



## BIRSA MUNDA : A SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE, DIGNITY AND FEARLESS LEADERSHIP



**Birsa Munda's birth anniversary gains special significance as India concludes the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Janjatiya icon. Recent government initiative such as, Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, launching the PM-Janman Mission, expanding tribal oriented infrastructure schemes, & protecting cultural traditions. Birsa Munda and the larger Janjatiya movement have played a key role in shaping India's socio-political landscape, with tribal resistance from colonial uprisings to present day initiatives, showing a continuous demand for identity, land and cultural autonomy.**

### Birsa Munda a central figure in Janjatiya movement : because...

- **Symbol of Dignity** : Led the Ulgulan movement, highlighting tribal rights, cultural identity, and fight against colonial injustice.
- **National Recognition** : 2021 decision by the Prime Minister to commemorate his birth anniversary as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
- **Significance** : First national-level day dedicated to tribal heritage.
- **Political Legacy** : Birsa Munda's region later inspired the creation of separate states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand, strengthening administrative representation for tribal communities.



### Recent government initiatives enhanced tribal empowerment :

- Dhani Aaba Janjatiya Gaurav Ashram Abhiyan:
- Community Spaces: Creates structured social and economic development hubs, Strengthens village-level institutions.
- Educational Access: 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools sanctioned; 479 operational.
- Impact: Bridges educational inequities for tribal children.
- Tribal Business Conclave & Market Linkages: Enhances geotagging of tribal products and economic inclusion.



## DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION RULES : 2025

India's first comprehensive digital privacy law, Centre has notified major provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 under the DPDP Rules, 2025.

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India (2017) judgment recognised the Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right under Article 21, creating the constitutional basis for a dedicated data protection law.

### Features of the DPDP Rules, 2025 :

- Phased Compliance :** A uniform 18-month transition period is provided, with mandatory compliance for large entities and SDFs by May 2027.
- Safeguards for Children & Persons with Disabilities:** Requires verifiable parental consent for minors and lawful guardian consent for individuals unable to provide consent.
- Transparency Requirements :** Data Fiduciaries must publish DPO details and respond to access or deletion requests within 90 days.
- DPBI Functions :** A fully digital Data Protection Board will handle grievance redressal, monitor compliance, and impose penalties.
- Enhanced Oversight for SDFs:** SDFs must undergo periodic audits, conduct Data Protection Impact Assessments, and appoint an independent DPO.
- Exemptions :** Limited exemptions apply for national security, judiciary and law-enforcement operations, and academic or statistical research.
- Cross Border Data Transfers :** Permitted under approved conditions, with the option for mandatory data localisation in the national interest.



## Senkaku-Diaoyu Islands Issue :

The China Coast Guard patrolled the Senkaku waters, escalating tensions with Japan in response to recent statements on Taiwan.

A small uninhabited island group in the East China Sea, claimed by Japan, China, and Taiwan, Japan calls them Senkaku, China Diaoyu, and Taiwan Diaoyutai, Consists of five islands and three rocks

Japan has administered the islands since 1972 after the Okinawa Reversion Agreement with the United States.

### Dispute:

- Japanese Claim:** Japan incorporated the islands in January 1895, asserting they were terra nullius based on surveys from 1885 that found no Chinese administration.
- Chinese & Taiwanese Claim:** Cite dynastic-era maps, navigation records, and Qing documents to argue sovereignty predates Japanese control.



## New GI Tags : Ambaji Marble, Panna Diamond & Lepcha Instruments :

### Ambaji White Marble (Gujarat) :



- ▶▶ Renowned for its pure white appearance, high calcium content, and exceptional durability.
- ▶▶ Sourced from the Ambaji Shaktipeeth region in Banaskantha.
- ▶▶ Extensively used in iconic structures such as the Dilwara Temples and the Ayodhya Ram Temple.
- ▶▶ Composed of calcium oxide and silicon oxide, which contribute to its strength and resilience.
- ▶▶ Exported internationally for temple construction, including to the USA, New Zealand, and the UK.

### Panna Diamond (Madhya Pradesh) :



- ▶▶ Features a light green tint and weak carbon line
- ▶▶ Managed by NMDC's

#### Diamond Mining Project

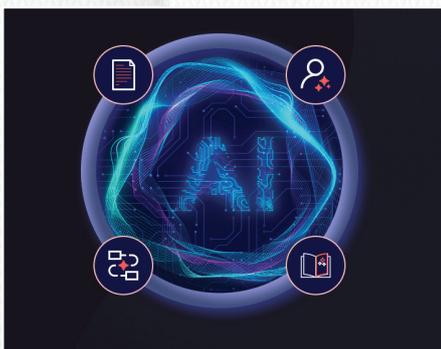
- ▶▶ Supports Padma Shri Rajni Kant (GI Man of India)
- ▶▶ Enhances traceability, authenticity, and export potential.

