

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 09 April 2026



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RAJASTHAN



'Jaipur Metro Phase-2' Approved by Union Cabinet

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, granted approval for the second phase (Phase-II) of the Jaipur Metro.

The Union Cabinet has approved

Jaipur Metro Phase-2



Key Points:

- Total Cost:** ₹13,037.66 crore. (As per PIB)
- Extension:** The project will feature a total of 36 metro stations, extending from Prahladpura to Todi Mod.

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- **Total Length:** A North-South metro corridor spanning 41 kilometers will be constructed.
- **Equity Share:** The Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan hold a 50:50 equity share.
- **Implementing Agency:** Rajasthan Metro Rail Corporation Limited (RMRCL).
- **Project Deadline:** Targeted for completion by September 2031.
- This project aligns with Rajasthan's Public Transport-Centric Development Policy-2025, the proposed Metropolitan Transport Authority reforms, and the National Sustainable Urban Transport objectives.

Facts for Prelims:

Phased Expansion of Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation (Rajasthan Economic Review – 2025-26)

Phase	Description	Cost	Funding
Phase-1A (Manasarovar to Chandpole)	Operational from 3 June 2015.	₹2023 crore	Fully funded by the state government.
Phase-1B (Chandpole to Badi Chaupar)	Operational from 23 September 2020. Length – 2.01 km. Note: Construction carried out while preserving the city's heritage.	₹1126 crore	₹810 crore loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB), remaining funded by Rajasthan government.

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Phase-1C (Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar)	DPR prepared by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.	₹1511.07 crore	To be implemented by Rajasthan Metro Rail Corporation Limited (RMRCL) under the 50:50 joint venture model of Metro Rail Policy 2017.
Phase-1D (Manasarovar to 200 Feet Bypass Ajmer Road)	DPR prepared by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Project implementation is in progress.	₹222.15 crore	To be implemented by RMRCL under the 50:50 joint venture model of Metro Rail Policy 2017.
Phase-2 (Prahladpura to Todi Mod)	Jaipur Metro appointed M/s WRIGHTS Limited as traffic and transport consultant. DPR for Phase-2 (Prahladpura/ Sitapura Industrial Area/ Haldighati Marg/ Airport/ Ambabari/ Vidyadhar Nagar/ Tonk Road) is submitted by M/s WRIGHTS Limited.	₹13,532.92 crore	To be implemented by RMRCL under the 50:50 joint venture model of Metro Rail Policy 2017.

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Rajasthan Shiromani Samman – 2026

Why in News?

- The 'Rajasthan Shiromani Samman – 2026' ceremony was recently organized at the Jaipur-based Maheshwari Public School.

Key Points:

- This ceremony was held on the occasion of the 11th death anniversary of the former Minister of Rajasthan, the late Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi.
- During the awards ceremony, 12 distinguished personalities who have performed outstanding work in various fields were honored.
- Chief Guest of the event:** Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari.

The honored 12 Distinguished Personalities:

S. No.	Honoured Personality	District	Related Field
1	Anila Kothari	Jaipur	Lifetime Achievement
2	Dr. Lalit K. Panwar (Former IAS)	Balotra	Administrative Service
3	Avni Lekhara	Jaipur	Sports
4	Pt. Rajkumar Sharma	Tonk	Spirituality
5	Dr. Vijay Sardana	Kota	Medicine
6	Manish Sharma	Jaipur	Media
7	Ustad Anwar Khan Manganiyar	Jaisalmer	Arts
8	Bharat Singh Rajpurohit	Pali	Cow Service
9	Poonam Kulharia	Bikaner	Social Service
10	Pradeep Kumawat	Udaipur	Education
11	Kamlesh Sharma	Karauli	Business
12	Pt. Ramkishan	Bharatpur	Politics

Chairpersons of the Financial Committees of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

Why in News?

- On April 8, 2026, the Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Vasudev Devnani, constituted four key financial committees for the year 2026-27.



Key Points:

- Tenure:** Until March 31, 2027.

Major Committees and their Chairpersons:

S. No.	Committee Name	Chairperson	Members
1	Loklekha Committee	Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jully	Anita Bhadel, Arjun Lal Jingar, Pramod Jain "Bhaya", Dr. Vishwanath Meghwal, Ajay Singh, Ramkesh, Chandrabhan Singh Chauhan, Dr. Suresh Dhakad, Rafiq Khan, Rohit Bohra, Guruveer Singh, and Gopal Sharma

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2	Prakkalan Committee "A"	Sandeep Sharma	Pratap Singh Singhvi, Shanti Dhariwal, Samaram, Harendra Mirdha, Chhotu Singh, Arjun Lal, Jivaram Chaudhary, Suresh Modi, Amit Chachan, Manoj Kumar (Sadulpur), and Vishvaraj Singh Mewar
3	Prakkalan Committee "B"	Babu Singh Rathore	Pushpendra Singh, Shankar Singh Rawat, Govind Singh Dotasra, Hamir Singh Bhayal, Pabbaram Bishnoi, Samarjit Singh, Manoj Kumar (Sujangarh), Ameen Kagzi, Dr. Subhash Garg, and Arun Chaudhary
4	Public Enterprises Committee	Kalicharan Saraf	Dr. Dayaram Parmar, Shravan Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Harimohan Sharma, Rita Chaudhary, Yunus Khan, Gopal Lal Sharma, Shatrughan Gautam, Gordhan, Lalit Meena, Anil Kumar Sharma, and Dr. Shailesh Singh

