

Schemes (1)

• 11 Crore Farmer IDs: India's AgriStack Reaches Its Target Early

Body: The milestone: **11 crore Farmer IDs** created by **23 October 2026**, five months before the **31 March 2027** deadline; **6 crore+** farmers already received benefits through Farmer ID-based delivery.

Farmer ID: unique digital identity in the **Farmers' Registry**, linked to land records, livestock, crops sown, family details and benefits availed.

Digital Agriculture Mission: approved **2 September 2024**; outlay **Rs 2,817 crore** (Centre **Rs 1,940 crore**).

Components: **DPI (AgriStack, Krishi Decision Support System, Soil Profile Mapping)**, **Digital General Crop Estimation Survey**, **IT initiatives**.

AgriStack registries: **Farmers' Registry**, **geo-referenced village maps**, **Crop Sown Registry** — built and maintained by **States/UTs** (agriculture and land are State subjects).

Uses: **KCC credit**, **PMFBY claims**, **disaster relief**, **MSP procurement**, **PM-KISAN verification**.

Gap: **tenant farmers** and actual cultivators, because the registry is anchored in ownership records; land-record quality and **ULPIN** (14-digit land parcel ID).

DPI pattern: Aadhaar to UPI to sectoral stacks (health, credit, **AgriStack**).

Exam hook: Asked as **which is NOT a component** of AgriStack or the Digital Agriculture Mission (the registries, decision support system and soil mapping are confused; a 'soil health registry' is the planted extra); **who builds the registries** — the **States**; the schemes the Farmer ID serves (PM-KISAN, PMFBY, KCC, MSP procurement); what counts as **DPI**.

Welfare (1)

• Shilp Samagam Mela and India's Denotified Tribes

Body: The event: **Shilp Samagam Mela 2026**, an **eight-day** fair at **Guwahati, Assam** (to 28 October), organised by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, with **75 artisans including 31 women** showing about **40 varieties** of handloom and handicraft. A nine-day Mysuru edition concluded the same week.

Eligible groups: **Scheduled Castes**, **Other Backward Classes**, **Safai Mitras** and **Denotified Tribes**.

Criminal Tribes Act, 1871: notified **entire communities as criminal by birth**, with registration, surveillance and movement restrictions. Repealed after independence; communities **denotified in 1952**.

DNT, NT, SNT: Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes — the last two defined by mobile livelihoods.

Idate Commission: National Commission for DNTs, constituted **2014**, reported **2017**; population estimated at roughly **10–15 crore**, a range that reflects poor enumeration.

DWBDNC (2019): a **Development and Welfare Board** registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860** — **not** the permanent statutory commission that had been recommended.

SEED (2022): Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs — education, health insurance, livelihood and housing; uptake slowed by missing certificates.

The core gap: DNTs are **not a separate constitutional category**; over **260** communities remain uncatagorised under SC, ST or OBC, so members struggle to obtain the certificates that unlock entitlements.

National corporations: **NSFDC** (Scheduled Castes), **NBCFDC** (Backward Classes), **NSKFDC** (Safai Karamcharis).

Exam hook: Asked as the date pair **Criminal Tribes Act 1871 / denotification 1952**; body status — the **2019 Development and Welfare Board** is a **society** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, unlike the **constitutional NCSC and NCST**; the **SEED** scheme; NSFDC, NBCFDC and NSKFDC matched to their beneficiaries.

Polity/Bodies (1)

• OIML and the 61st CIML Meeting in India

Body: The event: **61st meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML)**, **New Delhi, 26–28 October 2026**, hosted by India **for the first time**; organised by the **Department of Consumer Affairs** with the **OIML**; over **100 international delegates**.

Programme: international seminar on "**Evolutions in Legal Metrology**" (26 October) and an **OIML Strategy Workshop** (27 October), covering digitalisation of regulatory services, international harmonisation and recognition of instruments, and e-learning.

Scientific vs legal metrology: scientific metrology **defines and realises units** (the SI, under the **Metre Convention of 1875**; the kilogram redefined via the **Planck constant** in 2019). **Legal metrology** governs measurement **where the law requires accuracy** — petrol pumps, electricity meters, weighbridges, packaged commodities.

OIML: intergovernmental body headquartered in **Paris**, established in the **mid-1950s**, harmonising legal metrology. **CIML** is its technical governing body, one representative per member state.

Not to be confused: OIML does **not** define SI units, and is **not** the ISO. Its **certificate system** allows an instrument type tested once to be accepted across jurisdictions.

Indian law: the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009**, replacing earlier weights and measures legislation, enforced largely by **state legal metrology departments**.

The digital problem: software-driven, networked instruments can be updated after approval, which breaks a regime built on physical seals and inspection.

Exam hook: Asked as **body identification** — OIML (legal metrology), ISO (voluntary standards), BIS (national standards body), the **Metre Convention** organs (the SI), **Codex** (food); the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009**; the **2019 SI redefinition**, with the kilogram fixed by the **Planck constant**.

Trap: petrol-pump verification is **legal**, not scientific, metrology.

Economy (5)

• Pithoragarh Trout Cluster and Coldwater Fisheries

Body: The meeting: review of the **Pithoragarh Coldwater Fisheries Cluster**, **Uttarakhand, 19 October 2026**, chaired by the **Secretary, Department of Fisheries**, with **NFDB, ICAR, MPEDA, NABARD, MoFPI**, the **ITBP** and the district administration present.

Two firsts: Uttarakhand is the **first Himalayan state to export trout to Nepal**, and the **first state to supply trout to the ITBP**.

Clusters: **34 fisheries clusters** notified nationally; the **coldwater** cluster is at **Pithoragarh**.

Coldwater fisheries: farming in cold, fast, oxygen-rich Himalayan streams; the flagship species is the **rainbow trout**, needing a narrow temperature band, high dissolved oxygen and continuous flow.

The structural problem: trout is perishable, volumes per farm are small, high-value markets are distant, and farmers sell unprocessed fish — so **market linkage, value addition and price realisation** are the binding constraints, not production.

Why the two firsts work: both find a buyer that is already close — a **border force deployed in the same districts**, and a **neighbouring country nearer than the rest of the state**.

Cluster approach: concentrate seed, feed, technical support, processing, cold storage and marketing in one designated geography, because value-chain constraints are collective rather than individual.

Exam hook: Asked as **species and habitat** (rainbow trout needs cold, oxygen-rich, flowing water; carp and shrimp are the distractors); **one verb per body** — **NFDB** develops, **MPEDA** exports, **ICAR** researches, **NABARD** finances, **MoFPI** processes; **why a cluster** beats scattered subsidy; State **firsts** (trout to Nepal, supply to the ITBP).

• **SARAS Aajeevika Mela, Vijayawada, and Lakhpati Didis**

Body: The event: **National SARAS Mela, 13-31 October 2026, Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada** — the **first outside Delhi-NCR**; about **1,500** women entrepreneurs, **34 States/UTs**, **650+** stalls; inaugurated by the **President** on **15 October**.

History: first National SARAS Mela in **Delhi, 1999**, about **65 beneficiaries**; **117** national melas to date; States hold at least **two** State-level melas a year (about **50** events annually).

Separate events: **SARAS Aajeevika Mela** (Gurugram, 22 Oct-6 Nov 2026); **eSARAS** = online marketplace.

Lineage: **IRDP** (1978-80) to **DWCRA** (1982) to **SGSY** (April 1999, merged six schemes) to **NRLM "Aajeevika"** (June 2011, Banswara) to **DAY-NRLM** (November 2015).

Structure: **SHG** (10-20 women) to **Village Organisation** to **Cluster Level Federation**; revolving fund, community investment fund, **bank linkage**.

Lakhpati Didi: SHG member whose **household** earns **Rs 1 lakh+ a year**, sustained over **four seasons or business cycles**, average > **Rs 10,000 a month**.

Targets: 2 crore (**Aug 2023**) to 3 crore (**Interim Budget 2024-25**) to reached about **Dec 2025** to **6 crore** (**Feb 2026**; end date March 2029 or 2029-30 depending on the source).

Ministry: **Rural Development**.

