

Daily Current Affairs

10 January 2025

Genome India Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted that the world is looking towards **India today for solutions to various global problems**. In a video message at the **Genomics Data Conclave in Delhi**, Mr. Modi said the **Genome India Project marks a defining moment** in the country's biotechnology landscape.
- The Prime Minister noted that the **combination of biotechnology and biomass** in the 21st century forms a crucial foundation for a developed India as a **Bio Economy**.



- He highlighted that in the past 10 years, the bio-economy has jumped **from 10 billion dollars to 150 billion dollars** today. The Prime Minister also lauded the **release of the Genome India Data**, hailing it as a historical step for research and healthcare in the nation.
- Mr. Modi mentioned that genome sequences of **10 thousand Indians from various groups have been analysed**, and its data is now available at the Indian Biological Data Center.

GenomeINDIA
‘Cataloguing the Genetic Variation in Indians’

Reference Genome for India
A national genome sequencing project to sequence 10,000 Indians

Disease gene identification
Catalogue all the genetic variations in Indians to help identify disease causing genes

Capacity building & networking
Training manpower to handle large genetic data sets and other resources across institutions in India

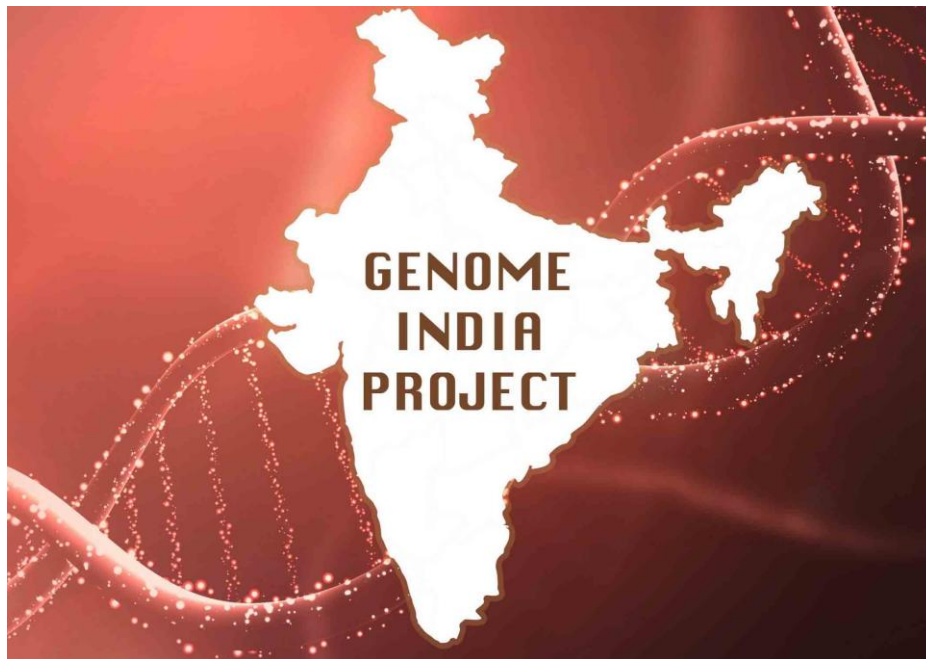
Resources for larger & cheaper genetic studies
Resources generated, will help build arrays and technologies for large scale cheaper genetic studies in India.

Genetic basis for adverse affects and response to drugs
This study will help pave the way to understand why some people respond to some drugs & why some develop adverse reaction depending upon their genetic background.

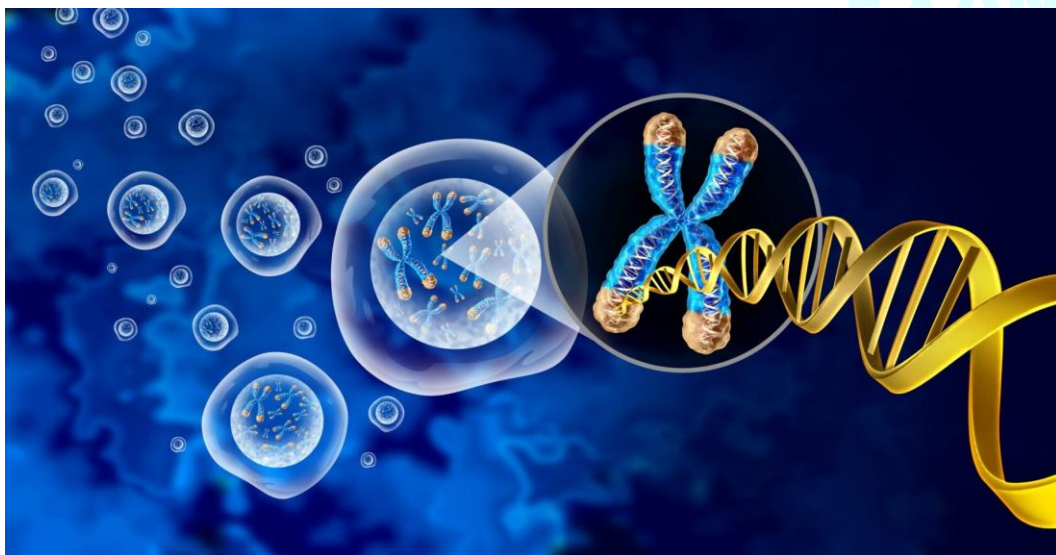
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Department of BioTechnology, Government of India
Centre for Brain Research
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An initiative of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India

- This data can be used by researchers, scientists, and scholars across India. Mr. Modi highlighted that there is a significant diversity in the genetic makeup of Indians; thus, understanding **the genetic identity of the population** is essential to determine effective treatments for particular groups.
- He emphasized that this information will greatly assist in **policy-making and planning** for the country. Mr. Modi highlighted that in the past ten years, special attention has been given to research and innovation in the country. He added that India has created a **special identity as a pharma hub in the world**.
- Science and Technology Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** released the **Framework for Exchange of Data Protocols** and launched the **IBDC Data Access Portal**. Dr. Singh said that the last decade has been a game-changer for biotechnology in India.



- He noted that the country is **aiming for a one-million genome program**, including specific disease cohorts.
- **Genome: The genome represents the entirety** of an organism's hereditary information, serving as a biological instruction manual inherited from parents.
- Composed of four nucleotide bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T), the genome contains approximately 3 billion base pairs in humans.



Republic Day Guests

- Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto** has formally accepted New Delhi's invitation to be the chief guest for the **2025 Republic Day parade**. The choice of Subianto as the **first guest of third term of Prime Minister Modi** signals the importance India attaches to the bilateral relationship with **Indonesia and its Act East policy**.



- The visit is expected to see both sides stepping up their strategic cooperation and defence ties. India's **first Republic Day guest** was from Indonesia, **President Sukarno**, a key ally of country's **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** during the golden years of the non-aligned movement.



- **Around ten thousand Special Guests** have been invited to witness the Republic Day Parade this year. These special guests include Sarpanches, Disaster Relief Workers, Best Performing Water Warriors, Handloom and Handicraft Artisans, Mann Ki Baat Participants, My Bharat Volunteers, Guests from North Eastern States, and Best Start-Ups.
- **The Defence Ministry said some of the invited guests are carrying out** exemplary work to ensure income and employment generation through Self-Help Groups. Members of the Para-Olympic contingent, Chess Olympiad medalists, Bridge World Games Silver medalists, and Snooker World Championship Gold medalists have also been invited as special guests. The Ministry said these guests will visit the National War Memorial, PM Sangrahalay, and other prominent places in Delhi.

Jharkhand's Maiya Samman Yojana Initiative

- Jharkhand's Chief Minister Hemant Soren initiated a **substantial financial transfer under the Maiya Samman Yojana**. This programme aimed to empower women by **providing direct cash transfers**.



- The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), part of the Maiya Samman Yojana was launched on **August 2024 by Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren**. It aims to empower women by providing direct financial aid. **Initially, ₹1,000 per month was given to each** beneficiary (women aged 18 to 50). In December 2024, the amount increased to **₹2,500 per month after the Hemant Soren** government gained a full majority.

- This direct transfer **aims to enhance household income**, especially in rural areas. The programme represents a transformative boost to household finances. Research indicates **that women often invest a higher percentage** of their income in family welfare. This initiative also encourages **women to open bank accounts, thus integrating** them into the formal banking system.

