

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 22.10.2026

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

Tamilnadu Highlights

Aadhaar Made Mandatory for 'Annan Seer' Scheme

Context

- The **Tamil Nadu** government issued a **Government Order (G.O.)** making **Aadhaar mandatory** for availing benefits under the **Annan Seer Scheme**.
- Eligible women must submit their **Aadhaar number**.

Key Provisions of the G.O.

- **Aadhaar Mandatory** to receive benefits.
- Those without Aadhaar can apply for **enrolment immediately**.
- Until Aadhaar is issued, applicants may submit **alternative documents**.

About the Annan Seer Scheme

- One of the key **election promises** of the **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)**.
- **Benefits for Brides:**
 - **8-gram (1 sovereign/pavun) gold coin.**
 - **One silk saree.**
- **Eligibility:** Women from families with **annual income up to ₹2.5 lakh**.
- **Allocation (Phase I, 2026–27): ₹812 crore.**
- **Procurement:** **Gold coins** and **silk sarees** to be bought through eligible contractors.
- **Guidelines:** Eligibility criteria and guidelines to be issued separately.

Significance of Aadhaar Linkage

- Prevents **duplication** and **fake beneficiaries**.
- Ensures **targeted delivery** to eligible families.
- **Transparency** in disbursement.
- **Alternative documents** provision avoids **exclusion** of genuine beneficiaries.

Do You Know?

- **Section 7** of the **Aadhaar Act, 2016** allows **Central and State governments** to require **Aadhaar authentication** for receiving subsidies, benefits or services funded from the **Consolidated Fund**.
- **K.S. Puttaswamy (Aadhaar) judgment, 2018** upheld Aadhaar for **welfare schemes** but struck down its mandatory use for **bank accounts** and **mobile connections**.

Aadhaar Mandatory for Annan Seer Scheme
Tamil Nadu | Welfare Scheme

Aadhaar Mandatory
- Government Order makes **Aadhaar mandatory** to receive benefits.

Enrollment
- Applicants without **Aadhaar** may enrol immediately.
- Alternative documents may be submitted while Aadhaar is being issued.

Scheme Benefits
- Benefit: **8-gram gold coin + one silk saree** for eligible brides.

Eligibility & Allocation
- Family income limit: **₹2.5 lakh** annually.
- Phase I allocation: **₹812 crore** for 2026-27 as stated in the source.

Topic: Polity

Adultery and Military Discipline in the Indian Army

Context

- An **Armoured Corps officer** was issued a **show-cause notice** under the **Army Rules, 1954**, proposing **administrative termination of service** over allegations of **adultery**.

About Adultery (Section 497, IPC)

- **Section 497** of the **Indian Penal Code, 1860** made **adultery a crime**.
- **Definition:** Sexual intercourse by a man with a woman he knows (or has reason to believe) is the wife of another man, **without that man's consent**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Only men** could be prosecuted.
 - The offence depended on the **husband's consent**.
- **Punishment:** Up to **five years imprisonment**, fine, or both.

Decriminalisation – Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018)

- The **Supreme Court** struck down **Section 497** as **unconstitutional**.
- **Court's Reasoning:**
 - Adultery is a **private matter**; does not warrant **criminal prosecution**.
 - Violates **Article 14 (equality)** and **Article 21 (life and personal liberty)**.

