

**Currently – 4th July**

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**2. Counting Cancer: Making Cancer a Nationally Notifiable Disease**

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# Burning bright: tiger population quadruples at Assam's Nameri Tiger Reserve in 3 years

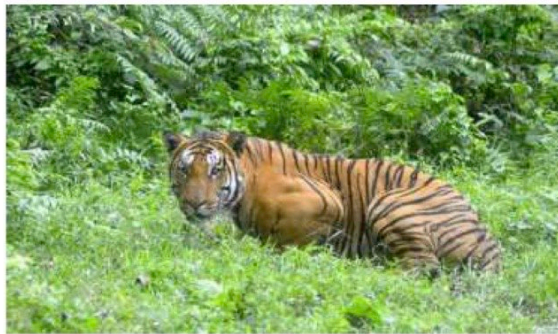
**Rahul Karmakar**

GUWAHATI

The population of tigers at the 344 square km Nameri Tiger Reserve in north-central Assam's Sonitpur district has quadrupled in three years, the State's Forest and Environment Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah said on Friday.

One of four tiger reserves in Assam, Nameri shares a boundary with the 1,276.95 sq. km Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. The other three tiger reserves are Kaziranga, Manas, and Orang, the first two being UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Mr. Mallabaruah said the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) validated the State Forest Department's 2025-end estimation of 12



One of four tiger reserves in Assam, Nameri shares a boundary with Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

tigers at Nameri. This was a four-fold increase from three striped cats recorded during the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) of 2022.

He attributed the "extraordinary results" to the forest conservation efforts under the guidance of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"From just 3 tigers in 2022 to 12 by the end of 2025, Nameri Tiger Reserve has scripted a remarkable conservation success," he said, also highlighting the return of tigers to the Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary after more than two decades.

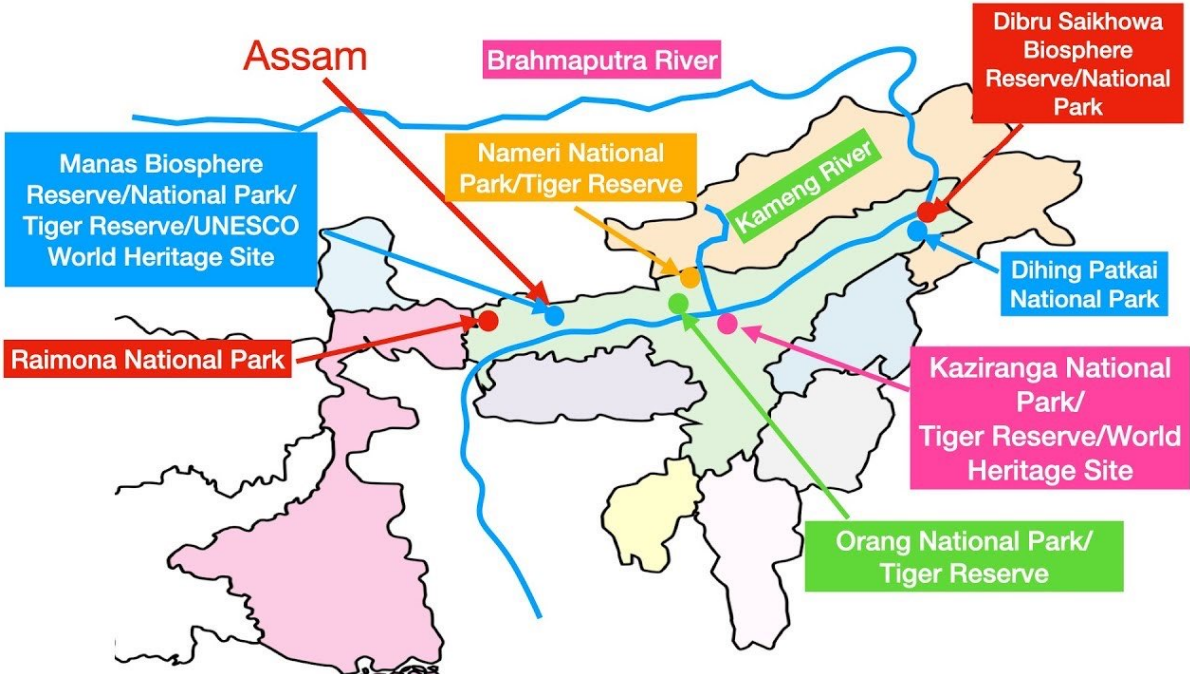
The tiger went locally

extinct at Sonai Rupai, Nameri's satellite core, in the early 2000s. "Scientific monitoring and long-term habitat protection are strengthening tiger conservation in the Nameri-Sonai Rupai landscape," Mr. Mallabaruah said.

## **Kaziranga status**

Better known for its one-horned rhinos, Kaziranga has one of the highest tiger densities – 13.44 per 100 sq. km – in India.

The 2022 AITE reported that Kaziranga had 104 tigers, one more than the number recorded in the 2014 AITE. However, 148 tigers were recorded in the 'Status of Tigers in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve', a report released by State Forest Department in 2024 stated.



Assam

Brahmaputra River

Dibru Saikhowa  
Biosphere  
Reserve/National  
Park

Manas Biosphere  
Reserve/National Park/  
Tiger Reserve/UNESCO  
World Heritage Site

Nameri National  
Park/Tiger Reserve

Kameng River

Dihing Patkai  
National Park

Raimona National Park

Kaziranga National  
Park/  
Tiger Reserve/World  
Heritage Site

Orang National Park/  
Tiger Reserve

With reference to Madhav National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. It was declared a Tiger Reserve in India in 2025.
2. Sakhya Sagar, which is designated as a Ramsar Site, is situated within this National Park.
3. Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Select the answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

## 1. Context (GS-3: Environment & Biodiversity)

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) validated the Assam Forest Department's 2025 tiger estimation, which recorded 12 tigers in Nameri Tiger Reserve, up from 3 tigers in the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2022, indicating a four-fold increase due to improved conservation.

## 2. Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*)

### I. Basics

- \* **Scientific name:** *Panthera tigris tigris* (Royal Bengal Tiger)
- \* India harbours ~75% of the world's wild tiger population.
- \* **Status:** IUCN – Endangered | **CITES** – Appendix I | **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** – Schedule I.

### II. Nameri Tiger Reserve

- \* Tiger population: 3 (AITE 2022) → 12 (2025 WII validation).
- \* Increase driven by habitat restoration, scientific monitoring, anti-poaching measures and landscape-level conservation.
- \* Tigers have recolonised **Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary (Assam)** after more than two decades.

## 3. Tiger Reserves of Assam

### I. Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam)

- \* UNESCO World Heritage Site; famous for the one-horned rhinoceros and India's 3rd highest tiger density.

### II. Manas Tiger Reserve (Assam)

- \* UNESCO World Heritage Site & Biosphere Reserve; famous for the Golden Langur and Pygmy Hog.

### III. Nameri Tiger Reserve (Assam)

- \* Shares a landscape with Pakke Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh); an important transboundary tiger corridor.

### IV. Orang Tiger Reserve (Assam)

- \* Known as the “Mini Kaziranga”; famous for the one-horned rhinoceros.

# Building water security in a rapidly drying India

Indian cities – from Bengaluru to Mussoorie (Uttarakhand) – are reeling under severe water stress. June saw a monsoon rainfall deficit of over 40%. Delhi is facing a severe shortage, and water supply has plummeted to about 70% of the total demand of 1,250 million gallons per day. Research by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) further finds that 11 out of 15 major river basins in India are experiencing water stress, with annual water availability below 1,700 m<sup>3</sup> per person. Several of them, including the Krishna, Cauvery, Mahi, and Tapi basins, are below the water scarcity threshold of 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> per person.

A recent report by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) warns of global water bankruptcy. Several river basins are polluted and closed, with no outflow to the sea. Aquifers are being depleted beyond safe limits. Nearly three-quarters of the global population lives in water-insecure countries, with four billion people facing severe water scarcity for at least one month a year.

## Water infrastructure gaps

India has an uneven distribution of water resources. With 4% of the world's water resources supporting 18% of the population, historically, the country has lived and grown with water uncertainty. While schemes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana have helped develop water supply infrastructure, concerns remain regarding the poor upkeep of existing infrastructure, inadequate wastewater treatment facilities, substantial conveyance losses, high levels of water pollution, and low cost recovery.

There are four interrelated actions that can help India navigate the 'state of bankruptcy' to become water secure.

First, invest in climate-proofing water systems



**Nitin Bassi**

Fellow at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

The monsoon cannot fix India's water problem; policy could

through granular climate risk assessments of water infrastructure and services. The CEEW's analysis of India's urban flood risk management shows that such assessments help prioritise investments in high to very high-risk locations, including coastal and low-lying areas such as Thane (Maharashtra) and Navsari (Gujarat), or areas with critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and electricity grids, as seen in Ahmedabad. These assessments are especially important for cash-strapped urban local bodies and panchayats. Cities should leverage existing mechanisms like the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) to finance them – for instance, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) recently secured ₹1,501 crore under the UCF for water supply and drainage, part of which could support water risk assessments.

Second, enable water reuse for non-potable purposes in urban areas. Shifting from a linear to a circular approach to water use is essential to reduce pressure on freshwater resources. Used water can be treated and reused for activities such as car washing, landscaping, and cooling data centres. City-level reuse planning is key to achieving this. The Thane Municipal Corporation is adopting a scientific approach to scale up treated wastewater reuse, including for construction, to reduce its annual freshwater deficit of 53 million litres per day and generate revenue. According to CEEW analysis, the economic opportunity from the sale of treated wastewater could reach ₹3 lakh crore and generate 1,00,000 additional jobs by 2047.

Third, scale up micro-irrigation systems, including drip and sprinkler technologies that deliver water to crops more efficiently than flood irrigation. Expanding these systems beyond the current 20% coverage of India's potential 72 million hectares of irrigated area requires large-scale interventions. First, the CEEW's Gujarat research shows that micro-irrigation

subsidies should be redesigned for small and marginal farmers by using 0.4 hectares instead of one hectare as the base unit. Second, farmers need support to shift to low-water, higher-value crops such as horticulture and oilseeds to recover costs, as seen in Andhra Pradesh's Rayalaseema region. Third, low-cost insurance with faster claims, including through a strengthened Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, can help smallholders manage climate and crop risks.

## Close water data gaps

Finally, generate data at the river basin level to improve decision-making. India has good data on water availability, but limited data on withdrawals, losses, and consumption at the basin scale. This makes it difficult to assess actual water use, gauge efficiency gains, or allocate water judiciously – often leading one sector to gain at the expense of others, while the lack of data encourages "free riding", with users extracting as much as the source allows. Artificial Intelligence-based monitoring of water conveyance infrastructure can help detect and measure losses and also generate data. Cities such as Delhi and Bhubaneswar (Odisha) are installing smart bulk water meters to identify and reduce physical losses during distribution. Equally important is analysing end-user consumption by scaling up smart metering and using advanced water accounting tools. India's rollout of over 4.93 crore smart electricity meters can serve as a model for the water sector.

Water is an economic resource – it powers lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Reversing water bankruptcy will be the foundation of social welfare. Political will, transparent governance, and societal trust are the levers. Pull them, and India can still turn the tide toward a water-secure future.



## 1. Context (GS-3: Water Resource Management)

Increasing water stress, declining per capita water availability and climate variability have highlighted the need for climate-resilient water governance. India has only 4% of the world's freshwater resources but supports nearly 18% of the global population, while 11 of the 15 major river basins are already water-stressed.

## 2. Key Challenges

### I. Rising Water Stress

\* 11 of 15 major river basins are water-stressed; several basins have  $<1,700 \text{ m}^3$  per capita annual water availability, while some have already crossed the water-scarcity threshold ( $<1,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{person}/\text{year}$ ).

\* Groundwater depletion, pollution and erratic rainfall are aggravating water insecurity.

### II. Infrastructure & Governance Gaps

\* High transmission losses, inadequate wastewater treatment and poor maintenance of water infrastructure.

\* Limited river-basin level data on water use, withdrawals and losses leads to inefficient water allocation.

## 3. Way Forward

### I. Build Climate-Resilient Water Infrastructure

\* Climate-risk assessment of water projects and strengthen urban water systems.

### II. Improve Water-Use Efficiency

\* Scale up micro-irrigation (drip & sprinkler), treated wastewater reuse and shift towards low water-intensive crops.

### III. Strengthen Water Governance

\* Expand AI-enabled monitoring, smart water metering and river-basin water accounting for evidence-based planning.

### IV. Strengthen Flagship Schemes

\* Improve implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and promote climate-resilient agriculture.

## IRRIGATION-LED AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

### 02 CONTEXT

- Launched on 1 July 2015 with the vision of "Har Khet Ko Pani" and "Per Drop More Crop", PMKSY has completed **10 years** of implementation.
- It has played a pivotal role in expanding irrigation, improving water-use efficiency and promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in India.

### 03 FOUR MAJOR COMPONENTS OF PMKSY

#### 1 ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFIT PROGRAMME (AIBP)



Focuses on expeditious completion of major and medium irrigation projects.

#### 2 HAR KHET KO PANI (HKKP)



Provides end-to-end solutions for expanding irrigation coverage through surface water, minor irrigation, groundwater and other sources.

#### 3 WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT



Focuses on rainfed areas to conserve soil and water, enhance productivity and restore ecological balance.

#### 4 PER DROP MORE CROP (PDMC)



Promotes micro-irrigation (drip & sprinkler) to enhance water-use efficiency and ensure "More Crop per Drop".  
Since 2022-23, PDMC is a stand-alone component under PM-RKVY.

### 04 TEN-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS (SINCE 2016-17)

Farmers Benefited	Over 2.7 crore
Irrigation Potential Created/Restored	24.61 million hectares
Central Assistance Released	₹64,407 crore
Area under Micro-Irrigation (via PDMC)	110.92 lakh hectares
Share of Net Sown Area under Micro-Irrigation	7.98%
Budget Allocation 2026-27	₹6,587 crore
PMKSY (2021-26) Total Outlay	₹93,068.56 crore

### 05 OBJECTIVES

- Expand assured irrigation coverage.
- Improve water-use efficiency.
- Promote precision irrigation (micro-irrigation).
- Develop water resources sustainably.
- Conserve rainwater and recharge groundwater.
- Enhance agricultural productivity and farmers' income.

### 06 NEW DEVELOPMENT: M-CADWM



- Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) approved as a sub-scheme under PMKSY-AIBP (2025-26).
- Initial Outlay: ₹1,600 crore.
- Focus: Promoting pressurised piped irrigation and micro-irrigation systems for efficient water delivery and better farm productivity.

### 07 MICRO-IRRIGATION (PDMC) - KEY FEATURES

Financial Assistance under PDMC	Small & Marginal Farmers <b>55%</b>	Other Farmers <b>45%</b>
Methods Promoted	Drip Irrigation: Water delivered directly to the root zone. Sprinkler Irrigation: Water sprayed like rainfall.	
Implemented in part through	Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) managed by NABARD.	

### 08 SIGNIFICANCE OF PMKSY

- Expands irrigation coverage and reduces regional disparities.
- Improves water-use efficiency and conserves water resources.
- Enhances agricultural productivity and farmers' income.
- Promotes climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.
- Supports achievement of SDGs and national goals.

### 09 CHALLENGES



- Groundwater depletion and over-extraction in water-stressed regions.
- Uneven adoption of micro-irrigation, especially among small farmers.
- Inadequate O&M of irrigation assets and command area management.
- Climate change leading to erratic rainfall, floods and droughts.
- Need for convergence among departments, states and local institutions.

### 10 WAY FORWARD



- Enhance convergence with MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission, watershed programmes and state schemes.
- Scale up micro-irrigation through awareness, credit support and technology access.
- Strengthen O&M, water pricing reforms and capacity building.
- Promote community participation and water budgeting.
- Use technology (IoT, GIS, remote sensing) for smart irrigation planning and monitoring.

### 11 VALUE ADDITION

#### CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- Article 48A: State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.
- Article 51A(g): It shall be the duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife.



#### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- NABARD manages the Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) to promote micro-irrigation.
- States/UTs, Water User Associations (WUAs), Panchayati Raj Institutions and Farmers' Organisations play a key role in implementation.



#### ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs

- SDG 2 Zero Hunger
- SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation
- SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13 Climate Action
- SDG 15 Life on Land

### 12 UPSC MAINS QUESTION (GS-3 - 150 WORDS)



PMKSY has completed a decade of implementation in India. In the context of rising water stress and climate variability, critically examine the effectiveness of PMKSY in promoting sustainable irrigation and agricultural transformation. Suggest measures to strengthen the scheme for long-term water security and farmer welfare.

# Counting cancer

Making cancer a notifiable disease at the national level is the way forward

**W**hat's good for the goose is surely good for the geese. What the States will benefit from, the country could too. In India, cancer is not a notifiable disease at the national level, keeping with the Health Ministry's position that such notification is only for communicable diseases. Population-based cancer registries and hospital-based cancer registries are currently the only national tool at the disposal of the Centre to count cancer cases. Unfortunately, these registries cover about 10%-16 % of the population, and have an urban, government health care set-up skew. However, several States have taken the lead on this front, making cancer a notifiable disease within their boundaries. Telangana is the latest to join the list of States that have made cancer a notifiable disease, bringing the total number of States doing so to 17.

With the Global Cancer Observatory (affiliated to the World Health Organization) projecting an estimated increase of 1.05 million cases between 2022 (1.41 million) and 2045 (2.46 million), the rise is expected to be a staggering over 74%. Given these projections, thanks to an increasing life span and ageing demographics, changes in lifestyle and diet, it becomes all the more important to be armed with data and get ready for vanguard action from a public health point of view. While State action can, to an extent, solve the data question, any benefit thus derived from notifying health authorities of every single case of cancer, it cannot become a rubric by which the nation can contour its cancer control programme. Apart from existing registries covering mostly urban and semi-urban posts, care in India is also delivered in good measure through the private sector and that data set is not uniformly captured. The Indian government must pay heed to its own counsel, the Indian Council of Medical Research, National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (now ICMR-NINE) had recommended that cancer be made a notifiable disease years ago. It is a fact that establishing cancer as a notifiable disease will mean a sudden increase in the number of cases being recorded, but it must not be considered a liability. Instead, it is merely part of the process of crafting a studied, and evidence-based response – health care and information, education, and communication (IEC) – to cancer at the country level. While bold advances in research and treatment methodologies have retrieved cancer from the fear and the utter helplessness surrounding it, the heart of the issue remains the lack of data. Taking lessons from the States, the Centre must recalibrate and make cancer a notifiable disease in India.

## 1. **Context (GS-2: Public Health)**

With cancer cases projected to rise from 1.41 million (2022) to 2.46 million (2045) (~74% increase) according to the Global Cancer Observatory (GCO), there is a growing demand to make cancer a nationally notifiable disease to strengthen surveillance and evidence-based policymaking. While 17 States (including Telangana) have already notified cancer under their respective public health laws, India has not yet declared cancer a nationally notifiable disease.

## 2. **Cancer as a Notifiable Disease**

I. **Existing System:** India currently relies on the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) through Population-Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) and Hospital-Based Cancer Registries (HBCRs).

\* These registries cover only 10–16% of the population, leading to incomplete national data.

### II. **What is a Notifiable Disease?**

\* A disease that must be reported by all hospitals, laboratories and registered medical practitioners to the designated public health authority for surveillance and public health action.

### III. **Who Can Notify a Disease?**

\* State Governments can notify diseases under their respective State Public Health Acts (hence States like Telangana have already notified cancer).

\* The Union Government can declare a disease nationally notifiable, making reporting mandatory across all States and Union Territories through a uniform framework.

### IV. **Advantages of National Notification**

\* Creates a comprehensive nationwide cancer database.

\* Ensures uniform reporting from both public and private healthcare facilities.

\* Improves early detection of trends and regional hotspots.

\* Enables better policy formulation, resource allocation and cancer control programmes.

\* Strengthens research, surveillance and monitoring.

# DAC gives approval for military purchase worth ₹52,000 crore

**Saurabh Trivedi**

NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Friday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for defence acquisition proposals worth nearly ₹52,000 crore aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The Ministry of Defence stated that the DAC approved the procurement of Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Electronic Warfare System Akash Tarang, Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) systems, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) weapon systems, Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (V-SHORADS), Active Protection Systems for tanks and jet-based Kamikaze drone systems, for the Indian Army.

Akash Tarang is designed to provide effective

protection against hostile drones, while the MPATGM will strengthen the infantry's capability to counter enemy armoured formations. The MRSAM system will enhance medium-range air defence against a range of aerial threats. The Kamikaze drone system will provide enhanced electronic warfare capability with greater lethality and cost-effectiveness.

For the Indian Navy, the Council approved the acquisition of Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM), Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems (NSUAS) and the establishment of a Land Based Testing Facility (LBTF) for Electric Propulsion Systems, it added.

The DAC also approved the procurement of Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (FW-HAPS) and other proposals for the Indian Air Force. The FW-HAPS platform will be enhancing the Air Force's operational reach.

### 1. **Context (GS-3: Defence Modernisation)**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for capital acquisition proposals worth ~₹52,000 crore to enhance the operational capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force, with a major focus on indigenisation and next-generation defence technologies.

2. **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** is the highest decision-making body for capital defence procurement.

\* **Chairperson:** Defence Minister.

\* **Grants Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)**—the first stage of the defence procurement process.

### 3. **Important Defence Systems Approved**

I. **Akash Tarang (India)** – Indigenous Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Electronic Warfare System for detecting, tracking and neutralising hostile drones.

II. **MPATGM (Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile)** – India – DRDO-developed fire-and-forget missile for destroying enemy tanks and armoured vehicles.

III. **MRSAM (Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile)** – India–Israel – Jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for air defence against aircraft, helicopters, drones and missiles.

IV. **V-SHORADS (Very Short-Range Air Defence System)** – India – DRDO-developed man-portable air defence missile to counter low-flying aerial threats.

V. **FW-HAPS (Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellite)** – Solar-powered, high-altitude unmanned platform for persistent Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR), communication and border surveillance.

# PIB ANALYSIS



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

4 JULY 2026 | FRIDAY

🔍 KEY FACTS

🏠 ANALYSIS

🎯 SIGNIFICANCE

🚀 WAY FORWARD

🎓 UPSC RELEVANCE

## 1 INDIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL FUTURE: BUILDING A STANDARDISED PATH FOR EXPANSION

### FIRST BULLET TRAIN CORRIDOR

Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR)



- 📏 Length: 508 km
- 🕒 Travel Time: 1 hour 58 minutes
- 🚉 Stations: 12
- 🚄 Design Speed: 350 kmph
- 🚄 Operational Speed: 320 kmph
- 📅 Expected Commencement: August 2027
- 📍 First Section: Surat to Vapi

### TECHNICAL FEATURES

- ⚡ 2x25 KV Overhead Electrification
- 🏗️ 20,000+ OHE masts
- 🏠 12 Traction Substations
- 🏠 2 Depot Traction Substations
- 🏠 16 Distribution Substations
- 🏠 J-Slab Ballastless Track Technology (First time in India)
- 🚚 3 Rolling Stock Depots: Sabarmati | Surat | Thane

### MAKE IN INDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- 🇮🇳 ICE & REMU developing indigenous 280 kmph trains
- 🇮🇳 Indigenous production of Slab track systems, Construction equipment, Components
- 🇮🇳 "Aditya" facility, Bengaluru for B-28 coaches
- 🇮🇳 Research by IITS, specialised training and adoption of Japanese practices



### FUTURE EXPANSION PLAN

- 7 High-Speed Rail Corridors across India
- Total Length nearly 4,000 km
- Estimated Investment ₹ 16 lakh crore

### PROPOSED 7 HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDORS

Corridor	Route	Duration
1	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	3 h 50 m
2	Varanasi-Patna-Siliguri	2 h 55 m
3	Chennai-Bengaluru	1 h 13 m
4	Bengaluru-Hyderabad	1 h 31 m
5	Chennai-Hyderabad	2 h 55 m
6	Mumbai-Pune	~35 m
7	Pune-Hyderabad	~55 m

GS RELEVANCE: GS III – Infrastructure, Transport, Manufacturing, Make in India

## 2 BUILDING WATER SECURITY IN A RAPIDLY DRYING INDIA

### KEY CONCERNS

- India has only 4% of the world's water resources but supports 18% of the global population.
- 11 out of 15 major river basins are water-stressed.
- Per capita water availability is below 1,700 m<sup>3</sup>/year; several basins are below the water scarcity threshold of 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year.
- Groundwater depletion, pollution, high transmission losses and inadequate wastewater treatment worsen the crisis.

### WAY FORWARD

- Invest in climate-resilient water infrastructure and conduct climate risk assessments.
- Promote water-use efficiency: scale up micro-irrigation, treated wastewater reuse and low water-intensive crops.
- Strengthen water governance with basin-level data, smart metering and AI-based monitoring.
- Strengthen Jal Jeevan Mission, PMKSY and crop insurance; support small and marginal farmers.

### SIGNIFICANCE

- Ensures water security for people, agriculture and industry.
- Supports sustainable development and climate resilience.
- Strengthens food security and rural livelihoods.
- Promotes inclusive and efficient water governance.

GS RELEVANCE: GS III – Water Resources, Agriculture, Environment

## 3 7th NATIONAL WATER AWARDS



- Launched by: Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
- Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Applications through: Rashtriya Puraskar Portal ([www.awards.gov.in](http://www.awards.gov.in))
- Last Date: 28 August 2026
- Eligible: States, Districts, ULBs, Dam-owning Agencies, Industries
- Objective: Promote 'Jal Samridh Bharat' and encourage best water conservation practices

### CATEGORIES & SUB-CATEGORIES

S. No.	Category	Sub-Categories	Eligible Entity	No. of Awards
1.	Best State	• Water Resource Management • Jal Samridh (Large States) • Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	State Govt/UT	3 Awards each (1st, Second, Third)
2.	Best District	• Water Resource Management • Jal Samridh (All Districts) • Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	District Admn/ DWOC	15 Awards each (Pre, First, Second, Third)
3.	Best Urban Local Body	• Water Resource Management • Jal Samridh (All ULBs)	Urban Local Body	5 Awards each (One per zone)
4.	Best Implemented Project in Water Sector	Theme – Dam Safety	Project Implementing Authorities	3 Awards (Pre, First, Third)
5.	Best Industry for CSR Initiative in Water Sector	CSR Initiative in Water Sector	Industry	3 Awards (Pre, Second, Third)

GS RELEVANCE: GS III & III – Water Resources, Environment, Governance, Jal Shakti Mission

## 4 NCW WOMEN HELPLINE – 14490: A DEDICATED PLATFORM FOR WOMEN'S SUPPORT



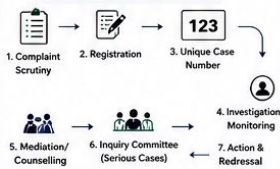
Existing NCW Helpline  
**7827170170**

Available 24x7  
For Women/Girls  
above 18 years of age

### SERVICES PROVIDED

- Digital Complaint Registration
- Psychological Counselling
- Referral to Police
- Referral to Hospitals
- District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)
- One Stop Centres (OSC)
- Protection Officers
- Information on Govt. Schemes

### COMPLAINT PROCESS



### IMPORTANCE

- Supports Digital India
- Generates data for policy reforms
- Sensitisation of Police, Judicial Officers, Prosecutors, Forensic Experts & Administrative Officers
- Strengthens access to justice & women empowerment

GS RELEVANCE: GS III – Women Empowerment, Governance, Social Justice, Digital India



**UnderStand UPSC**  
What we UnderStand, We Conquer

