

# Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 02 July 2026



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## RAJASTHAN



### Status of Start-ups and Innovation in Rajasthan



#### Why in News?

- Rajasthan is among the leading states in the country in the field of start-ups and innovation; the number of start-ups in the state has risen from 4,000 to over 8,500 in the last two years. (Source: Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan)



#### Key Points:

- **Investment and Employment:** Investment in start-ups within the state has increased from ₹250 crore to ₹1,000 crore, while the figure for job creation has risen from 22,000 to over 47,000.
- **Incubation Centers and Launchpads:** The state government has established 9 incubation centers and 65 launchpads to foster a culture of innovation across the state.
- With the aim of strengthening digital infrastructure at rural and school levels, 65 'iStart Launchpad Nests' have been established, connecting over 1.25 lakh students to innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### Major Policies and Missions:

- **Rajasthan AI-ML Policy - 2026:** This policy lays the groundwork for extensive initiatives across various sectors including administration, education, health, agriculture, and industry through the use of AI.
- **Rajasthan AVGC-XR Policy:** The Rajasthan government has launched the 'Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) Policy – 2024' to make the state competitive in the information technology sector.
- **Rajasthan AI and Quantum Computing Mission:** It is aimed at the effective implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in education, administration, health, agriculture, and industries.

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- **‘Advanced Quantum’ and ‘Artificial Intelligence’ Laboratories:** These will be established at the ‘Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur’ by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **iStart Rajasthan:** This is a flagship startup and innovation program of the Government of Rajasthan. It is operated by the Department of Information Technology and Communication (DoIT&C). Its primary objective is to inspire the youth of the state towards entrepreneurship and to provide financial assistance and guidance to new startups.
- **Rajasthan Startup Fund:** The state government has established a ₹100 crore ‘Rajasthan Startup Fund’ (Fund of Funds) for local entrepreneurs and innovative businesses.

## Practice Questions for the Preliminary Examination:

**Q1. Which department operates the ‘iStart Rajasthan’ program?**

- (A) Department of Industries and Commerce
- (B) Department of Higher Education
- (C) Department of Information Technology and Communication
- (D) Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship

**Q2. Which of the following statements regarding ‘Startups and Innovation in Rajasthan’ is incorrect?**

- (A) 9 incubation centers and 65 launchpads have been established to promote a culture of innovation in the state.
- (B) “Facilities” will be established at the ‘Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur’ by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- (C) The state government has established a ₹50 crore ‘Rajasthan Startup Fund’ (Fund of Funds) for local entrepreneurs and innovative businesses.
- (D) iStart Rajasthan is operated by the Department of Information Technology and Communication (DoIT&C).

## Rajasthan's First 'AI-Ready' Data Center: Jaipur



### Why in News?

- Recently, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (STT GDC) India established Rajasthan's first AI-ready data center in Jaipur.



### Key Points:

- **Name of the center:** STT Jaipur-1
- Notably, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (STT GDC) India is the country's largest data center colocation service provider.
- The newly established advanced and enterprise-grade data center is specifically designed to meet the requirements of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and High-Performance Computing (HPC).
- Investment proposals worth over ₹43,000 crore have been received for the data center sector (establishment, operation, and maintenance) in Rajasthan by June 2026.

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## Facts for Prelims:

### Rajasthan AI-ML Policy – 2026:

- **Launch:** By the Chief Minister on January 6, 2026, during the ‘Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference – 2026’ in Jaipur.
- **Full form:** Rajasthan Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI-ML) Policy - 2026
- **Announcement:** This policy was announced in the Rajasthan Budget 2025-26.
- **Approval:** Approved by the Rajasthan Cabinet on December 30, 2025.
- **Objective:** To make public service delivery faster, transparent, and citizen-centric through the responsible, ethical, and safe use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning; to enhance administrative efficiency; and to foster innovation-led economic growth.
- Additionally, developing Rajasthan as a hub for Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) is among the primary objectives of this policy.
- This policy will ensure the expansion of e-governance, keeping in view the growing importance of information technology in service delivery.
- **Provisions:** Under this policy, special emphasis is placed on making AI systems transparent, accountable, fair, and privacy-preserving, while also mitigating bias within AI systems, ensuring data security, and clarifying decision-making processes.
- The policy also provides for clear procedures regarding the reporting and resolution of AI-related cybercrimes.
- The policy includes provisions to promote AI education in schools, ITIs, polytechnic institutes, and colleges.

