

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 28 February, 2026



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### The country's first zinc park – Khankhala (Bhilwara)



#### Why in News?

- Recently, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) announced the establishment of a flagship zinc park in Khankhala, Bhilwara.



#### Key Points:

- This will be the country's first zinc park to be established in Khankhala (Bhilwara).
- Agreement:** HZL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tripura Group.
- This agreement will play a key role in Hindustan Zinc's plan to build India's first integrated downstream industrial hub dedicated to the zinc-based value chain.

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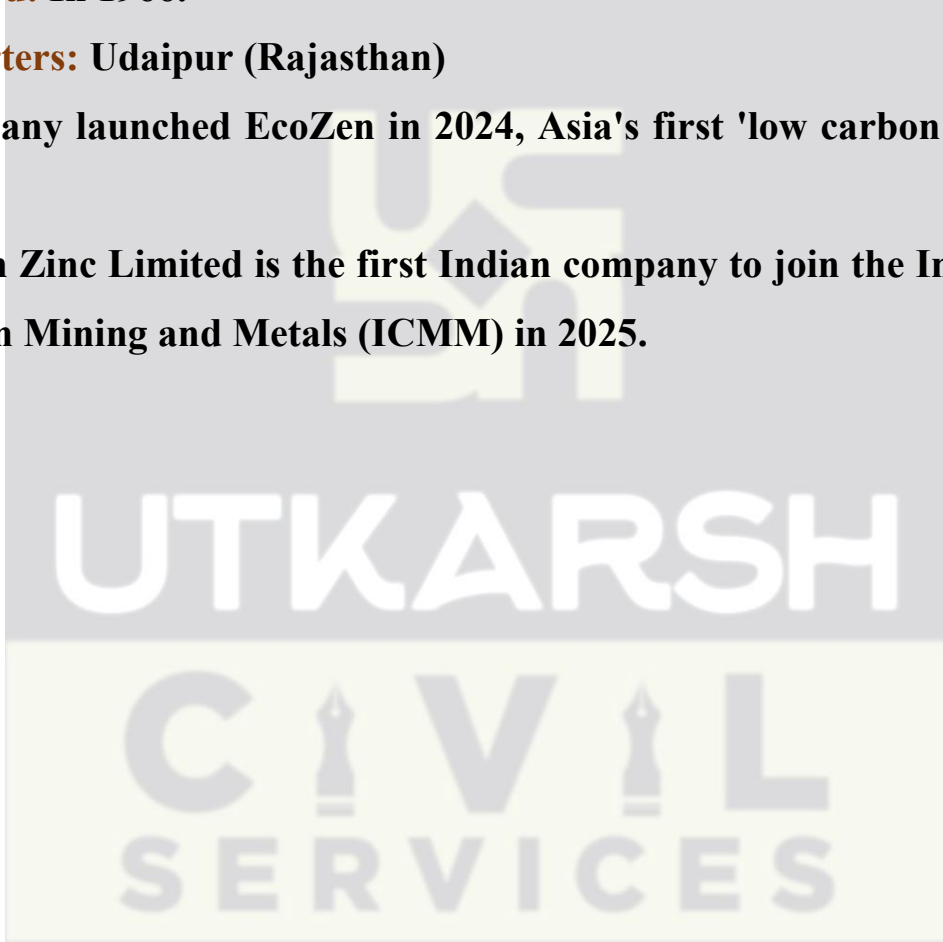
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## Facts for Prelims:

- Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), a subsidiary of the Vedanta Group, is the world's largest integrated zinc producer and one of the top 5 silver producers globally.
- **Established:** In 1966.
- **Headquarters:** Udaipur (Rajasthan)
- The company launched EcoZen in 2024, Asia's first 'low carbon green zinc' brand.
- Hindustan Zinc Limited is the first Indian company to join the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) in 2025.