Exam hook: Asked as the **1999 SGSY merger** (IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY, MWS — MGNREGA or PMGSY is the odd one out); **NRLM 2011 / DAY-NRLM 2015**, not the DDU-GKY skilling scheme; the **Lakhpati Didi** test is **household** income, **sustained** — 'a woman whose own income exceeds Rs 1 lakh' is the trap; ministry = **Rural Development**.

• **NSDC on the Social Stock Exchange: Zero Coupon Zero Principal**

Body: The event: **NSDC's debut** on the **NSE Social Stock Exchange, 22 October 2026**; maiden **ZCZP** issue; **NABARD** subscribed **Rs 4 crore**.

The programme: **600** youth from economically weaker **OBC** households in **Madhya Pradesh** — **300 Japan, 300 Germany**; training by **NSDC International Ltd**.

Financing: outlay **Rs 11.25 crore** = **15%** beneficiaries + **35%** SSE + **50%** MP government **on placement**; described as a **bilateral Social Impact Bond framework**.

Social Stock Exchange: announced in **Budget 2019-20**; **SEBI** framework **2022**; a **segment** of existing exchanges (**BSE, NSE**); **NSE** final approval **February 2023**.

Who raises: **NPOs** (must register; use **ZCZP**) and **for-profit social enterprises** (equity, debt).

ZCZP: **no coupon, no principal**; original thresholds **Rs 1 crore** issue, **Rs 2 lakh** application, since **lowered**.

Impact bonds: first **SIB** — **Peterborough, UK, 2010**; first education **DIB** — **Educate Girls, Bhilwara, 2015** (UBS Optimus, CIFF, IDinsight). **SIB** = government pays; **DIB** = donor pays.

NSDC: incorporated **2008**, not-for-profit, **PPP** — **GoI 49%, private 51%**. **CSR link:** **Section 135**, Companies Act 2013 — **2%** of average net profits.

Exam hook: Asked as the **regulator** question — **SEBI**, not **RBI**; **ZCZP vs zero-coupon bond** (the bond is issued at a discount and repays face value; **ZCZP** repays **nothing**); **social impact bonds** repay only on outcomes (**SIB**: government pays; **DIB**: donor pays); **NSDC's PPP** structure.

• **FSDC's 30th Meeting: Financial Stability and Cyber Resilience**

Body: The event: **30th FSDC meeting, 23 October 2026**, chaired by the **Finance Minister**; risks named: **geopolitics**, an **AI boom**, **rising global bond yields**; **FM** asked for more frequent, scheduled meetings.

FSDC: notified **30 December 2010** (announced in **Budget 2010-11**); **non-statutory**; **Chair** = **Finance Minister**; **Sub-Committee** = **RBI Governor**; secretariat in **DEA**.

Origin: **Rajan Committee** (2008) proposed a statutory Financial Sector Oversight Agency; the **FSDC** replaced the **HLCCFM**.

Mandate: stability, development, inter-regulatory coordination, literacy and inclusion, macroprudential supervision.

Members: **RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, IFSCA, IBBI**; Secretaries (**DEA, DFS, Revenue, MeitY, MCA**); **CEA**.

Bonds: **prices and yields move inversely**; higher global yields to outflows, rupee pressure, mark-to-market losses.

Cyber: **Financial Sector Cyber Security Strategy** noted; **CERT-In** (s. 70B, MeitY) responds to incidents; **NCHPC** (s. 70A, under **NTRO**) protects critical information infrastructure.

DPI: **Account Aggregator** (consent-based data sharing); **ULI** (RBI lending interface) for **MSME** credit.

Unclaimed assets: campaign launched **4 Oct 2025**, Gandhinagar; about **Rs 1.84 lakh crore**; deposits unclaimed **10 years** to **DEAF**; **UDGAM** portal; dividends/shares to **IEPF**.

Exam hook: Asked as the **chair** question — the **Finance Minister**; the **RBI Governor** chairs only the **Sub-Committee**; the **FSDC** is **non-statutory**; membership with a non-financial regulator (**CCI, TRAI, CERC**) as the odd one out; the bond concept — **prices and yields move inversely**.

• **RBI's New Data Centre and Cyber Institute in Bhubaneswar**

Body: The event: **RBI Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute** inaugurated by the **PM** at **Info Valley-II, Jatni** (near **Bhubaneswar**), **25 October 2026**.

Data centre: to host critical **RBI** systems including **RTGS** and **NEFT**.

Institute: cybersecurity, AI and emerging technologies.

PM's framing: last decade = taking banking to the excluded; next decade = making it **efficient and reliable**; protect banking from "cyber looters and cyber terrorists".

RTGS: **RBI-run**, **gross** real-time settlement, minimum **Rs 2 lakh**, **24×7** since **Dec 2020**. **NEFT:** **RBI-run**, **batch** settlement, no minimum, **24×7** since **Dec 2019**.

UPI/IMPS: run by **NPCI**, not the **RBI**. **Law:** **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

Resilience: primary + **disaster recovery** sites, geographically separated, for **business continuity**.

RBI tech bodies: **ReBIT** (2016, IT and cyber security), **IFTAS** (shared network infrastructure), **RBIH** (Bengaluru, 2022, innovation).

Inclusion figures (as stated): ~**60 crore** Jan Dhan accounts; **13 crore** Mudra first-time entrepreneurs; **9 crore** APY; **PMSBY** **Rs 20/year** to **Rs 2 lakh** cover.

Exam hook: Asked as the **operator** split — **RBI** runs **RTGS** and **NEFT**, **NPCI** runs **UPI** and **IMPS**; **gross vs net** and **real-time vs batch** settlement; the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**; **PMSBY**, **PMJJBY** and **APY** premium-and-cover figures. **Trap:** 'the **RBI** operates **UPI**'.

IR/Diplomacy (2)

• India–Saudi Arabia Electrical Interconnection Review

Body: The meeting: 19 October 2026, virtual bilateral between India's Secretary, Ministry of Power and Saudi Arabia's Assistant Minister of Energy for Electricity Affairs, reviewing the proposed India–Saudi Arabia Electrical Interconnection.

Saudi areas of interest: Extra High Voltage (EHV) transmission, challenges of higher renewable penetration, power requirements of emerging data centres, and updating grid codes.

Why interconnect: peak diversity across time zones, seasonal complementarity, renewable smoothing across longitudes, and reserve sharing — all reasons to invest in transmission rather than additional generation.

Why HVDC: long submarine AC cables lose capacity to capacitive charging current; HVDC avoids this and connects two grids without synchronising them, so a fault on one side does not propagate.

Existing links: India already trades power with Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Inertia: conventional generators' spinning mass resists sudden frequency change; solar and wind connect through power electronics and provide little, which makes high-renewable grids faster-moving and harder to stabilise.

Grid code: the rulebook governing what connected generators and consumers must do — voltage and frequency behaviour, reactive support, metering.

The frame: One Sun, One World, One Grid and the Green Grids Initiative; an India–Gulf–Europe corridor also contemplates power and data cables.

Exam hook: Asked as HVDC vs HVAC for long submarine links, and HVDC's asynchronous connection; which neighbour India does NOT trade power with (the four are Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar); one-line definitions of inertia, grid code and peak diversity. **Trap:** a reviewed proposal rewritten as a completed project — read the verb.

• India–Poland: Tusk's Visit and the Joint Statement

Body: The visit: Polish PM Donald Tusk, 21–23 October 2026, with about 100 CEOs; joint statement 22 October.

Four outcomes: trade doubling by 2030; Poland joins CDRI; Defence Industry Dialogue; counter-terrorism dialogue.

Background: relations since 1954; Strategic Partnership and Action Plan 2024–2028 from the Indian PM's August 2024 Warsaw visit; mid-term review September 2026.

Defence: 8th JWG on Defence (Warsaw, Sept 2026); classified-information agreement still to be signed; India-EU Security and Defence Partnership (January 2026).

Terrorism: Pahalgam attack (22 April 2025) condemned; 1267 committee; CCIT (India's 1996 proposal).

Multilateral: Poland backs India for a reformed UNSC and the 2028–29 non-permanent seat; India invites Poland to IPOI (2019), ISA and the Global Biofuels Alliance (2023); IMEC referenced.

CDRI: launched by India, UN Climate Action Summit, September 2019; secretariat New Delhi.

V4: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia; formed 1991; first India–V4 Foreign Ministers' meeting welcomed.

History: Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji of Nawanagar — Balachadi (1942); Valivade, Kolhapur (1943–48, 5,000+ Poles). Operation Ganga (2022) — Polish help to 2,000+ Indian students.

Poland: EU 2004, NATO 1999, currency zloty (not in the euro area).

Exam hook: Asked through the institutions a visit brings up — Visegrad Group membership (Austria, Romania or Slovenia as the odd one out); India-led bodies by launch (ISA Paris 2015, CDRI New York 2019); the Good Maharaja of Nawanagar, Balachadi and Valivade; currencies — zloty, koruna, forint, not the euro.

• Green Diwali, NCAP and Mission LiFE

Body: The campaign: nationwide Green Diwali Campaign, 20 October to 8 November 2026, run by WWF-India's programme centre under the Environment Ministry's EIACP, framed within Mission LiFE, focused on the 130 NCAP cities.

NCAP: launched by the MoEFCC in January 2019, covering 130 cities — non-attainment plus million-plus — across 24 States and UTs, each with a city action plan.

Non-attainment city: one that failed to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards consistently over a specified period; the original list used 2011–2015 monitoring data.

Targets: originally 20–30% PM reduction by 2024 against a 2017–18 baseline; revised to up to 40% PM10 reduction or attainment of 60 µg/m³ by 2025–26.

Contested results: an official summary reports 108 of 130 cities improved, 26 above 40% and 14 meeting the standard; an independent assessment finds about 51 met the original target and about 23 the revised one. Both agree most cities still fail the standard.

Main sources of particulates: vehicles, road and construction dust, industry, residential fuel, open waste burning and seasonal crop residue burning — firecrackers are a sharp spike but a small annual share.

Regulation: only green crackers permitted, barium salts prohibited, bursting hours restricted.

Mission LiFE: behaviour-focused environmental action introduced internationally in 2022 — a complement to regulation, not a substitute.

Exam hook: Asked as NCAP facts — 2019, 130 cities, a 20–30% target revised to 40% by 2025–26; a non-attainment city persistently fails the standards (it does not mean 'unmonitored'); NAAQS numbers with units (PM10 annual 60 µg/m³); source apportionment. **Trap:** the festival is never the dominant annual source.

• Agrivoltaics: World Conference and PM-KUSUM

Body: The event: 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference, 21–23 October 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi — the first in the Global South; theme "Powering the Global South".

Earlier editions: 2020 and 2021 online; Piacenza 2022, Daegu 2023, Denver 2024, Freiburg 2025.

Agrivoltaics: simultaneous crop production and solar generation on the same land; designs are elevated, interspace and vertical bifacial.

DIN SPEC 91434 (Germany, 2021): Category I clearance > 2.1 m; land-loss caps 10% / 15%; yield at least 66% of reference.

TERI-ETC (June 2026): 47.5 Mha technically suitable (about 30% of 160 Mha cropland); 16 Mha scenario to up to 12,775 TWh/year against 2050 demand of 5,250–10,020 TWh.

Release conflict: the Agriculture release says 116 Mha and "10%" of the suitable area; MNRE's figures match the report.

PM-KUSUM: approved February 2019, MNRE; A = 500 kW–2 MW plants (stilt-mounted allowed), B = standalone pumps, C = solarisation of grid pumps incl. feeder level; target about 34,800 MW.

Economics: AgriPV 25–30% costlier than ground-mounted; generation Rs 3.20–3.30/unit vs supply cost about Rs 7/unit.

Farm reality: average holding 0.96 ha; 85%+ small and marginal farmers.

Capacity vs generation: non-fossil 308.03 GW = 55%+ of ~560 GW capacity — a capacity share, not a generation share.

