



₹45,000-CR. KEN-BETWA LINK PROJECT LAUNCHED

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Modi launched the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project in Madhya Pradesh, a major infrastructure initiative aimed at addressing water scarcity in the Bundelkhand region while also generating hydropower and promoting sustainable energy. Prime Minister Modi launched the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project in Madhya Pradesh, a major infrastructure initiative aimed at addressing water scarcity in the Bundelkhand region while also generating hydropower and promoting sustainable energy.



PROJECT LAUNCH & KEY FEATURES:

- **Foundation Stone Laid:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Project Cost:** Estimated to cost around ₹45,000 crore.
- **Objectives:**
 - Address water scarcity in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region (parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh).
 - Improve drinking water access and irrigation facilities.
 - Generate hydropower (over 100 MW) and solar energy (27 MW).
- 2. **Political Undertones:**
 - **Ambedkar's Vision:** PM Modi credited Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision for India's river valley projects, accusing the Congress of neglecting his con-

tributions to water conservation. This statement comes amidst a political controversy surrounding Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Dr. Ambedkar.

- **Criticism of Past Governments:** PM Modi criticized past Congress governments for "making announcements" without "intention to implement schemes" and for failing to resolve inter-state water disputes.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Legacy:** He credited former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for initiating the river-linking project, emphasizing the current government's commitment to fulfilling his vision.

3. Impact of the Project:

● Economic Benefits:

- Improved agricultural productivity in the Bundelkhand region due to increased irrigation.
- Creation of employment opportunities in construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.
- Hydropower and solar energy generation will contribute to the region's energy needs and potentially reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

● Social Benefits:

- Improved access to drinking water for the local population, potentially alleviating water-borne diseases.
- Enhanced livelihoods for farmers and rural communities.

● Environmental Concerns:

- **Potential Impact on Panna Tiger Reserve:** Concerns have been raised about the project's potential impact on the environment, particularly the Panna Tiger Reserve.

■ **Mitigation Measures:** PM Modi assured that the project would be implemented with minimal environmental impact, considering the needs of wildlife. However, detailed environmental impact assessments and robust mitigation strategies will be crucial to minimize any negative consequences.

- **Ecological Flow:** Maintaining adequate ecological flow in the rivers is essential to sustain aquatic ecosystems. Careful

water management and environmental monitoring will be crucial to ensure the long-term health of the river systems.

4. Other Initiatives:

- Daudhan Dam Irrigation Project: Foundation stone laid for this project, aiming to irrigate 11 lakh hectares of land.
- Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal River Linking Project: Recently launched, this project connects Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- Floating Solar Energy Project: Inaugurated in Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh.
- Atal Gram Seva Sadans: Foundation stone laid for the construction of 1,153 such community service centers.

CONCLUSION:

The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project has the potential to bring significant socio-economic benefits to the Bundelkhand region. However, it is crucial to address the environmental concerns associated with the project through careful planning, rigorous environmental impact assessments, and robust mitigation measures.

MT, FAVOURITE STORYTELLER OF MODERN KERALA, PASSES AWAY AT 91

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Renowned Malayalam writer and filmmaker M.T. Vasudevan Nair, a literary giant and a pioneer of Malayalam cinema, passed away at the age of 91. known for his impactful novels, short stories, and iconic screenplays, M.T. significantly shaped Malayalam literature and cinema.

Towering figure

MT authored nine novels and 19 collections of short stories, directed six films, wrote over 50 screenplays, and published several collections of essays and memoirs over a career spanning seven decades

■ His novel ***Naalukettu*** is considered a classic in Malayalam literature. He penned acclaimed works, such as ***Randamoozham***, ***Asuravithu***, ***Manju***, and ***Kaalam***

1995: Jnanpith Award

2005: Padma Bhushan

2013: J.C. Daniel Award for lifetime achievement in Malayalam cinema

2022: Kerala Jyothi Award, the highest civilian award given by the Kerala government

■ In 1970, ***Kaalam*** won the Sahitya Akademi award for the best novel

■ His directorial ventures include the national award-winning ***Nirmalyam*** (1973), ***Bandhanam*** (1978), ***Kadavu*** (1991), and ***Oru Cherupunchiri*** (2000)

21
State Film Awards

7
National Film Awards

M.T. VASUDEVAN NAIR (1933 - 2024)



M.T. VASUDEVAN NAIR: A LIFE IN LITERATURE AND CINEMA

● A Literary Giant:

- One of India's greatest writers.
- Renowned for his novels (Randamoozham, Asuravithu, Manju, Kaalam, Nalukettu) and short stories.
- Works deeply ingrained in Malayali cultural identity.
- Awarded Jnanpith in 1995.
- Widely translated into English.

● A Pioneer in Malayalam Cinema:

- Revolutionized screenplay writing in Malayalam cinema.
- Authored numerous landmark films.
- Directed "Nirmalyam," which won the National Award for Best Film in 1974.
- Notable screenplays: Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha, Amrutham Gamaya, Panchagni, Parinayam, Aksharangal, Aalkoottathil Thaniye, Thazhvaram, Pazhassi Raja.

● Multifaceted Career:

- Journalist and editor of Mathrubhumi weekly.
- Began film career with the script of "Murappennu" (1965).

● Early Life and Accomplishments:

- Born in Kudallur, near Ponnani.
- Authored "Asuravithu" at the age of 29, considered by some as the best Malayalam novel.

● Final Works:

- "Manorathangal," an anthology of films adapted from his short stories, was his last screen work.

● Passing:

- Passed away at the age of 91

INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA EXPLORE JOINT VENTURES IN DEFENCE SECTOR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: India and Saudi Arabia are exploring joint ventures in the defence sector, with a focus on sharing Indian-made defence technologies and leveraging their respective "Make in India" and "Vision 2030" initiatives for mutual benefit.



India-Saudi Arabia: Deepening Defense Ties

● **Focus on Joint Ventures:** Defence industrial cooperation is a key focus area between India and Saudi Arabia, with both countries exploring joint ventures and collaborations.

● Shared Vision:

- Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030" (localizing 50% of defense spending) aligns with India's "Make in India" initiative.
- This creates significant investment opportunities in India's defense sector.

● Strong Bilateral Relationship:

- Deep-rooted trust and confidence underpin the defense cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.
- India is keen to share its localized defense technologies with Saudi Arabia.

● Areas of Interest:

- Saudi defense companies are interested in partnerships in shipbuilding, electronics, and emerging technologies like AI and cybersecurity.

● Emphasis on Localization:

- Both India and Saudi Arabia are transitioning from being major defense importers to localizing production.
- India has made significant progress in localizing defense production and aims to share these advancements with close allies like Saudi Arabia.

ANALYSIS**WHY SAUDI ARABIA IS INCREASING ITS DEFENSE ASSOCIATION WITH INDIA:**

- **Diversification of Defense Partners:** Saudi Arabia is seeking to diversify its defense partnerships away from traditional reliance on Western suppliers. This reduces dependence on a single source and provides greater leverage in negotiations.
- **"Vision 2030" and Economic Diversification:** Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030" aims to reduce dependence on oil revenue and diversify its economy. Defense manufacturing and technology are key sectors for this diversification, and India, with its growing defense industry, offers a valuable partner.
- **"Make in India" Alignment:** India's "Make in India" initiative aligns perfectly with Saudi Arabia's goal of localizing defense production. This creates opportunities for joint ventures, technology transfer, and co-production, benefiting both countries.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Both countries are interested in emerging defense technologies like AI, cybersecurity, and ship-building. Collaborating in these areas allows them to gain a technological edge and address future security challenges.
- **Countering Regional Threats:** Both countries face similar security challenges, including terrorism and regional instability. Enhanced defense cooperation can help them counter these threats more effectively.
- **Political and Economic Ties:** India and Saudi Arabia enjoy strong political and economic ties. Defense cooperation further strengthens this relationship, fostering mutual trust and understanding.

In essence, the increasing defense association between India and Saudi Arabia is driven by a confluence of factors:

- **Diversification of partnerships.**
- **Economic diversification goals.**
- **Technological advancement.**
- **Shared security interests.**
- **Strong bilateral relations.**

CONCLUSION: This strategic partnership is mutually beneficial, offering both countries opportunities for economic growth, technological advancement, and enhanced security.