US: Fire Spreading Hollywood Hills

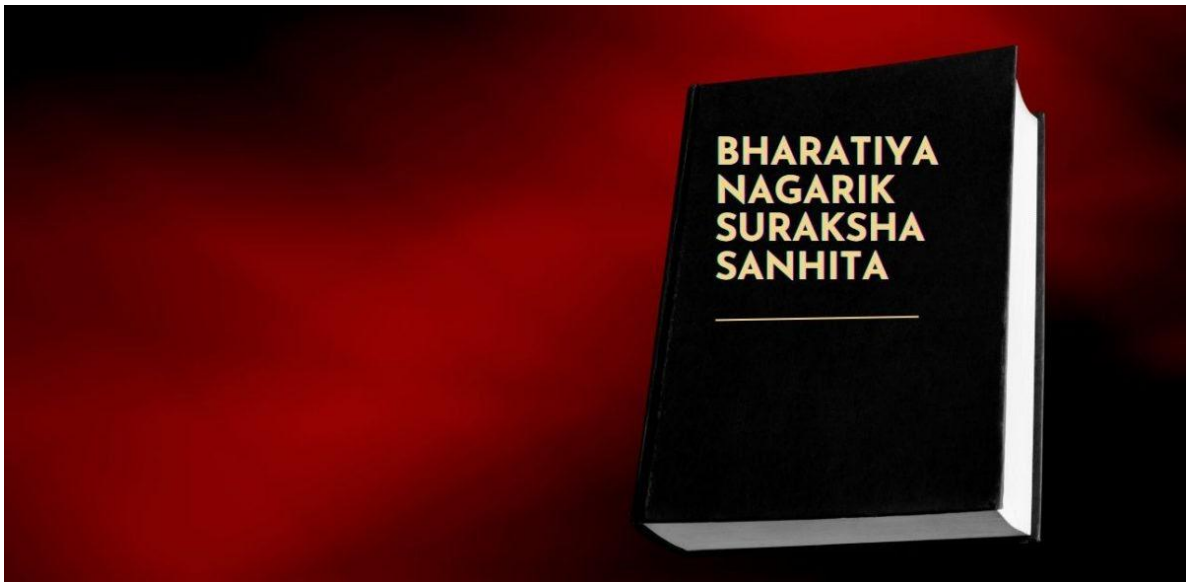
- **Out-of-control wildfires are ripping** across parts of Los Angeles, leading to at least five deaths, burning down hundreds of buildings, and prompting evacuation orders for nearly **180,000 residents across the county**.
- Despite the efforts of firefighters, the biggest blazes remain totally uncontained - with **weather conditions and the underlying impact** of climate change expected to continue fanning the flames for days to come.



- In Los Angeles County, some 179,000 residents are under evacuation orders - many of them **leaving their homes simply carrying whatever** belongings they can. Another 200,000 residents are under evacuation warning, meaning they could be required to leave their homes soon.
- **Hurricane-force Winds Sent** The Fires, Which Started Earlier This Week On The Outer Fringes Of Los Angeles, Leaping Across Suburbs And Neighbourhoods, Finally Reaching The **Hollywood Hills By The Time** The Winds Slowed.

MHA Directs States To Implement Section 479 Of BNSS

- Central Government of India has taken steps to address the **plight of undertrial prisoners**. **Ministry of Home Affairs** (MHA) issued a directive to all states and Union Territories (UTs) regarding the implementation of **Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)**.
- This initiative aims to provide relief to **undertrial prisoners** who have been detained for extended periods. Section 479 of the BNSS is designed to facilitate the **release of undertrial prisoners**.



- It applies specifically to individuals who have **undergone detention for portion of their maximum sentence**. This section aims to alleviate overcrowding in prisons and address the issue of prolonged detention faced by many undertrial prisoners.
- Under Section 479 (1), a **person detained for half of the maximum sentence for a non-capital offence** may be released on bail. **For first-time offenders**, release can occur after serving one-third of the maximum sentence.
- This provision is crucial for ensuring that individuals are not **unduly punished while awaiting trial**. The law places specific responsibilities on prison superintendents.



- They are required to apply to the courts for the release of eligible undertrial prisoners on bail or bond. This responsibility ensures that the rights of prisoners are upheld and that they receive fair treatment under the law.



- The MHA has requested states and UTs to report on the implementation status of Section 479. The **prescribed format includes details such as the number** of first-time undertrial prisoners and those released on bond. This reporting mechanism is essential for monitoring the effectiveness of the initiative.
- Prior to this directive, the MHA had launched a campaign on Constitution Day, November 26, 2024. This campaign aimed to **identify eligible prisoners and facilitate their release applications**. States and UTs actively participated, providing data on the number of prisoners who benefited from the provisions of Section 479.

IREDA Achieves 'Excellent' Rating

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has achieved 'Excellent' rating for the performance MoU signed with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the **financial year 2023-24, with a score of 98.24.**



- This marks the fourth consecutive year that IREDA has received 'Excellent' rating, showcasing its unwavering commitment to operational excellence and highest standards of corporate governance.
- **In the previous three years, IREDA consistently** delivered exceptional results, achieving an 'Excellent' rating with scores of 93.50 in FY 2022-23, 96.54 in FY 2021-22 and 96.93 in FY 2020-21.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was established in
- A. 1976
 - B. 1977
 - C. 1986
 - D. 1987

ANSWER: D

2. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Secretary Of The Department Of Space And Chairman Of ISRO

- A. Dr. Ajay Sood
- B. Dr. Pawan Kumar
- C. Dr. V. Narayanan
- D. Dr. M. S. Ananth

ANSWER: C

3. Who Has Been Elected As New President Of The Athletics Federation Of India

- A. Adille Sumariwalla
- B. Bahadur Singh Sagoo
- C. P.T. Usha
- D. Vinesh Phogat

ANSWER: B

4. e- Shram Portal Upgraded To Support How Many Scheduled Languages

- A. 12
- B. 18
- C. 15
- D. 22

ANSWER: D

5. First Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrated In _____.

- A. 2001
- B. 2000
- C. 2003
- D. 2005

ANSWER: C

6. Cashless Treatment Scheme For Road Accident Survivors Provides Treatment Up To How Much For Seven Days

- A. ₹1 lakh
- B. ₹1.5 lakh
- C. ₹2 lakh
- D. ₹50,000

ANSWER: B

7. The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 Will Take Place In _____.

- A. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- C. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- D. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: C

8. Kalpeni Island, Is Located In Which State/UT

- A. Lakshadweep
- B. Andaman and Nicobar
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Puducherry

ANSWER: A

9. Which Ministry Launched The “Cashless Treatment Scheme” For Road Accident Victims

- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: B

10. Recently, Saint Narahari Tirtha Statue Have Been Found At Which Temple In Andhra Pradesh

- A. Ahobilam Temple
- B. Simhachalam Temple
- C. Kanaka Durga Temple
- D. Draksharama Temple

ANSWER: B

11. Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Gujarat
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

12. What Is Twigstats

- A. A statistical model for climate analysis
- B. A tool for mapping ancient trade routes
- C. A new mineral found in the Atlantic Ocean
- D. A time-stratified ancestry analysis tool

ANSWER: D

13. What Is The National Gender Ratio On Electoral Rolls In 2024

- A. 940
- B. 948
- C. 970
- D. 920

ANSWER: B

14. What Is India's Projected GDP Growth Rate For The Financial Year 2024-25

- A. 6.4%
- B. 7.3%
- C. 8.2%
- D. 5.4%

ANSWER: A

15. Which Country's President Has Been Invited As The Chief Guest For India's 2025 Republic Day Parade

- A. Japan
- B. Singapore
- C. Malaysia
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: D

16. Who Has Been Appointed As The New CEO Of The Delhi Waqf Board

- A. Manoj Kumar
- B. Dinesh Sharma
- C. Azimul Haque
- D. Anil Baijal

ANSWER: B

17. Where Was The First Photographic Evidence Of The Elusive Pallas's Cat Captured In India

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: A

18. Which City Became HQ Of 69th Division Under The Northern Railway Zone

- A. Pathankot
- B. Jammu
- C. Chandigarh
- D. Amritsar

ANSWER: B

19. Name Of Portal Launched By CBI To Enhance International Police Assistance

- A. POLICECONNECT
- B. INTERPOLNET
- C. BHARATPOL
- D. CBI-SAFE

ANSWER: C

20. Who Among Following Was Ruler Of Kanchi During The Time Of Samudragupta

- A. Hastivarman
- B. Mantaraja
- C. Nilaraja
- D. Vishnugopa

ANSWER: D