

National Cooperation Policy 2025



For Prelims: Cooperatives , Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund , Primary Agricultural Credit Societies , International Day of Cooperatives , Article 19

For Mains: National Cooperation Policy 2025, Evolution and role of cooperatives in India's socio-economic development

Source:TH

Why in News?

To mark the **United Nations-designated International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025**, India unveiled the **National Cooperation Policy 2025** to transform the **cooperative sector into a people-driven economic force** .

International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025

- **CoopsDay, or the International Day of Cooperatives** , has been celebrated since 1923 and was officially recognized by the UN in 1995. It is observed on the **first Saturday of July each year**.
- **The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)** is hosting the IYC 2025.
- **Theme of IYC 2025: "Cooperatives Build a Better World"**, highlighting their **role in inclusive, sustainable development** and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- **Scale of Global Cooperatives:**
 - Over **12% of the global population** is part of the **3 million cooperatives** worldwide.
 - Cooperatives provide **jobs or work opportunities to 280 million people** , about **10% of the global workforce** .
 - The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** represents over **1 billion cooperative members** globally.

What are the Key Features of the National

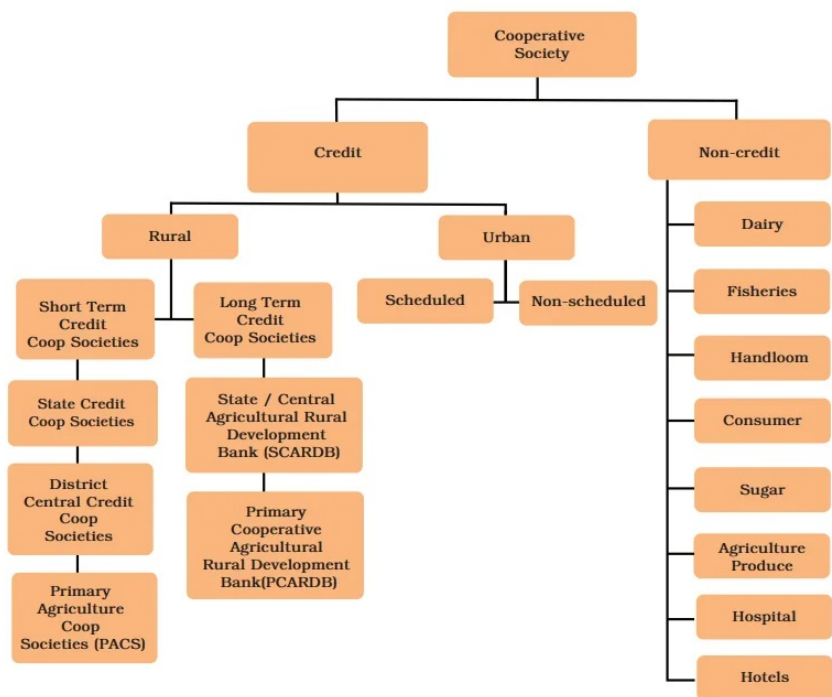
Cooperation Policy 2025?

- **Vision and Objective** :It supports the Ministry of Cooperation's mandate of "**Sahakar se Samriddhi**" by aiming to strengthen cooperatives and expand their grassroots reach.
 - The policy replaces the **National Policy on Cooperatives in 2002** and sets the course for cooperative growth over the next **two decades (2025-2045)**.
- **Convergence of Government Schemes** : The policy aims to leverage existing government schemes such as the **Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)**, **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** , and the **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)** to establish **2 lakh new multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (M-PACS)** within five years.
- **Inclusive Growth and Employment** : The policy aims to empower rural populations by making cooperatives more inclusive, focusing on **Dalits, Adivasis, women, and youth**, while strengthening their role in the wider economy.
- **Diversification and Education**: The policy pushes cooperatives to expand into **over 25 sectors** like dairy, fisheries, and foodgrain procurement.
 - The policy promotes cooperative education via **Tribhuvan Sahkari University, India's first national cooperative university**.
- **Technological Advancements and Global Engagement** : The policy aims to modernise cooperatives to stay competitive in a fast-changing, tech-driven world.
 - The policy sets up **National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)** to help cooperatives access global markets, focusing on exports like rice and wheat.



What are Cooperatives?