CENTRE YET TO FORMALLY SCRAP FMR WITH MYANMAR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Despite announcing the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border, the Indian government has introduced stricter regulations for cross-border movement, including a reduced range of free movement and stricter checks on individuals, while awaiting formal notification of the FMR's termination.



INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER: FMR IN FLUX

● FMR Status:

- Government announced the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border.
- However, formal notification from the External Affairs Ministry is still pending.
- New, stricter guidelines for cross-border movement have been implemented instead of a complete FMR suspension.

● Movement Restrictions:

- Free movement area reduced from 16 km to 10 km from the border.
- 43 designated entry and exit points for regulated movement.

● Background:

- FMR established in 1968 due to historical and cultural ties between border communities.
- Previous restrictions: Reduction of free movement area to 16 km in 2004 and further regulations in 2016.

● Opposition to FMR Scrapping:

- Nagaland and Mizoram governments opposed the scrapping of the FMR.

- Manipur Chief Minister attributed ongoing ethnic violence to unregulated border movement.
- **New Guidelines:**
- Border pass issued by Assam Rifles for Indian nationals entering Myanmar (valid for 7 days).
- Stricter entry procedures for Myanmar nationals:
 - Reporting at designated points.
 - Form filling.
 - Document and security checks.
 - Biometric data collection.
 - QR code-enabled border pass.
- Enforcement: Regular checks by police to verify compliance.
- **Phased Implementation:**
- Eight pilot entry/exit points operational immediately.
- 14 more points to be activated after procuring biometric machines.
- Remaining points to be activated after infrastructure development.

Key Takeaways:

- The government's approach to border management with Myanmar is evolving.
- While the FMR may not be completely scrapped, stricter regulations and increased surveillance are being implemented.
- This shift in policy reflects concerns about security and demographic changes in border areas.
- The implementation of these new measures will have significant implications for border communities on both sides.

PM TO DISTRIBUTE 58 LAKH PROPERTY CARDS TO PROVIDE 'RECORD OF RIGHTS'

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The Svamitva scheme, launched by the Union government in April 2020 to digitize rural property records and provide property ownership rights, has facilitated 2.19 crore property cards and advanced village planning, with Prime Minister Modi set to distribute 58 lakh cards across 12 States in a virtual event.



Svamitva Scheme: 58 Lakh Property Cards to be Distributed by PM Modi

● Scheme Overview:

- Launched in April 2020 by the Panchayati Raj Department.
- Aims to digitise property records in rural areas.

○ Objectives:

- Provide "record of rights" to owners.
- Facilitate property monetization and bank loans.

- Reduce property disputes.
- Aid in village-level planning.
- **Key Highlights:**
- PM Modi to distribute 58 lakh property cards across 50,000 villages in 12 States on Friday.
- 13 Union Ministers to participate in state-level events.
- 2.19 crore property cards finalized so far.
- 92% of drone mapping completed, covering 3.17 lakh villages.
- Scheme onboarded by 31 States/UTs (exceptions: West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland, Meghalaya).
- **Impact:**
- Property cards recognized by banks for loan approvals.
- Empowered women by establishing their property ownership.

- Facilitated identification of open spaces for community development.

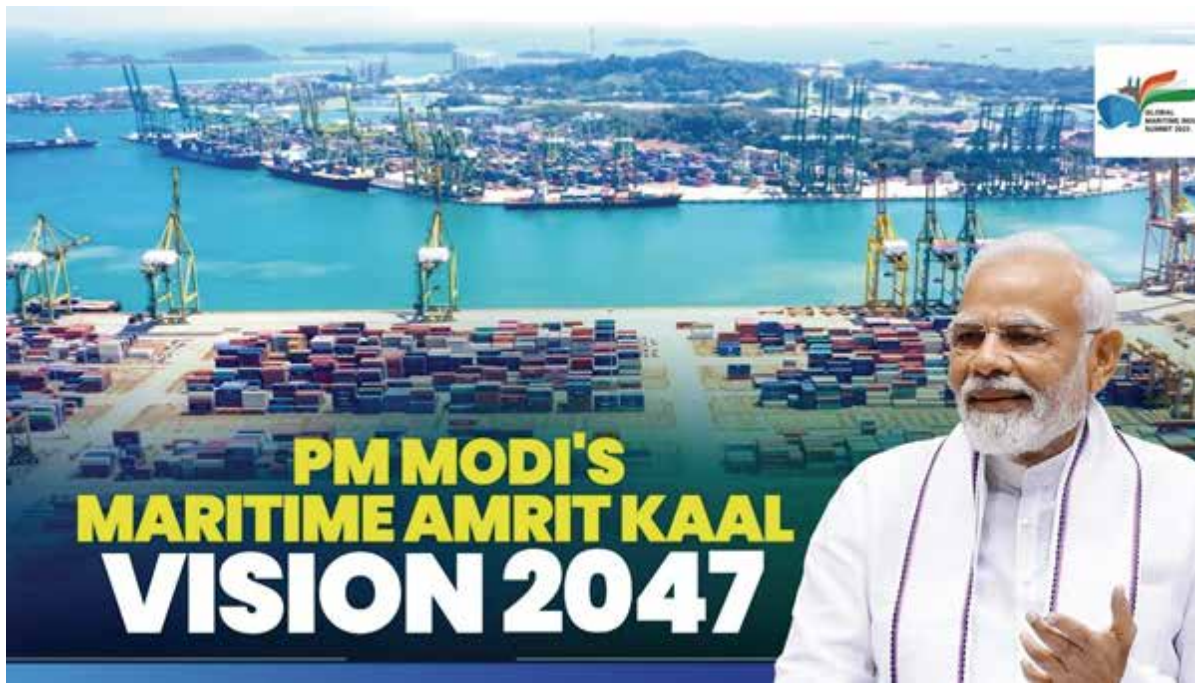
CONCLUSION:

The Svamitva scheme is making significant progress in digitizing rural property records, empowering landowners, and improving rural governance. While challenges remain in fully onboarding all States/UTs, the scheme has the potential to revolutionize property rights and land management in rural India.

WE WANT TO BE AMONG THE TOP FIVE MARITIME NATIONS BY 2047'

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal outlines India's ambitious maritime vision, aiming to become a top 5 maritime nation by 2047. This vision includes significant investments, infrastructure development, and legislative reforms to boost shipbuilding, port operations, cruise tourism, and overall maritime sector growth.



Title: India's Maritime Vision 2047: Aiming for Global Leadership

Key Points:

- **Ambitious Goal:** India aims to be among the top five maritime nations globally by 2047.
- **Strong Performance:** India has shown significant improvement in maritime logistics performance in recent years, with notable progress in container dwell time and ship turnaround times.
- **Major Investments:** Over ₹80 lakh crore will be invested in key areas like shipbuilding, green

ports, and port modernization.

- **Cargo Handling Target:** India aims to increase cargo handling capacity to 10,000 million metric tonnes by 2047 from the current 1,600 million metric tonnes.
- **Focus on Key Verticals:** Development of world-class capabilities in shipbuilding, ship repair, ship recycling, cruise tourism (ocean, coastal, river), coastal shipping, and export-import cargo.
- **Cruise Tourism Growth:**
 - Development of six international cruise terminals with modern facilities.
 - Attraction of major international cruise liners.
 - Focus on lighthouse tourism with significant growth in tourist footfall.
- **National Maritime Heritage Complex:**
 - Development of the largest maritime museum in the world at Lothal, Gujarat.
 - Phase 1A to open in September 2025.
 - International collaborations for research and development.
- **Legislative Reforms:**
 - Enactment of the Coastal Shipping Bill and the Merchant Shipping Bill.
 - Streamlining regulations to enhance ease of doing business in the maritime sector.

Conclusion:

India's maritime vision 2047 outlines a bold ambition to emerge as a global leader in the maritime sector. With significant investments, focus on key areas, and a commitment to legislative reforms, India is poised to strengthen its position in global maritime trade and become a major player in the global maritime economy.

HOW THE 2004 INDIAN OCEAN QUAKE TRANSFORMED TSUNAMI SCIENCE

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a devastating event that claimed over 227,000 lives, significantly advanced tsunami science, leading to improved early warning systems, new research on ancient tsunamis, and a deeper understanding of earthquake processes. This tragedy spurred advancements in disaster preparedness and highlighted the vulnerability of coastal communities to these natural hazards.



THE 2004 INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI: A TURNING POINT IN TSUNAMI SCIENCE

1. The Devastation:

- **Magnitude 9.1 Earthquake:** A powerful earthquake struck off the Sumatran coast, triggering a devastating tsunami.
- **Widespread Impact:** Affected 17 countries across the Indian Ocean, causing widespread destruction and a death toll of over 227,000.
- **Unprecedented Scale:** The 2004 tsunami was the deadliest in recorded history.

2. Lessons Learned:

- **Vulnerability to Natural Hazards:** The event high-

lighted the world's vulnerability to natural disasters, emphasizing the need for disaster preparedness and resilience.

- **Need for Improved Early Warning Systems:** The transoceanic reach of the tsunami underscored the need for advanced early warning systems like the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC).

3. Advancements in Tsunami Science:

- **Tsunami Geology:**
 - Research on past tsunamis, including excavations at Mahabalipuram, provided valuable insights into historical events.
 - Analysis of mangrove swamps and coastal deposits helped identify evidence of past tsunamis.
- **Improved Monitoring:**
 - Establishment of a robust network of seismological stations, bottom pressure recorders, and tidal stations.
 - Real-time data transmission for rapid tsunami alerts.
- **Enhanced Understanding of Earthquake Processes:**
 - Research on earthquake generation mechanisms, including the role of slow slip events.
 - Studies on pre-seismic and post-seismic slip transients.

4. Implications for Disaster Preparedness:

- **Vulnerability of Coastal Infrastructure:** The event highlighted the vulnerability of coastal infrastructure, including nuclear power plants.
- **Focus on High-Risk Areas:** Increased attention to potential tsunami threats from regions like the Makran Coast and the Myanmar coast.
- **Importance of Continued Research:**
 - Ongoing research on earthquake processes and tsunami generation to improve prediction capabilities.
 - Continued development and refinement of early warning systems.

CONCLUSION:

The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami served as a pivotal moment in tsunami science, driving significant advancements in research, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness. The lessons learned from this devastating event continue to inform and guide efforts to mitigate the impacts of future tsunamis and other natural hazards.

KEY PARTNERSHIP : INDIA AND KUWAIT ARE TRYING TO DEEPEN TIES DURING A CRUCIAL PERIOD

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Kuwait aimed to deepen bilateral ties, particularly in defense and strategic areas, amidst a volatile regional landscape and a growing need for India to strengthen its partnerships in the Middle East.



WHY IS KUWAIT IMPORTANT FOR INDIA?

India-Kuwait: Deepening Ties

1. Historical and Current Ties:

- **Historical Significance:** Strong historical ties, with Kuwait serving as an entrepôt for Indian trade.
- **People-to-People Connections:** Large Indian diaspora in Kuwait, with over half a million Indians residing there.
- **Economic Ties:** Significant bilateral trade, with Kuwait being a major supplier of crude oil and LPG to India.

2. Strategic Partnership:

- **Bridging the Gap:** Addressing historical gaps in strategic and defense cooperation.
- **MoU on Defense Cooperation:** Signing of an MoU to institutionalize defense cooperation between the two countries.
- **Recognition:** Conferring of Kuwait's highest honor, the Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer, on Prime Minister Modi.

3. Regional Context:

- **Geopolitical Turmoil:** Increasing instability in the region with ongoing conflicts in Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, and Yemen.
- **Challenges to Regional Initiatives:** Potential disruptions to Indian initiatives like I2U2 and IMEC due to regional instability.
- **Global Context:** Shifting global dynamics with the rise of new power centers and potential vacuums in leadership.

4. Importance of the Visit:

- **Strategic Significance:** The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance India's strategic position in the region.
- **Securing Energy and Connectivity:** Ensuring continued access to energy resources and strengthening connectivity initiatives.
- **Protecting Indian Interests:** Safeguarding the welfare and rights of the large Indian diaspora in Kuwait.

Conclusion:

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Kuwait marks a significant step in strengthening India's strategic partnership with the Gulf nation. Amidst a volatile regional landscape and evolving global dynamics, this visit underscores the importance of proactive diplomacy and strong bilateral relationships for India's national interests

The
More
You Learn,
The
More
You Earn

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

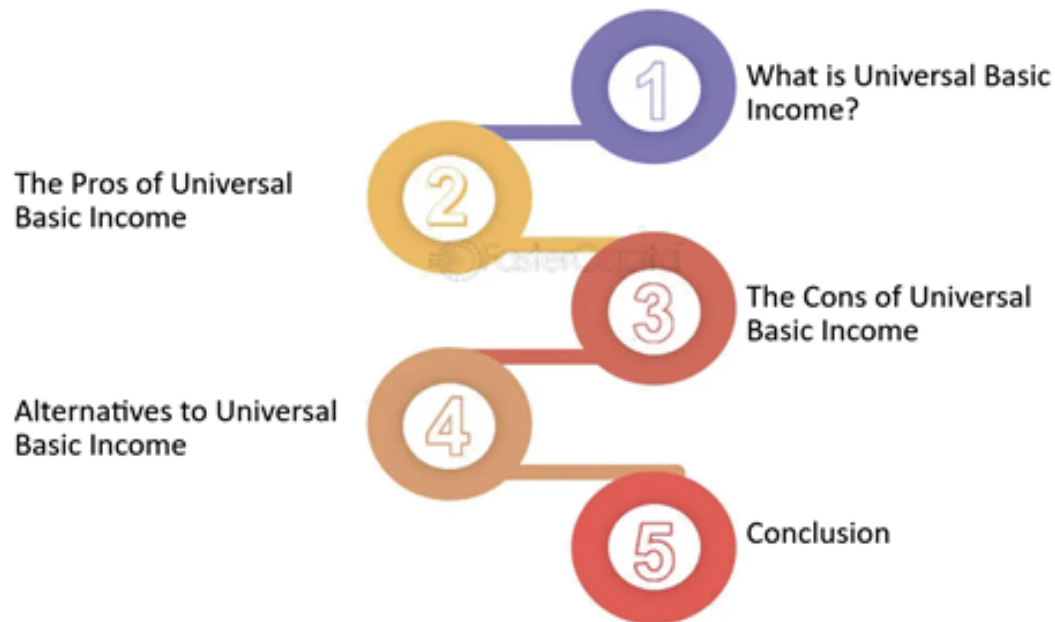
VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

NO PANACEA BENEFITS CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE TO COMPREHENSIVE WELFARE

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The growing reliance on direct cash transfer schemes as a political tool to garner support, highlighting their benefits for women's autonomy and dignity, while critiquing their inadequacy as a substitute for comprehensive welfare policies that address employment generation and economic growth.

New Frontier for Welfare States



No Panacea: Direct Cash Transfers and Comprehensive Welfare

Introduction

- Direct cash transfers have gained prominence as a welfare measure, particularly following Congress's "election guarantees."
- Political parties and governments have increasingly adopted these schemes to garner support among constituents.

Prominent Schemes

1. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh:

- 'Ladki Bahin' and 'Ladli Behna' Schemes: Credited for aiding the ruling parties in retaining power.

2. Tamil Nadu:

- 'Kalaigal Magalir Urimai Thogai': Aimed at extending support beyond traditional voter bases.

3. Delhi:

- 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana': ₹2,100/month proposed for women by Aam Aadmi Party.

Benefits of Cash Transfers

• Empowering Women:

- Recognizes and compensates unpaid domestic and informal labor.
- Provides financial autonomy in a patriarchal society.
- Offers flexibility to use funds for essentials or savings.

- **Dignity:** Enhances self-worth, particularly for women who contribute labor but lack formal employment.

Limitations of Cash Transfers

• Lack of Comprehensive Welfare:

- Cash transfers are not a substitute for policies that create employment and drive economic growth.

• Economic Stagnation:

- Maharashtra: Slowing economic and employment growth compared to previous decades; regional and economic inequality.

ties persist.

○ Madhya Pradesh: Limited employment diversity; remains one of India's relatively poor states.

● **AAP's Shift in Approach:**

○ Earlier focus on primary health and education is replaced by populist cash transfer schemes, indicating a lack of innovative vision for Delhi.

CONCLUSION

While direct cash transfers empower women and provide immediate relief, they fall short as a comprehensive solution for societal welfare. True progress requires robust state policies that prioritize employment generation, economic diversification, and sustainable growth. Balancing populist measures with long-term development strategies is crucial to creating resilient and equitable communities.

U.S. AND CHINA RENEW S&T AGREEMENT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: The recent renewal of the U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement, highlights its significance in fostering scientific cooperation between the two nations. It explores the historical context of the agreement, its impact on China's scientific advancement, and the evolving dynamics of the U.S.-China relationship in the face of growing competition.

US Updates Science Pact with China

U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement: A Complex Relationship

● **Historical Context:**

- Established in 1979, the agreement has been a cornerstone of U.S.-China scientific cooperation.
- Renewed every five years, with the latest renewal in 2024 including amendments.
- Fostered collaboration in various fields through joint research, student exchanges, and institutional partnerships.

● **Significance of Bilateral S&T Agreements:**

- Facilitate cooperation beyond government institutions.

- Promote joint research and student mobility.
- Encourage institutional collaborations.
- Require mutual commitment and capacity-building for successful implementation.

● **Impact on China:**

- Catalyzed China's rise in science and technology.
- Significant growth in R&D spending and scientific output.
- Increased international student exchange and scientific collaboration.

● **U.S. Perspective:**

- Concerns regarding China's technological advancements and intellectual property rights.
- Renewed agreement includes measures to enhance researcher safety and data reciprocity.
- Limits cooperation to specific areas and excludes critical and emerging technologies.

● **Benefits for Both Nations:**

- Provides a framework for continued engagement and cooperation.
- Allows for monitoring of China's technological advancements.
- Maintains channels for scientific exchange and dialogue.

Conclusion:

The renewed U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement reflects the evolving and complex nature of the bilateral relationship. While acknowledging the potential benefits of scientific cooperation, the agreement also reflects U.S. concerns regarding competition and national security. This agreement serves as a crucial platform for continued dialogue and collaboration while navigating the challenges of the 21st-century scientific and technological landscape.

INCREASE IN HEALTHCARE COSTS PUSHES UP MEDICAL COVER RATES

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT: Rising healthcare costs in India are driving up health insurance premiums, making coverage unaffordable for many. This is exacerbated by a lack of adequate public healthcare infrastructure, forcing people to rely heavily on expensive private healthcare. The concerns of rising premiums, the need for better regulation of healthcare costs, and the importance of strengthening public healthcare systems are concerns that are to be addressed adequately.



Key Takeaways:

● Rising Healthcare Costs:

- Healthcare costs in India are escalating rapidly, with inflation reaching 14% in the previous year.
- This surge is driven by factors such as the concentration of specialized doctors in the private sector, overcrowding in public hospitals, and increased demand for healthcare interventions.
- The cost of common procedures like angioplasty and kidney transplants has significantly increased.

● Impact on Health Insurance:

- Rising healthcare costs are directly impacting health insurance premiums.
- Insurers are raising premiums to maintain profitability, leading to increased financial burden on policyholders.

- This vicious cycle of rising costs and increasing premiums creates a significant challenge for individuals and families.

● Vulnerability of the Population:

- A significant portion of the population, including the "missing middle," lacks adequate health insurance coverage.
- This leaves millions of people vulnerable to catastrophic healthcare expenses, potentially leading to financial ruin.

● Need for Regulatory Intervention:

- Concerns regarding the lack of transparency and regulation in healthcare costs.
- Calls for measures such as capping premiums, regulating hospital charges, and standardizing healthcare costs.
- Emphasis on strengthening public healthcare infrastructure to reduce reliance on expensive private healthcare.

● Government Action:

- The government needs to effectively implement existing legislation such as the Clinical Establishment Act 2010 to regulate private healthcare providers.
- Focus on strengthening public healthcare systems to make quality healthcare more accessible and affordable.

Conclusion:

The rising cost of healthcare in India poses a significant challenge to the financial security of individuals and families. Addressing this issue requires a multi-pronged approach, including strengthening public healthcare infrastructure, regulating private healthcare providers, controlling healthcare inflation, and promoting affordable and accessible health insurance options.



VEDHIK
IAS ACADEMY
The New Learning Mantra

**START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE
BEST**

INDIA'S TOP MOST CIVIL SERVANTS FOR COACHING

GOVT. WILL BOOST SPENDING QUALITY, CUT FISCAL DEFICIT'

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT: Government of India aims to maintain fiscal discipline by reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by FY26 while prioritizing quality spending and social security programs, as outlined in the Finance Ministry's half-yearly review.



Key Points:

- **Fiscal Consolidation Target:** The government aims to achieve a fiscal deficit of less than 4.5% of GDP by FY2025-26.
- **Focus on Quality Spending:**
 - Emphasis on improving the quality of public spending.
 - Strengthening social security nets for the vulnerable.
- **Economic Outlook:**
 - India's sound macroeconomic fundamentals helped navigate global uncertainties.
 - Risks to growth still persist.
- **Budgetary Allocations:**
 - Total expenditure estimated at ₹48.21 lakh crore in BE 2024-25.
 - Capital expenditure projected at ₹15.02 lakh crore.
 - Fiscal deficit estimated at 4.9% of GDP in BE 2024-25.

Conclusion:

The Indian government remains committed to fiscal consolidation while prioritizing social sector spending. The focus on improving the quality of public expenditure and strengthening social safety nets reflects a balanced approach to economic growth and social development.

PAKISTAN AIR STRIKES KILL 46, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN AFGHANISTAN, SAY TALIBAN

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: Pakistan's airstrikes in eastern Afghanistan have sparked controversy and raised tensions between the two countries. The Taliban government claims the strikes killed 46 civilians, primarily women and children, while Pakistan asserts the targets were insurgents.



key points:

- **Airstrikes in afghanistan:** pakistan conducted airstrikes in the paktika province of eastern afghanistan.
- **Casualty claims:**
 - The taliban government claimed 46 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed.
 - Pakistani security officials stated the target was an insurgent training facility.
 - The TTP claimed 50 people, including 27 women and

children, were killed.

● **Conflicting narratives:**

- Discrepancies exist in the reported death tolls. local residents reported 13 deaths.
- Pakistan has not officially commented on the civilian casualties.

● **Humanitarian concerns:** the incident raises concerns about civilian casualties and the humanitarian situation in the region.

- Regional tensions: the incident has the potential to further strain relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

CONCLUSION:

The Pakistani airstrikes in eastern Afghanistan have generated controversy and heightened tensions between the two countries. The conflicting claims regarding civilian casualties and the lack of official confirmation from Pakistan warrant further investigation. This incident underscores the delicate security situation in the region and the potential for unintended consequences of military operations



**START YOUR
JOURNEY
WITH THE
BEST**

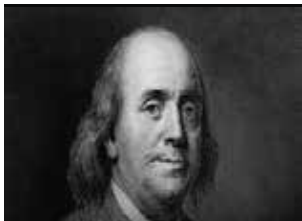
COME JOIN WITH US



**The
More
You Learn,
The
More
You Earn**



www.vedhikiasacademy.org



“If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it.”

–Benjamin Franklin



VEDHIK

IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra

START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

**INDIA'S
TOP MOST
CIVIL SERVANTS
FOR COACHING**

www.vedhikiasacademy.org

Head Office:
Vedhik IAS Academy
Mercy Estate,
MG Road, Ravipuram,
Ernakulam-682 015,

Corporate office:
Vedhik IAS Academy
Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15,
Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

Regional office
Vedhik IAS Academy
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,
Museum Road. Bangalore -
560001. Karnataka, India.

GCC Office:
Bobscoedu,
Bobsco Trading & Contracting Co. W. L . L
Office 22, Dream Tower 1,
Road: 2701, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain
www.bobscoedu.com