

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 14 May 2026



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### 'Rajasthani Language Made Compulsory' in All Schools Across the State



#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court directed the Government of Rajasthan to formulate a comprehensive and time-bound policy to introduce the Rajasthani language as a compulsory subject in all government and private schools across the state.



#### Key Points:

- Timeline:** A bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta directed the Government of Rajasthan to submit a detailed compliance report regarding the action taken on this order by September 30, 2026.

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- The Court rejected the State Government's argument that only those languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution could be taught in schools.
- This directive by the Supreme Court aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020 and Article 350A of the Constitution (the right to receive education in one's mother tongue).

## Other Important Points:

- **Unanimous Resolution Passed by the Legislative Assembly:** On August 25, 2003, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking the inclusion of the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, and subsequently forwarded it to the Central Government.
- **Recommendations of the Mahapatra Committee:** A committee constituted by the Central Government headed by linguist S. Mahapatra observed in its report that the Rajasthani language is extremely rich and declared it fully eligible for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

## Facts for Prelims:

Award			Recipient	Work
Rajasthani Language Akademi Award – 2024	Sahitya	Mukut Maniraj	Gaon Ar Amma	
Rajasthani Language Akademi Award – 2025	Sahitya	Jitendra Kumar Soni	Bharkhama (Short Stories)	

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## New Projects Approved in 5 Districts Under the 'One District One Product' Policy

### Why in News?

- Recently, the State-Level Committee for the 'Panch Gaurav' program chaired by the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan approved 5 new projects to be established across five districts at a total cost of ₹18.19 crore.

**ODOP** #OneDistrictOneProduct **RISING RAJASTHAN**  
REPLETE • RESPONSIBLE • READY

## RAJASTHAN'S One District One Product (ODOP) Policy

transforms each district into a hub for its unique products and crafts,  
offering valuable benefits for investors and entrepreneurs

- Enjoy several fiscal incentives and credit support for new ODOP MSMEs
- Receive skill-based training tailored for ODOP products
- Access innovation, technology upgrades, digitization, and product design support
- Boost sales through strategic marketing and branding
- Benefit from best-in-class infrastructure through a cluster-based approach
- Receive support to expand exports and increase the number of exporters

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## Key Points:

- Common Facility Centers, testing laboratories, and storage facilities will be developed in the 5 selected districts: Dausa, Churu, Didwana-Kuchaman, Phalodi, and Balotra.

## Detailed Information on District-wise Projects:

District	Project
Balotra	Establishment of a “Textile Digital Printing Common Facility Center” at a cost of ₹5 crore for design and related work using modern technology in textile products.
Churu	Establishment of a “Common BIS Testing Lab and Seasoning Facility” at a cost of ₹2.5 crore for testing and seasoning of wood-related products. This will improve the quality of handicraft products and help create products suitable for international markets.
Dausa	Establishment of a “Technology Facilitation Center” at a cost of ₹3.30 crore to improve the quality of stone-based products. This will enhance modern cutting, designing, and finishing of stone products.
Didwana-Kuchaman	Establishment of a “CNC Machine Technology Center” for stone processing at a cost of ₹5.05 crore.
Phalodi	Establishment of a “Common Climate-Controlled Warehousing Facility” for senna (Sonamukhi) at a cost of ₹2.35 crore. This will help preserve senna for a longer period without spoilage.

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## Facts for Prelims:

### ‘One District One Product’ Policy – 2024

- The ‘One District One Product Policy – 2024’ has been launched to promote the state's unique products, identifying one specific product in each of the 41 districts.
- **Nodal Department:** Department of Industries and Commerce (Government of Rajasthan)
- **Policy Launch:** December 2024
- **Validity:** Valid until March 31, 2029.
- Under this policy, the State Government provides various types of incentives to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

### Incentives:

S. No.	Incentive	Financial Assistance
1	Margin Money Assistance	Up to ₹20 lakh
2	Advanced Technology and Software	Up to ₹5 lakh
3	Quality Certification and IPR	Up to ₹3 lakh
4	Participation in Marketing Events	Up to ₹2 lakh
5	E-commerce Website Development	Up to ₹75 thousand

## RIICO's Direct Allotment Scheme

### Why in News?

- Recently, RIICO issued a notification regarding the availability of industrial plots ranging from 1,500 square meters to 36,000 square meters at the Rupawali Textile Park in Bhilwara, under its 'Direct Allotment Scheme'.



### Key Points:

- This facility is available exclusively to investors who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government within the framework of the 'Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024'.
- Industries related to Textile Parks, Cotton and Natural Fibers, Man-made Fibers, Garments and Ready-made Apparel, Technical Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts, Wool Processing, and Textile Accessories may be established on the industrial plots allotted by RIICO.

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## Other Important Points:

- **Rupawali Textile Park:** The Rupawali Textile Park has been established in the Hurda Tehsil of Bhilwara district.
- All necessary infrastructure facilities will be provided to spinning, weaving, processing, and ready-made garment units located within this park.
- **Scale:** Developed across an area of approximately 209 hectares, the park features a total of 275 planned industrial plots, ranging in size from 500 square meters to 125,000 square meters.
- Textile units falling under the purview of the 'Rajasthan Textile and Apparel Policy-2025' can invest here to establish their enterprises.
- The objective of this ambitious initiative by the Government of Rajasthan is to transform the state into the country's leading textile manufacturing and export hub.

## Facts for Prelims:

### RIICO's Direct Allotment Scheme

- **Scheme Implementation Date:** March 14, 2025
- **Scheme Validity Period:** Up to December 31, 2026.
- **Objective:** To directly provide industrial land to investors who have executed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the State Government under the 'Rising Rajasthan – Global Investment Summit'.
- **Eligibility:** Investors who have executed an MoU by the deadline for depositing the earnest money under the Direct Allotment Scheme are eligible to participate in this scheme. Only one land plot may be allotted against a single MoU.

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## Rajasthan's Standing in the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the fourth phase of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY) from the Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh.



### Key Points:

- During this event, states that demonstrated outstanding performance under the PMGSY over the past 25 years were felicitated across various categories.
- In the category for completing the maximum road length: Rajasthan (75,868 km) received the second prize.
- In the category for outstanding performance in the quality control mechanism: Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu jointly received the second prize.

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- Notably, under the PMGSY scheme in Rajasthan, 18,131 road works covering a total length of 75,868 kilometers have been completed, resulting in the development of an extensive road network across the rural areas of the state.

## Rajasthan in the Fourth Phase of PMGSY:

- In the fourth phase, Rajasthan's desert and remote villages received approval for 1,216 roads out of the 4,795 roads sanctioned nationwide so far; in terms of numbers, this is the highest among all states.
- Under the fourth phase of the scheme, the Central Government has allocated a total outlay of ₹70,125 crore, with a target to construct 62,500 kilometers of roads across the country during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- In this phase, based on the population norms of 2011, all-weather road connectivity will be provided to rural habitations that have hitherto remained unconnected.
- A special focus has been placed on specific categories of areas: tribal (Fifth Schedule) areas, Aspirational Districts and Blocks, and desert regions.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- **Launch Date:** December 25, 2000
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Main Objective:** To connect eligible and unconnected habitations located in rural areas with all-weather paved roads.

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## Phases of the Scheme:

Phase	Launch Year / Duration	Main Focus Area
PMGSY-I	2000	Providing single all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.
PMGSY-II	2013	Upgradation of existing 50,000 km rural roads to improve rural connectivity.
PMGSY-III	2019 – up to March 2028	Strengthening routes connecting Rural Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools, and hospitals. This phase has recently been approved for continuation until March 2028.
PMGSY-IV	2024–25 to 2028–29	Under this latest phase announced in the Union Budget, 62,500 km of new roads are being constructed with an outlay of ₹70,125 crore to connect 25,000 habitations.

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## 17th Meeting of the Rajasthan State Broadband Committee

### Why in News?

- The 17th meeting of the Rajasthan State Broadband Committee was held in Jaipur on May 13, 2026, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.

**राज्य ब्रॉडबैंड समिति की 17वीं बैठक**

- मुख्य सचिव ने प्रदेश के सभी गाँवों में ब्रॉडबैंड कवरेज सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निर्देश
- राज्य में डिजिटल कनेक्टिविटी विस्तार को मिलेगी नई गति, समयबद्ध क्रियान्वयन के लिए निर्देश

### Key Points:

- The primary objective of this high-level meeting is to strengthen the telecommunications infrastructure within the state and to expand digital connectivity.

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- A robust telecommunications network serves as a crucial foundation for realizing the vision of 'Viksit Rajasthan@2047' (Developed Rajasthan by 2047).
- To facilitate the effective implementation of the Telecommunications Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2024, there is a provision to provide an incentive amount of up to ₹150 crore to Rajasthan during the financial year 2026-27, under the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States' by the Ministry of Finance.
- The new online State RoW (Right of Way) portal system, developed by the State Government, has been integrated with the central portal; this integration will ensure greater transparency in the approval process.

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Appointment of New Vice-Chancellors at Two State Universities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, Rajasthan Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Bagde issued orders appointing Prof. Kailash Daga as the Vice-Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, and Prof. Madan Singh Rathore as the Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, Bharatpur.</li><li>These appointments to the post of Vice-Chancellor have been made for a tenure of three years from the date of assuming charge, or until the incumbent attains the age of 70 years whichever occurs earlier.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Vandana Sharma Selected for International Kurash Competition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vandana Sharma, a resident of Sri Ganganagar, will represent the Indian team at the 15th Asian Kurash Championship – 2026.</li><li>The 15th Asian Senior Kurash Championship is scheduled to be held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, from June 11 to June 15, 2026.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Rishabh Daga: Rajasthan's Youngest Ironman</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rishabh Daga, an 18-year-old from Jaipur, has become Rajasthan's youngest Ironman after successfully completing the full 'Ironman Vietnam' competition held in Da Nang, Vietnam.</li><li>He completed the event comprising a 3.8 km swim, a 180 km cycling leg, and a 42.2 km marathon in a total time of 13 hours and 46 minutes.</li></ul>

## Economic Developments

### Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Tolling System

#### Why in News?

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways launched the MLFF tolling system on a section of the Urban Extension Road-II in the National Capital Region.



#### Key Points:

##### MLFF Tolling

- This system integrates Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology with FASTag-based electronic toll collection, enabling the automated collection of toll charges with minimal human intervention.
- **Implementation:** By the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

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## Key Labour Force Indicators

### Why in News?

- According to estimates from the Quarterly Bulletin (January–March 2026) of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), a decline in the Unemployment Rate (UR) has been recorded in urban areas, while an increase has been observed among regular wage/salaried employees in rural areas.

## PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY



### Key Points:

- An increase in rural employment has been recorded in both the secondary and tertiary sectors.

### Key Labour Force Indicators

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): 55.5%.**
- LFPR represents the percentage of individuals in the population who are part of the labour force (i.e., those working, seeking work, or available for work).
- **Worker-Population Ratio (WPR): 52.8%.**
- WPR represents the percentage of employed individuals within the population.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR): Stood at 6.6% in urban areas.**
- The Unemployment Rate represents the percentage of unemployed individuals among those included in the labour force.

## Mule Accounts

### Why in News?

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to curb mule accounts.

# Mule Accounts



### Key Points:

#### Mule Account

- Mule accounts are bank accounts used by cybercriminals to illegally transfer funds obtained through cyber fraud or for money laundering.
- These accounts are often opened using fake identities or by exploiting unsuspecting individuals.
- They are utilized to conceal the true beneficiary and to create multiple layers of obfuscation in digital financial fraud.
- An AI-based system, MuleHunter.AI, was launched by the RBI in 2024 to detect and prevent mule accounts.

## Rural Development in India

### Why in News?

- The Government of India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have launched a new eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for the period 2026–2033.

### Key Points:

- **Objective:** To strengthen rural incomes, enhance resilience, and expand sustainable livelihood opportunities across India.
  - It focuses on two key priorities: enhancing the social, economic, and climate resilience of rural communities; and strengthening knowledge systems to scale up successful development models within India and in other countries of the Global South.
  - **Key Objective:** To strengthen grassroots institutions, including Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and cooperatives.
- ### International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- IFAD was established in 1977, following the 1974 World Food Conference.
  - It was created in response to global concerns regarding food crises and rural poverty, particularly in developing countries.
  - **Headquarters:** Rome
  - India is a founding member of IFAD.

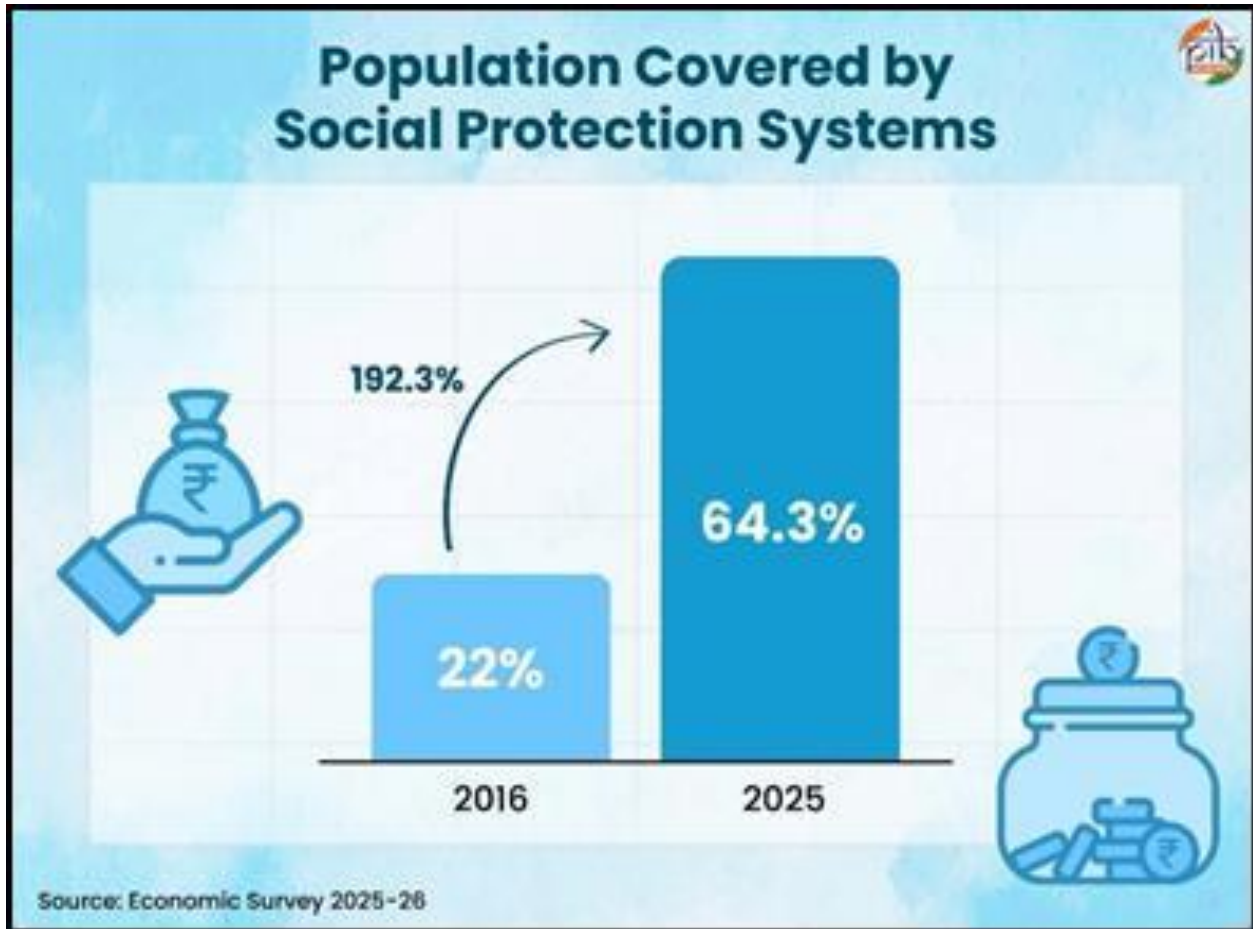
### Rural Development in India

- There is a gradual shift away from a purely government-led model of development towards more community-driven, decentralized approaches.
- Local governments and grassroots institutions are increasingly being recognized as playing a pivotal role in planning, implementing, and monitoring development initiatives.

### Key Developments:

- Budgetary allocation for rural development has increased by over 211%, rising from ₹87,765 crore in 2016–17 to ₹2.73 lakh crore in 2026–27.
- There has been a significant reduction in poverty; extreme poverty stands at 5.3% (2022–23)—which is lower than the global average—and multidimensional poverty has declined to 11.28%.

- Connectivity in rural areas has become nearly universal, and the budgetary allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has increased by 51% since 2017.



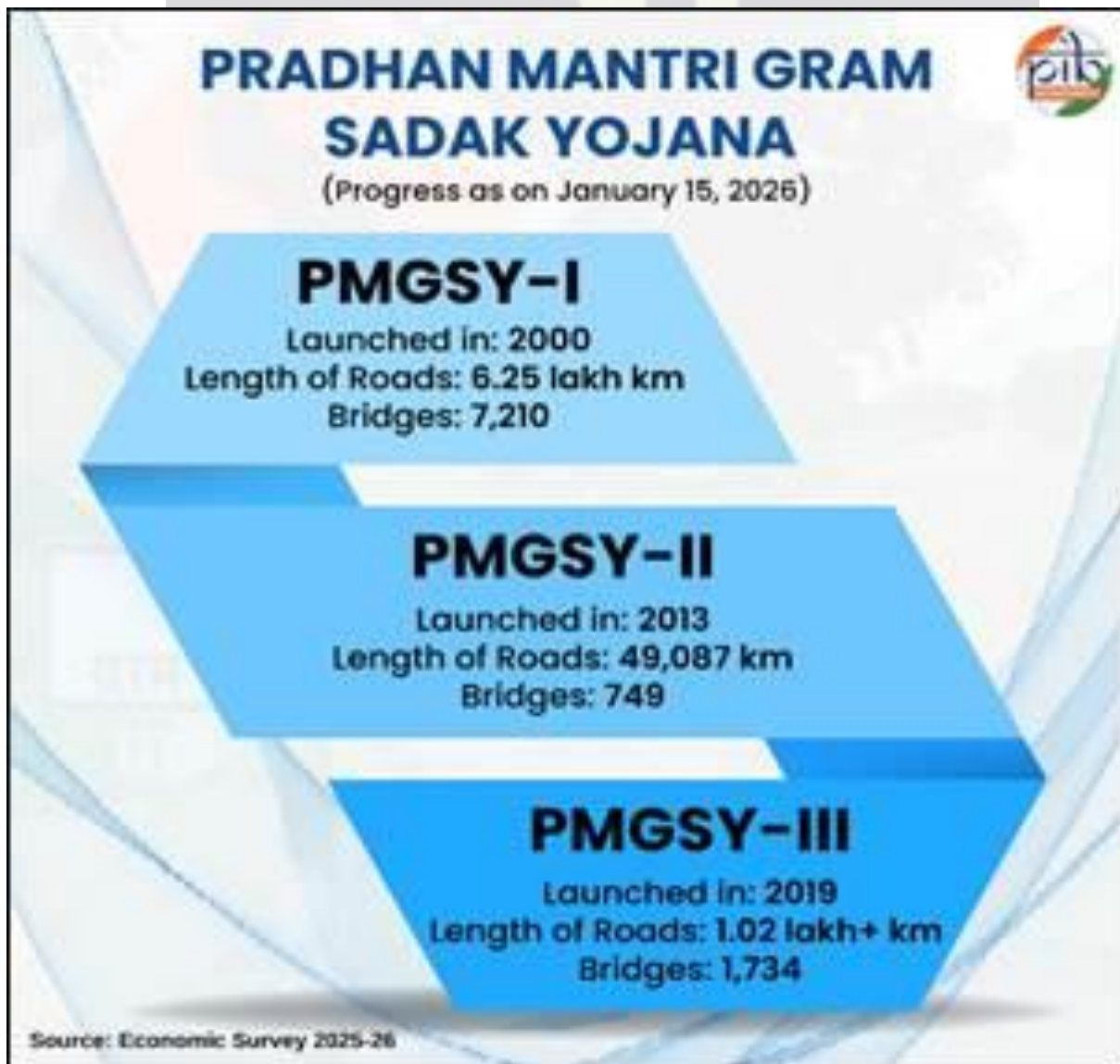
## National Panchayati Raj Day

- National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually on April 24th in India to commemorate the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system, marking the day the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, came into force.
- It promotes the importance of democracy at the grassroots level, strengthens local governance, and helps empower rural communities.

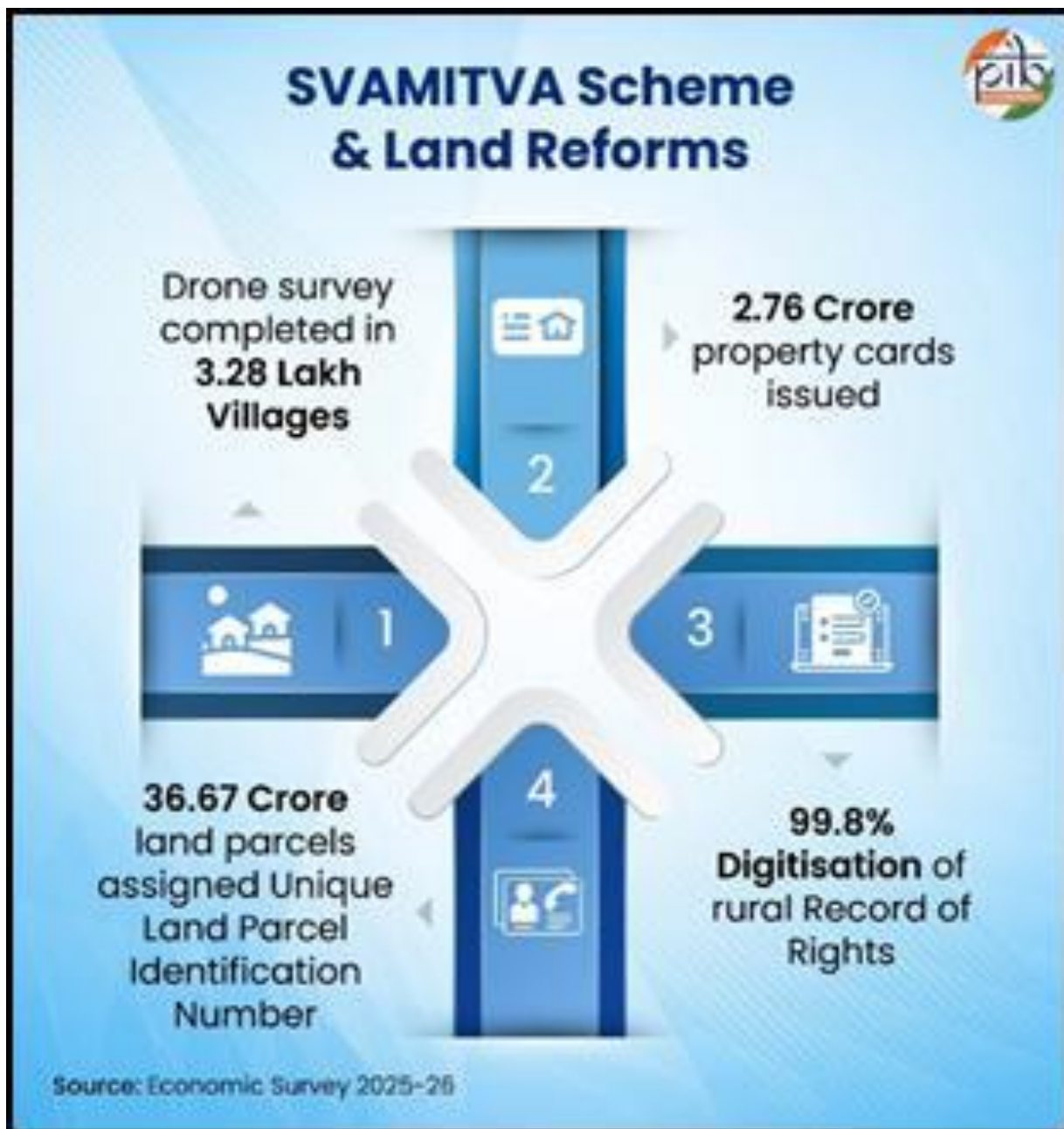
## Government Initiatives

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin):** Launched in 2014, this initiative aimed to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status across the entire country by October 2019; by 2019–20, all districts had been declared ODF.
- As of December 31, 2025, more than 96 percent of the villages covered under the Swachh Bharat Mission have achieved Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus) status.

- An ODF Plus village is defined as a village that sustains its ODF status, ensures solid and liquid waste management, and remains visually clean.
- **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA):** Launched in 2017, this scheme aimed to achieve universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to all willing un-electrified households in rural areas, as well as to all willing poor families in urban areas.
- The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin aims to achieve the goal of "Housing for All" by 2029 by providing \*pucca\* (permanent) houses equipped with basic amenities to eligible rural households.
- Launched in the year 2000, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana aimed to provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible and unconnected habitations.



- **Digitalization and Technology-based Service Delivery in Rural Areas:** Digitalization has emerged as a crucial instrument for inclusive and efficient service delivery in rural India.



- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):** Launched in 2010 by restructuring the erstwhile Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), this initiative was renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in 2016.



- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana:** This is a demand-driven skill training program linked to assured placement; quality and industry relevance are ensured through mandatory third-party certification conducted by the Sector Skill Councils under the National Skill Development Corporation.
- **Pathways to Entrepreneurship for Women in Rural India:** Aligning skill development initiatives with emerging sectors—such as manufacturing, renewable energy, digital services, and agro-processing—expands economic opportunities for women.
- Complementary measures, including 'Back to Work' and 'Returnship Programs,' facilitate re-entry into the workforce.

## 🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

### CBI Director Selection Committee

#### 📢 Why in News?

- The Leader of the Opposition has registered his dissent regarding the selection of the next CBI Director.



#### 📌 Key Points:

##### CBI Director Selection Committee

- According to Section 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DPSE) Act, 1946, the CBI Director shall be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a 3-member committee. This committee comprises:
  - o The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
  - o The Chief Justice of India (or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by him/her)
  - o The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (or the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha).
- **Tenure:** 2 years, which may be extended by up to 3 more years (one year at a time).

## Sociology

### National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

#### Why in News?

- A recent study has found that the central old-age pension assistance amount of ₹200–500 under the NSAP has significantly eroded over time due to inflation.



#### Key Points:

- The study recommends a National Minimum Pension (NMP), modeled on the National Floor Level Minimum Wage prescribed by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.

#### National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), 1995

- Under this programme, social assistance is provided to the elderly, widows, persons with disabilities, and bereaved families living below the poverty line.
- It promotes the social security, dignity, and financial inclusion of vulnerable groups.

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- Administered by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

- It is based on Article 41 under the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs).

## Key Schemes Included in the Programme:

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- Annapurna Scheme
- This programme is being implemented in both rural and urban areas in collaboration with the States/Union Territories.

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## Schemes and Policies

### Viksit Bharat – Guarantee Mission for Employment and Livelihoods (Rural) [VB–G RAM G] Act, 2025

#### Why in News?

- This Act shall come into force on July 1, 2026, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, shall be deemed repealed.

## VIKSIT BHARAT-GUARANTEEE FOR ROZGAR AND AJEEVIKA MISSION (GRAMIN) (VB-G RAM G) BILL, 2025



#### Key Points:

- To ensure a smooth transition from MGNREGA to the ‘Viksit Bharat – G RAM G’ scheme, existing e-KYC verified MGNREGA Job Cards shall remain valid until Rural Employment Guarantee Cards are issued.

#### Key Provisions of the Viksit Bharat – G RAM G Act

- **Aligned with the Vision of Viksit Bharat @2047:** This Act emphasizes integrated rural development and sustainable asset creation.

- **Thematic Public Works:** Priority has been accorded to four key areas: water security, creation of core rural infrastructure, creation of livelihood-related assets, and mitigation of risks associated with extreme weather events.
- **Technology-based Governance:** This includes the use of facial recognition for attendance at worksites, GIS for worksite monitoring, AI-based analytics, real-time dashboards, and the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for direct wage payments to bank accounts.
- **Participatory Planning:** The implementation of this Act will be based on "Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans" formulated at the grassroots level. These plans will be integrated into the Viksit Bharat – National Rural Infrastructure Stack.

## Key Statutory Provisions

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** Responsibilities will be shared between the Central Government and the State Governments.
- **Increase in Guaranteed Workdays:** A statutory provision has been made to provide 125 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment per year to every rural household.
- **Prompt Payment and Penalties:** Wages shall be paid weekly or within 15 days of the closure of the muster roll. In the event of a delay in payment, compensation shall be payable at the rate of 0.05% of the outstanding wages per day.
- **Unemployment Allowance:** If employment is not provided within 15 days of seeking work, it is mandatory to provide an unemployment allowance equivalent to one-fourth of the notified wage for the first 30 days, and half of the wage thereafter.

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- **Alignment with Agricultural Seasons:** To ensure an adequate supply of labor for agricultural activities, States have been empowered to issue notifications suspending work for up to 60 days during the peak sowing and harvesting seasons.

Feature	MGNREGA	Developed India – Gee Ram Gi Act
Employment Guarantee	100 days	125 days
Main Objective	Wage-based employment	Employment + livelihood + asset creation + climate adaptation
Balance with Agricultural Season	No clear provision	Permission to suspend work during peak agricultural season
Responsibility for Funding	Central government bore the cost of unskilled wages, while state governments bore the cost of unemployment allowance	States' participation in wage payment: 90:10 ratio for northeastern and Himalayan states; 60:40 ratio for other states/UTs with legislature; 100% funding by central government for UTs without legislature

## Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)

### Why in News?

- The Central Government has granted a temporary extension to two major schemes—Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN—until September 30, 2026.

### Key Points:

#### Samagra Shiksha

- **Objective:** An integrated scheme for school education covering the entire spectrum from pre-school to Class 12.
- It subsumes the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and the Scheme for Teacher Education.
- It was launched in the year 2018.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Union Ministry of Education.

#### PM POSHAN (Formerly the Mid-Day Meal Scheme)

- **Scheme Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Union Ministry of Education.
- **Objective:** To provide hot cooked meals to all children studying in pre-primary classes and Classes 1 through 8 in government and government-aided schools.





### Five Key Principles Guiding India's Diplomatic Relations



#### Why in News?

- Amidst a shifting global order characterized by geopolitical competition, regional conflicts, and economic restructuring, India's diplomacy should be guided by five key strategic principles.



#### Key Points:

##### Five Key Principles of India's Diplomatic Relations:

- Reciprocity:** India's foreign policy should be grounded in mutual cooperation and trust with its strategic partners.
- Example:** Despite the ongoing US-Iran conflict, India's Prime Minister is visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Notably, the UAE has consistently supported India on issues such as Kashmir and counter-terrorism.
- Diversification:** India should move beyond traditional partnerships to expand its diplomatic and economic ties, aiming to reduce over-reliance on specific nations for strategic matters or products, and to secure new opportunities.
- Example:** Enhancing cooperation with Europe in sectors such as trade and cutting-edge technology.
- Strategic Flexibility:** Amidst shifting global power equations and evolving geopolitical alliances, India should adopt a pragmatic and interest-based approach.
- Example:** India maintains significant participation in both the BRICS and Quad forums.

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- **Expanding Strategic Interest Zones:** India should strengthen its ties with emerging regions of economic and geopolitical significance to ensure access to markets, resources, and connectivity.
- **Example:** The growing India-Africa cooperation in sectors such as trade, critical minerals, and development partnerships.
- **Domestic Reforms:** Effective diplomacy necessitates a robust domestic economy, technological prowess, and institutional reforms to better navigate global uncertainties.
- **Example:** Special emphasis should be placed on achieving self-reliance in the manufacturing, innovation, and technology sectors.

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## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### Global Forest Goals (GFG) Report 2026

#### Why in News?

- The Global Forest Goals Report 2026, has been released. This report was prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

#### BACKGROUND

Global forests cover **32%** of the world's total land area.

Forests are spread over **4.14 billion** hectares, which is approximately **0.50** hectares per person.



**29%** Primary Forests



**8%** Planted Forests

#### Global Forest Distribution in Four Major Climate Zones



#### 54% of the Global Forest Area is Located in Only 5 Countries



Russia



Brazil



Canada



United States of America



China



## Key Points:

- This report assesses the progress made towards the six Global Forest Goals (GFGs) set for 2030, as well as the associated targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–2030). This strategic plan was launched during the 21st session of the UNFF.

### UNFF:

- Established in 2000, the UNFF is an intergovernmental body. It comprises all member states of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies.
- Its objective is to promote the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.

### Key Highlights of the Report

- **Decline in Forest Area:** Between 2015 and 2025, a decline of more than 40 million hectares was recorded in the global forest area.
- **Major Factors Behind the Decline in Forest Area:** The expansion of the agricultural sector, along with the growing demand for fuelwood and charcoal, are the primary causes.
- **Obstacles to Sustainable Forest Management:** Shortcomings in forest governance, ambiguities regarding land tenure, illegal trade, and limited institutional capacity constitute the major obstacles.
- **Increase in Forest Land Degradation:** An increase in forest land degradation is being observed due to climatic factors such as droughts, wildfires, heatwaves, pest infestations, and plant diseases.
- **Lack of Financing for Forest Conservation:** Although financial assistance reached a record high of US\$ 84 billion in 2023, it remains significantly short of the estimated US\$ 300 billion required annually through 2030.