- **About:** A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs, and aspirations through a **jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise**.
 - They follow the principle of "**one member, one vote**", giving every member equal say, regardless of capital contribution.
 - In India, the cooperative movement began in the late 19 th century to **tackle rural debt and exploitation** . Key steps included the **Cooperative Acts of 1904 and 1912**.
 - Post-independence, cooperatives became central to India's development, with institutions like **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** supporting them.
 - Another development of cooperatives is the rise of cooperative banks regulated under the **Banking Regulation Act, with around 1,400 Urban Cooperative Banks** in India.
- **Constitutional & Legal Backing:** The **97 th Amendment, 2011** granted cooperatives constitutional status.
 - **Article 19(1)(c)** ensures the right to form cooperatives, while **Article 43B** promotes them as a **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**.
 - **Part IXB (Articles 243ZH - 243ZT)** provides governance provisions for Cooperatives.
 - State-level cooperatives fall under the **State List**, while multi-state cooperatives are governed by the **Union List** and the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002**.
 - The MSCS Act is administered by the **Central Registrar**, and state cooperatives are managed by State Registrars.
 - The **Ministry of Cooperation** was established in 2021 by transferring cooperation-related entries from the **former Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers Welfare**.
 - **MSCS (Amendment) Act, 2023** improved governance and transparency of cooperatives.
- **Scale of Cooperatives in India:** India has nearly **8.42 lakh cooperatives and 29 crore members** (27% of the global total) . **IFFCO and Amul** are among the world's top 300 cooperatives.
 - **Maharashtra** leads with over **25% of all cooperatives**, followed by Gujarat, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.
 - **Tribhuvandas K. Patel** led the creation of Amul by organising village dairy cooperatives. **Verghese Kurien** , the force behind **India's White Revolution**, made Amul a national success and turned India into the world's top milk producer.



What are the Key Initiatives Undertaken by India in the Cooperative Sector?

- **PACS: Model bye-laws** were introduced to bring uniformity and transparency across states. This helps **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** function more efficiently and democratically.
- **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs):** As of 2025, around 1,900 FPOs formed in the cooperative sector by NCDC.
 - **Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs)** are being promoted to help small fishers with better resources, training, and credit.
 - **National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)** is promoting organic farming through PACS and has launched Bharat Organic products to support sustainable and chemical-free agriculture.
- **White Revolution 2.0** : Launched in 2024, this initiative aims to increase milk procurement by 50% over the next five years, with over 9,000 dairy cooperative societies already registered.
- **Cooperative Banking Reforms** : **Urban cooperative banks (UCBs)** are now allowed to open new branches, while rural cooperative banks can lend to commercial real estate.
- **GeM portal:** Cooperatives can now register as buyers on the **GeM portal to ensure transparent and cost-effective procurement**. As of 2024, over 550 cooperatives have been onboarded so far.



Some Most Successful Cooperatives in India

Cooperative	Sector	Notable Achievement
AMUL (GCMMF)	Dairy	India's largest dairy cooperative; played a pivotal role in the "White Revolution" which helped India become the world's largest milk producer; turnover above 7.3 billion.
IFFCO	Fertilizer	India's largest fertilizer cooperative and the world's largest cooperative by GDP per capita; with revenue above 7.3 billion (FY23), its remarkable growth earned it a place in Fortune India 500 list.
Karnataka Milk Federation (Nandini)	Dairy	Second-largest dairy cooperative in India; operates with 15 milk unions across Karnataka, procuring milk from primary dairy coop societies; serves both urban and rural markets, benefiting over 1,500 members.
Indian Coffee House Society	Consumer/Restaurants	Managed by a network of worker cooperatives; approx. 400 coffee outlets.
Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society	Labour Society	Cooperative Oldest labour cooperative society in India. With a membership of around 1415 individuals, ULCCS has successfully completed more than 7500 projects

What are the Challenges and Opportunities for the Cooperative Sector in India?

Challenges

- **Weak Infrastructure** : In states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the cooperative network remains

underdeveloped. Expanding the reach of cooperatives to these states could be a logistical and financial challenge.

