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- **Prelims -** Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Viksit Bharat Buildathon.

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- **What is it?:**
  - ➔ It is a **nationwide innovation movement / school-level hackathon / challenge** launched by the Government of India to promote **creativity, problem solving and grassroots innovation among school students**.
  - ➔ It aims to **nurture innovation and problem-solving skills** among school students in alignment with the vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**.
- **Organised by: Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education** in collaboration with **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog** and **AICTE**.
- **Objectives:**
  - ➔ Provide a **national platform** for showcasing young talent in line with **NEP 2020** goals.
  - ➔ To inculcate a **culture of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship** among school children.
  - ➔ Encourage students to build **prototypes and solutions** around themes of self-reliance and inclusive growth.
  - ➔ Develop **critical thinking and teamwork skills** through structured competitions.
- **Features:**
  - ➔ **Student teams:** Usually 5–7 students per team from grades/classes 6 to 12.
  - ➔ No limit on number of teams per school.
  - ➔ **Mentorship and support:** Schools will receive toolkits, videos, handbooks, resource materials via the official portal.

➔ Special spotlight will be given to schools in **aspirational districts, remote/tribal areas**, ensuring inclusive participation.

- **Themes of the Buildathon:**
  - ➔ **Vocal for Local:** Promoting indigenous ideas/products.
  - ➔ **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Fostering self-reliance through innovation.
  - ➔ **Swadeshi:** Emphasis on traditional wisdom, sustainable practices.
  - ➔ **Samriddhi:** Solutions for holistic prosperity and well-being.
- **Significance:**
  - ➔ **Education & Skills:** Advances the NEP 2020 vision of experiential learning.
    - ★ Encourages hands-on, experiential learning- moving beyond rote knowledge to doing, tinkering, building.
  - ➔ **Nation-building:** Aligns student creativity with **Viksit Bharat @ 2047** roadmap.
    - ★ Aligns school-level innovation with **national priorities** like self-reliance, indigenous growth, local prosperity.
  - ➔ **Innovation Ecosystem:** Links schools with AIM, NITI Aayog and AICTE innovation frameworks.
    - ★ Promotes **student engagement & motivation** in STEM / non-STEM fields, creativity, critical thinking.
    - ★ Provides **recognition & encouragement** for young innovators, possibly fostering start-ups or further innovation pathways.
  - ➔ **Social Impact:** Encourages young minds to address real-world challenges in local communities.

2. Visakhapatnam Declaration on E-Governance

- **Prelims -** Visakhapatnam Declaration on E-Governance
- **Mains -** GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Visakhapatnam Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the 28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG 2025) held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Visakhapatnam Declaration on E-Governance

- **What is it?:**
  - ➔ The declaration charted an ambitious and inclusive roadmap for India's digital transformation, focusing on advanced technologies, civil service reforms, cybersecurity, and grassroots empowerment, made at the 28th National Conference on e-Governance(NCeG 2025).
  - ➔ The Declaration is a strategic framework/roadmap for advancing e-governance in India, aligning with the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Key Proposals:**
  - ➔ **Extending digital governance to underserved regions:** Emphasizes bridging digital divides in regions like **North-East and Ladakh**, improving access and coverage of mandatory e-services under the NeSDA (National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment) framework.
  - ➔ **Strengthening civil services with digital capabilities:** Promote "whole-of-government" approaches, upskilling civil servants in digital / data competencies, encouraging agile and data-driven frameworks.
  - ➔ **AI & emerging tech for citizen services:** Scale AI-driven platforms (e.g. Digital India BHASHINI, Digi Yatra) to provide **multilingual**, **real-time**, **sector-specific** services, with emphasis on ethical & transparent use of AI.
  - ➔ **National Agri Stack acceleration:** Push for rapid deployment of the agriculture stack to help farmers with access to credit, advisories, market linkages, climate-smart practices.
  - ➔ **Cybersecurity, digital trust & resilience:** Prioritize securing critical infrastructure, adopting architectures like zero-trust, post-quantum security, AI-enabled monitoring to ensure integrity, trust and sovereignty in digital systems.

- ➔ **"Minimum Government, Maximum Governance":** Reaffirmed as a guiding principle- emphasis on governance through systems, digital public infrastructure, rather than expanding government control or footprint.
- ➔ **Technology enablers & digital ecosystems:** Recognizing the role of technologies like IoT, GIS, blockchain, data analytics, ML/AI as enablers of transparent, citizen-centric governance.

- **Significance:**
  - ➔ It gives **strategic direction** to India's digital governance priorities over the coming years; a policy anchor for both central and state governments.
  - ➔ It reinforces the alignment of e-governance with the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision.
  - ➔ It signals a shift from standalone digital projects to **integrated, citizen-centric, data-driven governance ecosystems**.
  - ➔ It foregrounds **inclusivity** (serving remote / underserved regions) and **digital equity** as essential in the next phase of e-governance.
  - ➔ Emphasis on **cybersecurity, trust, resilience** is especially important in the era of AI, data-intensive systems, and external threats.
  - ➔ By endorsing platforms like BHASHINI, the Declaration points to **multilingual / local language inclusion** in digital services.
  - ➔ The Declaration may serve as a reference for future policy documents, budget decisions, state-level e-governance plans, and monitoring frameworks (e.g. NeSDA).
- **Challenges:**
  - ➔ Implementation across states with diverse capabilities and digital maturity may be uneven.
  - ➔ Ensuring **data privacy, ethical AI use, algorithmic transparency** will be critical yet hard to guarantee.
  - ➔ Infrastructure constraints (connectivity, power, devices) in remote areas remain a barrier.
  - ➔ Interoperability and coordination among disparate departments & levels of government will be complex.
  - ➔ Sustained funding, institutional capacity, and change management will determine outcomes more than lofty goals.

3. Super Cyclone

- **Prelims -** Super Cyclone
- **Mains -** GS 1 - Geography

Why in the news?

- Super Typhoon Ragasa hit Hong Kong with fierce winds and pounding rain, and headed into southern China

Super Cyclones

- **Definition**: Super cyclones are extremely intense tropical cyclones that form over the ocean and can cause devastating damage when they make landfall. These storms are characterized by their exceptionally strong winds and heavy rainfall.
- **Features**
  - ➔ **Intense Winds**: Super cyclones can produce sustained wind speeds of over 220 km/h (137 mph), capable of causing widespread destruction.
  - ➔ **Heavy Rainfall**: These storms often bring torrential rainfall, leading to flooding, landslides, and erosion.
  - ➔ **Storm Surge**: Super cyclones can generate massive storm surges, causing coastal flooding and inundation.
- **Condition For Formation**
  - ➔ Warm Sea Surface Temperature (≥ 27°C).
  - ➔ High Ocean Heat Content (depth of warm water > 60 m).
  - ➔ Low Vertical Wind Shear (winds not disrupting vertically).
  - ➔ High Relative Humidity in mid-troposphere.
  - ➔ Coriolis Force (sufficient distance from equator, usually > 5° latitude).
- **Example: Odisha Super Cyclone (1999)**
  - ➔ Landfall: Odisha coast (Paradeep).
  - ➔ Wind speed: ~260–270 km/h.
  - ➔ Casualties: ~10,000 deaths.
  - ➔ Led to establishment of Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA).
- **Disaster Management**
  - ➔ **Institutions**: NDMA, IMD, INCOIS.
  - ➔ **Tools**: Satellites (INSAT, SCATSAT-1), Doppler Weather Radars.
  - ➔ **Preparedness**: Cyclone shelters, evacuation drills, Odisha model.
  - ➔ **Mitigation**: Mangrove plantation, coastal zone regulations, resilient housing.

4. LCA Tejas and LCA Tejas Mk-1A Fighter

- **Prelims -** LCA Tejas and LCA Tejas Mk-1A Fighter
- **Mains -** GS 1 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- The Defence Ministry signed a contract to buy 97 light combat aircraft, of the Tejas Mark-1A variant, for the Indian Air Force from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., in a ₹62,370-crore deal

LCA Tejas Fighter

- **History**: The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme was started by the Government of India in 1984.
- **Aim**: To replace the ageing Mig 21 fighter planes (known as flying coffins due to repeated crashes and death of pilots)
- **Designed by**: Aeronautical Development Agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development.
- **Manufactured by:** State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Features**
  - ➔ The lightest, smallest and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft.
  - ➔ Designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.
  - ➔ Air to air refueling capability.
  - ➔ Maximum payload capacity of 4000 kg.
  - ➔ It can attend the maximum speed of Mach 1.8.
  - ➔ The range of the aircraft is 3,000km

LCA Tejas Mk-1A Fighter

- **What is it?**: An upgraded variant of India's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- **Developed by**: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under the Make in India initiative.
- **Upgradation**
  - ➔ **Advanced Avionics**

★ Equipped with AESA radars: Israeli EL/M-2052 and indigenous Uttam AESA radar.

➔ **Electronic Warfare (EW) Systems**

★ Unified Electronic Warfare Suite (UEWS).

★ Advanced Self-Protection Jammer Pod.