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✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>'Indian Football League' Organized in Jaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Governor Haribhau Bagde inaugurated the 'Indian Football League' (IFL) in Jaipur on April 7, 2026.■ Venue: Vidyadhar Nagar Stadium and Rajasthan University Stadium.■ Organizer: Rajasthan United Football Club (RUFC).
2.	<p>Rajasthan Physio Summit – 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Venue: Birla Auditorium, Jaipur.■ Duration: April 6 and 7, 2026.■ Theme: "Physiotherapy to Physiopathy."
3.	<p>Two Personalities from Rajasthan Honored with the 'Rashtriya Gujarat Gaurav Award – 2026'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jaipur residents Dr. Daulat Ram Malya and his wife, Jyoti Malya, were honored with the 'Rashtriya Gujarat Gaurav Award 2026'.■ Venue: 'Heartfulness Centre' in Valsad, Gujarat.■ This award was presented by the 'Divya Prerak Kahaniyan Manavata Anusandhan Nyas' and 'Dharadham International'.
4.	<p>The Country's First International-Standard Dermatology Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, India's first international-standard 'Institute of Dermatology' was inaugurated at the Charak Bhawan within the Jaipur-based Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital.■ Following London, this is the world's second most advanced and distinguished institute, poised to provide high-level medical facilities in the field of dermatology.■ Notably, the 'Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences' has also been developed at SMS Hospital to provide high-level cardiac care facilities.

5.

IIT Roorkee Study: Two Cities in Rajasthan "Extremely Vulnerable" to Groundwater Crisis

- According to a recent study conducted by researchers at IIT Roorkee, Jaipur and Jodhpur in Rajasthan have been categorized as "Extremely Vulnerable" in terms of groundwater crisis.
- Researchers analyzed 54 major cities across the country (each with a population exceeding one million), utilizing data spanning the period from 1996 to 2023.
- The city of Kota has been categorized as "Critical."

6.

Shyamsundar Swami: Two Medals at the Para Asia Cup

- Shyamsundar Swami from Bikaner won a total of two medals—one gold and one bronze—at the Para Asia Cup held in Chinese Taipei.
- **Team Event (Gold):** Won the gold medal in the team event alongside Toman Kumar.
- **Individual Event (Bronze):** Won the bronze medal in the individual category.

7.

Avdhesh Akodia Receives the 'Danish Siddiqui Journalism Award - 2026'

- Avdhesh Akodia (Jaipur) of Dainik Bhaskar was honored with the 'Danish Siddiqui Journalism Award - 2026' for his reporting that exposed corruption within the MLA Local Area Development (MLA-LAD) funds in Rajasthan.
- Instituted in memory of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, this award is presented by the 'Danish Siddiqui Foundation' (DSF) to journalists who have produced impactful reporting with integrity and courage.

NATIONAL

Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli

Why in News?

- At the ISSF World Cup 2026, held in Granada, Spain, Indian shooters Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli won the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event, setting a new Junior World Record in the process.



Key Points:

- Record:** In the final, the duo achieved a total score of 487.7 points, breaking the previous record of 481.3 points—set earlier this year by Uzbekistan's Nigina Saidkulova and Muhammad Kamalov at the Asian Shooting Championships held in New Delhi.

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Medal	Winner	Points
Gold	Indian team (Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli)	487.7
Silver	China team (Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai)	484.8
Bronze	Hungary team	414.9

- **Palak Gulia:** The 18-year-old Palak had previously won a gold medal in the individual event and a silver medal in the team event at the 2023 Asian Games.
- **Mukesh Nelavalli:** This marked Nelavalli's first medal at an ISSF World Cup, and he is a Junior World Champion.

ISSF World Cup Granada, 2026:

- **Event:** Being held in Granada, Spain, from April 6 to April 13, 2026.
- **Organizer:** International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

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Geography and Geology

Mount Semeru

Why in News?

- Recently, Mount Semeru—one of Indonesia's tallest and most active volcanoes—has erupted multiple times.

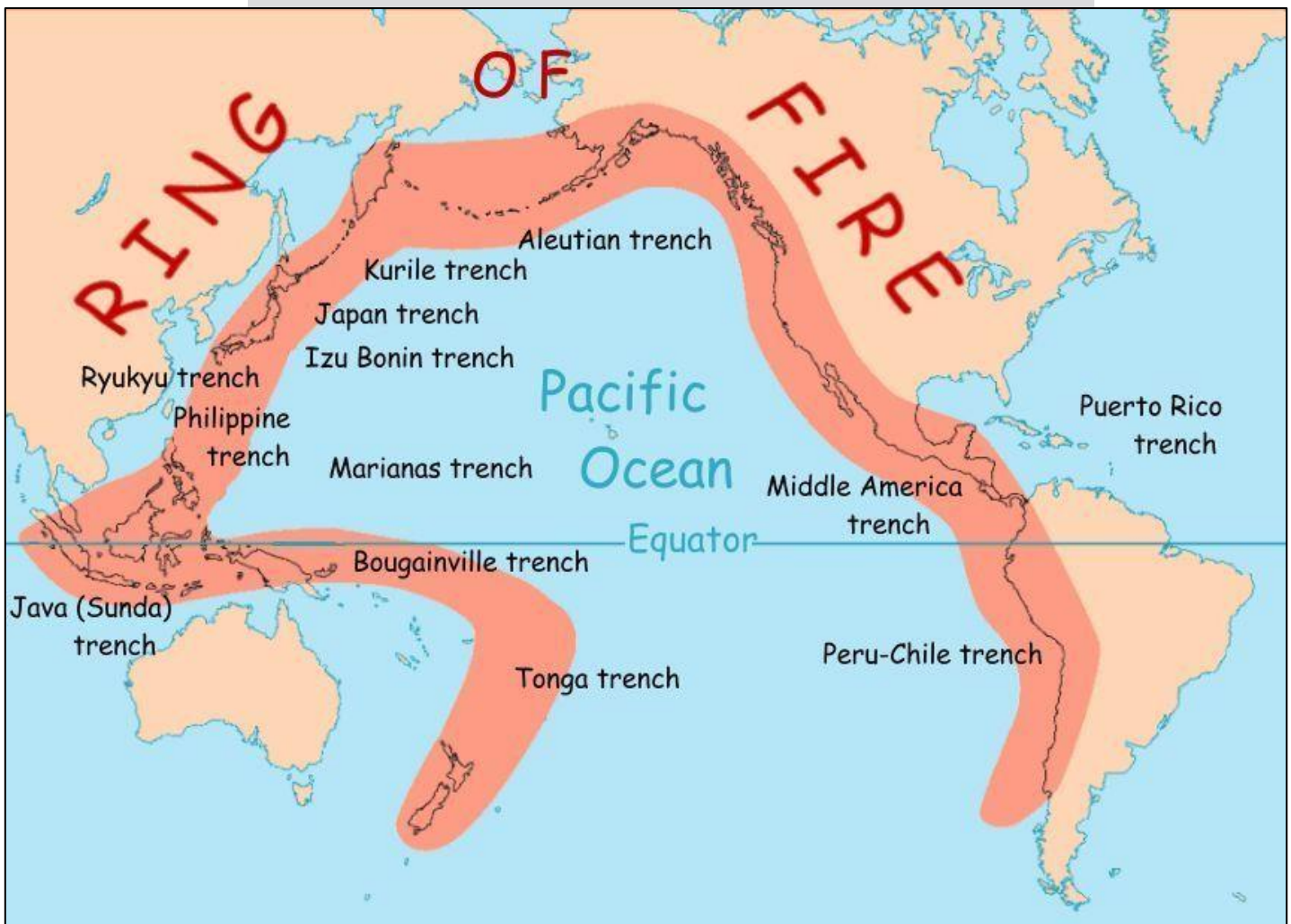


Key Points:

- Nickname:** Mahameru (or) "The Great Mountain"
- Location:** East Java, Indonesia.
- Type:** An active Vulcanian and Stratovolcano (composite volcano).
- Cause of Eruption:** It is situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the Indo-Australian Plate subducts beneath the Sunda Plate (which is part of the Eurasian Plate).

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- o Mount Semeru is the result of volcanic activity within this subduction zone.
- o As the plate descends, water and volatile substances are released; this lowers the melting point of the overlying mantle, leading to the formation of magma.
- **Other Features:** It is the highest peak on the island of Java, holds status as a sacred site in local culture, and forms part of the Tengger Massif.
- **Elevation:** 3,676 meters above sea level.
- **Other Recent Volcanic Eruptions in Indonesia:** Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, Mount Merapi, etc.
- **Other Important Points:**
- **Volcanoes in Indonesia:** With the highest number of active volcanoes in the world—and its location within the Pacific Ring of Fire—Indonesia remains constantly susceptible to seismic unrest.
- **The Pacific Ring of Fire:**



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- **Nickname:** The Circum-Pacific Belt.
- **Introduction:** A pathway encircling the Pacific Ocean characterized by the presence of active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- **Length:** Approximately 40,000 kilometers.
- It delineates the boundaries between several tectonic plates, including the Pacific, Cocos, Indo-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates.
- 75% of Earth's volcanoes—that is, more than 450 volcanoes—are situated along the edges of the Ring of Fire.
- 90% of Earth's earthquakes occur within this region, including the planet's most violent and dramatic seismic events.

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Schemes and Policies

Mission MITRA

Why in News?

- From April 2 to April 9, 2026, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted Mission MITRA in Leh, in the Union Territory of Ladakh.



Key Points:

- Introduction:** Mission MITRA—an analog space mission—is a first-of-its-kind team behavior study designed jointly by ISRO and the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) of the Indian Air Force.
- At the high altitude of approximately 3,500 meters in Leh, environmental conditions such as hypoxia, low temperatures, and isolation serve as a natural analog for spaceflight operations.

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- **Full Name:** Mission MITRA: Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment.
- **Involved Organizations:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) of the Indian Air Force.
- **Objective:** To study the physiological, psychological, and operational dynamics of crew and ground teams operating in a high-altitude environment.
- **Facility Management and Statutory Protocols:** The Bengaluru-based Indian startup, M/s Protoplanet Pvt. Ltd., is responsible for facility management and statutory protocols.

Key Features:

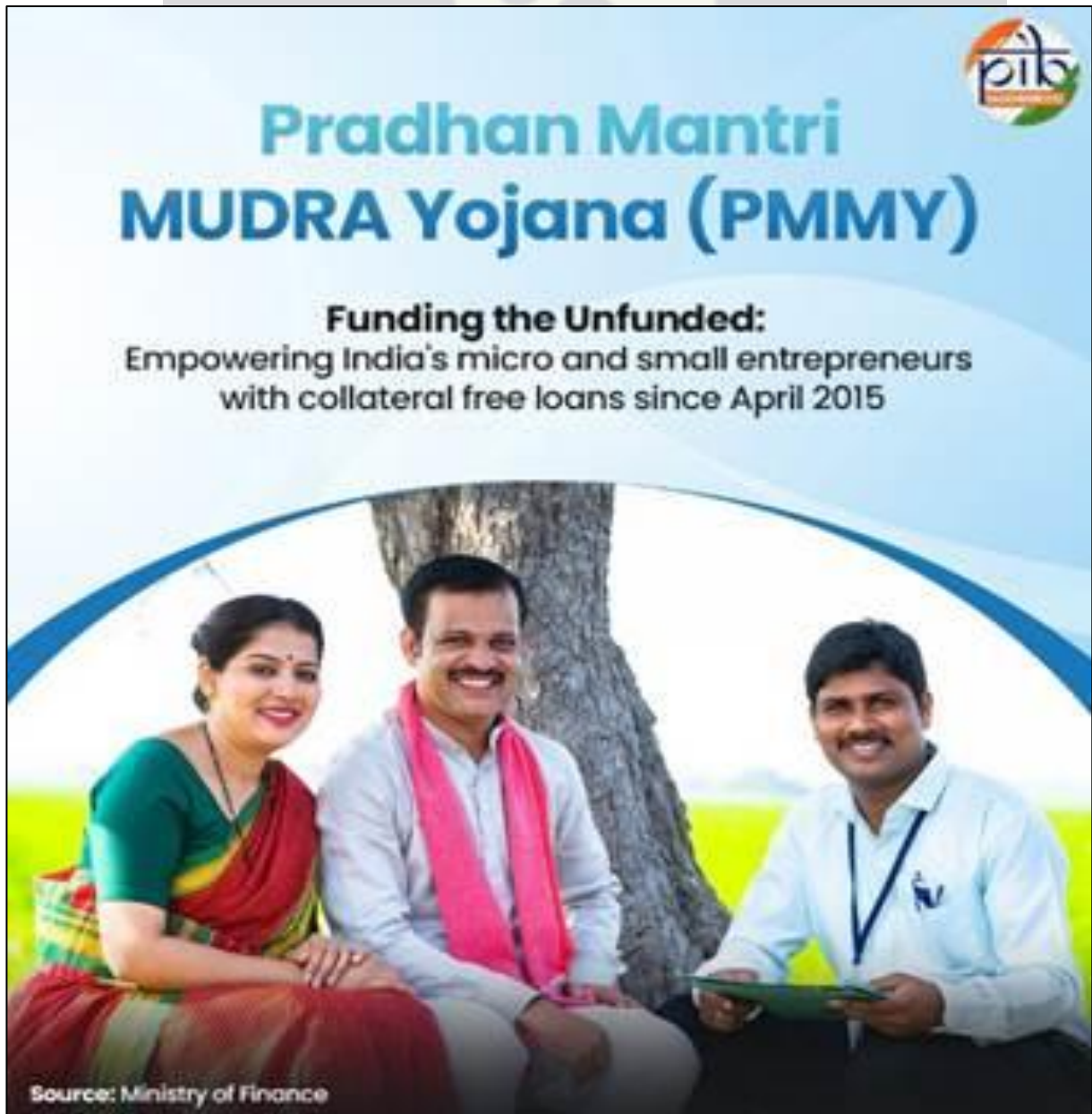
- **Ground-Crew Link:** Real-time testing of communication delays and assessment of the effectiveness of ground support in assisting the crew to resolve technical issues.
- **Natural Analog Environment:** Leh provides a natural laboratory featuring low atmospheric pressure, extreme cold, and a desolate landscape similar to the surfaces of the Moon or Mars.

