

### 9th Edition of 'Swachh Survey'

The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs launched the toolkit for the 9th edition of 'Swachh Survekshan (SS)'.

#### Key Points:

- ❖ This new Swachh Survekshan Toolkit has been kept simple, fast, systematic and all-inclusive.
- ❖ **Timeline:** The final phase of Swachh Survekshan-Field Assessment for the 9th edition will commence on **15th February 2025 and will be completed by the end of March 2025.**
- ❖ **Background:** Swachh Survekshan, launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in 2016, works to improve urban sanitation through citizen participation and third-party verification.
- ❖ **Super Swachh League:** A special category, 'Super Swachh League' was introduced for the year 2024, which is a separate league of cities excelling in cleanliness.
  - Cities that have been ranked in the **top 3 for at least 2 years in the last 3 years (2021-2023)** have been included in it.
  - There are **12 cities in the Super Swachh League**. The top 3 ranked cities in each population category are included in the league for the next years.
- ❖ **Classified into 5 categories:** For the first time this year cities have been classified into 5 categories based on population:
  - These include cities in the categories of very small, small, medium, large and cities with a population of more than one million.

- Each category will be evaluated on the basis of parameters such as **population, its specific size and requirements.**
- Through this, now even small cities will be able to showcase their excellence.

- ❖ **Indicator:** All indicators in the new Swachh Survekshan Toolkit **10 buckets** It is divided into, these are:-

- i) Visible cleanliness ii) Segregation, collection and transportation of waste iii) Solid waste management iv) Access to sanitation v) Management of used water vi) Mechanization of desludging services vii) Promotion of cleanliness viii) Strengthening ecosystem and institutional parameters ix) Overall welfare of sanitation workers x) Citizen feedback and grievance redressal.

### World Monument Watch 2025

The World Monuments Fund (WMF) has included the Musi River Historic Buildings in Hyderabad on its 2025 World Monuments Watch List.

#### Key Points:

- ❖ **Two** of the 25 sites listed on the World Monuments Watch from 29 countries are located in India, including these buildings adjacent to the Musi river.
- ❖ Several historical buildings located along the Musi river, such as the **Telangana High Court, the State Central Library, the British Library and the Usman General Hospital**, have been included in the World Monuments Watch 2025, WMF announced.

- ❖ The Musi river corridor in Hyderabad, which is rich in history, is currently facing significant challenges due to pollution.
- ❖ WMF has received over 200 nominations from across the world for consideration.

### Good Samaritan Scheme

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced an increase in rewards for individuals who help road accident victims.

#### Key Points:

- ❖ **Reward amount:** The incentive for Good Samaritans is planned to be increased from **Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000, a five-fold increase.**
- ❖ **Objective:** It aims to encourage people to come forward during emergencies.
- ❖ The announcement was made at a road safety event held in Nagpur, highlighting the importance of immediate assistance during the crucial first hour after an accident, the "**golden hour**", to save lives.
- ❖ The government also plans to cover hospital expenses of up to **Rs 1.5 lakh for the first seven days** of treatment of injured persons.
- ❖ **Applicable area:** The amendment applies to national and state highways as well as roads in cities, districts and gram panchayats.
- ❖ **Background:** The Good Samaritan scheme, launched in October 2021, aims to promote a culture of helping accident victims without fear of legal or procedural complications.

### Species In News

#### 23 species of blood sucking flies



- ❖ Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India have identified **23 species of blood-sucking flies belonging to the genus Culicoides** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ 13 of these species are reported for the first time in India.
- ❖ Known locally as "**husk flies**", these flies are notorious for sucking the blood of wild animals such as sheep, goats, cattle and deer.
- ❖ Five of these species are **capable of transmitting blue tongue disease**, a potentially fatal viral condition for livestock.
- ❖ Studies conducted in 2022 and 2023 have shown that **17 of the 23 identified species are capable of biting humans.**

### Conference/Summit

#### 55th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)

- ❖ The 2025 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held on January 20-24, 2025 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- ❖ Theme of WEF 2025: "**Collaboration for the Intelligent Age**"
- ❖ In line with the focus of WEF 2025, India is at the forefront of exploring solutions across five key workstreams – **reimagining growth, investing in people, rebuilding trust, industry in the intelligent age and protecting the planet.**

### Person In News-Achievement

#### S.P. Udayakumar

- ❖ S.P. Udayakumar, convener of the People's Movement against Nuclear Energy in India, has been selected for the **2025 Nuclear-Free Future Award** in the Resistance category for his efforts towards a nuclear-free world.
- ❖ Udayakumar played a key role in organising protests against the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant in 2011.
- ❖ The award recognises individuals working to eliminate uranium mining, nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.



### Person In News- Appointments

#### Gyanendra Pratap Singh

- ❖ Gyanendra Pratap Singh, a 1991 batch IPS officer and currently the Director General (DGP) of Assam Police, has been appointed as the new DG of the **Central Reserve Police Force**.
- ❖ His tenure will be till his retirement on **November 30, 2027**, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



### Important Date/Days

#### 19 January

- ❖ **National Disaster Response Force Foundation Day**
- ❖ National Disaster Response Force Raising Day is observed every year on January 19 in India.
- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is the world's largest rapid response force dedicated to disaster response.



- ❖ The NDRF was formed on **January 19, 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005** for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Assam Rifles are among the battalions that are part of this specialized, multi-skilled rescue force.

### Important News- Other States

#### Tripura

- ❖ The state of Tripura celebrates January 19 as **Kokborok Day**, also known as **Tripuri Language Day**.
- ❖ The day is a celebration of the rich cultural heritage and linguistic pride of the Tripuri community.
- ❖ Kokborok is the language of the indigenous community of Tripura, spoken by about one-third of the state's population.
- ❖ The day honours the year 1979 when Kokborok was first officially recognised.
- ❖ In 1900, **Thakur Radhamohan Debbarma** wrote 'Kokborok' in a published grammar of the language.

#### Maharashtra

- ❖ In an effort to shape the use of Artificial Intelligence in the state, the Maharashtra government has announced the formation of a **16-member committee** tasked with submitting recommendations for an **Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025**.
- ❖ Maharashtra will become the first state to have a dedicated AI policy.
- ❖ This AI policy of Maharashtra will be based on the framework of the India AI Mission Policy.

## Sports

### Kho-Kho World Cup

- ❖ India won the first Kho-Kho World Cup by defeating Nepal.

#### Key Points:

- ❖ India won both the men's and women's titles in the first Kho-Kho World Cup 2025 by defeating Nepal 54-36 and 78-40 respectively at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**.
- ❖ Indian women's team **captain Priyanka Ingle** performed brilliantly.
- ❖ India's road to the title included impressive wins over South Korea, Iran and Malaysia in the group stage, followed by victories against Bangladesh in the quarter-finals and South Africa in the semi-finals.
- ❖ The win made India the first-ever champions of the Kho-Kho World Cup.

## Miscellaneous

- ❖ India's electronics exports grew **35.11 per cent to \$3.58 billion in December 2024** from \$2.65 billion in the same month last year. According to the Commerce Ministry, this reflects increased foreign demand for high-value Indian goods and growing domestic production capacities.
- ❖ National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) announced the launch of Internet Governance Internship and Capacity Building Scheme. The program aims to **create awareness and develop expertise on Internet Governance (IG) among Indian citizens**. It aims to equip participants with the knowledge to effectively engage in global Internet governance processes with I-Star organizations such as ICANN, ISOC, IEEE, IETF and work closely with leading experts in the field.

- ❖ India and the US have **signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance cooperation in investigating cyber crimes, which will allow agencies of both sides to enhance cooperation and training.

➤ On the Indian side, the Indian **Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C)** of the Union Home Ministry while on the US side, the agencies Department of Homeland Security and its constituent bodies, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Homeland Security Investigations Cyber Crime Center (C3) are responsible for implementing the MoU.

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 11,440-crore revival plan for debt-ridden **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**.
- The revival package includes infusion of fresh equity of Rs 10,300 crore and conversion of working capital loan of Rs 1,140 crore into 7 per cent non-cumulative preference share capital, redeemable after 10 years, to keep RINL afloat.



