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27 November 2024

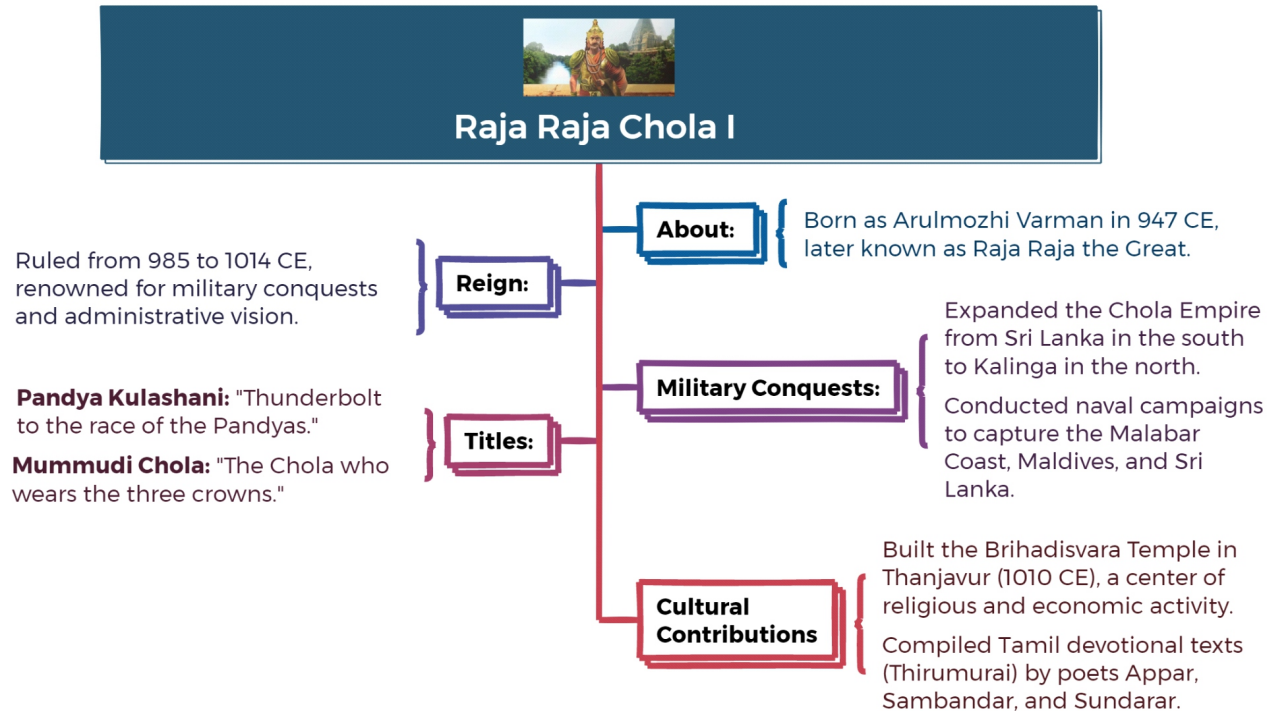
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 **SAMYAK IAS, NEAR RIDDHI-SIDDHI, JAIPUR**

Art and Culture

1. Birth anniversary of Raja Raja Chola I - The Hindu

The birth anniversary of the legendary Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I is celebrated with unparalleled fervour and devotion every year during the Sadhaya Vizha in Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu.



Social

2. PMAY funds swindled in the name of dead people in Tamil Nadu district - The Hindu

Several officials from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in Tiruvarur district have been booked for fraudulently disbursing funds under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) to 43 ineligible individuals near Mannargudi.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)

- **Launch:** Launched on 1st April 2016 to achieve "Housing for All" by 2022.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Objective:**
 - Provide pucca houses with basic amenities to homeless rural families or those living in kutcha or dilapidated houses.
 - Assist BPL rural families in constructing or upgrading unserviceable kutcha houses through full grants.

- **Beneficiaries:** Includes SCs/STs, freed bonded laborers, widows or kin of defense personnel killed in action, ex-servicemen, paramilitary retirees, disabled persons, and minorities.

- **Beneficiaries selected via:**

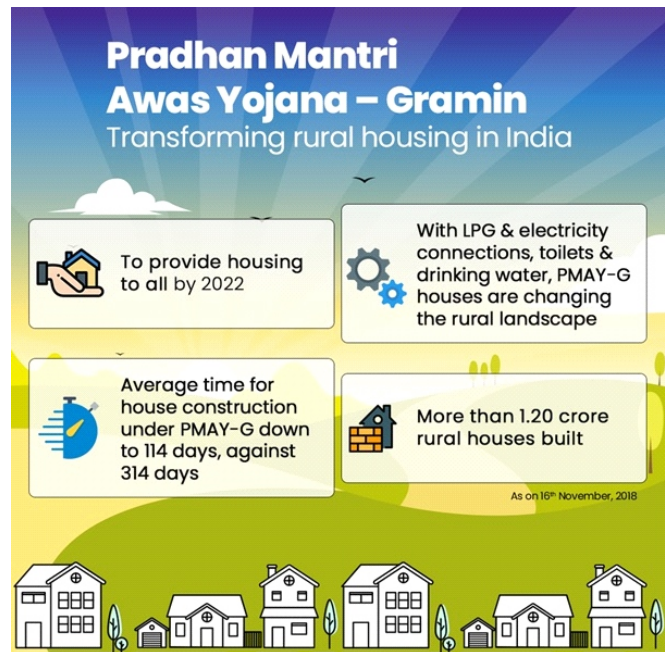
- Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011.
- Gram Sabha validation.
- Geo-tagging.

- **Cost Sharing between Centre and States:**

- 60:40 in plain areas.
- 90:10 for North-Eastern and hilly states.

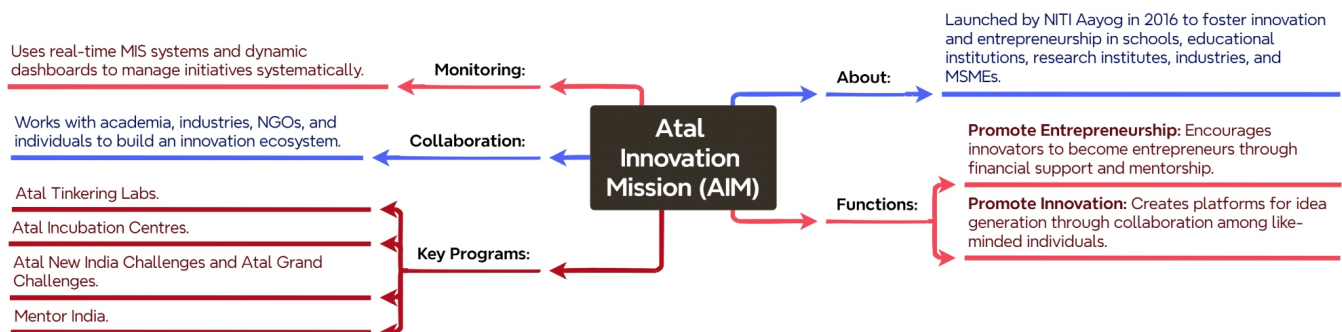
- **Key Features**

- House size increased to 25 sq. m with hygienic cooking space.
- Unit assistance:
 - ₹1.20 lakh in plain areas.
 - ₹1.30 lakh in hilly areas.
- Assistance for toilets through SBM-G, MGNREGS, or other funding sources.
- Convergence for piped drinking water, electricity, LPG, etc., through government programs.



3. Atal Innovation Mission - Indian Express

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of its flagship Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), under NITI Aayog, with an allocation of ₹2,750 crore until March 31, 2028.



4. Recalling stories of women who helped draft the Indian Constitution - Indian Express

On Constitution Day (November 26), President recalled the role women members played in the Constituent Assembly, the body tasked with formulating the Constitution of independent India. The 299-member Assembly had 15 women members, including prominent figures such as Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kripalani, and Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. But it also had lesser-known women from diverse backgrounds who participated in debates on gender, caste and reservations.

About: Born in an affluent family in Pabna, now in Bangladesh; inspired by Gandhi in 1920, she quit college to join the freedom struggle.

Advocacy: Advocated for women's rights, including divorce and inheritance laws.

Post-independence: Elected as a Lok Sabha MP in 1957.



Renuka Ray (1904-1997)

About: First Dalit woman science graduate in Cochin and first Dalit woman in the Cochin Legislative Council who belonged to the Pulaya community, a marginalized caste; faced caste-based discrimination in college.

Advocacy: Disagreed with Ambedkar on separate electorates, viewing it as contrary to nationalism.

Later Life: Could not pursue a political career due to financial constraints, but remained active in the Dalit movement.



Dakshayani Velayudhan (1912-1978)

About: Born into a royal family in Malerkotla, Punjab who faced opposition to her convent education, with a fatwa issued by ulema against it.

Advocacy: Opposed separate electorates based on religion & believed Pakistan could uplift Muslims but might harm poor Indian Muslims post-division.

Post-independence: Chose to stay in India and became a Rajya Sabha member from UP in 1952.



Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul (1909-2001)

Women who helped draft the Indian Constitution

About: Born in Palakkad, Kerala; entered politics after marrying Subbarama Swaminathan who opposed restrictive practices on widows, influenced by her mother's experience.

Advocacy: Spoke on the Hindu Code Bill, emphasizing its importance for women's rights, despite facing ridicule in a male-dominated Assembly.

Post-independence: Elected to the Lok Sabha from Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.



Ammu Swaminathan (1894-1978)

About: Born in Trivandrum into a Latin Christian family, considered socially marginalized.

Advocacy: Campaigned for universal adult franchise, opposing caste-based voting restrictions on Ezhavas, Christians, and Muslims.

Post-independence: Contested as an independent candidate in 1952, winning from Thiruvananthapuram.



Annie Mascarene (1902-1963)

Polity

5. SC ruling on socialism, secularism - The Hindu

A Division Bench of the Supreme Court led by the Chief Justice of India dismissed pleas challenging the inclusion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble to our Constitution.

Post-independence: Democratic socialism with centralised planning and state-led industrialisation.

1960s-70s: Nationalisation of banks, high taxes, regulations, and license controls resembling classical socialism.

Post-1991: Shift to a market-oriented economy, reducing poverty but increasing inequality.

Socialism's Role: Continues to address poverty through schemes like MGNREGA, subsidised food grains, and direct benefit transfers.

Balanced Approach: State welfare must coexist with private enterprise to ensure employment generation and economic growth.

Secularism's Role: Essential for preserving India's unity in diversity.

Historical Context

Contemporary Relevance

Importance of Socialism and Secularism

History of the Preamble

Original Preamble (1949):

Adoption: November 26, 1949, declaring India a sovereign, democratic, republic.

'Socialist' as a part of Preamble: 'Socialist' was excluded as the Constituent Assembly felt economic ideals should evolve with time.

'Secular' as a part of Preamble: 'Secular' was also omitted as secular values were already embedded in various constitutional provisions (e.g., freedom of religion, non-discrimination).

Difference between Western and Indian Secularism

Western model: Strict separation of state and religion.

Indian model: State regulates secular aspects of religion and can introduce reforms for social welfare.

Judicial Interpretations

Berubari Case (1960): Supreme Court held the Preamble is not part of the Constitution and does not confer substantive powers.

Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973): Declared the Preamble as part of the Constitution & confirmed the Preamble is subject to Parliament's amending power.

42nd Amendment (1976): Added the terms 'Socialist', 'Secular', and 'Integrity' to the Preamble.

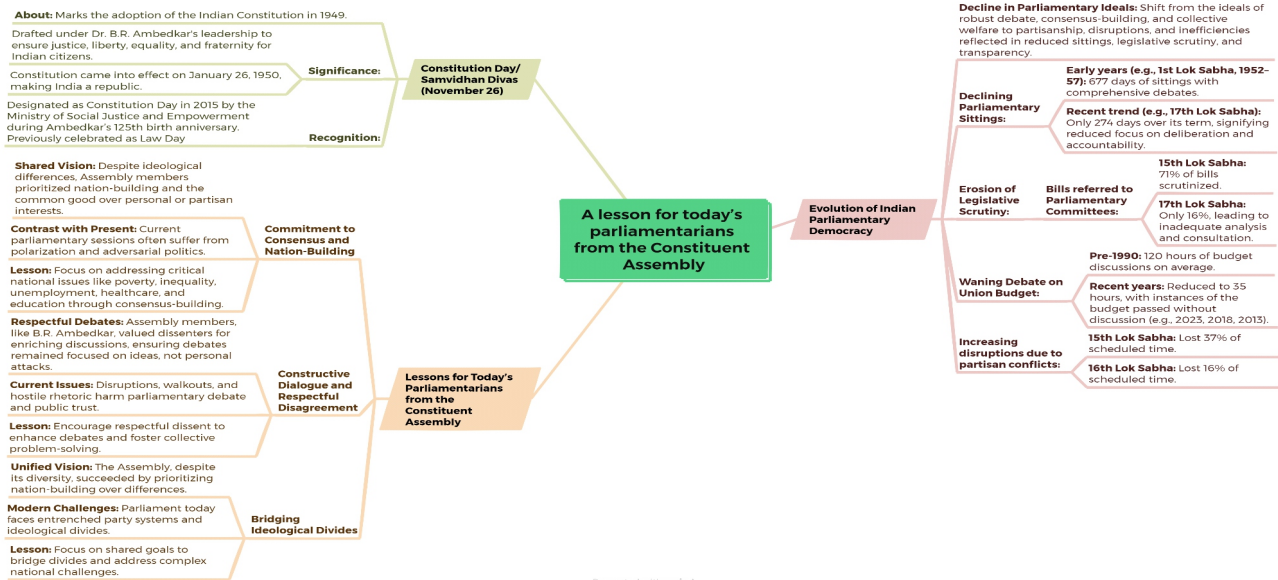
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6. The consensus republic: A lesson for today's parliamentarians from the Constituent Assembly - Indian Express

On November 26, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. The contribution of the members of the Constituent Assembly in imagining the future of India through a democratic, consultative, inclusive, and argumentative process is truly inspiring.



As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India, this is a moment to reflect on and reimagine the future of India's parliamentary democracy.

7. Cabinet approves One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) - PIB

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister has approved One Nation One Subscription.

One Nation One Subscription Scheme	About:	A Central Sector Scheme providing nationwide access to scholarly research articles and journals managed through a digital and user-friendly process.
	Objective:	Supports higher education institutions and R&D laboratories under Central and State Governments.
		Supplements the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) initiative to foster research and innovation.
	Key Features:	Coordinated by INFLIBNET, an autonomous inter-university UGC center.
		Institutions access journals through the One Nation One Subscription portal managed by the Department of Higher Education.
		ANRF will review journal usage and Indian authors' publications periodically.
	Funding:	₹6,000 crore allocated for 2025–2027.
	Significance:	Expands access to quality research resources for students, researchers, and faculty across tier 2 and tier 3 cities.
		Promotes core and interdisciplinary research and enhances access to quality higher education.

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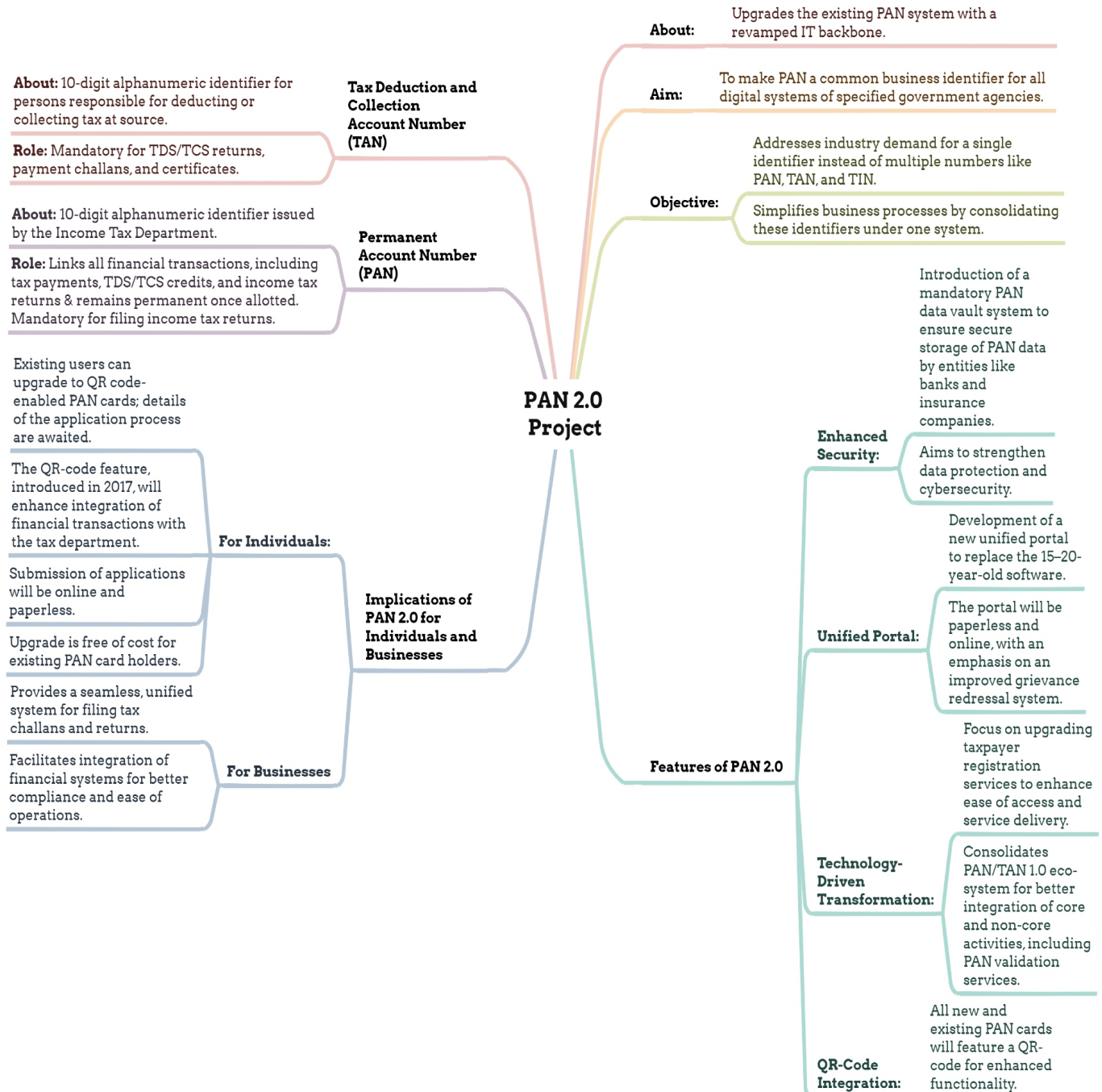
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Economy

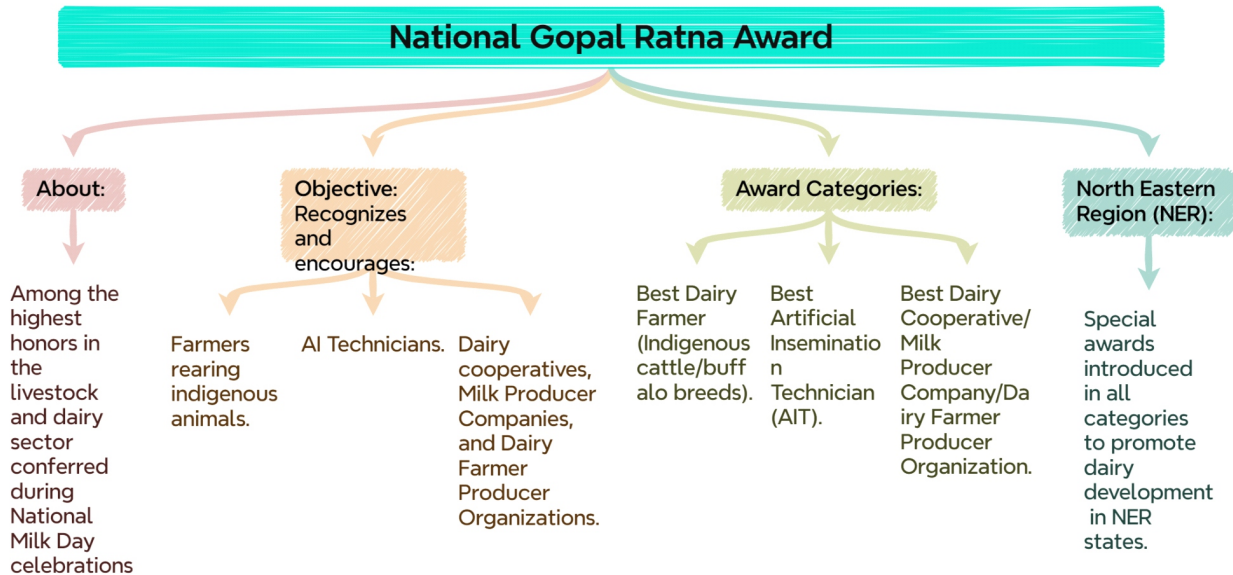
8. Why Income Tax Department has introduced PAN 2.0 - Indian Express

The Union Cabinet approved the PAN 2.0 Project recently for PAN to be made the “the common identifier for businesses” and to make PAN as the “single source of truth and data consistency”.



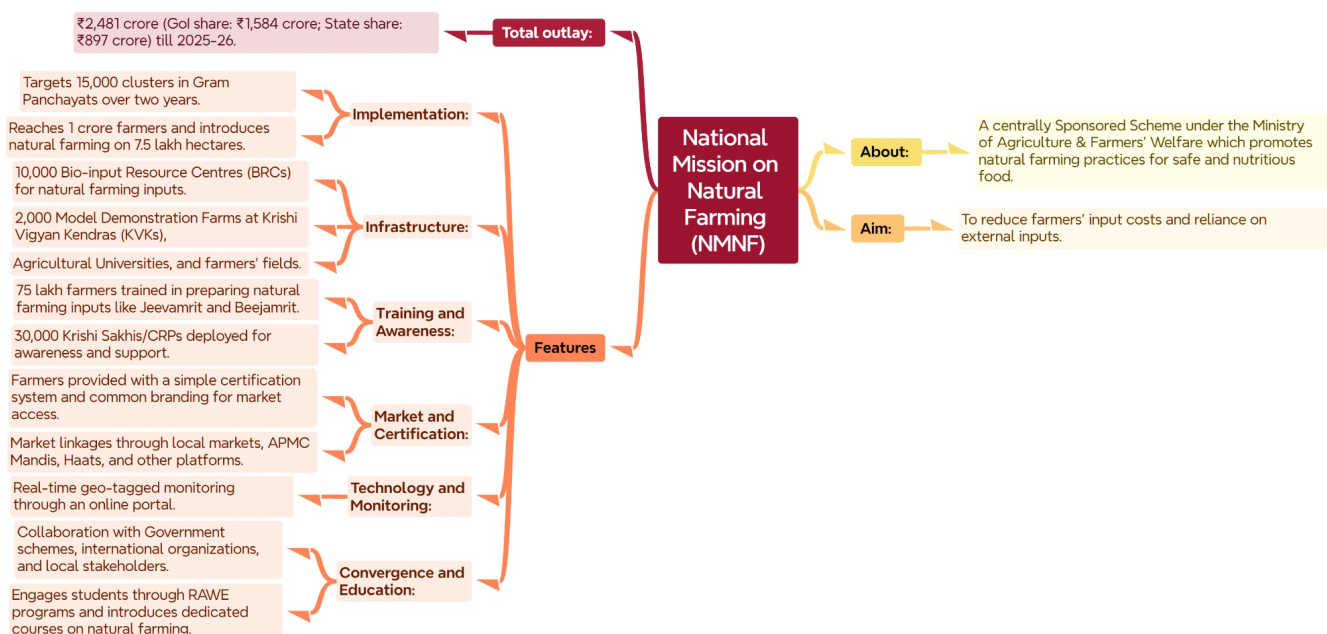
9. National Gopal Ratna Award 2024 Winners - PIB

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) declared the winners of the National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA); one of the highest National Awards in the field of livestock and dairy sector for the year 2024.



10. Launch of National Mission on Natural Farming - PIB

The Union Cabinet recently approved the launching of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.



11. New Pterosaur Species Discovered in Japan - The Hindu

Paleontologists have announced the discovery of a new species of quetzalcoatlinae azhdarchid pterosaur, Nipponopterus mifunensis, from the Late Cretaceous of Japan.



Pterosaurs

About:

Flying reptiles that thrived during the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods (252.2–66 million years ago).

Significance:

First vertebrates capable of flight, launching into the air using strong forelegs & included Quetzalcoatlus, the largest flying vertebrate of the late Cretaceous.

Features

Wings made of a skin membrane connected to an elongated fourth finger, similar to bat wings.

Early species had long, toothed jaws and long tails, while later forms had short tails and some lacked teeth.

Often had long necks with throat pouches resembling pelicans for catching fish.

Extinction

Extinct around 65.5 million years ago during the Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T) extinction event.

Birds, of dinosaur ancestry, replaced them as the dominant flying vertebrates.

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