

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 07 February, 2026



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Chief Minister's Public Participation School Development Scheme



Why in News?

- Recently, the Sawai Madhopur model under the Chief Minister's Public Participation School Development Scheme has been in the news.



Key Points:

- Felicitation Ceremony for Donors:** This fourth district-level felicitation ceremony for donors and motivators was jointly organized by the Education Department and the Women Empowerment Department.

Sawai Madhopur Model:

- The then Collector of Sawai Madhopur, Suresh Ola, collected funds through contributions from former teachers of schools, and from money saved by selling mustard straw and avoiding expenses on events like death feasts. With the funds collected under this scheme, building repair work and the construction of new classrooms and toilets have been carried out in approximately 700 government schools in the district.
- This innovative scheme is an excellent example of the success of public participation in community welfare, in which more than Rs. 37 crore has been received so far from common villagers, teachers and staff of government schools, former students, and other donors.
- Under this scheme, when 40 percent of the amount is collected through public participation, the remaining 60 percent is provided by the state government, which is used to develop facilities in government schools.

Chief Minister's Public Participation School Development Scheme:

- **Implementation:** In Budget Announcement No. 160 of 2015-16, the Chief Minister's Public Participation School Development Scheme was implemented from the financial year 2016-17 to promote public participation in the development of basic infrastructure in secondary education schools.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- Development of basic facilities in government schools of the Secondary Education Department according to prescribed standards through public participation.
- Encouraging public participation in the management and development of government schools of the Secondary Education Department.

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- Developing government schools of the Secondary Education Department as Centres of Excellence through public participation.

Features of the Scheme:

1. This is a state-funded scheme.
2. When 40 percent of the amount is received through public participation, 60 percent is provided by the state government. The amount from the 'Student Fund' is not included in the public participation amount.
3. The scheme covers all secondary/higher secondary schools in both rural and urban areas.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

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India Stone Mart, 2026



Why in News?

- The 13th edition of India Stone Mart, 2026, one of the largest international exhibitions dedicated to the stone industry, is being held from February 5 to 8, 2026.
- **Architecture Festival:** On February 6, 2026, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari inaugurated the Architecture Festival organized under the aegis of India Stone Mart, 2026. The winners of the 12th All India Stone Architecture Awards, 2025 were felicitated at this event.



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री



राजस्थान सरकार



श्री भजनलाल शर्मा
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री

राजस्थान में आयोजित
भारत की सबसे बड़ी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय
पत्थर उद्योग प्रदर्शनी

13th
INDIA **STONE**MART2026
Stone for Sustainability
5 - 8 February, 2026
JECC, SITAPURA, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

इंडिया स्टोनमार्ट 2026 की मुख्य विशेषताएं

देश विदेश के मार्बल, ग्रेनाइट, सैण्डस्टोन, कोटा स्टोन, क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन, स्लेट इत्यादि का प्रदर्शन	स्टोन मशीनरी, उपकरण एवं भारी अर्थमूविंग मशीनों का विशेष प्रदर्शन	विदेशी खरीददार एवं घरेलू संस्थागत खरीददार
दुनिया भर से 450 से अधिक प्रदर्शक	स्टोन क्रॉफ्ट का उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन	राष्ट्रीय व अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पवेलियन

आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं

अधिक जानकारी के लिए संपर्क करें:

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सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, राजस्थान

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Key Points:

- **Introduction:** This prestigious event showcases a wide range of natural dimension stones, along with ancillary products and services, bringing together the entire ecosystem of the stone industry under one roof.
 - **Inception:** India Stone Mart is a leading biennial event that has been successfully organized since 2000.
 - **Venue:** JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur.
 - **Organized by:** Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS).
- **Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS):** An autonomous body established by the Government of Rajasthan and RIICO. Its objective is to promote the development, quality enhancement, promotion, training, and research of the dimensional stone industry in India.
- **Co-organizer:** Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB).
 - Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) has been engaged in organizing and empowering India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) since 1994.
 - **Principal Sponsor:** Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO).
 - **Goal:** The Government of Rajasthan has set an ambitious target of increasing the state's economy (GDP) to US\$350 billion by 2030.