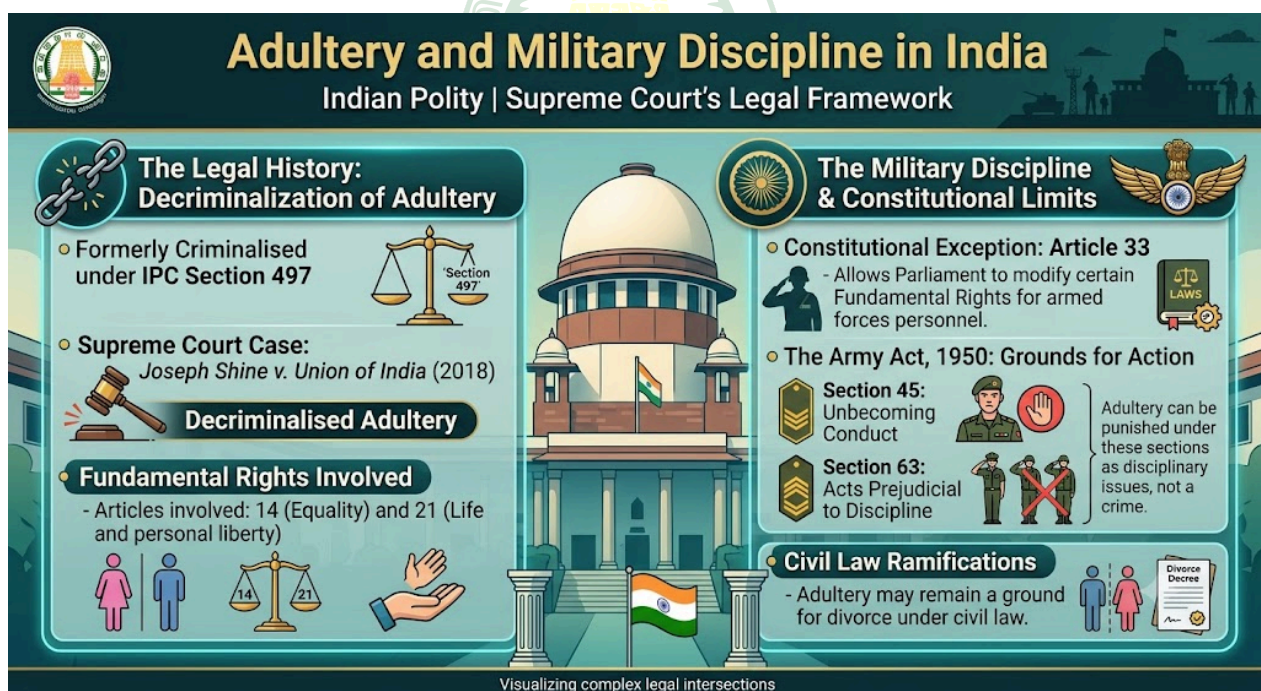
- The State should not interfere in marriage through **criminal law**.
- Adultery remains a **moral wrong** and a valid **ground for divorce** in **civil proceedings**.

Why the Army Can Still Act

- **Article 33: Parliament** can restrict or modify **Fundamental Rights** of members of the **armed forces** to ensure **discipline and duty**.
- **Army Act, 1950:**
 - **Section 45: Unbecoming conduct** of an officer.
 - **Section 63: Acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline.**
- **2023 Clarification:** The **Supreme Court** held that **Joseph Shine** does not bar **disciplinary action** under the **Army Act, Navy Act** and **Air Force Act**.

Arguments for Decriminalisation

- **Gender Equality:** Old law punished only men and treated women as **husband's property**.
- **Personal Autonomy:** Respects choice in relationships.
- **Private Resolution:** Encourages settling **marital disputes** privately.
- **Less Judicial Burden:** Courts can focus on serious crimes.



Arguments Against Decriminalisation

- **Marital Integrity:** Protects the **sanctity of marriage**.
- **Deterrence** against infidelity.
- **Social and Moral Values:** May weaken **family structures**.

- **Impact on Women:** In patriarchal settings, men may face fewer consequences.
- **Malimath Committee (2003):** Recommended retaining adultery as a **gender-neutral offence**.

Do You Know?

- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** replaced the **IPC** and **does not include adultery** as an offence.
- **Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)**, set up under the **AFT Act, 2007**, hears **service matters** of armed forces personnel.

Topic: Environment

Green Diwali Campaign 2026

Context

- **WWF-India's EIACP Programme Centre**, supported by **MoEFCC**, launched a nationwide **Green Diwali Campaign** to promote **cracker-free celebrations** under **Mission LiFE**.