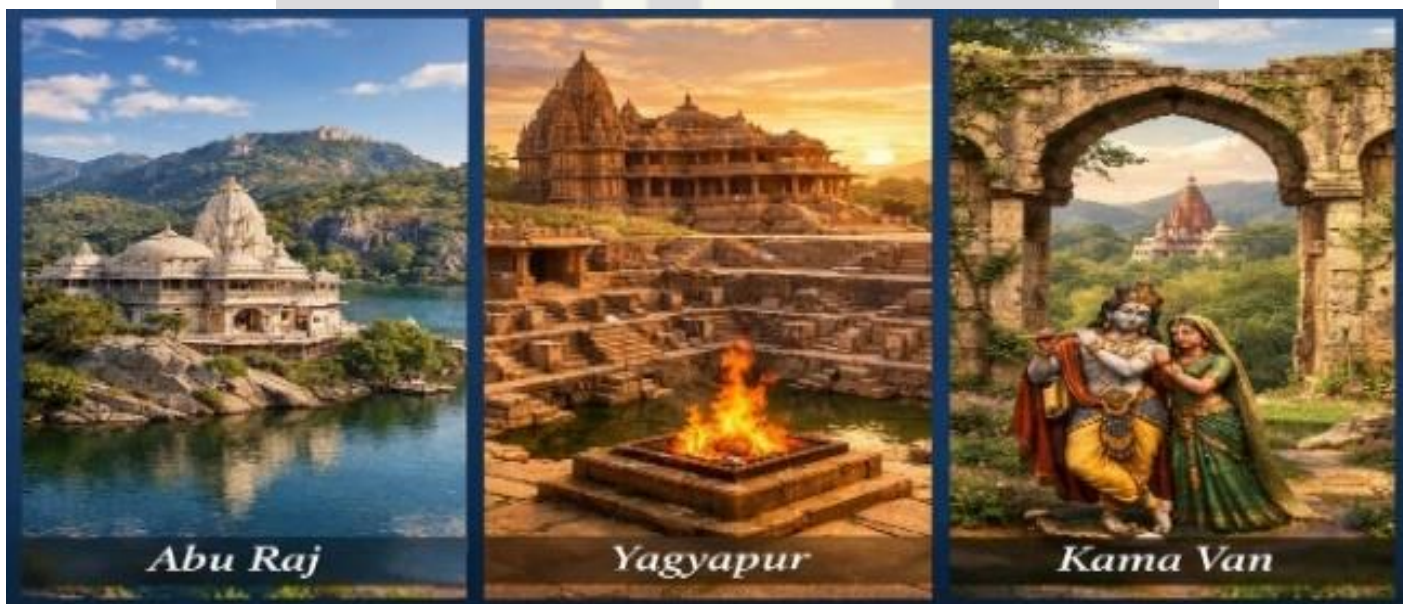


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## Name changes: Mount Abu - Abu Raj, Jahazpur - Yagyapur, and Kaman - Kamvan

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Chief Minister announced the renaming of three places in Rajasthan during his reply to the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Assembly.



### Key Points:

| S.N. | Old name  | District | New name | Specifications  |
|------|-----------|----------|----------|---|
| 1.   | Mount Abu | Sirohi   | Abu Raj  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station, is famous for its cool climate, beautiful marble temples, and stunning natural scenery.</li><li>It is also known by the nickname "Oasis in the Desert."</li></ul> |

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|    |          |          |          |  |
|----|----------|----------|----------|--|
| 2. | Jahazpur | Bhilwara | Yagyapur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Jahazpur is famous for its historical heritage, religious significance, and architecture.</li><li>■ <b>Jahazpur Fort:</b> Originally built by Samprati, the grandson of Emperor Ashoka. It was later rebuilt by Rana Kumbha in the 14th century.</li><li>■ <b>Swasti Dham (Jain Temple):</b> The Shri 1008 Munisuvratnath Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra here is famous worldwide. This temple is unique in that it is built in the shape of a ship.</li><li>■ <b>Barah Deora:</b> A group of 12 ancient temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.</li><li>■ <b>Gaibi Pir Mosque:</b> Dedicated to Gaibi Pir, a Muslim saint from the Akbar era.</li></ul> |
| 3. | Kaman    | Deeg     | Kamvan   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ It is part of the Braj region and is considered the playground of Lord Krishna. It is a major stop on the “84-kos Parikrama” route of Braj.</li><li>■ <b>Bhojan Thali Fair:</b> This place is associated with the pastimes of Lord Krishna. It is believed that Lord Krishna ate here with his friends.</li></ul>  |

- **Other name changes:** The pond of the ancient Balaji temple located at Rangbari in Kota will be known as 'Shri Bageshwar Balaji Pond' and the pond located at Daulatganj will be known as 'Parvati Pond'.

