

February - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has established a new Company operative Base (COB) in Kutul, located in Chhattisgarh's Abhujhmad region.
- ❖ The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is set to launch the Lord Buddha Trination Tri services Expedition, a historic initiative uniting the armed forces of India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The first-ever Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Youth Summit 2025 was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat under the Theme of "Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange."
- ❖ Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) comprising INS Sujata, INS Shardul and ICGS Veera visited Changi Naval Base, Singapore for a series of joint Training activities.
- ❖ RBI would introduce a new web domain “.bank.in”, which is designed to promote trust in the domains that banking customers in the country use from April 2025.
- ❖ French tennis player Kyrian Jacquet won his first ATP title by clinching the 2025 Chennai Open men's singles title.

TAMIL NADU

Crime against SC/STs in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has recorded a rise in crimes against the SCs and STs during the period between 2020 and 2022.
- ❖ The Cases registered under crime against the SCs in 2020 were 1,274 and 1,377 in 2021.
- ❖ In 2022, there was a spurt in crimes against the SCs and it resulted in the registration of 1,761 cases.
- ❖ In 2020, there were 23 cases and increased to 30 in 2021 and 67 in 2022.
- ❖ The State also witnessed crimes against women belonging to the SCs and STs.
- ❖ Cases of rape of SC women were 116 in 2020, 123 in 2021 and 166 in 2022.
- ❖ In the case of ST women, cases of rape were 3 in 2020, 6 in 2021 and 14 in 2022.
- ❖ There is a rise in the crimes against the SCs and STs in all States and Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 15,368 cases, up from 12,714 cases in 2020 and 13,146 cases in 2021.



- ❖ The National helpline against atrocities (NHAA) with a toll-free number 14566 had been created for the purpose of grievance redressal and to create awareness.

State/UT Wise Cases registered under Crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) during 2018 to 2022											
SL	State/UT	Scheduled Castes (SCs)					Scheduled Tribes (STs)				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	1836	2071	1950	2014	2315	330	330	320	361	396
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3	Assam	8	21	28	15	14	6	4	10	16	9
4	Bihar	7061	6544	7368	5842	6509	64	97	94	103	146
5	Chhattisgarh	264	341	316	330	323	388	427	502	506	516
6	Goa	5	3	2	4	8	5	2	2	5	1
7	Gujarat	1426	1416	1326	1201	1279	311	321	291	341	330
8	Haryana	961	1086	1210	1628	1633	0	1	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	130	189	251	244	210	1	1	3	7	4
10	Jharkhand	537	651	666	546	674	224	342	347	250	283
11	Karnataka	1325	1504	1398	1673	1977	322	327	293	361	438
12	Kerala	887	858	846	948	1050	138	140	130	133	172
13	Madhya Pradesh	4753	5300	6899	7214	7733	1868	1922	2401	2627	2979
14	Maharashtra	1974	2150	2569	2503	2743	526	559	663	628	742
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	1
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	5	0	8	0	0	29
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	1778	1886	2046	2327	2902	557	576	624	676	773
20	Punjab	168	166	165	200	162	0	1	4	0	0
21	Rajasthan	4607	6794	7017	7524	8752	1095	1797	1878	2121	2521
22	Sikkim	5	4	0	2	3	1	2	0	1	4
23	Tamil Nadu	1413	1144	1274	1377	1761	15	31	23	39	67
24	Telangana	1507	1690	1959	1772	1787	419	530	573	512	545
25	Tripura	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	2	0	3
26	Uttar Pradesh	11924	11829	12714	13146	15368	145	36	3	4	5
27	Uttarakhand	58	84	87	123	114	7	8	13	6	1
28	West Bengal	119	145	109	108	104	101	99	90	92	90
	TOTAL STATE(S)	42747	45876	50202	50744	57428	6524	7565	8268	8790	10055
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NATIONAL

Milestone of 100 GW Solar Power Capacity

- ❖ India has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 100 GW of installed solar power capacity (100.33 GW).
- ❖ India's solar power sector has witnessed an extraordinary 3450 % increase in capacity over the past decade.
- ❖ It was rising from 2.82 GW in 2014 to 100 GW in 2025.
- ❖ The Solar energy remains the dominant contributor to India's renewable energy growth, accounting for 47% of the total installed renewable energy capacity.
- ❖ In 2024, record-breaking 24.5 GW of solar capacity was added reflecting a more than two-fold increase in solar installations compared to 2023.
- ❖ Last year also saw the installation of 18.5 GW of utility-scale solar capacity, a nearly 2.8 times increase compared to 2023.

- ❖ Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are among the top-performing states.
- ❖ The rooftop solar sector in India witnessed remarkable growth in 2024, with 4.59 GW of new capacity installed, reflecting a 53% increase compared to 2023.



NCSK extension

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

CABINET DECISIONS
February 07, 2025

CABINET APPROVES EXTENSION OF THE TENURE OF NCSK* FOR 3 YEARS#

Financial implication:
₹50 crore+

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
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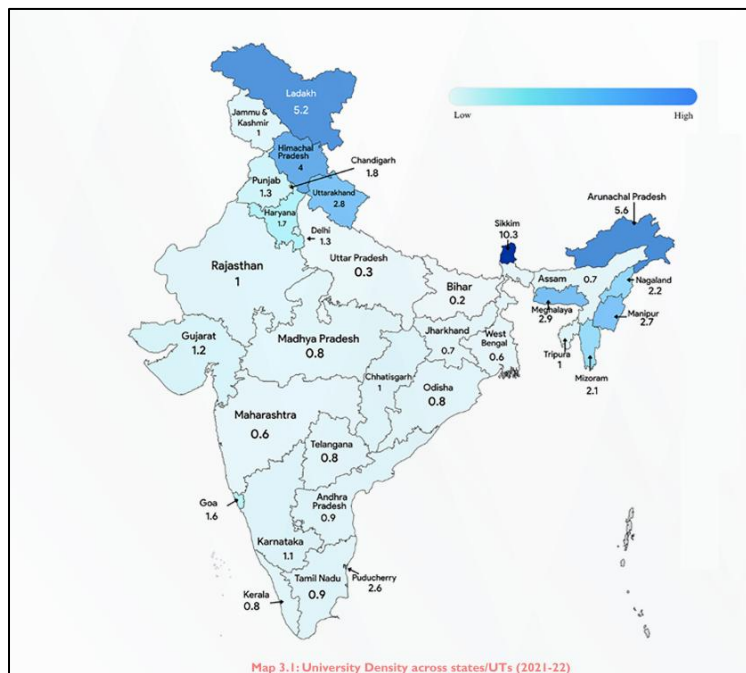
To help:

- Facilitate **socio-economic upliftment** of sanitation workers
- Improve **working conditions** in the sanitation sector
- Achieve **zero fatalities** while performing **hazardous cleaning**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a three-year extension of tenure for the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).
- ❖ It functions under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ It implements provisions of the law prohibiting manual scavenging across the country.

- ❖ It is the implementing agency for provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- ❖ The NCSK has a mandate to recommend specific programmes for the upliftment of sanitation workers to the Centre, investigate specific grievances they may have, and to study and monitor their working conditions, among other functions.
- ❖ The first NCSK, which was set up in 1994 under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act of 1993, was functioning as a statutory body till 2004, when the law lapsed.
- ❖ Since then, the commission is acting as a non-statutory body under the Social Justice Ministry with its tenure being extended from time to time.

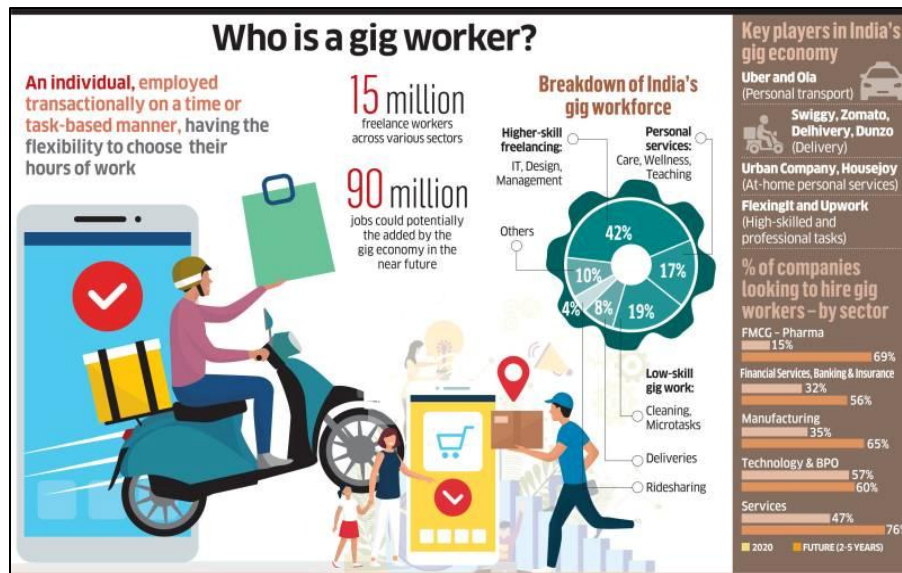
NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education 2025



- ❖ The policy report prepared by the NITI Aayog titled 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities'.
- ❖ Among all states and Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir spends most for education as a percentage of GDP at 8.11%, followed by Manipur (7.25%), Meghalaya (6.64%), and Tripura (6.19%).
- ❖ Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana continue to be the top spenders on per youth spending on higher education.
- ❖ The states like Rajasthan, Punjab and Chhattisgarh lagging in it.
- ❖ Maharashtra leads in higher education funding with a budget of ₹11,421 crore, followed by Bihar (₹9,666 crore) and Tamil Nadu (₹7,237 crore).

- ❖ States like Sikkim (₹ 142 crore), Arunachal Pradesh (₹155 crore), and Nagaland (₹167 crore) have the lowest higher education budgets.
- ❖ When considering higher education expenditure as a percentage of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Bihar ranks highest at 1.56%, followed by Jammu & Kashmir at 1.53% and Manipur at 1.45%.
- ❖ Telangana has the lowest percentage at 0.18%, while Gujarat and Rajasthan allocate 0.23% each.
- ❖ The national average university density is 0.8.
- ❖ Sikkim has the highest density of 10.3, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ In the highly populated states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, the West Bengal and Maharashtra, density at the state level is below the national average, with Bihar recording the lowest at 0.2.
- ❖ The States like Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have higher female enrolment rates than males.
- ❖ Smaller states and UTs like Chandigarh, Mizoram, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have relatively balanced male-female enrolments, with differences of only a few hundred students.

