



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

29th May - 4th June, 2026

★★ Useful for ★★

UPSC ESE, PSUs,
RRB, SSC, Banking &
State Services Exams

Indian Premier League, 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
won the title 2nd time in a row,
defeating Gujarat Titans.



29th MAY 2026

SARTHAK-PDS

- **Context:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), approved the continuation and integration of two key food distribution schemes under a new umbrella programme titled “Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS” (SARTHAK-PDS).



Key Facts

- The SARTHAK-PDS scheme integrates two existing initiatives:
 - Assistance to State Agencies for intra-State movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers’ margin under NFSA and
 - Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART PDS) with the objective of strengthening implementation of the National Food Security Act.
- The scheme proposes the use of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Blockchain to modernise and optimise PDS operations.

About PDS System

- The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a food security mechanism in India through which essential food commodities are distributed to eligible beneficiaries at subsidised prices through Fair Price Shops (FPSs).
 - The system primarily distributes rice, wheat and coarse grains to economically weaker sections of society.

- The PDS is a joint responsibility of the central and state governments.
- The Central Government, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), procures, stores, transports, and allocates food grains to the states.
- State governments manage the system at the ground level, including allocating food within the state, identifying eligible families, and issuing ration cards.

National Health Accounts (NHA)

- **Context:** The Union Health Ministry released the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for India 2022-23.

Major Highlights of NHA 2022-23

- The Total Health Expenditure (THE) for India is estimated at 3.37% of GDP and Rs 6,373 per capita. This constitutes current and capital expenditures incurred by Government and Private Sources, including External/Donor funds.
- The share of Government Health Expenditure (GHE) in the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has risen from 1.15% in 2013–14 to 1.43% in 2022–23. As per the new GDP series with base year 2022-23, Government Health Expenditure is 1.48 per cent of GDP.
- GHE’s share in General Government Expenditure (GGE) has increased from 3.78% to 4.89% over the same period.
- In per capita terms, GHE has increased nearly 2.7 times, from Rs. 1,042 to Rs. 2,786 between 2013-14 and 2022-23.
- The report’s international comparison of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) showed India’s per capita spending from personal pockets stood at 121 international dollars (PPP) in 2022, placing the country at rank 64 globally.
 - The figures highlight that despite the expansion of public healthcare schemes and insurance coverage, households in India continue to bear a substantial share of treatment costs themselves.
 - Among neighbouring countries, the OOPE burden stood at 85 international dollars in Pakistan, 180 in Nepal, 130 in Bangladesh and 246 in Sri Lanka.

- Private hospitals take the largest share of all current health expenditure at 30.83%, followed by government hospitals at 16.73%.
- Preventive care forms only 8.88% of the Current Health Expenditure (CHE) spending, while inpatient and outpatient curative care together claim over 56% as the biggest spending head, and pharmaceutical expenditure is also high.

About National Health Account (NHA)

- The National Health Account (NHA) is a tool to describe health expenditures and the flow of funds in both the Government and Private sectors of the country.
- Preparation of NHA estimates was institutionalised at National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) in 2014.
- **Published by:** NHSRC, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- As of now, 9 NHA estimates (2013-14 to 2021-22) have been prepared.
- Methodology followed: System of Health Accounts, 2011 (SHA 2011), a global standard framework for producing health accounts.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

- **Context:** The Supreme Court upheld the legal validity of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Key Facts

- It held that the SIR is intended to secure the constitutional mandate of free and fair elections by ensuring that the roll on which the election rests is accurate and reliable.
- SC has clarified that such an exercise did not amount to a final determination of citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- It would be incumbent upon the ECI to refer the matter to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act for adjudication in accordance with law.
- If such individuals are ultimately found to be citizens, their names must be restored to the electoral rolls.

About Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

- The Election Commission of India, as per the law is empowered for preparation and revision of Electoral Rolls.
- To maintain the integrity of the electoral roll, the Commission orders revision of electoral roll before every election or as per requirement.
- ECI's 2025 order announcing the SIR lays two major reasons for the exercise:
 - A demographic change due to rapid urbanisation and migration in the last 20 years since the intensive revision in 2003 which has led to repeated, multiple and defective entries on the electoral roll.
 - The mandate of the Commission under Article 326 to ensure that only Indian citizens are on the electoral roll.
 - Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 empowers the ECI to order a "special revision" of electoral rolls for any constituency (or part thereof) at any time, overriding routine revision schedules, provided that reasons are recorded.

30th MAY 2026

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6

- **Context:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6.



Key Facts

- The NFHS-6 was conducted during 2023-24 by MoHFW with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai as the nodal agency.

- Covering nearly 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts, the survey provides evidence on population, health, nutrition and family welfare indicators.
- It supports evidence-based planning and programme implementation up to the district level.

Major Findings

- **Improvements in Maternal and Child Healthcare:** 95.9% of pregnant women received antenatal care (ANC), while mothers receiving ANC in the first trimester increased from 70.0% to 76.2%.
- **Institutional Deliveries:** Institutional deliveries increased from 88.6% to 90.6%, moving India closer towards universal coverage. Births attended by skilled health personnel improved from 89.4% to 91.3%. Caesarean section deliveries have also increased sharply from 21.5% to 27.2% in India, the C-section rate in urban areas stood at 40%. This rate far exceeds the World Health Organisation's (WHO) optimal threshold of 10-15%.
- **Maternal Nutrition:** Mothers consuming iron folic acid supplements for 100 days or more during pregnancy increased from 44.1% to 54.9%, while those consuming supplements for 180 days or more rose from 26.0% to 37.8%.
- **Family Planning:** India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remains at 2.0. The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) increased from 66.7% to 69.1%, with focus on well-being of mother and child.
- **Child Immunization Success:** Full vaccination coverage among children aged 12-23 months based on vaccination cards, increased from 83.8% to 87.1%.
 - 95.6% of children received most vaccinations through public health facilities.
 - Any vaccine received by children aged 12-23 months remains consistently high above 96%.
- **Child Nutrition:** 95.6% of children under six months of age were found to be breastfed during the survey period.
 - Stunting (low height for age) among children under five years declined substantially from 35.5% to 29.3%.
 - Severe wasting (too thin for one's height) declined sharply from 7.7% to 5.2%, while underweight

prevalence in under five children also registered a marginal decline from 32.1% to 31.8%.

- **Health Protection Expansion:** Health insurance/financing scheme coverage has expanded significantly from 41.0% to 60.2% at the household level.
- **Women's Empowerment and Financial Inclusion:** Women who had ever used the internet nearly doubled from 33.3% to 64.3%.
 - Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use increased from 78.6% to 89.0%, and women having a mobile phone that they themselves use rose from 53.9% to 63.6%.
 - The use of hygienic methods of menstrual protection among women aged 15-24 years has increased from 77.6% to 79.2%.

GDP Base Year: 2022–23

- **Context:** India has revised its GDP base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23, resulting in changes to GDP estimates and growth rates to better reflect the current structure of the economy.

Major Changes in the New GDP Series

- The revised series incorporates:
 - Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE).
 - Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
 - Updated administrative databases and sector-specific information.
- Earlier estimates relied on broad sector-level indicators. The new methodology uses detailed sub-sector and activity-level data for agriculture, industry, and services.
- The new series employs commodity-specific and activity-specific price indices to estimate real GDP. These detailed price indices capture variations in inflation across different sectors more accurately.
- The revised series applies the double deflation method in agriculture and manufacturing, which separately accounts for changes in input prices and output prices. As a result, the estimation of real gross value added becomes more accurate.

Significance of GDP Revision

- **Better Policy Formulation:** More accurate GDP estimates enable policymakers to design better fiscal and monetary policies.
- **Better Understanding of Trends:** The revised estimates provide a clearer understanding of trends in consumption, investment, and production.
- **International Credibility:** Improved statistical methodologies increase confidence among investors and international institutions. More reliable economic data strengthens India's credibility in global economic assessments.
- **Improved Assessment of Welfare:** Accurate GDP estimates help policymakers assess changes in income generation and employment opportunities.

Key Revisions in Estimates

- The GDP estimate for 2022-23 has been revised downward by 2.9 percent.
 - The GDP estimates for 2023-24 and 2024-25 have each been revised downward by 3.8 percent.
 - These revisions indicate that the size of the economy was previously overestimated.
- **Revision in Growth Rates:** The GDP growth rate for 2023-24 has been revised downward from 9.2 percent to 7.2 percent. The GDP growth rate for 2024-25 has been revised upward from 6.5 percent to 7.1 percent.

About Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- GDP is the total monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country's domestic territory during a specific period (usually a quarter or a year).
- **Released by:** National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Calculation of GDP:** GDP is calculated using three main methods;
- **The Expenditure Approach:** This method sums up all spending on final goods and services in the economy.
- **The Income Approach:** This method sums all incomes earned by factors of production (labor, capital).
- **The Production/Value-Added Approach:** This method adds up the value added by each industry at every stage of production.

About Base Year

- A base year is a benchmark year used for comparison in economic and statistical calculations.
- It provides a reference point against which current values of indicators like GDP, CPI, and IIP are measured to track real changes over time.
- Significance:
 - It allows us to remove the effect of inflation and see real growth.
 - Ensures that the data reflects the current structure of the economy, consumption patterns, and prices.

31st MAY 2026

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026

- **Context:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2026 final at Ahmedabad to win their second consecutive Indian Premier League title.



Key Points

- **IPL 2026 Champions:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru successfully defended their title by defeating Gujarat Titans in the final and securing back-to-back IPL championships.
- **Final Venue:** The IPL 2026 final was played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
- **Player of the Match:** Virat Kohli was named Player of the Match for his crucial unbeaten innings in the final.
- **Orange Cap Winner:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi won the Orange Cap by finishing as the highest run-scorer of the season with 776 runs.
- **Purple Cap Winner:** Kagiso Rabada secured the Purple Cap after finishing as the leading wicket-taker with 29 wickets.

IPL 2026 Awards

- **IPL 2026 Champions:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
- **IPL 2026 Runners-Up:** Gujarat Titans (GT)
- **Player of the Match (Final):** Virat Kohli (RCB)
- **Emerging Player of the Season:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR)
- **Super Striker of the Season:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR)
- **Orange Cap (Most Runs):** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (776 runs, RR)
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Season:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR)
- **Super Sixes of the Season:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR)
- **Purple Cap (Most Wickets):** Kagiso Rabada (29 wickets, GT)
- **On-the-Go Fours of the Season:** Sai Sudharsan (GT)
- **Most Dot Balls of the Season:** Mohammed Siraj (GT)
- **Catch of the Season:** Manish Pandey (KKR)
- **Fair Play Award:** Punjab Kings
- **Pitch and Ground Award:** Cricket Association of Bengal and Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (Joint Winners)



Shangri-La Dialogue

- **Context:** India has officially signed a deal to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam, as confirmed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.



Key Highlights

- Also known as the Asia Security Summit, it is Asia's premier defence and security forum.
- Established in 2002, it is held annually at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel.

- Organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, with support from Singapore's Ministry of Defence.
- The dialogue focuses on both traditional security issues (territorial disputes, military cooperation) and non-traditional challenges (terrorism, cybersecurity, climate change).
- It includes keynote speeches, plenary sessions, breakout discussions and bilateral meetings.
- India's Raisina Dialogue is considered to be modelled on the Shangri-La Dialogue.

INS Sudarshini and Lokayan 26 Expedition

- **Context:** INS Sudarshini arrived in Antigua and Barbuda after successfully completing a historic trans-Atlantic passage as part of the Lokayan 26 Expedition.

About INS Sudarshini

- INS Sudarshini is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy designed to train naval personnel in traditional sailing and seamanship skills.
- The vessel was built by Goa Shipyard Limited and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2012.



About Lokayan 26 Expedition

- The Lokayan 26 Expedition is a landmark 10 month, 22,000-nautical-mile transoceanic voyage by the Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini.
- The expedition aims to promote maritime diplomacy, strengthen relations with friendly nations, and enhance professional sailing skills among naval personnel.
- The voyage marks the first Atlantic crossing by INS Sudarshini, while the last such crossing was undertaken by INS Tarangini in 2007.

1st JUNE 2026

India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- **Context:** The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force on 1 June 2026, creating one of India's most comprehensive trade agreements in the Gulf region.

