

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 March 2026



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### National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) Meeting in Jaipur



#### Why in News?

- A meeting of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) was recently held in Jaipur, presided over by Rajasthan's Chief Secretary, V. Srinivas.



सत्यमेव जयते

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID

निवारयति अनुरक्षति

National Intelligence Grid  
Ministry of Home Affairs



#### Key Points:

- During this meeting, detailed information was shared regarding the Ministry of Home Affairs' 'Gandiv' and 'Sudarshan' applications.
- Operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, 'Gandiv' and 'Sudarshan' are state-of-the-art, data-driven applications developed specifically for national security, counter-terrorism operations, and the tracking of criminals. These tools form an integral part of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) ecosystem.

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- The National Intelligence Grid is an integrated, technology-based intelligence-sharing platform operating under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It functions as a master database that interconnects disparate datasets from various government and private organizations, providing real-time intelligence to security and law enforcement agencies.
- **Establishment:** In 2009, following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks of 2008.
- **Objective:** NATGRID aims to create a 'Master Database' by integrating various government and private databases onto a single platform. This enables security agencies to monitor the activities of suspects and criminals in real-time.

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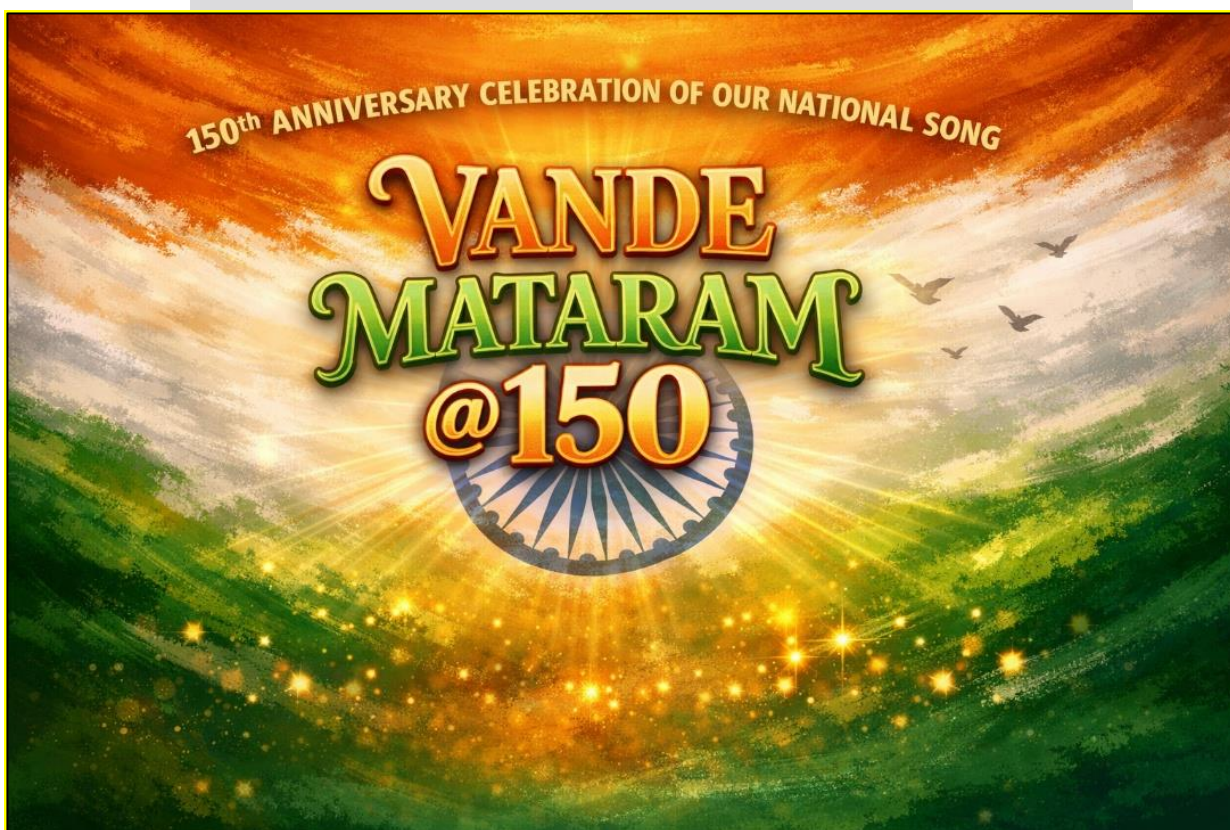
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## Five Phases of the 'Vande Mataram@150' Program in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- In Rajasthan, a special phase is being organized from March 23 (Martyrs' Day) to March 30, 2026, to mark the occasion of 'Vande Mataram@150'.



