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PIB-1st July, 2026

1. Hul Diwas

Syllabus Mapping → GS1 – Modern Indian History; Freedom Struggle

- Prime Minister paid tribute on **Hul Diwas (30 June)**, commemorating the beginning of the **Santhal Hul (1855–56)** and honouring tribal freedom fighters such as **Sidhu-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav, Phulo-Jhano**, and countless others who resisted British colonial rule.
- The Santhal Hul (1855–56) was a major tribal uprising against British colonial administration, exploitative zamindars and **moneylenders (mahajans)**. It is regarded as **India's first organised tribal war against colonial oppression, preceding the Revolt of 1857 by two years**.
- The movement was led by Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu, with significant contributions from Chand Murmu, Bhairav Murmu, Phulo Murmu and Jhano Murmu. The rebellion reportedly brought together **32 castes and communities, reflecting exceptional social solidarity**.
- The immediate roots lay in the **Damin-i-Koh settlement (1832) in the Rajmahal Hills**, where displaced Santhals were settled. Over time, exploitative revenue policies, land alienation, usurious moneylending, and the **kamioti/harwahi (bonded labour)** system pushed the community towards revolt.
- The uprising formally began on **30 June 1855 at Bhognadih village** (present-day Sahibganj district, Jharkhand), where thousands of Santhals pledged to overthrow colonial exploitation.
- **The rebellion prompted important legislative safeguards for tribal land rights, including:**
- **Santhal Parganas Tenancy (SPT) Act, 1876** – prohibits transfer of Adivasi land to non-Adivasis in the Santhal Pargana region.
- **Chota Nagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act, 1908** – restricts transfer of tribal land; transfers are permitted only under specified conditions, generally within the same community/area and with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner (Collector).
- **'Hul' in the Santhali language means "Revolution" or "Uprising."**
- The Santhals are among the **largest Scheduled Tribes in India, mainly inhabiting Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Assam**.
- **Santhali is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution (92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003), and its script is Ol Chiki, developed by Pandit Raghunath Murmu.**

2. GCC Conclave on Innovation 2026

Syllabus Mapping → GS3 – Science & Technology; Indigenization

- **Atal Innovation Mission and Software Technology Parks of India** convened the GCC Conclave on Innovation 2026 in Bengaluru to deepen collaboration between **Global Capability Centres**, startups, incubators and India's innovation ecosystem.
- The conclave focused on mentorship, pilots, market access, startup-industry partnerships and scale-up pathways.
- The conclave aimed to create stronger linkages between India's innovation ecosystem and GCCs.
- India's GCC ecosystem has over **2,100 centres generating nearly USD 100 billion in revenue**.
- AIM has built an innovation pipeline through 10,000+ Atal Tinkering Labs and 100+ incubators.
- The **Atal Acceleration Centres for Scale-up of Startups (AACCESS)** initiative is a major upcoming industrial accelerator program **launched by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with STPI**.
- **Announced at the GCC Conclave on Innovation 2026, the initiative is explicitly designed to serve as a critical bridge between India's mature Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and growth-stage startups.**
- AACCESS works like a corporate matchmaking program that turns startups into suppliers for giant global companies.

3. Thermal Signatures of Solar Storms

Syllabus Mapping → GS3 – Awareness in Space Technology

- Indian astrophysicists have studied the thermal behaviour of **Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections over 29 years across three solar cycles**.
- ICMEs are massive blasts of **magnetised plasma released from the Sun's outer atmosphere**. When directed toward Earth, they interact with our planet's magnetosphere to trigger geomagnetic storms.
- They carry billions of tons of coronal material, consisting primarily of electrons and protons embedded in a strong helical magnetic field.
- When Earth-directed, ICMEs can **cause geomagnetic storms affecting satellites, GPS, radio communications, aviation routes and power grids. The current solar cycle, Cycle 25, peaked in 2025.**
- The findings show that many solar storms remain **thermodynamically active near Earth and that their thermal state can help improve space-weather forecasting**

4. Khet Bachao Abhiyan

Syllabus Mapping → GS3 – Major Crops & Agricultural Inputs

- The Union Agriculture Minister participated in the concluding ceremony of Khet Bachao Abhiyan in Haryana and announced that the campaign will evolve into a long-term national mission.
- The Save the Farm Campaign (officially known as Khet Bachao Abhiyan) is a nationwide initiative running from June 1 to June 30, 2026. Spearheaded by the **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, it promotes sustainable agriculture, balanced fertilizer use, and provides practical farm-level advisories for the Kharif sowing season.
- **The initiative centers on the theme of "Save the Soil, Save Farming, Save Farmers" by prioritizing: Soil Health Management, Natural Farming, Water & Climate Resilience, Scheme Linkage.**

5. FCRA 2.0 Portal

Syllabus Mapping → GS2 – Role of NGOS and challenges, Government Policies & Interventions

- FCRA 2.0 aims to simplify compliance under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and strengthen monitoring and enforcement. It **digitises key processes related to applications, renewals, annual returns and related services.**
- **The portal is hosted on MeghRaj, the National Government Cloud.**
- The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 seeks to amend the FCRA 2010, which governs the acceptance and utilisation of foreign funds by individuals, NGOs, and organisations to ensure transparency and national security.
- **Key Provisions**
- Designated Authority for Assets to take over, manage, or dispose of assets created out of foreign funds by NGOs whose FCRA registration has been suspended, cancelled, or not renewed, addressing a previously existing legal gap.
- **These could then be transferred or sold, with proceeds directed to the Consolidated Fund of India.**
- Under the Act, certain persons are prohibited to accept foreign contribution. These **include persons such as election candidates, political parties, judges, legislators, and news publishers.** The prohibition also extends to associations or companies engaged in production or broadcast of news or current affairs programmes.
- **The Bill expands this category to prohibit any "person" engaged in these activities.**
- Appeals against Authority's orders can be made to **District Judge within 90 days.**
- **Expanded Definition of "Key Functionary":** The definition now includes directors, partners, trustees, karta of Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), office-bearers of societies/trusts/trade unions, and any person with control over management, making them personally liable for offences unless they prove lack of knowledge or due diligence.
- **The central government may exempt certain persons from the provisions regarding vesting of foreign contribution and assets if necessary or expedient in public interest.**
- **Reduces imprisonment from up to 5 years to up to 1 year. Requires prior government approval before initiating investigation.**

PIB-2nd July, 2026

1. GAGAN

Syllabus Mapping GS III: Science & Technology – Space Technology • Satellite Navigation • Aviation Technology

- GAGAN stands for **GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation**. It is **India's regional Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS)** developed jointly by the **ISRO** and the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** to enhance the **accuracy and reliability of GPS signals.**
- It **corrects GPS signal errors caused by ionospheric disturbances** and satellite orbit deviations, achieving positioning accuracy of **better than 3 meters** over the **Indian Flight Information Region.**
- It relies on a network of **ground reference stations (INRES), master control centers (INMCC), and geostationary satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10, and GSAT-15)** to broadcast signal corrections.
- Designed **primarily for Indian airspace**, its signal footprint broadly stretches from **Africa to Australia.**
- **Applications:** Initially designed to provide **Air Traffic Management (ATM)** and precise civil aviation landings, its data is increasingly **utilized for railway signaling, agriculture, and natural resource management.**
- GAGAN has been **fully operational since 2015** and places India among a select group with operational SBAS capability.
- **In June 2026, DGCA successfully conducted India's first satellite-based landing system approach on a commercial jet aircraft using GAGAN.**
- GAGAN is the **first SBAS certified for the equatorial region.**
- **Foreign SBAS systems: WAAS, EGNOS and MSAS.**

2. Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

Syllabus Mapping GS III: Science & Technology – Space Science • Astronomy • Solar Physics

- Researchers used **Artificial Intelligence (U-Net)** to analyse **100 years (1916–2007)** of hand-drawn solar records from KoSO. The study reconstructed long-term changes in the Sun's magnetic activity.
- **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KoSO)** is one of the world's oldest continuously operating solar observatories.
- Established in **1899** at **Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu**.
- Presently managed by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.
- It houses one of the world's longest continuous records of **solar observations**.
- **Important Solar Features**
- **Sunspots:** Dark, relatively cooler regions on the Sun caused by intense magnetic fields that inhibit convection. The number of sunspots varies with the solar cycle.
- **Plages:** Bright magnetically active regions in the Sun's chromosphere commonly observed in Calcium II K (Ca II K) wavelength. They usually surround or accompany sunspot regions and are good indicators of the Sun's magnetic activity.
- **Prominences:** Large loops of glowing plasma extending outward from the Sun that are anchored to the Sun's surface by magnetic fields and can remain stable for days or erupt into space.
- **Filaments:** Same structures as prominences, but viewed against the solar disc. They appear dark because they are cooler than the surrounding surface.

3. Purple Revolution (Lavender Revolution)

Syllabus Mapping GS III: Agriculture • Horticulture • Medicinal & Aromatic Plants • Rural Livelihoods • Agro-based Industries

- Purple Revolution refers to the **promotion of lavender cultivation for essential oil production and rural entrepreneurship**.
- **Implemented under the CSIR Aroma Mission**.
- **Originated from Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir, popularly known as India's Lavender Capital or Purple Revolution Valley**.
- Nagaland adopted lavender cultivation in 2022, beginning with Zunheboto district.
- **CSIR Aroma Mission**
- ❑ Launched in 2016 by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ❑ Implemented mainly through CSIR–Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.
- Lavender is a high-value aromatic and medicinal crop cultivated primarily for essential oil.
- **Used in: Perfumery + Cosmetics + Pharmaceuticals + Aromatherapy + Food flavouring**
- **Major Aromatic Crops under Aroma Mission:** Lavender + Lemongrass + Citronella + Vetiver (Khus) + Palmarosa + Mint (Mentha) + Patchouli + Rosemary

4. High-level Committee On Demographic Changes Navlekar Committee

Syllabus Mapping GS II: Polity & Governance • Population & Associated Issues • Census • Internal Security (Illegal Migration)

- High-level committee on demographic changes constituted under the chairmanship of Justice **Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar** by the **Government of India** to study **demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal reasons**.
- Announced as part of the **High-powered Demography Mission** by the Prime Minister on **15 August 2025**.
- **Census of India**
- ❑ Conducted **under the Census Act, 1948**.
- ❑ Conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RGI)**.
- ❑ Functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- ❑ **Normally conducted every 10 years**.
- **Registrar General & Census Commissioner is responsible for:**
- ❑ Population Census.
- ❑ Civil Registration System (CRS).
- ❑ Sample Registration System (SRS).
- ❑ National Population Register (NPR).

5. Viksit Bharat-Guarantee For Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025

Syllabus Mapping GS II: Welfare Schemes • Rural Development • Government Policies & Interventions + GS III: Inclusive Growth • Employment • Poverty Alleviation

- The **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** has come into force from **1 July 2026**, replacing the earlier wage employment framework and revised rates with **no notified daily wage below RS 300**.
- Act has **replaced** the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MGNREGA**), 2005
- It shifts approach from a **"demand-driven framework" to a "supply-driven scheme"**
- Allocations for the scheme capped within a fixed budget decided by the Union government based on "specified parameters"
- It has provided for **employment only in those rural areas notified by the Centre**
- It has increased guaranteed workdays from **100 to 125**
- It has also **raised States' financial burden from current 10% share to 40% of total expenditure**
- **Under MGNREGA**, Centre paid 100% labour wages and 75% material wages.
- Fund-sharing pattern fixed at 90:10 for north-eastern States and Himalayan States/UTs and 60:40 for other States and UTs with legislature
- **Central government shall determine the State-wise normative allocation** for each financial year based on objective parameters
- Act empowers the **Union government to "notify rural areas in a State"** where the scheme will be implemented
- Act allows State government to **suspend the scheme for a period of up to 60 days during peak agricultural seasons to "facilitate availability of labour"**
- Technological interventions such as mobile app-based attendance, Aadhaar-based payment systems, and geotagging of worksites under the MGNREGA now codified into law.

PIB-3rd July, 2026

1. Borjuli Biodiversity Heritage Site

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment & Biodiversity; Conservation; Agrobiodiversity

- **Borjuli Wild Rice Site** in Sonitpur district, Assam, has been notified as a **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)** by the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**, marking a major milestone in conserving India's wild rice genetic resources.
- The recognition was accorded under the **NRAA-funded project "In-situ Conservation and Management of Wild Rice (Oryza rufipogon) in Sonitpur District of Assam."**
- The project has been implemented since 2022 by **ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR)** in collaboration with the **Assam State Biodiversity Board**.
- The site conserves **Oryza rufipogon**, the **wild ancestor of cultivated rice**, an invaluable source of genes for **climate resilience, pest and disease resistance, and higher yields**.
- The notification strengthens **in-situ conservation** of plant genetic resources and promotes **climate-resilient agriculture**.
- **Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)** are notified under **Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002** by the **State Government**, in consultation with local bodies.
- Declaration as a BHS does **not automatically prohibit traditional livelihood or agricultural practices** compatible with conservation objectives.
- With Borjuli's notification, Assam now has three Biodiversity Heritage Sites—**Majuli, Borjuli Wild Rice Site, and Hajong Tortoise Lake**.

2. Insurance Surety Bonds (ISBs) for Coal Blocks

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Indian Economy; Mining Sector; Ease of Doing Business; Infrastructure

- The Ministry of Coal has amended the **Coal Blocks Allocation Rules, 2017** through the **Coal Blocks Allocation (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, allowing **Insurance Surety Bonds (ISBs)** as an alternative to **Performance Bank Guarantees (PBGs)** for coal blocks allocated under the **MMDR Act, 1957**.
- Coal block allocatees can now choose between a **Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG)** and an **Insurance Surety Bond (ISB)** to fulfil performance security obligations.
- Existing allocatees are also permitted to **replace previously furnished PBGs with ISBs**, subject to prescribed conditions.

- The reform aims to **reduce financial burden, free up working capital and improve ease of doing business** in the coal sector.
- **Insurance Surety Bonds** are insurer-backed financial guarantees that ensure contractual obligations are fulfilled if the principal defaults.
- Initially applicable to coal blocks allocated under the **MMDR Act, 1957**; the provision will be extended to blocks under the **Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015**.
- The amendment strengthens **commercial coal mining**, facilitates faster mine development and improves access to alternative financial instruments.
- **Insurance Surety Bond (ISB)**: A financial guarantee **issued by an insurance company instead of a bank**.
 - ❑ Guarantees performance of contractual obligations.
 - ❑ If the contractor/defaulting party fails to perform, the insurer compensates the beneficiary up to the guaranteed amount.
 - ❑ Unlike a Bank Guarantee, it does not block the borrower's bank credit limits, improving liquidity.
- **Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG)**: A guarantee issued by a scheduled commercial bank.
 - ❑ Ensures fulfilment of contractual obligations.
 - ❑ Invoked if the contractor fails to meet agreed conditions.
 - ❑ **Generally requires margin money or blocks bank credit limits.**

3. MANAS (National Narcotics Helpline)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Government Policies & Interventions; Social Justice • GS3: Internal Security; Drug Trafficking; E-Governance

- **MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra)** is the **National Narcotics Helpline** launched by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs**, on 18 July 2024.
- Developed in collaboration with the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** to provide a **secure, technology-driven platform** for reporting drug-related activities.
- Enables citizens to **confidentially report** drug trafficking, peddling, illegal cultivation, manufacture and storage of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- Accessible through the **1933 toll-free helpline, web portal, email** and the **UMANG app**, ensuring nationwide 24×7 access.
- Provides **counselling and rehabilitation support**, with addiction-related calls transferred to the **14446 de-addiction helpline** of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- Features **digital ticket generation and workflow management** for faster coordination between **NCB** and State Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTFs).
- Supports the **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan** by promoting citizen participation, awareness and timely action against drug abuse and trafficking.

4. Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)

Syllabus Mapping: GS1: Indian Art & Culture • GS2: Government Policies & Interventions; Culture

- **Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)** is a **Central Sector umbrella scheme** of the **Ministry of Culture** for the **promotion, preservation and development of India's art and cultural heritage**.
- Provides **financial assistance** to artists, cultural organisations, NGOs, research institutions and academic bodies for cultural activities and infrastructure development.
- Major components include **Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art & Culture, Creation of Cultural Infrastructure, Scholarship & Fellowship for Artists, Veteran Artists Scheme, Seva Bhoj Yojana, National Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission and National Award Scheme**.
- Supports activities such as **seminars, festivals, exhibitions, workshops, theatre, dance, music, research and documentation**.
- Promotes the **Guru-Shishya Parampara** through repertory grants and fellowships for preserving traditional art forms.
- Also supports the **construction and upgradation of cultural infrastructure**, including **Tagore Cultural Complexes, auditoriums and studio theatres**.
- The scheme aims to **preserve India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage**, strengthen cultural institutions and promote India's cultural diversity.

5. Superalloy Bi-Metallic Structures

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Defence Technology; Advanced Materials; Research & Development

- Researchers at **ARCI, Hyderabad** have developed a **crack-free bi-metallic structure** using **laser-based Powder Bed Fusion (PBF-LB/M) additive manufacturing**, enabling efficient use of costly superalloys and reducing India's import dependence.

- Developed using **Laser-based Powder Bed Fusion (PBF-LB/M)**, an **additive manufacturing (3D printing)** technology.
- Successfully joined: **SS316L (Stainless Steel)** and **IN718 (Inconel 718 Nickel-based Superalloy)**.
- **Superalloy Bi-Metallic Structures** are advanced engineered components made by **joining two dissimilar metals**, typically a **nickel-based superalloy** with **stainless steel or other alloys**, to combine the strengths of both materials.
- Developed for applications requiring **high strength, corrosion resistance and stability at extreme temperatures** in aerospace, defence, nuclear and power sectors.
- Key applications include **gas turbine engines, aero-engines, rocket propulsion systems and missile components**.
- Offers benefits such as **weight reduction, improved fuel efficiency, enhanced durability and lower manufacturing costs**.
- Supports India's capabilities in **advanced manufacturing, additive manufacturing and indigenous defence technology development**.

PIB-6th July, 2026

1. IndiaHandmade

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: E-Governance; Government Policies • GS3: MSMEs; Textile Sector; Digital Economy; Inclusive Growth

- **IndiaHandmade** is a **government-backed digital marketplace** developed by the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)** under the **Ministry of Textiles** to enable artisans and weavers to sell **handloom and handicraft products** directly to consumers.
- Launched in **2023**, the platform aims to **eliminate intermediaries**, ensure **fair remuneration**, and expand market access for traditional artisans.
- It showcases a wide range of products, including **GI-tagged and One District One Product (ODOP)** items, promoting India's regional craft heritage.
- The platform provides **secure payments, free shipping, buyer protection** and digital tools to improve the online presence of artisans and weavers.
- It supports **Digital India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and the **Vocal for Local** initiative by strengthening digital commerce for the handicrafts sector.
- India has about **64.66 lakh handloom and handicraft artisans**, with women constituting a majority of the workforce; the platform seeks to onboard **over 60 lakh artisans**.

2. TribeX(formerly Adi Sankshriti)

Syllabus Mapping: GS1: Indian Art & Culture • GS2: Welfare of Scheduled Tribes; E-Governance

- **TribeX** is a **digital platform** of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** for preserving, **promoting and documenting tribal art, culture, languages and traditional knowledge**. It was earlier launched as **Adi Sankshriti** (beta version) in **September 2025** and was **renamed TribeX** in **2026**.
- It is being developed in partnership with **State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** to ensure authentic documentation and content curation.
- The platform comprises **three key components**:
 - ❑ **Digital e-Learning Academy** – Online courses on tribal paintings, music, textiles, artefacts and skills.
 - ❑ **Socio-Cultural Repository** – Digital archive of **5,000+ curated documents** on tribal heritage.
 - ❑ **Online Marketplace** – Linked with **TRIFED** to enable tribal artisans to sell products directly to consumers.
- It aims to preserve **tribal cultural heritage**, promote **research**, strengthen **digital inclusion** and generate **sustainable livelihoods** for tribal communities.
- Initially, courses on **Sohrai and Dhokra art forms from Jharkhand** have been developed.
- The Government plans to gradually expand **TribeX** into a **Digital University** offering **certification courses** on tribal knowledge systems.

3. Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas (PYA)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Health; Government Policies • GS3: Animal Husbandry; Disaster Management; One Health

- **Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas (PYA)** is a **national-level mock drill** conducted by the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** under the **National One Health Mission**.

- The 3rd edition was held from 29 June–3 July 2026 at Khari village, Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh).
- It aims to test India's preparedness, **inter-sectoral coordination and emergency response to zoonotic disease outbreaks** using the **One Health** approach.
- The exercise simulated an **Influenza A (H1N1)** outbreak in animals with the potential to **spill over to humans and wildlife**.
- It evaluated the complete response chain, including **surveillance, early warning, laboratory diagnosis, biosecurity, containment, movement control and risk communication**.
- The drill involved **DAHD, ICAR, ICMR, NCDC, MoEFCC, AIIMS Bhopal, ICAR-NIHSAD** and State agencies under the **National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT)**

4. AKASH TARANG

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Defence Technology; Internal Security; Electronic Warfare; Indigenisation of Defence

- **AKASH TARANG** is an **indigenous Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Anti-UAV) Electronic Warfare (EW) System** proposed for induction into the **Indian Army**.
- It recently received **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** from the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** as part of capital acquisition proposals worth **₹52,000 crore**.
- The system is designed to provide **effective protection against hostile drones by detecting, identifying, tracking and neutralising UAV threats** through **electronic warfare capabilities**.
- It will significantly strengthen the **counter-drone capability** of Indian Army formations, especially against **low-altitude and swarm drone threats**.
- The induction supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by promoting indigenous defence technologies and enhancing battlefield survivability

5. 7th National Water Awards (NWA)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Government Policies & Interventions • GS3: Water Resources; Conservation; Sustainable Development

- The **7th National Water Awards (NWA) 2026** have been **launched by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Applications are invited through the **Rashtriya Puraskar Portal**, with the **last date being 28 August 2026**.
- The awards aim to **promote water conservation, efficient water resource management and Jan Bhagidari** by recognising exemplary practices across the country.
- **Eligible entities include States/UTs, Districts, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Dam Owning Agencies and Industries**.
- New evaluation categories include **Water Resource Management, Jal Sanchay Jal Bhagidari (JSJB) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) performance**.
- The awards encourage **best practices in rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, water-use efficiency, reuse of treated wastewater and community-led water management**.
- The initiative supports the objectives of the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-6)**

PIB-7th July, 2026

1. Viksit UDAN

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Infrastructure; Civil Aviation; Inclusive Growth • Prelims: Government Schemes

- **Viksit UDAN** is the **next phase of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** Regional Connectivity Scheme, launched by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** to strengthen regional air connectivity.
- The **Modified UDAN Scheme** has been approved for **2026–27 to 2035–36** with a **total outlay of ₹28,840 crore**.
- The scheme aims to provide **affordable air travel, improve connectivity to Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and remote areas, and contribute to Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- It envisages the development of **100 new aerodromes, 200 helipads**, and continued support for **regional airline operations** through **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**.
- The scheme also provides **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) support** for regional airports to improve long-term viability.
- It promotes the deployment of **indigenously manufactured aircraft and helicopters**, including **HAL Dornier Do-228** and **HAL Dhruv**, under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

- Since its launch in **2016**, UDAN has operationalised **669 routes**, connecting **95 airports, heliports and water aerodromes**, benefiting over **1.66 crore passengers**.

2. CG Semi OSAT Facility

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Electronics & Semiconductor Manufacturing; Industrial Policy

- The CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility at **Sanand, Gujarat**, was inaugurated by the **Prime Minister** in **July 2026**, marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- Developed by **CG Semi Pvt. Ltd.**, a joint venture of **CG Power & Industrial Solutions, Renesas Electronics (Japan)** and **Stars Microelectronics (Thailand)**.
- The facility has been established with an investment of over **₹7,600 crore** under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.
- It will provide **end-to-end semiconductor packaging and testing** for chips used in **automotive, industrial, consumer electronics and IoT** applications.
- The project strengthens **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, reduces import dependence and integrates India into the **global semiconductor value chain**.
- It is part of the Government's vision to build a **complete semiconductor ecosystem** spanning **chip design, fabrication, assembly, packaging and testing**.
- **OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test):** Involves **assembling, packaging and testing** semiconductor chips after wafer fabrication before they are supplied to device manufacturers.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** Launched in **2021** with a **₹76,000 crore** incentive package to develop a **semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem** in India.

3. LokOS

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: E-Governance; SHGs; Government Policies • GS3: Inclusive Growth; Financial Inclusion; Rural Livelihoods

- **LokOS (Lok = People, OS = Operating System)** is a **web and mobile platform** under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** for the **end-to-end digitisation** of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and their federations.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**; developed with technical support from the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**.
- Digitises **member profiles, savings, loans, repayments, livelihood records and convergence with government schemes**, replacing manual bookkeeping.
- Provides **Aadhaar- and bank-linked digital IDs, real-time transaction tracking, dashboards and data-driven monitoring** for SHGs, Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs).
- Captures **financial transactions worth nearly ₹2 lakh crore annually**, improving **transparency, accountability and financial inclusion**.
- Recently, **SHE-LEAPS (Self-Help Entrepreneur–Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability)** was launched under the **LokOS platform** to support **women-led rural enterprises** and the **Lakhpati Didi** initiative.
- **LokOS** currently covers **34 States/UTs, 94.16 lakh SHGs and over 10 crore SHG members**, making it one of the world's largest digital rural livelihood platforms.

4. ICMR-MINDS

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Health; Government Policies & Interventions • GS3: Science & Technology; Artificial Intelligence; Digital Health

- **ICMR-MINDS** is a flagship **implementation research project** of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for integrating the **screening and management of mental and substance use disorders** with other **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**.
- It recently received the **Gold Award** under the **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026** in the category **"Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services."**
- The platform uses an AI-enabled **Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS)** to assist **non-specialist frontline healthcare workers** in delivering **standardised mental healthcare**.
- It enables **digital screening, assessment, treatment guidance, follow-up and referrals**, reducing dependence on mental health specialists.
- Key features include **offline functionality, multilingual interface, role-based clinical guidance and real-time monitoring dashboards**.

- The initiative is being implemented across **seven States** through **AIIMS, PGIMER, St. John's Medical College** and other collaborating institutions.
- It supports the objectives of the **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)** and **National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)** by integrating mental healthcare into primary healthcare services.

5. Research Octane Number (RON) & E20 Fuel

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Energy Security; Environment; Biofuels; Sustainable Development

- **Research Octane Number (RON)** is a **measure of a fuel's resistance to engine knocking (auto-ignition) under standard test conditions; higher RON indicates better anti-knock performance.**
- **E20** is petrol blended with **20% ethanol and 80% petrol** under the **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG).**
- Ethanol has a **higher octane number (~108 RON)** than petrol; therefore, **E20 fuel has a higher RON** than conventional petrol, improving combustion efficiency.
- Higher RON enables **better engine performance, smoother combustion and reduced knocking**, especially in **E20-compatible vehicles.**
- India has achieved the **20% ethanol blending target (E20)** ahead of schedule under the **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 (amended in 2022).**
- E20 helps **reduce crude oil imports, lower vehicular emissions and improve farmers' income** by promoting biofuel production.
- Automobile manufacturers are introducing **E20 material-compatible vehicles and Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)** to support higher ethanol blends.

PIB-8th July, 2026

1. Prambanan Temple Complex

Syllabus Mapping: GS1: Indian Culture; Art & Architecture • GS2: India–Indonesia Relations; Cultural Diplomacy

- During his **2026 visit to Indonesia**, the **Prime Minister visited the Prambanan Temple Complex**, underscoring the shared **civilisational heritage** and strengthening **India–Indonesia cultural diplomacy** under the **Act East Policy** and **MAHASAGAR Vision.**
- The **Prambanan Temple Complex** is the **largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia** and one of the finest examples of **Hindu temple architecture in Southeast Asia.**
- Built in the **9th century CE** during the **Mataram Kingdom (Sanjaya Dynasty)**, it is dedicated to the **Trimurti—Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma.**
- The **central Shiva Temple (47 m high)** is the **tallest** and most prominent structure, housing a statue of **Shiva Mahadeva.**
- The temple walls depict **bas-reliefs from the Ramayana and Bhagavata Purana**, reflecting the deep civilisational links between **India and Southeast Asia.**
- The complex originally comprised **240 temples**, arranged in concentric squares following **Hindu cosmological principles (Mandala concept).**
- It was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991** for its outstanding cultural and architectural significance.

2. Kamarajar Port

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Infrastructure; Ports & Shipping; Logistics; Blue Economy

- **Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)** has become **India's second major port (after Visakhapatnam Port)** to achieve an **18-metre operational draft**, enabling it to handle **fully laden Capesize vessels.**
- The milestone was achieved after completion of **Capital Dredging Phase VI**, undertaken at an investment of **₹440 crore.**
- The enhanced draft allows the port to handle vessels carrying up to **1.7 lakh DWT (Deadweight Tonnage)**, improving cargo handling efficiency and reducing logistics costs.
- **Kamarajar Port (formerly Ennore Port)** is **India's first corporatised major port**, incorporated under the **Companies Act.**
- It is located at **Ennore, near Chennai (Tamil Nadu)** on the **Coromandel Coast (Bay of Bengal).**
- The port follows the **Landlord Port Model**, with private participation in terminal development and operations.

- It handles **coal, automobiles (Ro-Ro), LNG, petroleum products, containers and other bulk cargo**, serving as a key gateway for India's EXIM trade.
- **Deadweight Tonnage (DWT)** denotes the **maximum weight** (cargo, fuel, stores, crew, etc.) that a ship can safely carry
- India currently has **14 Major ports**, out of which **12 are operational**.

3. Mission for Cotton Productivity(Kapas Kranti)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Agriculture; Textiles; Crop Diversification; Science & Technology

- The **Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–31)**, also known as **Kapas Kranti**, has been approved with an **outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore** to enhance cotton productivity, quality and farmers' income.
- It aims to increase **cotton production to 498 lakh bales** and raise **lint productivity from 440 kg/ha to 755 kg/ha** by 2030–31.
- **India is the world's largest cotton producer** and among the **largest exporters of cotton**.
- The mission focuses on developing **high-yielding, climate-resilient and pest-resistant cotton varieties**, including **Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton**, using advanced breeding and biotechnology.
- It promotes **precision agriculture, mechanisation, quality seed systems, modern agronomic practices** and improved extension services for farmers.
- The mission also seeks to strengthen **cotton quality, traceability and value chains**, supporting India's **5F Vision—Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign**.
- **Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)** is the nodal implementing agency in collaboration with the **Ministry of Textiles**.

4. Bintang Adipurna Award

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: India–Indonesia Relations; International Relations; Awards & Honours

- **Bintang Adipurna** is the **highest civilian honour of Indonesia**, conferred by the **President of Indonesia** for **extraordinary service to the Republic of Indonesia and strengthening international relations**.
- It forms the **highest class of the "Star of the Republic of Indonesia (Bintang Republik Indonesia)"**, Indonesia's premier national honour instituted in **1959**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was conferred the **Bintang Adipurna** during his **official visit to Indonesia** (July 2026) in recognition of his contribution to strengthening the **India–Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- The award reflects the growing cooperation between the two countries in **maritime security, trade, defence, connectivity and the Indo-Pacific**.

5. Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Education; Government Policies & Interventions; Governance

- **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 Report (2023–24)** was recently released by the **Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education**.
- is an assessment framework developed by the **Ministry of Education** to evaluate the **performance of States/UTs in school education**.
- It **measures the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020** and promotes **evidence-based governance** through annual performance assessment.
- PGI 2.0 evaluates States/UTs on **73 indicators grouped under 2 categories**:
 - ❑ **Outcomes** (Learning Outcomes & Quality)
 - ❑ **Governance & Management** (Access, Infrastructure, Equity, Governance Processes, Teacher Education, Digital Initiatives, etc.)
- States/UTs are graded on a **1,000-point scale**, encouraging **healthy competition** and identification of areas needing improvement.
- The framework supports **Samagra Shiksha, NEP 2020** and **SDG-4 (Quality Education)** by improving accountability and learning outcomes.
- The assessment is based on **verified data** from States/UTs and other national databases, enabling **data-driven policy interventions**.

PIB-9th July, 2026

1. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Agriculture; Animal Husbandry; Livestock Health

- Recently, the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** organised a **National Workshop on Compartmentalization and Zoning for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** at Bhubaneswar to accelerate India's goal of achieving **FMD-free status by 2030** in line with international standards.
- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** is a **highly contagious viral disease** affecting **cloven-hoofed animals** such as **cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, pigs and deer**.
- It is caused by the **Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV)**, a **single-stranded RNA virus** of the genus **Aphthovirus** (Family: **Picornaviridae**).
- The disease is characterised by **fever and vesicles (blisters)** in the mouth, tongue, feet and teats, leading to severe production losses in milk and meat.
- FMD spreads through **direct contact, aerosols, contaminated feed, equipment, vehicles and animal products**, making it one of the most economically significant livestock diseases.
- India is implementing the **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)** to achieve **FMD-free status through 100% vaccination** of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs.
- Control of FMD is crucial for improving **livestock productivity**, enhancing **farmers' income** and expanding **livestock exports**, as FMD-free status is recognised internationally by the **WOAH**.

2. Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Defence Technology; Indigenisation of Defence; Internal Security

- **DRDO** successfully conducted the **flight-test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**, validating its **minimum operational range of 60 km** with pinpoint accuracy.
- **Pinaka** is an **indigenously developed Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL)** designed by **DRDO**; it was **first used operationally during the Kargil War (1999)**.
- A **Pinaka launcher** carries **12 rockets** and can fire a **full salvo in about 44 seconds**, saturating an area of approximately **1 km × 1 km**.
- **Variants:** **Pinaka Mk-I (~38 km) → Enhanced Pinaka (~75 km) → Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) (~120 km)**. **Future 300-km class variants are under development.**
- **Pinaka LRGR** uses **INS/GNSS-based guidance**, enabling **high-precision strikes**, while remaining **compatible** with existing **Pinaka launchers**.
- **Pinaka** is intended to replace the **Russian BM-21 Grad** rocket system in the Indian Army and forms a key component of India's **indigenous artillery modernisation**.

3. Bhubaneswar Declaration

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Welfare of Scheduled Tribes; Governance; Government Policies • GS1: Tribal Culture

- The **Bhubaneswar Declaration** was adopted at the **National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** organised by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Bhubaneswar**.
- It provides a **national roadmap to transform Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)** into **Centres of Excellence** for **tribal research, policy support, capacity building and cultural preservation**.
- The Declaration promotes **technology-driven documentation**, **digitisation of tribal knowledge** and **integration of platforms such as TribeX (formerly Adi Sanskriti)**.
- It emphasises **evidence-based policymaking**, stronger collaboration among **TRIs, universities, research institutions and tribal communities**, and greater community participation.
- It calls for preserving **tribal languages, traditional knowledge systems, oral traditions and indigenous practices**, while encouraging research on **tribal health, education, livelihoods and climate resilience**.
- The Declaration aligns with the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** by strengthening institutional support for **inclusive tribal development**.

4. National Rainfed Area Authority

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Agriculture; Sustainable Agriculture; Climate-Resilient Farming

- Recently, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) organised a National Consultation on "Quality Data Generation and Dissemination for Efficient Project Planning and Implementation in Rainfed Areas" to improve data-driven planning for rainfed agriculture.
- The consultation brought together research institutions, State governments and data users to address challenges related to data accessibility, standardisation and quality for effective project implementation.
- National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) is an expert body under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, established in 2006.
- It provides policy inputs, technical guidance and inter-ministerial coordination for the holistic development of rainfed and dryland agriculture.
- The Authority promotes watershed development, integrated farming systems, natural resource management and climate-resilient agriculture to improve productivity and farmers' livelihoods.
- NRAA supports the implementation of schemes under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) through knowledge-based interventions.

5. Mt. Khyam Tso Massif

Syllabus Mapping: GS1: Physical Geography (Himalayas)

- Recently, a 22-member expedition from the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (JIM&WS), Pahalgam successfully scaled the Mt. Khyam Tso Massif in the Rumtse Phu region of Ladakh.
- The expedition summited Peak Pt 5901 m, Peak Pt 6090 m, Peak Pt 5944 m and finally Mt. Khyam-III (6018 m), reinforcing India's presence in the unexplored mountain ranges of Ladakh.
- A notable achievement was the first-ever paragliding flight from an altitude of 5,600 m, showcasing India's high-altitude adventure capabilities.
- The Rumtse Phu region lies in the Trans-Himalayan cold desert of eastern Ladakh and is known for its rugged terrain, alpine meadows and strategic proximity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Such expeditions enhance high-altitude survival, mountaineering skills and terrain familiarisation, contributing to India's border preparedness.

PIB-10th July, 2026

1. Rhino DNA Indexing System (RhoDIS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment & Biodiversity; Wildlife Conservation

- During the 91st Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL), the Committee reviewed the long-term conservation strategy for the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros based on the Rhino DNA Indexing System (RhoDIS).
- RhoDIS (Rhino DNA Indexing System) is a DNA-based wildlife forensic database that assigns a unique genetic profile to every rhinoceros.
- Developed originally in South Africa, the database catalogs genetic data such as micro-satellite markers and Short Tandem Repeats (STRs).
- It enables enforcement agencies to match seized rhino horns with individual animals and their source population, strengthening anti-poaching investigations and prosecution.
- The programme also supports genetic diversity assessment, population monitoring and long-term conservation planning for the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros.
- RhoDIS India launched in 2016, is implemented through collaboration among the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), MoEFCC and rhino-range States, particularly for protection of Greater one-horned Rhino.
- Rhino horn is made of keratin, the same protein found in human hair and nails.
- Greater One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*): IUCN – Vulnerable, CITES – Appendix I, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 – Schedule I.
- India holds over 75% of the world's Greater One-horned Rhinoceros population, with Kaziranga National Park harbouring the largest population.
- Major rhino habitats: Kaziranga, Manas, Orang & Pobitora (Assam); Jaldapara & Gorumara (West Bengal); Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (Uttar Pradesh).

2. National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment & Biodiversity; Wildlife Conservation

- The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is the **apex statutory advisory body** on wildlife conservation in India, constituted under **Section 5A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** (inserted through the **2002** amendment).
- It is **chaired by the Prime Minister**, while the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change** serves as the **Vice-Chairperson**.
- The Board advises the Central Government on **wildlife conservation policies, management of Protected Areas, biodiversity conservation, and mitigation measures for projects affecting wildlife habitats**.
- A **Standing Committee** of the NBWL, **chaired by the Union Environment Minister**, examines proposals related to projects in and around **Protected Areas (PAs), Tiger Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**.
- The **NBWL has 47 members**, including government representatives, Members of Parliament, NGOs, conservationists and experts

3. Pygmy Hog

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment & Biodiversity; Species Conservation

- During the **91st Standing Committee meeting of the NBWL**, the proposal to include the **Pygmy Hog** under the **Species Recovery Programme** was reviewed to strengthen conservation of this highly threatened species.
- The **Pygmy Hog (*Porcula salvania*)** is the **smallest and rarest wild pig** in the world and is **endemic to the tall alluvial grasslands of Assam**.
- It is a **grassland indicator species**, and its survival depends on **early successional riverine grasslands** dominated by tall grasses such as **Saccharum** and **Imperata**.
- The species is protected through the **Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP)**, which combines **captive breeding, habitat restoration and reintroduction** into the wild.
- **Manas National Park** is the principal landscape for its recovery, with recent reintroductions into the **Kuribeeel grasslands** under the PHCP.
- **Conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered, CITES Appendix I, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 – Schedule I.
- **Habitat:** Tall wet alluvial grasslands of the Himalayan foothills; currently survives mainly in **Assam**.
- It is **one of the very few mammals that builds its own grass nest with a roof for shelter and breeding**.

4. Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment & Biodiversity; Wildlife Conservation

- The programme is implemented under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) – Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- It provides **species-specific conservation** through scientific **Recovery Plans**, including **habitat restoration, captive breeding, reintroduction, population monitoring, threat mitigation and community participation**.
- Recovery Plans are prepared **jointly by the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the concerned States with the support of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** or other scientific institutions, and are approved by the **Standing Committee of NBWL**.
- The programme provides **100% Central Assistance** for both recurring and non-recurring conservation activities under the scheme.
- The programme currently covers **22 critically endangered species**, including **Great Indian Bustard (including Floricans), Hangul, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Caracal, Red Panda, Clouded Leopard, Nilgiri Tahr, Vultures, Jerdon's Courser, Northern River Terrapin, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Snow Leopard. (Just remember no Tiger and Elephant)**
- The **Director, Wildlife Preservation**, with the approval of the **Standing Committee of NBWL**, can **add new species or discontinue existing recovery programmes** based on scientific evidence.
- The programme follows both **in-situ conservation** (habitat protection, corridor restoration, threat mitigation) and **ex-situ conservation** (conservation breeding, captive breeding and reintroduction).

5. Integrated Textile & Apparel Development Centres (ITADCs)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Industries; MSMEs; Textile Sector

- Recently, the **Ministry of Textiles** reviewed the functioning of **Integrated Textile & Apparel Development Centres (ITADCs)** and decided to transform them into **one-stop facilitation centres** for textile entrepreneurs and MSMEs.
- The revamped ITADCs will provide **skill development, testing & certification, design support, technology adoption, incubation, market linkages and business facilitation** under one roof.

- ITADCs function under the administrative control of NITRA (Northern India Textile Research Association), Ghaziabad, with support from the Ministry of Textiles.
- The initiative aims to improve the competitiveness of MSMEs, encourage technology upgradation, enhance product quality and strengthen India's textile value chain.
- The centres complement flagship initiatives such as PM MITRA Parks, the Textile PLI Scheme and Bharat Tex in achieving the vision of making India a global textile manufacturing hub.
- **ITADCs are different from PM MITRA Parks;** ITADCs provide institutional support, testing, skilling and business facilitation, whereas PM MITRA Parks are large integrated manufacturing parks.

PIB-13th July, 2026

1. Best Egmont Case Award

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Internal Security; Money Laundering; Financial Intelligence

- The Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) is a prestigious annual competition established by the Egmont Group in 2011 to showcase outstanding financial intelligence cases in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.
- **Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND) was adjudged Runner-up** at the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026 during the Egmont Group Plenary held in Baku, Azerbaijan, for successfully investigating a large-scale cyber fraud and cross-border money laundering network, while **Taiwan's Anti-Money Laundering division was the winner.**
- The investigation relied on the Egmont Secure Web (ESW) to exchange financial intelligence with foreign Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), highlighting the importance of international cooperation in combating transnational financial crime.
- Egmont Group is a **global network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) established in 1995** to facilitate secure exchange of financial intelligence and strengthen the global Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) framework.
- The **Egmont Group currently has 182 member jurisdictions**, with each jurisdiction represented by its Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
- **FIU-IND was established in 2004 under the Ministry of Finance** as India's national agency for receiving, analysing and disseminating information relating to suspicious financial transactions. It reports to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC).

2. Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Indian Economy; MSMEs; Financial Inclusion

- Recently, the Ministry of MSME mandated the use of TReDS for settlement of all purchases by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) from MSMEs, implementing a key announcement of the Union Budget 2026–27. This aims to ensure timely payments and improve MSMEs' working capital.
- **TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) is an RBI-regulated electronic platform for financing and discounting the trade receivables (invoices)** of MSMEs due from corporates, CPSEs and Government Departments.
- On TReDS, once the buyer accepts the invoice, banks and NBFCs competitively bid to finance it, enabling the MSME to receive **early payment without collateral.**
- **TReDS is regulated by the RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**
- **Eligible participants:** MSME sellers, buyers (corporates/CPSEs/Government Departments) and financiers (Banks & NBFCs).
- **As of 2026, five RBI-authorised TReDS platforms are operational: RXIL, M1xchange, Invoicemart, C2treds and DTX.**
- **Key details of participants:**
 - ❑ The Indian government mandates that all CPSEs and companies with an annual turnover exceeding RS 250 crore register as buyers on TReDS platform
 - ❑ Financing is generally **'without recourse'** to the seller, meaning the MSME bears no liability if the buyer defaults.

3. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Food Processing Industries; MSMEs; Agriculture

- Recently, the PMFME Scheme crossed the milestone of **2 lakh loan sanctions**, mobilising over **₹20,300 crore** in project investments and generating nearly **11 lakh direct and indirect jobs**. About **90% of beneficiaries are first-generation entrepreneurs**, while **44% are women**.
- Launched in **2020 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, PMFME is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** to formalise and enhance the competitiveness of the **unorganised micro food processing sector**.
- The scheme adopts the **One District One Product (ODOP)** approach to promote **cluster-based development, value addition and market linkages**.
- It provides **credit-linked subsidy, seed capital, common infrastructure, branding & marketing support, incubation, skilling and entrepreneurship support** to individual micro enterprises, SHGs, FPOs and Producer Cooperatives.
- **ODOP under PMFME is distinct from DPIIT's ODOP initiative—PMFME's ODOP is exclusively for food-processing value chains, whereas DPIIT's ODOP covers products across all sectors.**
- **Key benefits:**
 - ❑ **Credit-linked Capital Subsidy:** 35% of eligible project cost, subject to a maximum subsidy of **₹10 lakh** for individual micro enterprises.
 - ❑ **Seed Capital:** Up to **₹40,000 per SHG member** for working capital and purchase of small tools; priority is given to SHGs processing **ODOP products**.
 - ❑ **Common Infrastructure:** Grant up to 35% of eligible project cost, subject to a ceiling of **₹3 crore**, for FPOs, SHGs, Cooperatives and other eligible entities.

4. **e-Samudra & e-Navik**

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Infrastructure; Ports & Shipping; Digital Governance

- Recently, the **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)** launched the **Ship Registration Module** on the **e-Samudra** platform to digitise and simplify vessel registration in India.
- **e-Samudra** is **India's Unified Maritime Services Portal**, providing a **single-window digital platform** for maritime stakeholders such as **ship owners, seafarers, charterers, MTOs and shipping companies**.
- The platform offers **72+ online maritime services**, enabling **paperless processing, online applications, real-time tracking and faster approvals**.
- Recently, the **Directorate General of Shipping** launched a **24×7 Grievance Redressal Module under the e-Navik platform for Indian seafarers.**
- The platform enables seafarers to register grievances through the **e-Navik portal, toll-free helpline, WhatsApp and email** from anywhere in the world.

5. **Centre of Excellence on Human–Wildlife Conflict (CoE-HWC)**

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment & Biodiversity; Wildlife Conservation

- Recently, the **Centre of Excellence on Human–Wildlife Conflict (CoE-HWC)** was inaugurated at the **Wildlife Institute of India–Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII–SACON)**, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Simultaneously, the **National Human–Wildlife Conflict Portal** was launched.
- The Centre has been **established jointly by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and SACON as the national nodal institution** for research, innovation, policy support, capacity building and dissemination of best practices on human–wildlife conflict management.
- It will promote **science-based conflict mitigation** using technologies such as **AI, GIS, remote sensing, early-warning systems and wildlife movement modelling**, besides strengthening community participation.
- The newly launched **National Human–Wildlife Conflict Portal** will serve as a **centralised digital platform** for reporting incidents, data management, knowledge sharing and decision support across States and UTs.
- **WII (Wildlife Institute of India)** is an **autonomous institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, headquartered at **Dehradun**.
- **SACON (Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History)** is an **autonomous institute of MoEFCC** located at **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**, specialising in **ornithology, ecology and biodiversity conservation**.

1. Mephedrone (Meow-Meow / MD)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Internal Security; Drug Trafficking; NDPS Act

- Recently, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a major narcotics network and seized Mephedrone, a synthetic psychotropic substance, along with precursor chemicals under anti-drug operations.
- Mephedrone (4-Methylmethcathinone/4-MMC) is a synthetic cathinone, popularly known as "Meow-Meow", "MCAT", "Drone", "White Magic" or "MD".
- It is a New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) and acts as a central nervous system stimulant.
- Chemically, it is a synthetic analogue of cathinone, the naturally occurring stimulant found in the Khat (*Catha edulis*) plant.
- Mephedrone increases the release of dopamine, serotonin and norepinephrine, producing euphoria, alertness and stimulant effects.
- It is commonly encountered as white crystalline powder, crystals, capsules or tablets.
- Under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, Mephedrone is notified as a Psychotropic Substance, making its manufacture, possession, sale and transport illegal except for authorised scientific or medical purposes.
- Synthetic drugs such as Mephedrone, Methamphetamine, MDMA and LSD are increasingly classified as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) due to their laboratory synthesis and abuse potential.

2. NIDAR 2.0 (National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Drones; Semiconductor Mission

- Recently, MeitY, in collaboration with the Drone Federation India (DFI), launched NIDAR 2.0 (2026–27) under the SwaYaan Initiative.
- Unlike the first edition, NIDAR 2.0 shifts the focus from drone applications to indigenous drone electronics, autonomous systems and core drone components, with students developing drones powered by India's indigenous VEGA processor.
- NIDAR 2.0 introduces two competition tracks:
 - ❑ Drone Innovation – Autonomous swarm drones, GPS-denied navigation, disaster response.
 - ❑ Component Innovation – Indigenous flight controller & autopilot based on the VEGA processor.
- VEGA Processor is India's indigenous RISC-V-based processor, developed by C-DAC under the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Programme of MeitY to reduce dependence on foreign chip architectures.
- The top 100 teams will receive VEGA processor development kits for testing and integration.
- The challenge supports India's vision of becoming a Global Drone Hub by 2030 under the Drone Rules, 2021 and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Drones & Drone Components.

3. SwaYaan Initiative

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Drones; Skill Development

- Recently, NIDAR 2.0 was launched under the SwaYaan Initiative to promote indigenous drone technologies and human resource development in the UAS ecosystem.
- SwaYaan stands for Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone & Allied Technologies).
- It is a national initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), approved in July 2022 with an outlay of about ₹89.87 crore for five years.
- It aims to develop a skilled workforce, research ecosystem and indigenous technologies in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), supporting the vision of making India a Global Drone Hub by 2030.
- The programme follows a Hub-and-Spoke model involving 30 premier institutions, including IISc, IITs, IIITs, NITs, C-DAC and NIELIT.
- The initiative is organised around five thematic verticals:
 - ❑ Aeromechanics
 - ❑ Drone Electronics
 - ❑ Guidance, Navigation & Control (GNC) Algorithms and Simulation
 - ❑ Drone Applications

4. RBI Swap Initiatives for FCNR(B), ECB & OFCB

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Indian Economy; Banking; External Sector

- Recently, the Union Finance Minister reviewed the progress of the RBI's swap initiatives relating to FCNR(B) deposits, External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) to strengthen India's external sector.
- Banks were advised to intensify outreach to the NRI diaspora and leverage IFSC Banking Units (IBUs) at GIFT-IFSC for mobilising foreign currency resources.
- FCNR(B) (Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank)) Account is a term deposit maintained by NRIs in designated foreign currencies.
- FCNR(B) deposits are insulated from exchange-rate risk, as both principal and interest are maintained in the same foreign currency.
- Eligible currencies: USD, GBP, EUR, JPY, AUD and CAD.
- Tenure: 1–5 years.
- Special RBI swap window (2026) applies to fresh USD FCNR(B) deposits of 3–5 years mobilised up to 30 September 2026.
- Under the special window, RBI provides banks a concessional USD–INR swap, reducing hedging costs and encouraging mobilisation of foreign currency deposits.
- OFCB (Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowing) refers to foreign currency borrowings by banks from overseas markets to augment foreign currency resources.

5. Guinness World Record through Miyawaki Plantation

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment; Afforestation; Urban Forestry

- Recently, the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha Constituency (Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation) created a Guinness World Record by planting over 3.61 lakh saplings in one hour using the Miyawaki afforestation method, surpassing the previous record held by Assam (2023).
- Miyawaki Method was developed by Dr. Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist.
- It involves high-density plantation of native (indigenous) species, resulting in the rapid development of multi-layered forests.
- A typical Miyawaki forest consists of 3–5 native species per square metre, creating a dense canopy.
- The method follows a multi-layer vegetation structure comprising shrubs, sub-trees, tree layer and canopy trees, mimicking a natural forest.
- No chemical fertilisers or pesticides are ordinarily used; emphasis is placed on native species, soil improvement and organic mulching.
- After the initial 2–3 years of maintenance, the forest is expected to become largely self-sustaining.
- Miyawaki forests generally exhibit faster growth and higher carbon sequestration and biodiversity than conventional plantations under suitable conditions. (Indicative feature often cited for the technique.)
- The method is particularly suitable for urban forests, degraded lands, institutional campuses and roadside green belts, where land availability is limited.

PIB-15th July, 2026

1. CapaCITIES Programme

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment; Climate Change; Urban Development

- Recently, the CapaCITIES Programme completed a decade, with an event titled "Scaling Urban Climate Resilience: The CapaCITIES Legacy and Way Forward". The programme has helped Indian cities mainstream low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development into planning and governance.
- CapaCITIES stands for Capacity Building for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Cities.
- It is an Indo-German technical cooperation programme.
- It is jointly implemented by:
 - ❑ National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Mo Housing and Urban Affairs
 - ❑ ICLEI South Asia
 - ❑ GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) on behalf of the German Government.
- The programme supports national, state and city governments in integrating climate adaptation and climate mitigation into urban planning.

- It focuses on:
 - ☐ Climate-resilient urban planning
 - ☐ Nature-based solutions (NbS)
 - ☐ Low-carbon development
 - ☐ Climate finance
 - ☐ Capacity building of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- The programme also helps cities **access climate finance** for implementing resilience projects.

2. North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Space Technology; Remote Sensing; Disaster Management

- **Recently**, the Union Minister reviewed NESAC's role in strengthening **border management, disaster management, agriculture, natural resource planning and governance** through space-based applications in the North Eastern Region. NESAC is currently implementing **nearly 130 projects** across the Northeast.
- NESAC stands for **North Eastern Space Applications Centre**.
- It was established **in 2000 as a joint initiative of the Department of Space (DoS) and the North Eastern Council (NEC)**.
- **Headquarters: Umiam (Barapani), Meghalaya.**
- It functions under the **Department of Space (DoS), Government of India**.
- It is the **nodal centre for applying space technology for the socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region**.
- NESAC **assists all eight North-Eastern States**.
- **Major application areas include:**
 - ☐ Flood forecasting & early warning
 - ☐ Landslide hazard mapping
 - ☐ Forest & biodiversity monitoring
 - ☐ Agriculture & crop assessment
 - ☐ Water resource management
 - ☐ Urban & regional planning
 - ☐ Border & infrastructure mapping
- **Geo-spatial mapping of the India–Myanmar border and inter-state boundaries in the Northeast is one of its ongoing strategic projects.**
- NESAC has also developed the **GeoTourism 'ManzilNE' Dashboard** to promote tourism through geospatial technologies.

3. Vanadium Oxide–Vanadium Sulphide (VO_x/VS₂) Ammonia Sensor

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Nanotechnology

- **Recently**, scientists at the **Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru**, developed an **ultra-sensitive ammonia sensor** based on a **Vanadium Oxide–Vanadium Sulphide (VO_x/VS₂) heterostructure**. The sensor can detect ammonia at **319 ppb** while operating at **room temperature**.
- The sensor is **portable, wearable and self-powered**, making it suitable for **industrial safety, environmental monitoring and healthcare applications**.
- The sensor is based on a **heterostructure**—a material formed by combining **two different semiconducting materials** to improve performance.
- It combines **Vanadium Oxide (VO_x)** and **Vanadium Sulphide (VS₂)** to enhance **charge transport** and create more **active sites** for ammonia adsorption.
- The sensor operates at **room temperature**, unlike many conventional gas sensors that require **high operating temperatures**.
- **Detection limit: 319 parts per billion (ppb)**, well below occupational exposure limits.
- It exhibits **high selectivity**, detecting NH₃ while minimizing interference from other gases.
- The device is **flexible** and can be fabricated on **polymer, paper and textile substrates**.
- It is **self-powered**, harvesting **mechanical energy** from body movements to operate without an external power source.
- The technology has applications in:
 - ☐ Fertiliser industry
 - ☐ Refrigeration plants
 - ☐ Chemical industries
 - ☐ Smart wearables
 - ☐ Environmental monitoring

4. GeoTourism 'ManzilNE' Dashboard

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Space Technology; GIS; Tourism

- Recently, the Union Minister directed NESAC to strengthen the **GeoTourism 'ManzilNE' Dashboard** by increasing participation of the **private tourism sector** to promote the **natural, ecological and cultural heritage of North-East India**.
- **ManzilNE** is a **GIS-based GeoTourism Dashboard** developed by **North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC)**.
- It is designed for **planning, management, monitoring and promotion of tourism** in the **North Eastern Region (NER)**.
- The dashboard integrates **satellite imagery, GIS, UAV (drone) data, 3D visualisation and AI-enabled geospatial tools** for tourism planning.
- It enables **location-based information** on tourist destinations, accessibility, infrastructure, cultural sites and eco-tourism resources.
- The platform supports **sustainable tourism, destination planning, carrying-capacity assessment and decision-making** by governments.
- It is being developed by **NESAC** in collaboration with the **North Eastern Council (NEC)** and State tourism departments.

5. Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Agriculture; Food Safety; International Institutions

- Recently, India participated in the **88th Executive Committee Meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC88)**, reaffirming its commitment to **science-based international food standards** and safe global food trade.
- **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** was established in **1963** by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- It is an **intergovernmental body** responsible for developing **international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice**.
- The term **Codex Alimentarius** means "**Food Code**" in Latin.
- **Headquarters (Codex Secretariat):** **FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy.**
- **Members:** **189 Members** (188 countries + **European Union**).
- **India became a member in 1964.**
- The Commission aims to:
 - ❑ Protect **consumer health**.
 - ❑ Ensure **fair practices in international food trade**.
 - ❑ Harmonise food standards globally.
- Codex standards are **voluntary**, but they are recognised as the **international benchmark** under the **WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)**.

PIB-16th July, 2026

1. National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Agriculture; Fertilizers; Food Processing

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the **National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)**.
- The policy aims to **encourage new investments in gas-based urea manufacturing units**, increase domestic production, reduce import dependence and strengthen India's fertilizer security. It succeeds the **New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.**
- **India is the second-largest consumer of fertilizers** and among the **largest consumers of urea** globally.
- India consumes about **4 crore tonnes of urea annually**.
- Domestic production is around **3 crore tonnes**, while the remaining **~1 crore tonnes is imported**, making India import-dependent for roughly one-fourth of its requirement.
- **Urea [CO(NH₂)₂]** contains **46% Nitrogen**, the highest among commonly used solid nitrogenous fertilizers.
- **Neem-coated urea** has been **100% mandatory since 2015** to improve Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) and reduce diversion.

- **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)** applies **only to Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers**; **Urea remains outside NBS under a separate subsidy mechanism.**

2. Ancient Kewra Fossils from Assam

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology | Environment

- **Recently**, scientists from the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow**, discovered **24-million-year-old fossil leaves** of the **Kewra (Kevda) plant** from the **Tikak Parbat Formation of the Makum Coalfield, Assam.**
- The discovery extends the evolutionary history of the **Pandanaceae** family in India and highlights India's role as a refuge for ancient tropical flora.
- The fossils date back to the **Late Oligocene Epoch (~24 million years ago).**
- **Kewra (Pandanus odorifer)** is valued for its **fragrant flowers**, from which **Kewra water** and **Kewra attar** are prepared.
- The discovery indicates that **India acted as a climatic refuge** for several ancient tropical plant lineages after global cooling around **34 million years ago.**
- Earlier fossil records of **Pandanaceae** were known from **Europe and North America (85–66 million years ago)**; the Assam fossils bridge these with younger Asian records.
- Used in **traditional medicine (Ayurveda)** for its **cooling, digestive and aromatic properties.**
- **Leaves** are woven into **mats, baskets, hats, ropes and handicrafts**, especially in coastal regions.
- Grown as an **ornamental plant** in gardens due to its distinctive foliage and fragrant flowers.
- The plant also helps in **sand dune stabilization and coastal protection**, making it useful in **coastal ecosystem restoration.**
- **Odisha (particularly Ganjam district)** is the **largest producer of Kewra essence (Kewra water & attar)** in India.

