

Daily Current Affairs

10 February 2025

National Sample Survey

- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, Government of India, celebrated the **75th anniversary of the National Sample Survey (NSS)** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- . The event marked the beginning of a nationwide series of initiatives highlighting **NSS's critical role in evidence-based policymaking**, raising awareness about data-driven governance, and engaging stakeholders from diverse sectors.



NSSO

stands for

National Sample Survey Office

- The celebration featured keynote addresses, expert discussions, the unveiling of Diamond Jubilee publications, and special performances emphasizing NSS's fieldwork contributions.
- Smt. Geeta Singh Rathore, Director General (NSS), welcomed the attendees.
- Rao Inderjit Singh, Hon'ble MoS for Statistics & PI, inaugurated the event.
- Minister **emphasized NSS's role in shaping India's policy** landscape across employment, consumption, health, and education.
- He highlighted the **government's commitment to innovation**, technology adoption, and strengthening the statistical system.

International Buddhist Confederation

- **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** is set to launch the Lord Buddha Trination Triservices Expedition, a historic initiative uniting the armed forces of India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.



- This unique motorcycle expedition will commence from **Lumbini, Nepal (the birthplace of Lord Buddha)** and conclude in **Galle, Sri Lanka**, covering key Buddhist heritage sites along the route.



- The **expedition aims to celebrate the shared cultural and spiritual heritage** of the three nations while promoting peace, harmony, tourism, and environmental awareness.
- **Organized in collaboration with IBC**, this journey will reinforce the historical spread of Buddhism and the deep-rooted ties between these countries. International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the armed forces of India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025

- **BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025** is set to take place in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, bringing together **young leaders from BIMSTEC nations** to foster collaboration, innovation, and regional growth.
- The summit will be inaugurated on **8th February 2025** by **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, with the aim of strengthening ties between the youth of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.



- **Organized by the Department of Youth Affairs**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, the summit will focus on youth-led initiatives, leadership discussions, and sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- The **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** was formed on **6th June 1997** under the **Bangkok Declaration**, aiming to promote economic and social development among its seven member nations.

- Over the years, BIMSTEC has worked on trade, technology, energy, and cultural cooperation. However, **youth engagement has become a key area** of focus, making the BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 an essential platform for young leaders to share ideas, discuss policies, and contribute to regional progress.
- The theme of the summit, **“Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange,”** highlights the role of young minds in fostering regional integration. The Indian government sees this as an opportunity to align youth-driven initiatives with the United Nations’ **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030**, ensuring that the region progresses through innovation and collaboration.



- BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 will provide an opportunity for delegates to explore India’s rich cultural and technological advancements. Key site visits include:
- **Dandi Kutir** – India’s largest museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, showcasing his life and vision of self-reliance.
- **Sabarmati Ashram** – A historical site symbolizing Gandhi’s ideology of non-violence and nation-building.
- **Sabarmati Riverfront** – A modern example of urban planning and sustainability.
- **GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City)** – India’s first operational smart city and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), offering insights into financial technology and global commerce.

Panama Withdraws From China's BRI

- Panama has officially announced its withdrawal from **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, marking a significant geopolitical realignment. President José Raúl Mulino's decision reflects growing tensions between global powers, particularly the United States and China, over the strategic Panama Canal.
- The move signals a shift in **Panama's foreign policy, focusing on strengthening ties with the U.S.** while re-evaluating Chinese investments in the country.



- **Panama became a part of China's BRI in 2017** after establishing diplomatic relations with Beijing and cutting ties with Taiwan. The move was expected to enhance trade and **infrastructure connectivity between Asia and Latin America**. Under this agreement, Chinese companies secured major projects, including the construction of a fourth bridge over the Panama Canal and a third metro line in Panama City.
- **Discussions also included a \$4.1 billion high-speed rail project** connecting Panama to Costa Rica. These projects aimed to boost Panama's infrastructure and position the country as a key logistics hub in the region.
- However, over time, concerns arose about China's expanding influence in Panama, **particularly regarding its involvement in port operations** and logistics near the Panama Canal.



- The United States, which has historically maintained strong influence over the canal, began urging **Panama to reassess its engagement with China**. The United States has been vocal about China's growing presence in Panama.
- During a recent visit, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio highlighted the risks posed by **Chinese investments in key infrastructure projects**.



