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English



13 FEBRUARY

2025

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Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



Weekly Top 60: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English
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Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Quiz - English
START

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PIB News



February 29 2024 PIB News - English
Article



February 28 2024 PIB News - English
Article

AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

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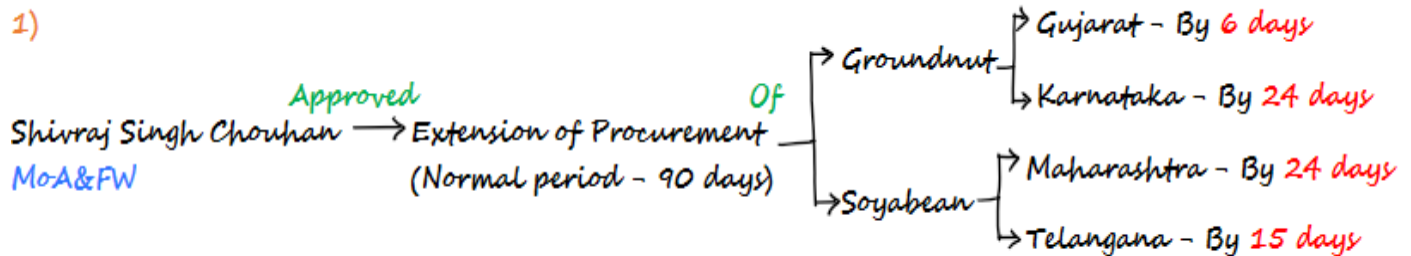
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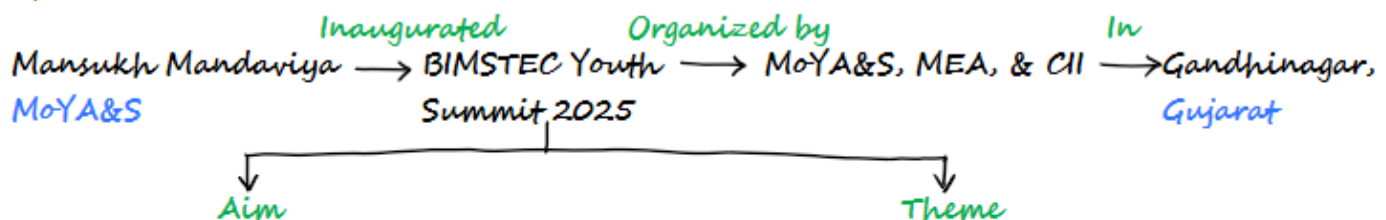
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)



MoA&FW - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

2)



To bring young leaders from the region together to discuss key challenges & opportunities

Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange

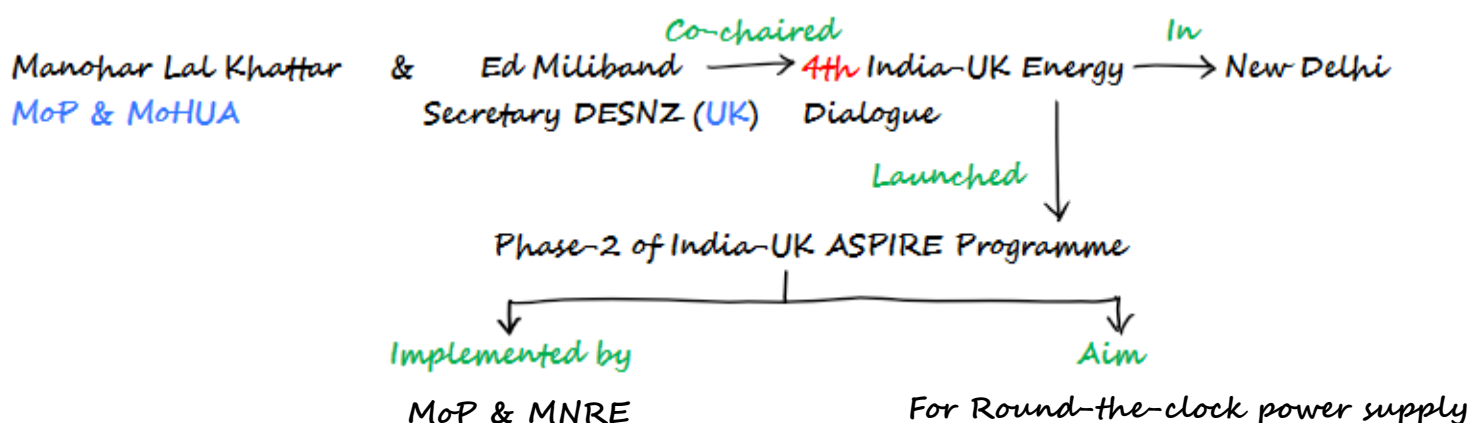
MoYA&S - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

MEA - Ministry of External Affairs

CII - Confederation of Indian Industry

3)



MoP - Ministry of Power

MoHUA - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

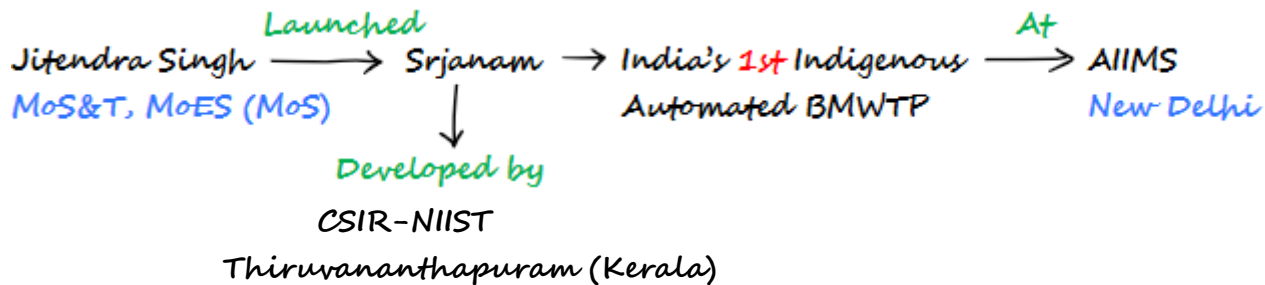
DESNZ - Department of Energy Security and Net Zero

