

NEWS TODAY

DIGITAL CONCLAVE ORGANIZED TO MARK 5 YEARS OF SKILL INDIA MISSION AND WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

- On this occasion **PM exhorted the youth to skill, reskill and upskill** in order to remain relevant in the rapidly changing business environment and market conditions.
- **Skill India Mission have seen a large number of achievements**, including expansion of skill development infrastructure and facilities, and inculcation and support of entrepreneurial spirit.

Key initiatives under Skill India Mission and status

Schemes/Initiatives	Aim	Achievements
Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a skill certification scheme to enable Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92 lakhs candidates have been trained so far across 37 sectors in more than 250 job roles. • 720+ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras as Model Skill Centres were opened in 704 districts in India.
National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide financial support to establishments undertaking the apprenticeship training. (Apprenticeship training is a course of training in an industry or establishment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 8.61 lakhs people have been engaged under NAPS with around 85,000 establishments hiring the apprentices.
Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide vocational training to non-literates, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs in rural regions by identifying skills that have a relevant market in that region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019-20, 4.10 lakhs beneficiaries were trained under JSS Scheme.
Increase in Industrial training Institute (ITI) capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To supply skilled manpower to industries and vocational training to youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to 5000 ITIs have been established over the last 5 years (total close to 15,000). • ITI capacity has been increased to 34.63 lakhs, an increase of 85.5% over 2015
Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been conceptualized under World Bank loan assisted Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the total 75 Fellows selected, 32 are women candidates

RELIANCE JIO ANNOUNCES MADE IN INDIA 5G NETWORK

- Reliance industries has said that it **designed and developed a complete 5G solution from scratch**, that will enable to launch a world-class 5G service in India, using 100% homegrown technologies and solutions.
 - This is the **first time an Indian company is venturing into mobile technology.**
- Currently, India is a **net importer of telecom equipment** and this development can set off a new ecosystem around telecom manufacturing (particularly 5G).
 - This move also assumes significance in the context of India's call for **Atmanirbhar Bharat.**
 - **Self-reliance in 5G is also important strategically**, as, recently USA, UK banned Chinese Huawei over security, privacy concerns.
 - For 5G networks, the **underlying technology has become a complex issue** because of Chinese companies like ZTE and Huawei being industry leaders in it.
- 5G is the **5th generation mobile network** which is a **new global wireless standard** after 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks.
 - It is meant to deliver **higher multi-Gbps peak data speeds**, ultra-low latency, more reliability, massive network capacity, and a more uniform user experience to more users.
 - Higher performance and improved efficiency will empower new user experiences and connect new industries.

LANCET STUDY ON POPULATION TRENDS

- **Study analysed population trends in 195 countries** to model future population in various scenarios as a function of fertility, migration, and mortality rates.
- **India related findings**
 - At the current rate of growth, **population is likely to peak by 2048 at about 1.61 billion** and then decline to 1.09 billion by 2100.
 - **Total fertility rates (TFR) is projected to have a steep decline** until about 2040, reaching 1.29 in 2100.
 - TFR is average number of children a woman delivers over her lifetime and **TFR lower than 2.1 leads to a decline in a country's population.**
 - India's TFR has declined from 2.4 in 2011 to 2.2 in 2018.
 - ➔ **Initiatives taken for family planning:** Mission Parivar Vikas, Injectable Contraceptive MPA, Family Planning – Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) etc.
 - India is projected to have the largest working-age population (20–64 years) in the world by 2100.
- **Other Global findings**
 - World population is expected to **peak by 2064 at 9.73 billion** and by 2100 reach 8.79 billion.
 - Five largest countries in 2100 (projected) to be **India, Nigeria, China, U.S. and Pakistan.**

15TH INDIA- EUROPEAN UNION (EU) SUMMIT HELD

• Summit is aimed at further broad basing ties on a range of areas including trade, investment and defence.

• India-EU Summit: Key points

- **'India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025'** launched to guide & strengthen cooperation, with a priority on foreign policy and security issues.
 - **High-level trade and investment dialogue** launched to fast track **EU-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)** being negotiated since 2007. Both sides have major differences on crucial issues in BTIA.
 - **EU's demands:** significant duty cuts in automobiles, tax reduction on wines, spirits etc and a strong intellectual property regime.
 - **India's demands:** 'Data secure' status (important for India's IT sector); Ease norms on temporary movement of skilled workers etc.
 - **Formalisation of Civil nuclear agreement** on research and development cooperation in peaceful use of atomic energy.
 - Adopted declaration on **Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy**.
- **India-EU Relations:** EU as a bloc is **India's largest trading partner with annual bilateral trade in goods at \$100 billion** and also largest source for foreign investment to India, valued at US \$ 609.84 billion from 2000 to 2017.
- However, India represents only about 2% of EU external trade.



ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping Minister has reviewed the development activities at Vallarpadam Terminal which is envisaged as the first trans-shipment port of India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trans-shipment Hub is the terminal at the port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination. • Advantage of Vallarpadam terminal includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Best positioned Indian port with regard to proximity to International sea routes. ➤ Located at least average nautical distance from all Indian feeder ports. ➤ Proximity to key hinterland markets of India.
<p>India Energy Modeling Forum (IEMF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was launched during the joint working group meeting of Sustainable Growth Pillar (SGP). • SGP is an important pillar of India-US Strategic Energy Partnership co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID. • IEMF will aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide a platform to examine important energy and environmental related issues; ➤ Inform decision-making process to the Indian government; ➤ Improve cooperation between modelling teams, government, and knowledge partners, funders; ➤ Identify knowledge gaps at different levels and across different areas; ➤ Build capacity of Indian institutions.
<p>Corosure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the world's most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit, with a base price of Rs 399, developed by IIT Delhi. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test is the most commonly used for COVID-19. • It is primarily based on PCR, a process that repeatedly copies and amplifies the specific genetic fragments of the virus, ensuring that there is enough of a sample to conduct the analysis.
<p>Kazi 106F</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is India's only Golden tiger found in Kaziranga National Park of Assam. • The skin of this tiger is orange-yellow with black stripes and whitish abdominal region. • Tigers get these colouring from recessive genes that show up due to the inbreeding, which occurs due to the habitat loss.
<p>Kedarnath Dham (Uttarakhand)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, PM reviewed the development work going on in Kedarnath Dham. • Kedarnath is set amidst the Garhwal Himalayas at the head of the Mandakini River. It is located in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. • Present Kedarnath temple was built by Adi Shankaracharya in eight century. • Kedarnath temple is part of Char Dhams and Panch Kedar in Uttarakhand and one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.
<p>Azad Pattan hydel power project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum river in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). • It is the second power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First agreement was for Kohala project, also on Jhelum river. • India has been protesting the construction of dams and other infrastructure in PoK and Gilgit Baltistan, which are territories claimed by it as part of Jammu & Kashmir.
<p>Nagorno-Karabakh region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a disputed region between Armenia and Azerbaijan. • It lies in South Caucasus region, in the area between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

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