About the Campaign

- A nationwide **environmental awareness** and **behavioural change** campaign.
- Encourages celebrating **Diwali without firecrackers** and with **low-pollution practices**.
- **Organised By:** **WWF-India's EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre–Resource Partner (PC-RP)**, supported by **MoEFCC**.
- **Aim:**
 - Reduce **air and noise pollution** during festivals.
 - Promote **environmentally responsible celebrations**.
 - Encourage **sustainable lifestyles** under **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**.

Key Features

- **Focus on 130 NCAP Cities:** Awareness in cities under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, involving schools, colleges, **RWAs**.
- **Green Diwali Pledge:**
 - Avoid **firecrackers**.
 - Use **diyas** and **energy-efficient lighting**.
 - Eliminate **single-use plastics**.
 - **Segregate waste**.
 - Support **local products**.
- **Carbon Footprint Assessment:** **WWF-India's Carbon Footprint Survey**.

- **Community Participation:** Pledge drives, rallies; submit **geo-tagged photos** for recognition.

Significance

- Reduces **particulate emissions, noise pollution** and **health risks**.
- Turns awareness into **sustainable consumption**.
- Mobilises citizens for **urban air-quality** improvement.

Do You Know?

- **Mission LiFE** was launched by **PM Modi** with the **UN Secretary-General** in **October 2022** at **Kevadia, Gujarat**.
- **Green crackers** were developed by **CSIR-NEERI** and emit about **30% less particulate matter**.



Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

2 Years of the PM Internship Scheme

Context

- The **PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)** has completed **two years** of implementation.

About PMIS

- **Announced In:** Union Budget 2024–25.
- **Aim:** Provide **real-life work experience** to job seekers in **top companies**.
- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Benefits:**
 - **₹9,000 per month** stipend.

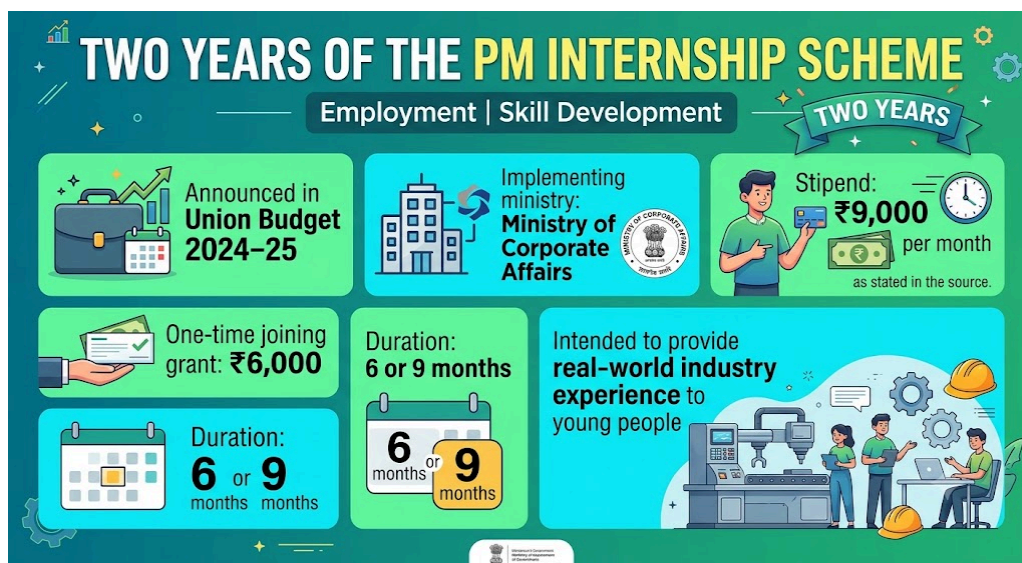
- **₹6,000 one-time joining grant.**
- **Hands-on industry exposure.**
- **Duration: 6 or 9 months.**
- **Qualifications Covered: Class 10, Class 12, ITI, Diploma, Graduation, Post-Graduation.**
- **Top Companies:** Identified based on **average CSR spending** over the last **three years**.
- **Company Participation: Voluntary.**

Eligibility

- **Age: 18–25 years** (relaxation for **SC/ST/OBC**).
- Not in **full-time employment**.
- **Family Income:** No family member earning above **₹8 lakh per year**.
- **ITI: Matriculation + ITI** in relevant trade.
- **Diploma: Intermediate + AICTE-recognised diploma.**
- **Degree: Bachelor's** from a **UGC/AICTE-recognised** university.

Key Changes in the Scheme

- **Expanded Coverage:** Beyond the **top 500 companies** to include **MSMEs** and **sunrise sectors**.
- **Higher Stipend:** Raised to **₹9,000/month**.
- **Flexible Duration:** Reduced from **12 months** to **6–9 months**.
- **Relaxed Eligibility:**
 - Age band widened from **21–24** to **18–25 years**.
 - **Master's degree holders** and **final-year UG/PG students** included.



Performance

- Changes led to a **67% to 100% increase** in youth joining in **Round III**.
- **Round III**: Launched in **April 2026**; ends in **December 2026**.

Significance

- **Job Readiness**: Bridges gap between **education and industry**.
- **Demographic Dividend**: Turns youth into a **productive workforce**.
- **Industry Participation**: Involving **MSMEs** and **sunrise sectors** widens opportunities.

Topic: Science & Technology

Aditya-L1 Generates Doppler Velocity Images of the Solar Corona

Context

- Scientists generated **Doppler velocity images** of activity in the **solar corona** using data from **Aditya-L1**, India's first solar mission.

Key Points

- **Positive Doppler velocity**: Plasma moving **away** from the observer.
- **Negative Doppler velocity**: Plasma moving **towards** the observer.
- **Doppler Effect**: Measures **speed and direction** via **frequency shift** of waves.
- **Significance**: Information on propagation of **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)** along the **Sun–Earth direction** – previously unavailable.

About Aditya-L1

- **Launched**: 2023.
- **First space-based Indian observatory** to study the **Sun**.
- **Location**: Lagrange Point L1.

About Lagrange Points

- Points where **gravitational forces** of two bodies (e.g., **Sun and Earth**) are in **equilibrium**.
- **Five Lagrange points**:
 - **Unstable**: L1, L2, L3.
 - **Stable**: L4, L5.