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Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Completes 11 Years

Why in News?

- On April 8, 2026, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) completed 11 years of operation.
- During the financial year 2024-25, financial inclusion was strengthened by ensuring that approximately 60 percent of the total loan accounts were allocated to women, and about 21 percent to new entrepreneurs.

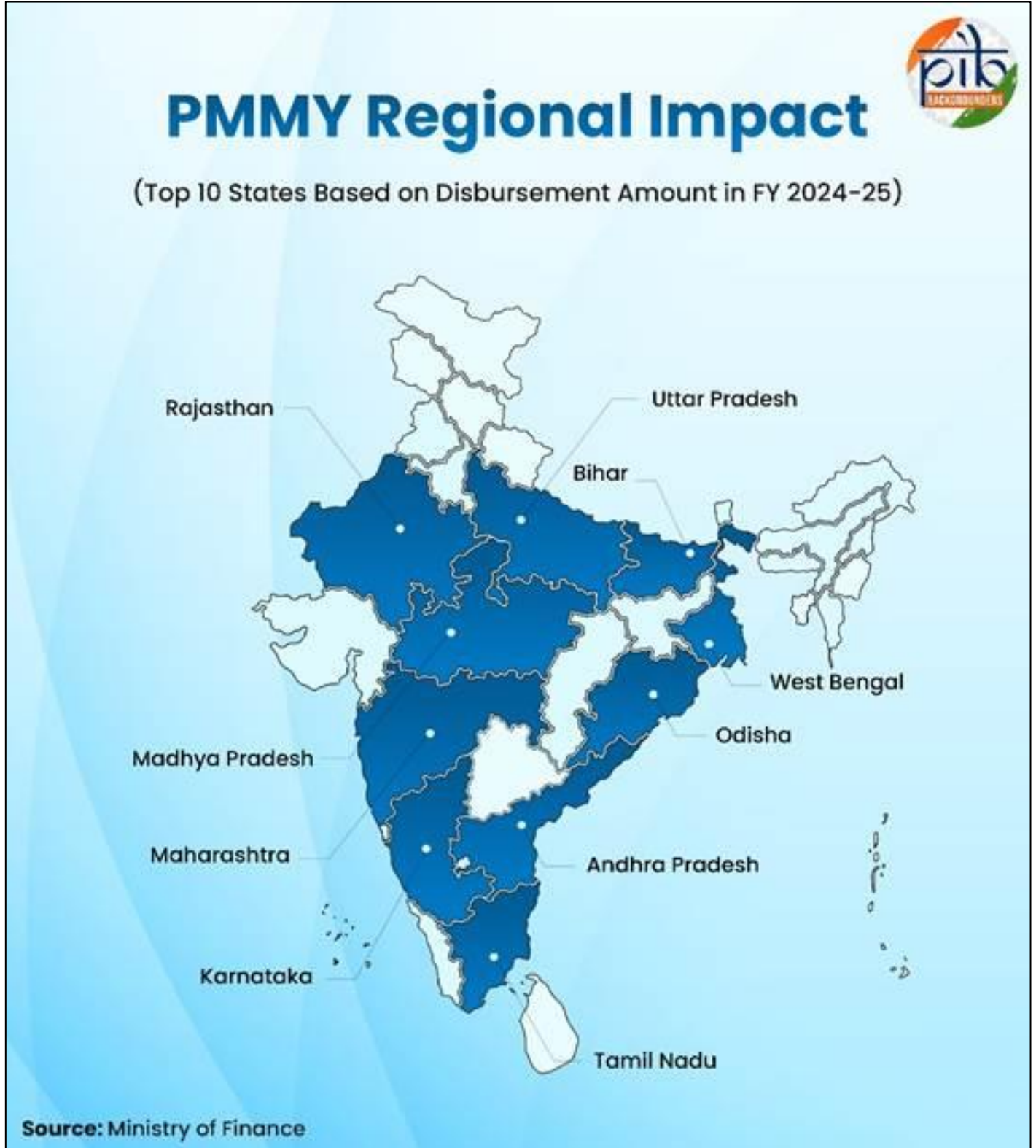


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Key Points:

