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PRADHAN MANTRI NATIONAL DIALYSIS PROGRAM (PMNDP)



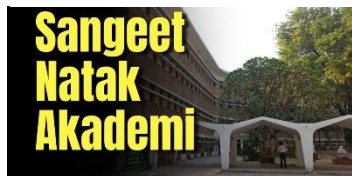
The Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program (PMNDP) is presently implemented in all 36 States/UTs covering 751 districts (including 44 linked districts) through 1,856 haemodialysis centres equipped with 13,535 haemodialysis machines, according to the Union Health Ministry.

- It is a **centrally-funded health scheme** rolled out in 2016 with the objective to strengthen the district hospitals under National Health Mission (NHM) to make dialysis services affordable and accessible to the community.
- Under PMNDP, **dialysis services** are provided **free of cost to all Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries** at the public health facilities while **non- BPL patients** are **benefitted of accessing the services** close to the community at the **subsidized rates**.
- **Initially**, the Government recommended the setting up of **haemodialysis centres in all district hospitals**.
- Based on local requirements, **States** have been **encouraged to scale down the facilities to Community Health Centres (CHCs)** at the taluka level, especially in remote and tribal regions.
- The programme has **two components** namely **Hemodialysis (HD) services & Peritoneal dialysis (PD) services**.
- PMNDP supports establishment of dialysis centres (**In-house & public private partnership/hybrid models**) for HD service delivery as per the state/UT requirement.
- Currently, HD Services under PMNDP is **operational** in Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode in 14 States/UTs, **in-house mode** in 16 States/UTS and **hybrid mode** in 6 States/UTs.
- Under this initiative the **PMNDP portal** was launched in 2022.

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- The portal will integrate all the dialysis centres operational in the state under NHM and facilitate building of renal registry and ensuring portability within the state (one state one dialysis) and later throughout the country (One Nation-One Dialysis).
- **Funding:** The NHM provides financial assistance to States and UTs for establishing and operating dialysis centres to ensure equitable access to kidney care services for all, regardless of geography.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI



President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for 2024 and 2025 on 115 artists at a special

investiture ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

- It is India's national academy for music, dance, and drama.
- It is the first national academy of the arts set up by the Republic of India.
- **History:**
 - It was set up in 1952 and became functional the following year, with the appointment of its first chairman, Dr. P. V. Rajamannar.
 - **Rajendra Prasad**, the first President of India, inaugurated it on 28 January 1953.
- **Currently**, it is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Functions:**
 - The academy functions as the apex body of the performing arts in the country to preserve and promote the vast cultural heritage of India expressed in music, dance, and drama.

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- It also works with governments and art academies in states and territories of the country.

In addition, the Akademi:

- Subsidizes the work of institutions engaged in teaching, performing, or promoting music, dance, or theatre.
- Gives grants to aid research, documentation, and publishing in the performing arts.
- Organises and subsidises seminars and conferences of subject specialists.
- Documents and records the performing arts for its audio-visual archive.
- Renders advice and assistance to the government of India in the task of formulating and implementing policies and programmes in the field.
- Carries a part of the responsibilities of the state for fostering cultural contacts between regions in the country, as well as between India and the world.
- Organises its annual festival of music, dance, and theatre in NCT Delhi.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are the highest national recognition conferred on practising artists.
- The Akademi also confers Fellowships on eminent artists and scholars of music, dance, and drama; and in 2006 instituted annual awards to young artists – the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.
- The Akademi's archive, comprising audio and video tapes, photographs, and films, is one of the largest in the country and is extensively drawn upon for research in the performing arts.

Management:

- The management of the Akademi vests in its General Council.
- The Chairman of the Akademi is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years.

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NAVYA PROGRAMME



- The NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational training for Young Adolescent Girls) was launched in 2025.
- It aims to empower adolescent girls (AGs) aged 16–18 years in aspirational districts by equipping them with relevant skills for socio-economic independence.
- It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** and the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- It is being implemented under the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0)**.
- **Features**
 - **Skill Training:** It focuses on **empowering trained candidates to pursue diverse career pathways** by providing **industry-relevant skill courses** with embedded On-the-Job Training (OJT).
 - **Main Focus:** Under NAVYA, special emphasis is placed on **training in futuristic job roles**, along with a mandatory Holistic Development Module covering digital literacy, financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship orientation etc.
 - **Monitoring:** The Government monitors and evaluates the implementation and outcomes of this programme through a **robust monitoring framework** under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
 - The **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** is leveraged for **real-time tracking of beneficiary** registration, attendance, training progress, certification and other key performance indicators.
 - Regular review meetings are conducted with **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)**, **State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)** and other stakeholders to assess progress and address implementation-related issues.

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CONTAINER MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE SCHEME



The Government has proposed a ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) to strengthen domestic production of shipping containers.

- It is a targeted initiative to **establish a competitive domestic container manufacturing industry** through financial and institutional support.
- It supports establishment of **new manufacturing facilities and expansion of existing units**.
- It also aims to **enhance manufacturing capacity** to meet India's growing demand for shipping containers.
- **Target:** The initiative targets an annual domestic manufacturing capacity **of around 10 times** the existing container production capacity **upto 7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs)**.

Financial Outlay: ₹10,000 crore over **five years**.

- To strengthen the container **manufacturing value chain**, the scheme provides:
 - **Capital assistance** for establishing new Greenfield manufacturing facilities.
 - **Support for expansion** of existing Brownfield manufacturing units.
 - **Operational support** to improve the competitiveness of domestic container manufacturing.
 - Support for **testing infrastructure, skilling initiatives and capacity building**.
- CMAS complements the Government's initiatives under Make in India, **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, PM Gati Shakti, the National Logistics Policy and the Sagarmala Programme.