Advantages of L1

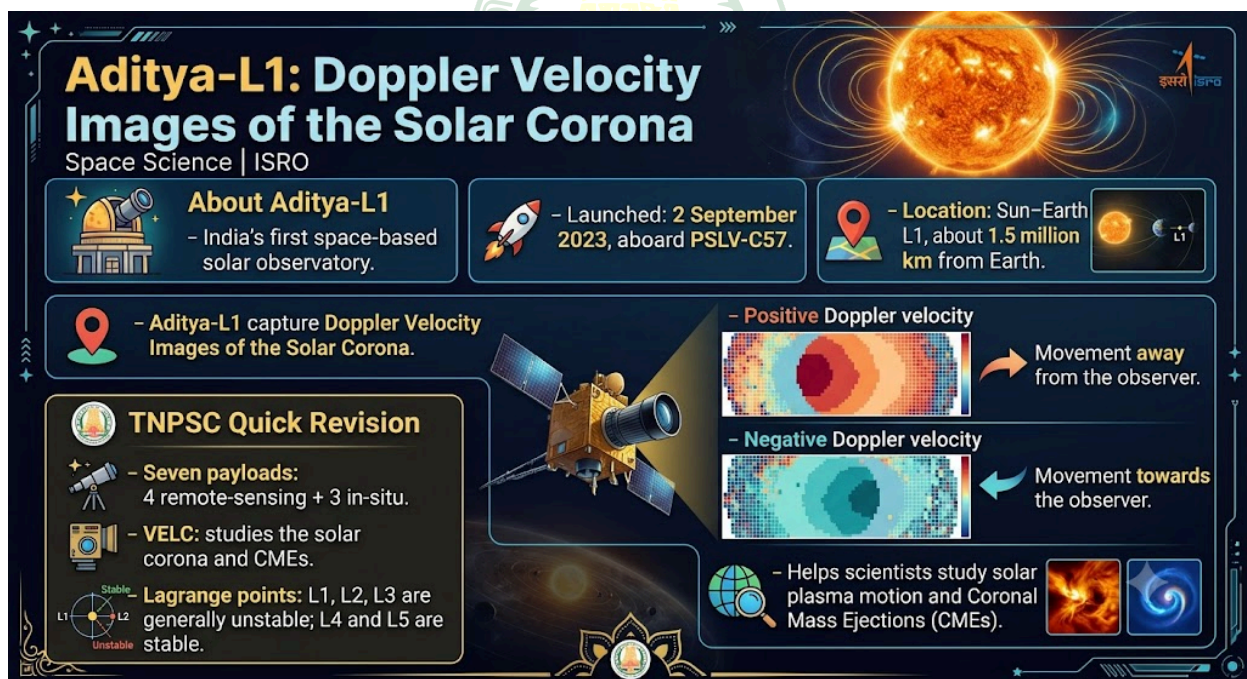
- Smooth **Sun–spacecraft velocity** change – useful for **helioseismology**.
- **Outside Earth's magnetosphere** – ideal for sampling **solar wind**.
- **Continuous, unobstructed view** of the Sun and communication with Earth.

Seven Payloads

- **Remote Sensing (4):**
 - **VELC (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph):** Corona, CMEs.
 - **SUIT (Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope):** Photosphere and chromosphere; solar irradiance.
 - **SoLEXS (Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer):** Soft X-ray flares.
 - **HEL1OS (High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer):** Hard X-ray flares.
- **In-Situ (3):**
 - **ASPEX (Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment):** Solar wind particles.
 - **PAPA (Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya):** Electrons and protons.
 - **Advanced Tri-axial High Resolution Digital Magnetometers:** Interplanetary magnetic field at L1.

Do You Know?

- **Aditya-L1** was launched by **PSLV-C57** from **Sriharikota** on **2 September 2023**.
- **L1** is about **1.5 million km** from Earth.



India's Nuclear Programme: Status, Challenges and Goals

Context

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** said India's **nuclear programme** is dedicated to **peaceful purposes**, not warfare.

- **Nuclear energy** will play a growing role in meeting India's future **energy needs**.

Status of Nuclear Power in India

- **Reactors:** 25 active reactors.
- **Capacity:** 8.7 GWe (gigawatt-electric).
- **Generation:** 56,681 million units in 2024–25.
- **Share:** About 3% of India's electricity.
- **Under Construction:** 10 reactors (~8 GWe).
- **Pre-Project Stage:** 10 units (~6.6 GWe).
- **International Cooperation:** Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) on civil nuclear cooperation with 18 countries.

Capacity Targets

- **22.48 GW (22,480 MW)** by 2031–32.
- **100 GW** by 2047.
- Indigenous **700 MW** and **1,000 MW reactors** under development.

Why Expand Nuclear Power

- **Rising Demand:** Electricity demand to rise **4–5 times** by 2047.
- **Base-Load Power:** Complements **renewables**.
- **Climate Targets:**
 - Reduce **emission intensity of GDP** by **45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels).
 - **50%** of installed power capacity from **non-fossil sources** by 2030.

History of India's Nuclear Programme

- **Atomic Energy Commission:** 1948.
- **Apsara (1956):** Asia's first research reactor, at BARC, Trombay.
- **Tarapur (1969):** India became the **second Asian nation** (after Japan) to build a **nuclear power plant**.
- **Father of India's Nuclear Programme:** Dr. Homi J. Bhabha.

Three-Stage Nuclear Programme

- **Stage 1 – Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs):**
 - **Fuel:** Natural uranium (U-238 with small U-235).
 - **Moderator and coolant:** Heavy water (D₂O).
 - Produces **Plutonium-239** as by-product.
- **Stage 2 – Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs):**

- **Fuel: Pu-239 + U-238.**
- Produce **more fissile material than they consume.**
- Generate **Pu-239** and **U-233.**
- **Stage 3 – Advanced Heavy Water Reactors (AHWRs):**
 - **Fuel: Thorium-232**, converted to **U-233.**
 - Uses India's large **thorium reserves.**

Milestone – PFBR, Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu)

- The indigenous **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu** achieved **first criticality** in **April 2026.**
- India entered the **second stage** of its nuclear programme.
- When fully operational, India will be the **second country after Russia** to run a **commercial fast breeder reactor.**

Challenges

- **Limited LWR Experience:** India mainly built **PHWRs** and **FBRs**, not **Light Water Reactors (LWRs).**
- **LWRs:** Over **85% of global civil nuclear capacity;** use **ordinary water** as **coolant and moderator;** simpler, cheaper, more thermally efficient.
- **Limited Uranium:** **Low-grade domestic reserves;** depends on **imports.**
- **High Capital Cost** and long construction periods.
- **Technology:** **SMRs** still at an early stage.
- **Public Safety Concerns** and local opposition.
- **Thorium Gap:** Commercial **thorium technology** still developing.

Government Initiatives

- **Nuclear Energy Mission: 100 GW by 2047.**
- **Bharat Small Reactors** and **SMRs** under development.
- **SHANTI Act, 2025:** Enables **capacity expansion, advanced reactors** and **wider participation** in nuclear power.
- **R&D Funding:** About **₹20,000 crore** in **Union Budget 2025–26.**
- **International partnerships** and **technology transfer.**

Do You Know?

- **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant** (Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu) is **India's largest**, built with **Russian cooperation;** it uses **VVER (light water) reactors.**
- **Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)** is also at **Kalpakkam.**
- India's largest **thorium reserves** are in **monazite sands** of **Kerala, Tamil Nadu** and **Odisha** coasts.

Topic: Economy

10 Years of UDAN Scheme

Context

- The **UDAN Scheme** has completed **ten years**, significantly expanding India's **regional aviation network** to **unserved and underserved areas**.

About UDAN

- **Full Form:** Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik.
- **Scheme Name:** Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN.
- **Launched:** 2016 by the Prime Minister.
- **Policy Basis:** National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016 – 10-year vision.
- **Aim:** Connect **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** through a **market-driven, financially supported** approach.
- **First Flight:** Shimla–Delhi, April 2017.
- **Incentives to Airlines:** Concessions and **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** for **affordable fares** on regional routes.

Progress So Far

- **Routes Operationalised:** 687.
- **Aerodromes Operationalised:** 95, including **17 heliports** and **2 water aerodromes**.
- **Flights Operated:** 3.68 lakh+.
- **Passengers Carried:** 1.72 crore.
- **Operational Airports:** From **74 (2014)** to **165 (July 2026)**.

Modified UDAN Scheme (Latest)

- **Approved By:** Union Cabinet.
- **Period:** FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36 (10 years).
- **Outlay:** ₹28,840 crore.
- **Components:**
 - **100 airports** from unserved airstrips over **8 years** – ₹12,159 crore.
 - **200 modern helipads** in remote, hilly, island and **aspirational areas** – ₹3,661 crore.
 - **Viability Gap Funding** for airlines – ₹10,043 crore over 10 years.

Significance

- **Inclusive Growth:** **Tier-2/3 cities** linked to national markets.

