

# NEWS TODAY

## Union Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)

PM-JUGA is based on learnings and success of **PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan)**.

- **Aim:** Improving **socio-economic condition of tribal communities**, by adopting **saturation coverage** for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts.
  - ⊕ India has **Scheduled Tribe population of 10.45 crore as per 2011 census** and there are more than **705 tribal communities**.
- **Total outlay:** **Rs.79,156 crore** with Central Share of Rs.56,333 crore.
- **Coverage:** **63,000 villages** benefitting more than 5 crore tribal people, covering **549 districts** across 30 States/UTs.
- **Implementation:** It comprises 25 interventions to be implemented by **17-line ministries** through funds allocated under **Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST)** in next 5 years.
  - ⊕ Tribal villages covered will be mapped and progress will be monitored on **PM Gati Shakti platform**.
  - ⊕ It is a unique **example of cooperative Federalism and whole of Government approach**.
- **Mission's Four Goals:**
  - ⊕ **Goal-1: Developing Enabling Infrastructure** such as Pucca house for households and **improving Village Infrastructure**.
  - ⊕ **Goal-2: Promotion of Economic Empowerment** through Skill Development **Entrepreneurship** promotion and enhanced livelihood (**self-employment**).
  - ⊕ **Goal-3: Universalization of Access to Good Education**
  - ⊕ **Goal-4: Healthy lives and Dignified Ageing**

### Innovative Schemes under PM JUGA

- **Tribal Home Stay:** To tap **tribal tourism** and **alternate livelihood**, **1000 Home stays** will be promoted under Swadesh Darshan.
- **Sustainable Livelihood Forest Right Holders (FRA):** Special focus on 22 lakh FRA patta holders residing in forest areas for **recognizing and securing forest rights**.
- **Improving infrastructure of Government residential Schools and Hostels** on lines of PM-Shri Schools.
- Advance facilities for **diagnosis of sickle cell disease**.
- **Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre** for marketing of tribal products.

## Cabinet clears proposal of One Nation One Election (ONOE)

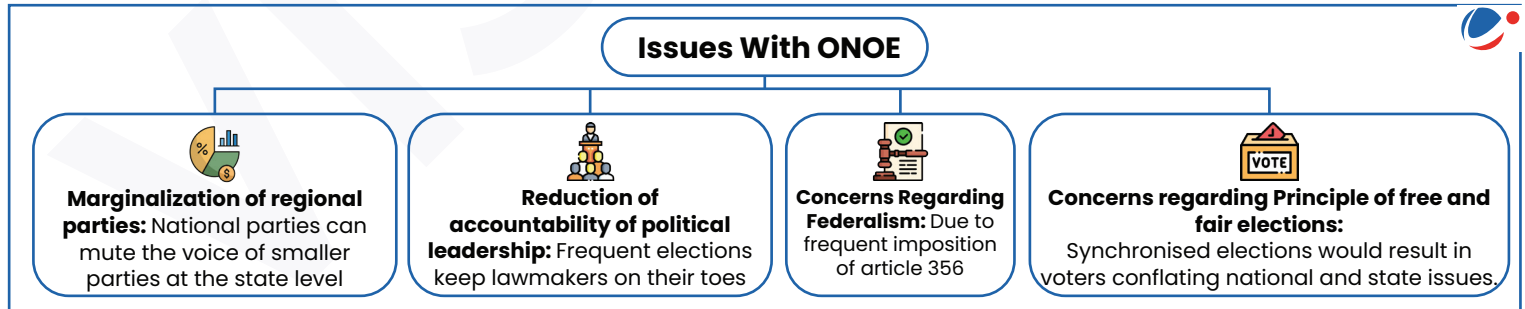
It has accepted recommendations of **High-Level Committee** on ONOE/Simultaneous Elections under chairmanship of former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

### What is meant by ONOE?

It means **holding elections** to the **House of the People**, all the **State Legislative Assemblies**, and **local bodies** i.e., Municipalities and Panchayats, **together**.

### Benefits of ONOE:

- **Decreased government exchequer:** Rs 60,000 crore was spent in 2019 LS elections.
- **Increase voter's turnout:** e.g. Frequent elections lead to 'voters' fatigue'
- **Stable policy and growth:** Currently frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct causes policy paralysis affecting supply chains, business investments and economic growth.
- **Smooth delivery of services:** Frequent use of government officials and security forces in elections adversely affect discharge of their duties.



### Roadmap Suggested by High Level Committee

- **Amendments to Constitution in two steps:-**
  - ⊕ 1<sup>st</sup>: Simultaneous conduct of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections (**no ratification of states required**).
  - ⊕ 2<sup>nd</sup>: Synchronization of 1st step with local elections by conducting Municipalities and Panchayat elections within 100 days of general elections (**requires ratification by not less than one-half of the states**).
- **Dealing with Hung House/No-Confidence Motion:** Fresh elections for constituting new House of People or State Legislative Assembly for unexpired term of the House of the People.
- **Common electoral roll** for all the three tiers of Government.

## Union Cabinet approved the building of Bharatiya Anthariksh Station (BAS) by extending scope of Gaganyaan Programme

Cabinet gave approval for development of **first module of Bharatiya Anthariksh Station (BAS-1)** and undertake missions to **demonstrate and validate various technologies** for building and operating BAS.

➤ Presently, there are **two space stations** in orbit namely, **International Space Station and China's Tiangong Space Station**.

### Revised Gaganyaan Programme

➤ Gaganyaan Programme approved in 2018 envisages undertaking the **human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.

⊕ It targets **development and demonstration of critical technologies** for long duration human space missions.

➤ **Under Revised Programme**, ISRO will undertake **four missions** under ongoing Gaganyaan Programme by **2026** and development of **BAS-1 & four missions** for demonstration & validation of various technologies for BAS by December, 2028.

⊕ By **2035**, ISRO plans to construct **additional modules to achieve full operational status** for space station.

➤ BAS is currently in **conceptualization phase**, under which overall architecture, number and types of modules, docking ports etc. are being studied.

### Significance of BAS

➤ **Fulfil Amrit Kaal vision** for creation of BAS by 2035 and Indian Crewed Lunar Mission by 2040.

➤ **Boost microgravity-based scientific research**, technology development activities, and encourage innovations.

➤ **Boost employment** in high-tech space and allied sectors with enhanced industrial participation.

### Related News

Union Cabinet also approved the development of **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**, a significant step towards **establishing & operating** BAS.

➤ It will have **3 times** the payload **capability of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)**, with ability to carry up to **30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.

➤ It will have a **reusable first stage** resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.

➤ NGLV will be demonstrated with **three development flights** with a target of 8 years for completion of development phase.

## Union Cabinet approves Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE) Scheme

Bio-RIDE is part of Government of India's mission to **harness potential of bio-innovation** to tackle national and global challenges in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, environmental sustainability etc.

### About Bio-RIDE Scheme

➤ **Nodal Department:** Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology.

### Objectives

⊕ Strengthen India's position as a **global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology**.

⊕ Make India a **US\$300 billion Bioeconomy** by 2030.

➤ **Three Components:** It combines two existing schemes with a new third component:

⊕ **Biotechnology Research and Development (R&D):** Assistance for human resource development, Bioinformatics, Biotech facilities, Centre of Excellence etc.

⊕ **Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development (I&E):** Assistance is given to schemes including Public Private Partnership Programmes, Bio-clusters and Biotech parks.

⊕ **Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry (B&B):**

◆ This **new component** aims at furthering India's goal of **creating a Circular Bioeconomy in alignment with Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) mission**.

◆ A circular bioeconomy offers a conceptual framework for **using renewable natural capital** to transform and manage our **land, food, health and industrial systems**, with the goal of achieving sustainable wellbeing in harmony with nature.

➤ **Funding:** Rs.9,197 crore during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26).

### Significance of Scheme

➤ **Promote Bio-Entrepreneurship:** Nurturing startup ecosystem through seed funding, incubation and mentorship support.

➤ **Advance Innovation:** Grants and incentives for cutting-edge R&D in areas like synthetic biology, biopharmaceuticals, bioenergy, and bioplastics.

➤ **Facilitate Industry-Academia Collaboration:** To accelerate commercialization of bio-based products and technologies.

➤ **Encourage Sustainable Biomanufacturing** and nurture human resource in biotechnology.

➤ **Extramural funding**, i.e., funding from outside the universities and research institutions.

## Cabinet approves continuation of schemes of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

Government has converged the **Price Support Scheme (PSS) & Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)** schemes in **PM AASHA** to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently.

➤ PM-AASHA will now have components of **Price Support scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**.

### Key Features of Renewed PM-AASHA Scheme:

➤ **Objectives:** To ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce of oilseeds, pulses, copra etc.

➤ **Total Financial Outlay:** Rs. 35,000 crore during 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Cycle upto 2025-26

### Components of Scheme:

⊕ **Price Support Scheme (PSS):** Procurement of notified pulses, oilseeds & copra at Minimum Support Price under PSS set at **25% of national production**.

◆ Ceilings will not be applicable in case of **Tur, Urad & Masur for 2024-25 season**.

⊕ **Price Stabilization Fund (PSF):** Government will procure pulses at market price when above MSP including from pre-registered farmers on eSamridhi (NAFED) and eSamyukti (NCCF) portals.

⊕ **Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS):** Coverage for oilseeds increased to 40%, with a 4-month implementation period.

⊕ **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):** MIS coverage **increased to 25%**; now differential payment will **go directly into the farmers' account**.

◆ Government will **cover transport and storage costs** for **TOP (Tomato, Onion & Potato)** crops.

### Benefits from converged Schemes:

➤ **PSS:** Encourages crop diversification, and reduces import dependence for notified pulses, oilseeds & copra

➤ **PSF:** Protects consumers from price volatility by maintaining strategic buffer stocks of pulses/onions.

➤ **MIS:** Provides remunerative prices to farmers growing perishable horticulture crops; also soften TOP crop prices for consumers.

## US Food and Drug Administration granted breakthrough device status to Neuralink 'Blindsight'

**Blindsight** is an experimental **vision-restoring implant** which aims to assist individuals who have lost their sight or were born blind (**Initially offering low-resolution vision**).

➤ **Breakthrough device designation** is intended to accelerate development of devices that offer promising new treatments or diagnostic capabilities for **life-threatening conditions**.

➤ **Neuralink**, founded by Elon Musk in 2016, is a company **working on Brain Computer Interfaces (BCIs)** with a focus on healthcare applications.

**About BCIs:**

➤ It allows users to **communicate or control external devices** using brain signals **without any physical movement**.

➤ **Types of BCIs:**

⊕ **Invasive:** Chips/Sensors are placed directly into the cortex E.g. Neuralink's Implant.

⊕ **Non-Invasive:** Sensors are placed on scalp.

⊕ **Partially invasive:** implanted inside skull but rest outside brain.

**Applications of BCIs:**

➤ **Medical:** Help restore lost functions e.g. controlling prosthetic limbs or aiding patients with neurological disorders like paralysis.

➤ **Mental wellness:** Real-time feedback on users' mental well-being and facilitates effective mental health practices.

➤ **Defense:** Improved battlespace awareness, enhanced management of autonomous systems etc.

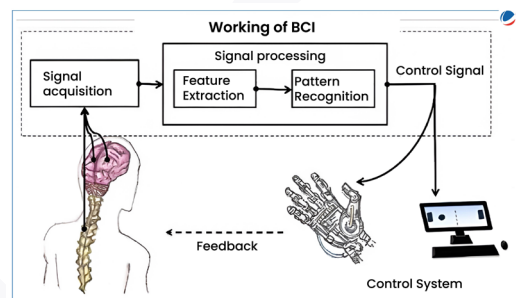
➤ **Gaming and entertainment:** Immersive gaming experiences through uni- or bi-directional neural communication.

