

# Daily Current Affairs

## 27 February 2025

### Gold Card Investor Visa Programme

- **United States President Donald Trump** has announced a new gold card investor visa programme for wealthy immigrants, **replacing the existing EB-5 visa**. Speaking at the Oval Office, Trump said the companies can buy immigration **Gold Cards on payment of 5 million dollars** for highly talented employees to deal with the uncertainties of work visas and green cards. He described the initiative as green card privileges plus an upgrade from the green card system.



- Trump said it could deal with the **uncertainty of H-1B work visas** for professionals and the wait of decades for green cards that people have to endure.
- **Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the Gold Card would** replace the current programme known as EB-5 which gives immigration privileges to people who invest between **800 thousand dollars and 1.05 million dollars** to create jobs depending on the areas they go to. The programme is expected to be launched in two weeks

## European Commission President

- **President of the European Commission**, Ursula von der Leyen, will visit India for two days starting today. This will be her third visit to India. She will meet External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar this evening.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold delegation-level talks with the President of the European Commission. India and Europe have been **strategic partners since 2004, and their bilateral ties** have expanded and deepened across a wide range of areas. President von der Leyen's visit and that of the EU College of Commissioners will pave the way for further strengthening of bilateral relations.

## Japan-India-Africa Forum

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar stressed the need to ensure that the aspirations and interests of the **Global South are fully represented on the global stage**. In his address at **the Japan-India-Africa Business Forum virtually**, Dr Jaishankar said India has consistently championed this cause, whether through the Voice of the **Global South Summits or its G20 Presidency**.
- He emphasised that India's approach to Africa has always been guided by a deep-rooted **commitment to building long-term and mutually beneficial partnerships**. He pointed out that, unlike extractive models of engagement, India believes in **capacity-building, skill development, and technology transfer, ensuring that African countries** not only benefit from investments but also develop self-sustaining growth ecosystems.



- The External Affairs Minister said that India is Africa's fourth-largest trading partner, with **bilateral trade reaching nearly 100 billion dollars**. He added that India has also made a significant commitment to Africa's connectivity and infrastructure development, with over 12 billion dollars in concessional credit and more than **200 completed projects spread across the continent**. He stated that India's development projects in various sectors such as drinking water schemes to irrigation, rural solar electrification, and power plants have generated local employment and changed life in Africa

## GainBitcoin Scam

- **Central Bureau of Investigation**, CBI, has seized cryptocurrencies of nearly 24 crore rupees in the GainBitcoin Scam. CBI in its statement said that teams have conducted nationwide **searches over 60 locations**, in connection with the GainBitcoin cases.



- These locations include Delhi, Pune, Nanded, Kolhapur, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Mohali, Jhansi, and Hubli. During the searches, CBI teams found **cryptocurrencies of 23.94 crore rupees including multiple** hardware crypto wallets, documents, 34 laptops and hard disks, and 12 mobile phones.
- The CBI said that seized documents and electronic devices are currently under analysis to uncover **further details regarding the misappropriation** of funds and potential international transactions linked to the scam.
- **CBI said that the fraudulent scheme was launched in 2015** when the accused had promised investors of 10 percent monthly returns on Bitcoin investments for 18 months.

## 1st Joint Mega Nyokum Yullo Celebration

- Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar will visit Arunachal Pradesh. During his day-long visit, Mr Dhankhar will participate in the first-ever **joint mega Nyokum Yullo celebration** at Boasimla under Kamporijo circle in Kamle district as chief guest.
- Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju will also attend the celebration along with the Vice President. This will be Mr Dhankhar's third visit to the state after assuming office.



- **Nyokum is a festival celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of the state.** The festival is celebrated for better productivity, prosperity and happiness of all human beings

on earth. Nyokum is a festival celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

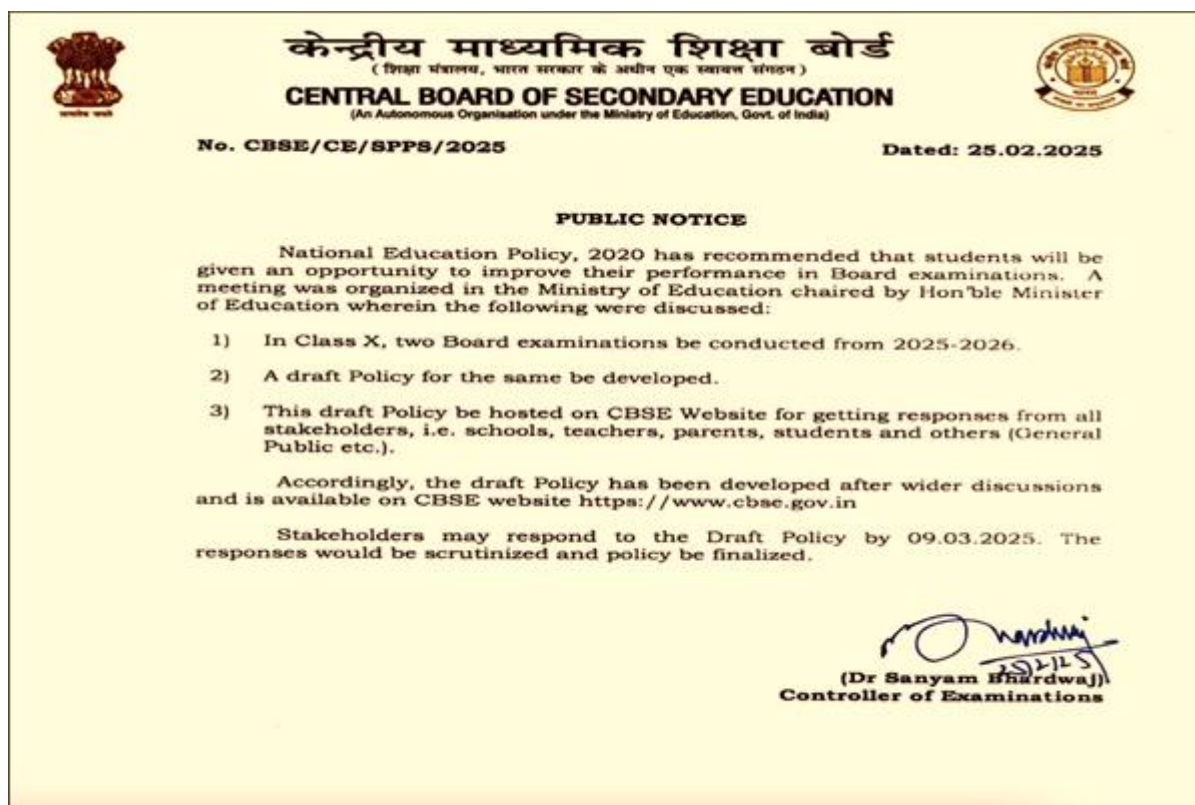
- The Word Nyokum has been derived from the combination of two words - **Nyok means land (earth) and Kum means collectiveness or togetherness**. Therefore, the Nyokum festival may very well be interpreted as inviting all the Gods and Goddesses of the universe, with the Nyokum Goddess as the principal deity, to a particular venue at a particular time.