Exam hook: Asked as the PM-KUSUM components (A small grid-connected plants, B standalone pumps, C solarising existing pumps — B and C get swapped); ministry = MNRE, not Agriculture; 'agrivoltaics refers to', with floating, canal-top and wasteland solar as distractors. **Trap:** non-fossil sources pass half of installed capacity, not of generation.

Environment (3)

• Namami Gange: How the Ganga's Sewage Is Treated

Body: Progress: 199 projects, Rs 31,327 crore, 116 complete; new STP capacity 2,237 of 5,270 MLD (about 42%); rehabilitation 873 of 925 MLD (about 94%).

Three stages: **primary** = physical (screening, sedimentation); **secondary** = biological (aeration, **flocs**, BOD falls, activated sludge partly recycled as inoculum); **tertiary** = nutrients and disinfection (**chlorination**).

Sludge digesters: anaerobic; **methanogens** produce **biogas** (CH₄, CO₂, H₂S).

BOD: oxygen microbes need to decompose organic matter; **NGT 2019** norms: **BOD < 10**, **TSS < 20**, **COD < 50 mg/l**.

Aerobic: ASP, **SBR** (cycles in one tank), **MBBR**, **FAB**, **FCR** (introduced in India through Namami Gange; Bhatpara, Prayagraj).

NEREDA: aerobic granular sludge; 60 MLD at **Pahadi, Patna**; about 50% power saving over ASP.

UASB: anaerobic, Dutch-developed, introduced under **GAP** at **Kanpur** in the late 1980s; needs post-treatment.

Others: electrocoagulation (works in cold; Uttarakhand), **AOP** pilot at **Assi drain** (pay-for-performance), **constructed wetlands** (Bithoor), **Soil Biotechnology** (IIT Bombay; Devprayag), **Johkasou** (Japan).

Muni Ki Reti: first **four-storey** municipal STP; about **120 m² per MLD** vs 400.

Financing: HAM = 40% capital in construction + 60% annuity over **15 years**, performance-linked; first deals **Oct 2017** (Haridwar, Varanasi); **One City One Operator**.

Lineage: **GAP 1985-86** to National River **2008** to NGRBA **2009** to NMCG **2011** to Namami Gange **2014** to National Ganga Council (PM) **2016**.

Exam hook: Asked from NCERT 'Microbes in Human Welfare' — which stage is **biological**, what **flocs** and **activated sludge** are, **methanogens** and **biogas** (the sludge digester is **anaerobic**); a **high BOD** means more organic pollution and moves opposite to dissolved oxygen; the Ganga chain (Ganga Action Plan, National River, National Ganga Council chair); **UASB**, **NEREDA** and **Johkasou** matching.

Infra (1)

• Integrated Manufacturing City Gaya and India's Industrial Corridors

Body: The event: BIMCGL launched at **Bodh Gaya**, **24 October 2026**; **12 MoUs**, about **300 acres**, about **Rs 4,200 crore**, about **16,095 jobs**; curtain-raiser of **Bihar Business Connect 2027**.

IMC Gaya: Dobhi block, Gaya; **1,670 acres**; approved **28 August 2024**; cost **Rs 1,339 crore**; expected investment about **Rs 16,500 crore**; about **1.10 lakh jobs**; first central equity **Rs 132 crore** (September 2025).

SPV: BIMCGL, incorporated **6 January 2025**; **50:50 JV** of **BIADA** and **NICDIT**; State gives land, Centre gives equity.

Corridors: **DMIC** (about 1,504 km, along the **Western DFC**, the first); **AKIC** (about **1,839 km**, along the **Eastern DFC**, Punjab to West Bengal); **eleven corridors** in all; aligned with **PM GatiShakti**.

12 nodes (**CCEA, 28 Aug 2024**); about **Rs 28,602 crore**, **10 States**, **6 corridors** — **Khurpia**, **Rajpura-Patiala**, **Dighi**, **Palakkad**, **Agra**, **Prayagraj**, **Gaya**, **Zaheerabad**, **Orvakal**, **Kopparthy**, **Jodhpur-Pali**.

Concepts: greenfield smart cities, **plug-and-play**, **walk-to-work**; built **ahead of demand**.

Caution: MoUs are intentions, not investment; judge by plots allotted and factories built.

