

NEWS TODAY

Prime Minister launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs)

The scheme will be implemented under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.

About PM-SETU

- **Type:** 60,000 crore centrally sponsored scheme.
- **Aim:** To transform 1,000 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.
- **Implementation:** PM-SETU will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs.
 - ⊕ Each hub will be equipped with advanced infrastructure, innovation and incubation centres, production units, training of trainer facilities, and placement services, while the **spokes will extend access and outreach**.
- **Main Components:**
 - ⊕ Introduce **new, demand-driven courses and revamp existing ones in collaboration with industry**;
 - ⊕ Set up **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** with credible Anchor Industry Partners to manage clusters and ensure outcome-based training;
 - ⊕ Create pathways for **long-term diplomas, short-term courses, and executive programs**;
 - ⊕ Strengthen **5 National Skill Training Institutes** in - Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), as Centres of Excellence with global partnerships.

About ITIs

- **Structure:** Operating under state governments, ITIs have been **backbone of Vocational Education and Training (VET)** in India since the 1950s.
- **ITIs' Accreditation:** Entrusted to the DGT, apex organization of VET (Vocational Education and Training) under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- **Status:** Presently, there are around 15,034 ITIs functioning, out of whom **78% are private owned**.
- **Schemes:** Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE), Model ITI, Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure in NE States (ESDI).

Massive Landslides Struck the Eastern Himalayan Region

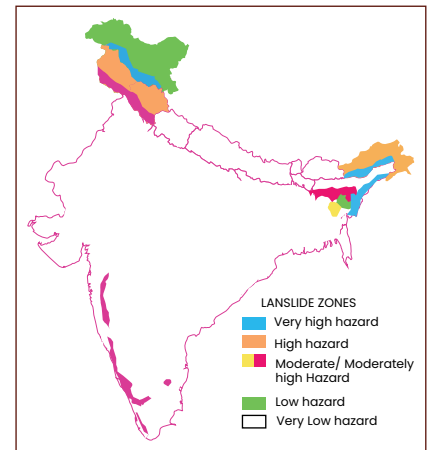
Recently, multiple landslides were triggered by heavy rain in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal.

What is a landslide?

- **Definition:** A landslide is a **mass movement of material**, such as rock, earth or debris, down a slope, **under the influence of gravity**.
- **India's Vulnerability:** 12.6% of land area is prone to landslide hazard as per ISRO's 2023 Landslide Atlas of India.
 - ⊕ Of this, **more than 3/4th** lies in the **Himalayan region alone**.

Why is Himalayan region more vulnerable to landslides?

- **Natural Causes:**
 - ⊕ **Tectonics & Geology:** Formed by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates, **Himalayas are young fold mountains** characterized by **faults and fractured rocks**, making them inherently unstable.
 - ⊕ **Rainfall & Weather Extremes:** **Monsoon rainfall** along with **cloudbursts** and **snow melt** saturates soil, reducing stability of slopes.
 - **Climate Change** has further increased the occurrence of extreme weather events.
 - ⊕ **Other:** Seismic activity, steep slopes, poor drainage and flash floods exacerbate instability.
- **Anthropogenic Causes:**
 - ⊕ **Unplanned Construction:** Road cuts, tunneling, etc., destabilize slopes.
 - ⊕ **Other:** Mining, land-use change from urbanization, deforestation and encroachments disrupt natural drainage.



Landslides Management Guidelines by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- **Vulnerability and Risk Assessment:** Identify and map areas prone to landslides and snow avalanches.
- **Multi-Hazard Conceptualization:** Incorporate landslide concerns into multi-hazard risk assessment, mitigation, and response strategies at various levels.
- **Early Warning:** Establish real-time monitoring and early warning systems for high-risk landslides.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** Involve scientists, engineers, local authorities, National Disaster Response Force, and paramilitary forces.
- **Other:** Capacity Building and Training; Public Awareness and Education; Disaster Knowledge Network and a Legal framework for landslide hazard management.

Draft Policy Paper on Camels proposes National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)

Draft policy paper has been prepared by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Key Highlights of Draft Policy Paper

- India's camel population has **declined by more than 75%** since the 1970s.
- **Drivers of Population Decline:** Decline in traditional economic utility, loss of grazing lands, environmental stress (desertification, invasive species, prolonged droughts etc.), restrictive legal framework, underdeveloped markets for camel products etc.
- **Strategic Recommendations:** Launching National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI), securing grazing rights, strengthening camel dairy value chains, reviving camel-based tourism, and introducing veterinary and genetic conservation programs.

About Camels

- Once revered as **"Ship of the Desert"**, camels are exceptionally **suited to dryland ecosystems** and are **primarily reared (90%) in Rajasthan and Gujarat**.
 - ⊕ **Pastoralist communities** associated with camel rearing include **Raika, Rabari, Fakirani Jat, and Manganiyar** communities.
- **Characteristics:** Survive days without drinking, travel long distances, feed on thorny desert plant species.
 - ⊕ **Camels' humps store fats** providing them energy when food is scarce and they **store water in their blood cells**, not their humps.
- **Role of Camels:**
 - ⊕ **Ecological Role:** Their low water needs, selective grazing habits, and soft-padded hooves help maintain vegetative diversity and prevent desertification.
 - Camel dung **enriches soil in arid regions**.

Key Camel Breeds in India

- **Single-Humped Dromedary Camels:**
 - ⊕ **Bikaneri (Rajasthan):** Known for strength and endurance, commonly used for cart pulling and heavy draught work.
 - ⊕ **Jaisalmeri (Rajasthan):** Known for stamina and speed, this tall and slender breed is used for camel safaris, especially in Thar Desert.
 - ⊕ **Mewari (Rajasthan):** Known for its milk yield.
 - ⊕ **Kachchhi (Gujarat):** Strong draught breed commonly used for ploughing and carting in Rann of Kachchh.
 - ⊕ **Kharai (Gujarat):** Adapted to coastal and mangrove ecosystems and is an excellent swimmer.
- **Double Humped Bactrian Camel:** In India, it is found exclusively in high altitude cold desert of Ladakh.

India's First Cooperative Multi-Feed Compressed Biogas Plant Inaugurated in Maharashtra

The project developed with the **assistance of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** will produce **12 tons of CBG daily and 75 tons of potash** from jaggery, molasses, etc.

- **NCDC**, established in 1963, is a statutory organization **under the Ministry of Cooperation** aimed at **developing farmer cooperatives**.

About Compressed Biogas (CBG)

- CBG is prepared from **raw biogas** and it can be used as a **clean and renewable fuel**, similar to **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**.
 - ⊕ Raw biogas is produced by **anaerobic digestion** of biomass and waste sources like agricultural residue, cattle dung, food waste, etc.
 - ⊕ **Biogas mainly contains:**
 - **Methane (CH₄):** 55–60%;
 - **Carbon dioxide (CO₂):** 35–40%;
 - **Other impurities:** H₂S, water vapor, etc.
- The **raw biogas** is purified to remove **H₂S, CO₂, and water vapor**, increasing **methane concentration to over 90%**, and is then **compressed to about 200–250 bar pressure** to obtain CBG.

Initiatives taken in India to promote CBG

- **National Policy on Bio-Fuels 2018:** It emphasizes on promotion of advanced Bio-fuels including CBG.
- **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme:** To convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to Bio-CNG (CBG) and compost.
- **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative:** Setting up Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants for production of CBG.

Significance of CBG

- **Reduces imports** of natural gas and crude oil, thus, **saving forex and ensuring energy security**.
- **Supports national climate goals** by lowering pollution and carbon emissions (e.g., **Panchamrit commitments**).
- **Promotes waste management**, contributing to the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- **Provides additional income to farmers** and **generates rural employment opportunities**.

Ministry of Mines Issues Guidelines for Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme (CMRIS)

CMRIS is a **key component of the National Critical Mineral Mission**, and is aimed at developing the critical mineral recycling capacity in the country.

About CMRIS

- Scheme will incentivize the **development of recycling capacity for separation and extraction of critical minerals** in the country.
 - ⊙ It aims to build **270 kilo ton annual recycling capacity**, produce **40 kilo ton** of critical minerals, attract around **₹8,000 crore** in investments.
- **Incentives:** Incentives will be provided on reimbursement basis for capital expenditure and on achieving a threshold incremental sale for operational expenditure.
- **Tenure:** Six financial years, starting from FY 2025-26.
- **Eligible feedstock source:** E-waste, spent Lithium-ion Batteries (LiB), and other scrap material.
- **Applicability:** Applicable to investments in new units and expansion of capacity / modernization and diversification of existing units.

About National Critical Mineral Mission

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Mines.
- **Period:** From FY 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- **Objective:** **Securing domestic and international supply sources and strengthening mineral value chains** covering exploration, mining, processing, recycling, research and development, and human resource development.
- **Key Targets:** 1,200 domestic critical mineral exploration projects, recycling target of 400 kilo tonnes, filing of 1,000 patents across value chain, establishment of three centres of excellence.

Significance of Recycling of Critical Minerals

- **Supply Security:** It creates a valuable secondary supply source that reduces reliance on new mines and enhances supply security for countries importing minerals.
- **Sustainability:** On average, recycled energy transition minerals such as nickel, cobalt and lithium incur 80% less greenhouse gas emissions than primary materials produced from mining.



Also In News



KONKAN-25 Exercise

Indian Navy and United Kingdom's Royal Navy bilateral Exercise KONKAN-25 commenced off India's western coast.

- This is first joint exercise between both countries involving UK carrier strike group – HMS Prince of Wales, and India's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.



NATPOLREX-X

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** begins the **10th edition of the National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-X)**.

- **NATPOLREX** is a **biennial flagship exercise** which aims to evaluate and enhance India's national preparedness to respond to **marine oil spill incidents**.





Koshi River

Overflowing Koshi River has raised the risks of floods and landslides in Bihar and Nepal.

About Koshi (or Kosi) River

- **Origin:** It is a **Transboundary river** which **originates in Tibet (China)** and **forms at the confluence of three streams Sun Kosi, Arun Kosi and Tamur Kosi**.
 - ⊕ It then passes through **Nepal and India**.
- It is one of the **major tributaries of the Ganga**, joining it in Bihar.
- It is also known as the '**Sorrow of Bihar**' as it brings huge floods and destruction.
- **Mt. Everest** and the **Kanchanjunga** fall in the **Kosi catchment**.
- **Major Tributaries:** Kamla and Bagmati.



Coral Triangle

Philippines have launched **coral larvae cryobank** to preserve reef biodiversity by freezing coral 'seeds' for future restoration and research.

- The project is part of a wider regional initiative to create a network of cryobanks across the **Coral Triangle**.

About Coral Triangle (Amazon of the Seas)

- **Location:** It is a **5.7 million sq. km marine region across Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste**.
- It is the **world's richest marine biodiversity hotspot**.
 - ⊕ Contains over **75% of the world's coral species, one-third of all reef fish species, vast mangrove forests, etc.**



Mig La Pass

Project Himank of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has constructed the **world's highest motorable road** at Mig La Pass, 19,400 feet above sea level in Ladakh.

- Road forms a **critical link in the Likaru-Mig La-Fukche** axis, connecting to the **Fukche airfield** near Line of Actual Control with China.
- Mig La Pass is located on the **Changthang Plateau** in Ladakh.

About Project Himank

- The Project was raised in **1985 at Leh** for the **development of road communication** in Ladakh region.



Commercial Coal Mining

The first commercial coal mine in Arunachal Pradesh was inaugurated at **Namchik-Namphuk coal block**.

- Government **opened up the commercial coal mining for private sector in 2018**, ending the monopoly of state-owned Coal India Limited.
 - ⊕ Earlier, private sector was allowed coal mining for captive use only.
- Commercial mining by private sector aims to **encourage transparent pricing of coal** and to create a **marketplace for coal with multiple producers** to drive competition.



Personality in News



Tiruppur Kumaran & Subramaniya Siva

The Prime Minister paid tribute to freedom fighters **Tiruppur Kumaran** and **Subramaniya Siva** on their birth anniversary.

About Tiruppur Kumaran (1904-1932)

- **Born:** In a weaver family near Erode, **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Founded:** **Desa Bandhu Youth Association**.
- **Inspired by:** The **non-violent civil disobedience ideas** of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Key Contribution:** He took part in several protest marches against the British administration and **died while holding National Flag in his hand**.

About Subramaniya Siva (1884-1925)

- **Born:** In Dindigul (Madurai), **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Books written:** **Ramanuja Vijayam, Madhva Vijayam**.
- **Key contribution:** Actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation Movement** inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi** and **V.O.Chidambaram Pillai**.



Tiruppur Kumaran

Subramaniya Siva



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI