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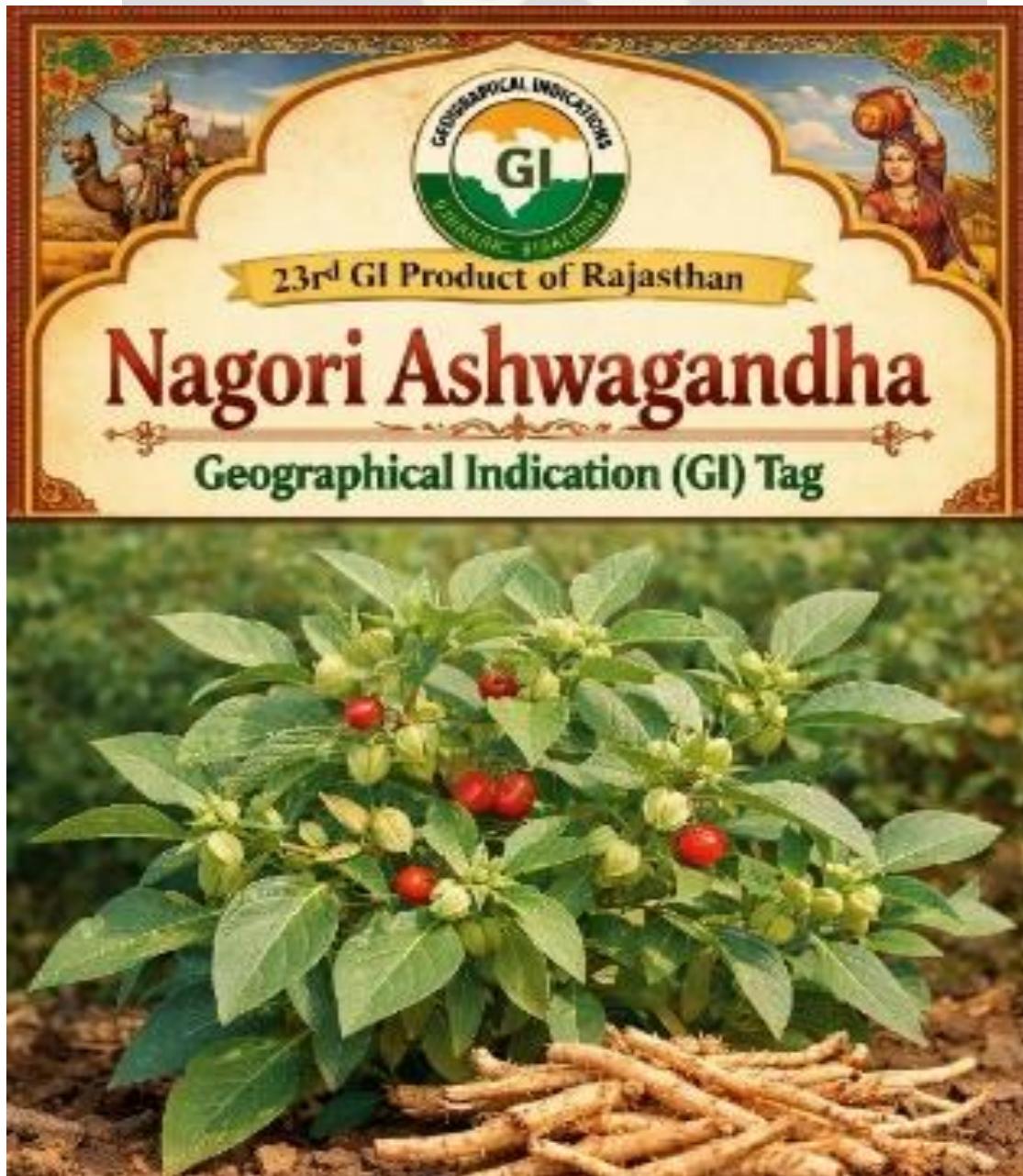
RAJASTHAN



'Nagauri Ashwagandha' receives GI Tag (Rajasthan's 23rd product)

Why in News?

- Recently, 'Nagauri Ashwagandha' was officially granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



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Key Points:

- With the inclusion of Nagauri Ashwagandha in the GI tag list, the number of GI-certified products from Rajasthan has reached 23.
- 'Nagauri Ashwagandha' is the second product from Rajasthan to receive a GI tag in the agricultural category, after Sojat (Mehndi).
- It is the second Geographical Indication (GI) tag product from Nagaur district, after 'Makrana Marble'.

About Ashwagandha:

- Scientific name:** *Withania somnifera*
- It is a highly effective and safe medicinal herb. It is particularly effective in reducing stress and anxiety and regulates cortisol (stress hormone) levels.
- Agriculture:** Ashwagandha is mainly cultivated in arid and semi-arid regions. The dry climate and sandy soil of Nagaur in Rajasthan, are extremely suitable for this crop.

Geographical Indication:

- A GI tag, or Geographical Indication, is granted to indicate the qualities of an agricultural, natural, industrial, or handcrafted product originating from a specific geographical area.
- It is given to a product that has been produced in a specific geographical area for 10 years or more.
- Internationally, GI tags are granted under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.
- In India, GI tags are governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (implemented in 2003).
- India's first GI tag was given to Darjeeling tea in 2004, while Rajasthan's first GI tag was granted to Kota Doria in 2005 (July 5, 2005).
- GI Tag Registry Office:** Chennai (Tamil Nadu)

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Rural Non-Farm Development Authority:

- The Rural Non-Farm Development Agency (RUDA) was established by the Government of Rajasthan in November 1995, as an independent agency to promote the rural non-farm sector in the state. In Rajasthan, it recommends GI tags in the non-agricultural sector.

23 products from Rajasthan that have received the GI tag

Rajasthan

- Sangri has received the 22nd GI tag among all products and the 17th GI tag among food products.

Jaipur

- Bagru Print
- Blue Pottery
- Blue Pottery (logo)
- Sanganeri Print

Nathdwara (Rajsamand)

- Molela Terracotta
- Molela (Logo)
- Pichwai Art

Bikaner

- Bikaneri Bhujia
- Usta Art
- Embroidery

Kota

- Kota Doria
- Kota Doria (logo)

Daily Current Affairs

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**CIVIL
SERVICES**

Nagaur

- Makrana marble
- Nagauri Ashwagandha

Jaisalmer

- Pokhran Pottery

Pratapgarh

- Thewa art

Pali

- Sojat Mehndi

Rajasthan

- Puppet
- Puppet (logo)

**Rajasthan, Haryana,
Punjab**

- Phulkari

Jodhpur

- Tie-dye art

Udaipur

- Koftgiri metal craft

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Jaipur : NEAR MAHESH NAGAR THANA, GOPALPURA BYPASS ROAD, JAIPUR

Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue: 44 Youths Selected from Rajasthan

Why in News?

- 44 youths from Rajasthan have been selected for the 'Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue' in a competition held during the 'National Youth Festival'.



Key Points:

- Additionally, 29 youths from the state have been selected for competitions such as group folk dance, folk singing, story writing, painting, and speech, and 2 youths have been selected for the 'Hack for Social Cause Event'.

Total Number: 75

- **29th National Youth Festival:** The 29th National Youth Festival (NYF) is being celebrated as the 'Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD)' in 2026.



- **Event:** From January 9 to 12, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

- **Organizer:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Other Important Points:

- **Rajasthan Youth Festival 2026:** Organized from January 7 to 12, 2026.
- The Government of Rajasthan is organizing youth and sports festivals at the state, divisional, and district levels on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary.
- Under this initiative, young artists are being awarded prizes of ₹1,000 at the district level, ₹1,500 at the divisional level, and up to ₹50,000 at the state level.
- Similar to the National Youth Icon Award, the 'Rajasthan Youth Icon Award' is being given in the state, along with a cash prize of ₹1,00,000.

UTKARSH
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SERVICES

'Kaushal Rath' Launched from Sikar

Why in News?

- On January 7, 2026, Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, inaugurated the 'Kaushal Rath Initiative' from Sikar.