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INDIA'S GROWING LPG DEPENDENCE ON THE U.S.: A NEW ENERGY SECURITY CONCERN

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri recently revealed that **67%** of India's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) now comes from the **United States** — a dramatic shift from the earlier practice of sourcing only about 10% from America.

This transformation, driven by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, raises important questions about India's energy security strategy.

Background: Why the Shift Happened?

- India is the **world's second-largest LPG importer**, relying on imports for about 60% of its consumption, with nearly **90%** traditionally passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
- When the Strait faced disruptions this year, India's LPG imports from West Asia fell by almost 85% between February and June 2026.
- To manage this crisis, **India turned to the U.S.**, backed by a long-term deal for 2.2 million tonnes for 2026 signed by state-run oil refiners.
- U.S. imports rose to 0.77 million metric tonnes in June alone, up 19.4% from May.

Why Over-Reliance on the U.S. Is Risky

- Diversifying away from West Asia was a prudent crisis response, but shifting overdependence to a single new source — especially one with a history of using **energy as a foreign policy tool** — carries its own risks.
- The U.S. has previously used financial sanctions, export controls and technology restrictions against countries like Iran, Russia and Venezuela.
- Even in commercial ties, Washington can influence third-country transactions, as seen in proposed legislation like the **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026**, which proposes steep tariffs on major buyers of Russian oil and gas.
- Unlike West Asian supplies, which are largely governed by long-term Sale and Purchase Agreements (SPAs), U.S. energy exports are more exposed to shifting trade and political agendas.

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Hidden Risks: Currency and Fiscal Pressure

- While India may have reduced its exposure to Strait of Hormuz risk, it now faces other vulnerabilities — **commodity price swings, dollar fluctuations and freight costs**.
- If U.S. inflation stays high, the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates elevated, strengthening the dollar and raising the rupee cost of each imported cargo.
- If domestic LPG prices are kept artificially low despite rising global prices and a weaker rupee, oil marketing companies face wider under-recoveries.

The Domestic Production Gap

- India's LPG demand continues to outpace domestic supply.
- In the first quarter of FY27, domestic LPG production stood at just 4.3 million metric tonnes against consumption of 6.5 million metric tonnes.

The Way Forward

- Experts suggest India should look **beyond both West Asia and the U.S.** for diversification.
- **Australia** offers strategic advantages — it lies in the Indo-Pacific, outside the Hormuz chokepoint, and offers shorter shipping routes than the U.S., though its export volumes remain small.
- **Argentina, Nigeria and Angola** could offer additional strategic agility, though none can replace Gulf volumes at scale.
- The core principle of energy security is not simply substituting one dependence for another, but ensuring no single supplier holds excessive leverage.
- This requires strengthening domestic production, diversifying supply chains, improving forex hedging tools for OMCs, and building larger strategic reserves.

Conclusion

- India's pivot to U.S. LPG solved an immediate crisis but created new vulnerabilities tied to dollar strength, U.S. trade politics and shipping costs.
 - True energy security lies not in swapping one dependency for another, but in building diversified, resilient supply chains alongside stronger domestic production capacity.
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AI'S NEXT TEST — REACHING INDIA'S INFORMAL WOMEN WORKER

- India's aspiration for **Viksit Bharat by 2047** depends not only on economic growth but also on the equitable distribution of technological gains.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming agriculture, healthcare, finance, logistics and other sectors. Its impact, however, will depend on who designs these systems, whose data trains them and which languages they support.

AI and the Gendered Nature of India's Workforce

- Around 82% of working women in India are engaged in informal employment, including agriculture, domestic services, home-based production and micro-enterprises.
- Their **limited access to finance, technology**, skills and social protection makes them vulnerable to technological disruption but also creates significant opportunities for AI-led inclusion.
- AI should be designed, tested and governed to prevent stereotypes, **discrimination and digital exclusion**.

Gender-Responsive AI Governance

- **Gender Impact Assessments**
 - AI systems influencing employment, credit, welfare and safety should undergo proportionate gender impact assessments.
 - These should examine **variations by sex, geography, caste**, disability and work status and ensure accessible grievance mechanisms in regional languages.
 - Algorithmic transparency and explainability are vital for building trust among marginalised communities.
- **Gender-Responsive Budgeting**
 - AI investments should be evaluated through Gender Responsive Budgeting.
 - Policymakers should identify which women will benefit, which barrier is being addressed, how outcomes will be measured and what resources will support corrective action.

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- **Building AI Prosperity for All**

- India has developed significant AI capabilities through the **IndiaAI Mission**, **BHASHINI** and AI Governance Guidelines, supported by partnerships across sectors.
- The India AI Impact Summit 2026 further reflects the growth of India's AI ecosystem.
- The challenge now is to ensure that AI-enabled productivity gains reach the base of the economic pyramid, including women farmers, home-based workers, self-help group members and platform workers.
- Inclusion must be embedded in procurement, AI design, training, safety frameworks and impact measurement.

- **From AI Access to AI Empowerment**

- The goal should be to move from digital access to meaningful economic empowerment.
- Women **must not merely consume** AI services but use them to improve incomes, productivity, financial independence and access to public services.
- They should also participate as designers, entrepreneurs, workers and decision-makers within the AI ecosystem.

Conclusion

- AI can either deepen structural inequalities or become an instrument of inclusive development.
- India's success will depend on **gender-responsive governance**, AI literacy, digital safety and equitable productivity gains.
- By 2047, AI success should not be measured merely by investment, deployment or technological capability.
- Its real measure should be whether women at the margins of the formal economy gain **productive, safe and meaningful access** to AI-enabled opportunities.