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EXCLUSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN

JAL MAHOTSAV 2026



Highlights at a Glance

- **Launch Date:** 8th March 2026 (International Women's Day), also observed as Sujalam Shakti Diwas.
- **Launch Venue:** Gujarat.
- **Organizing Ministry:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Duration:** Annual campaign from 8th March to 22nd March.
- **Tagline:** "Gaon ka Utsav, Desh ka Mahotsav" (Village's festival, nation's festival).
- **Core Objective:** Strengthen community participation in rural drinking water management and promote water conservation under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Major Events and Activities

- Jal Arpan Diwas: The inaugural ceremo-

ny focused on the formal handover of rural drinking water assets (such as tap connections and greywater management structures) to Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs). This event symbolizes the transfer of ownership to the community.

- **Jal Bandhan:** A symbolic activity where community members tie sacred threads at water infrastructure sites, representing their emotional and social commitment to protecting these assets.
- **Jal Sankalp:** A community-wide pledge taken to reaffirm the collective commitment to conserve water and sustainably manage village water systems.

Implementation Framework and Village-Level Activities

The campaign is implemented at four levels: National, State, District, and Gram

Panchayat. Specific activities at the Gram Panchayat level include:

- 'Har Ghar Jal' Declarations: Celebrating villages that have achieved 100% functional household tap connections.
- 'Jal Chaupal' Dialogues: Community meetings to discuss and formulate village-level water security plans.
- Water Quality Testing Demonstrations: Practical, hands-on sessions conducted in schools using Field Testing Kits (FTKs) to build local capacity for water quality surveillance.
- 'Lok Jal Utsav' Calendars: Preparation of localized calendars to plan and schedule water-related events and activities throughout the year at the village level.

Central Role of Women: Sujalam Shakti

The campaign places a strong emphasis on the transformative role of women in water governance

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INDIA – CANADA

New Phase in Bilateral Relations

Why in News...?

- The Prime Minister of Canada visited India in 2026, marking a strategic reset in India–Canada relations after diplomatic tensions during 2023–24.
- Both countries are trying to rebuild cooperation in trade, energy, defence dialogue and technology partnerships.

Major Outcomes of the Visit

Restart of Trade Negotiations

- India and Canada restarted negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Both countries aim to increase bilateral trade to around USD 50 billion by 2030.
- CEPA will cover trade in goods, services, investment and mobility of professionals.

Uranium Supply Agreement

- India signed a long-term uranium supply agreement with Canadian company Cameco.
- This will support India's nuclear power expansion programme.
- Nuclear energy is important for clean and reliable electricity generation.

Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Cooperation

- Both countries signed an MoU on critical minerals supply chains.
- Canada joined the International Solar

Alliance (ISA) and Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA).

- Cooperation areas include renewable energy, battery storage and clean technologies.

Defence Cooperation

- India and Canada agreed to start their first Defence Dialogue.
- Focus areas include maritime security and strategic cooperation.

Innovation & Technology Cooperation

- AICTE and the Canadian organisation

Mitacs agreed to provide research internships for Indian students.

- The partnership will promote collaboration in innovation and emerging technologies

Agricultural Cooperation

- Both countries plan to establish a Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence in India.
- The aim is to develop protein-rich food products and improve food technology.

Importance of Uranium for India

- Uranium is the main fuel used in nuclear reactors.
- India's current nuclear power capacity is about 9 GW.
- India plans to expand nuclear capacity to about 100 GW by 2047.
- Indian uranium ore has lower concentration compared to global standards, so imports are necessary.

Significance of India–Canada Relations

- India and Canada have over 75 years of diplomatic relations.
- The relationship was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership in 2018.

▶▶ Continued on P3



▶▶ From P3

- Over 24 lakh women are actively engaged in water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs).
- The campaign recognizes and celebrates the leadership of women in various roles, including as pump operators, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and members of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs).
- It highlights a key social impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission: access to tap water at home has significantly reduced the daily burden on women and girls who previously spent time and effort fetching water.

Vision and Significance

- Convergence: The festival promotes

inter-ministerial coordination, bringing together various government departments for a holistic approach to water management.

- Long-Term Goal: It aims to build a nationwide movement towards creating 'Sujal Gram' (water-sufficient villages).
- Link to National Vision: The campaign is a strategic tool to achieve the goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission and directly contributes to the broader national vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047.

Conclusion

Jal Mahotsav thus emerges as a cornerstone of participatory water governance, transforming rural water supply from a top-down infrastructure scheme into a community-owned, women-led movement for enduring water security.7. Prelims

Practice Question

Practice question:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Jal Mahotsav' campaign:

1. It is a flagship campaign of the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. The campaign is observed annually from 8th March to 22nd March.
3. 'Jal Arpan Diwas' involves the formal handing over of water assets to Gram Panchayats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (B) 2 and 3 only.

Exercise LAMITIYE-2026



Exercise Details

- **Name:** Exercise LAMITIYE-2026.
- **Meaning:** 'LAMITIYE' means "Friendship" in the Creole language.
- **Edition:** 11th Edition.
- **Participants:** Indian Armed Forces and the Seychelles Defence Forces.
- **Significance of 2026 Edition:** Marks the first tri-service participation by India.
- **Indian Army:** Personnel from the ASSAM Regiment.
- **Indian Navy:** INS Trikand.
- **Indian Air Force:** C-130J Super Hercules aircraft.
- **Frequency:** Biennial exercise, conducted since 2001.

Scope & Objectives

- **Focus Area:** Enhancing interoperability in sub-conventional operations, specifically in semi-urban environments.
- **Core Objectives:**
 - Strengthening coordination for peace-keeping operations.
 - Exchanging tactical skills and drill procedures.

- Sharing knowledge on new military technologies.
- Fostering mutual understanding and cooperation between the forces of both nations.

Strategic Significance for India

- **Maritime Security Partner:** Seychelles is a key partner in ensuring security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), a critical area for India's strategic and economic interests.
- **Alignment with SAGAR Vision:** The exercise directly supports India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), which emphasizes enhancing the capacity and cooperation of maritime neighbours.
- **Countering Influence:** Strengthening ties with Seychelles helps maintain India's traditional influence in the region and ensures a stable neighborhood.

Seychelles at a Glance

- **Location:** An archipelagic nation comprising 155 islands in the western Indian Ocean.
- **Geography:** Located northeast of Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa. It sits on the Mascarene Plateau.
- **Capital:** Victoria, located on the main

island, Mahé.

- **Importance:** Africa's smallest country, but holds strategic importance due to its location along key international maritime trade routes (Sea Lanes of Communication - SLOCs).

Conclusion

Exercise LAMITIYE-2026 elevates routine drills into a strategic pillar of India's Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR vision. Upgrading to a tri-service format deepens the India-Seychelles strategic partnership, expanding from land forces to unified maritime-aerospace operations. A stable Seychelles safeguards vital sea lanes, cementing this exercise as a bedrock of India's maritime security.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following pairs: Exercise Participating Nations

1. LAMITIYE India & Maldives
2. MITRA SHAKTI India & Sri Lanka
3. VARUNA India & France

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All three
(D) None

Answer: (A) Only one

► From P2

- Canada provides natural resources, technology and investment.
- India provides a large market and skilled workforce.
- Bilateral trade reached about USD 30 billion in recent years.
- Around 1.8 million people of Indian origin live in Canada, strengthening cultural and economic ties.

Challenges in the Relationship

- Concerns related to Khalistani extremism.
- Trade barriers and regulatory differences.
- Visa and diplomatic tensions affecting



students and professionals.

Conclusion

India and Canada are moving towards rebuilding trust and expanding cooperation after a period of diplomatic tension. Strengthening trade, energy partnerships,

technological cooperation and security dialogue can deepen the bilateral relationship. A strong India-Canada partnership will contribute to economic growth, energy security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Practice Prelims Question

Which of the following explains why India imports uranium?

- A. India has no uranium reserves
- B. Indian uranium ore has lower uranium concentration than global standards
- C. Nuclear energy is not used in India
- D. India imports uranium from only one country

Answer: B

WEAPONS IN THE US-ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

Why in News...?

The ongoing conflict between the US-Israel bloc and Iran has highlighted a new era of warfare, featuring one of the most technologically complex drone and missile battles in modern military history.

2. Iran's Arsenal: Offensive and Defensive Systems :

A. Offensive Systems:

- Shahed-136 & Shahed-131 Drones: Low-cost loitering munitions ("kamikaze drones") used in massive "swarm tactics" to overwhelm and financially exhaust enemy air defences.
- Shahab-3 Missile: Medium-range ballistic missile (range: ~2,000 km). It is the backbone of Iran's long-range strike capability.
- Fattah Missile: Claimed hypersonic missile (speed: up to Mach 15, range: 1,400 km) designed for maneuverability to bypass anti-missile shields.
- Khorramshahr Missile: Highly destructive ballistic missile.
- Paveh Cruise Missile: Land-attack cruise missile (range: 1,650 km) capable of mid-flight course alteration.
- Sejjil & Emad Missiles: Sejjil is a solid-fueled medium-range ballistic missile (faster launch than liquid-fueled ones). Emad is a precision-guided missile



with a maneuverable re-entry vehicle (MaRV).

B. Defensive Systems:

- Bavar-373: Long-range mobile air defence system, comparable to advanced systems like the S-400, designed to intercept aircraft and ballistic missiles.
- Sevom-e-Khordad: Mobile air defence system for targeting aircraft and cruise missiles.
- Tor-M1: Short-range system for intercepting precision munitions, drones, and cruise missiles.
- Majid & Azarakhsh: Systems designed specifically to counter drones and low-flying aerial threats.

3. US Arsenal: Offensive and Defensive Systems :

A. Offensive Systems:

- B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber: Advanced

- low-radar-signature aircraft used to penetrate heavily defended airspace.
- GBU-57 MOP (Massive Ordnance Penetrator): A 30,000-pound "bunker-buster" bomb, deliverable only by the B-2, designed to destroy deeply buried facilities like nuclear sites.
- Tomahawk Cruise Missiles: Subsonic, low-altitude precision missiles using GPS, INS, TERCOM, and DSMAC for guidance.
- LUCAS Drone (Low-Cost Uncrewed Combat Attack System): Inexpensive, expendable one-way attack drone, a direct counter to Iran's Shahed swarms.
- PrSM (Precision Strike Missile): Short-range ballistic missile (range: up to 400 km) fired from HIMARS systems.
- MQ-9 Reaper Drones: Long-endurance UAVs for surveillance and precision strikes with Hellfire missiles.
- Boeing P-8I: Multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft for ASW, ISR, and search and rescue.

B. Defensive Systems:

- THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense): Advanced anti-ballistic missile system that intercepts short, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their final flight phase, using "hit-to-kill" technology.
- Patriot Missile System (PAC-3): Defends against lower-altitude threats like cruise missiles and drones.



- **APKWS (Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System):** A cost-effective solution converting unguided rockets into laser-guided weapons to destroy slow-moving drones.
- **Coyote Anti-Drone System:** A radar-guided, jet-powered interceptor drone that hunts and crashes into hostile drones.
- **SM-3 & SM-6 (US Navy):** Sea-based interceptors; SM-3 targets missiles in midcourse, SM-6 targets them in the terminal phase.
- **IFPC (Indirect Fire Protection Capability):** Uses AIM-9X missiles to defend bases from drones and rockets, conserving Patriot missiles.

4. Israel's Arsenal: Offensive and Defensive Systems

A. Offensive Systems:

- **Blue Sparrow Missile:** An air-launched quasi-ballistic missile (range: ~2,000 km), originally a target for the Arrow system, adapted for offensive strikes. Launched from F-15 jets.
- **Jericho Missile Family:**
- **Jericho-2:** Medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) (range: 1,500–3,000 km).
- **Jericho-3:** Intermediate-range ballistic

missile (IRBM) (range: 4,800–6,500 km), forming the core of Israel's strategic deterrence.

- **F-35I "Adir":** Fifth-generation stealth fighter, enabling deep strikes inside Iranian airspace by evading advanced air defence systems.

B. Defensive Systems:

- **Arrow-2 & Arrow-3:** Long-range ballistic missile defence. Arrow-3 intercepts missiles outside the atmosphere (exo-atmospheric), Arrow-2 within the atmosphere.
- **David's Sling:** Designed to intercept medium-to-long-range rockets, cruise missiles, and tactical ballistic missiles.
- **Iron Dome:** Short-range defence system highly effective against rockets, artillery shells, and drones.
- **Iron Beam:** Directed-energy laser system that destroys drones and small projectiles at a very low cost per intercept.
- **C-Dome:** Naval version of the Iron Dome, deployed on warships to protect offshore assets and maritime borders.

Conclusion

The US-Israel-India conflict exemplifies

modern warfare's paradigm shift: from brute firepower to asymmetric drone swarms clashing with high-tech defenses like hypersonics, stealth, directed-energy weapons, and cost-imposing tactics that bleed expensive interceptors. For India, it delivers vital lessons in indigenous systems, ballistic missile defense, and countering aerial threats in contested skies.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. With reference to the missile systems used in the US-Israel-India conflict, consider the following statements:

1. **THAAD** is an anti-ballistic missile system that uses "hit-to-kill" technology to intercept targets.
2. The **Fattah** missile, used by Iran, is a subsonic cruise missile.
3. The **Blue Sparrow** is an air-launched missile originally developed by Israel as a target practice system.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All three
(D) None

Answer: (B) Only two

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES

1. Why in News?

A concerning interim update to the United Nations (UN) State of the World's Migratory Species report 2024 reveals a rapid deterioration in the health of global migratory species protected under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

2. Findings of the Interim Report :

- **Rapid Population Declines:** The proportion of CMS-listed species with declining populations has jumped from 44% to 49% in just two years.
- **Increased Extinction Risk:** Currently, 24% of all CMS-listed species (up from 22%) are now threatened with extinction.
- **Worsening Conservation Status:** Out of 386 species reassessed for the IUCN Red List since 2022, 34 species (9%) moved to a higher threat category. Of these, 26 moved to a more threatened category (e.g., from Endangered to Critically



Endangered).

- **Shorebirds Worst Affected:** A significant 69% of the declining species are migratory shorebirds, primarily due to habitat loss at critical stopover sites.

3. Major Threats to Migratory Species : Threat Description & Examples

- **Habitat Loss & Fragmentation Expansion**

of linear infrastructure (roads, railways, fences) fragments habitats. Example: Drastic decline in Mongolian Gazelle mobility. Land-use change caused a 75% decline in Mara-Loita Blue Wildebeest since the 1970s.

- **Emerging Threat:** Avian Flu Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has emerged as a major new threat, causing

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mass mortality in penguins, pelicans, cranes, and even aquatic mammals like fur seals.

- Overexploitation & Bycatch For sharks and rays, overfishing and accidental bycatch remain primary threats. Raptor populations are heavily impacted by illegal killing and poisoning.

4. Examples of Species Decline and Recovery :

Species in Decline:

- Mongolian Gazelle: Drastic reduction in mobility due to fenced infrastructure.
- Mara-Loita Blue Wildebeest: Population crashed by 75% since the late 1970s.
- Migratory Shorebirds: 69% of declining CMS species are shorebirds.

Success Stories (Recoveries due to Conservation):

- Scimitar-horned Oryx: Reclassified from Extinct in the Wild to Endangered after successful reintroduction in Chad.
- Saiga Antelope: Population in Kazakhstan rebounded spectacularly, moving from Endangered to Near Threatened.
- Mediterranean Monk Seal: Improved from Endangered to Vulnerable.

5. About Migratory Species and Their Protection :

- Definition: Wild animals (birds, aquatic, terrestrial) whose populations cyclically and predictably cross national boundaries. They depend on interconnected sites for breeding, feeding, and resting (stopovers).

• Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):

- Also called the Bonn Convention (1979).
- A legally binding treaty under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

- Provides a global framework for range states to cooperate on conserving trans-boundary species and their habitats.

CMS Appendices:

- Appendix I: Lists endangered migratory species. Parties must provide strict protection (prohibit taking, conserve habitats, mitigate obstacles). Indian examples: Great Indian Bustard, Siberian Crane, Olive Ridley Turtle.
- Appendix II: Lists species with unfavourable conservation status that would benefit from international cooperation (Agreements or MoUs).

• India and CMS:

- India has been a party to the CMS since 1983.
- India is strategically located along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) , a major route for hundreds of migratory bird populations.
- Key migratory species in India: Amur Falcon, Bar-headed Goose, Snow Leopard, Asian Elephant, Marine Turtles.

6. Steps Needed for Conservation (Priority Actions) :

- Protect, Connect, Restore Habitats:
- Expand protected areas to cover key biodiversity sites.
- Restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030 (aligned with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 2).
- Prioritize ecological connectivity.
- Integrate species priorities into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
- Minimize infrastructure impacts through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
- Tackle Overexploitation:
- Strengthen international cooperation to

- reduce bycatch and illegal killing.
- Ratify the BBNJ Treaty (High Seas Treaty) for marine biodiversity.
- Ensure national laws fully protect Appendix I species.
- Reduce Pollution Impacts:
- Mitigate light pollution and underwater noise using CMS guidelines.
- Phase out toxic lead ammunition.
- Tackle plastic pollution.
- Address Climate Change:
- Use ecosystem restoration to lessen the impact of extreme weather.
- Ensure renewable energy infrastructure is built without harming migratory species. following CMS Energy Task Force guidance.

Conclusion :

The UN report's alarm on migratory species' rapid decline signals a fracturing planetary health chain, broken by human pressures across borders. Yet, triumphs like the Saiga Antelope and Scimitar-horned Oryx show international conservation succeeds. For India - CMS signatory and flyway host—this demands bolstered habitats, mitigated infrastructure harms, and regional leadership to protect our shared heritage.

PYQ (2014)

Q. The most important strategy for the conservation of biodiversity together with traditional human life is the establishment of

(a) biosphere reserves
(b) botanical gardens
(c) national parks
(d) wildlife sanctuaries

Ans: (a)





LIGO-India Project

Why in News...?

India's ambitious Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) project, located in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra, is facing significant implementation delays. Despite official assurances, concerns remain over its revised completion timeline of 2030.

What is the LIGO-India Project?

- **About:** LIGO-India is India's first major gravitational-wave observatory. It will be the 5th node in the global gravitational-wave detection network, joining existing observatories in the US (Hanford and Livingston), Italy (Virgo), and Japan (KAGRA).
- **Lead Agencies:** Jointly led by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **Collaborations:** Implemented in collaboration with the US LIGO Laboratory and Indian institutions like the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune.
- **Scientific Objectives:**
 - Enhance the sky coverage and sensitivity of the global network.
 - Dramatically improve the localization of sources (pinpointing where cosmic events occur), especially in the southern hemisphere.
 - Enable more precise studies of black holes, neutron stars, and the early universe.

Technical Specifications of LIGO

- **Structure:** An L-shaped interferometer with two 4-kilometer-long arms built at perfect right angles (90 degrees) to each other. These are high-vacuum chambers.
- **Working Principle (Laser Interferometry):**
 1. A powerful laser beam is split and sent down both arms.

2. The light reflects off mirrors suspended at the ends of the arms.
3. Normally, the light waves return and cancel each other out (destructive interference).
4. When a gravitational wave passes, it minutely stretches one arm and compresses the other.
5. This changes the distance the light travels, causing the waves to no longer cancel out perfectly. This tiny change in interference is the signal.

- **Detection Challenge:** The distortion caused by a gravitational wave is incredibly tiny—changing the distance of a 4-km arm by less than one-thousandth the diameter of a proton (a fractional change of about 10^{-21}).

What are Gravitational Waves?

- **Definition:** Gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of spacetime, caused by the acceleration of massive objects.
- **Prediction:** First predicted by Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity in 1915.
- **First Detection:** Directly detected for the first time in 2015 by the LIGO observatories in the US. The signal came from the merger of two black holes 1.3 billion light-years away.

• Key Properties:

- ▶▶ They travel at the speed of light.
- ▶▶ They are not part of the elec-

tromagnetic spectrum (they are not light, radio waves, etc.).

- ▶▶ They stretch and squeeze spacetime in a characteristic "quadrupolar" pattern.
- ▶▶ **Primary Cosmic Sources:**
 - ▶▶ Merging of binary black holes or neutron stars.
 - ▶▶ Core-collapse supernovae (explosions of massive stars).
 - ▶▶ Processes in the early universe immediately after the Big Bang.

Conclusion

LIGO-India transcends a single lab, it's a mega-science powerhouse anchoring India in global gravitational wave detection, unlocking space-time ripples for revolutionary cosmic insights. Slated for 2030 completion despite delays, it will ignite innovations in vacuums, lasers, and precision tech, cementing India's leadership in big-science and fostering astrophysics, education, and global ties.

PYQ 2019

Q. Recently, scientists observed the merger of giant 'blackholes' billions of light-years away from the Earth. What is the significance of this observation? (2019)

- (a) 'Higgs boson particles' were detected.
- (b) 'Gravitational waves' were detected.
- (c) Possibility of intergalactic space travel through 'wormhole' was confirmed.
- (d) It enabled the scientists to understand 'singularity'

Ans: (b)

Divyang Sahara Yojana & Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the Divyang Sahara Yojana and Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana during a post-Budget webinar. Both schemes were introduced in the Union Budget 2026–27 under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.



About Divyang Sahara Yojana

- Objective: To provide affordable access to modern assistive devices for empowering persons with disabilities (Divyangjan).
- Implementation Support: The scheme will assist the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to increase production capacity while integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technology into device manufacturing.

• Key Features

- ▶ Assistive Marts: Retail-style centres will be established where beneficiaries can see, test, and choose assistive devices based on their specific needs and preferences.
- ▶ Service Hubs: Existing Pradhan Mantri Divyasha-Vayoshri Kendras (PMDVKs) will be expanded to function as hubs for assessment, customisation, and maintenance of assistive devices.

About Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana

- Objective: To provide industry-relevant skill training to create dignified livelihood opportunities for Divyangjans.
- Target Sectors for Training:
 - ▶ Information Technology (IT)
 - ▶ Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC)
 - ▶ Hospitality

- ▶ Food & Beverages
- Digital Integration: The scheme integrates skill training registration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) and the PM-DAKSH Portal to ensure seamless delivery and tracking.

Broader Context:

Disabled-Friendly Infrastructure

- These schemes are part of a larger government push to create an inclusive ecosystem. This includes:
 - ▶ Ensuring physical accessibility in public buildings and transport.
 - ▶ Promoting digital accessibility in websites and applications.
 - ▶ Encouraging universal design in infrastructure projects.

Conclusion

Divyang Sahara and Divyangjan Kaushal Yojanas in Budget 2026-27 pioneer holistic empowerment for persons with disabilities, blending affordable AI-driven assistive tech with market-linked skills training to dismantle functional and economic barriers. Integrating retail marts and PM-DAKSH portals, they embody tech-savvy social justice, key strides toward an inclusive Viksit Bharat.





Extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) up to 2028

Why in News?

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) until December 2028 with additional fund allocation to achieve its universal coverage goal. This extended phase is termed JJM 2.0.

Important Features of the Extension (JJM 2.0)

- ▶ Shift in Focus: The mission moves from building infrastructure to delivering citizen-centric services for a sustainable 24x7 water supply.
- ▶ Target: Provide tap water connections to all 19.36 crore rural households to achieve the national "Har Ghar Jal" goal.
- ▶ Sujalam Bharat Platform: A new digital platform to assign each village a unique Sujal Gaon/Service Area ID.
- ▶ It will enable digital mapping of drinking-water supply systems for better planning and monitoring.
- ▶ Jal Arpan Initiative: A formal handover protocol involving Gram Panchayats and village committees (Paani Samitis).
- ▶ Ensures transparency and accountability in the operation and maintenance of water supply assets.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Background :

- Launch Year: 2019
- Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Nature of Scheme: Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Objective: To provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household, ensuring 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of prescribed quality water on a sustained basis.

Funding Pattern of JJM

- Category Centre-State Cost Sharing Ratio
- Himalayan & North-Eastern States 90:10
- States with Legislature (UTs) 90:10
- Other States 50:50
- UTs without Legislature 100% Central funding

Urban Component: JJM-Urban

- Announced in: Union Budget 2021-22
- Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Objective: To provide universal water supply in all statutory towns.

Key Achievements of JJM (as of 2026)

- ▶ Coverage: Around 81.71% (approximately 15.82 crore) of rural households currently have tap water connections.
- ▶ 100% Coverage: Achieved in 11 States and Union Territories.
- ▶ Significance: Represents a major leap from the base line of 3.23 crore (17%) households in 2019.

Conclusion

JJM 2.0 evolves Jal Jeevan Mission from construction to sustainable service, leveraging Sujalam Bharat digital tools and Jal Arpan community ownership to secure rural water systems. With 81.71% coverage achieved, the pivot to 24x7 safe water and empowered village institutions drives 'Sujal Gram'-paving the way for a healthier, productive Viksit Bharat rural heartland.

PYQ 2020

Q. With reference to the Government of India's Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

It aims to provide piped water supply to all rural households by 2024.

It is implemented under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The mission also focuses on greywater management and water conservation. Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: C. 1, 2 and 3