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## Announcements made during the reply to the Finance and Appropriation Bill

### Why in News?

- Recently, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma made several important announcements for the overall development of the state during his reply to the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Assembly.



### Key Points:

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Global Centre for Advanced Skills:** To develop the skills of youth and provide them with international-level training at a cost of ₹450 crore in Jaipur.
- Note:** On the occasion of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 101st birth anniversary (Good Governance Day) on December 25, 2025, the Chief Minister announced the establishment of the Atal Poetry Memorial (Mansarovar City Park) and the Atal Loktantra Upvan in Jaipur.
- Establishment of 1,000 new Atal Knowledge Centres across the state.

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- **School Infrastructure Fund:** A fund of ₹2,000 crore has been announced to strengthen school infrastructure.
- **Increase in Social Security Pension Amount:** The pension amount under Social Security will be increased by ₹150 to ₹1,450 per month.
- **Note:** It is noteworthy that the Rajasthan government recently announced an increase in the amount provided under various social security schemes from ₹1250 to ₹1300. This increase will be effective from January 1, 2026, but will be payable from February 2026.
- **Shriyade Panorama:** Jhalamund (Jodhpur).
- **Nagnechiya Mata Panorama:** Nagana (Balotra).
- **Orange Economy Incentive Scheme:** To encourage youth with digital skills.
- **AI and Quantum Computing Mission:** To promote AI and machine learning.

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## Rajeevika and COWE's 'Women's Entrepreneurship Program'

### Why in News?

- Recently, the 'Women's Entrepreneurship Program' was organized in Jaipur under the joint aegis of the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (Rajeevika) and the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE).

### Key Points:

- Event Duration:** February 27-28, 2026
- Venue:** Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- Conference Theme:** 'Roots to Wings'
- This program is being organized under the 'Women's International Summit on Entrepreneurship (WISE) - 2026', which aims to promote women's entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive economic development.
- 'Nevati Sakhi' Company:** Geeta Devi, a member of the Chamunda Mata Self Help Group from Keru village in Jodhpur, showcased millet biscuits manufactured by her company, 'Nevati Sakhi', during the 'Women Entrepreneurship Program'.

### Facts for Prelims:

#### Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RGAVP) or Rajeevika

- Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RGAVP) or Rajeevika was established in 2010 by the Government of Rajasthan as an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Rural Development Department.
- It is a society registered under the Rajasthan Societies Act, 1958.
- Chairperson:** Chief Minister.

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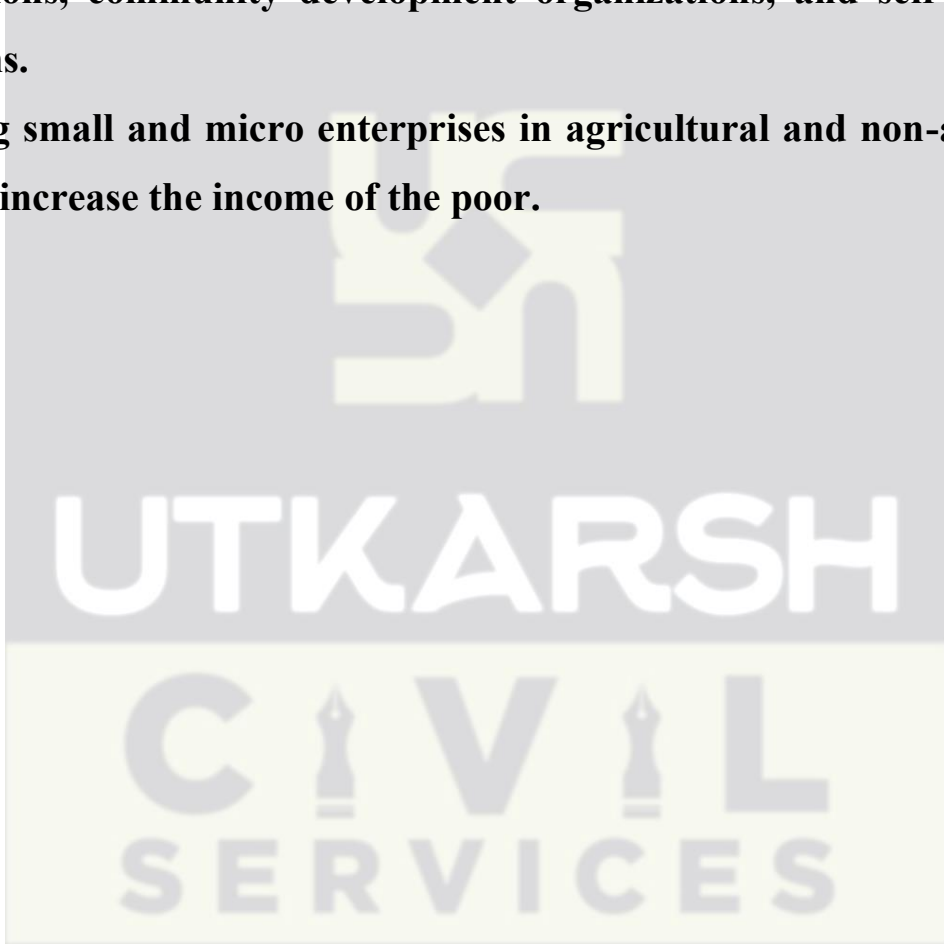
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## Objectives:

- To bring about effective convergence between government and non-government initiatives for rural development.
- To assist in the formation and strengthening of self-help groups, producer organizations, community development organizations, and self-help group federations.
- Promoting small and micro enterprises in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to increase the income of the poor.



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## NEWS IN SHORTS

| S. No. | News  |      |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
|--------|---|------|-------------------|-----|----|----------------------|----|----|---------------------|------|----|-------------------------------|---|----|---------------------------------|---|----|--------------------------------------|----|
| 1.     | <p><b>Spending on Medical and Healthcare in Rajasthan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>According to an analysis of the "State Finance Report – 2025" published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the average expenditure on medical and health care for all states in 2025-26 is 6.19 percent. Rajasthan has allocated ₹31,888 crore for medical and health care in 2025-26 and ₹32,526 crore for 2026-27.</li><li>This represents 8.4 percent and 8.02 percent of the total provision, respectively, which exceeds the 8 percent benchmark set by the National Health Policy 2017 and the Finance Commission's recommendations.</li></ul> |      |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 2.     | <p><b>Status of Ayurveda Hospitals in Rajasthan</b></p> <table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>1.</td><td>Ayurveda Hospital</td><td>127</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Block AYUSH Hospital</td><td>86</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Ayurveda Dispensary</td><td>3575</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Yoga and Naturopathy Dispensary</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Yoga and Naturopathy Research Center</td><td>33</td></tr></tbody></table>  | 1.   | Ayurveda Hospital | 127 | 2. | Block AYUSH Hospital | 86 | 3. | Ayurveda Dispensary | 3575 | 4. | Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital | 3 | 5. | Yoga and Naturopathy Dispensary | 3 | 6. | Yoga and Naturopathy Research Center | 33 |
| 1.     | Ayurveda Hospital   | 127  |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 2.     | Block AYUSH Hospital  | 86   |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 3.     | Ayurveda Dispensary   | 3575 |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 4.     | Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital   | 3    |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 5.     | Yoga and Naturopathy Dispensary   | 3    |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 6.     | Yoga and Naturopathy Research Center  | 33   |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |
| 3.     | <p><b>Annual Progress Report of the Higher Education Department - 2025-26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the current session, 127 female students are enrolled in colleges in Rajasthan compared to 100 male students, which is a strong indication of increasing female education in Rajasthan.</li><li>In the 2025-26 session, a total of 7.02 lakh female students were enrolled in colleges in Rajasthan, while the enrollment of male students was 5.54 lakh.</li></ul>  |      |                   |     |    |                      |    |    |                     |      |    |                               |   |    |                                 |   |    |                                      |    |

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4.

## 'Jhakharda Forest Area' in the news

- The Jhakharda Forest Area in Barmer will be developed as a wildlife conservation reserve by the Rajasthan Forest Department.
- The Jhakharda Forest Area is located on the border of Barmer and Jalore districts. This area is a natural habitat for chinkara, desert fox, and migratory birds.

5.

## Archaeological Site 'Reed Ka Tila'

- Located in Tyonda village of Khetri tehsil in Jhunjhunu district, 'Reed Ka Tila' is an important archaeological site where the Archaeological Department recently made a major discovery.
- **Ruins of an Ancient Temple:** The remains of a magnificent temple dating back to the 11th-12th centuries have been discovered here. During the excavation, ancient fragmented statues of Lakshmi and Ganesha were found, reflecting the rich religious heritage of this region.