- **Achievements:**
- **Loan Disbursement:**



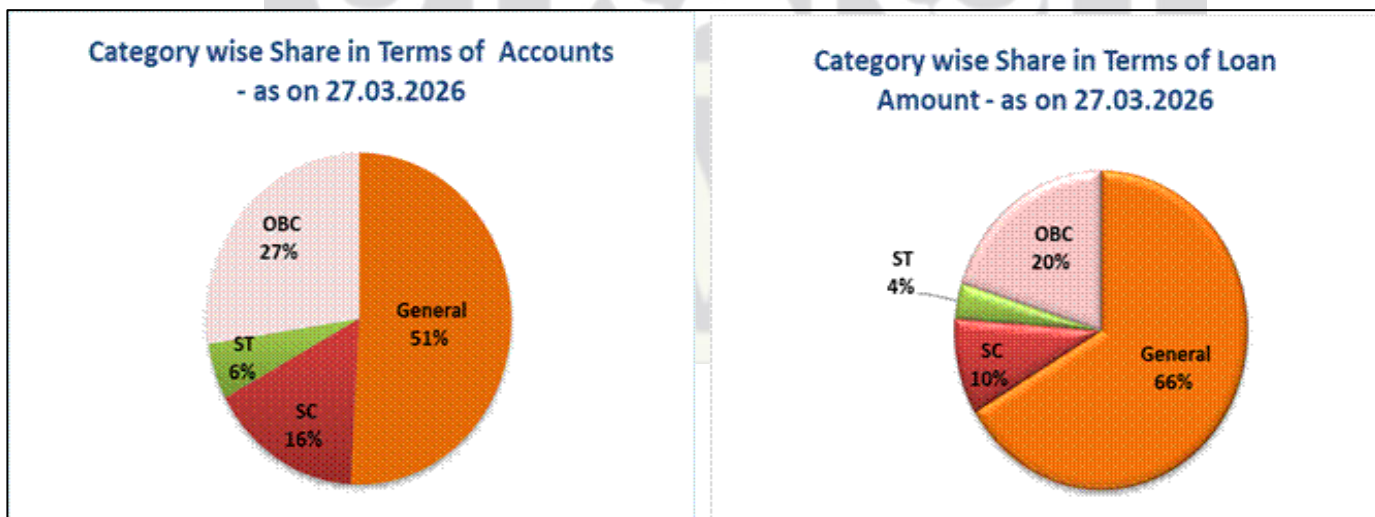
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Rank	State	Loan Distribution
1st	Uttar Pradesh	58,111 crore rupees
2nd	Bihar	54,064 crore rupees
3rd	Maharashtra	50,762 crore rupees

- **Gender Diversity:** Women loan recipients accounted for 59.81 percent of the total loan accounts, while their share in the total disbursed amount stood at 37.45 percent.
- **New Entrepreneurs:** New entrepreneurs constituted 21 percent of the total loan accounts and held a 30.09 percent share in the total disbursed amount.
- The combined share of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) stood at 45.52 percent of the loan accounts and 31.77 percent of the total disbursed amount.

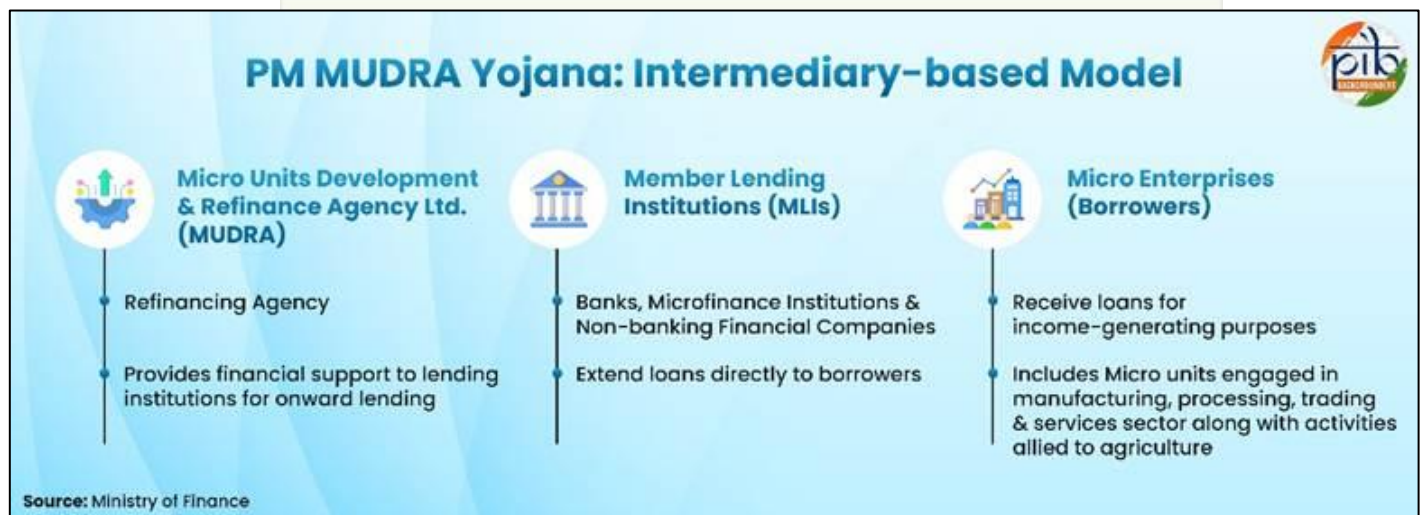


- **Self-Employment Generation:** The scheme has generated self-employment opportunities, particularly for the underprivileged sections of society—including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (accounting for 51% of loan beneficiaries), as well as women (accounting for 67% of loan beneficiaries).

