

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



CIVIL
SERVICES

Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	“Apno Khet – Apni Khad” (Our Field – Our Fertilizer) Campaign
2.	Thar Cultural Circuit
3.	Sunder Kanti Joshi Award
4.	News in Shorts 1. Innovations at Jhalana Leopard Safari 2. Shyam Sundar Swami 3. MNIT Signs MoU with ISHRAE 4. Dr. Gopesh Nag 5. Rekha Meena
5.	SAFF U-20 Championship, 2026
6.	1st Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG), 2026
7.	National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
8.	Kar Saathi
9.	India's Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System
10.	Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
11.	Efforts to Deliver Natural Gas via Pipelines in India
12.	Article 161
13.	Remission of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme
14.	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
15.	India's Defence Exports
16.	INS Taragiri

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“Apno Khet – Apni Khad” (Our Field – Our Fertilizer) Campaign



Why in News?

- With the objective of encouraging farmers in the state to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilizers and transition towards organic and natural farming, the ‘Apno Khet – Apni Khad’ campaign is being conducted from April 6 to April 30, 2026.



Key Points:

- **Department:** Department of Agriculture and Horticulture.
- To ensure participation, various activities—such as farmer seminars, Ratri Chaupals (evening community gatherings), Prabhat Pheris (morning processions), training sessions, and awareness programs in schools—will be organized at the Gram Panchayat (village council) level.
- Additionally, the participation of women associated with initiatives such as Krishi Sakhis, CRPs (Community Resource Persons), Krishak Mitras, and Namu Drone Didis will also be ensured.
- To facilitate the continuous monitoring of this campaign, vigilance committees will be constituted at the district, block, and Gram Panchayat levels.

Key Techniques:

- **Production of Organic Manure:** Compost, Vermicompost, and Green Manure (Dhaincha and Guar).
- **Natural Farming Methods:** Panchagavya, Jivamrut, Bijamrut, and Dhanjivamrut.
- Utilization of balanced fertilizers—such as SSP, NPK, and TSP—as alternatives to DAP and Urea.
- Furthermore, the usage of bio-fertilizers—such as Rhizobium, Azotobacter, and PSB (Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria)—will be promoted.

Thar Cultural Circuit



Why in News?

- The Thar Cultural Circuit is being developed to provide recognition to the rich desert culture, folk life, and heritage of Western Rajasthan.



Key Points:

- **Objective:** To promote the region's folk arts, traditions, cuisine, and tourism, while simultaneously securing global recognition for its handicrafts and rural lifestyle.
- Under this initiative, a seven-member committee will be constituted by the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi (Rajasthan Academy of Music and Drama).
- As per the budget announcement, the districts of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Barmer, and Bikaner have been included in this circuit.

Sunder Kanti Joshi Award

Why in News?

- This award is presented annually on April 3rd by the Radha Niwas Cricket Club in memory of Sunder Kanti Joshi.

Key Points:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Presented to former national cricketer of the 1970s, Asha Srivastava.
- **Senior Category:** Awarded to all-rounder Dimple Kanwar.
- **Junior Category:** Tanika Sharma.
- **Sub-Junior Category:** Rochelle Yadav.

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Innovations at Jhalana Leopard Safari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A modern Interpretation Center is being developed at the Jhalana Leopard Safari to enhance the wildlife experience for tourists. Through 3D and VR technology, visitors will be able to observe the movements and lifestyle of leopards up close. Additionally, cut-outs, a photo gallery, and interactive systems are also being established.
2.	<p>Shyam Sundar Swami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ In the Para Asia Cup Archery tournament, the duo of Shyam Sundar Swami and Toman Kumar won the gold medal by defeating Chinese Taipei.■ Last year as well, Sundar secured a gold medal for India in the competition held in Thailand.
3.	<p>MNIT Signs MoU with ISHRAE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, and the Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE), Chennai.■ Objective: To enhance energy efficiency in the cooling sector, improve indoor air quality, and promote environmental conservation.

4.

Dr. Gopesh Nag

- Dr. Gopesh Nag, DIG of the Border Security Force (BSF) from Jaipur, won a gold medal in the 26th All India Lawn Tennis Championship, organized by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in New Delhi.
- **Category:** Veterans' Singles event.
- He had previously won a gold medal in this same event held in Bengaluru in 2025.

5.

Rekha Meena

- Rekha Meena of Rajasthan was honored with the Good Design Award 2025 at a ceremony held in Athens (Europe) on March 20, 2026.
- This award has been presented by the 'Chicago Athenaeum Museum' since 1950.
- In 2023, she received the award for the Best Color and Interior Designer globally.

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SAFF U-20 Championship, 2026



Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian football team was defeated by Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final of the SAFF U-20 Championship, 2026; this marks the second time Bangladesh has won this title.



Key Points:

- Dates:** March 23 to April 3, 2026
- Venue:** Malé, Maldives.
- Organizer:** South Asian Football Federation.
- Participants:** 7 South Asian teams took part.
- Group A:** Included Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.
- Group B:** Included India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- India defeated Bhutan 5-0 in the semi-final.

Result:

- Winner:** Bangladesh (2nd Title)
- Runner-up:** India (Defending Champion)



1st Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG), 2026

Why in News?

- Karnataka secured the top spot in the medal tally of the 1st Khelo India Tribal Games, 2026, by winning 23 gold medals.



Key Points:

- This is India's first national multi-sport event dedicated to tribal athletes.
- **Dates:** March 25 to April 3, 2026.
- **Venues:** Held in Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja in Chhattisgarh.
- **Organizers:** Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), National Sports Academy, and the Government of Chhattisgarh.
- **Objective:** To nurture tribal talent, foster inclusivity, and integrate tribal athletes into the national sports ecosystem.
- **Edition:** 1st.

--8--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



- **Total Sports:**
 - **7 Core Sports:** Athletics, Football, Hockey, Weightlifting, Archery, Swimming, and Wrestling.
 - **2 Demonstration Sports:** Mallakhamb and Kabaddi.
- **Mascot:** "Morveer"
- **Unveiling:** The logo, theme song, and mascot of the KITG were unveiled on December 23, 2025.
- **Etymology:** Mor (Mine or Ours) + Veer (Valor/Hero): Represents the spirit, pride, and identity of India's tribal communities.
- **Host State:** Chhattisgarh has become the first state to host this historic national event.
- This event is part of the Khelo India program; the Khelo India Games were declared an "Event of National Importance" in 2020 under the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007.
- **Participants:** Over 60,000 athletes from 30 states and Union Territories competed for 338 medals in the Games.
- **Total Medals:** 338 (106 Gold + 100 Silver + 126 Bronze).



Medal Tally:

Rank	State	Gold Medals	Silver Medals	Bronze Medals	Total Medals
1st	Karnataka	23	8	7	38
2nd	Odisha	21	15	21	57
3rd	Jharkhand	16	8	11	35
4th	Maharashtra	6	10	4	20
5th	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1	4	11
9th	Chhattisgarh	3	10	6	19
22th	Rajasthan	0	3	2	5

--9:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



Rajasthan's Performance:

- **Total Medals:** 5 (3 Silver + 2 Bronze)
- **Rank:** 22nd
- **Sport-wise Medals:** Wrestling (3 Silver + 1 Bronze), Gymnastics (1 Bronze)

Medal Winners:

Winner	Sport	Category	Medal
Amit Kumar Meena	Wrestling	Men's Freestyle 150 kg	Silver Medal
Rakesh Kumar Meena	Wrestling	Men's Freestyle 65 kg	Silver Medal
Dinesh Solanki	Wrestling	Men's Greco-Roman 60 kg	Silver Medal
Balkesh Kumari Meena	Wrestling	Women's Freestyle 68 kg	Bronze Medal
Jagdish Meena	Gymnastics/Athletics	Men's 200 meters	Bronze Medal

- **Note:** Rajasthan Team Coach: Ajay Sharma.

