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Current Affairs - 26 November 2024

75th CONSTITUTION DAY OF INDIA



- It is also known as **Samvidhan Divas** and is celebrated every year on **November 26** to commemorate the day the **Constitution of India** was adopted in 1949.

- **Drafted under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's leadership**, the Constitution aimed to ensure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all Indian citizens.
- It finally **came into effect on January 26, 1950**, when India became a republic.
- **In 2015**, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the **government designated November 26 as Constitution Day** to promote constitutional values and coincide with Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary.
- **Before this**, the day was celebrated as **Law Day**.

Key Facts about Constituent Assembly of India:

- It was **set up in 1946** under the **Cabinet Mission Plan** of 1946.
 - The Assembly held its **first meeting on December 9, 1946**, and elected Dr. Sachhidanand Sinha, the oldest member of the Assembly, as the Provisional President.
 - On December 11, 1946, the Assembly **elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad** as its **permanent Chairman**.
 - The Constituent Assembly had 13 committees, including the **drafting committee headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**.
 - The Constitution **took 3 years (1946-49) to complete the drafting**. During this period, it held eleven sessions, covering a total of 165 days.
 - The **Constitution was adopted in 1949** when 284 members signed it, marking the completion of the Constitution-making process.
 - The constitution **went into effect in January 1950**, and the CA was **transformed into a Provisional Parliament**.
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THE CONSENSUS REPUBLIC: A LESSON FOR TODAY'S PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- On November 26, 2024, India commemorates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its **Constitution**, a landmark event that established the framework for the nation's democratic governance.
- **The achievements of the Constituent Assembly**, whose members shaped this seminal document, **remain a source of inspiration and guidance for contemporary politics.**
- As India celebrates this milestone, **it is imperative to reflect on these foundational ideals and draw lessons for the present and future functioning of its Parliament.**

Lessons for Today's Parliamentarians from the Constituent Assembly

- **Commitment to Consensus and Nation-Building**
 - **The members of the Constituent Assembly recognised the enormity of their task** and despite their diverse political and ideological beliefs, **they shared a collective commitment to building a cohesive nation.**
 - Their **deliberations reflected an unwavering focus on the common good**, transcending personal or partisan interests.
 - In contrast, contemporary parliamentary proceedings are often mired in polarization and adversarial politics.
 - **The spirit of consensus-building is frequently overshadowed by partisan conflicts** that hinder legislative progress.
 - **Today's parliamentarians must draw from the Assembly's example, setting aside differences to address critical national issues** like poverty, inequality, unemployment, healthcare, and education.
- **Embracing Constructive Dialogue and Respectful Disagreement**
 - **Constituent assembly Members often disagreed vehemently**, yet their debates were marked by respect and a focus on ideas rather than personal attacks.

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- **B.R. Ambedkar** acknowledged the valuable contributions of dissenters like **H.V. Kamath, K.T. Shah**, and others, even when their views diverged from the majority. **Their disagreements enriched the discussions** and refined the Constitution's provisions.
- For today's parliamentarians, this serves as a powerful reminder that dissent, when expressed respectfully, can be a driving force for progress.
- By creating an environment where diverse perspectives are welcomed and debated in good faith, **Parliament can become a forum for innovation and collective problem-solving.**
- **Bridging Ideological Divides**
 - The Constituent Assembly was a microcosm of India's diversity, encompassing members from various regions, communities, and political backgrounds.
 - Despite this diversity, the Assembly succeeded in crafting a unified vision for the country.
 - This was possible because members recognised that their shared goal of nation-building was greater than their ideological differences.
 - Today's Parliament operates in a more complex political landscape, with strong party systems and entrenched ideological positions.
 - However, the need to bridge divides remains as urgent as ever.

Conclusion

- The 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution is not just a celebration of a historic achievement but a call to action.
 - By learning from the Constituent Assembly's ethos, contemporary parliamentarians can address the democratic deficits that have crept into India's parliamentary culture.
 - The legacy of respectful disagreement, collective vision, and nation-building offers a roadmap for reimagining the future of India's democracy.
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WHAT IS ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)?



- AIM is a **flagship initiative** set up by the NITI Aayog in 2016 with an objective to create and encourage an environment of **innovation and entrepreneurship** across schools, educational organisations, research institutes, and **industries**, including MSMEs.

AIM has two functions:

- Promote entrepreneurship by encouraging innovators to become entrepreneurs **through financial support** as well as **mentorship**.
- Promote innovation by creating a platform where ideas are generated through like-minded individuals.

AIM has created four programs to support these functions:

- **Atal Tinkering Labs**
 - **Atal Incubation Centres**
 - **Atal New India Challenges** and **Atal Grand Challenges**
 - **Mentor India**
 - Apart from these programs, AIM also **seeks and collaborates with academia, industries, NGOs**, and individuals to enable an atmosphere of innovation.
 - All the **initiatives** of AIM are currently **monitored and managed** systematically using **real-time MIS systems and dynamic dashboards**.
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ONE NATION ONE SUBSCRIPTION SCHEME



- It is a new **Central Sector Scheme** for providing country-wide access to **scholarly research articles and journal publication**.



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- The scheme will be administered through a simple, user friendly and fully digital process.
- This will be a “One Nation One Subscription” facility for the government **higher education institutions and R&D laboratories of the Central G**
- This will **supplement the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** initiative to promote research and development and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout government universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- The benefits of One Nation One Subscription scheme will be provided to **all Higher Educational Institutions** under the management of the Central or State Government and Research & Development Institutions of the Central Government, through a national subscription coordinated by a central agency, namely the **Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)**, an autonomous inter-university centre of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
- The Department of Higher Education will have a **unified portal “One Nation One Subscription”** through which the institutions will be **able to access the journals**.
- The ANRF will periodically review the usage of One Nation One Subscription and publications of Indian authors of these institutions.

Funding: A total of about Rs.6,000 crore has been allocated for One Nation One Subscription for **3 calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027** as a new Central Sector Scheme.

Significance:

- It will build on and **further enhance the scope and reach** of the range of initiatives undertaken by the Government of India over the past decade in the domains of education, for maximizing access to quality higher education for the youth of India.
- The initiative will expand access to scholarly journals to a vast diaspora of students, faculty, researchers and scientists of all disciplines, **including those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities**, thereby promoting core as well as interdisciplinary research in the country.

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RAJA RAJA CHOLA I



The birth anniversary of the legendary Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I is celebrated every year during the Sadhaya Vizha in Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu

Raja Raja Chola I was born as **Arulmozhi Varman** in 947 CE, he rose to become one of history's most illustrious and visionary rulers.

- He was revered as Raja Raja the Great; he inherited the legacy of his ancestors and crafted an empire that flourished both militarily and culturally.
 - **Reign:** His reign, from 985 to 1014 CE, was marked by military prowess and profound administrative vision.
 - **Military Conquest:**
 - During his reign, the Cholas expanded beyond South India with their domains stretching from **Sri Lanka** in the south to Kalinga in the north.
 - He also **launched several naval campaigns** that resulted in the capture of the Malabar Coast as well as the **Maldives** and Sri Lanka.
 - **Titles**
 - After the **defeat of the Pandyas** by him he took the title **Pandya Kulashani** meaning a thunderbolt to the race of the Pandyas.
 - He also adopted the title of **Mummudi Chola** which means the Chola who wears the three crowns.
 - In 1010, Raja Raja built the **Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur** dedicated to Lord Shiva.
 - The temple and the capital acted as a center of both religious and economic activity.
 - During his reign, the texts of the Tamil poets Appar, Sambandar and Sundarar were collected and edited into one **compilation called Thirumurai**.
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NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARD



It is one of the highest honors in the field of **livestock and dairy sector**.

- These awards will be given on the occasion of **National Milk Day celebrations**.

Objective

- The awards are conferred with an objective to recognize and **encourage** all individuals like **Farmers rearing indigenous animals**, AI Technicians and Dairy cooperative societies / Milk Producer Company / Dairy farmers Producers Organizations working in the sector of animal husbandry and dairying.

The Award is conferred in **three categories**, namely,

- Best Dairy Farmer Rearing Indigenous Cattle/buffalo Breeds,
- Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) and
- Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk Producer Company/ Dairy Farmer Producer Organization.
- From this year onwards, the Department has incorporated a **Special award for North Eastern Region (NER) States**, in all the three categories under National Gopal Ratna Awards, so as to encourage and boost the dairy development activities in NER.

PAN 2.0 PROJECT



- It is an **e-Governance project** for **re-engineering the business processes** of taxpayer registration services through technology driven transformation of PAN/TAN services for enhanced digital experience of the taxpayers.

- This will be an upgrade of the current PAN/TAN 1.0 eco-system consolidating the core and non-core PAN/TAN activities as well as PAN validation service.
- It is a project of the **Income Tax Department**.

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- The PAN 2.0 Project enables technology driven transformation of Taxpayer registration services and has significant benefits including:
- **Ease of access and speedy service** delivery with improved quality;
- Single Source of Truth and data consistency
- **Eco-friendly processes** and cost optimization; and
- **Security and optimization** of infrastructure for greater agility.
- The PAN 2.0 Project **resonates with the vision of the Government enshrined in Digital India** by enabling the use of PAN as Common Identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies.

What is a Permanent Account Number (PAN)?

- A PAN is an **alphanumeric identifier consisting of ten characters**, issued by the Income Tax Department.
 - It is provided to any "person" upon application or allocated directly by the department without a formal request.
 - The Income Tax Department utilises PAN to monitor and connect all transactions associated with an individual. This includes various activities such as tax payments, TDS/TCS credits, income returns, specific transactions, and official communications.
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NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL FARMING

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.



- It has been launched to **promote natural farming in mission mode** across the country as a standalone scheme. It aims at promoting natural farming practices for providing **safe & nutritious food** for all.
- It is designed to **support farmers to reduce input cost of cultivation** and dependency to externally purchased inputs.

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Features

- In the next two years, NMNF will be implemented in **15,000 clusters in Gram Panchayats**, which are willing, & reach 1 crore farmers and initiate Natural Farming (NF) in 7.5 lakh Ha area.
- Preference will be given to areas having prevalence of practising natural farming farmers, SRLM / PACS / FPOs, etc.
- Further, need-based **10,000 Bio-input Resource Centres (BRCs)** will be set-up to provide easy availability and accessibility to ready-to-use natural farming inputs for farmers.
- Under NMNF, around **2000 NF Model Demonstration Farms** shall be established at **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Agricultural Universities (AUs) and farmers' fields**, and shall be supported by experienced and trained Farmer Master Trainers.
- The willing farmers will be trained in Model Demonstration Farms on the natural farming package of practices, preparation of natural farming inputs, etc. near their villages in KVKs, Agricultural Universities and practising natural farming farmers' fields.
- 75 lakh trained willing farmers will prepare inputs like Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, etc. by using their livestock or procure from BRCs. 30,000 Krishi Sakhis/ CRPs will be deployed for **awareness generation, mobilisation and handholding** of willing farmers in the clusters.
- Farmers will be provided with an easy **simple certification system** and dedicated common branding to provide access to market their natural farming produce. **Real time geo-tagged & referenced** monitoring of NMNF implementation shall be done through an online portal.
- **Funding:** The scheme has a total **outlay of Rs.2481 crore** (Government of India share – Rs.1584 crore; State share – Rs.897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).