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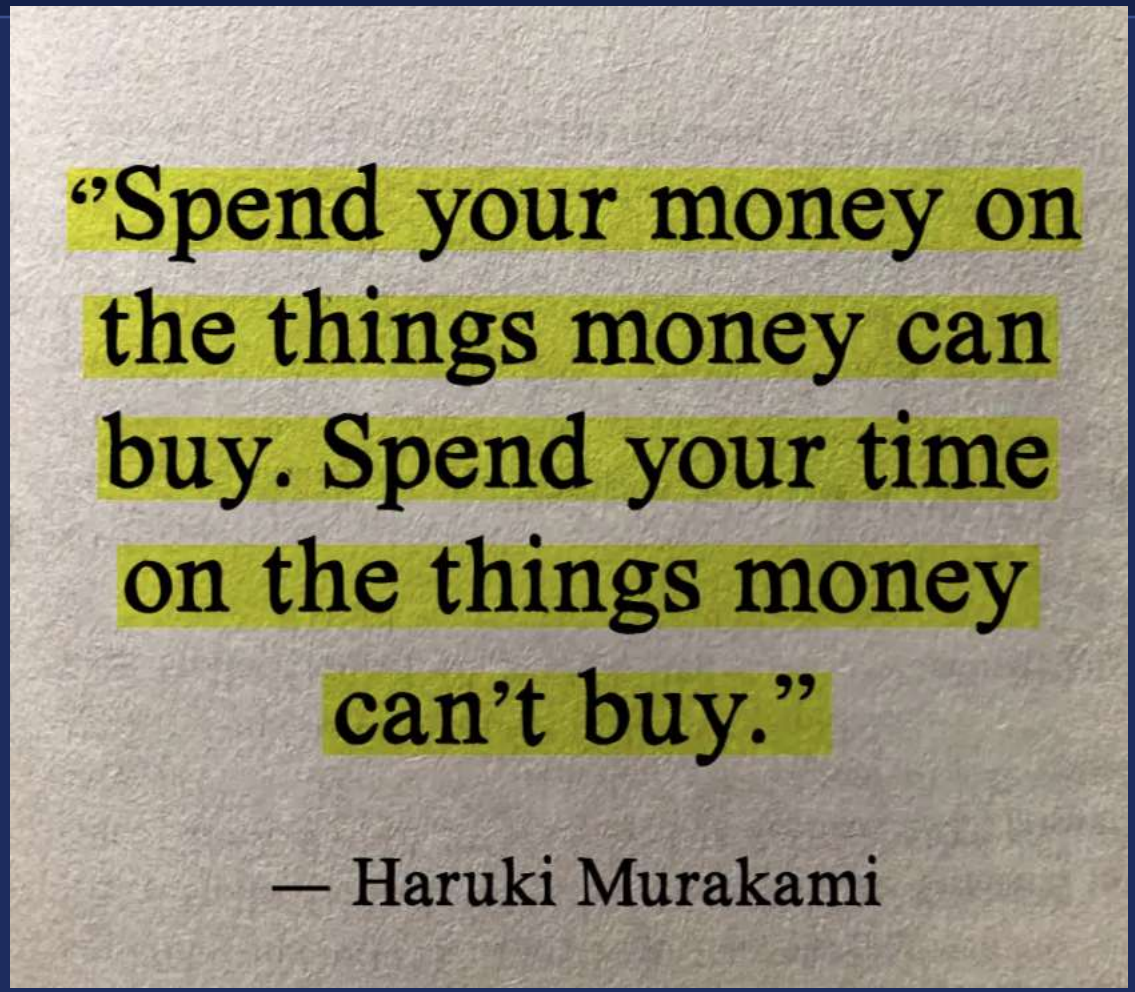
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— Haruki Murakami

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आज के समसामयिक मुद्दे — The Hindu • Indian Express • Financial Express — 5 articles + exam PYQs + MCQs + Myth Buster

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   स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26

3. **Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass**
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4. **Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031**
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Over 1,000 Qualcomm jobs in India at risk
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How the algorithm is being targeted
There is nothing to challenge when a post is quietly pushed down
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Hardik moves to PBKS, Arshdeep goes to MI
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INSIDE



Israel rejects blame for flood crisis in Gaza

JERUSALEM
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected accusations that his country was delaying the entry of winter supplies into the Gaza Strip as severe rains flood makeshift tents. He instead blamed Hamas, claiming the militant group was seizing humanitarian aid for military use. » PAGE 14

Rape survivor is thrown from roof by accused's kin

PATNA
A 30-year-old gang rape survivor was thrown off the roof of a 15-foot building, allegedly by relatives of the accused in Bihar's Begusarai. The survivor was discharged from hospital after treatment. The accused, identified as Bisangal Kumar, was arrested and raids are on to arrest the others involved, the police said. The survivor has been provided security. » PAGE 9

Defence Ministry seals ₹498-crore *Betwa* refit deal

NEW DELHI
The Defence Ministry on Wednesday sealed a ₹498 crore contract with state-run Cochin Shipyard Ltd for "refit and re-powering" of Indian Navy's guided missile frigate *INS Betwa*, including the upgrading of its combat capabilities through the installation of a modern weapon suite. » PAGE 9

Police recover hockey star's stolen medals

BENGALURU
The Karnataka Police have arrested two habitual offenders and recovered eight international sports medals, including an Olympic gold medal won at the 1980 Moscow Games and a silver medal from the 1982 Asian Games, which were stolen from the residence of former hockey player M.M. Somaya in Bengaluru. » PAGE 9

Iran threatens to strike U.S. bases beyond West Asia

DUBAI
Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei has threatened to strike U.S. bases beyond the West Asia, including in Europe, if they are used for attacks against the republic. Islamic "If American aircraft take off from an American military base... to bomb Iran, we will strike those bases as well," Mr. Rezaei said an interview broadcast on Wednesday. » PAGE 14

Terrorists fire at jawans in J&K

Three CRPF personnel injured in attack from close range at a Kulgam checkpoint; one in critical condition; condemning the attack as a 'cowardly act', Lieutenant-Governor says security forces have been given 'free hand' to crack down on terrorists

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Three CRPF personnel were injured in a terrorist attack in Kulgam in south Kashmir on Wednesday, a day when Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha was scheduled to attend an event in the district.

The incident took place around 2.15 p.m. when terrorists opened fire from a close range at Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were manning a checkpoint in Kulgam, officials said.

Officials said security agencies were investigating whether the terrorists came on a motorcycle or in any other vehicle to the attack spot. The area surrounding the attack site is being searched for clues to track the attackers.

Security was further heightened in south Kashmir after the attack.

Three hospitalised

The three CRPF personnel who suffered bullet injuries were from 46 Battalion and have been identified as constable Rakesh Dass, a resident of Assam; constable Santosh Chandru, a resident of West Bengal; and head constable Somveer Singh, a resident of Madhya Pradesh. They were shifted to a hospital in nearby Anantnag district.

Officials said one of the critically injured was then airlifted to Srinagar's Badamibagh Army Hospital for specialised treatment.

Lieutenant-Governor Sinha, who visited the injured jawan in Srinagar, condemned the attack and said it was a cowardly act of terror.

He assured the people that those responsible will be hunted down and brought to justice. The security forces have been given a free hand to crack down on terrorists, he said. Mr. Sinha reviewed the security situation with senior officials at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Sinha inaugurated the Veshow Festival in Kulgam as scheduled, and addressed a gathering of locals and officials.

"The festival has emerged as a symbol of the intellectual, literary, and cultural consciousness of J&K. The district represents a unique cultural tradition where spirituality, creativity, nature and humanity have long coexisted in harmony," said Mr. Sinha, who also highlighted the influence of the Rishi-Sufi tradition on the region.

The BJP condemned the attack. "Such acts of terrorism are aimed at disturbing peace and security in J&K and will never succeed in undermining the resolve of the nation. Those responsible for the attack need to be identified and brought to justice. Terrorism and violence have no place in a peaceful society," BJP spokesman Sajid Yousuf Shah said.

The area has witnessed multiple terror incidents recently, including the killing of two migrant labourers in Kulgam and the shooting of a police constable in neighbouring Anantnag, both in July this year.

On high alert | Security has been heightened in south Kashmir after the terrorist attack which came on the same day **J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha was scheduled to attend a function in Kulgam district**





The CRPF jawans were moving in a vehicle in **Kulgam district**, about **70 km from Srinagar**, when the attack took place around **2.15 p.m.**

- A injured CRPF Personnel was from the **46 Battalion**
- Search on for **clues to track** the attackers
- Agencies looking into **how terrorists reached the attack spot**
- The injured were identified as **Head Constable Somveer Singh** from Madhya Pradesh, **Constable Rakesh Dass** from Assam, and **Constable Santosh Chandru** from West Bengal
- **One jawan airlifted to Srinagar's Badamibagh Army Hospital** for specialised treatment of critical injury

The area has witnessed multiple terror incidents recently, including the killing of two migrant labourers in Kulgam and the shooting of a police constable in neighbouring Anantnag, both in July this year.

Rapid response: Security personnel stationed near the CRPF checkpoint in Kulgam after the terrorist attack on the jawans on Wednesday. ANI

Winter refuge



Winged visitors: A woman feeds migratory birds along the Ganga in Prayagraj on Wednesday. ANI

Visa norms simplified; forms will be leaner

Vinita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government has simplified India's visa regime by reducing the categories from 13 to nine and making the application forms leaner by up to 70%, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement on Wednesday.

The "Tourist Visa" has been renamed "Visitor Visa", reflecting a broader range of permitted purposes beyond conventional tourism, the Ministry said.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8



A file photo of people taking part in a rally demanding Statehood for Ladakh, among other demands, in Leh. ANI

Protests in Ladakh barred ahead of polls

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Ladakh on Wednesday prohibited protests within the municipal limits of Leh and Kargil ahead of local body elections to be held between November 21 and December 4.

The order citing the Model Code of Conduct came even as civil society groups threatened to resume agitations to push a slew of demands including the resumption of talks with the Centre and the postponement of full council elections till next year.

The order by the CEO of the Union Territory said the restrictions will remain in force until the completion of the election process for the municipal committees of Leh and Kargil this month.

"The Model Code requires maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to free, fair and peaceful elections, and no activity should be permitted which may create intimidation, fear or undue influence among electors," said the order.

It said organising political dharnas, protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, rallies, or similar collective activities during this period would have the potential to intimidate voters, disturb public order, and vitiate the atmosphere for free and fair elections.

It directed all political parties, candidates, and their agents to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct and ensure no activity is undertaken that may intimidate, coerce, or unduly influence electors.

The District Election Officers, or Deputy Commissioners, of Leh and Kargil and the Superintendents of Police of the districts were directed "to ensure strict compliance of the order".

"Any violation will be dealt with firmly in accordance with law, including proceedings under relevant provisions and the Model Code of Conduct," it added.

The order came a day after Leh Apex Body (LAB) called for an agitation, with a sit-in from November 12, to press their demands on a slew of issues, including the resumption of talks between the Centre and Ladakh bodies, making public the status of the judicial inquiry report into the September 24, 2025, violence that left four people dead, and the postponement of hill council elections till next year.

Members of the LAB, including co-chairman Thering Dorjey Lakrook and activist Sonam Wangchuk, on Wednesday made a video appeal to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi "to intervene before people of Ladakh are forced to start peaceful but intense agitations to demonstrate our pain".

"While the judicial inquiry commission report on the September 24 incidents in Leh moves at a snail's pace even after a year of the incident, and the talks on restoration of democracy have broken down, the U.T. administration is moving at rocket speed to conduct some kind of council elections here, apparently to have people of their choice installed to negotiate on democracy and safeguards here," said Mr. Wangchuk.

Russia, Ukraine agree to exchange prisoners as peace talks conclude

Associated Press
ABU DHABI

Russia and Ukraine agreed to a large exchange of prisoners of war (POWs), both sides said on Wednesday as two days of U.S.-mediated talks concluded, but they announced no major breakthrough on ending the conflict that began after Moscow's full-scale invasion nearly five years ago.

Hopes had been low for any significant development in the first meeting in nine months between the delegations.

Russia and Ukraine have from time to time swapped POWs but have remained far apart on the demands for accepting a peace settlement.

U.S. officials say they are determined to revive Washington's peace efforts which so far have failed to deliver significant results.

As well as postwar security guarantees for both countries, other key hurdles for negotiators are the fate of Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory and what role European countries will play in an eventual settlement.

The session was the first such meeting since February on Russia's invasion, which analysts and humanitarian organisations say has killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers and thousands of civilians.

The talks lasted for just under two hours on Wednesday, after a four-hour session the previous day.

"One of the positives is we agreed that we're going to have the biggest humanitarian release of prisoners, which we're going to finalise the numbers tomorrow," said Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, after the talks in Abu Dhabi concluded.

Vladimir Medinsky, the head of the Russian delegation, and Rustem Umerov, who led Kyiv's contingent, confirmed the planned POW exchange, although Mr. Medinsky noted that the agreement was "in principle".



U.S. envoy Jared Kushner speaks at a briefing during U.S.-mediated talks between Russia and Ukraine, in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. AP

Alexander Zorin, a deputy chief of the General Staff's information department who attended the talks, told Russian state TV that it would be one of the biggest such swaps following the 1,000 soldiers returned home last year. The latest exchange could take place in the next two or three weeks, he said.

Mr. Kushner said he and U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff will travel to Moscow on Thursday to meet with President Vladimir Putin, then fly to Dublin, Ireland, to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Mr. Umerov said Kyiv's delegation was expected to meet later Wednesday with representatives of European governments, the European Union and NATO who were in the capital of the United Arab Emirates but did not attend the three-way talks.

Moscow does not want European countries, which are concerned about Russia's conduct and broader intentions on the continent, involved in the direct negotiations.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said European representatives could eventually join peace talks, but he said their current statements "don't indicate any desire on their part to contribute to movement along the path toward peace."



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पृष्ठ 6 · समाचार

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **₹3,230-cr museum | संग्रहालय**

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-crore museum project in New Delh

Spread across 1.78 lakh square metres in the iconic North and South Blocks, proposed museu will combine immersive galleries, conservation facilities, landscaping, and digital experiences

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, approved a ₹3,230-crore project to develop the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum in the historic North and South Block in New Delhi.

The proposal was appraised by the Public Investment Board on July 27, 2026, and the Ministry of Culture has concurred with its recommendations.

The museum, announced by the Prime Minister on May 18, 2023, will showcase India's civilisational journey and its tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

It will be developed by adaptively reusing the historic North and South Block Complex, preserving their architectural character and heritage significance while transforming them into a public cultural institution.

Spread over a proposed built-up area of approximately 1,78,509 square metres, the museum will integrate contemporary museum practices, immersive technologies and visitor-centric interpretation. It will be the largest display area in the world, according to an official statement issued after the CCEA meeting.



Around 1.8 million objects from other museums and private collections have been identified for display. FILE PHOTO

Phased implementation

The project will be implemented in phases between the 2026-27 and 2030-31 financial years. The first gallery, on the theme of adornment, is expected to open to the public in North Block in the latter half of 2027.

It will present India's civilisational journey through curated thematic galleries, exhibitions and interpretation of its diverse cultural traditions, knowledge systems, artistic practices and heritage.

The project encompasses gallery development, collection storage and conservation facilities, visitor amenities, integration of technologies and immersive experiences, landscaping, intelligent building systems and associated infrastructure.

"The historic North and South Block buildings, following the relocation of Government offices, provide a unique opportunity for their adaptive reu a significant public cu purpose. The project to preserve the archi ral and heritage cha of these iconic bui while giving them a n stitutional role," the ment said.

Around 1.8 millio jects have been ider for display from th tional Museum and museums under the ral Ministry, 52 Arc logical Survey of (ASI) site museums, museums and privat lections, the state said.

Other galleries

Other proposed ga are being develope themes such as arc ture and cityscapes, ematics and astro languages and scripts and spirituality, E Connects - Trade Ideas, among others.

"As a public cultur educational institut will provide opportu for learning, researc tural engagement ar preciation of civilisa heritage. A fixed be ary count is not appl to this project," it sai

Class24

Cabinet Nod for ₹3,230-crore Museum Project in New Delhi

प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में आर्थिक मामलों की मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति ने ऐतिहासिक नॉर्थ और साउथ ब्लॉक में "युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय" विकसित करने के ₹3,230 करोड़ के प्रोजेक्ट को मंज़ूरी दी – भारत की सभ्यतागत यात्रा और मूर्त-अमूर्त विरासत का प्रदर्शन

Heritage
विरासत

1 The decision | निर्णय

- Cleared by the **CCEA** chaired by PM Modi
  CCEA
- Appraised by the **Public Investment Board** (27 July)
  PIB
- **Culture Ministry** concurred
  संस्कृति मंत्रालय

2 The idea | अवधारणा

- Announced by the PM on **18 May 2023** (Museum Day)
  18 मई 2023
- **Adaptive reuse** of the North & South Blocks
  अनुकूली पुन: उपयोग
- Keeps their **heritage character** intact
  विरासत स्वरूप

3 What it will have क्या होगा

- **Immersive** technologies & galleries
  इमर्सिव तकनीक
- Conservation & **collection storage**
  संरक्षण
- **Intelligent building** systems, landscaping
  स्मार्ट भवन

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — in depth (1/2)

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 First gallery पहली गैलरी

- Theme: **adornment** (jewellery, ornament)
  अलंकरण
- In **North Block**
  नॉर्थ ब्लॉक
- Opening in the **second half of 2027**
  2027

5 Other themes | अन्य विषय

- **Architecture & cityscapes**
  स्थापत्य
- **Mathematics & astronomy**; languages & scripts
  गणित, खगोल
- **Spirituality**; “India Connects – Trade & Ideas”
  अध्यात्म, व्यापार

6 Why it matters | महत्व

- Puts **civilisational heritage** on display
  सभ्यतागत विरासत
- Boosts **cultural tourism** in Delhi
  सांस्कृतिक पर्यटन
- Gives colonial-era buildings a **public role**
  सार्वजनिक उपयोग

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — in depth (2/2)

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 From offices to museum | कार्यालय से संग्रहालय

1931
1931
Blocks built
निर्माण

→

Relocation
स्थानांतरण
Ministries move
मंत्रालय हटे

→

2026–31
2026–31
Phased works
चरणबद्ध काम

→

2027
2027
First gallery
पहली गैलरी

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- The North & South Blocks were designed by **Herbert Baker**
  हर्बर्ट बेकर
- The ministry says a **fixed budgetary count** isn't applicable to the project
  निश्चित संख्या नहीं

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — background (1/2)

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Major museums of India
प्रमुख संग्रहालय

Museum संग्रहालय	City शहर
Indian Museum (oldest, 1814) भारतीय संग्रहालय	Kolkata
National Museum (1949) राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय	New Delhi
CSMVS छत्रपति शिवाजी संग्रहालय	Mumbai
Salar Jung Museum सालार जंग	Hyderabad

10 Central Vista project
सेंट्रल विस्टा

- **New Parliament** opened in **2023**
  नई संसद
- **Rajpath** renamed **Kartavya Path** (2022)
  कर्तव्य पथ
- **Common Central Secretariat** for ministries
  केंद्रीय सचिवालय

11 Who looks after heritage
विरासत संरक्षण

- **ASI** – founded **1861** by Alexander Cunningham
  ASI
- **AMASR Act, 1958** – protects monuments
  AMASR अधिनियम
- **Art 49** – State to protect monuments (DPSP)
  अनु. 49

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — background (2/2)

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Museum work chain | संग्रहालय प्रक्रिया

Identify पहचान	Conserve संरक्षण	Curate क्यूरेशन	Display प्रदर्शन
1.8 mn objects वस्तुएँ	Repair, store मरम्मत	Themes विषय	Public जनता

13 Recent heritage drives
हाल की पहल

- **Repatriation** of stolen antiquities from abroad
  वापसी
- **International Museum Expo** – Delhi, May 2023
  संग्रहालय एक्सपो
- **PM Sangrahalaya** at Teen Murti (2022)
  प्रधानमंत्री संग्रहालय

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — Static GK

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Museum days संग्रहालय दिवस

- **18 May** – International Museum Day
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय दिवस
- **18 April** – World Heritage Day
  विश्व धरोहर दिवस
- **ICOM** – International Council of Museums, Paris
  ICOM

15 Lutyens' Delhi लुटियंस दिल्ली

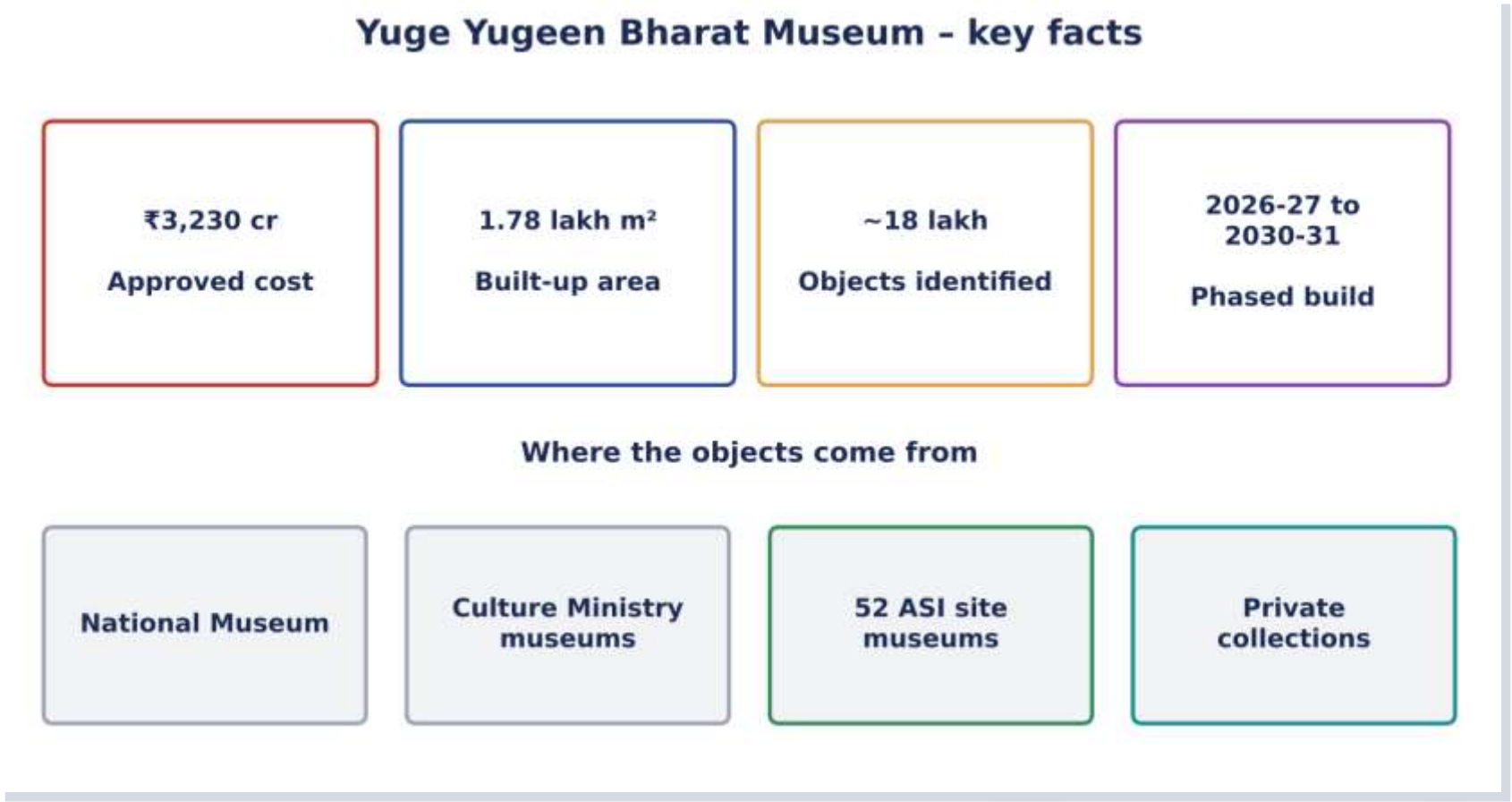
Building भवन	Architect वास्तुकार
Rashtrapati Bhavan राष्ट्रपति भवन	Edwin Lutyens
North & South Block नॉर्थ-साउथ ब्लॉक	Herbert Baker
Old Parliament पुरानी संसद	Lutyens & Baker
India Gate इंडिया गेट	Edwin Lutyens

16 Capital facts राजधानी तथ्य

- Capital shift to Delhi announced at the **1911 Durbar**
  1911 दरबार
- New Delhi inaugurated in **1931**
  1931
- Earlier capital: **Calcutta**
  कलकत्ता

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — Map & Diagram

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- A **multi-year**, phased project
  चरणबद्ध
- Objects pooled from **many sources**
  कई स्रोत
- Will be the world's **largest display area**
  सबसे बड़ा

Cabinet nod for ₹3,230-cr Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum — Map & Diagram

युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Museum sits at the heart of **Central Vista**
  सेंट्रल विस्टा
- Between **Rashtrapati Bhavan** and **Kartavya Path**
  राष्ट्रपति भवन
- Old ministry offices **freed up** the buildings
  भवन ख़ाली



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पृष्ठ 4 · समाचार

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1. **Navi Mumbai cleanest city** | **स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण**
2. **Mudra guarantee extended** | **मुद्रा**

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26

Navi Mumbai recognised as India's cleanest city in latest Swachh Survekshar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Navi Mumbai has been adjudged the cleanest city in India during Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, while Gujarat's Surat was second and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh finished third.

The awards for the latest edition of the cleanliness surveys carried out by the Centre were presented by President Droupadi Murmu at an event held here on Wednesday.

Among cities with a population between three lakh and 10 lakh, Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain emerged as the cleanest urban centre, followed by the Union Territory of Chandigarh along with Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.

Indore, which had been ranked the cleanest city in the country for the past eight years, did not figure among the toppers this year.

Rewa, another city in Madhya Pradesh, emerged as the cleanest riverfront town, followed by Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) in second and third place, respectively.



President Droupadi Murmu presenting awards during the Swa
Survekshan 2025-26 programme in New Delhi on Wednesday.

In the 10 lakh-plus population category, Greater Visakhapatnam emerged as the cleanest city, followed by Jabalpur and Lucknow.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, in the Swachh Coastal Town category, Puri in Odisha was ranked first, followed by Kerala's Alappuzha and Maharashtra's Ratnagiri.

Rudrapur, in Uttarakhand, emerged as the cleanest Himalayan city, while Jammu secured the second position.

Last year, Indore topped the league lowed by Surat and Mumbai. Jaipur was nised as the cleanest Rajasthan, while Gv received the distinct Madhya Pradesh.

Swachh Surveksh Swacch Bharat Missi ban's flagship clean assessment, with th of improving urban s tion, hygiene, and management. Over cities participated i latest edition. Swach vekshan made sever enhancements for 2025-26 awards, incl greater emphasis o zen feedback.

Navi Mumbai Recognised as India's Cleanest City in Swachh Survekshan

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु ने स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 के पुरस्कार दिए – नवी मुंबई देश का सबसे स्वच्छ शहर, सूरत दूसरे और विजयवाड़ा तीसरे स्थान पर; आठ वर्षों से शीर्ष पर रहा इंदौर इस बार टॉप सूची में नहीं

Swachh Survekshan
स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण

1 The results | परिणाम

- **Navi Mumbai** – No. 1
  नवी मुंबई
- **Surat** 2nd, **Vijayawada** 3rd
  सूरत, विजयवाड़ा
- Awards given by **President Droupadi Murmu**
  राष्ट्रपति

2 Special categories विशेष श्रेणियाँ

- Riverfront: **Rewa**, Bilaspur, Varanasi
  रीवा
- Himalayan: **Rudrapur**, then Jammu
  रुद्रपुर
- State capital (Rajasthan): **Jaipur** cleanest
  जयपुर

3 The big change बड़ा बदलाव

- **Indore** was No. 1 for **eight years**
  आठ वर्ष
- Last year: Indore, **Surat, Navi Mumbai**
  पिछले वर्ष
- More weight to **citizen feedback** this year
  नागरिक प्रतिक्रिया

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — in depth (1/2)

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 About the survey सर्वेक्षण

- Run by the **Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry**
  आवास मंत्रालय
- Flagship check of **SBM-Urban**
  SBM-शहरी
- Over **4,500** cities took part
  4,500+ शहर

5 What is judged मूल्यांकन

- **Sanitation** & hygiene
  स्वच्छता
- **Waste management** – collection to processing
  कचरा प्रबंधन
- **Citizen feedback** & field checks
  फ़ीडबैक

6 Why Navi Mumbai नवी मुंबई क्यों

- A **planned city** built by CIDCO (1970s)
  नियोजित शहर
- Strong **source segregation** of waste
  कचरा पृथक्करण
- Part of the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region**
  MMR

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — in depth (2/2)

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 SBM-Urban journey | SBM-शहरी

2014
2014
SBM-U launched
शुरुआत

2016
2016
First survey (73 cities)
पहला सर्वे

2021
2021
SBM-U 2.0
2.0

Goal
लक्ष्य
Garbage-free cities
कचरा-मुक्त

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **Mysuru** topped the first Swachh Survekshan (2016)
  मैसूरु
- The 3–10 lakh list has a tie for 2nd: **Chandigarh & Guntur**
  बराबरी

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — background (1/2)

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Swachh ratings स्वच्छ रेटिंग

Rating रेटिंग	Meaning अर्थ
ODF / ODF+ / ODF++ ODF	Toilets & sludge
Water+ वाटर+	Used water treated
Garbage-Free stars स्टार	1 to 7 stars
Safaimitra Surakshit सफ़ाईमित्र	Safe sewer work

10 SBM-Urban 2.0 SBM-U 2.0

- Launched **1 Oct 2021**, till **2026**
  2021–26
- Aim: **garbage-free** cities
  कचरा-मुक्त
- Remediate all **legacy dumpsites**
  पुराने कचरा ढेर

11 Waste rules अपशिष्ट नियम

- **Solid Waste Management Rules**, 2016
  2016 नियम
- Segregate into **wet, dry, hazardous**
  तीन श्रेणी
- **Plastic Waste Mgmt Rules** – single-use ban (2022)
  प्लास्टिक नियम

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — background (2/2)

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Waste processing chain | कचरा प्रबंधन

Segregate पृथक्करण	Collect संग्रह	Process प्रसंस्करण	Landfill लैंडफ़िल
At home घर पर	Door-to-door घर-घर	Compost, recycle खाद	Only residue केवल अवशेष

13 Indore model | इंदौर मॉडल

- **Six-way** waste segregation
  छह-तरफ़ा
- **Bio-CNG** plant from wet waste
  बायो-CNG
- Topped **2017–2025** (8 years)
  आठ वर्ष

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — Static GK

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs MoHUA

- Formed in **2017** by merging two ministries
  2017
- Runs **AMRUT, Smart Cities, PMAY-U**
  योजनाएँ
- **74th Amendment** (1992) – urban local bodies
  74वाँ संशोधन

15 Planned cities नियोजित शहर

City शहर	Planner नियोजक
Chandigarh चंडीगढ़	Le Corbusier
Bhubaneswar भुवनेश्वर	Otto Koenigsberger
Jaipur (1727) जयपुर	Vidyadhar Bhattacharya
Navi Mumbai नवी मुंबई	CIDCO

16 Cleanliness facts स्वच्छता तथ्य

- **2 Oct** – Swachh Bharat Diwas
  स्वच्छ भारत दिवस
- **Mawlynnong** – "Asia's cleanest village"
  मावलिननॉन्ग
- **Sikkim** – first State to ban plastic bags (1998)
  सिक्किम

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — Map & Diagram

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — मानचित्र व आरेख

Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 – top cities

Overall	10 lakh+	3-10 lakh	Coastal town
1. Navi Mumbai	1. Gr. Visakhapatnam	1. Ujjain	1. Puri
2. Surat	2. Jabalpur	2. Chandigarh & Guntur	2. Alappuzha
3. Vijayawada	3. Lucknow	3. —	3. Ratnagiri

Indore – No. 1 for eight years – is not among this year's toppers

Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Cities compete in **size categories**
  आकार वर्ग
- Special lists for **coastal & riverfront** towns
  तटीय, नदी किनारे
- A **new No. 1** this year
  नया विजेता

Navi Mumbai India's cleanest city – Swachh Survekshan — Map & Diagram

स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Top three from **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra**
  तीन राज्य
- **Indore** dropped out of the podium
  इंदौर
- **West & south** India dominate
  पश्चिम व दक्षिण



FINANCIAL EXPRESS • 12 NOV 2026

Page 2 · Economy

पृष्ठ 2 · अर्थव्यवस्था

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **Battery black mass export ban | बैटरी कचरा**

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित



Govt prohibits battery black mass exports

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, November 11

THE GOVERNMENT HAS prohibited exports of lithium-ion battery black mass as it seeks to strengthen domestic recycling capacity and reduce dependence on imports for the country's electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturing industries.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), through a notification issued on November 10, changed the export policy for specified battery waste and scrap from 'free' to 'prohibited', with immediate effect. The restriction covers unsorted waste and scrap, including spent batteries that do not contain lead, cadmium or mercury, classified as lithium-ion battery black mass.

The move marks a shift in the country's approach to battery recycling, from encouraging investment in domestic mineral recovery to ensuring that recyclable material is available to local processors. It comes amid a broader policy push to establish a domestic critical minerals ecosystem spanning mining, processing, recycling and battery manufacturing.

Black mass is the powder obtained after used lithium-ion batteries or manufacturing scrap are shredded and separated from larger metal and plastic components. Depending on the battery chemistry, it contains recoverable lithium, nickel, cobalt and graphite, which can be processed and reused in battery manufacturing.

The domestic recycling industry has greater capacity to process black mass than the material currently generated, leaving refiners short of feedstock, according to industry analysis. Retaining the material within the country could improve utilisation of existing facilities and reduce the need for battery makers to source recovered minerals from overseas.

The export restriction comes against the backdrop of the government's National Critical Mineral Mission, approved in January 2025 with government expenditure of ₹16,300 crore and expected investments of ₹18,000 crore over seven years. The mission seeks to strengthen domestic supply chains for critical minerals through exploration, processing and recycling. In September 2025, the Cabinet separately approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote the recovery of critical minerals from battery waste and other secondary sources.

India recorded zero exports worldwide under this code in FY26. The government has acted to prevent future shipments and keep the material available to domestic refiners, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

RECYCLING BOOST

- DGFT changes export policy for battery black mass from 'free' to 'prohibited'
- Black mass contains recoverable lithium, nickel and cobalt
- Move aims to bridge gap between domestic recycling capacity and feedstock availability
- Decision comes amid more focus on domestic battery manufacturing & expanding EV adoption

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित

oper recycling system is put in place.
India already uses lithium-ion batteries
tensively in mobile phones and other
ectronic devices. Yet, when these products
ach EoL, their batteries often end up in landfills
informal recycling channels run by
badiwalas. While the informal sector plays an
portant role in waste management, its manual
ethods are often inefficient and unsafe. Material
covery rates are reportedly just 10%-20%,
mpared with over 90% in formal recycling

A circular battery economy can help secure India's critical mineral supplies

optimal utilisation initially and face uncertainty in generating enough revenue to cover financing costs.

The strategy to adopt

India therefore needs a holistic strategy. First, recycled critical minerals should be incorporated into strategic resource planning. The proposed national critical mineral stockpile should include a mandated share of recycled minerals, creating predictable demand for domestic secondary

do with them. The country is still early enough in its EV transition to build circularity into the system. Done well, battery recycling can turn an EoL liability into a domestic resource, create a new industrial ecosystem and provide a modest but meaningful buffer against critical mineral supply shocks. The EV revolution should not end when a battery leaves a vehicle. That is where India's circular-economy opportunity begins.

The views expressed are personal

Govt Prohibits

Battery Black Mass Exports

विदेश व्यापार महानिदेशालय (DGFT) ने लिथियम-आयन बैटरी "ब्लैक मास" के निर्यात को "मुक्त" से "प्रतिबंधित" श्रेणी में डाला – घरेलू रीसाइक्लिंग उद्योग को कच्चा माल उपलब्ध कराने और EV व बैटरी निर्माण के लिए आयात पर निर्भरता घटाने का लक्ष्य

Circular economy
चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था

1 The decision | निर्णय

- **DGFT** notification of **10 November**
  DGFT
- Export policy: **"free"** → **"prohibited"**
  प्रतिबंधित
- With **immediate effect**
  तत्काल

2 What is covered | दायरा

- Unsorted battery **waste & scrap**
  कचरा व स्क्रैप
- Spent batteries **without lead, cadmium, mercury**
  सीसा रहित
- Classified as **Li-ion black mass**
  ब्लैक मास

3 What is black mass ब्लैक मास

- **Powder** left after shredding batteries
  पाउडर
- Holds **lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite**
  खनिज
- Can be **refined & reused** in new batteries
  पुन: उपयोग

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — in depth (1/2)

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 Why ban exports प्रतिबंध क्यों

- Recyclers have **more capacity** than feedstock
  क्षमता अधिक
- Keep material for **domestic refiners**
  घरेलू उपयोग
- Cut **import dependence** for EV makers
  आयात निर्भरता

5 The policy push नीतिगत कदम

- **National Critical Mineral Mission** (Jan 2025) – ₹16,300 cr
  NCMM
- **₹1,500-cr** scheme for recycling critical minerals (Sep 2025)
  ₹1,500 करोड़
- Exports under this code were **zero** in FY26 – GTRI
  शून्य निर्यात

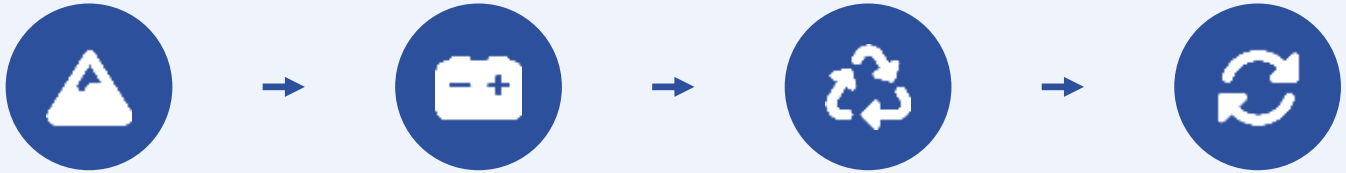
6 The editorial view संपादकीय

- Most spent batteries go to **landfills** or informal units
  लैंडफ़िल
- Include recycled minerals in a **national stockpile**
  राष्ट्रीय भंडार
- EV revolution shouldn't end when a battery **leaves a vehicle**
  चक्रीयता

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — in depth (2/2)

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 The circular battery | चक्रीय बैटरी



Raw minerals कच्चा खनिज	EVs, phones EV, फ़ोन	Black mass ब्लैक मास	New cells नई बैटरी

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- Lithium is the **lightest metal**
  सबसे हल्की धातु
- Li-ion battery pioneers won the **2019 Chemistry Nobel**
  नोबेल 2019

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — background (1/2)

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Battery minerals बैटरी खनिज

Mineral खनिज	Role भूमिका
Lithium लिथियम	Carries charge
Cobalt कोबाल्ट	Stabilises cathode
Nickel निकल	Energy density
Graphite ग्रेफ़ाइट	Anode

10 Battery Waste Rules 2022 बैटरी अपशिष्ट नियम

- Based on **Extended Producer Responsibility** (EPR)
  EPR
- Makers must **collect & recycle** used batteries
  संग्रह दायित्व
- Set **minimum recovery** targets
  न्यूनतम पुनर्प्राप्ति

11 India's lithium finds भारत में लिथियम

- **Reasi, J&K** – 5.9 mn tonne inferred (2023)
  रियासी
- **KABIL** – buys mines abroad (Argentina)
  KABIL
- India imports most of its **Li-ion cells**
  आयात

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — background (2/2)

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Trade policy terms | निर्यात श्रेणियाँ

Free
मुक्त
No licence
लाइसेंस नहीं

→

Restricted
प्रतिबंधित-शर्त
Licence needed
लाइसेंस

→

STE
STE
Via State trading
सरकारी व्यापार

→

Prohibited
निषिद्ध
Not allowed
अनुमति नहीं

13 Critical minerals push महत्वपूर्ण खनिज

- **30** critical minerals listed (2023)
  30 खनिज
- **MMDR Amendment 2023** – Centre auctions them
  MMDR संशोधन
- India in the US-led **Minerals Security Partnership**
  MSP

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — Static GK

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Know the bodies संस्थाएँ

- **DGFT** – under the **Commerce Ministry**
  DGFT
- **CPCB** – enforces battery-waste rules
  CPCB
- **GTRI** – a Delhi-based trade think tank
  GTRI

15 Battery types बैटरी प्रकार

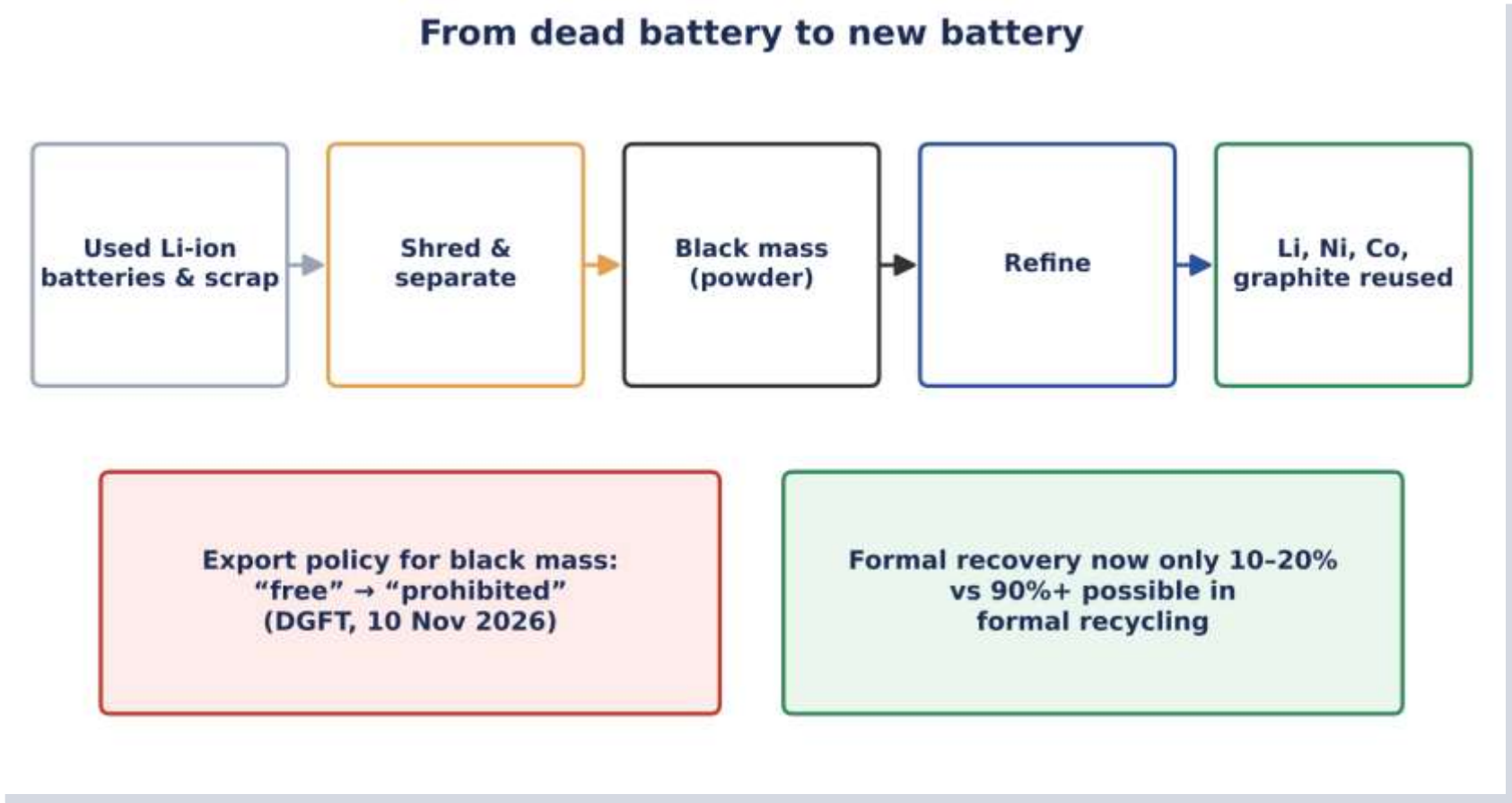
Type प्रकार	Use उपयोग
Lead-acid लेड-एसिड	Cars, inverters
Lithium-ion लिथियम-आयन	Phones, EVs
Sodium-ion सोडियम-आयन	Emerging, cheaper
Solid-state सॉलिड-स्टेट	Next-gen EVs

16 Battery schemes | योजनाएँ

- **PLI-ACC** – 50 GWh cell making (₹18,100 cr)
  PLI-ACC
- **PM E-DRIVE** – EV subsidy (2024)
  पीएम ई-ड्राइव
- **Battery Swapping** policy drafted (2022)
  बैटरी स्वैपिंग

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — Map & Diagram

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Black mass is the **valuable middle** stage
  मूल्यवान मध्य चरण
- Now must be **refined at home**
  घरेलू शोधन
- Big **formal-recycling gap** to close
  बड़ा अंतर

Govt bans export of lithium-ion battery black mass — Map & Diagram

बैटरी कचरे का निर्यात प्रतिबंधित — मानचित्र व आरेख

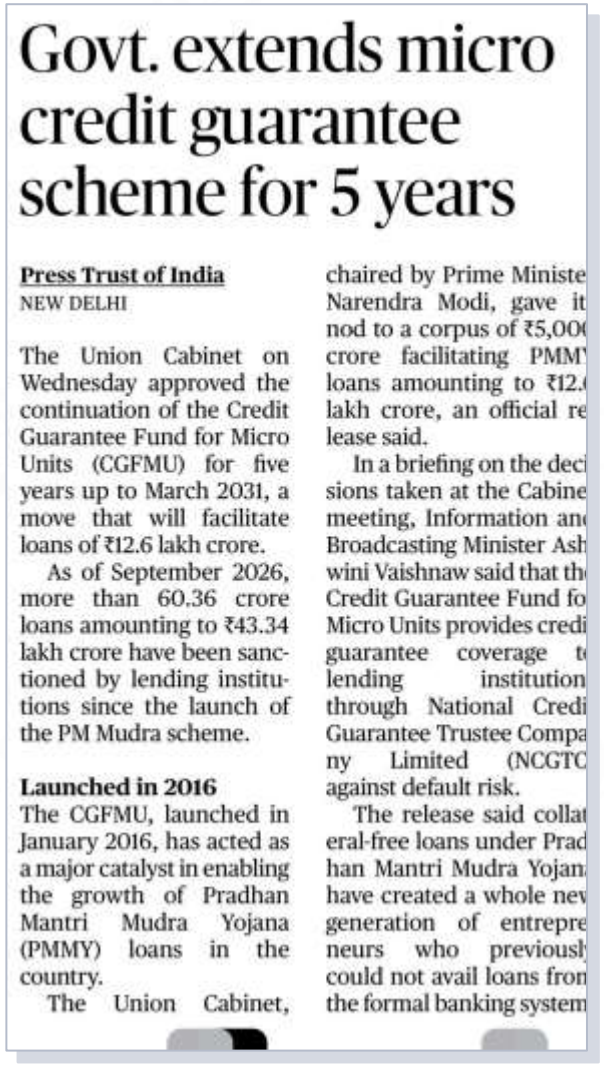


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Lithium: **Chile, Australia**
  लिथियम
- Cobalt: **DR Congo**; nickel: **Indonesia**
  कोबाल्ट, निकल
- **China** dominates refining
  चीन

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया



Govt. extends micro credit guarantee scheme for 5 years

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) for five years up to March 2031, a move that will facilitate loans of ₹12.6 lakh crore.

As of September 2026, more than 60.36 crore loans amounting to ₹43.34 lakh crore have been sanctioned by lending institutions since the launch of the PM Mudra scheme.

Launched in 2016

The CGFMU, launched in January 2016, has acted as a major catalyst in enabling the growth of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) loans in the country.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Ministe Narendra Modi, gave it nod to a corpus of ₹5,00 crore facilitating PMM loans amounting to ₹12. lakh crore, an official re lease said.

In a briefing on the deci sions taken at the Cabine meeting, Information an Broadcasting Minister Ash wini Vaishnaw said that th Credit Guarantee Fund fo Micro Units provides credi guarantee coverage t lending institution through National Credi Guarantee Trustee Compa ny Limited (NCGTC against default risk.

The release said collat eral-free loans under Prad han Mantri Mudra Yojan have created a whole nev generation of entrepre neurs who previousl could not avail loans fron the formal banking system

Class24

Govt Extends Micro Credit Guarantee Scheme for 5 Years

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने सूक्ष्म इकाइयों के लिए ऋण गारंटी कोष (CGFMU) को मार्च 2031 तक पाँच वर्ष बढ़ाया, जिससे ₹12.6 लाख करोड़ के मुद्रा ऋण संभव होंगे; स्टैंड-अप इंडिया योजना भी 2031 तक विस्तारित – 2.5 लाख और महिला व SC/ST उद्यमियों का लक्ष्य

Credit for small firms
छोटे उद्यम

1 CGFMU extended
CGFMU विस्तार

- Up to **March 2031**
  मार्च 2031
- Corpus of **₹5,000 crore**
  ₹5,000 करोड़
- Guarantee fee cut for Mudra loans
  शुल्क कटौती

2 Stand-Up India
स्टैंड-अप इंडिया

- Extended to **31 March 2031**
  2031
- Target: **2.5 lakh** more women & SC/ST entrepreneurs
  2.5 लाख
- Guarantee corpus of **₹4,111 crore**
  ₹4,111 करोड़

3 What CGFMU covers | कवरेज

- **PMMY** loans up to **₹20 lakh**
  ₹20 लाख तक
- **Jan Dhan** overdrafts up to **₹10,000**
  जन धन ओवरड्राफ़्ट
- **SHG** loans of ₹10–20 lakh
  स्वयं सहायता समूह

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — in depth (1/2)

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 How CGFMU works कार्यप्रणाली

- Run by **NCGTC** – National Credit Guarantee Trustee Co
  NCGTC
- Covers lenders against **default risk**
  चूक जोखिम
- Enables **collateral-free** loans
  बिना गिरवी

5 Stand-Up India loans ऋण विवरण

- **₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore** for greenfield units
  ₹10 लाख–1 करोड़
- Manufacturing, services, trade, **agri-allied**
  क्षेत्र
- Loan up to **85%** of cost; guarantee fee **0.50%**
  85%

6 Why it matters | महत्व

- Created a "**whole new generation**" of entrepreneurs
  नई पीढ़ी
- Reaches those **outside formal banking**
  औपचारिक बैंकिंग से बाहर
- **2.75 lakh+** women & SC/ST helped under Stand-Up
  2.75 लाख

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — in depth (2/2)

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Mudra loan categories | मुद्रा श्रेणियाँ

Shishu शिशु	Kishore किशोर	Tarun तरुण	Tarun Plus तरुण प्लस
Up to ₹50,000 ₹50,000 तक	₹50k–₹5 lakh ₹5 लाख तक	₹5–10 lakh ₹10 लाख तक	₹10–20 lakh ₹20 लाख तक

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- **MUDRA** = Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency
  पूरा नाम
- **Tarun Plus** came in Budget **2024-25** for those who repaid Tarun loans
  तरुण प्लस

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — background (1/2)

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 MSME definition (2025) MSME परिभाषा

Type प्रकार	Investment / turnover सीमा
Micro सूक्ष्म	₹2.5 cr / ₹10 cr
Small लघु	₹25 cr / ₹100 cr
Medium मध्यम	₹125 cr / ₹500 cr
Registration पंजीकरण	Udyam portal

10 Other credit schemes अन्य योजनाएँ

- **CGTMSE** – guarantees for MSME loans (2000)
  CGTMSE
- **PM SVANidhi** – street vendors (2020)
  स्वनिधि
- **PM Vishwakarma** – artisans (2023)
  विश्वकर्मा

11 Financial inclusion वित्तीय समावेशन

- **PM Jan Dhan Yojana** – 2014
  जन धन
- **JAM trinity** – Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile
  JAM
- **SIDBI** – apex MSME bank, Lucknow (1990)
  SIDBI

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — background (2/2)

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 How a credit guarantee helps | गारंटी कैसे

Borrower
उधारकर्ता
No collateral
गिरवी नहीं

→

Bank
बैंक
Gives loan
ऋण

→

Guarantee
गारंटी
NCGTC covers
कवर

→

Default?
चूक?
Bank repaid
भरपाई

13 Mudra lenders | ऋणदाता

- **Banks** – public, private, regional rural
  बैंक
- **NBFCs** & **MFIs**
  NBFC, MFI
- **Small finance banks**
  लघु वित्त बैंक

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — Static GK

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Scheme launch dates | योजना तिथियाँ

Scheme योजना	Launched शुरुआत
PM Mudra Yojana मुद्रा	8 Apr 2015
Stand-Up India स्टैंड-अप	5 Apr 2016
Startup India स्टार्टअप	16 Jan 2016
PM Jan Dhan जन धन	28 Aug 2014

15 MSME days | MSME दिवस

- **27 June** – International MSME Day
  MSME दिवस
- **16 Jan** – National Startup Day
  स्टार्टअप दिवस
- **Ministry of MSME** – formed **2007**
  2007

16 Key terms | शब्दावली

- **Collateral** – security pledged for a loan
  गिरवी
- **Greenfield** – a brand-new project
  ग्रीनफ़ील्ड
- **Refinance** – lending to lenders
  पुनर्वित्त

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — Map & Diagram

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — मानचित्र व आरेख

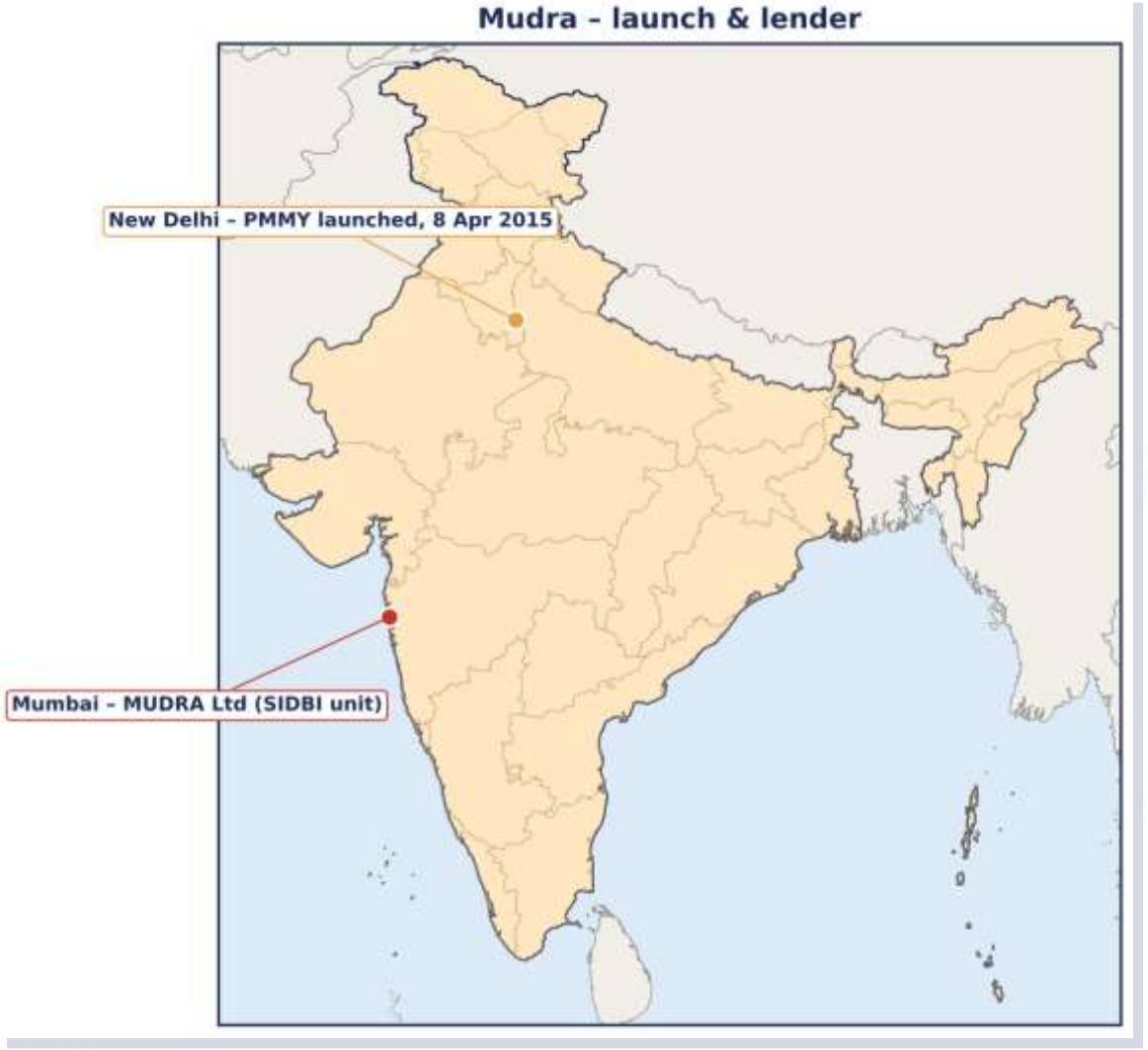


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Guarantee fee **cut by a quarter**
  शुल्क में कटौती
- A decade of **collateral-free** lending
  बिना गारंटी ऋण
- Cover for **₹12.6 lakh cr** more till 2031
  2031 तक

Mudra credit guarantee & Stand-Up India extended to 2031 — Map & Diagram

मुद्रा व स्टैंड-अप इंडिया — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **PMMY** launched in New Delhi, **8 April 2015**
  8 अप्रैल 2015
- **MUDRA Ltd** – a SIDBI subsidiary, Mumbai
  SIDBI
- Loans flow through **banks, NBFCs, MFIs**
  ऋणदाता


Business

How a Vitol trader's ties to Vance helped land a prized Venezuelan oil contract

Crypto's uphill battle against hackers receives fresh reminder from Binance

1 VISTAR: India's radical shift towards a real-time, cutting-edge technology-driven statistical system

THE HINDU • 12 NOV 2026

Page 13 · Business

पृष्ठ 13 · व्यापार

Articles covered from this page | इस पृष्ठ से लिए गए लेख

1 **VISTAR explainer | विस्तार**

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system

विस्तार

VISTAR: India's radical shift towards a real-time, cutting-edge technology-driven statistical system

EXPLAINER

Santosh V. Perumal

India's statistical requirements have outgrown the conventional survey-based architecture, requiring a more scientific and technological architecture to better capture key performance indicators of the economy, even as it should avoid the growing risks of synthetic data.

Seeking to move official data collection beyond periodic surveys and administrative records, the VISTAR or Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research is a major overhaul of India's official statistical system at the Centre and State levels using interoperable datasets, bridging data gaps and generating timely, reliable socioeconomic indicators for evidence-based policymaking.

Essential upgrades

An economy as large and diverse as India needs timely, comparable and sufficiently granular data and it is a challenge for the policymakers, who view that the success of a statistical system will depend as much on data quality, institutional coordination and statistical independence as on artificial intelligence (AI).

For an economy aspiring to become a developed nation by 2047, the statistical blind spots could translate into costly policy mistakes, misdirected investments and ineffective welfare schemes.

Approved by the Union Cabinet for 2026-27 to 2030-31, VISTAR, with an outlay of ₹4,370 crore, is designed to create a dynamic, real-time and future-ready statistical system that seeks to ensure greater data granularity, interoperability and AI readiness.



Real data: VISTAR must bring official estimates closer to reality than making reality appear closer to estimates. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Is VISTAR different?

India's statistical system has traditionally relied more on periodic sample surveys, census and other records. The National Statistical Office, the Central Statistical Organisation and the National Sample Survey Organisation have played roles in generating national accounts, employment, consumption, industrial production and other economic indicators.

Although these entities provided a substantial foundation, limitations were in capturing the rapid structural changes in the economy.

India's National Statistical Commission itself had identified credibility, timeliness, data gaps and coordination as systemic weaknesses.

Information asymmetry within periodic survey rounds and fragmentation of conventional administrative databases across the ministries and states stymied their efficacy.

The increasing importance of services, digital businesses and the informal economy has further complicated measurement.

Displaying a tectonic shift, VISTAR combines conventional surveys with alternative data sources, including mobile-phone, scanner and e-commerce data. AI and machine learning (ML) will increasingly support data processing, validation and analysis.

Highlighting the scale of expansion, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation or MoSPI proposes conducting 59 surveys during the 16th Finance Commission cycle, against 43 major surveys in the previous cycle.

Transformative pillars

Alternative dataset will supplement conventional surveys, potentially reducing respondent burden and improving the frequency of information.

It is proposed to be done through expanded surveys, end-to-end digitalisation, methodological research and the integration of AI and ML.

Addressing the uneven statistical capabilities across States and Union Territories, VISTAR mandates financial and technical assistance to be linked to measurable outcomes which, in turn, is aimed at improving district-level estimates of employment, household consumption and unincorporated enterprises through surveys such as PLFS, HCES and ASUSE.

It will also support State and district GDP (gross domestic product) estimates and the state-level industrial production indices.

The proposed eighth Economic Census will cover non-farm establishments and their workers down to the Gram Panchayat and municipal ward levels.

It will provide the foundation for a National Statistical Business Register (SBR), enabling better identification of enterprises, particularly in the unorganised sector, potentially improving the estimates of contribution of informal economy to GDP.

Under the support for statistical strengthening (SSS) component, the Centre will provide funds to help transform the statistical capabilities of States and Union Territories via a redesigned, deliverable-linked framework.

Value addition

VISTAR's major contribution will be a radical transformation of measuring the economy through a more continuous and interconnected statistical architecture to give an evidence based understanding of India's economic realities.

District-level employment and consumption data help identify the regional statistical disparities that the national averages conceal.

Comprehensive enterprise data helps in making robust credit policies, infrastructure planning and welfare targeting.

Capturing the contribution of services and the informal businesses, which the conventional industrial indicators often miss, gives the policymakers a broader canvass while drawing the sketch of economic policies.

Interoperability will greatly help investors, researchers and businesses, benefiting from harmonised definitions, data cataloguing, machine-readable formats and common sharing protocols, which largely avoid duplication and inconsistency among sovereign databases.

VISTAR builds on earlier digital reforms than replacing them and it consolidates the computer-assisted surveys, e-SIGMA platform and existing databases, which have already improved data quality and collection, into a broader institutional framework.

The challenges

Mobile-phone records, e-commerce transactions and scanner data may asymmetrically capture digitally-connected consumers and formal businesses.

Selection bias and distortion in estimates could creep in as alternative data need not necessarily be representative, thus requiring appropriate statistical adjustments.

Integrating databases across Ministries and States requires common definitions, consistent classifications and reliable data-sharing models. Variance in state-level infrastructure, manpower and technical capabilities could undermine the comparability.

Apprehensions are on privacy, confidentiality and cybersecurity due to greater dependence on digital information; hence statistical agencies must ensure identity protection for individuals and enterprises.

Independent validation becomes crucial due to the possible AI-generated errors, algorithmic bias and inadequate transparency in automated processing.

Statistical algorithms, mathematical models or AI/ML techniques – which generate synthetic data – may reproduce the patterns, relationships and distributions in actual datasets without necessarily reproducing original observations.

The Centre's funding must translate into trained statisticians, robust field infrastructure and institutional accountability, even as preserving the professional independence of statistical agencies is also important.

Testing ground

VISTAR's efficiency will be tested against how accurately it reflects the economic and social realities, implying that the outcomes produced can be trusted and employed with confidence so that it becomes the bedrock of Viksit Bharat's ambitions.

Technological sophistication should not mask statistical authenticity.

VISTAR should bring official estimates closer to reality, than making reality appear closer to the estimates.

Class24

VISTAR: India's Radical Shift Towards a Real-Time, Technology-Driven Statistical System

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा 2026-27 से 2030-31 के लिए ₹4,370 करोड़ के परिव्यय से स्वीकृत "विस्तार" (VISTAR) – सर्वेक्षणों के साथ मोबाइल, स्कैनर और ई-कॉमर्स डेटा तथा AI/ML को जोड़कर समयबद्ध, विस्तृत और विश्वसनीय सांख्यिकी व्यवस्था

Data reform
आँकड़ा सुधार

1 What VISTAR is | विस्तार क्या है

- **Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research**
  पूरा नाम
- Overhaul at **Centre & State** levels
  केंद्र व राज्य
- Outlay **₹4,370 crore**, 2026-27 to 2030-31
  ₹4,370 करोड़

2 The problem | समस्या

- Survey-based system has been **outgrown**
  पुरानी व्यवस्था
- Gaps in **services, digital, informal** economy
  अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र
- NSC flagged **credibility, timeliness, coordination**
  कमज़ोरियाँ

3 Pillars | स्तंभ

- **Expanded surveys** & end-to-end digitisation
  डिजिटलीकरण
- **AI/ML** for processing & validation
  AI/ML
- **Interoperable** datasets
  अंतर-संचालनीय

Class24

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — in depth (1/2)

विस्तार — विस्तार से (1/2)

4 States & districts राज्य व ज़िले

- **Outcome-linked** funds for States/UTs
  परिणाम-आधारित
- **District-level** jobs & consumption data
  ज़िला स्तर
- State & district **GDP** estimates
  राज्य GDP

5 Business data उद्यम डेटा

- **8th Economic Census** – down to gram panchayat & ward
  आर्थिक जनगणना
- A **National Statistical Business Register**
  व्यापार रजिस्टर
- Better count of the **informal sector**
  अनौपचारिक

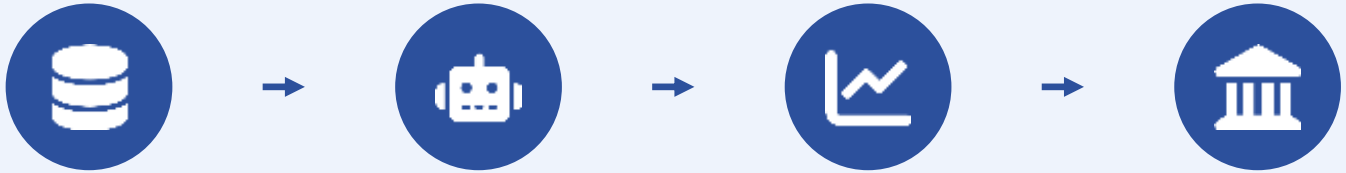
6 Risks & challenges चुनौतियाँ

- Avoid risks of **synthetic data**
  कृत्रिम डेटा
- **Privacy** & cybersecurity
  गोपनीयता
- Needs **statistical independence**
  स्वायत्तता

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — in depth (2/2)

विस्तार — विस्तार से (2/2)

7 Data to decision | आँकड़े से निर्णय



Survey + digital सर्वे + डिजिटल	AI/ML AI	Timely indicators संकेतक	Better targeting लक्ष्यीकरण

8 Did you know? क्या आप जानते हैं?

- MoSPI plans **59 surveys** in the 16th FC cycle vs **43** before
  59 सर्वेक्षण
- **PLFS** now gives **monthly** urban & rural job data
  मासिक PLFS

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — background (1/2)

विस्तार — पृष्ठभूमि (1/2)

9 Key surveys प्रमुख सर्वेक्षण

Survey सर्वेक्षण	Measures मापता है
PLFS PLFS	Jobs & unemployment
HCES HCES	Household spending
ASUSE ASUSE	Unincorporated firms
ASI ASI	Factory output

10 MoSPI structure MoSPI ढाँचा

- **NSO** formed in **2019** – merged CSO & NSSO
  NSO
- **National Statistical Commission** – set up **2006**
  NSC
- First Chief Statistician: **Pronab Sen**
  प्रणब सेन

11 GDP base year | आधार वर्ष

- Old series: base **2011-12**
  2011-12
- New series with base **2022-23** released in **2026**
  2022-23
- Uses more **GST & digital** data
  GST डेटा

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — background (2/2)

विस्तार — पृष्ठभूमि (2/2)

12 Survey vs alternative data | तुलना

Survey सर्वे	Mobile मोबाइल	Scanner स्कैनर	E-commerce ई-कॉमर्स
Slow, costly धीमा	Real-time वास्तविक समय	Prices, sales मूल्य	Demand माँग

13 Father of Indian statistics सांख्यिकी के जनक

- **P.C. Mahalanobis**
  पी.सी. महालनोबिस
- Founded **ISI**, Kolkata (1931) & NSSO (1950)
  ISI
- Architect of the **Second Five-Year Plan**
  दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — Static GK

विस्तार — स्थैतिक सामान्य ज्ञान

14 Statistics days सांख्यिकी दिवस

- **29 June** – National Statistics Day (Mahalanobis' birthday)
  राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी दिवस
- **20 Oct** – World Statistics Day (every 5 yrs)
  विश्व सांख्यिकी दिवस
- **1 July** – CA Day / **GST Day**
  GST दिवस

15 Census basics | जनगणना

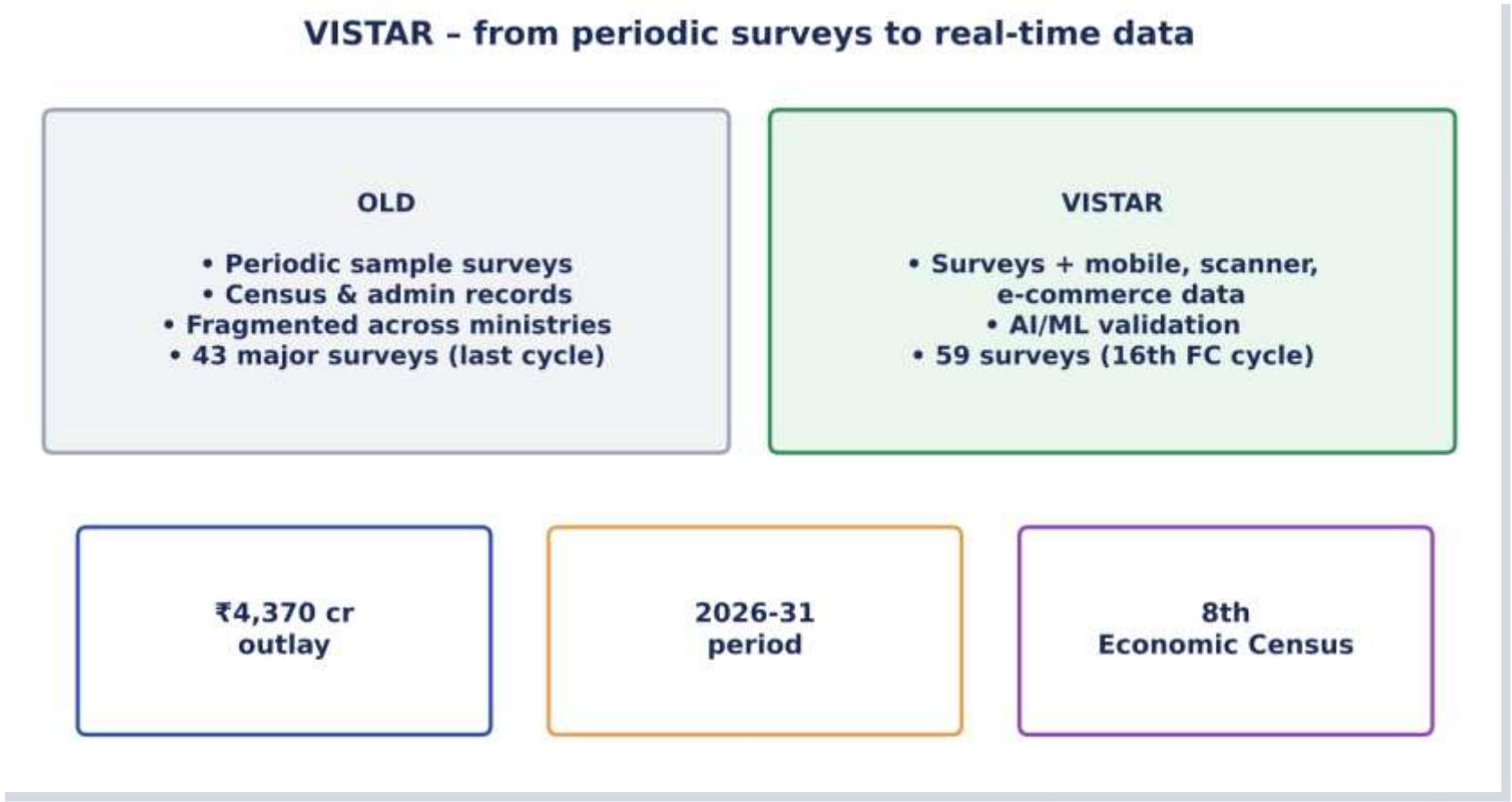
Fact तथ्य	Detail विवरण
Constitution संविधान	Union List (Entry 69)
Law क़ानून	Census Act, 1948
Conducted by संचालन	Registrar General (MHA)
Next अगली	2027, digital

16 Indices & publishers सूचकांक

- **CPI** – NSO, MoSPI
  CPI
- **WPI** – DPIIT, Commerce Ministry
  WPI
- **IIP** – NSO, monthly
  IIP

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — Map & Diagram

विस्तार — मानचित्र व आरेख

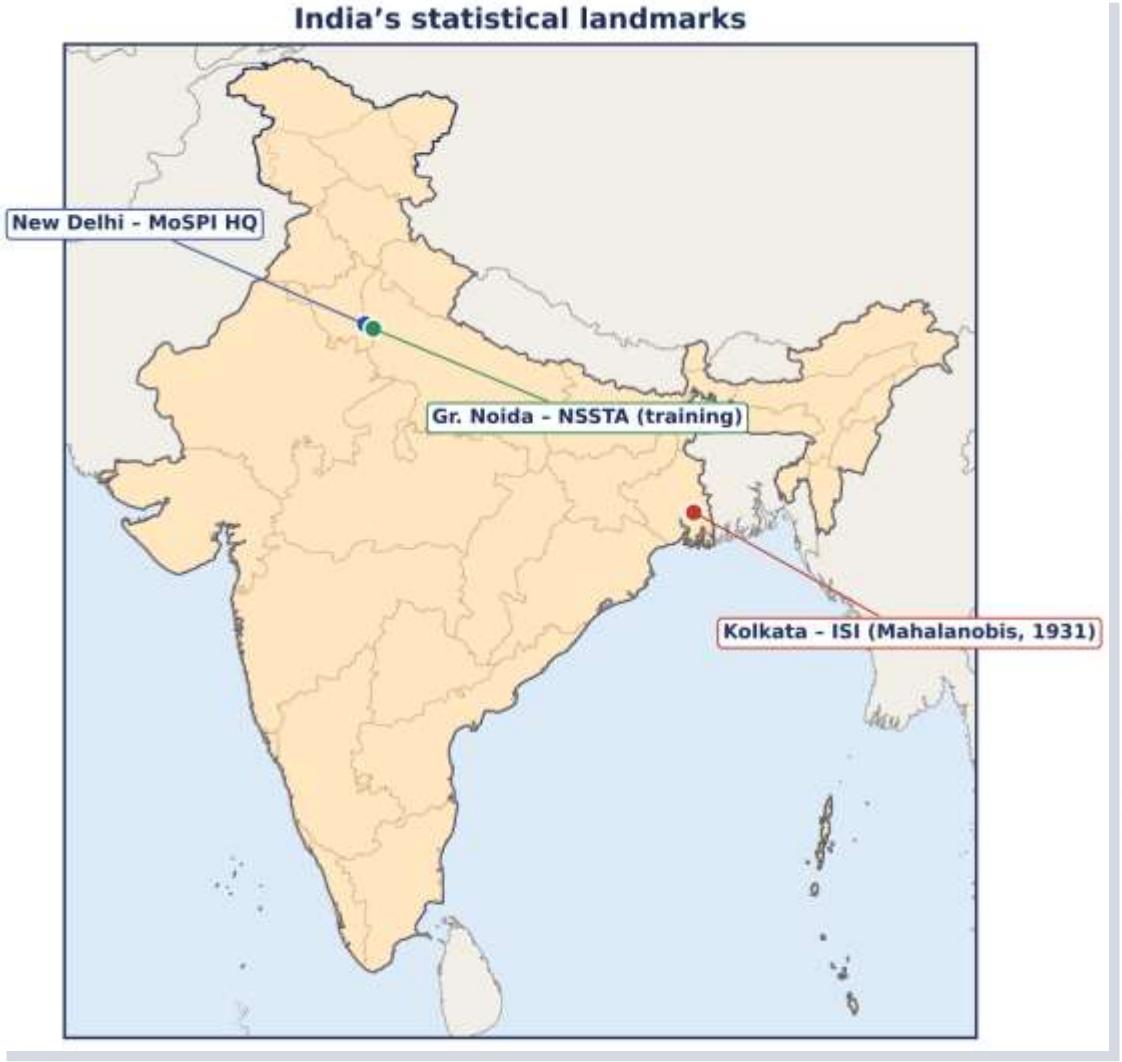


Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- Adds **new data sources** to old surveys
  नए स्रोत
- Many **more surveys** this cycle
  अधिक सर्वेक्षण
- A **five-year** funded programme
  पाँच वर्ष

VISTAR: India's shift to a real-time statistical system — Map & Diagram

विस्तार — मानचित्र व आरेख



Read the visual
चित्र को समझें

- **ISI, Kolkata** – where Indian statistics began
  ISI कोलकाता
- **MoSPI** headquarters in New Delhi
  MoSPI
- Officers trained at **NSSTA**, Greater Noida
  NSSTA

Asked in Exams — guess the answer! | पहले स्वयं उत्तर सोचें

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 – GS I

24 May 2026 • Topic: Battery black mass

Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct? 1. AI, robotics and space exploration make extensive use of REEs. 2. China has the largest share of REE mining, with India second. 3. India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission in 2025 to build self-reliance in critical minerals. 4. REEs are a set of 13 metallic elements.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 4

UPSC CSE Prelims 2025 – GS I

25 May 2025 • Topic: Battery black mass

In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements: I. Cobalt II. Graphite III. Lithium IV. Nickel. How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All the four

Asked in Exams — guess the answer! | पहले स्वयं उत्तर सोचें

RRB NTPC 2025 – UG CBT-2
17 Sep 2026 (Shift 1)* • Topic: Mudra extension

What is the maximum loan amount available under PMMY for entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid previous 'Tarun' category loans?

(a) ₹50 lakh
(b) ₹10 lakh
(c) ₹5 lakh
(d) ₹20 lakh

RRB NTPC 2025 – UG CBT-2
17 Sep 2026 (Shift 1)* • Topic: VISTAR

On 27 February 2026, the National Statistical Office released a new GDP series that shifted the base year from 2011-12. Which year is the new base year?

(a) 2018-19
(b) 2015-16
(c) 2022-23
(d) 2020-21

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 4

Answer: (a) — REEs are 17 elements.
केवल 1 और 3।

UPSC CSE Prelims 2025 – GS I

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(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All the four

Answer: (c) — Graphite is the anode.
केवल तीन।

Answers & Explanation | उत्तर व व्याख्या

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(a) ₹50 lakh
(b) ₹10 lakh
(c) ₹5 lakh
(d) ₹20 lakh

Answer: (d) — Tarun Plus, Budget 2024-25.
₹20 लाख।

RRB NTPC 2025 – UG CBT-2
17 Sep 2026 (Shift 1)* • Topic: VISTAR

On 27 February 2026, the National Statistical Office released a new GDP series that shifted the base year from 2011-12. Which year is the new base year?

(a) 2018-19
(b) 2015-16
(c) 2022-23
(d) 2020-21

Answer: (c) — New series, 2026.
2022-23।

Test Yourself — Q1–4 | स्वयं को परखें

Q1 The Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum will be built in:
युगे युगीन भारत संग्रहालय कहाँ बनेगा?

(a) Red Fort
(b) North & South Block
(c) Rashtrapati Bhavan
(d) Teen Murti Bhavan

Q2 International Museum Day is observed on:
अंतरराष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय दिवस:

(a) 18 April
(b) 18 May
(c) 5 June
(d) 27 September

Q3 Which city was ranked India's cleanest in Swachh Survekshan 2025-26?
स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 में सबसे स्वच्छ शहर:

(a) Indore
(b) Surat
(c) Navi Mumbai
(d) Vijayawada

Q4 Swachh Survekshan is conducted by the:
स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण कौन करवाता है?

(a) Jal Shakti Ministry
(b) Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry
(c) Environment Ministry
(d) NITI Aayog

Test Yourself — Q5–8 | स्वयं को परखें

Q5 **"Black mass" refers to:**
"ब्लैक मास" क्या है?

(a) Coal dust
(b) Powder from shredded Li-ion batteries
(c) Crude oil residue
(d) Carbon soot from vehicles

Q6 **Which body changed the export policy for battery black mass?**
ब्लैक मास निर्यात नीति किसने बदली?

(a) CBIC
(b) DGFT
(c) CPCB
(d) BIS

Q7 **The "Shishu" category of Mudra loans covers loans up to:**
मुद्रा की "शिशु" श्रेणी की सीमा:

(a) ₹10,000
(b) ₹50,000
(c) ₹5 lakh
(d) ₹10 lakh

Q8 **Stand-Up India targets loans for:**
स्टैंड-अप इंडिया किनके लिए है?

(a) Only farmers
(b) Women and SC/ST entrepreneurs
(c) Street vendors
(d) Large industries

Test Yourself — Q9–10 | स्वयं को परखें

Q9 VISTAR is an initiative of which ministry?
विस्तार किस मंत्रालय की पहल है?

(a) Electronics & IT

(b) Statistics & Programme Implementation

(c) Finance

(d) Home Affairs

Q10 National Statistics Day (29 June) honours:
राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी दिवस किसकी जयंती पर?

(a) C.R. Rao

(b) P.C. Mahalanobis

(c) D.R. Gadgil

(d) V.K.R.V. Rao

Class24

Answer Key — Q1–5 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

1-b **North & South Block** — Cost ₹3,230 crore.
नॉर्थ व साउथ ब्लॉक।

2-b **18 May** — By ICOM since 1977.
18 मई।

3-c **Navi Mumbai** — Indore had topped 8 years.
नवी मुंबई।

4-b **Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry** — Under SBM-Urban.
आवास एवं शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय।

5-b **Powder from shredded Li-ion batteries** — Holds Li, Ni, Co.
बैटरी का पाउडर।

Answer Key — Q6–10 | उत्तर व व्याख्या

6-b **DGFT** — Directorate General of Foreign Trade.
DGFT।

7-b **₹50,000** — Kishore: up to ₹5 lakh.
₹50,000।

8-b **Women and SC/ST entrepreneurs** — ₹10 lakh–₹1 crore.
महिला व SC/ST उद्यमी।

9-b **Statistics & Programme Implementation** — Outlay ₹4,370 crore.
सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन।

10-b **P.C. Mahalanobis** — Founded ISI in 1931.
पी.सी. महालनोबिस।

Myth Buster of the Day — Economy | आज का भ्रम-भंजन

MYTH | भ्रम

"Recycling batteries is just waste disposal – the real minerals only come from mines."

बैटरी रीसाइक्लिंग केवल कचरा निपटान है – असली खनिज तो खदानों से ही आते हैं।

FACT | तथ्य

Used lithium-ion batteries are a concentrated "urban mine". Once shredded into black mass, they yield lithium, nickel, cobalt and graphite that can go straight back into new cells. For a country like India with few domestic reserves of these minerals, recycling is a strategic supply source – which is why the government has banned the export of black mass and is funding recovery under the National Critical Mineral Mission.

इस्तेमाल हो चुकी लिथियम-आयन बैटरियाँ एक सघन "शहरी खदान" हैं। ब्लैक मास में बदलने पर इनसे लिथियम, निकल, कोबाल्ट और ग्रेफ़ाइट मिलते हैं जो सीधे नई बैटरियों में लग सकते हैं। भारत जैसे देश के लिए, जहाँ इन खनिजों के घरेलू भंडार कम हैं, रीसाइक्लिंग एक रणनीतिक आपूर्ति स्रोत है – इसीलिए सरकार ने ब्लैक मास के निर्यात पर रोक लगाई है और राष्ट्रीय महत्वपूर्ण खनिज मिशन के तहत पुनर्प्राप्ति को धन दे रही है।

💡 **Today's battery waste is tomorrow's mineral reserve. | आज का बैटरी कचरा कल का खनिज भंडार है।**

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