Social Security Cover for Gig Workers

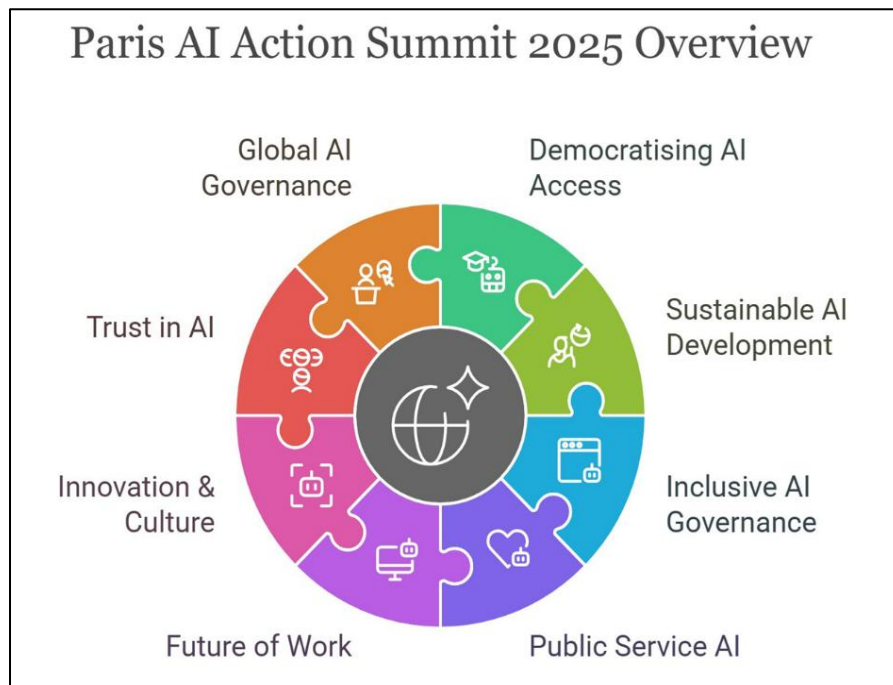


- ❖ Budget speech made two announcements on social security cover for gig workers.
- ❖ First is gig workers will be provided health insurance under the PM Jan Arogya Yojana.

- ❖ Second is such workers will be issued identity cards through the e-Shram portal, which is expected to benefit 1 crore workers.
- ❖ A gig worker is someone who takes part in short-term, flexible jobs or tasks, often through digital platforms or as independent contractors.
- ❖ There in almost every sector of the gig economy—food delivery, ride-hailing, e-commerce and other professional services.
- ❖ In India, the Niti Aayog estimates the gig workforce to be around 12.7 million in 2024-25, which may reach 23.5 million by 2029-30.
- ❖ About a century ago, John Maynard Keynes had predicted three-hour shifts or 15-hour work weeks in his pivotal essay, 'The Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren'.

INTERNATIONAL

Paris AI Summit 2025



- ❖ The third edition of the AI Action Summit was held in Paris.
- ❖ And France and India's Prime Minister acted as a co-chair the Paris Summit.
- ❖ The Summit focused on five major themes, including public service AI, future of work, innovation and culture, trust in AI, and global governance of AI.
- ❖ It's the latest in a series of global dialogues around AI governance with two previous editions held in the UK in 2023.

- ❖ The Second India-France AI Policy Roundtable was also planned as a side event during the Summit.

ENVIRONMENT

2025 Annual bird count - Pong Dam Lake

- ❖ The 2025 annual bird count at Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, recorded an unprecedented surge in waterfowl, with a total of 1,53,719 birds of 97 species.
- ❖ Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected wetland in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The sharp rise witnessed in the population of Bar-headed Geese, the sanctuary's flagship species.
- ❖ The overall rise in bird numbers - 83,555 more individuals than were counted in 2024.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2025 - February 11

- ❖ It aims to recognise the significant achievements and contributions of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- ❖ The United Nations declared this day in 2015.
- ❖ This day marks the importance of the gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the world.



- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science.”



Anti-Smuggling Day 2025 - February 11



- ❖ The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) jointly observe this day.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness on menace of cross-border smuggling and its potential impact.
- ❖ In the past year, over 12,298kg of narcotics, 177kg gold, and 179kg silver from the eastern and western borders were confiscated.

- ❖ Additionally, the Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) with a face value of Rs 3.27 million were also seized.

MISCELLANEOUS

75th Anniversary of NSS

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) celebrated the 75th anniversary of the National Sample Surveys (NSS).
- ❖ In 1950, the National Sample Survey Directorate was established in the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ In 1957, the directorate was transferred to the cabinet secretariat.
- ❖ In 1970, it became a part of the National Statistics Service of the Ministry of Planning's Department of Statistics.
- ❖ It has been under the newly formed Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation since 1999 (MOSPI).
- ❖ The Ministry has two wings - one relates to Statistics and the other is Programme Implementation.
- ❖ The Statistics Wing called the National Statistical Office (NSO) consists of the
 - Central Statistical Office (CSO),
 - The Computer Center and
 - The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

