

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

## Current Affairs - 24 June 2025

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT

#### Budget Estimates

- It was **constituted** for the first time **in 1950**.
- It is a parliamentary committee consisting of **30 members**, elected every year by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members, to examine the budget estimates of the Union Government.
- The **Chairperson** of the Committee is **appointed by the Speaker** from amongst its members.
- A **Minister cannot be elected as a member** of the Committee and **if a member** after selection to the Committee is **appointed a Minister**, the member **ceases to be a Member** of the Committee from the date of such appointment.
- The **term of office** of the Committee is **one year**.

**Functions:** It has powers to **examine the budget estimates and**

- to **report what economies, improvements** in organisation, efficiency, or administrative reform, **consistent with the policy underlying the estimates, may be effected;**
- to **suggest alternative policies** in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration;
- to **examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy** implied in the estimates; and
- to **suggest the form in which the estimates shall be presented to Parliament.**
- The Committee **may continue the examination** of the estimates **from time to time throughout the financial year** and report to the House as its examination proceeds.
- It shall **not be incumbent** on the Committee to **examine the entire estimates** of any one year.

### INDIA'S FIRST OFF-GRID GREEN HYDROGEN PILOT PLANT



- **Location:** Kutch, Gujarat
- It is a **5 MW** green hydrogen plant developed by **Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL)**, the clean energy arm of Adani Enterprises Ltd.
  - An **off-grid green hydrogen plant** is a facility that **produces hydrogen using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources**, such as solar or wind, and is **not connected to the main electrical grid**.
  - This means the plant relies entirely on its own renewable energy generation for the hydrogen production process.
- The ANIL plant is **fully powered by solar energy** and works with a **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**, which enables it to operate completely off-grid.
- It features a **fully automated and controlled electrolyser system**, which is designed to **respond to real-time renewable energy inputs**.
  - This provision, also **known as a closed-loop system**, aids in flexibility of operations, particularly in **addressing the shifting nature of solar power**, while ensuring efficiency, safety, and performance.
- The initiative is **aligned with the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**, a flagship Government of India programme that aims to reduce import dependence, improve energy self-sufficiency, and ramp up decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries, all in fulfilment of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat.



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2025

- It reviews **progress made each year** on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015.
- It is published by the U.N. **Sustainable Development Solutions Network**.

### Highlights of the Report

- **India** has for the first time secured a **place among the top 100 out of 193 countries** ranked for their progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - The SDG progress has **stalled at the global level**, with **only 17 per cent of the 17 targets** adopted by the U.N. member countries in 2015 **projected to be achieved by 2030**.
  - It is said that conflicts, **structural vulnerabilities** and **limited fiscal space** impede SDG progress in many parts of the world.
  - **European countries**, especially the **Nordic nations**, continue to **top the SDG Index**, with Finland ranking first, Sweden second and Denmark third.
  - Many **European countries** face significant challenges including those related to **climate and biodiversity**, largely due to unsustainable consumption.
  - **East and South Asia** have outperformed all other global regions in terms of SDG progress since 2015 largely due to **rapid socioeconomic development**.
  - Most UN member states have **made strong progress** on targets related to access to basic services and **infrastructure, including mobile broadband** use (SDG 9), access to electricity (SDG 7), internet use (SDG 9), **under-five mortality rate** (SDG 3) and **neonatal mortality** (SDG 3).
  - **Five targets show significant reversals** in progress since 2015. These are **obesity rate** (SDG 2), press freedom (SDG 16), **sustainable nitrogen management** (SDG 2), the **Red List Index** (SDG 15) and the Corruption Perceptions Index (SDG 16).
  - The report said the **top three countries most committed** to the UN multilateralism are Barbados (1), Jamaica (2) and Trinidad and Tobago (3).
  - Among **G20 nations**, Brazil (25) ranks highest, while Chile (7) leads among **OECD countries**.
-

### FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR IN INDIA - ENSURING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION

#### Emergence of a Grassroots Food Revolution:

- **Makhana (foxnut) to the world - The Madhubani success story:**
  - Gyanish Kumar Mishra from Bihar developed a **flavoured makhana brand** that is now exported to the **USA and Canada**.
  - Supported by the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, this demonstrates how **traditional Indian crops are gaining global market access**.
- **Nationwide transformation:**
  - **Micro-entrepreneurs** from Kashmir to the Andaman Islands are formalising operations and accessing new markets.
  - It reflects a **broader structural shift** towards aligning rural capacities with national economic growth.

#### Governmental Push - Policy, Institutional and Financial Support:

- **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and reform trajectory:**
  - Over 11 years, reforms have created an **enabling environment** for business and industrial autonomy.
  - Food processing is now a **critical pillar of agri-industrial integration and inclusive development**.
- **Key flagship schemes driving growth:**
  - **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY):**
    - Under this, over 250 lakh metric tonnes of annual **processing and preservation capacity** has been created, attracting over Rs 22,000 crore **private investment**.
    - This has directly **benefited over 53 lakh farmers** and more than 7.6 lakh **employment opportunities** have been created.

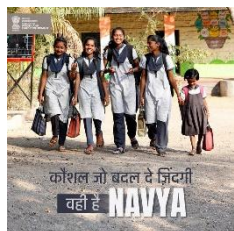
# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

### Current Affairs - 24 June 2025

- **PMFME:**
  - It was launched under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore to **empower unorganised micro food enterprises** through **formalisation, capacity building, and access to credit**.
  - Over 1.41 lakh **loans** (~Rs 11,205 crore) have been sanctioned to micro-enterprises and **seed capital** has been extended to support more than 3.3 lakh members of self-help groups (SHGs).
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme:** With committed investments of Rs 8,900 crore, the scheme has led to the creation of over 3.3 lakh jobs and added more than 67 lakh metric tonnes of processing capacity.

#### NAVYA INITIATIVE



- The **NAVYA – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent** is the joint pilot initiative of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**, in convergence with the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.

#### **Features of NAVYA Initiative:**

- It is a pilot initiative aimed at equipping **adolescent girls aged 16–18 years** with a minimum qualification of Class 10, with **vocational training mainly in non-traditional job roles**.
- It will be implemented in **27 Districts of the country** which include **Aspirational districts** and districts of **North-eastern States** spanning across 19 States, reflecting the Government's inclusive and targeted approach to reaching **underserved regions and vulnerable populations**.



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

### Current Affairs - 24 June 2025

- As part of the launch, both Ministries will formalize their collaboration to institutionalize convergence on skilling efforts for adolescent girls.
- The programme will draw upon the strengths of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** and other **flagship skill development schemes**.
- **Significance:** Through NAVYA, the Government of India will reaffirm its commitment to empowering girls with skills, **confidence, and opportunities**—**ensuring** that every young woman becomes a catalyst in India's journey towards a developed, self-reliant, and inclusive future.

#### INDIA'S CRACKDOWN ON CHILD LABOUR: TELANGANA, BIHAR, AND RAJASTHAN LEAD RESCUES IN 2024-25

- India witnessed a major surge in efforts to curb child labour in 2024-25, with **over 53,000 children rescued across the country**.
- A recent report from the child rights network **Just Rights for Children (JRC)** in collaboration with the **Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change (C-LAB)** sheds light on the scale of exploitation and the systemic challenges in eliminating child labour.
- The top three states in child labour rescues were **Telangana, Bihar, and Rajasthan**, accounting for a significant share of the nationwide crackdown.

#### **Scale of the Rescue Operations**

- Between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, JRC, through its network of over 250 NGOs, coordinated **38,889 rescue operations** across **24 states and UTs** in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
- This led to the rescue of **53,651 children**, a large majority of whom were engaged in the **worst forms of child labour**.
- The top five states by number of rescues were:
  - **Telangana:** 11,063 children
  - **Bihar:** 3,974 children
  - **Rajasthan:** 3,847 children

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

## Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

### Current Affairs - 24 June 2025

- **Uttar Pradesh:** 3,804 children
- **Delhi:** 2,588 children

#### Alarming Trends in Exploitation

- The report reveals that nearly **90% of rescued children** were employed in sectors categorised under the **worst forms of child labour** as per ILO Convention 182, ratified by India. These included:
  - Spas and massage parlours
  - Orchestra troupes
  - Domestic labour
  - Informal entertainment services
- In many instances, children were subjected to **sexual exploitation, pornography, and prostitution**, underscoring the urgency for focused legal intervention.

#### Legal and Enforcement Actions

- Following the massive rescue operations:
  - FIRs were registered & arrests were made, 85% of them related to child labour
- The findings reiterate that **prosecution serves as a deterrent**, building public awareness and reducing the impunity with which exploiters operate.

#### Recommendations from the Report

- **Launch of a National Mission to End Child Labour**, with dedicated financial and human resources.
- Creation of **district-level Child Labour Task Forces**.
- Establishment of a **Child Labour Rehabilitation Fund**.
- Formulation of a **comprehensive national rehabilitation policy**.
- **Compulsory education till 18 years**, extending beyond the current RTE mandate (up to 14 years).
- **State-specific policies** aligned with local socio-economic challenges.
- **Zero-tolerance policy** on child labour in **government procurement**.

### KEY FACTS AMBUBACHI MELA



- The Ambubachi festival is held during the monsoon, generally in June at the **Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam**.
- It is a shrine to the **Goddess Kamakhya** and one of the most important centres of Tantrik Shaktism.
- The period of Ambubachi is believed to be the period of the **goddess's annual menstruation**, and the shrine is closed for this.
- At the end of the period, the shrine's doors are opened ceremonially and devotees flock for darshan of the deity.
- The festival is **associated with fertility, with the onset of monsoon**, and the common historical association across cultures of the Earth as a fertile woman. The name 'Ambubachi' itself translates to **water flowing**.

### **Key facts about the Kamakhya Temple**

- It is **situated on Nilachal Hill** and adjoining the southern bank of the **Brahmaputra River**.
- It is one of the most revered centres of Tantric practices. It is regarded as one of the oldest of the 51 Shakti Peethas in India.
- **Temple Architecture of Kamakhya Temple:**
- It had been modelled out of a combination of **two different styles namely**, the traditional **nagara and Saracenic or Mughal style** of architecture.
- This unusual combination has been named the **Nilachala Style of Architecture**.
- This is the only temple of Assam having a **fully developed ground plan**.
- It consists of five chambers, **garbhagriha, antarala, Jagan Mohan, bhogmandir** and natmandir or opera hall for performing traditional dance and music associated with sukti temples.



### KEY FACTS ABOUT COFFEE CULTIVATION



- It is a tropical plant generally **grown under shady trees**.
- It is grown on **hill slopes** at elevations from **600 to 1,600 metres** above sea level.
- The vast majority of the world's coffee comprises two species — **Coffea Arabica** (Arabica) and **Coffea Canephora** (Robusta).
- Coffee, especially Arabica, is considered a sensitive crop, vulnerable to climate variability and change.

**Distribution:** In India coffee is largely cultivated in **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**, among which, **Karnataka produces the most** with over 70% of the total output.

#### **Climatic conditions required for coffee production**

- It requires a **hot and humid** climate for its growth.
- Temperatures ranging between 15°C and 28 °C
- **Rainfall:** 150 to 250 cm.
- **Soil:** Well-drained, **loamy soil** containing a good deal of **humus and minerals** like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.
- Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.

**Europe remains** the top destination for the **country's coffee exports**. The major countries which import the commodity from India include **Italy, Germany, Belgium, Middle East nations, Korea, and Japan**.