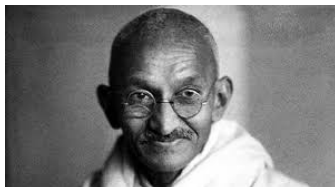




30 January 2025

National and International News

Person in news:
Mahatma Gandhi

Why in news?

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid his respects to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Key Points:

- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) was **born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat.**
- Mahatma Gandhi is universally regarded as the principal architect of India's independence struggle, and his role in the Indian National Movement was pivotal in shaping modern Indian history.
- Emerging as a **mass leader in 1919**, Gandhi took on a leadership role that would dominate the Indian political landscape for nearly three decades until his assassination in 1948.
- **Political Philosophy:**
 - His approach to achieving independence blended elements from both, incorporating his own unique philosophy rooted in **ahimsa (non-violence) and satyagraha (truth-force or non-violent resistance).**
 - Gandhi was deeply influenced by religious and spiritual values, including Hinduism, but he also embraced ideas from other traditions, such as Christianity and Islam.
- **Key Contributions of Mahatma Gandhi to Indian National Movement:**
 - **Indian National Congress:**
 - Under Gandhi's leadership, the Indian National Congress (INC) transformed from a relatively elite political organisation into a mass-based political party representing a wide cross-section of Indian society.
 - His insistence on removing caste discrimination, uplifting the downtrodden, and giving a voice to women enabled the INC to resonate with a vast segment of the Indian population.
 - **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922):**
 - The Non-Cooperation Movement marked Gandhi's first major mass movement, following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was a direct response to the British government's oppressive policies, and it called for Indians to boycott British goods, schools, and institutions. ■ Gandhi's call for non-violent resistance resonated across the country, and millions of Indians—from urban elites to rural peasants—actively participated. ○ The Salt March (1930): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In 1930, Gandhi launched the Salt March (or Dandi March), a direct act of defiance against British colonial laws that taxed salt. Gandhi, along with a group of followers, marched 240 miles to the coastal town of Dandi to produce salt from seawater, thus violating British salt laws. ○ The Civil Disobedience Movement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Civil Disobedience Movement continued to grow, with widespread participation in protests, boycotts, and non-violent resistance. ○ The Quit India Movement (1942): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By 1942, it had become clear that World War II was affecting India's position within the British Empire. Gandhi, sensing the opportunity for a greater push against British rule, launched the Quit India Movement in August 1942. ■ The movement called for the immediate withdrawal of British forces from India and demanded complete independence. Gandhi's famous slogan, "Do or Die",
<p>PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Almost a year after the Centre launched the ₹75,000-crore PM Surya Ghar scheme, 8.5 lakh households have successfully installed rooftop solar connections. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a government scheme launched on February 15, 2024, that aims to provide free electricity to households in India. ● Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs. ● The subsidy will cover up to 40% of the cost of the solar panels. ● It would help one crore families get up to 300 units of free electricity per month with savings of up to Rs 18,000 annually. ● The benefits of the scheme include:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Free electricity for households. ○ Reduced electricity costs for the government. ○ Increased use of renewable energy. ○ Reduced carbon emissions. ● Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The household must be an Indian citizen. ○ The household must own a house with a roof that is suitable for installing solar panels. ○ The household must have a valid electricity connection. ○ The household must not have availed any other subsidy for solar panels. ○ Under the scheme, DISCOMs are designated as State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) responsible for facilitating various measures, including net meter availability, timely inspection, and commissioning of installations.
<p>Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two days before the 2025-26 Union Budget, the government approved the introduction of the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME), as announced in the FY25 Budget. ● Under this, will extend credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions for credit facilities of up to Rs 100 crore to eligible MSMEs, for the procurement of equipment and machinery. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MCGS- MSME aims at providing 60 percent guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for credit facility up to Rs 100 crore to eligible MSMEs for purchase of equipment/machinery. ● About Credit Guarantee Scheme for Machinery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new credit guarantee scheme for purchasing machinery and equipment without collateral or third-party guarantees has been introduced. ○ The scheme will pool credit risks of MSMEs, providing a guarantee cover of up to Rs 100 crore per applicant through a self-financing guarantee fund. ○ Borrowers will need to pay an upfront guarantee fee and an annual fee based on the reducing loan balance. ○ Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the scheme, the MSMEs should have a valid Udyam Registration Number; the loan amount guaranteed under the scheme will not exceed Rs 100 crore; project cost could be of higher amounts,



	<p>and minimum cost of equipment/ machinery will be 75 percent of project cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loan upto Rs 50 crore under the scheme will have repayment period of upto 8 years with upto 2 years moratorium period on principal installments. ○ For loans above Rs 50 crore, higher repayment schedule and moratorium period on principal installments can be considered. ○ An initial contribution of 5 percent of the loan amount will need to be deposited at the time of application of guarantee cover. ○ The Annual Guarantee Fee for loans under the scheme will be waived in the year of sanction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For the following three years, it will be 1.5% per annum of the loan outstanding as of March 31 of the previous year. ■ After that, the annual guarantee fee will reduce to 1% per annum of the loan outstanding as of March 31 of the previous year. ○ The scheme will apply to all loans sanctioned under MCGS-MSME for a period of four years from the date the operational guidelines are issued or until a cumulative guarantee of ₹7 lakh crore is issued, whichever is earlier. <p>About MSME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) are regulated under the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006. ● MSMEs are managed under the Ministry of MSME. ● The classification criteria are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (a) Micro Enterprise: Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment is less than INR 1 crore and Annual Turnover is less than INR 5 crore; ○ (b) Small Enterprise: Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment is less than INR 10 crore and Annual Turnover is less than INR 50 crore; ○ (c) Medium Enterprise: Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment is less than INR 50 crore and Annual Turnover is less than INR 250 crore.
<p>Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of India has announced a revised timeline for implementing the amendments to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 to ensure ease of doing business and reduce compliance burdens <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It regulates pre-packaged commodities in India and inter –



	<p>alia mandate certain labelling requirements prior to sale of such commodities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main aim of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 is to establish and enforce standards of weights and measures, regulate trade and commerce in weights, measures and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure or number and any other matter that is connected to the same. • According to the Act, the Central Govt. may appoint a Director of Legal Metrology to perform duties related to inter-state trade and commerce. • The State Govt. may appoint a Controller of Legal Metrology to perform duties related to intra-state trade and commerce. • Constitutional provisions related with Weights and Measures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of Standards of Weights and Measures: Under UNION LIST – Entry 50: To frame the Act and Rules, Specification of Standards and International Relations, Training in Legal Metrology etc. ○ Weights and Measures except establishment of Standards – under CONCURRENT LIST – Entry 33 A: Enforcement of Legal Metrology. <p>What is Legal Metrology?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Metrology treats units of weighment and measurement, methods of weighment and measurement and weighing and measuring instruments, in relation to the mandatory technical and legal requirements which have the object of ensuring public guarantee from the point of view of security and accuracy of the weighments and measurements.
<p>Critical Minerals</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has approved a ₹16,300 crore (\$1.88 billion) plan to develop its critical minerals sector as the world's fastest-growing major economy aims to secure essential raw materials like lithium. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mineral is critical when the risk of supply shortage and associated impact on the economy is (relatively) higher than other raw materials. • These minerals are essential for economic development and national security, and their lack of availability/ the concentration of extraction/ processing in a few geographical locations could potentially lead to supply chain vulnerabilities. • These (such as lithium, graphite, cobalt, titanium, and rare



	<p>earth elements) are essential for the advancement of many sectors, including high-tech electronics, telecommunications, transport, and defence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It forms part of multiple strategic value chains, including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clean technologies initiatives such as zero-emission vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels; ○ Information and communication technologies, including semiconductors; and ○ Advanced manufacturing inputs and materials such as defence applications, permanent magnets, ceramics. ● In July 2023, released a list of 30 critical minerals for India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.
<p>Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CCEA has approved an increase in the ethanol procurement price. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is a high-level committee of the Union Cabinet of India, chaired by the Prime Minister. ● The committee is responsible for making decisions on major economic policy matters and investments, and for providing direction on key economic issues. ● The CCEA plays a crucial role in shaping India's economic policy landscape and in promoting economic growth and development. ● The primary functions and responsibilities of the CCEA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formulating and implementing major economic policies and strategies. ○ Approving major investment proposals and projects, particularly those involving large financial outlays or those with significant economic implications. ○ Reviewing and monitoring the implementation of major economic policies and projects. ○ Providing direction on key economic issues, such as inflation, trade, investment, and industrial policy. ○ Coordinating economic policy across different

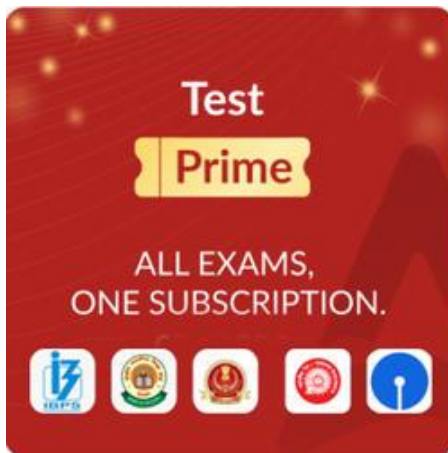


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	<p>ministries and departments to ensure coherence and effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Promoting public-private partnerships and encouraging private sector participation in key economic sectors.
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