6.

## Indian Railways Expands Coach Maintenance Facility in Rajasthan

- Recently, the Ministry of Railways released new projects worth ₹871 crore, of which ₹314 crore was earmarked for Sriganganagar and Lalgarh (Bikaner) in Rajasthan.
- **Coach Maintenance Depot:** High-tech coach maintenance facilities will be developed in Sriganganagar and Lalgarh.

7.

## 'Solar Sakhi' Workshop

- Recently, the 'Solar Sakhi' workshop was jointly organized by the State Bank of India (SBI), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in Jaipur.
- **Objective:** To provide maintenance and technical training of solar energy systems to beneficiary women under the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' to enable them to become self-reliant.

8.

## **Surendra Singh Shahpura**

- Surendra Singh Shahpura was elected unopposed as the President of the Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR) for the term 2026-28 at its Annual General Meeting.

9.

## **Rajasthan in the 'Special Olympics Bharat National Hockey Tournament'**

- Players from Rajasthan won the silver medal in the sub-junior category and the gold medal in the junior category at the 'Special Olympics Bharat National Hockey Tournament'.
- A state-level selection trial and camp for the Special Olympics Bharat National Hockey Tournament was held on January 13, 2026, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- The hockey team selected from this camp have participated in the 1st Special Olympics Bharat National Hockey Championship held in Faridabad from February 22-25, 2026.
- Special Olympics Bharat (SO Bharat) is a recognized national sports federation for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The organization works to provide physical fitness, self-confidence, and social acceptance to individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports training and competitions.



### India: An Emerging Global Maritime Superpower



#### Why in News?

- India has an 11,098-kilometer coastline. India has a 2.3 million square kilometer resource-rich Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Additionally, there are 14,500 kilometers of inland waterways.



#### Key Points:

- **Contribution to GDP:** Currently, ports contribute 4% to the gross domestic product (GDP).
- **Role of ports:** Approximately 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value is handled through ports.
- **Growth in waterways:** Cargo movement through inland waterways is projected to increase from 18 MMT in 2014 to 146 MMT in 2025.

#### Current Challenges of the Indian Maritime Sector

- **Aging Fleet:** Many of India's ships are over 20 years old. This increases maintenance costs, reduces efficiency, and raises environmental concerns.
- **Dependence on foreign fleets:** In 2023, India paid US\$75 billion in ocean freight to foreign-owned ships.
- **Barriers to green transition:** High retrofit costs (30-50% premium), skill shortages, and lack of technology absorption capacity are major obstacles to adopting 'green shipping.'

#### Key initiatives to boost the maritime sector

- **Policy actions:** Sagarmala Programme (2015), Maritime India Vision (2030), Maritime Amrit Kal Vision (2047), etc.
- **Development of new ports:** Development of Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra, construction of a transshipment hub at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island, etc.
- **Legislative reforms:** Five landmark maritime sector Acts have been passed to replace outdated laws. These Acts relate to Indian ports, commercial shipping, carriage of goods by sea, coastal shipping and bill of lading.
- **Green Shipping:** 'Green Ocean' guidelines have been issued to decarbonise port and shipping operations.

## INS Anjadip

### Why in News?

- The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Anjadip into service at the Chennai port.



### Key Points:

- It is the third ship in a series of 8 anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW SWC).
- It is named after the island 'Anjadip' located off the Karwar coast of Karnataka.

### INS Anjadip

- It is a state-of-the-art ship, specially designed to meet the challenges of littoral warfare.
- **Built by:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata.

### Key Features

- It is designed as a 'dolphin hunter' to detect, track, and destroy enemy submarines.
- It is equipped with fully indigenous anti-submarine warfare weapons and sensor equipment, including the hill-mounted sonar 'Abhay'.
- It is equipped with a high-speed 'water-jet propulsion' system.

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## Economic Developments

### Industrial Corridors Key to Strengthening India's Industrial Ecosystem

#### Why in News?

- The Union Budget 2026-27 announced the development of an Integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor with a connectivity node in Durgapur. This underscores a major push towards industrial corridors.