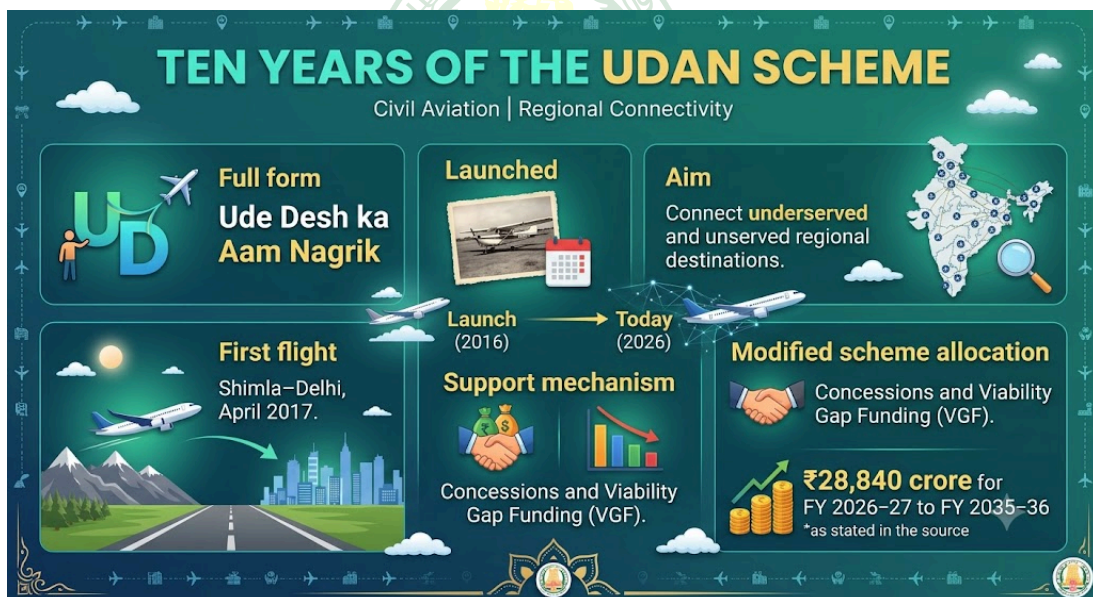
- Example: **Vijayawada–Kadapa** – earlier **8–10 hours** by road, now a short flight.
- **Infrastructure Expansion.**
- **Strategic Balance:** Connectivity to **North-East**, hills, islands; **border integration**.
- **Economic Multiplier:** Boosts **tourism**, **MSMEs**, **perishable exports**.
- **Industry Demand:** **ATR/small aircraft**, **MRO services**, **pilot training jobs**.

Challenges

- **Route Sustainability:** Many routes collapse after **VGF ends (3 years)** due to low **load factors**.
- **Dormant Airports:** Built without **demand assessment**; poor **last-mile connectivity**.
- **Fiscal Burden:** Dependence on **subsidy**.
- **Airline Fragility:** High **ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel)** costs, varying **State VAT**, leasing costs, aircraft shortages; several operators exited.
- **Operational Risks:** Hilly terrain, **short runways**, weather, weak **MRO** support.

Do You Know?

- **UDAN routes in Tamil Nadu** include **Salem** and **Neyveli** airports.



Topic: Disaster Management

Disaster Resilience of Telecom Infrastructure: CDRI–NDMA Study

Context

- A study by the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** identified **multi-hazard vulnerabilities** of **telecom towers** in **five high-risk States**:

- Assam, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand.

Key Findings

- **Tamil Nadu:**
 - **48,416 telecom towers** mapped.
 - **57%** face **high or very high cyclonic wind risk**.
- **Gujarat:**
 - **28%** exposed to **very high cyclonic winds**.
 - **12%** face **flood exposure**.
 - **12%** in **high/very high seismic zones**.
- **Uttarakhand:**
 - **25%** exposed to **very high cyclonic winds**.
 - **10%** in **high landslide susceptibility** areas.
- **Assam and Uttarakhand:** All towers in **Seismic Zones IV and V**.

About CDRI

- **Established: 2019**, led by the **Government of India** with support of **UNDRR**.
- **Launched At: UN Climate Action Summit, New York (2019)**.
- **Members: Multi-stakeholder** — national governments, **UN agencies**, **multilateral banks**, private sector, academia.
- **Secretariat: New Delhi**.
- **Aim:** Promote **resilience of infrastructure** to **climate and disaster risks**.

About NDMA

- **Apex statutory body** for **disaster management**.
- **Established Under: Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- **Chairperson: Prime Minister**.
- **SDMAs** headed by **Chief Ministers**.
- **Functions:**
 - Lay down **policies and guidelines**.
 - Approve plans of ministries.
 - Coordinate **enforcement and implementation**.
 - Recommend funds for **mitigation**.

India's Telecom Sector (2026)

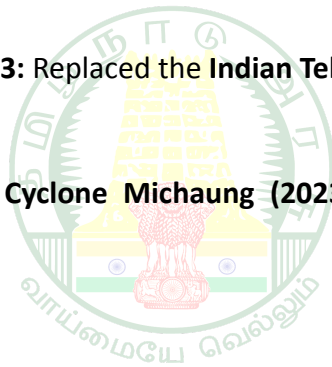
- **Second-largest telecom market** in the world.
- **Telephone Subscribers: 1,337.54 million.**
- **Tele-density: 93.69% (April 2026).**
- **Internet Subscribers: 1.09 billion (March 2026).**
- **Market Projection: \$2.8 trillion by 2030.**
- **Top 5 Providers: Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, BSNL, Atria Convergence Technologies – 98.61% of broadband subscribers.**

Government Initiatives

- **GatiShakti Sanchar Portal: Single-window Right-of-Way (RoW) clearance for optical fibre and towers.**
- **BharatNet: High-speed broadband to all Gram Panchayats; backed by Digital Bharat Nidhi.**
- **PLI Scheme for telecom manufacturing.**
- **Bharat 6G Vision.**
- **Telecommunications Act, 2023: Replaced the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.**

Do You Know?

- **Cyclone Vardah (2016) and Cyclone Michaung (2023)** caused major **telecom outages** in Chennai.



International Highlights

India–Saudi Arabia Electrical Interconnection

Context

- **India and Saudi Arabia** reviewed progress on the proposed **electrical grid interconnection** in a **virtual bilateral meeting**.

About the Project

- Links the **power grids** of both countries via a long-distance **undersea HVDC (High-Voltage Direct Current) cable**.
- **MoU Signed: 2023, Riyadh** – covering **grid interconnection, green hydrogen, supply chains**.
- **Length: About 1,700 km** undersea link.
- **Cost: About ₹47,000 crore (\$5.5 billion).**
- **Capacity: 2 GW** power exchange.
- **Aims: Emergency support, renewable energy integration.**

Significance

- Supports **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)** vision.
- Strengthens **energy security** and **India–Gulf ties**.

China Merchants Withdraws from Colombo Port Logistics Project

Context

- China's state-owned **China Merchants Port Holdings** withdrew from a proposed **\$392 million logistics hub** at **Colombo Port, Sri Lanka**.

About the Project

- **Name:** South Asia Commercial and Logistics Hub (SACLH).
- **Announced:** 2023.
- **Stakes:**
 - **China Merchants:** 70%.
 - **Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA):** 15%.
 - **Access Engineering:** 15%.
- **Reason for Termination:** Changed **external circumstances**, **timelines**, **commercial considerations**.
- **Continuing Chinese Presence:** **Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT)** and **Hambantota Port**.

India's Position

- **Colombo West International Terminal:** **Adani-led, 35-year concession** with **John Keells** and **SLPA**.
- **Neighbourhood First** and **MAHASAGAR:** **Development partnership**, not **debt-based leverage**.
- **Crisis Support:** About **\$4 billion** assistance in **2022**; supported Sri Lanka's **IMF programme**.
- **Domestic Ports:** **Vizhinjam (Kerala)** and **Great Nicobar** to reduce reliance on foreign transshipment hubs.