


NEWS TODAY

Supreme Court Judge expressed concern about misuse of Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

Judge highlighted that misuse of PILs has been impacting its efficacy as a tool for social justice.

About Public interest Litigation (PIL)

- **Definition:** It refers to the litigations, filed by a party without any 'locus standi' (i.e., the party who is not aggrieved), to protect the general public interest.
- **Key Features:**
 - ⊕ It is also known by names such as **Social Interest Litigation**. And, the idea is borrowed from **American jurisprudence**.
 - ⊕ It is **not defined in any statute/ act**. It is the power given to the public by courts through **judicial activism**.
 - ⊕ The **Supreme Court** and the **High Courts** have the right to admit PILs under **Articles 32 and 226**, respectively.
- **Genesis:**
 - ⊕ In '**Mumbai Kamgar Sabha v. Abdulbhai Faizullabhai (1976)**, the SC relaxed the principle of Locus Standi for the first time.
 - ⊕ **Hussainara Khatoon vs. State of Bihar (1979)** was first reported case of PIL.
 - ⊕ **Justice P N Bhagwati and Justice V R Krishna Iyer** were among the first judges to admit PILs.
 - ◆ Former is considered as the father of public interest litigation in India
- **Tool of Social Justice:** PILs led to landmark judgements like **Triple talaq case**, opening Haji Ali shrines to women, **legalised consensual homosexual relations**, etc.

Key Concerns related to PILs	
	Subserve oblique motives and vested interests: PILs are criticised as being used as Private Interest Litigations or Publicity Interest Litigation .
	Judicial Overreach: PILs sometimes lead to judicial overreach, where courts interfere in policy matters that fall under the domain of the executive and legislature.
	Burden on judiciary: Frivolous petitions waste time of the judiciary.

UN-Women Released 'Women's Rights in Review 30 Years After Beijing'

Report reviews **global progress on the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)**, adopted by **189 countries (including India)** in **1995** to advance gender equality across **12 key areas**.

- BPfA was adopted by the **UN's Fourth World Conference on Women** in Beijing (China).

Key Challenges for Women Highlighted in Report

- **Economic Inequality:** Women earn **20% less**, with many in **insecure, unpaid jobs**. Ending extreme poverty for women will take **137 years**.
- **Violence & Safety:** **1 in 3 women** face physical or sexual violence. **53%** experience online gender-based abuse. **25%** countries report backlash against women's rights in 2024.
- **Political Exclusion:** Only **87 countries** have had a woman leader. Women hold **27% of parliamentary** and **36% of local seats**.
- **Climate Crisis:** By **2050**, **236 million women** may face **food insecurity** due to climate change.
- **Gender-Responsive Policies:** **54% of countries** track gender equality spending, but only **26% meet SDG standards** for it.

Way Ahead: Beijing+30 Action Agenda

UN Women's Beijing+30 Action Agenda focuses on **6+1 key ("+1" emphasizes youth inclusion in these efforts) actions for gender equality:**

- Close the digital gender gap
- Women centric sustainable economic development
- End violence against women
- Increase women's leadership
- Ensure accountability in peace, security and humanitarian action;
- Promote climate justice

Progress & Achievements of BPfA

-  **Legal Reforms:** **1,531 laws** passed since 1995 for gender equality.
-  **Workplace Rights:** Countries banning **gender job discrimination** rose from 58 to 162.
-  **Women in Politics:** **Parliamentary representation** has **doubled** since 1995.
-  **Ending Violence:** **88% of countries** strengthened laws against gender-based violence.
-  **Social Protection:** Women receiving **financial & social support** grew by **one-third** since 2010.
-  **Global Initiatives:** UN Programs like **Generation Equality Forum (2021)** and **Pact for the Future (2024)** uphold gender equality and human rights.

On NIF's 25th Anniversary, Minister Of Science And Technology Emphasized Its Role In Grassroots Innovation.

Minister informed that over **25 grassroots startups** and **hundreds of enterprises** supported by NIF, some with more than **₹10 crore annual turnover**, are thriving under NIF's support.