UK - United Kingdom

ASPIRE - Accelerating Smart Power & Renewable Energy in India

MNRE - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

4)



MoS&T - Ministry of Science and Technology

MoES - Ministry of Earth Science

MoS - Minister of State

BMWTP - Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant

AIIMS - All India Institute of Medical Sciences

CSIR - Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

NIIST - National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology

5)



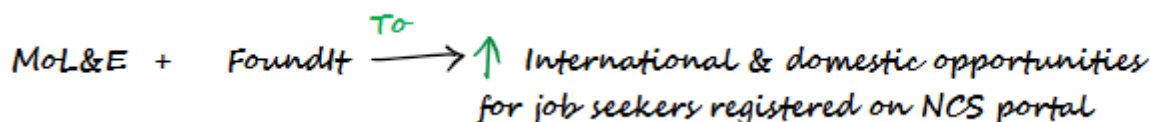
NAI - National Archives of India

NRAA - National Records and Archives Authority

EPC - Executive Programme of Cooperation

MoC - Ministry of Culture

6)



MoL&E - Ministry of Labour & Employment

NCS - National Career Service

7)

DPIIT + KoTI $\xrightarrow{\text{To}}$ \uparrow Cooperation in logistics & infrastructure development
MoC&I Korea

DPIIT - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

MoC&I - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

KoTI - Korea Transport Institute

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1)

IISU & IIT Madras $\xrightarrow{\text{Developed}}$ IRIS $\xrightarrow{\text{For}}$ Indigenous Semiconductor Chip \rightarrow Space Applications
 \downarrow
3rd SHAKTI-based microprocessor chip after RIMO & MOUSHIK

IISU - ISRO Inertial Systems Unit

ISRO - Indian Space Research Organisation

IIT - Indian Institute of Technology

IRIS - Indigenous RISC-V Controller for Space Applications

SPORTS

1)

4th Mumbai Open 2025 WTA 125 Event $\xrightarrow{\text{Sponsored by}}$ Larsen & Toubro $\xrightarrow{\text{Held}}$ Mumbai, Maharashtra
 \downarrow

Singles Title \rightarrow Jil Belén Teichmann (Switzerland) $\xrightarrow{\text{Defeated}}$ Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Thailand)
 \downarrow Prize money
USD 15,000 \downarrow Prize money
USD 8,400

Doubles Title \rightarrow Elena Ivanovna Pridankina & Amina Vladikovna Anshba (Russia) $\xrightarrow{\text{Defeated}}$ Prarthana Thombare (India) & Arianne Hartono (Dutch)

WTA - Women Tennis Association

2)

Frank Dimuth Madushanka Karunaratne → Sri Lanka Cricketer → Retirement
(Former Captain) Announced

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1)

Book : "I Am?" Compiled by Gopichand P. Hinduja
(Chairman of Hinduja Group)

Launched by Jagdeep Dhankhar
(Vice President of India)

Published by Hinduja Foundation

2)

Memoir : "I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder" Author → Geetika Lidder

Launched by Upendra Dwivedi
(Lieutenant General)

Published by Roli Books

IMPORTANT DAYS

1)

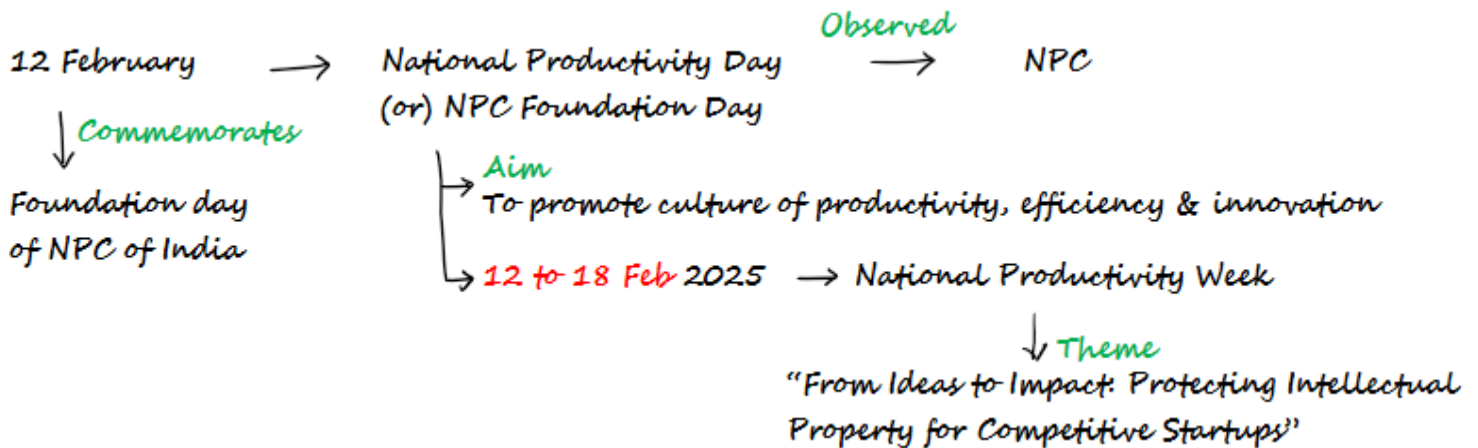
12 February → 3rd International Day for the PVE as Observed → United Nations
and When Conducive to Terrorism

Aim
To raise awareness about threats associated with violent extremism that can lead to terrorism

