

It has an outlay of Rs 2000 crore over four years (FY 2025-26 to FY 2028-29), with Rs 500 crore annually sourced from Government of India's budgetary support.

Apex Court recommends Parliament to reconsider entrusting Speaker with decision on Disqualification

Supreme Court, in **Padi Kaushik Reddy v. State of Telangana (2025)**, recently addressed **significant delays by the Speaker** in deciding disqualification petitions concerning 10 Telangana MLAs.

Key Highlights of the Judgment

- Court **criticized the Speaker's inaction**, quashing a High Court order, and **directed proceedings conclude within three months** from July 31, 2025.
- It stressed the Speaker, acting as a **Tribunal**, must not protract proceedings, warning of an "operation successful, patient died" scenario where delay defeats the law's intent.
- Court appealed to Parliament to **revisit provisions** and consider alternative, independent mechanisms for disqualification decisions, as current delays frustrate the Tenth Schedule's objective.

Other Relevant Judgments

- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)**: While the Speaker acts as a **Tribunal** subject to judicial review for jurisdictional errors, "quia timet actions" (preventive injunctions) are generally barred prior to a decision.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh Case (2020)**: Directed Speakers to decide disqualification petitions within an **outer limit of three months**.
 - ⊕ It also suggested replacing the Speaker with an **independent tribunal** for swifter, impartial decisions.

About the Disqualification of Legislators

- **Tenth Schedule** (Anti-Defection Law), added by the **Constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985**, aimed to combat political defections and safeguard democracy.
- It entrusted the **Speaker/Chairman** with adjudication for **fearless and expeditious decisions**, explicitly to avoid lengthy court delays.
- **Grounds for Disqualification**:
 - ⊕ Voluntarily giving up party membership;
 - ⊕ Defying party whip during voting;
 - ⊕ If an **independently elected legislator** joins a political party;
 - ⊕ If a **nominated member** and **joins any political party, after six months** from the day he became a legislator.

White Paper on Blue Economy outlines roadmap to unlock India's Marine Resource Potential

Union Minister recently informed the Parliament that Paper titled '**Transforming India's Blue Economy: Investment, Innovation and Sustainable Growth**' outlines a roadmap to 2035, prioritizing feasible projects and building investor confidence **to establish the blue economy as a vital engine for national development**.

About Blue Economy

- It comprises of ocean resources and man-made infrastructure in marine, maritime, and coastal zones, contributing to **economic growth**, environmental sustainability, and **national security**.
- **Significance**: India's blue economy, driven by its 11,098 km coastline and 2.4 million sq. km EEZ, is a key engine for national growth and a core pillar of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Sector Specific Challenges**:

Sectors	Environmental	Policy and Governance	Technological and Infrastructural	Financial and Investment	Social and equity
Marine Living Sources	Overfishing, pollution (mangroves, coral), climate impact on fish yield	Weak inter-ministerial coordination.	Limited cold chain, low modern tech, early seaweed/cage farming	Limited credit, low private investment, poor insurance	Limited credit, low private investment, poor insurance
Offshore renewable energy	Seabed disruption, cyclone risks	Need for harmonized framework	Evolving transmission, high import costs	Limited long-term financing	Skill shortage, low coastal community engagement
Coastal Tourism & Heritage Conservation	Port pollution, climate-related cyclones	Poor central-state collaboration	High logistics cost, limited shipbuilding capacity	Low private investment, weak financing models	Few high-skill jobs, low women participation

Key Recommendations

- Improve **inter-ministerial coordination** and data-sharing mechanisms.
- Attract **private and global investments** through blue bonds, blended finance, sovereign guarantees, and PPPs.
- Scale successful state-level models such as **women-led seaweed farming** in Odisha, smart ports in Kochi, and **eco-tourism** in the Andaman Islands.

Cabinet approves additional outlay for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana for 2021-22 to 2025-26

Cabinet has approved a total outlay of ₹6,520 crore for the ongoing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).

Key Highlights of the Cabinet decision

- **Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (ICCVAI):** ₹1,000 crore is allocated to support the establishment of 50 Multi Product Food Irradiation Units under the ICCVAI component scheme of PMKSY.
- **Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FSQAI):** It also includes support for 100 Food Testing Labs (FTLs) with NABL accreditation under the FSQAI component.
 - ⊙ These labs will develop advanced infrastructure for testing food samples, ensuring compliance with safety standards and supply of safe foods.