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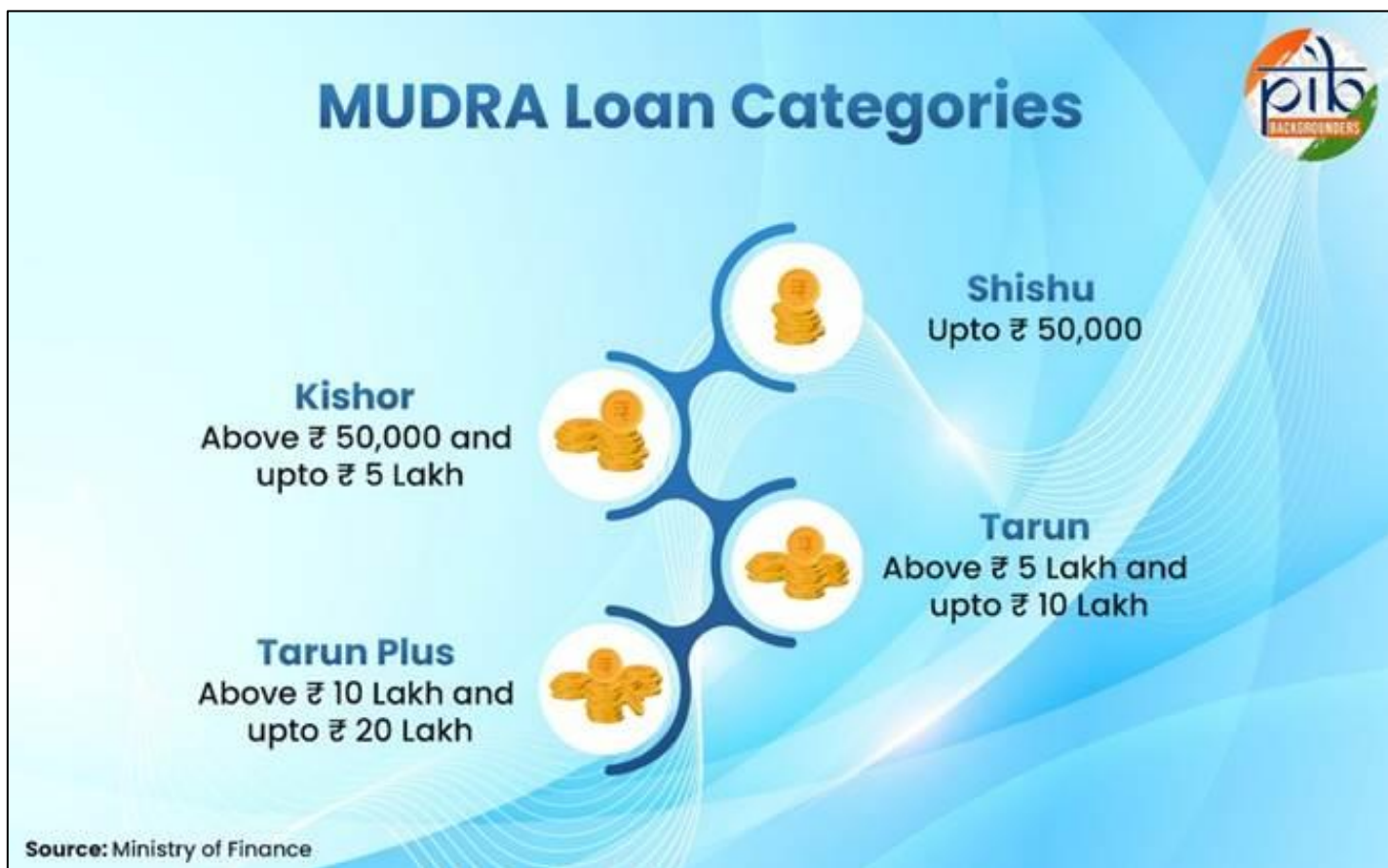
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):

- **Introduction:** Guided by the vision of "funding the unfunded," this scheme improves access to credit and provides collateral-free loans of up to ₹20 lakh. Its beneficiaries include non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises engaged in manufacturing, trading, services, and allied agricultural activities.
- **Full form of Mudra:** Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency.
- **Launched on:** April 8, 2015
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Nodal Agency:** Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- **Objective:** To bridge the existing gaps in financial access.
- **Institutional Framework:** Operates through a three-tier institutional structure comprising the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA), Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), and Beneficiaries (borrowers).



- **Loan Disbursement:** Under PMMY, loans are provided through MLIs, which include Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

- **Loan Limits under Various Categories:** To facilitate easy access to credit based on business requirements, loans under PMMY are classified into four distinct categories: Shishu, Kishor, Tarun, and Tarun Plus (enhanced in the Union Budget 2024-25).



- Loans cater to term financing and working capital requirements across the manufacturing, trading, and service sectors—including agriculture-related activities such as poultry farming, dairy farming, and bee-keeping.
- Interest rates are determined in accordance with RBI guidelines, with flexible repayment terms available.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Biodiversity Repositories

Why in News?

- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), in consultation with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has notified two institutions—the BhavSagar Referral Centre of the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi, and the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune—as National Repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- To date, 18 institutions have been designated as National Repositories under Section 39 of the Act.



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Key Points:

- **Introduction:** A National Repository is a government institution authorized to hold voucher specimens (physical samples) of biological resources in safe custody.
- These repositories are entrusted with the responsibility of the safe upkeep of biological materials; furthermore, it is mandatory for any individual discovering new flora or fauna to inform the designated repository and deposit the relevant specimens.

BhavSagar Referral Centre (CMLRE, Kochi)	MACS Microbial & Fungal Culture Collection (ARI, Pune)
Designated for: Deep-sea biodiversity.	Designated for: Microorganisms and fungi.
It houses over 3,500 samples identified based on classification and recorded with geographical references, including a wide range of marine organisms such as invertebrates and deep-sea fish.	It has developed specialized capabilities for preserving rare and hard-to-culture microorganisms, including anaerobic and extremophilic species.

