

04th July DSC

Cabinet Approves Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

Relevance: GS 2 (Governance), GS 3 (Employment)

Key Details:

- **Financial Outlay:** ₹99,446 crore allocated for 4 years.
- **Main Objective:** Encourage job creation, especially in manufacturing.
- **Target Group:**
 - 3.5 crore young people expected to find employment.
 - 1.92 crore first-time workers will benefit directly.
- **Support for Employees:**
 - First-time employees to get a one-time wage payment equivalent to one month's salary, capped at ₹15,000.
- **Incentives for Employers:**
 - ₹3,000/month per employee for the first 2 years.
 - For manufacturing sector jobs, incentives extend to the 3rd and 4th years.
 - Applicable to new recruits earning up to ₹1 lakh/month who stay employed at least 6 months.
- **Implementation Period:**
 - Valid for jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.
- **Part of Broader Package:**
 - One of 5 components in a ₹2 lakh crore youth employment and skilling initiative announced in Budget 2024–25.
- **Criticism:**
 - The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has condemned the scheme as a way to divert public funds to employers in the name of job creation.

Wider Implications:

- Sluggish GST revenue growth could constrain the government's budget space for new schemes like ELI.
- However, increased hiring may expand economic activity and thereby improve GST collections.
- The debate between trade unions and the government over this policy could shape the direction of future labour reforms and political narratives.

Harnessing Technology to Empower Women and Children

Vision and Strategy:

Empowerment here means ensuring access to rights, services, protection, and opportunities, aligned with *Viksit Bharat@2047* and *Amrit Kaal* objectives. The focus is on digital integration, real-time monitoring, and delivery to the last mile.

Relevance: *GS 2 (Governance, Social Issues)*

Major Initiatives:

Saksham Anganwadi:

- Upgrading 2 lakh Anganwadi centres with smart infrastructure and digital capabilities.
- Aims to improve nutrition, early childhood education, and healthcare.

Poshan Tracker:

- Real-time monitoring covering 14 lakh Anganwadi centres.
- Benefits over 10.14 crore individuals (pregnant women, lactating mothers, children, adolescent girls).
- Winner of the PM's Award for Excellence (2025).
- Supports the "Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi" mission with specialised training for Anganwadi workers.

Supplementary Nutrition Programme:

- Introduced facial recognition to prevent leakages and ensure precise targeting of benefits.

Women's Safety and Support:

- **SHe-Box Portal:**
 - A unified online platform for lodging complaints under the 2013 Sexual Harassment Act and tracking resolution.
- **Mission Shakti App/Dashboard:**
 - Real-time support for women in distress.
 - One-stop centres operational in nearly all districts.

Maternal Welfare (PMMVY):

- Provides ₹5,000 for the first child and ₹6,000 if the second child is a girl, to encourage positive gender norms.
- Over ₹19,000 crore distributed to 4 crore women.
- Fully paperless direct benefit transfers, Aadhaar-linked and mobile-enabled, with grievance redress.

Impact:

- Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 918 (2014–15) to 930 (2023–24).
- Maternal Mortality Rate declined from 130 to 97 per 1,000 live births.

✅ **Child Protection and Welfare:**

- **CARINGS Portal:**
 - Strengthened the adoption process with transparency and digital tracking.
- **Digital Child Rights Monitoring:**
 - Platforms by NCPCR to track violations of child rights.
 - Mission Vatsalya dashboard ensures inter-agency coordination.

Conclusion:

Technology has transformed governance into a more transparent, inclusive, and efficient model. The Ministry's efforts are now a benchmark for purpose-driven digital reform in the social sector.

India's Sports Policy Evolution

Relevance: GS 2 (Governance)

Early Decades Post-Independence:

- The government's focus remained on poverty, health, and education; sports received little priority.
- **1951:** India hosted the first Asian Games as a soft power showcase.
- **1954:** All-India Council of Sports (AICS) created for policy and funding advice, though funds were inadequate.
- Despite constraints, Indian men's hockey dominated globally, and legends like Milkha Singh and Kamaljeet Sandhu emerged.

1982 Asian Games – A Watershed Moment:

- Held in Delhi, sparking national interest and infrastructure expansion.
- Led to:
 - **National Sports Policy 1984:** Focused on facilities, mass participation, and sports in education.
 - **1986 NEP:** Further integrated sports into schooling.
 - **SAI (Sports Authority of India):** Established to implement policy and nurture talent.

1990s–Early 2000s – Economic Liberalisation and Changing Culture:

- 1991 reforms and satellite TV increased sports visibility and aspirations.

- **1997 Draft NSP:** Proposed clear Union–State roles but wasn’t finalised.
- **2000:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports formed.
- **2001:** Revised NSP emphasised broad participation and elite athlete support.