3. SYNCHN 2026

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Biotechnology; Research & Development; Health Innovation

- **Recently**, the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)** organised the **3rd annual industry-business meet – SYNCHN 2026 (Synergistic Collaboration in Healthcare Innovation)** at the **NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad.**
- The event focused on accelerating the translation of scientific discoveries into affordable healthcare products through collaboration among academia, industry, startups, investors and policymakers.
- It is the **flagship annual industry-academia platform** of THSTI for promoting **translational research** and commercialization of biomedical innovations.
- **THSTI (Translational Health Science and Technology Institute)** is an institute of the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)** under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.**
- **BRIC (Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council)** is an **autonomous body** established by **subsuming 13 autonomous institutions of DBT** to strengthen integrated biotechnology research and innovation.

4. Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) – Phase III

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Biotechnology | Research & Development | Health

- **Recently**, the Union Minister launched **Phase III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)** with a total outlay of **₹1,500 crore**, jointly funded by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** and the **Wellcome Trust (UK).**
- The programme aims to build a **globally competitive biomedical research workforce in India.**
- **Launched: 2008** as a partnership between **DBT and Wellcome Trust (UK).**
- **Implementing Agency: India Alliance (DBT–Wellcome Trust India Alliance)**
- **Nodal Ministry: Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology**
- **Phase III Duration:**
 - ❑ **Implementation: 2025–26 to 2030–31**
 - ❑ **Servicing of fellowships/grants: up to 2037–38.**
- It provides:
 - ❑ **Early Career Fellowships**
 - ❑ **Intermediate Fellowships**
 - ❑ **Collaborative Research Grants**

❑ **Research Management Programme.**

- The programme aims to accelerate development of **diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines and healthcare technologies** aligned with national priorities

5. Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Manufacturing | Electronics | Industrial Policy

- **Recently**, the Union Cabinet approved the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** with a **budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore** for **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31** to deepen domestic value addition, strengthen supply-chain resilience and make India a global mobile manufacturing hub.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).**
- The scheme aims to:
- ❑ Scale up **mobile phone production**.
 - ❑ Deepen **domestic value addition**.
 - ❑ Strengthen **component manufacturing ecosystem**.
 - ❑ Enhance **global competitiveness**.
 - ❑ Build **Indian brands** and promote **design & R&D**

PIB-17th July, 2026

1. PARIVARTAN Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment | Air Pollution | Sustainable Transport

- **MoHUA** has approved the **Operational Guidelines** for the **PARIVARTAN Scheme** to facilitate the replacement of **old, highly polluting trucks and buses** in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** with **BS-VI compliant or Electric Vehicles (EVs)**.
- The Scheme was **approved by the Union Cabinet on 3 June 2026** and is now ready for implementation.
- **PARIVARTAN: Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions.**
- Accelerate replacement of ageing commercial vehicles to improve **Air Quality Index (AQI)** and promote cleaner mobility in **Delhi-NCR**.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).**
- **Funding Agency: National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB).**
- **Administrative Ministry of NCRPB: Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**

2. White Rabbit Technology

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology | Digital Infrastructure | Standards & Metrology

- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi** inaugurated the **White Rabbit Technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Distribution Demonstration Network** at the **Regional Reference Standards Laboratory (RRSL), Jakkur, Bengaluru** under the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative.
- **White Rabbit (WR)** is a **high-precision time synchronisation technology** that distributes an accurate time reference over **optical fibre networks**.
- It **enables sub-nanosecond (less than one billionth of a second) accuracy in clock synchronisation**.
- Developed as an extension of the **IEEE 1588 Precision Time Protocol (PTP)** combined with **Synchronous Ethernet (SyncE)** for ultra-precise timing.
- The technology forms the backbone of the **Indian Standard Time (IST) Distribution Demonstration Network** under **One Nation, One Time**.
- **Objective:** Establish a **uniform, highly precise and secure** time standard across India.
- It **reduces India's dependence on foreign time sources such as GPS**, thereby strengthening digital sovereignty and resilience against cyber threats.

3. C-Phycocyanin Production Technology

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology | Biotechnology | Bioeconomy

- **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under **DST** has extended financial assistance to **M/s K.N. Biosciences Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad** for commercialization of **indigenous C-Phycocyanin Production Technology from Spirulina**.

- The **technology has been developed by IIT Guwahati** and transferred to the company through a **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** agreement
- **C-Phycocyanin (C-PC)** is a **natural blue pigment (phycobiliprotein)** extracted from **Spirulina** (cyanobacteria/blue-green algae).
- It is a **water-soluble** pigment and widely used as a **natural food colourant**.
- Spirulina is considered a **Single Cell Protein (SCP)** due to **60–70% protein content**.
- Unlike **chlorophyll**, phycobiliproteins efficiently absorb **green-orange wavelengths**, enhancing photosynthesis.
- Production involves:
 - ❑ **Photoautotrophic cultivation** of *Spirulina* under optimized light & nutrient conditions.
 - ❑ **Green, solvent-free extraction**.
 - ❑ **Single-step purification** to obtain **food-grade & analytical-grade** C-Phycocyanin.
 - ❑ Final product is a **stable, water-soluble blue powder**, benchmarked against international standards.
- The technology minimizes **chemical usage**, reduces processing complexity and promotes **environment-friendly biomanufacturing**.

4. India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology | Green Energy | Sustainable Transport

- Recently, the Prime Minister flagged off **India's first indigenously developed Hydrogen Fuel Cell Trainset on the Jind–Sonipat section (Northern Railway)**. It marks a significant milestone in India's transition towards **clean, low-carbon rail transportation** and supports the vision of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**.
- It is **India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell-powered trainset** developed indigenously by **Indian Railways**.
- The train operates on the **Jind–Sonipat section** under **Northern Railway**.
- A 10-coach hydrogen fuel-cell trainset comprising two hydrogen-powered driving cars and eight passenger/trailer coaches.
- **Hydrogen Fuel Cells** generate electricity through an **electrochemical reaction** between hydrogen and oxygen; the **only by-product is water vapour**.
- The train is equipped with **Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries** for energy storage and operational support.
- A dedicated **Hydrogen Production, Storage and Refuelling Facility** has been established at **Jind**.
- **Green Hydrogen** is produced through the **electrolysis of water using renewable energy**, resulting in near-zero carbon emissions.
- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023)** is implemented by the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** to make India a global hub for the production, utilisation and export of Green Hydrogen.

5. PAIMANA Performance Dashboard

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Infrastructure | Governance | Data-driven Governance | Digital Public Infrastructure

- Recently, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **quarterly update of the PAIMANA Performance Dashboard**, expanding infrastructure performance monitoring to **165 indicators** across key infrastructure sectors. The dashboard strengthens **evidence-based policymaking** through timely dissemination of official infrastructure statistics.
- **PAIMANA** stands for **Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building**.
- It is a **web-based platform** developed by **MoSPI** for monitoring infrastructure projects and sectoral performance.
- It monitors **6 key infrastructure sub-sectors**:
 - ❑ Civil Aviation
 - ❑ Roads
 - ❑ Power
 - ❑ Ports, Shipping & Waterways
 - ❑ Telecommunications
 - ❑ Railways.
- PAIMANA follows the principle of **"One Data, One Entry"** by integrating with **DPIIT's Integrated Project Monitoring Portal (IPMP/IIG-PMG)** through APIs, reducing duplicate data entry.

PIB-20th July, 2026

1 . Hypergolic Engines

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology | Space Technology | Space Missions

- ISRO successfully carried out a **hot test of the indigenous 200 mN Hypergolic Thruster** developed for the **Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) of the Gaganyaan Mission**. The test was conducted at **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri**, validating the thruster for future human spaceflight missions.
- The **200 mN Hypergolic Thruster** has been developed by **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), ISRO** for the **Gaganyaan Service Module**.
- It forms part of the **Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS)** responsible for **attitude control, orbital manoeuvres and de-orbit operations** of the Orbital Module.
- A **hypergolic propellant is a fuel-oxidizer combination that ignites spontaneously on contact**, eliminating the need for an ignition system.
- Hypergolic propulsion is preferred in spacecraft because it offers:
 - ☐ Instant ignition
 - ☐ High reliability
 - ☐ Multiple restart capability
 - ☐ Long-term storability
- **ISRO's hypergolic propulsion system uses bipropellant configuration** (fuel and oxidizer stored separately until combustion).
- **Hypergolic engines are extensively used in:**
 - ☐ Satellite attitude control
 - ☐ Orbit raising
 - ☐ Orbit correction
 - ☐ Spacecraft de-orbiting
 - ☐ Docking and rendezvous missions.

2. Magnetic Trees

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology | Space Technology | Astronomy & Astrophysics

- Researchers have developed a novel technique called **"Magnetic Trees"** to reveal previously hidden plasma flows in the **Sun's upper atmosphere (corona)**. The study helps improve understanding of solar magnetic fields and the mechanisms responsible for heating the solar corona.
- **Magnetic Trees** are a **visualisation and analysis technique, not physical trees**.
- They map the **branching structure of the Sun's magnetic field lines**, resembling the roots and branches of a tree.
- The technique **helps trace the movement of hot ionised plasma along magnetic field lines in the solar corona**.
- The **solar corona** is the **outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere**, extending millions of kilometres into space.
- The corona is **visible during a total solar eclipse as a faint white halo around the Sun**.
- The **corona is much hotter (~1–3 million K)** than the Sun's visible surface (**photosphere ~5,500 K**)—a phenomenon known as the **Coronal Heating Problem**.
- The Sun's atmosphere consists of:
 - ☐ **Photosphere** – visible surface.
 - ☐ **Chromosphere** – middle atmospheric layer.
 - ☐ **Corona** – outermost and hottest layer.

3. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections | Statutory & Non-Statutory Bodies | Social Justice

- The Union Cabinet approved the **extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years beyond 31 March 2025, i.e., up to 31 March 2028**, to continue monitoring the welfare of sanitation workers and the implementation of laws against manual scavenging.
- **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** was **constituted on 12 August 1994 under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993**.
- It was **initially established as a statutory body for a period of three years**.
- The **NCSK Act, 1993 lapsed on 29 February 2004**; since then, the Commission has **functioned as a non-statutory body through Government Resolutions under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- **Composition:** Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + Five Members
- **Major Functions:**
 - ☐ Recommend measures for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis.
 - ☐ Monitor implementation of welfare programmes.
 - ☐ Investigate grievances and complaints.
 - ☐ Evaluate rehabilitation measures.
 - ☐ Advise the Central and State Governments.
- Under the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR Act, 2013)**, NCSK monitors:

- ☐ Elimination of manual scavenging.
- ☐ Rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers.
- ☐ Complaints regarding hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

4. Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS / NAPS 2.0)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Government Policies & Interventions | GS3: Employment | Skill Development | Human Resource Development

- The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has **extended the Special Intervention for Promotion of Apprenticeship in the North Eastern Region (NER)** under the **Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)** for FY 2026–27.
- The initiative will continue to be implemented by the **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati**, to expand apprenticeship opportunities and improve youth employability in the region.
- **PM-NAPS (National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- Initially launched in **August 2016**, it has been continued as **NAPS 2.0 (from 2022–23 onwards)**.
- The scheme is **implemented under the Apprentices Act, 1961**.
- Objective:
 - ☐ Promote **industry-led apprenticeship training**.
 - ☐ Enhance **employability** through the "Earn While You Learn" model.
 - ☐ Encourage industries, especially **MSMEs**, to engage apprentices.
- Under **NAPS 2.0**:
 - ☐ **Government provides 25% of the stipend (maximum ₹1,500 per month)**.
 - ☐ The **remaining stipend is paid by the employer**.
 - ☐ Apprentices receive **on-the-job practical training** while earning a stipend.
 - ☐ **Apprentices are trainees, not regular employees**, and engagement under the Apprentices Act does not create a right to permanent employment.
- **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)**
 - ☐ Implemented by the **Ministry of Education**.
 - ☐ Primarily covers **graduate, diploma and degree apprentices**.

5. SAMADHAN Portal 2.0

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Government Policies & Interventions | Labour Welfare | E-Governance | Industrial Relations

- The **Chief Labour Commissioner (Central)**, under the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, conducted an awareness session on **SAMADHAN Portal 2.0** for trade unions. The upgraded portal aims to provide a **single digital platform for filing, tracking and disposal of industrial disputes, workers' grievances and claims** under the new labour framework, thereby enhancing transparency, accessibility and time-bound grievance redressal.
- **SAMADHAN** stands for **Software Application for Monitoring, Disposal and Handling of Industrial Disputes**.
- **SAMADHAN Portal 2.0** provides a **single-window digital platform** for:
 - ☐ Filing industrial disputes.
 - ☐ Filing workers' grievances.
 - ☐ Filing claims under labour laws.
 - ☐ Online monitoring and tracking of cases.
- The portal digitises the processes of:
 - ☐ **Conciliation**
 - ☐ **Arbitration**
 - ☐ **Adjudication** of industrial disputes.
- The portal aligns with the **implementation of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, particularly for digital handling of labour disputes.
- **Chief Labour Commissioner (Central)** is an attached office of the **Ministry of Labour & Employment** and is responsible for enforcing **Central Labour Laws**.

PIB-21st July, 2026

1. National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)

Syllabus Mapping: GS1: Indian Culture | Art & Culture

- The **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** continues to expand the coverage of the **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD)** initiative. To improve the authenticity and validation of cultural data, the **Ministry of Culture**

has initiated convergence with the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, enabling data collection and verification through **Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.

- **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** was **launched in 2017** by the **Ministry of Culture** as part of the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** initiative.
- The mission aims to create a **national digital repository of India's cultural assets, artists, art forms and heritage resources**, while preserving both **tangible and intangible cultural heritage**.
- **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD)** is the flagship initiative under NMCM for **village-level cultural mapping** across India.
- **MGMD documents:** Oral traditions and folklore + Folk and tribal art forms + Festivals and fairs + Traditional occupations + Local cuisines + Languages and dialects + Heritage sites and monuments + Prominent personalities and artisans.
- **Data validation is carried out through Gram Sabhas**, enhancing the authenticity of village-level cultural information.
- **The National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) is implemented by the Ministry of Culture through the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**. IGNCA serves as the **nodal agency** for creating and maintaining the national digital repository of India's cultural assets.
- The cultural mapping exercise covers both:
- **Tangible Heritage** – monuments, heritage buildings, archaeological sites.
- **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** – performing arts, rituals, oral traditions, festive events, traditional craftsmanship and knowledge systems.

2. RBI's Framework for Self-Regulatory Organisation(s) in the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Indian Economy; Banking & Financial Sector; Financial Technology (FinTech)

- The **SRO-FT Framework** was **issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 30 May 2024**.
- It seeks to establish and enforce **regulatory standards** for the FinTech sector.
- It promotes **ethical conduct, market integrity, transparency and accountability** among member entities.
- The framework provides a mechanism for **dispute resolution** within the FinTech ecosystem.
- RBI issued the **Master Directions on Digital Payment Security Controls** in **February 2021** prescribing minimum security standards for internet banking, mobile banking and card payments.
- **NPCI** provides an **AI/ML-based fraud monitoring solution** for **UPI transactions**.
- **MeitY** notified the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** and the **DPDP Rules, 2025**.
- RBI **introduced the Regulatory Sandbox framework in August 2019** for testing innovative financial products and services in a controlled regulatory environment.
- **MHA** operates the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal** and **Helpline 1930** for reporting cybercrimes, including illegal loan apps.
- The **SACHET Portal** and **State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC)** facilitate complaints relating to illegal deposit collection.
- RBI conducts **eBAAT (electronic-Banking Awareness and Training)** programmes to spread awareness about cyber frauds and risk mitigation.

3. SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Government Policies & Interventions; Social Justice; Welfare of Vulnerable Sections

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment informed that the **SMILE Scheme** is operational in **216 cities** across the country and aims to achieve a **'Bhiksha Vritti Mukta Bharat' (Begging-Free India)** through comprehensive rehabilitation. Under the approved **implementation plan for FY 2026–31**, the scheme targets **295 cities** and the rehabilitation of **35,000 persons engaged in begging by 2030–31**.
- It is an **umbrella scheme** of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- The scheme **includes the Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging**.
- The Beggary component is currently operational in **216 cities** across the country. The target is to expand coverage to **295 cities** during **FY 2026–31**.
- The rehabilitation target under the approved **Standing Finance Committee (SFC)** plan is **35,000 persons by FY 2030–31**.
- **More than 10,200 persons** engaged in the act of begging have been rehabilitated so far.
- The scheme focuses on **metropolitan cities, religious places, tourist destinations and historical places**.
- It adopts a **convergence-based approach** involving the **Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, District Administrations, Urban Local Bodies, Municipal Corporations and implementing agencies**.
- The rehabilitation process includes **identification, rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration** of persons engaged in begging into mainstream society.

- The **SMILE-Beggary National Portal** enables **registration, monitoring and tracking** of rehabilitation centres and shelter homes for better implementation and transparency.
- The scheme is supported through **revised operational guidelines, capacity-building initiatives, and community participation** to ensure sustainable socio-economic rehabilitation.

4. NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: E-Governance; Land Reforms • GS3: Urban Development; Geospatial Technology

- The Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development, clarified that **NAKSHA is a GIS-based urban land parcel mapping initiative under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**. It is a mapping exercise to modernise urban land records and **does not alter existing ownership rights, land titles or property boundaries**.
- It aims to create **accurate GIS-based urban land records** for better land governance and urban planning.
- The project seeks to improve **property ownership transparency**, reduce **land disputes**, and strengthen **municipal administration**.
- It is **only a land mapping exercise and does not confer, modify or extinguish ownership rights**.
- Existing **land titles, property boundaries and official land records remain legally valid** during the survey process.
- **Absence of a landowner during the survey does not affect ownership rights**; claims are verified through multiple stages, including public scrutiny.
- The project is **distinct from land acquisition and does not authorise the Government to acquire private land**.
- It is also **not intended to increase property taxes**; its primary purpose is to develop an accurate geospatial database.

5. Revised Index of Core Industries (ICI)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Indian Economy; Industrial Growth; Infrastructure

- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry released the **first Index of Core Industries (ICI) under the new series with Base Year 2022–23**. The revised series replaces the **2011–12 base year**, expands the basket from **eight to nine core industries** by including **Iron Ore**, and will henceforth serve as the official ICI series.
- The revised ICI is aligned with the **new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) series (Base: 2022–23)**.
- The **Steel Index** is now compiled using **Gross Production** instead of **Net Production** to improve consistency.
- The **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry** compiles and releases the ICI.
- The **nine core industries** are: Coal + Crude Oil + Natural Gas + Refinery Products + Fertilisers + Steel + Cement + Electricity + **Iron Ore**.
- The **overall ICI grew by 5.0% (Provisional) in June 2026** over June 2025, compared with **3.2% growth in May 2026**.
- **Weights of all core industries have been revised** in line with the latest industrial structure and **2022–23 Gross Value Added (GVA)** estimates.

PIB-22nd July, 2026

1 . Five New Allographa Species Discovered in the Western Ghats

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Biotechnology & Taxonomy • Environment & Biodiversity

- Scientists have discovered **five new species** of lichen-forming fungi belonging to the genus *Allographa* from the **Western Ghats**, significantly enriching India's known lichen diversity.
- The discovery highlights the ecological importance of lichens as **bioindicators of forest health and environmental quality**.
- *Allographa* is a genus of **script lichens** belonging to the family **Graphidaceae** and comprises **more than 200 species** worldwide.
- Lichens are **symbiotic associations** between a **fungus (mycobiont)** and a **photosynthetic partner (green alga or cyanobacterium)**.
- The newly discovered species were identified using an **integrative taxonomic approach**, combining **morphology, chemistry and DNA-based molecular phylogeny**.
- The **Western Ghats**, one of the world's **36 Biodiversity Hotspots**, harbour exceptionally rich lichen diversity due to their **humid tropical forests**.
- Lichens are highly sensitive to **air pollution, habitat degradation and climate change**, making them reliable **bioindicators** of ecosystem health.

- Besides environmental monitoring, lichens contribute to **nutrient cycling, soil formation** and provide **microhabitats** for several organisms.

