

Daily Current Affairs

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PM Modi To Disburse ₹20,500 Cr Under PM-KISAN

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the **20th instalment of PM-KISAN** by **disbursing more than 20 thousand 500 crore rupees** to over nine crore 70 lakh farmers tomorrow during his visit to Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** is a flagship government scheme designed to support small and marginal farmers by providing them with financial assistance. Below are its key features:



- **Direct Income Support:** PM-KISAN provides eligible farmers with an annual **financial benefit of ₹6,000, disbursed** in three equal installments of ₹2,000 each. The funds are directly transferred to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, ensuring transparency and efficiency.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Initially, the scheme targeted small and marginal farmers with up to **2 hectares of cultivable land**. However, it was later extended to cover all farmer families irrespective of landholding size, subject to certain exclusions.

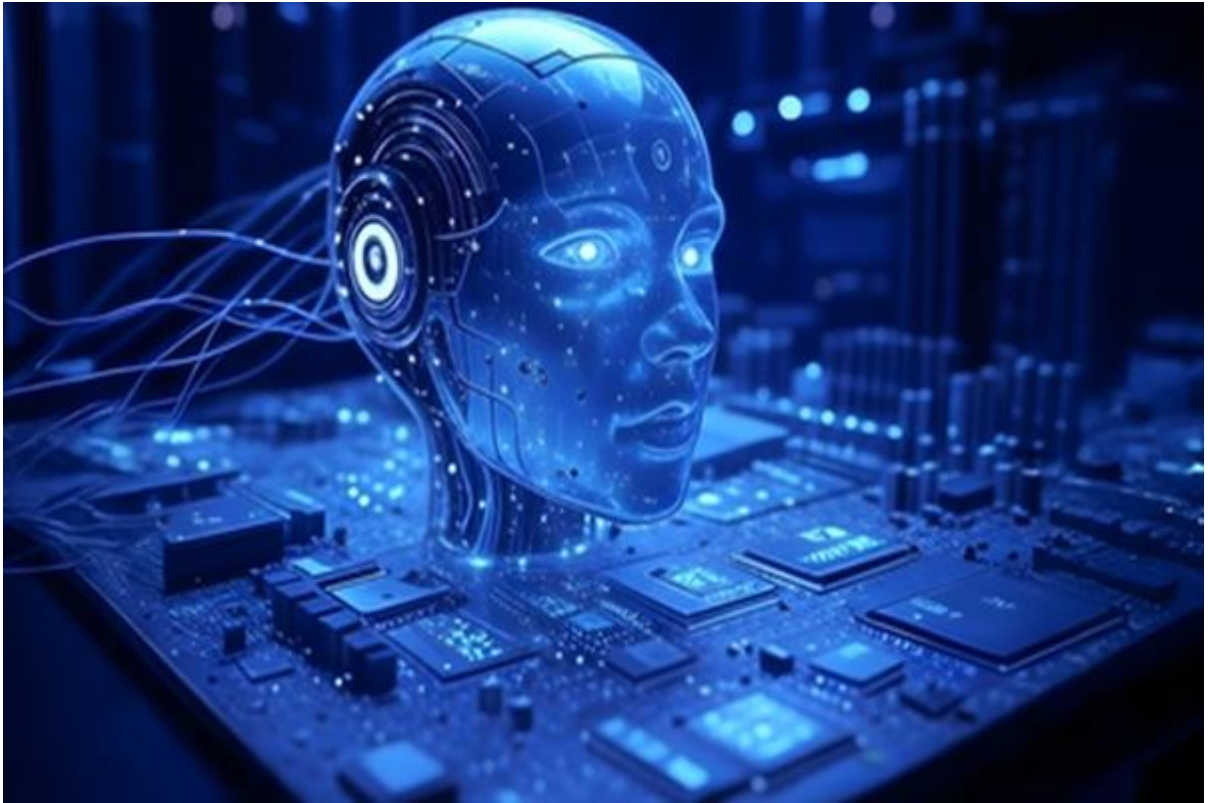
- **Exclusion Categories:** Institutional landholders, government employees, income tax payers, and professionals such as doctors and engineers are excluded from the scheme. Retired pensioners receiving **monthly pensions above ₹10,000 are also ineligible.**



- **Objective:** The scheme aims to supplement farmers' income to help them meet **agricultural and household expenses**. It also seeks to reduce their dependence on informal credit and improve their overall financial stability.
- **Implementation:** PM-KISAN is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration** with state governments, which are responsible for identifying beneficiaries.

AI Impact Summit

- India will host the **AI Impact Summit in February 2026**, highlighting its commitment to making Artificial Intelligence (AI) accessible and beneficial for the public good. Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Parliament that the summit aligns with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's vision of using technology** to serve all sections of society. The event will focus on harnessing AI to address real-world challenges in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, climate change, and governance.



- To support scalable innovation, the **Minister said the government is also working to expand the country's AI infrastructure**. This includes improving access to GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) computing power and enhancing the AIKosh Datasets Platform, which currently hosts more than 1,000 datasets and 208 AI models.

Sacred Piprahwa Relics Of Lord Buddha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the return of the sacred **Piprahwa relics of Lord Gautam Buddha to India from Hong Kong after 127 years**.
- In a statement reflecting the **spirit of Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi**, the Prime Minister underscored the deep reverence India holds for **Lord Buddha's teachings** and the nation's unwavering commitment to preserving its spiritual and historical legacy.



- Calling it a proud and joyous moment for the nation's rich cultural heritage, **Piprahwa relics, unearthed in 1898** by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé at Piprahwa in Uttar Pradesh, are believed to be directly associated with **the mortal remains of Lord Buddha**.
- He said that when the relics appeared in an international auction earlier this year, the **government took swift action to ensure their return**. He also appreciated everyone who contributed to this significant effort.

Philippines President Marcos To Begin 5-day State Visit

- **Philippines' President, Ferdinand R Marcos**, will be on a five-day state visit to India from 4th August. Mr Marcos will be accompanied by First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, and a **high-level delegation including several Cabinet Ministers**, other dignitaries and senior officials.



- This would be the first visit of **Mr Marcos to India since the assumption** of office as the President of the Philippines. During the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the **Philippines President Marcos** are scheduled to hold bilateral discussions on the 05th of August.
- Mr Marcos will also be meeting President Droupadi Murmu. External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar will call on President Marcos** during this visit. Mr Marcos will also visit Bengaluru before returning to the Philippines on the 8th of August.
- The Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said **India's relations with the Philippines are an integral pillar of the country's** Act East Policy, Vision MAHASAGAR and the vision of the Indo-Pacific. It added that the forthcoming visit of Mr Marcos coincides with the 75th anniversary of India-Philippines diplomatic relations.

Professor Michele Dougherty

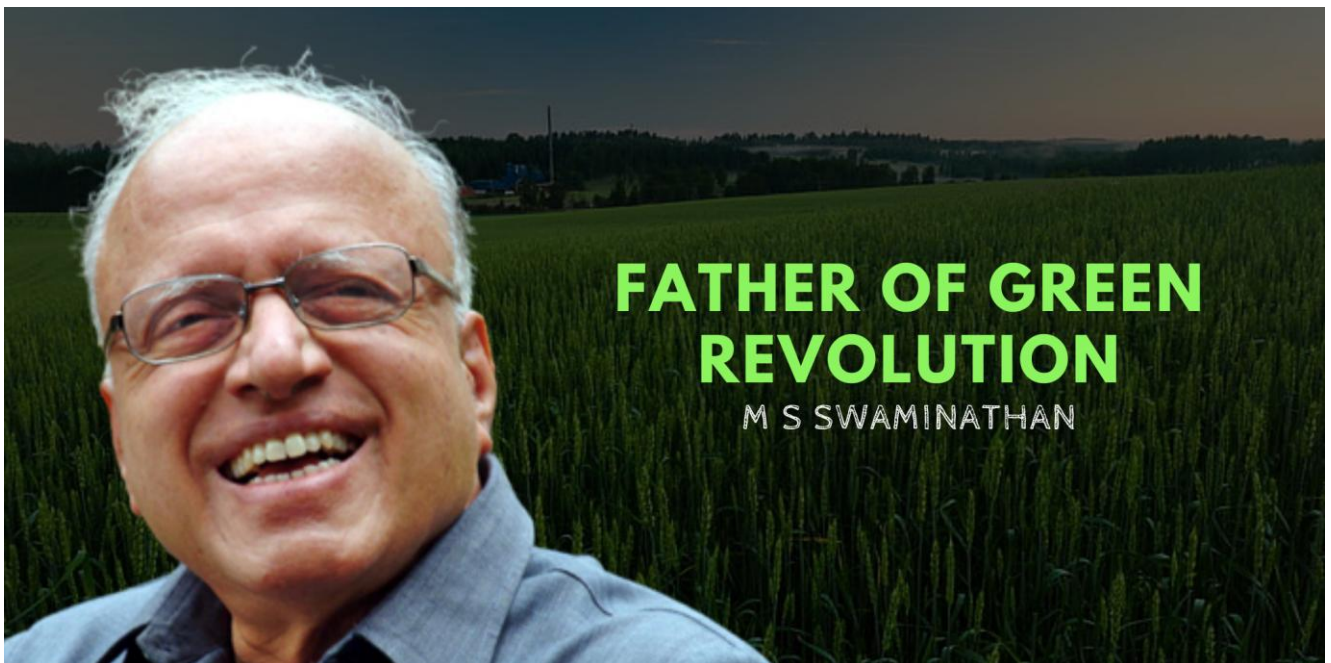
- **United Kingdom has appointed Professor Michele Dougherty** as Astronomer Royal, making her the first woman to hold the prestigious title in its 350-year history. The **Astronomer Royal is an honorary role** that dates back to 1675. Traditionally, the post involves advising the UK's monarchy on astronomical matters and promoting public interest in space and science.



- **Professor Dougherty** is best known for her **work on NASA's Cassini mission**, which led to the discovery of jets of water vapour erupting from Saturn's moon Enceladus, a finding that suggests the moon could potentially support life.

Sustainable Agriculture Day

- Maharashtra government has declared **August 7 to be observed** annually as **"Sustainable Agriculture Day"** in honor of **Dr. M. S. Swaminathan's** birth centenary, recognizing his pivotal role in India's Green Revolution.



- **Swaminathan's breakthrough research in wheat and rice productivity** significantly contributed to India's food self-sufficiency and economic stability, earning him the Bharat Ratna in 2024 and international recognition.
- To preserve his legacy, **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Bio-Happiness Centres** will be established across all agricultural universities in Maharashtra. These centres will focus on crucial areas such as,
 - Sustainable agriculture
 - Climate adaptation technology
 - Food security

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

- **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Assam has emerged** as the tiger reserve with the third-highest tiger density in India. This was revealed in a 2024 report released on Global Tiger Day.
- Known primarily for its **one-horned rhinoceros**, **Kaziranga** now also stands out as a critical tiger habitat. The reserve recorded 148 tigers across 1,307.49 sq. km, reflecting growth since 2022. The tiger count rose from 104 in 2022 to 148 in 2024. This increase was aided by the first-ever sampling of the Biswanath Wildlife Division, which alone recorded 27 tigers.



- The survey was conducted between December 2023 and April 2024 using camera traps. Officials employed the **spatially explicit capture-recapture method, a precise technique** endorsed by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India**. Over 13,000 trap nights yielded more than 4,000 tiger images, enabling identification of individual tigers by their right-flank stripe patterns.
- **Kaziranga's tiger density stands at 18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km.** This ranks behind Karnataka's Bandipur Tiger Reserve (19.83 tigers per 100 sq. km) and Uttarakhand's Corbett National Park (19.56 tigers per 100 sq. km). These figures show **Kaziranga's importance in India's tiger conservation** landscape and its rising role in protecting this apex predator.



- Key drivers of tiger population growth include habitat expansion and improved protection. **Recently, Kaziranga expanded by 200 sq. km** through the inclusion of Burhachapori-Laokhowa sanctuaries in the Nagaon Wildlife Division. This **expansion added 12.82 sq. km of encroachment-free land**. It enhanced landscape connectivity, allowing tigers to move, breed and disperse more freely across divisions.
- **Assam's efforts to curb infiltration and encroachment** have also contributed to a safer environment for tigers. Kaziranga lies in the Brahmaputra River floodplain, spanning Golaghat, Nagaon and Sonitpur districts. The terrain is mostly flat with gentle slopes.



- The reserve's core tiger habitat is nourished by tributaries of the **Brahmaputra, such as the Difalu and Moradifalu rivers**. Kaziranga connects to neighbouring reserves through river island corridors, facilitating wildlife movement. The reserve supports several vegetation types, including alluvial grasslands, savanna woodlands, moist mixed deciduous and semi-evergreen forests.



- **Notable flora includes Bombax ceiba**, Albizzia species and Lagerstroemia parviflora. Kaziranga hosts many endangered species such as the one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, eastern swamp deer, elephant, buffalo, hoolock gibbon, capped langur and Gangetic river dolphin. This biodiversity underlines Kaziranga's status as a vital conservation hotspot.

U17 World Championships With 5 Medals

- **Indian women wrestlers delivered an impressive performance** at the 2025 U17 World Wrestling Championships in Athens yesterday, securing a total of five medals, including two gold, two silver, and one bronze. The historic campaign **was kick-started by Rachana**, who made headlines by winning India's first-ever gold in the **women's 43 kg freestyle category** with a commanding 3-0 victory over China's Xin Huang.



- Soon after, **Ashvini Vishnoi** added to the glory by clinching another gold in the **65 kg category**, defeating **Uzbekistan's Mukhayyo Rakhimjonova** 3-0. In the 57kg category, **Moni** took silver after a close loss to Kazakhstan's **Madkhiya Usmanov**, a 5-6.
- **India's second silver came from Kajal**, who put up a strong fight in the 73kg final but lost to China's **Wenjin Qiu**. In the 49kg category, **Komal Verma** secured a bronze, defeating **Anhelina Burkina** of **UWW** 8-3.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. PM-KISAN Scheme Was Launched On

- A. 2017
- B. 2019
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

ANSWER: B

2. PM-KISAN Scheme Eligible Family Receives An Annual Benefit Of

- A. ₹2,000
- B. ₹4,000
- C. ₹6,000
- D. ₹8,000

ANSWER: C

3. AI Impact Summit 2026 Will Be Hosted By

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

ANSWER: A

4. Sacred Piprahwa Relics Of Lord Gautam Buddha To India From

- A. Paris
- B. London
- C. Honk Kong
- D. New York

ANSWER: C

**5. Maharashtra Government Has Declared ____ To Be Observed Annually As
“Sustainable Agriculture Day**

- A. August 5
- B. August 6
- C. August 7
- D. August 8

ANSWER: C

6. MS Swaminathan Received Bharat Ratna In

- A. 2020
- B. 2022
- C. 2023
- D. 2024

ANSWER: D

7. e-SHRAM Portal Was Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Law and Justice

ANSWER: A

8. Gavri Festival Is Primarily Celebrated By Which Community Of Rajasthan

- A. Sahariya community
- B. Garasia community
- C. Mina community
- D. Bhil community

ANSWER: D

9. Legionnaires' Disease, Is Caused By Which Agent

- A. Bacteria
- B. Virus
- C. Fungus
- D. Protozoa

ANSWER: B

10. Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Is Developed By Which Organization

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

ANSWER: B

11. Pralay Missile Is Developed By Which Organization

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

ANSWER: B

12. Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar Programme Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Culture
- C. Ministry of Tourism
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: B

13. Where Is The Newly Discovered Harappan Site Ratadiya Ri Dheri Located

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: B

14. National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme Is Implemented By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

ANSWER: D

15. Name Of The Central Sector Scheme That Aims To Provide Drones To Women Self Help Groups

- A. Drone Shakti scheme
- B. Nari Kisan Udaan scheme
- C. Namo Drone Didi scheme
- D. Agri-Tech Sakhi scheme

ANSWER: C

16. Kavach 4.0 Is An Automatic Train Protection System Introduced By Which Organization

- A. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- B. Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO)
- C. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- D. Ministry of Transport

ANSWER: B

17. Dorjilung Hydropower Project Is Located In Which Country

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

ANSWER: B

18. Which Institution Has Launched The “Saksham Niveshak” Campaign

- A. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
- B. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- D. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

ANSWER: A

19. Typhoon Co-May recently hit which country

- A. Japan
- B. Philippines
- C. China
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: C

20. Which Among The Following Gases Is Used In Production Of Vanaspati Ghee From Vegetable Oils

- A. Nitrogen (N₂)
- B. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
- C. Hydrogen (H₂)
- D. Neon (Ne)

ANSWER: C