

NEWS TODAY

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) completes 10 years of implementation

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched PMKVY in 2015 to encourage and promote skill development in India.

About PMKVY

- Presently, PMKVY is in its fourth phase – PMKVY 4.0 and it has been made a **key component of Central Sector Scheme of Skill India Programme** along with two other components -
 - ⊕ **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)**, which offers financial support for apprentice stipends, and
 - ⊕ **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme**, which offers vocational skills to non-literates, neo-literates and school dropouts.
- **Three types of training under PMKVY:**
 - ⊕ **Short-Term Training (STT) - National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)** aligned courses and on-job training.
 - ⊕ **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Industry-recognized certification of **existing skills**.
 - ⊕ **Special Projects: Customized skill training** for marginalized groups, difficult areas and specialized or future job roles.

Key Achievements of PMKVY

- **Improving Access to Skill Training:** Over **1.63 crore** youths trained since 2015.
- **Targeted Skilling:** Bru-tribe (Tripura), prison inmates (in Assam and Manipur), and 70% women under **PANKH project**.
- **Social equity and inclusion:** **45% women participation** and significant inclusion of SCs, STs, and OBCs.
- **Future-ready Workforce:** **Inclusion of emerging technologies like AI, IoT, Robotics, 5G Technology, Cybersecurity, Drones, Green Hydrogen etc.**
- **Promotion of Traditional Crafts:** Upskilling projects for artisans and weavers in Nagaland and J&K.

Design Principles of PMKVY 4.0



NITI Aayog report analyses implication of US Tariff on India's Trade

The report offers a comprehensive analysis of implications of US tariff on India and also offers insights for increasing India's export competitiveness.

Implication of Current US tariff regime on India

- **Market Share Expansion:** India is positioned to gain market share in **61% of its trade value exports to the U.S.**
- **Competitive Advantage:** India gains **tariff edge over China, Mexico, and Canada in key sectors like nuclear reactors, iron and steel, textiles, electricals, and vehicles.**
- **Disadvantage:** **Average tariff disadvantage is only 1%** where India faces slightly high tariff
- **Opportunities:** In sectors of **high value (e.g., electronics, nuclear reactors)** and labour-intensive goods (e.g., apparel, textiles).

Policy measures to be adopted

- **For boosting Merchandise Trade**
 - ⊕ **Enhancing Export Competitiveness:** Expand PLI Scheme to labor-intensive sectors, **rationalise electricity tariffs** by reducing cross-subsidisation
 - ⊕ **Trade Facilitation and Market Access:** Improve Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Program, launch targeted schemes under Export Promotion Mission
 - ⊕ **Diversify Trade Partners and Agreements:** Become part of bigger supply chains, India-EU FTA, Jan Vishwas 2.0
- **For boosting Service Trade**
 - ⊕ **Negotiate Services-Focused FTA** on lines of model of the India-UK agreement.
 - ⊕ **Broaden Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)** to expand professional opportunities
 - ⊕ **Simplify Licensing and Regulatory Compliance such as** inconsistent data compliance and intellectual property concerns for service exports
 - ⊕ **Promote Innovation and Skill Development** by investing in upskilling and technology (**E.g. digital health, fintech, cloud computing, and ed-tech**)

Need to increase set up rate of Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India: Finance Minister

The Finance Minister urged industry & government to work together to boost the setup of GCC and attract more Fortune 500 companies which are yet to establish their presence in India. (On an average 1 new GCC per week was set up in the year 2024).

About GCCs

- It is also known as **global in-house centres or captives (GICs)**.
- GCCs are **offshore centres** established by **global firms** to provide various services to their parent organisations.
 - E.g. IT services, Research and Development (R&D), customer support.
- They operate **within the internal organization structure** of the global corporate organization.
- Major Drivers in India: Cost efficiency, Digital and Policy Readiness (e.g Smart Cities, Digital India), Talent availability** (Highly skilled & cost-effective workforce with english proficiency), **Large Consumer Market etc.**

Status of GCC in India

- Global Presence:** India hosts >1,800 GCCs, accounting for ~50% of all GCCs worldwide.
- Economic Contribution: Direct gross value addition (GVA) is \$68 billion** (expected to increase to \$150-200 billion by 2030).
- Employment Figures:** Employs ~2.16 million people (expected to reach 2.5-2.8 million by 2030).
- Growth Rate: At 11% CAGR** over the last 5 years (contributing 1.6% to the national GDP).

Challenges in development of GCCs in India: Limited availability of **skilled workforce (in Tier-II and III cities)**, **Infrastructure gaps** (physical and digital connectivity), **Complex regulatory structures**, **cybersecurity** threats.

Strategic Interventions Required

- Embrace Next-Gen Technologies:** e.g. AI, automation, cloud computing etc.
- Navigate Geopolitical Complexities:** Adopt agile governance models to respond swiftly to complex geopolitical scenarios and resulting regulatory uncertainty.
- Redefine Workforce Strategies:** Upskilling of talent, adoption of new-age skills and hybrid work models.
- Sustainability:** Aligning GCCs with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

India achieves 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources

According to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **India has reached 484.82 GW of total installed electricity capacity, with 50.08% electricity from non-fossil fuel sources.**

- India achieved the target of 50% non-fossil fuel installed capacity – **five years ahead** of the target set under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

Key Initiatives behind the rise in India's Renewable Energy Capacity

- PM Surya Ghar scheme:** Facilitated around 7 lakh rooftop solar installations.
- PM-KUSUM:** Provided solar-powered pumps to farmers, enabling energy-secure agriculture.
- Manufacturing Expansion:** Scaling up of domestic solar PV and wind turbine production through Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes.
- Transmission Infrastructure Enhancement:** Major investments in inter-state transmission systems to evacuate power from renewable-rich states.
- Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022:** Promotes renewable energy access for consumers.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy:** 100% FDI permitted under automatic route in renewable sector.
- Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** VGF scheme for implementation of offshore wind energy projects.

Significance of the achievement

- Global Climate Leadership:** India proves that developing countries can lead the clean energy transition without compromising economic growth.
- Reduced Import Dependence:** Enhances energy sovereignty and reduces vulnerability to global fuel price volatility.
- Diversified Energy Portfolio:** Creates a resilient energy mix with multiple renewable sources.
- Job Creation and Industrial Growth:** Massive employment generation across the renewable energy value chain.

Sector	Capacity (in GW)	Percentage
Thermal	242.04 GW	(49.92%)
Nuclear	8.78 GW	(1.81%)
Large Hydro	49.38 GW	(10.19%)
RE	184.62 GW	(38.08%)
Total	484.82 GW	(100%)

Supreme court emphasized on fraternity among citizens for reducing hatred on social media

Supreme Court also stressed on the need for citizens' self-restraint and regulation in the exercise of freedom of speech, especially on social media.

Supreme Court's Observations

- Having an opinion is one thing but **to say that in a particular way is an abuse of freedom of speech**, which is leading to unnecessary litigation and overburdening law enforcement.
- **Citizens should self-regulate** social media but if self-regulation fails, the **state may have to intervene** to curb divisive tendencies.
- **Article 19** of the Constitution of India, guaranteeing freedom of speech and expression, is enforceable **both against the state (vertical application) and against other citizens (horizontal application)**.
 - ⊕ Horizontal Application of fundamental rights was recognized by the Supreme Court in **Kaushal Kishor Case (2023)**.

Impact of Social Media on Freedom of Speech

➤ Positive Impacts

- ⊕ **Democratization of Voice:** Gives voice to marginalized and underrepresented communities.
- ⊕ **Strengthens Participative Democracy:** Allows citizens to participate in political and social discourse.
- ⊕ **Accountability and Transparency:** Citizens and Media use platforms to hold authorities accountable and raise issues of public importance.

➤ Negative Impacts

- ⊕ **Misinformation and Fake News:** Can lead to panic, riots, defamation.
- ⊕ **Hate Speech and Abuse:** Online harassment, abuse and trolling affect individuals socially and mentally.
- ⊕ **Algorithmic Bias:** Algorithms reduces exposure to diverse ideas and amplify certain kinds of content.

Also In News



Shinkansen Technology

Next generation E10 Shinkansen trains are to be introduced simultaneously in India (508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train project) and Japan.

About Shinkansen Technology

- The Shinkansen is Japan's **High-speed bullet train**.
- It is the **world's safest** and most **reliable high-speed, high-volume and high-frequency** transport system.
- **Key Features:**
 - ⊕ Deploys **Crash Avoidance principle** by means of two systems
 - ◆ **Dedicated track for high-speed rail** that is free of level crossings and
 - ◆ **ATC system (Automatic Train Control System)** that prevents any crashes by controlling train speed.
 - ⊕ **Aerodynamic optimization** of the leading shape, vehicle **noise reduction**, **energy-efficient** traction systems, and ride comfort.



Counterfeit Goods

German brand Birkenstock filed a civil suit in Delhi High Court against manufacturers and traders in Delhi and Agra for selling **counterfeit versions of its sandals**.

Counterfeit Market in India

- OECD in its 2022 report identified **India as a key origin country for counterfeit goods** traded globally, alongside China, Turkey, and the UAE.
- A 2022 CRISIL study estimated that counterfeit goods make up **about 25-30% of India's retail market**.
- Under Indian law, brands can protect their products through the **Trademarks Act, 1999, and the Designs Act, 2000**. These allow the right for legal action, court injunctions, and the seizure of counterfeit stock.



Consumer Price Index

Retail inflation hit a **6-year low of 2.10%** in June 2025 as per data released by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.

About Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- It measures changes over time in the **general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire for the purpose of consumption**.
- **Function:**
 - ⊕ **Macroeconomic indicator of inflation**
 - ⊕ Tool by governments and central banks for inflation targeting and for monitoring price stability
 - ⊕ As **deflators in the national accounts**
 - ⊕ For indexing **dearness allowance** to employees
- **Base year** of CPI has been revised to **2012**



National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

Centre fixes prices of 71 key drug formulations through **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**.

About NPPA

- **Established:** In 1997 through a Government of India Resolution as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- **Objective:** To serve as **independent regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines** at affordable prices.
- **Functions:** Fixing and revising drug prices as per the provisions of the **Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO)** issued by DoP.



Ram Air Turbine

Preliminary report of **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau** on Ahmedabad's Air India airplane crash mentions deployment of Ram Air Turbine.

About Ram Air Turbine

- It is a **small turbine** usually placed in a compartment in the **fuselage or wing of the aircraft**.
- Function:** To provide **emergency power** if the plane's main system fails.
- It generates **power from the airstream** based on the **speed of the aircraft** and is connected to an electrical generator or to a hydraulic pump.
- It can be deployed either **manually** or is deployed **automatically** following complete loss of power.



Talisman Sabre Exercise

Australia's largest military exercise, **Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, officially commences in Sydney.**

Exercise Talisman Sabre

- It involves **19 nations and >35,000 military personnel** across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace.
- Major Participants:** U.S., Canada, France, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, U.K. etc.
- ⊕ **Observers:** Malaysia and Vietnam
- It involves live-fire exercises, field training activities, amphibious landings, ground force manoeuvres, and air combat and maritime operations.

Quantum Noise

A study revealed that **quantum noise can sometimes generate or revive quantum entanglement.**

- Quantum Noise** refers to the unwanted disturbances that affect quantum systems, leading to errors in quantum computations.
 - Traditionally, quantum noise is seen as the enemy of entangled systems, causing them to lose their entanglement, a phenomenon known as '**Decoherence**'.
- Quantum Entanglement** is a mysterious link that binds particles of the same origin across space and time.



Behdeinkhlam festival

The sacred Behdeinkhlam Festival was celebrated in **Meghalaya.**

About Behdienkhlam Festival

- The festival, meaning "driving away the plague," symbolizes spiritual cleansing and community resilience.
- It is most important dance festival of **Pnars (or Jaintias)** celebrated annually in July after the sowing period.
- During the festival, young men make a symbolic gesture of **driving away of the evil spirit, plague and disease by beating of the roof of every house with bamboo poles.**
- Games like Dat-lawakor** (football-like sport played with a wooden ball) and **latan-Bhang** (tug of war) are played.

Place in news

Australia

Australia and India are gearing up to strengthen partnerships across vital sectors with the 2025 Maitri Grants.

- Maitri Grants** administered by **Centre for Australia-India Relations** supports greater exchange and collaboration in cultural, education, research purposes.

Political Features

- Location:** Southern Hemisphere
- Maritime Boundary:** Indian Ocean (West) South Pacific Ocean (East)
- It is the **smallest continent and the world's sixth largest country.**

Geographical Features

- Highest point:** **Mount Kosciuszko** (The Eastern Highlands/The Great Dividing Range).
- The Great Barrier Reef:** Located off the east coast of Queensland, is the greatest mass of coral in the world. (It was designated as **World Heritage Site** in 1981)
- Major Resources:** **gold, iron ore, lead, nickel, rutile, uranium, zinc and zirco**

