

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has officially launched the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

It is a call to rebuild governance from the **bottom up**, guided by tribal values and led by local leaders.

Objectives

- Empower tribal communities and promote responsive, **people-centric governance**.
- Build a network of **20 lakh change leaders** across 1 lakh villages, 550 districts, and 30 States/UTs.

Key Components of Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

➤ Institutional Mechanisms

- ⊕ **Adi Sewa Kendra**: To be set up in all tribal villages; officers and community members dedicate 1–2 hours fortnightly (Adi Sewa Samay) to **address local issues, mentor youth, and support governance**.
- ⊕ **Governance Lab Workshops**: Multi-level workshops (state to village) engaging departments to **co-create solutions** for tribal development.
- ⊕ **Tribal Village Action Plan**: Jointly developed plans with villagers for **Tribal Village Vision 2030**, aligned with SDGs and national development goals.

➤ Volunteer Engagement

- ⊕ **Adi Sahyogi**: Teachers, doctors, and professionals to mentor and mobilize communities.
- ⊕ **Adi Saathi**: SHGs, NRLM members, tribal elders, youth, and local leaders supporting outreach and implementation.

- **Capacity Building**: Training programs for tribal youth, women, and leaders in governance, **problem-solving**, and **social mobilization**.

Significance

- As part of **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**, it advances **Viksit Bharat 2047** by empowering tribal communities, ensuring **responsive governance**, and fostering local leadership.
- It strengthens ongoing **flagship schemes** like the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, PM-JANMAN**, and the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**.

Election Commission Notifies Schedule for Vice-Presidential Election 2025

The election to the post of Vice-President of India is conducted under a constitutionally mandated process overseen by the **Election Commission of India**.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 66 (2)**: The Vice-President shall not be a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any State.
- **Term & Vacancy**: As per Article 67, the Vice President serves for five years. Article 68(2) mandates a prompt election in case of vacancy.

Election Procedure of Vice President

- **Nomination**: Requires 20 proposers and 20 seconders with ₹15,000 deposit and certified copy of the entry showing his name in the current electoral roll.
- **Voting**: By an Electoral College, which consists of the members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (both elected and nominated members)
 - ⊕ Voting is with the **system of proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot. (Article 66).
 - ⊕ The value of **every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election** has the same value i.e. 1.
- **No Whip**: provisions of the **Anti-Defection Law** are not applicable.

Eligibility for Vice-President (article 66)

- Is a **citizen of India**.
- Has **completed the age of 35 years**.
- Is qualified for **election as a member of the Council of States** (Rajya Sabha).
- Must not hold any **office of profit under the Government of India** or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority.

Standing Committee on Finance report calls for even distribution of industries across all States

The Committee noted that while industry is a State subject, the Central Government's initiatives are vital for industrial development of all states.

- Earlier, the **Economic Survey 2024-25** also highlighted **significant disparities in industrial development** across states.

Uneven Industrial Growth in States

- While states like **Gujarat, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh** effectively leverage industrial dependence, northern and eastern states show low industrialization levels.
- Manufacturing is unevenly distributed, with **Tamil Nadu** leading in factory concentration and **Bihar** having an extremely low presence.

Reasons for Uneven Industrial Growth in All States

- **Historical Factors:** Regional imbalances started during the British regime, concentrating development in areas like **West Bengal and Maharashtra**.
- **Geographical Factors:** Difficult terrain (e.g., **Himalayan and North-Eastern states**) also impedes growth.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Power, transport, and land availability vary across states, hindering industrial growth in regions such as the **North-Eastern Region and Bihar**.
- **Policy & Planning Disparities:** The Green Revolution's benefited few states like **Punjab and Haryana**, exacerbating imbalances.

Way Forward

- The **Economic Survey 2025** emphasized balanced industrial policies, deregulation, and infrastructure improvements for sustainable growth.
- Effective **Centre-state cooperation** is crucial, with the Centre supporting lagging regions in infrastructure, education, skill development, and credit.



Chinese Foreign Minister's first visit since escalation along Line of Actual Control

The Chinese Foreign Minister co-chaired 24th round of the **Special Representatives' (SRs) Dialogue with the National Security Advisor**.

Key Outcomes

➤ Consensus on Border Management:

- ⊕ Seek a **fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable framework** for settlement in line with the **2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles**.
- ⊕ Setting up an **Expert Group and Working Group**, under the **Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination**.
- ⊕ Use existing **diplomatic and military-level mechanisms** to manage tensions and initiate discussions on de-escalation.

➤ Dialogue Mechanisms: Both sides pledged to restart suspended bilateral dialogues, including the **High-level Mechanism on People-to-People Exchanges** in 2026.

➤ 75 years of Ties: India and China will hold commemorative events throughout 2025 to mark 75 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

➤ Air Connectivity: Agreement on resuming direct flights at the earliest.

➤ Pilgrimage Access: India's **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** will be expanded in scale from 2026.

➤ Trans-border Rivers: Both sides agreed to continue cooperation under the **Expert-Level Mechanism** and to share hydrological data during emergencies.

➤ Border Trade: Trade through **Lipulekh Pass(Uttarakhand), Shipki La Pass(Himachal Pradesh) and Nathu La Pass(Sikkim)** will be reopened.



Also in News



Parliamentary Consultative Committee (PCC)

First meeting of PCC of Ministry of Ayush was held recently.
About PCC

- Constitution of PCC is one of the **functions allocated to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961**.
- **Objectives:** To create **awareness** among the Members of Parliament about the working of Government.
 - ⊕ To promote **informal consultation** between the Government and the Members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the Government.
- The Government **will decide the composition** of these Committees.
- A Consultative Committee will have a **Minimum membership of ten and a Maximum membership of thirty**.
- The membership of Consultative Committees is **voluntary**.



Quality Council of India (QCI)

The **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**, under the QCI, has launched a new **Medical Application Portal**.

About QCI

- **Genesis:** Established in 1996 as an autonomous non-profit organization under the **Societies Registration Act**.
 - ⊕ Jointly set up by the Government of India and industry bodies—**ASSOCHAM, FICCI, and CII**.
- **Nodal Department:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Governance:** Its Governing Council has 39 members led by a **Chairperson** nominated by the **Prime Minister**.
- **Role:** QCI promotes quality through national campaigns, ensures **third-party assessment**, and works to improve citizens' **quality of life** in line with global standards.



Additional Judges

President appointed Additional Judge to the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**.

Additional Judges

- **Reasons for Appointment:** If it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be increased due to any temporary increase in the business or arrears of work.
 - ⊕ Any High Court judge (except Chief Justice) cannot perform duties due to absence or other reasons.
- **Appointed by:** President of India under Article 224(1).
 - ⊕ The Supreme Court Collegium **approves the proposal for appointment**.
- **Tenure:** Not exceeding 2 years, as the President may specify.
 - ⊕ Shall not hold office after attaining the **age of 62 years**.



Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Indian Oil signed a MoU with Air India for supply of sustainable aviation fuel.

About Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

- **SAF is an alternative fuel** made from non-petroleum feedstocks that reduces emissions from air transportation.
- It can be blended up to **50 per cent** in conventional aviation turbine fuel (ATF or jet fuel), depending on availability.
- India has mandated **1 per cent SAF blending** in jet fuel sold to international airlines from 2027.
- **Raw Material:** Corn grain, Oil seeds, Algae, Other fats, Oils, and Greases, Agricultural residues, Forestry residues, Wood mill waste, etc.



Privatization of Defence Production

Private sector achieved a record 22.56% share in defence production (FY 2024-25), an increase in the third consecutive year.

- **Largest share:** In FY 2024-25, defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) accounted for 57.50% of the total defence production.
- To foster private sector participation, the government has introduced several schemes, including:
 - ⊕ **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**,
 - ⊕ the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS),
 - ⊕ the **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI)** Scheme, and
 - ⊕ the Technology Development Fund (TDF) along with Make in India and the Positive Indigenisation Lists.



Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

CBIC has notified exemption of all customs duties on the import of raw cotton.

About CBIC (HQ: New Delhi)

- **Genesis:** CBIC, formerly known as the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), **is a statutory body under Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963**.
- **Purpose:** Formulation and Implementation of policy concerning levy and collection of **Customs duties, Central Excise duties and Goods & Services tax**.
 - ⊕ **It also deals with prevention of smuggling** and administration relating to Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods and Service Tax (CGST) and Narcotics.



Palmyra trees

Palmyra palm trees are proving beneficial by reducing lightning-related deaths and serving as a food source for elephants during lean seasons.

About the Tree

- **Origin & Status:** **Native to tropical Africa**. It is also the **state tree** of Tamil Nadu.
- **Climatic Requirements:**
 - ⊕ **Soil:** Grows in **diverse soils**, including sandy, red, black, and alluvial, as well as arid and wasteland areas.
 - ⊕ **Rainfall:** Suited to semi-arid regions with less than **750 mm** annual rainfall.
 - ⊕ **Altitude:** Thrives from sea level up to 800 m.
- **Uses:** Every part of the tree is useful-for housing, medicine, shade, and food-making it one of the most **resourceful trees** in India.



Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

ICSSR to issue notice to **Centre for the Study of Developing Societies** over 'manipulation' of Maharashtra poll data.

About ICSSR

- It is the **apex body of the Government of India** for research in the social and human sciences.
- Founded in 1969, ICSSR **operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education**, Government of India.
- It plays a pivotal role in **advancing knowledge and understanding of various social issues and challenges**, and providing research-based solutions to policymakers and stakeholders in the development of the nation through initiatives and schemes.

Place in News



Canada (Capital: Ottawa)

Recently, Canada faced its second-worst wildfire season on record.

Political Features

- **Location:** Occupies the northern half of North America, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean (east), Pacific Ocean (west), and Arctic Ocean (north).
- **Neighbors:** Shares the **world's longest land border** with the United States; maritime borders with France (Saint Pierre and Miquelon) and Denmark (Greenland).

Geographical Features

- **Size:** World's **second-largest** country after Russia.
- **Landscape:** Includes Arctic tundra, Vast boreal forests, Rocky Mountains, and Fertile prairies.
- **Freshwater:** Holds about **20% of the world's freshwater reserves** through its lakes and rivers.
- **Great Lakes:** The 5 Great Lakes (**Superior, Michigan, Huron, Ontario, and Erie**) form a **natural boundary** between Canada and the United States.
 - ⊕ Of the 5 lakes, **only Lake Michigan** lies entirely within the US.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR