




19 February 2025

National and International News

<p><b>India - Qatar Relations</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Qatar elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership in February focusing on trade, energy, and investments.</li> <li>Both nations set a target to double bilateral trade to \$30 billion by 2030 and agreed on major economic collaborations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Trade &amp; Investment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qatar is India's top supplier of LNG (10.91 MMT) and LPG (4.92 MMT) for FY 2023-24. New agreements aim to enhance Indian exports and expand Qatar's investments in smart cities, ports, shipbuilding, and technology.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Energy Security:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A long-term LNG supply agreement (2028-2048) guarantees stability for India's energy sector. There will also be collaboration in renewable energy, focusing on green hydrogen, solar power, and AI-driven energy efficiency.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Technology &amp; Innovation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint initiatives in AI, semiconductors, IoT, and robotics will drive next-generation industrial growth. Indian startups will also take part in the Web Summits in Doha (2024-25).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Digital Payments &amp; Financial Ties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qatar will roll out UPI nationwide to streamline cross-border transactions. Additionally, the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) will open an office in India to strengthen economic relations.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Security &amp; Counter-Terrorism:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two nations will collaborate on intelligence sharing, countering cybercrime, anti-money laundering, and tackling transnational crimes. Both are committed to combating cross-border terrorism and enhancing security cooperation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Person in news: Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prime Minister paid tribute to <b>Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa on his birth anniversary.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gadadhar Chattopadhyaya was a <b>poor Brahmin priest who subsequently became known as Ramakrishna Paramahansa.</b></li> <li>On the <b>18th of February 1836</b>, Sri Ramakrishna was born into</li> </ul>



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	<p>a poor Brahmana family in the Bengali hamlet of Kamarpukur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was a follower of <b>Kali, the Hindu goddess.</b></li> <li>• <b>Sarada Devi</b>, Ramakrishna Paramhansa's spiritual companion, was also his wife.</li> <li>• <b>Narendra Nath Datta (1863-1902), later known as Swami Vivekananda, was Ramakrishna Paramahansa's most ardent disciple who spread Ramakrishna's teachings throughout the world, particularly in America and Europe.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Soil Health Card Scheme (SHCS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the Soil Health Card Scheme (SHCS) completed a decade.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the <b>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on December 5, 2015.</b></li> <li>• Under the scheme, village level Soil Testing Labs will be set up by youth having education in agriculture, Women Self Help Groups, FPOs etc.</li> <li>• The scheme also focuses on enabling employment generation after appropriate skill development.</li> <li>• <b>What is the Soil Health Card (SHC)?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soil Health Cards (SHC) Scheme is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings.</li> <li>○ Soil Health Card provides two sets of fertilizer recommendations for six crops including recommendations of organic manures.</li> <li>○ It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely: pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Sulphur (S), Zinc (Zn), Boron (B), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Copper (Cu) of farm holdings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Objectives of SHC:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A SHC is meant to give each farmer soil nutrient status of his/her holding.</li> <li>○ Advise him / her on the dosage of fertilizers and also the needed soil amendments that s/he should apply to maintain soil health in the long run.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Bharat Tex 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest global textile event, was held in New Delhi, showcasing India's textile advancements and global trade potential.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bharat Tex 2025 served as a platform to accelerate the government's "<b>Farm to Fibre, Fabric, Fashion, and Foreign Markets</b>" vision.</li> <li>• The event demonstrated India's leadership in the textile sector and its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global</li> </ul>



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	<p>collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian government aims to triple textile exports from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹9 lakh crore by 2030, leveraging sustainability, innovation, and policy support.</li> <li><b>Overview of India's Textile Sector:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>6th Largest Exporter:</b> India holds 8.21% share in global textile trade (2023-24).</li> <li><b>Employment Generator:</b> Provides direct jobs to 45 million people and indirect livelihood to over 100 million, including rural and women workers.</li> <li><b>Export Markets:</b> USA and EU account for 47% of India's textile exports.</li> <li><b>Government Initiatives:</b> ₹10,683 crore allocated under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to boost manufacturing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture &amp; Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, inaugurated the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) in 152 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across 26 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) programme <b>aims to create and update land records in urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership.</b></li> <li>This initiative will empower citizens, improve ease of living, enhance urban planning, and reduce land-related disputes. The IT-based system for property record administration will foster transparency, efficiency and support sustainable development.</li> <li>The <b>Survey of India is the technical partner for NAKSHA programme which is responsible for conducting aerial surveys and providing orthorectified imagery.</b></li> <li>The end-to-end web-GIS platform will be developed by the <b>Madhya Pradesh State Electronic Development Corporation (MPSEDC)</b> and <b>storage facilities will be provided by the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICS).</b></li> <li><b>States and Union Territory governments are scheduled to conduct field surveys and ground truthing</b> using the orthorectified imagery, ultimately leading to the final publication of urban and semi-urban land records.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The unemployment rate in urban areas of the country was 6.4% for individuals aged 15 and above during the period from October to December 2024, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and</li> </ul>

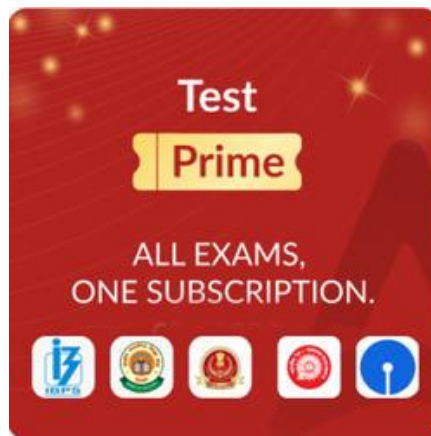


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Programme Implementation.

**Key Points:**

- This survey is conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSO), working under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Objective:**
  - To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
  - To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.
- **The indicators of this survey are:**
  - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
  - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
  - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
  - **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.



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