#### राष्ट्रीय औद्योगिक गलियारा विकास कार्यक्रम (NICDP)



#### औद्योगिक गलियारा

1. दिल्ली-मुंबई औद्योगिक गलियारा (DMIC)
2. अमृतसर-कोलकाता औद्योगिक गलियारा (AKIC)
3. चेन्नई-बेंगलुरु औद्योगिक गलियारा (CBIC)
4. विज्ञाग-चेन्नई औद्योगिक गलियारा (VCIC)
5. ओडिशा आर्थिक गलियारा (OEC)
6. हैदराबाद-नागपुर औद्योगिक गलियारा (HNIC)
7. हैदराबाद-वारंगल औद्योगिक गलियारा (HWIC)
8. हैदराबाद-बेंगलुरु औद्योगिक गलियारा (HBIC)
9. बेंगलुरु-मुंबई औद्योगिक गलियारा (BMIC)
10. कोयंबटूर के रास्ते कोच्चि तक CBIC का विस्तार
11. दिल्ली-नागपुर औद्योगिक गलियारा (DNIC)



## Key Points:

### Industrial Corridor

- **Meaning:** These are linear development zones that connect major economic centers through an integrated network of roads, railways, ports, and airports.
- They feature world-class infrastructure, facilitate economic clustering, and harness regional potential through focused investment.
- **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP):** Various projects are being implemented across 11 corridors, based on a sustainability-focused framework that supports low-carbon cities.
- **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC):** Formerly known as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited, was established in January 2008 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to implement the NICDP.

### Challenges

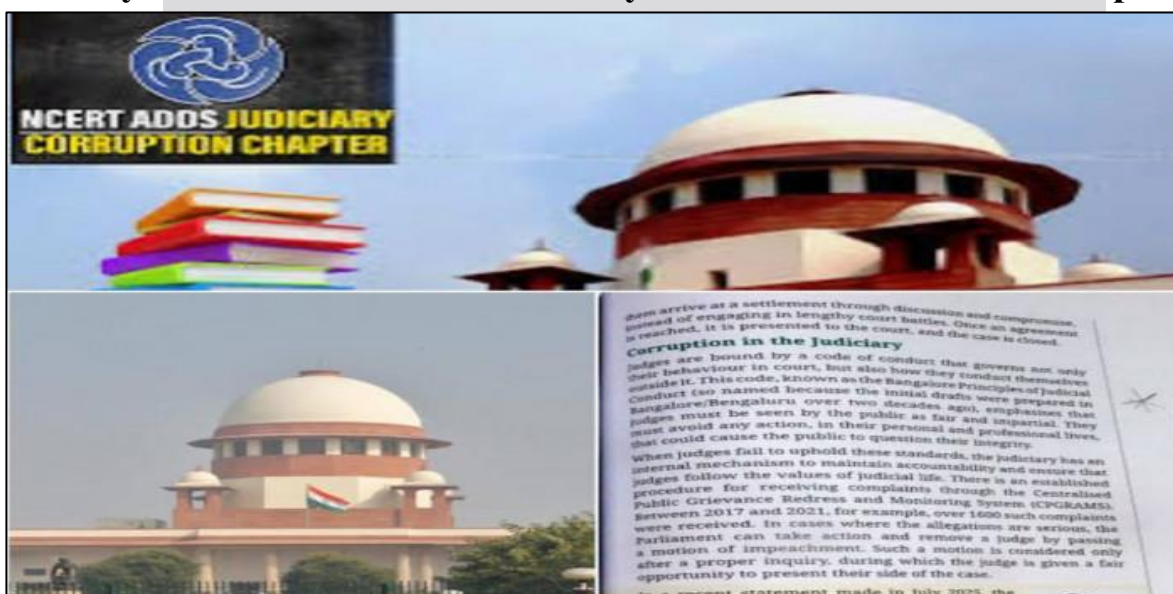
- **Land acquisition issues:** For example, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) requires vast areas for greenfield development, which larger states can easily provide, while smaller states face difficulties.
- **Lack of coordination between departments:** For example, in the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), the industrial estate near Tumkur is operated by the Tumkur Industrial Township Limited, which functions independently of local bodies and other agencies.
- **Other challenges:** Lack of support from states, lack of staff training, and environmental impact assessments (EIAs) ignoring local people's views.

## Indian Governance and State System

### Contempt of Court

#### Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has observed that references to "corruption in the judiciary" in an NCERT textbook may amount to criminal contempt of court.



#### Key Points:

##### Contempt of Court

##### Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 129:** Empowers the Supreme Court to punish for its contempt.
- **Article 215:** Empowers High Courts to punish for its contempt.

##### Legislative Provisions:

- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 classifies it into two types:
- **Civil Contempt:** Willful disobedience to the orders or assurances given by a court.
- **Criminal contempt:** publishing or doing anything (verbally, in writing, by signs, etc.) which:
  - tends to lower or diminish the authority of the court,
  - tends to prejudice or interfere with judicial proceedings,
  - tends to interfere with or obstructs the administration of justice.

## Schemes and Policies

### State Innovation Mission (SIM)

#### Why in News?

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched India's first State Innovation Mission (SIM) in Tripura.



#### Key Points:

##### State Innovation Mission (SIM):

- It is part of AIM 2.0 approved under NITI Aayog's 'State Support Mission' (SSM) framework.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) was launched in 2016 under NITI Aayog. Its main objective is to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across India.
- **Key initiatives:** Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), Atal Incubation Centres (AIC), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC).
- It is designed as a long-term institutional mechanism to assist states and union territories (UTs).
- Its goal is to build a robust, inclusive, and context-specific innovation system aligned with national priorities and local strengths.

## Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)



### Why in News?

- The Government of India has launched a pilot program for a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based digital food currency.



### Key Points:

- This pilot project is for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.  
[Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana \(PMGKAY\)](#)
- **Launch:** In 2020
- **Main objective:** To ensure food security by providing free food grains to poor, migrant, and vulnerable families during times of crisis.
- **Eligible beneficiaries:** Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, Priority Households (PHH) under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- **Main benefits:** Antyodaya Anna Yojana families receive 35 kg of food grains per month free of cost, and PHH families receive 5 kg of food grains per person per month free of cost.
- **Distribution system:** Distributed Through the Public Distribution System (PDS).



## INTERNATIONAL



### Indian Prime Minister's Visit to Israel Concludes



#### Why in News?

- During the Prime Minister's recent visit, India and Israel agreed to further deepen and expand their bilateral cooperation in key strategic and economic areas.



#### Key Points:

##### Key Outcomes of the Visit

- **Upgrading Relations:** The relationship was elevated to a Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation, and Prosperity.

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- **New Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (CET):** A new initiative covering AI, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, and the space sector was launched, led by the National Security Advisors of both countries.
- A Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was signed, and the 'Horizon Scanning/Strategic Foresight Mechanism' was launched.
- **Worker Mobility:** A quota of up to 50,000 Indian workers was set over the next five years.
- **Cybersecurity Cooperation:** A multi-year cybersecurity roadmap will be developed and the India-Israel Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence will be established in India.
- **Agriculture and Water Technology Partnership:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to establish the India-Israel Innovation Centre for agriculture (IINCA), and 20 joint fellowships in agricultural research were agreed upon.
- **Other:** The possibility of UPI-Israel payment linkage will be explored. The India-Israel Academic Cooperation Forum and the India-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group were launched during this visit.

## Overview of India-Israel Relations

- **Diplomatic:** India recognized Israel in 1950; full diplomatic relations were established in 1992.
- **Economic:** India is Israel's second-largest Asian trading partner in merchandise trade.
- **Bilateral trade:** US\$3.75 billion (FY 2024-2025).
- **Key sectors:** Diamonds, chemicals, and technology.
- **Defence:** Israel is a major defence supplier to India.
- **Technology:** India-Israel Industrial Research and Development and Innovation Fund (I4F), cooperation in drip irrigation, desalination, and water management.
- **Regional connectivity:** Cooperation under I2U2 and the 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor' (IMEC).

## Hexagon Alliance

### Why in News?

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has proposed a new geopolitical grouping, the Hexagon Alliance, with India at its center.



### Key Points:

#### Hexagon Alliance

- The "Hexagon Alliance" would include Mediterranean allies such as Israel, India, Greece, and Cyprus, as well as other Arab, African, and Asian states.
- This framework is designed to work in three areas: economic cooperation, diplomatic coordination, and security cooperation.
- For India, participation would reflect its growing strategic presence in the Mediterranean and West Asia, complementing initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- However, more intensive engagement in such a grouping could complicate India's relations with Iran, a key connectivity partner.