About CEPA

- A CEPA goes beyond a traditional Free Trade Agreement (FTA). While traditional FTAs focus narrowly on goods, a CEPA links two economies with broad commitments, covering preferential trade in goods, liberalisation of

services, investment protection, intellectual property rights, competition policy and government procurement.

Key Features of India-Oman CEPA

- **Massive Market Access for Indian Exports:** Duty-free access on 99.38% of India's exports, compared to only 15.33% under the MFN regime.
 - Oman is India's second-largest trading partner in the Gulf region and serves as a strategic gateway to the wider GCC market through its advanced port infrastructure.
 - Bilateral trade between India and Oman reached \$11.18 billion in FY 2025-26, up from \$10.61 billion in FY 2024-25.
- **Strong Services Liberalisation:** Oman has opened 127 service sub-sectors, the most comprehensive offer by any GCC country to India. 100% FDI for Indian companies in the major services sector in Oman.
- **Trade Facilitation Measures:** Oman will accept certificates issued by India's Export Inspection Council (EIC). This would reduce testing delays and lower transaction costs for exporters.

Significance

- **Strategic location of Oman:** Unlike most Gulf countries which depend on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, much of Oman's coastline lies directly on the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. This means ports like Salalah and Duqm remain accessible even when Hormuz traffic is disrupted.
- **Gateway to GCC and East Africa:** Oman's logistics hubs at Sohar, Duqm and Salalah give Indian exporters enhanced access not only to Oman but also to wider GCC and East African markets. Oman is India's second-largest trading partner in the Gulf region and serves as a strategic gateway to the wider GCC market through its advanced port infrastructure.
- **India's Gulf Strategy:** India becomes only the second country after the United States to secure a comprehensive bilateral trade pact with Oman.
- **MSME and Employment:** A calibrated liberalisation approach protects sensitive sectors while supporting MSMEs, labour-intensive industries, and region-wide export growth.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

- **Context:** The Government of India has received over 2.62 lakh loan applications worth ₹1.71 lakh crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0.

Key Facts

- ECLGS 5.0 is the latest version of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, originally introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The scheme aims to provide additional working capital support to businesses facing temporary financial stress. The scheme launched in 2026 addresses financial stress faced by MSMEs and the aviation sector due to disruptions arising from the ongoing West Asia conflict.
- It allows eligible borrowers to obtain additional loans of up to 20% of their existing working capital limits.
- The scheme has a total credit support envelope of ₹2,55,000 crore (including Rs.5,000 crore for airlines).

Credit Guarantee Structure

- **Guarantee coverage:** For MSMEs, the government provides a 100% guarantee on the additional credit extended by banks. For non-MSME borrowers as well as the airline sector, the guarantee coverage is 90%. Guarantees are provided through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
- **Tenure of Loan:**
 - **For MSMEs/Non MSMEs (except Airline sector):** 5 years from the date of first disbursement including a moratorium of 1 year.
 - **For the airline sector:** 7 years from the date of first disbursement including a moratorium of 2 years.
- **Tenure of Guarantee Cover:** Maximum period of guarantee cover shall be co-terminus with the tenor of the loan.

2nd JUNE 2026

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Base Year

- **Context:** The Government of India has approved the revision of the base year of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2011-12 to 2022-23.

About Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- WPI measures the average change in prices of goods at the wholesale or producer level before they reach consumers.
- It is compiled and released by the Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- WPI is widely used in:
 - Price escalation clauses in contracts.
 - Industrial and infrastructure projects.
 - Economic analysis and policy formulation.

Major Changes in The Revised WPI

- **Increased number of Items:** The total number of items has increased from 697 to 957.
- **Inclusion of Renewable Energy:** Solar power and wind energy have been included under the Electricity group. Nuclear electricity has also been added to the basket.
- **Reorganization of Energy Categories:** Crude petroleum and natural gas have been shifted from the "Primary Articles" category to the "Fuel and Power" category.
- **Improved Methodology for Derivation of Weights:** Gross Value of Output (GVO) has been used for preparing weights for WPI (2022-23) as compared to Net Traded Value i.e. GVO + Imports – Exports, used in WPI 2011-12 series. The weights based on GVO reflect the economic significance of commodities in a better way from the producer's perspective, as they represent domestic production.
- **Improved Method for Imputing Missing Price Data:** 'Targeted Mean Imputation' method has been used, in place of 'Carry-forward' method being used in the existing series of WPI.

Introduction of Producer Price Indices (PPIs)

- The government would also release new series of Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Input Producer Price Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services, viz., Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom with base year 2022-23.

- **Output Producer Price Index (OPPI):** OPPI measures the average change over time in the prices that producers receive for the goods and services they sell. It captures price movements at the producer or factory gate level before taxes, trade margins, and transportation costs are added.
- **Input Producer Price Index (IPPI):** IPPI measures the average change in prices paid by producers for inputs such as raw materials, intermediate goods, energy, and other inputs used in the production process. It reflects the cost pressures faced by producers.
- **Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI):** Service PPI measures the average change over time in the prices received by service providers for the services they offer. It tracks inflation in the services sector from the producer's perspective.

Mission Senehjori

- **Context:** Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has launched Mission Senehjori, a flagship initiative to transform Assam's Muga silk sector into a globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.

Key Facts

- The mission aims to strengthen host-plant cultivation, modernise reeling infrastructure, promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and expanding global market access under the unified "Senehjori" brand.
- The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Assam, the Central Silk Board, the Ministry of Textiles, and other central agencies.

About Central Silk Board

- It is a statutory body under the Union Ministry of Textiles, established by the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 (later amended as Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 2006).
- It is responsible for formulating policies and implementing programs for the development of sericulture and silk industry.
- **Headquarter:** Bengaluru, Karnataka

RudraM-II

- **Context:** India successfully flight-tested the indigenous RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile, strengthening its indigenous defence and precision-strike capabilities.



Key Facts

- RudraM-II is an air-to-surface missile developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, the nodal DRDO laboratory.
- It uses a hybrid navigation system combining an inertial navigation system, GPS and a sophisticated passive homing head that detects radio frequency emissions across a wide frequency band.
- It can reach a peak speed of Mach 5.5, strike targets at a range of approximately 300 km, and carry a warhead weighing up to 200 kg.
- It can be deployed from aircraft like Sukhois flying at altitudes ranging from 3 to 15 km.
- The new missile will act as a key force multiplier and intend to eventually replace the older Russian-origin Kh-31 anti-radiation missiles currently in service.

3rd JUNE 2026

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Base Year

- **Context:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched a revised All India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) series with 2022-23 as the base year, replacing the earlier 2011-12 series. The first release under the new series showed India's industrial production growing by 4.9% in April 2026, led by strong manufacturing activity.

About Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures the changes in the volume of production across various industrial sectors of the economy.
- The index serves as an important indicator of industrial performance and overall economic activity.
- **Released by:** National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Periodicity:** Monthly basis

Key Features

- **Expanded Sectoral Coverage:** For the first time, the IIP has expanded beyond the traditional sectors of mining, manufacturing and electricity to include Gas Supply as well as Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management activities.
- **Updated Product Basket:** The new series covers 1,042 products grouped into 463 item groups, compared with 839 products and 407 item groups in the previous series.
 - New-age products such as CCTV cameras, aircraft and spacecraft parts, non-woven textile products, stents and vaccines have been added.
 - Obsolete items including kerosene, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) have been removed.
- **Revised Sectoral Classification:** Mining data are now separately compiled for fuel minerals, metallic minerals including rare earth minerals, and non-metallic minerals including minor minerals. Similarly, electricity generation is now tracked separately for renewable and non-renewable sources.
- Weights used in the revised index have been updated using Gross Value-Added estimates from the National Accounts Statistics and the Annual Survey of Industries for 2022-23. Electricity weights are based on revenue shares of renewable and non-renewable sources, while mining weights reflect the contribution of individual minerals to sectoral GVA.
- The new IIP series also incorporates the National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025 and includes provisions for replacing factories that have become non-operational during the life of the series to maintain representativeness.
- MoSPI released linking factors to facilitate comparison between the old and new series at the aggregate level. The linking factors are 1.1890 for Mining and Quarrying, 1.3700 for Manufacturing, 1.8495 for Electricity and 1.3834 for the General Index.
- **Strengthened Data Collection Framework:** Four new data source agencies have been added to improve data coverage and accuracy. These include IREL (India) Limited for rare earth minerals, State Directorates of Economics and Statistics for minor minerals, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- The new IIP series also incorporates the National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025 and includes provisions for replacing factories that have become non-operational during the life of the series to maintain representativeness.