- **Note:** The policy provides for the establishment of an 'Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence'.
- Under the policy, each department will identify potential AI applications within its respective domain, and an AI Nodal Officer will be appointed.

## Practice Questions for the Preliminary Examination

**Q1. Where has Rajasthan's first AI-Ready data center recently been established?**

- (A) Jodhpur
- (B) Udaipur
- (C) Jaipur
- (D) Kota

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Rajasthan AI-ML Policy–2026:**

1. This policy was launched by the Chief Minister in Jaipur on January 06, 2026.
2. This policy was announced in the Rajasthan Budget 2025-26.
3. This policy was approved by the Rajasthan Cabinet on December 30, 2025.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2 and 3
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) All of the above

## 5th Edition of 'Lokmanthan' to be Held in Rajasthan



### Why in News?

- Recently, the curtain-raiser event for 'Lokmanthan-2026' was held at the Constitution Club of Rajasthan in Jaipur.



### Key Points:

- On this occasion, the "Lokmanthan" website was launched, and the book 'Folk Se Pare Lok' authored by J. Nandakumar (Convener of the Pragya Pravah committee), was released.
- The fifth edition of 'Lokmanthan' will be organized in Jaipur in December 2026.
- **Theme for 2026:** 'Hum Bharat Ke Log'.
- The first edition of this platform dedicated to Indian knowledge traditions, folk culture, and national thought was held in Bhopal in 2016.

### Practice Question for Preliminary Examination

**Q1. Where and when will the fifth edition of 'Lokmanthan' be organized?**

- (A) Bhopal, December 2026
- (B) Jaipur, December 2026
- (C) Varanasi, November 2026
- (D) New Delhi, January 2027



## NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

| S. No. | News                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | <p><b>State-wide Special Helmet Awareness and Enforcement Campaign</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Duration:</b> July 2 to July 16, 2026.</li><li>■ <b>Organizer:</b> Rajasthan Police.</li><li>■ To effectively implement the 'State Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan' approved by the state government, a target has been set to reduce rising road accidents and the fatality rate in the state by 50 percent in a phased manner by the year 2030.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2.     | <p><b>"Prerna Pakhwada" Launched to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ "Prerna Pakhwada" is being organized from July 1 to July 14, 2026, to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee.</li><li>■ The main objective of this special fortnight, organized by the Government of Rajasthan, is to inspire the youth with Dr. Mukherjee's ideas, nationalism, and contributions to nation-building.</li><li>■ It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is organizing a two-year-long commemoration to acquaint the common Indian citizen with Dr. Mukherjee's ideals.</li></ul> |
| 3.     | <p><b>'Toy Bank', 'Praveshotsav', and Tree Plantation Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ To provide quality pre-school education to children in the 3–6 age group, the ICDS Directorate (under the Department of Women and Child Development) organized 'Toy Bank', 'Praveshotsav', and tree plantation programs at Anganwadi centers across the state on July 1, 2026.</li><li>■ It is noteworthy that 'Toy Banks' have been established at all Anganwadi centers in the state as part of this campaign.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                       |



4.

## **Jaipur ranks first nationwide in 'GST Registration and Audit'**

- The Office of the Commissioner of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Audit, Jaipur, secured the first position in the country in the Audit Performance Index (API) evaluation for the financial year 2025-26.
- This evaluation was based on audit activities conducted during the year 2021 and assessed audit quality, review standards, and overall performance.
- CGST Jaipur scored 83.66 out of 100 in the results released by the Directorate General of Audit under the Headquarters of Indirect Taxes and Customs, New Delhi.

5.

## **Lieutenant General Mohit Malhotra**

- Lieutenant General Mohit Malhotra (AVSM, SM) assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Indian Army's Jaipur-based South Western Command (Sapta Shakti Command) on July 1, 2026.
- He succeeded Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh.

## **Practice Questions for Preliminary Examination**

**Q1. "Prerna Pakhwada" is being organized to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of whom?**

- (A) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
- (B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (C) Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee
- (D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**Q2. Who assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the South Western Command on July 1, 2026?**

- (A) Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh
- (B) Lieutenant General Mohit Malhotra
- (C) Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi
- (D) Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta



### General Dheeraj Seth assumes the Office of Army Chief



#### Why in News?

- General Dheeraj Seth has formally assumed charge as the 31st Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army.



#### Key Points:

- He has succeeded General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired after more than 40 years of distinguished service.

#### General Dheeraj Seth

- General Dheeraj Seth (PVSM, UYSM, AVSM) is a highly distinguished four-star general of the Indian Army. Commissioned into the elite Armoured Corps (specifically the 2nd Lancers/Gardner's Horse) in December 1986, he has ascended to this top position with nearly four decades of rich military experience; he is the first officer from the Armoured Corps to lead the force since 1997.



#### MCQ

- Q. Who has recently assumed charge as the 31st Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army?
- A. General Manoj Pande
  - B. General Upendra Dwivedi
  - C. General Dheeraj Seth
  - D. General Anil Chauhan

## e-OCI Card



### Why in News?

- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation launched the FCRA 2.0 portal and the much-awaited e-OCI (Electronic Overseas Citizen of India) card in New Delhi.



### Key Points:

#### e-OCI Card

- The Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) card is a citizen-centric, paperless documentation framework designed for the global Indian diaspora community.
- It transforms the traditional, physical OCI stamp and booklet format into an institutional, securely verified digital credential.
- **Concerned Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
- **Objective:**
  - To eliminate physical paperwork, verification delays, and administrative costs for over 5 million OCI holders.
  - To directly integrate diaspora identity cards with real-time digital immigration security systems at all airports in India.

## Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)



### Why in News?

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that the nationwide implementation of the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is proceeding on schedule, and all investigations and trials under the BNS, BNSS, and BSS will be digitally recorded starting January 1, 2027.



### Key Points:

#### What is Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)?

- The Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) is an integrated national digital platform that unifies the core, traditionally siloed pillars of the criminal justice delivery network into a single, interactive ecosystem.
- It replaces traditional, paper-based workflows with a secure, cloud-based data framework hosted on the government's 'Meghraj' cloud infrastructure.
- **Nodal Agency:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- **Technology Partner:** Conceptualized and developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

### MCQ

Q. Which of the following objectives is expected to be achieved through the Interoperable Criminal Justice System?

1. Transparency in justice delivery
2. Rapid exchange of data
3. Assistance in the speedy disposal of cases
4. Coordination among various entities

Select the correct answer

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1, 3 and 4
- D. All of the above



## Schemes and Policies



### Kisan Sarathi Platform



#### Why in News?

- Kisan Sarathi is India's largest integrated digital agricultural advisory platform, launched in 2021.



#### Key Points:

##### Introduction

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Implemented by:** Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) and Digital India Corporation.
- This platform utilizes the Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS). IIDS facilitates two-way communication between farmers and experts. It also supports the transfer of agricultural knowledge from the laboratory to the field.

##### Features:

- Provides personalized agricultural advice based on the farmer's and their farm's profile.
- Facilitates direct interaction with subject-matter experts in 13 regional languages.
- Provides call and conferencing facilities tailored to farmers' needs.
- Provides access to a knowledge database for farmers.

#### MCQ

Q. Which ministries jointly launched the Kisan Sarathi platform?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Rural Development
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Agriculture
- D. NITI Aayog and Ministry of Agriculture

## SARAS Shakti



### Why in News?

- The Ministry of Rural Development launched the 'SARAS Shakti' collection and the 'SARAS Shakti' coffee table book during the National Rural Development Conference (NRDC) 2026.



### Key Points:

#### SARAS Shakti

- It is a major branding and marketing initiative under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

#### Objectives:

- To strengthen women-led rural enterprises through branding, product promotion, and extensive market linkages.
- To establish products from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in high-end institutional and consumer markets, while supporting the vision of 'Lakhpati Didis' and 'Viksit Bharat'.

### MCQ

Q. Consider the following statements regarding SARAS Shakti:

1. It is a branding and marketing initiative under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
2. Its objective is to encourage women-led rural enterprises.
3. It is operated by NITI Aayog.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1  
B. Only 1 and 2  
C. Only 2 and 3  
D. 1, 2 and 3

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Digital India



#### Why in News?

- The Digital India program completed 11 years on July 1, 2026.



