

# NEWS TODAY

## National Tribal Health Conclave 2025 aims to address unique challenges faced by Tribal Communities

The conclave has been organised under **Dharti Aaba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan** by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).

### Healthcare associated issues for Tribals



- **Geographical remoteness:** E.g. Residence in mountainous terrains, dense forests makes it difficult to establish and maintain healthcare facilities.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** E.g. Limited access to healthcare professionals in remote areas leads to delayed diagnoses, inappropriate treatment etc.
- **Language barriers:** E.g. Limited access to health information in native languages hinders informed decision making.
- **Cultural sensitivity and traditional practices:** E.g. Failure to acknowledge and integrate tribal's indigenous healing methods often leads to **distrust and reluctance** among tribal populations.

### Steps to be Taken

- **Development of a strategic roadmap for enhancing healthcare delivery in tribal regions.** E.g. exploring telemedicine, mobile medical units
- **Culturally sensitive and inclusive healthcare models** that respect and incorporate traditional healing practices and beliefs of tribal communities with mainstream healthcare
- **Targeted Interventions:** Targeted interventions for managing rare diseases, addiction, and mental health issues with a focus on addressing malnutrition, reproductive health, and traditional food practices.

Improvements in outcomes of Tribal health must be guided by **Respect (for tribal culture), Relevance (to tribal communities), Reciprocity (through a two way process of learning and exchange) and Responsibility (through active empowerment).**

### Statistics of Tribal Health (National Family Health Survey)(2019-21)

 Parameters	 Present Status
Stunting	40.9%
Wasting	23.2%
Underweight	39.5%
Infant Mortality Rate	41.6
Under 5 Mortality Rate	50.3
Institutional Delivery	82.3%
Immunization of Children (Aged 12-23 Months)	76.8%

## Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrates 10 years of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme aligns with the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision and the global shift from **Women's Development to Women-Led Development.**







### About BBBP Scheme

- **Ministry: Joint Initiative** of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Education.
  - ⊕ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Minority Affairs have been added later as partners.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** and has been included under **Sambal** vertical of **Mission Shakti**.
  - ⊕ Mission Shakti aims at **strengthening interventions for women safety, security & empowerment** in mission mode.
    - ◆ It has **two sub-schemes** - 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.

### Aims:

- ⊕ **Improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** by 2 points every year.
- ⊕ **Improvement in the percentage of institutional deliveries** or sustained at 95% or above.
- ⊕ **1% increase in enrolment at secondary education level and skilling** of girls/women per year.
- ⊕ To **check dropout rate among girls** at secondary and higher secondary levels.
- ⊕ Raising awareness about **safe Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)**.
- There is **no provision for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) or creation of capital asset** under the BBBP.

### Key Achievements (2014-2024)

 SRB	 GER	 ID
Sex Ratio at Birth	Girls Gross Enrolment Ratio at Secondary Level	Institutional Deliveries
2014-15 <b>918</b>	2014-15 <b>75.51%</b>	2014-15 <b>61%</b>
2023-24 <b>930</b>	2023-24 <b>78%</b>	2023-24 <b>97.3%</b>
 +12 points	 +2.49%	 +36.3%

## 'Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap Report' released by World Economic Forum (WEF)

Report prepared by WEF and McKinsey Health Institute underscores economic and societal potential of closing women's health gap.

### Key Findings of Report

- **Women live 25% more of their lives in poor health when compared to men.**
- **9 selected conditions drive 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of women's health gap.**
  - ⊕ **It includes conditions that affects lifespan (e.g. Cervical & Breast cancer, Maternal hypertensive disorders, Post-partum haemorrhage etc) and conditions that affect health span (e.g. Menopause & perimenopause, Premenstrual syndrome (PMS), Migraine etc.)**
- **Potential:**
  - ⊕ **Closing the health gap could generate \$1 trillion in annual global GDP by 2040.**
  - ⊕ **And reclaim 75 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) annually.**

Global health and social systems were not designed around the health of women. Public, private and social sector stakeholders can drive change in a world wherein women's health gap is impeding productivity and holding women back from leading full and healthy lives

#### Issues with respect to various parameters



**Discrepancies in data** especially in low income countries leads to issues in accurate estimation of health of women



**Research Gaps** and underfunding in women specific conditions. E.g. second X chromosome study, Hormonal Health issues etc.



**Disparities in Care delivery:** >1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the women's health gap stems from disparities in care delivery



**Cultural barriers:** Women associated with lower socioeconomic and educational levels avoid seeking care due to feeling of shame and perceived stigma



**Lack of investment:** due to inadequate data on prevalence and potential market size.

#### Recommendations (Women's Health Impact Tracker)



**Count Women:** Publish sex-disaggregated data for improved understanding of sex-related differences



**Study Women:** Increased funding for diverse and decentralised clinical trials and ensure their accessibility



**Care for women:** Implement representative and evidence based Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) for women-specific conditions



**Include all women:** Use awareness and education to encourage individuals for institutionalized sex and gender-responsive care



**Invest in women:** coordinated, collaborative and transformative investment between public, private and social sectors

## Bureau of Indian Standards released Working Draft on E-Commerce - Principles and Guidelines for Self-Governance

This draft proposes a complete set of principles and guidelines for e-commerce self-governance, with the goal of supporting an **ethical and responsible e-commerce ecosystem**.

### Key Principles

Draft divides e-commerce transaction principles into **three phases** – Pre-Transaction Principles, Contract Formation Principles, and Post-Transaction Principles.

- **Pre-Transaction Principles**
  - ⊕ E-commerce entity must **ensure authenticity of sellers** with details of their place of business, key managerial personnel, financial information etc.
  - ⊕ **Disclosure of relevant information** including product/service description, final consumer price, cancellation/exchange/return policies, safety warnings, seller details, country of origin etc.
- **Contract Formation Principles:**
  - ⊕ Entity shall record **express informed consent of consumer** and not in the form of pre-ticked checkboxes.
  - ⊕ Enable **transaction review** before final payment.
  - ⊕ **Transparent process and policies** for cancellations, returns, and refunds, clearly specifying charges and time limits.
  - ⊕ **Maintain complete transaction records and secure payment systems** with encryption and two-factor authentication etc.
- **Post-Transaction Principles:**
  - ⊕ Easy return, exchange, refund or **dispute resolution process** with single point of contact toll-free number, estimated resolution time, grievance officer etc.
- **General Principles:**
  - ⊕ **Prohibition on selling of banned products with monitoring mechanisms** and seller background checks.
  - ⊕ **Fair Business Practice** with no preferential treatment, following packaging norms etc.
  - ⊕ Provisions for **addressing counterfeit products** and mechanism for **reporting instances of intellectual property rights**.

#### E-commerce Sector in India

- **Growth Potential:** Projected to reach **US\$ 325 billion by 2030**.
  - ⊕ Reached **US\$60 billion in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)** during fiscal year **2023**, marking a **22% growth** from the previous year.
- **Policy Support:**
  - ⊕ **100% FDI** is allowed in **B2B e-commerce**.
  - ⊕ **100% FDI under the automatic route** is permitted in the **marketplace model of E-commerce**.
  - ⊕ Government aims to **achieve \$200-300 billion in e-commerce exports** by 2030.

## Department of Commerce introduces Diamond Imprest Authorization (DIA) Scheme

The scheme aims to support MSME diamond exporters, generate employment, safeguard domestic industry and enhance global competitiveness through facilitating ease of doing business in India's diamond sector.

### Diamond Imprest Authorization (DIA) Scheme

- It has been introduced under **Foreign Trade Policy 2023**.
- **Objective:** Provide streamlined mechanism for duty free import of **Natural Cut and Polished Diamonds**.
- **Key Features:-**
  - ⊕ This scheme allows the **duty-free import of Natural Cut and Polished Diamonds**, of less than ¼ Carat (25 Cents).
  - ⊕ **Export Obligation:** It mandates **export obligation** with a value addition of 10%.
  - ⊕ **Eligibility:** All Diamond exporters holding Two Star Export House status and above and having US \$15 Million exports per year.
  - ⊕ **Non-Applicability:** The scheme does not apply to **Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGDs)**.
  - ⊕ **Duties Exempted:** **Basic Customs Duty, Additional Customs Duty, Education Cess, Anti-dumping Duty, Countervailing Duty**, others.

In recent times, the diamond industry is witnessing multiple global and internal challenges leading to a steep decline in exports and job losses for the workers.

### Challenges faced by Diamond Industry

- **Global:** **Sharp drop in Demand for polished diamonds** in US, China and Europe, **Shifting consumer Preferences** towards lab-grown diamonds
- **Internal:** Large **unsold inventories** of polished diamonds, **Rising operational costs**, reduced margins in global diamond trade, India's **high corporate tax regime** and reduced credit from banks

### Way Forward

- **Extension of export credit period** for cut and polished diamond exporters, **Exemption of Foreign Rough Diamond Sellers from Corporate Tax**, **Proper regulation of Lab-Grown Diamond Industry**.

### Key Statistics

(Global Trade Research Initiative)

- India is the **world's largest exporter of polished diamonds**,
- India processes **~90% of world's rough diamonds** by volume
- India accounts for **33% of global diamond exports** by value.

## Food and Agriculture Organization publishes report on Sustainable Nitrogen Management in Agrifood Systems

The report provides a comprehensive overview of nitrogen use, resulting challenges in agrifood systems, and offers recommendations for sustainable nitrogen use.

### Key Highlights of Report

- **Alteration in Nitrogen Cycle:** Humans currently add approximately **150 teragrams (Tg) of reactive nitrogen** to the Earth's land surface each year through agriculture and industry.
  - ⊕ Climate change could raise this to **600 Tg per year** by 2100, **increasing nitrogen loss into the environment**.
- **Nitrogen Loss:** It occurs through:
  - ⊕ Emissions of **ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)** and **nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)**, which lead to air pollution,
  - ⊕ **Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)**, a potent greenhouse gas (GHG), and
  - ⊕ Leaching of **Nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)** in soil and water bodies, causing eutrophication and acidification, harming ecosystems.
- **Role of Agrifood Systems:** About one-third of anthropogenic nitrogen emissions are contributed by **livestock sector**.
  - ⊕ In it, **synthetic fertilizers, land-use change, and manure emissions** are main causes of nitrogen pollution.
- **Dual impact of Nitrogen Usage:**
  - ⊕ **Judicious use** in agriculture helps prevent soil degradation and nutrient depletion while increasing crop yields.
  - ⊕ **Excessive use** exacerbates global warming, degrades air and water quality, and depletes stratospheric ozone.

### Sustainable Nitrogen Management (SNM)

SNM seeks to **minimize external nitrogen inputs and losses** and **increase recycling of nitrogen** within the production system.

#### Recommendations for SNM:

- **Increasing Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)** through improved fertilization strategies, minimizing nitrogen excretion through manure, and integrating livestock systems with crop production.
  - ⊕ NUE is ratio of nitrogen recovered in the final output to the total Nitrogen used as input.
- **Encourage Biological Nitrogen fixation** using leguminous crops (eg. Soybean, alfalfa) in crop rotations.
- **Set national commitments** to reduce nitrogen pollution.

## Also in News



### Arctic-Boreal Zone

Recent findings indicate that 34% of Arctic-boreal zone (ABZ) has now become a **carbon source rather than a sink**.

- **Regional hotspots, permafrost thawing and increasing wildfires** in northern latitudes are the causes for this shift.

### About Arctic-Boreal Zone (ABZ)

- ABZ encompasses **treeless tundra, boreal forests, and wetlands** situated **along the Arctic Circle** in the Northern Hemisphere.
  - ⊕ **Boreal forest**, also known as **Taiga**, is the **world's largest terrestrial biome** with predominance of evergreen, coniferous trees.
  - ⊕ **Arctic Tundra** have little species diversity and low net primary productivity as soil remain in perennially frozen state known as **permafrost**.



### Pollinators

According to a research, excessive use of nitrogen fertilisers in agriculture leads to fivefold reduction in flowers, while also **halving the population of pollinating insects** like bees.

### About Pollinators

- **A pollinator transfers pollen** from the male part (stamen) to the female part (stigma) of flowers, **enabling fertilization**.
- Pollinators include **insects and animals (bees, butterflies, moths, bats, birds, flies, etc.)**.
- **Significance:**
  - ⊕ **Food Supply:** About **35% of the world's food crops** depend on animal pollinators to reproduce.
  - ⊕ **Ecosystem Health:** **75% of flowering plants** rely on pollinators, stabilizing soil, cleaning air, and supporting wildlife.



### Scramjet Engine

DRDO's Hyderabad-based **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** successfully conducted a 120-second ground test of an active-cooled scramjet combustor.

- **Endothermic scramjet fuel** is central to this breakthrough which offers significant cooling improvement and ease of ignition.
- **Benefits:** instrumental in development of **next-generation hypersonic missile** systems.

#### About Scramjet Engine

- **Working:** It is a form of **air-breathing jet engine** which uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor.
- **Efficiency:** **operates** efficiently at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion.



### Mission SCOT

The Prime Minister congratulated the **Digantara** team for the success of **Mission SCOT**.

#### About Mission SCOT

- It stands for **Space Camera for Object Tracking**.
- **Aim:** Creating maps for space by tracking object.
- **Benefits:**
  - ⊕ precise object tracking and imaging in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
  - ⊕ Better tracking accuracy of satellites.
- **Contribution:** growing Indian space industry towards enhancing space situational awareness.



### Kalaripayattu

Kalaripayattu has been included in the list of events for demonstration and removed from competition section in **38<sup>th</sup> national games** to be held in Uttarakhand.

#### About Kalaripayattu

- Developed in **Kerala**, it is **one of the most ancient martial traditions** (traced to Sangam Period).
- '**Kalari**' signifies the training centre or the place where practice occurs, and '**Payattu**' means the fight or rigorous physical practice.
- **Two main styles:**
  - ⊕ **Vadakkan or Northern style** practiced in the Malabar region of Kerala.
  - ⊕ **Thekken or Southern Style** practiced mainly in the Travancore region.



### Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

At least **4.14 lakh crop insurance claims** submitted under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were found to be **bogus** by the Maharashtra Agriculture Department.

#### About PMFBY

- **Objective:** Providing **financial support to farmers** suffering crop loss/damage, **stabilizing their income**, encouraging **modern agriculture practices** and **ensuring flow of credit** etc.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Beneficiaries:** All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers.
- **Crops covered:** Food Crops (Cereals, millets etc.), Oilseeds, Annual Commercial/Horticultural crops.
- **Coverage of Risks:** **Yield loss cover due to non-preventable risks** like natural fire, lightning, storm, hailstorm, cyclone, flood, landslide, drought, pests/diseases etc.
  - ⊕ Also covers **post-harvest losses** and loss due to **localised calamities**.



### Australopithecus

New research provides evidence that Australopithecus, an important early **human ancestor**, consumed very little or no meat, relying on a **plant-based diet**.

- Nitrogen isotope analysis of tooth enamel reveals no evidence of meat consumption in Australopithecus.
- The findings challenge previous assumptions about early hominins and suggest that significant meat-eating may have emerged with later species.

#### About Australopithecus

- Australopithecus afarensis is one of the **longest-lived and best-known early human species**.
- It inhabited **eastern and southern Africa** from roughly 4.2 to 1.9 million years ago.
- The results indicate that these early hominins primarily relied on a plant-based diet, with **minimal evidence of meat consumption**.



### Personality in news



### Rash Behari Bose

**21<sup>st</sup> January** marks the death anniversary of Rash Bihari Bose, a pioneer of India's freedom struggle.

#### About Rash Behari Bose (1886-1945)

- He was born in Bardhaman district (Bengal).
- Inspired by **French Revolution of 1789**; Left Bengal due to **Alipore Bomb case trials**.

#### Key Contributions

- Active member of **Yugantar group** of revolutionaries.
- Was involved in **Delhi Conspiracy case** (bomb attack on Viceroy Lord Charles Hardinge), 1912.
- **Indian Independence League** (1942) was founded by him in Tokyo.
- He was an important figure in the Ghadar **Movement** and in the formation of the **Azad Hind Fauj** (Indian National Army).



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI