

Daily Current Affairs

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Indigenous Polar Research Vessel

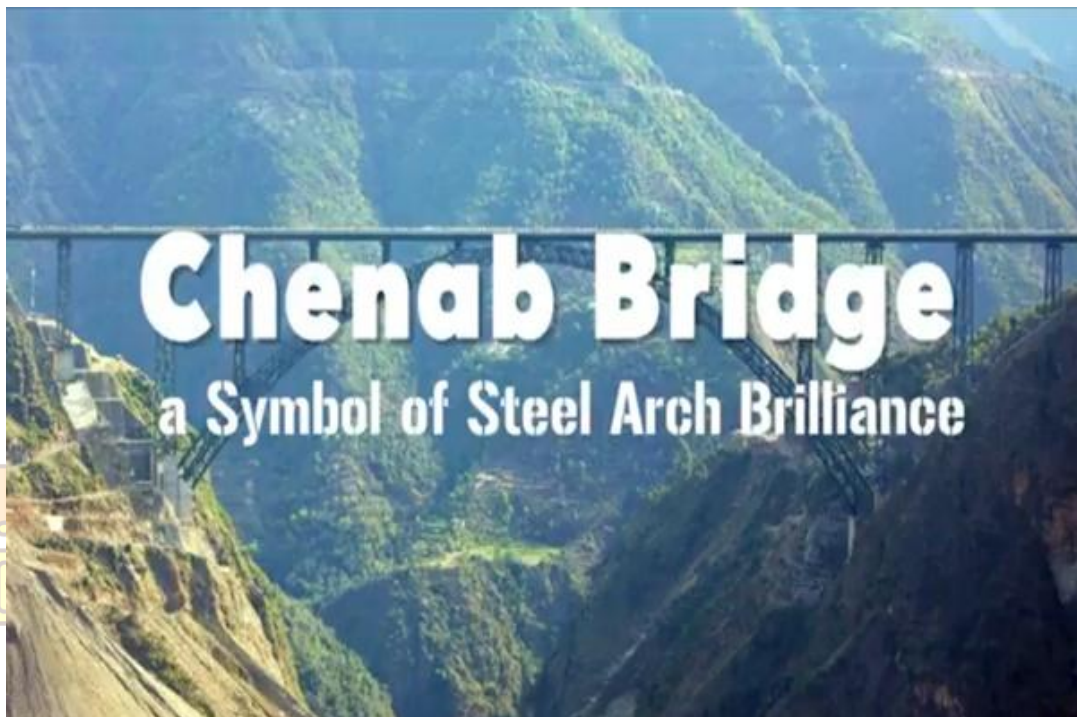
- India's Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) and Norway's Kongsberg Oslo signed an MoU which paves the way for India to build its first ever **Polar Research Vessel (PRV)** indigenously. The MoU was signed today in presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal in Oslo, Norway.



- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sonowal said, this **MoU is a beacon of hope and progress, signalling India's unwavering commitment** to scientific advancement and sustainable development. The vessel will be equipped with the latest scientific equipment, enable researchers to explore the oceans' depths, study marine ecosystems, and unlock new insights into our planet's past, present, and future.
- Mr. Sonowal participated in ministerial's discussion on shipping and ocean business and reaffirmed **India's vision of MAHASAGAR ensuring Growth** for All.

World's Highest Railway Bridge

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Chenab Bridge** in Jammu and Kashmir on the 6th of this month. In a social media post, Dr. Singh said the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest **railway bridge, stands tall in Jammu and Kashmir** as a proud symbol of New India's strength and vision.



- He added that the bridge is a part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL)** project and has been engineered to withstand the toughest natural challenges. The iconic Chenab Railway Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, will be part of this **Katra-to-Sangaldan stretch, connecting** New Delhi directly with Kashmir via Katra. Situated in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chenab Bridge is an engineering marvel standing at a **height of 359 meters above the riverbed**. It will officially connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India via rail for the first time in history.

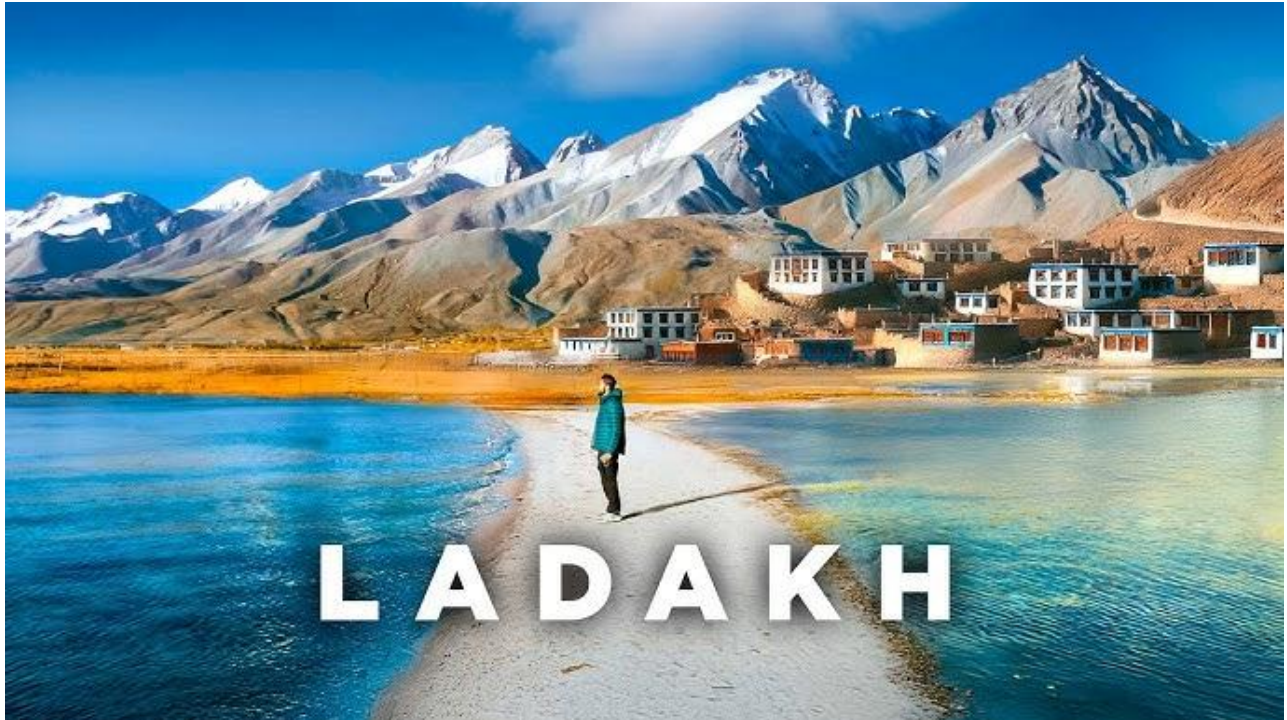
Ladakh Land And Job Regulations Of 2025

- Government of India introduced new regulations for **Ladakh to address longstanding concerns from the local population regarding land, jobs, and cultural preservation**. The regulations are a response to demands for increased autonomy and protection for the unique identity of Ladakh following its separation from Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.



- The government **notified five key regulations on June 2 and 3, 2025**. These include the **Ladakh Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment (Amendment) Regulation, 2025**, which introduces domicile requirements for government job recruitment. The domicile is defined as residents who have lived in Ladakh for 15 years or those who completed their education in Ladakh.
- **The Ladakh Civil Services Domicile Certificate Rules, 2025**, outline the process for obtaining a domicile certificate. The tehsildar will issue these certificates, while the Deputy Commissioner will handle appeals. Applications can be submitted in person or online.
- The **Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025**, caps job reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and other backward groups at 85%. This also extends to admissions in professional institutions, increasing the previous cap from 50% to 85%.
- The **Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025**, officially recognises English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi. It mandates support for the preservation of local

languages such as Shina, Brokskat, Balti, and Ladakhi, denoting the importance of cultural identity.



- The **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025**, reserves one-third of council seats for women in the Leh and Kargil councils. This aims to enhance women's participation in local governance.
- These regulations are the **first comprehensive legal framework tailored for Ladakh**. They provide a structured approach to address local concerns, especially regarding job reservations and cultural preservation. However, they do not grant constitutional protections or land ownership restrictions, which remain critical issues for the residents.
- Despite their significance, the regulations have notable limitations. **They lack constitutional protection, which means** they can be amended at any time by the Centre. There are no restrictions on **land ownership by non-domiciles**, raising concerns about external pressure on local resources. Furthermore, the absence of a local legislative assembly limits the region's ability to self-govern.

India's Economic Position In Global Rankings

- According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to **reach approximately \$4,187.03 billion in 2025**. This positions India as the **fourth largest economy globally**, surpassing Japan. The implications of this ranking have stirred political debates, attributing growth to government leadership. Moreover, projections suggest India could become the third largest economy by 2028.











- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** measures a country's economic performance. However, it does not reflect the quality of life or income distribution among citizens. **Critics argue that GDP overlooks essential aspects** such as unpaid work and social welfare. Despite its limitations, GDP remains a primary measure in economic discussions, leading to calls for alternative indicators.



- **Comparing GDP across countries is intricate.** Different methodologies yield varying estimates. The IMF uses standardised methods, but data quality can vary. GDP is often expressed in national currencies, necessitating conversion to a common unit, typically the U.S. dollar, for comparison.
- **Two primary methods exist for converting national GDPs to U.S. dollars – market exchange rates and Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).** Market exchange rates can fluctuate, complicating comparisons. In contrast, PPP accounts for local purchasing power, providing a more stable measure. For instance, while the U.S. GDP may be higher than India's at market rates, the difference narrows when using PPP.

Example of Purchasing Power Parity of cola in four different countries

  Russia <hr/> Cost in RUB 90 Cost in USD 1.45	  Mexico <hr/> Cost in Pesos 10 Cost in USD 0.53	  European Union <hr/> Cost in Euros 1.95 Cost in USD 2.14	  United States <hr/> Cost in USD 2.00 Cost in USD 2.00
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- **PPP offers a better comparison of economic sizes**, particularly for developing nations. It adjusts for cost variations in goods and services. This method reveals that India has been the world's third-largest economy since 2009, a fact often overshadowed by market exchange rate assessments. However, PPP estimates can inflate GDP figures, especially in countries with large informal sectors.
- **Despite a sizeable GDP, India's per capita GDP remains low.** In 2024, it stood at \$2,711, ranking 144th globally. Comparatively, countries like Sri Lanka and Vietnam have higher per capita GDPs. This disparity marks the big economy illusion, where a large GDP does not equate to better living standards for citizens.
- To gauge true economic health, it is crucial to **consider diverse indicators beyond GDP**. Metrics such as education, health, and income distribution provide

a clearer picture of societal well-being. Such comparisons reveal the fundamental elements of life that affect citizens directly.

Krishi Nivesh Portal

- **Krishi Nivesh Portal** is initiative by the **Government of India** aimed at transforming the agricultural investment landscape. Launched to streamline and unify various agricultural schemes from different ministries, the portal serves as a centralised digital platform.
- It aims to **enhance ease of doing business and facilitate faster** loan disbursal processes. The portal currently aggregates information on 17 flagship schemes, including the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and PM-KUSUM.





Krishi Nivesh Portal

- The **primary purpose of the Krishi Nivesh Portal** is to provide a one-stop solution for investors in the agricultural sector. This includes farmers, entrepreneurs, and producer organisations. The **portal allows users to track investment opportunities**, monitor application statuses, and access comprehensive information on various schemes. By categorising investments based on geographical areas, it aims to unlock the full potential of agricultural investments.
- The **portal integrates schemes from 14 central ministries** and 9 state departments. These ministries include agriculture, food processing, rural development, and renewable energy. This integration helps eliminate fragmented information and siloed operations that have previously hindered investment in agriculture. The government is in discussions to onboard an additional 300 schemes to further enhance the portal's offerings.


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मेरी सरकार

Strengthening Solar Grid with PM-KUSUM







Solarization and de-dieselization of agricultural sector




Installation of Grid Connected Renewable Energy Power Plants by farmers of 0.5 to 2 MW capacity, primarily on barren land




During 2019-20, sanctions were given to various States for installation of:



1000 MW of renewable energy power plants of up to 2 MW capacity under Component-A



Installation of 1.71 lakh standalone solar pumps under Component-B



Solarization of 82000 existing agricultural pumps under Component-C

- Boosting private sector investment in agriculture is crucial** for improving productivity and infrastructure. The government has allocated Rs 1.31 lakh crore for these schemes in the fiscal year 2025. **In the previous fiscal year, private investment in agriculture reached Rs 2.79 lakh crore.** The portal aims to facilitate this investment by addressing challenges such as slow loan disbursal and fragmented information.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India Will Develop Indigenous Polar Research Vessel With Which Country

- A. Norway
- B. Russia
- C. Germany
- D. USA

ANSWER: A

2. PM KUSUM LAUNCHED IN

- A. 2025
- B. 2020
- C. 2019
- D. 2018

ANSWER: C

3. World's Highest Railway Bridge Located In

- A. USA
- B. India
- C. Norway
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

4. Which Ministry Launched The Krishi Nivesh Portal

- A. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Jal Shakti

ANSWER: A

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. Nalsarovar Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: C

7. Bayraktar TB2 Is An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Developed By Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Ukraine
- C. India
- D. Turkey

ANSWER: D

8. Dibang River, Flows Through Which States

- A. Mizoram and Tripura
- B. Arunachal Pradesh and Assam
- C. Assam and Nagaland
- D. Manipur and Nagaland

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. NAKSHA Programme Is Implemented Under Which Government Initiative

- A. Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)
- B. Smart Cities Mission
- C. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- D. National Urban Livelihoods Mission

ANSWER: A

11. The “Buffer Mein Safar” Initiative Was Launched By Which State Government

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: A

12. What Are “Nurdles”

- A. Tiny plastic pellets
- B. Newly discovered marine animals
- C. Heavy Metals
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: A

13. Which Country Is The Host Of 22nd Shangri-la Dialogue (SLD) 2025

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Singapore
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: C

14. Who Has Become First Indian- Origin Musician To Win American Music Award 2025

- A. Rasika Sekhar
- B. Raja Kumari
- C. Aditi Ramesh
- D. Manju Mehta

ANSWER: B

15. What Is The Name Of The Mock Drill Conducted Near India’s Western Border To Test Readiness Against External Threats

- A. Operation Chanakya
- B. Operation Shield
- C. Operation Surya
- D. Operation Vijay

ANSWER: B

16. Name Of The Ukrainian Operation That Involved A Major Drone Strike On Russian Air Bases

- A. Operation Iron Shield
- B. Operation Sky Watch
- C. Operation Spider Web
- D. Operation Thunder

ANSWER: A

17. Tianwen-2 mission is associated with which space agency

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

ANSWER: B

18. Global Forest Watch Report Has Been Released By Which Organization

- A. World Resources Institute (WRI)
- B. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- D. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

ANSWER: A

19. Kumbakonam Betel Leaf, Recently Granted GI Tag, Is Cultivated In

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

20. Where Is The Headquarters Of National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Located

- A. Paris
- B. London
- C. Geneva
- D. Washington D.C.

ANSWER: D