Key Points:

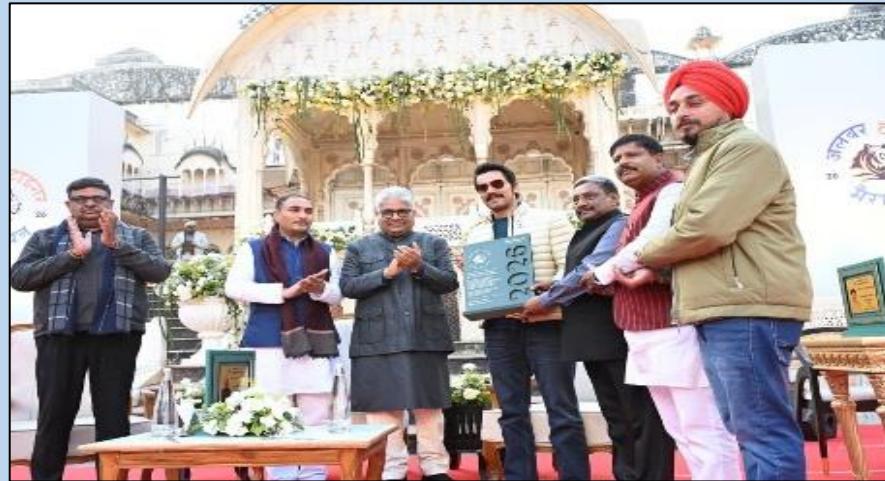
- This mobile unit will be operated under the 'Skill India - Kaushal Bharat - Kushal Bharat' campaign, which is run by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Central Government.
- The Kaushal Rath is a special skill awareness and mobilization program aimed at connecting youth from rural areas, small towns, and backward regions with government skill development schemes, providing them with industry-relevant certified training and promising employment opportunities.
- This Rath will act as a crucial link between aspiring youth and training providers by spreading awareness about employment-oriented courses, mobilizing candidates from rural and semi-urban areas, and promoting enrollment in certified skill programs.
- Under this initiative in Sikar, a total of 2,496 candidates will be mobilized, trained, assessed, and certified over a period of one year.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.

News

1. **Brand Ambassador of 'Alwar Tiger Marathon': Randeep Hooda**



- Actor Randeep Hooda has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the 'Alwar Tiger Marathon' to be held on February 8, 2026.
- Sariska, the only tiger reserve in the Delhi NCR region, currently has 50 tigers, tigresses, and cubs.

2. **Memorandum of Understanding between IIT Jodhpur and NLU Jodhpur**

- Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and the National Law University (NLU) Jodhpur.
- Under this agreement, the country's first Joint Centre for Law and Technology will be established. The IITJ–NLUJ Joint Centre for Law and Technology will be India's first permanent, co-governed academic center, jointly operated by a law university and an Indian Institute of Technology.
- This center will launch programs such as joint Masters, joint PhDs, and executive education, presenting an ideal model of multidisciplinary collaboration in higher education.

3.

Zonal Review Conference: Udaipur

- A two-day Zonal Review Conference was organized by the Union Ministry of Cooperation in Udaipur on January 8 and 9, 2026.
- **Objective of the conference:** To review the progress of various initiatives undertaken by the central and state governments in the field of cooperation and to deliberate on future strategies.
- One session of the conference also discussed the key findings of the 'International Year of Cooperatives-2025' and the media and communication strategy.

4.

MoU between Hindustan Zinc Limited and Silox India

- Recently, Hindustan Zinc Limited and Silox India entered into an agreement to promote low-carbon manufacturing.
- Under this agreement, Silox India will adopt Hindustan Zinc's low-carbon zinc brand EcoZen in its manufacturing operations.
- HZL launched EcoZen in 2024, which is Asia's first 'low-carbon green zinc' brand.
- Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) is a Vedanta Group company, the world's largest integrated zinc producer and one of the top 5 silver producers globally.
- **Headquarters:** Udaipur (Rajasthan)

5.

State-Level Police Conference: Jaipur

- **Event:** January 8 and 9, 2026, at the Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA), Jaipur.
- **Theme:** 'Policing in Developed India'.

6.

MoU between Rajeevika and Barefoot College

- Recently, a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed between the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) and Barefoot College, Tilonia (Ajmer).
- Objective of the MoU:** To empower women in rural areas by training them as 'Solar Didis' and making them community-level solar repair and maintenance technicians.
- Under this agreement, women selected from Rajeevika's Self-Help Group network will be provided 40-day residential training at Barefoot College, Tilonia.



