Infantry Regiment and 20th and 22nd Battalions of Brigade of The Guards.

About:

- **Highest Military Honor:** It is the highest honor that can be conferred upon a military unit.
- **Symbol of Excellence:** The President's Colours symbolize the unit's commitment to duty, professionalism, and valor.
- **Historical Significance:** The tradition of presenting colors to military units dates back to the British era. India adopted this tradition after independence. The Indian Navy became the first amongst the three services to be presented with the President's Colour on 27 May 1951 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- **Presentation Ceremony:** The President of India or the Chief of the Army Staff presents the colors to the unit in a grand ceremony. The Colours, which is a ceremonial flag bearing the unit's insignia and motto, are presented by the President.
- **Criteria for Award:** Units are selected based on their exceptional performance in various operations, training, and administrative duties.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Brigade of The Guards:
- **About:** A mechanized Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army, established as the first "All India" & "All Class" regiment.Troops are recruited from across India, transcending regional, religious, and group divisions.
- **Regimental Centre:** Located in Kamptee, Maharashtra.
- **Establishment:** Raised in 1949 as the senior-most Line Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army.Initiated by Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- **Honorary Roles:** The President of India serves as Honorary Colonel-in-Chief.The Chief of the Army Staff is the Colonel-in-Chief.

Mechanised Infantry Arm:
- It was established in 1979, and has emerged as a modern and highly professional force within the Indian Army.
- **Key Operations:**
  - **Operation Pawan:** Conducted in Sri Lanka.
  - **Operation Vijay:** Played a vital role during the Kargil conflict.
  - **Operation Rakshak:** Focused on counter-insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir.
  - **Operation Snow Leopard:** Engaged in Eastern Ladakh.
  - Actively participates in United Nations peacekeeping missions globally.

BOOKER PRIZE 2024

Britain's Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel Orbital, which she wrote during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The story depicts a single day aboard the International Space Station, capturing the beauty of Earth from space.

About:

- **Founding and Scope:** Established in the UK in 1969, the Booker Prize initially recognized Commonwealth authors but is now open to writers globally.

- **Eligibility:** Awarded to the best sustained work of fiction in English, published in the UK and Ireland, regardless of the author's nationality.
- **Judging Criteria:** Judges seek a book that resonates with contemporary times and has lasting literary significance.
- **Prize Money:** Winner: £50,000
  - *Shortlisted authors:* £2,500 each
- **Sponsorship:** The prizes are funded by Crankstart.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS, 2024

Hindi poet Gagan Gill and English writer Easterine Kire are among the 21 winners of the 2024 Sahitya Akademi Awards.

Some of Sahitya Akademi Awards Recipients 2024

LANGUAGE	RECIPIENT	WORK
Kashmiri	Sohan Kaul	Psychiatric Ward
Punjabi	Paul Kaur	Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihaasnama Punjab
Bodo	Aron Raja	Swrni Thakhai
Nepali	Yuva Baral	Chhichimira
Sindhi	Hundraj Balwani	Purzo
Santali	Maheshwar Sorn	Seched Sawnta Ren Andha Manmi

About Sahitya Akademi Award

- **Purpose:** It is awarded for the best literary works of outstanding merit..
- **Languages Covered: 24** major Indian languages recognized by the Akademi.
  - **22 languages from Schedule 8** of the Constitution of India and **English and Rajasthani.**
- **Award Components:**
  - Winners receive a casket with an engraved copper plaque.
  - Includes a shawl and Rs 1,00,000 prize money.

SAHITYA AKADEMI	
Establishment	Officially inaugurated by the Government of India on March 12, 1954.
Legal Status	Registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, of 1860.
Falls under	Ministry of Culture

THE 67TH GRAMMY AWARDS, 2025

Winners of Grammy Awards 2025

KEY CATEGORIES	WINNER
Album of the Year	"Cowboy Carter" – Beyoncé
Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category	Album 'Triveni' - Indian-American artist Chandrika Tandon.
Record of the Year	"Not Like Us" — Kendrick Lamar
Song of the Year	"Not Like Us" – Kendrick Lamar

About Grammy Awards:

- The Grammy Award, originally called the Gramophone Award, is given yearly in the US by the **National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS)** or the **Latin Academy (LARAS)** for Spanish/Portuguese music.
- It started in 1959 to honour music, with winners receiving a gold gramophone trophy.

SPORTS AWARDS

- The six core awards which constitute India's **National Sports Awards** are the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** or simply the Khel Ratna, the **Arjuna Award, the Dronacharya Award, the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy, also called the MAKA Trophy, and the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.**
- Since 2004, the **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** has also been given out along with the six National Sports Awards, making it an informal part of the list.
- The National Sports Awards are allocated annually by India's **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**

AWARD NAME	CRITERIA	PERFORMANCE PERIOD
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award	Awarded for outstanding performances in sports. **Note:** It was renamed to Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021.	Over a period of four years
Arjuna Award	Given for consistent good performance in sports.	Over a period of four years
Dronacharya Award	Awarded to coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international events.	Not specified
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy	Given to the university for top performance in inter-university tournaments.	Over the last one year
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar	Given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.	Over the last three years
Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award	The award is given in four categories namely, Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure and Life Time Achievement.	Not specified

MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARDS

YEAR	RECIPIENT(S)	SPORT(S)
2021	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin
2021	Ravi Kumar	Wrestling
2021	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
2021	Sreejesh P.R.	Hockey
2021	Avani Lekhara	Para Shooting
2021	Sumit Antil	Para Athletics
2021	Pramod Bhagat	Para Badminton
2021	Krishna Nagar	Para Badminton
2021	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting

YEAR	RECIPIENT(S)	SPORT(S)
2021	Mithali Raj	Cricket
2021	Sunil Chhetri	Football
2021	Manpreet Singh	Hockey
2023	Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty	Badminton
2024	Shri Gukesh D	Chess
2024	Shri Harmanpreet Singh	Hockey
2024	Shri Praveen Kumar	Para-Athletics
2024	Ms Manu Bhaker	Shooting

Arjuna Awards 2024

S. NO.	NAME OF THE SPORTSPERSON	DISCIPLINE
1.	Ms. Jyothi Yarraji	Athletics
2.	Ms. Annu Rani	Athletics
3.	Ms. Nitu	Boxing
4.	Ms. Saweety	Boxing
5.	Ms. Vantika Agrawal	Chess
6.	Ms. Salima Tete	Hockey
7.	Shri Abhishek	Hockey
8.	Shri Sanjay	Hockey
9.	Shri Jarmanpreet Singh	Hockey
10.	Shri Sukhjeet Singh	Hockey
11.	Shri Rakesh Kumar	Para-Archery
12.	Ms. Preeti Pal	Para-Athletics
13.	Ms. Jeevanji Deepthi	Para-Athletics
14.	Shri Ajeet Singh	Para-Athletics
15.	Shri Sachin Sarjerao Khilari	Para-Athletics
16.	Shri Dharambir	Para-Athletics
17.	Shri Pranav Soorma	Para-Athletics
18.	Shri H Hokato Sema	Para-Athletics
19.	Ms. Simran	Para-Athletics
20.	Shri Navdeep	Para-Athletics
21.	Shri Nitesh Kumar	Para-Badminton
22.	Ms. Thulasimathi Murugesan	Para-Badminton
23.	Ms. Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan	Para-Badminton
24.	Ms. Manisha Ramadass	Para-Badminton
25.	Shri Kapil Parmar	Para-Judo
26.	Ms. Mona Agarwal	Para-Shooting
27.	Ms. Rubina Francis	Para-Shooting

28.	Shri Swapnil Suresh Kusale	Shooting
29.	Shri Sarabjot Singh	Shooting
30.	Shri Abhay Singh	Squash
31.	Shri Sajan Prakash	Swimming
32.	Shri Aman	Wrestling

ARJUNA AWARDS (LIFETIME) 2024

S. NO.	NAME OF THE SPORTSPERSON	DISCIPLINE
1.	Shri Sucha Singh	Athletics
2.	Shri Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	Para-Swimming

DRONACHARYA AWARD 2024

Regular Category:

S. NO.	NAME OF THE COACH	DISCIPLINE
1.	Shri Subhash Rana	Para-Shooting
2.	Ms. Deepali Deshpande	Shooting
3.	Shri Sandeep Sangwan	Hockey

Lifetime Category:

S. NO.	NAME OF THE COACH	Discipline
1.	Shri S Muralidharan	Badminton
2.	Shri Armando Agnelo Colaco	Football

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURASKAR

S. NO.	NAME OF THE ENTITY
1.	Physical Education Foundation of India

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY 2024:

S. NO.	NAME OF UNIVERSITY	
1	Chandigarh University	Overall winner University
2	Lovely Professional University, (PB)	1st runner up University
3	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	2nd runner up University

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

- The Laureus World Sports Awards are presented each year to celebrate significant and inspirational achievements in sports, alongside promoting the efforts of Laureus Sport for Good.
- The inaugural ceremony of the Laureus World Sports Awards was held on May 25, 2000, with Tiger Woods, the American golfer, being the inaugural recipient. The awards are often likened to the Oscars in the realm of sports.

S.NO	AWARD CATEGORY	WINNER
1	Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	Novak Djokovic (Tennis)
2	Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year	Aitana Bonmatí (Football)
3	Comeback of the Year	Simone Biles (Gymnastics)
4	Breakthrough of the Year	Jude Bellingham (Football)
5	Team of the Year Award	Spain Women's Football Team (Football)
6	Action Sportsperson of the Year	Arisa Trew (Action Sports)
7	Laureus Sport for Good Award	Fundación Rafa Nadal (Philanthropy/Sports)
8	Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award	Diede de Groot (Wheelchair Tennis)

Notable Laureates

- **Roger Federer**, the Swiss tennis star, has the distinction of winning the most Laureus awards, securing six, including five Sportsman of the Year and one Comeback of the Year awards.
- **Serena Williams** is celebrated for having the highest number of awards among female athletes.
- In a historic feat for 2023, **Lionel Messi was the first to win both the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and the Laureus World Team of the Year Award,** following Argentina's World Cup victory in 2022.

JASPRIT BUMRAH NAMED AS THE ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR, 2024

Jasprit Bumrah and Amelia Kerr were recognized as the 2024 International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Year in the men's and women's categories, respectively.

LIST OF OTHER ICC AWARDS WON BY PLAYERS		
Category	**Winner**	**Country**
Men's ICC Test Cricketer of the Year	Jasprit Bumrah	India
Men's ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year	Azmatullah Omarzai	Afghanistan
Men's ICC T20I Cricketer of the Year	Arshdeep Singh	India
Men's ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year	Kamindu Mendis	Sri Lanka
Men's ICC Associate Cricketer of the Year	Gerhard Erasmus	Namibia
Women's ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana	India
Women's ICC T20I Cricketer of the Year	Amelia Kerr	New Zealand
Women's ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year	Annerie Dercksen	Netherlands
Women's ICC Associate Player of the Year	Esha Oza	United Arab Emirates
ICC Umpire of the Year	Richard Illingworth	England

Other Sports Related News

DURAND CUP TOURNAMENT

Recently, the President of India has unveiled the Trophies of the Durand Cup Tournament, the President's Cup and Shimla Trophy.

About:

- **Asia's Oldest and World's Third Oldest Football Tournament:** The inaugural edition was held in Shimla in 1888, originally known as the Army Cup, and was exclusively for British Indian Army troops.
- **Named After:** Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the founder of the tournament.
- **Origins and Evolution**
  - **Initial Format:** Started as a football competition for various Armed Forces departments and regiments, as well as princely states.
  - **Post-Independence:** Continues to include teams from different regiments of the Indian Armed Forces as guest participants.
- **Unique Trophy System:**
  - **The Durand Cup:** A rolling trophy and the original prize.
  - **The Shimla Trophy:** A rolling trophy first awarded by Shimla residents in 1904.
  - **The President's Cup:** For permanent retention, first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956.

ABHINAV BINDRA AWARDED "OLYMPIC ORDER"

Abhinav Bindra has been honoured with the Olympic Order for his outstanding contributions to the Olympic movement. He is the first Indian to receive this prestigious award.

About:

- It is the **highest award presented by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).**
- Established in 1975, it is awarded to individuals who have rendered distinguished service to the Olympic Movement.
- It can be bestowed upon IOC members, athletes, and other individuals who have made significant contributions to the development and promotion of the Olympic Games and its ideals.
- **The award comes in three grades:** gold, silver, and bronze, with the gold medal being the most prestigious.
- The recipients of the Olympic Order are chosen by the IOC's Executive Board.
- The award symbolizes the recipient's dedication to the Olympic spirit and their contributions to promoting the values of excellence, friendship, and respect in sports.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Abhinav Bindra holds the distinction of being **India's first individual gold medalist at the Olympics,** securing the gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the men's 10-meter air rifle event.
- He won the gold medal at the 2006 World Championships in the 10 m air rifle event, and gold medals in the Commonwealth Games in 2002, 2006, and 2010 in pairs events.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND REPORTS/INDICES

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

BHASKAR Initiative for India's Startup Ecosystem

Feature	Details
Objective	Centralize, streamline, and enhance collaboration among key stakeholders in the startup ecosystem.
Department	Launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry under Startup India program.
Primary Goal	Build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the startup ecosystem.
Eligibility Criteria for Startup Recognition	• Considered a startup for up to 10 years from the date of incorporation. • Must be a private limited company, partnership firm, or LLP. • Turnover must be less than Rs100 crore in any of the previous financial years.
Key Features	• **Networking:** Connects startups with stakeholders for smooth collaboration. • **Centralized Resources:** Offers instant access to tools and knowledge for faster scaling. • **Personalized ID:** Unique BHASKAR ID for tailored stakeholder interactions. • **Enhanced Discoverability:** Advanced search for quick access to resources and partners. • **Global Brand Promotion:** Positions India as an innovation hub for international collaboration.

Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) Programme

Aspect	Details
Loan Agreement	$350 million policy-based loan signed between the Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
Objective	Support wide-ranging reforms in India's logistics sector to enhance supply chain resilience and boost the manufacturing sector.
Implementing Agencies	Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Finance, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and ADB.
Programme Structure	Two-subprogram initiative under a programmatic policy-based loan (PBL) approach.
Key Pillars of SMILE Programme	• Strengthening Institutional Frameworks: Develops capacities at national, state, and city levels for the seamless integration of multimodal logistics infrastructure. • **Standardising Warehousing:** Establishes uniform warehousing standards to streamline supply chains and attract private investment. • **Improving Trade Logistics:** Enhances efficiency in India's external trade operations. • **Promoting Smart, Low-Emission Systems:** Uses advanced technologies to boost efficiency while reducing environmental impact.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR Based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF)

Aspect	Details
Launched By	• Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Objective	• Minimize distress selling by farmers. • Provide post-harvest finance against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWRs).
Corpus	• Rs1,000 crore for post-harvest finance

Prerequisite	• Can be availed after depositing commodities in Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) accredited warehouses.
Eligible Institutions	• All scheduled banks and cooperative banks
Eligible Borrowers	• Small & Marginal Farmers (SMF) • Women/SC/ST/PwD Farmers • MSMEs, Traders, FPOs, Farmer cooperatives
Risks Covered	• Credit risk and warehouseman risk
Significance	• Instills confidence in bankers to encourage pledge financing against e-NWRs. • Aims to boost post-harvest lending to Rs5.5 lakh crore in the next 10 years. • **Current e-NWR lending:** Rs 40,000 crore against a potential of Rs 5.5 lakh crore.
Loan Coverage	• **Agricultural Purpose:** Loans up to Rs 75 lakh, 80-85% coverage. • **Non-Agricultural Purpose:** Loans up to Rs 200 lakh, coverage up to 75%.

National Turmeric Board (NTB)

Aspect	Details
Launched By	Union Minister of Commerce and Industry
Headquarters	Nizamabad, Telangana
Ministry	Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Objective	To provide leadership on turmeric-related matters, enhance coordination with the Spices Board and other government agencies, and support the development and growth of the turmeric sector.
Composition	• **Chairperson:** Appointed by the Central Government. • **Members from:** Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry. • Senior State Government Representatives from three states (rotation basis). • Select National/State Institutions involved in research. • Representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters. • **Secretary:** Appointed by the Department of Commerce.
About Turmeric	• Known as the "Golden Spice". • Grown in diverse tropical conditions with a temperature range of 20-35°C. • Requires 1500 mm or more annual rainfall. • Curcumin (active ingredient) has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.
Turmeric Production in India	• **Area Under Cultivation:** 3.05 lakh hectares (2023-24) with 30 varieties. • India accounts for 70% of global turmeric production. • **Top Producing States:** Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh contribute 63.4% of India's turmeric production. • **Top Export Markets:** Bangladesh, UAE, USA, and Malaysia.

SPICED Scheme

Category	Details
Scheme Name	• **SPICED –** Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative, and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development
Aim	• Expand cardamom cultivation, boost productivity (small & large cardamom), promote exports, build capacity.
Key Components	• Productivity improvement • Post-harvest quality upgrades • Market expansion • Technology interventions • Research & skill development
Implementation	• 2023-24 to 2025-26 (15th Finance Commission period)
Small Cardamom	• **Native:** Western Ghats (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) • **Ideal conditions:** Loamy, acidic soil, thick shade, 600-1500m elevation, good drainage
Large Cardamom	• **Region:** Sub-Himalayan areas (NE India, Nepal, Bhutan) • **Ideal conditions:** 3000-3500 mm rainfall, 6-30°C temperature, rainfall spread over 200 days
Spices Board India	• **Genesis:** Formed in 1987 under Spices Board Act 1986 • **Ministry:** Commerce and Industry • **Role:** Autonomous body for export promotion of 52 scheduled spices, focusing on cardamom (small & large).

Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)

Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme

Aspect	Details
Full Name	Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Performance Programme
Launch Year	2022 (till FY 2026–27)
Type	Central Sector Scheme
Assisted by	World Bank
Implemented by	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), Government of India
Administrative Body	National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Council
Objectives	• Improve access to market, finance, and technology • Strengthen central and state-level institutions • Resolve delayed payments • Promote greening and sustainability • Enhance centre-state coordination
New Initiative (2025)	MSME TEAM Initiative (Trade Enablement and Marketing)

Existing Sub-Schemes	• **MSME GIFT** (Green Investment and Financing for Transformation) – Green tech adoption via interest subvention and credit guarantee • **MSE SPICE** (Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy) – Credit subsidy for circular economy projects • **MSE ODR** (Online Dispute Resolution) – IT & AI-powered platform for delayed payment resolution
Sub-Scheme Implementing Agencies	• Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI): For MSME GIFT and MSE SPICE • National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI): For MSE ODR

TEAM Initiative for MSMEs

Aspect	Details
Context	• The Ministry of MSME, in partnership with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), has launched the MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative.
Objective	• To enable MSMEs to adopt digital commerce and expand their market presence. • To connect MSMEs with the ONDC Network for better access to e-commerce opportunities.
Budget Allocation	• Rs 277.35 crore over three years to onboard 5 lakh micro and small enterprises, 50% of which will be women-led businesses.
Key Features	• Access to digital storefronts, integrated payment systems, and logistics support to reduce operational barriers. • Encourages formalization and adoption of digital transactions, enhancing the credibility and trust of MSMEs. • Provides financial assistance through the Seller Network Development Scheme for MSMEs to create catalogs, product pages, and digital payment accounts. • Over 150 workshops to be conducted in Tier 2 & Tier 3 cities, focusing on MSMEs and SC/ST-led enterprises.
Significance	• Helps small businesses transition to digital platforms, improving their market reach. • Strengthens financial inclusion by promoting the adoption of digital payments. • Complements other government initiatives like PM Vishwakarma and Digital MSME Scheme.
Integration with ONDC	• ONDC is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. • Aims to create an inclusive, non-monopolistic e-commerce network. • ONDC is not a platform but an interoperable digital network to connect buyers and sellers.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Aspect	Details
Launch Year	2023
Type	Central Sector Scheme
Implementing Ministry	Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
Duration	5 Years (FY 2023–24 to FY 2027–28)

Aim	• Preserve and promote the **Guru-Shishya** tradition of traditional artisans and craftsmen
	• Improve quality and reach of their products/services
	• Integrate them into domestic and global value chains
Coverage	• Rural and urban artisans and craftsmen
	• 18 traditional trades (e.g., Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith, Tool Kit Maker, etc.)
Target Beneficiaries	• 5 lakh families in the first year
	• 30 lakh families over five years
Key Features & Benefits	• **Market Linkage Support:** Promotion and integration into broader markets
	• **Skill Training:** Industry-relevant training for artisans
	• **Incentives for Digital Transactions:** Encouragement for cashless operations
	• **Access to Tooling Facilities:** Enhanced productivity through better tools
	• Support for Product & Process Development
	• **Consultancy & Job Work Services:** Tailored services for sectoral needs

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Namo Didi Drone Scheme

Aspect	Details
Launched By	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (2023)
Umbrella Scheme	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)
Objective	Empower Women SHGs by providing drones for agricultural services, including pesticide and fertilizer application.
Target	15,000 drones (2024-25 to 2025-26); 3,090 SHGs in the first phase (2024-25).
Budget	Rs 1,261 Crore (2023-24 to 2025-26).
Implementing Agencies	DA&FW, DoRD, DoF
Key Features	Financial support, training, cluster-based implementation, & infrastructure support.
Training & Skill Development	Drone pilot training, pesticide & nutrient application expertise, & provisions to train additional SHG members.
Expected Outcome	Rs 1 lakh additional income per SHG per year, promoting economic sustainability.

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDKY)

Topic	Details
Launched Under	Union Budget 2025 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
Aim	Enhance agricultural productivity and rural prosperity in 100 low-productivity districts across India.
Objectives	• Boost farm productivity through specialized interventions.
	• Increase credit access for farmers.
	• Modernize farming practices using technology.
	• Integrate existing agricultural schemes for efficiency.

Beneficiaries	1.7 crore farmers across 100 identified districts.
Inspiration	Aspirational Districts Program, which successfully improved socio-economic indicators in backward regions.
Key Features	• Unification of multiple agricultural schemes under one umbrella. • Customized interventions based on district-specific challenges. • Technology-driven solutions to promote modern & sustainable farming. • Focus on districts with moderate crop intensity, low productivity, and limited access to institutional credit. • Encouragement of financial inclusion by linking farmers to government-backed financial programs & microfinance institutions. • Reduction of farmers' dependence on informal moneylenders to prevent rural indebtedness.

PM-AASHA Scheme

Aspect	Details
Context	The Union Government has approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26.
Introduction	• **Launched in:** 2018 • **Objective:** Ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers, particularly for pulses, oilseeds, and copra. • **Ensures:** Remunerative prices for farmers and price stability in the agricultural sector.

Key Components of PM-AASHA	• **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**
	  ◆ Procures pulses, oilseeds, and copra at MSP.
	  ◆ Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) conduct procurement with state agencies.
	  ◆ Only produce meeting Fair Average Quality (FAQ) standards is procured.
	• **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)**
	  ◆ Compensates pre-registered farmers for the difference between MSP and market price.
	  ◆ No physical procurement of produce is involved.
	  ◆ Applicable to: Oilseeds, requiring transactions via transparent auction processes in notified market yards.
	• **Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS) (Pilot Basis)**- Involves private stockists in oilseed procurement.
	  ◆ Implemented in selected APMCs (Agricultural Produce Market Committees) or districts.
	  ◆ States can engage private players for efficient procurement.

Key Changes in PM-AASHA (2024)	• **Convergence of PSS & PSF Schemes**
	  ◆ Merged Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) for better efficiency.
	  ◆ Protects consumers from price volatility of agri-horticultural commodities.
	  ◆ Maintains strategic buffer stocks of pulses and onions.
	  ◆ Discourages hoarding by ensuring adequate supply.
	• **Integration of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**
	  ◆ Addresses perishable agricultural commodities (e.g., onions, potatoes, tomatoes).
	  ◆ Activated when prices drop by ≥10% from the previous normal season.
	  ◆ Provides price stability and protects farmers' incomes from steep price declines.

Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)

Topic	Details
Collaborating Entities	• IIT Madras & Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Objective	• Transform agricultural extension services by making information easily accessible to farmers through agri-startups and digital platforms.
Key Focus Areas	• Digitalization of agricultural extension services. • Providing high-quality advisory services on crop production, marketing, value addition, and supply chain management. • Facilitating access to government schemes related to agriculture, allied sectors, and rural development.
Database & Reach	• Incorporates a database of over 12,000 agri-startups. • Enables farmers to adopt startup-driven innovations and technologies.
Expected Benefits	• Promotes sustainable & climate-resilient agriculture. • Enhances market linkages & technology adoption. • Empowers farmers with real-time advisory & support services.

Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP)

Aspect	Details
Launched Under	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
Funding	$98 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Objective	Provide farmers access to virus-free, high-quality planting material, leading to increased crop yields.
Key Components	• Establishment of 9 world-class Clean Plant Centers (CPCs) with advanced diagnostic therapeutics and tissue culture labs. • Certification Framework under the Seeds Act 1966. • Support for large-scale nurseries for infrastructure development.
Implementing Agencies	• Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare • National Horticulture Board (NHB) • Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Implementation Timeline	2024-2030 with 50% financial assistance from ADB.
Other Initiatives for Horticulture Sector	• **CHAMAN Project:** Horticulture assessment & management using geoinformatics. • **Kisan Rail Services:** For transporting perishable goods. • Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme by NHB.
India's Horticulture Sector (Key Facts)	• Contributes 33% of agricultural GDP & covers 18% of agricultural land. • Contributes Rs 4 lakh crore annually in exports. • 2nd largest producer of vegetables & fruits globally (FAO). • Ranks 1st in Banana, Lime & Lemon, Papaya, Okra production.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

Topic	Details
Launched By	Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
Objective	Promote chemical-free natural farming using traditional knowledge and integrated diversified crop systems for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture.
Scheme Type	Standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme
Duration	Till the 15th Finance Commission period (2025-26)
Implementation Targets	• 15,000 clusters in Gram Panchayats within two years. • Reach 1 crore farmers and introduce natural farming on 7.5 lakh hectares. • Establish 10,000 Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs).
Monitoring System	Real-time, geo-tagged monitoring through an online portal.
Convergence with Existing Schemes	• Enhancing livestock population. • Developing NF demonstration farms. • Strengthening market linkages.
Educational Integration	• Engaging students through the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) program. • Undergraduate, postgraduate, and diploma courses on Natural Farming.
Support and Resources	• 2000 NF Model Demonstration Farms at KVKs, Agricultural Universities, and farmers' fields. • Training 18.75 lakh farmers in natural farming methods (e.g., Jeevamrit & Beejamrit preparation). • Engaging 30,000 Krishi Sakhis/CRPs for awareness, mobilization, and farmer handholding.
Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs)	• Providing ready-to-use natural farming inputs like Jeevamrit & Beejamrit. • Promoting local livestock for bio-input production.
Market Linkages	• Easy certification system & common branding for natural farming produce. • Strengthening market access through local markets, APMC Mandis, Haats, and Depots.
Environmental & Health Benefits	• Improves soil fertility, carbon content & water efficiency. • Enhances soil microorganisms & biodiversity. • Builds climate resilience (protection against waterlogging, floods & droughts). • Reduces exposure to harmful fertilizers & pesticides ensuring nutritious food.

Krishonnati Yojana (KY)

Aspect	Details
Objective	• Develop the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner. • Increase farmers' income by enhancing production, productivity, and better returns on produce.
Nodal Ministry	• Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Background	• Implemented since 2016-17 as an umbrella scheme for the agriculture sector. • Several existing missions and schemes clubbed together under one umbrella for better coordination and impact.

Major Sub-Schemes	• Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) • National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) • National Food Security Mission (NFSM) • National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) • Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE) • Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP) • Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) • Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ) • Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Census, Economics & Statistics • Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation • Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) • National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) • Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)

Aspect	Details
Objective	• Reduce India's dependence on edible oil imports by increasing domestic production. • Promote oilseed cultivation through incentives, technological advancements, and infrastructure support.
Implementation Period	• 2024-25 to 2030-31 (7 years)
Target for 2030-31	• Increase primary oilseed production to 67 million tonnes (from 39 million tonnes in 2022-23). • Increase domestic edible oil production to 25.36 million tonnes, meeting 72% of projected demand.
Key Features of the Scheme	• **Seed Availability, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) Portal:** 5-year roadmap for production & processing. • **High-Yielding Seeds & Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs):** Enhanced seed quality & production efficiency. • **Value Chain Creation:** Establishing 317 oilseed clusters, connecting farmers with processing units & markets. • **Infrastructure Development:** Investment in cold storage, warehousing, and marketing infrastructure. • **Farmer Support Programs:** Awareness, training, and financial incentives for oilseed cultivation.
Intended Benefits	• Increased farmer income via higher oilseed production & price stability. • Reduced dependency on edible oil imports, ensuring food security. • Environmental benefits: Promoting eco-friendly, sustainable farming methods. • Strengthening India's position as a self-reliant edible oil producer.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

Swavalambini Programme

Aspect	Details
Context	• The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, has launched Swavalambini - A Women Entrepreneurship Programme in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.
Objective	• Empowering female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to become entrepreneurs. • Supporting women, particularly in North-Eastern states, by providing business guidance and financial backing to turn their ideas into sustainable businesses.
Alignment with NEP 2020	• National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes an entrepreneurship-driven curriculum, focusing on skill integration, industry collaboration, and startup incubation.
Implementation	• Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, will provide end-to-end entrepreneurship support – from awareness to mentorship and funding assistance.

Components of the Programme	• **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP):**
	  ◆ 600 female students introduced to entrepreneurship as a viable career option.
	  ◆ 2-day training covering entrepreneurial concepts.
	• **Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP):**
	  ◆ 300 students to receive 40-hour training, including business skills, market linkages, compliance & legal support, and networking opportunities.
	• **Mentorship & Handholding Support:**
	  ◆ Sustained mentorship for selected candidates to help establish women-led enterprises.
	• **Award to Rewards Initiative:**
	  ◆ Recognizing & celebrating successful entrepreneurial projects developed under the programme.
	• **Faculty Development Programme (FDP):**
	  ◆ 5-day FDP training for faculty members to enhance business incubation & coaching strategies.

Significance	• Encourages women-led startups & innovation in Northeast India. • Strengthens entrepreneurial education & business incubation in HEIs. • Builds a pipeline of skilled women entrepreneurs to contribute to economic development.

Ministry of Rural Development

NAKSHA Pilot Project

Topic	Details
Full Name	National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) Pilot Project
Funding	Fully funded by the Government of India
Implemented By	Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development
Aim	Create and update land records in urban areas using geospatial technology.

Objective	• Ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership to reduce disputes.
	• Support urban planning, ease of living, and transparency in property record management.
Coverage & Implementation	• Implemented across 152 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in 26 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs).
Key Features	• Use of drones and geospatial mapping for land surveys.
	• Development of an IT-based property record system to enhance efficiency.
	• Web-GIS platform for centralized digital land records.
	• Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) booklet, video, and flyer for guidance.
Expected Outcomes	• Reduction in land-related disputes and enhanced legal clarity.
	• Improved urban planning and infrastructure development.
	• Strengthening property rights and empowering citizens.
	• Enhanced transparency and efficiency in land record management.

Ministry of Finance

NPS Vatsalya Scheme

Feature	Details
Launched By	• Union Finance Minister
Objective	• Provide a dedicated pension plan for minors (children under 18 years old).
Eligibility	• Minor citizens (below 18 years).
	• Both child and parent must be Indian citizens.
	• Must comply with KYC norms.
Account Operation	• Opened in the minor's name, operated by parent/guardian.
	• Minor is the beneficiary.
Where to Open	• Major banks, India Post, Pension Funds, and e-NPS (online).
Contributions	• **Minimum:** Rs 1,000 per year.
	• No maximum limit.
Investment Options	• Government securities, corporate debt, equity — customizable based on risk appetite.
Conversion to Adult NPS	• Upon turning 18, the account can be seamlessly converted into a regular NPS account.
Withdrawal Rules	• Partial withdrawal after 3 years — up to 25% for education, medical treatment, or disabilities.
	• **At 18:** Up to Rs 2.5 lakh can be fully withdrawn. If corpus exceeds 2.5 lakh: 20% can be withdrawn, 80% must buy an annuity.
In Case of Death	• **If child (minor) dies:** corpus goes to nominee/guardian.
	• **If guardian dies:** new guardian must be assigned with new KYC.
	• If both parents die: legal guardian manages account without further contributions till child turns 18.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Program (FTI-TTP)

Topic	Details
Launched Under	Viksit Bharat@2047 Vision
Objective	Enhance international travel experience by providing world-class immigration facilities that are seamless and secure.
First Launched On	22 June 2024 at Terminal-3, Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi.
Inaugurated By	Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 16 January 2025 from Ahmedabad.
Nodal Agency	Bureau of Immigration under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Implementation	• To be implemented at 21 major airports across India. • Initially launched at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, and Ahmedabad.
Eligibility	Indian citizens and OCI cardholders.
Cost	Currently available free of cost for eligible travelers.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

Voluntary Vehicle Modernization Program

Topic	Details
Objective	Create an ecosystem to phase out unfit, polluting vehicles through a network of Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) and Automated Testing Stations (ATSs).
Discounts	Vehicle manufacturers to offer discounts: 2 years for commercial vehicles and 1 year for passenger vehicles against a Scrappage Certificate.
Circular Economy	Promotes recycling, reduces raw material consumption, and minimizes waste.
Incentives for Scrapping	• **Commercial Vehicle Manufacturers:** Discounts up to 3% of ex-showroom price. • **Passenger Vehicle Manufacturers:** Discounts of 1.5% of ex-showroom price. • Scrap value from RVSFs + government incentives like Motor Vehicle Tax concessions and registration fee waivers.
Vehicle Registration Rules	• **Commercial Vehicles:** Fitness test every 2 years for the first 8 years, annually thereafter. • **Private Vehicles:** First registration valid for 15 years; renewal valid for 5 years with a fitness certificate.
Mandated Fitness Tests	• **From April 1, 2023:** Mandatory fitness tests for heavy commercial vehicles at ATSs. • **From June 1, 2024:** Mandatory tests for all other CVs and PVs at ATSs.

Ministry of Jal Shakti

Bhu-Neer Portal

Topic	Details
Launched During	India Water Week 2024 (Ministry of Jal Shakti)
Developed By	Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC)
Objective	Enhance groundwater management and regulation across India.
Availability	Live and accessible to the public for groundwater-related applications.
Key Features	• **Comprehensive Groundwater Resource Management:** Centralized database with state & national-level regulations. • **User-Friendly Design:** Simplified interface for seamless groundwater permit applications. • **Innovative Functionalities:** Includes PAN-based single ID system & NOCs with QR codes for easy identification and traceability. • **Enhanced Accessibility:** Users can track application status, make statutory payments, and seek clarifications.
Improvement Over Previous System	• Replaces the NOCAP system, offering a more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly process. • Aligns with the government's 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative.
Significance	• Facilitates seamless & faceless groundwater regulation. • Promotes sustainable groundwater use across industries and individuals. • Supports responsible water management practices.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Jal Hi Amrit Initiative

Aspect	Details
Launch Year	2024 (Under AMRUT 2.0)
Objective	To create "Water-Secure Cities" by promoting the reuse of treated wastewater.
Implementing Body	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
Key Goals	• Incentivize States/UTs for efficient management of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Used Water Treatment Plants (UWTPs). • Ensure continuous supply of high-quality treated water for sustainable water recycling. • Promote a circular economy of water by enabling its reuse in construction, industry, and irrigation. • Encourage competition between cities for better treatment facilities and systematic wastewater discharge.
Implementation Strategy	• **Star Rating System:** UWTPs will be awarded Clean Water Credits based on quality and reuse. • Incentives for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Parastatal Agencies to adopt sustainable water management.
Significance	Recycling and reusing treated water will help in reducing stress on freshwater resources and ensuring sustainable water management in urban areas.

Comparison of AMRUT 1.0 and AMRUT 2.0

Aspect	AMRUT 1.0	AMRUT 2.0
Launch Year	2015	2021
Duration	2015-2020	2021-2026
Coverage	500 cities and towns	All statutory towns in the country
Focus Areas	• Water supply, sewerage, and septage management. • Stormwater drainage, green spaces, and non-motorized transport.	• Universal water supply coverage via functional household taps. • Sewerage and septage management in 500 cities.

Smart City Mission

Category	Details
Launched By	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
Launch Year	2015
Extended Till	31st March 2025
Type	Centrally Sponsored Scheme – Rs 100 crore/year provided by Union Govt, matched by State/ULB.
Objective	• Promote sustainable urban infrastructure. • Drive economic growth. • Create replicable urban models.
Selection Process	100 Smart Cities chosen based on competition (Smart City Challenge), ensuring equitable representation.
Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)	• Each city forms an SPV to plan, approve, raise funds, implement, manage, monitor projects. • Govt holds majority stake.
Key Features	• Area-based development (retrofitting, redevelopment, greenfield). • Pan-city initiatives using technology for better services (e.g., Integrated Command and Control Centres).
Convergence	Aligns with other schemes like AMRUT, HRIDAY, and Digital India.
6 Fundamental Criteria	• Community participation • Area-based models • Cooperative leadership • Integration of services • Technology solutions • Convergence with other schemes

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

BHASHINI Initiative

Topic	Details
Launched Under	National Language Technology Mission
Introduced In	July 2022

Developed By	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
Objective	Break language barriers by ensuring access to digital services in 22 scheduled Indian languages.
Technology Used	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP).
Key Features	• National digital public platform for language to provide universal access to content. • AI & NLP resources available for Indian MSMEs, startups, and innovators. • Crowdsourcing initiative (Bhasha Daan) to build multilingual datasets.
Citizen Participation (Bhasha Daan)	Contributions through: • Suno India (Listening) • Likho India (Writing) • Bolo India (Speaking) • Dekho India (Visual recognition)
Recent Development	Bhashini-enabled e-Shram portal launched in 22 scheduled languages for unorganized workers.

Ministry of Culture

Gyan Bharatam Mission & National Manuscripts Mission (NMM)

Aspect	Details
Context	• Gyan Bharatam Mission launched in Union Budget 2025-26 for manuscript conservation. • Aims to survey, document, and preserve over 1 crore manuscripts. • Covers manuscripts in academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collections. • Significant funding increase for the National Manuscripts Mission (NMM).
Objective	To protect and make accessible India's rich repository of traditional knowledge.
Key Features of Gyan Bharatam Mission	• **Survey, Documentation, and Preservation:** Nationwide identification, documentation, and preservation of significant manuscripts. • **National Digital Repository:** Creation of a centralized repository to store and provide digital access to India's manuscript collection. • **Global Knowledge Sharing:** Enabling international access to India's manuscript heritage, fostering cultural and academic exchanges.
About Manuscripts	• A manuscript is a handwritten document on materials like paper, palm leaf, cloth, or metal, at least 75 years old with scientific, historical, or aesthetic significance.
Key Features of Manuscripts	• **Diverse Content:** Includes historical records, ancient Indian wisdom, Ayurvedic and scientific texts, medical manuscripts (e.g., Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita). • **Linguistic and Script Diversity:** Manuscripts exist in various Indian languages and scripts (e.g., Brahmi, Devanagari, Sharada, and Grantha). • **Religious and Cultural Preservation:** Includes Vedic texts, Buddhist scriptures, and Jain philosophical works. • **Exclusivity:** Many unpublished manuscripts are unique historical records.
Manuscript Digitization Projects	• National Digital Library of India (NDLI) & Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) digitized over 95,000 manuscripts.

National Manuscripts Mission (NMM) Updates	• Funding for NMM (established in 2003 under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture) increased from Rs 3.5 crore to Rs 60 crore.
Culture Ministry Budget Highlights (2025-26)	• **Total Allocation:** Rs 3,360.96 crore (Rs 100 crore increase from last year). • **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):** Rs 1,278.49 crore for conservation efforts. • **National Libraries & Archives:** Rs 156.5 crore for preserving historical texts. • **Museums (National Museum & National Gallery of Modern Art):** Rs 126.63 crore for cultural preservation.

Ministry of Education

One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme

Topic	Details
Launched By	• Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Type of Scheme	• Central Sector Scheme
Objective	• Provide nationwide access to international scholarly research articles and journal publications for students, faculty, and researchers in government-managed higher education and R&D institutions.
Alignment	• Supports National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes research as a cornerstone of quality education.
Coordinating Agency	• Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous inter-university center under UGC.
Institutions Covered	• More than 6,300 government higher education institutions and central government R&D institutions.
Beneficiaries	• Approximately 1.8 crore students, faculty members, researchers, and scientists, including those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.
Journal Access	• Includes 30 major international journal publishers. • Provides access to approximately 13,000 e-journals.
Digital Platform	• A unified portal, "One Nation One Subscription", will be developed for institutions to access journals. • The entire process will be digital and user-friendly.
Monitoring & Review	• Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) will periodically review the scheme's usage and publications by Indian authors affiliated with participating institutions.
Key Objectives	• **Support for Research and Development:** Expands access to high-impact research resources, fostering a culture of research and innovation. • **Alignment with National Goals:** Supports Viksit Bharat@2047 and Atmanirbhar Bharat by promoting high-quality research. • **Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research:** Encourages both core and interdisciplinary research across all disciplines and geographic regions. • **Enhanced Accessibility:** Bridges the knowledge gap for institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities by providing equitable access to world-class resources.

New India Literacy Programme (NILP)

Feature	Details
Programme Name	New India Literacy Programme (NILP) — also known as ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram
Launched By	Union Ministry of Education (MoE)
Duration	5 years (2022-23 to 2026-27)
Financial Outlay	Rs 1,037.90 crore (Rs 700 crore from Centre, Rs 337.90 crore from States)
Objective	To empower adults aged 15 and above (who missed formal education) with literacy, life skills, and vocational training.
Key Components	• Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) • Critical Life Skills (e.g., digital, financial literacy) • Vocational Skills Development • Basic Education • Continuing Education
Beneficiaries	• Identified via door-to-door surveys on mobile apps by state surveyors. • Self-registration option available through mobile apps.
Mode of Implementation	• **Volunteer-based learning model** — volunteers can register via mobile apps. • **Tech-driven approach** — study materials on DIKSHA platform (NCERT). • **Multiple media modes** — TV, Radio, Samajik Chetna Kendra.
Definition of Literacy	• Ability to read, write, compute with comprehension and possess critical life skills like digital and financial literacy.
Full Literacy Criteria	• A State/UT is considered fully literate when it achieves 95% literacy.
Assessment	• Learners must pass the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) to be certified as literate.
Performance Stats (2023)	• 39.94 lakh learners took the FLNAT exam, out of which 36.17 lakh were certified literate (~90.6% pass rate).

Ministry of Law and Justice

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

Aspect	Details
Approval	Union Cabinet
Objective	• aximum ease of justice by transitioning towards digital, online, and paperless courts. • Digitization of the entire court records to improve efficiency and accessibility.
Implementation Timeline	2023 – 2027 (4 Years)
Financial Outlay	Rs 7,210 crore
Implementing Body	Department of Justice (Ministry of Law) under the recommendation of e-Committee (Supreme Court of India)

Key Features	• Central Sector Scheme.
	• Unified technology platform for the judiciary to provide seamless and paperless interaction between courts, litigants, and stakeholders.
	• High Courts (HCs) are responsible for implementation, with funds released by the Department of Justice.
Components of e-Court Phase III	• **S3WAAS Platform:** Secure & efficient data storage and access.
	• **e-Seva Kendra:** Offers electronic services & assistance to users.
	• **CLASS System:** Facilitates live audio-visual streaming in courtrooms.
	• **Scanning & Digitization:** Converts physical records into digital format.
	• **Cloud Infrastructure:** Scalable storage & computing resources.
	• **Virtual Courts:** Enables remote court proceedings via digital platforms.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Ayushman Vay Vandana Card

Topic	Details
Announced In	Union Budget 2024-25
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Objective	Provide free, universal healthcare access to senior citizens aged 70 years and above.
Eligibility	All Indian citizens aged 70+, regardless of income or financial status.
Key Features	• **Coverage:** Rs 5 lakh annual health coverage per family (shared if multiple elderly individuals live in the same household).
	• **Registration Process:** Beneficiaries must register on the PM-JAY portal or Ayushman app and complete eKYC to activate the card, even if they already hold an Ayushman card.
Alignment with Other Schemes	• Beneficiaries of CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) and ECHS (Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme) can either retain their existing benefits or opt for Ayushman Bharat coverage.
	• Available to individuals covered by ESIC (Employees State Insurance Corporation) and those with private health insurance.
Enrollment Update	Over 10 lakh senior citizens (70+) enrolled within three weeks of launch.

Ministry of Law and Justice

DISHA Scheme (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice)

Aspect	Details
Launched By	Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice
Launch Year	2021
Duration	Five Years (2021-2026)
Objective	To secure "Justice" for the people of India as per the Preamble and Articles 39A, 14, and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Key Features	• Expands access to justice for marginalized communities.
	• Enhances legal awareness and literacy.
	• Improves the quality and outreach of legal services.
Major Components	• **Tele-Law Services:** Provides remote legal assistance.
	• **Pro Bono Legal Services (Nyaya Bandhu):** Encourages lawyers to offer free legal aid.
	• **Legal Literacy and Awareness Programs:** Educates people about their legal rights.
Significance	• Bridges the justice gap for underprivileged groups.
	• Strengthens India's legal aid infrastructure.
	• Supports constitutional values of equal justice and legal empowerment.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)

Aspect	Details
Launch Year	2021-22 (Renamed from Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme - SCA to TSS)
Coverage Period	2021-22 to 2025-26
Type	Centrally Sponsored Scheme (100% grant from Government of India)
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Objective	To develop **36,428 tribal villages** into **model tribal villages** by bridging gaps in critical infrastructure and socio-economic development
Target Beneficiaries	Villages with **at least 50% tribal population and 500 Scheduled Tribe residents**
Implementation Approach	**Convergence** with existing **Central & State schemes** and preparation of **Village Development Plans (VDPs)**
Focus Areas	• **Road Connectivity** (Internal and inter-village/block connectivity)
	• **Telecom Connectivity** (Mobile & internet connectivity)
	• **Education** (Schools & upgradation of facilities)
	• **Anganwadi Centres** (Child nutrition & maternal care services)
	• **Healthcare** (Health sub-centres & medical services)
	• **Drinking Water** (Clean water accessibility)
	• **Sanitation & Drainage** (Waste & drainage management systems)
	• **Solid Waste Management** (Eco-friendly waste disposal solutions)

Ministry of Science & Technology

GARBHINI-DRISHTI

Aspect	Details
Launched By	Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
Established At	Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, Haryana
Primary Goal	Advance research and improve healthcare interventions related to maternal and neonatal health.

Key Features	• Data Repository & Information Hub for maternal & child health.
	• Largest maternal health database in South Asia, collecting data from 12,000+ pregnant women, newborns, and postpartum mothers.
	• Provides access to clinical data, images, and biospecimens for research.
Part of	GARBH-INi Program (Initiated by DBT in 2014).
Focus Areas	• Understanding biological & non-biological risks associated with preterm birth.
	• Preterm birth is a leading cause of neonatal mortality & morbidity.
	• Identification of 19 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs/genetic markers) linked to preterm birth in Indian women.
Significance	• Genetic insights are crucial for predictive tools & targeted healthcare interventions.
	• Strengthens India's maternal & neonatal healthcare research.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC

Environment Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024

Aspect	Details
Legal Basis	Section 7A of the Public Liability Insurance Act (PLIA), 1991
Purpose	Provides immediate relief to victims of accidents involving hazardous substances.
Key Amendments	• **Administration:** Environment Relief Fund (ERF) vested with the Central Government.
	• **Fund Manager:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) replaces United India Insurance Company Ltd. as the fund manager for five years (effective from 1st Jan 2025).
	• **Disbursement:** Fund Manager, in consultation with the Central Government, will develop an online portal and disburse funds as per orders of the District Collector or Central Government.
	• **Investment:** ERF shall be invested in public financial institutions and saving accounts to ensure funds' availability.
	• **Restoration of Environmental Damage:** ERF funds will be used for damage caused by hazardous substances (e.g., manufacturing, processing, storage, transportation, disposal, etc.).
	• **Auditing:** Independent auditor, approved by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG), will audit the fund.

Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi Initiative

Aspect	Details
Launched By	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Launch Occasion	Good Governance Day (December 25th), commemorating the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Objective	To enhance the capacity and competence of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by equipping elected representatives and officials with essential tools and knowledge for effective governance and participatory planning.

Key Features	• Strengthens decentralized governance at the grassroots level.
	• Empowers Panchayati Raj representatives for better decision-making.
	• Provides training and knowledge-sharing platforms.
Part of a Larger Campaign	• 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' Campaign, aimed at improving governance at the village level.
Significance	• Enhances governance efficiency in rural areas.
	• Promotes citizen engagement and participatory governance.
	• Aligns with India's goal of strengthening local self-governance.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Cruise Bharat Mission (CBM)

Aspect	Details
Objective	To position India as a **global hub for cruise tourism** and promote it as a leading global cruise destination.
Implementing Ministry	**Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**
Key Goals	• **Double cruise passenger traffic** within five years (by 2029). • **Increase cruise calls** from **254 in 2024 to 500 by 2030**.
Phased Implementation	• **Phase 1 (2024–2025):** Focus on forming **cruise alliances** with neighboring countries. • **Phase 2 (2025–2027):** Development of **new cruise terminals and destinations**. • **Phase 3 (2027–2029):** Integration of **all cruise circuits** across the Indian subcontinent.
Key Cruise Segments	• **Ocean & Harbour Cruise Segment**: Includes **deep-sea, coastal, yachting, and sailing cruises**. • **River & Inland Cruise Segment**: Covers **cruises on rivers, backwaters, creeks, and lakes**. • **Island Cruise Segment**: Focuses on **inter-island cruises, lighthouse tours, etc.**
Five Strategic Pillars	• **Sustainable Infrastructure & Capital** – Addressing infrastructure gaps. • **Operations & Technology Enablement** – Streamlining operations. • **Regulatory, Fiscal & Financial Policy** – Launching a **National Cruise Tourism Policy**. • **Cruise Promotion & Circuit Integration** – Marketing and investment promotion. • **Capacity Building & Economic Research** – Focus on **skill development**.

Ministry of Power

National Electricity Plan (Transmission)

Aspect	Details
Objective	• Develop India's transmission system to support growing renewable energy capacity and meet future electricity demand.
Implemented by	• **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** under the **Electricity Act 2003**.

Key Targets	• **500 GW Renewable Energy Capacity** by **2030**, increasing to **600 GW by 2032**. • **Peak demand of 458 GW** by **2032**. • Expansion of transmission network from **4.85 lakh ckm (2024) to 6.48 lakh ckm (2032)**. • **Inter-regional transmission capacity** to grow from **119 GW to 168 GW** by 2032.
Innovations in Transmission	• Integration of 10 GW offshore wind farms. • 47 GW battery energy storage systems. • 30 GW pumped storage plants.
Strategic Focus Areas	• Supporting **Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia** manufacturing hubs along coastal areas. • Expanding **cross-border power interconnections** with **Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka**, and exploring interconnections with **Saudi Arabia & UAE**.

Scheme for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP)

Feature	Details
Objective	Faster development of Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) and improved infrastructure in remote areas.
Funding	Rs 12,461 crore for generating 31,350 MW capacity.
Implementation Period	FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32.
Expansion	Includes costs for transmission lines, ropeways, railway sidings, and communication infrastructure, alongside roads and bridges.
Eligibility	Projects >25 MW, including private sector projects and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs).
Challenges	Financial constraints (high upfront costs), Geological concerns (hilly terrain, especially Himalayas), Power evacuation issues (remote regions), Social issues (land acquisition and rehabilitation).
Other Measures	• Large HEPs (>25 MW) classified as Renewable Energy sources. • Hydro Purchase Obligations (HPOs) require entities to buy hydropower. • Tariff rationalization measures to make hydropower more affordable. • Budget support for flood moderation/storage HEPs.

Ministry of Tourism

Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi Initiative

Aspect	Details
Objective	To enhance the overall experience for tourists by engaging locals as Ambassadors and Storytellers of their destinations, ensuring a welcoming and memorable visit to India.
Implemented by	Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
Vision	To promote Incredible India through Incredible Indians, fostering a hospitable and tourist-friendly environment.
Six Pilot Destinations	• Orchha, Madhya Pradesh • Gandikota, Andhra Pradesh • Bodh Gaya, Bihar • Aizawl, Mizoram • Jodhpur, Rajasthan • Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Key Features	• Special focus on training women and youth to develop tourism products and experiences like: ◆ Heritage walks, food tours, craft tours, nature treks, homestay experiences. • Driven by the "Atithi Devo Bhava" philosophy (treating tourists as honored guests). • Empowering locals to become homestay owners, food & cuisine experience providers, cultural and adventure guides. • Tourism-specific training supplemented with digital literacy and digital tools to enhance visibility to national and global tourists.

NITI Aayog

Atal Innovation Mission 2.0 (AIM 2.0)

Aspect	Details
Launch Year	2016 (original AIM 1.0)
Objective	To create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
Implementing Agency	NITI Aayog
Implementation Period	Till March 31, 2028
Key Goals	• Develop new programs and policies to foster innovation across economic sectors. • Provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for stakeholders. • Create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystems. • Enhance India's global competitiveness.

Key Components	• **Increasing Innovation Input:**
	     ◆ Language Inclusive Program (LIPI) – Building entrepreneurship ecosystems in 22 scheduled languages.
	     ◆ 30 Vernacular Innovation Centres in educational institutes.
	     ◆ Frontier Program for innovation in J&K, Ladakh, Northeast, and Aspirational Districts.
	 • **Improving Startup Success Rate:**
	     ◆ **Human Capital Development Program** – Training for teachers, mentors, and innovators.
	     ◆ **Deep Tech Reactor** – Research-backed startups support program.
	     ◆ **State Innovation Mission (SIM)** – Supporting states/UTs in developing innovation ecosystems.
	     ◆ **International Innovation Collaborations Program –** Promoting India's innovation engagement with the world.
	 • **Enhancing Startup Output Quality:**
	     ◆ **Industrial Accelerator Program** – Focus on scaling advanced startups.
	     ◆ **Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpads (ASIL)** – Integrating startups into key central ministries.

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

RESET Programme:

Topic	Details
Programme Name	Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training (RESET) Programme
Launched By	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Objective	Empower retired sportspersons with knowledge and skills for career development and better employability.
Eligibility	Retired athletes aged 20-50 who have participated or won medals in national/international events.
Key Features	• **Two levels based on educational qualifications:** Class 12th and above, Class 11th and below. ◆ **Mode:** Hybrid — self-paced learning + on-ground training with internships. ◆ Placement assistance and guidance for entrepreneurial ventures.

'Know Your Medicine' (KYM) App

Topic	Details
Launched By	Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports
Developed By	National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India
Objective	Empower athletes with knowledge to prevent inadvertent doping and ensure fair competition.
Purpose	• Strengthens the fight against doping in sports. • Allows athletes to check if a medicine or its ingredients are prohibited under World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations.
Key Features	• **Quick Verification:** Instantly confirms whether substances are permissible under anti-doping rules. • **Sport-Specific Search:** Athletes can select their sport and access tailored information. • **Advanced Search Options:** Includes image and audio search functionalities for ease of use.
Significance	• Part of NADA India's mission to promote clean sports. • Raises anti-doping awareness and education among athletes. • Supports the vision of fair, transparent, and ethical sportsmanship across all levels of competition.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Aspect	Details
Launch Date	February 15, 2024 (Ministry Of New and Renewable Energy)
Objective	To provide free electricity to households through rooftop solar panel installations.
Outlay & Duration	Rs 75,021 crore till FY 2026-27
Key Features	• **Subsidy for Solar Panels:** Covers up to 40% of installation costs. • **Free Electricity:** Up to 300 units per month, benefiting 1 crore families. • **Annual Savings:** Up to Rs 18,000 per household. • **Government Savings:** Estimated Rs 75,000 crore per year on electricity costs.

Eligibility Criteria	• Must be an Indian citizen.
	• Must own a house with a suitable rooftop.
	• Must have a valid electricity connection.
	• Must not have availed any other solar panel subsidy.
Implementation Mechanism	• **DISCOMs as State Implementation Agencies (SIAs):** Responsible for net meter availability, inspections, and commissioning of installations.
	• **Incentives to DISCOMs:** Rs 4,950 crore allocated for DISCOMs exceeding baseline rooftop solar capacity.
Expected Impact	• Promotes Renewable Energy & reduces carbon emissions.
	• Reduces dependence on conventional electricity sources.
	• Encourages household savings through energy cost reduction.

Miscellaneous

Makhana Board

Aspect	Details
Context	• The Union Budget 2025 announced the establishment of a Makhana Board in Bihar to boost its cultivation and marketing.
About Makhana	• Also known as fox nut, it is the dried edible seed of the prickly water lily (Euryale ferox).
	• Found in freshwater ponds across South and East Asia.
	• Recognized for its violet and white flowers and large round, prickly leaves.
	• Also called Black Diamond due to its dark outer layer.
	• High in carbohydrates, protein, and minerals, with medicinal, healthcare, and nutritional applications.
Cultivation	• Bihar produces 90% of India's makhana.
	• **Major production districts:** Darbhanga, Madhubani, Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj, and Sitamarhi (Mithilanchal region).
	• First four districts contribute 80% of Bihar's total makhana output.
	• Mithila Makhana received a GI tag in 2022.
	• Also cultivated in Assam, Manipur, West Bengal, Tripura, Odisha, and neighboring countries (Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Korea).
Climatic Conditions	• Aquatic crop grown in tropical & subtropical regions.
	• Requires stagnant water bodies (ponds, lakes, ditches, wetlands) with shallow water depths of 4-6 feet.
	• **Optimal conditions:**
	◆ **Temperature:** 20-35°C
	◆ **Humidity:** 50-90%
	◆ **Annual Rainfall:** 100-250 cm
Significance of Makhana Board	• Rs 100 crore for makhana farming & processing.
	• Farmer training for productivity & exports.
	• FPO formation for collective growth.
	• Boosts food processing & export infrastructure.

Project Waterworth

Aspect	Details
Initiative of	Meta
Objective	• Strengthen global digital infrastructure by deploying subsea internet cables. • Improve global connectivity using Artificial Intelligence (AI).
Significance	• Subsea cables carry 95% of international traffic across oceans, making them critical for digital connectivity. • Uses AI & machine learning models to predict and mitigate potential disruptions, enhancing network resilience. • Strengthens global digital highways by opening three new oceanic corridors. • Provides high-speed connectivity to accelerate AI innovation worldwide.
Scale & Reach	• 50,000 km in length, making it the longest subsea cable project in the world. • Connects five continents, including U.S., India, Brazil, South Africa, and other regions.

CHARAK - A Community Health Initiative

Aspect	Details
Implementing Organization	• Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), Coal India
Location	• Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh) and Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh)
Type of Initiative	• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative
Objective	• Provide free treatment for patients suffering from life-threatening diseases. • Ease financial and emotional burden on affected families. • Ensure access to quality healthcare for economically weaker sections in the Singrauli region.
Eligibility	• Residents of Singrauli and Sonbhadra districts. • Annual family income must be below 8 lakh from all sources.
Free Treatment at	• NCL's dedicated hospital (NSC). • Specialized empanelled hospitals across India.
Diseases Covered	• Tuberculosis (TB) • HIV • Cardiovascular diseases • Organ Transplant • Multisystem disorders • Connective tissue disorders • Sudden vision loss etc.
CSR Impact	• NCL has touched 10 lakh lives through CSR initiatives. • Spent over Rs 1,000 crores on various CSR projects in the past 10 years.

PAN 2.0 Project

Topic	Details
Approved By	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Nodal Agency	Income Tax Department

Objective	Modernize and consolidate the existing PAN/TAN system to provide a seamless digital experience for taxpayers.
Key Features	• **Common Business Identifier:** Integrates PAN, TAN, and TIN into a unified system to simplify compliance. • **QR-Code Integration:** All new & existing PAN cards will feature an enhanced QR code to better integrate financial transactions with the tax department. • **Unified Online Portal:** Replaces the 15-20-year-old software with a paperless system for better service delivery & grievance redressal. • **Mandatory PAN Data Vault System:** Ensures secure storage of PAN data by entities like banks & insurance companies, enhancing data protection & cybersecurity. • **Technology-Driven Transformation:** Revamps taxpayer registration services, consolidating core & non-core PAN/TAN activities along with PAN validation services.
Benefits for Individuals	• Existing PAN cardholders can upgrade to QR code-enabled PAN cards free of cost. • Fully online, paperless application process for new PAN cards. • Improved integration of financial transactions with the tax department.
Benefits for Businesses	• PAN will serve as a unified system for filing tax challans and returns. • Simplifies tax documentation & compliance procedures.
Current Identification Numbers & Their Roles	• **Permanent Account Number (PAN):** 10-digit alphanumeric identifier used for tracking financial transactions, tax payments, and returns. Mandatory for filing ITRs. • **Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN):** 10-digit alphanumeric identifier required for deducting or collecting tax at source (TDS/TCS). Must be quoted in TDS/TCS returns, payment challans, and certificates.

Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network (VISION) Portal

Topic	Details
Launched By	Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh
Objective	Foster education, skill development, and entrepreneurship among underprivileged students.
Key Features	• **Online Training Modules:** Accessible courses for entrepreneurial and innovation skills. • **Mentorship Programs:** Guidance from industry leaders for aspiring innovators. • **Scholarship Opportunities:** Financial aid for students from underserved communities. • **Incubation Support:** Resources and assistance to transform ideas into viable businesses.
Democratizing Startup Opportunities	• Bridges the gap for students in rural and underserved areas. • Provides mentorship, training, and exposure to cutting-edge fields such as biotechnology, space technology, and agricultural innovation.
Creating an Inclusive Ecosystem	• Ensures access to the startup ecosystem for students in remote areas. • Encourages grassroots-level innovation.
Knowledge Revolution	• Leverages technology to bridge the urban-rural educational divide.
Future Goals	• Aligns with Vision India 2047 to position India as a global leader in technology, education, and economic development.

PM Internship Scheme Pilot Project

Topic	Details
Announced In	Union Budget 2024-25, implemented by Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Objective	Provide real-world business exposure to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry demands.
Target	One crore internships over five years, with a 12-month pilot project for 1.25 lakh youth in FY 2024-25.
Applications Received	6.5 lakh applications by the extended deadline (November 15, 2024).
Pilot Phase Details	• 1.27 lakh internship opportunities offered. • 280 participating companies, including Tata Steel, ITC Limited, ICICI Bank, and Mahindra Group.
Eligibility Criteria	• **Age Group:** 21–24 years (as of the application deadline). • **Education:** High school, ITI, diploma, or undergraduate degree (BA, B.Sc, B.Com, etc.). • **Exclusions:** Graduates from IITs, IIMs, NLUs, holders of higher professional degrees, those earning over Rs 8 lakh annually, or with a regular government employee in the family.
Internship Structure	• **Duration:** 12 months (minimum 50% of the time in a working environment). • **Stipend:** Rs 5,000 per month (Rs 500 from company CSR funds, Rs 4,500 from the government via DBT). • **One-time** grant of Rs 6,000 for incidental expenses.
Company Participation	• Top 500 companies (based on CSR expenditure) and other eligible entities can join voluntarily. • Companies can collaborate with supply chain partners or group entities. • Training costs covered via CSR funds (5% can be used for administrative costs).
Application Process	• Online portal for applications, shortlisting, and selection. • Candidates can apply for up to five different internships.
Completion & Monitoring	• Interns receive completion certificates upon successful completion. • Ongoing performance evaluation. • Dropouts become ineligible for future internship cycles.

Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry

Aspect	Details
Ministry	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Objective	To make India self-reliant in the medical device sector by targeting critical areas of the industry.
Market Value	Currently valued at $14 billion, expected to grow to $30 billion by 2030.
Total Outlay	Rs 500 crore
Key Components	**Five sub-schemes:** • **Common Facilities for Clusters** – Shared R&D labs, design centers, testing, and animal labs. • **Marginal Investment Scheme** – Boosts localized production to reduce imports. • **Capacity Building & Skill Development** – Training programs with financial support. • **Clinical Studies Support** – Funding for animal studies, human trials, and evaluations. • **Medical Device Promotion** – Supports industry associations, export councils, and research.

'EV as a Service' Program

Topic	Details
Launched By	Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs
Implementing Agency	Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)
Objective	Facilitate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in government offices to promote sustainable mobility.
Target Beneficiaries	Central & State Government ministries, departments, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and government institutions.
Deployment Goal	5,000 electric cars in government sectors within the next two years.
Procurement Model	• Flexible model allowing government offices to select EVs that best suit their operational needs. • Aligns with India's long-term goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070.
Environmental & Strategic Benefits	• Reduces reliance on fossil fuels. • Enhances India's energy security. • Reduces carbon emissions and promotes environmental sustainability.

First Digital Population Clock

Topic	Details
Launched In	Bengaluru, Karnataka
Developed By	Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
Objective	Provide real-time demographic data to raise awareness of population dynamics and support policy-making.
Purpose	• Raise awareness among citizens about demographic trends. • Provide reliable and updated population estimates for research & planning.
Clock Functionality	• Installed at the entrance of ISEC for easy visibility. • Karnataka's population estimate updates every minute and 10 seconds, reflecting regional growth. • India's total population estimate updates every two seconds, providing a continuous national demographic count.
Benefits of Real-Time Demographic Data	• Supports informed policy-making and strategic planning. • Enhances research by providing accurate and immediate demographic insights. • Encourages public engagement and awareness regarding population trends and challenges.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

Aspect	Details
Scheme Name	PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Heavy Industries

Objective	• Promote adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) through upfront purchase incentives.
	• Develop essential charging infrastructure to support EV growth.
	• Reduce environmental impact from transportation and improve air quality.
Fund Allocation	Rs 10,900 crore
Time Period	2024-26
Targets	• Support electric 2-wheelers (e-2Ws), 3-wheelers (e-3Ws), and e-buses.
	• Install 22,100 fast chargers for e-4Ws, 1,800 fast chargers for e-buses, and 48,400 fast chargers for e-2Ws/3Ws.
Implementation	Project Implementation and Sanctioning Committee (PISC) for monitoring, sanctioning, and execution.
Key Features	• **Subsidies:** Aadhaar-based e-Vouchers for upfront discounts, reimbursed to manufacturers.
	• **Incentives:** Rs 5,000/kWh (FY 2024-25) and Rs 2,500/kWh (FY 2025-26) for e-2Ws and e-3Ws (capped at 15% of ex-factory price).
	• **Infrastructure Grants:** Supports e-buses, EV charging stations, and testing upgrades.
	• **Target Cities:** High EV adoption cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, and key highways.
	• **Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP):** Mandatory for OEMs and EV infrastructure companies.
	• **State-level incentives:** Encourages tax cuts, parking discounts, and toll exemptions.
Eligible Vehicles	• Electric 2-wheelers (e-2W)
	• Electric 3-wheelers (e-3W), including e-rickshaws, e-carts
	• e-Ambulances (plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids)
	• e-Trucks and other emerging EV types
Key Benefits	• Affordable, eco-friendly public transport
	• Boost EV demand by lowering purchase costs
	• Expand EV testing facilities
	• Build widespread charging infrastructure to improve user confidence.

SEHER Program

Category	Details
Launched By	Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) & TransUnion CIBIL.
Platform	Public-private partnership platform under NITI Aayog, empowering women entrepreneurs.
Objective	To educate and empower women entrepreneurs with financial literacy and business skills.
Key Features	• Credit education program for access to financial tools and business growth.
	• Part of WEP's Financing Women Collaborative (FWC) — an initiative to accelerate finance access for women entrepreneurs.
Current Insight	Only 7% of MSME loans are to women-led businesses, highlighting the need for better credit access.

Reports/Indices

Reports/Indices	Publishing Organizations
Global Economic Prospects Report	World Bank
World Development Report	
India Development Update	
Migration and Development Brief (A Report on Remittances is a part of it)	
Global Financial Development Report	
Logistics Performance Index	
Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024	
Global Human Capital Index	
International Debt Report (Formerly, International Debt Statistics)	
Women, Business and the Law Report	
Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDR) - People in a Changing Climate	
Business Ready Index (B-Ready)	World Bank Group
Global Cyber Security Outlook	World Economic Forum
Global Risks Report	

• Global Gender Gap Report
 ◆ Benchmarks gender parity across 146 countries.
 ◆ Adopted in 2006, measures gender gap on a 0-100 scale.
 ◆ *Tracks progress in four key areas:*
  ▪ Economic Participation and Opportunity
  ▪ Educational Attainment
  ▪ Health and Survival
  ▪ Political Empowerment
 ◆ **India's Rank:** 129th out of 146 (dropped from 127th in 2023).	

Fostering Effective Energy Transition Report	
Travel and Tourism Development Index (Evolved from Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index)	
Global Health and Healthcare Strategic Outlook	
Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024	World Economic Forum (in collaboration with INSEAD)
BiodiverCities by 2030 Report	WEF + Colombia-based Alexander von Humboldt Institute
Environment Performance Index (biennial)	WEF + Yale University + Columbia University
Education 4.0 India Report	WEF + UNICEF + YuWaah (UNICEF's India Initiative)

• State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024	US-based Health Effects Institute (HEI). Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project. First time in partnership with UNICEF.
Global Financial Stability Report (biannual)	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
World Economic Outlook (biannual)	
Fiscal Monitor Report (biannual)	
External Sector Report (annual)	
The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (test once in 3 years)	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)	
Global Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Report on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in India	European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Goods Trade Barometer (Earlier known as World Trade Outlook Indicator)	World Trade Organisation (WTO)
World Trade Statistical Review	
Global Education Monitoring Report	
Gender Parity Index (Part of GEM)	
State of the Education Report for India	
World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
UN World Water Development Report (on behalf of UN-Water)	
State of Ocean Report 2024	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) - UNESCO.
The State of the World's Children Report	UNICEF
Humanitarian Action for Children	
Global Report on Trafficking in Persons	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
World Drug Report	
World Wildlife Crime Report	
Global Report on Cocaine	
Global Report on Corruption in Sport	
• Global Innovation Index (GII)	World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
• World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024	
Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Global Digital Regultory Outlook	United Nations International Telecommunication Union (UN-ITU)
Global Connectivity Report	
Global Cyber Security Index	
Global E-Waste Monitor Report	Global E-Waste Statistics Partnership including ITU, United Nations University (UNU) & International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) in collaboration with UNEP
Asia Power Index 2024 Evaluates 27 countries based on their ability to shape geopolitical events.	Lowy Institute (since 2018)
Global Transboundary E-Waste Flows Monitor	UN Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR)
World Migration Report 2024	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement	UNHCR + Global Protection Cluster
World Investment Report	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Trade & Development Report	
Review of Maritime Transport	
The Technology and Innovation Report	
World Economic Situation and Prospects	UNCTAD + UN-Department of Economic & Social Affairs (UN-DESA) + 5 UN Regional Commissions
World's Women Report (Once in 5 years)	UN-DESA
World Social Report	
World Population Prospects	
The Sustainable Development Goals Report	
E-Government Development Index	
The Gender Snapshot	UN Women + UN DESA
Industrial Development Report	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Global Assessment Report	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
State of World Population Report	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
World Cities Report	UN-Habitat
World Happiness Report	UN – Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Report	Organization
World Social Protection Report	International Labour Organization (ILO)
Social Dialogue Report	
World Employment and Social Outlook	
Global Estimates of Modern Slavery	
Global Wage Report	
Global Employment Trends for Youth	
India Employment Report (3rd edition)	Institute for Human Development & International Labour Organization
Human Development Report	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Gender Inequality Index	
Global Environment Outlook	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Emission Gap Report	
Adaptation Gap Report	
Inclusive Wealth Report	
International Methane Emissions Observatory Report	
State of Finance for Nature	
Global Methane Assessment	UNEP + Climate and Clean Air Coalition
IPCC Assessment Reports	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

• **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025**
  ◆ First presented at COP 11 (Montreal, 2005).
  ◆ Evaluates 63 countries + European Union (covering 90% of global GHG emissions).
  ◆ **Methodology:** 14 Indicators across 4 Categories:
    ▪ GHG Emissions (40% of score).
    ▪ Renewable Energy (20% of score).
    ▪ Energy Use (20% of score).
    ▪ Climate Policy (20% of score).
• **Top Performing Countries (2025)**
  ◆ (First 3 places are empty as no country achieved a 'very high' rating in all indicators.)
  ◆ Denmark (4th)
  ◆ Netherlands (5th)
  ◆ India ranks 10th among 63 countries.
	Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International.

Global Water Monitor 2024 Summary Report	Global Water Monitor Consortium
The State of the World's Forests	Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets	
The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture	
The State of Food and Agriculture	
Global Food Price Index	
World Food and Agriculture Book	

Report on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Forestry'	FAO, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World	FAO, WHO, UNICEF, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Statistics	World Health Organization (WHO)
Global Tuberculosis Report	
Global Nutrition Report	
World Malaria Report	
Nuclear Security Review	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Nuclear Safety Review	
Nuclear Technology Review	
Global Status of Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations	
Red Book	IAEA + OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
World Energy Outlook	International Energy Agency (IEA)
World Energy Investment Report	
Global Electric Vehicle Outlook	
Energy Technology Perspectives	
Clean Energy Transitions Programme	
Global Methane Tracker	
Net Zero by 2050 Report	
World Energy Transitions Outlook	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Renewable Capacity Statistics	
The Breakthrough Agenda Report	IRENA, IEA, and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions
World Oil Outlook	Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

• **Global Hunger Index**
  ◆ **Based on 4 key indicators:**
    ▪ **Undernourishment –** % of population with insufficient caloric intake.
    ▪ **Child Stunting –** % of children under 5 with low height for their age (chronic undernutrition).
    ▪ **Child Wasting –** % of children under 5 with low weight for height (acute undernutrition).
    ▪ **Child Mortality –** % of children dying before age 5, due to malnutrition and poor health conditions.
  ◆ **India's Rank and Score:** 105th out of 127 countries and score is 27.3 (Serious Hunger Level)
	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe

Living Planet Report	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders
India Inequality Report: Digital Divide	Oxfam India
India Discrimination Report	
Global Pension Index	Melbourne Mercer + CFA Institute + Monash Centre for Financial Studies
Global Estimates of Modern Slavery	ILO, Walk Free Foundation, and International Organization for Migration
Climate Change Performance Index	German Watch + New Climate Institute + Climate Action Network
Global Climate Risk Index	German Watch
Rule of Law Index	World Justice Project, US independent multidisciplinary organization
Financial Secrecy Index	Tax Justice Network, UK-based advocacy group
Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index	Oxfam and Development Finance International
Network Readiness Index 2024	Portulans Institute, Washington-based non-profit institute
Internet Freedom Index / Freedom on the Net Report	Freedom House
International Intellectual Property Index	US Chamber of Commerce
Global Peace Index	Institute of Economics & Peace (IEP), Australia
Global Terrorism Index	
Global Democracy Index	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), UK
Global Liveability Index	
Inclusive Internet Index	
Report on International Arms Transfers	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
Multidimensional Poverty Index	UNDP, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative
International Religious Freedom Report	US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
Global Wealth Report	Credit Suisse Group, a Switzerland-based multinational investment bank
Global Food Policy Report	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Report / Index	Organization
India State of Forest Report	Forest Survey of India
National Air Quality Index	
India State of Forest Report (Biennial report, 18th cycle since 1987)	
Comprehensive Environment Pollution Index (CEPI)	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
National Ambient Air Quality Standard	
State Food Safety Index	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
Periodic Labour Force Survey	National Sample Survey Office
Payroll Reporting in India	National Statistical Office (NSO)
All India Survey on Migration	Labour Bureau
School Education Quality Index (SEQI)	NITI Aayog, Ministry of Education, and World Bank
Export Preparedness Index (EPI)	NITI Aayog and Institute of Competitiveness
India Innovation Index	NITI Aayog, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), CII
SDG India Index	NITI Aayog
Data Governance Quality Index	
State Energy and Climate Index	
Composite Water Management Index	
Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025	
State Energy Efficiency Index	Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE)
Energy Performance Index	Bureau of Energy Efficiency
Swachh Survekshan Report	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Accidental Deaths and Suicides Report	National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
Financial Inclusion Index	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Financial Stability Report	
Report on Currency and Finance 2023-24	
RESIDEX	National Housing Bank
Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER)	PRATHAM, an NGO
All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)	Ministry of Education
Unified Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) Report	
Performance Grading Index	
National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)	

Logistics Ease Across Different States Index (LEADS)	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
India Justice Report	Tata Trusts
Greenex (Green Index)	Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
National Achievement Survey	NCERT
Municipal Bond Index	National Stock Exchange (NSE)
Tribal Development Report	Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF)
Good Governance Index (GGI) • GGI is a framework to assess governance across all Indian states and Union Territories (UTs). • It ranks States/Districts based on over 50 indicators covering agriculture, health, economy, governance, and citizen services. • Biennial ranking (every two years). **Launch & Development** • Launched in 2019 • Released on December 25 (birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, observed as Good Governance Day).	Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Rural Youth Employment Report 2024	Development Intelligence Unit (a joint initiative of Transform Rural India & Sambodhi Research, with support from Global Development Incubator).
State Mining Index (SMI)	Ministry of Mines
Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)	India Meteorological Department (IMD)
EnviStats India 2024	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

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