



18 Mar 2025

National and International News

<p>Padma Awards-2026</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards-2026 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2026 have started on 15th March, 2025. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Padma Awards namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. These Awards were instituted in 1954 and they are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day. The award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as- Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work etc. Eligibility for the nomination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex are eligible for these Awards. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for Padma Awards. Awardees receive a Sanad (Certificate) and Medallion, a small size replica (miniature) of the main medal is separately handed over to the recipient but no monetary grant is attached to these Awards. All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. The Prime Minister and the President of India finally review and approve the recommendations.
<p>Raisina Dialogue</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Raisina Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi, India. It is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. The leaders from politics, business, media, and civil society converge to discuss the state of the world and explore opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of contemporary matters.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by: Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. • Theme 2025: "Kalachakra" (Wheel of Time), symbolising global political cycles and change.
Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court agreed to examine a petition challenging the exclusive authority of the Centre, acting through the President, to appoint the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is an independent authority established by the Constitution of India to audit the receipts and expenditures of the Central Government, State Governments, and other bodies that receive funding from the Government. • The CAG is an All-India body in the sense that it controls the entire financial system of the country at both the Central and the State levels. • The CAG heads the Indian Audit & Accounts Department and acts as the Guardian of the Public Purse. • Article 148 to Article 151 of the Constitution of India deal with the provisions related to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). • The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
PM Internship scheme	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called on more companies to participate in the PM Internship Scheme (PMIS), citing larger national interest. • Announced in the Union Budget for 2024-25 last July, the scheme aims to provide internships to one crore youth in top 500 companies over five years. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Internship Scheme is an initiative launched by the Indian government, designed to provide valuable internship opportunities for the youth of India. • It aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world experience by offering internships across the top 500 companies. • The pilot phase targets 1.25 lakh youth, with a five-year goal to facilitate internships for one crore young individuals. • Under this scheme, interns will be provided a monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for 12 months and a one-time grant of Rs 6,000. • Eligibility Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candidates aged between 21 and 24 years and who are



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		<p>not engaged in full-time employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Internships are available to those who have passed class 10 or higher. ○ Individuals from families with government jobs are excluded. ○ It is not open to post-graduates. ○ A candidate who graduated from premier institutes such as IIT, IIM, or IISER, and those who have CA, or CMA qualification would not be eligible to apply for this internship. ○ Anyone from a household that includes a person who earned an income of Rs.8 lakh or more in 2023-24, will not be eligible.
National Quantum Mission (NQM)	Quantum	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India's National Quantum Mission (NQM), approved on 19th April 2023, aims to lead quantum technology research from 2023 to 2030, with a budget of ₹6,003.65 crore. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NQM is a flagship initiative launched by the Government of India for the period of 2023-2031 with an aim to make India a global leader in quantum technologies. ● Aim: To seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT). ● Mission objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quantum Communication Network: Establishing a secure and high-bandwidth communication infrastructure spanning 2,000 kilometres. ○ Quantum Computing Power: Developing quantum computers with a processing capacity of 1,000 qubits, unlocking immense computational capabilities. ○ Magnetometry and Atomic Clocks: Advancing the development of highly sensitive magnetometers for precision measurements and reliable atomic clocks. ○ Quantum Materials Design: Synthesizing and characterizing novel quantum materials with tailored properties for cutting-edge device fabrication.
Swadesh Scheme	Darshan	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently, the 'Buddhist Circuit' has been identified as one of the thematic circuits for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Tourism. ● Type of Scheme: Central Sector Scheme. ● Launched in: 2014-15. ● Objective:

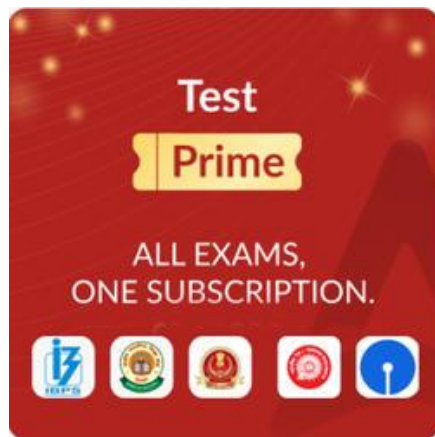


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing critical tourism infrastructure to make India a world class tourist destination. ○ This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, the driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential. ● Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It aims to evolve the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as a holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations covering tourism and allied infrastructure, tourism services, human capital development, destination management and promotion backed by policy and institutional reforms.
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