

P2. NATIONAL



Kerala set to launch project to improve police-citizen ties - My Police Station” seeks to transform Kerala’s police stations from enforcement-oriented institutions into accessible, accountable and technology-enabled centres of citizen-centric policing.

P3. INTERNATIONAL



U.S.–Iran War: Strategic Miscalculation & the Limits of Regime-Change Warfare - The U.S.–Iran conflict demonstrates how regime-change strategies can produce unexpected strategic reversal

P4. INTERNATIONAL



The Beijing model of innovation - Beijing’s innovation model integrates universities, companies, markets and State support to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation while rapidly scaling emerging technologies such as AI and humanoid robotics.

P7. ECOLOGY



Misleading Food Claims and Regulatory Oversight: The Dabur Case - The Supreme Court’s Asan Wetland ruling extends a 10-km mining safeguard to wetland conservation reserves, strengthening environmental scrutiny where the existing statutory framework does not prescribe a uniform buffer.

Editor’s Note

In this latest edition of the Pala Civil Times, we bring together important national, international, governance, social-sector and environmental developments to help aspirants understand issues beyond their immediate headlines.

The National Affairs section examines Kerala’s “My Police Station” initiative, focusing on citizen-centric policing, police accountability, professional training, cybercrime preparedness and stronger police-community relationships. The International Affairs section analyses the U.S.–Iran conflict, examining strategic miscalculations, Iran’s response, regional escalation and the wider implications for the balance of power in West Asia. It also explores Beijing’s innovation ecosystem, where universities, markets, start-ups and State support work together to translate research into commercial technologies, offering important lessons for India.

The Decoded Editorials examine India–Bangladesh relations amid Sheikh Hasina’s proposed political comeback. Finally, the Ecology section explores the Ramsar framework and wetland protection, particularly the Supreme Court’s 10-km mining safeguard. Together, these topics provide a multidimensional foundation for informed UPSC preparation.

Editorials Decoded

 The Indian EXPRESS

India-Bangladesh ties should be Hasina-proof



Sheikh Hasina’s proposed return tests Bangladesh’s ability to manage political competition peacefully while requiring India to balance humanitarian considerations with its long-term strategic relationship with Dhaka.

THE HINDU

Access paradox



India’s MBBS capacity has reached a record level, but the shift towards private education makes affordability, quality regulation and equitable geographical distribution of medical professionals critical policy concerns.

Kerala set to launch project to improve police-citizen ties

“My Police Station” is a Kerala Police reform initiative aimed at making police stations more accessible, accountable and citizen-friendly. Beginning August 15, 2026, it restructures station-level leadership by placing Sub-Inspectors as Station House Officers in most law-and-order stations, while strengthening supervisory mechanisms through Circle Inspectors. The initiative also focuses on dignified and time-bound services, elimination of custodial violence, police training, cybercrime preparedness, community policing and independent public feedback. It seeks to strengthen democratic policing by making citizens perceive the police station as their own institution.

Institutional Restructuring and Operational Mechanism

SHO restructuring: Sub-Inspectors will serve as SHOs in 419 of Kerala’s 484 law-and-order stations.

Women leadership: Women Sub-Inspectors will head 63 police stations as SHOs.

Strategic stations: Circle Inspectors will continue as SHOs in 64 strategically important stations.

Supervision: 200 police circles will be created under Circle Inspectors to guide and supervise the new SHOs.



Citizen Services, Training and Technology

Time-bound services: Police stations will focus on dignified, improved and timely services to citizens.

Custodial safeguards: Custodial deaths, violence and third-degree treatment are to be completely eliminated.

Capacity building: New SHOs and police personnel will receive orientation and phased training.

Cyber preparedness: Supervisory officers will receive technological training to address hi-tech crimes, loan-app frauds and other cybercrimes.

Cyber mechanism: The dedicated cybercrime mechanism under the IG (Cyber Security) will be strengthened.

Significance

Accountability: Making police stations genuinely citizen-oriented requires effective supervision and continuous assessment of service delivery.

Custodial conduct: Eliminating custodial violence and third-degree treatment requires sustained institutional discipline and training.

Technological adaptation: The increasing complexity of digital crimes requires police personnel to continuously update their technical knowledge.

