

# DAILY PT POINTERS

9 January, 2025



The Hindu-GS3(Economy)Page3

## India's first battery energy storage system to go live in south Delhi's Kilokri in March

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

India's first commercial utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) — an inverter that can provide electricity to a grid — from renewable energy is expected to go live in Delhi in March this year.

The 20 MW (megawatt)/40 MWh (megawatt hour) cluster of batteries, capable of providing four hours of power every day (two hours each during the day and at night), is part of

Kilokri village.

BSES Rajdhani is the largest power distribution company in Delhi. It is a joint venture between the Reliance Group and the Delhi government.

### ₹120-crore project

Akash Gupta, a senior executive at BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., told *The Hindu* that the electricity used to charge the system's batteries will come from the power company's renewable power purchase agreements. The Delhi Electrici-

The total outlay for the project is \$14 million, or nearly ₹120 crore, said Saurobh Kumar, the vice president of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), the principal funders of the project.

A visit to the location shows that the required batteries, being procured from China, have already been tested and are ready to be shipped. These will be housed in containers at Kilokri, said Pinkesh Kumar, head of regulatory affairs at IndiGrid Ltd., the

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## The Hindu –GS1(History)-Page 10

### Why is deciphering the Indus script important?

Why has Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a \$1-million prize to anyone who deciphers the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation? Has any work in recent times pointed to the possible cultural contact between the Indus Valley and south India?

#### EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

#### The story so far:

In January 5, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a \$1-million prize for experts or organisations in the event of their success in deciphering the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC). He made the announcement at the inauguration of an international conference to mark the centenary of the IVC discovery, which was disclosed through an article published in September 1924 by the then Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) John Marshall. That the Chief Minister of a southern State in the country had made such an announcement was due to the possible Dravidian connection with the IVC. Notwithstanding the political dimension of the Dravidian concept, historians, archaeologists and linguistic scholars have been debating over the Dravidian



Decoding language: Seals with the script of the Indus Valley Civilisation. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

#### THE GIST

The IVC, also called the Harappan Civilisation, spanned 2,000 sites across 1.5 million sq. km. in the territories of modern-day India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan during the Bronze Age (3000-1500 BCE). It had a wider geographical area than the combined areas of its contemporary civilisations — Egyptian and Mesopotamian.

Commissioned by the Tamil Nadu government's State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA), a study, which is morphological in nature, reveals that nearly 90% of the graffiti marks found during excavations at archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu have parallels to those found in the Indus Valley Civilisation.

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The Hindu –GS2(IR)-Page 12

## India ready to support Maldives in enhancing its defence preparedness, says Rajnath Singh

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

India has handed over defence equipment and stores to the Maldives on the request of the Maldivian government, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday as New Delhi also reaffirmed its readiness to support Male in capability enhancement for defence preparedness as per its national priorities.

This was conveyed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during talks with his visiting Maldivian counterpart, Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon.

“Raksha Mantri (De-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon, in New Delhi. R V MOORTHY

defence preparedness, including provisioning of defence platforms & assets to augment its capacities, as per its national priorities

for All in the Region),” the Ministry said in a statement. Mr. Maumoon appreciated India’s historical

the modern infrastructural capacities and training of defence and security personnel, the statement said.

Stating that the talks were fruitful, Mr. Singh said in a post on X, “Several issues pertaining to deepening defence cooperation were discussed which would also help in enhancing the capability of Maldives National Defence Forces. Today’s discussions will add new vigour to India-Maldives relations.”

During the talks, the two Ministers comprehensively reviewed various aspects of bilateral defence and security cooperation, the statement said. They

comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership. This is the first visit by the Maldivian Defence Minister to India since the new government came to power in the island nation.

Sources said they discussed the Ekatha Harbour project for the MNDF Coast Guard, for which the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Singh and then Maldivian counterpart, Mariya Didi, during an official visit in May 2023. The development of the Coast Guard Harbour and repair facility at Sifavaru is one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects of India.

