

# Daily Current Affairs

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## 'Sectoral Group of Secretaries' in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- The main theme of the Rajasthan Government's budget for the financial year 2026-27 is 'Developed Rajasthan @ 2047'. The 'Sectoral Group of Secretaries' has been formed to effectively implement this vision and make the governance system more coordinated and result-oriented.

## Sectoral Group of Secretaries

Group 1: Rural Development and Agriculture.



Group 2: Infrastructure and Industry and Commerce.



Group 3: Resources.



Group 4: Social Welfare.



Group 5: Finance and Economy.



Group 6: Governance and Technology.



Group 7: Security-related departments.



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## Key Points:

- It is worth noting that this concept has proven to be a highly successful model for establishing good governance in the central administration. In view of this, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Coordination issued orders for the formation of seven 'Sectoral Groups of Secretaries'.
- **Objective:** To ensure better coordination and effective governance among various departments.
- **Administrative Department of the 'Sectoral Group of Secretaries':** Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- This model is being adopted to formulate strategies, medium-term and long-term action plans, and key performance indicators to achieve the goals of 'Developed Rajasthan@2047' in the state, resolve inter-departmental issues, review budget announcements and the Rajasthan Sankalp Patra-2023, flagship schemes, and rationalization and merger of schemes with similar objectives.

The Group of Secretaries is divided into seven main groups headed by the Secretary of the respective department:

- **Group 1:** Rural Development and Agriculture
- **Group 2:** Infrastructure and Industry & Commerce
- **Group 3:** Resources
- **Group 4:** Social Welfare
- **Group 5:** Finance and Economy
- **Group 6:** Governance and Technology
- **Group 7:** Departments related to Security

## Functions:

- These groups will prepare the strategy, action plan, and key performance indicators (KPIs) for 'Developed Rajasthan@2047' to achieve its goals within the stipulated timeframe through better coordination.
- A convener and a co-convener have been appointed for each group, who will hold meetings with the group members at their level and prepare a summary of the action plan including key performance indicators.

## 15 New Industrial Zones Announced in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari announced the establishment of 15 new industrial zones in the state to accelerate industrial development in the 2026-27 budget.



### Key Points:

#### Proposed Industrial Areas:

serial number	Name of the industrial area	District
1.	Fagi	Jaipur
2.	Chomu	
3.	Maujmad	
4.	Dudu	
5.	Bhinay	Ajmer
6.	Parbatsar	Didwana-Kuchaman
7.	Niwai	Tonk
8.	Aau	Phalodi
9.	Phalodi	

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10.	Mundawar	Khairthal-Tijara
11.	Neemrana	Kotputli-Behrur
12.	Ramganj Mandi	Kota
13.	Ladpura	
14.	Bijouli	Dholpur
15.	Dataramgarh	Sikar

## Facts for Prelims:

### Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO)

- RIICO is a government undertaking, established on March 28, 1969, as the Rajasthan State Industrial and Mineral Development Corporation (RSIMDC) under the Companies Act, 1956.
- On January 1, 1980, it was split into two separate entities:
  - RIICO** – Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited.
  - RSMDC** – Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation.

### Main Functions:

- RIICO has played a vital role in promoting industrial development in Rajasthan.
- It develops industrial areas in various parts of the state.
- As a financial institution, it provides loans to small, medium, and large industries.
- It provides financial assistance, technical guidance, and support in infrastructure development to industries.
- In the year 2021-22, RIICO was awarded as the best SIIDC (State Industrial Development Corporation) in the country by COSIDICI.
- 33 regional offices have been established across the state to ensure efficient operation and management of industrial areas.