Key Features:

1. **Digital Innovation:** For the first time, this event includes a website available in over 26 international languages and a dedicated mobile application for virtual e-stalls and networking.
2. **One District One Product (ODOP):** A special pavilion has been dedicated to the ODOP initiative, showcasing stones from various districts of Rajasthan to promote local employment and exports.

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- 3. Mineral Wealth:** Rajasthan is home to 85 types of minerals, making the state a global leader in natural dimensional stones such as marble, granite, and sandstone.
- 4. Architectural Integration:** The Jaipur Architecture Festival (JAF) is being held concurrently, focusing on the synergy between heritage architecture and modern stone technology.
- 5. Economic Context:** The event aligns with the "Rising Rajasthan" investment summit, which aims to implement multi-billion dollar Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to boost industrial development and self-employment for the youth.

Key Achievements to Date:

- 1. Institutional Unity and MoU Signing:** A unified approach by CDOS, RIICO, and LUB.
- 2. Successful organization of GSTF 2025.**
- 3. International Promotional Tours (UK, USA, Italy, China, Turkey, Russia):** Providing a strong platform for branding India.
- 4. Active Promotion at Domestic Forums (STONA):** Success in connecting MSMEs, manufacturers, and processors.
- 5. Training and Technological Upgradation Initiatives:** The establishment of a modern technical training center by FIGSI in Jaipur has boosted quality and productivity in craftsmanship.
- 6. Historic Participation of the Swaminarayan Institution:** The BAPS institution participated in StoneMart for the first time, showcasing temple construction with cultural and technological integration.

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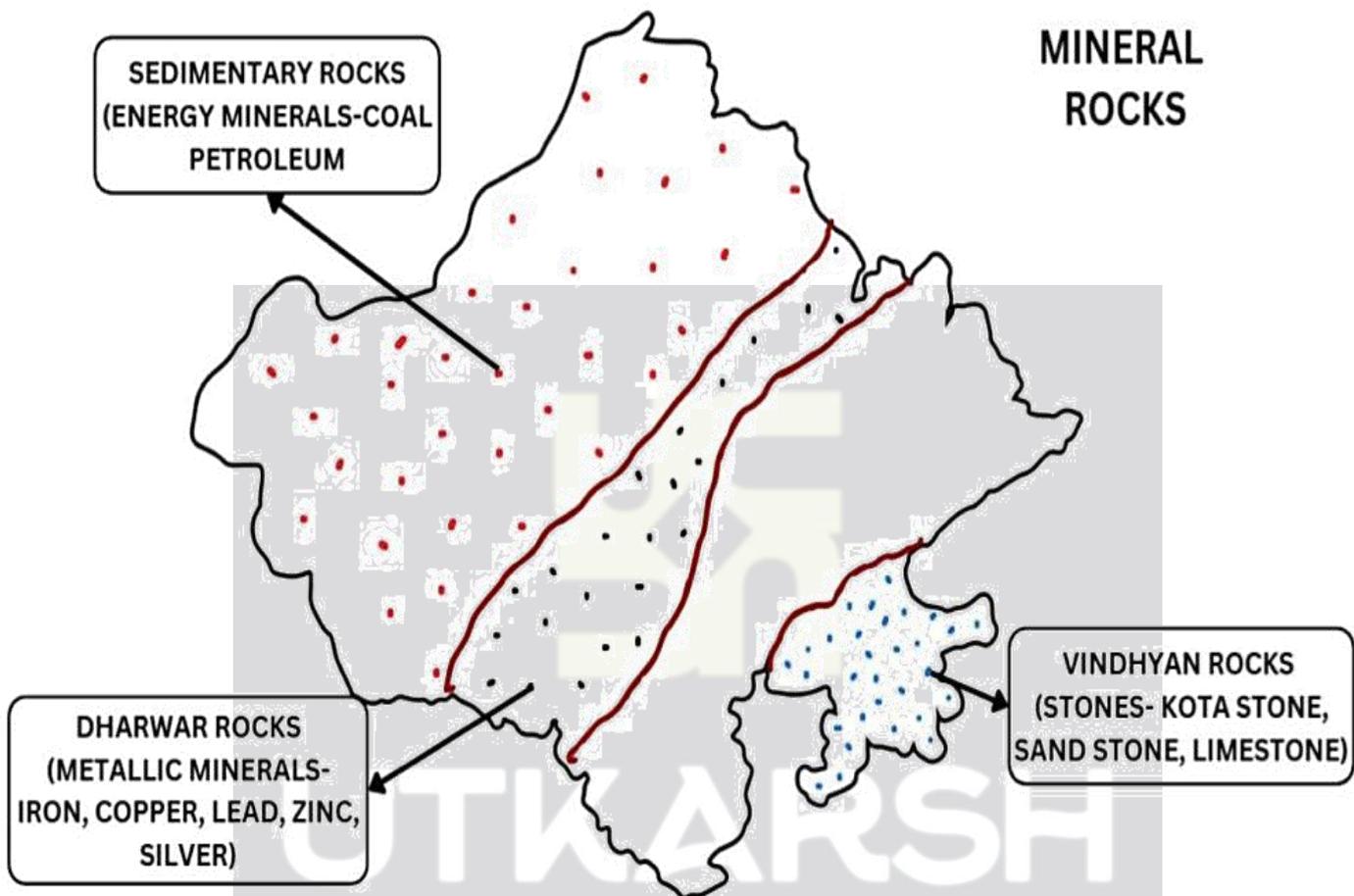
- GST Relief:** The central government provided significant relief to the stone industry by deferring the proposal to increase the GST rate to 28%.
- 90% Pre-bookings Completed:** The fastest bookings ever achieved, thanks to international promotion and roadshows.
- State-level seminars and dialogues:** Multilateral dialogue on industry, environment, and mining was established through seminars and roadshows in 13 cities.

Other important points:

Major stone minerals of Rajasthan:



- Rajasthan is the richest state in the country in terms of mineral resources and diversity. 81 types of minerals are found in the state, of which 57 are being commercially exploited. The state has a near-monopoly in the production of minerals such as lead, zinc, silver, gypsum, soapstone, sandstone, calcite, rock phosphate, feldspar, kaolin, copper, jasper, and wollastonite. The state also has vast reserves of lignite, crude oil, and high-quality natural gas.



Marble

- Rajasthan is the largest marble-producing state in India. Rajsamand ranks first in production. However, the best quality marble in Rajasthan is found in Makrana (Nagaur).
- The largest marble mine is located in Kishangarh, Ajmer. The following types of marble are produced in Rajasthan:
 1. **White (Calcitic) Marble** - Rajsamand, Makrana (The Taj Mahal is built from this marble.)
 2. **Green-Black Mixed Marble** - Dungarpur, Kota
 3. **Black Marble** - Bhaislana (Jaipur)
 4. **Red Marble** - Dholpur
 5. **Pink Marble** - Bharatpur and Jalore
 6. **Green (Serpentine) Marble** - Udaipur
 7. **Light Green Marble** - Dungarpur

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Almond-colored Marble - Jodhpur9. Yellow Marble - Jaisalmer10. White Crystalline Marble - Alwar11. Red-Yellow Spotted Marble - Jaisalmer12. Multicolored Marble - Khandra village (Pali)13. Striped Marble - Jaisalmer14. Marble Market - Kishangarh (Located on National Highway-8)15. Marble Sculptures - Jaipur16. Marble Lattice Work - Jaisalmer
limestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Uses: In cement, construction materials, sugar refining, and lime production. As a flux in the chemical industry for the production of soda ash, caustic soda, bleaching powder, calcium carbide, fertilizers (ammonium nitrate), iron and steel, ferroalloys, and other metallurgical industries.■ Sources: Chittorgarh (largest reserves, including Bhainsrorgarh, Nimbahera, Mangrol, Shambhupura), Alwar (Rajgarh, Thanagazi), Jaisalmer (Sanu, Ramgarh), Bundi (Lakheri, Indragarh), Udaipur (Darauli, Bhadoria), Nagaur (Gotan, Mudwa), and Jodhpur (Bilara).
Sandstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jodhpur, Bhilwara, and Nagaur districts are famous for the production of sandstone, which often comes in various colors such as red, pink, yellow, and white.
Granite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Granite is an igneous rock that is found in large quantities in Rajasthan. Jalore, Nagaur, and Udaipur are the major granite producing regions.

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Slate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan is also known for slate, a fine-grained metamorphic rock used for making flooring, roofing, and blackboards.■ The Bhilwara region is particularly famous for its slate production.
Soapstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Soapstone, a type of talc-rich metamorphic rock, is found in Kota and Bundi districts.
Quartzite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Quartzite is a hard, metamorphic rock that is widely distributed in Rajasthan. Significant deposits of quartzite are found in Ajmer, Bhilwara, and Chittorgarh.
Dolomite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dolomite is an ore of magnesium. When limestone contains more than 10 percent magnesium, it is called dolomite, and when this proportion exceeds 45 percent, it is called pure dolomite.■ Uses of Dolomite: It is used in the iron and steel industry for making chips and powder for flooring.■ Major Dolomite Producing Regions of Rajasthan: Dolomite is produced predominantly in the Jaipur, Ganar and Mojin (Banswara), Udaipur, and Rajsamand districts of the state, and in limited quantities in the Alwar, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Bhilwara, and Nagaur districts.
Gypsum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan contributes 90% of India's total production.■ Uses: Portland cement, plaster of Paris, paints, and fertilizers.■ Occurrence: Nagaur (largest reserves, including Bhadwasi, Goth Manglod, Dhankoria), Bikaner (Jamsar; the country's largest mine, Pugal, Harkasar), Jaisalmer (Mohangarh, Chandan, Machana), Ganganagar (Suratgarh, Tilonia)

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Implementation of the PM Kusum Scheme in Rajasthan

Why in News?

- Rajasthan has achieved over 3,000 MW of installed solar power capacity under Components A and C of the PM Kusum Scheme.
- Energy providers and developers installing solar plants under Component C of the PM Kusum Scheme in the state will soon receive central financial assistance of ₹46.64 crore, ensuring farmers in rural areas across 22 districts have access to daytime electricity for agricultural purposes.

पीएम कुसुम योजना

सौर ऊर्जा से किसानों का सशक्तिकरण

सौर ऊर्जा के
प्रयोग के लिए
सब्सिडी

सिंचाई में
आने वाली लागत
होगी कम

बिजली
बेचकर आर्थिक
स्वावलंबन



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Key Points:

- **Solar Power Capacity:** Rajasthan is the leading state in the country in Component A of the scheme, which allows farmers to install plants with a capacity of up to 2 MW. The state also ranks third in Component C.
- **Target:** Rajasthan has set a target of achieving 11,632 MW of solar capacity by March 2026, which is expected to further reduce power purchase costs.

Central Financial Assistance:

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has approved central financial assistance.
- This amount will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of energy providers installing solar power plants by the central nodal agency, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
- This component of the KUSUM scheme provides farmers with the opportunity to become solar energy producers (energy providers). Under this scheme, farmers can generate electricity by installing grid-connected solar plants on their land and earn income by selling the surplus power.
- **Past Achievements:** Rajasthan DISCOMs are also leading the country in feeder-level solarization under KUSUM Component-C. Recently, at a function of the All India DISCOMs Association, the Union Power Minister honored Rajasthan DISCOMs with the Gold Award.

Other Important Points:

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Maha Abhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme

- **Introduction:** PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Maha Abhiyan) is a flagship scheme launched by the Government of India on February 19, 2019, with the primary objective of transforming the agriculture sector by promoting solar energy solutions.

- The scheme aims to increase farmers' income by encouraging the use of solar energy in agriculture, reducing irrigation costs, and facilitating the sale of excess solar energy to the grid.