- **Low Member Participation:** Marginalised communities are underrepresented. Limited awareness and engagement reduce the strength of cooperative functioning.
- **Financial Barriers:** Many cooperatives, especially those serving poorer sections, struggle to get loans due to lack of collateral or proper documentation.
- **Lack of Skills :** Many cooperatives lack trained personnel and managerial expertise, affecting performance.
- **Technological Integration:** While India aims to modernize cooperatives, many societies, especially in rural areas, may face challenges in adopting and implementing new technologies.

Opportunities

- **Economic Empowerment :** The establishment of two lakh new M-PACS and the expansion of dairy, fishery, and other cooperative sectors offer vast economic opportunities, particularly for rural and agricultural communities.
- **Increased Global Presence :** The formation of the NCEL and the opening of export markets could help cooperatives gain global recognition, potentially enhancing foreign exchange earnings.
- **Job Creation :** With cooperatives contributing significantly to sectors like agriculture, dairy, and fisheries, the NCP 2025 can provide millions of new job opportunities, further addressing unemployment in rural areas.
- **Improve Governance :** Use digital platforms for financial reporting, ensure regular audits, and promote member participation.

Conclusion

Cooperatives are a **grassroots movement empowering farmers, women, and small entrepreneurs** . They promote inclusive growth and resilient communities. Under the **National Cooperation Policy 2025**, India reaffirms its commitment to “Sahkar se Samriddhi,” aiming to use cooperatives as a vehicle for sustainable development and widespread prosperity.

Drishti Mains Question:

The cooperative model has long been a tool for rural empowerment in India. In light of the National Cooperation Policy 2025, critically evaluate how cooperatives can drive inclusive growth.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. With reference to 'Urban Cooperative Banks' in India, consider the following statements: (2021)

1. They are supervised and regulated by local boards established by State Governments.
2. They can issue equity shares and preference shares.
3. They were brought under the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, through a 1966 Amendment.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Q. In India, which of the following have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities? (2011)

- (a) Commercial Banks
- (b) Cooperative Banks
- (c) Regional Rural Banks
- (d) Microfinance Institutions

Ans: (a)

Mains:

Q. "In the villages itself no form of credit organisation will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients? **(2014)**

Progress on India's Climate Targets



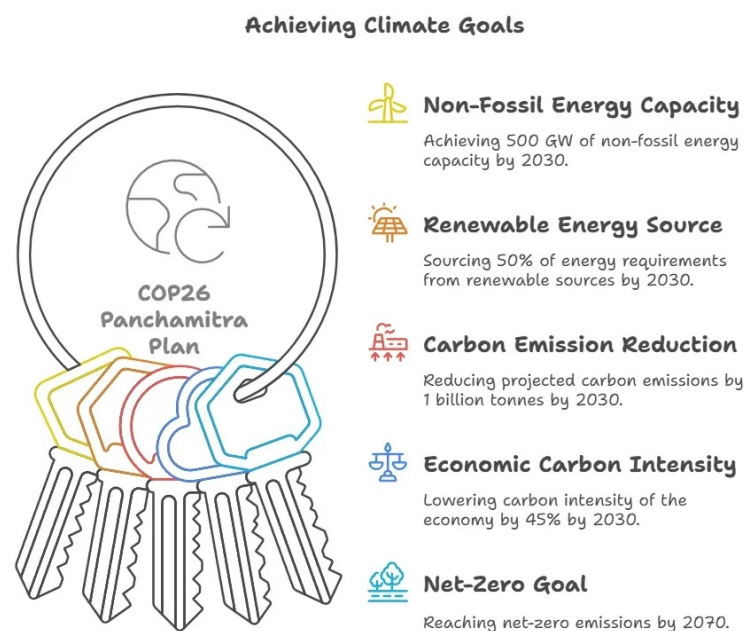
For Prelims: Paris Agreement 2015 , Carbon Sink , Monoculture , Climate Finance , Lithium-ion , Sodium-ion , Green Hydrogen , Agroforestry , Miyawaki Forests .

For Mains : India's progress on its climate targets and challenges associated with it. Steps needed to further its climate targets.

Source: IE

Why in News?

India has made remarkable progress on its climate commitments under the **Paris Agreement 2015** , achieving one of its major targets **five years ahead of schedule** and nearing completion on the other two.



Note: The **Paris Agreement (2015)** , adopted at **COP21** , set the goal of limiting global warming to **well below 2°C** , preferably **1.5°C** . **COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)** served as a key milestone to **review and enhance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** , reinforcing the Paris Agreement's implementation.