### Key Points:

- The primary objective of this campaign is to strengthen the spirit of nationalism, patriotism, and respect for martyrs among the citizens of the state.
- Across the entire country, including Rajasthan, various activities and programs are being organized in four phases, commencing from November 7, 2025. In addition to these four phases, a special phase (the fifth phase) will be organized from March 23 to March 30, 2026.

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## The Five Phases in Rajasthan:

- **First Phase:** From November 7 to November 15, 2025.
- **Second Phase:** From January 19 to January 26, 2026.
- **Third Phase:** From March 23 to March 30, 2026.
- **Fourth Phase:** From August 7 to August 15, 2026.
- **Fifth Phase:** From November 1 to November 7, 2026.

## Facts for Prelims (Vande Mataram@150):

- 'Vande Mataram'—the National Song and an enduring symbol of India's national identity and collective spirit—completed 150 years of its composition on November 7, 2025.
- **Composition:** By Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on November 7, 1875.
- **First Publication:** In the year 1882, in the famous novel 'Anandamath'.
- **First Rendition:** By Rabindranath Tagore at the Kolkata Session of the Indian National Congress in 1896.
- **Recognition as the National Song:** On January 24, 1950, by the Constituent Assembly of India.

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## ✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Mewar Festival – 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Dates:</b> March 21 to 23, 2026, in Udaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Organizers:</b> Rajasthan Tourism Department and the District Administration, Udaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Occasion:</b> This festival is organized to mark the arrival of the spring season and the festival of Gangaur.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Virendra Singh Sisodia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recently, Virendra Singh Sisodia, a resident of Jodhpur, became the first mountaineer from Rajasthan to climb Ojos del Salado (6,893 meters)—the world's highest active volcano.</li><li>■ Additionally, he set a new record by conquering two major peaks—Ojos del Salado and Tres Cruces North Summit—in less than 100 hours.</li><li>■ <b>Ojos del Salado:</b> Located in the Andes mountain range on the border between Chile and Argentina, it is the second-highest peak in the Southern and Western Hemispheres, after Aconcagua.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Ratnam Jaipur – Gems and Jewellery Exhibition – 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Dates:</b> March 15–16, 2026.</li><li>■ <b>Venue:</b> Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Objective:</b> This event was organized specifically to promote Jaipur's gems and jewellery industry under the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) initiative.</li><li>■ <b>Organizers:</b> Jointly organized by the District Industries and Commerce Centre (DIC), Jaipur, and the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RAJSICO).</li><li>■ <b>Knowledge Partner:</b> Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).</li></ul>

## 4. **Bharat@2047: Samarth Yuva – Sashakt Bharat (Capable Youth – Empowered India) Talent Recognition Ceremony**

- The 'Viksit Bharat@2047: Samarth Yuva – Sashakt Bharat' Talent Recognition Ceremony was recently organized at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- **Organizers:** The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of the University of Rajasthan.
- During this ceremony, students who demonstrated outstanding performance in various fields were honored for their achievements.

## 5. **GIS-based Green Land Use Perspective Plan**

- Recently, the Government of Rajasthan constituted a committee for a GIS-based Green Land Use Perspective Plan.
- **Chairperson of the Committee:** Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development and Housing.
- **Objective:** To digitize the GIS-based records of 'Green Land' identified within the Master Plans of cities, in order to conserve this land and prevent its misuse.
- This plan was announced by the State Government in the 2025-26 Budget (Rajasthan's first 'Green Budget').
- **Implementation:** By the Department of Urban Development (UDH).

## 6. **President of the Rajasthan Basketball Association (RBA)**

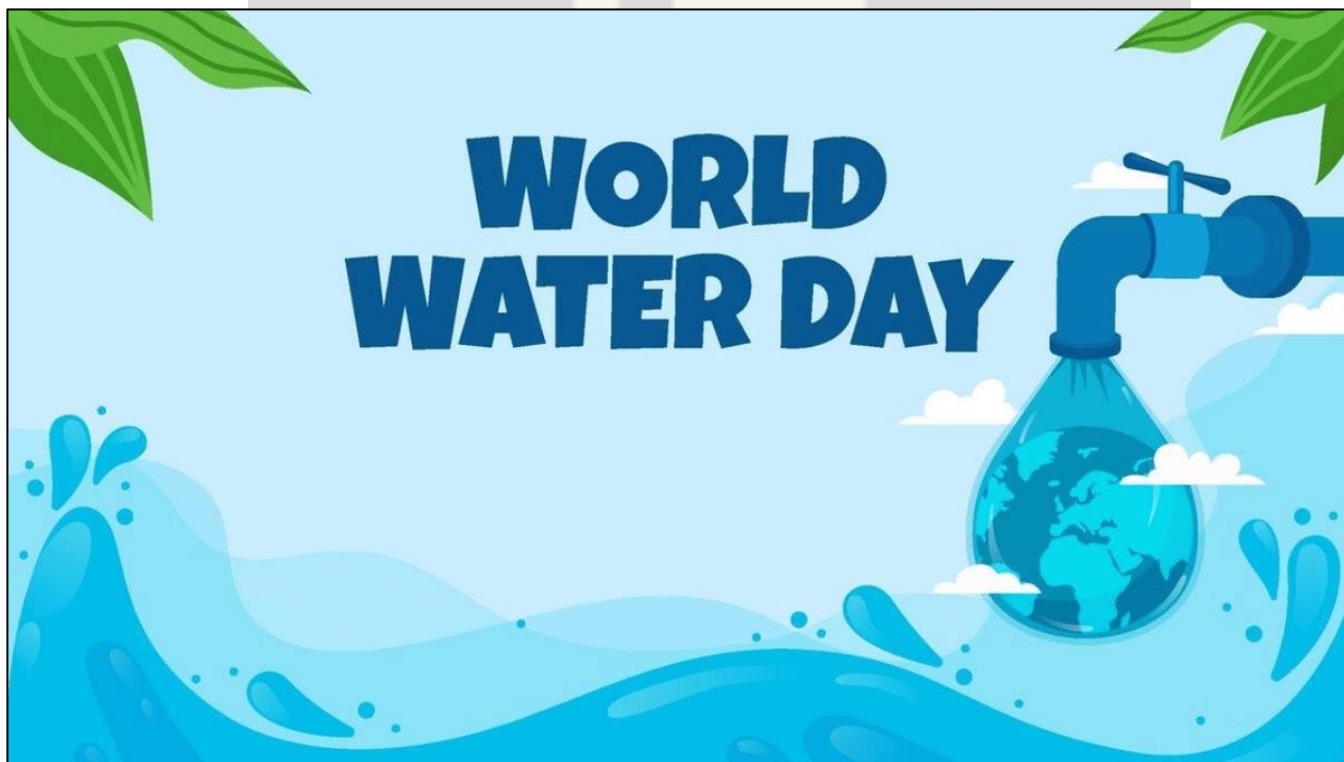
- Recently, in elections concluded in Udaipur, Ajit Singh Rathore was elected as the President of the Rajasthan Basketball Association (RBA) for the third consecutive term.
- **Basketball:** The State Sport of Rajasthan.

## Geography and Geology

### World Water Day (March 22)

#### Why in News?

- On the occasion of World Water Day, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for water conservation.



#### Key Points:

- This call underscores the critical role of 'Water Governance' in ensuring the sustainable use of water.

#### Why is Efficient Water Governance Necessary?

- To Address Water Crises:** India is home to approximately 18% of the world's population, yet it possesses only 4% of the world's freshwater resources.
- Economic Growth:** According to a NITI Aayog report, a lack of efficiency in water management could lead to a loss of up to 6% in GDP by the year 2050.

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- **To Combat Climate Change:** Integrated Water Resources Management is essential for maintaining an ecologically sound water cycle and preserving biodiversity.
- **Challenges in Water Governance:** The existence of multiple agencies for water governance, over-exploitation of resources, lack of equitable access, climate change impacts, etc.

## Water Governance in India

- **Constitutional Status:** 'Water' is a subject under the State List (List II) of the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, whereas the 'Regulation and Development of Inter-State Rivers' falls under the Union List (List I).
- **Article 262:** Empowers Parliament to make provisions for the adjudication of disputes relating to inter-state rivers.

## Legal Framework:

- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** (Provides for the constitution of Tribunals)
- **River Boards Act, 1956** (Provides for the establishment of River Boards for the regulation of inter-state rivers)
- **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**

## Initiatives for Water Governance

### Formation of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (in 2019)

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):** Aims to provide a tap water connection to every household; mandates that at least 50% of the members in water committees must be women.
- **Namami Gange:** An integrated conservation mission focused on the rejuvenation of the river.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Aims to improve groundwater management through community participation.

## Economic Developments

### India's Bio-economy

#### Why in News?

- India's bio-economy is on track to achieve a target of \$300 billion by 2030.



#### Key Points:

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that India's bio-economy has witnessed substantial growth, rising from approximately \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$195 billion in 2025.

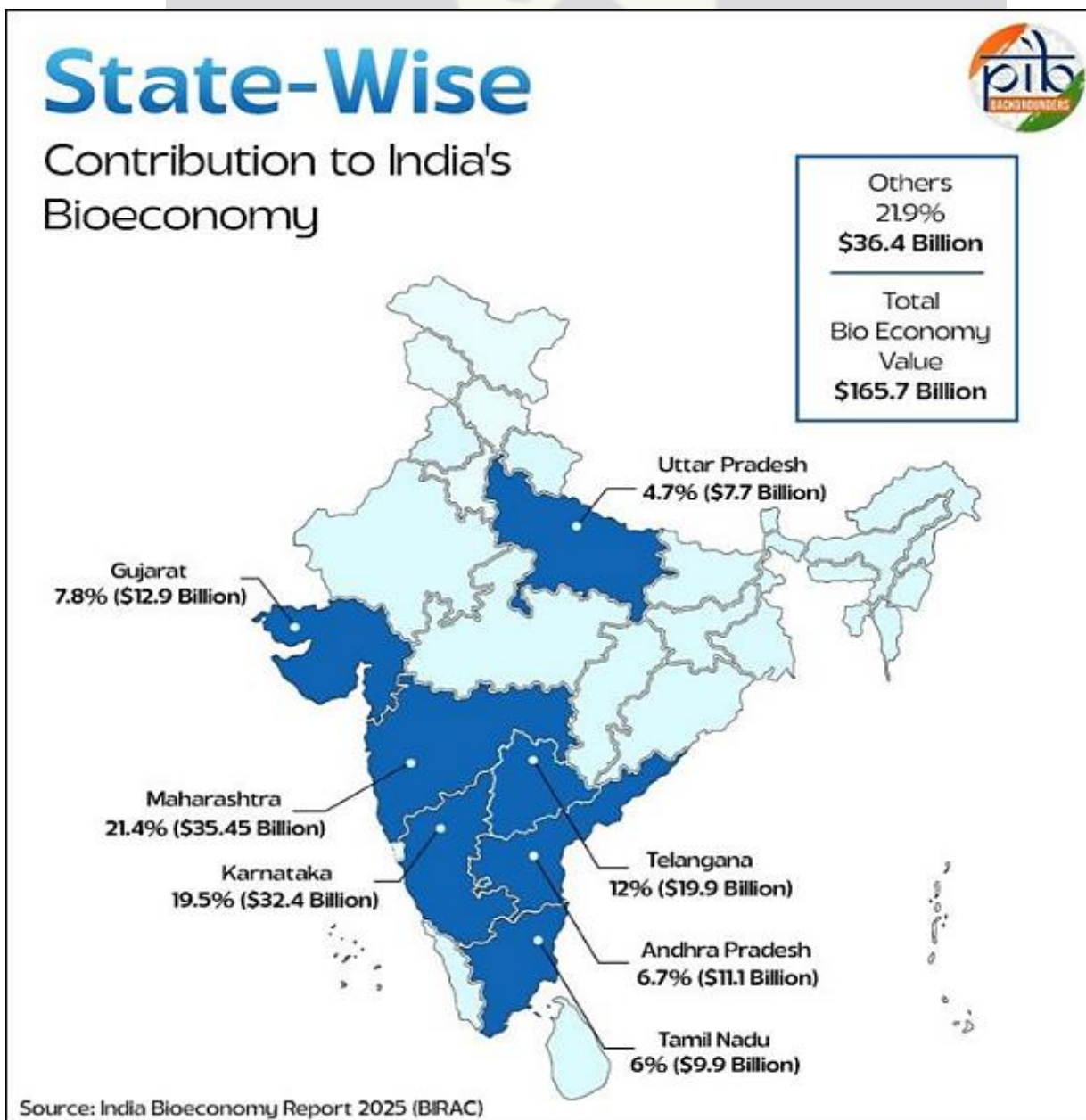
#### What is a Bio-economy?

- A bio-economy is the knowledge-based production and utilization of biological resources to provide products, processes, and services across all economic sectors within the framework of a sustainable economic system.
- It encompasses sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food production, biotechnology, and bio-energy.

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## Growth Trajectory of India's Bio-economy

- India's bio-economy has grown nearly 20-fold over the past decade, reflecting robust structural growth within the biotechnology sector. In terms of bio-manufacturing, India ranks third in the Asia-Pacific region and 12th globally.
- Currently, it contributes approximately 5% to India's GDP, underscoring its growing macroeconomic significance.
- **Four key sub-sectors:** Bio-industrial (47%), Bio-pharma (35%), Bio-agri (8%), and Bio-research (9%).



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## Key Government Initiatives

- **BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment):** Promotes sustainable bio-manufacturing and bio-based industries.
- **Research, Development, and Innovation Fund:** A corpus of ₹1 lakh crore aimed at supporting deep-tech innovation and fostering startups.
- **Startup and Incubation Support:** Strengthening biotech clusters and innovation hubs across India.
- **Inclusive Talent Development:** Special focus on Tier-II and Tier-III cities, women entrepreneurs, and young researchers.

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## Schemes and Policies

### PM POSHAN Scheme

#### Why in News?

- A Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended the inclusion of breakfast in the PM POSHAN Scheme and the expansion of its scope up to Class 12.



#### Key Points:

#### PM-POSHAN

- Formerly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), it was renamed PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) in 2021.
- It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and has been approved for the period spanning 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (jointly funded by the Central and State governments) that provides a hot cooked meal to students up to Class 8 in government and government-aided schools.
- Its objective is to simultaneously address both hunger and educational outcomes (attendance, retention, and learning).

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### Exercise Lamitiye 2026



#### Why in News?

- The Indian Navy's INS Trikand participated in Exercise Lamitiye 2026, held in Seychelles.