Components:

1. **Component A:** Installation of 10,000 MW of decentralized ground/stilt-mounted solar power plants on barren/fallow/pasture/marshy/arable land of farmers.
2. **Component B:** Installation of 20 lakh stand-alone solar pumps in off-grid areas.
3. **Component C:** Solarization of 1.5 million grid-connected agricultural pumps: Includes both individual pumps and feeder-level solarization.

Objectives:

- **Reducing Diesel Dependence:** The scheme encourages the use of solar-powered pumps for irrigation, thereby reducing dependence on expensive diesel-powered pumps.
- **Increasing Farmers' Income:** By allowing farmers to sell excess solar energy to the grid, the scheme enhances their financial stability.
- **Improving Water and Energy Security:** Solar pumps and community irrigation projects ensure improved water and energy security for farmers.
- **Environmental Impact:** By replacing conventional energy sources with solar energy, the scheme reduces environmental pollution and promotes clean energy.

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- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- **Support Provision:** The Central Government provides a subsidy of up to 30% or 50% of the total cost. This subsidy is provided for installing standalone solar pumps and converting existing grid-connected agricultural pumps to solar systems. Additionally, farmers can install grid-connected solar power plants up to 2 MW on their barren/fallow land under this scheme and sell the electricity to the local discom at a tariff determined by the state regulator. The scheme is implemented by designated state government departments.

Financial Assistance:

- 60% subsidy from the central and state governments.
- 30% loan from banks.
- 10% contribution from the farmer.

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35th National Kho-Kho Sub-Junior Championship, 2026

Why in News?

- The Rajasthan girls' team was the runner-up in the 35th National Kho-Kho Sub-Junior Championship, 2026, organized jointly by the Kho Kho Federation of India, New Delhi, and the Haryana Kho Kho Association in Kurukshetra, Haryana.

Key Points:

- **Event:** January 31 to February 4, 2026, at Theme Park, Kurukshetra.
- **Organizers:** Jointly organized by the Kho Kho Federation of India, New Delhi, and the Haryana Kho Kho Association.

Winners:

	Girls category	Boys category
Winner and runner-up	■ The Maharashtra team defeated Rajasthan by a score of 27-15, winning the title by a margin of 12 points and one inning.	■ The Odisha team defeated Kolhapur by a score of 31-24.
Best performance	■ Best Defender: Rahi Patil (Maharashtra) ■ Best Attacker: Gunjan (Jaipur, Rajasthan) ■ Best Player: Aparna Varde	■ Best Defender: Varad Pol (Maharashtra) ■ Best Attacker: Gaurav Mane (Kolhapur) ■ Best Player: Satya Ranjan Behera (Odisha)

✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>'Zindagi Muskurati Rahe' Book Launched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On February 6, 2026, the poetry collection 'Zindagi Muskurati Rahe' by Dr. Leeladhar Dochaniya, a retired Deputy Director of the Department of Information and Public Relations, was launched at RIC.The book was launched by: Senior litterateurs Trilokchand Kaushik and Manisha Khatate.
2.	<p>Devvrat Singh Rajawat: Golf</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jaipur resident golf star Devvrat Singh Rajawat represented India in the 'Asian Junior Masters Golf Championship' (February 2-5, 2026) held in Hua Hin, Thailand.Devvrat was selected based on his outstanding performance in the Greens to Glory Elite Junior Golf Championship Qualifier, which he won between October 28 and 30, 2025, at the ITC Classic Golf Resort.Devvrat competed in the Junior Under-18 category.The competition was played at the 'Black Mountain Championship Golf Course', one of Asia's best golf courses, which is counted among the world's top 100 courses.He had previously represented India at the 'US World Golf Championship' held in North Carolina, USA, at the age of 7.



Economic Developments



Ease of Doing Business: Union Budget 2026-27



Why in News?

- The Union Budget for the financial year 2026-27 presents 'Ease of Doing Business' (EoDB) as a fundamental pillar for India's economic growth.