Earlier, the visiting Mi-

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- This was conveyed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during talks with his visiting Maldivian counterpart, Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon.
- “Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) reaffirmed India’s readiness to support the Maldives in capability enhancement for defence preparedness, including provisioning of defence platforms & assets to augment its capacities, as per its national priorities and in line with New Delhi’s ‘Neighborhood First’ policy and the vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region),”

## The Hindu-Environment (GSIII)

### A.P. set to hold 3-day Flamingo Festival

**The Hindu Bureau**  
TIRUPATI

The much-awaited 'Flamingo Festival 2025' is all set to be conducted at Sullurpeta in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh from January 18 to 20.

Expectations are high among nature lovers and birdwatchers as the fest was last conducted in 2020. Over 200 varieties of birds are expected to fly to this region during this season. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has already informed the district administration to conduct the



**Winged visitors:** A similar flamingo festival was conducted at Sullurpeta in 2020. NAGARA GOPAL

be spread across five locations including Nelapattu, B.V. Palem, Atakanithippa, Sri City and Sullurpeta. According to Tirupati district Collector S. Venkateswar. a

watching spots at Nelapattu and Atakanithippa, and boating facility at B.V. Palem as a tourist attraction.

Stalls will be set up at the Government Junior

ed. The government has developed infrastructure facilities by integrating it with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Local residents will be prioritised at the festival, Mr. Venkateswar asserted, hinting that the problems faced by the residents of the eco-sensitive zone will be addressed, within the purview of the law.

While inspecting the site along with Sullurpeta MLA Nelavala Vijayasri, Regional Director (Tourism) Ramana Prasad, DFO (Wildlife) Radhika and District Tourism Officer Ianardhan

The much-awaited 'Flamingo Festival 2025' is all set to be conducted at Sullurpeta in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh from January 18 to 20.

- Flamingos are social birds that live in large groups, sometimes numbering in the thousands.
- **Habitat:** They inhabit a variety of environments such as lagoons, estuaries, coastal and inland lakes, and mudflats.
- Flamingo Species & Conservation Status:
  - Greater Flamingo: Least Concern
  - Chilean Flamingo: Near Threatened
  - American Flamingo: Least Concern
  - Lesser Flamingo: Near Threatened
  - Andean Flamingo: Vulnerable
  - James's Flamingo (Puna Flamingo): Near Threatened

#### Status in India:

- Greater flamingos migrate to India from Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; it is also Gujarat's state bird.
- Lesser flamingos migrate from Siberia to Mumbai, passing through the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)

### Farm workers, drivers to be fastest growing jobs: WEF

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Farm workers and drivers will figure among the fastest growing jobs over the next five years, while roles of cashiers and ticket clerks will see the largest decline, a new study showed on Wednesday.

In its Future of Jobs Report 2025, the World Economic Forum (WEF) also said 170 million new jobs will be created by 2030, while 92 million are projected to be displaced, resulting in 78 million net new jobs.

The report, released days before the WEF annual meeting in Davos from January 20-25, said job disruption will equate to 22% of jobs by 2030.

Technological advancements, demographic shifts, geo-economic tensions, and economic pressures are the key drivers of these changes, reshaping industries and professions worldwide.

Drawing on data from over 1,000 firms, the study found the skills gap continues to be the most significant barrier to business transformation today. Nearly 40% of skills required on the job are set to change, and 63% of employers already cite it as the key barrier they face.

Technology skills in AI, big data, and cybersecurity are expected to see rapid



**Workplace surprise:** Cashiers and ticket clerks face sharpest job cuts in the next five years, the World Economic Forum reckoned. #11

for the highest job growth by 2030, while advances in AI and renewable energy are reshaping the market — driving an increase in demand for many technology or specialist roles while driving a decline for others, such as graphic designers.

