

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



The Prime Minister of India extended his best wishes to everyone on World Environment Day.

- It is observed every year on June 5.
- It is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- It is an international day dedicated to raising global awareness about environmental issues and encouraging individuals, organisations, and others to take a step towards protecting the planet.

Historical Background:

- World Environment Day was established in 1972 during the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm.
- The UNEP was established in the same year.
- The UN General Assembly officially designated June 5 as World Environment Day.
- It was first celebrated in 1973 with the theme "Only One Earth,"
- Each year, a host nation spearheads the campaign, which raises awareness of a certain issue.

World Environment Day 2026

- Theme: "Only One Earth"
- Host Country 2026: This year, Azerbaijan highlights the planetary crises of climate change and ecosystem degradation and their interconnected impacts on people and nature.

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA



• It is a **skill development programme** launched by the **government of India in 2015**.

- It aims to **empower the youth of India** to engage in industry relevant skill training and secure a better livelihood.
- **Implementing Agency:** It is being implemented by the **National Skill Development Corporations** in partnership with multiple stakeholders.
- **Eligibility Criteria of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:**
 - **Age Limit:** Candidates **aged 14 to 35 years** are generally eligible for PMKVY training programs.
 - **Nationality:** Applicants must be Indian citizens to qualify for the scheme.
 - **Educational Qualifications:** PMKVY caters to individuals from diverse educational backgrounds, **including those without formal education**.
 - **Employment Status:** Priority is given to **unemployed or underemployed individuals** to enhance their employability.
 - **Aadhar Card:** An Aadhar card is often a **mandatory requirement** for applying to PMKVY programs.
- **Features of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:**
 - **Updated Skill Training:** Industry experts are consulted regularly in order to ensure that **updated skill training** is provided according to industry demands.
 - **Short Term Courses:** **Short term training courses** make it easy for people to acquire new skills within a short period of time.
 - **Recognition to Prior Learning:** It is also acknowledged through certification without undergoing the same training.
 - **Placement Assistance:** The scheme also aims to **provide placement assistance** for all the candidates trained in a certain skill.



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MY BHARAT PLATFORM



MY BHARAT PLATFORM

- It is an **autonomous body** that has been set up by the **Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport**.
- It has been set up by the Government of India and registered as **society under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**.
- MY Bharat's digital platform provides **equitable access to opportunities** for youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat.
- **Features:**
 - It is meticulously designed to cater to the needs of the dynamic **youth demographic, aged between 15 and 29 years**.
 - It provides an over-arching institutional mechanism powered by technology for **youth development and youth-led development**.
 - The platform **connects youth with programs** and learning opportunities in Businesses, Government Departments and Non-Profit Organisations.
 - To supplement theoretical learning in the classroom, youth need experiential learning programs that allow them exposure to work in practical situations in local businesses, in local self-government and in Government bodies.
 - MY Bharat platform will **create such an eco-system and empower** young individuals to become catalysts for community transformation.
 - The platform allows youth to generate their individual profiles listing their skill-sets and activities.
 - The platform would allow youth to network with each other and also potential mentors.
 - This platform offers a wealth of **resources, mentorship programs**, experiential learning opportunities, networks, and invaluable industry connections.

NATIONAL E-VIDHAN APPLICATION



- It is an online platform designed to digitize the legislative processes of all State and Union Territory assemblies.
- It is one of the **44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs)** under the Digital India Programme of the Government of India.
- It aims to make the functioning of **all State Legislatures paperless** and integrate all Legislative Houses on a single digital platform **under the vision of 'One Nation, One Application'**.
- NeVA is a **device neutral and member centric application** created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills etc.
- It assists the Chair of the House in conducting proceedings smoothly while enabling members to fulfill their responsibilities efficiently.
- The NeVA platform is **hosted on Meghraj 2.0**, India's cloud infrastructure, ensuring robust scalability, security, and data integrity.

Features of National e-Vidhan Application:

- It provides real-time access to key legislative documents, such as agendas, bills, and reports.
- The platform features a **secure digital repository**, safeguarding the confidentiality and integrity of legislative data.
- The platform **also offers multilingual capabilities**, catering to the linguistic diversity across states and regions, making it accessible to a broader range of users.
- Its device-agnostic nature allows it to be accessed seamlessly across smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktops.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT



AUTHORITY

- It is a **statutory body** established by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act** in December, 1985.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It works under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Objective:** To develop and **promote the export of scheduled products**.

Functions:

- **Setting the standards** and specifications for the scheduled products.
- **Registration of exporters** of the scheduled products on payment of required fees.
- **Carrying out an inspection** of products to ensure the quality of such products.
- Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products.
- **Development of industries** relating to the scheduled products and undertaking surveys, feasibility studies, etc.
- It is responsible for providing **financial assistance**, information, and guidelines for the development of scheduled products.
- It also functions as the Secretariat to the **National Accreditation Board (NAB)** for the implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies under **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for Organic exports**.
- APEDA is headed by a **Chairman appointed by the Central Government**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - APEDA has set up 15 Regional Offices at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Telangana, Kolkata, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Chandigarh, Bhopal, Chennai, Kochi, Tripura, Srinagar, Jammu, and Ladakh.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR E-GOVERNANCE



- NAeG are presented every year to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
- The NAeG Awards, 2026 consist of:
 - **Trophy, Certificate** and an incentive of **Rs 10 lakh for Gold Awardees** and **Rs 5 lakh for Silver Awardees** to be awarded to Central Ministry/Department/State/UT/ District/Organisation/Gram Panchayat for being **utilised for implementation of project/programme** or bridging resources gaps in any area of public welfare.
- This year **16 Awards** are being conferred under the NAeG 2026. Of these 10 will be Gold Awards and 6 will be silver Awards.