#### Key Points:

##### India's Digital Leadership

- Over the past decade, Digital India has become the cornerstone of India's digital economy and digital public infrastructure.
- It has accelerated the pace of innovation, startup growth, and technology adoption across various sectors.
- India is now a global leader in real-time digital payments, accounting for approximately 49% of the world's real-time digital transactions conducted via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- The digital economy contributes approximately 12–14% to India's GDP and is expected to reach nearly one-fifth (20%) in the coming decade.
- During its G20 presidency in 2023, India launched 'India Stack Global' and a global digital public infrastructure repository, thereby expanding the global reach of Indian digital solutions.
- By February 2026, India had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 24 countries for cooperation in the fields of India Stack and digital public infrastructure systems. These collaborations cover areas such as digital identity, digital payments, and the delivery of public services.

##### Nine Pillars of Digital India

1. **Broadband Access:** Reliable broadband is essential for digital governance and inclusive economic growth.
2. **Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity:** By January 2026, approximately 2.15 lakh Gram Panchayats representing about 97% of all Gram Panchayats had been connected via an optical fiber cable network spanning nearly 7 lakh kilometers under the BharatNet-1 and BharatNet-2 initiatives.

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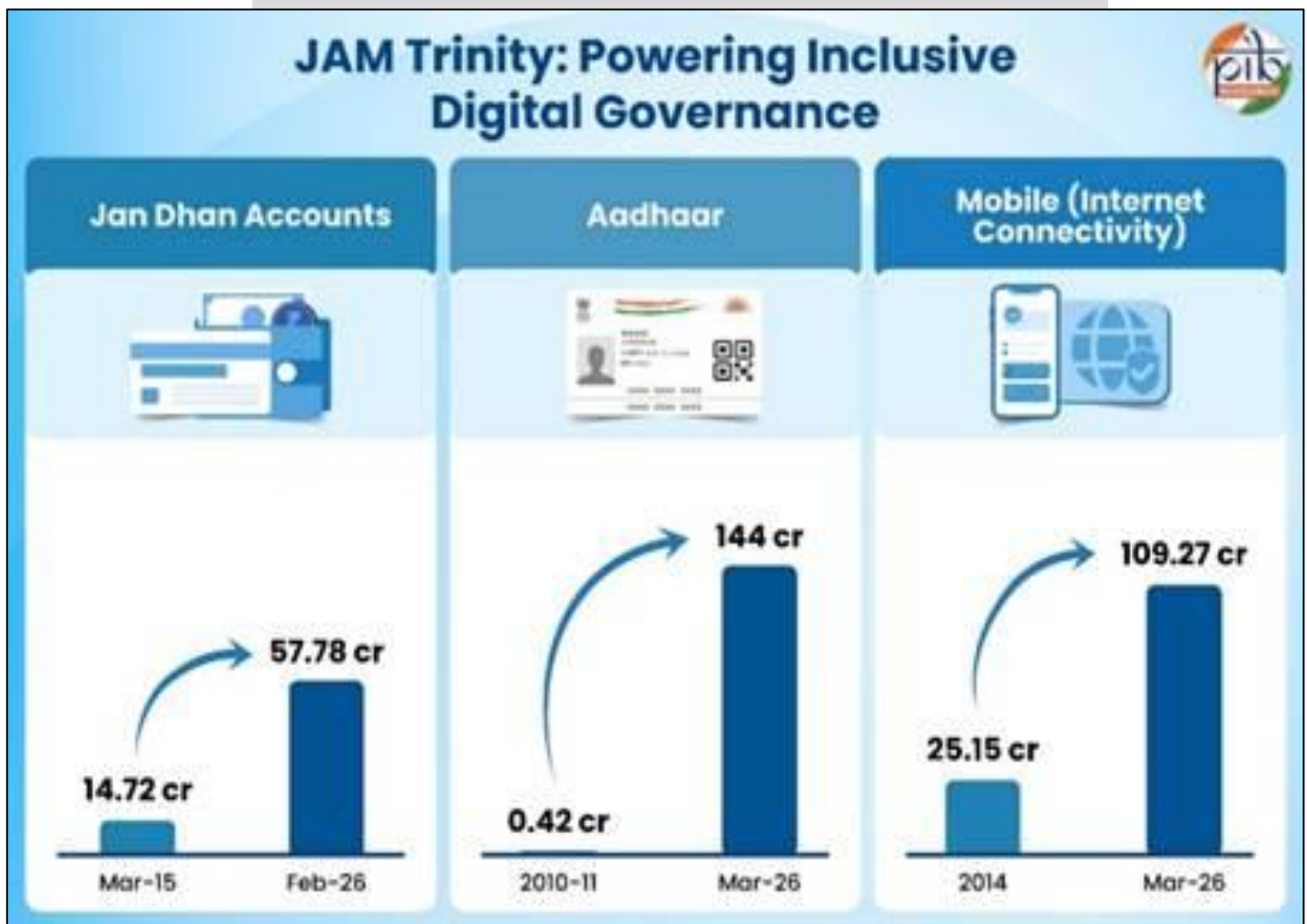


3. **Public Internet Access Program:** Accessible digital service centers provide citizens with access to digital services close to their homes.
  - **Example:** Currently, more than 6.5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) and 1.6 lakh post offices are providing digital services.
4. **E-Governance:** It promotes paperless, integrated, and citizen-centric administration.
  - Platforms like DigiLocker and National Single Sign-On provide seamless access to certificates, applications, payments, and public services, thereby reducing paperwork and enhancing the ease of living.
5. **e-Kranti:** As the service delivery pillar of Digital India, e-Kranti has accelerated the transition from physical to digital governance.
  - Integrated platforms such as e-Hospital, e-Sanjeevani, and e-Courts have simplified access to certificates, healthcare services, and judicial services.
6. **Information for All:** This pillar strengthens transparent and participatory governance by making government information easily accessible and encouraging citizen participation through digital platforms.
  - Initiatives like MyGov and Open Government Data provide citizens with easy access to government information.
7. **Electronics Manufacturing:** India's electronics production has grown from ₹1.9 lakh crore in the 2014–15 fiscal year to approximately ₹12 lakh crore by March 2026.
  - Today, India is the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer, reflecting its growing role in the global electronics value chain.
8. **Information Technology for Employment:** India's more than 2,100 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) employ approximately 2.6 million professionals in fields such as engineering, analytics, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.

9. **Early Harvest Programmes:** Quick-impact initiatives such as biometric attendance, secure government email, public Wi-Fi hotspots, e-books, SMS-based weather alerts, and digital communication platforms demonstrated the immediate benefits of technology-driven governance.

**Key initiatives driving an inclusive decade**

**JAM Trinity**



- DigiLocker
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

**Digital platforms strengthening public health:**

- **Online Registration System (ORS):** Enables patients to book appointments digitally.

- **e-Sanjeevani:** A telemedicine platform connecting patients remotely with doctors, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- **Tele-MANAS:** Provides free tele-consultation and mental health support across the country.

### Empowering commerce through technology:

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** It has transformed the public procurement system by making it more transparent, efficient, and paperless.
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC):** Developing an open and interoperable digital commerce ecosystem that connects buyers and sellers across various platforms.
- **AgriStack:** Empowering farmers through technology.

### Digital platforms enhancing access to education:

- **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing):** Curriculum-based digital learning content.
- **SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) and SWAYAM Prabha:** Expanding access to quality education beyond the classroom.

### Empowering India's digital workforce:

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)
- FutureSkills Prime
- Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)
- IndiaAI Mission

### RAS MAINS MODEL QUESTION:

- Q. Suppose you are the District Magistrate of an 'Aspirational District' where
- Internet connectivity is limited.
  - Digital literacy is low.
  - Most government services operate offline.
- Present an action plan to make digital governance effective in the district by leveraging the various pillars of the Digital India program.



## INDEXES AND REPORTS



### Report on Boosting Growth in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector



#### Why in News?

- Recently, The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, released a report titled "Boosting Growth in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector" at a national workshop held in New Delhi.



#### Key Points:

#### Report on Boosting Growth in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector

- This report assesses the regulatory hurdles affecting India's tourism sector. It recommends reforms in accommodation, hospitality, transport, and travel services to strengthen tourism and realize the goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

#### Key Data and Statistics Related to Tourism:

# Daily Current Affairs



Date : 02 July 2026



- **Surge in Domestic Demand:** India recorded 2.9 billion domestic tourist visits in 2024, surpassing the pre-pandemic peak of 2.3 billion in 2019.
- **Foreign Tourist Arrivals:** India welcomed 9.95 million foreign tourists in 2024, generating approximately US\$ 35 billion in tourism revenue.
- **Global Competitiveness Gap:** In the TTDI (Travel & Tourism Development Index), India ranks 6th in natural resources and 9th in cultural resources, yet stands at the 39th position overall.
- **Long Delays in Projects:** Hotel projects in India require approximately 60 approvals and take 36–48 months to complete.



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