Key Points:

- It emphasizes digitalization, tax certainty, and reduction in litigation.

Provisions related to EoDB in the Union Budget 2026-27

Ease of Trade and Investment:

- **Digital Window:** A single and interconnected digital window will be established for cargo clearance approvals.
- **Increased Investment Limit:** Persons Residing Outside India (PROIs) can invest in listed Indian companies through the 'Portfolio Investment Scheme'. Under this scheme, the individual limit will be increased from 5% to 10%.

Tax Reforms:

- **MAT Relief:** Minimum Alternate Tax will be treated as the final tax. Its rate has been reduced from 15% to 14%.

What is MAT?

- When a company's normal income tax liability is minimal or zero, it has to pay a minimum amount on its book profits, which is called MAT.
- **Exemption for Non-residents:** Non-residents opting for presumptive taxation are exempted from MAT.
- **Presumptive Taxation:** This allows declaring income at a fixed percentage of turnover, reducing the compliance burden.

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Rationalization of Penalties:

- **Appeal Process:** The 'pre-deposit' amount required for filing appeals has been reduced from 20% to 10% of the original tax demand.
- **Simplified Procedure:** A common order will be issued for tax assessment and penalty proceedings, simplifying the process.
- **Option for Fine:** Courts have been given the provision to convert imprisonment sentences to fines for certain offenses.

Trust-Based System:

- **Trusted Importers:** Physical verification will be reduced for "trusted importers" recognized in risk management systems, and direct "factory-to-ship" clearance will be permitted.
- **Duty Deferral:** The period for duty payment has been extended to 30 days for certain "Authorized Economic Operators" (AEOs).
- **Advance Ruling:** The validity of binding advance rulings under customs has been increased from 3 to 5 years.

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Indian Governance and State System

Motion of Thanks

Why in News?

- Due to protests in the Lok Sabha, the Motion of Thanks on the President's address was passed without the Prime Minister's reply.

Key Points:

Motion of Thanks

According to Article 87(1) of the Constitution, the President:

- shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year.
- shall inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.
- Under Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, the subjects mentioned in the President's address are discussed through a Motion of Thanks.
- **Amendments allowed:** Opposition members may propose amendments expressing that certain important issues were not included in the President's address or were inadequately addressed.



India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)



Why in News?

- The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the India-Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement were signed.



Key Points:

- The ToRs signed between India and the GCC define the scope, structure, and modalities of the proposed India-GCC Free Trade Agreement.
- An Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement was signed in New Delhi in 2004 to explore the possibility of an FTA between India and the GCC.



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Significance for India

- **Tapping the full potential of mutually beneficial economic relations:** As of 2024, the GCC countries represent a market of 61.5 million people with a GDP of US\$2.3 trillion at current prices.
- **Diversification of India's energy sources:** Benefits sectors such as food processing, infrastructure, petrochemicals, and information and communication technology (ICT).
- **Strengthening ties amidst global uncertainties:** This will help strengthen long-term supply security and trade expansion.
- **Increased trade and investment:** In FY 2024-25, India's trade with the GCC amounted to US\$178.56 billion (15.42% of India's total global trade).
- The region is also a significant source of Foreign Direct Investment, with over US\$31.14 billion invested by September 2025.
- **Promoting people-to-people connections:** Approximately 10 million Indians reside in the GCC countries.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bharat GenAI



Why in News?

- According to the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Bharat GenAI will complete its text model in all 22 scheduled languages of the Constitution within this month.



Key Points:

- It is currently available in 15 Indian languages.
- Bharat GenAI – Additional Information:**
- This is the first government-backed national initiative to develop sovereign foundational AI models tailored to India's languages and social contexts.
 - **Multi-modal scope:** Text (Large Language Models), Speech (Text-to-Speech and Automatic Speech Recognition), Vision-Language Systems.
 - **Leadership:** This initiative is led by IIT Bombay, with participation from several other academic institutions.
 - **Active Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs):** At IIT Bombay and IIT Madras under the National Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems Mission.