Medal Winners at KITG:

Medal Winner	Sport	State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medals
Manikanta L	Swimming	Karnataka	8	1	0	9
Dhonish N	Swimming	Karnataka	5	1	0	6
Ajay Munda	Swimming	Odisha	5	0	0	5
Meghanjali	Swimming	Karnataka	4	0	2	6

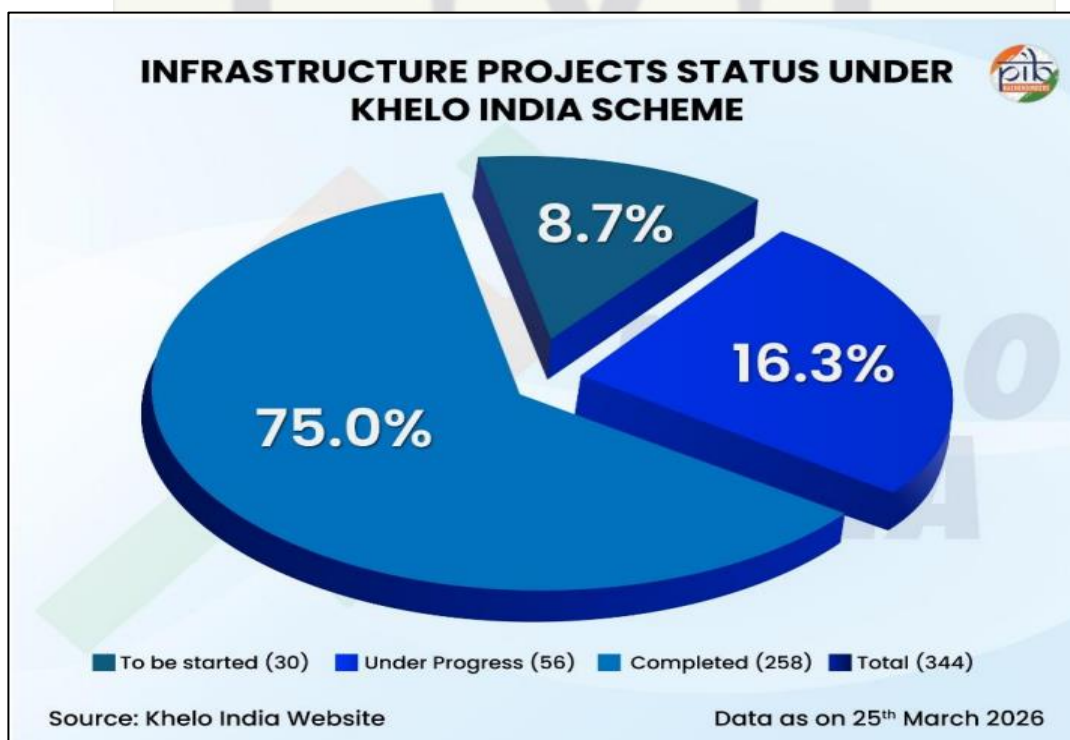
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Other Important Points:

Khelo India Programme:



- **Launch:** Year 2017-18
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.



- **Note:** The Government of India allocated an outlay of ₹3,165.50 crore to continue the scheme "Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports" during the period of the 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26).

Key Programmes:

1. **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG):** At the school and college levels.
2. **Khelo India University Games (KIUG):** At the university level.
3. **Khelo India Winter Games:** In specific regions such as Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.
4. **Khelo India Para Games:** For athletes with disabilities.
5. **Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI):** Utilizing ICT tools.
6. **Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG):** For tribal athletes.