Workplace stress: Police leadership must address unhealthy workplace conditions and maintain constructive relationships with personnel to reduce occupational stress.

Community engagement: The Janamaithri police system, despite earlier effectiveness, had become perfunctory and requires meaningful revival.

Way Forward

Independent feedback: Range DIGs should systematically collect station-level public feedback and submit monthly reports to the Government.

Continuous monitoring: The State Police Chief should submit monthly progress reports, with the ADGP (Law and Order) coordinating the initiative.

Professional supervision: Circle Inspectors and senior officers should provide active guidance to newly appointed SHOs rather than limiting their role to formal supervision.

Community policing: Reviving Janamaithri policing can strengthen sustained interaction between police personnel and communities.

Citizen-centric policing: Training, technological capacity, accountability and dignified service delivery should collectively make accessibility and public trust central to police-station functioning.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Police–Public relations are poor in India. What measures are required to strengthen these relations?
 (Public administration optional Paper II – 2024)

RELEVANCE GS III : Internal Security

U.S.–Iran War: Strategic Miscalculation & the Limits of Regime-Change Warfare

The U.S.–Israel war against Iran was launched with four principal objectives: *destroying Iran's nuclear programme, dismantling its missile and military-industrial capabilities, ending its support for associated non-state groups, and bringing about regime change*. The first three objectives were closely linked to the fourth because regime change was considered necessary for achieving the wider goals. However, Iran survived the initial assault, consolidated domestically and regionalised the conflict, forcing the U.S. to shift from pursuing regime change towards seeking an exit from the war.

Strategic Objectives and Initial Miscalculation

Four objectives: The U.S. campaign sought nuclear destruction, missile and military-industrial degradation, disruption of Iran's non-state partners and regime change.

Central objective: Regime change became the decisive aim because the other objectives were viewed as difficult to achieve without replacing the Iranian leadership.

Air-power dilemma: The U.S. sought regime change primarily through aerial warfare without committing ground troops or possessing a credible local armed ally.

Misreading Iran: Washington and Tel Aviv underestimated Iran's institutional resilience and assumed leadership decapitation could trigger regime collapse.

Political trigger: Violent protests in Iran and the U.S. experience in Venezuela reinforced expectations of a rapid political collapse.

Iran's Response and Strategic Shift

State preservation: Iran's institutional system and revolutionary ideology helped consolidate the state and mobilise popular support during the attack.

Hormuz leverage: Iran shut the Strait of Hormuz, transforming a major global oil route and the Persian Gulf into strategic pressure points.

Economic escalation: Tehran accepted significant military and economic costs while using the conflict to increase pressure on the U.S. and regional actors.

Horizontal expansion: Iran expanded attacks towards Jordan, Iraqi Kurdistan, Syria and Persian Gulf monarchies, while the Houthis targeted Saudi oil facilities and Red Sea ports.

Changed U.S. priority: Washington increasingly shifted from its original war objectives towards reopening the Strait and securing a diplomatic exit.

Challenges

Strategic cul-de-sac: The U.S. has failed to achieve its central objective of regime change despite extensive military action.

Escalation trap: Repeated cycles of strikes, retaliation, ceasefires and renewed attacks have pushed Washington further from its initial objectives.

Regional exposure: U.S. bases and interests across West Asia have become vulnerable as Iran has expanded the geographical scope of the conflict.

Economic costs: The war has caused immense damage to Iran's military infrastructure and economy, while also creating wider strategic and economic pressures through the closure of Hormuz.

Invasion risks: A transition from air warfare to ground invasion could deepen U.S. involvement without guaranteeing victory and would confront a large Iranian military.

Way Forward

Diplomatic exit: The U.S. can pursue diplomatic patience and negotiate an agreement with Tehran to extricate itself from the conflict.

Strategic restraint: Avoiding further escalation could prevent an unsuccessful air campaign from developing into a larger and potentially more costly ground war.

Negotiated settlement: The June memorandum of understanding demonstrates that diplomacy remains possible, although translating concessions into an acceptable political outcome remains difficult.

Reassessment of objectives: Washington may need to recognise the limits of military power.

Regional recalibration: The changing balance around the Persian Gulf requires the U.S. to account for Iran's ability to impose costs through economic pressure.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Examine the opportunities for a lasting West Asia peace solution in the context of the 'historic' talks started in September 2010. (GS II – 2010)

RELEVANCE GS II : International Relations

The Beijing model of innovation

Beijing's innovation ecosystem represents a coordinated model in which research universities, technology companies, markets and the State collectively support innovation. Peking University and Tsinghua University provide a strong talent and research base, while technology clusters such as Zhongguancun and Yizhuang connect research with commercial production. The State contributes infrastructure, policy support and capital to bridge the "valley of death" between laboratory research and commercially sustainable ventures. This creates an integrated cycle linking talent, research, entrepreneurship, investment and industrial-scale innovation.

Institutional Structure and Innovation Ecosystem

Research foundation: Peking and Tsinghua Universities form the core talent and research base.

Innovation clusters: Zhongguancun, alongside clusters in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Hangzhou, concentrates technology activity and talent.

University-industry link: Companies pose technological problems while universities contribute research capabilities and intellectual support.

Commercialisation platform: Beijing's technology platform connects technical expertise with market understanding to move research towards commercialisation.

Innovation cycle: Universities generate talent, talent supports innovation, and successful innovation reinforces university growth and research capacity.



State Support and Emerging Technologies

State investment: Government provides infrastructure and state-backed capital alongside private venture capital to share innovation risks.

Patient capital: Direct state participation can support ventures for longer periods than conventional venture capital may permit.

Humanoid robotics: Yizhuang combines a state innovation centre with surrounding companies to develop a supply chain for mass production.

Industrial transition: Humanoid robotics is moving from industrial applications towards everyday uses, including healthcare.

Scaling production: Lingyi iTech plans substantial expansion of humanoid robot production, reflecting the ecosystem's emphasis on commercial scale.

Challenges

Investment inefficiency: State-backed funding can generate wasteful spending when adequate due diligence is absent.

Local competition: Competition among innovation clusters and the search for national champions can encourage excessive government spending.

Fiscal pressures: The decline in land-sale revenues has contributed to greater reliance on local government funds for innovation investment.

Commercialisation gap: Moving research results from laboratories into commercially sustainable enterprises remains a central challenge.

Coordination risks: A highly state-enabled ecosystem must balance government intervention with the continuing central role of companies and markets.

Way Forward

Beijing's experience demonstrates that innovation can emerge from an ecosystem rather than from isolated private enterprise or government intervention alone. Universities provide talent and research, companies connect innovation with market demand, while the State supplies infrastructure, capital and coordination. The model's effectiveness depends on successfully bridging research and commercialisation without allowing public investment to become wasteful.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. What is the purpose of Vidyanjali Yojana?

1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India.
2. To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by taking help from the private sector and the community.
3. To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- a) 2 only b) 3 only c) 1 and 2 only d) 1 and 3 only

Access paradox (The Hindu : 07-08-2026)

Private medical education has become an increasingly important component of India's expanding undergraduate medical education system. MBBS seats increased from 51,348 in 2014-15 to 1,36,939 across 823 medical colleges in 2026-27. However, private institutions now account for 73,643 seats, or about 54%, surpassing government colleges for the first time. The expansion improves domestic capacity and can reduce the shortage of doctors, but high fees, geographical concentration, uneven quality and inadequate incentives for rural service raise concerns about equitable access and distribution

Expansion and Structure of Medical Education

Rapid expansion: MBBS seats increased nearly threefold, from 51,348 in 2014-15 to 1,36,939 in 2026-27.

Private dominance: Private colleges provide 73,643 seats (53.8%), compared with 63,296 government seats (46%).

Recent shift: Private institutions overtook government colleges in 2025-26 after government colleges held a slight majority earlier.

New capacity: Of 9,911 seats added in 2026-27, 7,800 (79%) came from private colleges.

Public expansion: New government colleges are also being established, including those attached to district hospitals.



Affordability and Emerging Distributional Concerns

Government fees: Government colleges generally charge ₹5,000–₹1 lakh annually, with total tuition around ₹25,000–₹5 lakh.

