

Daily Current Affairs

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First-ever Indian Army Day Celebration in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- The 78th Indian Army Day was celebrated on January 15, 2026, on Mahal Road in Jaipur.



Key Points:

- This is the first time the Army Day parade was held outside a cantonment area and in Rajasthan.
- Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Havildar Sunil Kumar Singh, Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar, Lance Naik Subhash Kumar, and Lance Naik Pradeep Kumar, who displayed exceptional bravery in 'Operation Sindoor' and other military operations, were posthumously awarded the 'Sena Medal (Gallantry)' during the Army Day parade.
- The main parade for Army Day 2025 was held in Pune (Maharashtra).
- The Army Day parade is held every year to commemorate the day Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa took over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.

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Other Important Points:

Know Your Army Exhibition:

- **Event:** From January 8 to 12, 2026.
- **Venue:** Bhawani Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur.

Shaurya Sandhya Program:

- **Event:** Held at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as the chief guest.
- **Theme:** Indian Army - A Tradition of Valor and Sacrifice.
- **100th Naman Centre:** The Defence Minister also virtually inaugurated the 100th Naman Centre in Suratgarh under 'Project Naman'. Project Naman is an initiative of the Indian Army aimed at providing assistance and a grievance redressal mechanism to defence pensioners, ex-servicemen, and families of martyrs.

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Rajasthan's First Organic Gram Panchayat - Bamnawas Kankad

Why in News?

- Recently, Bamanwas Kankar Gram Panchayat in Kotputli-Behror district has been declared Rajasthan's first fully organic-certified panchayat.



Key Points:

- Bamanwas Kankar is not only the first fully organic panchayat in Rajasthan but also in North-West India. This panchayat is an inspiring example of sustainable agriculture by adopting chemical-free farming and ecological animal husbandry.
- This panchayat received technical and institutional support from the Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies and Producer Companies (COFED).
- This panchayat has been granted this status under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards.

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Facts for Prelims:

Other prominent Gram Panchayats of Rajasthan recently in the news:

- **Sawipura (Pali):** The 'Smart Village Mission Mode Project' was launched from Sawipura village in Pali district by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Pindawal (Dungarpur):** Ranked first in the state in the 'Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)' released by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Khairabad (Kota):** The state's first steel utensil bank was established on March 23, 2025.

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In Focus: PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh

Why in News?

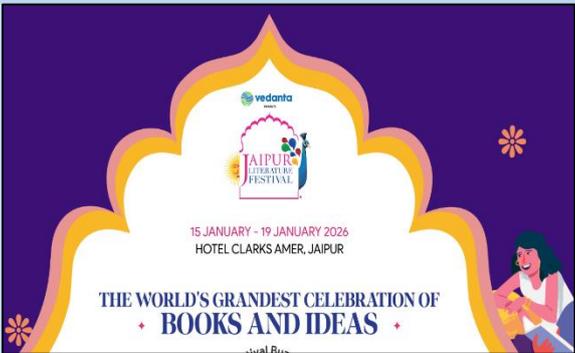
- PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh, in Sri Ganganagar, secured the first position nationwide in the 26th National Youth Parliament Competition (2024–25) for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.



Key Points:

- The Parliamentary Merit Shield and Trophy were presented to the school by the Union Law Minister for this achievement.
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been organizing Youth Parliament Competitions in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for the past 29 years.
- The 26th competition under the National Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas was held during the year 2024-25 among 88 schools under the 8 regions of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti spread across India.
- The Youth Parliament scheme aims to inculcate self-discipline, tolerance of diverse views, proper expression of one's thoughts, and other qualities of a democratic way of life in the younger generation.

✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Handicraft Expo (Artefacts), Jodhpur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Event: From January 15 to 19, 2026.■ Organizer: Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.■ Objective: To develop a B2B and B2C marketplace that promotes Indian handicrafts and helps in building business connections.■ Note: Under the Panch Gaurav program of the Government of Rajasthan, Jodhpur's wooden furniture has been included in the Panch Gaurav list.
2.	<p>Rajasthan's Representation at the 28th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani represented Rajasthan at the 28th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers held at the Constitution Hall in New Delhi.■ The conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
3.	<p>Jaipur Literature Festival – 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Inauguration: Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the 'Jaipur Literature Festival – 2026' on January 15, 2026.■ Event: From January 15 to 19, 2026.■ Organizer: Teamwork Arts in collaboration with the Jaipur Heritage Foundation.■ Main Sponsor: Vedanta. 

4.

Kite Festival – 2026, Organized at Each Divisional Level



- For the first time, the Rajasthan Tourism Department organized the 'Kite Festival - 2026' in all seven divisions of Rajasthan.
- **Event:** January 14, 2026, on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.
- **Seven Divisions:** Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, and Bharatpur.

5.

'Jaipur Meets Jupiter' Program

- Recently, 'Jaipur Meets Jupiter' program has been organized by Ozone Space, Rajasthan's first space education company.
- **Venue Date:** Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.
- Ozone Space is Rajasthan's first dedicated space education company, working to bring science to the common people through online and offline space and astronomy classes across the country.

6.

Rajasthan at the 69th National School Archery Competition

- In the 69th National School Archery Competition held in Ranchi, (Jharkhand), Rajasthan won a total of 8 medals, including 5 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze.
- **Event Duration:** From January 6 to 10, 2026.

7. **Conference of Labour, Employment and Industry Secretaries: Jaipur**

- On January 14 and 15, 2026, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, organized a regional conference of Labour, Employment and Industry Secretaries of States/Union Territories in Jaipur.
- This conference is the second in a series of five regional conferences being organized by the Ministry at various locations across the country.
- **Participants:** Labour and Industry Secretaries from the North-Western States/Union Territories.
- **Objective:** To ensure the smooth implementation of the four new labour codes, a web-based inspection system, and the universalization of social security.

8. **Third Technical Hindi Seminar - Abhyudaya-3**

- On January 5 and 6, 2026, the Third Technical Hindi Seminar - Abhyudaya-3 was organized by the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur, the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, and the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR).
- **Venue:** Indore (Madhya Pradesh).
- **Objective:** To promote the use of technical Hindi and extend the reach of science and technology to wider sections of society.



INTERNATIONAL



America First Policy and Multilateralism

Why in News?

- Under its America First policy, the US has withdrawn from 66 international organizations, including 31 UN bodies, prioritizing its national interests.

Key Points:

- **Reasons:** America First policy, sovereignty concerns, opposition to globalist agendas, and cost savings.

Sector	Organizations from which US has Withdrawn	Possible Outcomes
United Nations Treaties	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO in 2017 led to a 22% reduction in the organization's funding.2. Cuts in funding for health, climate, displacement, and conflict prevention.
Climate, Ecology & Biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. International Solar Alliance (ISA)2. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Withdrawal from UNFCCC has reduced the U.S.'s legal obligations (the largest cumulative CO₂ emitter; 24%).

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 4. UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) 5. UN Energy 6. Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Developing countries are at greater risk, as it is the largest CO₂-emitting country (12.7% of global CO₂ emissions in 2024). 3. Reduction in financing (approximately USD 310–365 billion). 4. North–South trust imbalance. 5. Challenges to sustainable development.
<p>Demography & Trade</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 2. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) 3. World Trade Organization (WTO) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced funding for health, population data, gender equality, and education. 2. Threats to trade competitiveness and U.S. industries. 3. Since 2017, lack of U.S. financial support to UNFPA has affected UNFPA programs in Africa and Asia.

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Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)2. Peacebuilding Fund3. Peacebuilding Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase in instability, insecurity, isolationism, terrorism, and nuclear competition.2. Growth of Chinese influence.3. Decline in multilateralism.
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Indian Response to Withdrawal from Multilateral Institutions

1. India can play a significant role in leading climate organizations (ISA; International Solar Alliance, CDRI; Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) and setting the agenda.
2. India needs to secure alternative sources of climate finance, meaning it must diversify its climate financing by presenting projects to other donors (European Union, Japan, UK, and Nordic countries).
3. **Carbon-free targets:** India needs to accelerate its National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) and carbon credit trading scheme to decarbonize key export sectors such as steel, cement, and aluminum.
4. India should invest in science, technology, and innovation.

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International Renewable Energy Agency – IRENA

Why in News?

- The 16th session of the IRENA Assembly concluded in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The session adopted IRENA's Medium-Term Strategy 2023-2027 assessment and program.

Key Points:

- Prior to this session, IRENA and the International Labour Organization jointly released the Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2025 report.

Findings related to India

- **Global Ranking:** Second place after China in solar photovoltaic and hydropower employment. Fourth place in liquid biofuels and wind energy employment.
- **Solar Manufacturing:** India's share in global photovoltaic module manufacturing is 4.8%. Gujarat is the leading state in photovoltaic module manufacturing with a 42% share, followed by Tamil Nadu (11%).

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Forest Fires: A Growing Disaster Risk

Why in News?

- According to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025, forest fires have caused approximately US\$106 billion in economic losses globally.

Key Points:

What are Forest Fires?

- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), any unplanned and uncontrolled fire in vegetation that negatively impacts social, economic, and environmental values and requires mitigation responses or other actions according to government policy is called a forest fire or wildfire.

Reasons for the increase in forest fires:

1. **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, lightning without rain.
2. **Land Use Change:** Deforestation, monoculture farming, drainage of peatlands.
3. **Human Factors:** Shifting cultivation/slash-and-burn agriculture.
4. **Availability of Fuel:** Dry grass, leaves, shrubs.

India's Initiatives for Forest Fire Control:

1. **National Action Plan on Forest Fires**
2. **Forest Fire Warning System** (by the Forest Survey of India)
3. **Forest Fire Geo-portal** - acting as a single point of access
4. **Community Participation** - through Joint Forest Management Committees and Eco-Development Committees.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited

Why in News?

- The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has achieved an "Excellent" rating for its performance in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the financial year 2024-25.



Key Points:

- This evaluation reflects SECI's effective institutional performance in implementing its set targets during FY 2024-25.
- In the MoU evaluation, SECI scored 97.36 out of 100, highlighting its operational efficiency, governance standards, and contribution to advancing India's renewable energy goals.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited:

- **Establishment:** Founded in 2011 (as a non-profit company) and converted into a commercial company in 2015.
- **Introduction:** It is a public sector Navratna enterprise under the Central Government.
- It has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing over 76 GW of total renewable energy capacity by December 31, 2025, while the capacity of signed power purchase agreements has already exceeded 60 GW.
- During 2024-25, it registered an annual increase of 18.48% in energy by trading, trading 50.87 billion units.
- **Ministry:** It functions under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, which focuses on the expansion of renewable energy in the country.
- It has been appointed as the nodal agency of the government.



Walker and Hadley Circulation Systems



Why in News?

- Severe cold is being experienced in East, Central, and South India. This can be attributed to the strengthening of the Walker and Hadley circulation systems due to La Niña.



Key Points:

Walker Circulation System

- **Type:** This is an atmospheric circulation system in the east-west (horizontal) direction over the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- **Mechanism:** Warm air rises in the western Pacific Ocean, moves eastward at upper levels, descends in the eastern Pacific, and then moves westward again as trade winds.
- **Impact:** Affects the global weather system, including monsoon and winter anomalies/disruptions.

Hadley Circulation System

- **Type:** This is a north-south (meridional) atmospheric circulation system.
- **Mechanism:** Warm air rises near the equator, moves towards higher latitudes at upper levels, descends at approximately 30° latitude, and then moves back towards the equator at the surface.
- **Impact:** Redistributes heat, influences trade winds, tropical deserts, and tropical monsoons. Affects rainfall patterns. Its effect is most visible between 0° and 30/35° latitudes.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SVASTIK Portal

Why in News?

- On January 14, 2026, CSIR - National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research celebrated its 5th Foundation Day.
- On this occasion, the SVASTIK portal was launched.

Key Points:

- **Launch Date:** January 14, 2026 (originally August 25, 2021)
- **SVASTIK Portal:** Scientifically validated Societal Traditional Knowledge
- **Objective:** To disseminate India's scientifically Validated traditional knowledge to society.
- This knowledge is being disseminated through the SVASTIK portal/channels in English and 19 Indian languages, as well as in 5 foreign languages.
- **Significance:** This web portal will not only make all SVASTIK content available in one place but will also strengthen the access, ease of use, and continuous engagement of various stakeholders with the country's scientifically validated traditional knowledge.
- **Implemented by:** CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NISCP)

Features:

1. Digital Hub
2. Multilingual Access
3. Centralized Repository

Other Important Points:

CSIR:

- A leading publicly funded research and development organization.
- It is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Structure:

1. **President:** President of India (ex-officio)
2. **Vice-President:** Union Minister of Science and Technology (ex-officio)

Tenure:

- 3 years (for members)

Greenwald Limit

Why in News?

- China's EAST fusion reactor has achieved a stable plasma density 65% higher than the Greenwald limit, a long-standing barrier in nuclear fusion research.

Key Points:

- **Introduction:** The Greenwald limit is a theoretical density limit for plasma in a tokamak (fusion reactor), beyond which the plasma becomes unstable and collapses.
- It relates the maximum safe plasma density to the plasma current and the size of the reactor.

Significance:

1. Fusion reactions require very high plasma density, temperature, and confinement time.
2. Due to the Greenwald limit, reactors could not be fueled sufficiently to reach self-sustaining fusion.

Key Features:

1. **Tokamak-Specific Limit:** The Greenwald limit applies to donut-shaped magnetic fusion reactors, where plasma is confined using strong magnetic fields.
 2. **Stability Limit:** Exceeding this limit risks plasma instability and potential damage to the reactor.
 3. **Higher Energy Output:** Higher plasma density leads to more collisions between atoms, increasing the fusion rate and energy output.
- China's EAST reactor achieved 1.3-1.65 times the Greenwald limit while maintaining stability.

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- **Reason for the achievement:** This was achieved by cooling the divertor and reducing tungsten impurities, resulting in a cleaner and more stable plasma.
- This confirms the plasma-wall self-organization principle.

Other Important Points:

Tokamak:

- A tokamak makes fusion possible by creating extremely hot plasma and confining it using magnetic fields.

Working Principle:

1. **Plasma:** It starts with a gas that is ionized and transformed into plasma, which contains free and mobile electrons and ions.
2. **Magnetic Fields:** Powerful magnets generate two main magnetic fields: a toroidal field (rotating around the torus) and a poloidal field (crossing through it).
3. **Confinement:** Charged particles move in a spiral motion along the magnetic field lines without colliding with the walls, thus trapping the plasma in a vortex.
4. **Heating System:** To heat the plasma to temperatures exceeding 150 million degrees Celsius for fusion reactions, various electromagnetic waves and particle beams are targeted at the plasma to initiate fusion.

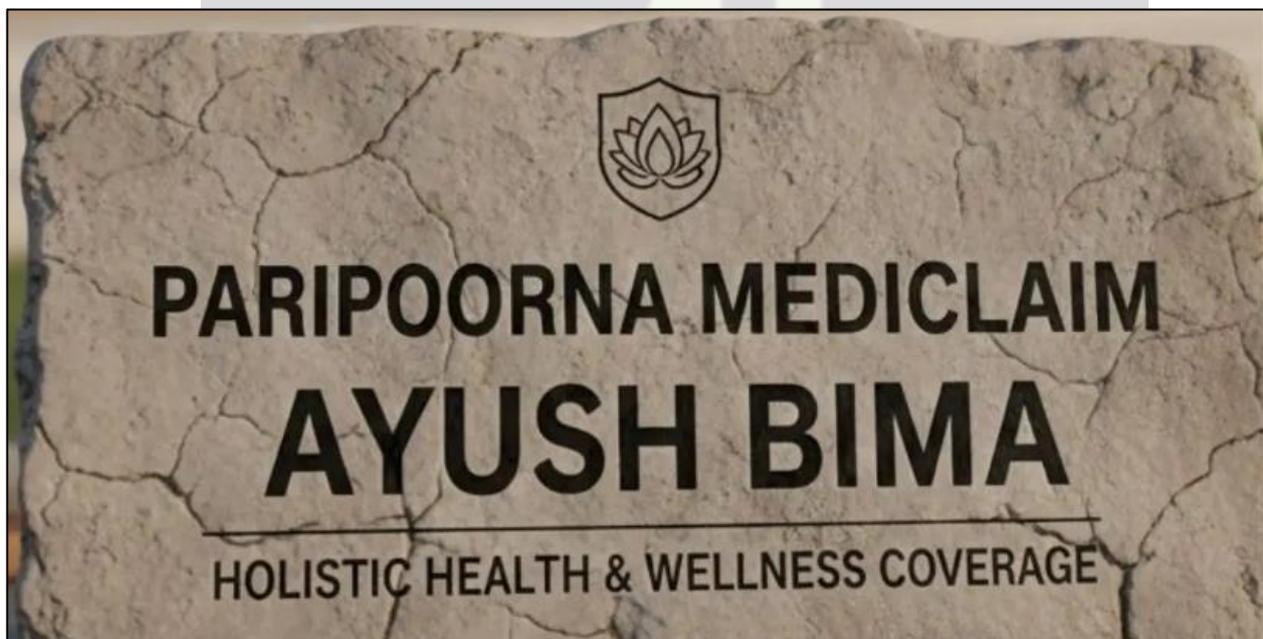
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SCHEMES

Paripoorna Mediclaim AYUSH Bima (Insurance Scheme)

Why in News?

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance has launched the Paripoorna Mediclaim AYUSH Bima (Insurance Scheme) for CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) beneficiaries.
- This scheme provides cashless facilities, access to modern treatments, and a wide network of hospitals.



Key Points:

- **Launch Date:** January 14, 2026
- **Ministry:** Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance.
- **Eligibility:** This policy is exclusively available for CGHS beneficiaries.
- **Coverage:** It can cover a maximum of 6 members per policy.
- It provides indemnity-based coverage for hospitalization in India, with sum insured options of ₹10 lakhs or ₹20 lakhs.

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- This scheme includes a co-payment component, allowing beneficiaries to choose between a 70:30 or 50:50 co-sharing arrangement between the insurance company and the beneficiary.

Key Features:

1. Daily room rent for general ward and ICU is limited to 1% and 2% of the sum insured, respectively.
2. Coverage is available for 30 days before hospitalization and 60 days after discharge.
3. AYUSH treatments during hospitalization are covered up to 100% of the sum insured.
4. Modern treatments are covered up to 25% of the sum insured, with an optional rider available for 100% coverage.
5. A cumulative bonus of 10% for each claim-free year, up to a maximum of 100% of the sum insured.
6. Compared to a regular policy, this will be available at a discount of 28% and 42% for the 70:30 and 50:50 premium co-sharing options, respectively.

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ECONOMIC SCENARIO



National Entrepreneurship Campaign



Why in News?

- Recently the National Entrepreneurship Campaign has been launched by the Department of Rural Development on January 12, 2026.



Key Points:

- Launch:** By the Department of Rural Development.
- Objective:** To train 50,000 community resource persons for enterprise promotion and provide enterprise development training to 50 lakh Self-Help Group (SHG) members under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The Ministry has pledged to create at least 3 crore "Lakhpati Didis" (women earning ₹1 lakh or more annually) among SHG members. This campaign has been launched to achieve this goal.

Importance of Rural Entrepreneurship:

- Women Empowerment:** Closing the gender gap in entrepreneurship could add US\$1.5 trillion to global GDP.
- Poverty Alleviation and Social Mobility:** According to an SBI report, the relative income of 65% of rural SHG members has increased between FY 2019 and 2024.
- Income Diversification:** Women generate two-thirds of rural income and are now progressing in non-agricultural activities alongside traditional agriculture.

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Other Important Points:

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Re-Naming:** NRLM is a restructured version of the 'Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)', and was renamed DAY-NRLM in 2016.
- **Objective:** Poverty alleviation and rural livelihoods. It aims to facilitate access to rights, entitlements, public services, finance, and skill development.
- **Coverage:** 7 crore rural poor households and women-centric Self-Help Groups and their federations.

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