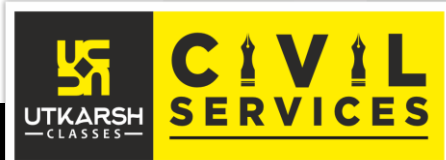
National Sports Policy, 2025

- **Approval:** On July 1, 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025.
- **Supersession:** The new Sports Policy, 2025, has been introduced to replace the existing National Sports Policy, 2001.
- This policy has been formulated to establish the country as a global sporting powerhouse and to prepare for outstanding performance in international sporting events, including the 2036 Olympic Games.
- This sports policy is based on five key pillars—

Pillar	Objective
Excellence on the Global Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Development of sports infrastructure in rural as well as urban areas.■ Enhance the capacity and management of National Sports Federations.■ Promote the establishment of competitive leagues and tournaments.■ Encourage adoption of sports science, medicine, and technology to improve sports performance.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



Sports for Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Promote sports tourism and strive to host major international sporting events in India.■ Strengthen the sports manufacturing ecosystem and promote startups and entrepreneurship in sports.■ Encourage private sector participation through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and innovative financing initiatives.
Sports for Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Promote participation among women, economically weaker sections, tribal communities, and persons with disabilities through focused programs.■ Revive and promote indigenous and traditional sports.■ Engage the Indian diaspora through sports.
Sports as a Mass Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Promote mass participation in sports and a culture of fitness through nationwide campaigns and community-based programs.■ Introduce fitness indices for schools, colleges, workplaces, etc.■ Increase access to sports facilities for all.
Integration with Education (NEP 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Include sports in the school curriculum.■ Train teachers and physical education instructors through specialized programs to promote sports education and awareness.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



Strategic Framework:

- **Private Sector Financing and Collaboration:** Developing innovative financing mechanisms and engaging private sector participation through PPP and CSR.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Leveraging emerging technologies—including AI and data analytics—for performance tracking, research, and program implementation.
- **National Monitoring Framework:** Establishing a national framework featuring clearly defined criteria, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and time-bound targets.
- **Model Policy for States:** The NSP 2025 will serve as a model for States and Union Territories, encouraging them to revise or formulate their own policies in alignment with national objectives.
- **Whole-of-Government Approach:** This policy calls for integrating sports promotion into the activities, schemes, and programs of all ministries and departments to achieve a holistic impact.

Note:

- **UN International Day of Sport 2025:** June 11, 2025
- **National Sports Day:** August 29, 2025

-:14:-

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Why in News?

- The Central Government has declared NCERT a 'Deemed to be University'.



Key Points:

- Institutions designated as 'Deemed to be Universities' enjoy the academic status and privileges of a full-fledged university.
- Such institutions may be declared by the Central Government upon the advice of the UGC.

NCERT:

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Establishment:** An autonomous organization established in 1961
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Education
- As per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, it serves as the nodal agency for developing the National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs) for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), School Education, and Adult Education.

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Kar Saathi

Why in News?

- The Income Tax Department has launched an AI-enabled digital chatbot platform to provide 24×7 guidance on direct tax matters under the framework of the new Income Tax Act, 2025.



Key Points:

- It offers round-the-clock assistance for queries related to filing income tax returns, tax provisions, forms, notices, deductions, refunds, and compliance.
- It consolidates all resources related to direct taxes—such as forms, challans, e-payments, e-verification, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)—onto a single platform.
- It facilitates the resolution of taxpayer grievances and provides assistance with compliance-related queries.

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India's Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System

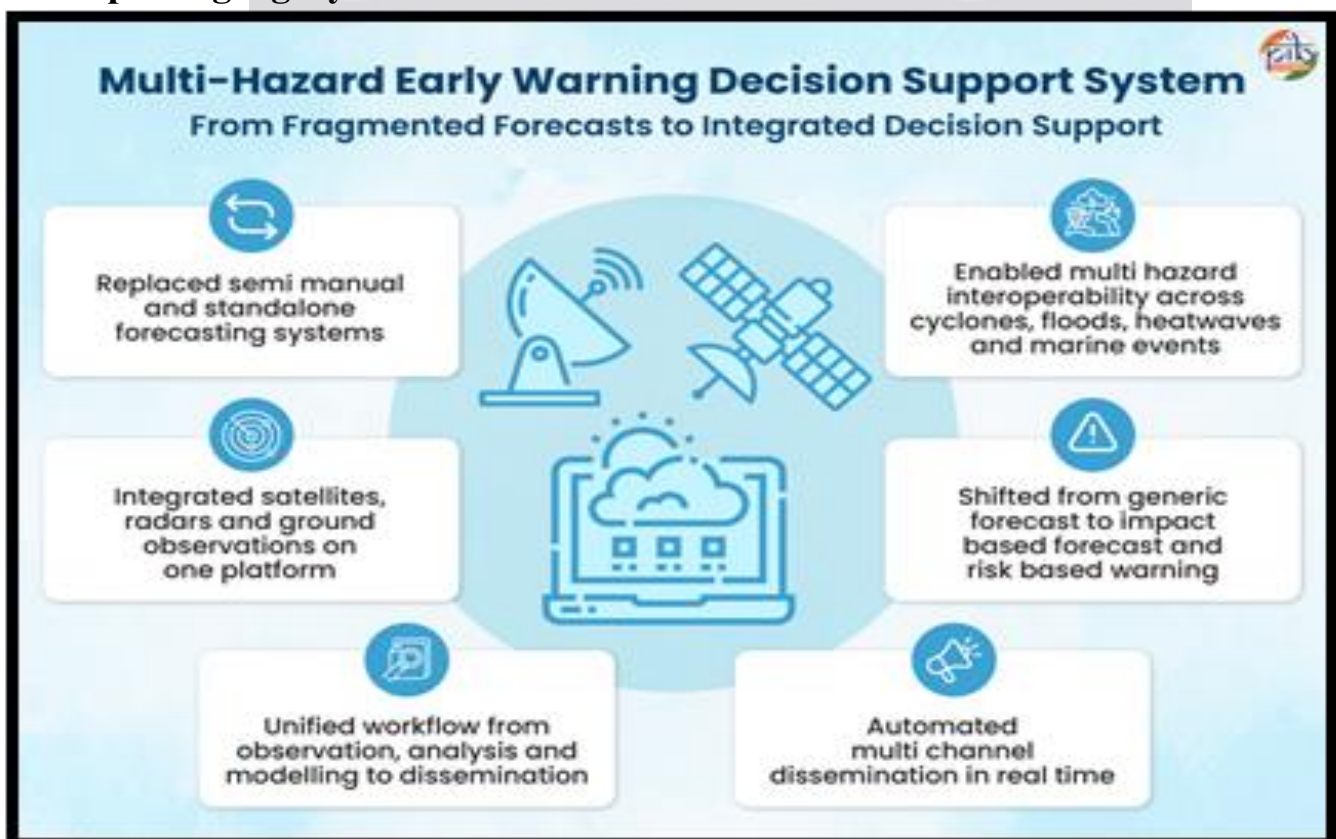
Why in News?

- The India Meteorological Department has received the National Award for e-Governance 2025 for its indigenously developed Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System (MHEW-DSS).

Key Points:

What is MHEW-DSS?

- Launched in 2024, it is a digital platform that automates decision-making processes within critical weather forecasting operations and provides forecasting and warning services to the public, government and non-governmental agencies, as well as specific stakeholders.
- Developed under the Weather Mission, this system has automated 90% of meteorological data processing and improved forecasting accuracy by 30%, while simultaneously reducing preparation time from six hours to three hours.
- It integrates real-time data obtained from satellites, radars, and ground- and upper-air-based sensors into a centralized GIS-enabled platform, thereby replacing legacy manual workflows.





Economic Developments



Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

Why in News?

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has launched a one-time relief scheme. Under this scheme, eligible manufacturing units located within Special Economic Zones are permitted to sell goods domestically—that is, in the domestic markets—at concessional customs duty rates.



Key Points:

- This relief scheme will remain in effect from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. Its objective is to provide assistance to manufacturers within Special Economic Zones in navigating disruptions in global trade.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

- **Introduction:** These are specifically designated, duty-free enclaves. For the purposes of trade operations and customs, they are treated as foreign territory.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



- **Current Status:** As of February 2026, there are 368 notified Special Economic Zones in India.
- **Legal Provisions:** They are governed by the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006.

Significance of Special Economic Zones

- Export Growth
- Investment Hubs
- Employment Generation
- Infrastructure Development
- Technology and Innovation
- Enhanced Global Competitiveness



-:19:-

Efforts to Deliver Natural Gas via Pipelines in India

Why in News?

- India is accelerating the expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections to reduce its dependence on imports, enhance energy security, and transition toward a cleaner fuel mix.



Key Points:

Types of Gases

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG):

- Composition:** Propane and Butane.
- State and Storage:** Stored in a liquid state under moderate pressure in cylinders.
- Usage:** Domestic cooking, water heating, and small-scale industrial applications.
- Key Feature:** Heavier than air; tends to accumulate on the ground in the event of a leak.

Piped Natural Gas (PNG):

- Composition:** Primarily Methane.
- State and Storage:** Distributed as a gas through underground pipelines.

--:20:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 04 April 2026



- **Usage:** Residential kitchens, commercial kitchens, and industries.
- **Key Feature:** Continuous supply; no requirement for cylinder storage.
- **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG):**
- **Composition:** Primarily Methane.
- **State and Storage:** Compressed in tanks at high pressure (200–250 bar).
- **Usage:** Vehicles (cars, buses, auto-rickshaws) and low-pressure industrial burners.
- **Key Feature:** Cleaner combustion compared to petrol/diesel.
- **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):**
- **Composition:** Primarily Methane.
- **State and Storage:** For transportation, it is cooled to approximately -160°C to bring it into a liquid state.
- **Usage:** Long-distance transport of natural gas via sea routes; power generation.
- **Key Feature:** Its volume is reduced by 600 times, making it easier to store in large quantities.
- **India's Shift Towards PNG**
- **Reducing Dependence on Imports:** India imports approximately 60% of its LPG requirements; a significant portion of this comes from West Asia, and the supply routes—such as the Strait of Hormuz—are geopolitically sensitive.
- In contrast, LNG can be sourced from multiple global suppliers, thereby fostering diversification.
- **Economic Efficiency:** PNG eliminates the logistics costs associated with the transportation and storage of cylinders.
- Its price tends to be more stable compared to LPG, as LPG is sensitive to global oil prices.

-:21:-

🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

Article 161

📣 Why in News?

- The Madras High Court held that the Governor must act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet while exercising powers under Article 161 of the Constitution.



📌 Key Points:

Article 161:

- It grants the Governor the power to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit, or commute sentences in certain cases.
- **Scope:** It applies to offenses falling within the executive jurisdiction of the State.

Schemes and Policies

Remission of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme

Why in News?

- The Central Government has announced the extension of the RoSCTL scheme until September 30, 2026.



Key Points:

RoSCTL:

- **Inception:** It was launched in 2019 by the Union Ministry of Textiles.
- **Objective:** Its aim is to make textile exports zero-rated. It provides for the remission of all State and Central taxes that are not covered under any other scheme.
- **Mechanism:** The remission is issued in the form of Duty Credit Scrips. These can be traded or utilized for the payment of customs duties.
- **Benefits:** These include flexibility, improved export competitiveness, and cost reduction.

INTERNATIONAL

India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)

Why in News?

- The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) marks four years of completion. Signed in 2022, this agreement has played a pivotal role in boosting trade, strengthening inter-industry linkages, and creating new opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs, and employment.



--:24:--



Key Points:

Key Benefits Derived from ECTA

- **Exports from India to Australia Doubled:** Exports from India rose from US\$ 4 billion in the financial year (FY) 2020-21 to US\$ 8.5 billion in FY 2024-25.
- In FY 2025-26 (up to February), India's total trade with Australia stood at US\$ 19.3 billion.
- **Preferential Market Access:** India granted concessions on 70.3% of products within its market, while Australia granted concessions on 100% of products. This implies that Australia provided complete preferential market access for all imports originating from India.
- Effective January 1, 2026, all Indian exports will be eligible for zero-duty market access in Australia.
- **Benefits Across Multiple Sectors:** Significant growth has been recorded in the exports of textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and agricultural products.
- **Signing of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in the Organic Sector:** This has bolstered the trade of organic products.

Australia's Significance for India

- **Strategic Partnership within the Indo-Pacific Policy:** India and Australia advocate for an order in the Indo-Pacific region that is transparent, open, secure, inclusive, and rules-based. This cooperation is evident in the following areas:
 - Along with the United States and Japan, Australia is a key partner for India in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue—also known as the QUAD.
 - Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP).
 - In 2019, a '2+2' dialogue mechanism was initiated between the Defence and Foreign Ministers of both nations.
 - **Defence Cooperation:** Joint naval exercises (AUSINDEX) are regularly conducted between the two nations; to foster robust defence cooperation, a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) was signed in 2021.
 - **Energy and Resources:** Under the India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership, new supply chains are being developed, cooperation in renewable energy—including Green Hydrogen—is being promoted, and so forth.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's Defence Exports

Why in News?

- According to the Ministry of Defence, India's defence exports reached an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in the financial year 2025-26.



Key Points:

Key Achievements

- **Export Growth:** A growth of 62.66% was recorded compared to the previous financial year.
- **Consistent Growth:** Exports have witnessed continuous growth from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

--:26:--

Sector-wise Contribution:

- **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs): 54.84%**
- **Private Sector: 45.16%**
- **Global Reach:** By the financial year 2025-26, India was exporting defence products to over 80 countries.

Significance

- **Strategic:** Establishes India as a global manufacturing hub for defence equipment.
- **Diplomatic:** Defence exports have bolstered trust in India among other nations, enhanced capabilities for mutual cooperation, and fostered long-term partnerships.
- **Promoting Indigenization:** In the financial year 2023-24, India's indigenous defence production reached a record level.
- **Achieving Self-Reliance:** India aims to achieve a defence production value of ₹3 lakh crore and defence exports worth ₹50,000 crore by the year 2029.
- **Other Perspectives:** Job creation, increasing participation of the private sector, etc.

Persistent Challenges

- High dependence on imports,
- Vulnerability to global disruptions,
- Competition from countries already established in global defence manufacturing,
- Delays caused by regulatory norms, etc.

Key Initiatives to Boost Defence Exports

- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Framework:** It promotes innovation through startups and MSMEs.
- **Liberalization of FDI:** It permits up to 74% FDI under the automatic route to attract technology.
- **Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020:** It promotes the use of indigenous components in defence procurement.
- **Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs):** To boost industrial manufacturing ecosystems in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- **Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Scheme:** To foster collaboration among Defence Public Sector Undertakings, private companies, MSMEs, and startups.

INS Taragiri

Why in News?

- INS Taragiri has been commissioned into the Indian Navy. It is a Nilgiri-class warship.



Key Points:

- It is the fourth of the seven multi-mission stealth guided-missile frigates built under Project 17 Alpha.

INS Taragiri:

- Propulsion:** Combined Diesel and Gas (CODOG) propulsion plant.
- It is designed for 'high-speed, high-endurance' multi-purpose and multi-dimensional maritime operations.
- Capabilities:** Multi-role combat (supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, and a specialized anti-submarine warfare suite).
- Indigenization:** Approximately 75% indigenous; built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.