2. GREAT Scheme (Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology; Research & Innovation • Industries • Start-up Ecosystem

- The Ministry of Textiles informed Parliament that, under the **GREAT Scheme** of the **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**, **31 start-ups** have been approved with a total project cost of **₹15.40 crore** (Government share: **₹13.65 crore**) to promote innovation and commercialization in the **technical textiles** sector.
- The scheme is **implemented by the Ministry of Textiles under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**, launched to promote innovation and start-ups in technical textiles.
- It supports **young innovators, scientists, technologists and start-ups** in converting research ideas into **commercial technologies and products**.
- **Maximum financial assistance** under the scheme is **₹50 lakh per approved start-up**.
- Approved start-ups work in diverse domains such as **smart textiles, medical textiles, protective textiles, energy-harvesting fabrics, high-performance composites and sustainable bio-based textiles**.
- Eligible applicants include **individual innovators** as well as **DPIIT-recognised Start-ups**, subject to the prescribed eligibility conditions under the GREAT Guidelines.
- Start-ups are required to possess **R&D capability** or be **incubated/associated with a recognised incubator** for project execution
- The **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** aimed at making India a global leader in **technical textiles** through **research, innovation, market development, export promotion and skill development**.
- **Technical Textiles** are textile materials manufactured primarily for **functional and performance characteristics** rather than aesthetics. They are used in sectors such as **agriculture, healthcare, defence, construction, transport, geotextiles and sports**.

3. PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan Yojana)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections • Inclusive Development • Skill Development

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs informed Parliament that **PM VIKAS** has been under implementation since **January 2025**. The scheme aims at the **socio-economic empowerment of notified minority communities** through an integrated approach to **skill development, entrepreneurship, leadership and preservation of cultural heritage**.
- **PM VIKAS** stands for **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan Yojana** and is a **Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
- The scheme **converges five erstwhile schemes**: **Seekho Aur Kamao + Nai Manzil + Nai Roshni + USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) + Hamari Dharohar**.
- It targets the **six centrally notified minority communities** under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**: **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis (Zoroastrians) and Jains**.
- The scheme focuses on **four major components**:
 - ☐ Skill development (traditional & non-traditional)
 - ☐ Entrepreneurship and self-employment
 - ☐ Women leadership
 - ☐ Education support for school dropouts.
- It also supports the **preservation and promotion of traditional arts, crafts and cultural heritage** of minority communities.
- Training is aligned with the **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)** to improve employability and industry relevance.
- The scheme seeks to promote **market linkages, credit access and entrepreneurship** to facilitate sustainable livelihoods rather than only providing skill training.

4. Mission Golden Spice (Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Agriculture • Food Processing & Related Industries • Value Addition & Marketing • North Eastern Region

- The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** launched **Mission Golden Spice – Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project** in Meghalaya to develop a complete value chain for **GI-tagged Lakadong Turmeric**.
- **Mission Golden Spice** is a **convergence-led initiative** for the **end-to-end development of the Lakadong Turmeric value chain**, covering cultivation, processing, branding, certification and market access.
- The mission is **implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** in partnership with the **Government of Meghalaya** through a **two-phase roadmap (2025–2030)**.

- Lakadong Turmeric is a **GI-tagged variety** cultivated primarily in the **Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya** and is renowned for its **high curcumin content (7–12%)**, significantly higher than ordinary turmeric varieties.
- The project seeks to establish an integrated ecosystem comprising **quality planting material, scientific cultivation, post-harvest management, processing, packaging and export-oriented branding**.
- The mission aims to position Meghalaya as a **global source of premium high-curcumin organic turmeric**, enhancing farmers' income through value addition rather than raw produce sales.
- **Curcumin** is the principal **bioactive polyphenolic compound** in turmeric responsible for its characteristic yellow colour and widely studied antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.
- **India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric globally**, accounting for **over 70% of world production**.
- The **National Turmeric Board**, headquartered at **Nizamabad (Telangana)**, has been established to promote **research, value addition, quality standards and exports** of turmeric.

5. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (TNNAA)

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Awards & Honours • Government Policies • Youth Affairs & Sports

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has invited nominations for the **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award**.
- **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (TNNAA)** is the **highest national honour for adventure sports in India**.
- It was **instituted in 1993–94**, and the **first awards were conferred in 1994**.
- In **2003**, the **National Adventure Awards** were renamed as the **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** to commemorate the **Golden Jubilee of the first successful ascent of Mount Everest (1953)**.
- The award is administered by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and is regarded as **equivalent in status to the Arjuna Award**.
- It is conferred in **four categories: Land Adventure + Water (Sea) Adventure + Air Adventure + Lifetime Achievement**.
- Recipients are selected for **outstanding achievement, leadership, discipline and sustained excellence** in adventure activities over the **preceding three years**; the **Lifetime Achievement** category recognises long-term contribution to the promotion of adventure sports.
- The award comprises a **bronze statuette of Tenzing Norgay, a certificate, a blazer with silken tie/saree, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh**.
- Nominations are accepted from **State/UT Governments**, recognised adventure institutions, the **Indian Armed Forces, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** and other eligible organisations.
- **Tenzing Norgay**, along with **Sir Edmund Hillary**, became one of the **first two climbers to successfully summit Mount Everest on 29 May 1953**.
- Before the institution of TNNAA, outstanding achievements in **adventure sports** were recognised under the **Arjuna Award**.

PIB-23rd July, 2026

1. Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology – ICT • Research & Development

- The **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)** has expanded to **90 members (as on 15 July 2026)**. The Alliance has also constituted **seven working groups**, and its **Spectrum Working Group** has submitted the report titled **"Spectrum Roadmap for 6G in India."**
- **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)** is an **industry- and academia-led society** supported by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
- It identifies **technology gaps** and develops proposals for **6G testbeds and advanced research** aligned with **India's 6G Vision**.
- Under the **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)** of **Digital Bharat Nidhi**, a **three-year project** has been approved to establish a **6G Terahertz Testbed** at **SAMEER** (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research), **Kolkata**, along with **IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati and IIT Patna**.
- Current **4G and 5G networks use lower frequency waves**. They are reliable but get crowded easily.
- The **Highway: Terahertz (THz) waves** are a brand new, ultra high frequency section of the radio spectrum.
- From the **DoT Bharat 6G Vision**:
 - ❑ **Phase I (2023–2025)**: Support **exploratory ideas, risky pathways and proof-of-concept (PoC) tests**.
 - ❑ **Phase II (2025–2030)**: Scale successful ideas through **implementation, testbeds, IPR creation, standards contribution and commercialization** to establish India's leadership in 6G.

- B6GA signed a formal MoI in Oct 2025 with the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to develop space-enabled, non-terrestrial 6G network capabilities.

2. Bharat Forecast System (BFS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology • Disaster Management

- **Bharat Forecast System (BFS)** is an **indigenously developed high resolution Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) system under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).**
- It has been developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and is operational through the **India Meteorological Department (IMD).**
- BFS operates at **6 km horizontal spatial resolution**, improving upon the earlier **12 km Global Forecast System (GFS-T1534)** used by **IMD.**
- It is based on the **Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) dynamical grid**, enabling more accurate representation of atmospheric processes.
- India is the only country running a global weather prediction model at 6km resolution for real time weather prediction.
- Higher-resolution forecasts strengthen **disaster preparedness, aviation, agriculture, water-resource management and urban flood forecasting.**
- The system runs on the **indigenous high-performance supercomputers:**
- **Arka** – IITM, Pune
- **Arunika** – NCMRWF, Noida
- **NCMRWF** functions under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and provides numerical weather prediction guidance to **IMD.**

3. Mission Vatsalya Portal

Syllabus Mapping: GS2: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections • Government Policies & Interventions

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has developed an **integrated unified Mission Vatsalya Portal**, integrating the **TrackChild Portal**, **Khoya-Paya application**, and **GHAR (Go Home and Re-Unite) Portal** to strengthen tracking, rehabilitation and reintegration of missing and vulnerable children.
- **Mission Vatsalya** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** implemented by **States/UTs for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL).**
- It was launched in **2021-22** after restructuring the erstwhile **Child Protection Services (CPS)** scheme.
- The scheme aims to ensure **care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration** of children in difficult circumstances, including **missing and vulnerable children.**
- Operates primarily under the **legal framework of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the POCSO Act, 2012.**
- **Section 39 of JJ Act** provides for rehabilitation and social integration through Individual Care Plan and family based care.
- The **TrackChild module** is implemented with support from **Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, State Governments/UTs, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).**
- The portal is integrated with the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)** of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, enabling **matching of FIRs of missing children** with the Mission Vatsalya database.
- Registration and inspection of Child Care Institutions rests with State Governments and UT while Ministry issues advisories and monitors implementation.

4. Samudra Pradakshina

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Defence & Security • Maritime Security • Indigenisation of Defence Technology

- Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** flagged-in **'Samudra Pradakshina', the first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition.**
- Aboard the **Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni**, nine women officers from the **Army, Navy and Air Force** completed a **314-day voyage covering nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four oceans.**
- To **qualify as a circumnavigation**, the expedition:
 - ❑ Crossed **all meridians of longitude**,
 - ❑ Crossed the **Equator twice**,
 - ❑ Crossed the **International Date Line**, and
 - ❑ Rounded the **Three Great Capes: Cape of Good Hope (South Africa) + Cape Leeuwin (Australia) + Cape Horn (Chile)**
- The crew successfully navigated the **Drake Passage** and rounded **Cape Horn. Located between Cape Horn (South America) and the South Shetland Islands (Antarctica). It connects the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.**

- The expedition highlighted the principles of **Tri-Service integration**, **Nari Shakti**, **maritime endurance**, and **indigenous defence capability**.

5. Nuclear Energy Mission

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Science & Technology • Energy Security • Indigenisation of Technology • Infrastructure

- The **Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM)**, announced in the **Union Budget 2025–26**, aims to achieve **100 GWe nuclear power capacity by 2047** to support **Viksit Bharat** and India's **Net Zero target by 2070**.
- The Mission also targets **operationalisation of at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033**.
- **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** is developing **three indigenous reactor technologies under NEM**:
 - ❑ **BSMR-200** (220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor)
 - ❑ **SMR-55** (55 MWe Small Modular Reactor)
 - ❑ **Up to 5 MWth High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor (HTGCR)** for **hydrogen production**.
- **Present nuclear power capacity is 8.78 GW** and is expected to reach about 22GW by 2031-32.
- Both **BSMR-200** and **SMR-55** have received **in-principle approval** for engineering & construction, with **Tarapur (Maharashtra)** approved by the **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** as their site.
- The **HTGCR is proposed at BARC, Visakhapatnam**, and will be used as a **nuclear heat source** for thermochemical hydrogen production (e.g., **Copper-Chlorine Cycle**).
- Parliament has enacted the **SHANTI Act, 2025**, which:
 - ❑ Enables **private sector participation** in nuclear energy,
 - ❑ Provides a statutory framework for the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**,
 - ❑ Supports indigenous R&D and commercial deployment of nuclear technologies.
- **NPCIL** will primarily establish **indigenous PHWRs** and **Light Water Reactors (LWRs)** under the Mission roadmap.
- Nuclear waste management is governed by:
 - ❑ **Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987**
 - ❑ **AERB Safety Code on Management of Radioactive Waste (AERB/SC/RW)**.

PIB-24th July, 2026

1. Thiru Subramania Siva

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Modern Indian History – Freedom Struggle • Important Personalities

- Vice-President **Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan** paid floral tributes to **Thiru Subramania Siva** at the Vice-President's House on the occasion of his **death anniversary**, describing him as a great patriot who dedicated his life to the service of the nation.
- **Thiru Subramania Siva (1884–1925)** was an eminent **Tamil freedom fighter**, **nationalist**, **writer and orator** from **Vathalakundu (Wattalakundu)**, present-day **Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu**.
- He was among the **earliest political prisoners of the Madras Presidency** during the Indian freedom movement.
- He worked **closely with V. O. Chidambaram Pillai (VOC)** and **Subramania Bharati**, playing a significant role in spreading the **Swadeshi Movement** in South India.
- He actively **participated in the Swadeshi Movement (1905–08)** and delivered fiery speeches against British rule, leading to his repeated imprisonment.
- During imprisonment, he reportedly contracted **leprosy**, attributed to the harsh prison conditions, yet continued to participate in the nationalist movement after his release.
- He **founded the Dharma Paripalana Samajam** to promote patriotism and social awakening.
- He started the Tamil journals: **Gnanabhanu** (monthly) + **Prabanja Mithran** (weekly) to spread nationalist ideas.
- He wrote under the **pen name "Naradhar"** and authored works such as **Ramanuja Vijayam** and **Madhva Vijayam**.
- He is popularly remembered as **"Veeramurasu" (Drum of Valour)** for his inspirational speeches that mobilised people against colonial rule.
- He passed away on **23 July 1925**, and his death anniversary is observed in remembrance of his contribution to India's freedom struggle.

2. DESH Scheme (Development of Excavation Sites and Heritage Complexes)

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Heritage & Culture • Ancient Indian History • Art & Architecture

- **DESH** is a **Centrally Sponsored Sub-Scheme of the Ministry of Culture** announced in the **Union Budget 2026**.
- It aims at the **promotion and sustainable development of 15 selected tangible cultural heritage sites** across the country.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is responsible for the **protection and conservation of Centrally Protected Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains**.

- **Sannati (Karnataka)**
- ❑ Situated **on the banks of the Bhima River**, Sannati is an extraordinary **Buddhist monastic site** that evolved between the **3rd Century BCE and 3rd Century CE**. Its crown jewel is the **Kanaganahalli stupa mound**, which unearthed the **only surviving stone sculpture portrait of Mauryan Emperor Ashoka** bearing the Brahmi inscription "**Raya Asoko**" (King Ashoka).
- **Sibasagar (Assam)**
- ❑ Formerly known as **Rangpur**, it served as the historic capital of the **Ahom Kingdom**, which ruled the Assam region successfully for six centuries. The landscape is defined by the massive **257-acre Borpukhuri (Sivasagar Tank)** and iconic multi-storied **Ahom architectural wonders** like the **Talatal Ghar** (palace) and **Rang Ghar** (an ancient royal sports pavilion).

3. Eran (Madhya Pradesh)

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Heritage & Culture • Ancient Indian History • Art & Architecture

- **Eran** is an ancient archaeological site located in **Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh**, at the **confluence of the Bina and Reuta rivers**, occupying a strategic location between **Malwa and Bundelkhand**.
- Ancient inscriptions **refer to Eran as Erakina (Arikina/Erakanya)**, which served as an important administrative centre during the **Gupta period**.
- Excavations indicate **continuous cultural occupation** from the **Chalcolithic period (c.1800 BCE)** through the **Early Historic, Gupta, and Late Medieval** periods.
- Eran was an **important minting centre**, evidenced by the discovery of coins belonging to several ancient dynasties.
- The site is renowned for the **colossal Varaha (Boar) sculpture**, one of the finest Gupta-period representations of **Varaha**, the **third avatar of Lord Vishnu**. The sculpture depicts **Bhudevi (Earth Goddess)** being rescued by Varaha and is richly carved with sages and divine figures.
- Eran contains the famous **Garuda Pillar**, associated with an early **Vaishnavite temple complex**, reflecting the flourishing of **Vaishnavism** during the Gupta age.
- The **Eran Inscription of Samudragupta** is an important epigraphic source for reconstructing the political history and administrative geography of the **Gupta Empire**.
- The **Budhagupta Inscription (484–485 CE)** records the establishment of a **Garuda-dhvaja (Garuda standard)**, illustrating Gupta patronage of Vaishnavism.
- The **Bhanugupta Inscription (510 CE)** records the death of **Goparaja** in battle and contains one of the **earliest epigraphic references associated with the practice of sati**, making it significant for social history.

4. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Governance • Transparency & Accountability • Public Institutions

- The Prime Minister announced the setting up of **fast-track courts** for paper leak cases to ensure **swift prosecution and stringent punishment** under the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**
- Enacted to **prevent unfair means in public examinations** and curb **organised paper leaks and examination malpractices**.
- **The Act applies to examinations conducted by authorities specified in the Schedule or notified by the Central Government, including:**
 - ❑ Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
 - ❑ Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
 - ❑ Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)
 - ❑ National Testing Agency (NTA)
 - ❑ Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
 - ❑ Recruitment examinations conducted by Central Government departments and attached offices
- **Punishments:**
 - ❑ **General offences:** Imprisonment **3–5 years** and **fine up to ₹10 lakh**.
 - ❑ **Organised crime:** Imprisonment **5–10 years** and **minimum fine of ₹1 crore**.
 - ❑ Offences are **cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable**.
 - ❑ Service providers involved may face:
 - ❑ Fine up to **₹1 crore**.
 - ❑ Recovery of examination costs.
 - ❑ Debarment from conducting public examinations for **4 years**.
- The Act primarily **targets organised gangs, institutions and service providers** involved in examination fraud.

5. Operation Southern Readiness 26-2

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Internal Security • Maritime Security • Defence Cooperation

- **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2**, a four-day multinational maritime security training engagement, concluded at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi** on 23 July 2026.
- **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 is a multinational maritime security training engagement, not a naval combat exercise.**
- It was hosted at the **Southern Naval Command (SNC), Kochi**, from 20–23 July 2026.
- The exercise was conducted by the **Indian Navy in partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).**
- It was organised under the **Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force (CTF) 154**, the **Training Task Force** of the CMF.
- It marked the **maiden conduct of Operation Southern Readiness in India**, highlighting India's expanding role in multinational maritime training.

PIB-27th July, 2026

1 . Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath – UNESCO World Heritage Site

GS I: Indian Heritage & Culture • Buddhism • UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- At the **48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee** held at **Busan, Republic of Korea**, the **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)** was inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**, becoming **India's 45th World Heritage Property.**
- It is the site where **Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartana)** – Turning of the Wheel of Dharma) after attaining enlightenment and established the **first Buddhist Sangha.**
- **The inscribed serial property comprises:**
- **Chaukhandi Stupa**
- **Archaeological Remains of Sarnath**, including:
 - **Dhamekh Stupa**
 - **Dharmarajika Stupa**
 - **Mulagandhakuti Vihara**
 - **Ashokan Pillar**
- The site preserves a **continuous cultural sequence** from the **Pre-Mauryan period (5th–4th century BCE)** to the **12th century CE.**
- The **Ashokan Lion Capital**, discovered at Sarnath, was adopted as the **National Emblem of India**, while the **Dharma Chakra** from Sarnath is represented on the **National Flag.**
- **Sarnath Site Museum (1904)**, established by the **ASI**, is regarded as **India's oldest site museum** and houses the original **Lion Capital.**
- Sarnath was inscribed under:
- **Criterion (iii):** Exceptional testimony to the living Buddhist tradition and pilgrimage.
- **Criterion (vi):** Direct association with the Buddha's **First Sermon** and the establishment of the **Buddhist Sangha.**
- **Four Principal Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites**

Site	Significance
Lumbini (Nepal)	Birth of Buddha
Bodh Gaya (Bihar)	Enlightenment
Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)	First Sermon (<i>Dharmachakra Pravartana</i>)
Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh)	Mahaparinirvana

2. Weather Information Network and Data System (WINDS)

GS III: Agriculture • Disaster Management • Science & Technology

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare under the Digital Agriculture Mission to improve access to hyper-local weather information for agriculture.**
- The system aims to establish a dense network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) across the country for real-time weather observations.
- **WINDS supports:**
 - ❑ Weather-based crop advisories.
 - ❑ Crop planning and farm-level decision-making.
 - ❑ Risk assessment for agriculture.
 - ❑ Improved implementation of weather-index and crop insurance programmes.
- The **generated weather data will support schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** by improving the quality and availability of weather information.

- The initiative is implemented in coordination with States and Union Territories for installation, operation and maintenance of weather infrastructure.
- **YES-TECH (Yield Estimation System based on Technology)**
 - ❑ Implemented from Kharif 2023 for technology-based crop yield estimation.
 - ❑ Objective: Improve accuracy and transparency in crop loss assessment.
 - ❑ Initially launched for Paddy & Wheat but extended to Soybean from Kharif 2024.

Digital Initiatives under PMFBY

- ❑ **National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP):** Single digital platform for enrolment, subsidy management, claim processing and direct benefit transfer.
- ❑ **Digicloud Module:** Integrates NCIP, PFMS, and insurance companies' accounting systems for transparent and faster claim settlement.
- ❑ **CCE-Agri App:** Digital capture and upload of Crop Cutting Experiment (CCE) data on NCIP.
- ❑ **CLAP (Crop Loss Assessment App):** Mobile application for assessment of localized calamities and post-harvest losses.
- ❑ Mandatory for all States/UTs under PMFBY.

3. BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan)

GS III: Industrial Policy • Chemical Industry • Infrastructure • Manufacturing

- The Union Cabinet (24 July 2026) approved the BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan) for establishing three dedicated Chemical Parks across the country.
- BHAVYA Rasayan is a Central Sector Scheme of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- **Objective:** Establish three dedicated Chemical Parks with plug-and-play infrastructure to promote globally competitive and environmentally sustainable chemical manufacturing.
- **Implementation Period:** FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 (5 years).
- Parks will be selected through the Challenge Route.
- Each Chemical Park must have a minimum contiguous area of 8 sq. km. (2,000 acres) of encumbrance-free land.
- Develops the entire chemical value chain including: Upstream industries + Downstream industries + Ancillary industries

4. RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Scheme

GS III: MSMEs • Industrial Development • Inclusive Growth

- RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) is a World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of MSME.
- **Implementation Period:** FY 2022–23 to FY 2026–27 (5 years).
- **Total Financial Outlay:** ₹6,062.45 crore
 - ❑ ₹3,750 crore (USD 500 million) – World Bank loan.
 - ❑ ₹2,312.45 crore – Government of India contribution.
- **Objectives:**
 - ❑ Strengthen institutions and governance for MSMEs.
 - ❑ Improve Centre–State collaboration.
 - ❑ Enhance market access, credit access and technology upgradation.
 - ❑ Address delayed payments.
 - ❑ Promote greening and women-owned MSMEs
- **Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs):**
 - ❑ Prepared by States/UTs as roadmaps for MSME development.
 - ❑ RAMP provides grants for implementation of approved SIP projects.
 - ❑ The programme follows a Programme-for-Results (PforR) approach with Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) agreed with the World Bank.

5. Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Fund under ANRF

GS III: Science & Technology • Research & Innovation • Institutional Framework

- The RDI Fund was approved by the Union Cabinet on 1 July 2025 and launched by the Prime Minister on 3 November 2025.
- It has a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore to promote research, development and innovation in strategic and sunrise sectors.
- The Department of Science & Technology (DST) is the nodal ministry for implementation.
- The Scheme is operationalised through a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) using a two-tier funding mechanism.

- **Technology Development Board (TDB) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** have been identified as Second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs) under the RDI Fund.
- The **Fund supports eligible technology entities** working at **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 and above.**
- **Financial support is limited to 50% of the assessed project cost;** the remaining funding is to be mobilised by the project proponent through own or commercial sources.
- **Priority sectors include:**
 - Energy security & climate action
 - Quantum computing, robotics & space
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Biotechnology & biomanufacturing
 - Pharmaceuticals & medical devices
 - Digital economy & digital agriculture.

PIB-28th July, 2026

1. Sant Gajanan Maharaj

Syllabus Mapping : GS I: Art & Culture – Saints & Religious Traditions

- The **Union Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Ayush** urged the Government to issue a **₹150 commemorative coin** and a **commemorative postage stamp** to mark the **150th Prakat Din of Sant Gajanan Maharaj** (17 February 2028).
- **Sant Gajanan Maharaj** first appeared at **Shegaon, Buldhana district, Maharashtra**, in **February 1878**.
- **150th Prakat Din** will be observed on **17 February 2028**.
- His teachings emphasize: **Bhakti (Devotion) + Seva (Selfless Service) + Compassion + Human Welfare**
- **Shri Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon** is known for its contributions in **education, healthcare, rural development and social welfare**.
- **Shri Gajanan Vijay** is the principal biographical text on Sant Gajanan Maharaj. Written by **Das Ganu Maharaj**.
- **Commemorative coins** are issued by the **Government of India** to commemorate important personalities/events. And **minted by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL).**

2. Blue Straggler Stars (BSS)

Syllabus Mapping :GS III: Science & Technology – Space & Astronomy

- Astronomers from the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, along with international collaborators, discovered a **Blue Straggler Star (BSS)** that is **actively forming** in the binary system **TIC 327546480** located in the **open star cluster Collinder 261**.
- The study provides **direct observational evidence** for the formation of Blue Straggler Stars through **mass transfer in binary systems**.
- **Blue Straggler Stars (BSS)** are stars in a **star cluster** that appear **hotter, brighter and more massive** than other stars of the same cluster.
- The study observed a **binary star system (TIC 327546480)** in the **open cluster Collinder 261**, about **9,500 light-years** from Earth.
- The observations combined:
 - ❑ **NASA's TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite)** data, and
 - ❑ **Very Large Telescope (VLT)** observations of the **European Southern Observatory (ESO), Chile**.
- Researchers found the binary system to be **semi-detached**, with one star **overflowing its Roche lobe** and transferring matter to the Blue Straggler Star.
- The ongoing **mass transfer** confirms that the Blue Straggler is **still being formed (stellar rejuvenation)**.
- The system also showed **strong X-ray emission**, providing independent evidence of **active mass accretion**.
- **Roche Lobe** is the **region around a star** within a binary system where its gravitational influence dominates.
- When a star expands beyond its **Roche lobe**, matter flows to its companion (**Roche-lobe overflow**).

3. Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Water Resources • River Interlinking • Irrigation

- The **Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project** has been included under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)** for balance works with central assistance for Bihar.

- The project aims to **divert surplus monsoon waters of the Kosi basin to the Mechi basin through remodelling of the Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC)** and extension of the canal system, thereby enhancing irrigation potential in Bihar.
- The project forms part of the **National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Interlinking of Rivers**, implemented by the **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)**.
- The NPP comprises **30 river-link proposals (14 Himalayan and 16 Peninsular)**, with the **Kosi-Mechi Link included under the Himalayan Component**.
- The **Kosi River** originates in **Tibet**, flows through **Nepal**, and joins the **Ganga** in Bihar. Owing to frequent floods and channel shifting, it is popularly known as the "**Sorrow of Bihar**."
- The **Mechi River** originates in **Nepal**, forms part of the **India-Nepal boundary**, and is a **tributary of the Mahananda River**.

4. Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Commercial Crops • Agricultural Marketing

- The **Department of Commerce** reviewed the prevailing market situation of **Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco** is a **light-coloured, flue-cured tobacco** primarily used in the manufacture of **cigarettes**. The leaves are cured in enclosed barns using **indirect heat (flues)** without exposing them to smoke, producing the characteristic golden-yellow colour, mild flavour and low moisture content.
- It is grown extensively as a rainfed crop during the **Kharif season** in states of **Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka**.
- The **Tobacco Board**, a **statutory body** constituted under the **Tobacco Board Act, 1975**, functions under the **Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It regulates **FCV tobacco cultivation through crop regulation**, organizes **electronic auction platforms**, promotes exports, undertakes quality improvement, and provides extension support to registered growers.
- India is a Party to the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)**, the world's first public health treaty on tobacco control, while domestically the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003** regulates the advertisement, production, supply and sale of tobacco products.

5. Museum Grant Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Heritage & Culture • Museums & Conservation

- The **Ministry of Culture** informed Parliament that the **Museum Grant Scheme** provides financial assistance for **setting up new museums, modernization of existing museums, digitization of museum collections, establishment of virtual museums, and capacity building of museum professionals**.
- The scheme supports museums managed by **Central/State Governments, Autonomous Bodies, PSUs, Local Bodies, Academic Institutions, Societies and Trusts**.
- The scheme comprises **three components**:
 - ❑ (i) Development & Establishment of Museums,
 - ❑ (ii) Digitization of Museum Collections, and
 - ❑ (iii) Capacity Building & Training of Museum Professionals.
- Under the revised guidelines (2021), **Virtual Experiential Museums (VEMs)** and **Projects of National Importance** have also been included.
- Museums are classified into **three categories for financial assistance**. Under the **Development & Establishment** component, assistance is available up to **₹15 crore (Category I)**, **₹10/8 crore (Category II – New/Existing Museum)** and **₹5/4 crore (Category III – New/Existing Museum)**. For **digitization and training**, assistance is available up to **₹50 lakh** for Category I museums and **₹25 lakh** for other museums.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is India's premier organisation for **archaeological research, conservation of protected monuments and site museums**, while the **National Museum, New Delhi**, is one of India's premier museum institutions.

PIB-29th July, 2026

1. PM-AJAY (Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections • Social Justice • Inclusive Development

- The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** informed Parliament that the Government has proposed the **continuation of PM-AJAY for 2026–31 with an enhanced financial outlay**.

- An independent evaluation by the **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)**, NITI Aayog found the scheme to have improved **infrastructure, education, livelihoods and overall quality of life** in Scheduled Caste-dominated villages.
- **PM-AJAY (Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in **2021-22** for the **socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes (SCs)**.
- The scheme is implemented by the **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment**, under the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- PM-AJAY subsumed **three erstwhile schemes**:
 - ❑ **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)**
 - ❑ **Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)**
 - ❑ **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)**
- It has **three components**:
 - ❑ **Adarsh Gram** – Development of SC-majority villages through gap-filling infrastructure and basic civic amenities.
 - ❑ **Grants-in-Aid (GIA)** – Support for livelihood generation, skill development and income-generating projects.
 - ❑ **Hostels** – Construction of hostels to improve educational access for **Scheduled Caste students**.
- The scheme contributes to the constitutional mandate under **Article 46**, which directs the State to promote the **educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections**.
- The **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)** is an evaluation arm of **NITI Aayog**, responsible for conducting independent assessments of major Government programmes and schemes.

2. Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme (CCPS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Infrastructure • Ports • Logistics • Blue Economy

- The **Union Budget 2026–27** announced the **Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme (CCPS)** to increase the combined share of **coastal shipping and inland waterways** in India's freight movement from **6% to 12% by 2047**.
- **Coastal shipping** refers to the **movement of goods and passengers between Indian ports** without calling at a foreign port and is a **cost-effective, fuel-efficient and low-carbon** mode of transport.
- The Government provides a **40% concession on vessel- and cargo-related port charges** for coastal cargo vessels to promote modal shift from road to waterways.
- A **Priority Berthing Policy** has been notified to reduce **turnaround time** and improve utilization of coastal vessels.
- **GST on bunker fuel** used by **Indian-flag coastal vessels** has been reduced from **18% to 5%** to lower operating costs.
- A **Green Channel Clearance** system has been introduced for **faster evacuation of coastal cargo** at ports.
- The **Coastal Shipping Act, 2025** provides the statutory framework for regulating and promoting coastal shipping in India.
- Operational **Ro-Pax** services include:
 - ❑ **Ghogha–Hazira (Gujarat)**: Reduces travel time from **12 hours by road to about 4 hours by sea**.
 - ❑ **Mumbai–Mandwa (Maharashtra)**: Reduces travel time to **Alibaug from about 4 hours to nearly 1 hour**.
- More than **65 lakh passengers** and **15 lakh vehicles/cargo trucks** have benefited from Ro-Pax and passenger ferry services.
- **Dedicated coastal berths** have been developed at **10 major ports**, including **JNPA, Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar, New Mangalore, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and V.O. Chidambaranar Ports**.
- Promotion of coastal shipping complements flagship initiatives such as **Sagarmala Programme, PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**, and the **Maritime India Vision 2030**, aimed at reducing logistics costs and strengthening the **Blue Economy**.

3. Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Poverty Alleviation • Rural Development • Self-Help Groups | GS III: Inclusive Growth • Entrepreneurship

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** highlighted the progress of the **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**, under which **4.32 lakh rural enterprises** have been supported (as of **30 June 2026**).
- Around **86% of entrepreneurs** belong to **SC, ST, OBC and Minority communities**, making SVEP a key instrument for **inclusive rural entrepreneurship and non-farm livelihood promotion**.
- **SVEP, launched in 2016, is a sub-scheme of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- The programme **promotes non-farm micro-enterprises** by providing **business training, mentoring, financial assistance, market linkages and institutional support** to **Self-Help Group (SHG) members and rural households**.
- It follows a **community-led enterprise development model**, where **SHGs, Village Organizations (VOs) and Community Resource Persons–Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EPs)** identify, mentor and support entrepreneurs.
- **DAY-NRLM** is **one of the world's largest rural livelihood programmes**, having mobilised over **10.29 crore rural households** into **women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.

- The programme is implemented through **State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs)**, while **Block Resource Centres–Enterprise Promotion (BRC-EPs)** coordinate implementation at the block level.
- **CRP-EPs** are trained and certified community professionals who provide **business planning, credit facilitation, mentoring and market linkage support** to rural enterprises. At least **90% are selected from SHG households**, with **women constituting a minimum of 60%**.
- Financial support is provided through the **Community Enterprise Fund (CEF)**, besides convergence with schemes such as the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** and institutional bank credit.
- The programme mandates that **at least 60% of beneficiaries are women**, while ensuring adequate representation of **SC/ST communities, minorities and persons with disabilities (PwDs)**.
- The programme is **monitored through a centralized Management Information System (MIS)** for tracking enterprise performance, fund utilisation and programme outcomes.

4. First Direct Commercial Container Freight Train to Nepal

Syllabus Mapping: *GS II: India & Neighbourhood Relations • Connectivity | GS III: Infrastructure • Logistics • International Trade*

- Indian Railways successfully operated the **first direct commercial container freight train from Kolkata Port to Biratnagar Customs Yard (Nepal)** under the **revised India–Nepal Rail Transit Protocol**.
- The **40-wagon train** carrying **canola** enables seamless **end-to-end rail movement** of containerised cargo without transshipment at the India–Nepal border, reducing transit time, logistics costs and cargo handling.
- The service became operational following the **revised Letter of Exchange (LoE)** signed in **November 2025**, under the **India–Nepal Rail Transit Protocol**.
- It facilitates **direct rail movement of import and export cargo**, improving the efficiency, reliability and competitiveness of bilateral trade.
- **Biratnagar Customs Yard** is Nepal's **second rail-linked customs terminal** for third-country trade after **Birgunj Inland Clearance Depot (ICD)**.
- **Containerisation** refers to transporting cargo in **standardised containers**, enabling seamless movement across **ships, railways and trucks** without unloading the cargo.
- Nepal is a **landlocked country** and enjoys transit facilities through India under the **India–Nepal Treaty of Transit**, which provides access to **Kolkata, Haldia and Visakhapatnam Ports** for third-country trade.
- The **India–Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA), 2004**, provides the operational framework for cross-border rail freight movement, and has been revised periodically to expand rail connectivity and cargo handling facilities.
- **India is Nepal's largest trading partner** and the largest source of **foreign investment**, with rail connectivity emerging as a key pillar of bilateral economic cooperation.

5. PM E-DRIVE Scheme (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement)

Syllabus Mapping: *GS III: Infrastructure • Electric Mobility • Energy • Manufacturing*

- The **PM E-DRIVE Scheme** is being implemented with a **financial outlay of ₹10,900 crore** to accelerate **electric vehicle (EV) adoption**, expand **charging infrastructure**, and strengthen the **domestic EV manufacturing ecosystem**.
- **PM E-DRIVE** was notified in **September 2024** and **subsumed the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024**.
- It is **implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries** with a total outlay of **₹10,900 crore till March 2028**.
- The scheme provides **demand incentives for electric two-wheelers (e-2W), electric three-wheelers (e-3W), e-trucks, e-ambulances and e-buses**, while promoting domestic manufacturing through phased localisation.
- The scheme focuses on **three pillars**:
 - ❑ **EV demand incentives**
 - ❑ **Public EV charging infrastructure**
 - ❑ **Strengthening indigenous EV manufacturing ecosystem**
- It complements the **FAME India Scheme**, shifting the focus from initial market creation to **large-scale EV adoption and domestic value addition**.
- EV manufacturers are **required to comply with the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)**, encouraging localisation of key EV components under the **Make in India** initiative.
- To strengthen the EV value chain, the Government is **also implementing the PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage**, aimed at **establishing 50 GWh** of domestic battery manufacturing capacity.
- The **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022** provide the regulatory framework for **collection, recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** of waste batteries, supporting a circular economy for EV batteries.
- The scheme supports development of a nationwide **Public EV Charging Station (EVPCS)** network to address **range anxiety** and facilitate faster EV adoption.

PIB-30th July, 2026

1. DAANVEER Initiative

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Panchayati Raj • E-Governance • Citizen Participation • Digital Governance

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** launched **DAANVEER**, a citizen participation initiative to strengthen the **digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats** by enabling voluntary contribution of computers through the **Meri Panchayat App**.
- **DAANVEER** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, developed in collaboration with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and **DigiHaat**.
- It provides a **transparent, end-to-end digital platform** for citizens, institutions and the Indian diaspora to donate **quality-verified computer bundles** to eligible Gram Panchayats under the tagline "**Give Back to Your Village.**"
- The initiative integrates the **Meri Panchayat App** with the **DigiHaat marketplace**, enabling donors to select **pre-approved computer bundles**, track delivery and installation, and receive a **digital certificate of appreciation**.
- **DAANVEER** seeks to bridge the **digital infrastructure gap** in nearly **2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats**, improving **service delivery, transparency and local governance**.
- It complements the Ministry's digital governance ecosystem comprising:
 - ❑ **e-GramSwaraj** – Planning, budgeting, accounting and monitoring of Panchayats.
 - ❑ **Meri Panchayat App** – Citizen interface for Panchayat services and information.
 - ❑ **AuditOnline** – Online auditing of Panchayat accounts.
 - ❑ **Gram Manchitra** – GIS-based planning platform for Gram Panchayats.
 - ❑ **Sabha Saar** – AI-enabled platform for recording and generating Gram Sabha proceedings.
 - ❑ **DigiHaat** – Government-supported digital marketplace connecting producers and buyers

2. Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Telecommunications • Manufacturing • Electronics • Industrial Policy

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **Government of Madhya Pradesh** will sign an **MoU** for establishing **India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** at **Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)**. The initiative aims to create a dedicated ecosystem for **telecom equipment manufacturing**, promote **indigenous technology**, and strengthen India's position in the global telecom value chain.
- **Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)** is a dedicated industrial ecosystem for manufacturing **telecom equipment, network hardware and allied technologies**, with a focus on **design, innovation and value addition**.
- The initiative aims to promote **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, attract investments, strengthen domestic supply chains, encourage **MSMEs and start-ups**, and generate employment.
- **TMZ** complements the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Telecom & Networking Products**, launched in **2021**, to boost domestic manufacturing and exports of telecom equipment.
- It also supports the objectives of the **National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018**, which seeks to establish India as a **global hub for digital communications manufacturing**.
- The initiative aligns with India's **Bharat 6G Vision**, promoting indigenous R&D and next-generation telecom technologies.
- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** functions under the **Ministry of Communications** and is **responsible for telecom policy, licensing, spectrum management, and promotion of the telecommunications sector**.
- **Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC)** serves as DoT's technical arm for **standardisation, testing and certification** of telecom equipment.

3. Electronics Development Fund (EDF)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Electronics Manufacturing • Start-up Ecosystem • Innovation

- The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** informed Parliament that the **Electronics Development Fund (EDF)** has invested in **eight Daughter Funds**, which have supported **128 startups and companies** engaged in **Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM)** and **Information Technology (IT)**, strengthening India's innovation ecosystem.
- **Electronics Development Fund (EDF)** is a **Fund of Funds (FoF)** established by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** to promote **market-driven innovation in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and Information Technology (IT)**.
- **EDF** invests in **SEBI-registered Venture Capital Funds (Daughter Funds)**, which in turn provide **risk capital** to technology startups and companies.
- **Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd. (CVCFL)** is the **Fund Manager**, while **MeitY** is the **Anchor Investor**.

- Investment decisions are based on **innovation capability, indigenous technology development, IP creation, technical competence and commercial scalability**.
- The fund aims to promote **product innovation, indigenous IP creation, technology commercialisation**, and strengthen India's **electronics manufacturing ecosystem**.
- **Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM)** refers to the complete value chain of **design, development, manufacturing, testing and servicing of electronic products and components**.
- EDF **complements flagship initiatives such as the Semicon India Programme, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing, PLI Scheme for IT Hardware, and Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**.
- The initiative supports the objectives of **Digital India, Make in India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat** by promoting domestic innovation and reducing import dependence in the electronics sector.

4. Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Astronomy • Research Institutions

- The **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** celebrated **25 years** of the successful operation of the **2-metre Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) at Hanle, Ladakh**, India's premier high-altitude optical observatory. The Union Budget 2026–27 has also announced an **upgraded 3.7-m HCT** and a **13.7-m National Large Optical-Infrared Telescope (NLOT)** at Hanle.
- **Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)** is a **2-m optical and near-infrared telescope** located at the **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), Hanle (Ladakh)** at an altitude of about **4,500 m**.
- The telescope achieved **First Light in September 2000** and was dedicated to the nation in **2001**. It is named after **Nobel Laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar**.
- HCT has been operated **remotely from IIA, Bengaluru** since **2001** using an **INSAT satellite communication link**.
- **Hanle** is among the world's best astronomical sites due to **over 250 clear nights annually, low atmospheric water vapour, high altitude, and minimal light pollution**, making it ideal for **optical and near-infrared astronomy**.
- Major scientific contributions include studies on **exoplanets (including TRAPPIST-1 system), supernovae, gamma-ray bursts, comets, variable stars, nebulae, galaxies, and active galactic nuclei (AGN)**.
- The observatory **also hosts the MACE (Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment) telescope, HAGAR (High Altitude Gamma Ray) telescope, and the GROWTH-India Telescope**, making Hanle India's leading **multi-wavelength astronomy hub**.
- The **Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, India's first Dark Sky Reserve**, was established to preserve the region's exceptionally dark skies for astronomical observations.
- The proposed **3.7-m Upgraded HCT and 13.7-m National Large Optical-Infrared Telescope (NLOT)** aim to significantly enhance India's capabilities in optical astronomy and complement facilities like **GMRT and AstroSat**.

5. Global Tiger Day & Tiger Conservation in India

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment • Biodiversity Conservation • Species Conservation

- On **Global Tiger Day (29 July)**, the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to **science-based conservation, community participation, sustainable development, and mitigating human-wildlife conflict**. India is home to **nearly 70% of the world's wild tiger population**, making it the global leader in tiger conservation.
- **Global Tiger Day (International Tiger Day)** is observed annually on **29 July** and was established in **2010** at the **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit (Russia)** to promote global tiger conservation.
- **India has the largest wild tiger population in the world, with 3,682 tigers (2022) as per the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), 2022.**
- **Project Tiger** was launched on **1 April 1973** at **Jim Corbett National Park (Uttarakhand)** to ensure a viable population of tigers in their natural habitats.
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a **statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended in 2006)** to oversee Project Tiger and tiger conservation.
- India currently has **58 Tiger Reserves** spread across **18 States**, constituting the world's largest network of protected tiger habitats.
- Tiger estimation in India is conducted **every four years using the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE)**, one of the world's largest wildlife monitoring exercises, based on **camera traps, sign surveys and statistical modelling**.
- The **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA/TS)** is a **globally recognised accreditation system** for effective tiger habitat management. India has the **highest number of CA/TS-accredited Tiger Reserves** globally.
- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, launched by India in **2023**, promotes global cooperation for the conservation of **seven big cat species—Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma**.

- The **Tiger** is listed as **Endangered** in the **IUCN Red List**, included in **Appendix I of CITES**, and protected under **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.

PIB-31st July, 2026

1 . Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH)

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Heritage & Culture • Archaeology • Marine Archaeology

- The Government informed Parliament that the **Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW)** of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is undertaking exploration and research at several submerged heritage sites, while expanding India's marine archaeological research up to **2030**.
- **Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH)** refers to **traces of human existence having cultural, historical or archaeological character that have remained partly or completely underwater for at least 100 years (UNESCO Convention, 2001)**.
- In India, underwater archaeological research is carried out by the **Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW)** of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- **Current exploration sites: Dwarka, Bet Dwarka (Gujarat), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu) and Karaikal (Puducherry)**.
- **Sites identified for exploration up to 2030: Dwarka, Bet Dwarka, Vijaydurg, Janjira, Mahabalipuram and Karaikal.**
- **Important Underwater Heritage Sites**
 - ❑ **Dwarka (Gujarat):** Associated with the ancient city of **Lord Krishna**; submerged structural remains have been reported in the Gulf of Kachchh.
 - ❑ **Bet Dwarka (Gujarat):** Island near Dwarka with evidence of **Late Harappan and historical maritime activity**.
 - ❑ **Poompuhar/Kaveripattinam (Tamil Nadu):** Ancient **Chola port city**, mentioned in **Silappadikaram** and **Manimekalai**; parts believed to have submerged due to coastal erosion/sea-level changes.
 - ❑ **Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu):** UNESCO World Heritage Site; underwater remains linked to the **Pallava period** and the legend of the **Seven Pagodas**.
 - ❑ **Vijaydurg (Maharashtra):** Historic **Maratha naval fort** associated with **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** and **Kanhoji Angre**.
 - ❑ **Janjira (Maharashtra):** Island fort of the **Siddis**, renowned for never being captured by the Marathas

2. National Advisory Board on Management of Genetic Resources (NABMGR)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Biodiversity • Genetic Resources • Food Security

- The **National Advisory Board on Management of Genetic Resources (NABMGR)** held its first meeting after reconstitution to formulate a roadmap for the **conservation, sustainable utilisation and equitable sharing of India's agrobiodiversity**, with emphasis on climate-resilient agriculture and food security.
- **NABMGR was first constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 2011 and reconstituted in 2026 to advise on national policies and strategies for agricultural genetic resources.**
- The Board promotes **integrated management of plant, animal, fish, microbial and insect genetic resources**, ensuring their conservation and sustainable utilisation.
- It functions under the leadership of **ICAR**, which operates under the **Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- The Board emphasised strengthening **pre-breeding programmes** by utilising **conserved germplasm and crop wild relatives (CWRs)** to develop **climate-resilient, high-yielding and stress-tolerant varieties**.
- It recommended **strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, and greater coordination with the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**.
- The Board reviewed progress on establishing the **National Safety Genebank (NSG)**, which serves as India's **long-term backup repository** for conserving valuable germplasm.
- It also proposed an **inter-institutional programme** to mainstream **traditional and underutilised crop varieties, livestock breeds, fish species, microorganisms and insects**.

3. Integrated Aquaparks under PMMSY

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Fisheries • Blue Economy • Food Processing • Infrastructure

- **Integrated Aquaparks** are being developed under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** as integrated hubs for fisheries and aquaculture, providing **end-to-end infrastructure** across the value chain from production to processing and exports.
- **Integrated Aquaparks** are established under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, implemented by the **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D)**.

- They are developed as **integrated fisheries hubs**, providing **production, processing, storage, packaging, branding, logistics and export facilities** at one location.
- The parks are **theme-based**, catering to local potential such as **shrimp, marine finfish, crab, seaweed, ornamental fisheries and seafood processing**.
- **Integrated Aquaparks are a non-beneficiary-oriented component under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) component of PMMSY.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
- ❑ **Flagship scheme** launched in **2020** for the fisheries sector.
- ❑ Implemented by the **Department of Fisheries**.
- ❑ Objective: **Sustainable, responsible, inclusive and holistic development** of fisheries and aquaculture.
- ❑ Supports **production enhancement, infrastructure, value addition, exports, fisheries management and fisher welfare**.
- ❑ **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, is the nodal agency for capacity building, training and fisheries development.**
- ❑ **Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)** was launched in **2018** to finance **fishing harbours, cold chains, processing plants, hatcheries and aquaculture infrastructure**.
- **Blue Economy** promotes the **sustainable use of ocean and aquatic resources** for economic growth, livelihoods and ecosystem conservation.
- India is among the **largest exporters of seafood**, with **shrimp accounting for the largest share of marine product exports**.

4. Sun's Atmosphere Rotates Faster than its Surface

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Space Science • Solar Physics

- Scientists from **ARIES, Udaipur Solar Observatory (PRL)** and collaborators have discovered that the **Sun's upper atmosphere (corona)** rotates **faster than its visible surface (photosphere)**, and the rotation speed **increases with height**, challenging the expectations of classical physics.
- The study used observations from the **Nobeyama Radioheliograph (Japan)** and **found that the solar atmosphere does not strictly obey the classical law of conservation of angular momentum, unlike Earth's atmosphere.**
- Researchers also observed that the **rotation rate decreases slightly during periods of higher solar activity, indicated by an increase in sunspots.**
- The findings improve understanding of **solar dynamics** and will help refine **space weather prediction**, which affects **satellites, navigation systems (GNSS/NavIC), radio communication and power grids.**
- **Layers of the Sun (Centre → Outwards):**
- ❑ **Core** – Site of nuclear fusion (~15 million °C).
- ❑ **Radiative Zone** – Energy transported by radiation.
- ❑ **Convective Zone** – Energy transported by convection currents.
- ❑ **Photosphere** – Visible surface (~5,500°C); **sunspots** are observed here.
- ❑ **Chromosphere** – Thin reddish atmospheric layer visible during solar eclipses.
- ❑ **Corona** – Outermost atmosphere; extends millions of kilometres into space and has temperatures of **over 1 million °C.**
- **Sunspots are temporary dark, cooler regions on the photosphere caused by intense magnetic fields.**
- Increased sunspot activity is associated with **solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)**, the primary drivers of **space weather**.

5. Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Insurance • Maritime Sector • Blue Economy • Shipping

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance** launched India's first **sovereign-backed Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Insurance** product under the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** to strengthen domestic maritime insurance capacity and reduce dependence on foreign insurers.
- **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** was operationalised by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance** on **12 May 2026** with **sovereign guarantee support**.
- **BMIP provides war risk insurance and Protection & Indemnity (P&I) insurance to Indian shipping companies, ensuring uninterrupted insurance cover during geopolitical crises.**
- **War Risk Insurance** covers losses arising from **war, terrorism, piracy, hostile acts, civil unrest and related perils**, which are generally excluded from standard marine insurance policies.
- The introduction of BMIP has **reduced war risk insurance premiums by around 35–40% compared to the peak levels witnessed during the West Asia conflict.**
- BMIP supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** by developing **domestic underwriting capacity**, retaining insurance premiums within India and reducing reliance on international marine insurance markets.

PIB MONTHLY MCQs

Q1. With reference to the **Santhal Hul (1855–56)**, consider the following statements:

1. It was directed primarily against the exploitative nexus of the East India Company, zamindars and moneylenders.
2. The rebellion originated in the Damin-i-Koh region of the Rajmahal Hills.
3. It resulted in the enactment of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act immediately after the revolt.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only**
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Q2. Interplanetary Coronal Mass Ejections (ICMEs), sometimes seen in the news, may directly affect which of the following?

1. Satellite navigation systems
2. High-frequency radio communication
3. Electric power transmission grids
4. Ocean tides

Select the correct answer using the code below.

- A. 1 and 2 only**
B. 1, 2 and 3 only
C. 2, 3 and 4 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q3. Which one of the following best describes a **Global Capability Centre (GCC)**?

- A.** A special economic zone established exclusively for software exports.
B. An overseas development assistance centre set up by multilateral institutions.
C. A captive unit established by a multinational enterprise to perform strategic functions such as R&D, product engineering and global business operations.
D. A government-supported incubator established exclusively for startups.

Q4. Consider the following pairs:

Practice	Primary Objective
1. Soil Health Card	Site-specific nutrient management
2. Green manuring	Improving soil organic matter
3. Laser land levelling	Increasing nitrogen fixation

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one**
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q5. Statement I: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act seeks to regulate acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions in the interest of transparency and national security.

Statement II: The Act prohibits certain categories of persons, including political parties and election candidates, from accepting foreign contributions.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A.** Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II correctly explains Statement I.
B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
D. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

Q6. Which one of the following best describes the objective of the **CSIR Aroma Mission**?

- A.** Promoting cultivation of medicinal plants exclusively for pharmaceutical industries.
B. Enhancing farmers' income through cultivation, value addition and commercialisation of aromatic crops.
C. Developing genetically modified aromatic crops for export promotion.
D. Conserving endangered aromatic plant species through in-situ conservation.

Q7. GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) uses a system of ground stations to provide necessary augmentation. Which of the following statements is/are correct in respect of GAGAN?

- I.** It is designed to provide additional accuracy and integrity.
II. It will allow more uniform and high quality air traffic management.
III. It will provide benefits only in aviation but not in other modes of transportation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3**
B. 1 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1 and 2 only

Q8. Consider the following statements with respect to **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**:

1. It is the oldest solar observatory in India.
2. It is situated in the Papikonda Hills of Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. With reference to the **VB-G RAM G Act 2025**, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a statutory guarantee of wage employment to eligible rural households.
2. It empowers the Central government to notify the rural areas where the scheme shall operate.
3. It also permits Central government to suspend the scheme during peak agricultural seasons for a specified period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Q10. With reference to the Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. The first synchronous Census in India covering the entire country was conducted under British rule in 1881.
2. Population census in India is conducted under the provisions of Census Act, 1948.
3. The office of Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

Q11. Reference to Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), consider the following statements:

1. They are notified under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. They are declared by the Centre Government in consultation with State Government & local bodies.
3. Declaration of an area as a Biodiversity Heritage Site automatically prohibits all agricultural and livelihood activities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q12. Which one of the following best explains the advantage of using an Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) over a Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG)?

- A. It completely eliminates the need for performance security.
- B. It enables contractors to meet performance security requirements without blocking bank credit limits.
- C. It transfers ownership of the project assets to the insurer.
- D. It exempts contractors from contractual liabilities.

Q13. With reference to MANAS (National Narcotics Helpline), consider the following:

1. It was launched by the Narcotics Control Bureau.
2. It allows citizens to confidentially report drug trafficking and illegal cultivation.
3. It provides access through the UMANG application.
4. Calls relating to de-addiction support may be transferred to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's helpline.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q14. Which one of the following is NOT a component of the Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana (KSVY)?

- A. Veteran Artists Scheme

- B. Seva Bhoj Yojana
- C. National Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission
- D. National Mission on Libraries

Q15. With reference to the recently developed Superalloy Bi-metallic Structures, consider the following statements:

1. They combine stainless steel and nickel-based superalloys to exploit the desirable properties of both materials.
2. They have been developed using laser-based Powder Bed Fusion, a form of additive manufacturing.
3. They are intended only for aerospace applications.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q16. With reference to IndiaHandmade, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to reduce dependence of artisans on intermediaries through direct digital marketing.
2. It promotes products identified under both Geographical Indication (GI) and One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives.
3. It is implemented by the Ministry of MSME.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q17. Which of the following activities are envisaged under the TribeX platform?

1. Digital documentation of tribal languages and traditional knowledge.
2. Online sale of tribal products through linkage with TRIFED.
3. Certification courses on tribal knowledge systems.
4. Issuing Forest Rights Act (FRA) titles to tribal communities.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q18. With reference to Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas, consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted under the National One Health Mission.
2. It is intended to strengthen preparedness against zoonotic disease outbreaks.
3. It involves coordination only between veterinary institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q19. The primary advantage of an electronic warfare-based Anti-UAV system, such as AKASH TARANG, lies in its ability to:

- A. intercept ballistic missiles during mid-course flight.
- B. neutralise hostile drones without necessarily using kinetic weapons.
- C. provide satellite-based navigation to military aircraft.
- D. destroy underground command centres using precision-guided munitions.

Q20. The National Water Awards seek to encourage which of the following?

- 1. Rainwater harvesting
- 2. Groundwater recharge
- 3. Reuse of treated wastewater
- 4. Community participation in water management

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q21. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Blending ethanol with petrol generally improves the anti-knock quality of fuel.
- 2. Research Octane Number (RON) is an indicator of a fuel's resistance to premature ignition inside the engine cylinder.
- 3. A higher RON necessarily implies a higher calorific value of the fuel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q22. Consider the following activities:

- 1. Maintaining savings and credit records of Self Help Groups
- 2. Real-time monitoring of SHG federations
- 3. Providing statutory banking licence to SHGs
- 4. Digital convergence with government welfare schemes

LokOS facilitates which of the above?

- A. 1,2,3 and 4
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2,3 and 4 only
- D. 1,2 and 4 only

Q23. The primary objective of using an AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) in public health programmes is to

- A. replace specialist doctors in tertiary hospitals
- B. assist healthcare workers in delivering standardised clinical care
- C. automatically diagnose diseases without human intervention
- D. eliminate the need for referral services

Q24. Which of the following objectives are consistent with India's Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN)?

- 1. Improving air access to underserved regions.

- 2. Enhancing utilisation of unserved airports.
- 3. Supporting commercially unviable regional routes.
- 4. Replacing rail connectivity in remote areas.

Select the correct answer.

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1,2 and 3 only
- D. 1,2,3 and 4

Q25. The establishment of OSAT facilities in India is expected to primarily contribute to:

- A. Extraction of rare earth elements used in semiconductor manufacturing.
- B. Reducing dependence on foreign facilities for chip packaging and testing.
- C. Manufacturing semiconductor-grade silicon ingots.
- D. Designing indigenous semiconductor architectures.

Q26. Consider the following temple complexes:

- 1. Angkor Wat
- 2. Prambanan
- 3. My Son

Which of the above are associated with the spread of **Hindu religious traditions** in Southeast Asia?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q27. Which one of the following best explains why Indonesia occupies an important position in India's Act East Policy?

- A. It is India's largest source of crude oil imports.
- B. It lies astride major maritime trade routes linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- C. It is the only ASEAN member sharing a land boundary with India.
- D. It hosts the headquarters of ASEAN.

Q28. The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is intended primarily to

- A. rank schools for allocation of central grants.
- B. assess teacher eligibility across States.
- C. evaluate school education systems of States and Union Territories using performance indicators.
- D. accredit higher educational institutions.

Q29. The following statements:

- 1. Bintang Adipurna is the highest civilian honour of Indonesia.
- 2. It belongs to the Star of the Republic of Indonesia honours.
- 3. It is awarded only to Indonesian citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q30. The emphasis on Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton under the Mission for Cotton Productivity is primarily intended to

- A. reduce India's dependence on imported premium-quality cotton.
- B. increase cottonseed oil production.
- C. promote organic farming in cotton-growing regions.
- D. expand cotton cultivation into rainforests.

Q31. With reference to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), consider the following statements:

- 1. It affects only cattle and buffaloes.
- 2. It is caused by an RNA virus belonging to the family *Picornaviridae*.
- 3. India aims to achieve FMD-free status through the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q32. Consider the following statements regarding the Pinaka Weapon System:

- 1. It was first operationally employed during the Kargil War.
- 2. Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) uses INS/GNSS-based guidance.
- 3. Pinaka LRGR requires a newly designed launcher different from existing Pinaka launchers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q33. The recently adopted Bhubaneswar Declaration is primarily associated with

- (a) Strengthening research and institutional capacity for tribal development
- (b) Promoting millet cultivation in tribal districts
- (c) Mainstreaming tribal products through Geographical Indications
- (d) Expanding the Forest Rights Act to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Q34. With reference to the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), consider the following statements:

- 1. It functions under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- 2. It provides policy and technical support for the development of rainfed agriculture.
- 3. It promotes watershed development and climate-resilient farming systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q35. With reference to the Mt. Khyam Tso Massif expedition, consider the following statements:

- 1. The massif is located in the Trans-Himalayan region of eastern Ladakh.

- 2. The Rumtse Phu region lies close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- 3. The expedition recorded India's first-ever paragliding flight above 5,500 metres.

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

Q36. With reference to the Rhino DNA Indexing System (RhoDIS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It enables enforcement agencies to match seized rhino horns with individual rhinoceroses through DNA profiling.
- 2. Rhino horn is primarily composed of calcium phosphate, similar to elephant tusks.
- 3. Besides forensic investigation, it also assists in assessing genetic diversity and population management.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q37. With reference to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), consider the following statements:

- 1. The National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 2. The Standing Committee of the NBWL is empowered to examine proposals relating to projects in and around Protected Areas.
- 3. The Director of Wildlife Preservation is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q38. With reference to the Pygmy Hog, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is endemic to the tall alluvial grasslands of the Himalayan foothills.
- 2. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 3. It is one of the few mammals known to build roofed grass nests for shelter and breeding.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q39. With reference to the Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)**.

2. Recovery Plans are prepared with the support of scientific institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India and approved by the Standing Committee of the NBWL.
3. The programme exclusively focuses on in-situ conservation measures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q40. Which one of the following correctly distinguishes Integrated Textile & Apparel Development Centres (ITADCs) from PM MITRA Parks?