Exam hook: Asked as **corridor alignment** (**DMIC with the Western DFC**, **AKIC with the Eastern DFC**); **node-State** matching (**Dholera**, **Gaya**, **Palakkad**, **Zaheerabad**); what **NICDC/NICDIT** and an **SPV** do (State land plus central equity); **plug-and-play** and **walk-to-work** concepts. **Trap:** MoUs are not investment.

Culture/Sport (4)

• Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 and the Thirukkural

Body: KTS 5.0: 28 November-12 December 2026; theme "**Thirukkural Payilvom - Thirukkural Abhyas Karen**"; registration **22 Oct-13 Nov** on an **IIT Madras** portal.

Participants: about **1,400** from Tamil Nadu in **seven groups of ~200**; eight-day journeys to **Varanasi**, **Prayagraj**, **Ayodhya**; outreach in **1,000 HEIs**.

Organisers: **Ministry of Education** (Higher Education) with **IIT Madras**, **BHU**, **CICT Chennai**, **UP government**.

Editions: **2022** (1.0) · **2023** (2.0) · **Feb 2025** (3.0, **Sage Agastya**) · **Dec 2025** (4.0, **Tamil Karkalam**) · **2026** (5.0, **Thirukkural**).

Umbrella: **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**, announced **31 October 2015** (Sardar Patel's 140th birth anniversary).

Thirukkural: by **Thiruvalluvar**; **1,330 couplets**; **133 chapters × 10**; **Aram** (virtue, 38) · **Porul** (wealth/polity, 70 — longest) · **Inbam** (love, 25).

Statue: **Kanyakumari**, **133 ft** (95-ft figure + **38-ft** pedestal = **Aram's** chapters); unveiled **1 January 2000**.

Links: **Subramania Bharati** lived in Varanasi; **BHU Bharati Chair** announced **11 September 2021**; **Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam 2023**.

Classical languages: **Tamil first** (**2004**), **Sanskrit 2005**; eleven today.

Exam hook: Asked on **structure** — **1,330 couplets**, **133 chapters**, books **Aram**, **Porul**, **Inbam** (38-70-25 chapters; Kamam is Inbam, not a fourth book); **attribution** — **Thiruvalluvar**, **Ilango Adigal** (**Silappatikaram**), **Sattanar** (**Manimekalai**), **Kambar** (**Tamil Ramayana**); the **Sangamam** sits under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**; the **133-ft Thiruvalluvar Statue**.

• Bastar Dussehra: Inside Chhattisgarh's 75-Day Tribal Festival

Body: The event: the **President** at **Bastar Dussehra**, **Jagdalpur**, **23 October 2026** — prayers at the **Danteshwari** temple, meeting with **Manjhi** and **Chalki** at the **Muria Darbar**.

Duration: about **75 days** — the longest Dussehra in India; 2026 began with **Pat Jatra** on **12 August** (**Hariyali Amavasya**, **Shravan**).

Deity: **Danteshwari**, presiding goddess of Bastar — not centred on **Rama** and **Ravana**.

Rituals: **Pat Jatra** to chariot building (twin chariots, **4 and 8 wheels**, **no nails**) to **Kachan Gadi** (permission) to **Rath Parikrama** to **Bahar Raini** (chariot hidden at **Kumdakot**) to **Muria Darbar** to farewell.

Origin: **Purushottam Dev** of the **Kakatiya** line (~15th century), title **Rathapati** after a pilgrimage to **Puri**.

Tribes: **Gond** (**Muria**, **Maria/Madia** incl. **Abujhmara**, **Bison-horn Maria**), **Halba**, **Bhatra**, **Dhurwa**; **ghotul** = **Muria** youth dormitory.

Geography: **Indravati** (tributary of the **Godavari**); **Chitrakote Falls** ("Niagara of India"); **Kanger Valley National Park**.

Other Dussehras: **Mysuru** (**Chamundeshwari**, **Wodeyars**, **Jambo Savari**), **Kullu** (**Raghunath**, begins on **Vijayadashami**); **Durga Puja UNESCO 2021**; **Ramlila UNESCO 2008**.