1st observed on 12 Feb 2023

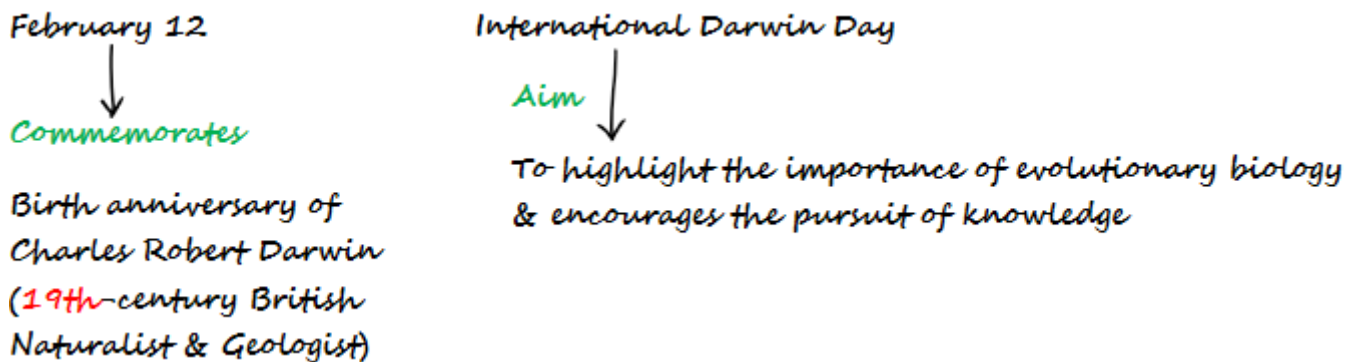
PVE - Prevention of Violent Extremism

2)



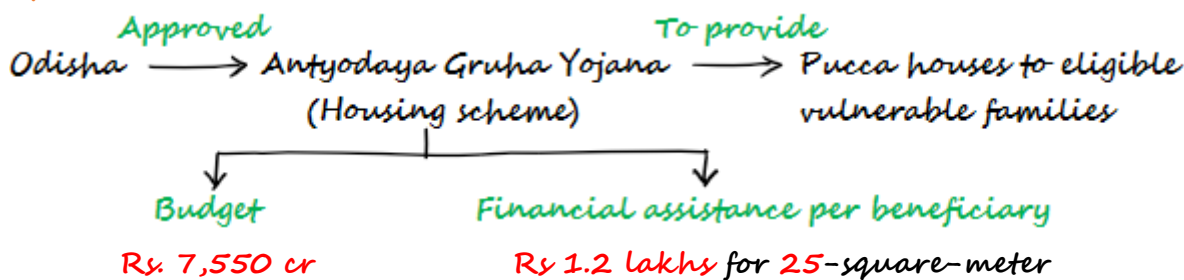
NPC - National Productivity Council

3)



STATE NEWS

1)



2)



MAITRI - Maharashtra Industry, Trade, and Investment Facilitation Cell

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Aim

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Less Important NEWS

- ▶ [Indian Railways partners with RKFL, TWL to reduce reliance on China](#)
- ▶ [Sebi revises norms for mutual fund and demat nominations, aimed at reducing unclaimed assets](#)
- ▶ [JSW MG Motor India partners with Kotak Mahindra Prime for EV Financing](#)
- ▶ [IDFC First launches academy to improve financial literacy](#)
- ▶ [Government forms crisis management group to tackle bank strikes and ensure continuity](#)

Detailed Content

Current Affairs 13 February 2025 : Headlines



AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PREVENTION OF **Violent Extremism** AS AND WHEN CONDUCTIVE TO TERRORISM
FEBRUARY 12 2025





Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first indigenous Automated Bio Medical Waste Treatment Plant at AIIMS New Delhi

CURRENT AFFAIRS

13 FEBRUARY 2025

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Approved Extension of Groundnut Procurement in Gujarat by 6 days and in Karnataka by 25 days
- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates First-Ever BIMSTEC Youth Summit in Gujarat
- Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Co-chaired 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue in New Delhi
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launched India's First Indigenous Automated BMWTP 'Srjanam' at AIIMS, New Delhi
- India & Oman Sign EPC to Enhance Archival Cooperation
- MoL&E Partners with FoundIt to Boost Job Opportunities for Youth
- India's DPIIT and South Korean Transport Institute Sign MoU for Collaboration in Logistics & Infrastructure Under PM GatiShakti
- ISRO in Partnership with IIT Madras Developed Indigenous Semiconductor Chip 'IRIS'
- Mumbai Open 2025: Jil Teichmann Won Singles Title, Pridankina & Anshba Claim Doubles Title
- Sri Lanka's Former Captain Dimuth Karunaratne Announces Retirement from International Cricket
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, launches book "I Am?"
- Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi Launched Memoir titled "I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder"
- International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism 2025 – February 12
- National Productivity Day 2025 – February 12
- International Darwin Day 2025 – February 12
- Odisha Cabinet Approves 'Antyodaya Gruha Yojana' to Provide Pucca Houses for Weaker Sections
- Maharashtra government launches Maitri 2.0

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Approved Extension of Groundnut Procurement in Gujarat by 6 days and in Karnataka by 25 days

In February 2025, Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has approved the extension of time period for procurement of Groundnut in **Gujarat** and **Karnataka** by **6 days** and **25 days**, respectively beyond the normal procurement period of 90 days in the interest of farmers of the state.



- The Government of India (GoI) also extended the time period for procurement of soyabean in Maharashtra by 24 days and Telangana by 15 days.

Other Key Announcements:

i. The Government of India (GoI) has approved the procurement of Soyabean under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) in states like: Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Telangana for Kharif 2024-25.

- As of February 9 2025, a total quantity of 19.99 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of Soyabean has been procured, benefitting over 8.46 lakh farmers.

ii. Similarly, GoI has approved the procurement of Groundnut under the PSS in states like: Andhra Pradesh (AP), Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Rajasthan for Kharif 2024-25.

- As of February 9 2025, a total quantity of 15.73 LMT of Groundnut has been procured, benefitting over 4.75 lakh farmers.

iii. GoI has permitted the procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masur under PSS equivalent to 100% of the production of the state for the procurement year 2024-25. This move aims to incentivize the farmers contributing to improvement of domestic production of pulses and to reduce the dependence on imports.

