

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the TRIFED's Aadi Mahotsav tribal festival in New Delhi, and said that the coming together of the diverse tribal cultures of India at such an event was "giving new heights to unity in diversity." Inaugurating the nearly two weeklong showcase and exhibition of tribal artefacts, handicrafts, handlooms and other products at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, the Prime Minister first paid floral tributes to a statue of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda along with Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, before taking a walk through the stalls set up by over 1,000 tribal artisans and craftspeople, from all over the country.

54 number of entities that can continue to operate as Online Payments Aggregators (PAs), according to the list published by the RBI. This includes Amazon (Pay) India, Google India Digital Services, and Zomato Payments. To ensure transparency, the RBI published the list of entities, as of February 15, that submitted applications seeking authorisation to act as online PAs.

2,767 number of complaints processed by the Advertising Standards Council of India since coming up with influencer guidelines in May 2021. More than half of the violations were found on Instagram, while Alphabet's Youtube contributed to a third of them, the self-regulatory organisation for the advertising industry said.

The financial burden of wages to the beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) should also be shouldered by the State governments, in order to make them more proactive in controlling corruption, Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh said.

Delhi Police is playing an active role in planning the security of foreign dignitaries at the G-20 summit, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday. Addressing the force on its 76th Raising Day, he called 2023 a "significant year" for the city police and urged the personnel to stay alert for the upcoming summit.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Thursday asked telecom operators to crack down on spammers slipping past protections introduced in recent years. The authority said it had issued two orders under the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulations, 2018, and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. The systems put in place following the 2018 regulations, which covered messages such as one-time passwords, were being subverted to deliver spam instead. As such, telcos had been ordered to reverify the SMS headers under which commercial SMS messages were sent.

3.85 lakh tonnes, the amount of wheat sold by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to bulk consumers in the second round of e-auction with more than 1,060 bidders participating. Last month, the government announced plans to sell 30

## CABINET APPROVES VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME (VVP) SCHEME

1. VVP, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities along the northern land border. VVP (approved for 2022-23 to 2025-26) will cover Himachal Pradesh (HP), Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh. Scheme will help in improving quality of life of people and reversing outmigration adding to improved security of border.
2. **Key Features of the Scheme**-Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats. Development of growth centres on Hub and Spoke Model through promotion of social entrepreneurship, youth and women empowerment etc. Out of financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore, 2500 crore rupees will be used for roads.
3. 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured. No overlap with Border Area Development Programme (BADP). BADP aims to meet development needs of people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near international border.
4. **Outcomes expected:** connectivity with all-weather road, drinking water, 24x7 electricity with focus on Solar and wind energy, mobile and internet connectivity, Tourist/multi-purpose/health, and wellness Centres.

## CABINET APPROVES STRENGTHENING COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY

1. Centre plans to set up 2 lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy, and fisheries cooperatives in the next five years. PACS constitute lowest tier of Short-Term Cooperative Credit structure in the country, providing short-term and medium-term credit and other input services, like seed, fertilizer etc. to member farmers.
2. **Key decisions taken**-Establish PACS in each uncovered Panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered Panchayat/village and fishery cooperatives in each coastal Panchayat/village as well as Panchayat/village having large water bodies. Leveraging 'whole-of-Government' approach by converging various schemes of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
3. **A high level Inter-Ministerial Committee** headed by Minister of Home and Cooperation will be formed to oversee rollout of plan. Action plan for implementation will be prepared by NABARD, National Dairy Development Board and National Fishery Development Board.
4. **Significance of the decision**-Would provide farmers with requisite forward and backward linkages to market their produce, obtain credit facilities and other services at village level itself. Would generate employment opportunities in rural areas and enable farmers to realize better prices. Will enable cooperative societies to modernize necessary infrastructure to diversify their business activities.

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) SHARED DETAILS OF CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN LAST FIVE YEARS (2018-2022)

1. **Key Highlights**-Highest number of custodial deaths reported in Gujarat followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Among UTs, highest incidents were reported from Delhi followed by Jammu and Kashmir. Custodial violence primarily refers to violence in police custody and judicial custody.
2. Besides death, rape and torture are two other forms of custodial violence. However, the term custodial violence has not been defined under any law. Causes for Custodial Deaths: Traditional habit of using force by police, Prison overcrowding leads to violence between prisoners or suicide, deficiencies in basic services like medical facilities, food etc.
3. **Constitutional safeguards include:** Article 20 (Right to protection against conviction of offenses), Article 21 (Right to life and liberty) Article 22 (Right to protection against arrest and detention in certain circumstance).
4. **Statutory safeguards include**-Sections 330 & 331 of Indian Penal Code. Sections 25 & 26 of Indian Evidence Act. Section 29 of Police Act, 1861 that were enacted to curb tendency of policemen to resort to torture to extract confessions etc.

## TRIPARTITE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF DOPING IN SPORTS

1. MoU was signed between Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Hyderabad. It aims to create nutritional supplement testing capacity in India, increase research opportunities in anti-doping domain, provide dope-free nutritional

lakh tonnes of wheat in the open market under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).

5 percentage, the rise in shares of both Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India after the government reduced the levy on domestically - produced crude in line with the softening of international oil prices. ONGC stock rallied 5.66% to settle at ₹155.85 apiece on the BSE, while shares of Oil India jumped 5.21% to end at ₹260.50 each.

\$ 7.4 billion, the amount to be donated by the Norway Parliament to Ukraine, as part of a five-year support package, making Norway one of the biggest donors to the war-torn country. The money will be split evenly between humanitarian and military assistance over five years, broken down to 15 billion kroner annually.

Musharraf ruled Pakistan from October 1999, till late November 2007. For Musharraf, Jammu & Kashmir's incorporation into Pakistan was an unfinished agenda of India's Partition. This is also an opinion that was and continues to be widely held in Pakistan. Musharraf drew the substance of his power from his position as Army Chief and the moment he handed over the baton, he became powerless. The Pakistan Army has always acted as a body corporate. Once a chief leaves, his honour is sought to be protected to all extent possible but he is expected to stop interfering in the army's functioning or in the country's public affairs.

Pervez Musharraf spent the last six years of his life in exile abroad with a treason conviction over his head. He battled a fatal illness and only his body was brought back to Pakistan to be buried. Today in Pakistan, when incumbent army chiefs still hold the substance of power in their hands, retired chiefs continue to cut sorry figures once they take off the uniform.

The delayed process for the procurement of 114 multirole fighter jets (MRFA) is set to take off soon and along with three different indigenous fighter development programmes, it will result in a mega 500-fighter aircraft acquisition process for the armed forces. This will arrest the dwindling fighter strength of the Indian Air Force and enable it to reach the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons.

With the Centre unlikely to make overtures to civil society groups in Ladakh which have been demanding Statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory, their leaders on Thursday said that the path to agitation would continue.

supplements etc. Doping is the consumption of certain prohibited substances by athletes to enhance performance.

2. **Types of substances used in doping:** **Androgenic agents like anabolic steroid:** Allow athletes to train harder and build more muscle. **Stimulants:** Make athletes hide fatigue by increasing heart rate and blood flow. **Diuretics and masking agents:** To remove fluid from body, which can hide other drug use and can also help in faking weight.
3. **Gene doping:** Body cells or genes are manipulated by use of substances that improve performance. **Blood doping:** where blood is removed from body and injected back in to boost oxygen levels.
4. **Monitoring of Doping in sports-**World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) monitors doping in all kinds of competitive sports. At national level, there is National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) that is provided statutory backing by National Anti-Doping Act, 2022.

### ALL GOVERNMENT MENTAL HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS ARE IN DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS: NHRC

1. Observation were made by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) after visits to all operational government facilities to assess implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (MHA). MHA (replaced Mental Healthcare Act, 1987) aims to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and ensure these persons have right to live a life with dignity.
2. **Key features of MHA-**Specify process and procedure to be followed for admission, treatment, and discharge of mentally-ill individuals. Acknowledged their right to live as part of a community and focuses on rehabilitation. Discourages using physical restraints (such as chaining), unmodified electro-convulsive therapy (ECT), and pushes for right to hygiene, sanitation, food, recreation, privacy, and infrastructure. Provides for establishment of Central and State Mental Health Authority (SMHA). Decriminalized attempt to suicide.
3. Challenges in implementation of MHA-SMHA and Mental Health Review Boards are yet to be established in many states. There is no routine assessment of condition of patients to ascertain if they can be discharged. Poor budgetary allocation and utilization of funds to shelter homes and mental healthcare institution. Lack of alternative community-based services like homes for assisted or independent living.

### COUNTRY'S FIRST MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED IN PUDUCHERRY

1. MSP Framework, part of a pact under Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative, was launched to balance growth alongside sustainable management of ocean resources and coastal environment preservation. Framework is a collaboration between Norwegian Environment Agency, Ministry of Earth Sciences, National Centre for Coastal Research and UT of Puducherry.
2. MSP is a process of analysing and allocating spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO help countries by providing a step-by-step guide for ecosystem-based MSP.
3. **Benefits of MSP Ecological/ Environmental Benefits:** Identification of biological and ecological important areas, reduction of cumulative effects of human activities on marine ecosystems etc. **Economics Benefits:** Certainty of access to desirable areas for new private sector investments, transparency in permit and licensing procedures etc.
4. **Social Benefits:** Improved opportunities for community participation, improved protection of cultural heritage etc. Increasing cross-border cooperation to develop renewable energy, allocate shipping lanes, lay submarine cables etc. Reducing conflicts and creating synergies between different activities.



“I know there will be a day when gravity will win. But I get up every day and I would have defeated her every single day of my life.”

**DR. KHAN**  
(KSG)