### Sikkim Lepcha Tungbuk :

- ▶▶ Traditional three-string musical instrument of Lepcha tribe
- ▶▶ Holds cultural and spiritual importance in Lepcha music
- ▶▶ GI granted on Nov 5, 2025 under Musical Instrument category



## Why Agentic AI Is Becoming the Talk of the Tech World :



**A**gentic AI refers to a new class of artificial intelligence systems capable of executing multistep tasks, adapting to processes, and performing actions independently rather than merely responding to prompts. It is in the news due to a new report by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Boston Consulting Group describing it as a “new class of systems that can plan, act, and learn on their own.” Google searches for the term have

skyrocketed, reflecting a sharp contrast.

#### Agentic AI - Key Points :

- ▶▶ **Autonomous Execution:** Performs multistep tasks on its own and adapts as it works.
- ▶▶ **Planning Ability:** Converts broad goals into sequential steps and completes them end-to-end.
- ▶▶ **Human Like Output:** Communicates naturally and contextually but still lacks true understanding; limited by training data.

## National Sample Survey (NSS) : 75th anniversary :

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is organising the culmination ceremony of the 75th anniversary of the National Sample Survey (NSS), along with the observance of World Statistics Day, on 18 November 2025.



### About National Sample Survey (NSS) :

- Origins : Started in 1950 to fill gaps in national income data; expanded into India's largest multi-topic socio-economic survey system.
- Institution : Conducted by NSSO (set up 1970), now merged into the National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI.
- Organisational Structure : Four key divisions – SDRD (Kolkata) for survey design, FOD (Delhi/Faridabad) for fieldwork, DPD (Kolkata) for data processing, and SCD (New Delhi) for coordination.

### Major Surveys Under NSS / NSO :

- Periodic Labour Force

Survey (PLFS): Launched in 2017, India's key source on employment, unemployment, labour force participation, and quarterly urban labour indicators.

- Annual Survey of Industries (ASI): Tracks organised manufacturing output, inputs, employment, productivity, structural change.
- Price Surveys: Produce CPI-Rural, CPI-Urban, CPI and contribute to WPI, forming the backbone of inflation monitoring.
- Urban Frame Survey (2022–27): Updates the sampling frame for all urban socio-economic surveys.
- Agriculture and Crop Surveys: Estimate crop yields and support state agricultural statistics systems.

### Scope of NSS/NSO :

Generates the data on national and state level estimates on consumption, employment, migration, health, education, disability, housing, agriculture, elderly conditions, and more than 50 socio economic themes over 75 years.

### Representativeness

: Provides robust national and regional estimates but does not offer district-level granularity.

## CLIMATE RISK INDEX 2026



The Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026, released annually by Germanwatch, assesses countries based on actual human and economic impacts of extreme weather events, using data mainly from EM-DAT, along with the World Bank and IMF. It evaluates hydrological, meteorological, and climatological events, measuring fatalities, people affected, and economic losses in absolute and relative terms.

Between 1995 and 2024, extreme weather caused over 8 lakh global deaths. India ranks as the 9th most affected country long-term and 15th in 2024, showing sustained vulnerability. In 30 years, India experienced around 430 major events, resulting in 80,000 deaths, affecting 1.3 billion people, and causing USD 170 billion in losses. Frequent floods, cyclones, and heatwaves place India in a “continuous threat” category, strengthening its case for Loss and Damage finance under the UNFCCC.



## Sixteenth Finance Commission

16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya, has formally submitted its report to the President of India on 17 November 2025.

### About Finance commission :

- ▶ Finance Commission established under Article 280 of the Constitution to define financial relations between the Union and the States,
- ▶ Constituted every 5 years or earlier by the President.
- ▶ Composition of finance commission : A Chairperson and 4 members, all appointed by the President.
- ▶ Qualifications : Chairperson must have experience in public affairs, members must be -
  - A High Court judge,
  - An expert in government finance and accounts,
  - A specialist in financial administration,
  - An economist.

### About 16th Finance Commission :



- Constituted by the President of India in November 2024 to examine Union and State finances and recommend tax sharing for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031.
- Commission Chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya with members Annie George Mathew, Dr. Manoj Panda, T. Rabi Sankar, Dr. Soumyakanti Ghosh, and Secretary Ritvik Pandey.
- Submitted its report to the President on 17 November 2025.

### Core Mandate of the Finance Commission :

- ▶▶ **Vertical devolution :** share of States in the Centre's divisible pool.
- ▶▶ **Horizontal distribution :** breakup of the States' share across individual States.
- ▶▶ Principles for grants in aid to States under Article 275.
- ▶▶ Measures to augment State resources to support Panchayats and Municipalities.
- ▶▶ Review of financing arrangements for Disaster Management, including National and State Disaster Response Funds.
- ▶▶ Any other matter referred by the President.

**Note : Recommendations will be made public once tabled in Parliament.**