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Polity & Governance

Samudrayaan Project

• **Launched in** – *2021*.
• **Umbrella scheme** – Deep Ocean Mission.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
• It is the *1st manned ocean mission* of India.
• **Aim** – To develop a self-propelled manned submersible to *carry 3 human beings to a water depth of 6000 meters* in the ocean.
• It is a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration.
• **MATSYA 6000** – Manned submersible vehicle used for this mission.

Mission Mausam

• **Launched in** – *2024*.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
• **Aim** – To make India *Weather Ready and Climate Smart*.
• **Objective –** To *mitigate the impact of climate change and extreme weather* events and strengthen the resilience of the communities.
• **Timeline** – *2 years* (2024-26).

Chintan Shivir 2.0

• **Launched in** – *2025*.
• **Launched by** – Ministry of Coal.
• **Concept** – A platform to foster innovation, sustainability, and collaboration in defining the future roadmap for the coal sector.

National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)

• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Culture.
• **Aim –** To protect and share India's cultural heritage.
• **Run by –** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
• **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) portal** - Launched in June 2023, aims to document the cultural assets of 6. 5 lakh villages. _

Adopt a Heritage Scheme

• **Launched by –** Ministry of Tourism in 2017.
• **Revamped in** – 2023 as “Adopt A Heritage 2.0” by Ministry of Culture.
• **Aim –** To collaborate with private and public sectors to enhance visitor experience at Protected Monuments.
• **4 broad categories of amenities** – Hygiene, Accessibility, Safety and Knowledge.
• The program is open for all protected monuments.

Economy

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

• **BIS** – National Standards Body of India.
• **Established by** – Department of Consumer affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
• BIS organized a high-level discussion to enhance collaboration in standardization with countries from Africa and Latin America.
• The organization has conducted capacity-building programs, benefiting 30 African and 10 Latin American countries through the ITEC initiative.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signed for Financial Literacy Program

• **MOU** – Signed by Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority with Strategic Educational Professionals Pvt. Ltd, part of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.
• **Aim** - To create a digital program focused on experiential learning.
• The main goal is to enhance financial literacy among school children.
• The program will be introduced in selected schools, including rural areas, through a pilot project.
• Training for school teachers will facilitate the delivery of this program.

Agriculture

National Policy on Biofuels

• **National Policy on Biofuels-2018** - Updated in 2022, outlines the various materials that can be used to produce biofuels.
• **Aim** - Identified feed stocks for biofuels include heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, biomass (like rice straw and bagasse), sugar beets, sweet sorghum, corn, and agro waste.
• Also included are damaged food grains, industrial waste, algae, non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, animal tallow, and municipal solid waste.

Makhana Board

Union Budget 2025, announced that a 'Makhana Board' will be set up in Bihar.
• **Makhana –** It is the *dried edible seed* of the prickly water lily or gorgon plant (Euryale ferox).
• It is referred to as the '*Black Diamond*.'
• **Mithila Makhana** – It was conferred a *Geographical Indication (GI) tag* in 2022.
• **Makhana Board** – To provide training to farmers,
  - Making them export-oriented,
  - Create an ecosystem that brings investments in the food processing sector,
  - Help create required export infrastructure.
• **Bihar** – It accounts for approximately *90% of India's makhana production.*

Environment

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

• **Launched in** – *2023*.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
• **Headquarters** – Delhi.
• **Aim** – To strengthen global cooperation and efforts for *conservation of 7 big cat species* and their habitats.
  - **7 big cat species** – Tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
• **5 Member countries** – Nicaragua, Eswatini, *India*, Somalia and Liberia.
  - As of now, 27 countries have consented to join IBCA.



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