What is the Status of India's Climate Commitments?

- **Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity:** India achieved its **non-fossil fuel capacity target** in **2024** — **five years ahead of schedule (2030)** —with **242.78 GW** (around **50%**) of its **484.82 GW** total installed capacity from **non-fossil sources** (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear).
- **Carbon Sink:** India had pledged to create an additional **2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon sink** through

forests and tree cover .

- By **2021** , it had already achieved **2.29 billion tonnes** , and with a yearly increase of **around 150 million tonnes** (2017–2021), the total likely **crossed 2.5 billion tonnes** by **2023** .
- **Emissions Intensity:** India pledged to reduce the **emissions intensity of its GDP** by **45%** from **2005 levels by 2030** , and had already achieved a **36% reduction by 2020** .
 - Despite limited recent data, **current trends suggest** India is on track to **comfortably meet or exceed this target** .

India's Initiatives to Achieve Climate Targets

- **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**
- **Sovereign Green Bonds**
- **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)**
- **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**

What Concerns are Associated with India's Climate Targets?

- **Capacity vs Generation Gap:** India achieved **50% non-fossil installed capacity** in **2024** , but only **28% of electricity generated** comes from non-fossil sources.
 - Moreover, just **approx 6% of total energy consumption** is clean, as **fossil fuels still dominate** sectors like **industry, transport, and households** .
- **Heavy Reliance on Solar Energy:** In **2024** , India set a record by installing **30 GW of renewable energy** , with **solar alone contributing nearly 24 GW** .
 - However, **wind, hydro, and nuclear sectors** continue to grow at a **sluggish pace** due to **land acquisition issues, policy delays, and financial hurdles** , while **China is scaling up renewables ten times faster** (in the past 2 years).
 - **India's nuclear capacity is expected to reach just 17 GW by 2030** against **100 GW** target by **2047**(the **Union Budget 2025-26**) .
- **Sustainability Concerns on Carbon Sink:** Concerns persist about the **share of natural forests vs monoculture plantations** , their **ecological impact** , and whether gains can be **maintained amid urbanisation and land use pressures** .
- **Emissions Intensity Reduction:** The **lack of reliable emissions data after 2020** hampers efforts to **monitor progress** and **adjust policies** in real time.
 - Despite being on track to meet **intensity targets** , continued **fossil fuel dependence** in key sectors could lead to **rising absolute emissions** without a clear roadmap for **hard-to-abate industries** (e.g., steel, cement).
- **Climate Finance Shortfalls:** India has repeatedly flagged the **shortfall in climate finance and technology transfer** from developed nations, despite their **Paris Agreement commitments** .
 - Many wealthy countries have **missed emission reduction targets** and **under-delivered on the USD 100 billion annual climate finance pledge**.

What Steps can be Taken to Further India's Climate Target Goals?

- **Bridging Capacity-Generation Gap:** India must **scale up battery storage** technologies like **lithium-ion** , and **sodium-ion** batteries to handle **solar and wind intermittency** .
 - Additionally, **modernizing transmission networks** and deploying **smart grids with demand-response systems** is crucial for **efficient renewable integration and supply-demand balancing** .
- **Diversifying Beyond Solar:** India should **fast-track wind and hydro projects** by easing **land and clearance hurdles** and reviving stalled hydropower through **better financing and community support** .
 - It must **boost nuclear energy** and promote **offshore wind** and **green hydrogen** via **targeted subsidies** .
- **Sustainable Carbon Sink Growth:** Use **satellite technologies** like **Geographical Information System (GIS)** and **remote sensing** to monitor **deforestation and afforestation** , while promoting **mixed native species** over monoculture for **better carbon sequestration** .
 - Expand **agroforestry** and **urban green cover** (e.g., **Miyawaki forests**) and **strictly penalize illegal mining and forest encroachments** .
- **Securing Climate Finance:** India should advocate for developed countries to fulfill their commitment to providing **USD 300 billion annually by 2035** in climate finance for developing nations, as agreed at **UNFCCC COP29 in Baku** , and stress the importance of prioritizing grants over loans for **clean energy projects** .
 - Simultaneously, it must **attract private and foreign investment** through **incentives** , while boosting **indigenous R&D** and **international tech collaborations** in clean technologies.

Conclusion

India has made **significant progress** on its **climate targets** , achieving key **milestones ahead of schedule** . However, **structural challenges** in **generation** , **sectoral emissions** , **finance** , and **forest sustainability** persist. Addressing these will require **robust policy action** , **financial support** , and **technological innovation** to ensure **long-term climate resilience** and **equitable energy transition** .

Drishti Mains Question:

India has achieved its non-fossil fuel capacity target ahead of schedule. Critically examine the challenges that still hinder a full energy transition.

[Watch Video on YouTube: [▶ https://www.youtube.com/embed/SgQkzZgUp6Y](https://www.youtube.com/embed/SgQkzZgUp6Y)]

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question:

Prelims

Q. In the context of India's preparation for Climate-Smart Agriculture, consider the following statements: (2021)

1. The 'Climate-Smart Village' approach in India is a part of a project led by the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), an international research programme.
2. The project of CCAFS is carried out under Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.
3. The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR's research centres.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

Q. With reference to 'Global Climate Change Alliance', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2017)

1. It is an initiative of the European Union.
2. It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.
3. It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q.1 Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (2021)

Q.2 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How will India be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change? (2017)

Sohrai, Pattachitra, and Patua Paintings



Source: PIB

Why in News?

Artists from **Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal** participated in the **2 nd edition of Kala Utsav 2025 - 'Artists in Residence Programme'** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** , showcasing traditional paintings like **Sohrai Khovar** , **Pattachitra** , and **Patua** .

- The program honors **India's living art traditions** while offering a platform for **folk, tribal, and traditional artists** to showcase their work.

What are the Key Facts Regarding Sohrai, Pattachitra, and Patua Paintings?

- **Sohrai Painting:** It is a **traditional indigenous art form** practiced by **women from various tribal communities** in the **Hazaribagh region of Jharkhand** , including the **Kurmi, Santhal** , **Munda, Oraon, Agaria, and Ghatwal** groups.
 - Known as **harvest art** , it is deeply linked to **agriculture and cattle domestication** . The term 'Soh' or 'Soro' means *to drive away* , and 'Rai' refers to *a stick* .
 - As part of the ritual, **mandalas or aripan are drawn with rice gruel** to **welcome cattle into homes** , a task performed by **village women using their fingers**.
 - **Sohrai Khovar Painting** has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in the year 2020.



- **Patta Chitra:** Originating in **Odisha** , it is closely associated with the **Jagannath Temple in Puri** , where it is traditionally used to **decorate the sanctum sanctorum**.
 - **Pattachitra** , painted on **cloth (Pata)** coated with **chalk powder** and **tamarind seed glue** , uses **natural colors** from **vegetable, earth, and mineral sources** .
 - Themes include **religious , mythological , and folk stories** , notably **Krishna Leela** and **Lord Jagannath** .
 - Without **pencils or charcoal** , artists start with **borders** and sketch directly with **light red and yellow brushes** , finishing with a **lacquer coating** for **shine and water resistance**.



- **Patua Painting:** It is a folk art tradition from **West Bengal** , practiced by the **Patua or Chitrakar community** (both Hindu and Muslim).
 - **Patua artisan community** is also found in **Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha** , and parts of **Bangladesh** .
 - It is painted on **cloth scrolls** called *pati* or *patta* , backed with old sari fabric, using **bamboo-goat**

hair brushes and vegetable dyes fixed with gum.

- It is used to narrate **Mangal Katha** , especially by **Hindu Patuas** in **Kalighat** and **Kumartuli** .



[Watch Video on YouTube: [▶ https://www.youtube.com/embed/g3Vz69OINIE](https://www.youtube.com/embed/g3Vz69OINIE)]

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. The well-known painting “Bani Thani” belongs to the (2018)

- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school

Ans: (d)

Q. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at (2017)

- (a) Ajanta
- (b) Badami
- (c) Bagh
- (d) Ellora

Ans: (a)

Q. Kalamkari painting refers to

- (a) a hand-painted cotton textile in South India
- (b) a handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
- (c) a block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- (d) a hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North Western India

Ans: (a)

Kargil Vijay Diwas



Source: BS

India celebrates **Kargil Vijay Diwas every year on 26 th July** to honour the bravery of Indian soldiers who fought in the **1999 Kargil War** .

- On 26 th Kargil Vijay Diwas in 2025, the Indian Army launched three initiatives to honour soldiers' bravery.
 - These include an **e-shradhanjali portal** , a **QR code-based audio app** sharing Kargil war stories, and a new **Line of Control (LoC)** viewpoint at **Batalik sector**.
- The Kargil War began shortly after the **Lahore Declaration (1999)**, when Pakistani troops secretly occupied strategic heights in the Kargil district, Ladakh vacated for winter.
 - In response, the Indian Army launched **Operation Vijay** to reclaim the heights in the Kargil region of Ladakh.
 - The IAF carried out **Operation Safed Sagar**, targeting enemy positions on rugged peaks, while the Indian Navy launched **Operation Talwar** to exert pressure in the Arabian Sea.
 - The war was fought in challenging terrain across key areas like **Tololing, Tiger Hill, Drass, and Batalik**.
- The **Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh** was built in 2000 to honour the success of **Operation Vijay** .
- The **National War Memorial** in Delhi honours soldiers from major conflicts, including the **Sino-Indian war in 1962, Indo-Pak wars in 1947, 1965, and 1971**, Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka 1987-90, and the Kargil Conflict in 1999.

Read more: [Kargil Vijay Diwas](#)

India's First Tribal Genome Sequencing Project



Source: TH

Why in News?

Gujarat has launched **India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project** to map the **genetic**

profile of tribal populations .

Gujarat’s Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

- **Aim:** It aims to identify **genetic health risks** like **Sickle Cell Disease** , **Thalassemia** and **provide precision healthcare** tailored to the needs of tribal populations .
 - It seeks to bridge the gap between **scientific advancements and tribal traditions**, fostering a healthier future for these communities.
- **Implementation** : Managed by the **Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC)**.
- **Scope** : The genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts will be sequenced.

Genome Sequencing

- **About:** It is the process of **determining the exact order of nucleotide bases (A, C, G, T)** in an individual’s DNA.
 - It reveals a person's genetic makeup, providing insights into traits, health risks, and potential disorders.
- **Types** :
 - **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)** maps the entire DNA sequence for comprehensive genetic information.
 - **Partial Genome Sequencing** focuses on specific genome parts.
 - **Targeted Gene Sequencing** sequences specific genes.
- **Applications:**
 - Helps identify **disease-causing mutations** , understand the **genetic basis of diseases** , and discover **new drug targets** .
 - Enables **personalised medicine** by predicting individual responses to drugs, allowing for **optimized drug selection** .
 - Used in crop improvement to identify genes linked to **disease resistance, high yield** , and **better nutrition** , aiding the development of **improved crop varieties** .

› Difference Between Gene Editing and Gene Sequencing:

Characteristics	Gene Sequencing	Gene Editing
Definition	The process of determining the precise order of nucleotides (A, T, C, G) in a DNA or RNA molecule.	The process of making targeted modifications to the DNA sequence of a gene or genes.
Purpose	To obtain the complete or partial sequence of a gene, a set of genes, or an entire genome.	To introduce desired changes, such as correcting genetic defects, modifying gene expression, or introducing new genetic traits.
Techniques	Sanger sequencing, Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), and others.	CRISPR-Cas9 , zinc finger nucleases, TALENs, and other specialised tools.
Outcome	Provides information about the genetic makeup and composition of an organism.	Allows for the direct manipulation and alteration of the genetic code.
Modification	Does not directly modify the genetic material.	Enables the addition, removal, or alteration of specific DNA sequences.

Read more: [Genome India Project](#)

2025 Henley Passport Index Q2



Source: TH

India ranks 77th in the **Henley Passport Index** 2025 (Q2), up from 85th in January 2025 (Q1), showing a modest but notable improvement in global mobility for Indian citizens.

- Indian passport holders now enjoy **visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 59 destinations** , up from 57 in 2024. **The Philippines and Sri Lanka** are the two newly added visa-free destinations for Indians.
- Singapore ranks first with access to 193 destinations, followed by Japan and South Korea with 190.
- The Henley Passport Index ranks 199 passports based on visa-free access to 227 destinations, using **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** data and updated quarterly.
 - IATA is the trade body for 300 airlines, covering 83% of global air traffic. Its headquarters is in **Montreal, Canada.**

Read more: [Henley Passport Index 2025](#)