

# DAILY PT POINTERS

25 January, 2025



The Hindu-GS2(Governance)Page 1

## U.P. temple gets FCRA nod without request

**Vijaita Singh**  
**Ishita Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has granted registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010 to the famous Banke Bihari temple in Uttar Pradesh's Vrindavan, enabling it to receive donations from foreign countries for "religious" activity.

The temple's priests, however, said they had never applied for the

in the State over the control of the temple's affairs and funds. The committee includes the State government's nominees.

The Banke Bihari temple is presently owned and managed by a hereditary community of Sevayat Goswami priests, Saraswat Brahmins, and the descendants of Swami Haridas, who built the temple over 550 years ago.

Sources in the State government said the temple's funds currently stand at about ₹180 crore, apart

- The Union Home Ministry has granted the Banke Bihari temple in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh, registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), allowing it to receive foreign donations for religious activities.
- The FCRA regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security. First enacted in 1976, it was amended in 2010 when a slew of new measures were adopted to regulate foreign donations. The FCRA is applicable to all associations, groups and NGOs which intend to receive foreign donations. It is mandatory for all such NGOs to register themselves under the FCRA. The registration is initially valid for five years and it can be renewed subsequently if they comply with all norms.

## The Hindu-GS3(Space)Page6

### ISRO gearing up for its 100th launch from Sriharikota on Jan. 29

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for the 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, which is scheduled to take place on January 29 with the launch of the GSLV-F15 NVS-02 mission.

The GSLV-F15, with indigenous cryogenic stage, will place the NVS-02 satellite in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

The launch is scheduled to take place from the spaceport's second launch pad.

The NVS-02 is the second satellite in the NVS series, and part of India's Navigation with Indian

Constellation (NavIC) is India's independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide accurate Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) service to users in India and the region extending about 1,500 km beyond the Indian landmass, which is its primary service area.

NavIC provides two types of services: Standard Positioning Service (SPS) and Restricted Service (RS). NavIC SPS provides a position accuracy of better than 20 metres and timing accuracy of better than 40 nanoseconds over the primary service area. Five second-generation NavIC satellites, NVS-01/02/03/04/05, are envisaged to augment the NavIC base layer constellation with en-

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- The GSLV-F15, with indigenous cryogenic stage, will place the NVS-02 satellite in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- The launch is scheduled to take place from the spaceport's second launch pad.
- The NVS-02 is the second satellite in the NVS series, and part of India's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- According to ISRO, NavIC is India's independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide accurate Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) service to users in India and the region extending about 1,500 km beyond the Indian landmass, which is its primary service area.

## The Hindu-GS3(Defence)Page10

# Pralay, India's first quasi-ballistic missile, to be showcased at Republic Day parade

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to showcase "Pralay", an indigenous short-range quasi-ballistic missile, at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Sunday.

Meant for the Army and the Air Force, Pralay is the first ballistic missile in India's arsenal for conventional strikes. The Army's Battle Surveillance System "Sanjay" will also be part of the parade.

With a range of 400 kilometres, Pralay adds to the BrahMos and Parahar missiles already in the invento-



The Pralay Weapon System on display during the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

missile strikes across the border. It is meant for deployment along both the Line of Control (LoC) and the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

now complete, officials said, noting that the Defence Ministry had already accorded the Acceptance of Necessity for its induction. The system features a

Leyland 12x12 high-mobility vehicle as seen during the ongoing rehearsals for the Republic Day parade.

In 2023, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of the Pralay tactical ballistic missiles with a range of 400 km and Nirbhay long-range subsonic land attack cruise missiles with a range of 1,000 km, both of which will give a long-range conventional strike option for the Indian military. Put together, a few hundred missiles were approved for procurement by the DAC.

A new derivative of Nirbhay, which has been under development for over a decade now, has been

- The DRDO will showcase the "Pralay" missile, a short-range quasi-ballistic missile, at the Republic Day parade.
- With a 400 km range, it's designed for conventional strikes by the Army and Air Force, complementing BrahMos and Parahar missiles.
- Pralay has completed trials and is ready for induction. In 2023, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of Pralay and Nirbhay missiles, enhancing India's long-range strike capabilities.

## The Hindu-GS2(Governance)Page 12

### Odisha tops NITI fiscal health index, Chhattisgarh next best

Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala were the worst-performing States, as per the NITI Aayog report, while Maharashtra, U.P., Telangana, M.P., Karnataka were in 'front-runners' category

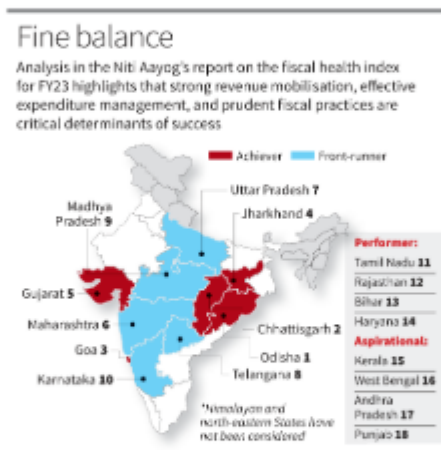
Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Mineral-rich Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jharkhand have emerged as top-performing 'achievers' among the States listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report released on Friday.

The report titled "Fiscal Health Index 2025" ranked States for 2022-23, covering 18 major States that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's GDP, demography, total public expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.

According to the report, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were the worst-performing States in the Fiscal Health Index (FHI), each facing significant fiscal challenges, and listed under "aspirational" category.

The report aims to evolve an understanding of the fiscal health of States and it has listed Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka under the "front-runners" category.



than, and Haryana were classified as performers.

As per the report, released by 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya, Odisha excelled in fiscal health, with the highest overall index score of 67.8.

Referring to top five achiever States, NITI Aayog said these States have higher capital outlay of up to 4% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), effective mobilisation of non-tax re-

plus, and have low interest payments which is up to 7% of revenue receipts.

The government think tank said the front-runner States reported high total developmental expenditure up to 73%, witnessed consistent growth in own tax revenue, had balanced fiscal management and improved debt sustainability with debt-to-GSDP ratio of 24%.

The report noted that the aspirational States of

Andhra Pradesh and Punjab are struggling to meet the fiscal and revenue deficit targets, have low revenue mobilisation, witnessing a growing debt burden with debt sustainability a concern in these States.

As per the report, Odisha tops the debt index (99.0) and debt sustainability (64.0) rankings with better than average scores under quality of expenditure and revenue mobilisation. Odisha has maintained low fiscal deficits, a good debt profile, and an above average capital outlay:GSDP ratio.

While Kerala and Punjab struggle with low quality of expenditure and debt sustainability, the report said, West Bengal faces revenue mobilisation and debt index issues. Andhra Pradesh has high fiscal deficit and Haryana has a poor debt profile, it said.

According to the report, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh scored the highest average FHI score for 2014-15 to 2021-22 period. The data used to calculate the Fiscal Health Index were sourced from the Comptroller and

- NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025 report ranks states based on fiscal health for 2022-23. Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jharkhand are the top performers, excelling in fiscal health with Odisha leading with a score of 67.8. The report categorizes states into front-runners (Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka), performers (Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana), and aspirational (Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab). Odisha tops the debt index and sustainability rankings, benefiting from high capital outlay, revenue surplus, and low fiscal deficits. On the other hand, states like Kerala and Punjab face challenges in expenditure quality, debt sustainability, and revenue mobilisation.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB –GS1(History)

Prime Minister's Office



PM pays tributes to Bharat Ratna Karpuri Thakur ji on his birth anniversary

Posted On: 24 JAN 2025 8:51AM by PIB Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, and UP CM Yogi Adityanath paid tributes to Bharat Ratna Karpuri Thakur on his birth anniversary.
- Thakur, a freedom fighter and former Bihar CM, was honored posthumously in 2024. Known for his commitment to social justice, he served in various political roles, including two terms as Bihar's CM. He passed away in 1988.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## PIB-GS3(Defence)

Ministry of Defence



## Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flags-off 'SANJAY - The Battlefield Surveillance System' from New Delhi

Posted On: 24 JAN 2025 12:14PM by PIB Delhi

### Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged off SANJAY - The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) on January 24, 2025, in New Delhi.

- SANJAY integrates inputs from ground and aerial sensors, creating a Common Surveillance Picture to enhance battlefield transparency.
- It improves monitoring, intrusion prevention, and situational assessment.
- It is equipped with advanced sensors and analytics, SANJAY supports both conventional and sub-conventional operations and aids commanders in a Network Centric Environment.
- Development: Developed jointly by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), SANJAY supports India's push for Aatmanirbharta and follows the Year of Technology Absorption.
- Induction: The system will be rolled out in three phases across operational Brigades, Divisions, and Corps from March to October 2025.