

PM SVANIDHI SCHEME



PM SVANidhi scheme has emerged as a major initiative supporting vendors working across India's informal urban economy.

- The **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme was launched in 2020.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme supporting street vendors** through affordable working capital, financial inclusion and social protection measures.
- **Key Features of PM SVANidhi Scheme:**
 - **Working Capital Loan:** Collateral-free loans of **₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000** are provided in three progressive tranches with interest subsidy and credit guarantee support.
 - **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards:** Vendors successfully repaying the second tranche are eligible for UPI-linked **RuPay Credit Cards with limits up to ₹30,000.**
 - **Digital Adoption:** Cashback incentives of up to **₹1,600** are provided to street vendors for retail/wholesale digital transactions to encourage digital adoption and financial literacy.
 - **SVANidhi se Samridhi (SSS):** Socio-economic profiling of beneficiaries and their families is undertaken to link them with **eight selected Central welfare schemes** and create a holistic social security net.
 - **Capacity Building & Entrepreneurship Development:** Vendors are provided with training in financial literacy, digital literacy, and food safety & hygiene in collaboration with FSSAI.
- **Implementation:** It is a joint responsibility of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and the **Department of Financial Services (DFS).**

INDIA'S PUSH FOR COAL GASIFICATION

- Imagine taking coal — a solid fuel — and converting it into a useful gas. That is essentially what coal gasification does.
- It converts coal into **synthetic gas (syngas)** — a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide — which can then be used as a raw material to produce a wide range of valuable downstream products.
- **What Can Syngas Produce?**
 - Urea — critical for fertilisers
 - Ammonia — used in fertilisers and chemicals
 - Methanol — used as fuel and in chemical manufacturing
 - Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) — substitute for natural gas
 - Hydrogen — clean energy fuel
 - Ammonium nitrate, ether, dimethyl ether — various industrial uses

Why Does India Need Coal Gasification?

- India is currently heavily import-dependent for several key industrial chemicals that can be produced domestically through coal gasification:
 - Urea — India imports one-fifth of its requirement.
 - Ammonia — India imports almost its entire requirement.
 - Methanol — India imports approximately 80-90% of its requirement.
- Meanwhile, India sits on vast coal reserves — approximately 401 billion tonnes of coal and about 47 billion tonnes of lignite — making it one of the most coal-rich countries in the world.
- Coal gasification offers a way to leverage these domestic resources to produce chemicals that India currently spends enormous foreign exchange importing — directly improving energy security, reducing the current account deficit, and creating domestic industrial capacity.

The Technical Challenge — India's High-Ash Coal

- This is the most critical and distinctive challenge in India's coal gasification programme — one that sets India apart from all other major coal-gasifying nations.
- Indian coal has **very high ash content** — along with variability in gross calorific value (GCV) and the presence of complex mineral matter.

The Indigenisation Challenge and Opportunity

- Coal gasification projects are by their very nature highly capital-intensive with long gestation periods.
- According to a research, capital costs constitute nearly 30% of total syngas production costs — making financial viability the central challenge.
- BHEL — has developed indigenous pressurised fluidised-bed gasifier technology; its 16 facilities are capable of producing all critical components for gasification.
- Jindal Steel and Greta Energy — have indigenised approximately 80-90% of their production requirements.
- At its maturing stages, coal gasification may still require technology imports — particularly from **China**, which is the world leader in gasification technology.
 - Industry has sought government consideration of exemptions from DPIIT regulations for acquiring necessary technologies from China.

Conclusion

- India's coal gasification push sits at the intersection of several critical policy priorities — energy security (reducing import dependence), industrial policy (creating domestic chemical manufacturing capacity), agricultural security (domestic urea and fertiliser production), Aatmanirbhar Bharat (indigenising technology), and sustainable mining (better utilisation of coal resources).
- However, the programme faces significant challenges including technical adaptation for high-ash coal, capital intensity, long project gestation periods, and dependence on Chinese technology at scale.



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WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION



World
Meteorological
Organization
Weather • Climate • Water

- It was established in **1950** as a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- **History:** It originated from the **International Meteorological Organization (IMO)**, which was founded in 1873.
- It became the specialized agency of the **UN for meteorology** (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- It is the UN system's **authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere**, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- Its main goal is to facilitate **international cooperation in the development of meteorology** and the exchange of information and technology related to weather, climate, hydrology and related environmental fields.

Governance Structure:

- **World Meteorological Congress:** It is **WMO's supreme body** which consists of representatives of all members. It meets at **least every four years** to set general policy and adopt regulations.
- **Executive Council:** It consists of **36-members** which meets annually and implements policy.
- **Secretariat:** It is **headed by a secretary-general** appointed by the congress for a **four-year term**, serves as the administrative centre of the organization.

Members: It has **193 Members**, including 187 Member States and 6 Territories, maintaining their own meteorological services.

- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.

WHAT IS SAMADHAN DIDI?



- It is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled chatbot to help citizens raise grievances against government departments online.
- It is a voice-based, multilingual grievance registration assistant with intelligent AI-based categorisation that helps citizens connect with the appropriate department or authority quickly and efficiently.
- This innovative tool allows citizens to lodge complaints through voice commands in multiple languages, without the need to categorize them.
- Developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Bhashini (an AI-powered tool), the chatbot has been developed within secure government infrastructure, ensuring data privacy.
- It has been integrated with the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- The chatbot is designed to help citizens, particularly those who are unsure where to submit a complaint or whom to address it to, and those who are unable to draft complaints in Hindi or English.
- The platform guides users through the process and assists in preparing complaints in an accessible and user-friendly manner.
- With Samadhan Didi, citizens can register grievances by describing their concerns in plain, everyday language.
- The AI-powered chatbot understands the issue, seeks any necessary clarifications, automatically identifies the appropriate authority, and files the grievance with the concerned department.
- It currently supports all 22 scheduled Indian languages, and efforts are underway to incorporate additional regional and local languages.

Key Facts about CPGRAMS:

- It is an online platform available to the citizens 24×7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
- It was developed and monitored by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions.
- It is a single portal connected to all the ministries/departments of the Government of India and States.
- Every ministry and state have role-based access to this system.
- CPGRAMS is also accessible to the citizens through a standalone mobile application downloadable through the Google Play store, and mobile application integrated with UMANG.
- The status of the grievance filed in CPGRAMS can be tracked with the unique registration ID provided at the time of registration of the complainant.
- The grievances received on the CPGRAMS shall be resolved promptly as soon as they are received but within a maximum period of 21 days.
- CPGRAMS also provides an appeal facility to the citizens if they are not satisfied with the resolution by the Grievance Officer.

NAUSENA SHAURYA VATIKA



- It is an open-air naval museum and interpretation centre showcasing the legacy, operational capabilities and maritime achievements of the Indian Navy.
- Location: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- It has been developed as Phase-II of the Nausena Shaurya Sangrahalaya, the Navy's memorial museum.
- It was jointly developed by the Indian Navy and the Uttar Pradesh government.

- It showcases the artefacts and weapon systems of INS Gomati (a Godavari class guided-missile frigate), which was decommissioned in 2022 after 34 years of service.
 - AK 726 (Naval Gun Installed onboard Naval Warship), ZIF 101 launcher for Surface-to-Air Missiles, Surface-to-Surface Anti-Ship and Surface-to-Air Missiles and Ship's radar, torpedo launcher, anchors, ship's masts and other artefacts of INS Gomati are on display at the park.
- It also features a Walkthrough Museum of TU 142M, a long range maritime patrol aircraft which is no longer in service.
- It also includes numerous visitor amenities such as food court, souvenir shop, and advanced lighting & sound system.

KILL SWITCH



- It is a mechanism that allows a system, device, account, or service to be shut down, disabled or blocked immediately in an emergency or under specific conditions.
- It allows users at the receiving end of a potential digital scam to immediately stop all financial transactions from their accounts.
- It aims to help users instantly stop banking transactions during suspected digital frauds and improve security across payment systems.
- **How it Works?**
 - If someone suspects request for transfer of funds is fraud or not genuine, they can activate the kill switch through the bank app on the mobile phone to stop money transfers instantly.
 - Once triggered, the feature could temporarily stop all outgoing financial transactions from the account.
- **Significance:** It could give customers control over their digital payment usage and contribute towards controlling fraud in digital payment transactions.

SAKURA SCIENCE PROGRAMME



Recently, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) under the Ministry of Education on Saturday flagged off a delegation of Indian students selected to participate in the Sakura Science Programme 2026.

- It is the prestigious **Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science**—better known as the Sakura Science Programme.
- It was **launched globally in 2014**, aims to **expand scientific curiosity amongst youth** and encourage international collaboration.
- **India joined** the Sakura Programme in **2016**.
- **Purpose:** The initiative offers young learners a chance to explore cutting-edge science and immerse themselves in Japanese culture.
- Under this programme, students are **invited for short-term visits to Japan**, providing them with the opportunity to experience Japan's cutting-edge science and technology as well as its rich culture.
- **Implementing Agency:** It is implemented by the **Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)**.
- **Objectives of Sakura Science Program:**
 - To support the **development of talented human resources** from overseas who have the potential to contribute to innovation in science and technology.
 - To accelerate **international brain circulation**.
 - To **promote continuous collaboration**, cooperation and interaction between Japanese educational and research institutes and those overseas.
 - To **strengthen good relationships** between Japan and other countries and regions that can encourage diplomacy in science and technology.

WHAT IS THE SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE?



- Also described as the **Asia Security Summit**, it is **Asia's premier defence and security summit** that brings together **defence ministers, military chiefs, policymakers, and strategic experts** across the globe.
- Since its **birth in 2002**, it has developed into the most influential multilateral security exchange platform in the Asia-Pacific region.
- It is **held every year** in **Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel**.
- It is **organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London, UK**, and **co-organized by Singapore's Ministry of Defence**.
- The **agenda** of the Shangri-La Dialogue is **closely related to the security situation and development trend in the Asia-Pacific region**, covering traditional and non-traditional security and other fields.
- These include **traditional security issues such as territorial disputes and military cooperation**, as well as **non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, cybersecurity, and climate change**.
- The dialogue format comprises an **opening keynote address by a regional head of government/head of state**; **on-the-record plenary sessions involving defence ministers** as speakers; and **on-the-record breakout sessions** involving other senior officials and security practitioners.
- Opportunity is also provided for **bilateral and multilateral meetings**, enabling the participants to network and **advance their defence diplomacy privately**.
- **India regularly participates at a high level**, often represented by the Defence Minister, Chief of Defence Staff, or senior military officials.
- **Raisina Dialogue**, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, is **modeled on the lines of the Shangri-La Dialogue**.