Private fees: Private MBBS costs may range from ₹25 lakh to over ₹1.5 crore, including hostel and other expenses.

Geographical clustering: Private institutions are commercially concentrated in prosperous States and tier-I and tier-II cities.

Rural imbalance: Concentrated training locations can contribute to continued shortages of healthcare providers in rural areas.

Student debt: Persistent capitation fees can create debt and potentially influence graduates' professional choices.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Indian Economy

Quality, Regulation and Equitable Access

Quality risks: Rapid expansion may encourage institutions to meet minimum accreditation requirements without adequately addressing local healthcare needs.

Regulatory enforcement: The NMC rule requiring half of private seats to be charged at government rates needs effective enforcement.

Inspection: Surprise inspections and access to institutional records can strengthen regulatory oversight.

Rural retention: Rural service should be supported through rewards, rather than relying only on compulsory service.

Work environment: Competitive salaries, housing, schools, career progression and adequate hospital facilities can encourage doctors to remain in underserved areas.

Way Forward

India's expansion of MBBS capacity is essential for widening access to medical education and strengthening domestic healthcare capacity. However, the growing dominance of private institutions makes affordability, quality and geographical distribution central policy concerns. A balanced approach requires continued expansion of affordable government seats alongside stronger regulation of private institutions.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?

- Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
- Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
- Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them



India-Bangladesh ties should be Hasina-proof (I.E : 07-08-2026)

Sheikh Hasina's proposed return to Bangladesh represents both a domestic political challenge and a diplomatic concern for India. Her government's response to the 2024 student protests, subsequent legal proceedings and continued political hostility towards the Awami League have made her return highly contentious. At the same time, India has provided her refuge while seeking to rebuild relations with Bangladesh under Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The situation therefore requires balancing humanitarian considerations, democratic sensitivities and India's wider strategic interests with Bangladesh.

Political Context and Emerging Political Dynamics

Political transition: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led government under Tarique Rahman has restored a measure of political legitimacy after elections in which the Awami League was barred.

Hasina's position: Sentenced to death by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, Hasina remains deeply unpopular among sections of the population.

Political comeback: Hasina has announced an intention to return, presenting it as a return to her people rather than a pursuit of power.

Awami League resilience: Despite repression and attacks, the party retains loyal supporters and remains capable of political revival.

Opposition weaknesses: Jamaat-e-Islami, the National Citizens' Party and the ruling BNP face ideological, organisational or political difficulties.

India-Bangladesh Relations and Strategic Stakes

Diplomatic reset: Hasina's announcement comes as New Delhi seeks to rebuild ties with Dhaka after prolonged strain under the interim government.

Bilateral interests: Indian investment, technical cooperation and infrastructure financing have contributed to Bangladesh's development.

Strategic sectors: India has significant interests in Bangladesh's power and connectivity sectors.

Security: The shared 4,000-km border makes cooperation important against trafficking, illegal infiltration and cross-border extremism.

Outstanding issues: Illegal border crossings and the future of the Ganga Water Treaty remain unresolved bilateral concerns.

Significance and Challenges

Political antagonism: Persistent hostility towards defeated political forces limits mutually respectful democratic competition and deepens political polarisation.

Post-uprising violence: Awami League members, sympathisers and minorities have faced violence, while public interventions by Hasina have also triggered attacks.

Return dilemma: Hasina's return could intensify political confrontation if Bangladesh's political system cannot peacefully accommodate her comeback.

Bilateral sensitivity: Her political activities from India risk complicating New Delhi's efforts to rebuild relations with the elected government in Dhaka.

Way Forward

Humanitarian balance: India can continue providing Hasina protection while ensuring that its territory does not become a platform that damages relations with Bangladesh.

Political accommodation: Bangladesh needs greater tolerance of political competition and a shift towards mutually respectful engagement with defeated political forces.

Bilateral insulation: India and Bangladesh should shield long-term cooperation from short-term political compulsions and individual political interests.

Strategic continuity: Cooperation in security, connectivity, power and infrastructure should remain resilient irrespective of changes in individual political fortunes.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Bilateral, regional and neighbourhood relations

PYQ Compass
 UPSC questions previously asked from
 the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Examine the recent developments towards the solution of the Bangladesh – Myanmar maritime boundary dispute. What implications do these have for India? (GS II – 2010)

How will the Supreme Court order impact mining around Ramsar wetland sites?