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

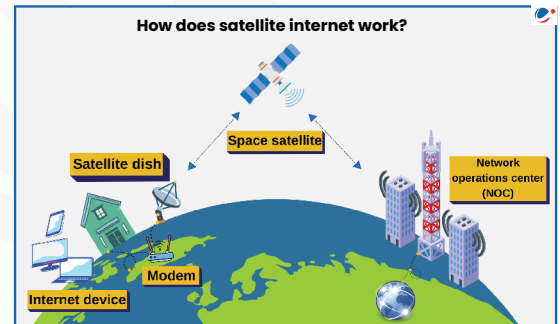
- It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries since 2017-18.
- **Objective:** To create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- PMKSY is demand-driven and not state, district, region, or crop specific.
- **Components:** ICCVAI, FSQAI, Agro Processing Clusters, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities and Operation Greens.
- As of June 30, 2024, 1217 food processing projects have been approved under PMKSY, attracting private investment of ₹22610.06 crore.

Starlink receives license to launch satellite internet services in India

Starlink project launched by SpaceX with a satellite constellation system in Low Earth Orbit aims to deliver global internet coverage.

About Satellite Internet Services

- **Definition:** Satellite internet or satellite broadband, is a wireless internet connection provided through communication satellites orbiting the Earth.
- **Significance**
 - ⊙ **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Offers location-independent connectivity, reaching remote regions.
 - ⊙ **Boost to Disaster Management:** Provide communication support in disaster-prone or geographically difficult areas (e.g., Siachen, North-East India).
 - ⊙ **Support for Emerging Technologies:** Facilitates adoption of IoT, telemedicine, distance education, and smart agriculture in rural India.
 - ⊙ **Military and National Security Applications:** Already used by the Indian Army (e.g., Siachen Glacier) for robust internet access in high-altitude regions.
- **Challenges**
 - ⊙ **High Cost for End-Users:** Much costlier than traditional broadband, limiting rural affordability.
 - ⊙ **Demand-Supply Imbalance:** Urban areas already have cheaper, faster broadband alternatives.
 - ⊙ **Infrastructure & Technical Barriers:** High satellite and terminal costs; latency and bandwidth concerns.
 - ⊙ **Other:** Data Security Concerns, regulatory hurdles, National Security Issues etc.
- **Way Forward:**
 - ⊙ **Using satellite internet as a complementary solution:** Focusing on rural, remote, and areas susceptible to disasters
 - ⊙ **Hybrid models:** To maximize efficiency, hybrid models combining satellite and terrestrial networks can be used.
 - ⊙ **Ensure affordability:** Reduce hardware costs, localise pricing, and collaborate with Indian telecom companies.



Also in News



Cromer Blood Group

A new rare blood group, previously unidentified anywhere in the world, has been discovered.

About CR Blood Group

- It is a collection of red blood cell antigens carried on the decay-accelerating factor (DAF), also known as CD55.
 - ⊙ Blood group antigens are molecules on the surface of Red Blood Cells.
- The blood group system consists of 12 high-prevalence and three low-prevalence antigens.
- In recognition of its origin, the new group has been officially named 'CRIB', with CR representing Cromer and IB standing for India, Bengaluru.
- **Rare blood type** is when a person's blood type is present in only 0.1% of the population.



Nomination of Panel of Chairperson

The Lok Sabha Speaker has nominated a Member of Parliament (MP) as an empanelled member to preside over House proceedings.

About Nomination of Panel of Chairpersons

- **Section 9 in Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business** in Lok Sabha states that:
 - ⊙ At the start of a session or as needed, the Speaker nominates up to 10 MPs as a panel of Chairpersons.
 - ⊙ Any of them may preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
 - ◆ They can only do so when requested by the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, by the Deputy Speaker.
 - ⊙ The nominated Chairpersons remain in office until a new panel is appointed.
 - ⊙ When a member of the Panel of Chairpersons is also not present, any other person as determined by the House acts as the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
 - ⊙ They cannot preside over the House, when the office of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is vacant then President appoints any member as a Speaker for the purpose



Project 17A

Recently, Indian Navy received **advanced guided-missile frigate Himgiri** which is the third ship of **Nilgiri Class (Project 17A)**.

- **Frigates** are to protect other ships of the fleet from threats emanating from the sea, specially from submarines.

About Project 17A

- **Follow-on of Shivalik-class (Project 17)**
- **Seven Frigates being indigenously built:** by Mazagon Dock (Mumbai) and GRSE (Kolkata).
- **Stealth & Modern Warfare Ready:** Designed for blue-water operations to counter conventional and non-conventional threats.
- **Equipped with:** BrahMos supersonic, Barak 8 missile system, etc.



Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)

Ramsar COP15 concludes with a side event of IBRRI for wetland conservation and restoration.

About Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)

- **Aim:** To support implementation of objectives of Strategic Plan of Ramsar Convention with IUCN serving as the Secretariat.
- **Supported by IUCN's BRIDGE** (Building River Dialogue and Governance) project.
- **Member States:** Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- **Strategic Plan 2025–2030 launched at COP15 :** To halt and reverse the loss of wetlands across its Member States:

About BRIDGE

- **Aim:** To catalyse sustainable management and development of shared water resources, safeguard water security, conserve biodiversity, and promote peaceful cooperation across borders.



Additional Judges

President of India appoints Additional Judges in the High Courts in exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India.

About Additional Judges

- An Additional Judge is appointed **under Article 224** of the Constitution for **such period not exceeding two years** and shall hold office till the age of 62 years.
- **Reason:** If by reason of any temporary increase in the business of a High Court or by reason of arrears of work.
- In consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the **sanctioned strength** of High Courts Judges is distributed into Permanent and Additional Judges in the **ratio of 75:25**.



Darwin Tree of Life (DTOL)

The first phase of DTOL is almost complete.

About DTOL

- The project aims to **sequence the genomes of 70,000 species of eukaryotic organisms** in Britain and Ireland.
- The Project is one of several initiatives of **Earth BioGenome Project (EBP)**.
 - ⊖ EBP is being implemented by a **global network of researchers, institutions, and affiliated projects**.
 - ⊖ EBP aims to sequence, catalog and characterize the genomes of all of **Earth's eukaryotic species** over a period of ten years.
 - ◆ A eukaryotic cell is a cell that **contains a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles**.



ABHA ID

National Medical Commission directs medical colleges and institutes to record **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID** along with patient registration for all patients.

About ABHA ID

- It is a **14 digit number** that will uniquely identify patients as a participant in India's digital healthcare ecosystem.
- It will be **accepted by healthcare providers** across the country.
- **Voluntary opt-out:** Patients can participate at their own free will and, at any time, they can request for permanent deletion or temporary deactivation of their ABHA number.

About Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

- **Objective:** To develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country



Flagellin

A Duke University study suggests a new "**sense**" in the gut, rooted in the microbiome—a community of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and archaea that influence immunity, digestion, and mental health.

About Flagellin

- Within this microbiome, **bacterial flagella** (tail-like structures for movement) release an ancient protein called **flagellin**.
- **Mechanism:** Special gut cells called **neuropods** detect flagellin using the TLR5 receptor and send signals to the brain through the vagus nerve (body's longest autonomic nerve), helping regulate appetite.
- **Implications:** Could pave way for new treatments for **obesity, depression, and anxiety**.

Personality in News



Goswami Tulsidas

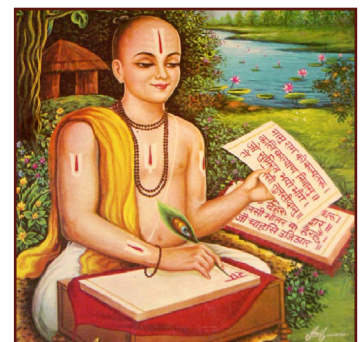
Vaishnav saint Tulsidas was remembered on his **500th birth anniversary**.

About Goswami Tulsidas

- Born in Banda district of UP.
- His real name was **Rambola Dubey**.
- He was a **contemporary of Akbar**.

Key Contributions

- He wrote **Ramcharit Manas in Awadhi**.
- He **popularised the story of Lord Ram** because he wrote in the regional dialect that most people understood.
- **Other Literary Contributions:** Dohavali, Sahitya ratna or Ratna Ramayan, Gitavali, Krishna Gitavali or Krishnavali, Vinaya Patrika, etc.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR