



## National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project | Uttarakhand | 29 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a **High-Level Committee** chaired by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation has approved Rs 1,115.67 crore for [disaster mitigation](#) and **capacity-building projects in various states**.

### Key Points

- **About the Committee:**
  - The committee reviewed proposals to mitigate landslide risks in 15 states under the [National Disaster Mitigation Fund \(NDMF\)](#).
  - It also approved funding from [the National Disaster Response Fund \(NDRF\)](#) for training and capacity-building initiatives for Civil Defense volunteers across all states and union territories.
- **The National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project was approved for 15 states** at a total cost of Rs 1,000 crore.
  - State-wise allocations:
    - Uttarakhand: Rs 139 crore
    - Himachal Pradesh: Rs 139 crore
    - Eight North-East States: Rs 378 crore
    - Maharashtra: Rs 100 crore
    - Karnataka: Rs 72 crore
    - Kerala: Rs 72 crore
    - Tamil Nadu: Rs 50 crore
    - West Bengal: Rs 50 crore
- Training and Capacity Building of Civil Defense Volunteers was approved for all states and union territories with a total outlay of Rs 115.67 crore.
- **Previous Approvals by the Committee:**
  - **Urban Flood Risk Mitigation Projects:** [Urban flood](#) risk management projects were approved for seven cities with a total outlay of Rs 3,075.65 crore.
  - **GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) Risk Management Projects:** [GLOF](#) was approved for four states at a total cost of Rs 150 crore under NDMF.

### National Disaster Relief Fund

- **National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)** was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of [the Disaster Management Act, 2005](#).
  - It is defined in Section 46 of the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- It is managed by the **Central Government to meet the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation** due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
  - It supplements the **SDRF** in case of a disaster of a severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF.

### Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

- A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is a type of catastrophic flood that occurs when the **dam containing a glacial lake fails**, releasing a large volume of water.

- This type of flood is **typically caused by rapid melting of glaciers or the buildup of water** in the lake due to heavy precipitation or the inflow of meltwater.
  - In February 2021, [Chamoli district in Uttarakhand witnessed flash floods](#) which are **suspected to have been caused by GLOFs**.

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## National Security Guards in Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | 29 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Ministry of Home Affairs \(MHA\)](#) has permanently established a [National Security Guards \(NSG\)](#) unit in **Jammu** to swiftly respond to any large-scale **terrorist incident**.

- Previously, NSG commandos had to be airlifted from Delhi or Chandigarh, causing delays.

### Key Points

- **Enhanced Security Measures in Jammu City:**
  - A **security review** has led to measures for protecting high-rise buildings, critical installations, and public areas in Jammu City.
  - **Regular assessments** are conducted to ensure preparedness and prevent attacks.
  - Permanent deployment has significantly **reduced response times**.
- **Integration with Broader Anti-Terror Strategy:**
  - Deployment of NSG complements the anti-terror plan devised by the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP).
  - Focus areas include high-risk locations like multi-story buildings, critical infrastructure, and crowded spaces.
- **Multi-Layered Security Approach:**
  - Officials assert that the city's multi-layered security perimeter prevents terrorist infiltration.
  - The NSG serves as a backup force for prolonged engagements, supporting primary responders like the [Special Operations Group \(SOG\)](#).
    - SOG and allied units are the **first responders, with other security agencies available for support**.
- **Recent Terrorist Incidents and Counter-Operations:**
  - In 2024, **Jammu region saw multiple terrorist attacks** in districts like Kathua, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi, Rajouri, and Poonch.
    - **Counter-operations have eliminated several terrorists**, minimizing their impact.
  - In October 2024, Pakistani infiltrators planning a **major attack were neutralized** in the Khour sector of Akhnoor by Army personnel.

### National Security Guards (NSG)

- **About:**
  - The NSG was **created in 1984** as a **federal contingency force to tackle terrorism**.
  - Its mission is to **train, equip, and keep in readiness a special force** capable of swiftly and effectively combating terrorism, living up to its motto '[Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha](#)'.
- **Structure:**
  - It was modeled on the **Special Air Service (SAS)** of the United Kingdom and GSG-9 of Germany, with two complementary elements - the [Special Action Group \(SAG\)](#) comprising Army personnel and the [Special Ranger Groups \(SRG\)](#) comprising personnel from Central

## Child Marriage Free India Campaign | Rajasthan | 29 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Union women and child development minister** launched the “**Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign**” or child marriage free India campaign portal to **help girls achieve their potential** by checking practices such as [child marriages](#).

- This campaign targets **seven high-burden states**: West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Focus areas include 300 districts where child marriage rates exceed the national average.
- The goal is to **reduce the prevalence of child marriages to below 5% by 2029**.

### Key Points

- **Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign:**
  - The campaign advocates for **legislative changes to ensure 18 as the minimum age of marriage without exceptions**.
  - It provides **legal protection for children** and aims to prevent child marriages effectively.
- **Role of the Child Marriage Monitoring Portal:**
  - It will help monitor **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)** with better supervision and evaluation.
  - User-friendly tools to encourage **reporting by victims and witnesses**.
  - **Easy access to information** for better communication and support.
- **Multi-Pronged Approach to Address Child Marriage:**
  - Focus areas include:
    - National Education Policy integration.
    - Health, financial security, and safety.
    - Social awareness campaigns.
- **Citizen Participation and Gender-Inclusive Initiatives:**
  - Citizens are encouraged to **pledge to prevent child marriages and report cases to authorities**.
  - The government has launched initiatives like [Nari Adalats \(women's courts\)](#).
    - A Guide on Gender-Inclusive Communication to address gender biases.
  - [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative](#) that aimed to bring societal change in perceptions toward the girl child.
- **India's Global Recognition in Reducing Child Marriages**
  - **India has been globally acknowledged**, with UN reports attributing **South Asia's largest decline in child marriages** to India's efforts.
  - In 2006, child marriage rates were **47.4%** and in 2019-21 they are **declined to 23.3%**.
  - According to government data, child marriage rates have **declined from 47.4% in 2006 to 23.3% in 2019-21**.
- **Supreme Court's Role and Recommendations:**
  - In October 2024, the Supreme Court ruled that [the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006](#) supersedes personal laws.
  - **Recommendations include:**
    - Community-driven approaches and preventive measures.
    - Multi-sectoral coordination and capacity building for law enforcement.
- **Vision for a Developed India by 2047:**

- The campaign aligns with the broader goal of creating a developed India by 2047 with girls at the center of women-led development.

## Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Initiative

- It was **launched in January 2015** with the aim to address **sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

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## Bihar's Poor Health Infrastructure | Bihar | 29 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar government faced criticism for poor performance as the [Comptroller and Auditor General \(CAG\) Audit Report on Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services \(2016-2022\)](#) was presented to the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council during the ongoing winter session.

- The **report highlighted critical gaps in Bihar's healthcare system**, including severe resource shortages, underutilized budgets, and systemic inefficiencies, underscoring the urgent need for structural reforms.

### Key Points

- **Human Resource Shortages in Health Services:**
  - Bihar faced a 49% vacancy in key health departments, including the Directorate of Health Services, State Drug Controller, Food Safety Wing, [AYUSH](#), and Medical Colleges and Hospitals (MCHs).
  - Against the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) recommendation of 1 allopathic doctor per 1,000 people, Bihar had a ratio of 1 doctor per 2,148 people (58,144 doctors available against the required 1,24,919).
  - Shortages of staff nurses ranged from 18% in Patna to 72% in Purnea, while paramedics faced shortages of 45% in Jamui to 90% in East Champaran.
  - Recruitment for 13,340 healthcare posts out of 24,496 posts remained pending as of January 2022.
- **Gaps in Infrastructure and Facilities:**
  - None of the four inspected Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) had functional Operation Theatres (OT), breaching Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).
  - Only 1% to 67% of pregnant women in 11 test-checked facilities received a full course of Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets.
    - Maternal death reviews were conducted in only 1 out of 24 reported cases during 2016-22.
  - 19% to 100% of required diagnostic facilities were unavailable in 68 healthcare facilities.
- **Shortages of Drugs and Equipment:**
  - Essential drugs were unavailable in 21% to 65% of Outpatient Departments (OPDs) and 34% to 83% of Inpatient Departments (IPDs) during 2016-22.
  - Medical colleges reported 45% to 68% drug shortages in FYs 2019-21 due to non-supply.
- **Budget Utilization and Policy Gaps:**
  - Bihar spent only 69% of the allocated Rs 69,790.83 crore of healthcare budget between FYs

