

SMALL HYDRO POWER (SHP) DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Union Cabinet has approved this scheme for the period **2026-27 to 2030-31**. It aims to promote clean and decentralized power generation across the country.

1. KEY FACTS

- **Total Outlay:** ₹2,584.60 crore.
- **Target:** To add an additional **1,500 MW** of small hydro power capacity.
- **Employment:** Generation of **51 lakh person-days** of employment during the construction phase.
- **Investment Estimate:** Potential to attract investments worth approximately **₹15,000 crore** in this sector.

2. CLASSIFICATION IN INDIA

In India, hydropower projects are divided into two types based on their capacity:

- **Small Hydro Power (SHP):** Projects with a capacity up to **25 MW**. These fall under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- **Large Hydro Power:** Projects with a capacity exceeding **25 MW**. These fall under the **Ministry of Power**.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Central Government provides financial aid based on the project's location:

- **North Eastern States & Border Districts:** ₹3.6 crore per MW or 30% of the project cost (whichever is lower), with a maximum cap of **₹30 crore** per project.
- **Other Regions:** ₹2.4 crore per MW or 20% of the project cost, with a maximum cap of **₹20 crore** per project.

4. REGIONAL POTENTIAL

India's total small hydro power potential is estimated at **21,133.61 MW**.

- **Northern India (38%):** Led by Himachal Pradesh (highest), Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Southern India (26%):** **Karnataka (3,726.49 MW)** is the leading state in this region and the country.
- **North Eastern India (15%):** Arunachal Pradesh is the primary contributor.
- **Western & Eastern India:** Account for the remaining share.

5. PROJECT TYPES - HIGHLIGHTS

- **Run-of-the-river:** Generating electricity by diverting the natural flow of a river without building large dams. This causes minimal environmental damage.
- **Canal Fall/Dam Toe:** Utilizing the drops (elevation changes) in irrigation canals or the water pressure at the base of existing dams to generate power.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

- **Grid Stability:** Unlike solar or wind power, hydro provides **24x7 (Round-the-Clock)** electricity.
- **Eco-Friendly:** Requires less land; involves minimal deforestation and human displacement.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Encourages the use of indigenous (locally made) machinery.
- **Decentralization:** Providing electricity locally to remote and hilly areas reduces **transmission losses**.

SRINAGAR KHEL SANKALP - 2026

The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, released this document during the conclusion of the three-day '**Chintan Shivar**' held in Srinagar.

1. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

- **Athlete-Centric Vision:** Strengthening India's sports sector by keeping athletes as the central focus.
- **Cooperative Federalism:** Ensuring the Center, States, and Union Territories work together toward a unified sporting goal.

2. KEY FOCUS AREAS

- **Talent Identification:** Identifying talented athletes at rural and regional levels.
- **Regional Sports Clusters:** Developing regional sports centers tailored to the geographical and cultural contexts of various states.
- **Social Development through Sports:** Using sports as a tool for health improvement, **Sports Tourism**, youth empowerment, and economic growth.
- **Global Events:** Focusing on India's aspiration to host prestigious international events like the **Olympics** and **World Cups**.

3. GOVERNANCE REFORMS

- **Transparency:** Enhancing transparency in sports administration and strengthening institutional frameworks.
- **Professionalization:** Transitioning the management of sports federations into a more professional structure.

4. SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURING

- Positioning India as a **Global Hub** for the manufacturing of sports goods.
- Creating employment through cluster-based development, innovation, and support for domestic industries.

5. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- **MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat):** Leveraging this platform to foster leadership qualities among youth and increase their active participation in nation-building.

POINTS TO REMEMBER (EXAM PERSPECTIVE):

1. **Venue of Chintan Shivir:** Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
2. **Inaugurated by:** Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Union Sports Minister).
3. **Fit India Message:** A 'Sundays on Cycle' cyclothon was organized as part of this event to promote fitness.
4. **Goal:** Advancing toward 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by boosting the indigenous manufacturing of sports equipment.

STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE - NEW PROJECT (2025-2030)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) have launched a five-year project to protect biodiversity by empowering and involving local communities.

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Full Name:** 'Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments'.
- **Partner Organizations:** Government of India, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Budget:** A grant of **USD 4.88 million**.
- **Duration:** 2025 to 2030 (5 years).

2. TARGET LANDSCAPES

The project will be implemented in two ecologically significant regions:

- **Tamil Nadu:** The **Sathyamangalam landscape** (confluence of Western and Eastern Ghats), including the Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves.
- **Meghalaya:** The **Garo Hills** region, encompassing Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Balpakram National Park, and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary.

3. KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Biodiversity in GPDs:** Greening the Gram Panchayat Development Plans by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into local governance.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Building the capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).
- **Innovative Financing:** Activating Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) arrangements, CSR co-financing, and supporting green micro-enterprises.
- **Inclusive Participation:** Prioritizing the economic and governance roles of women, Scheduled Castes (SC), and tribal communities.

4. STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

- **30x30 Target:** Supports the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's goal to protect **30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030**.

- **NBSAP Implementation:** It is part of India's updated 'National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030)'.
- **Bottom-Up Approach:** Moving governance from the grassroots (village) level upward to ensure community ownership.

QUICK FACTS FOR EXAMS:

1. **Nodal Agencies:** MoEFCC and NBA.
2. **International Partners:** GEF and UNDP.
3. **States Involved:** Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.
4. **Core Approach:** 'Whole-of-Government' and 'Whole-of-Society' approach.

INTERNATIONAL ELECTION VISITORS' PROGRAMME (IEVP) 2026

As part of the prestigious **International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) 2026** conducted by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, delegates from 38 countries arrived to witness the Legislative Assembly election processes in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

1. WHAT IS IEVP?

- It is a **flagship program** of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- **Objective:** To foster cooperation with Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of other countries and international organizations. It aims to introduce India's electoral system, technology, and best practices to the world.

2. IEVP 2026 - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Participants:** A total of **70 delegates from 38 countries** and members of '**International IDEA**' participated.
- **States Visited:** Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

3. KEY FEATURES OBSERVED BY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

- **Electoral Technology:** Delegates praised the transparency in the distribution and utilization of **EVM machines** (Control Unit, Ballot Unit, and VVPAT).
- **Webcasting:** The monitoring of polling stations through **100% webcasting** was cited as a prime example of transparency.
- **Inclusive Elections:**
 - **Home Voting** facility for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
 - Polling stations managed entirely by **women and PwDs**.
 - Facilities such as **ramps, wheelchairs, and crèches** at polling stations.
- **Innovative Practices:** **Color-coded polling booths** in Tamil Nadu, and **mobile phone deposit facilities** and health check-up services in West Bengal.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

- **Festival of Democracy:** Observing the precision, massive scale, and voter enthusiasm in India's election management, delegates described India as a "school for the world."
- **Spirit of Cooperative Federalism:** The program showcased the seamless coordination between the Central and State election machineries.

QUICK REVISION BITS FOR EXAMS:

1. **Whose initiative is IEVP?** – Election Commission of India (ECI).
2. **How many countries participated in 2026?** – 38 Countries.
3. **What is International IDEA?** – An intergovernmental organization based in Sweden that supports sustainable democracy worldwide.
4. **Important Term: 'Assured Minimum Facilities' (AMF)** – The basic facilities provided at polling stations for the convenience of voters.

INDIAN CENSUS 2027 - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The 2027 Census of India is set to be the **first-ever digital census** in the country's history. This will be the 16th Indian Census overall and the 8th since Independence.

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Ancient References:** Mention of census-taking is found in Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (321–296 BCE) and Abul Fazl's *Ain-i-Akbari*.
- **First Census:** Conducted between 1865 and 1872 (not conducted simultaneously across all regions).
- **First Synchronous Census:** Conducted in 1881. Since then, a census has been held every 10 years.
- **Note:** The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is now being conducted in 2027.

2. LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Legislation:** Governed by the **Census Act, 1948** and the **Census Rules, 1990**.
- **Constitutional Status:** Census is a subject under the **Union List** (Seventh Schedule – Entry No. 69).
- **Confidentiality:** Under Section 15 of the Census Act, personal information is kept strictly confidential. It cannot be accessed via RTI or used as evidence in a court of law.
- **Budget:** The Union Cabinet has allocated **₹11,718.24 crore** for this project.

3. TWO-PHASE STRATEGY

The 2027 Census will be conducted in two phases:

- **Phase 1: House-listing & Housing Census (HLO):** April – September 2026. This focuses on living conditions, assets, and amenities.
- **Phase 2: Population Enumeration (PE):** Scheduled for February 2027.
 - **Reference Date (Census Moment):** March 1, 2027 (at 00:00 hours).
 - (For snow-bound areas, the reference date is October 1, 2026).

4. SALIENT FEATURES

- **First Digital Census:** Data collection will occur via mobile apps (available in 16 regional languages).
- **Caste Enumeration:** Following the CCPA decision on April 30, 2025, the census will include other castes in addition to SC/STs.
- **Self-Enumeration:** Citizens are provided the option to register their details themselves via an online portal (15 days prior).
- **CMMS Portal:** The 'Census Management & Monitoring System' portal has been developed to monitor the process in real-time.
- **Data Security:** Census Data Centers are identified as **Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)** and are secured with ISO standards.

5. SIGNIFICANCE

- **Governance:** Acts as the foundation for planning food, water, electricity, and infrastructure.
- **Policy Formulation:** Provides accurate data for resource allocation and ensuring government schemes reach targeted groups.
- **Employment:** This massive exercise will generate approximately **1.02 crore man-days** of employment.

QUICK REVISION BITS FOR EXAMS:

1. **Which is the first digital census?** – 2027.
2. **In which phase will caste enumeration occur?** – Phase 2 (Population Enumeration).
3. **Under which list does the Census fall?** – Union List.
4. **Which is the nodal ministry for the Census?** – Ministry of Home Affairs (Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner).
5. **How many languages are available on the self-enumeration portal?** – 16 languages.

NITI AAYOG REPORT: "MOVING TOWARDS EFFECTIVE CITY GOVERNMENT - A FRAMEWORK FOR MILLION-PLUS CITIES"

Background: Released on **April 25, 2026**, by the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar. The primary objective is to enhance the role of cities in achieving the '**Viksit Bharat 2047**' vision.

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF CITIES

- Cities act as the engines of growth for India to evolve into a **\$30 Trillion economy**.
- The report focuses specifically on '**Million-Plus**' cities (cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs).

2. CURRENT CHALLENGES IN URBAN GOVERNANCE

- **Fragmented Institutional Arrangements:** Lack of coordination between various departments.
- **Limited Devolution of Power:** Lack of effective decentralization.
- **Weak Financial Autonomy:** Heavy dependence on state/central funds and low self-revenue generation.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Diffused responsibility leading to poor service delivery.

3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Category	Recommendation
Leadership	Introduction of a Directly Elected Mayor with a fixed tenure. Establishment of a ' Mayor-in-Council ' system for executive support.
Service Integration	Key services like water supply, sanitation, and public transport should be brought directly under the city government's control.
Financial Resources	Strengthen Own-Source Revenue (OSR) . Ensure timely fund transfers via State Finance Commissions (SFCs) and encourage the use of Municipal Bonds .
Institutional Reforms	Bringing Parastatal Agencies (e.g., Development Authorities like HUDA/BMRDA) under the oversight and coordination of the city government.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- **Role of States:** State governments must amend their respective '**Municipal Acts**' to align with these reforms.
- **Role of Centre:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) should update the '**Model Municipal Law**'.
- **Approach:** Reforms should be implemented through a **Phased Approach** rather than a single-stroke transition.

QUICK REVISION BITS (EXAM FOCUS):

1. **Report Title:** *Moving Towards Effective City Government – A Framework for Million-plus Cities.*
2. **Issuing Authority:** NITI Aayog.
3. **Core Reform:** **Directly Elected Mayor** with a fixed tenure and executive powers.
4. **National Goal:** Achieving a **\$30 Trillion economy** and **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.
5. **Constitutional Context:** This report aligns with the spirit of the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act (1992)**, which aims to empower Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN (NMBA) 2.0 APP – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Background: The upgraded **NMBA 2.0** app was launched by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, and the Governor of Punjab, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, during the 'Chintan Shivir' held in Chandigarh on **April 24, 2026**.

1. ABOUT NASHA MukT BHARAT ABHIYAAN (NMBA)

- **Launch Date:** August 15, 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- **Objective:** To create awareness about substance abuse nationwide and build a drug-free society.
- **Expansion:** Initially launched in 272 most vulnerable districts, it was extended to **all districts** across the country starting **August 15, 2023**.
- **Key Statistics:** To date, over 26 crore people have been sensitized (including 9.5+ crore youth and 6.47+ crore women).

2. NMBA 2.0 APP - SALIENT FEATURES

The app serves as a centralized digital tool to monitor the implementation of the **NAPDDR** (National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction).

- **Citizen Participation:** The app is now accessible to the general public. Users can take an **e-Pledge** and access Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.
- **Real-time Reporting:** States, Districts, and institutions can instantly upload and report their on-ground activities.
- **'Anudan' (Grant) Tracking:** It allows Grant-in-Aid (GIA) institutions to track their grant status in real-time, ensuring transparency and accountability in fund utilization.
- **Nearest De-addiction Center:** Features a tool to help users locate the nearest de-addiction and treatment facilities.
- **Helpline Support:** Provides direct access to essential helplines, including the **MANAS** (Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System) helpline and the national de-addiction helpline.

3. INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- **Nasha Mukti Mitr:** The volunteers formerly known as 'Master Volunteers' have been renamed '**Nasha Mukti Mitr**'. The app facilitates their easy onboarding and management.

QUICK REVISION BITS FOR EXAMS:

1. **Which Ministry oversees the NMBA?**
 - **Answer:** Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. **Where was the NMBA 2.0 App launched?**
 - **Answer:** Chandigarh (at the Chintan Shivir).
3. **What does NAPDDR stand for?**
 - **Answer:** National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.
4. **What is the purpose of the MANAS helpline?**
 - **Answer:** To provide mental health support and assistance regarding drug demand reduction.
5. **Who are 'Nasha Mukti Mitrs'?**
 - **Answer:** Volunteers dedicated to spreading awareness and preventing substance abuse.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER TO NITI AAYOG - 2026

Context: On April 25, 2026, Prof. Gobardhan Das was appointed as a member of NITI Aayog. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him and extended his best wishes for a successful tenure.

1. ABOUT PROF. GOBARDHAN DAS

- **Expertise:** He has made significant contributions in the fields of **Public Health, Science, and Innovation**.
- **Career Highlights:** He previously served as the Director of the Special Centre for Molecular Medicine at **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** and has held positions in various prestigious educational institutions.
- **Research:** His research in **Immunology and Infectious Diseases** has received global recognition.

2. STRUCTURE OF NITI AAYOG (EXAM FOCUS)

It is essential for aspirants to remember the organizational framework of NITI Aayog:

- **Chairperson:** The Prime Minister.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Appointed by the Prime Minister.
- **Full-time Members:** Experts from various fields (Prof. Gobardhan Das has been appointed in this category).
- **Ex-officio Members:** Maximum of four members from the Union Council of Ministers.
- **Special Invitees:** Experts and specialists with relevant domain knowledge.

3. FUNCTIONS OF NITI AAYOG

- **Cooperative Federalism:** Promoting the involvement of State Governments in the nation's development.
- **Bottom-Up Approach:** Formulating plans starting from the village level.
- **Knowledge and Innovation Hub:** Functioning as the government's premier **Think-tank**.

QUICK REVISION BITS:

1. **Who has been appointed as the new member of NITI Aayog?**
 - **Answer:** Prof. Gobardhan Das.
2. **In which fields is Prof. Gobardhan Das an expert?**
 - **Answer:** Public Health, Science, and Innovation.
3. **When was NITI Aayog established?**
 - **Answer:** January 1, 2015 (Replacing the Planning Commission).
4. **What is the full form of NITI Aayog?**
 - **Answer:** National Institution for Transforming India.

CANCER-FREE INDIA: GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES (VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2026)

Context: On April 25, 2026, Vice-President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan addressed the **23rd Cancer Survivors' Day** celebrations organized by Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital in Jaipur.

1. CANCER STATUS IN INDIA (AS PER ICMR REPORT)

- **Annual Cases:** According to the ICMR National Cancer Registry Programme, India records over **15 lakh** new cancer cases annually.

- **Prevention:** Cancer risk can be significantly reduced through lifestyle changes, tobacco prevention, and healthy dietary habits.

2. ROLE OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PMJAY

- **Number of Treatments:** Over **68 lakh** cancer treatments have been provided under the Ayushman Bharat scheme to date.
- **Expenditure:** The government has spent over **₹13,000 crore** on these treatments.
- **Rural Beneficiaries:** Notably, **75%** of the beneficiaries receiving cancer treatment under this scheme are from **rural areas**, effectively bridging the urban-rural healthcare gap.

3. KEY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- **Day Care Cancer Centres:** Specialized centers for cancer treatment are being established in district hospitals. Currently, more than **450 centers** are operational.
- **HPV Vaccination:** A nationwide **HPV vaccination** program has been launched to prevent **Cervical Cancer**, aiming to cover one crore girls.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs:** These serve as grassroots platforms for conducting cancer screenings and early detection camps.
- **Essential Drugs List (EDL):** Anti-cancer drugs have been included in the Essential Drugs List and are being made available at district and sub-divisional hospitals.

4. FUTURE PRIORITIES

- **Early Detection:** Identifying cancer at an early stage is critical to reducing mortality rates.
- **Comprehensive Coordination:** Strengthening the sharing of technological advancements between public and private hospitals to ensure wider access to quality treatment.

QUICK REVISION BITS FOR EXAMS:

1. **Who is the Vice-President of India?**
 - **Answer:** Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan.
2. **What is the share of the rural population in cancer treatments provided under Ayushman Bharat?**
 - **Answer:** 75%.
3. **The HPV vaccine is intended to prevent which disease?**
 - **Answer:** Cervical Cancer.
4. **Which institution maintains the national statistics for cancer in India?**
 - **Answer:** ICMR (National Cancer Registry Programme).