**Issues with BCIs:**

➤ **Cybersecurity risks:** E.g. Brain tapping (intercepting signals transmitted from brain).

➤ **Ethical Concerns:** concerns regarding informed consent.

➤ **Safety Issues:** E.g. tissue damage, seizures, cognitive impairment etc.



## Also in News



### India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership

Recently, MoUs were signed under Green Strategic Partnership to strengthen the India-Denmark's maritime relations

**About Green Strategic Partnership (GSP):**

➤ **Signed in 2020, It expands economic relations and green growth**, creates jobs and strengthens cooperation on addressing global challenges.

➤ **Focus of GSP:** Implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

➤ **Joint Action Plan on Green Strategic Partnership (2021-2026):** was also drawn up for furthering GSP.

➤ Under GSP, collaboration has expanded across **key areas such as Quality shipping, Cooperation on Port State Control, Maritime training and education** etc.



### NPS Vatsalya Scheme

National Pension System Vatsalya (NPS Vatsalya) scheme, a pension scheme for minors, has been launched.

**NPS Vatsalya Scheme**

➤ **Eligibility:** All minor citizens (age below 18 years).

⊕ On attaining the age of majority, plan can be converted seamlessly into a normal NPS account.

➤ **Regulation and Administration:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

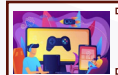
➤ **Objective:** Promoting long-term financial planning and security, inculcate habit of savings and dignified life in old age.

➤ **Subscriber Contribution:**

⊕ **Minimum:** Rs 1000/- per annum.

⊕ **Maximum:** No limit.

➤ PFRDA will provide **multiple investment choices** to subscribers such as government securities, corporate debt, equity etc.



### AVGC-XR sector

Union Cabinet approved the establishment of **National Centre of Excellence (NCoE)** for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR).

➤ NCoE will be set up in Mumbai as a **Section 8 Company (Non-Profit Organization)** under the Companies Act, 2013.

➤ NCoE will offer **specialized training-cum-learning programs, foster R&D** and function as an incubation centre.

**About AVGC-XR sector**

➤ Industry currently employs **2.6 lakh people** and is expected to create **23 lakh direct jobs by 2032**.

➤ Revenues are expected to cross **\$26 billion by 2030**, up from **\$3 billion currently**.

➤ **Challenges:** Lack of standardization, lack of skilling and vocational training centres, etc.



### Greater One-Horned Rhino

The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) published the '**State of the Rhino**' report.

**Findings of Report:**

➤ Greater One-Horned Rhinos are **benefiting from improved habitats and wildlife corridors**.

⊕ Its population has grown **20% in the last decade**, and now **exceeds 4,000 animals**.

**About Greater one-horned Rhino**

➤ **Habitat:** Indo-Nepal Terai, northern parts of West Bengal, and Assam.

➤ **IUCN status:** Vulnerable

➤ **Sociability:** Usually **solitary except for females with young**. Males maintain **loosely-defended territories**.

⊕ Gestation lasts approximately **15 – 16 months**, and mothers give birth to **one calf every 2 – 3 years**.

➤ **Population in india:** 3,262 (2021). Assam has the largest population of greater one-horned rhinos.

⊕ More than 90% of them are in **Kaziranga National Park**.

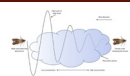


### Chandrayaan-4

Union Cabinet gave approval for Chandrayaan-4 Mission, a **successor to Chandrayaan-3** which demonstrated soft landing on Moon.

#### About Chandrayaan 4

- It aims to develop and demonstrate key technologies for **landing on the Moon, collecting lunar samples, and returning to Earth safely.**
- It will achieve the **foundational technologies capabilities** eventually for an **Indian landing on the moon** (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth.
- ISRO will be responsible for the development of spacecraft and launch.
- **Timeline:** Expected to be **completed within 36 months.**
- **Budget: ₹2104.06 crore.**



### Pheromone

Indian scientists have developed a **sustainable pheromone dispenser with a controlled release rate** which can help reduce costs of pest control and management.

- Released pheromones **alter the behaviour of the target insect species** and attract them to sticky traps.

#### About Pheromones

- Pheromones are **chemical signals** which trigger a response or elicit specific behavioural expressions from the opposite sex, same sex or both sexes of the same species.
- Pheromones can be found in **body fluids** like urine, sweat, specialized exocrine glands, and genital mucous secretions.
- **Used by Insects:** To help attract mates, warn about predators, and find food.



### Circumnutation

New study highlights the role **circumnutations** could play in plant growth patterns.

#### About Circumnutation:

- It refers to small, continuous movements made by plants to **explore their environments.**
  - ⊖ These movements appear as **spirals or zigzags.**
- **Significance:** It is an **inherent behavior across plant species**, allowing them to **adapt to environmental conditions** and maximize their growth potential.
  - ⊖ **E.g. Self-organization of Sunflower:** Sunflowers form a zigzag pattern when grown in dense rows, allowing sunflowers to **lean away from one another**, avoiding shade and maximizing sunlight exposure.
- Researchers found that **circumnutation often seems random**, with plants moving in unpredictable ways.



### Trademark Search Technology

Ministry of Commerce & Industry unveiled the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based Trademark Search Technology and IP Saarthi Chatbot.**

- **IP Saarthi Chatbot** is a digital assistant designed to provide **instant support and guidance to users navigating the Intellectual Property (IP) registration process.**

#### Trademark Search Technology:

- Advanced AI and ML algorithms for **precise trademark identification.**
- Streamlined search processes for **domestic and international businesses.**
- Enhanced **protection capabilities for trademarks.**
- **Benefits:** Expedite **trademark registration** processes, improve overall **user experience**, foster **international collaboration.**



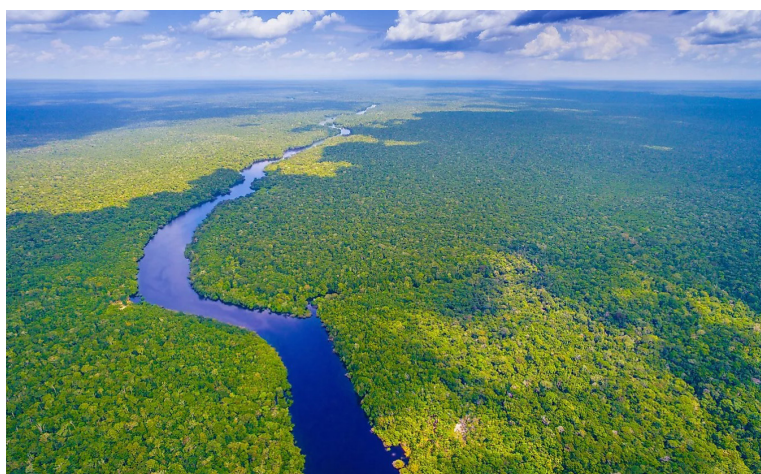
### Amazon River

**Solimoes, one of the main tributaries** of the mighty Amazon River, is facing the worst drought on record.

- Nearby **Lake Tefé** has also dried up.

#### About Amazon River:

- **Largest River system in the world** in terms of the **volume of water flow** and area of its basin.
- **Origin:** High in the Peruvian Andes.
- **River basin:** Includes the greater part of Brazil and Peru, significant parts of Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia, and a small area of Venezuela.
- **Tributaries: Approximately 1,100 tributaries,**
  - ⊖ **Notable tributaries:** Japurá (Caquetá in Colombia), Juruá, Madeira, Negro, Purus, and Xingu rivers.
- **River drains into:** Atlantic Ocean, on the northeastern coast of Brazil.



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