- Established in **2000 with DST support**, NIF promotes **grassroots innovations** and **traditional knowledge**.
- Its mission is to build a **creative, knowledge-driven society** by supporting **grassroots innovators** through **policy and institutional support**.

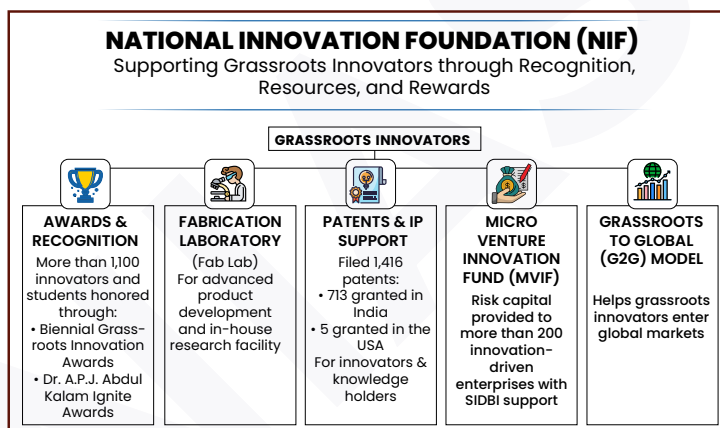
About Grassroots innovations (GIs)

- **Definition: Indigenous solutions** created by actors in civil society and **supported by limited resources**, which aim to address **local situations** and often achieve sustainable development (UNDP).
 - ⊕ **Early humans** were grassroots innovators.
- **Key Characteristics**
 - ⊕ **Bottom-up approach:** Emerge from **informal, non-market settings**.
 - ⊕ **Socially driven:** Focus on **community needs** rather than profit. GIs tackle **social injustices** and **environmental issues** ignored by mainstream models.
 - ⊕ **Creative & inclusive:** Encourage **collaborative innovation** and **local knowledge-sharing**.
- **Examples:** Honey Bee Network (India) and Technologies for Social Inclusion movement (Latin America).

Key Barriers to Grassroots Innovation

- **Limited collaboration** with key stakeholders.
- Difficulty in **securing resources**.
- **Hard to expand** while maintaining stability.
- **Governance and learning challenges** related to maintaining momentum and developing the group.

Dedicated National Policy, Government Grants, and Simplified regulations, Better ICT access and Entrepreneurial education are key to nurturing thriving GIs.



Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched multiple initiatives to boost the AI Ecosystem

The initiatives have been launched under the **IndiaAI Mission** during its anniversary celebration.

Key Initiatives Launched

- **AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform:** A secured **repository of datasets, AI models, and use cases** with AI sandbox capabilities.
- **IndiaAI Compute Portal:** Provides **subsidized AI compute, storage, and network services** with access to 10,000+ **graphics processing units (GPUs)**.
 - ⊕ A **GPU** is a circuit that performs mathematical calculations to process graphics and videos.
- **AI Competency Framework:** Equips **public sector officials with AI skills** and competency mapping.
- **iGOT-AI for Government Officials:** AI-powered personalized learning on the **iGOT Karmayogi platform**.
- **Other Initiatives:** IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program, IndiaAI Innovation Challenge, and IndiaAI FutureSkills Fellowship.

