



24 February 2025

National and International News

<p>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that 20 lakh beneficiaries have received sanction letters under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) 'Gramin' (Phase 2). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme initiated to provide affordable housing to low and moderate-income residents across the country. The newly formed government has approved the proposal to provide 3 crore additional rural and urban houses under PMAY. The scheme has two components: PMAY-U for the urban poor and PMAY-G and PMAY-R for the rural poor. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 is the second edition of the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme designed to address the housing shortage among the urban poor. It aims to assist economically weaker sections and lower-income groups in cities with financing for constructing or purchasing their first homes. This enhancement will provide a greater risk guarantee on affordable housing loans from banks, housing finance companies, or primary lending institutions to the urban poor. Under PMAY-U 2.0, financial assistance will be provided to 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families to construct, purchase, or rent houses at affordable costs.
<p>Exercise Dharma Guardian</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Exercise Dharma Guardian, between India and Japan is scheduled at Mount Fuji, Japan from February 25 to March 9, the Indian Army. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a joint military exercise between India and Japan. It is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan. It aims to enhance interoperability between the two forces while undertaking joint urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations under UN mandate. Military drills often include social and cultural exchanges that promote deeper understanding of each other's traditions, values, and operational approaches which helps in building a foundation of mutual respect, which is crucial for effective collaboration in real-world scenarios. Significance: The exercise will enable the two sides to share their best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of conducting



		tactical operations.
UNESCO	Why in news?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A delegation led by Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar is in Paris to request UNESCO World Heritage status for the 12 forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. • The list includes Lohagad, Salher, Raigad, Pratapgad, Shivneri, Suvarnadurg, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg, Panhala Khanderi Fort and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About UNESCO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. ○ Headquarters: Paris ○ It has 193 Members and 11 Associate Members (As of April 2020) and is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board. • About UNESCO World Heritage Sites: • A World Heritage site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). • World Heritage sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance. • The sites are judged to contain “cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.” • Selection Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultural Sites (6 criteria): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A masterpiece of human creative genius. ■ Represents cultural interchange or a civilization. ■ Bears unique testimony to a tradition or civilization. ■ Exemplifies architecture, technology, or landscape. ■ Shows traditional settlement, land, or sea use. ■ Links to events or ideas of universal significance. ○ Natural Sites (4 criteria): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Displays superlative natural phenomena or features. ■ Represents Earth's evolutionary history. ■ Exemplifies ecological and biological processes. ■ Hosts critical habitats of biological diversity.
Kashi Sangamam	Tamil	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and 45 ambassadors from various countries interacted with Tamil delegates visiting for the third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam. • The session provided international representatives with a unique opportunity to explore the cultural link between Kashi and



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	<p>Kanchipuram and gain a deeper understanding of India beyond Delhi.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 3.0) coincides with Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj and provides an opportunity to visit the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya for the first time post-inauguration. ● The 1st edition of KTS was held in 2022, while the 2nd in 2023. ● It features around 1,000 delegates from Tamil Nadu across 5 categories, including students, teachers, writers, farmers, artisans, professionals, entrepreneurs, SHGs, and innovation communities. ● It is a cultural initiative that aims to celebrate the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties and strengthen the ancient civilizational bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi). ● The event aligns with the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, emphasizing the integration of India's diverse cultural heritage. ● The historical ties between Kashi (Uttar Pradesh) and Tamil Nadu date back to the 15th century when King Parakrama Pandya of Madurai traveled to Kashi to bring back a sacred lingam for his temple (Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu). ● Nodal Ministry: The Ministry of Education in collaboration with various ministries and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. ● Central Theme: "Legacy of Sage Agastya".
<p>Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare stated about the upcoming release of the 19th installment under the PM-KISAN scheme. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Yojana came into effect from December 1, 2018. ● Under the scheme, income support of Rs 6000 per annum is provided to all eligible farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months. ● The fund of Rs 2,000 is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the eligible farmers/farmer's family under the Direct Benefit Transfer Mode. ● Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare ● Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To supplement the financial needs of all landholding farmers' families in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income as well as for domestic needs. ● Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landholding farmers' families with cultivable land holding in their names, ○ Farmers from both the urban and rural areas, ○ Small and Marginal farmers families. ● It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the



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Central Government.	
Project-76	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As negotiations begin for the purchase of six new diesel-electric submarines, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is preparing a proposal for the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine, which will be presented to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for approval. The procurement deal is part of Project-75I, while the proposal for indigenous development falls under Project-76. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Project 76, the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy is working on designing and developing the country's first indigenously conventional diesel-electric submarine. The Indian Navy wants to build 12 submarines under Project 76. Envisioned as air-independent propulsion (AIP)-equipped diesel-electric attack submarines, these submarines, expected to have a submerged displacement of 3,000 tons, represent a leap beyond their foreign-designed predecessors like Project-751 (India) and Project-75 submarines. It aims to succeed the renowned Sindhughosh (Kilo) class, emphasizing the Navy's commitment to maintaining a robust 3,000-ton class of submarines. It represents a pivotal milestone in India's pursuit of maritime supremacy, amalgamating top-tier French technology from Project 75 and the expertise of German/Spanish collaboration from Project 751 (India). This undertaking holds immense significance for India's submarine-building capabilities, aiming to reduce reliance on foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for submarine design.

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