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8 DECEMBER 2025

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Daily News

Analysis

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1. Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- Prelims - Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- Mains - GS 3 - Internal Security (Challenges Through Border Areas)

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)



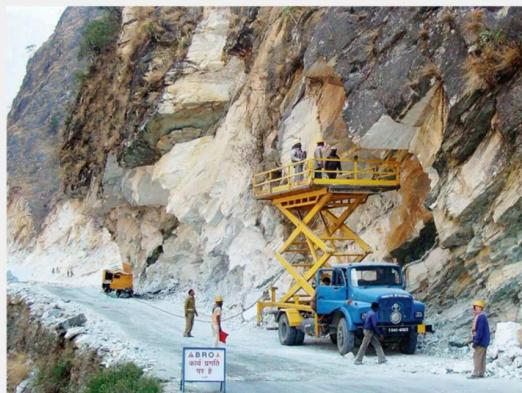
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Why in the news?

- Defence Minister inaugurated 125 BRO projects.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Defence
- **Aim:** BRO is engaged in **Infrastructure development** in remote northern and north-eastern regions to ensure **security along the Indian borders**.
- **Operative in:** BRO operate in 19 states, and 3 UTs.
- **Overseas projects:** Takes up projects in **Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka**.
- **Composition:**
 - It is **staffed by officers and troops** drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police and army personnel on extra regimental employment.
 - Engineering Service and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the Border Roads Organisation.



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2. Benin

- **Prelims** - Location of Benin
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography (Locations) & IR (Places and events)

Benin



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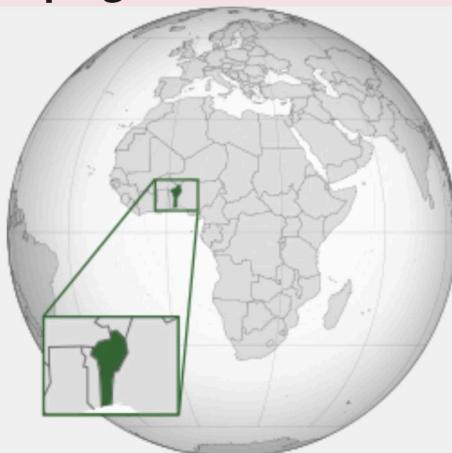
A map of Benin and its neighbors. Benin is shown in the center, bordered by Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east, and Burkina Faso to the north. The Niger River flows through the northern part of Benin. Major cities labeled include Cotonou (the capital), Porto-Novo, Parakou, Kandi, Malanville, Djougou, Mont Sokbaro, Natitingou, Bohicon, Cové, Abomey, Lokossa, Ouidah, and Cotonou. The Bight of Benin is to the south. A scale bar indicates distances up to 60 km/mi.

Why in the news?

- Benin forces foiled coup attempt.

Benin

- **Location:** West Africa
- **Capital:** Porto-Novo
- **Border Countries:** Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Atlantic Ocean
- **Climate:** Tropical Climate
- **Associated International Grouping:** African Union, ECOWAS.



A globe showing the location of Benin in Africa. A green box highlights Benin, and a larger green box highlights the broader region of West Africa, including Nigeria, Ghana, and Togo.

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3. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- **Prelims** - National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Internal Security (Institutions to tackle security challenges)

Why in the news?

- The NATGRID is gaining momentum as central agencies and police actively search for information.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- **What is it?**: An integrated intelligence-sharing platform under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Establishment**
 - Conceptualised in 2009 after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, highlighting gaps in inter-agency information flow.
 - Operational since 31 December 2020; inaugurated formally in 2022.
- **Aim**: Acts as a master database for counter-terrorism by linking multiple government and private-sector databases.
- **Objectives**
 - Counter-terrorism: Tracks movement of suspects across states/databases.
 - Economic & organised crime detection: Helps in analysing hawala, narcotics, money laundering networks.
 - Early-warning system: Generates alerts through algorithms to prevent attacks or crimes.
 - Internal security strengthening: Bridges information gaps between central and state agencies.
 - Human rights protection: By reducing arbitrary profiling and depending on data-backed pattern recognition.
- **Features**
 - Collates diverse datasets like immigration records, bank transactions, credit card usage, telecom data, tax filings, air/rail travel, etc.
 - Real-time access to patterns and linkages from 21 data sources.
 - Data is end - end encrypted.
 - Includes RAW, IB, ED, DRI, CBDT, CBIC, and state police, ensuring seamless information sharing.

4. Technology Development Fund (TDF)

- **Prelims** - Technology Development Fund (TDF)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - S&T (Indigenization of Technologies)

Why in the news?

- Seven TDF-developed technologies handed over by DRDO to the Armed Forces.

Technology Development Fund (TDF)

- **What is it?:** It is a fund established to promote **self-reliance in defence technology** under the '*Make in India*' initiative.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Defence
- **Aim:** To create an ecosystem for **cutting-edge technology development** by encouraging participation from public/private industries, **especially MSMEs and startups.**
- **Funding Support:** Up to **90% of the total project cost** for projects **upto 50 Crores.**
- **Eligible Entities:** Public limited companies, Private limited companies, Partnership firms, Limited liability partnerships (LLPs), One-person companies and Sole proprietorships- All registered in India and fall under the Indian Laws.
 - The industry must be **owned and controlled by a resident Indian citizen.**
 - Entities with **foreign investment exceeding 49%** are not eligible.

5. PMFME Scheme

- **Prelims** - PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy (Food Processing Sector)

Why in the news?

- The PMFME Scheme has reported significant progress across multiple components.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

- **What is it?:** The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme is a **centrally sponsored initiative** under the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan*, launched in 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**
- **Aim:** To formalize and enhance the competitiveness of micro food processing units in the unorganized sector by setting up or upgrading enterprises, focusing on Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, and individual entrepreneurs.
- **Duration:** The scheme operates for **five years** (2020-21 to 2024-25)
- **Features:**
 - **Financial aid:** Credit-linked capital subsidy, **grants up to 35%** for individuals (max Rs. 10 lakh) and **50% for groups/FPOs/SHGs** (max Rs. 3 crore per project) for machinery, packaging, and branding.
 - **Technical and business support:** Skill training, handholding, and marketing assistance, with new units prioritized under **One District One Product (ODOP)**.
 - **Capacity building:** Access to professional services, labs, and reduced wastage through value addition.

6. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI)

- **Prelims** - Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy (Capital Market Instrument)

Why in the news?

- Foreign investors have pulled out 11,820 crore from Indian equities in the first week of December, primarily driven by the sharp depreciation of the rupee.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI)

- **Definition:** FPI refers to securities and financial assets passively held by foreign investors, without acquiring management control or long-term interest.
- **FPI Instruments:** *Stocks & Bonds, Mutual Funds, Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).*
- **Recording:** It is part of **Capital Account under Balance of Payment (BoP)**.
- **Nature of Money:** It is referred as 'hot money' because it is high liquidity and tendency to exit at early signs of economic instability
- **Regulation:** Regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).