



Balalatha's
CSB IAS ACADEMY
The Road Map to Mussoorie...

PRELIMS EDGE 2026

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KHELO INDIA SCHEME

Context: The inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games is being held from 25th March to 3rd April 2026 in Chhattisgarh.



About Khelo India Scheme:

- It was **launched in 2017** to give a platform to grassroots athletes and to **build sports infra** across India, turning India into a major sporting nation.
- It is a **central sector scheme under Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)**.
- Its **implementation is co-terminus with the term of the 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26)**, with an estimated outlay of Rs 3165.50 crore.
- Under the scheme, **Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games (KIUG) and Khelo India Winter Games** were set up as annual sporting events.
- Several Khelo India athletes have been inducted in the elite **Target Olympic**

Podium Scheme (TOPS) over the years based on their performance.

- Talented players identified in priority sports at various levels will be provided **annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years**.

About Khelo India Rising Talent Program (KIRTI) Programme:

- KIRTI Programme is **aimed at school children aged 9 to 18**, with two main objectives: discovering talent nationwide and using sports to reduce drug addiction and gadget distractions.
- It plans to conduct **20 lakh assessments through Talent Assessment Centres** to identify potential athletes.
- The programme aims to reach every block in India to connect with children interested in sports.
- KIRTI launched across 50 centres, assessing 50,000 applicants in its first phase across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, and hockey.
- It features a **transparent selection process using IT and AI-based data analytics** to predict athletic potential.
- Nodal agency for implementation: **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):

- ✓ It was launched in 2014.

- ✓ It will focus on ensuring representation from High-Priority sports (Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Archery, Shooting and Wrestling).
- ✓ Mission Olympic Cell has been created under Sports Authority of India (SAI) as a dedicated body to assist the athletes who are selected under TOPS.

Source: Khelo India Tribal Games - A New Chapter in Tribal Sports (PIB)

TERMS IN NEWS


Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR)



- It is a multilateral initiative aimed at **strengthening supply chains and industrial resilience** in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It was launched in May 2024 by the **USA** under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (**IPEF**).
- It aims to **reduce over-dependence on a single country for critical goods** and promote trusted and transparent supply chains.
- It also aims to **strengthen industrial cooperation** and crisis response mechanisms; and **encourage investment**

and capacity building in partner countries.

- It comprises of **16 members**:
 - USA, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore, New Zealand, Italy, Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Thailand, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK.
- **Taiwan** participates in an advisory capacity.
- **India is not a formal member** but is frequently referenced in US statements for potential bilateral or project-based cooperation.

 The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is a U.S.-led initiative focusing on four pillars: Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy. India has joined Pillars II, III, and IV, focusing on supply chain resilience, sustainability, and anti-corruption, while maintaining observer status in Pillar I (Trade) due to concerns over environmental/labor standards.

Global Initiative on the Taking of Migratory Species (GTI)



- It is a collaborative global effort **under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (also called the Bonn Convention)** to address the drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking.

- It is launched during the **15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15)** to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in Campo Grande, Brazil.
- It aims to **provide coordinated support to CMS parties and fill longstanding gaps in global conservation efforts**, and is expected to equip countries with the tools, partnerships and knowledge required to safeguard migratory species from this growing threat.
- **Meaning of Illegal and/or Unsustainable Taking:** Illegal and/or unsustainable taking refers to the removal of wild animals from nature in ways that are prohibited under the Convention and/or exceed the level of taking that can be sustained by species populations.
- The initiative is being launched together with partner organizations whose work is directly relevant to addressing these challenges – the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), BirdLife International, the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and TRAFFIC.**
- India, along with South Africa, Türkiye, and around 37 other countries, raised strong **objections at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the China-backed Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement.**
- It is a **plurilateral WTO initiative proposed by China** to streamline bureaucratic procedures and enhance the transparency of investment rules to make it easier to attract global FDI. It focuses on administrative reforms and cooperation.
 - This means it **would be legally binding only on the WTO members who voluntarily accept** and ratify it, rather than the entire WTO membership.
 - India views this plurilateral push as a **threat to the consensus-based, member-driven nature of the WTO**, allowing groups to bypass broader membership agreement.
- China claims that the agreement explicitly excludes controversial issues like market access, investment protection, investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS), and government procurement (such as India's MSP).
- India argues that the **investment facilitation is a "non-mandated, non-multilateral issue"** and its inclusion within the WTO framework **undermines the organisation's established mandate** to regulate global trade in goods, services, and intellectual property.
- India argues that expanding the WTO's mandate to govern foreign direct investment (FDI) without a unanimous multilateral mandate **violates the Marrakesh Agreement of the WTO.**

Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement



PLACES IN NEWS

Dwarka Basin



- Dwarka Basin refers to a series of **underwater archaeological remains located off the coast of modern-day Dwarka and Bet Dwarka in Gujarat** (western tip of Saurashtra Peninsula).
- Geologists suggest the city may have been **submerged due to post-glacial sea-level rise, tectonic activity, or coastal erosion** over millennia.
- In Hindu mythology, it is the **kingdom of Lord Krishna**, which, according to the Mahabharata and Puranas, was swallowed by the Arabian Sea following his departure from the world. This is viewed as the **transition to the Kali Yuga**.
- Some archaeologists dated the remains to **approximately 1500–2000 BCE** (the protohistoric period), aligning it with the end of the Harappan civilization.
- Since the 1980s, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has documented **massive sandstone blocks, semicircular structures, and wall-like formations**. Over 120 stone anchors of various types

(triangular, grapnel, and ring-stone) have been discovered, confirming that the area was a **major ancient port and jetty**.

- The current Dwarka town houses the **Dwarkadhish Temple (Jagat Mandir)**, a major Krishna shrine rebuilt in the 15-16th century after destruction by Mahmud Begada in 1472.
- The Gujarat government plans to introduce **submarine tourism** to allow public access to these underwater structures.
- It is one of the four **Char Dham pilgrimage** sites, alongside **Badrinath** in the north, **Puri** in the east, and **Rameswaram** in the south.

Musi River



- The Musi River, also known as the Muchukunda or Musunuru River, is a **major tributary of the Krishna River** in the Deccan Plateau, flowing through **Telangana**.
- The river gained prominence in the late 16th century when Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of **Hyderabad**, **established the city along its banks**.
- It originates from Anantagiri Hills in Telangana. After originating, it flows in an

eastward direction, cutting through the heart of **Hyderabad city, where it historically divided the Old City from the New City.**

- It ultimately joins the Krishna River near Wazirabad in Telangana, after flowing for a total length of 240 kilometers.
- **Himayat Sagar** and **Osman Sagar** are the two dams that are constructed over the river.
- **Hussain Sagar Lake** was built on a tributary of the River Musi. It was built to meet the water and irrigation needs of Hyderabad.
- Several historic bridges and mosques line its banks, reflecting **Qutb Shahi and Nizam-era architecture.**
- Now due to random urbanization and lack of planning the river has become a holder of all the **unprocessed domestic and industrial waste drained out of Hyderabad.**

- The Kurdistan Region refers to **areas inhabited by ethnic Kurds.**
- The Kurds, a distinct ethnic and linguistic group, have long sought independence and greater autonomy. An estimated 25-30 million Kurds live in **Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.**
- The Kurds are mostly **Sunni Muslim without any official homeland** and continue to seek recognition, political rights, autonomy or independence
- **Kurdish independence movement** is a nationalist aspiration for self-determination among the Kurdish people. This has led to tensions with govts in the region. It **faces opposition from Iraq, Turkey, Iran & Syria,** fearing territorial loss.
- Iraq rejected the **2017 Kurdistan independence referendum,** leading to military and economic retaliation.
- **Turkey continues to do military operations** against Kurdish groups, considering them a security threat.
- It has been alleged that Turkey indirectly helped ISIS against Kurds. **Kurdish forces (Peshmerga) have played a key role in fighting ISIS** and maintaining security in Iraq.

Kurdistan Region



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF):

1. It is a multilateral initiative that was launched by USA.
2. It has four areas of focus (pillars) – trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy.
3. India has joined all four pillars.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Q2. The “KIRTI Programme” of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is related to:

- (a) Increasing India’s medal tally at Olympic and international events
- (b) Increasing sporting infrastructure and stadiums in North-East India
- (c) Financial support for retired national-level sportspersons
- (d) Talent identification programme aimed at school children

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement of the WTO:

1. It has been proposed by India to represent the interests of Global South Nations for investment.
2. If accepted, it will only be binding on WTO members who sign and ratify the agreement.

Which of the above statements are **INCORRECT**?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. The historical region of Kurdistan does **NOT** include which of the following countries?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Jordan
- (d) Syria

Q5. Consider the following pairs of rivers and cities located along these rivers:

1. Musi: Hyderabad
2. Narmada: Surat
3. Chenab: Srinagar
4. Rapti: Lucknow

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answers:

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. A