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### WHAT IS DARKNET?



- Darknet refers to a **segment of the internet** that is **accessible only through advanced protocols** designed to provide **user anonymity and security**.
- Unlike the surface web, which can be easily accessed using standard search engines and web browsers, **darknet content is not indexed and requires specialized tools, such as privacy-focused browsers like Tor, to access**.
  - **Tor** (The Onion Router) is **free and open-source** software for enabling anonymous communication.
  - Tor **utilizes a method known as onion routing, which anonymizes users** by routing their connections through multiple volunteer-operated servers, making it **difficult to trace their actual IP**
- The concept of the **darknet** is closely related to the **dark web**, but the terms are **not entirely interchangeable**.
- The **dark web** is the content found on darknet networks.
- “Darknet” and “dark web” are also **often incorrectly used interchangeably with “deep web.”**
  - The **deep web** encompasses everything not indexed by conventional search engines but may still be accessed through regular web browsers if the URL is known.
  - The **darknet** represents a **deeper layer of the web, hosting content that is intentionally hidden and only reachable by a select group of users**.
- **Darknet also includes friend-to-friend (F2F) networks** that allow secure, private communications among known individuals.
- While **darknet technologies can provide a means for users to bypass censorship and maintain privacy** in their online activities, they are **also associated with illegal activities** such as the trade of illicit goods and services.

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### WHAT IS RAILONE APP?



- It is a new super app designed to serve as a **one-stop platform for all railway-related queries and passenger needs.**
- The app has been **conceived by the Railways' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).**
- RailOne is designed to **bring every railway service**—ticket booking, real-time tracking, food ordering, PNR status, refunds, porter booking, and last-mile taxi—**into one seamless, user-friendly platform.**
- It **eliminates the need for multiple apps** by integrating functionalities from **IRCTC Rail Connect, UTsonMobile, Rail Madad, NTES, and Food on Track.**
- **Reserved tickets will continue to be offered on IRCTC.** The **RailOne app has also been authorised by IRCTC**, just like many other commercial apps who have partnered with IRCTC.
- **Key features of RailOne:**
  - **Book reserved and unreserved tickets:** Easily plan journeys and book tickets using the “Plan My Journey” tool with support for multiple classes and quotas.
  - **My Bookings:** Check your entire **booking history**—both reserved and unreserved—with filtering options for duration and type.
  - **Live train tracking and PNR updates:** Get real-time updates on train status, platform numbers, and expected delays.
  - **Coach Position Finder:** View your coach location on the platform to ease boarding.
  - **Food ordering on the go:** Order meals from partner vendors directly from your seat.

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- **Rail Madad integration:** Lodge complaints or share feedback directly with Indian Railways and **track resolution status**.
- **Refund management:** Initiate and track refunds for canceled or missed trains through a simplified interface.
- **Multilingual support:** Use the app in multiple Indian languages for easier access across regions.
- **Single sign-on:** Users can log in using their **IRCTC or UTS credentials** without remembering multiple passwords.
- **Secure R-Wallet payments:** Pay securely using **Indian Railways' own digital wallet** with **biometric or mPIN authentication**.

#### RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (RDI) SCHEME



- It aims to provide **long-term financing or refinancing** with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in RDI.
- The scheme has been designed to **overcome the constraints and challenges in funding** of the **private sector**.
- It seeks to provide growth & risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness.
- **Key objectives of the Scheme:**
  - **Encourage the private sector to scale up** research, development, and innovation (RDI) in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance;
  - **Finance transformative projects** at higher levels of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)
  - Support **acquisition of technologies** which are critical or of high strategic importance;

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- Facilitate setting up of a **Deep-Tech Fund of Funds**.
- The Governing Board of **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the RDI Scheme.
- **Nodal Department:** The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** will serve as the nodal department for implementation of the RDI

### EMPLOYMENT LINKED INCENTIVE (ELI) SCHEME



- It will support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.
- The ELI Scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of PM's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for **4.1 Crore youth** with a total budget outlay of **Rs 2 Lakh Crore**.
- It aims to incentivize the creation of **more than 3.5 Crore jobs** in the country, over a period of **2 years**. Out of these, 1.92 Crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce.
- Under the Scheme, while the **first-time employees** will **get one month's wage** (up to Rs 15,000/-), the employers will be given incentives for a period of up to two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.
- The benefits of the Scheme would be applicable to jobs created **between 01st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027**.
- The Scheme consists of two parts with Par A focused on first timers and Part B focused on employers:
- **Part A:** Incentive to First Time Employees:

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- Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part will offer one-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments. Employees with salaries up to **Rs 1 lakh** will be eligible.
- **Part B: Support to Employers:**
  - This part will cover **the generation of additional employment** in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector.
  - The employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.
  - The Government will incentivize **employers, up to Rs 3000 per month**, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months.
  - For **the manufacturing sector**, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.
- All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made **through DBT** (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using **Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS)**.
- Payments to the Employers under Part B will be made directly into their **PAN-linked Accounts**.

### EMPOWERING GOVERNANCE WITH OUTCOME-DRIVEN DATA: A PATH TO VIKSIT BHARAT

- In the journey toward a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), public service delivery must transcend traditional bureaucratic frameworks to become outcome-oriented, citizen-centric, and transparent.
- This transformation hinges on the effective use of data, not as a tool for inspection, but as a catalyst for improvement.
- While India generates extensive data across sectors, nutrition, education, health, and livelihoods, the **current system often focuses on inputs rather than results**.



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- The call is clear: move from data fatigue to meaningful, informed action that supports better decision-making, empowers frontline workers, and addresses local needs dynamically.

### India's Expansive but Fragmented Data Ecosystem

- India's governance ecosystem is replete with data sources:
  - **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+)**
  - **Health Management Information System (HMIS)**
  - **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**
  - **National Sample Survey (NSS)**
- Despite these efforts, the emphasis largely remains on input tracking, school enrolments, food distribution, or health supplies, while outcome measures (like literacy, nutrition, or treatment success) receive less attention.
- Furthermore, **national surveys are often too broad, infrequent, and disconnected from local programs.**
- This results in frontline workers feeding data upwards without clarity on its practical relevance.

### The 4As Framework: Making Data Actionable

- To reimagine monitoring, a **4As framework** is proposed:
  - **Ascertain** - Identify the few critical outcomes that matter most.
  - **Assess** - Embed regular, low-burden assessments to track progress.
  - **Assist** - Support field workers through mentoring, training, and feedback.
  - **Adapt** - Modify strategies based on real-time feedback and citizen needs.
- This shift reorients monitoring from quantity to quality, creating feedback loops that not only track progress but also drive it.

### Embedding Analytics for Institutional Capacity

- To move from episodic to systemic improvements, the authors propose setting up **Data Analytics Units (DAUs)** within planning departments.

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- These units can synthesise data from multiple sources, routine programme records, citizen feedback, and real-time surveys, to offer integrated insights that inform policy.
- This shift enables departments to not only measure impact but also evolve based on what the data reveals. Rather than being passive collectors, these DAUs can become active agents in improving governance outcomes.

### FACTORS BEHIND MONSOON'S EARLY NATIONWIDE ARRIVAL

- The monsoon arrived in Kerala on May 24, eight days earlier than usual, driven by an active Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) phase in mid-May.
- This early onset laid the foundation for the monsoon's rapid progress.
- **Monsoon Progress: Mostly Ahead of Schedule**
  - South, East, and Northeast India saw early arrival.
  - Northwest India was near normal.
  - Central India witnessed slight delays.

### **Key Drivers of the Monsoon's Rapid Advance**

- The southwest monsoon **covered the entire country by June 29**, nine days ahead of its normal schedule of July 8.
- This marks only the **tenth instance since 1960** that nationwide monsoon coverage occurred in June.
- **Low Pressure Systems**
  - India experienced five low-pressure systems in June.
  - These act as moisture magnets, drawing in rain-bearing winds and accelerating monsoon movement inland.
- **Active Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**
  - MJO is a moving system of clouds, rainfall, winds, and pressure near the equator that travels eastward.
  - When active near India, it enhances monsoon by increasing cloud cover and moisture, leading to stronger rainfall.

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- An active MJO phase significantly boosts monsoon onset and progression.
- June continued to see an active MJO, enhancing cloud formation and pushing rainfall northwards, aiding monsoon spread.
- **Favourable Monsoon Trough Position**
  - The monsoon trough is an elongated low-pressure area extending from northwest India to the Bay of Bengal.
  - It plays a key role in determining rainfall distribution during the monsoon.
  - A favourable monsoon trough position, especially when it shifts south of its normal, helps draw in moisture-laden winds from the oceans, intensifying rainfall over central and northern India.
  - Its position influences the strength, spread, and duration of monsoon rains.
  - The monsoon trough remained south of its normal position, facilitating increased moisture inflow and early rainfall across regions.
- **Neutral ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) Condition**
  - ENSO is a climate pattern involving temperature fluctuations in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, with three phases: **El Niño, La Niña, and Neutral**.
  - A neutral ENSO phase means sea surface temperatures are close to average.
  - This phase neither suppresses nor excessively enhances rainfall, allowing the Indian monsoon to progress normally, supporting stable and widespread rainfall patterns.
  - ENSO was in a neutral phase, supporting normal monsoon rainfall.

#### Conclusion

This year's monsoon has been marked by early onset, rapid progression, sudden pauses, and localised weather disasters. With much of the season still ahead, it remains uncertain whether the pattern will stabilise or intensify further.



### LATEST AGRICULTURE OUTPUT REPORT - FRUITS SURGE, CEREALS SLIDE

#### Agriculture Output Report

- The National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), has released the annual “Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24)”.
- **Sharp Rise in High-Value Fruits and Vegetables**
  - Between 2011–12 and 2023–24, the Gross Value of Output (GVO) of certain fruits and vegetables surged dramatically:
    - Strawberries: GVO rose over 40 times to ₹55.4 crore (constant prices), and nearly 80 times to ₹103.27 crore (current prices).
    - Parmal (Parwal): Increased 17-fold to ₹789 crore.
    - Pumpkin: Rose nearly 10 times to ₹2,449 crore.
    - Pomegranate: Grew over 4 times to ₹9,231 crore.
    - Mushrooms: Jumped 3.5 times to ₹1,704 crore.
- **Cereals See Decline in Consumption and Output Share**
  - Reflecting changing dietary patterns:
    - Urban MPCE on cereals fell from 6.61% to 3.74%
    - Rural MPCE on cereals fell from 10.69% to 4.97%
    - GVO share of cereals dropped from 17.6% to 14.5%

#### Agriculture Output Report - Analysis

- **Structural Shift in Agriculture**
  - MoSPI data indicates a **shift from cereals to fruits, vegetables, spices, and meat**, driven by:
    - Technological advancements
    - Changing consumer preferences
    - Policy focus on nutrition and exports
    - Expanding market opportunities