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SAMARTH INCUBATION PROGRAMME



The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) recently launched the 'Samarth' incubation programme.

- It was launched by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)**, an autonomous Telecom R&D centre of the **Department of Telecommunication (DoT)**, Government of India.

Objective: To support startups in the areas of telecom software, cybersecurity, 5G and 6G technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), **Internet of Things (IoT)** applications, and **quantum technologies**

- The program aims to encourage the development of sustainable and scalable business models, offer **access to cutting-edge resources**, and help startups bridge the gap from ideation to commercialisation.
- C-DoT has selected **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** as the **implementation partner**.
- The program, which will be delivered in a **hybrid mode**, has a maximum cohort size of **18 startups per program**, with a total of **36 startups across two cohorts of six months each**.
- The applications, under 'Samarth' are open to **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** recognised startups.
- Selected startups** will get a **grant of up to Rs 5 lakh each**, **access to office space** for six months **at the C-DoT campus**, access to **C-DoT lab facilities**, and **mentorship** from C-DoT technical leaders and industry experts.
- Based on progress the startup will get an opportunity for **future collaboration under the C-DoT Collaborative Research Program**.”.

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GPS SPOOFING



As many as 465 GPS interference and spoofing incidents have been reported in the border region, mostly in the Amritsar and Jammu areas, between November 2023 and February 2025, the government said recently.

- A “spoofing attack” is a broad category of **cyberattack** where **fake data** is **disguised as originating from a trusted source to deceive systems** or users.
- Kinds of spoofing include **GPS Spoofing, IP spoofing**—often used to avoid detection while performing Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS)—as well as **SMS spoofing** and **caller ID spoofing**, where messages or calls appear to be from another number or caller ID.

About GPS Spoofing:

- GPS spoofing uses **bogus radio signals to imitate legitimate** Global Positioning System (GPS) signals, **misdirecting GPS-receiving devices about their actual location**.
- This can **result in incorrect navigation data** and potentially **life-threatening situations**, especially in systems that rely heavily on precise location information.

How GPS Spoofing Works?

- GPS spoofing **exploits the inherent vulnerabilities in the GPS infrastructure** – the **weak signal strength of GPS satellites**.
- The GPS functions by sending signals from satellites to GPS receivers on Earth.
- These receivers then calculate their position based on the time it takes for these signals to arrive.
- However, due to the weak signal strength of the GPS satellites, **these signals can be easily overwhelmed by fake signals**, resulting in inaccurate location data on the receiving device.

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- Typically, a GPS spoofer begins by acquiring a basic understanding of the victim's GPS setup, including the types of signals it uses and how they are processed.
- With that information, the **attacker then sends counterfeit GPS signals** that mimic the real ones.
- These **fake signals are stronger, causing the receiver to recognize them as authentic**
- As a result, the victim's GPS receiver ends up processing these counterfeit signals, leading to erroneous location information.

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PFRDA)



The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) recently issued regulations for the operationalisation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) under the National Pension System (NPS), 2025.

- It is a **statutory regulatory body** set up under the **PFRDA Act, enacted in 2014**.
- **Objective:** To **promote old-age income security** by establishing, developing, and **regulating pension funds** and to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and related matters.
- It comes under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**.
- PFRDA is headquartered in New Delhi, with regional offices located around the country.
- **Composition:** Section 4 of the PFRDA Act specifies that the Authority shall consist of the following members, namely:
 - a **Chairperson**;
 - **three whole-time members**; and
 - **three part-time members**,
 - to be **appointed by the Central Government** from amongst persons of ability, integrity, and standing and having **knowledge and experience in economics or finance or law** with at least one person from each discipline.

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- **Functions:**

- **Regulate the National Pension System (NPS)** and other **pension schemes** to which the PFRDA Act applies;
- Undertaking steps to **educate subscribers** and the general public on issues relating to pensions, retirement savings, and related issues, and training intermediaries.
- **Providing pension schemes** not regulated by any other enactment;
- **Protecting the interests of subscribers** of NPS and such other schemes as approved by the authority from time to time.
- **Approving the schemes and laying down norms** of investment guidelines under such schemes;
- **Registering and regulating intermediaries:** NPS Trust, Points of Presence, Central Record-keeping Agency, Trustee Bank, Pension Funds, Custodian for time-bound service to subscribers.
- Ensuring that the intermediation and other operational costs are economical and reasonable;
- **Making the existing grievance redressal process robust** and time-bound.
- **Adjudication of disputes between intermediaries** and between **intermediaries and subscribers.**

CORBETT TIGER RESERVE



- It is located on the **foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand.**
- **Establishment:**
 - Corbett was the **first national park of India**, established in 1936. It was **named Hailey National Park** then.
 - In 1957, the park was rechristened Corbett National Park in memory of the late Jim Corbett, a great naturalist and eminent conservationist.

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- After the addition of areas to the originally declared National Park, the total area of Tiger Reserve extends to 1288.31 sq. km.
- The terrain is undulating with several valleys. The rivers **Ramganga, Pallaen, and Sonanadi** flow through the valleys.
- By and large, the reserve is spread over the **Bhabar and lower Shivalik regions** with a deep-water table.
- The tract is porous with boulders and sand deposits.
- **Flora:**
 - In general, the vegetation comprises **sal and mixed forests**, interspersed with **grass lands and riparian vegetation**.
 - The **grasslands are locally known as 'Chaur'**, which are an **outcome of abandoned settlements** or past clearings.
 - Evergreen Sal and its combined trees, the Sheesham, and the Kanju are found extensively on the ridges.
 - **One plant, (actually a weed),** which is a **major irritant** to the reserve authorities and is widespread in the jungle, is the **Lantana**.
- **Fauna: Tigers and elephants** are the charismatic mammals, besides a large array of co-predators (**leopards**, small carnivores), ungulates (**sambar, hog deer**, spotted deer), birds, reptiles (gharials, crocodile), and fishes.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)



- It was established in 1921 as the oldest parliamentary committee in India.
- **Purpose:** It audits the revenue and expenditure of the Government of India to **ensure public funds are spent efficiently and legally**.

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Key functions:

- Examines the CAG audit report on government expenditure.
- Ensures money sanctioned by Parliament is spent properly.
- Investigates financial irregularities, losses, and inefficiencies in government spending.
- **Membership:**
 - 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha)
 - **Chairperson:** A Lok Sabha MP, traditionally from the **Opposition**
 - **Term:** One year
 - **Ministers cannot be members** of the PAC

About the Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- **Launched:** In 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism.
- **Objective:** To develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in India by creating thematic tourist circuits.
- **Funding:** 100% centrally funded
- **Implementation:**
 - The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments, UT Administrations, and Central Agencies.
 - **Operation & Maintenance (O&M)** is the responsibility of the respective State/UT government.

Key features:

- Development of theme-based tourism circuits
 - Infrastructure development such as roads, signage, parking, and public amenities
 - Eco-tourism and heritage conservation efforts.
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FINANCE COMMISSION



- The **Finance Commission (FC)** is a constitutional body established under **Article 280** of the Constitution of India.
- It is constituted in **every five years** by the **President of India**.
- It consists of:
 - **One Chairperson** (Expert in public affairs)
 - **Four Members** (Experts in finance, economics, and administration)
- It ensures **fiscal federalism** and advises on **public expenditure and economic policies**.
- **16th Finance Commission:** Established in **2023**, the 16th Finance Commission is responsible for recommending the **distribution of finances** between the **Centre and States** for the period **April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2031**.

Finance Commission Functions:

- **Vertical devolution:** Determines the **share of states in the central divisible pool of taxes** (e.g., GST, income tax).
- **Horizontal distribution:** **Allocates funds among states** based on fiscal needs, revenue-generating capacity, and developmental performance.
- **Grants-in-Aid:** Recommends **grants to revenue-deficient states** and specific sectors in need of financial support.

JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAAN



- **Launched:** In **2019** by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Objective:** To ensure **water conservation**, **rainwater harvesting**, and **groundwater recharge** in **water-stressed regions**.
- **Core strategy:** “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls”.

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- **Focus areas:** Water conservation & rainwater harvesting, Renovation of traditional water bodies, Reuse and recharge of borewells, Watershed development and Intensive afforestation.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

- **Launched:** In 2019 under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Objective:** To provide **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household by 2024 under the initiative **Har Ghar Jal**.
- The **National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP)** was restructured and integrated into JJM.

Features of Jal Jeevan Mission:

- **Coverage:** Aims to cover **19 crore rural households** with tap water connections.
- **Funding pattern:** **90:10** (for Himalayan & NE states), **50:50** (for other states), **100%** for UTs.
- **Implementation model:** Gram Panchayats, VWSCs (Village Water & Sanitation Committees) to take ownership.
- **Water quality monitoring:** **IS 10500:2012 Standards** for safe drinking water.
- **Focus on Water-Stressed Areas:** Special attention to **drought-prone & water-deficient regions**.
- **Reuse of Water:** Promotes **greywater treatment & reuse** in agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC)



- It was founded in 1894 by Pierre de Coubertin to revive the ancient Greek Olympics.
- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland.
- **Mission:** "Building a Better World through Sport."
- **Roles & Responsibilities**
 - Governs the **Olympic Games (Summer, Winter, and Youth Olympics)**

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- Oversees **National Olympic Committees (NOCs)** worldwide
- Ensures adherence to the **Olympic Charter**
- **Decides on:**
 - Amending the **Olympic Charter**
 - Electing **IOC President and Executive Board**
 - Selecting the **host city** for future Olympic Games

Process of Selecting the Host Country for the Olympics:

- **Informal dialogue:** IOC engages with **interested countries** to discuss potential bids.
- **Targeted dialogue:** IOC's **Executive Board** invites a "**preferred host**" to refine its proposal.
- **No fixed timeframe:** The **final selection** can take years depending on political, economic, and environmental factors.
- **Key selection criteria:**
 - **Funding strategy** & financial sustainability
 - **Infrastructure readiness** (transport, venues, accommodation)
 - **Alignment with local development goals**
 - **Public support** and socio-economic factors

Impact on India's 2036 Olympic Bid:

- India is competing with **Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and 10 other nations** for the **2036 Olympics**.
 - Coventry had **welcomed India's bid** but emphasized that **strong governance and transparency** in the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** are necessary.
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