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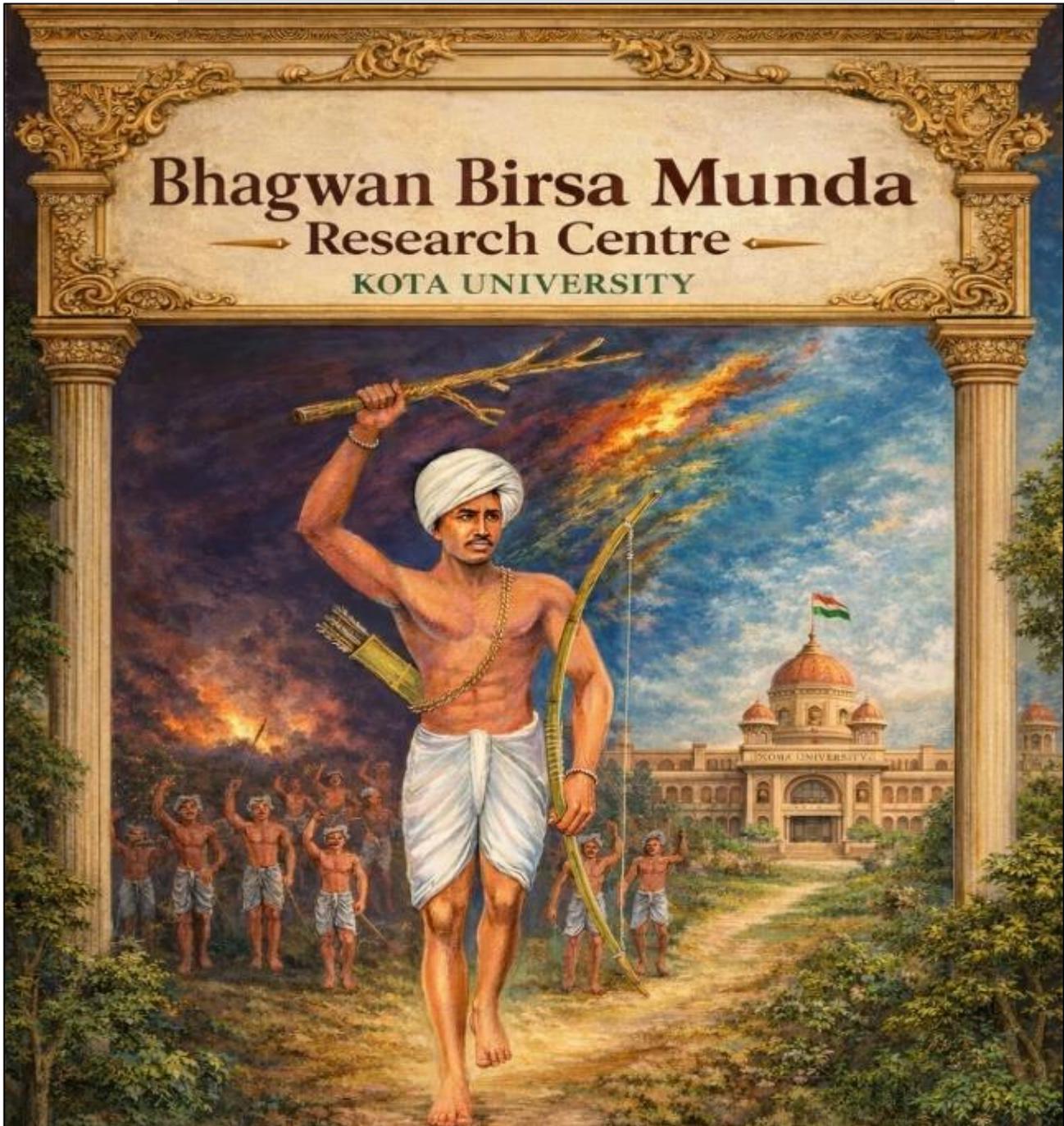


## Bhagwan Birsa Munda Research Centre - Kota University



### Why in News?

- Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari announced the establishment of the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Research Centre at Kota University in the 2026-27 budget.



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## Key Points:

- **Objective:** To conduct in-depth research on the life, philosophy, and tribal resistance and social reforms of tribal leader Birsa Munda.
- While Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary is celebrated as Tribal Pride Day across the country, it has been declared a public holiday in Rajasthan.
- According to the 2011 census, tribals (Scheduled Tribes) constitute approximately 13.5 percent of Rajasthan's total population.
- Meena, Bhil, Garasia, and Saharia are the largest tribal communities in the state.