Major Reforms and Schemes:

- **NSDC 2011:** Aimed to regulate governance, doping, age fraud, gender equality — but implementation was poor.
- **TOPS (2014):** Backed elite athletes with coaching, nutrition, and training.
- **Khelo India (2017):** Identified youth talent at the grassroots.
- **Fit India Movement (2019):** Linked fitness with public health goals.

Olympic Performance Milestones (2000–2020s):

- 2004: Rajyavardhan Rathore won silver.
- 2008: Abhinav Bindra clinched gold.
- 2008 & 2012: Vijender Singh and Mary Kom secured boxing bronzes.
- Despite this, Olympic medals remained limited relative to potential.

Tokyo 2020 Highlights:

- Best-ever Olympic tally: 7 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze).

Recent Developments and Future Aspirations:

- **2036 Olympics Bid:** India aims to host.
- **2024:** Draft National Sports Policy and Governance Bill released.
- **2025:** NSP 2025 (Khelo Bharat Niti) launched to align with Olympic goals.

Critical Challenges:

- India tops WADA’s global doping violations list — urgent reform is needed.
- Governance reforms like the 2017 Good Governance Code are delayed.
- Sports remains a State subject, leading to fragmented execution.
- Policies often suffer from weak implementation and accountability.
- Market and societal engagement have only recently improved.

Investment Priorities:

- Scientific coaching systems
- Physical literacy programmes
- Sports-integrated education

Conclusion:

India has progressed from neglect to a reform-focused approach in sports. Long-term success will depend on consistent policies, institutional integrity, grassroots inclusion, and scientific systems to develop champions.

Indo-French Army Exercise 'Shakti 2025' Concludes

Relevance: GS 3 (Internal Security, Defence)

Exercise Overview:

- **Name:** Exercise Shakti 2025
- **Edition:** 8th
- **Duration:** June 18 – July 2, 2025
- **Location:** Conducted in France

Participants:

- **France:**
 - Over 500 personnel from the French Army, Foreign Legion, French Air & Space Force, and Navy.
- **India:**
 - 90 troops, mainly from the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, with additional personnel from other Indian defence units.

Key Objectives:

- Strengthen coordination and interoperability between Indian and French armed forces.
- Improve readiness for joint operations across multiple domains (land, air, cyber, etc.).
- Promote the exchange of tactical experience, professional practices, and mutual cultural understanding.

Strategic Importance:

- Enhances bilateral defence ties within the broader Indo-Pacific cooperation framework.
- Complements other bilateral drills like **Varuna** (naval) and **Garuda** (air force).
- Reinforces India's defence diplomacy and contributes to its vision of being a regional security provider.

Conclusion:

Exercise Shakti 2025 underscores the increasing defence cooperation and trust between India and France. It supports India's Make in India–Defence goals and reflects its evolving maritime and global security posture.

Major Bilateral Military Exercises (2025)

- **Shakti (India–France):** Joint Army exercise in France with focus on integrated operations.
- **Varuna (India–France):** Naval drill in Arabian Sea featuring aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and Charles de Gaulle.
- **Tiger Triumph (India–US):** Tri-service amphibious and HADR exercise off the Andhra coast.
- **Dharma Guardian (India–Japan):** Army counter-terror training near Mt. Fuji.
- **Cyclone (India–Egypt):** Special forces' desert warfare drills in Rajasthan.
- **Nomadic Elephant (India–Mongolia):** Exercises in jungle and urban warfare scenarios.

Indian Navy Inducts Second Indigenous Stealth Frigate: INS Udaygiri

Relevance: GS 3 (Internal Security, Defence)

INS Udaygiri – Highlights:

- **Type:** Project 17A stealth frigate (successor to the Shivalik class).
- **Timeline:** Delivered in record 37 months from launch.
- **Builder:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (Mumbai).
- **Fleet Status:** Second of seven such ships to be delivered by 2026.

Key Features:

- **Capabilities:** Multi-role warship for deep-sea combat operations.
- **Weapon Systems:**
 - Supersonic anti-ship missiles
 - Medium-range SAMs
 - 76mm main gun
 - Close-in weapon systems (CIWS) – 30mm + 12.7mm guns
- **Design:** Created by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau – a symbol of indigenous defence development.
- **Legacy:** Named after and a modern version of the old INS Udaygiri (decommissioned 2007).

INS Tamal – Indo-Russian Built Warship:

- **Context:** 51st collaborative ship in 65 years of Indo-Russian naval cooperation.
- **Commissioning:** Presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh.
- **Capabilities:** Fully equipped for surface, air, underwater, and electronic warfare.