- (a) ITADCs focus on integrated textile manufacturing, whereas PM MITRA Parks provide skilling and testing facilities.
- (b) ITADCs are implemented by the Ministry of MSME, whereas PM MITRA Parks are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.
- (c) ITADCs function as facilitation centres offering skilling, testing, design and business support, whereas PM MITRA Parks are integrated textile manufacturing parks.
- (d) PM MITRA Parks are intended only for MSMEs, whereas ITADCs primarily cater to large textile industries.

Q41. With reference to the Egmont Group, consider the following statements:

1. It is a global network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
2. Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The Egmont Secure Web (ESW) facilitates secure exchange of financial intelligence among member FIUs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q42. With reference to the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), consider the following statements:

1. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
2. Financing on the platform is generally without recourse to the MSME seller.
3. Only banks are permitted to finance invoices on the TReDS platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q43. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

2. The scheme follows the One District One Product (ODOP) approach for cluster-based development.
3. The ODOP approach under PMFME is identical to the One District One Product initiative of DPIIT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q44. With reference to the Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict (CoE-HWC), consider the following statements:

1. It has been established jointly by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON).
2. It functions as the national nodal institution for research and policy support on human-wildlife conflict management.
3. The National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal launched along with it is intended to serve as a centralized platform for reporting incidents and decision support.

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

Q45. With reference to the digital initiatives of the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), consider the following statements:

1. **e-Samudra** is a unified maritime services portal that provides single-window digital services for stakeholders such as ship owners, seafarers and shipping companies.
2. **e-Navik** is India's unified maritime services portal offering online services such as ship registration, certification and licensing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q46. With reference to Mephedrone, consider the following statements:

1. It is a synthetic analogue of cathinone found naturally in the Khat plant.
2. It primarily acts by increasing the release of dopamine, serotonin and norepinephrine.
3. Under the NDPS Act, 1985, it is notified as a narcotic drug.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q47. With reference to NIDAR 2.0 and the SwaYaan Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. NIDAR 2.0 focuses on indigenous drone electronics and autonomous systems rather than merely drone applications.
2. VEGA is an indigenous processor based on the RISC-V architecture developed by C-DAC.
3. SwaYaan is implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to promote commercial drone operations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q48. Consider the following statements regarding FCNR(B) deposits:

1. They are maintained only in Indian Rupees.
2. The depositor is insulated from exchange-rate risk as both principal and interest are maintained in the designated foreign currency.
3. Only Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are eligible to open FCNR(B) accounts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q49. Which one of the following best describes the Miyawaki method of afforestation?

- (a) Plantation of fast-growing exotic tree species in monoculture to maximise timber yield.
(b) Agroforestry model integrating commercial crops with scattered tree plantations
(c) Afforestation of degraded land using aerial seed dispersal and chemical fertilisers for rapid growth.
(d) Restoration of forests by planting native species at high density in multiple vegetation layers to mimic natural forests.

Q50. With reference to the Miyawaki method, which one of the following is NOT a characteristic feature?

- (a) High-density plantation of saplings
(b) Use of indigenous species
(c) Long term dependence on irrigation and fertilizers
(d) Multi layered vegetation structure

Q51. With reference to the CapaCITIES Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Indo-German technical cooperation programme.
2. It is jointly implemented by the National Institute of Urban Affairs, ICLEI South Asia and GIZ.
3. One of its objectives is to assist cities in accessing climate finance for resilience projects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q52. With reference to the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established as a joint initiative of the Department of Space and the North Eastern Council.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
3. It assists all the eight North-Eastern States through space-based applications.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q53. With reference to the Vanadium Oxide–Vanadium Sulphide (VOx/VS₂) Ammonia Sensor, consider the following statements:

1. It is based on a heterostructure formed by combining two semiconducting materials.
2. It requires high operating temperatures for detecting ammonia.
3. It is capable of operating without an external power source.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q54. With reference to the GeoTourism 'ManzilNE' Dashboard, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC).
2. It integrates GIS, satellite imagery and UAV data for tourism planning.
3. It is intended to support sustainable tourism and carrying-capacity assessment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q55. With reference to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
2. Its food standards are legally binding on all WTO Members.
3. Its standards are recognised as international benchmarks under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q56. With reference to the National Investment Policy for Urea–2026 (NIPU–2026), consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to promote investment in coal-based urea manufacturing units.
2. Neem-coated urea has been made mandatory in India since 2015.
3. Urea remains outside the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) regime.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q57. With reference to Kewra (Pandanus odorifer), consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to the Pandanaceae family.
2. Its fragrant flowers are used for preparing Kewra water and attar.
3. Odisha is the largest producer of Kewra essence in India.
4. It is naturally confined to the Himalayan region.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Q58. Consider the following statements:

1. BRIC functions under the Department of Biotechnology.
2. THSTI is one of the institutes under BRIC.
3. SYNCHN is the flagship annual industry-academia platform of BIRAC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q59. With reference to the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP), consider the following statements:

1. It is jointly supported by the Department of Biotechnology and the Wellcome Trust.
2. It provides only Early Career Fellowships.
3. It aims to strengthen India's biomedical research ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q60. With reference to the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to deepen domestic value addition in mobile manufacturing.
2. It seeks to strengthen the component manufacturing ecosystem.
3. It is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q61. With reference to the PARIVARTAN Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to facilitate the replacement of old commercial vehicles with BS-VI compliant or electric vehicles in the National Capital Region.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
3. The National Capital Region Planning Board is the funding agency for the scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q62. With reference to White Rabbit Technology, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed as an extension of the IEEE 1588 Precision Time Protocol.
2. It distributes highly accurate time signals through optical fibre networks.
3. One of its objectives is to reduce India's dependence on foreign time sources such as GPS.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q63. With reference to C-Phycocyanin, consider the following statements:

1. It is a natural blue pigment extracted from Spirulina.
2. Spirulina is regarded as a Single Cell Protein because of its high protein content.
3. C-Phycocyanin is a fat-soluble pigment widely used as a synthetic food colourant.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q64. Consider the following statements regarding India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train:

1. Electricity is generated through an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen.
2. The only direct emission from the fuel cell is water vapour.
3. The train uses Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries for energy storage.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q65. With reference to the PAIMANA Performance

Dashboard, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. It follows the principle of "One Data, One Entry" by integrating with DPIIT's Integrated Project Monitoring Portal through APIs.
3. It monitors infrastructure performance across six key infrastructure sub-sectors.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q66. With reference to Hypergolic Engines, consider the following statements:

1. Hypergolic propellants ignite spontaneously when the fuel and oxidizer come into contact.
2. Hypergolic engines are preferred for spacecraft because they permit multiple restarts and long-term storage.
3. ISRO's 200 mN hypergolic thruster has been developed for the Crew Escape System of the Gaganyaan mission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q67. With reference to 'Magnetic Trees', consider the following statements:

1. Magnetic Trees are physical plasma structures formed in the solar corona.
2. They help trace the movement of hot ionised plasma along the Sun's magnetic field lines.
3. The technique helps in studying the Coronal Heating Problem.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q68. With reference to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), consider the following statements:

1. It currently functions as a statutory body under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.
2. It monitors the implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
3. It advises the Central and State Governments on measures relating to the welfare of Safai Karamcharis.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q69. With reference to apprenticeship schemes in India, consider the following statements:

1. PM-NAPS is implemented under the Apprentices Act, 1961.
2. Under NAPS 2.0, the Government reimburses 25% of the stipend subject to a prescribed ceiling.
3. National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q70. With reference to the SAMADHAN Portal 2.0, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a digital platform for filing industrial disputes and workers' grievances.
2. It digitises conciliation, arbitration and adjudication processes.
3. It has been developed by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q71. With reference to the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NCCM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched as part of the *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* initiative.
2. It seeks to document both tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India.
3. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) serves as the nodal agency for its implementation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q72. With reference to the RBI's Framework for Self-Regulatory Organisation(s) in the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT), consider the following statements:

1. The framework seeks to promote ethical conduct and market integrity among FinTech entities.
2. The RBI's Regulatory Sandbox framework for testing innovative financial products was introduced before the SRO-FT framework.
3. The SRO-FT framework mandates that all digital payment systems be operated only by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q73. With reference to the SMILE Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. The scheme follows a convergence-based approach involving Central, State and local authorities.
3. The scheme is confined exclusively to metropolitan cities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q74. Consider the following statements regarding the NAKSHA initiative:

1. It is implemented under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
2. It alters existing ownership rights after completion of GIS-based surveys.
3. It aims to create accurate urban land records for improved governance and planning.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q75. With reference to the revised Index of Core Industries (ICI), consider the following statements:

1. The revised series uses 2022–23 as the base year.
2. Iron Ore has been included as a core industry in the revised series.
3. The Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), DPIIT, compiles and releases the Index of Core Industries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q76. With reference to lichens, recently seen in the news due to the discovery of new *Allographa* species, consider the following statements:

1. Lichens are symbiotic associations between a fungus and a photosynthetic partner.
2. They are regarded as reliable bioindicators of air quality.
3. They play a role in soil formation and nutrient cycling.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q77. With reference to the GREAT Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented under the National Technical Textiles Mission.
2. The scheme supports commercialization of innovative products in the technical textiles sector.
3. Only DPIIT-recognised Start-ups are eligible to receive assistance under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q78. With reference to PM VIKAS, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. It integrates erstwhile schemes relating to skill development, leadership development and preservation of cultural heritage.
3. The scheme is applicable to all socially and educationally backward communities identified by the States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q79. Consider the following statements regarding Lakadong Turmeric:

1. It is a GI-tagged variety primarily cultivated in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.
2. It is known for its exceptionally high curcumin content compared to ordinary turmeric varieties.
3. Curcumin is the principal bioactive compound responsible for the characteristic yellow colour of turmeric.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q80. With reference to the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (TNNAA), consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest national honour for adventure sports in India.
2. It is conferred in four categories, including a Lifetime Achievement category.
3. Before the institution of the TNNAA, achievements in adventure sports were recognised under the Arjuna Award.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q81. With reference to the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an industry- and academia-led body supported by the Department of Telecommunications.
2. It contributes to standardisation and intellectual property creation in the field of 6G technologies.
3. It functions as the statutory regulator for spectrum allocation in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q82. With reference to Mission Vatsalya, consider the following statements:

1. It operates within the framework of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
2. Registration and inspection of Child Care Institutions is the responsibility of the Central Government.
3. The Mission Vatsalya Portal is integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q83. To qualify as a circumnavigation of the globe, an expedition must satisfy which of the following conditions?

1. Cross all meridians of longitude.
2. Cross the Equator at least once.
3. Cross the International Date Line.

Select the correct answer using the code below.

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

Q84. With reference to India's weather forecasting system, consider the following statements:

1. Numerical Weather Prediction relies on mathematical models of atmospheric processes.
2. Increasing the spatial resolution of a weather model generally improves the representation of localized weather phenomena.
3. The India Meteorological Department is the nodal agency for issuing operational weather forecasts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q85. With reference to India's Nuclear Energy Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) is being developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.
2. The Mission envisages the development of High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactors for hydrogen production.

3. The Mission aims to achieve 100 GWe of installed nuclear power capacity by 2031.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q86. With reference to Thiru Subramania Siva, consider the following statements:

1. He was closely associated with V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and Subramania Bharati during the Swadeshi Movement.
2. He founded the Dharma Paripalana Samajam to promote patriotism and social awakening.
3. He never served as the President of the Indian National Congress.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q87. With reference to the DESH Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Sub-Scheme of the Ministry of Culture.
2. It aims at the sustainable development of selected tangible cultural heritage sites.
3. The Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the protection and conservation of all heritage monuments in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q88. With reference to Eran, consider the following statements:

1. It has yielded archaeological evidence of continuous cultural occupation from the Chalcolithic period to the Late Medieval period.
2. The site is renowned for a Gupta-period Varaha sculpture depicting the rescue of Bhudevi.
3. The Bhanugupta Inscription provides one of the earliest epigraphic references associated with the practice of sati.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q89. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:

1. The Act applies to examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, NTA and other authorities notified by the Central Government.
2. All offences under the Act are cognizable, bailable and compoundable.

3. Service providers involved in organised examination fraud may be debarred from conducting public examinations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q90. With reference to the recently seen 'Operation Southern Readiness 26-2', it is:

- (a) A bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka.
(b) A multinational maritime security training engagement conducted by the Indian Navy in partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
(c) An anti-piracy operation conducted by the Indian Coast Guard in the Arabian Sea.
(d) A humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise under BIMSTEC.

Q91. With reference to Sarnath, recently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, consider the following statements:

1. It is the place where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment.
2. The Ashokan Lion Capital discovered at Sarnath was adopted as the National Emblem of India.
3. The site was inscribed under UNESCO World Heritage Criteria (iii) and (vi).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q92. With reference to the Weather Information Network and Data System (WINDS), consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative under the Digital Agriculture Mission.
2. It seeks to establish a network of Automatic Weather Stations and Automatic Rain Gauges across the country.
3. The weather data generated under WINDS supports the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q93. With reference to the RAMP Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of MSME.
2. It is supported by the World Bank.
3. Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) are prepared by the Central Government for implementation by States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q94. Consider the following statements regarding the Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Fund:

1. It is operationalised through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
2. The Technology Development Board (TDB) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) are approved as Second-Level Fund Managers.
3. Financial assistance under the scheme can cover up to 100% of the assessed project cost.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q95. With reference to the BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.
2. Chemical Parks under the scheme will be selected through the Challenge Route.
3. Each Chemical Park must have a minimum contiguous area of **2,000 acres** of encumbrance-free land.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q96. With reference to Sant traditions in medieval and modern India, consider the following statements:

1. Sant Gajanan Maharaj is primarily associated with the Bhakti tradition of Maharashtra.
2. His principal biographical work *Shri Gajanan Vijay* was composed by Das Ganu Maharaj.
3. Commemorative coins in India are issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q97. Blue Straggler Stars, sometimes seen in the news, are considered unusual because they:

- (a) are among the oldest stars in a stellar cluster but appear cooler than expected
(b) appear younger, hotter and more luminous than stars of comparable evolutionary stage in the same cluster
(c) are neutron stars emitting periodic X-ray bursts
(d) are protostars embedded within molecular clouds

Q98. With reference to river interlinking projects in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Perspective Plan envisages both Himalayan and Peninsular river-link proposals.
2. The Kosi-Mechi Link Project seeks to transfer surplus monsoon water to augment irrigation in Bihar.

3. The Mechi River is a tributary of the Kosi.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q99. With reference to Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco, consider the following statements:

- 1. The curing process uses indirect heat without exposing leaves to smoke.
- 2. Electronic marketing of FCV tobacco in India is regulated by the Tobacco Board.
- 3. India is not a Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q100. With reference to museums in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Site museums established by the Archaeological Survey of India are generally located near important archaeological remains.
- 2. The Museum Grant Scheme provides financial assistance only to museums owned by Central and State Governments.
- 3. The National Museum, New Delhi, functions under the Ministry of Culture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q101. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- 2. It subsumes the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana and the Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana.
- 3. It seeks to promote the constitutional objective embodied in Article 46.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q102. With reference to coastal shipping in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Coastal shipping involves movement of cargo between Indian ports without calling at a foreign port.
- 2. Promotion of coastal shipping is one of the components of the Sagarmala Programme.
- 3. The Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 provides the statutory framework governing coastal shipping in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q103. Consider the following statements regarding the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP):

- 1. It is a sub-scheme of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- 2. It promotes only farm-based enterprises through Self-Help Groups.
- 3. Financial assistance under the programme is supported through the Community Enterprise Fund (CEF).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q104. With reference to India–Nepal connectivity, consider the following statements:

- 1. Nepal enjoys transit facilities through India under the India–Nepal Treaty of Transit.
- 2. Biratnagar Customs Yard is Nepal's first rail-linked customs terminal for third-country trade.
- 3. The India–Nepal Rail Services Agreement provides the operational framework for cross-border rail freight movement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q105. With reference to the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It subsumes the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024.
- 2. It is implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- 3. The scheme promotes localisation of EV components through the Phased Manufacturing Programme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q106. With reference to the DAANVEER initiative, consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to facilitate voluntary contributions for strengthening digital infrastructure in Gram Panchayats.
- 2. It enables donors to contribute computer bundles through integration with DigiHaat.
- 3. It replaces the e-GramSwaraj platform as the primary digital governance platform for Panchayats.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q107. With reference to the proposed Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ), consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to promote indigenous telecom equipment manufacturing and strengthen domestic value chains.
2. It complements the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Telecom & Networking Products.
3. Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) functions as the statutory regulator of the telecommunications sector in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q108. Consider the following statements regarding the Electronics Development Fund (EDF):

1. It follows a Fund of Funds model by investing in SEBI-registered Venture Capital Funds.
2. Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd. functions as the Fund Manager of EDF.
3. The Fund provides direct equity financing to startups without the involvement of intermediary funds.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q109. With reference to the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT), consider the following statements:

1. It is located at Hanle in Ladakh and is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
2. It is primarily a radio telescope used for deep-space observations.
3. Hanle hosts India's first Dark Sky Reserve.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q110. With reference to tiger conservation in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The All India Tiger Estimation is conducted every four years using techniques such as camera trapping and statistical modelling.
3. The Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) is an accreditation system applicable only to Tiger Reserves in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q111. With reference to Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH), consider the following statements:

1. Under the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001, heritage must have remained underwater for at least 100 years to qualify as Underwater Cultural Heritage.
2. In India, underwater archaeological explorations are carried out by the Underwater Archaeology Wing of the Archaeological Survey of India.
3. Poompuhar and Mahabalipuram are associated with evidence of submerged cultural remains along the Tamil Nadu coast.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q112. With reference to the National Advisory Board on Management of Genetic Resources (NABMGR), consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
2. It promotes integrated management of plant, animal, fish, microbial and insect genetic resources.
3. It has recommended strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q113. Consider the following statements regarding Integrated Aquaparks under PMMSY:

1. They are intended to provide integrated infrastructure from production to processing and exports.
2. They are implemented under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
3. They are beneficiary-oriented components under the Central Sector component of PMMSY.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q114. With reference to the Sun, consider the following statements:

1. Sunspots occur on the photosphere and are associated with intense magnetic fields.
2. The chromosphere lies immediately above the photosphere.
3. Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) originate from the Sun's core.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q115. With reference to the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP), consider the following statements:

1. It provides Protection & Indemnity (P&I) insurance and War Risk Insurance to Indian shipping companies.
2. War Risk Insurance generally covers risks that are excluded under standard marine insurance policies.
3. BMIP has been operationalised by the Department of Financial Services with sovereign guarantee support.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



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PIB MONTHLY MCQs ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. A | 53. C | 105. C |
| 2. B | 54. D | 106. A |
| 3. C | 55. A | 107. B |
| 4. B | 56. A | 108. A |
| 5. A | 57. C | 109. B |
| 6. B | 58. B | 110. A |
| 7. D | 59. C | 111. D |
| 8. A | 60. C | 112. D |
| 9. B | 61. D | 113. A |
| 10. D | 62. C | 114. B |
| 11. B | 63. D | 115. D |
| 12. B | 64. C | |
| 13. D | 65. B | |
| 14. D | 66. B | |
| 15. A | 67. B | |
| 16. A | 68. B | |
| 17. A | 69. C | |
| 18. A | 70. D | |
| 19. B | 71. D | |
| 20. D | 72. A | |
| 21. A | 73. B | |
| 22. D | 74. C | |
| 23. B | 75. D | |
| 24. C | 76. D | |
| 25. B | 77. A | |
| 26. D | 78. B | |
| 27. B | 79. D | |
| 28. C | 80. C | |
| 29. C | 81. A | |
| 30. A | 82. B | |
| 31. B | 83. D | |
| 32. A | 84. D | |
| 33. A | 85. A | |
| 34. C | 86. D | |
| 35. D | 87. B | |
| 36. A | 88. D | |
| 37. C | 89. C | |
| 38. D | 90. B | |
| 39. A | 91. D | |
| 40. C | 92. C | |
| 41. A | 93. A | |
| 42. B | 94. B | |
| 43. A | 95. D | |
| 44. D | 96. A | |
| 45. A | 97. B | |
| 46. A | 98. A | |
| 47. B | 99. B | |
| 48. B | 100. B | |
| 49. D | 101. B | |
| 50. C | 102. D | |
| 51. D | 103. A | |
| 52. B | 104. B | |