## Facts for Prelims:

### About Birsa Munda:

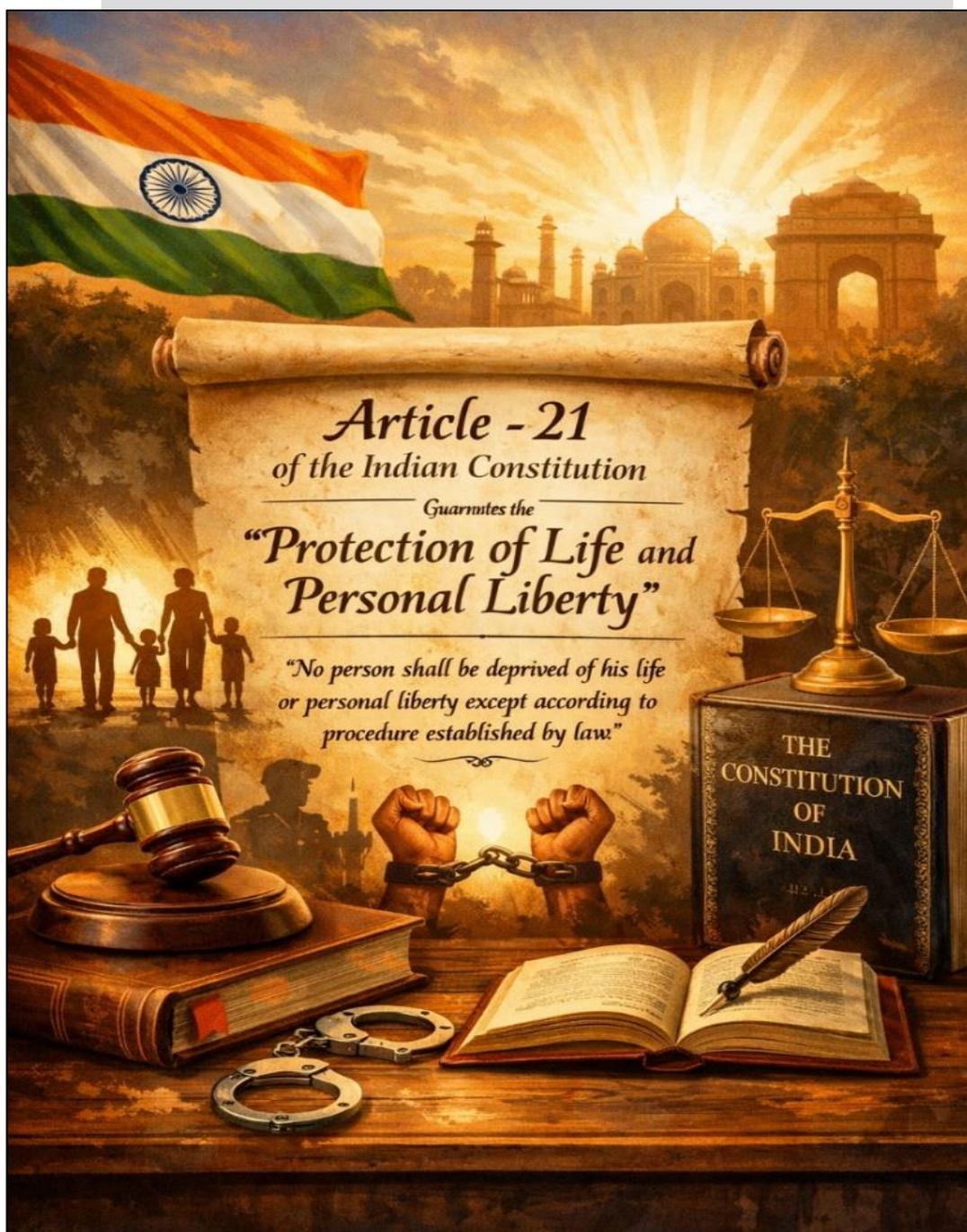
- Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, into the Munda tribe in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region (present-day Khunti district of Jharkhand).
- Birsa Munda was a freedom fighter who fought against the exploitative policies of the British colonial system and led a movement against British oppression, calling for 'Ulgulan' (revolution). The tribals gave him the title of 'Bhagwan'. He is also known as 'Dharti Abba,' meaning 'Father of the Earth.'
- His struggle against exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passage of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act in 1908, which prohibited the transfer of land from tribal people to non-tribals.

## Right of Way - Right to Life under Article 21



### Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan High Court directed the state government to remove or relocate all encroachments on national highways across the state within two months.



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## Key Points:

- The High Court held that safe movement on roads is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution and defined it as the 'right of way'.
- **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution:** No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- **Judicial Interpretation:** The Supreme Court has broadened its interpretation from time to time. Now, life means not just 'living' but 'living with human dignity.'
- **A.K. Gopalan Case (1950):** The Supreme Court narrowly interpreted Article 21.
- **Maneka Gandhi case (1978):** In this landmark case, the Court adopted the principle of 'due process of law', thereby expanding the scope of personal liberty.
- **Note:** In Puttaswamy case (2017), the Supreme Court also considered the 'right to privacy' as a fundamental right under Article 21.

## ✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Handloom Expo - Festival 2.0</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Handloom Expo 'Festival 2.0' was organized in Jaipur from February 11 to 17, 2026.</li><li>■ <b>Objective:</b> To provide a common platform for weavers and promote Indian cultural heritage.</li><li>■ <b>Venue:</b> Birla Auditorium, Jaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Organizer:</b> Weavers Service Centre, Jaipur, under the Union Ministry of Textiles.</li><li>■ The Weavers Service Centre, Jaipur, is a subordinate office of the Union Ministry of Textiles. This office is dedicated to the development of weavers in the handloom sector in Rajasthan.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Kaushik Panwar - Awarded the Dr. Ajit Singh National Award 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Kaushik Panwar, a physical education teacher from Udaipur, was awarded the Dr. Ajit Singh National Award 2026, for his outstanding contribution in the field of physical education and sports.</li><li>■ <b>Event:</b> The award was presented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and the Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) at a ceremony held at the NDMC Convention Center in New Delhi.</li><li>■ <b>Sole Selection from Rajasthan:</b> Kaushik Panwar was the only teacher from Rajasthan selected for this honor among 30 physical education teachers, selected in various categories from across the country.</li></ul>

3.

## **Narendra Pratap Singh - Selected for PM-YUVA 3.0**

- Narendra Pratap Singh, a student of Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur, was selected for the PM-YUVA 3.0 Mentorship Scheme.
- **Sole Writer in Sanskrit Subject:** Narendra Pratap Singh is the only young writer from across the country selected for this scheme in the Sanskrit language category.
- The Prime Minister's Young Writers' Guidance Scheme (PM-YUVA 3.0), launched by the Government of India, aims to encourage young writers under the age of 30 to write on topics such as India's culture and heritage, Indian knowledge traditions, the Indian diaspora in nation-building, and the makers of modern India (1950-2025).
- Under this scheme, the selected writer is provided with a scholarship of ₹50,000 per month (totaling ₹3 lakh), publication of the manuscript, and a 10 percent royalty.

4.

## **The Art of India - 2026 - The Times of India**

- The Times of India and Standard Chartered Bank are jointly organizing the fifth edition of 'The Art of India' at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur, from February 14 to 22, 2026.
- **Inaugurated by** Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari.

5.

## **Doubling of the Ringas-Sikar Railway Line**

- Recently, the Ministry of Railways approved ₹470.34 crore for the doubling of the 50-kilometer railway line between Ringas and Sikar.
- The doubling of the Ringas-Sikar railway line will promote religious tourism (especially Khatushyam).

6.

## **Tanishq Sharma**

- Tanishq Sharma of Rajasthan won the bronze medal in the 94-kilogram weight category by lifting 127 kg in the snatch and 146 kg in the clean and jerk (a total of 273 kg) at the Youth Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships held in Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh.



### National Medicinal Plants Board



#### Why in News?

- Recently, the National Medicinal Plants Board completed 25 years of its establishment.

### National Medicinal Plants Board(NMPB)

- India is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of biodiversity, has 15 agro-climatic zones. Out of the 17000-18000 species of flowering plants, more than 7000 are estimated to have medicinal usage in folk and documented systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy (AYUSH System of Medicine).
- The Government of India has set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) on 24th November 2000. Currently the board is working as a section of Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy), Government of India.
- The primary mandate of NMPB is to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between various ministries/ departments/ organizations in India and implements support policies/programs for overall (conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants sector both at the Central /State and International level



#### Key Points:

#### National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB):

- Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Establishment:** Established in the year 2000 through a resolution of the Government of India.
- Ministry:** Union Ministry of AYUSH.
- Chairperson:** Union Minister of AYUSH.
- Initiatives related to medicinal plants:**
  - e-Charak Portal:** An online market mechanism for exchange of information among various stakeholders.
  - Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants.**



## History and Culture



### Swami Dayanand Saraswati (1824-1883)



#### Why in News?

- Social reformer Swami Dayanand Saraswati was recently remembered on his birth anniversary (February 12).



#### Key Points:

- **Born:** Gujarat
- He founded the Arya Samaj in 1875.
- He opposed social evils such as child marriage and harsh practices imposed on widows.
- He favored an education system that emphasized grammar, philosophy, the Vedas, science, medicine, music, and the arts.
- He envisioned a system of governance that embodies decentralization.
- **Important literary work:** Satyarth Prakash.
- **Spirituality:** He introduced the Vedic concept of 'Tritheism'.

## Vande Mataram

### Why in News?

- The Union Home Ministry recently issued guidelines clarifying the formal protocol for singing 'Vande Mataram'.

### Key Points:

#### Key points of the guidelines:

- When both Vande Mataram and the National Anthem are performed, Vande Mataram will be sung first.
- Audience members must stand at attention during the singing of Vande Mataram.
- However, if it is part of a film or documentary, the attention position will not be mandatory.

#### Vande Mataram:

- **History:** Composed in Sanskrit (in Bengali script) by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
- First published in the literary magazine Bangadarshan in 1875, and then in the novel Anandamath in 1882.
- It was adopted as the national song of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1950.
- On January 24, 1950, it was announced that Vande Mataram would have equal status with the national anthem Jana Gana Mana.
- In 1896, Rabindranath Tagore sang Vande Mataram on stage at the Indian National Congress session. This was the first time the song was publicly sung at a national level.

In which of the following, 'Vande Mataram' was adopted as a slogan for agitation?

- (A) Quit India Movement, 1942
- (B) Non-Cooperation Movement, 1922
- (C) Partition of Bengal, 1905
- (D) Revolt of 1857



## Economic Developments



### Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)



#### Why in News?

- The PLFS is the primary source of data on the employment-unemployment status of the population.



#### Key Points:

- It is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

### श्रम बाजार की प्रमुख शब्दावलियां



#### श्रम बल भागीदारी दर (LFPR):

यह कुल आबादी में श्रम बल में शामिल व्यक्तियों का प्रतिशत है। इसमें कार्यरत या काम की तलाश में लगे लोग या काम करने के लिए उपलब्ध लोग शामिल हैं।



#### श्रमिक-जनसंख्या अनुपात (WPR):

WPR को कुल आबादी में नियोजित व्यक्तियों के प्रतिशत के रूप में परिभाषित किया जाता है।



#### बेरोजगारी दर (UR):

इसे श्रम बल में शामिल कुल लोगों में बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों के प्रतिशत के रूप में परिभाषित किया जाता है।



#### वर्तमान साप्ताहिक स्थिति (CWS):

कार्य गतिविधि का निर्धारण सर्वेक्षण की तारीख से ठीक पहले के सात दिनों की संदर्भ अवधि के आधार पर किया जाता है।

### Key Findings of the PLFS during October–December 2025

- **Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The overall LFPR among persons aged 15 years and above increased to 55.8%.

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- **Increase in Female LFPR:** The overall LFPR for women aged 15 years and above increased to 34.9%.
- **Increase in Workforce Growth:** The overall Workforce Population Ratio (WPR) for persons aged 15 years and above increased to 53.1%.
- **Rural WPR:** Rural WPR for persons aged 15 years and above has registered a steady increase for both men and women.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** It has declined in both rural (4%) and urban (6.7%) areas.
- **Self-employment:** Self-employment has increased in both rural (63.2%) and urban (39.7%) areas.
- **Concentration of Workforce:** Most workers in rural areas are engaged in the agricultural sector (58.5%), while in urban areas the tertiary (service) sector remained stable, employing 61.9% of workers.

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## Centre-State Fiscal Relations

### Why in News?

- The Finance Minister has stated that the central government has transferred 41% of the divisible funds to the states.

## केंद्र - राज्य सम्बन्ध



### Key Points:

#### What is tax devolution?

- Tax devolution refers to the distribution of tax revenue between the central government and state governments.
- The Finance Commission decides what proportion of the central government's net tax revenue goes to the states as a whole (vertical devolution) and how this share is distributed among the states (horizontal devolution).
- The 15th Finance Commission recommended that 41% of the divisible tax funds be transferred to the states.
- Horizontal devolution of funds between states is usually determined based on a formula developed by the Commission, which takes into account the state's population, fertility level, income level, geography, etc.
- The central government also assists states by providing additional grants for certain schemes that are jointly funded by the central government and states.

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## Conflict between the Centre and the States

- Disagreements persist between the central government and states over the sharing of tax revenues.
- The central government collects major taxes such as income tax, corporate tax, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST), while state governments primarily rely on taxes collected from the sale of goods such as liquor and fuel, which are outside the scope of GST.
- This has led to complaints that the central government has reduced the states' tax collection power and does not provide them with adequate funds commensurate with their responsibilities.

## Key Demands of the States

- **Demand for More Funds:** State governments are arguing that they should receive more funding than recommended by the Finance Commission. States have significant responsibilities, including education, healthcare, and police services.
- **Divisible Pool Concerns:** Cess and surcharges, which are not shared with the states, can account for up to 28% of the central government's tax revenue, reducing the size of the shareable revenue base.
- **Criticism of the Finance Commission:** Due to the role played by the central government in its appointment, the Finance Commission may not be completely independent, leading to potential political influence.

## Constitutional Provisions Relating to Centre-State Financial Relations

- **Articles 202 to 206:** Deal with the financial administration of the states, including provisions relating to their budget, expenditure, borrowing, and taxation powers.
- **Articles 268 to 272:** Outline the distribution of revenues between the Union and the states.
- **Article 280:** Provides for the establishment of a Finance Commission every five years (or as specified by the President).
- The central government is not legally bound to implement the recommendations made by the Finance Commission.
- **Article 282:** Allows the Central Government to provide financial assistance to the States for public purpose.



## INTERNATIONAL



### Arctic Sentry



#### Why in News?

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has launched a new mission called 'Arctic Sentry' to enhance security in the Arctic.



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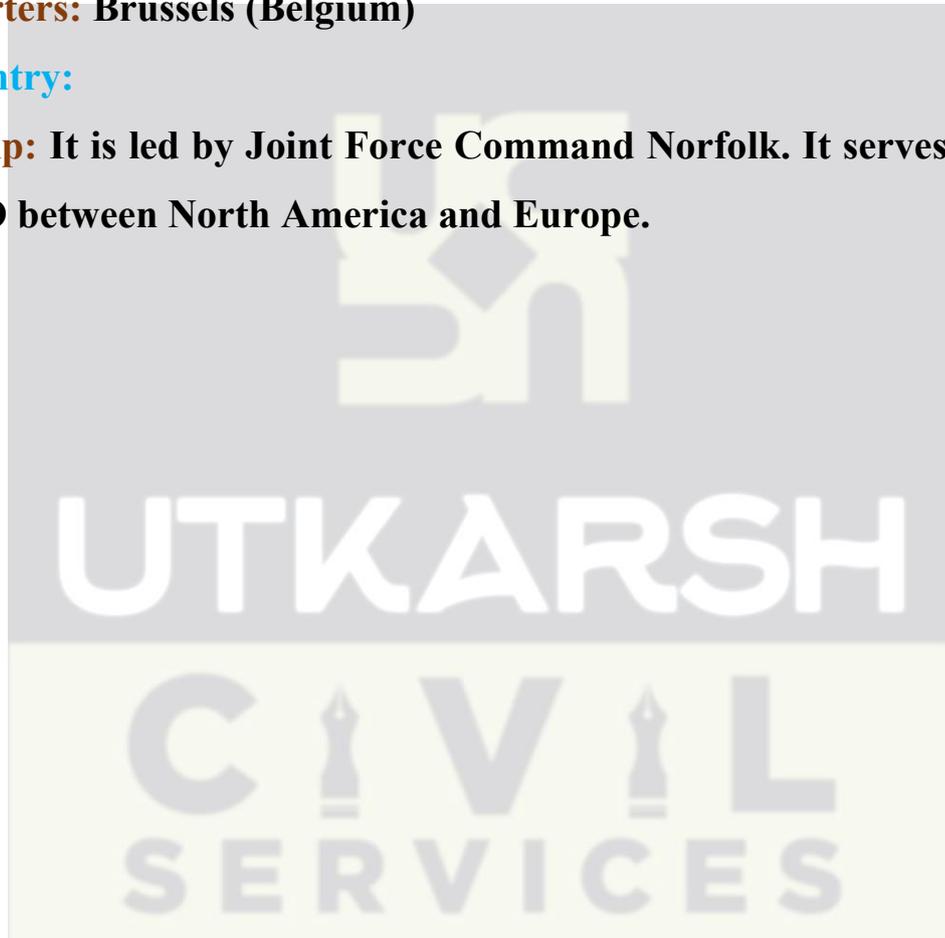


