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Womaniya Initiative

- The Womaniya initiative enables women entrepreneurs and SHGs to sell directly to Government buyers through the GeM platform.
- It covers designated categories such as handicrafts, handloom, jute, coir, home décor and office furnishings for procurement.
- Over 2.1 lakh women MSEs are registered on GeM, securing 13.7 Lakh order volume in FY 2025-26.
- Public procurement constitutes a major organised market in India. With the expansion of digital procurement through the GeM, the system has become more transparent, standardised and accessible to a wider supplier base.
- In order to encourage the participation of women-led micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) the Government introduced the Womaniya Initiative on GeM in 2019.
- The initiative aims to strengthen the inclusion of women entrepreneurs in public procurement by providing a designated digital interface, simplifying access requirements and creating structured pathways for women-entrepreneurs and SHGs to connect with Government buyers.
- Government e Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform that facilitates end-to-end procurement of goods and services by various Central/State Ministries, departments, organizations, public sector undertakings, Panchayats and Cooperatives.
- GeM, launched in 2016 under the vision of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance,” is a paperless, cashless and contactless platform enabling Government buyers to directly procure goods and services from pan-India sellers online.

- SWAYATT (Startups, Women & Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions) is an initiative of the Government e-Marketplace launched in February 2019 to promote inclusive participation in public procurement.
- The initiative focuses on enabling startups, women entrepreneurs, youth, Micro & Small Enterprises, Self-Help Groups and marginalized communities to access government markets. SWAYATT aims to remove entry barriers and enhance ease of doing business for these groups on the GeM platform.



Global Trade Hits New High in 2025

- Global trade showcased the strong performance in the 2025 as the exports of goods reached at \$26.3 trillion and it is reflecting the 7% rise compared to the previous year. This data are according to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Countries like China and the United States of America continue to dominates and India remains at the 19th position which is highlights the progress and the untapped potential in the global trade.
- The top 10 countries together contribute the nearly half of the global exports (49.6%) which is indicating highly competitive global market.
- As per the list China leading at top while followed by the United States and Germany. These three economies alone account for nearly the 29% of global exports. Which showcasing their strong industrial base and global trade networks.

- One of the biggest highlights of 2025 is Asia's dominance in the trade growth. This region has recorded a 9.5% rise in exports and also 6% increase in imports and which had making it the fastest growing trade region.
- This growth is largely driven by the,
- The rising demand for AI-related and technology products
- Also the expansion of manufacturing in Asian economies
- And strong supply chain networks
- **Top 10 Exporting Countries in the World (2025)**
- **Global Export Leaders**
- China – \$3,771,842 million
- United States – \$2,185,220 million
- Germany – \$1,764,188 million
- Netherlands – \$989,237 million
- Hong Kong – \$753,582 million
- Japan – \$738,337 million
- **Global Export Leaders**
- Italy – \$726,499 million
- South Korea – \$709,330 million
- United Arab Emirates – \$706,671 million
- France – \$683,095 million
- India ranks at 19th in the exporters tally with exports valued at \$445,278 million and the 1.7% share in global exports. Majorly, India exports this products like textiles and garments, generic medicines (pharmaceuticals), engineering goods and IT and services.



Preeti Saran Re-Elected as UN Committee Head

- India has secured the unopposed victories in four key election to bodies under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 2026. This elections were held by acclamation which means that unanimous approval without the opposition.
- The four important bodies in which India have secured representation includes the,
 - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
 - Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
 - Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations
 - Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)
- The re-election of the Preeti Saran to the CESCR (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) is the significant achievement. This position to be hold as an individual expert capacity and not as the government representative.
- It was established by the Charter of the United Nations in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- It is responsible for the direction and coordination of the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities carried out by the UN.
- Decisions are taken by a simple majority vote. The presidency of ECOSOC changes annually.

- Members: It has 54 members and which are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.
- Headquarter: New York (USA)



Operation HimSetu

- Indian Army has launched the Operation HimSetu to rescue over the 1,400 stranded tourists and locals in North Sikkim. This incident was triggered by massive landslides and the sudden collapse of the newly built bridge near Lachen and this crisis has disrupted the connectivity in this region.
- Operation HimSetu which is the rescue operation was led by the Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army under its Eastern Command. The mission successfully evacuated the 1,321 tourists and 84 local residents.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Womaniya Initiative is associated with which platform?

- A) eNAM
- B) GeM
- C) UPI
- D) BharatNet

Answer: B) GeM

Explanation: The Womaniya Initiative was launched on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to promote women entrepreneurs.

2. The Womaniya Initiative mainly supports:

- A) Large industries
- B) Foreign investors
- C) Women entrepreneurs and SHGs
- D) Private banks

Answer: C) Women entrepreneurs and SHGs

Explanation: It aims to enhance participation of women-led enterprises and Self-Help Groups in government procurement.

3. SWAYATT initiative is related to:

- A) Space research
- B) Inclusive public procurement
- C) Defence exports
- D) Banking reforms

Answer: B) Inclusive public procurement

Explanation: SWAYATT promotes participation of startups, women, youth, and marginalized groups in GeM.

4. Global trade in goods reached approximately how much in 2025?

- A) \$20 trillion
- B) \$22 trillion
- C) \$26.3 trillion
- D) \$30 trillion

Answer: C) \$26.3 trillion

Explanation: According to WTO data, global goods exports reached \$26.3 trillion in 2025.

5. Which country was the largest exporter in 2025?

- A) USA
- B) Germany
- C) China
- D) Japan

Answer: C) China

Explanation: China topped the global export rankings in 2025.

6. India ranked at which position in global exports in 2025?

- A) 10th
- B) 15th
- C) 19th
- D) 25th

Answer: C) 19th

Explanation: India held the 19th position with a 1.7% share in global exports.

7. Preeti Saran was re-elected to which UN body?

- A) UNSC
- B) WHO
- C) CESCR
- D) IMF

Answer: C) CESCR

Explanation: She was re-elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

8. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has how many members?

- A) 25
- B) 54
- C) 75
- D) 100

Answer: B) 54

Explanation: ECOSOC consists of 54 members elected by the UN General Assembly.

9. Operation HimSetu was launched in which state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Sikkim

Answer: D) Sikkim

Explanation: The operation was conducted in North Sikkim to rescue stranded people.

10. Operation HimSetu was carried out by:

- A) NDRF
- B) Indian Navy
- C) Indian Army
- D) BSF

Answer: C) Indian Army

Explanation: The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps led the rescue operation.