#### Gen AI, tech shifts

Trends such as generative AI and rapid technological shifts are upending industries and labour markets, creating both unprecedented opportunities and profound risks, said Till Leopold, head of work, wages and job creation, WEF.

Frontline roles, including farm workers, delivery drivers, and construction workers, are poised to see the largest job growth in absolute terms by 2030.

Significant increases are also projected for care jobs, such as nursing professions, and education

these fields.

#### AI reshapes market

Meanwhile, roles such as cashiers and administrative assistants remain among the fastest declining but are now joined by roles, including graphic designers as generative AI rapidly reshapes the labour market.

AI adoption is transforming industries worldwide, with half of the employers planning to leverage it to target new opportunities, 43% planning to reduce their workforce due to automation, and 77% to upskill workers.

The list of five fastest-growing jobs would be topped by farm workers, labourers and agricultural workers, followed by light truck or delivery services drivers, software and application developers, building farmers, finishers and related trades workers

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## Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page 1

FOREIGN SECY MEETS AFGHANISTAN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IN DUBAI

# Security concerns to trade via Chabahar: India and Taliban hold first top-level talks

Ready to respond to urgent developmental needs of Afghan people: MEA

Region in flux and 5 reasons behind Delhi's decision to engage Kabul

SHUBHAJITROY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

FOREIGN SECRETARY Vikram Misri's meeting with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi takes place at a time

**EXPLAINED** **E** when the geopolitics of the region is in a state of flux. While there is no move yet to

grant official recognition to the Taliban government, this is an effort by India to secure its own national and developmental interests.



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Afghan acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi with their teams in Dubai. X@MEAIndia

SHUBHAJITROY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

So far, an Indian official, at the level of Joint Secretary, had been meeting Taliban ministers, including Muttaqi, and Defence of External Affairs said the two sides discussed various issues pertaining to bilateral relations as well as regional development.

SPORT

India and Afghanistan assessed ongoing humanitarian programs. Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister appreciated India's support and engagement.

India will consider future development projects in addition to current humanitarian aid.

India will provide further support to the health sector and refugee rehabilitation.

**Refugee Rehabilitation:** India will assist in the rehabilitation of Afghan refugees, particularly those being sent back from Pakistan.

**Cricket Cooperation:** Discussions were held on strengthening cricket ties, valued by Afghanistan's young population.

India has helped Afghan cricketers practice in India, including in Noida.

**Chabahar Port:**

Both sides agreed to promote Chabahar port for trade and humanitarian assistance.

India received a reprieve from US sanctions on Chabahar, given its strategic importance for Afghanistan

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-Environment(GSIII)

Ministry of Culture



Around 56,000 sq. meters of Dense Forests created in Prayagraj in last two years using Miyawaki Technique

Garbage dumps transformed into lush green forests, aiding environmental conservation, as part of Mahakumbh 2025

Posted On: 08 JAN 2025 7:07PM by PIB Delhi

- In preparation for Mahakumbh 2025, dense forests have been developed at various locations across Prayagraj, to ensure pure air and a healthy atmosphere for the millions of devotees expected to visit the city. The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has utilized the Japanese Miyawaki technique over the past two years to establish multiple oxygen banks, which have now transformed into lush green forests
- The Miyawaki technique, developed by renowned Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s, is a revolutionary method for creating dense forests in limited spaces. Often referred to as the 'pot plantation method', it involves planting trees and shrubs close to one another to accelerate their growth. Plants grow 10 times faster with this technique, making it a practical solution for urban areas.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Culture(GSI)

### Marathi Language Officially Granted Classical Status



- The Marathi language has officially been granted the status of a classical language following the issuance of the Government Resolution (GR)  
Classical languages are regarded as the custodians of India's ancient and profound cultural legacy, preserving the rich history, literature, and traditions of their respective communities
- The criteria were revised in 2024 as follows:
  - High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
  - A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
  - Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
  - The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots