

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 13 March 2025

### Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems

- The Honorable President of India Droupadi Murmu has addressed the inaugural session of the Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri Food Systems. This Conference was held (GCWAS-2026) in New Delhi on March 12 2026.
- This conference focuses on strengthening women's participation in agriculture and promoting gender inclusive development in the agri-food sector.
- The Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026) aims to highlight the role of women in building sustainable agricultural systems and strengthening gender equality in farming.
- This conference brings together policymakers, researchers, agricultural experts and international organizations. This event focuses on discussing policy frameworks and institutional support systems that can encourage greater participation of women across the agri-food value chain.



## India's First Digital Twin Platform

- V. O. Chidambaranar Port has achieved a major milestone in India's maritime sector by launching the Digital Twin initiative, becoming the first port in India to adopt this advanced technology for port management.
- A Digital Twin is a real-time virtual replica of physical infrastructure and operations. In the case of V.O. Chidambaranar Port, the platform digitally replicates:
  - Port infrastructure
  - Operational assets
  - Vessel movements
  - Cargo operations, Maritime ecosystem
- **Advanced Technologies Used in the Platform**
  - IoT sensors for equipment and infrastructure monitoring
  - GPS tracking for vessel and cargo movement
  - LiDAR mapping for precise spatial monitoring
  - Drone imaging for aerial surveillance
  - CCTV networks for security and operational visibility
- The Digital Twin initiative aligns with national maritime development strategies such as:
  - Maritime India Vision 2030
  - Amrit Kaal Vision 2047
- These initiatives, supported by Narendra Modi, aim to promote digitalisation, operational efficiency, and global competitiveness of Indian ports.



## India Plans to Boost Chip Manufacturing

- India is set preparing to launch a ₹1 trillion (\$11 billion) semiconductor fund. This fund will to strengthen domestic chip manufacturing and accelerate its ambition to become a global semiconductor hub.
- This proposed fund will support chip design, manufacturing equipment and supply chain development across the semiconductor industry in India. This initiative builds on the government's earlier **\$10 billion** semiconductor incentive program which was launched in **2021**.
- United States introduced the **\$52 billion** CHIPS and Science Act and along with this China has invested heavily in semiconductor firms through large investment funds. India's semiconductor fund initiative aims to position the country within this global competition and ensure long-term technological and economic growth.
- The proposed ₹1 trillion semiconductor fund will expand the earlier \$10 billion semiconductor incentive program launched in 2021.
- This was lunched under the India Semiconductor Mission. This program offered financial assistance covering up to 50% of the cost of semiconductor manufacturing projects.
- **Major Semiconductor Projects in India**
- Several major semiconductor projects have already been announced under the India semiconductor incentive program.
- Micron Technology establishing the semiconductor assembly facility in Gujarat

- Tata Group building the semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat
- A chip packaging and testing unit being developed by Tata
- Foxconn Technology Group planning a semiconductor testing and assembly facility
- These initiatives are expected to strengthen the semiconductor ecosystem in India and attract further investments.



## **KSRTC Wins National Award for Dhwani Spandana Innovation**

- The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has received the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award in the “Excellence in Innovation” category for its unique initiative called “**Dhwani Spandana.**”
- This innovative system has been designed to help visually impaired passengers identify buses and navigate their journeys independently, making public transportation more accessible and inclusive.
- The recognition highlights KSRTC’s efforts to use technology-driven solutions to improve passenger accessibility and mobility.
- The Dhwani Spandana – Onboard Bus Identification and Navigation System is an assistive technology developed to help visually challenged passengers easily recognise buses and travel safely.
- The main goal of the system is to promote independent travel for visually impaired individuals and make public transport more inclusive.
- The Dhwani Spandana system has already been implemented in 200 Mysuru City Transport buses.

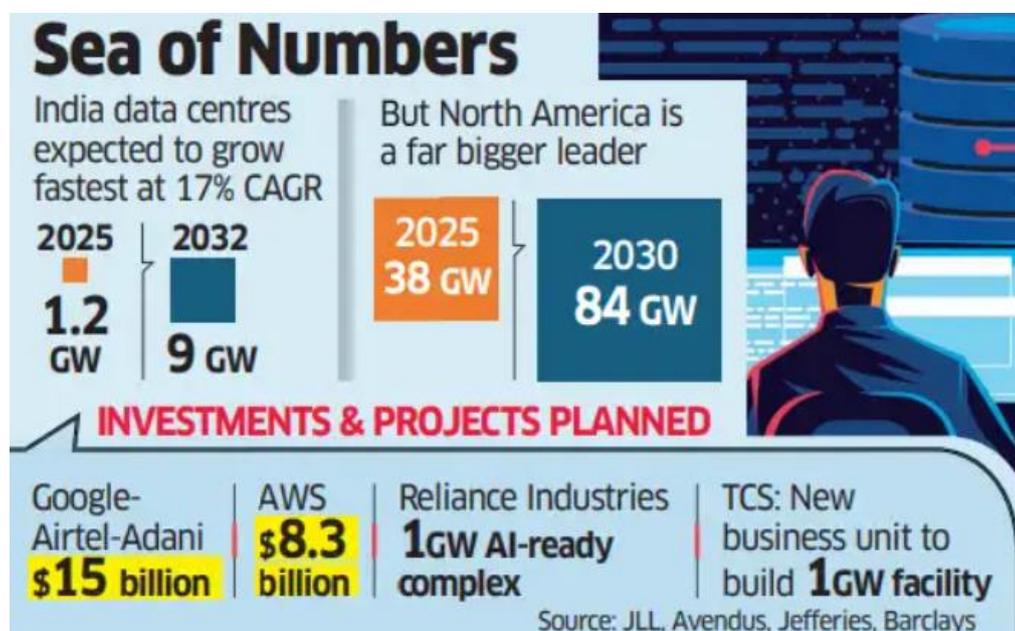
- The project has been developed with technical support from GIZ Germany, which collaborated with KSRTC to enhance accessibility in public transportation.



## Data Centre Capacity In The Country Has Increased

- The data centre industry in India is growing steadily. The total data centre capacity in the country has increased from about 375 MW in 2020 to around 1500 MW by 2025.
- To support AI development, about 38,231 GPUs have been onboarded through 14 empanelled service providers/data centres under the AI compute capacity framework.
- These are being provided to startups, researchers, academia and other eligible users at a subsidised average rate of ₹65 per hour. This is about one-third of the global average cost.
- The expected electricity demand from the growth of AI and other large-scale data centres is factored into the planning process of government. As per information available with the Ministry of Power, electricity demand from data centres is estimated to reach **13.56 GW by 2031–32**.
- **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act**, was recently passed by Parliament to strengthen the nuclear energy ecosystem.
- The water requirement of data centres depends on the type of cooling technologies deployed. Regulation and control of groundwater extraction, including for industrial purposes, is governed by the guidelines issued by the

Ministry of Jal Shakti vide notification S.O. 3289(E) dated 24.09.2020 and amendment notification dated 29.03.2023.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who inaugurated the Global Conference on the Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026)?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Droupadi Murmu
- C. Nirmala Sitharaman
- D. Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The conference was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on March 12, 2026 to promote women's participation in agriculture and agri-food systems.

2. The Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026) was held in which city?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Hyderabad

- C. New Delhi
- D. Bengaluru

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The international conference was organised in New Delhi to highlight the role of women in sustainable agricultural development.

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**3. Which port became the first in India to launch a Digital Twin platform for port management?**

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- B. Paradip Port
- C. Visakhapatnam Port
- D. V. O. Chidambaranar Port

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** V. O. Chidambaranar Port launched India's first Digital Twin initiative, enabling real-time monitoring of port infrastructure, vessels, and cargo operations.

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**4. Which of the following technologies is used in the Digital Twin platform at V.O. Chidambaranar Port?**

1. IoT Sensors
2. LiDAR Mapping
3. Drone Imaging
4. GPS Tracking

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The Digital Twin system integrates multiple technologies including IoT sensors, GPS tracking, LiDAR mapping, and drone imaging to monitor port operations efficiently.

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**5. India plans to launch a semiconductor fund worth approximately:**

- A. ₹50,000 crore
- B. ₹5 lakh crore
- C. ₹1 trillion
- D. ₹10 trillion

**Answer: C**

**Explanation: India is planning to launch a ₹1 trillion (\$11 billion) semiconductor fund to strengthen domestic chip manufacturing.**

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**6. The semiconductor incentive program launched in 2021 operates under which initiative?**

- A. Digital India Mission
- B. Make in India
- C. India Semiconductor Mission
- D. Startup India

**Answer: C**

**Explanation: The semiconductor incentive program is part of the India Semiconductor Mission, which supports semiconductor manufacturing and design.**

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**7. Which company is establishing a semiconductor assembly facility in Gujarat?**

- A. Intel
- B. Qualcomm
- C. Micron Technology
- D. Nvidia

**Answer: C**

**Explanation: Micron Technology announced plans to build a semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Gujarat.**

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**8. The “Dhwani Spandana” innovation is associated with which organisation?**

- A. Indian Railways
- B. Delhi Transport Corporation

- C. Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
- D. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation

**Answer: C**

**Explanation: KSRTC developed Dhvani Spandana, an assistive technology to help visually impaired passengers identify buses.**

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**9. The Dhvani Spandana system has been implemented in approximately how many Mysuru city buses?**

- A. 50
- B. 100
- C. 150
- D. 200

**Answer: D**

**Explanation: The system has been implemented in around 200 buses in the Mysuru City Transport network.**

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**10. India's data centre capacity increased from about 375 MW in 2020 to approximately how much by 2025?**

- A. 800 MW
- B. 1000 MW
- C. 1500 MW
- D. 2000 MW

**Answer: C**

**Explanation: India's data centre capacity grew significantly from 375 MW in 2020 to around 1500 MW by 2025, reflecting rapid expansion of digital infrastructure.**