

Five years of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Launched on **September 10, 2020** by the **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** for a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

- The scheme has now been **extended up to 2025–26**.
- **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)** is nodal agency for implementing the training, awareness and capacity-building programmes under PMMSY.
- PMMSY will be implemented as an umbrella scheme **having both Centrally Sector Components and Centrally Sponsored Scheme Components**.

Key Achievements

- The country has emerged as the **second-largest fish producer** in the world, contributing nearly **8% of global fish production**.
- The scheme has created **58 lakh livelihoods** and empowered **99,018 women**.

Strategic Initiatives

- **Empowering Women in Fisheries:** Provides up to **60% financial assistance** for women-oriented projects and supports climate-resilient coastal villages.
- **Technology Adoption:** Scaled up **Biofloc and Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS)** units to boost productivity sustainably.
- **Formalization & Digitalization:** The **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (sub-scheme of PMMSY)** and **National Fisheries Digital Platform** formalize the sector and offer single-window access to benefits.
- **Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFV):** The development of **100 CRCFV** aims to **enhance climate resilience in coastal communities**.



Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

Aims and Objectives

- Harnessing of fisheries potential
- Enhancing of fish production and productivity
- Modernizing and strengthening of value chain – post-harvest management and quality improvement
- Doubling fishers and fish farmers incomes and generation of employment
- Enhancing contribution to Agriculture GVA and exports
- Social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers
- Robust fisheries management and regulatory framework

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

UN Report Warns that Record Military spending Threatens Global Peace and Development

UN Secretary General released a report titled “**The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future**”.

- The report emphasizes on **recalibrating global approaches to security and development**, reversing the dual trends of rising military expenditure and widening development financing gaps.

Key Highlights of Report

- **Global Military Spending:** It hit **\$2.7 trillion** last year (according to SIPRI), and is projected to reach **\$6.6 trillion by 2035** if current trends persist.
 - ⊕ During 2022-2025, its share has risen from **2.2% to 2.5% of world's GDP** and from **6.6% to 7.1% of government budgets**.
 - ⊕ **China, India, Russia, USA and the European Union** account for **over 70% of military expenditure**.
- **Financing Imbalance:** Development financing has not kept pace with rising military expenditures even as annual financing gap for SDGs widens to **\$4 trillion**.
- **Impact of Rising Military Spending:** **Exacerbates geopolitical tensions**, fuels arms races and increases risks of conflict.
 - ⊕ It is also **crowding out resources** essential for SDGs like poverty reduction, education, health, etc.
 - ⊕ It is expected to **add to already high levels of public debt**, disproportionately affecting fragile states and poorest countries.

Policy Recommendations by UN Report

- **Prioritize diplomacy, peaceful settlement of disputes, and confidence-building measures** to address the underlying causes of growing military expenditure.
- **Bring military expenditure to the fore of disarmament discussions**, and improve links between arms control and development.
- **Promote transparency and accountability** around military expenditure to build trust and confidence among Member States.
- **Reinvigorate multilateral finance** for development.
- **Advance a human-centred approach** to security and sustainable development.

China's Curbs on Rare Earth Magnet (REM) Exports Impact Indian Automakers

These curbs can impact automobile prices as **REMs are crucial element in making electric vehicles.**

- Also import of complete parts instead of REMs could **reduce domestic value addition by automakers** which is a key **requisite for incentives under PLI scheme.**

About Rare Earth magnets

- Rare earth magnets are the strongest type of permanent magnets commercially available.
 - ⊖ They are typically made from alloys that contain rare earth elements such as **Neodymium, Praseodymium, and Dysprosium.**
- **Application:** They form **critical parts of EVs, renewable energy, and cutting-edge defence systems** and their absence can **paralyse the supply chain.**

Challenges Associated with REMs

- **Supply Chain Concentration:** China accounts for about **70% of global rare earth metals** mining and holds nearly **90% of the world's REMs' production.**
 - ⊖ Despite holding **5th-largest rare earth reserves** India has no domestic capacity and imports nearly all REMs used.
 - ⊖ REE magnet supply chain could take **3-4 years.**
- **High Risk Venture:** It's supply chain is highly capital and time intensive.

Initiative Taken

- **National Critical Mineral Missions** launched for self-reliance and recycling.
- **Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL)** in talks with the **Japanese and Korean companies** to manufacture rare earth magnets commercially.

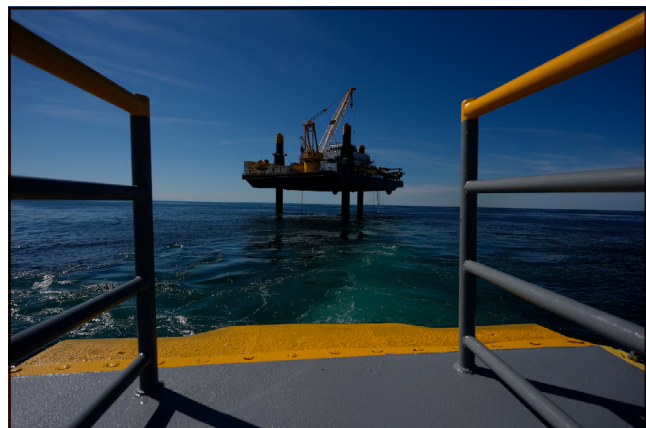


Scientists Confirmed the Discovery of a Large Offshore Aquifer under the Atlantic Ocean

Similar to **land aquifers**, offshore aquifers are bodies of rock or sediment which **contain freshwater** but are located **beneath the sea floor.**

Key Features of Offshore Aquifers

- **Extent:** Such aquifers have been **found across the globe** off the coasts of Australia, China, North America, South Africa.
 - ⊖ Offshore aquifers can **extend up to 90 kilometres** off the coast and are believed to contain a million cubic kilometres of freshwater – about **10% of all terrestrial fresh groundwater.**
- **Freshwater Preservation:** A **cap rock layer**, built from **compacted clay-rich sediment**, over the aquifers may have **prevented freshwater from mixing with salt water** in the ocean.
- **Formation:** There are generally two theories:
 - ⊖ **Ice Age Hypothesis:** During past ice ages, **rainwater seeped into land areas that are now covered by the ocean.**
 - ⊖ **Connection Hypothesis:** Offshore aquifers could be connected to **onshore aquifers**, which regularly supply them with water after rainfall.
- **Significance:** **Potential untapped source of freshwater**, especially for water-stressed regions and **potential buffers** during climate change induced droughts and erratic rainfall.
 - ⊖ According to 2023 UN Report, global freshwater demand is **predicted to exceed supply by 40% by 2030.**
- **Challenges:** High extraction cost, technical barriers, ecological risks on ocean ecosystem including marine life, governance issues, etc.

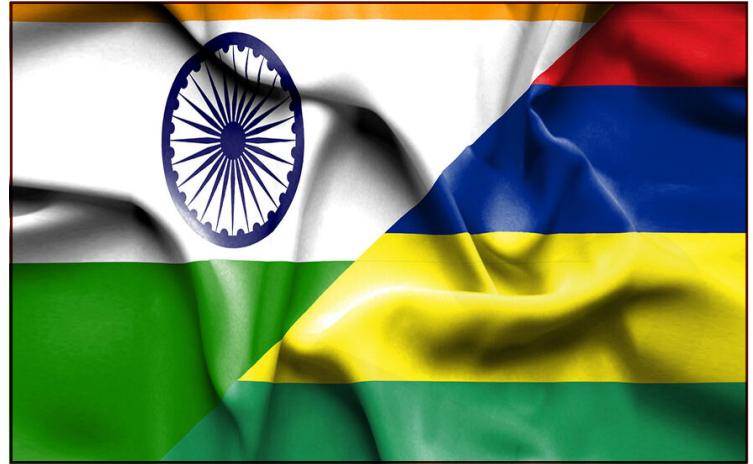


India a Steadfast Partner in Mauritius' Socio-Economic Growth: Mauritius' Prime Minister

While on a state visit to India, Mauritius' PM said **India has been and remains a time-tested and trusted partner of Mauritius.**

India-Mauritius Relations

- **Economic:** India has emerged as **one of Mauritius' leading trading partners** with key Indian exports including pharmaceuticals, cotton, cereals, motor vehicles, and mineral fuels.
 - ⊕ **Mauritius is a significant source of FDI into India** constituting around 25% of India's cumulative FDI since 2000.
 - ⊕ Indian companies have **invested more than USD 200 million** in Mauritius over the past five years.
- **Development Partnership:** India provided Special Economic Package and extended Line of Credit for priority projects including Metro Express, Supreme Court building, Social Housing, etc.
 - ⊕ India has traditionally been **first responder for Mauritius** in times of crisis including during **Covid-19 and Wakashio oil-spill**.
- **Cultural:** Around 70% of Mauritius's population is of Indian origin.
 - ⊕ **Girmitiyas (Indentured Indian labourers)** were first brought to Mauritius from Puducherry in 1729.
- **Strategic and Geopolitical Significance:** Mauritius' location in the **Western Indian Ocean is vital** for India's maritime security and regional influence.
 - ⊕ Mauritius is **key to India's MAHASAGAR Vision** and the '**Neighbourhood First Policy**' and serves as a **key gateway for India's trade and investment in Africa**.



Also in News



Adi Sanskriti

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches Beta Version of "Adi Sanskriti".

- Adi Sanskriti is envisioned as the world's **first Digital Learning Platform for Tribal Artforms**.

Major components

- **Adi Vishwavidyalaya (Digital Tribal Art Academy):** Currently offering **45 immersive courses** on tribal dance, painting, crafts, music, and folklore.
- **Adi Sampada (Socio-Cultural Repository):** A collection of over **5,000 curated documents across five themes**, covering paintings, dance, clothing & textiles, artefacts and livelihood.
- **Adi Haat (Online marketplace):** Currently linked with TRIFED, this will evolve into a **dedicated online marketplace** for tribal artisans, enabling sustainable livelihoods and direct consumer access.



National Industrial Classification (NIC)

Recently, **Ministry of statistics and program implementation** unveiled draft NIC 2025 revising NIC 2008.

About NIC

- NIC code is a **numerical classification scheme** used to **categorize economic activities into different sectors**.
- It **utilized across multiple domains**, including statistical surveys, censuses, economic research, registration processes, and for policy formulation by central and state government agencies.
- India brought out its **first Standard Industrial Classification in 1962**.
 - ⊕ It was revised multiple times thereafter in consonance with the revisions in the **International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)**.



Iran and IAEA Agreement

Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) **signed an agreement to pave the way for resuming cooperation**, including on ways of relaunching inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities.

- Earlier, Iran enacts a **law suspending cooperation** with IAEA after conflict with Israel and US.

About IAEA

- IAEA **administers international safeguards** to verify the non-proliferation commitment of non-nuclear weapon States party to the NPT.
 - ⊕ IAEA also facilitates **development of applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes** in non-nuclear weapon states party.
- Under Iran nuclear agreement, formally known as the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, Iran reduced its **nuclear activities** and agreed to greater **access** for inspectors.



Aspergillus

Researchers have **identified two new species of Black Aspergillus** in Western Ghats.

About Aspergillus

- The aspergillus is a group of **filamentous fungi**, which can act as saprophytes, endophytes, and opportunistic pathogens.
- **Biotechnology Applications:** **Black Aspergilli** are vital in **citric acid production, food fermentation** (production of enzymes, organic acids etc.), and **agriculture** (having phosphate stabilization potential).
- Some species form deadly **fungal pathogen**, and are **potent carcinogen**.



Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV)

ISRO signed an agreement with HAL for transfer of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) technology.

About SSLV

- SSLV is designed as a **quick turnaround, on-demand launch vehicle** that can be efficiently scaled for industrial production.
- It has **three Solid Propulsion Stages** and **liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM)** as a terminal stage.
- Designed to launch **satellites weighing up to 500 kg into Lower Earth Orbit (LEO)**.



Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) has inked an MoU with EdCIL (India) Limited, driven by the **ASPIRE (Accelerating Strategic Progress in Research and Education)** program.

- MoU aims to foster the **development of dual-use cutting-edge technologies**, linking defence expertise with emerging ed-tech solutions.

About iDEX-DIO

- Scheme for iDEX, launched in 2021, aims to provide **financial support to nearly 300 Startups/ MSMEs/individual innovators** and about 20 Partner incubators.
- iDEX is being **funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)'** which has been formed as a '**not-for-profit**' company under the **aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence**.



Atal innovation mission (AIM)

Recently, India's first overseas Atal Innovation Centre was inaugurated at IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus in UAE under AIM.

About AIM

- It is Government of India's flagship initiative **under the auspices of the NITI Aayog**.
- **Objective:** To promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- **Major Programs:**
 - ⊕ **Atal Tinkering Lab** to foster innovation at school level(6th - 12th grades)
 - ⊕ **Atal Incubation Centres** at universities, institutions and corporates to promote entrepreneurship among young innovators.
 - ⊕ **ARISE-ANIC program** to support innovation in MSMEs and startups.



Place in News



Qatar (Capital: Doha)

Indian Prime Minister expressed concern at the attacks in Doha and condemned the violation of sovereignty of Qatar.

Political Features

- Located in **West Asia** on the Northeastern Coast of Arabian Peninsula.
- **Bordering Countries:** Saudi Arabia.
- **Bordering Water Bodies:** Persian Gulf, Gulf of Bahrain.

Geographical Features

- **Sand dunes and Salt Flats or Sabkha** form chief topographical features.
- Possess world's **third largest natural gas reserves** and is one of **world's largest exporters of natural gas**.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



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