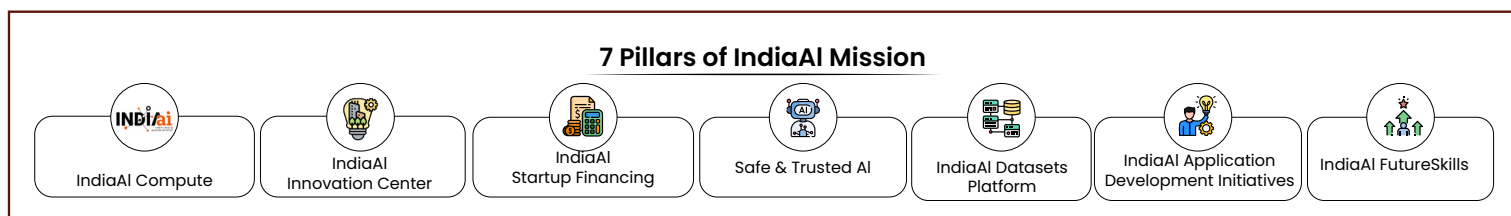
About IndiaAI Mission

- **Launched:** March 2024, with a budget of ₹10,371.92 crore.
- **Aim:** Foster AI innovation through **public-private partnerships** and advanced AI infrastructure.
 - ⊕ It will be achieved by democratizing computing access, providing startup risk capital, ensuring socially impactful AI projects, bolstering ethical AI, etc.
- **Ministry:** An umbrella programme by **MeitY**.
- **Implementing agency:** 'IndiaAI' Independent Business Division under Digital India Corporation.

India's Key AI Models & Language Technologies

- **BharatGen:** First govt-funded multimodal LLM.
- **Digital India BHASHINI:** AI-powered language translation platform.
- **Sarvam-1 AI Model:** Designed for applications such as language translation, text summarisation, and content generation
- **Chitrlekha:** Enables users to generate and edit audio transcripts in various Indic languages.
- **Hanooman's Everest 1.0:** Multilingual AI system which supports 35 Indian languages

7 Pillars of IndiaAI Mission



Assam Amends Law on Statutory Autonomous Councils

Assam Assembly passed bills allowing the **governor to take control of statutory autonomous councils** if elections are delayed after their extended term.

- The councils affected include **Mising, Thengal Kachari, Deori, Sonowal Kachari, Rabha Hasong, and Tiwa.**
- The amendment allows a **one-year extension (two six-month terms) before governor intervention.**

Governance of Tribal Areas

Statutory Autonomous Councils

- **Established by States** through Acts passed by the State Legislature.
 - ⊕ **Also present in Manipur** (six councils).
- **Objective:** Social, economic, educational, ethnic, and cultural development of tribal communities.
- **Powers in Assam:** Executive control over **34 subjects** (e.g., cottage industries, land, education).

Constitutional Autonomous Councils

- Under the **6th Schedule** (Article 244) of the Constitution **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are established** in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.
 - ⊕ If in any autonomous districts **more than one tribe reside then governor can carve out autonomous region** and respective **autonomous regional council** is established.
 - ⊕ **Bodoland Territorial Council, Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong** are the 3 Autonomous District Council in Assam
- **Composition: Up to 30 members** (4 nominated by the governor, rest elected).
 - ⊕ **Exception: Bodoland Territorial Council can have 46 members.**
- **Term:** 5 years.
- **Powers:** They have legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers.
- **Governor's Power:** Can create or modify autonomous districts.
- **Total ADCs:** 10 across 4 states.

Also in News



Convention on Cluster Munitions

Lithuania withdrew from **Convention on Cluster Munitions** citing security concerns over neighbouring Russia.

- **Cluster munitions** are weapons **designed to disperse numerous smaller explosive submunitions, or "bomblets,"** over a wide area when deployed.

About Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

- The CCM is an **international treaty that prohibits all use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of cluster munitions.**
 - ⊕ CCM was the outcome of **Oslo Declaration on Cluster Munitions (2007).**
 - ⊕ Adopted in 2008 and entered into force in 2010.
- **Legal Status: Legally binding** international instrument under international humanitarian law.
- **India's Status: India is NOT a signatory** to the CCM.
 - ⊕ **Countries like Russia, China, US, etc.** are also not party of it.



Golden Dome

The United States has proposed to construct a **Golden Dome missile defence system.**

About Golden Dome

- **A missile defence programme of the USA** aimed to protect it **from the threat of attack by ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missiles, and other advanced aerial attacks.**
- **Inspired from Israel's 'Iron Dome' missile defence system.**
 - ⊕ Iron Dome is a **multi-layered missile defence system** developed to protect against short-range threats.



C-DOT's TRINETRA

Advanced **Cybersecurity Operations Centre (SOC)** has been launched for **Kerala Police** to strengthen **digital security.**

- It is based on the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)'s TRINETRA platform.**
- **C-DOT** is an **autonomous Telecom R&D centre** of the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.**

About C-DOT's TRINETRA

- An **AI-powered, indigenous, integrated cybersecurity platform,** tailored to meet the **cyber security defence** of enterprises and critical sectors.
- It helps in **monitoring endpoints, network traffic, and user behaviour,** while **proactively identifying vulnerabilities, detecting anomalies, and mitigating cyber risk.**



Bangus Valley

Jammu & Kashmir govt. is promoting Bangus Valley near Line of Control (LoC) as an **ecotourism destination.**

About Bangus Valley

- Lying within the **Trans-Himalayan area of Kashmir.**
- **Represents a unique ecological** combination comprising a mountain biome, which includes grassland biome and Taiga or Coniferous forest (budloo).
 - ⊕ Green meadows are key part of the Valley.
- Principal valley is known as **Bodh Bangus (Big Bangus)** consists of a linear **elliptical bowl** and smaller valley known as **Lakut-Bangus.**



New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs

The Finance Minister launched a **digital footprint-based credit assessment model** for MSMEs.

- It was **announced in the Union Budget 2024-25** that **Public sector banks (PSBs)** will build their **in-house capability to assess MSMEs** for credit, instead of relying on external assessment.
- The digital footprints used by the model may include **Name and Pan authentication using NSDL, Mobile and email verification** using OTP, API fetch of **GST data** through service providers, Bank Statement Analysis, etc.
- This credit assessment model will **devise automated journeys for MSME Loan appraisal**.



Falkland Islands

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini entered Port Stanley in **Falkland Islands** under the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition,

- The expedition, led by two women officers, highlights the **Indian Navy's commitment to gender empowerment and maritime excellence**.

Falkland Islands (capital: Stanley)

- Location:** A remote **South Atlantic archipelago** in the east of Argentina.
- Political Status:** British Overseas Territory with self-governance; UK handles defense and foreign affairs.
 - It is also claimed **by Argentina** which calls it **Islas Malvinas**, leading to the **1982 Falklands War**.
- Economy:** Rich in fisheries, especially sea trout & squid, due to a vast continental shelf



Dnipro river (Dnieper River)

Ukraine claims Russia is launching "**suicidal missions**" to gain a foothold over the **Dnipro River (Dnieper River)**.

About the Dnipro River

- Divides Ukraine** into right-bank and left-bank regions. The capital **Kiev** is built on its banks.
- Europe's 4th longest river** (after the Volga, Danube, and Ural).
- Origin:** Valdai Hills, Russia (~150 miles west of Moscow).
- Flows through:** Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine into the **Black Sea**.



Multi-Principal Element Alloy (MPEA)

Researchers at **IISc Bangalore** have developed a **fatigue-resistant MPEA**, challenging traditional beliefs on strength and fatigue life.

- This research is supported by the statutory body **Anusandhan National Research Foundation**.

About MPEAs

- MPEAs, also known as **Compositionally Complex Alloys (CCAs)**, consist of **multiple principal elements** instead of just one or two.
- They have **high strength, enhanced corrosion resistance, and exceptional thermal stability**.
- Traditionally, it is believed that **increasing strength adversely affects fatigue life**.
 - Fatigue life refers to the lifetime** from service to failure in a given cyclic loading.
- However, in the **recent research**, **fatigue resistance was enhanced** through finer dislocation structures, higher back stresses from reduced grain size, etc.

Place in News



Barbados (Capital: Bridgetown)

Indian Prime Minister has been honoured with the **Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados'** award in recognition of his strategic leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Political Features

- An **island country** in the southeastern **Caribbean Sea**, island in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, northeast of Venezuela.

Geographical Features

- It is **not part of the nearby archipelago of the Lesser Antilles**, although it is usually grouped with it.
 - Lesser Antilles** is a long arc of small islands in the Caribbean Sea extending in a north-south direction from the Virgin Islands to Grenada.
- Highest Point:** Mount Hillaby.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI