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SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 2025

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1. Angikaar 2025 Campaign and PMAY-U 2.0

- Prelims Angikaar 2025 Campaign and PMAY-U 2.0
- Mains GS 2 Governance

Why in the news?

 Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched Angikaar 2025 campaign under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban 2.0

Angikaar 2025 Campaign

- What is it?: Angikaar 2025 is a last-mile outreach initiative under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Objectives:
 - → Strengthen the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 through intensified awareness.
 - → Fast-tracks Verification of pending applications and Completion of already sanctioned housing units.
 - ★ Verification of pending applications.
 - ★ Completion of already sanctioned housing units.
 - → Raise stakeholder awareness about Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH).
 - → Ensure **last-mile delivery** and synergy with other GoI schemes via Community mobilisation, targeted engagement, convergence efforts.
 - → Extend benefits of **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** to PMAY-U beneficiaries.
 - → Prioritise housing needs for **Special Focus Group** beneficiaries under PMAY-U 2.0

• Coverage and Outreach:

- → **Duration**: 4 September to 31 October 2025.
- → Scale: Over 5,000+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India.
- → Methods:
 - ★ Door-to-door awareness drives.
 - ★ Outreach via camps, **loan melas**, cultural events.

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★ Foster participation through the Jan Bhagidari movement.

• Key Events:

- → PMAY-U Awas Diwas: 17 September 2025 marks one year since PMAY-U 2.0 launch.
- → PM Awas Mela Shehri: District HQ (or Municipal Corporation level in larger cities).
- → These anchor events serve as dynamic platforms to showcase scheme benefits, deepen convergence, and strengthen grassroots outreach.

• Significance:

- → Reaffirms the Government's drive to **bridge implementation gaps** and **bring** welfare closer to the vulnerable.
- → Enhances participatory governance via public engagement in housing delivery.
- → Accelerates delivery of urban housing goals aligned with the broader 'Housing for All' vision.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0

- <u>Launch:</u> Approved by Union Cabinet in **September 2024** as a revamped phase of PMAY-U
- **Duration:** Implemented over five years (2024–2029)
- Target: Extend central assistance up to ₹2.50 lakh per unit to 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families for constructing, purchasing, or renting affordable housing.
- <u>Budgetary Push</u>: Backed by a proposed ₹10 lakh crore investment, with ₹2.50 lakh crore in direct central assistance.

• Components:

- → Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC): Assistance up to ₹2.50 lakh for EWS families to build a pucca house (30–45 sq m) on self-owned land.
- → Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP): Facilitates construction of houses (30–45 sq m) by public/private agencies, to be allotted to eligible EWS beneficiaries.





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- → Affordable Rental Housing (ARH): Aims to construct rental housing for urban migrants, women workers, industrial laborers, homeless, etc., via public/private entities.
- → Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS): Interest subsidy (up to ₹1.80 lakh) on home loans for EWS, LIG, and MIG (income up to ₹9 lakh), loans sanctioned post-1 September 2024.

• Implementation & Monitoring:

- → Real-time MIS/portal system: Unified web portal, with MIS accessible to stakeholders for tracking, status updates, and analytics.
- → MoA Requirement: States/UTs participate after signing Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

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2. Nalanda Mahavihara

- Prelims Nalanda Mahavihara
- Mains GS 1 Ancient Indian History

Why in the news?

 Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay, accompanied by a delegation, visited Nalanda University, Rajgir in Bihar.

Nalanda Mahavihara

- Location: Nalanda, Bihar (ancient Magadha).
- Historical Background:
 - → Establishment: 5th century CE during Gupta period (by Kumaragupta I).
 - → Patronage: Gupta rulers, later Harshavardhana, and Pala kings.
 - → Name Origin: The term 'Nalanda' means giver of knowledge (*Na-Alam-Da*).
 - → Religious Centre: Initially Buddhist, later multi-disciplinary with Hindu & Jain students.

• Features:

- → Scale: World's first fully residential university that hosted nearly 10,000 students & about 2,000 teachers.
- → Curriculum: Buddhist studies (Mahayana, Hinayana, Vajrayana), logic, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, grammar, Vedas.
- → **Pedagogy**: Oral traditions, debates, manuscripts.
- → Admission: Through rigorous oral entrance tests.
- → **Architecture**: Red brick monasteries (Viharas), temples (Stupas), classrooms, meditation halls, libraries.
- → Libraries: 3 grand libraries- Ratnasagara (Sea of Jewels), Ratnadadhi (Ocean of Treasures), Ratnaranjaka (Jewel-adorned); housed manuscripts in palm leaf & birch bark.
- → International Students: Attracted scholars from China, Korea, Tibet, Japan, Persia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia.
 - ★ Famous scholars: **Xuanzang (Hsüan-tsang)**, **Yijing**, Dharmapala, Shilabhadra, Aryabhata (astronomy).
 - ★ Served as a pan-Asian hub of knowledge and Buddhist philosophy.



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Decline & Destruction:

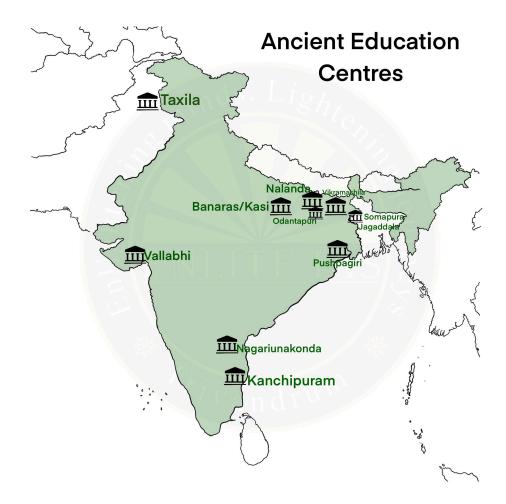
- → Destroyed (1193 CE) by **Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion** in the 12th Century.
- → Libraries burnt for months; decline of Buddhism in India accelerated.
- → Marked the end of India's ancient seat of organised learning.

• Rediscovery & Excavation:

- → Rediscovered in the 19th century by Alexander Cunningham (ASI).
- → Archaeological excavations (1915-37, 1974-82, 2007 onwards).
- → Structures reveal monasteries, stupas, sculptures, inscriptions.

• UNESCO World Heritage Site Status:

- → Inscribed in 2016 as "Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University), Bihar".
 - ★ Outstanding testimony to development of monastic & scholastic institutions.
 - ★ Linked to transmission of knowledge across Asia.



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3. Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card

- Prelims Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card
- Mains GS 2 Governance

Why in the news?

• Less than 40% of estimated PwDs have obtained UDID cards, affecting the penetration of governmental schemes into the needy population.

Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card

• What is it?:

- → The scheme aims to create a national database of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and issue a Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) valid across India.
- → Aligns with Rights of **Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**-recognition of 21 categories of disabilities.
- Launch: Pilot in 2014 and full-scale rollout in 2016.
- <u>Nodal Ministry:</u> Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

• Objectives:

- → Create a national database of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- → Issue Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards valid across India.
- → Ensure **uniformity** in disability certification across States/UTs.
- → Facilitate **portability** of ID and entitlements across states.
- → Streamline **benefits delivery** (scholarships, assistive devices, pensions, reservations, skill development, etc.)

• Features of the Scheme:

- → Smart Card with unique 18-digit ID number.
- → Application Process: Online, single-window for disability certification & UDID card.

→ Validity:

- ★ Permanent for lifelong disabilities.
- ★ Renewable for temporary disabilities.



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- → Database Utility: Helps policymakers plan, monitor, and implement disability-related schemes.
- → Integration: Linked with Aadhaar for authentication, but distinct as disability-specific ID.

• Current Status:

- → Coverage: Less than 40% PwDs have UDID cards (as of 2025).
- → Best Performing States: Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka, Meghalaya (>50%).
- → Lagging States: West Bengal (~6%), high pendency in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Mizoram.

Challenges:

- → **Digital divide:** Online-only application excludes many PwDs.
- → Low awareness among rural/semi-urban PwDs.
- → Administrative delays: Nearly 11 lakh pending applications, many >6 months.
- → Declining budgetary allocations for UDID sub-scheme.
- → Exclusion risk: If UDID is made mandatory, many PwDs may be denied benefits.

• Way Forward:

- → **Hybrid model**: Allow offline and online application modes.
- → Awareness drives: Panchayat-level, community-based mobilisation.
- → Faster Processing: District-level monitoring, timelines for certification.
- → Convergence: Link UDID with Aadhaar & DBT for seamless benefit transfer.
- → Budgetary Support: Enhanced, dedicated allocation for UDID scheme.
- → **Digital Literacy**: Training for PwDs and caregivers to use the platform.

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4. Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR-2025)

- **Prelims** Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR-2025)
- Mains GS 3 Internal Security

Why in the news?

• The Ministry of Defence has released the Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR-2025).

Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR-2025)

• What is it?: A strategic document that lays out the future technology and capability requirements of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force for the next 15 years.

• Objectives:

- → To provide early visibility of future requirements to domestic manufacturers.
- → Promote indigenisation and self-reliance in defence technologies.
- → Ensure the Indian military is equipped to face emerging multi-domain warfare challenges, including cyber, space, and AI-enabled conflicts.

• Focus Areas:

→ Nuclear & CBRN Preparedness

- ★ Upgrades to survivability, nuclear command-and-control, and infrastructure.
- ★ Development of CBRN reconnaissance vehicles and unmanned systems for detection and decontamination

→ Drones & Unmanned Systems

- ★ Development of high-performance stealth drones with ~1,500 km range, operational at altitudes of ~60,000 ft.
- ★ Loitering munitions featuring AI targeting and reusable warheads.
- ★ Anti-drone systems including adaptive jamming and electronic denial zones with ~15 km radius to combat hostile drone swarms

→ Electronic & Cyber Warfare

- ★ Advances in electronic warfare (EW) capabilities: jammers, EW payloads, info-dominance systems.
- ★ Strengthening defenses in cyber and space domains



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→ Service-Specific Modernization

- ★ Army: Acquisition of new and light tanks, unmanned aerial vehicles for precision-guided munitions, and exploring electromagnetic weapon systems.
- ★ Navy: Plans for new destroyers, corvettes, mine vessels, nuclear-powered warships, and a third aircraft carrier.
- ★ Air Force: Technologies like stratospheric airships, long-range cruise missiles, and hardened precision-guided munitions

→ Industry Engagement and Update Mechanisms

- ★ Ongoing consultation between defence services and industry stakeholders, including MSMEs and startups.
- ★ Provision for periodic updates to the TPCR to adapt to evolving threats and technological advances

• Strategic Significance:

- → Bridges capability gaps for future warfare.
- → Provides direction to defence industry, MSMEs, startups for R&D and manufacturing.
- → Supports self-reliance in defence production.
- → Ensures future combat readiness in contested multi-domain environments.
- → Includes mechanisms for periodic updates based on evolving technology and threats.

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5. PRATUSH Radiometer

- Prelims PRATUSH Radiometer
- Mains GS 3 Internal Security

Why in the news?

 The scientists at Raman Research Institute of Bengaluru have developed a compact digital receiver system for a proposed space payload called PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATion of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen).

PRATUSH Radiometer

• What is it?:

- → PRATUSH stands for Probing ReionizATion of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen.
- → Designed as a radiometer payload in lunar orbit, particularly over the far side of the Moon, which provides a shielded, radio-quiet environment ideal for detecting faint cosmic signals.
- → Its primary aim is to observe the Cosmic Dawn- the period when the first stars and galaxies formed, and the subsequent Epoch of Reionization (EoR) of the Universe.
- <u>Developed by:</u> The Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru, in collaboration with ISRO and supported by DST, Government of India.

• Scientific Importance:

- → Targets detection of the **21-cm hydrogen signal**, which traces the state and evolution of neutral hydrogen during the Cosmic Dawn and EoR.
- → Earth-based detection is severely hampered by radio-frequency interference (RFI) and ionospheric distortion; lunar far-side placement overcomes these limitations.

• Operating Strategy:

- → Intends to observe large sky regions continuously, recording beam-averaged radio spectra with high spectral resolution.
- → The **nominal mission lifetime** is projected to be around **two years**, enabling high signal-to-noise accumulation and comprehensive sky coverage.