- **Weapon Highlight:** BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (dual-role).

Strategic Significance:

- Both ships support India's goal of establishing a powerful **blue water navy**.
- Reflect advances in **Make in India–Defence** shipbuilding.
- Boost India's maritime presence, deterrence capability, and power projection in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Railways Launches 'RailOne' App to Simplify Travel Services

Relevance: GS 2 (Governance)

What is RailOne?

- Launched in July 2025 by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi.
- Developed by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems), a PSU under Indian Railways.
- Designed as a **unified digital platform** for all passenger-related railway services.

Key Features:

- **All-in-One Solution:** Merges functionalities of IRCTC, UTS, Rail Connect, and more.
- **Services Offered:**
 - Booking unreserved tickets (with 3% discount)
 - Live train status and platform ticketing
 - E-catering and porter services
 - Tourism, last-mile taxis, and grievance redressal
- **Seamless Login:** Single sign-on via mPIN or biometric login; integrates with UTS/RailConnect credentials.

Benefits:

- Removes the need for multiple railway apps, saving phone storage.
- IRCTC-authorized for most services (except reserved ticket bookings).
- Enhanced user experience with a simplified interface.

Future-Ready Ticketing Upgrades:

- Indian Railways is also revamping its **Passenger Reservation System (PRS)** to make it:
 - Multilingual and highly scalable.
 - Capable of handling **1.5 lakh bookings per minute** and **40 lakh enquiries per minute**.

Significance:

- RailOne and PRS upgrades reflect Indian Railways' commitment to digital transformation.
- These efforts align with India's broader push for real-time, contactless, and citizen-centric mobility systems.

03rd July Daily MCQs

1. Question

Regarding the Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, consider the following points:

1. It offers direct wage assistance to employers hiring new workers who remain employed for at least six months.
2. Workers entering formal employment for the first time can receive a one-time wage support of ₹15,000.
3. The scheme is only applicable to manufacturing jobs created between August 2025 and July 2027.
4. Employers are eligible for monthly incentives of ₹3,000 per worker for up to two years.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct. The scheme encourages sustained hiring with a minimum tenure of six months.
- Statement 2: Correct. First-time employees are entitled to wage assistance up to ₹15,000.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Although manufacturing is a major focus, the scheme also supports other sectors.
- Statement 4: Correct. The monthly benefit for employers is ₹3,000 per eligible employee for two years.

2. Question

Assertion (A): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is a leading example of digital transformation in social policy execution.

Reason (R): Its initiatives—such as Poshan Tracker, SHe-Box, and PMMVY—leverage digital platforms for real-time tracking, paperless transactions, and mobile-based benefit delivery.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Ministry's use of digital innovations like real-time dashboards, paperless DBT, and mobile-based outreach has made welfare delivery more transparent, efficient, and inclusive, supporting the assertion.

3. Question

Match the following national sports initiatives with their primary objectives:

Initiative	Objective
A. Khelo India	2. Spotting young talent at grassroots level
B. Target Olympic Podium	3. Supporting elite athletes with training
C. Fit India Movement	1. Promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles
D. National Sports Policy	4. Mass awareness and integrating sports in education

Choose the correct pairing:

- (a) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
- (b) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3
- (c) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
- (d) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Each scheme has a distinct focus—grassroots talent (Khelo India), Olympic readiness (TOPS), health awareness (Fit India), and policy-level integration (Sports Policy).

4. Question

Regarding defence cooperation between India and France, consider these statements:

1. Exercise Shakti 2025 was a joint Army, Navy, and Air Force exercise conducted in France.
2. Personnel from the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles were the main Indian participants in Exercise Shakti 2025.

3. Exercise Varuna is a bilateral naval drill between India and France.
4. Exercise Garuda focuses on cybersecurity collaboration between the two countries.

Which statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Exercise Shakti is conducted by the Armies, not as a tri-service drill.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Indian contingent included the J&K Rifles regiment.
- Statement 3: Correct. Varuna is the naval exercise held annually with France.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. Garuda is an Air Force drill, not a cybersecurity initiative.

5. Question

Which of the following statements about India's recent naval additions is/are accurate?

1. INS Udaygiri, a Project 17A frigate, was constructed by GRSE in Kolkata.
2. INS Tamal marks the 51st collaborative warship built under the India–Russia defence relationship.
3. Project 17A frigates are mainly designed for operations in near-coastal zones.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. INS Udaygiri was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL), not GRSE.
- Statement 2: Correct. INS Tamal is the 51st ship co-developed under India–Russia defence cooperation.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Project 17A frigates are blue-water warships, meant for long-range open-sea missions.