- It has also made an announcement in the Union Budget for Financial Year 2025-26 (FY26) that the procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masur maximum 100% of the production of the state will be continued for **another 4 years** through Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs).

iv. GoI has approved the continuation of the integrated Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme during the 15th Finance Commission (FC) cycle up to 2025-26.

About PM AASHA:

i. It is an umbrella scheme launched in 2018, which aims to provide remunerative prices to farmers and to control price instability of essential commodities for consumers. MoA&FW acts as nodal agency for the scheme.



ii. The scheme comprises 4 key components: Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and Price Stabilisation Funds (PSF).

- Components like: PSS, PDPS and MIS are administered by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW), MoA & FW, whereas component PSF is administered by Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD).

iii. The procurement of the notified Pulses, Oilseeds, and Copra under the PSS, conforming to the prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) is administered by the CNAs at the MSP directly from the pre-registered farmers through the state level agencies.

Note: In October 2024, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the continuation of PM-AASHA scheme with financial outlay of Rs 35,000 crore during the 15th FC cycle up to 2025-26.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates First-Ever BIMSTEC Youth Summit in Gujarat

Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, (MoYA&S) inaugurated the **first-ever** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Youth Summit in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



- The three-day event, held from **February 7 to 11, 2025**, brings together young leaders from across the region to discuss key challenges and opportunities.
- The summit is **jointly organized** by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), with New Delhi (Delhi) based-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Young Indians (YI) as the knowledge partner.

Key People: The event was attended by Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, **Bhupendrabhai Patel**, Minister of State (MoS), MoYA&S, **Raksha Khadse** and **Jaideep Mazumdar**, Secretary (East) MEA.

Theme: The theme of summit '**Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange**', highlighting the critical role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

Note: More than seventy young delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka (SL), and Thailand attended the summit.

Key Sessions:

i. As part of the summit, a special session titled "**Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue X BIMSTEC**" was held, providing a platform for young leaders from BIMSTEC nations to showcase important youth development initiatives from their respective countries.

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ii. Another key session focused on Mera Yuva Bharat (**MY Bharat**), an initiative introduced by the Prime Minister (PM) of India.

- The **objective** of MY Bharat was to ensure equal access to opportunities for youth, enabling them to achieve their aspirations and contribute to the vision of Amrit Bharat 2047.

India's Proposal for BIMSTEC as a "Youth Bridge"

India put forward a proposal for BIMSTEC to function as a "**Youth Bridge**", a multi-dimensional initiative aimed at empowering young leaders.

- This platform would **facilitate knowledge-sharing**, leadership training, and regional networking, integrating sectors such as entrepreneurship, sports, education, and technology to create meaningful opportunities for youth across member nations.

Points to Note:

i. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya **highlighted** India's strong commitment to youth empowerment by citing major initiatives like the Skill India Mission, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS), which have collectively trained over **15 million young individuals** in advanced fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and digital technologies.

ii. He also emphasized the country's thriving **startup ecosystem**, which has grown to become the **third-largest** in the world, with over 157,000 startups, nearly half of these startups are led by women.

iii. Mandaviya emphasized India's role in the BIMSTEC region, highlighting skill-building initiatives that improved youth employability from 33.95% in 2013 to 54.81% in 2024.

iv. BIMSTEC region is home to about 1.8 billion people, accounting for about 22 per cent of the global population with a combined GDP of USD 4.5 trillion.

About Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, (MoYA&S):

Union Minister– Mansukh Mandaviya (Constituency-Porbandar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS)– Raksha Khadse (Constituency- Raver, Maharashtra)

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Co-chaired 4th India-UK Energy Dialogue in New Delhi

In February 2025, Union Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar**, Ministry of Power (MoP) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA); and **Ed Miliband**, Secretary for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for the United Kingdom (UK), co-chaired the **4th India-UK Energy Dialogue** in New Delhi (Delhi).



- During this dialogue, both nations reviewed the progress made in the energy sectors, including power and renewable energy (RE), and also reaffirmed their commitment to a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive energy future.

Key Announcements:

i. During the dialogue, the Ministers announced the launch of **Phase-2** of the India-UK bilateral Accelerating Smart Power & Renewable Energy in India (**ASPIRE**) programme.

- The main objective of this phase is to provide technical support for ensuring round-the-clock power supply, expanding RE initiatives, and boosting industrial energy efficiency and

decarbonization, in partnership with the MoP and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Note: The Phase 1 of ASPIRE program was officially launched in 2021. The program is implemented in collaboration with India's Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

ii. The Ministers announced the establishment of a **UK-India Offshore Wind Taskforce**. The key focus areas for the taskforce will be: advancing offshore wind ecosystem development, supply chains, and financing models in both countries.

iii. Both countries announced the continuation of the Power Sector Reforms programme under the UK Partnering for Accelerating Climate Transitions (**UKPACT**), considering the significance of power market regulations in promoting the energy transition which will help in ensuring greater energy security and access.

- Also, a new taskforce has been proposed to be set-up between Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (**Ofgem**), the UK and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (**CERC**), Government of India (GoI), to support RE integration and grid transformation in India.

Other Key Points:

i. During the bilateral dialogue, Ministers of both countries highlighted the importance of ensuring energy security and sustainable development and emphasized expanding the bilateral co-operation in areas like: power distribution, sector reforms, industrial energy efficiency and decarbonization, and electric mobility

- While, simultaneously exploring new avenues in the emerging fields such as energy storage, green data centers, and offshore wind, with more focus on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

ii. They also discussed the development of trade missions focusing on offshore wind and green hydrogen, as well as the cooperation between Energy System Catapult of UK and Power Trading Corporation of India.

iii. The bilateral dialogue concluded with the launch of the 'Best Practices Compendium of Industrial Energy Efficiency/ Decarbonisation' and a 'Pathways for Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation in the India Aluminium Sector'.

Note: 5th UK-India Energy Dialogue is scheduled to be held in 2026.

About Ministry of Power (MoP):

Union Minister- Manohar Lal Khattar (Constituency- Karnal, Haryana)

Minister of State (MoS)- Shripad Yesso Naik (Constituency- North Goa, Goa)

About the United Kingdom (UK):

Prime Minister (PM) – Keir Starmer

Capital- London

Currency- Pound Sterling (GBP)

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launched India's First Indigenous Automated BMWTP 'Srjanam' at AIIMS, New Delhi

In February 2025, Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T) and the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) launched India's first Indigenous Automated Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant (BMWTP) named "**Srjanam**" at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS New Delhi) in Delhi.



- It was developed by Thiruvananthapuram(Kerala) based Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) -National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST). It marks a major step forward in the sustainable handling of biomedical waste.
- It replaces costly and energy-intensive incinerators, besides imparting a pleasant fragrance to these foul-smelling toxic waste.

Key People:

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General(DG) of CSIR and Dr. M. Srinivas, Director of AIIMS New Delhi, Dr. V. K. Paul, Member, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, Department of Health Research(DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and DG, Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) and Tanmay Kumar, Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC) are also present at the event.

About Srjanam:

- The Automated Biomedical Waste Treatment Rig can sanitise harmful biomedical waste like blood, urine, sputum, and lab disposables without relying on expensive, energy-heavy incinerators.
- With a daily capacity of 400 kilograms (kg), it can initially process 10 kg of degradable medical waste per day.
- Independent tests have verified its antimicrobial properties, and research shows that treated waste is safer than organic fertilizers like vermicompost.
- India generates 743 tonnes of biomedical waste daily, and the new technology provides an eco-friendly alternative to traditional burning methods.
- The initiative supports the government's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 and with ongoing advancements in innovation and sustainable technologies. India is on track to lead globally in environmental and healthcare solutions.

India & Oman Sign EPC to Enhance Archival Cooperation

On February 10 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based National Archives of India (NAI) and Muscat (Sultanate of Oman) based National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) of Oman signed an Executive Programme of Cooperation (EPC) for the period 2025-2028 at the NAI in New Delhi (Delhi).



- The EPC aims to strengthen cultural and historical ties by facilitating the exchange of archival materials, expertise, and technology between two nations.

- This joint initiative marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between India and Oman, paving the way for a robust and enduring cultural exchange that will benefit scholars, researchers, and the general public in both countries.

Signatories: The agreement was signed by **Arun Singhal**, Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Director General (DG) of Archives at the NAI, Government of India (GoI), and **Dr. Hamed Bin Mohammed Al Dhawaini**, Chairman of NRAA, Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

Key Highlights:

- i. The agreement outlines a range of collaborative initiatives, including the exchange and reproduction of documents, the preservation of historical manuscripts and books, and joint efforts in publishing cultural, literary, and historical works.
- ii. It highlights the importance of organizing conferences, exhibitions, and workshops focused on archives management, aiming to build capacity, share expertise, and promote scientific research.
- iii. It allows research into NAIs to discover valuable Omani documents in India, while also ensuring the examination and preservation of Indian archives in Oman.

About National Archives of India (NAI):

NAI is a repository for preserving and managing important historical records of GoI. It operates under the Ministry of Culture (MoC).

Director General (DG) of Archives – Arun Singhal

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Founded – 1891

About Oman:

President – HM Sultan Haitham bin Tariq

Capital – Muscat

Currency – Omani Rial (OMR)

MoL&E Partners with FoundIt to Boost Job Opportunities for Youth

In February 2025, The **Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **FoundIt** (formerly Monster), a leading job portal, on June 26, 2024. The collaboration aims to leverage the **National Career Service (NCS) Portal** to connect job seekers with domestic and international opportunities.

- Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya emphasized the platform's role under the government's '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**' vision.
- NCS Portal, launched in 2015, which has over 3.5 crore registered job seekers and 30 lakh employers.

Key Features of the Partnership

- **Global Job Access:** The NCS Portal's integration with the **e-Migrate platform (Ministry of External Affairs)** allows job seekers to explore verified opportunities in countries like Germany, Finland, and Middle Eastern nations. Over 500 Recruitment Agencies (RAs) are onboarded.
- **Skill Development:** NCS is linked with **My Bharat** and **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** to address skill gaps, making youth employable for both blue-collar and white-collar roles.
- **Inclusive Hiring:** The partnership prioritizes opportunities for **women** and **Persons with Disabilities (PwD)** through fair hiring practices.
- **Tech-Driven Integration:** FoundIt will use Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to share global job listings on NCS, ensuring seamless access for candidates.
- Germany, Finland, and Middle Eastern countries need skilled workers for blue- and white-collar jobs. This MoU will help NCS connect Indian job seekers to these opportunities.

India's DPIIT and South Korean Transport Institute Sign MoU for Collaboration in Logistics & Infrastructure Under PM GatiShakti

In February 2025, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), Government of India (GoI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Korea Transport Institute (KoTI) from the Republic of Korea. The MoU was signed at the Sejong National Research Complex in South Korea by Mr. Youngchan Kim, President of KoTI, and H.E. Amit Kumar, India's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

- This collaboration aims to bolster cooperation in logistics and infrastructure development, leveraging KoTI's expertise to support India's ambitious infrastructure initiatives.
- This will help in the development of infrastructure and logistics master plans under the aegis of the prestigious program – **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**.

About PM GatiShakti

i. PM GatiShakti is an ambitious infrastructure development initiative launched by the Government of India on October 13, 2021.

ii. It is aimed at providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones in India.

About PM GatiShakti National Master Plan

- A GIS-based digital platform that integrates data from 16 ministries.
- Helps in tracking and planning roads, railways, airports, ports, waterways, power transmission, etc.
- It integrates infrastructure schemes of various ministries and state governments, including Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, and UDAN, to improve connectivity and make Indian businesses more competitive.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO in Partnership with IIT Madras Developed Indigenous Semiconductor Chip 'IRIS'

In February 2025, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)-based Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) in partnership with Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) based Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), indigenously designed & developed a semiconductor chip named "**Indigenous (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) RISC-V Controller for Space Applications (IRIS)**". IRIS has been built on the SHAKTI processor baseline.



- It is the 3rd SHAKTI-based microprocessor chip, successfully fabricated in India after RIMO (2018) and MOUSHIK (2020).
- This marks a significant milestone toward self-reliance in space and semiconductor technology, reaffirming India's efforts under the 'Make in India' initiative and 'Atmanirbhar' initiatives.

About IRIS:

Development Process

i. The idea of developing 64-bit IRIS chip was conceptualized by IISU, designed by IIT Madras and

manufactured at Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh.

ii. The chip was packaged by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (**TASL**) at Perjenahalli (Karnataka); motherboard Printed Circuit Board (PCB) manufactured by **PCB Power India Limited** in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

- The motherboard was assembled and mounted by Syrma SGS Technology Limited in Chennai, TN; and software was developed by IIT-M and successfully booted at IIT-M.

Applications of IRIS

- Space Applications : It is designed for use in ISRO's applications, including command and control systems, satellite navigation, and other critical functions.
- Strategic Requirements : The chip is suitable for computing systems required for national security and strategic purposes.
- Internet of Things (IoT) : Its versatility makes it applicable in IoT devices and other emerging technologies.

About SHAKTI Project:

i. The microprocessor project is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under its 'Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V)' program. It aims to promote the indigenized development of microprocessor-based products.

ii. The project is led by **Dr. Veezhinathan Kamakoti**, Professor at Prathap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PSCDISHA) in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT-M.

About ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU):

It is a special unit of ISRO, responsible for the design and development of Inertial Systems for launch vehicles and spacecraft programmes of ISRO.

Director- Padma Kumar E.S.

Headquarters- Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Established- 1969

SPORTS

Mumbai Open 2025: Jil Teichmann Won Singles Title, Pridankina & Anshba Claim Doubles Title

On February 9, 2025, **Jil Belén Teichmann**, Switzerland's professional tennis player, claimed the singles title of the 4th edition of "Mumbai Open 2025 WTA (Women Tennis Association) 125 Event", held from February 3 to February 9, 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- **Singles Title:** Jil Belén Teichmann won the singles title by defeating **Mananchaya Sawangkaew** of Thailand with a straight-set victory of 6-3, 6-4.
- **Doubles Title:** **Elena Ivanovna Pridankina** and **Amina Vladikovna Anshba** of Russia won the Doubles title by defeating Parthana Thombare of India and her Dutch partner Arianne Hartono with a score of 6-7(4), 6-2, 10-7.

About the Mumbai Open 2025:

i. The Mumbai Open 2025 is an outdoor tournament played on a hard court, at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

ii. The 4th edition was sponsored by Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited and was named as "L&T Mumbai Open 2025".

iii. **Prize Money and Points:** Jil Belén Teichmann earned 125 ranking points and a **USD 15,000** winner's cheque, while Mananchaya Sawangkaew received 81 points and a USD 8,400 prize.

iv. **WTA Tournament Levels:** WTA 1000, WTA 500, WTA 250, WTA 125 (Mumbai Open is a WTA 125 event)

v. The Mumbai Open was first held in 2017 and was won by the current World No.1 women's tennis player **Aryna Siarhiejeŭna Sabalenka** of Belarus.

- The 2nd edition of the Mumbai Open was held in 2018 and the 3rd was held in 2024.

vi. **India's Participants:** Jil Belén Teichmann defeated India's **Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi** in the semi finals.

Note: The 'Mumbai Open 2025' singles title marked Jil Belén Teichmann's **2nd** WTA 125 title. In 2024, she won her first WTA 125 tournament in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

About Women's Tennis Association (WTA):

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Portia Archer

Chairman – Steve Simon

Headquarters – Florida, United States of America (USA)

Established – 1973

Sri Lanka's Former Captain Dimuth Karunaratne Announces Retirement from International Cricket

In February 2025, former captain of Sri Lankan national cricket

team **Frank Dimuth Madushanka Karunaratne**, popularly known as Dimuth Karunaratne, announced his retirement from International Cricket following his 100th Test match against Australia in Galle, Sri Lanka.

- He made his first-class debut in 2008 for Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Sri Lanka and was set to play his final match for the club against Nondescripts Cricket Club (NCC) in the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Major Club three-day tournament from February 14 to 16, 2025.

i. He has played 100 Test matches, scoring 7,222 runs at an average of 39.25, including 16 centuries and 39 half-centuries.

ii. He has featured in 50 One-Day Internationals (ODIs), accumulating 1,316 runs with one century and 11 half-centuries.

iii. He captained Sri Lanka in 30 Tests between 2019 and 2023, achieving 12 wins and 12 losses under his leadership.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, launches book "I Am?"

On February 8, 2025, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar unveiled the book "**I Am?**", compiled by **Gopichand P. Hinduja**, Chairman of the Hinduja Group. The launch event took place at the Vice-President's Enclave in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book was published by the Hinduja Foundation.
- The book delves into themes of unity, spirituality, and interfaith dialogue, emphasizing the importance of harmony in diversity.

- It includes contributions from scholars like **Zeenat Shaukat Ali**, a former professor at **St. Xavier's College, Mumbai**, who contributed to the **concluding chapter** that focuses on **common grounds among religions**.

Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi Launched Memoir titled "I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder"

On February 10 2025, Lieutenant General **Upendra Dwivedi**, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) launched the memoir titled "**I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder**" authored by Geetika Lidder, wife of late Brigadier Lakhwinder Singh Lidder at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi(Delhi). The book was published by **Roli Books**.

