

INDIA-U.S. NUCLEAR COOPERATION

- **TRUST Initiative:** Launched on February 13, 2025, during the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump.
- **Objective:** Focused on trusted technology partnerships, resilient supply chains, and fostering innovation ecosystems in sectors like Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technology, advanced materials, critical minerals, energy, and space technologies.
- **CNEWG:** Civil nuclear cooperation between the two nations is being actively pursued under the Indo-U.S. Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group (CNEWG).
- **Kovvada Project:** Discussions reviewed the progress of the proposed **Westinghouse AP1000** nuclear power project at Kovvada (located in Andhra Pradesh).

INDIA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY TARGETS & POLICY REFORMS

- **Viksit Bharat 2047 Target:** India aims to scale up its nuclear power capacity from the current **8.8 GW** to **100 GW** by the year 2047 through a phased expansion strategy.
- **SHANTI Act, 2025:** India recently enacted this major policy reform to facilitate greater participation of the private sector, including foreign investment, in the nuclear energy sector.
- **SMRs (Small Modular Reactors):** The Government of India has allocated nearly **₹20,000 crore** to support the development of Small Modular Reactors.

OTHER KEY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

- **LIGO-India Project:** A prestigious mega-science project jointly implemented by India's Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) in collaboration with the U.S.-based LIGO Laboratory and the National Science Foundation.
- **Budgetary Provision:** ₹2,600 crore.
- **Fermilab Partnership:** India is collaborating with the U.S.-based Fermilab for high-intensity superconducting proton accelerator technologies.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Union Minister	Dr. Jitendra Singh (MoS Independent Charge for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Atomic Energy, and Space)
TRUST Initiative	Tech & strategic framework signed between India and the U.S. on Feb 13, 2025

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Nuclear Energy Target	To reach 100 GW by 2047 (Current capacity: 8.8 GW)
SHANTI Act, 2025	Legislation passed to allow private and foreign investment in India's nuclear sector
SMR Allocation	~₹20,000 crore
LIGO-India Budget	₹2,600 crore
AP1000 Project Site	Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh (in collaboration with Westinghouse)

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON SHE-MARTS

- **Organized By:** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.
- **Host & Facilitator:** Hosted by the Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), Mission Shakti Department, Government of Odisha, and facilitated by 'PRADAN' as the National Support Organisation (NSO).
- **Venue & Dates:** May 14-15, 2026, at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- **Background:** The national consultation was organized to finalize operational guidelines to pave the way for the implementation of the **Budget Announcement - 2026**.

SHE-MARTS INITIATIVE - KEY FEATURES & OBJECTIVES

- **Full Form:** Self Help Entrepreneurs-Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation (SHE-MARTs).
- **Core Objective:** To strengthen women-led rural enterprises and market systems across India.
- **Operational Model:** Moving away from subsidy-driven institutional retail models, SHE-MARTs are designed to function as **decentralized, professionally managed, and community-owned retail and aggregation systems** led by women's collectives.
- **Impact:** Aims to enhance sustainable income opportunities, branding, and market access for women-led producer collectives.

CONVERGENCE & NATIONAL TARGETS

- **Lakhpati Didi Target:** The Ministry of Rural Development reiterated its strategic commitment to creating **3 crore additional Lakhpati Didis by 2029** (SHG women lifting their households to an annual income of ₹1 lakh or more).
- **Convergence with VB-GRAM-G:** Deliberations focused on linking SHE-MARTs with the **VB-GRAM-G** initiative to leverage women-centric infrastructure, generate market demand, and strengthen rural support systems.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
Primary Mission	DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission)
SHE-MART Acronym	Self Help Entrepreneurs-Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation
Consultation Venue	Bhubaneswar, Odisha (May 2026)
Lakhpati Didi Target	To create 3 crore additional Lakhpati Didis by 2029
National Support Org (NSO)	PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action)
Convergence Framework	Integrated with the VB-GRAM-G initiative for infrastructure and market support

INAUGURATION & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Inaugurated By:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah**.
- **Center Name:** Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera Jan Suvidha Kendra.
- **Location:** Netanar village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - Netanar village is the birthplace of the revered tribal martyr **Veer Gundadhur**.
 - In 1910, Veer Gundadhur led the historic **Bhumkal Rebellion**, mobilizing the tribal communities of Bastar against British colonial rule.

- The site chosen for this public service center was previously the Netanar security camp (established in 2013), symbolizing a transition from a security outpost to a community service center following the eradication of Naxalism.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES & STRATEGIC TARGETS

- **Niyad Nellanar Scheme:** A comprehensive welfare scheme run by the Chhattisgarh government to deliver primary schools, affordable ration shops, cluster PSCs, and Common Service Centers (CSCs) directly to villages in former Naxal-affected areas.
- **Security Camp Conversion Target:** Out of approximately 200 security camps currently active in Bastar, the government aims to convert **70 camps into Welfare Service Centers (Seva Kendras)** within the next 1.5 years.
- **Unified Service Delivery:** These centers will leverage the Common Service Center (CSC) framework to provide access to **371 welfare schemes** of both Central and State governments under one roof (including banking, registration, and health benefits).
- **Development Timeline:** The government has committed to a **5-year roadmap** to compensate for decades of developmental stagnation caused by insurgency, transforming them into vibrant tribal hubs.