2016-17 and 2021-22, leaving Rs 21,743.04 crore unused.

- Healthcare expenditure against [Gross State Domestic Product \(GSDP\)](#) ranged between 1.33% and 1.73%, and against the state budget, it ranged between 3.31% and 4.41%.
- Bihar lacked a comprehensive health policy aligned with the [National Health Policy 2017](#), to address infrastructure and equipment gaps.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Performance:**
  - Bihar scored 66 out of 100 under [SDG-3 \(health sector\)](#) in [NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Report \(2020-21\)](#).
  - The state's performance on health indicators like [Maternal Mortality Rate](#), [Neonatal Mortality Rate](#), and [Total Fertility Rate](#) was far below the SDG targets and national averages.

## Comptroller and Auditor General

### ▪ About:

- The CAG of India, as per [Article 148 of the Constitution](#), heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD)**. He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.
  - The CAG upholds the **Constitution and parliamentary laws** in financial administration and is considered one of the key pillars of India's democratic system, alongside the [Supreme Court](#), [Election Commission](#), and [Union Public Service Commission](#).
- CAG of India is governed by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.

### ▪ Appointment and Term:

- The CAG of India is appointed by the [President of India](#) by a **warrant under his hand and seal**. The officeholder serves a **term of six years or until the age of 65**, whichever is earlier.

### ▪ Independence:

- The CAG **can only be removed by the President following a constitutional procedure, not at the President's pleasure.**

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## National Gopal Ratna Awards | Haryana | 29 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying \(DAHD\)](#) announced the winners of the [National Gopal Ratna Awards \(NGRA\) 2024](#) under the [Rashtriya Gokul Mission \(RGM\)](#).

- It is one of the highest honours in the livestock and dairy sector and is presented on [National Milk Day \(26th November 2024\)](#).

### Key Points

#### ▪ Objective of the Awards:

- The NGRA aims to recognize and encourage contributions to animal husbandry and dairying.

#### ▪ Award Categories:

- Best dairy farmer rearing [indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds](#).

- Best [Artificial Insemination](#) Technician (AIT)
- Best dairy cooperative/ milk producer company/ dairy farmer producer organisation.
- Special Awards for the North Eastern Region (NER) were introduced in 2024.
- **Special Recognition for North Eastern Region (NER):**
  - From 2024 onwards, a special award is included for the North Eastern Region (NER) in all three categories to boost dairy development activities in the region.
- **First Rank Winner of each category is:**
  - **Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds-** Smt. Renu, Jhajjar, Haryana.
  - **Best Dairy Cooperative society/Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organization-** The Gabat Milk Producers Cooperative Society Limited, Aravali, Gujarat.
  - **Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)-** Shri Bhaskar Pradhan, Subarnapur, Odisha.
- **Background on Livestock Sector:**
  - The livestock sector contributes one-third to the agriculture and allied sector's [Gross Value Added \(GVA\)](#) and has a [Compound Annual Growth Rate \(CAGR\)](#) of over 8%.
  - It plays a **vital role in enhancing farmer income, especially for landless, small, and marginal farmers, and women** and providing **affordable and nutritious food.**

## Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- Launched in December 2014 under the **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.**
- **NPBBDD have Two Components:**
  - **National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB):** Conservation and development of recognized indigenous breeds.
  - **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD):** Creating infrastructure related to production, procurement, processing and marketing by milk unions/federations.
- **Objectives:**
  - Conservation and development of indigenous bovine breeds.
  - Improving the productivity of indigenous breeds to maximize their economic contribution.