7.

Rajasthan's First OBRC Lab: Bikaner



- Rajasthan's first Ortho Biological Regenerative Care (OBRC) lab was inaugurated at Prince Bijay Singh Memorial (PBM) Hospital in Bikaner.

- Ortho Biological Regenerative Care (OBRC) is a modern medical method that uses natural biological substances to promote the body's natural healing abilities. Its aim is to heal injuries and diseases in musculoskeletal (related to muscles, bones, and joints) tissues.

8.

3 Players from Rajasthan in the 7th Roll Ball World Cup



- The Indian men's and women's teams won gold medals in the 7th Roll Ball World Cup held in Dubai from December 14 to 18, 2025.
- Three players from Rajasthan represented the Indian team in this World Cup.
- The 3 players are:** Mahipal Mahla (Sikar) and Aditya Pratap Singh Ranawat (Pratapgarh) in the men's team and Preetika Tarawat (Ajmer) in the women's team.
- Assistant Coach:** Naviraj Singh Shekhawat (Rajasthan)



NATIONAL



Bureau of Indian Standards - BIS

Why in News?

- The Bureau of Indian Standards launched a new standardization portal and initiatives like SHINE for women.



Key Points:

SHINE – Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women – Scheme:

- This scheme will empower women by educating them about standards, safety, and quality.

Bureau of Indian Standards - BIS:

- Origin:** It was established in 1947 as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI).
- Statutory Status:** It was given statutory status under the BIS Act, 2016.
- Ministry:** Under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Function:** BIS is India's national standards body.



International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Why in News?

- The United Nations has declared 2026, as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Key Points:

Rangelands and Pastoralists – Additional Information –

- Rangelands:** These cover approximately half of the Earth's land surface.
- Examples:** The steppes of Central Asia, the African savannas, the Alps and Pyrenees of Europe, the Andes of South America, and the Great Plains of the United States.
- Implementation:** Under the leadership of the UN FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization, in collaboration with other stakeholders.



Arctic Report Card - ARC-2025

Why in News?

- This report card has been released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which clearly outlines that the Arctic region is warming much faster than the rest of the world.



Key Points:

Main points of the ARC:

- Arctic Surface Air Temperature:** The highest temperature recorded since 1900. The last 10 years have been the 10 warmest years in the history of the Arctic.
- Atlanticification:** The movement of organisms between high and low latitudes, heat transfer, melting of sea ice, and irregularities in the global ocean circulation system are occurring.

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- Rusting in Rivers:** The melting of surface permafrost is causing metallic minerals to mix with surface water, negatively impacting fish and the water supply of local communities.
- Green Cover in the Arctic:** Increased productivity of tundra vegetation is negatively impacting the albedo effect, Arctic landscape, wildlife habitats, biodiversity, permafrost, and local livelihoods.

Geopolitical Implications of Arctic Ice Melt:

- New shipping routes:** Such as from the Kara Sea to the Bering Strait.
- Increased role of the Arctic Council:** Established in 1996
- Member countries - 8:** Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA
- Importance for India:** With its research station Himadri and Arctic policy, India can further strengthen its participation and research in this region.



⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡

Residue Upgradation Facility – RUF and Hydrocracking Technology

➡ Why in News?

- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has commissioned a state-of-the-art Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

➡ Key Points:

- It has a capacity of 3.55 MMT per annum.
- This facility utilizes advanced residue hydrocracking technology.

Hydrocracking Technology:

- It is a catalytic process used in oil refineries to convert heavy oil fractions into high-quality middle distillate products and lighter products (diesel, naphtha, LPG).
- This process involves breaking down molecules with high molecular weight to produce lighter compounds.



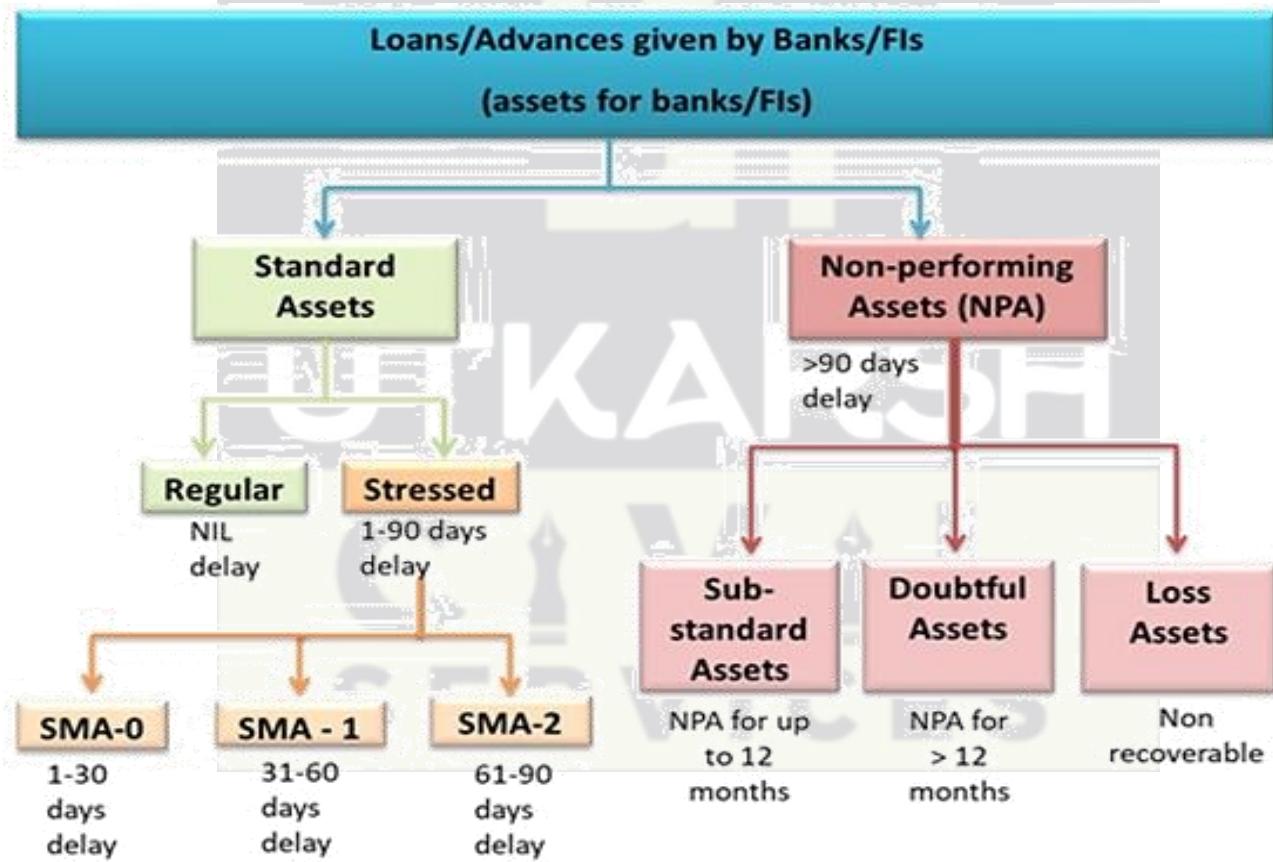
ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Banks

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Trend and Progress of Banking in India Report 2024-25.

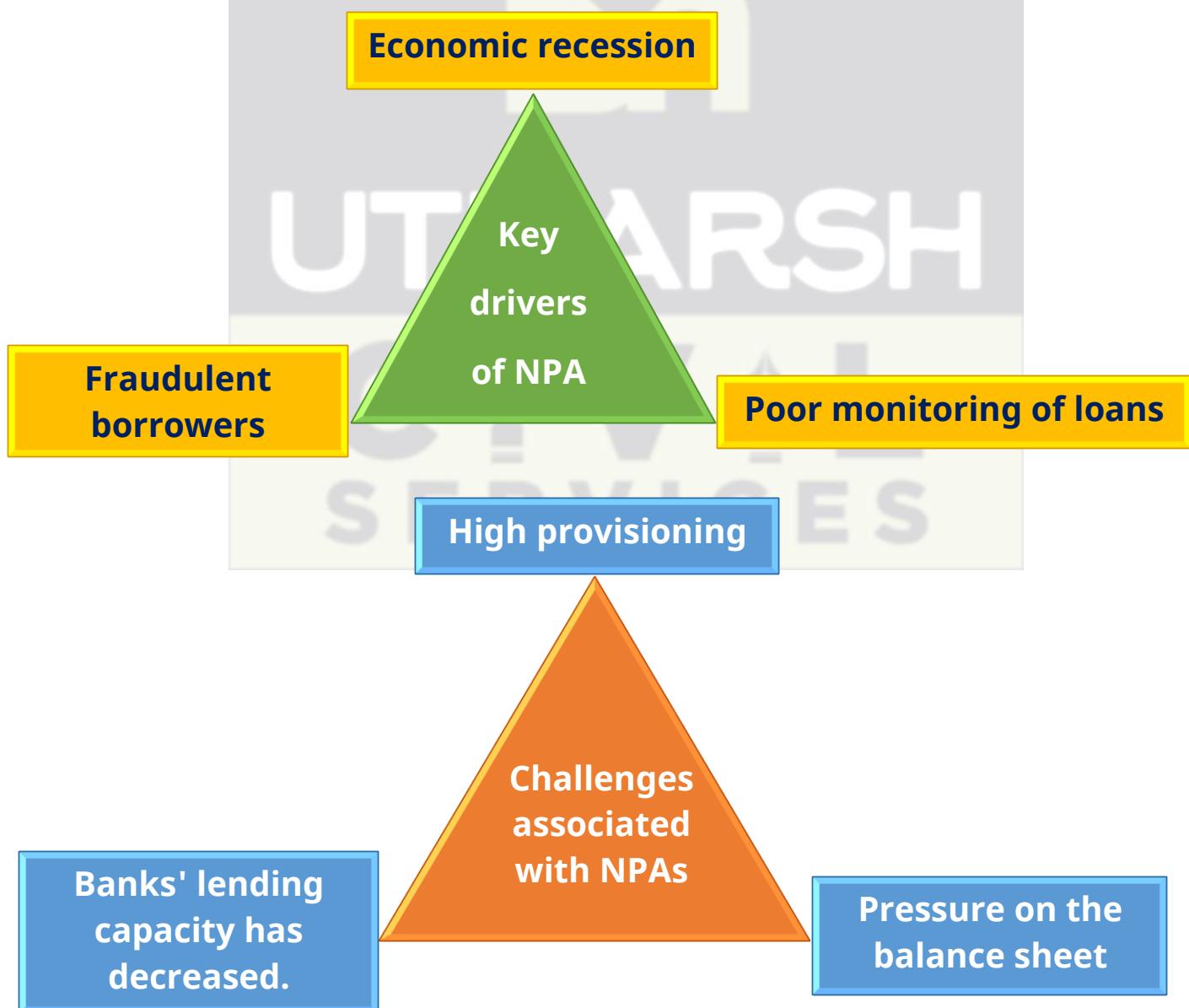


Key Points:

- Highlights of the report:
- Indian banks' NPAs have reached their lowest level in several decades.
- Gross NPA (GNPA)** – fell to 2.1% by the end of 2025.
- Net NPA (NNPA)** – decreased to 0.5% by March 2025.
- Note:** The banks' GNPA ratio was at a high of 11.18% in 2018.

Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)

- A loan becomes an NPA when the principal or interest payment on an outstanding loan or advance is not made for 90 days from the due date.
- **Gross NPA:** This is the total value of loans where interest or principal is overdue.
- **Net NPA:** This is obtained by subtracting provisions from the GNPA.
- **Provision:** This is the amount of money that banks set aside to cover potential losses.





Initiatives launched to reduce NPAs:

1. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code - 2016
2. SARFAESI Act - 2002
3. Asset Reconstruction Companies - ARCs
4. Indradhanush Scheme
5. Debt Recovery Tribunals – DRTs

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INDEXES AND REPORTS

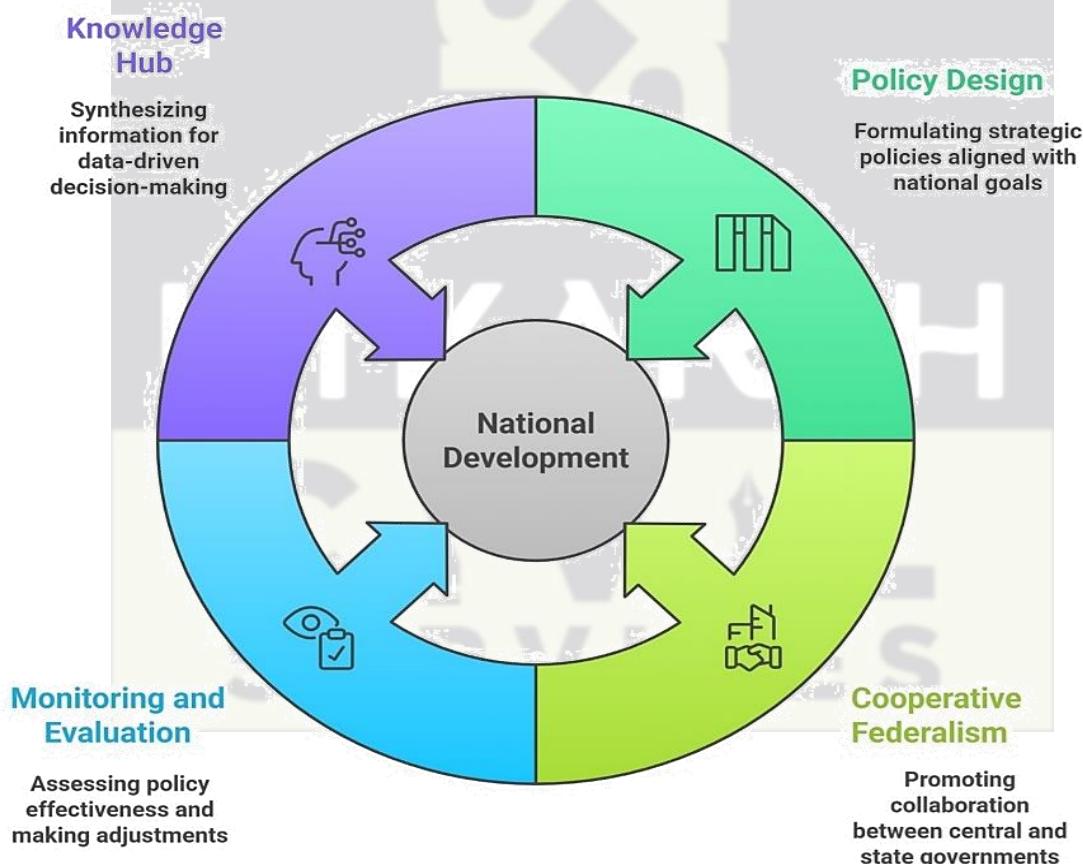


Framework Report for Promoting Affordable Housing

Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has released a report titled "Comprehensive Framework for Promoting Affordable Housing."

Functions of NITI Aayog



Key Points:

- The NITI Aayog report provides a working definition for affordable housing. **According to this definition:**
 - Metropolitan cities:** An affordable housing unit is one with a carpet area of up to 60 square meters and a price of up to ₹60 lakh.
 - Non-metropolitan areas:** An affordable housing unit is one with a carpet area of up to 90 square meters and a price of up to ₹45 lakh.

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0, 2024 defines affordable housing as having the above-mentioned carpet area and a price not exceeding ₹45 lakh.

Limited land availability

Factors
responsible
for the affordable
housing crisis in
India

Lack of stable
income for
formal loans.

The problem of
vacant houses

To designate at least 10% of all residential
land for affordable housing

10-15% of the
housing units
are reserved for
low-income
groups.

Key
Recommendations
made regarding
affordable housing

Improving the legal
framework for
rental housing

新闻剪报 NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.

News

1.

Indian Railways



- Indian Railways has become the world's largest electrified rail network, with approximately 99.2 percent of its broad gauge network electrified by November 2025, a significant achievement under Mission 100% Railway Electrification.

S E R V I C E S

-::23::-