- He stressed that excessive Chinese involvement could compromise the neutrality of the Panama Canal, a **critical trade route that handles 6% of global maritime trade**.
- **Rubio warned that failure to curb China's influence could** prompt the U.S. to take necessary actions under existing treaties to protect its interests. In

response to these concerns, President Mulino announced that Panama would not renew its participation in the BRI.

- The **agreement, originally set to expire in 2026**, will be allowed to lapse, with the possibility of an earlier termination. He also suggested that his government might review Chinese investments in Panama, particularly in port operations. This decision underscores Panama's effort to balance its economic interests while maintaining political neutrality.

Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme

- **Swavalambini Women Entrepreneurship Programme** was launched in 2025 to promote **women entrepreneurship in Northeast India**. The initiative was inaugurated in nine colleges and universities, marking step towards nurturing women-led enterprises.
- Swavalambini is designed to encourage an **entrepreneurial mindset among** young women. It offers a comprehensive framework that includes awareness, development, mentorship, and funding support. This initiative is spearheaded by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and NITI Aayog. It aims to **empower female students in higher education** institutions across **Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram**.



- The programme provides essential resources, mentorship, and a structured entrepreneurial process to help women succeed in their business ventures.
- The programme consists of two main training components: The **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)** introduces 600 female students to entrepreneurship over a two-day session. The Women **Entrepreneurship**

Development Programme (EDP) offers an intensive 40-hour training for 300 selected students.



- This training covers vital business aspects such as finance, market linkages, compliance, and networking opportunities. **Participants will receive six months of mentorship and support** to help translate their ideas into sustainable businesses. This hands-on approach ensures that women are guided through the entrepreneurial process, enhancing their chances of success.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which city is hosting the BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Gandhinagar
- D. Varanasi

ANSWER: C

2. Which Country Announced Its Withdrawal From The WHO

- A. Brazil
- B. Canada
- C. Argentina
- D. Germany

ANSWER: C

3. Which Country Announced Its Withdrawal From China's BRI

- A. Panama
- B. Canada
- C. Argentina
- D. Germany

ANSWER: A

4. Which Ministry Launched A Campaign Titled "Shatavari –For Better Health"

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of AYUSH
- C. Ministry of Health
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: B

5. Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

6. NSDC International Academy Has Been Inaugurated In Which City

- A. Kolkata
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Greater Noida
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: C

7. Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launch Systems Developed By Which Organization

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- D. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

ANSWER: B

8. ISRO Has Developed FEAST (Finite Element Analysis Of Structures) Software At Which Institute

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Hyderabad
- D. IIT Roorkee

ANSWER: C

9. Which Institutions Will Develop The Grameen Credit Score Framework

- A. Public Sector Banks
- B. Private Banks
- C. Microfinance Institutions
- D. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)

ANSWER: A

10. What Is The Main Purpose Of The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) Exemptions Introduced In The Union Budget 2025-26

- A. To rationalize the tariff structure and address duty inversion
- B. To increase customs revenue
- C. To discourage imports of industrial goods
- D. To promote foreign investment in India

ANSWER: A

11. Which Of The Following Categories Receives The Highest Allocation In Government Expenditure For 2025-26

- A. Central sector schemes
- B. Interest payments
- C. Defence
- D. State's share of taxes and duties

ANSWER: D

12. What Rank India Achieve USGBC's LEED Green Building Certification List 2024

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

ANSWER: C

13. What Is New Policy Repo Rate Set By RBI After The Recent Reduction

- A. 6.50%
- B. 6.25%
- C. 6.00%
- D. 5.75%

ANSWER: B

14. Which State Introduced Drone Promotion And Utilisation Policy 2025 To Boost Its Manufacturing Sector

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: C

15. Which State Launched 'Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha' Scheme For Rural Development

- A. West Bengal
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Odisha
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: C

16. In Which Country Did Researchers Successfully Create The First-ever Kangaroo Embryo Using IVF

- A. Australia
- B. Canada
- C. United States
- D. New Zealand

ANSWER: A

17. In Which State Is The Kodava Community Primarily Located

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: D

18. Which State Secured A ₹2,424 Crore World Bank Loan For Health System Improvement Programme

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: B

19. Which Country Has Partnered With China For The Chang'e-8 Lunar Mission

- A. Russia
- B. Pakistan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. North Korea

ANSWER: B

20. What Is Approximate Diameter Of Milky Way

- A. 1000 light years
- B. 10000 light years
- C. 100000 light years
- D. 1000000 Light Years

ANSWER: C