Educrat IAS ACADEMY | No Need of going to Delhi Now! Prepare for UPSC from Kolkata

EDUCRAT PIB COMPILATION

सत्यमेव जयते

पत्र सूचना कार्यालय

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS | EXAM FOCUSED | ACCURATE & RELIABLE | STAY AHEAD. SCORE HIGH.

AUGUST 2026

AIR 135
SAIMA KHAN
UPSC 2025

AIR 443
DEBJYOTI HALDER
UPSC 2025

AIR 649
JUHI DAS
UPSC 2025

AIR 153
SAHARS KUMAR
UPSC 2024

AIR 477
PARAMITA MALAKAR
UPSC 2024

RESERVE LIST
PRIYA PUROHIT
UPSC 2023

PARK STREET: 9163228921, 9163218921

EDU-PIB AUGUST 2026 PIB INDEX

Sl. No.	TOPIC	Page No.
1.	Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)	1
2.	Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel	1
3.	Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks Scheme	1
4.	Revamped Khelo India Scheme & Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)	2
5.	Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026	2
6.	Glaw Lake – India's 101st Ramsar Site	3
7.	Ujh Multipurpose Project (UMP)	3
8.	Indigenous African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine	3
9.	India's First Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) Reference Genome of Pigeonpea	4
10.	SAMARTH Centres (Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hubs)	4
11.	Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project (PDHEP)	5
12.	Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)	5
13.	Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)	5
14.	Irula Tribal Community	6
15.	SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme	6
16.	GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme	6
17.	Agni-4 Ballistic Missile	7
18.	Seasonal Migration of Van Gujjar Tribe	7
19.	PM-YASASVI	7
20.	BRICS WAVES Bazaar	8
21.	'Boss Scam' – WhatsApp Account Takeover	8
22.	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026	8
23.	Project FAIR	9
24.	CSIR-NBRI 'Eco-Educational Hub' – Prakriti Gyan Dham	9
25.	Important BRICS Declarations	10
26.	Allocation of Foodgrains under PM-POSHAN	10
27.	Redesigning of PMKVY Courses	11
28.	Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact under PM SVANidhi Scheme	11
29.	Rising Asiatic Lion Population & Project Lion	12
30.	Removal of Invasive Alien Plant Species in Reserved Forests	12
31.	Sagarmala Startup and Innovation Initiative (S2I2)	12
32.	Cultivation of Kalanamak Rice	13
33.	Research Capacity Building in Ayurveda	13
34.	Launch of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel – *Shruti*	14
35.	Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS)	14
36.	CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer under PMGKAY	14
37.	PRAHAAR – National Counter Terrorism Policy & Strategy	15
38.	Elephant Conservation in India	15
39.	AI-based Detection of Cancer Stem-like Cells	16
40.	Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme	16
41.	Space Debris & ISRO's Debris Free Space Mission	16
42.	Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)	17
43.	Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)	17
44.	Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB)	18
45.	Sowa-Rigpa System of Medicine	18
46.	RSVC–AMRIT Platform	19
47.	CYBER KUSHTI 2026	19
48.	FutureSkills PRIME	20

49.	DLI Scheme & Indigenous Semiconductor Chip Design – VIHAAN	20
50.	Kavach Version 4.0	20
51.	India's First Guide to Grasslands & Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)	21
52.	Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026)	21
53.	Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) under NAMASTE Scheme	22
54.	General Concurrence Percolation (GCP) – A New Approach to Quantum Networks	22
55.	Sapt Dhara of Shakti	23
56.	Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)	23
57.	National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) & FIRE Corridors	23
58.	National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)	24
59.	Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)	24
60.	12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting	24
61.	DRI Busts 56 kg Methamphetamine Smuggling Attempt	25
62.	SEED Scheme – Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNT Communities	25
63.	India's Makhana Sector	26
64.	India's Coconut Sector	26
65.	White Revolution 2.0	27
66.	Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026	27
67.	SMART CANCER DRUG — RK-251	28
68.	National Report on Deep-Sea	28
69.	TDB-DST Supports Indigenous Agentic AI Technology	28
70.	Global Digital Capacity Building Alliance (GDCBA)	29
71.	Mangrol Water Craft	29
72.	National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)	30
73.	Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)	30
74.	BRICS Chennai Declaration	31
75.	National Cloud & AI Skilling Initiative	31
76.	Garbhini Mitra	31
77.	GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Scheme	32
78.	Revised FDI Framework	32
79.	Unincorporated Sector Enterprises	33
80.	India's First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed	33
81.	Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines	34
82.	National Shipping Board (NSB) – 'Sagar Samvad' & Indian Shipping Capacity	34
83.	India's Shift from Drought Response to Drought Resilience – UNCCD CoP17	34
84.	5 years of e-Shram Portal	35
85.	India–Japan Cooperation in Semiconductors & Artificial Intelligence	35
86.	India's Sugar Industry	36

87.	Turning the Wheel of Heritage — Sarnath on UNESCO World Heritage List	36
88.	SIDBI–RRB MSME Co-Lending Arrangement	36
89.	World Water Week 2026	37
90.	Bhote Koshi River Flash Flood	37
91.	Bharat India Stack	38
92.	12 Years of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	38
93.	Samarthak – First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel of Indian Navy	38
94.	PM SVANidhi Completes One Year of Restructuring	39
95.	Snow Leopard Conservation – India–Russia Cooperation	39
96.	Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 – Ornamental Fisheries Development	40
97.	Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) – Data-Driven Fertilizer Management	40
98.	Aranmula Uthrittathi Vallamkali – Kerala's Cultural Heritage	40
99.	"Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order – Uzbekistan's Highest Honour	41
100.	Sree Narayana Guru	41

Educrat IAS ACADEMY | No Need of going to Delhi Now! Prepare for UPSC from Kolkata

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 3rd August, 2026

1 . Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Renewable Energy • Solar Energy • Energy Security • Climate Change • Infrastructure

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** with an outlay of **₹5,070 crore** to promote **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** projects integrated with **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)**. The scheme aims to develop **5,000 MW** of floating solar capacity with **10,000 MWh** of battery storage by **2030-31**.
- **PM-SSY** is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- It aims to develop **5 GW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** projects on reservoirs and other inland water bodies.
- All projects must be integrated with **co-located Energy Storage Systems (ESS)** having a **minimum storage capacity of two hours**, ensuring reliable power supply during non-solar hours.
- **Central Financial Assistance (CFA):**
  - **₹1 crore/MW** for commissioned Floating Solar projects.
  - Up to **₹50 lakh/project** for feasibility studies, including **bathymetry**, **hydrography** and environmental assessments.
- **Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV)** refers to solar panels mounted on floating structures installed on **reservoirs, lakes, dams and other inland water bodies**.
- **Energy Storage System (ESS)** stores surplus electricity generated during the day and supplies power during peak demand or when solar generation is unavailable, improving **grid stability** and renewable energy integration.

2. Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Defence Technology • Energy • Indigenous Technology • Atmanirbhar Bharat

- The **Chief of the Army Staff** launched the **indigenously developed Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel**, jointly developed by the **Indian Army** and **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** to enhance mobility and operational readiness of military vehicles in extreme cold regions.
- **Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel** is a specially formulated **high-altitude diesel fuel** designed for operation in **extreme sub-zero temperatures**.
- Developed jointly by the **Indian Army** and **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- It remains operational at temperatures as low as **–42°C**, preventing **fuel gelling and clogging of fuel filters**, a common problem with conventional diesel in severe winters.
- The fuel is **BS-VI compliant** and conforms to **IS 1460:2025** specifications.
- It can be used in the **existing fleet of Army vehicles without any engine modification or re-homologation**.
- Besides defence applications, XWG Diesel can also benefit **civilian transport, construction equipment and emergency services** operating in **high-altitude and snow-bound regions**.
- **Conventional diesel** contains **paraffin wax**, which crystallises at low temperatures, causing:
  - Fuel thickening (gelling).
  - Blockage of fuel filters.
  - Difficulty in engine starting.
- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** prescribes fuel quality standards through the **IS 1460** specification for High-Speed Diesel (HSD).

3 . Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Pharmaceuticals • Industrial Policy • Manufacturing • Atmanirbhar Bharat

- The Government informed Parliament that **₹1,000 crore** has been approved under the **Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks Scheme** for developing **Common Infrastructure Facilities (CIFs)** in the **Bulk Drug Park at Haroli, Una (Himachal Pradesh)**. The park aims to boost domestic production of **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** and reduce import dependence.
- **Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks** is a **Central Sector Scheme** implemented by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- Launched in **2020**, the scheme supports the establishment of **three Bulk Drug Parks** by providing **grant-in-aid up to ₹1,000 crore per park** for developing **Common Infrastructure Facilities (CIFs)**.
- The parks are designed to provide **shared infrastructure**, reducing manufacturing costs and improving the global competitiveness of India's pharmaceutical industry.
- The **Haroli (Una), Himachal Pradesh** Bulk Drug Park has been approved with common facilities such as: **Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)** with **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)**.

- **Bulk Drugs (APIs)** are the **biologically active ingredients** responsible for the therapeutic effect of a medicine.
- **Key Starting Materials (KSMs)** are the **basic chemical compounds** used in the manufacture of APIs.
- India is one of the world's largest manufacturers of **finished pharmaceutical formulations**, but has historically depended significantly on imports of **APIs and KSMs**, particularly from **China**.
- **Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)** treats industrial wastewater from multiple manufacturing units before discharge.
- **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)** is an advanced wastewater management system that **recycles and reuses all wastewater**, ensuring **no liquid effluent is released into the environment**.

4. Revamped Khelo India Scheme & Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Youth Empowerment + **GS III:** Human Resource Development • Inclusive Development

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **revamped Khelo India Scheme** and an enhanced **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** with a combined outlay of **₹36,441 crore (2026–31)** to strengthen India's sports ecosystem from grassroots to elite international competition.
- **Khelo India** is the flagship sports development programme of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** aimed at promoting **sports culture, talent identification and athlete development**.
- The revamped scheme aligns with **Khelo Bharat Niti, 2025** and the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**, integrating sports with education, fitness and high-performance training.
- It establishes a **structured athlete pathway** from grassroots competitions to the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** through:
  - **National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs)**
  - **Khelo India Centres of Excellence (KICoEs)**
  - **SAI Training Centres (STCs)**
  - **Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs)**
  - **Khelo India Centres (KICs)**
  - **Youth Sports Companies (YSCs)** of the Armed Forces.
- Two new initiatives have been introduced:
  - **Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS)** – Early talent identification through schools.
  - **Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas (KIUV)** – Integrating sports with mainstream education.
- The new **Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs)** category will significantly expand the athlete development ecosystem through scientific coaching, sports science and long-term mentoring.
- The scheme also strengthens **school, university and league competitions**, while promoting **women's sports, para sports, indigenous sports and the Fit India Movement**.
- A **National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)** will be established to standardise coaching qualifications and improve coaching quality.
- A **Unified Digital Sports Platform** will integrate athlete databases, competitions, infrastructure, talent identification and funding to enable transparent and data-driven sports governance.

5 . Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Modern Indian History • Freedom Movement • Personalities

- **National Security Advisor (NSA) Shri Ajit Doval** was conferred the **Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026** in Pune in recognition of his distinguished contribution to **national security and public service**.
- **Lokmanya Tilak National Award** was instituted in **1983** by the **Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust, Pune**.
- It is conferred annually on individuals who have made **outstanding contributions to nation-building and public service**, reflecting the ideals of **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak**.
- The award comprises a **memento, citation and cash prize**.
- **2026 Awardee: Ajit Doval**, India's **longest-serving National Security Advisor (NSA)**.
- Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856–1920): Popularly known as **"Lokmanya"**.
- Pioneer of Assertive (Extremist) Nationalism during the freedom movement.
- Started the newspapers: **Kesari** (Marathi) + **The Mahratta (The Maratha)** (English)
- Founded the **Deccan Education Society (1884)** and was associated with **Fergusson College**, Pune.
- Transformed **Ganesh Utsav (1893)** and **Shivaji Jayanti (1895)** into mass public festivals to mobilise nationalist sentiment.
- Tilak founded the Indian Home Rule League in April 1916, with its headquarters at Poona (Pune), operating mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, the Central Provinces and Berar.
- Authored **Gita Rahasya**, interpreting the **Bhagavad Gita** through the philosophy of **Karma Yoga (Nishkama Karma)**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 5th August, 2026

1 . Glaw Lake – India's 101st Ramsar Site

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment & Ecology • Wetlands Conservation • Biodiversity • International Environmental Conventions

- India has designated **Glaw Lake** in **Arunachal Pradesh** as its **101st Ramsar Site**, making it the **first Ramsar Site in the State**. The designation reinforces India's commitment to wetland conservation, biodiversity protection and sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems.
- **Glaw Lake** is a **pristine freshwater lake** located within the **Kamlang Tiger Reserve & Wildlife Sanctuary** in the **Eastern Himalayas**.
- It is fed by **perennial mountain streams** and supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna.
- The wetland and its catchment harbour **150+ tree species** and **49 orchid species**, highlighting its high ecological significance.
- The Ramsar designation aims to strengthen **wetland conservation**, **climate resilience**, **water security**, and **sustainable livelihoods** of local communities.
- With this addition, **India's Ramsar Sites increased to 101**, while **Arunachal Pradesh became the latest State to join India's Ramsar network**.
- The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** is an international treaty adopted in **1971** at **Ramsar (Iran)** for the **conservation and wise use of wetlands**. **India became a Contracting Party in 1982**.
- **Montreux Record** is a register of Ramsar Sites where ecological character has changed or is likely to change due to human interference. **Loktak Lake (Manipur)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** are the two Indian wetlands currently included in the Montreux Record.

2. Ujh Multipurpose Project (UMP)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Water Resources • Irrigation • Hydropower • Infrastructure • India–Pakistan Water Relations

- The Government reviewed the implementation roadmap of the **Ujh Multipurpose Project (UMP)** in **Jammu & Kashmir**, which will be executed in phases to enhance irrigation, hydropower generation, drinking water supply and optimal utilisation of India's Ravi river waters.
- **Ujh Multipurpose Project (UMP)** is being implemented by **WAPCOS Ltd.**, a PSU under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The project is located on the **Ujh River**, a major **tributary of the Ravi River** in **Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir**.
- It is designed to:
  - Generate **186–212 MW** of hydropower.
  - Provide irrigation to nearly **90,000 hectares** in **J&K (Kathua & Samba)** and **Punjab (Pathankot & Gurdaspur)**.
  - Supply **drinking and industrial water** to Kathua district.
- The project will be implemented **in phases**, allowing construction to proceed while land acquisition continues simultaneously.
- It is expected to strengthen **water security, agricultural productivity, regional development** and has strategic importance in **optimising India's utilisation of Ravi river waters**.
- The **Shahpurkandi Project**, also on the **Ravi River**, complements the Ujh project by improving India's utilisation of waters from the Eastern Rivers for irrigation and power generation.

3. Indigenous African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture & Allied Sectors • Animal Husbandry • Biotechnology • Biosecurity • Atmanirbhar Bharat

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has developed **India's first indigenous African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccine**, marking a major milestone in strengthening animal health security, reducing economic losses and promoting self-reliance in veterinary vaccine development.
- It is a **MA-104 cell line-based Live Attenuated Vaccine (LAV)** developed against **African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) Genotype II**.
- The vaccine has successfully completed **laboratory evaluation** and **field validation** in collaboration with the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)**.
- Recommended for **healthy pigs above 8 weeks of age**, administered as a **1 mL intramuscular injection**, followed by a **booster dose after 14 days**.
- Developed using the **widely available MA-104 cell line**, enabling **large-scale, low-cost production** without dependence on proprietary manufacturing platforms.

- The vaccine is expected to reduce **pig mortality**, improve **livelihood security of pig farmers**, and strengthen India's **animal disease preparedness and biosecurity**.
- **African Swine Fever (ASF)** is a **highly contagious viral disease** affecting **domestic and wild pigs**.
- It is caused by the **African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV)**, a **large double-stranded DNA virus** belonging to the **family Asfarviridae**.
- ASF is **not a zoonotic disease**—it **does not infect humans** and poses **no food safety risk**.
- **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** classifies ASF as a **notifiable transboundary animal disease** due to its severe economic impact on the livestock sector.

4. India's First Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) Reference Genome of Pigeonpea

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Biotechnology • Agriculture • Food & Nutritional Security • Genetic Improvement of Crops

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has developed **India's first fully annotated Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) reference genome** of **pigeonpea (Arhar/Tur)**, providing a complete genetic blueprint that will accelerate the development of **climate-resilient, high-yielding and nutritionally enriched pulse varieties**.
- The genome has been developed for the pigeonpea variety **'Asha' (Cajanus cajan L. Millsp.)**.
- It is **India's first fully annotated Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) reference genome** of a pulse crop and has been approved as the **global reference genome** for pigeonpea.
- The complete genome sequence includes **all 11 chromosomes**, along with **11 centromeres and 22 telomeres**, providing a comprehensive genetic map of the crop.
- The genome annotation identified over **36,500 genes**, enabling precise identification of traits related to **yield, disease resistance, nutritional quality and climate resilience**.
- The breakthrough will support **molecular breeding**, **marker-assisted selection**, **genome editing**, and **pangenome research**, leading to faster development of improved pigeonpea varieties.
- The achievement strengthens India's **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (2025–31)** by reducing import dependence and improving pulse productivity.
- **Pigeonpea (Cajanus cajan)**, popularly known as **Arhar/Tur**, is an important **kharif pulse crop** and a major source of **plant protein** in India.
- India is the **largest producer and consumer** of pigeonpea globally.
- **Telomeres** are protective DNA sequences present at the **ends of chromosomes**, while **centromeres** are the regions responsible for proper chromosome separation during cell division.
- A **Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) Genome** represents the **complete DNA sequence of every chromosome**, including previously difficult-to-sequence regions such as **centromeres and telomeres**, making it the highest-quality reference genome.
- In **2011**, **ICAR-NIPB** developed the **world's first draft genome of a pulse crop**, and the **first crop genome sequenced entirely in India**, laying the foundation for this latest breakthrough.

5. SAMARTH Centres (Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hubs)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Manufacturing • Industry 4.0 • Industrial Policy • Skill Development • Make in India

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) informed Parliament that **four SAMARTH (Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub) Centres** have been established under the **Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector – Phase II** to accelerate the adoption of **Industry 4.0 technologies** in Indian manufacturing.
- The centres promote adoption of **Industry 4.0** and **Smart Manufacturing** technologies across Indian industries, particularly **MSMEs**.
- They provide:
  - **Industry 4.0 Experience Centres** for live demonstrations.
  - **Model Smart Factories** showcasing digital manufacturing solutions.
  - **Skill development and capacity-building programmes** in emerging manufacturing technologies.
- Focus areas include:
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)
  - Robotics & Autonomous Systems
  - Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)
  - Digital Manufacturing
- To further expand outreach, the Ministry has also approved **10 Cluster Industry 4.0 Experience Centres** through the **Centre for Industry 4.0 (C4i4), Pune**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 6th August, 2026

1 . Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project (PDHEP)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Infrastructure • Hydropower • Energy Security • Indus Waters Treaty

- The **Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project** was recently in news following the resolution of a labour dispute, restoring normal work at one of India's strategically important hydropower projects in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project (PDHEP)** is a **1,000 MW Run-of-the-River (RoR)** hydropower project.
- Located on the **Marusudar River**, the largest tributary of the **Chenab River**, in **Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir**.
- Developed by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt. Ltd. (CVPPPL)**, a joint venture of **NHPC Ltd., JKSPDC and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL)**.
- It is among the **largest hydroelectric projects under construction** in the Chenab Basin.
- The project will enhance **renewable energy generation**, **energy security**, and optimise India's utilisation of the **Western Rivers** under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**.
- **Marusudar River** is the **largest tributary of the Chenab River**.
- **Important Hydroelectric Projects in the Chenab Basin**
  - **Kiru Hydroelectric Project** – **624 MW** – Chenab River
  - **Kwar Hydroelectric Project** – **540 MW** – Chenab River
  - **Ratle Hydroelectric Project** – **850 MW** – Chenab River
  - **Baglihar Hydroelectric Project** – **900 MW** – Chenab River
  - **Salal Hydroelectric Project** – **690 MW** – Chenab River
  - **Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Project** – **390 MW** – Chenab River

2. Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Biodiversity • Wildlife Conservation • Protected Areas • Species Recovery • Environment

- On the occasion of **International Clouded Leopard Day**, India launched the **Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)** to strengthen long-term conservation of one of Asia's most elusive wild cats through **landscape-level conservation**, scientific monitoring and community participation.
- The **Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)** was released during the **91st Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL)**.
- Prepared under the **Government of India–GEF–UNDP** initiative.
- It identifies **14 priority conservation landscapes** across **Northeast India** for focused conservation.
- The **Clouded Leopard** has also been included under the **Species Recovery Programme** of the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH)** scheme.
- The plan also promotes **transboundary cooperation** with neighbouring range countries for coordinated conservation.
- Distribution in India: **Northeast India**, including **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and parts of Sikkim**.
- It possesses the **longest canine teeth relative to skull size** among all living wild cats, often called the **"modern-day sabre-toothed cat."**
- **Solitary and territorial**; adults meet mainly during the breeding season.
- Primarily **nocturnal and crepuscular**.
- Excellent **climber, jumper and swimmer**.
- Hunts by **stalking and ambushing** prey rather than long-distance pursuit.
- **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable + CITES: Appendix I + Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I**

3. Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Space Technology • Start-ups • Innovation • Science & Technology • Space Economy

- The Government informed Parliament that the **Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)** is operational and has begun investing in Indian space-tech start-ups to accelerate innovation, commercialisation and private sector participation in the space sector.
- **Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)** is a **SEBI-registered Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**.
- Established with the objective of providing **equity capital** to **space-tech start-ups** for:
  - Technology development.
  - Commercialisation of innovations.

- ❑ Scaling up operations.
- ➢ The Fund is supported by **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)**.
- ➢ Investments are made in accordance with the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations** and the Fund's approved investment strategy.

4. Irula Tribal Community

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Society • Tribes • Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) + **GS II:** Vulnerable Sections

- ➢ The **Irula** tribe was recently in news after the Government informed Parliament about livelihood promotion initiatives under **PM-JANMAN** through **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)** in Tamil Nadu.
- ➢ **Irula** is a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- ➢ Predominantly found in **Tamil Nadu**, with smaller populations in **Kerala** and **Karnataka**.
- ➢ Belongs to the **Dravidian ethnolinguistic group** and speaks the **Irula language** (Dravidian language family).
- ➢ Traditionally inhabit the **Eastern and Western Ghats**, particularly forested and hilly regions.
- ➢ Major traditional occupations include:
  - ❑ Collection of **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**.
  - ❑ Snake and rat catching.
  - ❑ Traditional herbal medicine.
  - ❑ Small-scale agriculture and wage labour.
- ➢ The community is renowned for its **traditional ecological knowledge**, especially in **snake tracking, venom extraction and medicinal plants**.
- ➢ Through **PM-JANMAN** and **TRIFED's Van Dhan Vikas Kendras**, Irula communities are being supported in **value addition and marketing** of forest produce such as **wild honey, tamarind, herbs, soap nut and spices**.

5. SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Governance • Panchayati Raj • Rural Development • Digital Governance • Land Reforms

- ➢ The Government informed Parliament that the **SVAMITVA Scheme** is providing **Record of Rights (RoR)** to rural property owners through **drone-based mapping**, reducing land disputes and improving access to institutional credit.
- ➢ **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in **2020** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)**.
- ➢ Implemented in collaboration with the **Survey of India** and **State Governments**.
- ➢ The scheme uses **Drone Survey** and **Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)** technology to prepare **high-accuracy GIS maps** of rural **abadi (inhabited) areas**.
- ➢ It provides **Record of Rights (Property Cards)** to rural households, enabling:
  - Clear property ownership.
  - Reduction in land disputes.
  - Easier access to bank credit using property as collateral.
  - Better property taxation and village planning.
- ➢ The spatial data generated under SVAMITVA is integrated with **Gram Manchitra** to support **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)** through GIS-based planning.
- ➢ As of now, **drone surveys have been completed in over 3.3 lakh villages**.
- ➢ **Gram Manchitra**
- ❑ A **GIS-based planning application** developed by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
- ❑ Integrates: SVAMITVA maps + Village infrastructure + Natural resources + Government assets.
- ❑ Supports preparation of **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 7th August, 2026

1 . GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Renewable Energy • Bioenergy • Waste Management • Energy Security • Circular Economy • Agriculture

- ➢ The Union Cabinet has approved **GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan)** as India's **National Unified Scheme for Compressed Biogas (CBG)** with an outlay of **₹23,731 crore** to promote waste-to-wealth, clean energy and rural livelihoods.
- ➢ **GOBARdhan** is a **Central Sector Scheme** implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.

- The scheme will be implemented from **2026–27 to 2035–36** to promote production of **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** from **agricultural residue, cattle dung, municipal organic waste, press mud and other biomass**.
- The scheme aims to:
  - Increase domestic **CBG production nearly ten-fold**.
  - Promote **circular bioeconomy** and **waste-to-wealth**.
  - Strengthen **farmers' income**, rural entrepreneurship and private investment.
  - Reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and improve **energy security**.
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** produced under the scheme will be supplied to **City Gas Distribution (CGD)** networks under the notified **CBG Blending Obligation (CBO)**.
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** is purified biogas (about **90–95% methane**) produced through **anaerobic digestion** of biodegradable organic waste and is chemically similar to **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**.
- Major feedstock includes **crop residue, cattle dung, municipal organic waste, sewage sludge and sugar industry press mud**.
- By-products of CBG plants include **Fermented Organic Manure (FOM)** and **Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM)**.
- The scheme builds upon the **SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) Initiative**, launched in **2018** by the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** to promote CBG production and marketing.

2. Agni-4 Ballistic Missile

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Defence Technology • Missile Systems • Strategic Security • Indigenous Defence

- India successfully test-fired the **Agni-4 Medium Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha**, under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**, validating its operational readiness and technical parameters.
- **Agni-4** is an **indigenously developed Medium Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM)** developed by **DRDO** under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.
- It is a **two-stage, solid-fuel, road-mobile, surface-to-surface ballistic missile**.
- **Range:** Approximately **4,000 km**, enabling strategic deterrence against distant targets.
- Equipped with **advanced Ring Laser Gyroscope (RLG)-based Inertial Navigation System (INS)** and **Micro Navigation System (MINGS)** for high accuracy.
- Features **composite rocket motor**, reducing weight and enhancing operational efficiency.
- Capable of carrying **conventional as well as nuclear warheads**.
- **Ballistic Missiles** follow a **ballistic trajectory** after powered flight, unlike **cruise missiles**, which remain powered throughout flight.

3. Seasonal Migration of Van Gujjar Tribe

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Society • Tribes • Nomadic Communities + **GS II:** Forest Rights • Welfare of Vulnerable Sections

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has urged the Government of Uttarakhand to ensure that the **seasonal migration rights of the Van Gujjar tribal community** are protected in accordance with the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.
- The Ministry reiterated that **Section 3(1)(d)** of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** recognises the **community rights of traditional seasonal resource access of nomadic and pastoralist communities**.
- **Van Gujjars** are a **forest-dwelling nomadic pastoral tribal community**, primarily found in **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir** between the **Shivalik foothills** and the **higher Himalayan pastures**.
- They primarily rear **buffaloes** and depend on **milk and dairy products** for their livelihood.
- They practise **transhumance**—the seasonal movement of livestock between **lower-altitude forests in winter** and **higher Himalayan bugyals (alpine meadows)** during summer.
- Their migration routes pass through forests such as **Rajaji Tiger Reserve**, **Corbett Tiger Reserve** and adjoining forest divisions.

4. PM-YASASVI

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Welfare Schemes • Education • Social Justice • Inclusive Development

- The Government highlighted the success of the **PM-YASASVI**, which provides financial assistance to meritorious students from **OBC, EBC and DNT communities** pursuing higher education in premier institutions.

- **PM-YASASVI (PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India)** is implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- The **Top Class Education Scheme** provides **financial assistance** to meritorious students belonging to:
- **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**
- **Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)**
- **Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)**
- The scheme supports students admitted to **top institutions** through competitive examinations by covering: Tuition fees + Living expenses + Books & stationery + Laptop and other academic support (as per scheme norms)
- **Denotified Tribes (DNTs)** are communities that were notified as **"Criminal Tribes"** under the **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**, and were **denotified** after the Act was repealed in **1952**.

5. BRICS WAVES Bazaar

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: International Relations • BRICS • Cultural Diplomacy + **GS III:** Creative Economy • Digital Economy • Media & Entertainment

- The **BRICS WAVES Bazaar** was inaugurated in Mumbai as a premier international marketplace to strengthen collaboration among **BRICS member and partner countries** in the **creative economy** through business partnerships, co-production and cultural exchange.
- **BRICS WAVES Bazaar** is a high-level international platform bringing together **government representatives, filmmakers, producers, broadcasters, OTT platforms, investors, startups and creative enterprises** from BRICS countries.
- It aims to promote collaboration across: Film & Television + Animation + VFX + Gaming + Music + Digital Media + Emerging Creative Technologies
- The initiative complements the **BRICS Film Festival**, to be held alongside the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026**.
- **WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit)** is India's flagship global platform for the **Media & Entertainment (M&E)** sector, led by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**.
- **BRICS** currently comprises **11 member countries**: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** is India's premier film festival organised by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** in association with the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 10th August, 2026

1 . 'Boss Scam' – WhatsApp Account Takeover

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Cyber Security • Cybercrime • Digital Financial Fraud

- The **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has cautioned against the emerging **'Boss Scam'**, where malicious files disguised as **Statement of Account, RBI or MCA documents** are used to take over WhatsApp accounts and subsequently induce high-value financial transfers.
- Victims receive **.zip files** through WhatsApp, SMS or e-mail, often disguised as **"Statement of Account.zip", "RBI.zip" or "MCA.zip"**.
- The archive contains malicious **.exe + .dll files**; opening them on a **Windows system** installs a Trojan.
- The malware hijacks the victim's active **WhatsApp Web session** and subsequently spreads the same malicious file to the victim's contacts/groups.
- In the **Boss Scam/CEO impersonation fraud**, attackers exploit a compromised senior executive's account to issue **urgent fund-transfer instructions** to finance personnel, directing money to **mule accounts**.
- The campaign uses **DLL Sideloading**, enabling malware to evade detection and propagate across networks.
- **Primary targets:** Chartered Accountants, Company Directors, CFOs and corporate finance/accounts teams.
- I4C has proactively intimated **58,000+ potential victims** through SMS header **'I4CMHA-G'** in the last 30 days.
- More than **10,000 Indians** have reportedly been protected through coordinated interventions and blocking of malware via the **Sahyog Portal**.

2. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: MSMEs • Industrial Policy • Ease of Doing Business • Inclusive Growth • Employment

- The **MSMED (Amendment) Bill, 2026 seeks to amend** amends the **MSMED Act, 2006** to strengthen the MSME ecosystem, improve ease of doing business, address delayed payments and facilitate formalisation and scaling of enterprises.

- The **MSMED Act, 2006** has completed **20 years** and the amendment seeks to align the legal framework with technological, digital and business-environment changes.
- The number of MSMEs registered on Udyam have increased from 1.65 crore as on 01.04.2023 to 9.16 crore now.
- The sector provides employment to **over 40 crore people** and remains a major pillar of India's economy.
- MSME classification based on the twin criteria of **investment in plant/machinery and turnover** has been incorporated into the Act.
- **Udyam Registration Portal** gets statutory permanence as a **digital, free and voluntary** registration platform.
- **Delayed Payment Mechanism:**
  - Introduces **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)** for Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) payment disputes.
  - **Mediation:** to be completed within **90 days** from the date fixed for first appearance.
  - **Arbitration:** MSEFC to refer the matter within **30 days** after termination of mediation.
  - **Arbitral award:** to be made within **90 days** from completion of pleadings.
  - **Recovery of dues:** Mediated settlement agreements and arbitral awards under Section 18 can be recovered as **arrears of land revenue** through the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner or notified authority.
- **TReDS:** All **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** will route settlement of invoices for procurement from MSMEs through the **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)**.
- States are enabled to **nudge their Public Sector Enterprises** to use TReDS for invoice settlement.
- **MSEFCs:** State Governments can establish **multiple Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils**, enabling faster disposal of delayed-payment disputes.
- **Decriminalisation:** Certain conviction-based offences are replaced with **graded civil penalties**, promoting a trust-based regulatory environment.
- For furnishing wrong information, the amended framework provides a **warning for the first instance** followed by penalties for subsequent instances.

3. Project FAIR

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Particle Physics • Mega Science Projects • Indigenous Technology • International Scientific Cooperation

- India has developed critical **beam catcher equipment** for the **Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR)**, an international mega-science project being built at **Darmstadt, Germany**, showcasing India's capabilities in advanced accelerator technology, precision engineering and high-end scientific manufacturing.
- **FAIR (Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research)** is a **large multipurpose particle accelerator facility** under construction at Darmstadt, Germany.
- India became a **founding member of FAIR in 2010**, by signing the Convention on **4 October 2010**.
- India's contribution to FAIR is funded **50:50 by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- **Bose Institute, Kolkata** is the Indian shareholder in **FAIR GmbH** and the **nodal Indian institution** for implementation of India's FAIR programme.
- India's contribution comprises **cash components as well as in-kind supplies** of specialised accelerator components.
- Beam Catcher
  - A key component of the **beam line** and **Super-FRS (Superconducting Fragment Separator)**.
  - Absorbs remnants of the primary **heavy-ion beam** after it strikes the production target.
  - Enables the production of **radioactive beams**.
  - **Three units** have been designed by **CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur** and manufactured in India.
  - Uses **fine-grained graphite and hyper-pure copper** as absorbing materials.
  - Requires **water cooling** because of intense heat deposition and operates inside an **ultra-high-vacuum chamber**.
  - Combines **heavy engineering, precision movement and vacuum technology**.
- Indian scientific groups are also developing detector systems for FAIR's **NuSTAR (Nuclear Structure and Astrophysics)** and **CBM (Compressed Baryonic Matter)** experiments.

4. CSIR-NBRI 'Eco-Educational Hub' – Prakriti Gyan Dham

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Biotechnology/Plant Science • Biodiversity Conservation • Technology Transfer

- CSIR-NBRI has developed the first-of-its-kind **Eco-Educational Hub 'Prakriti Gyan Dham'** at the **Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre (MPBC), Banthra, Lucknow**, showcasing the **science-to-society connect** through biodiversity conservation, experiential learning and technology transfer.
- Developed by **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI)**.

- Designed as a **living repository of India's botanical and cultural heritage**, connecting scientific research with students, farmers, researchers, educators and the general public.
- **PAaVan Path** (Plants and Associated Vegetations for Appreciating Nature) → interpretive heritage trail showcasing curated plant collections representing diverse ecological regions.
- **Indian Heritage Garden** → heritage trees propagated from historically significant locations, including:
- **Bawan Imli Tamarind Tree** – Fatehpur; associated with the sacrifice of 52 freedom fighters.
- **Mother Dussehri Mango Tree** – Lucknow.
- **Patalpuri Banyan** – Prayagraj.
- **Mango Tree planted by Mahatma Gandhi** – Bhitiharwa, Champaran.
- Trees associated with the **Dandi March route** – Gujarat.
- **QR-enabled audio systems** provide botanical, historical and cultural information through smartphones.
- **Vibhav Enclave** → dedicated to **rare, endangered and threatened plants**, highlighting biodiversity loss, habitat degradation and climate change.
- **Bhairav Enclave** → displays **State Plants of States and UTs**, highlighting their ecological and cultural significance.
- **Bamboosteum** → houses **43 indigenous and exotic bamboo species.**

5. Important BRICS Declarations

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: International Relations • BRICS • International Cultural Cooperation

XI BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting – Bhopal Declaration

- The **XI BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting** concluded in **Bhopal** under India's **BRICS Chairship 2026**, with the adoption of the **Bhopal Declaration** to deepen cultural cooperation and develop the **creative economy**.
- Cooperation on **UNESCO multinational nominations**, **provenance research** and **return/restitution of cultural property**.
- Exploration of **AI-enabled tools** for tracing cultural property.
- Protection of **Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS)** and **Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs)**.
- Cooperation among **museums, libraries and archives** for digitisation, conservation and documentary heritage.
- Focus on **creators' rights, transparency and fair remuneration** regarding use of copyrighted works in **AI systems**.
- India announced a pilot **Voluntary Artist Registry** → facilitate cultural exchanges, professional networks and opportunities for artists across BRICS.

BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration

- The **13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting** concluded in **Bhubaneswar** with the adoption of the **BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration**, reaffirming education as a key instrument of **inclusive growth, shared prosperity and people-centric cooperation**.
- Cooperation structured around **five priority areas**:
  - **ECCE + Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN)** → universal, inclusive access and digital tools for early learning.
  - **Skill Development + TVET** → strengthening **BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA)** and India's proposed **International Skill Gap Study**.
  - **Research, Innovation & Start-ups** → joint research and **safe, ethical & human-centred AI in education**.
  - **Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQ)** → facilitate **academic mobility** and cooperation.
  - **Academic Leadership & Institutional Development** → Rectors' Forum, faculty/leadership exchanges, scholarships, STEM cooperation and exploration of a **BRICS University Global Ranking & Evaluation System**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 11th August, 2026

1 . Allocation of Foodgrains under PM-POSHAN

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Education • Vulnerable Sections + GS III: Food Security • Human Resource Development

- **PM POSHAN Scheme** is implemented in partnership with **State Governments and UT Administrations**.
- Provides **hot and nutritious meals** to children studying in **Bal Vatika (just before Class I) and Classes I–VIII** in Government and Government-aided schools.
- The PM POSHAN scheme (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman), formerly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, operates under the **Ministry of Education.**
- **Central Government provides 100% assistance** for:
- Cost of foodgrains
- Transportation cost

- Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (MME)
- **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** is responsible for providing foodgrains under the scheme.
- Foodgrains are allocated **bi-annually** by the **Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L)** with concurrence of the **Department of Food & Public Distribution**.
- Allocation is made as approved by the **Programme Approval Board (PAB)-PM POSHAN** to the State Nodal Department and FCI.
- FCI ensures **continuous availability** of adequate foodgrains in its depots and allows lifting of foodgrains **up to one month in advance** to prevent supply-chain disruptions.
- Foodgrains supplied must meet at least **Fair Average Quality (FAQ)** standards.
- **District Collector/CEO of Zila Panchayat** ensures quality through joint inspection by FCI and district representatives.
- FCI maintains **samples of supplied foodgrains** for future verification and analysis in case of quality complaints.

2. Redesigning of PMKVY Courses

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Skill Development • Employment + GS III: Human Resource Development • Emerging Technologies

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** is implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** since **2015** for skill development through **Short-Term Training (STT)** and **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.
- **PMKVY 4.0**, implemented since **FY 2022-23**, focuses on **emerging and new-age skills** aligned with industry requirements.
- **600+ new-age and futuristic courses** have been introduced covering **Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, electronics, green energy, EVs, drones, cybersecurity and robotics**.
- As on **30 June 2026**, around **5.44 lakh candidates** have been trained in new-age and futuristic job roles under PMKVY 4.0.
- PMKVY 4.0 is a **demand-driven scheme** with **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** embedded in industry-relevant courses, providing real-world industry exposure.
- Training is standardized through the **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)** and aligned with industry requirements.
- **Sector Skill Councils (SSCs)** identify skill gaps, develop curricula and competency standards, and oversee training, assessment and certification.
- **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** integrates **skilling, education, employment and entrepreneurship** ecosystems and connects skilled candidates with employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

3. Achievements and Socio-Economic Impact under PM SVANidhi Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Inclusive Development • Vulnerable Sections • Financial Inclusion

- **PM SVANidhi (Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi)** was launched on **1 June 2020** to provide **collateral-free working capital loans** to **urban street vendors**.
- The scheme enables vendors to access **institutional credit**, helping reduce dependence on informal sources of finance.
- Since inception till **12 July 2026**, **76.95 lakh street vendors** have availed **1.15 crore+ loans** amounting to **₹18,475 crore**.
- **Graduated credit support:** Timely repayment enables vendors to move to **higher loan tranches**, creating a pathway for progressive access to formal credit.
- **2nd loan tranche:** 29.71 lakh vendors
- **3rd loan tranche:** 8.49 lakh vendors
- **Digital financial inclusion:** Vendors are incentivised for digital transactions through **cashback incentives**, encouraging adoption of digital payments.
- Till **May 2026**, more than **875 crore digital transactions** had been recorded under the scheme, with **₹412 crore cashback** released.
- **SVANidhi se Samriddhi**, launched on **4 January 2021**, extends the scheme from credit support to **social-security convergence** by linking beneficiaries and their families with **8 Central Government welfare schemes**.
- **The 8 linked schemes include:**
  - PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
  - PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
  - PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
  - BOCW registration
  - PM Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM)
  - NFSA portability through One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)
  - PM Janani Suraksha Yojana (PMJSY)
  - PM Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

4. Rising Asiatic Lion Population & Project Lion

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment & Ecology • Biodiversity Conservation • Wildlife Protection • Protected Areas

- **Asiatic Lion population** increased from **523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025**, reflecting sustained conservation efforts.
- **Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*)** is found only in **India**, with its wild population concentrated in the **Greater Gir Landscape of Gujarat**.
- **Gir National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary** forms the core of the Asiatic Lion conservation landscape.
- The lion's range has expanded from around **30,000 sq. km in 2020 to nearly 35,000 sq. km**, indicating expansion beyond the core protected area into the wider landscape.
- **Project Lion** was announced on **15 August 2020** for the **long-term conservation of Asiatic Lions**.
- Asiatic Lions are **social animals** and occur in groups; **male coalitions** are an important feature of their social and territorial behaviour.
- Lions show **dispersal and ranging beyond protected forests**, using a landscape comprising **forest, agricultural and pastoral areas**; hence **habitat connectivity and community coexistence** are important for their conservation.
- **Wildlife corridors** facilitate movement between habitats and support **gene flow and satellite populations**.
- The Greater Gir landscape supports prey such as **Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Wild Boar and Chinkara**, forming an important prey base for the lion.
- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary**, Gujarat, is being developed as an important **second habitat** for Asiatic Lions, reducing dependence on a single landscape.
- **Conservation Status:** Endangered – IUCN Red List + CITES: Appendix I + Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.

5. Removal of Invasive Alien Plant Species in Reserved Forests

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment & Ecology • Biodiversity Conservation • Forest Conservation • Environmental Degradation

- **Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS)** are alien plant species whose introduction and spread can adversely affect **native species, ecosystems and ecosystem functioning**.
- **MoEFCC** and its line institutions identify and monitor IAPS. **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** has prepared an album of **45 major invasive species** and assessed their occurrence in Reserved Forest Areas.
- **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** has prepared a **state-wise inventory of potential invasive species** occurring in forest and non-forest areas and submitted it to the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** for preparation of a **National Management Plan for Invasive Species**.
- Invasive plants can **outcompete native vegetation**, alter habitat structure and ecosystem processes, and reduce **native biodiversity and regeneration**.
- Important invasive plants relevant to India include **Lantana camara, Prosopis juliflora, Mikania micrantha, Parthenium hysterophorus and Eichhornia crassipes**.
- **Management responsibility:** Removal of invasive species and regeneration with indigenous species in Reserved Forests and other protected forest areas is undertaken by the **respective State Governments/UT Administrations** as per approved forest and wildlife management plans.
- **National Forest Policy, 1988** emphasises **environmental stability, restoration of ecological balance and afforestation/regeneration using native/indigenous species**.
- **National Working Plan Code, 2023** provides for **ecosystem-based forest management**, including invasive species management, restoration of degraded landscapes, soil and moisture conservation and preference for **site-specific indigenous/native species**.
- Restoration of native vegetation can strengthen **soil-moisture retention, groundwater recharge, water retention and overall ecosystem resilience**.
- **India currently does not have a single dedicated national legislation exclusively dealing with invasive alien species**; their management involves a **multi-agency and multi-sectoral approach**.
- At the global level, **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6** specifically addresses **invasive alien species**, including their introduction and establishment.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 12th August, 2026

1 . Sagarmala Startup and Innovation Initiative (S2I2)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Infrastructure • Ports & Shipping • Logistics • Blue Economy • Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- **Sagarmala Startup and Innovation Initiative (S2I2)** was launched on **March 2025** to establish an **innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem for India's maritime sector**.

- **Maritime India Foundation (MIF)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)**, is the designated implementing agency.
- **Maritime Innovation Hubs (MIHs)** have been established at **IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur and Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai**.
- MIHs support **technology development, testing, validation, capacity building and handholding of startups**, creating a pathway from **port-led problem identification → pilot → scale-up**.
- **MAR-a-THON 2025**, India's first maritime hackathon, was launched under S2I2 at **IIT Madras** by MIF in collaboration with **Chennai Port Authority (ChPA)** and **NTCPWC, IIT Madras**.
- The hackathon received **330 startup applications** for **51 problem statements.**
- Following evaluation, **36 startups were selected for 40 projects** to develop solutions for real-world maritime challenges.
- **Visakhapatnam Port** has identified **4 problem statements**, with **2 startups from Andhra Pradesh** onboarded to develop solutions.
- **Sagarmala Programme** was launched in **2015** as a flagship **port-led development** initiative of MoPSW.

2. Cultivation of Kalanamak Rice

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Crops & Cropping Patterns • Food Processing • Agricultural Marketing • GI Tags • Farmers' Income

- **Kalanamak rice** is a traditional **landrace of rice** cultivated mainly in the **Terai region of Uttar Pradesh**, with **Siddharthnagar** being its important production area.
- Production in **Siddharthnagar** increased **more than five-fold between 2018 and 2025**, while the number of farmers cultivating Kalanamak increased from **2,915 (2018) to 23,000 (2024)**.
- Its sale price increased from **₹40/kg in 2018 to ₹150/kg in 2026**, resulting in **more than three-fold higher profitability** compared with normal rice.
- **Kalanamak has GI recognition**, supporting its geographical identity, branding and premium-market positioning.
- Under **PMFME and ODOP Margin Money Scheme**, individual micro-units and FPOs setting up Kalanamak processing/milling units can receive **credit-linked capital subsidy up to 35%**, subject to a maximum of **₹10 lakh**.
- A **Common Facility Centre (CFC)** has been established in **Siddharthnagar** under ODOP for **processing, packaging and export support**.
- **ICAR/National Agricultural Research System** is involved in the **development of improved varieties and conservation of Kalanamak landraces**.
- Six improved varieties have been released and notified, including **Bauna Kalanamak 101, Bauna Kalanamak 102, Kalanamak Kiran, Pusa Narendra Kalanamak 1 and Pusa CRD Kalanamak 2**.
- The two dwarf high-yielding varieties mentioned in the PIB release have an average yield of **4.5 tonnes/ha**, compared with **2.5 tonnes/ha** for traditional varieties.
- **APEDA** is facilitating exports by connecting regional **FPOs with international buyers**, including markets such as **Singapore and Nepal**. Kalanamak is also promoted as **"Buddha Rice"** for high-value markets in Buddhist-majority/heritage markets.

3. Research Capacity Building in Ayurveda

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Health • Traditional Knowledge + GS III: Science & Technology • Research & Innovation

- **PRAYATNA** is a flagship initiative of the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** aimed at improving **scientific writing and research-publication skills** among Ayurveda **PG and Ph.D. scholars**.
- The initiative follows a structured process: **Expression of Interest (EoI) → online orientation → individual manuscript assistance → 3-day physical workshop → publication-ready manuscript**.
- **CCRAS** is the apex research body under the **Ministry of Ayush** for formulation, coordination, development and promotion of **research in Ayurveda on scientific lines**.
- The **CCRAS Digital Initiatives Dashboard** integrates the Council's **research resources, institute websites, journals, schemes, knowledge/literature portals and digital applications** on a single platform, improving accessibility and dissemination of research outputs.
- CCRAS has also developed **"A Textbook of Research Methodology"** under the **Ayurved Prabodhini Granthamala series**, aligned with the **outcome-based dynamic curriculum for MD/MS Ayurveda** under the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)**.
- The textbook covers core research skills including **literature search, research-question formulation, hypothesis, research design, data analysis, ethical considerations and scientific writing**.

- The book contains **21 chapters across six modules** and was developed through **structured drafting, peer review and editorial refinement**, involving experts from Ayurveda and modern scientific streams.
- CCRAS institutes/laboratories are also covered under **NABH** and **NABL** accreditation frameworks, strengthening standards in healthcare services, testing and research infrastructure.

4. Launch of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel – *Shruti*

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Defence • Defence Technology • Indigenous Shipbuilding • Maritime Security • Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- **Yard 3037 (*Shruti*)**, a **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**, was launched on **11 August 2026** at **GRSE, Kolkata**.
- NGOPVs are being **indigenously designed and built** and are being constructed concurrently at **GRSE, Kolkata and GSL, Goa**.
- The vessels will augment the existing **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)/Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs)** for **multi-domain maritime operations**.
- Major roles include: **Maritime surveillance** + **Search & Rescue (SAR)** + **Protection of offshore assets** + **Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)** + **Anti-piracy operations**
- The vessel has been named **'Shruti'**, referring to the **four Vedas**, reflecting India's maritime tradition and cultural heritage.
- **GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers)** is a **Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence** and is headquartered in **Kolkata**.
- Offshore Patrol Vessels are primarily designed for **long-duration maritime patrol, surveillance, EEZ protection, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and search-and-rescue operations**, making them important for India's **maritime domain awareness**.

5. Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Infrastructure • Logistics • Manufacturing • Ports & Shipping • Atmanirbhar Bharat

- **Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS)** was announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27** with an outlay of **₹10,000 crore over five years** to create a **globally competitive domestic container manufacturing ecosystem**.
- India currently imports nearly **2 million empty containers annually**, creating dependence on global supply chains and exposing domestic trade to container shortages and freight-rate volatility.
- **Container:** Standardised freight equipment used for transporting cargo across **ships, railways and road transport without unloading/repacking**, enabling **intermodal transport**.
- Container capacity is commonly measured in **TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit)**: **20-foot container = 1 TEU** + **40-foot container = 2 TEUs**
- The scheme targets **around 1 million TEUs of annual domestic manufacturing capacity over the next decade**, strengthening India's position in the global maritime manufacturing value chain.
- CMAS is expected to generate around **3,000 direct and 50,000+ indirect jobs** and create demand for ancillary industries such as **corner castings, wooden components and specialised steel**.
- The initiative complements **Make in India, Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, PM Gati Shakti, National Logistics Policy and Sagarmala Programme** to strengthen multimodal and maritime logistics.
- **Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL)** was proposed in February 2026 by bringing together **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), CONCOR, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd.**, creating an integrated container-shipping ecosystem.
- In July 2026, India's first **India-manufactured EXIM shipping container** for **A.P. Moller–Maersk** was rolled out at **Dadri, Uttar Pradesh**, conforming to **ISO standards and the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC)**.
- **CSC Convention (1972)** establishes internationally accepted **safety standards for containers**, including testing, inspection and approval requirements, facilitating safe international container transport.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 13th August, 2026

1 . CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer under PMGKAY

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: • Digital Governance • Welfare Schemes • Transparency + GS III: Digital Economy • FinTech

- The Government will launch **CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** in **Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli** on **14 August 2026**.
- **Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli** will become the **first Union Territories** to operationalise food-subsidy transfers to all eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries through **programmable CBDC (Digital Rupee**
- **) tokens**.

- The subsidy will be transferred **directly into beneficiaries' CBDC wallets**, replacing conventional bank-account transfers under this model.
- Beneficiaries can use the subsidy to purchase **foodgrains from empanelled merchants** through a **secure, traceable and real-time digital payment mechanism**.
- The initiative builds on earlier **CBDC-based DBT pilots in Puducherry and Gujarat**.
- **CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency)** is the **digital form of sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. India's CBDC is known as the **Digital Rupee (e₹)**.
- Unlike privately issued **cryptocurrencies**, CBDC is **sovereign money issued by the central bank** and is a liability of the RBI.
- **Programmability** enables the use of CBDC for specified purposes/conditions, making it potentially useful for **targeted welfare transfers**.
- The model aims to improve **end-to-end traceability, reduce leakages and diversion, minimise cash handling, enable real-time monitoring and strengthen accountability** in subsidy delivery.

2. PRAHAAR – National Counter Terrorism Policy & Strategy

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Internal Security • Terrorism • Counter-Terrorism • Intelligence & Security Agencies • Cyber Security

- **PRAHAAR** was unveiled by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** on **23 February 2026** as India's **first comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy & Strategy**.
- It provides a national framework for **prevention of and response to terrorism and radicalisation** through a **"Whole of Government"** and **"Whole of Society"** approach.
- The strategy is built around **7 pillars**:
  - **Prevention** of terrorist attacks
  - **Swift and proportionate response** to threats
  - **Aggregation of internal capacities** through a Whole-of-Government approach
  - **Human rights and Rule of Law** in counter-terrorism processes
  - **Attenuating conditions conducive to terrorism**, including radicalisation
  - **International cooperation** against terrorism
  - **Recovery and resilience** through a Whole-of-Society approach
- PRAHAAR adopts an **intelligence-led and proactive framework**, moving beyond a purely reactive approach to counter-terrorism.
- It emphasises **real-time intelligence sharing through the Multi Agency Centre (MAC)** and coordinated action between **State Police/agencies and specialised Central Forces such as the National Security Guard (NSG)**.
- It also focuses on **critical infrastructure protection, technology-enabled counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation through community participation**.

3. Elephant Conservation in India

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment & Ecology • Wildlife Conservation • Human-Wildlife Conflict

- **World Elephant Day** is observed annually on **12 August** to highlight elephant conservation and human-elephant coexistence.
- India is home to nearly **60% of the world's wild Asian elephant population**. The **SAIEE 2021–25** estimates India's wild elephant population at **22,446**.
- Elephants are a **keystone species** and play an important role in **seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, forest regeneration and maintaining ecological connectivity**.
- **Behaviour:** Elephants are **highly social and migratory**; females generally live in family herds, while adult males are often more solitary. Their large home ranges and seasonal movements make **habitat connectivity and corridors** critical.
- India currently has **33 Elephant Reserves** covering about **80,777 sq. km** across **14 major elephant-range states**.
- **West Bengal** has the highest number of identified corridors (**26**). The network also includes **19 inter-state** and **6 transboundary corridors** connecting India and Nepal.
- **SAIEE 2021–25** used India's first **DNA-based synchronised elephant population estimation**, combining **DNA profiling, block counts and line-transect surveys** to improve population assessment.
- **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)** for Elephant Reserves was launched in **2023**, initially tested in **Shivalik, Kaziranga–Karbi Anglong, Mayurbhanj and Nilgiri** reserves.
- **Railway safety:** Joint surveys identified **127 sensitive railway stretches covering 3,452.4 km**. Technologies such as **Distributed Acoustic Sensing, seismic sensors and thermal cameras** are being deployed to detect elephant movement.
- **Gajah Suchana** is a mobile application containing a **national genetic database of registered captive elephants**, including DNA profiles, morphological characteristics and ownership details.

- The **Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024** regulate the transfer and transport of captive elephants; an expert/high-powered mechanism examines inter-State transfers.
- **Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)** is the species found in India; India hosts the largest remaining population of Asian elephants.
- **Conservation Status:** Endangered – IUCN Red List + CITES: Appendix I + Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.
- **Project Elephant** was launched in **1992** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the conservation of elephants and their habitats.

4. AI-based Detection of Cancer Stem-like Cells

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Biotechnology • AI • Health & Emerging Technologies

- Researchers from **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS)**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, in collaboration with **Ashoka University**, have developed **ACSCeND** — *AI-based Cancer Stem-like Cell Profiler and Neoplasm Deconvoluter*.
- **Cancer stem-like cells (CSCs)** are a small population of tumour cells believed to contribute to **tumour recurrence, metastasis and treatment resistance**.
- A major challenge is that these cells are **rare and can change their cellular identity**, making conventional detection difficult.
- **ACSCeND** uses **deep learning + single-cell sequencing-derived knowledge** to identify hidden cancer stem-like cell states from conventional **bulk tumour RNA-sequencing data**.
- Unlike approaches that assign a single **"stemness" score**, ACSCeND identifies **three developmental states**: **Pluripotent-like** + **Multipotent-like** + **Unipotent-like**
- Tumours enriched with highly potent **pluripotent-like cancer stem cells** were associated with **poorer survival, higher recurrence and reduced response to modern immunotherapies**.
- ACSCeND also identified **molecular programmes** associated with survival, adaptation and immune evasion of these cells, potentially helping identify **drug targets and patients at higher risk of relapse**.
- The team's earlier **OncoMark** AI platform was developed to identify biological hallmarks associated with **cancer progression** from large genomic datasets.

5. Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Panchayati Raj • Local Governance • Decentralisation • Fiscal Empowerment of Rural Local Bodies

- **Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme** is a **four-year initiative** aimed at making Panchayats financially self-reliant by increasing their **Own Source Revenue (OSR)** through projects based on **unexplored local assets**.
- Projects are selected through a **State- and National-level open challenge system**: **50 projects** in the first year & **100 projects annually** in the following three years
- **Eligibility:** Elected **Gram and Block Panchayats** with at least **3 years of tenure** and minimum OSR of: **₹50 lakh** – Gram Panchayats & **₹1 crore** – Block Panchayats
- Relaxed norms apply to **North-Eastern and Hill States**.
- The programme provides **technical assistance rather than direct financial assistance**, helping Panchayats convert initial ideas into **sustainable, bankable projects**.
- Assistance includes preparation of **project documents, RFPs and model contracts**, identification of funding sources and support for **financial closure**.
- **Gram Sabha approval is mandatory**, ensuring participatory planning and local accountability.
- The entire submission and selection process is conducted through a **dedicated digital portal**.
- States may include financial institutions such as **NABARD and HUDCO** in State-level evaluation committees for technical and financial inputs.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 14th August, 2026

1 . Space Debris & ISRO's Debris Free Space Mission

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Space Technology • Space Debris • Space Situational Awareness • Space Sustainability

- The proliferation of **LEO satellite constellations**, particularly satellite-internet constellations, is increasing the risk of **space debris and orbital collisions**.
- Large constellations may consist of **thousands of satellites** operating in similar orbital shells. Failure of even a single satellite can increase collision and fragmentation risks.

- **Space debris** includes non-functional human-made objects and fragments remaining in orbit. Even small, difficult-to-track debris can cause **mission-ending damage** because of high orbital velocities and can generate further debris through collisions.
- **ISRO's Debris Free Space Mission** aims to safeguard space assets and prevent further debris generation through measures including **Active Debris Removal (ADR)** and improved end-of-life disposal.
- **Active Debris Removal (ADR) is** deliberate removal of existing debris objects from orbit to reduce the long-term growth of the debris population.
- **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** is crucial for identifying, tracking and characterising space objects and enabling **collision avoidance and safe space operations**.
- **Indian Space Policy** mandates adoption of **internationally recognised space-debris mitigation guidelines**, including **end-of-life disposal** of satellites.
- **IN-SPACe Norms, Guidelines and Procedures (2024)** encourage Indian space actors to undertake **post-mission disposal** or ensure that space assets have sufficiently limited orbital lifetimes through **natural orbital decay**.
- ISRO has been a member of the **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) since 1996**. The IADC was established in **1993** and coordinates international efforts on space-debris monitoring and mitigation.
- **UN-COPUOS** addresses **space-debris mitigation and long-term sustainability** of outer-space activities, including the safety of space operations.
- **Kessler Syndrome:** a cascading scenario in which collisions generate debris, which causes further collisions and progressively increases the debris population, potentially making certain orbital regions difficult to use.

2. Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Critical Minerals • Manufacturing • Electric Vehicles • Renewable Energy • Atmanirbhar Bharat

- The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** received **20 bids** for establishing integrated **Sintered NdFeB Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM)** manufacturing facilities under the scheme.
- The scheme was approved by the **Union Cabinet on 26 November 2025** with a financial outlay of **₹7,280 crore**; the scheme notification was issued on **15 December 2025**.
- The scheme aims to establish **6,000 MTPA** of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in India.
- The total capacity will be allocated to **5 beneficiaries** through global competitive bidding, with **up to 1,200 MTPA per beneficiary**.
- **Scheme duration: 7 years**, comprising:
  - **2 years** gestation period for setting up manufacturing facilities
  - **5 years** of incentive disbursement linked to sale of REPM.
- The scheme seeks to establish an **integrated domestic value chain from NdPr oxide to finished permanent magnets**, reducing India's import dependence.
- **Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)** are high-strength magnets used in **electric vehicles, wind turbines, electronics, aerospace and defence systems**.
- **NdFeB magnets** are permanent magnets made primarily from **neodymium (Nd), iron (Fe) and boron (B)** and are among the strongest commercially available permanent magnets.
- Their high **magnetic strength-to-size ratio** makes them particularly important for compact, high-efficiency applications such as **EV motors, wind-turbine generators and advanced electronics**.
- **Neodymium and praseodymium (NdPr)** are among the **rare earth elements (REEs)**; rare earths comprise **17 elements** — the 15 lanthanides plus **scandium and yttrium**.

3. Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Centre-State Relations • Cooperative Federalism + GS III: Infrastructure • Tourism • Sustainable Development

- **SASCI – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Tourism** aimed at developing selected tourist destinations into **iconic tourism centres of global scale**.
- Under the scheme, **40 projects across 23 States** were sanctioned in **2024-25** with a total outlay of **₹3,295.76 crore**.
- These projects receive **100% Central funding** under the scheme.
- The **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)** is a Central Government mechanism providing **long-term/interest-free financial assistance to States for capital expenditure**, thereby encouraging infrastructure creation and growth-oriented investment.

- For **SASCI 2025-26**, States that did not avail funds under **Part III of SASCI 2024-25** became eligible for tourism projects under **Part II**, subject to a maximum assistance of **₹250 crore**.
- Under this provision, **₹250 crore each** was sanctioned and released to **Nagaland, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh** for tourism projects.
- The scheme incorporates **carrying-capacity assessment, statutory clearances, stakeholder consultation and sustainable operation & maintenance** into project planning, linking tourism infrastructure with **sustainable tourism**.
- A **Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC)** and **Mission Directorate (MD)** provide the national institutional framework, with participation from relevant ministries/departments and agencies such as **ASI**, enabling inter-sectoral convergence.
- The Ministry of Tourism has developed a **Programme Management Information System (PMIS)** as a unified digital platform for **monitoring, information sharing, reporting and coordination** of destination-development projects.

4. Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Health • Vulnerable Sections • Human Resource Development

- The **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** organised a **National Workshop on Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB)** on **12–13 August 2026**, bringing together representatives from all States/UTs and multiple ministries.
- The **revised AMB Operational Guidelines**, launched on **29 June 2026**, mark a shift from a primarily **supplementation/prophylaxis-based approach** towards **testing, case-based management, treatment compliance, dietary improvement and digital tracking**.
- The revised programme follows a strengthened **7×7×7 strategy**, replacing the earlier **6×6×6 framework**.
- The **7×7×7 approach** emphasises: **7 beneficiary groups** + **7 interventions** + **7 institutional mechanisms/levels of implementation.**
- A major focus is moving from **static compliance-based monitoring to testing → tracking → treatment → follow-up → resolution**.
- The programme emphasises a **life-course approach**, extending anaemia prevention and management beyond pregnancy to **younger age groups**.
- **Jan Bhagidari** has been incorporated to strengthen **community ownership and participation** in anaemia reduction.
- The programme calls for **inter-ministerial convergence**, particularly involving **Health, Education, Women & Child Development, Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs & Sports and Tribal Affairs**.
- Anaemia is a condition characterised by **insufficient healthy red blood cells/haemoglobin to meet the body's oxygen needs**. **Iron deficiency** is an important cause, but anaemia can also result from **nutritional deficiencies, infections, chronic diseases and genetic/other conditions**.

5. Sowa-Rigpa System of Medicine

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Health • AYUSH • Traditional Systems of Medicine • Government Policies & Institutions + GS I: Indian Culture • Traditional Knowledge

- **Dr. Padma Gurmet**, Director, **National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh**, was conferred the **UT Ladakh State Award 2025** for his contribution to the preservation, promotion and development of **Sowa-Rigpa**.
- **Sowa-Rigpa** literally means the **"Science of Healing"** and is a traditional system of medicine practised predominantly in the **trans-Himalayan region**, particularly **Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Himachal Pradesh**.
- It is historically associated with the **Tibetan medical tradition** and has evolved through the interaction of indigenous Himalayan knowledge with **Tibetan, Indian and other Asian medical traditions**.
- Sowa-Rigpa is based on the understanding of the **body, mind, environment and disease as interconnected**, with emphasis on diagnosis, prevention and treatment through medicinal and therapeutic practices.
- **Traditional diagnostic methods** include examination of **pulse and urine**, along with assessment of symptoms and other physical indicators.
- Sowa-Rigpa uses a wide range of **medicinal plants, minerals and other natural substances**, particularly resources available in the Himalayan region.
- **National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh** is the major national institution dedicated to the **education, research and development of Sowa-Rigpa** and functions under the **Ministry of Ayush**.
- Sowa-Rigpa is recognised as one of the systems of the **Indian System of Medicine** under the **National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** framework.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 17th August, 2026

1 . RSVC–AMRIT Platform

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Rural Technology • Innovation & Technology Transfer • Inclusive Development + GS II: Rural Development

- **RSVC–AMRIT** platform was launched by the **Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**, to strengthen **technology-led rural development and technology transfer**.
- It has been developed by **NABARD in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA)** and serves as the **digital backbone of the RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC) ecosystem**.
- **AMRIT** is designed to cover the complete RSVC lifecycle: **technology discovery → validation → deployment → tracking → monitoring → knowledge management**.
- It seeks to connect **innovators, technology providers, startups, validators, accelerators, implementation partners, funding agencies, academic institutions and rural communities** on a common platform.
- The objective is to bridge the gap between **available technologies and actual rural needs**, enabling wider adoption of **appropriate, affordable and locally relevant technologies**.
- **RSVCs** act as village-level technology hubs facilitating transfer of technologies from **research institutions, innovators and startups to rural communities**.
- Key areas include **agriculture, rural enterprises, renewable energy, education, assistive technologies, water & sanitation and citizen services**.
- **NABARD currently supports 8 RSVCs**, with the AMRIT platform providing a digital layer to complement their physical grassroots presence.
- AMRIT is envisaged as a **national repository of rural innovations, technologies, best practices and collaboration opportunities**.
- **RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group)** is an initiative of the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser**, launched in **2004**, to provide **demand-driven Science & Technology interventions for rural areas**.
- **RuTAG 2.0**, launched in **2023**, places greater emphasis on **commercialisation and wider dissemination** of technologies developed under RuTAG.
- **RSVC (RuTAGe Smart Village Centre)** takes this concept closer to the grassroots by creating a **permanent village-level technology hub**, designed to address the needs of surrounding villages.

2. CYBER KUSHTI 2026

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Cyber Security • Artificial Intelligence • Digital Technology • Cybercrime • Emerging Technologies

- **NIELIT**, under the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**, launched **CYBER KUSHTI 2026** on **15 August 2026** as a national **Cybersecurity & AI Hackathon**.
- It is designed to test **human judgment in cybersecurity assessment**, rather than merely the speed of detecting vulnerabilities.
- It is being conducted in collaboration with the **Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) Foundation**, with **CERT-In as Knowledge Partner**.
- Every team receives the same deliberately imperfect **Security Assessment Package.** The package contains a mixture of **genuine, false and duplicated findings**, while some real vulnerabilities are deliberately omitted.
- Teams must **identify, reject, prioritise and defend security findings**. Thus, the competition tests the ability to distinguish **real threats from false positives** and determine which vulnerabilities require priority action.
- Unlike conventional **Capture The Flag (CTF)** competitions, CYBER KUSHTI focuses on **security judgement, prioritisation and decision-making**.
- **Three rounds: Akhada + Dangal + Kesari:** In-person – **9 October 2026**, New Delhi
- The final round will be held during the **3rd National Conference on Cyber Security, Digital Forensics and Intelligence (NCCDFI 2026)**.
- **NIELIT** is an autonomous scientific society under **MeitY** involved in **education, training, skill development and capacity building in Electronics & Information Technology**.

3. FutureSkills PRIME

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Emerging Technologies • Digital Economy • Skill Development • Human Resource Development

- **FutureSkills PRIME (FSP)** is a collaborative initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and NASSCOM** for **skilling, reskilling and upskilling** India's workforce in emerging technologies. It was launched in **2018**.
- The programme aims to build an **industry-ready digital talent pool** through an **online, industry-aligned and continuously updated learning ecosystem**.
- Major technology areas include: **Artificial Intelligence** + **Big Data Analytics** + **Internet of Things (IoT)** + **Cyber Security** + **Cloud Computing** + **Blockchain** + **AR/VR** + **Semiconductors**
- More than **34 lakh candidates registered**, with **23 lakh+ enrolled/trained** and **13 lakh+ certified** under the programme.
- Around **41% of certified/participating learners are women**, while **over 86% are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, highlighting the programme's role in **inclusive digital skilling**.
- The portal currently hosts **500+ industry-aligned courses**, allowing learners to access training and certification **anytime and anywhere**.
- **C-DAC and NIELIT Resource Centres** supplement the online platform through **training, bootcamps and capacity-building**, including training of government officials and trainers.
- **National Credit Framework (NCrF):** SSC-NASSCOM has partnered with State Governments and academic institutions for adoption of FutureSkills PRIME courses into academic curricula, enabling integration of emerging-technology skilling with formal education.

4. DLI Scheme & Indigenous Semiconductor Chip Design – VIHAAN

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Semiconductors • Indigenous Technology • Electronics Manufacturing • Digital Infrastructure • Atmanirbhar Bharat

- **Aheesa Digital Innovations**, a Chennai-based **fabless semiconductor startup**, has achieved **first-pass silicon success** with **VIHAAN**, a broadband networking **System-on-Chip (SoC)** designed using the indigenous **VEGA microprocessor**.
- **VIHAAN** is designed for **fibre-broadband applications** and aims to support the expansion of domestically designed semiconductor solutions for India's digital infrastructure.
- The chip had earlier completed its **design tape-out** and is targeted to proceed towards **production tape-out in 2027**.
- Aheesa has received around **₹40 crore** from the **Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation (TNIFMC)** through the **Tamil Nadu Emerging Sector Seed Fund (TNESSF)** and other private investors.
- The development is supported under the **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**, which promotes indigenous semiconductor design capabilities among Indian startups and companies.
- DLI supports chip designs for applications including **satellite communication, drones, surveillance, defence & aerospace, automotive, IoT, AI, telecom equipment and smart meters**.
- **Chip design is a major value-addition component** of the semiconductor value chain, contributing up to **50% of overall value addition** and around **15–35% of the Bill of Materials (BOM)** cost of electronic products.
- **Fabless semiconductor company:** A company that **designs semiconductor chips but does not own fabrication facilities**; manufacturing is outsourced to semiconductor foundries.
- **SoC (System-on-Chip):** Integrates multiple functional components of a computing/electronic system onto a **single chip**, improving integration and potentially reducing size, power consumption and cost.
- **Tape-out:** The stage at which the **finalised chip design is sent for fabrication**. Successful fabrication followed by testing validates whether the physical silicon performs as intended.
- **VEGA:** An **indigenous RISC-V-based microprocessor ecosystem** developed in India; it represents efforts towards developing domestic processor-design capabilities.

5. Kavach Version 4.0

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Infrastructure • Railways • Indigenous Technology • Transport Safety • Science & Technology

- **Indian Railways** has approved deployment of **Kavach Version 4.0** over **660 Route Km** of the **Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway (NER)**.
- The project has an estimated cost of **₹295 crore** and will be implemented under the umbrella work for **Kavach with LTE communication backbone** on the remaining sections of Indian Railways.
- **Kavach** is India's **indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system** designed to enhance railway safety.
- It continuously monitors **train movement and signalling conditions** and can automatically **apply brakes when required**.
- Key objective: prevent **Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD)** incidents and **train collisions**.

- Kavach also enables trains to operate safely at **maximum permissible speeds** and supports safe operations during adverse conditions such as **dense fog**.
- **LTE communication backbone** provides the communication infrastructure required for reliable exchange of data between the train, signalling infrastructure and control systems.
- **ATP (Automatic Train Protection):** A railway safety system that automatically intervenes when a train violates safety conditions, such as exceeding permitted speed or passing a signal at danger.
- **SPAD (Signal Passed at Danger):** A situation where a train passes a railway signal that requires it to **stop**, creating a serious collision risk

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 18th August, 2026

1 . India's First Guide to Grasslands & Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment & Ecology • Biodiversity Conservation • Land Degradation • Climate Change • Sustainable Land Management

- India launched its **first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** at **UNCCD COP17**, held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, on **17 August 2026**.
- The Guide recognises **grasslands, savannas, deserts, scrublands, ravines and other open ecosystems** as important ecosystems in their own right, rather than treating them merely as areas lacking tree cover.
- India's ONEs include diverse landscapes such as:
  - **Himalayan & Terai grasslands**
  - **Thar Desert**
  - **Banni grasslands**
  - **Deccan savannas**
  - **Rocky plateaus**
  - **Ravines & scrublands**
  - **Coastal and desert ecosystems**
- The Guide also covers **pastoralism, fire ecology and carbon sequestration**, linking ecosystem conservation with livelihood security and climate resilience.
- **Orans and Gauchars** represent traditional community-protected grazing landscapes, highlighting the role of **community-based conservation and indigenous ecological knowledge**.
- The initiative emphasises **science-based and landscape-level conservation**, recognising that open natural ecosystems require conservation approaches distinct from those used for forests.
- Restoration of ONEs is linked with India's **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** commitments under the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.
- The Guide was organised under the guidance of **MoEFCC**, with **ATREE, IUCN, CoE-SLM, ICFRE and SAC-ISRO** involved in its publication/event.

2. Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: India–Thailand Relations • Bilateral Defence Cooperation • ASEAN • Act East Policy + **GS III:** Defence & Security • Joint Military Exercises • Counter-Terrorism

- The **Indian Army contingent** departed for Thailand to participate in the **15th edition of India–Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026)**, being conducted from **18–31 August 2026** at **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand**.
- The exercise involves **85 personnel each** from the **Indian Army** and **Royal Thai Army**.
- The Indian contingent is represented primarily by troops from **9 Gorkha Rifles**, while the Thai contingent comprises personnel from the **3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division**.
- It is a **company-level joint training exercise** focused on operations in **jungle and semi-urban terrain**.
- The exercise aims to enhance the **combined capabilities of the two armies** in conducting **Joint Counter-Insurgency/Counter-Terrorist Operations** under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter**.
- Training will include **field exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a culminating validation exercise**, along with exchange of operational experiences and contemporary military technologies.
- **Exercise MAITREE** was instituted in **2006** and serves as an important platform for strengthening **military cooperation, interoperability, mutual understanding and camaraderie** between India and Thailand.
- The previous edition, **MAITREE-XIV**, was conducted at the **Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, in September 2025**.

- The exercise strengthens India's **defence engagement with Thailand** and contributes to India's broader **Act East Policy**, particularly through enhanced security cooperation with an important **ASEAN partner**.

3. Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY) under NAMASTE Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Welfare Schemes • Vulnerable Sections • Social Justice • Inclusive Development • Government Policies & Interventions + GS III: Employment • Entrepreneurship • Mechanisation • Livelihood Security

- **Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)**, a component of the **NAMASTE scheme**, was highlighted through the case of **Satish Kumar**, a contractual sanitation worker from **Sahibabad, Ghaziabad**, who transitioned to **self-employment** through ownership of a **Sewer Suction Machine**.
- The initiative addresses the structural constraints faced by sanitation workers, particularly **low and unstable incomes, dependence on contractual employment and limited access to mechanised sanitation equipment**.
- Under SUY, sanitation workers and their dependents can access **financial assistance for procurement of mechanised sanitation equipment**, enabling them to move towards **self-employment and entrepreneurship**.
- Satish Kumar earlier earned around **₹13,000–15,000 per month** as a contractual sanitation worker.
- After learning about the scheme through an awareness camp organised by the **Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation**, he received a **₹5.91 lakh loan from Canara Bank** and an **upfront capital subsidy of ₹3.64 lakh from the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**.
- The total project cost of the **Sewer Suction Machine** was **₹9.55 lakh**.
- Following the intervention, his monthly income increased to around **₹50,000**, while he is able to save approximately **₹25,000 per month** after meeting expenses such as **EMI, fuel and maintenance**.
- The case demonstrates the role of **credit + capital subsidy + mechanisation** in converting sanitation work from a low-income contractual occupation into a **sustainable self-employment opportunity**.
- **NAMASTE Scheme** seeks to ensure the **safety and dignity of sanitation workers** by promoting **mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks**, eliminating hazardous cleaning practices and facilitating the **rehabilitation and livelihood transformation** of sanitation workers.
- **SUY** adds an **entrepreneurship and livelihood-generation dimension** by facilitating access to mechanised sanitation equipment.
- **NSKFDC** is a key institutional mechanism for promoting the **socio-economic development and financial empowerment of Safai Karamcharis** through concessional financial assistance and related interventions.
- **Mechanisation of sanitation** is significant not merely for productivity but also for **occupational safety, dignity of labour and elimination of hazardous manual intervention** in sewer and septic-tank cleaning.
- The case therefore illustrates the convergence of **social justice, financial inclusion, skill/enterprise development and sanitation-sector mechanisation**, enabling vulnerable workers to become **service providers and micro-entrepreneurs** rather than remaining dependent on precarious contractual employment.

4. General Concurrence Percolation (GCP) – A New Approach to Quantum Networks

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Quantum Technology • Quantum Communication • Emerging Technologies

- Scientists from **Bose Institute, Kolkata**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, have developed a new protocol called **General Concurrence Percolation (GCP)** for improving connectivity in **quantum networks**.
- The study has been published in **Physical Review A** and addresses the problem of maintaining **quantum entanglement** between distant stations despite noise-induced weakening of quantum links.
- Existing quantum entanglement percolation approaches often involve **isolating/deleting intermediate nodes** to establish stronger connections, resulting in loss of network resources and disruption of network topology.
- **GCP avoids node deletion** and instead uses **geometric routing along shortest paths** to strengthen existing low-entanglement links.
- Computer simulations show that GCP can **lower the minimum initial entanglement threshold** required to establish long-distance connectivity across the network.
- The protocol also follows the **percolation universality class**, strengthening the theoretical basis of **quantum entanglement percolation**.
- **Quantum Entanglement:** A quantum correlation between particles that can serve as a resource for **quantum communication and quantum information transfer**.
- **Percolation Theory:** A statistical physics framework used to study **connectivity and formation of connected structures in networks**.
- By improving connectivity without physically removing intermediate nodes, GCP could contribute to more **efficient, resource-preserving and scalable quantum communication networks**, including future **quantum internet architectures**.

5. Sapt Dhara of Shakti

- On **15 August 2026**, PM Narendra Modi outlined a seven-stream framework for India's development towards **Viksit Bharat @2047**, linking manufacturing, agriculture, technology, infrastructure, defence, green/blue economy and soft power.
- **Sapt Dhara of Shakti**
- **Manufacturing Power** → Make in India, self-reliance, complete domestic value chains, global supply chains, **zero-defect & precision manufacturing**.
- **Agriculture & Food Production** → farm-to-export, food processing, chemical-free farming, global market access.
- **Technology & Innovation** → AI, quantum technology, space, robotics, semiconductors, data centres, 6G, Digital Public Infrastructure.
- **Gati Shakti** → multimodal connectivity through **high-speed rail + highways + waterways + airports + logistics systems**.
- **Defence Power** → indigenous defence technologies, drones/counter-drones, hypersonic systems, cybersecurity and defence exports.
- **Green & Blue Economy** → renewable energy, green hydrogen, energy storage, green mobility + fisheries, coastal tourism and ocean technology.
- **Bharat's Soft Power** → Yoga, Ayurveda, culture, handicrafts, films, VFX, animation, gaming, digital content and **Heal in India**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 19th August, 2026

1 . Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Digital Governance • E-Governance • Inclusive Development • Rural Connectivity

- **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has signed an agreement with the **Government of Chhattisgarh** and implementing partners for rollout of the **Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP)** in the State under the **State-led model**.
- The Government has approved **₹3,942 crore** financial support for the programme, which will cover **11,682 Gram Panchayats** and provide **on-demand connectivity to 8,328 villages**.
- The programme includes upgrading **4,048 Phase-I Gram Panchayats from linear to ring topology**, along with coverage of Phase-II and newly created Gram Panchayats.
- **Ring topology** provides greater network resilience by creating an alternate path for data transmission in case of disruption.
- The programme is expected to facilitate **3 lakh+ rural fibre connections** and strengthen access to **e-Governance, online education, telemedicine and digital payments**.
- **Amended BharatNet Programme** was approved by the Union Cabinet in **2023** to upgrade, consolidate and expand the existing BharatNet network and provide **robust, future-ready broadband connectivity** to Gram Panchayats and villages on demand.
- **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)** is the renamed **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** under the **Telecommunications Act, 2023** and aims to promote access to telecommunication services in **underserved rural, remote and urban areas**.
- It supports projects aimed at expanding telecom connectivity in areas such as **uncovered villages, Aspirational Districts, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas, Himalayan and border regions, Islands and the North-Eastern Region**.

2. National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) & FIRE Corridors

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Infrastructure • Manufacturing • Industrial Corridors • Logistics • Investment

- The **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)** currently covers **20 approved projects across 13 States and 7 Industrial Corridors** to develop integrated industrial ecosystems and strengthen manufacturing and logistics infrastructure.
- **Four industrial smart cities — Dholera, Shendra-Bidkin, Greater Noida and Vikram Udyogpuri — have entered the production stage.**
- So far, **469 industrial plots** covering around **5,348 acres** have been allotted, with an estimated investment potential of **₹2.21 lakh crore** and employment potential of around **1.29 lakh persons**.
- The government emphasised convergence of **Freight, Industrial Development, Railways and Expressways (FIRE Corridors)** and alignment with **PM GatiShakti** for integrated industrial development.
- **BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana)** envisages development of **100 investment-ready, plug-and-play industrial parks** across the country.
- In the first round of BHAVYA, **87 applications were received from States** against up to **20 projects proposed for approval**.

- BHAVYA focuses on **ready land, assured utilities, connectivity and plug-and-play infrastructure** to facilitate faster investment and commencement of production.
- **NICDIT (National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust)** is the institutional framework for development and implementation of industrial corridor projects.

3. National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Manufacturing • Industrial Infrastructure • Industrial Corridors • Investment • Employment • Logistics

- **NICDC** is a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** under the administrative control of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It undertakes **project development and coordinates implementation** of Industrial Corridor projects in collaboration with **State Governments and project SPVs**.
- Its core role is to develop **investment-ready industrial areas and smart industrial cities**, rather than merely creating physical infrastructure.
- Under **BHAVYA**, NICDC has been designated as the **Project Management Agency (PMA)** for implementation and monitoring of the scheme.
- National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)
- **NICDIT** is a **Government of India Trust** for the **coordinated and unified development of Industrial Corridors**.
- It functions under the administrative control of **DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It supports development of **trunk infrastructure** in industrial nodes under the approved NICDP framework.
- Under **BHAVYA**, Government of India participation in **project SPVs and equity support** is routed through **NICDIT**.

4. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Manufacturing • Electronics Industry • Industrial Policy • Atmanirbhar Bharat • Supply Chain Resilience

- The **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** aims to build a **deep domestic electronics component ecosystem**, moving India beyond **assembly-led manufacturing towards higher domestic value addition**.
- Under ECMS, **106 projects across 15 States** have been approved with an investment of **₹69,548 crore**, projected production of **₹5.34 lakh crore** and **74,628 direct jobs**.
- **38 plants have already commenced manufacturing**, while **16 projects are at advanced stages of construction/machinery installation**, indicating a shift from approvals to actual production.
- The latest approvals include **first-ever domestic manufacturing of several critical components and raw materials**, such as **filters, coils, speakers, acetylene black and electrolyte additives**.
- ECMS covers key segments including **sub-assemblies, electronic components, supply-chain products and capital goods** required for electronics manufacturing.
- The scheme covers **30 products** across:
  - **Sub-assemblies:** Camera modules, display modules, optical transceivers.
  - **Components:** Connectors, relays, transducers, capacitors, coils, filters, antennas, enclosures etc.
  - **Supply-chain products:** Anode material, rare-earth permanent magnets, acetylene black, electrolyte additives, metallized films and hermetic terminals.
  - **Capital goods** and their parts.
- The scheme is therefore strengthening the **"Swadeshi" electronics value chain** by improving **domestic value addition, reducing import dependence and building resilient supply chains**.
- In some segments, the capacities created under ECMS are already meeting or exceeding domestic demand — e.g. **anode material (~110%), optical transceiver-SFP (350%) and relays (200%)**.
- **Significance:** ECMS can help address India's structural dependence on imported electronic components, deepen manufacturing capabilities, generate employment and strengthen India's position as a **global electronics manufacturing hub**

5. 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: International Groupings • Multilateral Environmental Cooperation | **GS III:** Environment • Climate Change • Biodiversity • Circular Economy

- Under **India's BRICS 2026 Chairship**, the **12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting** unveiled **four knowledge compendiums** prepared by the **BRICS Environment Working Group**, focusing on sharing best practices and innovations among member countries.
- The four areas are **Sustainable Lifestyles**, **Integrated Fire Management**, **Landscape-Based Greening**, and **EPR & Circular Economy**.

- The **Sustainable Lifestyles** compendium highlights **sustainable consumption and production, behavioural change, environmental education, circular economy and clean-energy transitions**; India's contributions include **Mission LiFE, Environment Education Programme and SAMBHAV Campaign**.
- The **Integrated Fire Management** compendium focuses on **prevention, preparedness, early warning, early action, response and recovery**, combining **technology, community participation and indigenous knowledge** to address rising wildfire risks linked with **higher temperatures and prolonged droughts**.
- The **Landscape-Based Greening** approach addresses interconnected challenges of **land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and climate change** by integrating **ecosystem restoration with biodiversity conservation**, while promoting BRICS cooperation in research, capacity building and monitoring.
- The **EPR & Circular Economy** compendium highlights **digital traceability, waste-exchange platforms, recycling systems and circular business models**; India's experience includes a **market-based EPR architecture supported by centralised digital platforms**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 20th August, 2026

1 . DRI Busts 56 kg Methamphetamine Smuggling Attempt

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Internal Security • Organised Crime • Drug Trafficking • Border & Customs Security

- The **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** foiled an attempt to illegally export **56 kg of Methamphetamine from India to Saudi Arabia**, recovering the drug from an export consignment at **Nava Sheva Port** during an intelligence-led operation.
- The contraband was **mixed with maize and concealed in one of 351 bags**, presenting the consignment as an ordinary agricultural commodity. This reflects the increasingly sophisticated **modus operandi of transnational narcotics networks** to exploit legitimate trade channels and evade routine examination.
- The methamphetamine was seized under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**, highlighting the role of intelligence-led customs enforcement in combating **cross-border trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**.
- **Methamphetamine** is a potent **synthetic psychostimulant** with high potential for **abuse and dependence** and can cause serious physical and psychological effects, including increased heart rate and blood pressure, agitation, paranoia and psychosis.
- It acts on the **central nervous system** and can cause increased alertness and activity, but illicit use can lead to serious physical and psychological harms.

2 . SEED Scheme – Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNT Communities

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

- The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** is implementing the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)** through the **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC)**.
- **SEED adopts a four-dimensional approach** covering **education, healthcare, livelihoods and housing**, aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of **De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (DNT/NT/SNT) communities**.
- **Key Components:**
  - **Education:** Quality coaching for DNT candidates preparing for **competitive examinations**.
  - **Healthcare: Health insurance** support for eligible DNT communities.
  - **Livelihoods:** Support for **community-level livelihood initiatives**, promoting economic self-reliance.
  - **Housing: Financial assistance for house construction**, strengthening asset ownership and living conditions.
- **De-notified Tribes (DNTs):** Communities earlier notified under the **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**; the Act was repealed in **1952**, leading to their denotification.
- **Nomadic communities:** Traditionally characterised by **mobility from one location to another**, often linked to livelihood patterns.
- **Semi-Nomadic communities:** Follow **periodic/seasonal mobility**, rather than permanent settlement.
- The **National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes** was constituted in **January 2015** and submitted its report in **December 2017**.
- Subsequently, the **DWBDNC was constituted in February 2019** to work towards the welfare and development of these communities.

3. India's Makhana Sector

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Food Processing • Agricultural Marketing • Farmers' Income • Exports

- **Makhana (*Euryale ferox*)** is an **aquatic crop** cultivated mainly in shallow ponds, lakes and wetlands. India is the **world's largest producer**, with **Bihar, West Bengal and Assam** being the major producing states.
- **Bihar accounts for nearly three-fourths of India's production and around 80–85% of global supply**, with cultivation concentrated particularly in **North Bihar**, including the **Kosi basin districts of Supaul, Saharsa and Madhepura**.
- Makhana (fox nut) received the official Geographical Indication (GI) tag on August 20, 2022, under the specific brand name **Mithila Makhana**.
- Makhana is increasingly shifting from a **traditional regional food to a high-value, health-oriented food product**, driven by rising health awareness, startups, FPOs, branding and value addition.
- The **National Makhana Board**, announced in the **Union Budget 2025-26**, was formally launched in **Bihar on 15 September 2025** to strengthen the sector's **production, processing, value addition, branding and marketing**.
- The Government has approved a **Central Sector Scheme for Development of Makhana** with an outlay of **₹476.03 crore for 2025-26 to 2030-31.**
- Improved varieties such as **Swarna Vaidehi** and **Sabour Makhana-1**, along with **field-system farming**, are helping improve productivity and reduce cultivation risks.
- The sector remains **highly labour-intensive**, particularly during harvesting, where seeds are traditionally collected manually from water bodies. This makes **mechanisation and improved processing technologies** important for raising productivity and farmer incomes.
- The value chain is expanding from traditional popped makhana to **flavoured makhana, ready-to-eat products and makhana flour**, creating opportunities for **value addition, rural employment and higher income realisation**.
- India exported **7,264.89 MT of makhana products in 2025-26**, with the **USA, Canada and UAE** being major markets. The concentration of exports in a few destinations also highlights the need for **export diversification and access to premium markets**.

4. India's Coconut Sector

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Food Processing • Agricultural Marketing • Farmers' Income • Exports

- **Coconut** is a **multi-purpose plantation crop**, traditionally known as **"Kalpavriksha" / Tree of Life**, providing food, drink, fibre, timber, fuel and raw materials for value-added industries. Around **30 million people, including 10 million farmers**, depend on the coconut sector in India.
- India ranks **1st globally in coconut production** and **3rd in cultivation area**, accounting for about **31.24% of global production** and **17.90% of global area**.
- **Keralam has the largest area under coconut cultivation**, while **Tamil Nadu leads in production** and **Andhra Pradesh has the highest productivity**. This distinction between area, production and productivity is important for Prelims.
- The **Coconut Development Board (CDB)**, established in **1981** under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** and headquartered at **Kochi**, is the key institutional body for integrated development of coconut cultivation and industry.
- India's coconut export basket has shifted from traditional products towards **value-added products** such as **virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water and activated carbon**.
- **Copra** = dried kernel of coconut. **Milling copra** is primarily used for oil extraction, while **ball copra** is consumed as a dry fruit and also used for religious purposes. For **2026 season**, MSP is **₹12,027/quintal for milling copra** and **₹12,500/quintal for ball copra**; **NAFED and NCCF** are the Central Nodal Agencies for procurement.
- Under the **Productivity Improvement through Coconut-based Cropping System (PICCS)**, coconut cultivation is integrated with other crops, promoting **multi-tier/multicropping systems** and better utilisation of land. Assistance is provided at **₹42,000/ha**, with a maximum limit of **2 hectares per beneficiary**.
- Under **Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens**, old, senile, diseased and unproductive palms are replaced/rejuvenated.
- The **Coconut Promotion Scheme**, announced in **Union Budget 2026-27**, focuses on **quality seedlings, expansion of cultivation, phased replanting and rejuvenation, holistic crop-health management and integrated processing units**.
- **Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC)** supports technology adoption for **pest and disease management, processing and product diversification**, while the **Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme** provides accident insurance to **coconut tree climbers, Neera technicians, hybridisation workers and other coconut labourers**.
- **Neera** is the **unfermented, zero-alcohol sap obtained from coconut palm inflorescences**.

- The CDB's **Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT)** programme trains youth in **mechanical palm climbing, plant protection and entrepreneurship**, while newer initiatives such as **Cocomitra** organise trained climbers into service-oriented groups.

5. **White Revolution 2.0**

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Animal Husbandry • Dairy Sector • Cooperatives • Rural Economy • Farmers' Income

- **White Revolution 2.0** was launched on **19 September 2024** by the **Ministry of Cooperation** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** to expand dairy cooperatives in **uncovered Panchayats** and strengthen the cooperative model.
- The initiative aims to create **75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCSs) over five years** and increase **milk procurement by dairy cooperatives by 50%**, while improving **market access, employment and women's participation**.
- India has been the **world's largest milk producer since 1998** and currently contributes around **25% of global milk production**, making dairy a major component of India's rural economy and nutritional security.
- **Milk productivity** of cattle and buffaloes increased by **36.63%**, from **1,648.17 kg/animal/year in 2013-14 to 2,251 kg in 2024-25**, supported by interventions such as the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**, including **sex-sorted semen and IVF technology**.
- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)** focuses on **conservation and genetic upgradation of indigenous bovine breeds** and improving milk production and productivity.
- **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)** strengthens **milk testing, chilling, processing and marketing infrastructure** and expands farmers' access to organised dairy markets. Digital milk collection and payment systems also improve **transparency and timely payments**.
- **Dairy cooperatives** provide farmers with **regular income and assured market access** while linking producers with organised domestic and international value chains. Around **1.7 crore farmers** are members of dairy cooperative societies, with nearly **38% being women**.
- **Per capita milk availability** in India is around **485 grams/day**, exceeding the **ICMR recommended 300 ml/day**, highlighting the importance of the dairy sector for **nutritional security**.
- Other important government interventions include **AHIDF** for livestock-processing infrastructure, **National Livestock Mission (NLM)** for entrepreneurship and breed improvement, and **Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)** for vaccination, disease surveillance and veterinary services.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 21st August, 2026

1 . Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Mineral Resources • Mining Sector • Critical Minerals • Infrastructure & Industrial Development • Resource Security

- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act)** is the principal framework for regulation of mines and development of minerals in India. The **2026 Amendment** seeks to create a **stable and predictable fiscal regime**, encourage investment and strengthen domestic mineral production.
- **Mineral-bearing lands:** The Amendment expands the Union-controlled framework under **Section 2** to include **regulation of mineral-bearing lands**, besides regulation of mines and development of minerals.
- **New Section 9D – key provision:** States are restricted from imposing any **tax, cess or other levy** on **mineral rights or mineral-bearing lands**, whether based on quantity/value of minerals, royalty or otherwise. Such levies can be imposed only subject to **conditions/restrictions prescribed by the Central Government**.
- **Past levies:** Any such levy that was **not deposited or recovered before commencement of the Amendment** is treated as **invalid**. However, amounts **already deposited or recovered will not be refunded**.
- **Central Government's role:** Amendment to **Section 13** empowers the **Central Government to prescribe conditions and restrictions** governing such State levies.
- **State revenue:** The Amendment does **not eliminate States' existing major revenue streams** from mining such as **royalty, auction premium, DMF contributions and GST share**. The stated objective is to provide fiscal certainty rather than reduce States' overall mining revenue.
- **Minor minerals** –The Amendment **does not alter the regulatory and fiscal powers of States over minor minerals**. These include minerals such as **sand, gravel, clay, granite, marble, gypsum and laterite**

2. SMART CANCER DRUG — RK-251

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Biotechnology • Health • New & Emerging Technologies

- **RK-251** is a novel **"smart"/prodrug-based anticancer candidate** developed by **IASST** and **IIT-Guwahati**. Its basic idea is **selective activation inside cancer cells**, thereby reducing damage to healthy cells associated with conventional chemotherapy.
- Conventional chemotherapy often lacks complete selectivity and can damage rapidly dividing **healthy cells**, causing significant adverse effects. Targeted therapies therefore aim to improve the **therapeutic index** by differentiating tumour cells from normal tissues.
- Cancer cells generally exhibit elevated levels of **Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)**. RK-251 exploits this biochemical difference as an **intracellular trigger**. **High ROS in cancer cell → RK-251 activation → release of NBDHEX → anticancer action**
- **NBDHEX** is the active anticancer moiety released after activation. It acts on **target proteins involved in cancer-cell survival and resistance to treatment**, thereby promoting cancer-cell death.
- **Target disease:** In preclinical studies, RK-251 showed promising activity against **aggressive Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)** cells, while producing considerably less effect on healthy cells.
- **Zebrafish model:** Studies using Danio rerio embryos showed **no obvious signs of toxicity**. The fluorescence response in the presence of ROS also provided evidence of the intended **ROS-responsive activation mechanism**.
- RK-251 represents an approach based on the **tumour microenvironment/biochemical characteristics of cancer cells**, rather than simply delivering a cytotoxic drug throughout the body. Such **stimulus-responsive drug activation** can potentially improve selectivity and reduce systemic toxicity.
- The research involves **IASST**, an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, and **IIT-Guwahati**, highlighting India's growing capacity in **medicinal chemistry, drug discovery and targeted cancer therapeutics**.
- **Research status: Preclinical**. The results are promising but **cannot yet establish safety or efficacy in humans**. Further laboratory, animal and eventually clinical studies are required before any therapeutic use.

3. National Report on Deep-Sea

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Blue Economy • Fisheries • Marine Resources • Biodiversity Conservation • Sustainable Development

- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** released the **National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian EEZ**, prepared by the **Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)**.
- The report consolidates nearly **four decades of oceanographic research** and **three decades of systematic surveys** across India's **2.37 million sq. km EEZ**, based on **400+ oceanographic cruises** since the early 1990s under the **Marine Living Resources Programme (MLRP)**.
- **FORV Sagar Sampada**, India's Fishery and Oceanographic Research Vessel, has been central to these surveys across the **Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Lakshadweep waters, Andaman Sea and Southern Ocean**.
- **Mesopelagic / Twilight Zone:** Extends from **200–1,000 m depth** and contains **lanternfishes (myctophids), deep-sea shrimps and cephalopods**. Their vertical migration contributes to the ocean's **biological carbon pump**, transferring carbon from surface waters to the deep ocean.
- **Deep-sea demersal resources:** Beyond **200 m depth**, the continental slope supports resources such as **deep-sea shrimps, perches, scombroids, flatfishes and eels**, with several resources currently underexploited.
- **Distant-water resources:** Include **tunas, billfishes, sharks, oceanic squids and Antarctic krill**.
- The report identifies ecologically important **marine biodiversity and nursery areas**, including **Kollam Bank, Angria Bank, Mangalore Deep-Sea Slope, Terrace off Trivandrum, Lakshadweep and Andaman-Nicobar Islands**.
- Modern technologies such as **fisheries acoustics, environmental DNA (eDNA), autonomous observing platforms, satellite observations, AI and ecosystem modelling** are being integrated with historical data for **marine resource assessment and marine spatial planning**.
- The report seeks to balance **sustainable utilisation of marine fishery resources with biodiversity conservation**, strengthening India's **Blue Economy** and supporting **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**.

4. TDB-DST Supports Indigenous Agentic AI Technology

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Artificial Intelligence • Emerging Technologies • Indigenisation of Technology

- **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** has partnered with **One2X Tech Pvt. Ltd.** to support the **commercialisation of "Fixit"**, an indigenous **Agentic AI** platform.
- **Agentic AI** differs from conventional AI by enabling systems to **understand objectives, decide actions, interact with connected systems and execute multi-step tasks** rather than merely generating information or assisting users.

- **Fixit** integrates:
  - **Multi-agent orchestration**
  - **Contextual memory & AI reasoning**
  - **Reinforcement learning**
  - **Real-time decision-making**
  - **Secure tool execution**
  - **Guardrails, observability & human oversight**
- The platform enables AI agents to **retrieve context → decide → execute → observe outcomes → learn/retry/escalate**, creating an autonomous workflow while retaining human oversight.
- **Initial application: Revenue operations**, including market intelligence, customer engagement, lead qualification/nurturing, follow-ups, appointment scheduling, sales handover and revenue attribution.
- **Initial sectoral focus: Real estate**, with potential applications across sectors requiring **complex, multi-step workflow automation**.
- **"AI Workforce" concept:** Specialised AI agents can undertake **repetitive execution, monitoring, analysis and coordination**, while humans focus on **creativity, judgement, relationships, strategy and entrepreneurship**.
- Supports India's shift from **AI adoption to indigenous AI development and commercialisation**, strengthening **AI self-reliance, startup innovation and sovereign AI capabilities**.

5 . Global Digital Capacity Building Alliance (GDCBA)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Governance • E-Governance • Capacity Building • Institutional Reforms • International Cooperation

- **GDCBA** is an initiative of the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India**, launched on **20 February 2026** at the **India AI Impact Summit, New Delhi**.
- It builds on **Mission Karmayogi**, India's **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building**, and seeks to take India's experience of **competency-based learning, digital infrastructure and whole-of-government capacity building** to the global level.
- Capacity building is not limited to training individuals; it involves creating **institutional, learning and digital ecosystems** that enable public officials and institutions to **continuously learn, adapt and perform**.
- **Four goals of GDCBA:**
  - Strengthen **institutional capability** of public-sector systems.
  - Promote **evidence-informed capacity-building** decisions.
  - Create a **global community of practice** for governance.
  - Build a repository of **implementation knowledge, case studies and practical guidance**.
- **Six-month progress:**
  - Engagement across **10 countries**, including Brazil, Sri Lanka and Mauritius.
  - **250+ public officials** participated.
  - Partnerships with institutions including **World Bank, UNICEF, ADBI, Commonwealth, Gates Foundation, NCGG, RIS and Nalanda University**.
- Promotes **adaptive, capable and ethical public institutions**, while enabling countries to share governance practices and use **technology and digital ecosystems for citizen-centric service delivery**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 24th August, 2026

1 . Mangrol Water Craft

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Defence & Security • Maritime Security • Indigenisation of Defence Technology

- **'Mangrol'**, the **third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy on 21 August 2026**.
- The craft has **over 80% indigenous content** and is designed for **underwater surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) in coastal waters, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)** and **mine warfare**.
- It is equipped with **waterjet propulsion**, **torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, advanced radars and sonars**, enabling operations in shallow and coastal waters.
- **Mangrol** is named after the **coastal town and minor port of Mangrol in Junagadh, Gujarat**, a prominent marine-fishing harbour. It also carries the legacy of **erstwhile INS Mangrol**, an Indian Naval Minesweeper that served until **2004**.
- **Significance:** Strengthens India's **coastal underwater surveillance and maritime security capabilities** while advancing **indigenous naval shipbuilding and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing.

2. National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture & Animal Husbandry • Food Security • Allied Activities • Biotechnology/Health • One Health

- **NADCP** was launched in **September 2019** to **control and eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis** through nationwide vaccination, surveillance and disease-control measures.
- **FMD:** Highly contagious **viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals** such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs; reduces **milk production, growth, reproductive performance and working capacity** and can restrict international trade.
- **Brucellosis: Bacterial reproductive disease** caused by *Brucella abortus*, primarily affecting cattle and buffaloes; causes **infertility, reproductive failure and reduced milk/meat production**. Vaccination is the key control measure.
- **Vaccination strategy:**
  - FMD: **Mass vaccination every 6 months** for eligible livestock.
  - Brucellosis: **One-time vaccination of female bovine calves aged 4–8 months**.
- **Disease surveillance:** Includes **sero-surveillance/sero-monitoring, outbreak investigation, virus isolation and typing, animal movement control, quarantine and cold-chain management**.
- **Outcomes: 147.16 crore FMD vaccine doses** administered, benefiting **8.04 crore farmers**. Reported FMD outbreaks declined from **132 (2019) to 40 (2025)**, while Brucellosis outbreaks declined from **22 to 15**.
- **FMD immunity:** Average protective immunity against serotypes **O, A and Asia1** stands at **78.1%, 71.7% and 77.6%**, respectively. There has been **no FMD outbreak caused by Asia1 for the last 3 years**.
- **Digital livestock surveillance: Bharat Pashudhan Portal** assigns each animal a unique **12-digit Tag ID** and integrates livestock registration and vaccination data. **39 crore+ livestock** were registered by July 2026.
- **Veterinary infrastructure: 4,019 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs)** across 29 States/UTs provide doorstep services through **1962**, benefiting **136 lakh farmers** and treating **276 lakh animals**.
- NADCP has been subsumed under the **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)** along with the **LH&DC component and Pashu Aushadhi**. **LHDCP outlay for 2026-27: ₹2,010 crore.**
- **One Health:** NADCP integrates **animal, human and environmental health**, helping reduce **zoonotic disease risks, antimicrobial misuse and pandemic threats** through early detection and surveillance.
- **Pandemic preparedness:** The **US$25 million Pandemic Fund Project (2024)**, supported by the **G20 Pandemic Fund** and implemented with **ADB, FAO and World Bank**, strengthens **genomic/environmental surveillance, laboratories and response capacity**.

3. Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Society • Issues Related to Scheduled Tribes **GS II:** Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections
Why in News: PMJVM is aimed at strengthening the **tribal forest economy** by promoting value addition, enterprise development and market access for **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**.

- **Launched:** 2021-22; implemented through the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.
- **Focus:** Organising tribal MFP gatherers into **community-owned enterprises**, providing **skilling, processing, infrastructure, finance and market linkages**.
- **Minor Forest Produce (MFP):** Includes **honey, tendu/kendu leaves, mahua, tamarind, lac, bamboo, medicinal plants, herbs, roots, tubers, tussar cocoons, wax**, etc.
- **MSP for MFP:** Government has notified **MSP for 87 MFP items**; TRIFED procures MFP at predetermined MSP through State implementing agencies.
- **Forest Rights Act, 2006:** Recognises rights of forest-dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwellers to **own, collect, use and dispose of MFP**.
- **PESA Act, 1996: Gram Sabhas/Panchayats in Scheduled Areas** have ownership over MFP.
- **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs):** Tribal SHGs are organised into VDVKs for **primary processing, value addition, packaging and marketing**.
  - Generally **15 SHGs + ~300 members** form a VDVK.
  - **At least 60% members must be STs.**
- **Van Dhan Yojana:** Launched on **14 April 2018**; provides the foundation for the VDVK model.
- **Current status (July 2026): 4,172 VDVKs sanctioned**, **2,911 functional**, covering **12.48 lakh tribal members**, with reported sales of about **₹168 crore**.
- **Livelihood significance:** MFP contributes around **20–40% of annual income** for many tribal communities; PMJVM seeks to shift them from **raw-produce sellers to value-adding entrepreneurs**.
- **Women empowerment:** Women constitute a major share of collection and processing; VDVKs promote **collective ownership and income generation**.

4. BRICS Chennai Declaration

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: International Relations • Groupings & Agreements involving India • Global South
GS III: Science & Technology • Emerging Technologies • Research & Innovation

- **Chennai Declaration/Consensus** was unanimously adopted at the **14th BRICS Science Ministerial Meet**, chaired by **India**, reaffirming commitment to a **resilient, inclusive and future-ready framework for Science, Technology & Innovation (STI)**.
- **People-centred and humanity-first STI cooperation**, focusing on **sustainable development, social inclusiveness, resilient growth and improving quality of life**.
- **India's BRICS Chairship theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."**
- **Key STI areas:** Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing, quantum technologies, biotechnology, advanced materials, nanotechnology, photonics, health, climate, renewable energy, geospatial technologies, ocean & polar science and disaster management.
- **BRICS GRAIN: BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network** to facilitate greater access to research facilities and strengthen collaborative research.
- **BRICS Science & Research Repository:** Proposed as a **digital public good** for mapping **research institutions, researchers, research outputs, datasets, infrastructure and collaboration opportunities**, while promoting **knowledge sharing and open science** subject to national regulations and data governance.
- **Youth & innovation:** Strengthening **BRICS Young Scientist Forum, Young Innovator Prize and STI Entrepreneurship Partnership**; promotes mobility of young researchers, incubators, accelerators and early-stage investors.
- **BRICS Youth Startup Platform:** Supports startup collaboration; a **BRICS Startup Innovation Fund** is also under consideration.
- Emphasis on making **frontier technologies accessible, affordable and responsible**, with STI cooperation responding to the developmental priorities of the **Global South**.
- BRICS STI cooperation includes **14 thematic Working Groups, 11 editions of Young Scientist Forum, 9 Young Innovator Prize editions and 9 BRICS STI Framework Programme calls**.
- **BRICS STI Calendar 2026–27** endorsed; next **BRICS Science Ministerial Meeting will be under China's Chairship in 2027**.

5. National Cloud & AI Skilling Initiative

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Skill Development • Human Resource Development • Information Technology • Artificial Intelligence • Inclusive Growth • Employment

- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with **Cultus Education** and **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**, has launched a nationwide **Cloud and AI skilling initiative**.
- The initiative aims to equip **1.5 lakh learners** with foundational **cloud and AI literacy** through AWS digital training content.
- **10,000 participants** will receive intensive, **job-ready training** through the **AWS re/Start programme**, which provides cohort-based workforce development in cloud computing and connects trained candidates with employment opportunities.
- The initiative particularly targets youth from **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, addressing gaps in access to globally recognised technical training, industry credentials and technology employers.
- The programme will be delivered **100% online** through **Cultus Education**, enabling learners from underserved regions to access training without relocating to metropolitan centres.
- Successful participants will earn an **AWS Certification**, providing an industry-recognised credential and access to **qualified interview opportunities** through connections with local employers.
- The learning journey will culminate in a **National Hackathon**, allowing participants to demonstrate their cloud and AI solutions before **industry leaders, hiring managers and other stakeholders**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 25th August, 2026

1 . Garbhini Mitra

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Health • Issues Related to Women • Government Initiatives • AYUSH • Human Resource Development

- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi**, an autonomous premier institution under the **Ministry of Ayush**, has introduced the **Garbhini Mitra Course** for the **2026–27 academic session**.

- The initiative is a **six-month healthcare skill-development programme** aimed at creating trained personnel for **health education, lifestyle guidance and community-level support** to women during **pregnancy and the postnatal period**.
- The course is based on traditional Ayurvedic concepts of **Garbhini Paricharya (antenatal care), Sutika Paricharya (postnatal care)** and **Garbhadhana Vidhi (pre-conceptional care)**.
- **Key training areas: trimester-specific dietetics, lifestyle modifications, pregnancy-safe yoga, emotional support during labour, newborn massage and basic life-support protocols**.
- The curriculum also covers **infection control, sanitisation, biomedical waste management and workplace safety**, providing practical healthcare and community-support skills.
- **Eligibility:** Candidates must have passed **Senior Secondary (10+2)** from any recognised board in India and be at least **18 years of age**; candidates awaiting their Class 12 results can also apply provisionally.
- **Career opportunities:** Graduates can work as **Garbhini Mitra Assistants, Prenatal/Postnatal Care Assistants, Antenatal Wellness Guides and Maternal Health Support Workers** in **Ayush centres, maternity clinics, NGOs, community health projects and wellness institutions**.
- The initiative **complements rather than replaces clinical antenatal care**; routine check-ups, diagnostic tests and monitoring of **blood pressure and haemoglobin** remain essential.
- Garbhini Mitras will support pregnant women by **identifying warning signs and facilitating timely referral** to qualified doctors and healthcare facilities.

2. GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Scheme

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Emerging Technologies • Innovation & Start-up Ecosystem • Indigenisation of Technology

- **GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Cohort-3** has been launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** through the **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)** to support **aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, students and early-stage startup founders** in converting innovative ideas into technology-driven ventures.
- **GENESIS** stands for **Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups** and focuses particularly on strengthening the startup ecosystem in **Tier-II and Tier-III cities**.
- **GENESIS EIR** provides **financial assistance, incubation and mentorship** to innovators at the **ideation/prototype stage**, helping them move towards **pilot-ready and scalable solutions**.
- Selected applicants can receive **financial assistance of up to ₹10 lakh per startup** through participating GENESIS incubators.
- **Key support: One-to-one mentorship, incubation, product/MVP development, prototyping, technology development and validation, industry linkages and commercialisation support**.
- The programme covers emerging technology areas including **AI/ML, DeepTech, IoT, Semiconductor/VLSI, Cybersecurity, Blockchain, Quantum Technologies and AR/VR, Spatial & Immersive Technologies**.
- **Technology Readiness Level (TRL):** Eligible innovations should generally fall within **TRL 1–4**, covering stages from **ideation and Proof of Concept (PoC) to prototype, MVP and early validation**.
- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be **Indian citizens** and may include **entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, students and founders/co-founders of early-stage startups**.
- **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)** functions as a national platform connecting **startups, incubators, accelerators, industry, investors, mentors, academia and government stakeholders**.
- It seeks to strengthen India's **startup and DeepTech ecosystem** by integrating support across **ideation, incubation, acceleration, funding and scale-up**.
- GENESIS EIR 3.0 was launched at the **GENESIS NextGen Startup Summit – Coimbatore Edition** on **4 August 2026** at **Rathinam Global University, Coimbatore**.

3. Revised FDI Framework

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: • Foreign Direct Investment • Ease of Doing Business • External Sector • Investment & Economic Growth

- **29 FDI investments worth ₹4,895.65 crore** have been reported under the revised FDI framework up to **20 August 2026**, covering sectors such as **IT, AI, Information & Communication, Manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals, Data Centres and Transport Services**.
- Investors/entities are based in jurisdictions including **Mauritius, USA, Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Luxembourg and Cayman Islands**.

- The revised framework allows **non-controlling beneficial ownership of up to 10% from Land Bordering Countries (LBCs)** in an investor entity to invest through the **automatic route**, subject to applicable **sectoral caps, entry routes and other conditions**.
- The reform was introduced through **Press Note 2 of 2026** and the consequent amendment to the **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019**, notified on **1 May 2026**.
- The **beneficial ownership test** is now applied at the **level of the investor entity**, providing greater clarity regarding the ownership threshold.
- **Earlier framework:** Under **Press Note 3 of 2020**, foreign investors with beneficial ownership from LBCs required **prior Government approval**, even where the LBC ownership was very small.
- **Significance:** The reform reduces **transaction time and regulatory uncertainty**, facilitates FDI inflows and strengthens **Ease of Doing Business**, while retaining safeguards for investments linked to **Land Bordering Countries**.
- **10% is not a blanket FDI relaxation**—the benefit applies specifically to **non-controlling LBC beneficial ownership** and remains subject to sectoral caps and other FDI conditions.

4. Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Indian Economy • Employment • Inclusive Growth • Formalisation • Digitalisation

- **QBUSE** is released by the **National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI** to provide **quarterly/high-frequency estimates** of India's **unincorporated non-agricultural sector**, complementing the annual **ASUSE**.
- **Coverage: Manufacturing, Trade and Other Services**; includes **proprietorships, partnerships (excluding LLPs), cooperatives, societies/trusts etc.**
- **Apr–Jun 2026:** Estimated **8.67 crore establishments** and **13.70 crore workers**, with establishments growing **9.2% Y-o-Y**.
- **Services emerged as the key growth driver**, with establishments and employment in **Other Services** both growing by **over 21%**.
- **Trade sector** recorded a decline of **7.88% in establishments** and **10.29% in workforce** Y-o-Y.
- **Working owners** constituted **62.38%** of total workers, while **hired workers** accounted for **22.77%**.
- **Women's participation:** Women constituted **30%+ of total employment**, indicating improving **female economic participation**.
- **Digitalisation:** Around **82% establishments used the internet** for business purposes, while nearly **80% adopted cashless transactions** such as **UPI, online banking and POS**.
- **Formalisation: 42.5% establishments reported some form of registration**, over **7 percentage points higher** than Apr–Jun 2025.
- Uses **multi-stage stratified sampling**; data collected through **CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing)**.
- QBUSE covers the **unincorporated non-agricultural sector**, not the entire economy; **construction is excluded**.
- **Significance:** Provides **high-frequency evidence** on employment, entrepreneurship, digital adoption and formalisation in a crucial segment of the economy, supporting more targeted **policy interventions for inclusive growth**.

5. India's First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Agricultural Technology • Seed Technology • Food Processing • Agricultural Marketing

- **India's first non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed** was launched at **Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh**, by **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan**.
- **Popcorn maize:** A specialised maize type with kernels capable of **expanding/popping on heating**; high-expansion hybrids are important for the processed-food industry.
- **Krishna 459** and **Godavari 234** are India's first high-expansion, non-GMO popcorn maize hybrid seeds.
- **Non-GMO:** The newly launched hybrid is specifically highlighted as **non-genetically modified**, making it relevant to **seed technology and agricultural biotechnology**.
- The initiative links **indigenous seed development with cultivation, processing, quality control, packaging and marketing**, strengthening the agricultural value chain.
- **Maize (Zea mays)** is a major **cereal crop** used for food, feed and industrial purposes; value-added products include **starch, corn oil, sweeteners, ethanol and processed foods**.
- **Significance:** Promotes **indigenous seed technology, import substitution, value addition, farmer incomes, rural employment and market/export competitiveness**, strengthening India's self-reliance in agriculture.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 26th August, 2026

1 . Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Science & Technology • Defence Technology • Aerospace Technology • Indigenisation of Defence Technology

- **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** unveiled three indigenous **Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines — NJ-05 (5 kg thrust), NJ-50 (50 kg thrust) and NJ-100 (100 kg thrust)**.
- The engines are envisaged for **tactical UAVs, drone interceptors and compact missile systems**, addressing the need for indigenous propulsion in emerging unmanned defence platforms.
- **Gas Turbine Engine:** A propulsion system in which **fuel combustion produces high-temperature, high-pressure gases that drive a turbine and generate thrust/power**.
- Development involved advances in **high-RPM turbomachinery** and **high-temperature combustion**, both critical for compact aerospace propulsion.
- Propulsion is a **critical and technologically complex subsystem** of aerospace platforms; indigenous capability reduces dependence on imported technologies and strengthens **strategic autonomy**.
- **UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles):** Aircraft operated without an onboard human pilot; widely used for **surveillance, reconnaissance, communication, logistics and combat roles**.
- **Drone interceptors** can form part of **counter-UAS (C-UAS)** systems designed to detect, track and neutralise hostile drones, making compact propulsion technologies relevant to emerging **drone warfare**.
- **Defence-industrial ecosystem:** CSIR-NAL's R&D can be translated into large-scale production through **Indian industry and aerospace start-ups**, linking public-sector scientific research with domestic manufacturing.
- **Thrust:** It is the **propulsive force** produced by an engine; hence the NJ series can be remembered directly by their approximate thrust classes — **5 kg, 50 kg and 100 kg**.
- **Why gas turbines for UAVs/missiles?** Their **high power-to-weight ratio, compactness and suitability for high-speed flight** make them useful for several unmanned and expendable aerial platforms.

2. National Shipping Board (NSB) – 'Sagar Samvad' & Indian Shipping Capacity

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Infrastructure | Indian Economy | Blue Economy | Employment

- **National Shipping Board (NSB)** organised its first **'Sagar Samvad'** on the theme **"Maritime India Vision 2030 & Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047"**.
- **NSB:** A **statutory advisory body** constituted in **1958**; advises the Government on **shipping policy, tonnage, seafarer welfare and maritime development**. Its mandate has been strengthened under the **Merchant Shipping Act, 2025**.
- **Key concern:** India pays nearly **$75 billion annually** as freight to foreign shipping lines for transporting commodities such as **crude oil, gas, coal and urea**.
- **Target:** Add **100 Indian-flagged vessels in 5 years** to reduce dependence on foreign shipping and strengthen India's maritime self-reliance.
- **Competitiveness gap:** Indian-flagged ships are estimated to be **16–20% costlier** than foreign-flagged vessels due to taxation, financing and regulatory costs.
- **NSB's 5-pillar roadmap: Fiscal reforms + Assured cargo support + Competitive financing + Regulatory streamlining + Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)**.
- **Strategic objective:** Increase Indian tonnage and move towards the **top 5 ship-owning nations by 2047**, aligned with **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
- **Right of First Refusal (RoFR):** Indian-flagged vessels can receive preference in specified cargo opportunities, subject to the applicable rules.
- **Indian tonnage:** Refers to the shipping capacity/vessels owned or controlled by Indian interests; increasing domestic tonnage reduces dependence on foreign carriers and can improve **freight retention within India**.
- **Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme: ₹10,000 crore** scheme to promote domestic container manufacturing; **Maersk** has placed orders for containers manufactured in India.
- **Maritime India Vision 2030:** Long-term roadmap for making India a **global maritime hub** through port modernisation, shipping, shipbuilding, logistics, maritime skilling and green shipping.

3. India's Shift from Drought Response to Drought Resilience – UNCCD CoP17

Syllabus Mapping: GS3: Environment | Disaster Management | Agriculture | Climate Change

- **India called for a shift from drought response to drought resilience** at the **17th Conference of Parties (CoP17) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

- The approach emphasises **"Preparedness over response, prevention over crisis management, resilience over recovery"**, treating drought as a **predictable and preventable risk** rather than merely a recurring disaster.
- **Remote sensing + meteorological data + ground observations** can enable early identification of rainfall deficiency, vegetation stress and water stress.
- **Catchment/riverscape forestry** helps reduce **soil erosion, improve water retention and enhance groundwater recharge** — linking **forest conservation with water security**.
- **Watershed development** follows a **ridge-to-valley approach**, beginning with treatment of upper catchments and gradually moving towards lower drainage areas.
- **UNCCD** was established in **1994** and is one of the **three Rio Conventions**, alongside **UNFCCC** and **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- UNCCD is headquartered in **Bonn, Germany**, while its **Conference of the Parties (COP)** is its supreme decision-making body.
- The **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** framework seeks to maintain or enhance the quantity and quality of land resources required to support **ecosystem functions and food security**.

4. 5 years of e-Shram Portal

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Welfare Schemes • Vulnerable Sections • Social Security • E-Governance • Inclusive Development **GS III:** Employment • Formalisation of Economy • Digitalisation

- **e-Shram Portal** was launched on **26 August 2021** by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment** to create the **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)** and provide each registered worker a **12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN)**.
- It is **Aadhaar-authenticated** and covers workers such as **agricultural labourers, construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, migrant workers and gig/platform workers** who are outside the conventional formal social-security system.
- **As of August 2026:** over **31.89 crore workers** are registered; **women constitute 54.28%** of registrations. Around **11.5 lakh gig/platform workers** have also been registered.
- It integrates access to **15 welfare/social-security schemes**, including **PM-SYM, PMSBY, PMJJBY, NSAP, ONORC and PMAY-G**, while linking workers with **National Career Service (NCS), Skill India Digital Hub and myScheme**.
- **PM-SYM:** eligible unorganised workers can receive a **minimum assured pension of ₹3,000/month after 60 years**, subject to scheme conditions. **PMSBY** provides accidental insurance cover, while **PMJJBY** provides life insurance cover.
- **Construction workers:** e-Shram data can be shared with States/UTs to facilitate registration with **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Boards**.
- **Unorganised worker** includes a home-based, self-employed or wage worker in the unorganised sector; it can also include an organised-sector worker who is **not covered by EPFO/ESIC and is not a government employee**.

5. India–Japan Cooperation in Semiconductors & Artificial Intelligence

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: India–Japan Relations • Bilateral Economic Cooperation | **GS III:** Semiconductors • AI • Manufacturing • Technology • Supply Chain Resilience

- India and Japan are strengthening cooperation in **Semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** as key pillars of their **economic security partnership**.
- India's domestic **semiconductor demand is projected to reach USD 150 billion by 2032**, creating opportunities for investment, manufacturing and technology partnerships.
- India's semiconductor strategy covers the **entire ecosystem — chip design, semiconductor machinery & materials, fabrication, ATMP/OSAT, R&D and talent development**.
- Government support includes **USD 10 billion under Semicon India 1.0** and an additional **USD 15 billion under Semicon India 2.0** to catalyse investment and build a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem.
- India's **skilled talent pool** complements Japan's **advanced technology, engineering capabilities and industrial expertise**, creating scope for joint investment, innovation, manufacturing and technology partnerships.
- Around **21 leading Japanese companies** participated in the India–Japan industry roundtable, reaffirming interest in **Make in India, Design in India and Develop in India**.
- The cooperation is significant for **economic security, resilient supply chains and next-generation manufacturing**, particularly in strategically important technologies.
- Both sides noted progress towards the target of **JPY 10 trillion in private Japanese investment in India**, strengthening the **India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 27th August, 2026

1 . India's Sugar Industry

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Food Processing • Ethanol Blending • Farmers' Income • Energy Security

- India is the **world's second-largest sugarcane producer**, with nearly **5 crore farmers** and around **5 lakh workers** dependent on the sugar and allied industries.
- **Sugarcane production: 500 MMT (2025-26)**; **UP and Maharashtra** are the leading producing states.
- **FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price)** of sugarcane for **2026-27 → ₹365/quintal** at a basic recovery rate of **10.25%**.
- India's annual sugar production is around **300–340 LMT**, while domestic consumption is around **280–290 LMT**.
- **Ethanol–Sugar linkage:** diversion of sugar for ethanol fell from around **12% (2022-23) to 9% (2025-26)**; nearly **three-fourths of ethanol** now comes from **grains, particularly maize**.
- Ethanol diversion helps utilise **surplus sugar**, improve sugar-mill liquidity and facilitate **timely payment of sugarcane dues**.
- **Current price rise:** mainly linked to **lower domestic production, festive demand, weather-related crop damage, tightening global supplies, speculation and hoarding**, rather than an ethanol-induced sugar shortage.
- Production is estimated at **306 LMT** against the initial estimate of **343 LMT**; crop damage was associated with **Red Rot, Top Borer and waterlogging**.
- **Government response: 400-tonne stock limit** on sugar dealers and permission for **duty-free import of 10 lakh MT of raw sugar** to augment domestic availability.
- **Sugarcane is a water-intensive commercial crop**; the sector has a strong linkage with **ethanol, rural employment, farmers' payments and energy security**.

2 . Turning the Wheel of Heritage — Sarnath on UNESCO World Heritage List

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Culture • Buddhism • Art & Architecture | **GS II:** International Organisations • Cultural Diplomacy

- **Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath** was inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** at the **48th World Heritage Committee Session, Busan (South Korea)** in July 2026.
- With this, India's total UNESCO World Heritage properties rose to **45** — **37 Cultural, 7 Natural and 1 Mixed**; India ranks **6th globally** and **2nd in Asia-Pacific**.
- **Sarnath (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)** is one of the **four principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites** and the place where **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon** after attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.
- Buddha's first sermon is known as **Dharmachakra Pravartana** ("Turning of the Wheel of the Law"), marking the beginning of the **Buddhist Sangha** and propagation of the **Noble Eightfold Path**.
- The UNESCO property comprises **Chaukhandi Stupa** and the **Archaeological Remains of Sarnath**, including **Dhamek Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulagandhakuti Vihara and Ashokan Pillar**.
- Sarnath was nominated under **UNESCO criteria (iii) and (vi)**:
- **Criterion (iii):** exceptional testimony to the spiritual/religious tradition of Buddhism.
- **Criterion (vi):** direct association with events and traditions of outstanding universal significance — particularly **Buddha's first sermon and his first disciples**.
- Sarnath was placed on India's **Tentative List in 1998**; nomination was submitted in **January 2025**, followed by technical evaluation and an **ICOMOS** mission.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972** seeks protection of cultural and natural heritage of **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)** for present and future generations.
- With Sarnath, **3 of the 4 principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites** are now UNESCO World Heritage Sites: **Lumbini (Nepal), Mahabodhi Temple (Bodh Gaya) and Sarnath**.

3. SIDBI–RRB MSME Co-Lending Arrangement

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: MSMEs • Financial Inclusion • Institutional Credit • Rural Economy • Manufacturing

- **SIDBI** organised a conclave of the Heads of **all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** on **25 August 2026** to expand the **SIDBI–RRB MSME Co-Lending arrangement**.
- The arrangement combines **SIDBI's expertise in MSME credit** with the **extensive rural and semi-urban outreach of RRBs**, particularly to improve institutional credit access for **Micro and Small Enterprises**.
- **SIDBI**, established in **1990 under the SIDBI Act, 1989**, is the principal financial institution for the **promotion, financing and development of MSMEs**.
- **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** were established under the **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976** to strengthen institutional credit delivery in rural areas, particularly for **agriculture, rural industries and other productive activities**.

- **RRB ownership pattern: Central Government : State Government : Sponsor Bank = 50 : 15 : 35**.
- The arrangement can help RRBs **diversify their loan portfolios towards MSMEs**, while **rule engine-based underwriting** is expected to enable faster credit decisions and support asset quality.
- **MSME cluster data** can facilitate targeted identification and financing of enterprises, supporting India's emergence as a **next-generation manufacturing hub**.
- RRBs were also encouraged to participate in **Rozgar Melas** to improve **financial awareness among MSMEs**.
- **Co-Lending Origination Platform:** SIDBI's **end-to-end digital platform** enables a **faster and paperless credit journey**, including digital documentation, quick sanction and direct disbursement into borrowers' accounts.
- The pilot has shown encouraging outcomes in **3 RRBs**; expansion to more RRBs is expected to particularly improve credit access for **Micro and Small enterprises in rural and semi-urban areas**.
- **NABARD** is associated with the **supervision and development of RRBs**, making its participation in the conclave relevant to strengthening rural credit delivery.

4. World Water Week 2026

Syllabus Mapping: **GS III:** Water Resources • Groundwater Management • Climate Resilience • Rural Development • Sustainable Development

- **Ministry of Rural Development** participated in **World Water Week 2026, Stockholm**, showcasing India's approach to **community-led water security, technology-enabled governance and sustainable natural-resource management**.
- **World Water Week** is organised annually by the **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** and serves as a global platform for dialogue, collaboration and innovation on water-related challenges.
- India highlighted **Water Vision @2047**, aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047**, which seeks **resilient, inclusive and sustainable water security** through integrated planning, technological innovation and community participation.
- India's water-security framework is being advanced through initiatives such as the **Jal Jeevan Mission** and **National Initiative on Water Security (NIWS)**.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** focuses on strengthening access to **safe drinking water in rural areas**, while **NIWS** promotes **water conservation, groundwater recharge, water harvesting and creation of water-security assets**.
- **NIWS** prioritises expenditure on water-related works based on **groundwater conditions across blocks**, enabling targeted investment in **water-stressed regions** through scientific and objective planning.
- **Groundwater management** is particularly important for sustainable water security as groundwater forms a critical component of rural water availability and agricultural livelihoods.
- The **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** places **water security** among the key focus areas of rural-development interventions.
- **Yuktdhara** uses **GIS and remote sensing** for evidence-based rural development and natural-resource management planning.
- **E-Jal** facilitates **Gram Panchayat-level water budgeting** by integrating data relating to **water resources, rainfall, groundwater and population**.

5. Bhote Koshi River Flash Flood

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Geography • Himalayan Hazards | **GS III:** Disaster Management • Climate Change • GLOF • Early Warning Systems | **GS II:** India–Nepal Relations • Transboundary River Management

- A sudden rise in water levels in the **Bhote Koshi–Trishuli river system in Nepal** triggered a severe **flash-flood event**, with the possibility of downstream impact on the **Gandak river system in India**.
- The event was initially linked to suspected **Flash Flood/GLOF activity near the Nepal–China border**, highlighting the vulnerability of the Himalayan region to sudden high-altitude hydrological hazards.
- **GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood)** refers to the sudden release of water stored in a glacial lake, often due to failure of a moraine/ice dam, producing rapid and destructive downstream flooding.
- The **Himalayas** are particularly vulnerable to such hazards because of **glacial retreat, changing precipitation patterns, unstable slopes and rapid warming**.
- The flood has important **transboundary implications** as Himalayan rivers originating in Nepal flow downstream into India.
- Sudden changes in upstream river discharge can affect **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**, making **real-time hydrological data sharing, early-warning systems and coordinated disaster response** important for India–Nepal cooperation.
- The **Central Water Commission (CWC)** monitored the situation and advised that the increased water levels could travel downstream through the **Gandak system**.
- **CWC** is India's apex technical organisation in the field of water resources and functions under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**; it is responsible for monitoring river flows, floods and water-resource development.
- The Government of India placed potentially affected **border areas in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on high alert**, with local administration, rescue teams and **NDRF** prepared for possible downstream impacts.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 28th August, 2026

1 . Bharat India Stack

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Governance • E-Governance • Digital Public Infrastructure | **GS III:** Land Reforms • Inclusive Growth • Technology

- A high-level delegation from the **African Union Commission, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zambia and UNDP** engaged with the **Department of Land Resources (DoLR)** to study India's digital transformation in land governance. The engagement focused on **DILRMP, ULPIN/Bhu-Aadhaar, NGDRS and NAKSHA**.
- **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)** aims to modernise land administration through computerisation, digitisation and integration of land records.
- Over **40.58 crore land parcels** have been assigned the **14-digit alphanumeric Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN/Bhu-Aadhaar)**.
- **ULPIN/Bhu-Aadhaar** provides a unique geospatial identity to land parcels and is intended to improve interoperability and transparency in land administration.
- **98.96%** of Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs) have been computerised; **17 States/UTs** use the centralised **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)** while 17 use state-specific digital registration systems.
- **94.11%** of Revenue Courts have been computerised under the **Revenue Court Case Management System (RCCMS)**, enabling litigation status to be reflected on property records.
- **Bharat Land Stack** is an integrated GIS-based architecture combining **georeferenced cadastral maps, RoRs, registration data, satellite/drone imagery, zoning/master plans, building approvals, encumbrances, litigation, circle rates and tenancy information**.
- **NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations)** is an urban land-records initiative using modern geospatial and aerial-survey technologies.
- NAKSHA uses **2D Nadir cameras, 5-camera Oblique systems and LiDAR sensors** mounted on drones for high-precision urban mapping.

2. 12 Years of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Policies & Interventions • Financial Inclusion • Social Justice • Welfare Schemes | **GS III:** Inclusive Growth • Digital Economy

- **PMJDY** was launched in **2014** as India's national mission for **financial inclusion**, with the initial objective of providing a bank account to **every household**; since **2018**, the focus has been **every unbanked adult**.
- **Implementing ministry: Ministry of Finance**, through the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**.
- **Any Indian citizen aged 10 years and above** can open a PMJDY account. There is **no upper age limit**.
- It provides access to **basic banking, credit, remittances, insurance, pension and digital payments**.
- PMJDY accounts are **Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA)** with **no minimum balance requirement**.
- Accounts can be opened through **bank branches as well as Business Correspondents (Bank Mitras)**, extending banking services to underserved areas.
- **RuPay debit card** is provided to account holders, along with **accident insurance cover** of ₹1 lakh, enhanced to **₹2 lakh for accounts opened after August 2018**.
- **Overdraft facility:** up to **₹10,000**, subject to eligibility and satisfactory operation of the account for **6 months**.
- PMJDY acts as an important channel for **DBT** and is linked with **PM-JJBY, PM-SBY, APY and MUDRA**, connecting financial access with social-security and livelihood schemes.
- **As on 19 August 2026: 59.09 crore accounts**, including **32.92 crore female beneficiaries**; deposits stood at **₹3.16 lakh crore** and **41.29 crore RuPay cards** had been issued.
- PMJDY is closely associated with the **JAM Trinity — Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile**, which enables more efficient and targeted delivery of benefits.
- **Business Correspondents/Bank Mitras** function as an extended arm of banks for providing basic banking services, particularly where conventional branch networks are limited.
- **Financial Inclusion Index** increased from **53.9 in 2018 to 67 in 2026**, indicating broader access to financial services.

3. Samarthak – First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel of Indian Navy

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Defence Technology • Indigenous Defence Production • Aatmanirbhar Bharat • Maritime Security

- **Samarthak**, the Indian Navy's **first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)**, was delivered on **27 August 2026**.

- The vessel has been **built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Kattupalli** and has **over 75% indigenous content**, supporting India's push towards **Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence**.
- It has been conceived as a **versatile trial and evaluation platform**, enabling the Navy to undertake multiple maritime activities through a single platform.
- **Key roles: maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, offshore patrolling, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations.
- **Samarthak** means **"The Proponent"**, reflecting its role as a dependable enabler for multiple missions.
- A **Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)** is designed for **multiple operational roles**, unlike specialised vessels built primarily for a single function.

4. PM SVANidhi Completes One Year of Restructuring

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: Government Schemes • Financial Inclusion • Urban Poverty • Social Security | **GS III:** Inclusive Growth • Entrepreneurship • Digital Economy

- **PM SVANidhi (Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi)** was launched on **1 June 2020** to provide **collateral-free working capital loans** to urban street vendors.
- PM SVANidhi is a **Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- The scheme was introduced in the context of the livelihood disruption faced by **street vendors due to the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- Its core objective is to provide **working-capital credit without collateral** to eligible street vendors and encourage their **formalisation and digital financial inclusion**.
- **SVANidhi se Samriddhi** is the component that moves beyond credit by connecting street vendors and their families with **social-security/welfare schemes**.
- **Census Towns** are settlements that satisfy specified demographic and occupational criteria but are **notified as urban areas under the relevant administrative framework**
- The scheme was **restructured on 27 August 2025** and lending has been extended up to **31 March 2030**; the restructured scheme targets **1.15 crore street vendors**, including **50 lakh new beneficiaries**.
- The restructured scheme expands the focus from credit to **formal credit, digital financial inclusion, social security, capacity building and entrepreneurship**.
- **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card** with credit limit up to **₹30,000** has been introduced for eligible vendors.
- **Digital Lending Platform (DLP)** enables end-to-end digital processing of loans, from **application and verification to approval and disbursement**.
- Since inception, **78.68 lakh street vendors** have accessed more than **1.18 crore loans worth ₹19,171 crore**.

5. Snow Leopard Conservation – India–Russia Cooperation

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Environment & Ecology • Wildlife Conservation • Species Conservation • International Cooperation

- India participated in the **Russian-Indian Roundtable Meeting on Snow Leopard Study and Conservation** held on **26 August 2026 in Moscow, Russia**.
- The meeting was organised under the **Partnership Agreement between the Interregional Association 'Irbis' and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, signed in **December 2025**.
- India highlighted its **science-based approach to snow leopard conservation**, particularly through:
  - **Population estimation**
  - **Radio telemetry** for monitoring movement and habitat use
  - **Genetic analysis** for understanding populations and genetic diversity
- The **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** is involved in scientific assessment and monitoring of snow leopards in India.
- **Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia)** is a **high-altitude mountain species** found in the Himalayas and other Central Asian mountain ranges.
- In India, its range includes **Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Snow leopard is listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List** and is included in **CITES Appendix I**.
- In India, it is protected under **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The species is also a **flagship species for high-altitude Himalayan ecosystems**, making its conservation important for protecting fragile mountain habitats.
- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** provides a platform for international cooperation in the conservation of **big cat species and their habitats**.

Educrat IAS Daily PIB Gist 31st August, 2026

1 . Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 – Ornamental Fisheries Development

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Fisheries • Blue Economy • Aquaculture • Coastal & Island Economy • Sustainable Development

- **Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031** is the **Strategic Action Plan for development of India's ornamental fisheries sector**, to be released at **Agatti, Lakshadweep**.
- The Action Plan aims to provide a **uniform framework** for **scientific management, biosecurity, quality assurance and regulatory compliance** across the ornamental fisheries value chain.
- It will standardise practices related to **broodstock management, breeding, hatchery operations, quarantine, health management, traceability, handling, transport and trade**.
- **Ornamental fisheries** have potential for **livelihood generation, exports and value addition**, while ensuring conservation of marine ecosystems.
- **Lakshadweep** has been identified as having significant potential in **marine ornamental fisheries** and sustainable blue-economy activities.
- India's marine resource base includes a **coastline of ~11,099 km** and **EEZ of ~24 lakh sq. km**; marine fisheries potential within the EEZ is estimated at **58.6 lakh MT**.
- **Lakshadweep's EEZ is nearly 4 lakh sq. km**, about **17% of India's total EEZ**, with a lagoon area of **over 4,200 sq. km**.
- Lakshadweep has significant **tuna resources**, particularly **Yellowfin Tuna and Skipjack Tuna**, which form the backbone of its marine fisheries.
- **Lakshadweep has been notified as a dedicated Seaweed Cluster** to promote cultivation, processing, value addition and market linkages.
- Government's fisheries strategy increasingly focuses on **cluster-based, value-chain-oriented development**, sustainable marine resource utilisation and **Blue Economy**.
- India exported seafood worth around **₹73,890 crore in FY 2025–26**, highlighting the sector's importance for **exports, employment and livelihoods**.

2. Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) – Data-Driven Fertilizer Management

Syllabus Mapping: GS III: Agriculture • Fertilizer Subsidy • Agricultural Inputs • DBT • Digital Governance

- **Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS)** is the digital backbone of India's **fertilizer management**, developed and technically supported by **NIC** for the **Department of Fertilizers**.
- iFMS integrates the fertilizer supply chain covering **production, imports, movement, stocks, retail sales and subsidy processing**.
- It covers **14+ crore Aadhaar-linked buyers**, **2.5 lakh+ retailers** and around **7 crore MT annual fertilizer transactions**.
- **Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB)** integration and subsequent linkage with **AgriStack** enable fertilizer purchases to be connected with **farmer, land and crop information**.
- **Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS):** integrates a **mobile-based fertilizer booking system** with the existing iFMS **Point of Sale (PoS)** ecosystem.
- Under FFS, fertilizer booking is linked to the farmer's **AgriStack ID**, with verification of **land and ownership details**; a **QR-based booking** is generated for purchase at PoS.
- This enables analysis of **fertilizer consumption per hectare, crop-wise/product-wise use and landholding-wise consumption**, supporting more targeted fertilizer management.
- **Vehicle Location Tracking System (VLTS)** strengthens digital monitoring of fertilizer movement from **dispatch to destination**, helping identify delays and unusual movement.
- iFMS also supports **fertilizer subsidy processing**, with subsidy payments linked to **actual sales recorded through the PoS network**.

3. Aranmula Uthrittathi Vallamkali – Kerala's Cultural Heritage

Syllabus Mapping: GS I: Indian Culture • Art & Culture • Festivals • GI Tags

- **Aranmula Uthrittathi Vallamkali** is a traditional **boat race of Kerala**, held on the **River Pamba** and associated with **Onam** and the sacred tradition of **Vallasadya**.
- The race features decorated **Palliyodams**, with **100+ oarsmen** rowing in coordinated rhythm, reflecting **teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship**.
- **Vallasadya** is a traditional ceremonial feast associated with the **Sree Parthasarathy Temple, Aranmula**, and the Palliyodams.

- **Aranmula Sree Parthasarathy Temple** is an important Vaishnavite religious and cultural centre, dedicated to **Lord Krishna in his Parthasarathy form**.
- **Aranmula Kannadi** is a **GI-tagged traditional metal mirror** from Aranmula, known for its distinctive manufacturing technique and craftsmanship. It is made using a **special metal alloy** and differs from conventional glass mirrors.
- **River Pamba** is culturally significant in Kerala and is closely associated with the **Sabarimala pilgrimage**.
- Onam is Kerala's major harvest festival, traditionally associated with the annual **return of King Mahabali.**
- The festival reflects Kerala's broader traditions of **boat races, temple-linked cultural practices, community participation and performing/ritual traditions**.
- The **"Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi"** approach highlights the integration of **development with preservation of India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage**.

4. "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order – Uzbekistan's Highest Honour

Syllabus Mapping: GS II: India & Central Asia • International Relations • Bilateral Relations • Cultural Diplomacy

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was conferred the **"Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order (Order of Highest Friendship)** by **Uzbekistan** for his contribution to strengthening **India–Uzbekistan friendship**.
- It is **Uzbekistan's highest honour for foreign leaders**.
- The award reflects the **deep-rooted civilisational and cultural ties** between India and Uzbekistan and the strengthening of their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- India and Uzbekistan share historical links through **trade, culture, language, art and people-to-people exchanges**, including connections associated with the **Silk Routes**.
- **Uzbekistan** is a **Central Asian country** and is strategically important for India's engagement with the **Central Asian region**.

5. Sree Narayana Guru

Syllabus Mapping: GS I – Modern Indian History • Social Reform Movements • Art & Culture

- **Sree Narayana Guru** was a philosopher, spiritual leader, poet and major **social reformer of Kerala** who challenged caste hierarchy, untouchability and social discrimination.
- Born at **Chempazhanthy, near Thiruvananthapuram**, in present-day Kerala; he was proficient in **Sanskrit and Vedanta**.
- **Aruvippuram Pratishta (1888):** consecrated a **Shiva idol at Aruvippuram**, challenging caste-based restrictions on temple consecration; this became a landmark of Kerala's social reform movement.
- His core message: **"One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man"**, reflecting his emphasis on human unity and equality.
- **SNDP Yogam – 1903:** associated with the establishment of the **Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam**, which worked for the educational, social and economic advancement of oppressed communities.
- **Sivagiri, Varkala** became his major spiritual and social centre; he established a school there for deprived sections.
- **Sarada Mutt/Temple at Sivagiri (1912):** dedicated to **Goddess of Learning**, reflecting his emphasis on education.
- **Advaita Ashram, Aluva :** an important centre associated with his spiritual and reformist activities.
- **Important works:** Atmopadesa Satakam, Daiva Dasakam and Darsanamala; his writings drew on **Advaita Vedanta** and ethical/spiritual self-realisation.
- **Aluva Sarva Mata Sammelanam (All Religions Conference), 1924:** promoted **religious harmony and inter-faith understanding**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi visited Sivagiri in 1925** and met Sree Narayana Guru; Rabindranath Tagore also visited him in **1922**.
- **Kerala Renaissance:** his movement is an important part of the broader **Kerala social reform/renaissance**, alongside figures such as **Chattampi Swamikal, Ayyankali and Vakkom Moulavi**.