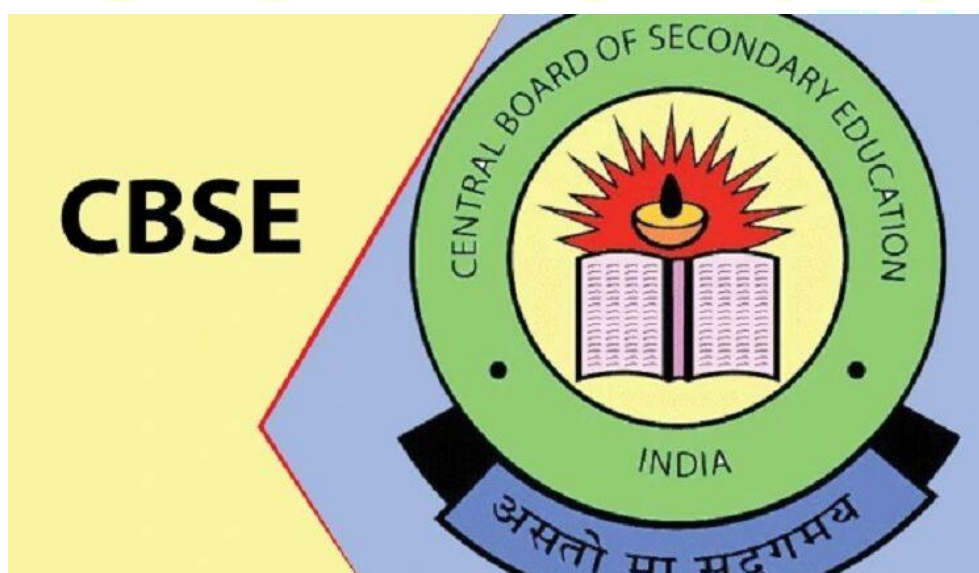
- The festival is commonly celebrated by the people from all class and walk of life for better productivity, prosperity and happiness of all human beings. Nyokum Yullo, that literally means 'coming together to celebrate' is a festival of chiefly the Nyishi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

## Draft Policy For 2 Board Exams

- **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has sought responses on a draft policy to conduct two board examinations for class 10 from the academic session 2025-26. **In the draft policy, the CBSE proposed to conduct board exams** of class 10 in two phases, with the first phase taking place from February to March and the second phase in May.



- The scheme also proposed the beginning of Class 10 and Class 12 examinations from the first Tuesday after 15th February. The CBSE has urged the stakeholders to submit their response by the 9th of next month.



- CBSE has added that the draft policy has been developed following the two recommendations of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. One of the recommendations proposed allowing students to take Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement if desired.

## Prakriti 2025: Advancing India's Carbon Market

- The first International Conference on Carbon Markets, **Prakriti 2025**, was held in New Delhi on February 24-25, 2025, marking a crucial moment in India's climate action strategy. **Organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** under the Ministry of Power, the event brought together over 600 delegates, including policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and international experts, to discuss the future of carbon markets in India.
- The conference focused on **creating a structured carbon market to help India transition toward a low-carbon economy while ensuring transparency, sustainability, and industry collaboration.**



- India has been making efforts to reduce carbon emissions in line with its **commitment to global climate goals**. Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, who inaugurated the event, stressed the importance of carbon markets in controlling emissions.
- He pointed out that India is **shifting away from fossil fuels and adopting** more renewable energy solutions. Highlighting India's cultural connection with sustainability, he referenced **practices like Ganga Deep Puja and Govardhan Puja**, which emphasize environmental consciousness. The Minister also emphasized the need for transparent and verifiable carbon reduction mechanisms to ensure accountability.

Carbon Markets  
As A Tool For Climate Financing:  
**The India Story**



- **Indian Carbon Market (ICM) is expected to operate in a phased manner**, as explained by Shri Akash Tripathi, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Power. The **plan aims for a 40% reduction in emissions by 2027**, with full implementation by 2030.
- The **carbon market will allow businesses to trade carbon credits**, incentivizing companies to reduce their emissions and transition toward cleaner energy sources. The approach ensures that industries can meet national climate targets cost-effectively. The success of this system will depend on clear regulations, market stability, and active participation from industries.

## Six Years Of SWAYATT Initiative

- **Government e Marketplace (GeM) celebrated six years of its SWAYATT initiative. Launched in 2019, SWAYATT aims to enhance participation of women and youth in public procurement.** The initiative focuses on social inclusion and aims to make **business easier for startups and Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs)**.





- SWAYATT was designed to invigorate the involvement of **women-led enterprises and youth** in government procurement. It seeks to establish direct market linkages for these groups.
- The initiative promotes training for last-mile sellers and encourages small businesses to **engage in public procurement**. On its anniversary, GeM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO)**.



- This partnership aims to connect women entrepreneurs directly with government buyers. The **goal is to eliminate intermediaries and ensure better pricing for products**. Since its inception, **SWAYATT has increased the number of women-led enterprises on the GeM platform**.



**GeM**  
Government  
e Marketplace



- Initially, only **6,300 women-led enterprises and 3,400 startups** were onboarded. Today, over 1,77,786 Udyam-verified women MSEs have registered. They have collectively fulfilled **orders worth ₹46,615 Crore**.
- Training is important component of the SWAYATT initiative. GeM aims to **empower local businesses through comprehensive training and onboarding**. This will enhance competition and promote inclusive economic growth.
- GeM has set ambitious targets for the future. It aims to **onboard 1 lakh registered startups onto the platform**. The initiative envisions doubling the number of women entrepreneurs participating in public procurement. Currently, **women make up 8% of the seller base on GeM**.
- **SWAYATT includes specific storefronts like Startup Runway and Womaniya**. These are designed for dedicated listings to increase visibility among government buyers. The initiative aims to dismantle entry barriers for startups and women entrepreneurs.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. What Does SWAYATT Stand For

- A. Startups, Women, and Youth Advancement through Technology
- B. Startups, Women, and Young Entrepreneurs Transforming Trade
- C. Startups, Women, and Youth Advantage through eTransactions
- D. Smart Women and Young Adults Thriving Together

**ANSWER: C**

### 2. Where Was The Prakriti 2025 – International Conference On Carbon Markets Held

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. New Delhi
- D. Jaipur

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Gold Card Investor Visa Programme Scheme Announced By USA Needs Investment Of**

- A. 2 Million Dollars
- B. 3 Million Dollars
- C. 5 Million Dollars
- D. 10 Million Dollars

**ANSWER: C**

**4. 1st Joint Mega Nyokum Yullo Celebration Will Be Celebrated In**

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Tripura
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Mizoram

**ANSWER: A**

**5. SWAYATT Initiative Launched In**

- A. 2018
- B. 2019
- C. 2020
- D. 2021

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Which District Of Uttar Pradesh Is Home To India's First Biopolymer Plant**

- A. Sultanpur
- B. Lakhimpur Kheri
- C. Saharanpur
- D. Raebareli

**ANSWER: B**

**7. PM Modi Has Inaugurated The Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025 In Which City**

- A. Dibrugarh
- B. Golaghat
- C. Silchar
- D. Guwahati

**ANSWER: D**

**8. Which State Government Has Launched Bio-engineering Initiative To Combat Landslides With Vetiver Grass**

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

**ANSWER: B**

**10. RS-24 Yars Is An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Of Which Country**

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: A**

**11. PUNCH Mission Is An Initiative Of Which Space Organization**

- A. European Space Agency (ESA)
- B. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- C. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- D. Indian Space Research Organisation

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Herath Festival Is Celebrated In Which State/UT**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Which Is The Nodal Agency Responsible For The Soil Health Card Scheme**

- A. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Where Will The 12th Regional 3R And Circular Economy Forum Be Held In India**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Jaipur
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Hyderabad

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Mayadhar Raut, Who Recently Passed Away, Was A Renowned Dancer Of Which Classical Dance Form**

- A. Kathak
- B. Bharatanatyam
- C. Odissi
- D. Kuchipudi

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region**

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

**ANSWER: A**

**17. What Is The Theme Of The “Innovate With GoIStats” Hackathon**

- A. Digital Transformation in India
- B. Smart Cities and AI
- C. Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat
- D. Entrepreneurship and Innovation

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Jogighopa Inland Waterways Terminal Is Located On Which River**

- A. Ganga
- B. Brahmaputra
- C. Yamuna
- D. Godavari

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Which Organization Published The Global Infrastructure Resilience Report**

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations
- C. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- D. International Monetary Fund

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Who Wrote Mahabhashya**

- A. Panini
- B. Patanjali
- C. Kalidas
- D. Tulsidas

**ANSWER: B**