- **Note:** Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-14: This focuses on the conservation of "Life Below Water."

Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

- **Introduction:** An Act enacted by the Parliament of India to fulfill the obligations arising under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- **Objective:** To conserve biological resources, manage their sustainable use, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources and associated knowledge with local communities.

Renewable Energy Capacity in India

Why in News?

- According to the Renewable Energy Statistics, 2026, India ranks third globally in terms of installed renewable energy capacity.



Key Points:

- According to data from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) up to December 2025, India has surpassed Brazil in this ranking.

Global Rankings:

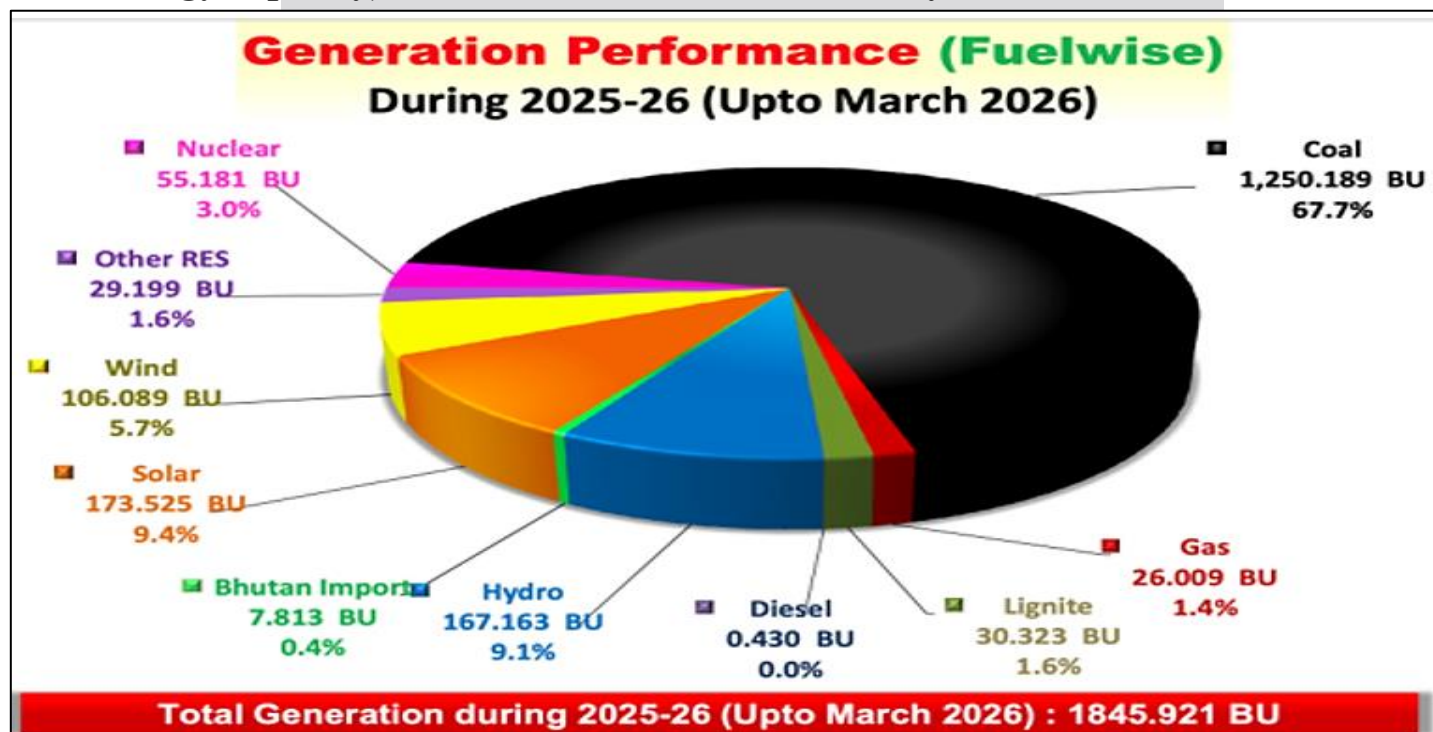
Rank	Country	Capacity (GW)
1st	China	2258.02
2nd	United States	467.92
3rd	India	250.52
4th	Brazil	228.20
5th	Germany	199.92
6th	Japan	134.53
7th	Canada	110.51
World:		5149.28

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- **Annual Growth:** During the financial year 2025-26, India achieved a total increase of 55.3 GW in non-fossil fuel energy capacity.
- Renewable energy met 51.5 percent of the country's total electricity demand of 203 GW.
- **Total Capacity:** As of March 31, 2026, a total capacity of 283.46 GW from non-fossil fuel sources (274.68 GW renewable energy + 8.78 GW nuclear energy capacity) has been installed in the country.



Generation Performance during April-March 2026 (Prov.)

Category-wise :	Target Generation during Current Year 2025-26 (Upto March 2026) (BU)	Generation during Current Year 2025-26 (Upto March 2026) * (BU)	Ach. w.r.t Targets (%)	Generation during Previous Year 2024-25 (Upto March 2025) (BU)	Growth w.r.t. Previous Year Generation (%)	% of Total Generation
● Generation from Fossil Fuel :						
Coal	1429.000	1250.189	87.49	1298.052	-3.69	67.7
Gas	37.262	26.009	69.80	31.580	-17.64	1.4
Lignite	37.000	30.323	81.95	32.995	-8.10	1.6
Diesel	0.400	0.430	107.42	0.443	-2.93	0.0
Total (Fossil Fuel) :	1503.662	1306.951	86.92	1363.069	-4.12	70.8

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● Generation from Non-Fossil Fuel :						
Generation from Renewable Sources (Including Hydro) :						
Wind	91.712	106.089	115.68	83.347	27.29	5.7
Solar	152.499	173.525	113.79	144.150	20.38	9.4
BioPower & Others	30.789	29.199	94.84	27.512	6.13	1.6
Total : Solar, Wind & Other RE	275.000	308.813	112.30	255.009	21.10	16.7
Hydro	155.674	167.163	107.38	148.634	12.47	9.1
Bhutan Import	9.472	7.813	82.48	5.484	42.46	0.4
Total RE Generation (Incl. Hydro)	440.146	483.789	109.92	409.127	18.25	26.2
Nuclear	56.592	55.181	97.51	56.681	-2.65	3.0
Total (Non-Fossil Fuel) :	496.738	538.970	108.50	465.808	15.71	29.2
● Total Generation (Fossil Fuel & Non-Fossil Fuel) :						
Total Generation :	2,000.400	1,845.921	92.28	1,828.877	0.93	100.0

Renewable Energy: 274.68 GW	Capacity
Solar Energy	150.26 GW
Wind Energy	56.09 GW
Bioenergy	11.75 GW
Small Hydro Power	5.17 GW
Large Hydro Power	51.41 GW

- The share of non-fossil fuels in total generation reached 29.2 percent (538.97 BU) in 2025-26.
- In 2025-26, the non-fossil energy generation capacity witnessed an increase of 55.29 GW—the highest increase recorded in any single year. (Previously, the highest increase was 29.5 GW during 2024-25).
- India achieved 50 percent of its cumulative electric installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in June 2025—five years ahead of the 2030 target set under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement.

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- In line with the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at COP-26, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is working towards achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by the year 2030.

Government Initiatives:

- **GST Exemption:** The GST rate on renewable energy devices and components used in their manufacturing has been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent, effective from September 22, 2025.
- **BCD Exemption:** The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) exemption has been extended to capital goods used for the manufacturing of Lithium-ion cells for Battery Energy Storage Systems (effective from February 2, 2026, to March 31, 2028).
- **Renewable Energy Equipment Import Monitoring System (REEIMS) Portal:** Launched in October 2025 to ensure greater transparency in the supply chain, regulatory compliance, and the prevention of the misuse of imported components.
- **National Geothermal Energy Policy, 2025:** The National Policy on Geothermal Energy was released in September 2025, providing a comprehensive strategic framework to accelerate the exploration, development, and commercial utilization of geothermal resources across the country.
- **Bio-Energy Mitra Program:** The Ministry has formally inaugurated the Bio-Energy Mitra Program under its Human Resource Development (HRD) framework.
- **Green Hydrogen Hubs:** Three major ports—Kandla, Paradip, and Tuticorin—have been designated as Green Hydrogen Hubs to serve as production and export centers.

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- **Certification Scheme:** India's Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme was officially launched in April 2025.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM):** Approved by the Cabinet with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore up to the year 2029-30. The Mission aims to produce at least 5 million metric tonnes of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030.
- **Green Energy Corridor Program:** Under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Green Energy Corridor Program, seven states have successfully completed the first phase of the Green Energy Corridor, thereby strengthening the grid for renewable energy integration.
- **Hydrogen Valleys:** A total sum of ₹170 crore has been sanctioned for four Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters (Odisha, Kerala, Pune, and JHV).

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS) 2026

Why in News?

- Recently, the second edition of the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS) 2026 is being organized.



Key Points:

- Event Venue and Duration:** Being held in Bengaluru, India, from April 8 to 10, 2026.
- Conference Theme:** "Innovative Operations for Smart and Sustainable Space Mission Management – The Next Generation."

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- **Organizers:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Astronautical Society of India (ASI), and International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).
- **Objective:** To cover a wide range of topics related to operations management, advanced mission design, automation, management of large satellite constellations, human spaceflight missions, space robotics, space policy, lunar and planetary exploration, cybersecurity in space systems, artificial intelligence, current and future trends in ground station operations, etc.
- **Key Topics Covered in the Conference:**
 1. Mission Operations: Translating Design into Achievement
 2. Guiding Current Achievements and Future Prospects
 3. Mission Design and Operations
 4. Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
 5. Ground Segment and Constellations
 6. Human Spaceflight Programs, Interplanetary Missions, and Ground Segments
 7. Orbits of Opportunity: Contributing to the New Space Economy
 8. Challenges of Human Spaceflight Programs
 9. Robotic Mission Operations on the ISS

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Exercise 'Cyclone-IV'

Why in News?

- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Egypt to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, 'Cyclone-IV'.





Key Points:

- **Venue:** This joint military exercise is being conducted in the Inshas region of Egypt from April 9 to April 17, 2026.
- **Primary Objective:** To strengthen joint mission planning capabilities through the exchange of best practices in special operations, and to further enhance mutual coordination between the two armies.
- **Annual Exercise:** Conducted on a rotational basis between India and Egypt.

Edition	Venue
Cyclone-I	January 2023 at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (India)
Cyclone-II	January 2024 at Inshas (Egypt)
Cyclone-III	February 2025 at Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan)

INS Sudarshini and the 'Escale à Sète' Festival, 2026

Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian vessel INS Sudarshini participated in the 'Escale à Sète' festival, 2026, held at the port of Sète.



Key Points:

- Introduction:** This biennial festival is one of the largest maritime gatherings in the Mediterranean Sea, celebrating global maritime heritage.
- Venue:** Held at the port of Sète, France, from March 31 to April 6, 2026.

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- A major highlight of the event was the participation of the Indian Navy's marching contingent in the 'Heritage City Parade,' which was organized to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the French Navy.
- The Sudarshini rowing team won a bronze medal in the 'Jeux Maritimes' (Maritime Games).
- **Inception:** Year 2010.
- **Current Indian Ambassador to France:** Sanjiv Singla.

INS Sudarshini:

- INS Sudarshini is the Indian Navy's second Sail Training Ship (the first being INS Tarangini).
- INS Sudarshini is a premier Sail Training Ship (STS) of the Indian Navy, currently undertaking a historic 10-month trans-oceanic expedition named 'Lokayan-26.' Commencing from Kochi on January 20, 2026, the expedition will cover a journey of over 22,000 nautical miles, visiting 18 ports across 13 countries.

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