Right to be Forgotten

- **Context:** The Delhi High Court held that the Right to be Forgotten is an important part of the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Position of the Right to be Forgotten in India

- India does not yet have a specific law on the Right to be Forgotten.
- However, the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 and several court judgments have recognised this right.
- The Supreme Court's K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) recognised informational privacy as part of the right to privacy.
- Later judgments by the Delhi and Orissa High Courts further expanded and discussed this right.

4th JUNE 2026

National Panchayat Awards, 2025

- **Context:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has announced the winners of the National Panchayat Awards (NPA) 2025, with 42 Panchayats from across India.



About National Panchayat Awards

- The National Panchayat Awards are administered by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to recognize and incentivize high-performing Panchayats.
- **Objective:** The National Panchayat Awards drive competitive federalism by incentivizing local self-government institutions to compete in achieving the good governance and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Implementation Framework:** The awards are conferred under the Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP) scheme, a component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- **Financial Incentives:** Winning Panchayats receive financial incentives ranging from ₹50 lakh to ₹5 crore, depending on the category and tier.
- Karnataka secured the highest number of awards (6 awards), followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with 5 awards each for 2025.

Categories of Awards

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP):** Recognizes outstanding Gram Panchayats based on performance across the nine themes of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP):** Conferred on the best-performing Panchayats on an overall basis. Awards are given at;
 - District Panchayat level
 - Block Panchayat level
 - Gram Panchayat level

Navachar Mantra Initiative

- **Context:** Navachar Mantra is a national initiative launched by the Union Minister at IIT Delhi.



Key Facts

- The Navachar Mantra Initiative is a flagship national program launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and implemented through the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD).
- It is strategically designed to identify, mentor, and scale grassroots innovations originating from Tier-2, Tier-3, and rural India, bridging the gap between local creators and the national entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Key Features

- **Target Demographic:** Open to Indian citizens aged 18 to 55 residing in aspirational districts and underserved rural or semi-urban geographies.

- **Eligibility:** Flexible criteria allow individuals with ideas in the validation or early prototype stages to apply; a registered corporate entity or finished market product is not required.
- **Focus Sectors:** Prioritizes high-impact verticals including Agritech, HealthTech and Wellness, EdTech, Climate Action, Rural Commerce, and MSME Enablement.
- **Support Ecosystem:** Selected participants enter a structured 1-year incubation cycle providing mentorship, regulatory compliance support, IP structuring, and fundraising roadmaps.

E85 Fuel

- **Context:** The Union Government is considering a policy framework to support the affordable adoption of E85 fuel in India.



About E85 Fuel

- E85 is a fuel blend containing 85% ethanol and 15% petrol.
- It can be used in specially designed flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) that can operate on varying ethanol-petrol blends. These vehicles are equipped with modified engines and fuel systems that can automatically adjust to different fuel compositions.

Significance

- **Enhancing Energy Security:** Greater ethanol use can reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil.
- **Reducing Import Bill:** If just 1% of annual petrol vehicle sales shift to E85 during the 2026-27 ethanol supply year, India could save around ₹195 crore in foreign exchange. The shift could reduce crude oil imports by approximately 0.28 lakh metric tonnes (LMT).
- **Supporting Farmers and Rural Economy:** Increased adoption of E85 could generate demand for more than 4 crore litres of ethanol.
 - Around ₹266 crore is estimated to be paid to ethanol distillers.
 - Nearly ₹160 crore could flow directly to farmers through increased demand for ethanol feedstocks such as sugarcane and maize.
- **Environmental Benefits:** E85 adoption at the projected level could result in a net reduction of nearly 0.86 LMT of CO₂ emissions.

About Ethanol

- Ethanol is 99.9% pure alcohol that can be blended with petrol. It can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc. which are having high starch content.
- Alcohol production involves fermentation of sugar using yeast. In cane juice or molasses, sugar is present in the form of sucrose that is broken down into glucose and fructose. Also, grains contain starch, a carbohydrate that has to first be extracted and converted into sucrose and simpler sugars, before their further fermentation, distillation and dehydration to ethanol.