## Key Points:

- NATO is a political and military alliance. It was established in 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty.
- It currently has 32 members.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels (Belgium)

## Arctic Sentry:

- **Leadership:** It is led by Joint Force Command Norfolk. It serves as a bridge for NATO between North America and Europe.



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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Davos Compact 2025

#### Why in News?

- The World Economic Forum launched the Davos Compact 2025, on Antimicrobial Resistance. This compact is supported by the 'Integrated AMR Response Coalition'.

#### Key Points:

- Objective:** To secure sustainable funding from both public and private sources to reduce deaths caused by AMR globally.

## (AntiMicrobial Resistance-AMR)

सूक्ष्मजीवों में रोगाणुरोधी दवाओं के प्रभाव का विरोध करने की क्षमता



### AMR में वृद्धि के कारण

- संक्रमण नियंत्रण/स्वच्छता की खराब स्थिति
- एंटीबायोटिक दवाओं का अति प्रयोग
- सूक्ष्मजीवों का आनुवंशिक उत्परिवर्तन
- नई रोगाणुरोधी दवाओं के अनुसंधान एवं विकास में निवेश का अभाव

AMR विकसित करने वाले सूक्ष्मजीवों को 'सुपरबग' कहा जाता है

### AMR के प्रभाव

- ↑ संक्रमण फैलने का खतरा
- संक्रमण को इलाज को कठिन बना देता है; लंबे समय तक चलने वाली बीमारी
- ↑ स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की लागत

### उदाहरण

- K निमोनिया में AMR के कारण कार्बापेनेम (Carbapenem) एंटीबायोटिक्स प्रतिक्रिया करना बंद कर देते हैं
- AMR माइक्रोबैक्टीरियम ट्यूबरकुलोसिस, रिफैमिसिन-प्रतिरोधी टीबी (RR-टीबी) का कारण बनता है
- दवा प्रतिरोधी HIV (HIVDR) एंटीरेट्रोवाइरल (ARV) दवाओं को अप्रभावी बना रहा है

### WHO द्वारा मान्यता

- AMR की पहचान वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य के लिये शीर्ष 10 खतरों में से एक के रूप में
- वर्ष 2015 में GLASS (ग्लोबल एंटीमाइक्रोबियल रेसिस्टेंस एंड यूज सर्विलांस सिस्टम) लॉन्च किया गया

### AMR के खिलाफ भारत की पहलें

- टीबी, वेक्टर जनित रोग, एड्स आदि का कारण बनने वाले रोगाणुओं में AMR की निगरानी।
- वन हेल्थ के दृष्टिकोण के साथ AMR पर राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजना (2017)
- ICMR द्वारा एंटीबायोटिक स्टीवर्डशिप प्रोग्राम

न्यू देल्ही मेटालो-बीटा-लैक्टामेज़-1 (NDM-1) एक जीवाणु एंजाइम है, जिसका उद्भव भारत से हुआ है, यह सभी मौजूदा β-लैक्टम एंटीबायोटिक्स को निष्क्रिय कर देता है

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## Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- It occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites develop mechanisms to resist antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, etc.), rendering these drugs ineffective.
- It is a natural process that occurs through genetic changes in pathogens over time.
- However, its spread has been accelerated by anthropogenic activities, primarily the misuse and overuse of antimicrobial drugs.
- **Situation in India:** About 6 lakh people die every year in India due to resistant infections.

UTKARSH

CIVIL  
SERVICES

## Youth AI for All



### Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched Kaushal Rath under the "Youth AI for All" program. It was launched in collaboration with the All India Society of Electronics and Computer Technology.



### Key Points:

- Kaushal Rath is a mobile, artificial intelligence awareness initiative. It aims to democratize AI education on a large scale.

The advertisement features a central image of four diverse Indian citizens (a woman, an elderly man, a man in a pink turban, and a young man) looking at a smartphone. The background is a light green grid pattern. Text elements include: 'YUVA AI FOR ALL' in large orange letters; 'A free, beginner-friendly AI course launched by the Government of India to help every citizen understand Artificial Intelligence'; 'Real Indian use cases' with a red dot above the central image; '4.5 hrs of simple learning' with a red dot to the left; 'Self-paced, anytime' with a red dot to the right; 'Ethical & responsible AI' with a red dot to the left; and 'Govt. of India certificate' with a red dot to the right. Logos for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Digital India, INDIA/ai, and AI Impact Summit 2025 India are visible at the top.

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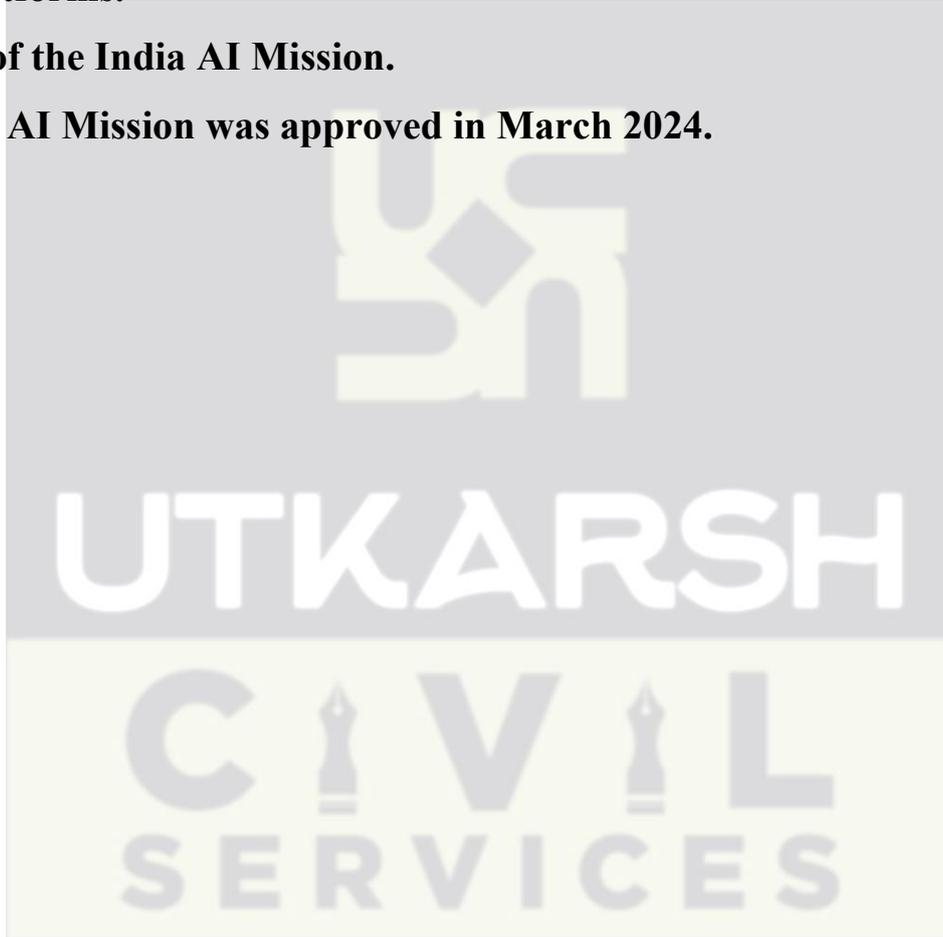
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## Youth AI for All:

- This is a free, 4.5-hour, self-paced national course. It aims to make AI accessible and understandable to every Indian.
- It is available on FutureSkills Prime, iGOT, Karmayogi, and other major digital platforms.
- It is part of the India AI Mission.
- The India AI Mission was approved in March 2024.



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