The Supreme Court has clarified that its February 2024 direction requiring prior approval before mining within a 10-km radius of the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve would, for parity, apply to wetland conservation reserves across India. The judicial safeguard therefore adds an additional layer of scrutiny to mining activities that may affect ecologically important wetlands.

Legal and Ecological Framework

Asan Wetland: Located at the confluence of the Asan and Yamuna rivers, it became a Ramsar site in 2020 and supports migratory waterbirds and aquatic biodiversity.

Ramsar framework: The Convention promotes conservation and wise use of wetlands of international importance; India became a Contracting Party in 1982.

Statutory gap: Ramsar designation itself does not create a separate Indian statutory protection regime or prescribe a mining buffer.

2024 safeguard: The Supreme Court required prior permission from the Standing Committee of the NBWL and/or MoEFCC before mining within 10 km of Asan.

National application: The clarification extends the principle to similarly notified wetland conservation reserves across India.



Recent Judicial Clarification and Regulatory Context

Himachal Pradesh plea: The State argued that the Asan order should not automatically apply outside Uttarakhand because wetland reserves lack a statutory buffer.

Court's clarification: The Bench held that the Asan principle would apply to community reserves or wetland conservation reserves for the sake of parity.

Boundary verification: The NBWL Standing Committee or MoEFCC must determine whether Asan extends into Himachal Pradesh before applying the directions there.

2010-2017 shift: The 2010 Rules contained prohibited activities and required safeguards within wetlands and their zones of influence; the 2017 Rules replaced this with a decentralised State Wetland Authority framework.

Judicial significance: The 10-km requirement creates an additional judicial safeguard beyond the existing statutory framework.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Environmental Conservation

Challenges

Regulatory gap: Neither the Ramsar Convention nor the 2017 Rules establishes a uniform statutory buffer for Ramsar sites.

Weakened safeguards: The 2017 framework removed the explicit prohibited-activity list contained in the 2010 Rules and shifted greater responsibility to States.

Legal uncertainty: The constitutional validity of the 2017 Rules is under challenge, including concerns regarding the exclusion of certain artificial wetlands.

Mining pressure: Mining near wetlands can affect their ecological character, making heightened scrutiny important for ecologically sensitive areas.

Protection parity: Applying different safeguards to similarly notified wetland conservation reserves could create uneven environmental protection, which prompted the Court's parity-based approach.

Way Forward

A balanced regulatory approach should ensure that mining near wetland conservation reserves is subjected to heightened scrutiny where ecological risks exist. The judicial requirement of prior wildlife clearance can operate as an additional safeguard while the statutory framework remains under consideration.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.
2. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendations of Ramsar Convention.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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Q. What is the purpose of Vidyanjali Yojana’?

1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India.
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Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- a) 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans : b

This programme has been envisaged to bring together people willing to volunteer their services at schools which really need them. The aim of the programme is to strengthen implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers.

Q. What is the aim of the programme ‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan’?

- a) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government’s education system and local communities.
- b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- c) Strengthening India’s scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
- d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them

Ans : b

MHRD has launched a programme called Unnat Bharat Abhiyan with an aim to connect institutions of higher education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) etc. with local communities to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
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Ans: c

The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were indeed framed by the Government of India, but they were based on the National Environmental Policy of 2006 and not directly on the Ramsar Convention. These rules aim to provide a framework for the protection and management of wetlands in India.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. The term “valley of death” in the context of innovation refers to:

- (a) The decline in investment in established technology companies after they achieve commercial success.
- (b) The gap between early-stage research and the development of commercially sustainable ventures.
- (c) The inability of universities to generate scientific research because of inadequate infrastructure.
- (d) The competition among different technology clusters for attracting skilled personnel.

Answer: (b)

Q. Which of the following best captures a major concern arising from the increasing share of private medical education in India?

- (a) Expansion of private colleges necessarily reduces the total number of medical seats available to students.
- (b) Greater private-sector capacity may coexist with affordability problems and geographical concentration of medical education and healthcare professionals.
- (c) Private medical colleges are predominantly located in rural areas where healthcare shortages are most severe.
- (d) Expansion of private medical education eliminates the need for further government investment in medical colleges.