The seven categories for the NAeG 2026, are:

- **Government Process Re-engineering** by Use of Technology for Digital Transformation
- **Innovation by Use of AI** and Other New Age Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services
- **Best e-Gov Practices**/Innovation in Cyber Security
- **District Level Initiatives** in e-Governance
- **Grassroots Level Initiatives** by Gram Panchayats or equivalent Traditional Local Bodies for Deepening/Widening of Service Delivery
- **Replication and Scaling of Nationally Awarded** and Mission-Mode e-Governance Projects by States/UTs/Districts,
- **Digital transformation** by Use of Data Analytics in Digital Platforms by Central Ministries/States/UTs.

SUPREME COURT DRAFT REGULATIONS ON AI IN COURTS

- The Supreme Court has released the draft "Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026" for public consultation.
- The fundamental principle underlying the draft regulations is that AI use in court processes will remain "**strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority.**"
- Every AI system:
 - Shall function solely in an assistive capacity.
 - Shall not supplant or compromise the independent exercise of judicial authority.
 - The ultimate authority to determine matters of law, fact, and justice shall vest exclusively in judicial officers.

Absolutely Prohibited Uses of AI

- **Judicial Decision-Making**
 - AI systems cannot independently determine judicial outcomes.
 - Cannot pass sentences or perform adjudicatory functions.
- **Risk Scoring Prohibition**
 - The draft prohibits AI-based risk scoring systems from being used to:
 - Assess the flight risk of accused persons.
 - Predict recidivism (likelihood of re-offending).
 - Determine bail eligibility.
 - Evaluate the credibility of parties or witnesses.
- **Predictive Profiling**
 - Courts are barred from using AI to:
 - Predict or profile the future behaviour of litigants, accused persons, witnesses, or lawyers.
 - Conduct predictive analysis that could prejudice judicial proceedings.

Significance of the Draft Regulations

- **Safeguarding Judicial Independence:** The regulations reinforce the constitutional principle that judicial functions must be exercised by duly appointed judicial officers, not by machines.
- **Protecting Personal Liberty:** By prohibiting AI in bail decisions and risk scoring, the regulations protect against algorithmic bias that could affect personal liberty.
- **Ensuring Transparency:** Mandatory disclosure requirements promote accountability in legal filings and prevent the misuse of AI.
- **Promoting Responsible Innovation:** The "presumption in favour of responsible AI adoption" balances innovation with ethical considerations.
- **Setting Global Standards:** India's framework could serve as a model for other jurisdictions grappling with similar challenges.

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL



- It was established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971**.
- It is the **nodal agency** for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region.
- **States:** It consists of the **eight States** of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, **Sikkim** and Tripura.
- **Sikkim** was included as the eighth member state through **the NEC (Amendment) Act, 2002**
- **Composition:**
 - **Ex-Officio Chairman:** Union Home Minister
 - **Ex-Officio Vice-Chairman:** Minister of state, ministry of development of north eastern region (DoNER).

- **Members:** It comprises **governors** & chief ministers of constituent states and three members **nominated by the President**.
- **Functions:** It serves as the apex regional planning body for the North Eastern Region and plays a pivotal role in **fostering coordinated development and strengthening cooperative federalism** in the region.

SIMILIPAL TIGER RESERVE



- **Location:** It is situated in the Mayurbhanj district of **Odisha**.
- The park is named after the **Simul (silk cotton) tree**, which grows in abundance here.
- It is situated in the **Deccan Peninsular Bio-geographic Zone**, it harbours a unique blend of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and eastern Himalayan biodiversity.
- It has some beautiful waterfalls like **Joranda and Barehipani**.
- **Terrain:** It is surrounded by high plateaus and hills, the highest peak being the twin peaks of **Khairiburu and Meghashini** (1515 m above mean sea level).
- **Tribes:** It is also home to various tribes, including Kolha, Santhala, Bhumija, Bhatudi, Gondas, Khadia, Mankadia, and Sahara.
- **Vegetation:** The forest is predominantly **moist mixed deciduous forest** with **tropical semi-evergreen forest** in areas with suitable microclimatic conditions and sporadic patches of dry deciduous forests and grasslands.
- **Flora:** **Sal** is the dominant tree species here.
 - It houses 7% of the flowering plants and 8% of India's orchids. The park also has extensive grasslands that are grazing grounds for many of the herbivores.
- **Fauna:** It is known for the tiger, elephant, and hill mynah, leopard, sambar etc.