#### Key Points:

##### Exercise Lamitiye

- This is a biennial military exercise conducted between India and Seychelles. It has been hosted in Seychelles since 2001.
- The 2026 edition marked the first tri-service exercise since the inception of this exercise.

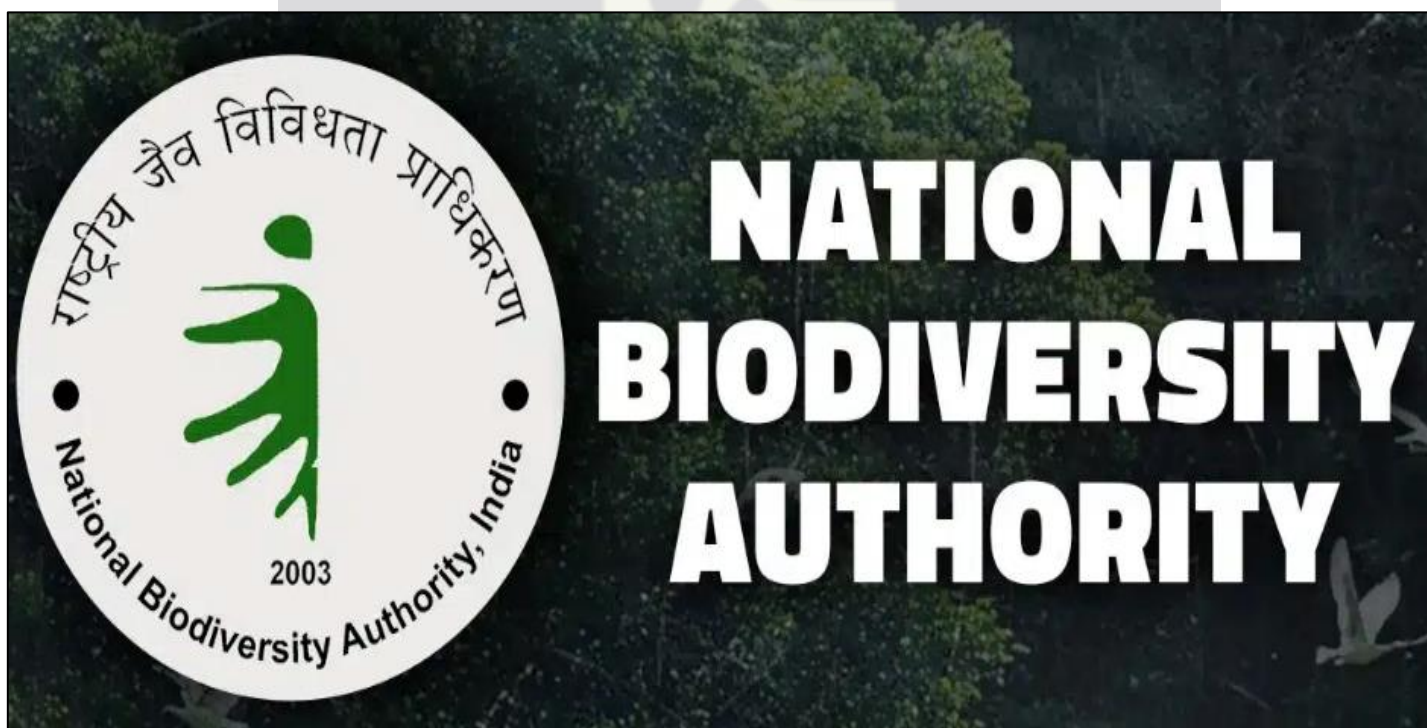
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## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

#### Why in News?

- In accordance with the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the NBA has constituted an expert committee on invasive alien species under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.



#### Key Points:

##### About the NBA

- **Headquarters:** Chennai
- **Statutory Body:** It is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- **Establishment:** Year 2003
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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## Composition:

- It comprises a Chairperson appointed by the Central Government.
- Additionally, it includes 10 ex-officio members and 5 non-governmental experts.
- **Functions:** Its functions include the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. It performs remedial, regulatory, and advisory functions to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of these resources.
- It is mandatory for any individual or entity seeking any form of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) based on Indian biological resources to obtain prior permission from the NBA.

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## INDEXES AND REPORTS



### United Nations World Water Development Report 2026



#### Why in News?

- UN-Water has released the United Nations World Water Development Report 2026, based on the theme for World Water Day 2026: 'Water and Gender'.



#### Key Points:

- This report emphasizes that universal water security (SDG 6) cannot be achieved without closing the gender gap (SDG 5).

#### Key Highlights

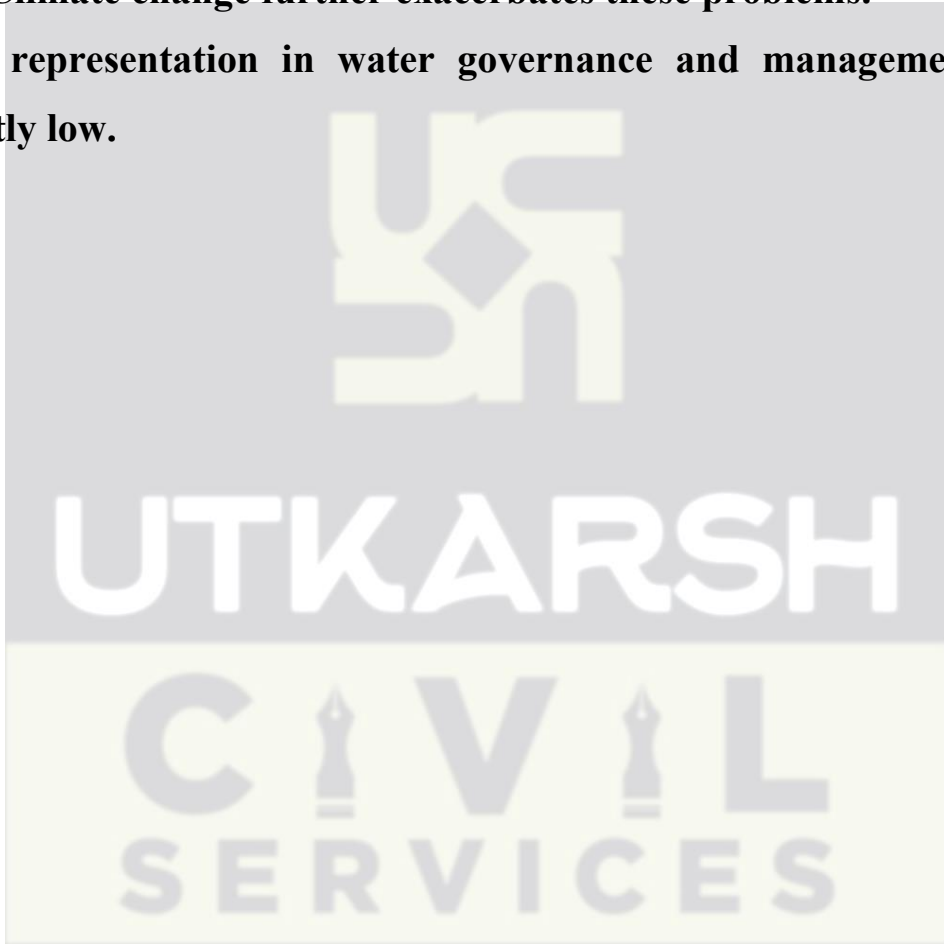
- **Lack of Water Availability:** Globally, 2.1 billion people still lack access to safely managed drinking water.
- **Lack of Sanitation:** 3.4 billion people do not have access to safely managed sanitation services.

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- **The Gender Gap:** Women and girls are the primary water collectors. They spend over 250 million hours daily fetching water. This situation impacts their education and income-generating opportunities.
- As a result of this situation, they face physical strain and gender-based violence. Climate change further exacerbates these problems.
- Women's representation in water governance and management remains significantly low.



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