Answer: (b)

Q. Which of the following best explains the strategic significance of India–Bangladesh relations in the present context?

- (a) India’s relationship with Bangladesh is primarily limited to political support for a particular Bangladeshi party.
- (b) India’s interests are confined to humanitarian assistance to Bangladeshi political leaders.
- (c) The relationship encompasses security, connectivity, power, infrastructure and management of concerns arising from the shared border.
- (d) India’s strategic interests in Bangladesh have declined because bilateral issues have already been resolved.

Ans : C

BRAIN BOOSTER

NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY (7 AUGUST)

National Handloom Day is observed every year on 7 August to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, which encouraged the use of indigenous products and promoted self-reliance during India's freedom struggle. Instituted in 2015, the observance recognises India's rich handloom heritage and honours the invaluable contribution of handloom weavers and allied workers to the country's economy, culture and traditional knowledge systems. The occasion also highlights the continuing relevance of handloom in promoting sustainable livelihoods, preserving regional identities and strengthening India's textile heritage in domestic as well as global markets.

India's Handloom Heritage

- India's handloom tradition traces its origins to the Indus Valley Civilisation, making it one of the oldest continuous weaving traditions in the world.
- References to spinning, weaving, cotton and silk production are found in ancient Indian texts such as the Rigveda, Ramayana, Mahabharata and Kautilya's Arthashastra.
- Over centuries, weaving skills have been passed from one generation to another, allowing every region of India to develop its own distinctive techniques, motifs, colours and weaving traditions.
- Handloom weaving continues to remain closely associated with household production, manual craftsmanship and region-specific cultural identities.

Recognising and Supporting Handloom Workers

India has conducted four All India Handloom Censuses in 1987-88, 1995-96, 2009-10 and 2019-20, generally at intervals of 8-12 years. Workers identified through the Census receive Pehchan/e-Pehchan Cards, providing official recognition and facilitating access to government welfare schemes.

The e-Pehchan Portal, launched in January 2025, enables new workers to register, allows existing workers to update their information, and permits digital downloading of identity cards.

By July 2026, nearly 84,000 additional workers had been approved under the e-Pehchan system.

RELEVANCE *GS III : Science and Technology*

BRAIN BOOSTERS

07-08-2026

Civil Service Institute Pala

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Did You Know?



National Handloom Day 2026

Why in news? National Handloom Day is observed every year on 7 August to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905.

- Swadeshi Movement in 1905 encouraged the use of indigenous products and promoted self-reliance during India's freedom struggle.
- Instituted in 2015, the National Handloom Day recognises India's rich handloom heritage and honours the invaluable contribution of handloom weavers and allied workers to the country's economy, culture and traditional knowledge.
- The occasion also highlights the continuing relevance of handloom in promoting sustainable livelihoods, preserving regional identities and strengthening India's textile heritage in domestic as well as global markets.
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India's Handloom Sector – Key Statistics

- India has 31.45 lakh handloom households engaged in weaving and allied activities.
- The sector supports 35.22 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers, making it one of the country's largest traditional livelihood sectors.
- Around 8.48 lakh workers are engaged in pre-loom and post-loom activities such as winding, warping, dyeing and calendaring.
- Women constitute the backbone of the sector, accounting for 25.46 lakh workers, or more than 72% of the total workforce.
- The workforce includes 4.84 lakh Scheduled Caste workers, 6.28 lakh Scheduled Tribe workers, and 12.67 lakh Other Backward Class workers, reflecting the sector's importance for social inclusion.
- India possesses 28.20 lakh handlooms, of which 25.30 lakh are located in rural areas, meaning nearly nine out of every ten handlooms operate in rural India.

National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)

- The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) serves as the principal umbrella scheme for the integrated development of India's handloom sector.
- Implemented during 2021-22 to 2025-26, it adopts a need-based approach focused on improving the welfare and livelihoods of handloom weavers.
- The programme is implemented through Government handloom organisations, State handloom corporations, weavers' cooperative societies, producer companies, federations and participating banks.