CULTURAL & SPORTS INITIATIVES

- **Bastar Olympics:** An initiative launched to engage tribal youth and promote sports across the region.
- **Bastar Pandum:** A dedicated cultural platform designed to showcase and globally promote the literature, language, music, art, dance, and diverse cuisines of the Bastar tribal communities.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Inaugurated Facility	Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera Jan Suvidha Kendra
Location	Netanar Village, Bastar (Chhattisgarh)
Historical Anchor	Veer Gundadhur – Leader of the 1910 Bhumkal Rebellion
State Welfare Scheme	Niyad Nellanar Scheme (Infrastructure & basic amenities for tribal villages)

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Security Transformation Target	To turn 70 security camps into Seva Kendras within 1.5 years
Integrated Services	Access to 371 Central and State schemes via CSCs
Cultural & Sports Festivals	Bastar Pandum (Culture) & Bastar Olympics (Sports)

NEW CEO: SHRI SAURABH VIJAY APPOINTMENT DETAILS

- **New CEO: Shri Saurabh Vijay** has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- **Cadre & Batch:** He is an IAS officer of the **1998 batch** belonging to the **Maharashtra cadre**.
- **Previous Positions:** Prior to joining UIDAI, he served as the Principal Secretary (Expenditure) in the Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra. His past assignments include serving as an Advisor to the Executive Director for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka at the **World Bank** in Washington D.C., and as Director at the President's Secretariat in New Delhi.

KEY STATIC GK FOR EXAMS (ABOUT UIDAI)

- **Nodal Ministry:** It functions under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, Government of India.
- **Nature of the Organisation:** UIDAI is a **Statutory Authority** established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016**.
- **Primary Objective:** To issue a unique 12-digit identification number (Aadhaar) to all residents of India and to manage its digital identity infrastructure.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Newly Appointed CEO of UIDAI	Shri Saurabh Vijay (IAS)
Cadre & Batch	Maharashtra Cadre, 1998 Batch

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
UIDAI Institutional Status	Statutory Body (Established under Aadhaar Act, 2016)
Notable International Role	Former Advisor to the Executive Director at the World Bank

MISSION "COFFEES OF NAGALAND"

- **Launch:** Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and Communications, officially launched this mission for Nagaland.
- **Financial Outlay:** The project has been allocated a total budget of **₹175 crores**.
- **Approach:** It implements a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of India' approach, bringing together central/state governments, ministries, farmers, entrepreneurs, and exporters onto a single common platform.
- **Primary Objective:** To transform Nagaland from a producer of raw coffee into a premium, traceable, single-origin specialty coffee economy with a strong domestic and international market presence.

CLUSTER-BASED MODEL & PILOT PROJECTS

The mission adopts a targeted cluster-based approach, identifying two distinct pilot coffee clusters based on agro-climatic suitability:

1. **Arabica Coffee Cluster:** Located at Tuophema village in the Kohima district.
2. **Robusta Coffee Cluster:** Located at Ghotovi village in the Niuland district.

KEY STRATEGIC ELEMENTS FOR HIGHER EXAMS (UPSC/STATE PSC)

- **Agricultural Diversification:** Coffee cultivation is being strategically promoted as a viable, long-term alternative to **Shifting Cultivation (Jhum/Slash-and-Burn agriculture)**, aiming to foster environmentally sustainable farming.
- **Global Branding & Value Addition:** The roadmap integrates **Organic Certification, Geographical Indication (GI Tagging)**, and digital traceability to ensure local smallholders secure direct access to premium international markets.
- **Experiential Coffee Tourism:** The initiative introduces a "farm-to-cup" ecosystem, promoting coffee farm-stays and eco-tourism to establish Nagaland as a niche global destination for specialty coffee tourism.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Topic / Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Name of the Mission	Mission "Coffees of Nagaland"
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)
Total Budget Allocation	₹175 Crores
Pilot Cluster for Arabica Coffee	Tuophema Village (Kohima District)
Pilot Cluster for Robusta Coffee	Ghotovi Village (Niuland District)
Sustainable Alternative to	Shifting / Jhum Cultivation
Key Growth Pillars	Organic Certification, GI Tagging, and Digital Traceability

RAKSHA MANTRI'S OFFICIAL VISIT (OVERVIEW)

- **Tour Details:** The Union Minister of Defence (Raksha Mantri), **Shri Rajnath Singh**, will undertake official visits to two Asian nations: **Vietnam (May 18–19, 2026)** and the **Republic of Korea / South Korea (May 19–21, 2026)**.
- **Core Focus:** Deepening strategic military cooperation, strengthening defence industrial partnerships, boosting maritime collaboration, and promoting peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region.

1. INDIA–VIETNAM BILATERAL RELATIONS

- **Partnership Status:** The visit marks the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations. Following the Vietnamese President's state visit to India earlier in May 2026, the relationship was upgraded to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- **Bilateral Talks:** Shri Rajnath Singh will hold high-level talks with Vietnam's Minister of National Defence, **General Phan Van Giang**.
- **Defence Vision 2030:** Bilateral cooperation continues to be guided by the "**Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030**", which was signed during the Raksha Mantri's visit in June 2022.

- **Historical Context:** The visit coincides with the **136th birth anniversary of former Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh** (May 19, 2026). The Raksha Mantri will pay respects at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

2. INDIA–SOUTH KOREA BILATERAL RELATIONS

- **Defence Dialogue:** The Raksha Mantri will hold bilateral talks with South Korea's Minister of National Defence, **Mr. Ahn Gyu-back**, and the Minister of the Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA), **Mr. Lee, Yong-cheol**.
- **Strategic Convergence:** The engagement highlights a natural alignment between India's '**Act East Policy**' and South Korea's '**Indo-Pacific Strategy**'.
- **Industrial Synergy:** Shri Rajnath Singh will chair the India-Korea business roundtable to enhance defence industrial frameworks and joint acquisitions.

INDIA'S HISTORIC ROLE IN THE KOREAN WAR (STATIC GK / HISTORY FOCUS)

This visit highlights India's historic contributions to global peace during the Korean War, a frequent area of focus for higher-level civil services exams:

- **60 Parachute Field Ambulance:** The Indian Army deployed this humanitarian medical unit, which served for over three years, treated over 2 lakh patients, and performed roughly 2,500 surgeries.
- **Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC):** Formed based on an Indian proposal to the UN, **India chaired this commission** to oversee the repatriation of Prisoners of War (PoWs).
- **Custodian Force of India (CFI):** A 5,230-strong Indian Army contingent deployed to the peninsula to ensure the peaceful and orderly repatriation of nearly 2,000 prisoners of war post-conflict.
- **Indian War Memorial:** To honor these fallen soldiers, a joint inauguration of the **Indian War Memorial** is scheduled for May 21, 2026, alongside South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Parameter / Nation	Vietnam	South Korea
Counterpart Defence Minister	General Phan Van Giang	Mr. Ahn Gyu-back
Strategic Framework	Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	Act East Policy aligned with Indo-Pacific Strategy
Key Historical Linkage	136th Birth Anniversary of Ho Chi Minh	Korean War Legacy (60 Parachute Field Ambulance / NNRC)

Parameter / Nation	Vietnam	South Korea
Major Event / Agreement	Defence Partnership Vision 2030 Roadmap	Joint Inauguration of the Indian War Memorial (May 21, 2026)
Procurement Agency Met	—	DAPA (Defence Acquisition Program Administration)

IOS SAGAR VISIT - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **News in Focus:** The Indian Navy's Indian Ocean Ship, '**IOS Sagar**', departed Colombo, Sri Lanka on May 18, 2026, following a successful three-day port call.
- **Current Destination:** After completing its visit to Colombo, IOS Sagar is currently en route to **Kochi**, Kerala, India.

KEY STRATEGIC ELEMENTS FOR EXAMS

- **MAHASAGAR Vision:** This deployment is a core part of India's "**MAHASAGAR**" (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**) strategic vision.
 - *Exam Pointer:* The primary objective of this initiative is to foster maritime cooperation, regional security, economic growth, and safe sea lanes among partner nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **Passage Exercise (PASSEX):** Upon its departure from Colombo, IOS Sagar participated in a joint **PASSEX** with the Sri Lanka Navy Ship '**SLNS Nandimithra**'.
 - *Exam Pointer:* Such exercises feature coordinated tactical maneuvers and communication drills designed to enhance interoperability, seamanship, and operational coordination between partner navies.

OTHER MAJOR POINTERS (OUTREACH & CULTURE)

- **Regional Security Dialogue:** During the port call, the Commanding Officer of IOS Sagar met with senior leadership of the Sri Lanka Navy to discuss regional security frameworks and collective efforts to secure vital sea lanes.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** The multinational crew of the ship undertook cultural visits to Sri Lanka's historic and heritage cities, namely **Galle** and **Kandy**.

QUICK REVISION TABLE FOR EXAMS

Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Indian Naval Ship Involved	IOS Sagar (Indian Ocean Ship)

Parameter	Key Exam Pointers
Port of Call / Country Visited	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
India's Main Strategic Vision	MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)
Sri Lankan Ship in PASSEX	SLNS Nandimithra
Next Destination Base	Kochi, India

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