

**NEXT IAS**

**DAILY NEWS**

**ANALYSIS**



**2<sup>nd</sup> July**

## Explained

1. Cabinet nod to job-linked incentive scheme
2. Pharma factory blast in Telangana
3. Digital India mission
4. India's sports policy journey

## Decoded

5. Using tech to empower women and children

**Playlist Link:**



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## Cabinet nod to job-linked incentive scheme

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved an Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme with an allocation of ₹99,446 crore to support employment generation, primarily in the manufacturing sector.

“Under the scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month’s wage [up to ₹15,000], the employers will be given incentives for a period up to two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector,” Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwani Vaishnav told presspersons after the Cabinet meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the ELI Scheme would boost job

### Incentive boost

The ELI scheme will provide incentives to employees as well as employers to improve creation of job opportunities

■ Around **1.92 crore beneficiaries** will be first-time employees

■ Scheme offers one-month wage up to **₹15,000 in two instalments**

■ Benefits applicable to jobs created **between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027**



creation. “The focus on manufacturing and incen-

tives for first-time employees will greatly benefit our youth,” he said.

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the scheme was aimed at providing jobs for 3.5 crore youth. The government said in a statement that the ELI scheme was announced in the Union Budget of 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister’s package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling, and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget outlay of ₹2 lakh crore.

“With an outlay of ₹99,446 crore, the ELI Scheme aims at incentivising the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Out of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first-timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the scheme will be applicable to jobs created

between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027,” the release said, adding employees with salaries up to ₹1 lakh would be eligible for the scheme. “The government will incentivise employers, up to ₹3,000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the third and fourth years as well,” the release added.

### Unions sceptical

While the industries have welcomed the announcement, trade unions are looking at it with suspicion. Tapan Sen, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) general secretary, said the move was a deceptive scheme for transferring public funds to the employers’ class.

**Backdrop:** Launch of Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme

**Relevance:** GS 3/Indian Economy

## About the news:

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme** to boost job creation, enhance employability, and extend social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

### Key Highlights:

- **Total Outlay:** ₹99,446 crore (part of ₹2 lakh crore employment package in Budget 2024–25).
- **Duration:** Benefits for jobs created between **Aug 1, 2025 – July 31, 2027**.
- **Target:** Creation of over **3.5 crore jobs** over 2 years, including **1.92 crore first-time employees**.

### Scheme Components:

#### Part A: Incentive to First-Time Employees:

- Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, it will offer one-month EPF wage up to **Rs 15,000** in two installments.
- Eligible for those earning up to ₹1 lakh/month and registered with **EPFO**.
- 1st instalment after 6 months of service; 2nd after 12 months and completion of a **financial literacy programme**.

- A partial amount is to be deposited in a **savings instrument** of a deposit account for a fixed period to promote saving habits.
- Payments via **DBT using Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS)**.
- This part will benefit around **1.92 crore** first-time employees.

### **Part B: Incentives to Employers:**

- Covers all sectors; **special focus on manufacturing**.
- Employers will get incentives for employees with salaries **up to Rs 1 lakh**.
  - Incentive of up to **₹3,000/month** per additional employee (**for 2 years**) with sustained employment for at least six months.
  - For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least,
    - Two additional employees (for employers < 50 employees) or
    - Five additional employees (for employers  $\geq$  50 employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months.

EPF Wage Slab of Additional Employee	Benefit to the Employer (per additional employee per month)
Up to ₹10,000	Up to ₹1,000
More than ₹10,000 and up to ₹20,000	₹2,000
More than ₹20,000 (up to ₹1,00,000 per month)	₹3,000

- This part is expected to incentivize employers to create additional employment for nearly **2.60 crore persons**.

## Incentive Payment Mechanism

All payments to **first-time employees (Part A)** will be made via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** using the **Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS)**. Payments to **employers (Part B)** will be directly credited to their **PAN-linked accounts**.

## Significance of the scheme

- **Boost job creation** across all sectors, especially in **manufacturing**.
- **Encourage youth employment**.
- Promote **workforce formalization** by expanding **social security coverage** to crores of young workers.

## Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes

The PLI Scheme is a flagship initiative launched by the Government of India to boost domestic manufacturing, attract investments, and enhance exports across key sectors.

- **Objective:** To incentivize domestic and global companies for manufacturing in India by offering financial incentives based on incremental production or sales.
- **Sectors Covered:** Initially launched for 3 sectors in 2020, it now covers 14 sectors, including:

- Electronics (e.g., mobile phones, semiconductors)
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- Automobiles and auto components
- Textiles, drones, solar PV modules, telecom, food processing, and more.
- **Incentive Structure:** Incentives are offered as a percentage of incremental sales of manufactured goods over a base year.
- **Total outlay:** Over **₹1.97 lakh crore** (approx. \$26 billion) across all 14 targeted sectors.