➔ **Flight Control**

★ Improved Digital Fly-by-Wire System with DFCC Mk1A for enhanced maneuverability.

➔ **Weapons Capability**

★ Nine hardpoints for diverse payloads.

★ Supports BVR missiles, ASRAAM, precision-guided munitions, and air-to-air/air-to-ground missiles.

➔ **Operational Efficiency**

★ Reduced weight, improved maintainability.

★ Faster turnaround during missions.

5. Agni Prime (Agni-P) Missile

- **Prelims** - Agni Prime (Agni-P) Missile
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- The DRDO and the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) successfully test-fired the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime missile from a rail-based mobile launcher, under full operational conditions.

Agni Prime (Agni-P) Missile

- **Developed by**: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **First Tested**: June 2021 from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Type**: Medium-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- **Range**: 1,000 – 2,000 km.
- **Warhead**: Can carry conventional and nuclear payloads (~1,000 kg).
- **Design**:
  - ➔ Two-stage solid propellant missile.
  - ➔ Lighter and sleeker than earlier Agni variants (uses advanced composites).
  - ➔ Canisterised system – stored, transported, and launched from a canister → quick launch, better road/rail mobility.
  - ➔ Equipped with advanced navigation and guidance systems (Ring Laser Gyro, Inertial Navigation + satellite guidance).
- **Significance**
  - ➔ **Enhanced mobility**: Road and rail-mobile, suited for flexible deployment.
  - ➔ **Canisterisation**: Improves survivability, operational readiness, and storage.
  - ➔ **Strategic deterrence**: Strengthens India's nuclear deterrent under Credible Minimum Deterrence and No First Use policy.
  - ➔ **Part of Agni series**: Complements Agni-III to Agni-V for wider strike capability.

6. India-Morocco Relations

- **Prelims -** India-Morocco Relations
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Indian Defence Minister's maiden visit to Morocco to inaugurate India's •rst overseas defence manufacturing facility has marked the beginning of a new chapter in the long-standing friendship between India and Morocco

India-Morocco Relation

- **Historical Context:**
  - ➔ India and Morocco have a long-standing and friendly relationship rooted in shared historical ties, cultural exchanges, and strategic interests. The bilateral partnership has grown significantly in recent years, with cooperation across various sectors.
  - ➔ **Early Interactions:** Relations date back to medieval times through trade and cultural exchanges, including the journey of Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta to India in the 14th century.
  - ➔ **Post-Independence Ties:** Diplomatic relations were established in 1956, following Morocco's independence.
- **Political Relations**
  - ➔ **High-Level Visits:**
    - ★ Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari visited Morocco in 2016 to strengthen ties.
    - ★ Several Moroccan leaders, including the King and ministers, have visited India.
  - ➔ **Strategic Partnerships:**
    - ★ Bilateral cooperation agreements in trade, counterterrorism, and renewable energy.
    - ★ Mutual support in multilateral forums like the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement.
- **Economic Cooperation**
  - ➔ **Trade Relations:**

★ Bilateral trade stood at approximately USD 2.1 billion in 2022-23.

★ India is one of the largest importers of Moroccan phosphate and phosphoric acid, critical for the fertilizer industry.

➔ **Investment Opportunities:**

★ Indian companies like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and ONGC have a presence in Morocco.

★ Morocco seeks Indian investments in sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals, and automobile manufacturing.

- **Cultural and Educational Exchanges**

➔ **Cultural Cooperation:**

★ Festivals and cultural events promoting shared heritage.

★ Memoranda of understanding in art, language, and tourism.

➔ **Educational Linkages:**

★ Scholarships for Moroccan students under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

- **Defense and Security**

➔ **Counterterrorism Cooperation:**

★ Agreements on sharing intelligence and combating extremism.

★ Joint training exercises and capacity building.

➔ **Defense Dialogue:** Efforts to expand defense trade and technology sharing.

- **Renewable Energy and Sustainability**

➔ Morocco's leadership in solar energy aligns with India's focus on renewable energy.

➔ Partnership in International Solar Alliance (ISA).

➔ Collaboration in green hydrogen and energy transition technologies.

- **Challenges in Relations**

➔ Limited direct connectivity and trade routes.

➔ Need for diversification of trade beyond fertilizers and energy.

- **Way Forward**

➔ **Enhancing Economic Ties:** Diversify trade and investment portfolios.

➔ **Expanding Connectivity:** Direct flights and improved logistics networks.

- **Strengthening Cooperation in New Areas:** Green technology, digital transformation, and skill development.
- **Greater Cultural Engagement:** Promote people-to-people ties through tourism and exchanges.