

Daily Current Affairs

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Cabinet Approves Employment Linked Incentive Scheme

- Union Cabinet today approved around **one lakh crore rupees employment-linked incentive scheme** to boost employment generation in the country. The scheme is aimed at incentivising the **creation of over 3.5 Crore jobs** in the country over a period of two years. **Out of these, 1.92 Crore beneficiaries** will be first timers, entering the workforce.

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

Cabinet approves ELI scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector

- Scheme aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years
- Outlay of ₹ 99,446 Crore
- Benefits to be applicable to jobs created between 1st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027

Incentive to First Time Employees:

- One-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments
- Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible
- 1st installment will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd installment will be payable after 12 months of service
- To benefit around 1.92 crore first time employees



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- The benefits of the scheme will be applicable to jobs created between **01st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027**. The scheme also aims to generate



employment and provide social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, **first-time employees will get one month's wage up to 15 thousand rupees** under the scheme. He said the employers will be given incentives for a period of up to two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

Cabinet approves ELI scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector

Support to Employers:

- Employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to ₹ 1 lakh
- Up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months
- For manufacturing sector, incentives to be extended to 3rd and 4th years also

- Government has decided to **incentivise employers, up to three thousand per month for two years**, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, an employment-linked incentive scheme** was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities **for over four crore youth with a total budget** outlay of two lakh crore rupees.
- **With the ELI Scheme, the government intends** to catalyse job creation in all sectors, particularly in the manufacturing sector, besides incentivising youth joining the workforce for the first time. An important outcome of the Scheme will also be formalisation of the country's workforce by extending social security coverage for crores of young men and women.

- **Mr. Vaishnaw further informed that the Union Cabinet** has also cleared the Research Development and Innovation Scheme with a corpus of one lakh crore rupees. The scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing to spur private sector investment to bolster the country's research and innovation ecosystem.

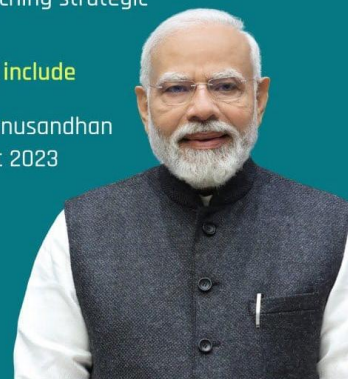
Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

Cabinet approves RDI Scheme with corpus of ₹ 1 lakh Cr

- Scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in RDI
- Designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of private sector
- Seeks to provide growth & risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation
- Governing Board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation, chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the RDI Scheme

Governance structure of the RDI Scheme shall include

- › Governing Board constituted under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act 2023
- › A Special Purpose Fund (SPF), the first-level custodian
- › The Executive Council constituted under ANRF



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- The Minister said that the scheme has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of private sector and seeks to provide growth and risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness. He said, the **Governing Board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation**, chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the Research Development and Innovation Scheme.

Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

Cabinet approves RDI Scheme with corpus of ₹ 1 lakh Cr

- › An Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), headed by the Cabinet Secretary
- › Department Science and Technology (DST)
- › 2nd-level Fund Managers
- RDI Scheme shall be implemented via the constitution of a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) within ANRF. This shall be the 1st level Fund Manager, which shall receive a 50-year interest free loan

Key objectives:

- Encourage the private sector to scale up RDI in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance;
- Finance transformative projects at higher levels of Technology Readiness Levels
- Support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance;
- Facilitate setting up of a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds

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- Mr. Vaishnaw added that the **National Sports Policy 2025** has also been approved to transform the country's sporting landscape and empower citizens with sporting activities. He said, with the implementation of the policy, the goal has been set to become the **top five sporting nations in the world**.



- During the briefing, Mr. Vaishnaw stated that the Union Cabinet has also given its nod for the construction of four lane **Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram section in Tamil Nadu with a cost of one thousand 853 crore rupees**. The total length of the project will be 46.7 kilometers and it will provide seamless connectivity by strengthening connectivity between major religious and economic centres, boosting tourism to **Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi**.

4-Laning of Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram Section of NH-87

Cabinet approves construction of 4-Lane
Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram Section in Tamil Nadu



Total length of section **46.7 km**

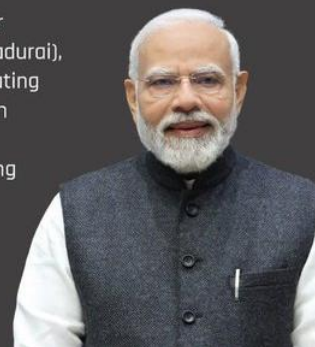


Project to cost ₹ **1,853 cr**



Benefits

- Provide seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes across southern Tamil Nadu
- Enhance multi-modal integration by connecting with 2 major Railway Stations (Madurai and Rameshwaram), 1 Airport (Madurai), and 2 minor ports (Pamban and Rameshwaram) thus facilitating faster movement of goods and passengers across the region
- Play a pivotal role in regional economic growth, strengthening connectivity between major religious and economic centers, boosting tourism to Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi
- Generate approximate 8.4 lakh person-days of direct and 10.45 lakh person-days of indirect employment



FIFA's F4S Programme

- **About 10 lakh footballs will be distributed** to schools across the country to boost **participation in football and nurture a strong sporting culture** among the students. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced this while flagging the **distribution of FIFA footballs as part of the Football for Schools (F4S)** at the PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Fort William in Kolkata.
- While speaking at the event, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan shared that over **88,000 footballs will be distributed in West Bengal** alone, benefiting nearly 15 to 16 lakh children. Expressing his love for the sport, he emphasised that even a **single football in a small school** can inspire children to engage with the game and develop a genuine passion for playing. He further highlighted that approximately **10 lakh footballs will be distributed** to schools across the country.



- The F4S programme, spearheaded by **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**, aims to promote football at the grassroots level by making the sport more accessible to students within the school system. In India, the programme is implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) with support from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**. Under the F4S program, FIFA is contributing more than 9.6 lakh footballs for school students in India, besides 129 other countries.

Thailand's PM Shinawatra Suspended

- Thailand's Constitutional Court has suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra following a leaked call with former Cambodian leader Hun Sen. The court is **reviewing a petition seeking her dismissal over** the controversial clip, which triggered public outrage and political backlash.



- Paetongtarn, now serving as culture minister after a last-minute cabinet reshuffle, has 15 days to present her defense. Deputy Prime Minister assumes the role of acting leader. The **leaked conversation reportedly discussed a decades-old border dispute** that reignited tensions after a recent deadly incident.

Parag Jain Appointed As New RAW Chief

- **Senior IPS officer Parag Jain has been appointed** as the new chief of the **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**, succeeding Ravi Sinha, who retires on June 30; Jain will serve a two-year tenure.



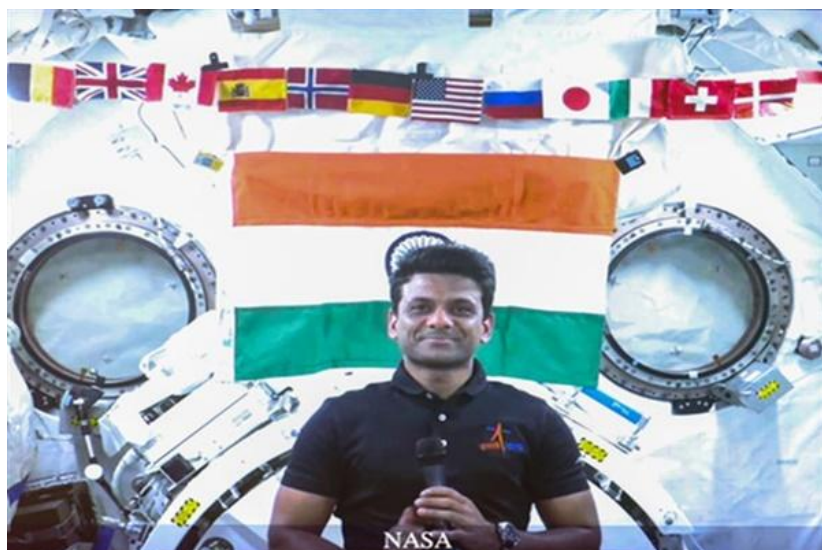
- **Jain, a 1989-batch IPS officer from the Punjab cadre**, currently heads RAW's Aviation Research Centre (ARC) and is the second senior-most officer in the agency.
- He played a key role in intelligence operations during Operation Sindoor, launched after the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, which led to retaliatory strikes by India.
- Jain's extensive experience includes handling the Pakistan desk, tenures in J&K during **Article 370 abrogation, and stints in Indian missions** in Sri Lanka and Canada monitoring Khalistani terror networks. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is India's premier external intelligence agency, focusing on gathering intelligence outside India to safeguard national security.



- **Established in 1968 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**, in the aftermath of the 1962 war with China and 1965 war with Pakistan, to improve India's external intelligence capabilities.
- Headquarters – New Delhi, India.

Shubhanshu Shukla

- **Indian Air Force Group Captain, Shubhanshu Shukla**, the first Indian aboard the International Space Station (ISS), is leading a groundbreaking experiment to decode muscle loss in space.



- **Part of Axiom Space's Ax-4 mission**, Shukla is studying muscle stem cell cultures in the ISS's Kibo module to find supplements that may prevent muscle atrophy. The research has vital implications for astronauts on long missions and patients with muscle loss on Earth.
- Shukla also contributed to some other studies, representing India in a global mission, conducting 60 experiments across 31 countries.

Ladakh Hosts Its First Astro Tourism Festival

- Ladakh marked a significant step in promoting **science-based tourism** with the successful conclusion of its first-ever Astro Tourism Festival in Leh. Organized by **the Tourism Department of Ladakh in collaboration** with the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore**, the two-day festival aimed to harness Ladakh's unique natural advantages—such as high altitude, dry climate, and low light pollution—to position the region as a leading destination for astro tourism. The event offered a blend of educational sessions and hands-on celestial observation, captivating tourists, astronomy enthusiasts, and science lovers alike.



- The first Ladakh Astro Tourism Festival concluded recently in Leh, highlighting the region's **potential for astro-tourism**. With growing interest in **science-based and sustainable tourism**, the event underlines India's efforts to develop astrotourism circuits and increase public interest in space science and astronomy, especially in high-potential regions like Ladakh.



- Locations
- Leh – Main venue for workshops and observation
- Hanle Dark Sky Reserve – A globally recognized astronomy site
- Key Features : Night Sky Observation, Held at Ladakh University Campus, Leh,
- Included telescope-guided sessions on, Constellations, Planet spotting, Deep-sky viewing of galaxies and nebulae



- Objectives of the Festival
- To position Ladakh as a hub for astro tourism in India
- To educate the public and tourists on astronomy and space science
- To integrate science-driven tourism into local development strategies
- To leverage Ladakh's unique geography (high altitude, dry weather, low light pollution)
- **Ladakh is home to Hanle, designated as India's first Dark Sky Reserve in 2022.**
- The region's skies are among the clearest and darkest in the country.

- The Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle is one of the world's highest sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes.

Asian Youth Championships

- In Table Tennis, **India's Divyanshi Bhowmick has clinched gold** in the U-15 Girls' Singles at the 29th Asian Youth Championships in Tashkent, defeating China's Zhu Qihi 4-2 in the final. **The second seed, Divanshi, also secured a World Youth Championships berth** with her victory. Earlier, she overcame China's Liu Ziling in a gritty seven-game semifinal. India ended the tournament with one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Institute Organized The Ladakh Astro Tourism Festival

- A. National Institute of Science Education and Research
- B. Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore
- C. Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Pune
- D. India Institute of Technology, New Delhi

ANSWER: B

2. Which Country Launched A Climate Monitoring Satellite On Its H-2A rocket

- A. France
- B. Japan
- C. China
- D. India

ANSWER: B

3. Divyanshi Bhowmick Seen In News Relates To

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Badminton
- C. Cricket
- D. Football

ANSWER: A

4. Which State Has Become The First In India To Launch E-voting Through Mobile Applications For Municipal Body Elections

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Haryana
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: D

5. From Which Country Has India Restricted Jute Imports Through Most Ports

- A. Nepal
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Myanmar
- D. Thailand

ANSWER: B

6. Where Was Headquarters Of Newly Established Turmeric Board Inaugurated

- A. Warangal
- B. Vijayawada
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Nizamabad

ANSWER: D

7. Name Of The World's First Jet-powered Flying Humanoid Robot, Recently Introduced By Researchers In Italy

- A. RoboFlyer X
- B. SkyBot 2
- C. iRonCub MK10
- D. iRonCub MK3

ANSWER: D

8. Who Has Been Appointed As New Chief Of The Research And Analysis Wing

- A. Ravi Sinha
- B. Ajit Doval
- C. Parag Jain
- D. Arvind Kumar

ANSWER: C

9. Name Of New Mobile Application Launched By Indian Government To Provide Stakeholders With Easy Access To Official Data

- A. BharatData
- B. GoIStats
- C. IndiaInfo
- D. StatGuru

ANSWER: B

10. Wayne Larkins, Who Recently Passed Away, Was Associated With Which Sport During His Professional Career

- A. Cricket
- B. Rugby
- C. Tennis
- D. Hockey

ANSWER: A

11. GoStats Mobile Application Is An Initiative Of Which Institution

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C. National Sample Survey Office (NSO)
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: C

12. What is “Myogenesis”

- A. Formation and development of muscle fibers
- B. Newly discovered species of Fish
- C. Traditional medicine
- D. Formation of nerve cells

ANSWER: A

13. Football For Schools (F4S) Programme Is Run By FIFA In Collaboration With Which Organization

- A. World Health Organization (WHO)
- B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- C. World Bank
- D. United Nations Development Programme

ANSWER: B

14. Central Sector Scheme Of Scholarship For College And University Students (CSSS) Is Implemented By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

ANSWER: C

15. On Which Highway Has India’s First Dedicated Wildlife Corridor Been Constructed

- A. Golden Quadrilateral
- B. Delhi-Mumbai Highway
- C. Chennai-Bangalore Expressway
- D. Mumbai-Pune Expressway

ANSWER: B

16. Who Has Been Granted Extension To Serve As Chairman Of CBDT June 2026

- A. Ravi Agrawal
- B. Nitin Gupta
- C. Sanjay Malhotra
- D. Vivek Johri

ANSWER: A

17. Which Institutions In India Are Set To Adopt UPI-enabled QR Code Payments Nationwide By August 2025

- A. Cooperative Banks
- B. Government Hospitals
- C. Post Offices
- D. Railway Stations

ANSWER: C

18. Which Indian Company Became The First To Surpass 15 GW Of Installed Renewable Energy Capacity

- A. Tata Power
- B. ReNew Power
- C. NTPC Green Energy
- D. Adani Green

ANSWER: D

19. On Which Date Is International Asteroid Day Observed Annually

- A. July 1
- B. June 10
- C. June 30
- D. July 30

ANSWER: D

20. State Of Climate In Asia 2024 Report Was Released By Which Organization

- A. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C. World Bank
- D. Greenpeace

ANSWER: A