- The book honors Brigadier Lakhwinder Singh's life as a soldier, husband, father, and leader and acknowledges the 4 C's of leadership: Character, Competence, Conduct, and Commitment.
- Brigadier Lakhwinder Singh 'Tony' Lidder, Seva Medal (SM), Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) was a distinguished officer of the Indian Army (IA), renowned for his leadership and dedication.
- He served as the Defence Assistant to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and played a pivotal role in strategic military reforms.
- He lost his life in the 2021 Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17 crash in Tamil Nadu's (TN) Nilgiri Hills, alongside **General Bipin Rawat**, India's first CDS and 12 other personnel.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism 2025 – February 12

The United Nations (UN's) International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism(**PVE**) as and When Conducive to Terrorism is observed annually on **12 February** across the globe to raise awareness about the threats associated with violent extremism that can lead to terrorism and to enhance international cooperation in addressing these challenges.



- 12 February 2025 marks the observance of the **3rd** International Day of PVE.

Background:

i. On 20 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution **A/RES/77/243**, designating 12 February as the International Day of PVE.

- The **first-ever** International Day of PVE was observed on **12 February 2023**.

ii. The UNGA invited the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to facilitate the observance of this day.

Violent Extremism:

i. Violent extremism undermines the core principles of the UN's, including peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development.

- It destabilizes societies, infringes upon human rights, and hampers development efforts.
 - ii. The threat of terrorism remains a global concern, with groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (**ISIL**) and Al-Qaida exploiting various vulnerabilities to advance their agendas.
 - iii. No country or region is immune to the effects of terrorism and violent extremism. These threats impact social cohesion, sustainable development, and human rights worldwide.
- Note:** The UN highlights that violent extremism fosters intolerance whether religious, cultural, or social, leading to devastating humanitarian consequences.
- UN's Commitment to Preventing Violent Extremism:**
- i. **UN Charter:** Preventing Violent Extremism is a fundamental commitment under the principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter.
 - ii. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):** A milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights of all humans.
 - iii. **UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy:** A comprehensive framework adopted in 2006 to enhance international cooperation in countering terrorism.
 - iv. **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:** Reviewed biennially since 2006, this strategy serves as a platform for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to international collaboration in countering terrorism.
 - v. **8th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:** Took place in 2023, culminating in the adoption of resolution A/RES/77/298 by the UNGA on 22 June 2023 underscoring the need for enhanced cooperation among governments and the international community to prevent and combat terrorism.
 - vi. **Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE):** Delivered through the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) within the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), this programme is dedicated to enhancing the resilience of individuals and communities against violent extremism and mitigating the threat of terrorism.

2025 Events:

On 12 February 2025, the UNs commemorated the International Day of PVE through a series of events and activities.

- i. **Main Event:** International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE)
 - Organized by the UNOCT, under the framework of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the UN.
 - This event provided an opportunity for the international community to come together and discuss strategies and innovative options for operationalizing whole-of-government and society approaches aimed at addressing new and emerging PVE challenges.
- ii. **Side Event:** Prevention of Violent Extremism through the Implementation of Tajikistan's National Strategy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism (2021-2025)
 - Organized by UNOCT, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and the Permanent Mission of Tajikistan to the UN.
 - This side event focused on Tajikistan's national strategy for countering terrorism and extremism, highlighting its implementation and impact on preventing violent extremism.

Points to Note:

- i. The President of the UNGA appointed co-facilitators from the Permanent Missions of Canada and Tunisia, supported by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) as the substantive secretariat.
- ii. The **9th review** in 2026 aligns with the **20th anniversary** of the Strategy's adoption.

About UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT):

Under-Secretary-General – Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov

Headquarters– New York, the United States of America

Established- 2017

National Productivity Day 2025 – February 12

National Productivity Day, also known as National Productivity Council (NPC) Foundation Day, is observed annually on **February 12** in India to promote a culture of productivity, efficiency, and innovation.

- The day also commemorates the foundation day of the National Productivity Council (NPC) of India.



National Productivity Week 2025:

i. National Productivity Day is celebrated as part of National Productivity Week which is observed annually from **February 12 to 18** and is organized by NPC of India along with the New Delhi (Delhi) based Delhi Productivity Council (DPC).

ii. The theme for National Productivity Week 2025: **“From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups”**

- It highlights the significance of nurturing a culture of innovation while providing startups with the essential tools, strategies, and resources needed for success.

Background:

i. On February 12, 1958, the National Productivity Council (NPC) of India was established and registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, operating under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).

ii. To commemorate the establishment of the NPC of India, February 12 was chosen to be observed as National Productivity Day each year.

Significance:

i. National Productivity Week and National Productivity Day aim to raise public awareness about the importance of enhancing competitiveness, efficiency, and quality across all sectors of the Indian economy, to position India as a global leader.

ii. To optimize output and make the best use of resources, it is crucial to raise awareness about productivity.

National Productivity Council (NPC) of India:

i. The NPC is a member of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), an inter-governmental body of which the Government of India (GoI) is a founding member.

ii. The NPC has been offering consultancy and training services in various fields, including Industrial Engineering (IE), Agribusiness, Economic Services, Quality Management, Human Resource (HR) Management, Information Technology (IT), Technology Management, Energy Management, and Environmental Management, to both government and public/private sector organizations.

2025 Event of National Productivity Week:

As part of National Productivity Week, the Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) based Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM) is hosting various events in colleges and universities.

- These activities aim to raise awareness about innovation and intellectual property (IP) among students, encouraging them to think critically and creatively about their role in fostering competitive startups.

About National Productivity Council of India (NPC):

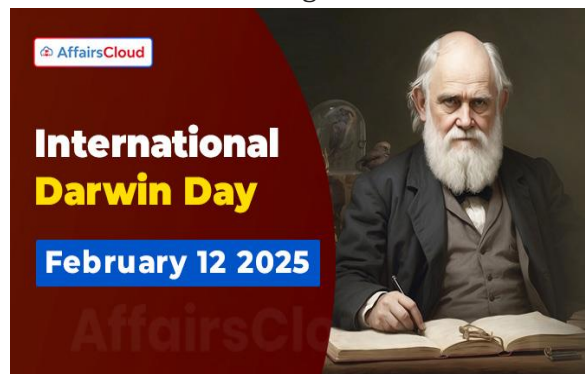
President – Piyush Goyal (Union Minister of Commerce and Industry)

Headquarters – New Delhi (Delhi)

Establishment – 1958

International Darwin Day 2025 – February 12

International Darwin Day is observed annually on **12 February** across the globe to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Charles Robert Darwin**, the 19th-century British Naturalist and Geologist renowned for formulating the “Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection”. The day serves to inspire continued advancements in scientific research and understanding.



- It highlights the importance of evolutionary biology and encourages the pursuit of knowledge through scientific inquiry.

Background:

i. International Darwin Day was first championed by 3 passionate Darwin supporters: Dr. Robert Stephens, Professor Massimo Pigliucci, and Amanda Chesworth.

ii. In 1995, **Dr. Robert Stephens** led the effort to celebrate Darwin's legacy in Silicon Valley, United States of America (USA).

iii. In 1997, **Professor Massimo Pigliucci** organized the first Darwin Day events at the University of Tennessee, USA.

iv. In 2000, **Amanda Chesworth** joined Robert Stephens to formalize the Darwin Day program in New Mexico, USA.

v. In 2002, the initiative became the 'Darwin Day Celebration', a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational corporation in California, USA.

Significance:

i. The day honors his contributions to science and promotes scientific thinking, critical inquiry, and the understanding of evolution.

ii. It serves as a reminder that scientific discoveries are fundamental to advances in medicine, genetics, and environmental protection.

iii. It also provides an opportunity for schools, universities, and educational organizations to highlight the importance of scientific research.

About Charles Robert Darwin:

i.Charles Robert Darwin, born on February 12, 1809, in Shrewsbury, England, United Kingdom (UK) was an English naturalist, geologist, and biologist whose groundbreaking work laid the foundation for evolutionary biology.

ii.Voyage on the HMS Beagle (1831–1836): In 1831, he embarked on a 5-year voyage to South America, the Galapagos Islands aboard the His Majesty's Ship (HMS) Beagle, during which he meticulously collected specimens and made observations that would later inform his theories on evolution.

iii.Post-Voyage Research: Upon returning to England in 1836, he dedicated several years to analyzing his findings and developing his theory of evolution by natural selection.

iv.Publication of 'On the Origin of Species' (1859): In 1859, he published his thoughts about evolution and natural selection in the book "**On the Origin of Species**," which laid the groundwork for profound advancements in both biology and philosophy.

- This process is driven by the differential survival and reproduction of individuals with traits better suited to their environment.

iv.He passed away on **April 19, 1882**, at the age of 73, in London, UK and was interred in Westminster Abbey, London, UK on April 26, 1882.

Publications and Theories:

i.On the Origin of Species (1859): Introduced the theory of evolution by natural selection.

ii.The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex (1871): Explored human evolution and sexual selection.

iii.The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals (1872): Examined the evolution of human emotions.

iv.The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Actions of Worms (1881): Investigated the role of earthworms in soil formation.

STATE NEWS

Odisha Cabinet Approves 'Antyodaya Gruha Yojana' to Provide Pucca Houses for Weaker Sections

The **Odisha Cabinet**, headed by Chief Minister (CM) **Mohan Charan Majhi**, has approved the launch of the **Antyodaya Gruha Yojana**, a **housing scheme** aimed at providing **pucca houses** to eligible vulnerable families. An outlay of **Rs. 7,550 crores** have been allocated for the implementation of the scheme.



- Each beneficiary under this scheme will receive **financial assistance** of **Rs 1.2 lakhs** to build a **25-square-meter** (sq m) pucca house (excluding the toilet area).
- Under the scheme, the Odisha government aims to build at least 2,25,000 houses over the next 3 years.

Objective:

Antyodaya Gruha Yojana aims to improve the standard of living for weaker sections of society in Odisha by providing them with permanent housing.

Note: This initiative complements the existing schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) and the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), reinforcing Odisha's commitment to affordable housing for all.

Target Beneficiaries of the Scheme:

i. The beneficiary must be a permanent resident of Odisha and must belong to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS).

ii. The beneficiary categories include:

- Families affected by natural or Man-Made Disasters (MMD).
- Those displaced by government projects.
- Households with Differently Abled (DA) primary earners.
- Forest Rights Act (FRA) beneficiaries.
- Eligible families not covered under existing housing schemes.

Incentives for Timely Completion:

Beneficiaries who complete their houses **within 4 months**, qualify for an additional **incentive of Rs 20,000**, while those finishing **within 6 months** get **Rs 10,000**, encouraging faster construction.

Structural Definitions & Inclusivity:

As per the scheme:

i. A permanent house must have cement-bonded walls and Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) roofs.

ii. Houses with asbestos, tin, or tiled roofs are classified as temporary structures.

iii. The definition of household under this scheme includes a husband, wife, dependent parents, and children, allowing new families to access benefits

About Odisha:

Capital– Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister (CM)- Mohan Charan Majhi

Governor– Hari Babu Kambhampati

Maharashtra government launches Maitri 2.0

The Maharashtra government has introduced the **MAITRI (Maharashtra Industry, Trade, and Investment Facilitation Cell) 2.0 Portal**, an advanced digital platform designed to simplify the investment process. The portal ensures a seamless experience for investors and businesses.

- **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** officially launched the portal, making it fully operational. Its launch follows Maharashtra's signing of **MoUs worth ₹15.70 lakh crore** at the **2025 World Economic Forum's annual summit in Davos, Switzerland**.
- **MAITRI** is Maharashtra's dedicated agency for driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and simplifying the investment process in the state. Established by the Government of Maharashtra, it plays a key role in making Maharashtra a preferred destination for investors.

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CATEGORIES	QUESTIONS COLLECTED	OVERALL	QUIZ	HANDWRITTEN NOTES
Current Affairs	42	37	29	16
Current Static Banking	1	—	—	—
Current Static GK	2	1	—	—
Static Banking	—	—	—	—
Static GK	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	29	16

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