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MY BHARAT PLATFORM



MY Bharat organized neighbourhood youth parliaments and Yuva Melas Across 1,469 locations as part of the Nasha Mukta Yuva for

Viksit Bharat Abhiyan.

- It is an **autonomous body** that has been set up by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport.
- It has been set up by the Government of India and registered as a **society under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**.
- MY Bharat's digital platform provides equitable access to opportunities for youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat.

Features of MY Bharat Platform:

- It is designed to cater to the needs of the **dynamic youth demographic**, aged **between 15 and 29 years**.
- It provides an **over-arching institutional mechanism** powered by technology for youth development and youth-led development.
- The platform connects **youth with programs and learning opportunities** in Businesses, Government Departments and Non-Profit Organisations.
- MY Bharat platform will create **such an eco-system** and empower young individuals to become catalysts for community transformation.
- The platform allows **youth to generate their individual profiles** listing their skill-sets and activities.
- The platform would allow youth to network with each other and also potential mentors.
- This platform offers a **wealth of resources, mentorship programs**, experiential learning opportunities, networks and invaluable industry connections.



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BHARAT TULIP



Bharat Tulip

• Bharat Tulip (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme) was launched in 2024.

- It is an initiative by the **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)** under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a transformative platform designed to **empower marginalized artisans by integrating them into the global digital economy.**

Objectives:

- **Empower artisans** with access to digital marketplaces
- **Enable artisans** to participate in domestic/global trade fairs, exhibitions, and fashion shows

Functions of Tulip:

- **E-Commerce Integration:** Tulip collaborates with leading e-commerce platforms to expand artisans' reach and boost sales opportunities.
- **Facilitating Sales:** It enables artisans to **sell high-quality products** through digital marketplaces.
- **Quality Assurance:** Ensuring **rigorous quality checks** so that only premium products are delivered directly to customers.
- **Skill Development:** Providing **essential training** to artisans to improve craftsmanship and market readiness.
- **Global Outreach:** Expanding artisans' presence on international B2C platforms to tap into global markets.
- **Participation in Fair:** Offering artisans opportunities to showcase and sell their products at **national and international fairs**, opening new revenue streams.

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WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- It is a comprehensive report published twice a year by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The WEO is usually published in April and October, followed by the less comprehensive WEO updates in July and January.
- It includes the IMF's estimates and forecasts for **global output growth and inflation** as well as for **real gross domestic product (GDP)** growth, consumer prices, current account balances, and unemployment in the IMF's member countries,
- The data is drawn from IMF representatives' consultations with member countries, and is included in the WEO database.

Key Highlights of World Economic Outlook Report 2026:

- **India:**
 - **Growth:** The IMF projected **India's growth at 7.4 per cent in 2026** and 7 per cent in 2027.
 - **Inflation:** On inflation, the IMF projected India's **consumer prices to rise by 5 per cent in 2026**, compared with 2 per cent in 2025.
 - **Current Account Deficit:** The country's current account **deficit is expected to widen to 1.5 per cent of GDP in 2026.**
- **Global:**
 - Globally, economic **growth is forecast at 3.1 per cent in 2026** and 3.4 per cent in 2027, while emerging and developing Asia is expected to grow by 5.1 per cent in 2026.
 - The Middle East and Central Asia region is projected to contract by 0.3 per cent in 2026.

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RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION FUND



- It is a **flagship initiative** of the Government of India.
- It aims to provide **long-term financing or refinancing** with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur **private sector investment in Research Development and Innovation**.
- **Nodal Department:** The Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- **Key Objectives of the Research Development and Innovation Fund:**
 - **Encourage the private sector** to scale up **research, development, and innovation** (RDI) in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance;
 - **Finance transformative projects** at higher levels of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)
 - **Support acquisition of technologies** which are critical or of high strategic importance
 - Facilitate setting up of a **Deep-Tech Fund of Funds**.
- **Governance:** The Governing Board of **Anusandhan National Research Foundation** (ANRF), chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the RDI Scheme.
- **Funding Mechanism of Research Development and Innovation Fund:**
 - **Implementation Structure:**
 - **Special Purpose Fund (SPF):** It will be established within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which will serve as the **custodian of the ₹1 lakh crore corpus**. (Fund will not directly invest in industries and startups but will channel capital to Second-level fund managers)

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- **Second-level fund managers:** Who can be **Alternative Investment Funds (AIF)**, **Development Finance Institutions (DFI)**, **Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)**.
- **Modes of Financing:**
 - **Long-term loan** at low or nil interest rates.
 - **Financing in the form of equity** may also be done, especially in case of startups.

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS 2026: REBUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMIC STABILISATION

The 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel — commonly known as the Economics Nobel — has been jointly awarded to American economists **Robert E. Hall** (Stanford University) and **Michael Woodford** (Columbia University).

The official citation honours them for establishing the “microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.”

- The Economics Nobel (officially the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel) is **not** one of the original five Nobel Prizes.
- It was established by **Sweden’s central bank** in 1968 and first awarded in 1969.
- This prize is administered by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, honouring outstanding contributions to economics.

What Is Macroeconomic Stabilisation?

- Stabilisation policy refers to the tools governments and central banks use to control wild swings in growth, inflation, unemployment, and business cycles.
 - E.g., the RBI raising interest rates to contain inflation, or the Indian government cutting taxes to boost consumption during slowdowns like the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Without such interventions, economic recovery could take far longer, with business failures and job losses spiralling further.

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Hall and Woodford's Contribution: Rebuilding the Framework

- From the late 1970s onward, Hall and Woodford revitalised Keynesian economics by grounding it in real household and firm-level data, rather than Keynes's assumed straight-line relationships between variables.
- **Robert Hall — The Demand Side**
 - Studied how households decide how much to consume and when to adjust spending.
 - **The old assumption:** consumption moves mechanically with disposable income.
 - Crucially, he showed not everyone behaves the same way — households living hand-to-mouth do not adjust consumption based on future income expectations the way wealthier households do.
- **Michael Woodford — The Supply Side**
 - Focused on how firms set prices — showing prices are not adjusted continuously; firms fix prices for a period (e.g., ice-cream prices set at the start of summer, unchanged through the season).
 - This introduced “forward-lookingness” into **supply-side theory**: firms must anticipate future conditions when fixing prices now.

Why Transparency Matters: The Key Policy Insight

- Woodford's central insight: stabilisation should not be viewed as policymakers “pulling levers” independent of public understanding.
- Because consumer and firm expectations about future policy directly shape economic outcomes, central banks must clearly communicate their intentions.

Significance Today

- In recent years, the global economy has faced extraordinary shocks — a pandemic, multiple wars spiking commodity prices, and policy missteps like tariffs.
- Yet, growth has largely avoided severe recession, partly because policymakers worldwide now design interventions informed by Hall and Woodford's research — grounded in real behavioural data and backed by transparent communication.

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SIR (SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION) OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

- The **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** is an exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to comprehensively review and update electoral rolls.
- Section 21(3) of the Representation of the **People Act, 1950**, authorises the ECI to conduct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in a manner it considers appropriate.
- The objective is to maintain accurate electoral rolls by identifying deceased electors, duplicate entries, changes of residence and eligible voters whose names may have been omitted.
- The ECI initiated a nationwide SIR in June 2025, beginning with Bihar.

Key Concerns Regarding the 2025-26 SIR

- **Exclusion of Electors:** Electors unavailable during enumeration or who failed to submit forms were excluded from draft rolls, including previous voters.
- **Reduced Supervisory Verification:** Random verification by supervisors was reduced to 10% in the Bihar SIR notification, compared with 25% during 2002-04.
- **Burden of Establishing Eligibility:** Electors were required to trace their or their parents' names in earlier electoral rolls or submit citizenship documents, raising concerns about excessive responsibility being placed on voters.
- **Software-Generated Discrepancies:** Automated flags, including spelling variations, more than six voters linked to one ancestor, and parent-child age gaps outside 15-45 years, reportedly contributed to eligible voters' exclusion without adequate verification.

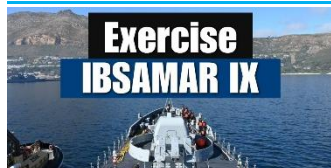
Reform Priorities for Electoral Roll Integrity

- Experts recommend a set of measures to improve the accuracy, transparency and fairness of the SIR process.
 - **Detailed audit:** Conduct an audit of electoral rolls finalised so far to identify procedural errors and potential wrongful exclusions.

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- **Door-to-door verification:** Make household enumeration a prescribed procedure in States where the SIR is ongoing.
- **Expedited re-enrolment:** Process eligible claims quickly through home visits, verification and timely updating of rolls.
- **Effective supervision:** Strengthen field-level monitoring and verification to reduce errors during enumeration.
- **Timely disposal of claims:** Finalise electoral rolls only after all claims and objections have been duly considered.
- **Continuity of electoral rolls:** The proviso to Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, allows existing pre-SIR rolls to remain in force for upcoming State elections while the revision is completed through due process.

EXERCISE IBSAMAR IX



- It is a joint **multinational maritime exercise** conducted between **Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy**.
- IBSAMAR has been conducted **biennially since 2008** under the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) framework.
- **Theme:** The theme of IBSAMAR IX is **Stronger Together Towards a Shared Future in the Maritime Domain**.
- It aims to promote **collective maritime security** and preparedness to **address maritime challenges**.
- **Participating Warships and Aircraft:** The Indian Navy is participating with **INS Tarkash**, accompanied by an **integral Chetak helicopter**.
- The exercise will cover a broad spectrum of maritime operations, including **surface warfare, anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare**, naval air operations, maritime interdiction, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), anti-piracy operations, search and rescue, damage control and firefighting.

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Key facts about INS Tarkash:

- It is a frontline **guided-missile stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy.
- It is the second of three **Talwar-class guided missile frigates**.
- It is **designed and built in Russia**, the Talwar-class guided missile frigates are modified version of the **Krivak III-class frigate**.
- It was **built by the Yantar shipyard** in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- It was commissioned into **Indian Navy service in 2012** at Kaliningrad.
- **Speed:** With maximum speed in excess of **30 knots, a range of 4,500 miles or 30 days**.

NAMDAPHA TIGER RESERVE



- **Location:** It is located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is **named after the river Namdapha** originating from Daphabum, the highest mountain peak in the reserve.
- This area was originally Reserved Forests and was declared as **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1972**
- It was declared as a **Tiger Reserve in 1983** under Project Tiger scheme.
- **Topography:** It has a dense cover of vegetation with high hills, and numerous rivers and seasonal streams.
- **Vegetation:** The vegetation of the reserve is mainly **tropical evergreen rainforest**, with very dense and multi-layered forest structure.
- **Flora:** The forests include thick growth of bamboo, cane, wild banana, and other undergrowth, making them almost impenetrable in some areas.
- **Fauna:** It is home to four big cats viz. **tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard**
 - Other animals like **Hoolock Gibbon, Golden Cat, Marbled Cat, Mishmi Takin, Red Panda, Namdapha Flying Squirrels** are found here.