Exam hook: Asked as **festival-State** pairs (**Bastar-Chhattisgarh**, **Kullu-Himachal Pradesh**, **Mysuru-Karnataka**); the **deity** — **Danteshwari**, not **Chamundeshwari** or **Durga**; India's **UNESCO** intangible-heritage entries (**Ramlila 2008**, **Navroz 2016**, **Kumbh Mela 2017**, **Durga Puja 2021**, **Garba 2023**); **tribe-region** (**Muria** and **Maria** with **Bastar**).

• Kittur Rani Chennamma and the 1824 Revolt Against British Rule

Body: The event: birth anniversary and **202nd anniversary** of the **1824 victory** commemorated at **Prerana Sthal**, Parliament, **23 October 2026**.

Chennamma: born **23 October 1778**, **Kakati** (near **Belagavi**); queen of **Kittur** (**Belagavi** district, **Karnataka**); wife of **Raja Mallasarja Desai**.

Cause: after her son's death in **1824**, the Company refused to recognise her adopted heir, **Shivalingappa**; **Dharwad collector St John Thackeray** moved to take **Kittur**.

First battle: October 1824 — **Thackeray killed**, British officers taken hostage and later released.

Second assault: December 1824 — fort fell; **Chennamma** captured, imprisoned at **Bailhongal**, died **1829**.

Sangolli Rayanna: led guerrilla resistance; executed (**1831** by most accounts).

Doctrine of Lapse: **Dalhousie**, after **1848**; **Satara 1848**, **Jhansi 1853**, **Nagpur 1854**; **Awadh 1856** was annexed for misgovernment, not lapse.

Women resisters: **Rani Abbakka** (**Ullal**, vs Portuguese, 16th c.), **Velu Nachiyar** (**Sivaganga**, **1780**), **Chennamma** (**1824**), **Lakshmbai** (**1857**).

Prerana Sthal: inaugurated **16 June 2024**; brings together statues of 14 national figures.

Exam hook: Asked as **identification** — **Kittur** with **Rani Chennamma**, against **Velu Nachiyar**, **Rani Abbakka**, **Rani Lakshmbai** and **Begum Hazrat Mahal**; the **Doctrine of Lapse** (**Awadh**, **1856**, was annexed for misgovernment, not lapse); **chronology** — **Vellore 1806**, **Kittur 1824**, **Jhansi 1853**, the **Revolt of 1857**; **Sangolli Rayanna** with **Kittur**.

• Bhai Parmanand at 150: Arya Samaj, Ghadar and Cellular Jail

Body: The hook: tribute in the 139th Mann Ki Baat, 25 October 2026; 150th birth anniversary on 4 November 2026.

Life: born 4 November 1876, Karyala, Jhelum district (now Pakistan); first Arya Samaj missionary in South Africa (arrived 5 August 1905); died 8 December 1947, Jalandhar.

Arya Samaj: founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati, 1875, Bombay; DAV institutions.

Ghadar Party: 1913, Pacific coast of the USA and Canada; **Sohan Singh Bhakna** (president), **Lala Har Dayal**; HQ Yugantar Ashram, San Francisco; paper **Ghadar**.

1914-15: Komagata Maru (1914, Budge Budge firing); planned uprising of **February 1915** crushed; **First Lahore Conspiracy Case** under the **Defence of India Act, 1915**; **Kartar Singh Sarabha** executed (Nov 1915). **Bhai Parmanand's sentence:** death, commuted to **transportation for life**; **Cellular Jail** until 1920.

Cellular Jail: Port Blair, completed 1906, solitary cells in radiating wings; Savarkar brothers; now a **national memorial**.

Later: taught at **National College, Lahore** — **Bhagat Singh** a student; leading figure in the **Hindu Mahasabha**.

Exam hook: Asked as the **Ghadar Party's** leaders and base (**Har Dayal**, **Sohan Singh Bhakna**; India House and the Anushilan Samiti are distractors); **chronology** — Komagata Maru 1914, Lahore Conspiracy Case 1915, Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh 1919; the **Defence of India Act, 1915** enabled the trials; the **Arya Samaj** paired with the Brahmo and Prarthana Samaj.

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