## PRACTICE QUESTION

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme recently approved by the Union Cabinet in 2025:**

1. The scheme especially focuses on the manufacturing sector.
2. Employers are eligible for incentives of up to ₹3,000 per additional employee per month.
3. All payments to employees and Employers will be made through the Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only**
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

## Telangana blast toll rises to 36, six workers missing

19 more bodies retrieved during search operations overnight after the explosion at the pharma unit; 14 bodies identified; CM announces ₹1 crore compensation to families of workers who died

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

**T**he toll from the explosion at a pharmaceutical unit at Pashamylaram near Hyderabad rose to 36 on Tuesday, as search and rescue efforts were under way to trace six missing workers who are suspected to have been at the site during the blast on Monday.

“As per factory records, six workers are still missing. We are continuing efforts to trace them,” said Y. Nagi Reddy, Director-General of Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services, adding that search operations have been going on without a pause despite adverse weather conditions and heavy rain.

Officials confirmed that



Family members of the victims of the explosion at the government hospital at Patancheru in Sangareddy on Tuesday. MOHD ARIF

143 individuals were at the facility of the Sigachi Industries at the time of the explosion, of whom 74 were affected.

“During the overnight search operation, a total of 19 bodies were retrieved from the debris. Search op-

erations are still under way both at the site and in nearby areas for individuals who remain missing,” said Swamy Goud, a police official, adding that no bodies were retrieved from the site during the day.

Of the 36 dead, bodies

of 14 have been identified, a doctor among the team of 20 deployed to carry out autopsies said.

“We have completed post-mortem on all 36 bodies. It was extremely difficult for us because many of the bodies were charred... we have collected DNA samples,” the doctor said.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who visited the site of the accident and interacted with families of victims on Tuesday, instructed officials to provide compensation of ₹1 crore to families of the workers who died in the explosion and ₹10 lakh to those who sustained injuries.

### EDITORIAL

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**Backdrop:** Explosion at a pharmaceutical unit at Pashamylaram near Hyderabad.

**Relevance:** GS3 - Disaster Management

## About the news

- Explosion occurred on Monday at **Sigachi Industries**, a pharma unit in **Pashamylaram, Sangareddy District** (near Hyderabad).

### Cause of Explosion: Preliminary Findings

- **Blast occurred in the dryer of the reactor** used for processing **Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)**.
- Suspected causes:
  - **Static charge accumulation**
  - **Pressure build-up in the reactor**
  - **Poor maintenance** and failure to control **temperature**
- Dryer requires **continuous temperature monitoring** and **regular cleaning** to prevent dust accumulation and ignition.

### About Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)

- MCC is **chemically inert**, not absorbed by the body or reactive to skin.
- Used as a **binder/texturizer** in pharma, food, cosmetics.
- Though safe in final form, its **manufacturing process is hazardous** if not handled with proper **training and safeguards**.

## Larger Regulatory & Safety Concerns

- India has seen **frequent industrial accidents**:
  - **Thane chemical blast (2024)**
  - **Visakhapatnam gas leak (2020)**
  - **Anakapalli pharma fire (2024)**

## Systemic Issues in Chemical Safety

- India lacks a **dedicated national policy** for chemical industry safety.
- Despite **15 Acts and 19 rules**, no law **exclusively covers the sector**.
- **NDMA has guidelines**, but enforcement is weak due to:
  - **Poor monitoring**
  - **Ageing infrastructure**
  - **Design flaws**
  - **Slow adoption of modern technologies**
- **No national inventory** of industrial chemicals and associated risks.
- India has **lagged behind** in global efforts to improve **spray dryer safety**.

## Need for Structural Reforms

- Recommended safety practices:
  - Regular **HAZOP (Hazard and Operability Analysis)** by **competent staff**
  - **Real-time monitoring** of abnormal data from units
  - **Operator training** and **ongoing safety awareness**
  - Integration of data into **automated control systems**
- **Cultural change** needed to instill **safety consciousness** among workers and management.

## Global Relevance

- India is among the **top 6 chemical manufacturers** globally.
- Such industrial accidents threaten:
  - **Public trust**
  - **Global image**
  - **Foreign trade and investment**, especially in pharma

## India's Pharmaceutical Industry

### Global Ranking & Reach

- **3rd largest** globally by **volume**, **14th by value**.
- India ranks **12th globally** in medical goods exports.
- **FY 2023–24** pharma market: **USD 50 billion** (1.72% of GDP).
- Projected to grow to **USD 130 billion by 2030**.

### Key Segments

- **Generic Medicines:** Largest global supplier; meets **20% of global demand**.
- **APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients):** 500+ APIs are produced in India; **8% of global API market**.
- **Medical Devices:** Fast-growing sector with high growth potential.

### Top Pharmaceutical Manufacturing States in India as per PIB

## Top Pharmaceutical Manufacturing States in India as per PIB

Rank	State	No. of Pharma Units
1	Gujarat	3,332
2	Maharashtra	929
3	Himachal Pradesh	555
4	Telangana	523
5	Tamil Nadu	514

# Top Pharmaceutical Exporting States in FY 2023–24

Rank	State	Export Value (₹ Crore)
1	Telangana	29,148.90
2	Gujarat	18,297.14
3	Andhra Pradesh	11,390.05
4	Maharashtra	11,219.09





## PRACTICE QUESTION

**Q2. With reference to Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC), consider the following statements:**

1. MCC is chemically inert and neither absorbed by the human body nor reactive to skin.
2. It is commonly used as a binder and texturizer in pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetic products.
3. The manufacturing process of MCC can pose safety risks if not handled with proper safeguards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3**

## Digital India projects used technology to bridge gaps, cut out middlemen: Modi

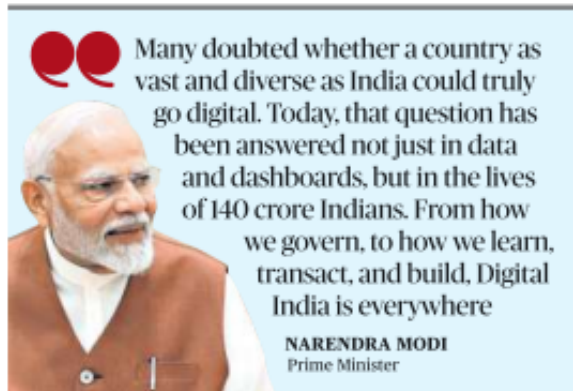
**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that Digital India projects had “used technology to eliminate the gap between the haves and the have-nots”, instead of causing the digital divide to “deepen”.

“While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology,” he said in a post on LinkedIn.

Mr. Modi made the post on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Digital India programme.

“In 2014, Internet penetration was limited, digital literacy was low, and online access to government services was scarce,” Mr. Modi said. “Many doubted whether a country as vast and diverse as India could truly go digital. Today, that question has been an-



swered not just in data and dashboards, but in the lives of 140 crore Indians. From how we govern, to how we learn, transact, and build, Digital India is everywhere,” he said.

“Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), over ₹44 lakh crore has been transferred directly to citizens, cutting out middlemen and saving ₹3.48 lakh crore in leakages,” Mr. Modi said.

“Schemes like SVAMITVA have issued 2.4 crore+ property cards and

mapped 6.47 lakh villages, ending years of land-related uncertainty,” the Prime Minister added.

With digital public infrastructure (DPI) projects such as Aadhaar, DigiLocker and FastAG, the Prime Minister said, India is “moving from digital governance to global digital leadership”. He was referring to initiatives such as the Global DPI Repository, managed by India for access to countries in the Global South.

**Backdrop:** 10th anniversary of the Digital India programme.

**Relevance:** GS2 - Government Schemes

## About the news

Mr. Modi made the post on the occasion of the 10th anniversary- “While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology,”

## Purpose and Impact

- Digital India aimed to **bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots**, not deepen the digital divide.
- It **eliminated middlemen** and improved service delivery through technology.
- The government chose to **trust Indians' ability to use technology**, contrary to earlier doubts.

## Digital India in 2014 vs 2024

- **2014 Scenario:**
  - Low **Internet penetration**
  - Poor **digital literacy**
  - Minimal **online access to government services**

- **2024 Scenario:**

- Digital transformation is visible in the **daily lives of 140 crore Indians**
- Encompasses governance, education, commerce, and infrastructure

### **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Achievements**

- Over **₹44 lakh crore** transferred directly to citizens
- **₹3.48 lakh crore** saved in **leakages**
- **Middlemen eliminated**, ensuring transparency and efficiency

### **Land and Property Reform through SVAMITVA**

- Issued **2.4 crore+** property cards
- **Mapped 6.47 lakh villages**
- Ended **decades-long uncertainty** over rural land ownership

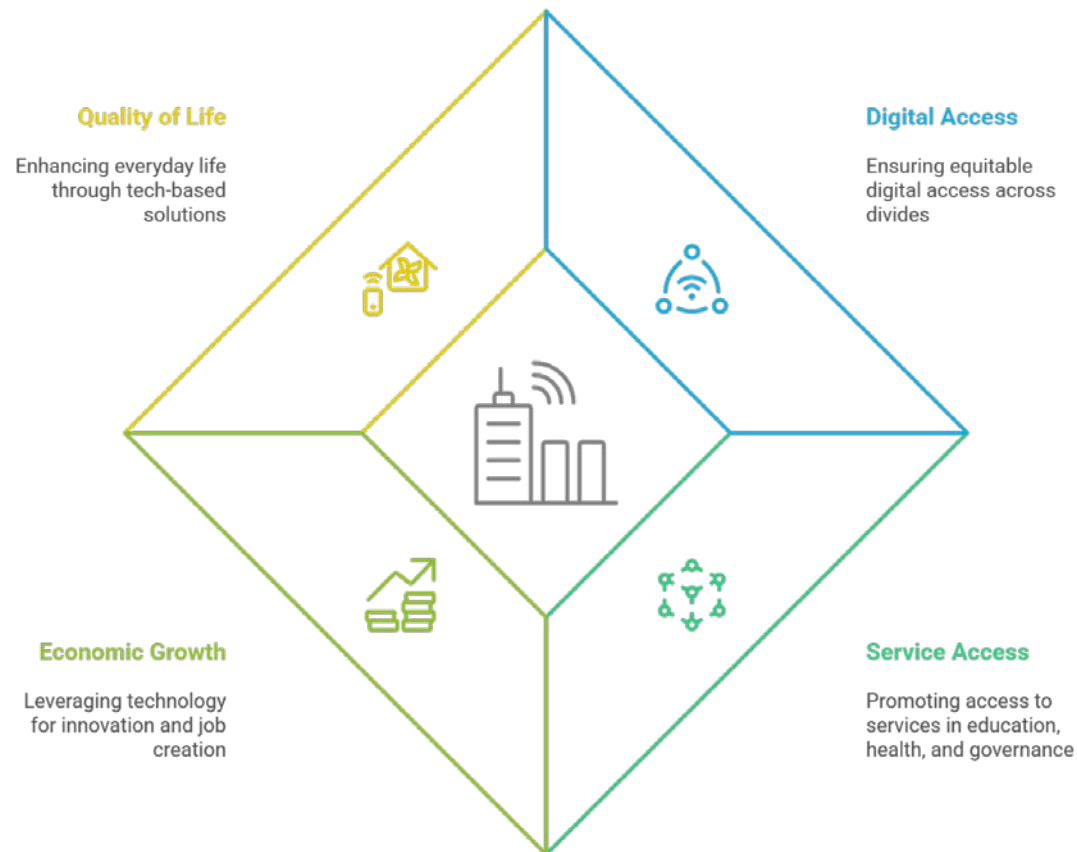
### **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Global Leadership**

- Flagship DPI platforms: **Aadhaar, DigiLocker, FasTAG**
- India is moving from “**digital governance**” to “**global digital leadership**”
- Initiatives like the **Global DPI Repository** are being offered to **Global South countries**

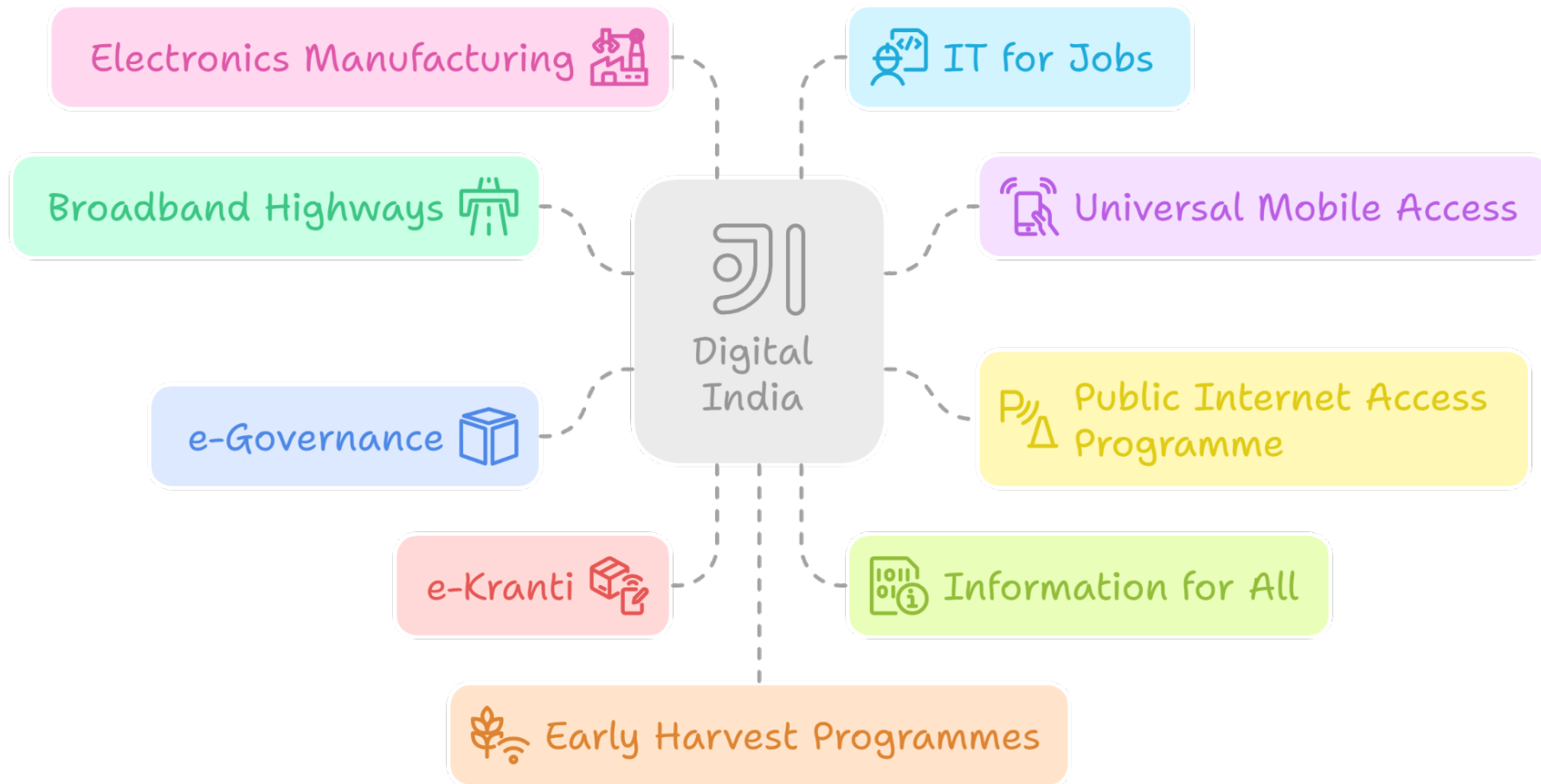
## Digital India Initiative

- Initiated on **1st July 2015** by the Government of India.
- Builds on earlier e-governance efforts from the 1990s with a more integrated and citizen-centric approach.

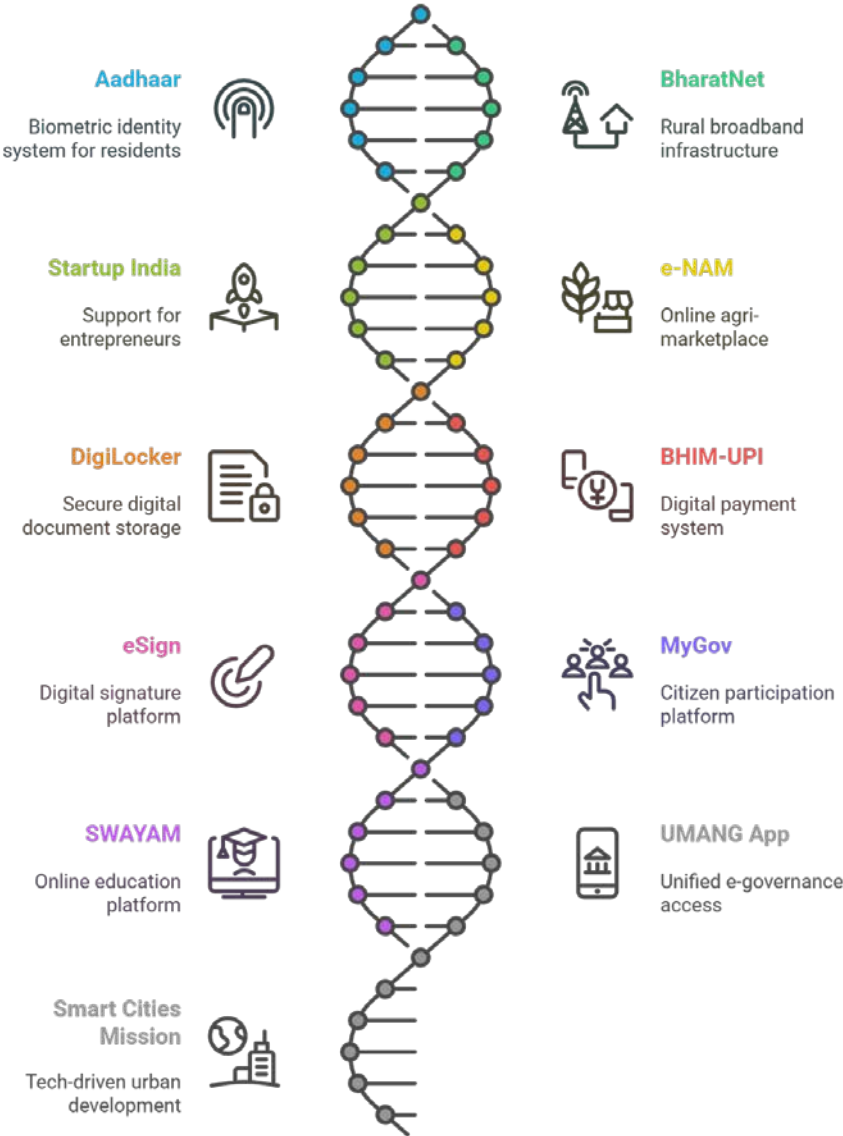
### Objectives of Digital India Mission



## Nine Pillars of Digital India



# Digital India's Initiatives





## PRACTICE QUESTION

**Q3. With reference to Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, consider the following statements:**

1. Private and public hospitals must adopt it.
2. As it aims to achieve universal health coverage, every citizen of India should be part of it ultimately.
3. It has seamless portability across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

**(b) 3 only**

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3



# India's sports policy journey

## New sports policy: Focus on sports tourism, athlete support

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 1

THE UNION cabinet on Tuesday approved the National Sports Policy 2025, which aims to prepare the Indian sports ecosystem for the 2036 edition of the Games. The policy focuses on making India a sports tourism destination by hosting major sporting events, integrating sports into school curricula through the National Education Policy 2020, building 'world-class systems for training, coaching and holistic athlete support', and strengthening 'sports manufacturing ecosystem'.

The government said this was a 'guiding document' to formulate plans and schemes going forward. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the policy on Tuesday, saying the objective was to make India a 'top-five sporting nation by 2047'.

"We have used the experience of the last 10 years and the new policy will work towards the improvement of sports. Major objective is to make India a top-five sporting nation by 2047. That's the overall objective," Vaishnaw said.

India has pitched aggressively for the 2036 Olympics and has eyed multiple events in the years leading up to it. The country is the frontrunner to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030, has been awarded the hosting rights for the World Police and Fire Games in 2029, set its sights on the U-20 World Athletics Championships in 2028 and the 2027 Women's World Volleyball Championship, among other competitions. Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar are seen as the main host cities for all these events.

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The National Sports Policy states that a 'roadmap for organising major sporting events' will be formed in consultation with 'various stakeholders'. "This includes creating a sustainable framework to ensure that these events are executed effectively and generate tangible returns for the betterment of society," the policy read. It added: "By attracting international participants and spectators, India can significantly boost its tourism sector, create jobs and stimulate local economies. To achieve this goal, major international tournaments/games will be hosted in India which can generate substantial revenue and enhance the country's global image."

Vaishnaw cited the example of the Indian Premier League to link tourism and economic development. "So many people travel for an IPL match, a football game. So that boosts tourism and economic development," Vaishnaw told a media conference.

"Today is a landmark day for India's efforts to encourage sporting talent and become a hub for sports! The Cabinet has approved Khelo Bharat Niti, a national policy for sports," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

**Backdrop:** The cabinet approved the National Sports Policy 2025  
**Relevance:** GS2- Government Policies

## About the news:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the the National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025, a landmark initiative aimed at reshaping the country's sporting landscape and empowering citizens through sports.

## National Sports Policy 2025

**Approved by:** Union Cabinet on 1st July 2025 supersedes National Sports Policy 2001.

**Vision:** Transform India into a **top-five sporting nation by 2047** and a **global hub for sports tourism, talent, and infrastructure**.

### Core Objectives

- Prepare the Indian sports ecosystem for the **2036 Olympics and other major events**
- Align sports with **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**
- Make sports a driver of **economic, social, and educational development**

## Five Pillars of National Sports Policy 2025

- **Excellence on the Global Stage** Focus on grassroots talent identification, competitive leagues, world-class training, stronger sports federations, and use of sports science and technology.
- **Sports for Economic Development** Boost sports tourism, promote local manufacturing, support startups, and attract private investment through PPPs and CSR.
- **Sports for Social Development** Increase participation among women, tribals, EWS, PwDs; revive traditional sports and promote sports as a career option.
- **Sports as a People's Movement** Drive nationwide fitness campaigns, introduce institutional fitness indices, and expand access to sports facilities.
- **Integration with Education (NEP 2020)** Embed sports in school curricula and train educators to promote sports culture from an early age.

## Strategic Implementation Framework

Component	Actions
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish robust legal and regulatory framework for sports administration</li></ul>
Funding & Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobilise funds via CSR, PPP models, and innovative financial instruments</li></ul>
Technology & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use AI, data analytics, and tech for athlete tracking, research, and training</li></ul>
Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define KPIs, benchmarks, and set time-bound targets through a national framework</li></ul>
Model Policy for States/UTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage states to adopt/align policies with NSP 2025 goals</li></ul>
Whole-of-Government Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integrate sports promotion into all government departments and schemes</li></ul>

## How did sports do post 1947?

- **National Priorities:** Post-independence, the focus was on poverty, health, and education; sports had low priority.
- **Key Milestone:** India hosted the **1st Asian Games** in **1951**, showcasing regional ambition.
- **All-India Council of Sports (AICS)** was established in **1954** to advise on sports matters, support federations, and fund elite athletes.
- **Funding Issues:** Limited financial allocations led to missed international events by athletes.
- **Policy Inaction:** For nearly three decades, there was minimal policy development in sports.
- **Hockey Dominance:** India's men's hockey team dominated the Olympics from **1920 to 1980**.
- **Athletic Icons:** Stars like **Milkha Singh**, **Gurbachan Singh**, **Praveen Kumar Sobti**, and **Kamaljeet Sandhu** emerged, bringing glory to athletics.

## When did India's sports policy begin?

- **1982 Asian Games:** Sparked institutional change; led to the creation of a **Department of Sports** under the Ministry of HRD.
- **NSP 1984:** India's **first National Sports Policy** aimed at:
  - Improving infrastructure
  - Promoting mass participation
  - Enhancing elite sports
  - Integrating sports with education
- **SAI Established (1986): Sports Authority of India** was formed to implement policy and support athlete development.
- **Slow Progress (1986–2000):** Global sports advanced, but India's remained underdeveloped due to:
  - Sports being a **State subject**
  - Weak policies and poor implementation
  - Low societal and market engagement
- **1980s Economy:** Sluggish growth limited sports investment.

- **1991 Economic Liberalisation:** Brought cultural shifts—cable TV, global exposure, and middle-class aspirations boosted sports visibility.
- **Draft NSP 1997:** Proposed role split—**States** to broaden participation, **Centre** to focus on elite performance—but it wasn't implemented.

## How has sports evolved post-2000?

- **Institutional Strengthening:**
  - **2000:** Creation of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)**.
  - **2001:** Launch of **revised National Sports Policy** with focus on mass participation and international excellence.
- **Budgetary Support:**
  - Sports began featuring in the **Union Budget**, though with limited funds.
- **National Sports Development Code (2011):**
  - Regulated **National Sports Federations (NSFs)** on governance, anti-doping, gender equity, age fraud, etc.
  - Faced challenges in **implementation**.

- **Key Schemes Launched:**

- **TOPS (2014):** Elite athlete support (coaching, nutrition, infrastructure).
- **Khelo India (2017):** Grassroots talent identification in schools and universities.
- **Fit India Movement (2019):** Promoted nationwide physical fitness and public health awareness.





## PRACTICE QUESTION

**Q4. Consider the following pairs with regard to sports awards:**

1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award : For the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over period of last four years
2. Arjuna Award: For the lifetime achievement by sportsperson
3. Dronacharya Award: To honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams
4. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar: To recognize the contribution made by sportspersons even after their retirement

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched? [CSE – 2023]

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

# Using tech to empower women and children

## Using tech to empower women and children

**E**mpowerment begins with access – access to rights, to services, to protection, and to opportunity. Over the past decade, this access has been redefined and democratised through the focused commitment of the Modi government to build a more inclusive and digitally empowered India. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been at the forefront of this transformation. Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, the Ministry has integrated technology into its programmes, ensuring that benefits reach the last mile swiftly, transparently, and efficiently.

What was once aspirational is now operational thanks to the government's emphasis on digital public infrastructure, real-time data systems, and responsive governance. With steadfast focus on care, protection, and empowerment, the Ministry has strengthened access to nutrition, education, legal safeguards, and essential entitlements, ensuring that women and children lead healthier, more secure lives, and also emerge as confident leaders and change makers of Amrit Kaal.

### Transformative initiatives

A cornerstone of this transformation is the Saksham Anganwadi initiative, designed to modernise and empower over 2 lakh Anganwadi centres across India. These centres are being upgraded with smart infrastructure, digital devices, and innovative learning tools, enabling more effective delivery of nutrition, healthcare, and pre-school education services.

The integration of services provided by 14 lakh Anganwadi centres across the nation with the Poshan Tracker has enabled real-time data entry, performance monitoring, and evidence-based policy interventions. Over 10.14 crore beneficiaries, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under six, and adolescent girls, are now



**Annapurna Devi**  
Union Minister of  
Women and Child  
Development

Over the last decade, the Ministry has strengthened access to nutrition, education, legal safeguards, and essential entitlements

registered on Poshan Tracker. By equipping Anganwadi workers with smartphones and comprehensive training, the initiative ensures quality service delivery at the last mile.

At its core, Poshan Tracker is driving the national vision of a Swasth Bharat, Suposhit Bharat. It reimagines Anganwadi centres as digitally empowered community hubs that bridge the urban-rural divide. Recognised with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2025), it also supports Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi, providing digital training modules to Anganwadi workers for early childhood education.

Further, to reduce leakages in the Supplementary Nutrition Programme, a facial recognition system has been introduced to ensure that eligible beneficiaries alone receive nutrition support.

Beyond nutrition, the Ministry is ensuring safety and support for women through technology-led platforms. The SHe-Box portal provides single-window access to every woman to lodge complaints under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. It enables online redressal and tracking. Meanwhile, the Mission Shakti dashboard and mobile app provide integrated assistance to women in distress, connecting them to the nearest one-stop centre, now operational in nearly every district. These interventions exemplify how technology is being used not just for efficiency, but for justice, dignity, and empowerment.

The Modi government has also operationalised the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) – a game changer in maternal welfare. Under the PMMVY Rules, 2022, pregnant women receive ₹5,000 for their first child. Under Mission Shakti, the benefit extends to ₹6,000 if the second child is a girl – promoting positive reinforcement for daughters. Delivered through a paperless Direct Benefit Transfer system, about ₹19,000 crore has

reached over 4 crore women beneficiaries since its inception.

PMMVY is a fully digital programme – leveraging Aadhaar-based authentication, mobile-based registration, doorstep assistance from Anganwadi/ASHA workers, and real-time dashboards. A dedicated grievance redressal module and citizen-facing portal ensure transparency, trust, and accountability, strengthening the government's commitment to Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

### Tangible outcomes

These targeted efforts are delivering tangible outcomes. The latest reports from the Health Management Information System of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) reveal that the Sex Ratio at Birth has increased from 918 (2014-15) to 930 (2023-24). The Maternal Mortality Rate has declined to 97 per 1,000 births (2018-20) from 130 per 1,000 births (2014-16).

Digital transformation has played a key role in child protection and welfare. Under the Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Ministry has strengthened the adoption ecosystem through the CARINGS portal (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System). This ensures a more transparent, accessible, and efficient adoption process.

Digitisation has also improved monitoring of child care institutions, foster care placements, and statutory support structures under the Act. Platforms developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights are tracking violations of child rights. The Mission Vatsalya dashboard strengthens convergence and coordination among various child welfare stakeholders.

This is New India where governance meets technology, and policy meets purpose. Over the last decade, the Ministry has not only adapted to digital change, but championed it.

**Backdrop:** Integration of technology for Women and child welfare

**Relevance:** GS 2/Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections

## About the news

Empowerment starts with access to rights, services, protection, and opportunities. Over the last decade, the Government has integrated technology and digital infrastructure, ensuring that benefits reach the last mile swiftly, transparently, and efficiently.

### Key Digital and Welfare Initiatives

- **Saksham Anganwadi:** Modernises and empowers over **2 lakh Anganwadi centres** with smart infrastructure, digital devices, and innovative learning tools.
  - It has enabled more effective delivery of nutrition, healthcare, and pre-school education services.
- **Poshan Tracker**
  - By integrating with **14 lakh Anganwadi centres** and covering over **10 crore beneficiaries** (pregnant women, children, adolescent girls), it has enabled real-time data entry, performance monitoring, and evidence-based policy interventions.
  - It reimagines Anganwadi centres as **digitally empowered community hubs** that bridge the urban-rural divide.
  - It supports **Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi**, providing digital training modules to Anganwadi workers for early childhood education.
  - It is driving the national vision of a Swasth Bharat, Suposhit Bharat.

- **Supplementary Nutrition Programme:** Introduced **facial recognition** to prevent leakages and ensure targeted delivery.
- **She-Box portal:** It provides a single-window access to every woman to **lodge complaints** under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
  - It enables online redressal and tracking.
- **Mission Shakti dashboard and mobile app:** It provides integrated assistance to women in distress, connecting them to the nearest **one-stop centre**, now operational in nearly every district.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Pregnant women receive ₹5,000 for their first child. Under Mission Shakti, the benefit extends to ₹6,000 if the second child is a girl.
  - It is a fully digital maternity benefit scheme that uses **Aadhaar-based authentication**, mobile registration, and real-time dashboards.
  - It also has a grievance redressal system and a public portal.
  - About ₹19,000 crore has reached over 4 crore women beneficiaries since its inception.

- **Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**
  - **CARINGS portal** (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System) ensures a more transparent, accessible, and efficient adoption process.
  - Digitisation has also improved monitoring of child care institutions, foster care placements, and statutory support structures under the Act.
- **Commission for Protection of Child Rights** is tracking violations of child rights.
- **Mission Vatsalya dashboard:** It strengthens convergence and coordination among various child welfare stakeholders.

### **Overall Impacts of Digitalisation on Women and Child Welfare:**

- **Improved Service Delivery:** Access to nutrition, education, and entitlements has become faster, more transparent, and efficient.
- **Better Health Outcomes (Reports of MoHFW)**
  - **Sex Ratio at Birth** improved from **918 (2014–15)** to **930 (2023–24)**.
  - **Maternal Mortality Rate** declined from **130 (2014-16)** to **97 (2018-20)** per 1,000 births.

- **Efficient Governance:** Real-time dashboards and grievance redressal mechanisms have increased accountability and public trust.
- **Social Empowerment:** Technology has gone beyond efficiency, ensuring **justice, dignity, and empowerment** for women and children.
- **Policy Effectiveness:** Data-driven decision-making has enabled **evidence-based interventions** and better programme implementation.
- **Stakeholder Coordination:** Tools like the **Mission Vatsalya dashboard** have improved convergence among child welfare agencies and statutory bodies.
- **Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide:** Digital tools have brought quality services to remote and underserved areas, reducing regional disparities.

## Conclusion

In this transformed **New India**, where **technology drives governance** and **policies are aligned with purpose**. With an unwavering commitment to **care, protection, and empowerment**, the Government has enhanced access to nutrition, education, legal rights, and essential services, enabling women and children to live healthier, safer lives and rise as confident leaders and agents of change in the Amrit Kaal.



## PRACTICE QUESTION



- Q. "Digital interventions have transformed welfare delivery from aspiration to action". In this context, critically examine the role of technology in empowering women and children in India. (250 words)