

SHE-MART INITIATIVE



- **SHE-MART** (Self Help Entrepreneurs-Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation) is a Government of India initiative to **empower women entrepreneurs** by creating **community-owned retail outlets** within cluster-level federations of self-help groups.
- It is aimed at creating **stronger market linkages**, improving visibility of local products, **strengthening SHG institutions**, and enabling women entrepreneurs to expand and scale their businesses.
- **Key Features of SHE-MART Initiative:**
 - **Community-Owned Retail Outlets:** Retail outlets owned and managed by local women's groups within cluster-level federations, ensuring community control and ownership.
 - **Direct Market Access:** Creating structured **retail platforms for women entrepreneurs** to sell products and access formal markets without intermediaries.
 - **Economic Growth:** Moving women up the economic value chain from income generation to enterprise ownership, transforming them from earners to business owners.
 - **Permanent Infrastructure:** Permanent retail points for SHG-made goods with value-added product support, ensuring sustainable business operations.
 - **Empowerment:** Greater control over markets, branding, and sustainable income generation, empowering women economically and socially.
- SHE Mart will **primarily support SHG-made goods** including handicrafts, textiles, food products, agricultural produce, and value-added processed products.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development, implemented under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission.



INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE

It is awarded annually.

- It was established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.
- It celebrates the best works of long-form fiction or collections of short stories **translated into English and published in the UK and/or Ireland.**
- It recognises the vital work of translators, **with the £50,000 prize money** divided equally between authors and translators.
- This prize aims to encourage more reading of quality fiction from all over the world.

Indian Winners of International Booker Prize

- **Geetanjali Shree**– Tomb of Sand (2022), translated by Daisy Rockwell. It was first Hindi work to win this prize.
- **Banu Mushtaq**– Heart Lamp (2025), translated by Deepa Bhashti which was the first Kannada work to win this prize.



AYUSH ANUDAN PORTAL

- It is developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** under the **Ayush Grid initiative.**
- It is a **digital platform** to streamline the submission, processing, and monitoring of funding proposals under Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry of Ayush i.e.
 - Ayurgyan, Ayurswashya, Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants, International Co-operation and Promotion of Information, Education and Communication.
- The primary objective of this portal is to **ensure 100% transparency**, efficiency, accountability and easy accessibility in the grant management process.
- The portal can be accessed through the Ministry's **My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP)**, which serves as the Ministry's single-window digital platform.

- **Features of the Portal:**

- It has **scheme-wise application management system**, enabling proposals to be categorised, processed, and **monitored according to the specific requirements** of different Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry.
- It also incorporates a **real-time application tracking mechanism**, allowing applicants and officials to monitor proposal status at every stage of processing.
- It is **integrated with the NGO Darpan Portal**.



**Unmanned Aerial
Vehicle Launched
Precision Guided
Missile-V3**

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE LAUNCHED PRECISION GUIDED MISSILE-V3

- It is a **precision-guided air-to-surface missile** launched from drones. It has been developed by **Research Centre Imarat Hyderabad** as the nodal lab along with **other DRDO laboratories**.

- **Features:**

- The ULPGM-V3 is equipped with a high definition dual-channel seeker that can strike a wide variety of targets.
- It can be **fired in plain and high-altitude areas**.
- It has **day-and-night capability** and two-way data link to support post-launch target/aim-point update.
- It is equipped with **three modular warhead options**
 - Anti-armour to destroy modern age armoured vehicles equipped with Rolled Homogeneous Armour (RHA) with Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA); Penetration-cum-Blast warhead with Anti Bunker application and Pre-fragmentation warhead with a high lethality zone.
- The ULPGM-V3 **can be carried and operated by individual soldiers** in remote and mountainous regions.
- **Range:** It can achieve a max. **range of 4 km** during the day and 2.5 km at night.
- **Weight:** 5 kg which enables integration with lightweight drones.

SC PULLS UP STATES OVER STRAY DOG MENACE

- The Supreme Court took up the stray dog issue suo motu in July 2025 after reports of a 6-year-old girl in New Delhi dying from a dog bite and suspected rabies infection.
- The Court described the rise in dog attacks and rabies-related deaths as a serious public safety concern.
 - The case was first heard by a bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, which in August 2025 directed civic authorities in Delhi-NCR to:
 - Remove stray dogs from public spaces
 - Shift them to shelters
 - Avoid releasing them back onto the streets
 - The order triggered protests from animal welfare organisations and dog feeders, who argued that the directions violated the ABC Rules, 2023. Under these rules:
 - Stray dogs must be sterilised and vaccinated
 - They should then be released back into the same area from where they were picked up
- **Modified Position of the Court**
 - The Supreme Court later softened its earlier stance and:
 - Restored the existing sterilisation-and-release policy under the ABC Rules
 - Allowed authorities to keep rabid or aggressive dogs in shelters
 - Prohibited feeding stray dogs in public places outside designated feeding zones

Supreme Court's Directions on Stray Dog Management

- The Supreme Court directed every district in India to establish at least one fully functional ABC centre.
- States and Union Territories have been asked to further expand this infrastructure based on population density and local needs.
- The Court ordered authorities to:

- Ensure adequate availability of anti-rabies medicines
- Strengthen veterinary services
- Improve vaccination infrastructure for effective stray animal management
- The Court directed the NHAI and state governments to develop a coordinated mechanism for handling stray animals on highways and expressways.
- This should include: Transport vehicles for animal relocation; Shelter facilities; Coordination with animal welfare organisations.
- **Constitutional Dimensions of the Debate**
 - **Animal Welfare Perspective** - Animal welfare groups relied on Article 51A(g) of the Constitution, which places a fundamental duty on citizens to show compassion towards living creatures.
 - **Public Safety Perspective** - Unchecked stray dog populations violate citizens' rights under: Article 19 (Right to move freely) and Article 21 (Right to life and personal safety).

MARITIME CHOKEPOINTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

- Maritime chokepoints are **narrow sea routes through which a substantial volume of global trade and energy supplies pass**. Any disruption in these routes can significantly affect global shipping, oil prices, supply chains, and energy security.
- The Indian Ocean region hosts some of the world's most important chokepoints, particularly for oil and container trade.

Strait of Hormuz



The **Strait of Hormuz** lies between **Iran and Oman** and connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is one of the most critical energy chokepoints in the world because:

- Around 20-25% of the global oil trade passes through it.



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- Major Gulf oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, UAE, and Qatar depend on this route. India, China, Japan, and European countries rely heavily on oil shipments passing through the strait.

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait



- The **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait** lies between **Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti/Eritrea in Africa**. It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, ultimately linking maritime traffic to the Suez Canal.

- Its importance lies in the fact that:

- It serves as a key route for Europe-Asia trade.
- Nearly 10% of the global seaborne oil trade passes through this route.
- It is essential for container shipping between Asia and Europe.

Malacca Strait



The **Malacca Strait**, located between **Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia**, connects the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean.

- It is one of the busiest shipping routes globally because:

- Nearly one-fourth of global trade passes through it.
- Around 80% of China's oil imports transit through this route.
- It is vital for energy imports of India, China, Japan, and South Korea.

Limited Alternatives to Chokepoints

- Experts underline that there are **few practical alternatives** to these narrow maritime passages. Ships bypassing Bab-el-Mandeb through the **Cape of Good Hope** face higher transport costs and delays.
- Alternative pipelines to bypass the Strait of Hormuz have limited capacity.
- Thus, uninterrupted functioning of these chokepoints remains essential for global economic stability.

INDIA'S EV AMBITION NEEDS A GRID STRATEGY TO MATCH

- India's **transition** toward electric vehicles (EVs) has gained momentum due to rising **crude oil prices** and recurring geopolitical tensions in the **Strait of Hormuz**, which repeatedly expose the country's dependence on imported fuel.
- Electric two-wheelers are becoming increasingly popular among urban commuters because of their affordability, low maintenance costs, and immediate fuel savings.
- However, the larger challenge of electrification lies not in scooters or passenger vehicles, but in building a powerful and reliable **electricity grid** capable of supporting large-scale transport demand, especially from freight transportation.

Steps to Take

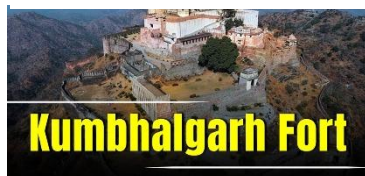
- **Strengthening Policy and Infrastructure**
 - Several policy measures are essential for a sustainable EV transition. EV demand projections must become central to national capacity planning.
 - Smart-charging standards should be mandatory for all new charging infrastructure.
 - Important freight corridors such as the Golden Quadrilateral and Dedicated Freight Corridors require coordinated power planning before electric trucking expands commercially.
- **Institutional Coordination and Financial Reforms**
 - Strong coordination between ministries responsible for transport, power, and finance is necessary for effective implementation.
 - Financial reforms under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) can strengthen discoms and improve last-mile electricity delivery.

Conclusion

- India's EV transition is inevitable, but its long-term success depends on whether the country can build a **resilient, clean**, and technologically advanced power system.

- Electric scooters may symbolize the beginning of change, but the future of sustainable mobility will ultimately depend on the strength of the grid powering India's roads, industries, and freight networks.
- Electrification is therefore not merely a transportation reform; it is a **complete transformation** of India's energy and infrastructure systems.

KUMBHALGARH FORT



- It is located in the Rajsamand district of **Rajasthan**.
- It is strategically located in the **western Aravalli hills**.
- Considered to be the **second most significant citadel in the**

Mewar region after Chittorgarh, this majestic fort was **constructed** in the 15th century AD by **Rana Kumbha**, the ruler of the Kingdom of Mewar.

- **Spanning over 36 kilometers**, its walls are second only to the Great Wall of China, earning it the moniker “the **Great Wall of India**.”

The fort has also been designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** as part of the group of Hill Forts of Rajasthan.

- The fort contains seven fortified gateways and **ancient temples—both, Hindu and Jain**, as well as the **Lakhola Tank**, the most famous tank within the fort, which was built by Rana Lakha.
- For centuries, Kumbhalgarh Fort served as a **refuge for Mewar rulers during times of war**.

It is the **birthplace** of Mewar's legendary king, **Maharana Pratap**. Maharana Pratap led **numerous battles against the Mughal Empire**, with Kumbhalgarh serving as his sanctuary.

- The fort is surrounded by the **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary**.

KEY FACTS ABOUT LOKTAK LAKE



- It is located in the state of **Manipur**.
- It is the **largest freshwater lake** in **Northeast India**.
- The lake is famous for its **phumdis**.
 - Phumdis are unique, **heterogeneous masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter** that **float on the water's surface**.
 - **Only 20% of a phumdis' thickness floats above the water surface**; the other 80% remains submerged.
 - The floating masses are **strong enough to support fishing huts, human settlements**, and animal habitats.
- The **Keibul Lamjao National Park** is an integral part of the lake. It is the **world's only floating national park**.
- The park is best known as the **habitat of the endangered sangai deer**, also called the **brow-antlered deer**, which is **native to Manipur**.

Rivers like **Khuga, Western, Nambul, Imphal, Kongba, Iiril, Thoubal, Heirok, and Sekmai drain into this lake**.

- It was designated as a **wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention** in 1990.
- It features under the **Montreux Record** in 1993, “a record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur”.
- It supports **hydropower, fisheries, transport, and tourism**.